

NO: R027

COUNCIL DATE: February 14, 2021

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council**

DATE: **February 7, 2022**

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

FILE: **7800-01**

SUBJECT: **Indigenous Public Art in Surrey Libraries - Clayton**

RECOMMENDATION

The Parks, Recreation and Culture Department recommends that Council:

1. Receive this report for information; and
2. Authorize staff to contract Roxanne Charles to complete the design for a public artwork at Surrey Libraries - Clayton, as generally described in this report and attached as Appendix "I".

INTENT

The purpose of this report is to provide information on the Indigenous Public Art Projects in Library Facilities and to obtain Council approval to proceed with implementing the design for a public artwork at Surrey Libraries - Clayton.

BACKGROUND

The Public Art Master Plan has guided research into strategies for the creative enhancement of civic facilities and infrastructure. Strategies for cost effective introduction of public art at existing facilities has included the commissioning of creative designs to be fabricated in vinyl film.

The All Our Relations Social Innovation Strategy report, Phase 2 of the Surrey Urban Aboriginal Social Innovation Project, recommends the City *Indigenize public spaces* (Goal #10). The creative enhancement of civic facilities and infrastructure provides an opportunity to fulfill both the objectives of the Public Art Master Plan, and Goal #10 of this report.

DISCUSSION

Call Process

Public art staff determined three locations for creative enhancement at the Clayton Community Centre in consultation with stakeholders from Surrey Libraries and Clayton Community Centre staff:

1. The windows of the child-minding room (installed in August 2021);
2. The walls surrounding the children's corner of the library (installed in August 2021); and
3. The windows of the library meeting room.

The process for commissioning and selecting preliminary designs by artists was guided by recommendations from the Chiefs from Kwantlen, Katzie and Semiahmoo First Nations. In December of 2020, 10 artists were prequalified to be invited to create design proposals:

- Brandon Gabriel (Kwantlen);
- Drew Atkins (Kwantlen);
- Leslie Wells (Semiahmoo);
- Rain Pierre (Katzie);
- Atheana Picha (Kwantlen);
- Joan Williams (Semiahmoo);
- Phyllis Atkins (Kwantlen);
- Roxanne Charles (Semiahmoo);
- Tony Gabriel (Kwantlen); and
- Elinor Atkins (Kwantlen)

The first two public art opportunities for Clayton were endorsed by Council in April 2021, and installed later in August 2021 (images attached as Appendix "II").

Selection Process

On January 18, 2021, staff convened a selection panel to review all the artists' concept designs for the various opportunities in Surrey Libraries. Selection panel members included Elders from Semiahmoo First Nation, Kwantlen First Nation, Katzie First Nation, and Parks, Recreation & Culture staff. The selection panel unanimously voted to recommend Roxanne Charles for the Meeting Room at Surrey Libraries - Clayton. An image of the proposed site is attached as Appendix "III."

About the Artist and Artwork

Roxanne Charles

Roxanne Charles is a mixed media artist, curator, storyteller and cultural historian of Strait Salish and European descent. She is a current councillor and active band member of Semiahmoo First Nation. As an artist she works with a wide range of media employing traditional Semiahma forms of knowledge such as visual representation, oral history, and ceremony. Her work is in the collection of the Surrey Art Gallery.

This playful work brings to life the spirit of the Thunderbird, an important aspect of Salish culture. To gain the spirit of the Thunderbird involved immense dedication and training to promote transformation and personal growth. This work honours Roxanne's late Great Grandfather who was said to possess the spirit of the Thunderbird.

FUNDING

Funding for the implementation of creative enhancements of civic infrastructure draws from the public art fund reserved for this purpose. The fund was established following the

recommendations of the Public Art Policy, through contributions from the City's applicable capital construction projects as well as eligible private development projects.

Total cost to implement the Indigenous Public Art in Surrey Libraries - Clayton will be \$11,500 which includes artist fees, fabrication, installation, and lifetime maintenance.

Subject to Council approval of the recommendation of this report, staff will proceed to complete the process to finalize the 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
- Innovation SD 10: Support the development of growth of key sectors including health technology, clean technology, advanced manufacturing, agri-innovation, and the creative economy.

CONCLUSION

The Parks, Recreation & Culture Department recommends Council authorize staff to undertake contract with Roxanne Charles to complete the design for public art at Surrey Libraries - Clayton as generally described in this report.

Laurie Cavan
General Manager
Parks, Recreation and Culture

Appendix "I" – Concept Drawings by Roxanne Charles for Meeting Room at Surrey Libraries – Clayton

Appendix "II" – Previous Public Art Installation at Surrey Libraries – Clayton

Appendix "III" – Installation Site at Surrey Libraries - Clayton

APPENDIX "I"

**Concept Drawings by Roxanne Charles
for Meeting Room at Surrey Libraries - Clayton**



APPENDIX “II”

Previous Public Art Installation at Surrey Libraries – Clayton



Bear With It by Rain Pierre



Wading & Evading by Anthony Gabriel

APPENDIX “II”

Installation Site at Surrey Libraries – Clayton

