

NO: R223

COUNCIL DATE: November 22, 2021

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council** DATE: **November 15, 2021**

FROM: **General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture** FILE: **7800-01**

SUBJECT: **Recommendation for Public Art Donation and Installation at Semiahmoo Library**

RECOMMENDATION

The Parks, Recreation and Culture Department recommends that Council:

1. Receive this report for information; and
2. Authorize staff to undertake a donation agreement with Sola Fielder to accept the Artwork titled *Flower Power* and incorporate it in the City's Public Art Collection; and
3. Authorize staff to proceed with installation of the artwork at the Semiahmoo Library, as generally described in this report.

INTENT

The purpose of this report is to provide information on the City's Public Art Program and to obtain Council approval for staff to acquire the proposed donation of the artwork *Flower Power* ("the Artwork") by Sola Fielder and install it as a public art feature at the Semiahmoo Library.

BACKGROUND

The City of Surrey's Public Art Program will consider proposed donations of artwork, provided the artwork:

- Complements the existing public art collection;
- Meets the same expectations as original artworks commissioned by the City including
 - Quality of work,
 - An appropriate site is confirmed to host the artwork,
 - The lifespan of the artwork is estimated to be approximately 50 years ,
 - The artwork will not pose any danger to the public,
 - The artwork is in good condition,
 - Maintenance costs for the artwork are either funded by the donor or otherwise will be minimal (e.g., dusting);
- The owner of the artwork has the legal right to donate the artwork, and agrees to the terms of the City regarding its care, and if warranted, its deaccessioning;

- The artist provides a limited license regarding the exhibition and copyright for the artwork, in compliance with Canadian law;
- Meets the approval of a proposed donations parallels proposals of public art commissioned by the City;
- The advisory committee to Council responsible for public art, recommends the acquisition to Council; and
- Surrey City Council receives a report regarding the proposal and the Committee's recommendation and decides whether to support the proposed artwork for acquisition.

The Artwork

The Artwork was introduced to Surrey residents while on loan to the Museum of Surrey from October 2020 to February 2021. It was a featured piece in the Nature's Clothesline Exhibit, which explored the art of recycled textiles. It welcomed visitors entering the Museum's lobby and was positively received by museum visitors who took many photos with it and left many positive comments with museum staff. Given the positive response of the Surrey community and the Artist's inability to store such a large artwork long-term, the Artist approached City staff with the proposal to permanently donate the artwork, provided it would be placed on display long term.

DISCUSSION

Staff have reviewed the artwork, its condition and its potential to positively contribute to the City's public art collection. Staff also identified the Semiahmoo Library has a suitable sized wall to present the Artwork, and staff at that location have expressed interest in hosting the Artwork's display for at least the next five-years. It will hang high enough to be out of reach, and in an area with many study desks, adding energy and vibrancy to the space. The installation site is demonstrated in the attached Appendix "II". The Artwork will be installed using hardware similar to a painting and will be displayed in other City buildings over time.

The artist, Sola Fielder has expressed interest in a tax receipt for the donation. Following the Revenue Canada guidelines for fine art appraisals, Kathleen Laverty, a Fine Arts specialist and member of the International Society of Appraisers, has reviewed the Artwork, and deemed the current fair market value as CAD \$30,000.

About the Artist

Sola Fielder is a senior Canadian fiber artist, best known for her large-scale tapestry tributes to the cities that have hosted the Olympic Games. Her work captures the architectural and spiritual elements of each city, at that moment in time. Sola's work has been collected by notable corporations and individuals such as CIBC, UBC, CBC and Jim Pattison. Sola grew up in London during and after World War II, when reuse and recycling played a fundamental role in daily life. Her tapestries transform the idea of thrift and make it glamorous. Using yarn procured from thrift stores and estate sales, Sola Fielder creates inviting, colorful landscapes.

About the Artwork

Flower Power is a 14' x 14' tapestry by artist Sola Fielder made from repurposed and recycled materials to create a 3D vase of flowers. The materials are from a previous work that celebrated the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta. It is combined with yarn pulled from thrift store sweaters

and shoulder pads from old clothing. *Flower Power* is a tribute to Andy Warhol's *Flower* series and took over 3,500 hours to make.

Flower Power was exhibited at the Museum of Surrey from October 2020 to February 2021 as part of the Nature's Clothesline exhibit, which sought to draw attention to the contrast between textiles as precious hand-made objects versus mass-produced disposable commodities. *Flower Power* is a joyful work that celebrates the earth and fabricated using a sustainable material.

Parks Recreation and Culture Committee Review

On November 17, 2021, the Parks, Recreation & Culture Committee received a report outlining the proposed donation of the Artwork. The Parks, Recreation & Culture Committee unanimously voted to recommend Council support the acquisition of the proposed Artwork.

Next Steps

Subject to Council approval of the recommendations of this report, staff will prepare a donation agreement to formalize the transfer of ownership including packaging, transporting, and installation of the artwork. Installation is expected to occur in December 2021.

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;
- 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"; and
- Arts and Heritage SD 9: Support the development of local artists of all ages and through all stages.

CONCLUSION

The Parks, Recreation & Culture Department recommends that Council authorize staff to undertake a donation agreement with Sola Fielder to accept the Artwork titled *Flower Power* and incorporate it in the City's Public Art Collection, as generally described in this report.

Laurie Cavan
General Manager,
Parks, Recreation & Culture

Appendix "I" – Image of Flower Power
Appendix "II" – Installation site at Semiahmoo Library

Flower Power



Flower Power is a 14' x 14' tapestry created by artist Sola Fielder

It is made using repurposed and recycled materials including yarn pulled from thrift store sweaters and shoulder pads from old clothing.

Flower Power took over 3,500 hours to make.

Installation Site at Semiahmoo Library

