

NO: R135

COUNCIL DATE: July 12, 2021

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## REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council**

DATE: **July 8, 2021**

FROM: **General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture**

FILE: **7800-01**

SUBJECT: **Temporary Installation of Mural by Sandeep Johal in Surrey Arts Centre Lower Courtyard Classroom Windows**

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## RECOMMENDATION

The Parks, Recreation and Culture Department recommends that Mayor and Council:

1. Receive this report for information; and
2. Authorize staff to contract installation of temporary mural artwork by Sandeep Johal on the lower courtyard classroom windows in the Surrey Arts Centre (“Arts Centre”) as attached in Appendix “I”.

## INTENT

The purpose of this report is to provide information on the Arts Centre Public Art Project and to obtain Council approval to proceed with the temporary installation of a mural by Sandeep Johal on the Surrey Arts Centre lower courtyard classroom windows.

## BACKGROUND

### Selection Process

Surrey Art Gallery is planning exhibitions through 2022, and proposes to use the Surrey Arts Centre lower courtyard classroom windows, to expand the opportunities the public have access to contemporary art.

For this location, the Gallery proposes to commission a contemporary mural by Sandeep Johal, a local visual artist whose work ranges from intricate black and white line drawings to colourful large-scale murals. See Appendix “I” for renderings.

The mural will be digitally fabricated in transparent vinyl. Mural in vinyl applied on glazing facing the sun have an expected lifespan of maximum five years and will be installed for a minimum of one year.

## DISCUSSION

### Parks, Recreation & Culture Committee Review

On June 23, 2020, the Parks Recreation and Culture Committee received a report on the Surrey Art Gallery's mural proposal and approved the recommendation to proceed with a recommendation for the proposed design to Council.

Request to install this design on the Art Centre's lower courtyard classroom windows, is in compliance with the City Signage By-law 13656 as it constitutes a public mural.

City Signage By-law 13656 (amended 01/13/14) states:

- *“No owner of a lot or premises shall erect, allow or cause to be erected a mural unless such mural has received approval from Council or from any Committee appointed by Council to approve such mural”; and*
- *“Mural means any piece of artwork, including a painting, fresco, frieze, photograph, picture, image, illustration or graphic presentation, applied directly or by an electronic or digital means on and partially or fully covering a wall, ceiling or other permanent or non-permanent surface.”*

### About the Artist and Artwork

Sandeep Johal is a local visual artist whose work ranges from drawings and paintings to largescale murals. Her art practice is aesthetically and conceptually inspired by her South Asian heritage and is an expression of her social and cultural concerns, particularly gender justice. Her most recent series, *She Left Only To Come Back* (2019) is an exploration of femininity, motherhood, intergenerational trauma and loss. Johal was 2019's recipient of Darpan Magazine's Artistic Visionary Award and has worked on projects with the Vancouver Art Gallery, Burrard Arts Foundation, Vancouver Mural Festival, and Indian Summer Festival. Her work has been featured in several print and online publications from CBC Arts to The Globe and Mail.

About the design: Birds, tigers, and monkeys are often part of tales in traditional Indian folk art, acting as storytellers. Sandeep Johal brings these animals together with mark making inspired by South Asian textiles (including black and white dots and lines, as well as colourful geometric shapes and patterns) to evoke ideas of joy, wonder, strength, courage, and play.

## FUNDING

Funding for this project is supported by the Gallery's grant awarded from the BC Arts Council and Canada Council for the Arts resiliency funding.

The budget for artist fees is up to \$2,500. The cost for vinyl fabrication and installation is \$5,800. The cost to implement this project will be \$8,300 and includes artist fees, fabrication, and installation.

Subject to Council approval of the recommendations of this report, the artist will proceed to complete the process to finalize the digital file of their design as needed for fabrication.

## SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

This initiative supports the objectives of the City’s Sustainability Charter 2.0. In particular, this work relates to Sustainability Charter 2.0 themes of Built Environment & Neighbourhoods, Education & Culture and Economic Prosperity & Livelihoods. Specifically, this project supports the following Desired Outcomes (“DO”) and Strategic Directions (“SD”):

- Neighbourhoods & Urban Design DO 1: Surrey is comprised of distinct, diverse and compact town centres with an engaging public realm;
- Neighbourhoods & Urban Design DO 8: The built environment enhances quality of life, happiness and well-being;
- Neighbourhoods & Urban Design DO 15: All new buildings, public places and outdoor spaces are welcoming, safe and universally accessible;
- Arts and Heritage DO 7: An enviable and vibrant arts and heritage sector contributes to Surrey’s citizen engagement, enrichment, economy, community livability and civic pride;
- Arts and Heritage DO 11: Public art is visible in diverse forms throughout the community and brings art into the daily lives of Surrey residents”;
- Arts and Heritage SD 9: Support the development of local artists of all ages and through all stages; and

## CONCLUSION

The Parks, Recreation and Culture Department recommends Council authorize staff to undertake a contract to proceed with installing this temporary artwork in the windows of the Surrey Arts Centre as generally described in this report.

Laurie Cavan  
General Manager  
Parks, Recreation & Culture

## Appendix “I”: Proposed Design and Location

[https://surreybc.sharepoint.com/sites/prcadmistration/corporate reports regular/2021/temporary installation of mural by sandeep johal in surrey arts centre lower courtyard classroom windows.docx](https://surreybc.sharepoint.com/sites/prcadmistration/corporate%20reports%20regular/2021/temporary%20installation%20of%20mural%20by%20sandeep%20johal%20in%20surrey%20arts%20centre%20lower%20courtyard%20classroom%20windows.docx)

**Proposed Design and Location**

Rendering of proposed mural on the lower courtyard windows of the Surrey Arts Centre 13750 88 Avenue

**Mural Sequence (3 sections)**



**First Section**



### Second Section



### Third Section

