



Corporate NO: R043

Report COUNCIL DATE: February 28, 2000_

REGULAR

TO: Mayor & Council **DATE: February 22, 2000**

FROM: General Manager
Parks, Recreation and Culture Department **FILE: 0042-077**

SUBJECT: Public Art Advisory Committee Report - September to December 1999

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive this report for information.

BACKGROUND

The Public Art Policy for Surrey was adopted in principle on June 23, 1997 and confirmed as a City Policy on May 4, 1998. The Public Art Advisory Committee was officially appointed by Council on October 13, 1998. This report summarizes the activities of the Public Art Advisory Committee for the final quarter of 1999 as requested by Council.

DISCUSSION

The Public Art Advisory Committee (PAAC) continued to meet the challenges presented by the new Public Art Program, with meetings held September 8, October 22 and November 26. These meetings focused on ongoing projects and on the development and eventual approval of the *Public Art Master Plan 2000-2002*. Highlights of the Public Art Advisory Committee (PAAC) meetings include:

1. Public Art Projects

Surrey Sport and Leisure Complex/ Surrey Sport and Leisure Arena

The Fall was a time of pride and celebration for the PAAC and the community with the completion of the Surrey Sport and Leisure Complex. On September 10, 1999, the opening ceremonies for the Aquatic Facility were a great success and those present witnessed the unveiling of the art work by Blake

Williams entitled "A Million Summers". This art work encompasses a series of elements which include: the four large scale ceramic tile divers, the twelve glass photo and text-based viewing frames, the colourful children's tiles, and the introductory ceramic tiles that grace either side of the front doorways.

The opening ceremonies for the Arenas followed on November 5, 1999. The entry to the Arenas features another creation by Blake Williams entitled "From Frozen Ponds", a ceramic tile wall piece that incorporates range of historical images of ice activities. Staff continue to receive very positive responses to these varied and complementary site specific art works.

Guildford Multi-purpose Community Centre:

In October, PAAC gave unanimous approval of the final public art proposal for the Guildford Multi-purpose Community Centre entitled "The Meeting of Mind and Body" by artists Nancy Chew and Jacqueline Metz of Muse Atelier Architecture. Situated in the lobby space between the Community Centre and the Library, this installation reflects on this interface of intellectual and physical pursuits. This project is scheduled for completion in early 2001.

Quibble Creek Pump Station:

PAAC has been kept informed of the progress of the Quibble Creek Pump Station design process. Due to a number of technical concerns, the original proposal has required some revisions and resulted in delays to the project. It is anticipated that the project will be completed by May, 2000.

2. Public Art Master Plan 2000-2002

In carrying out the Surrey's Public Art Policy goal "*to incorporate and integrate the public art program into the planning, design and execution of selected civic and private development projects with the assistance of an interdepartmental public art planning team*", PAAC deliberated over the compilation, consideration and selection of projects that would be suitable for Public Art.

The Public Art Policy states that "*projects with high visibility and public impact will be selected from the following categories: new building construction, major additions to existing buildings, park projects and engineering structures (B.2.3).*" PAAC expanded on the concepts of high visibility and public impact when measuring a project's eligibility, ensuring that each selected project could satisfy the majority of the following: is highly visible in the public context; is accessible to the public; has social, historical, and/or cultural significance, and/or economic development potential; has the potential to expand the experience of place; and satisfies and enhances civic and public functions, policies and objectives.

PAAC also gave consideration to: the distribution of the project sites in terms of town centres; offering a broad range of opportunities for artists and for community involvement; and an interest in developing town centre gateways that reinforce the spatial networks people experience upon entering Surrey and travelling between town centres. The resulting list of projects were brought together in the Corporate Report entitled: *Public Art Master Plan 2000-2002*; which was received for information by Council on November 22, 1999.

3. Banners Strategy

As requested by PAAC's list of inclusions for public art, Arts Services staff are keeping the PAAC informed of the preparation of the Corporate Report for Banners - with the intention of proposing a coordinated City-wide approach to a banner program and banner hardware inventory system.

CONCLUSION

Under the guidance of the Public Art Advisory Committee, the Public Art Program continues to develop and expand in a pro-active manner. With the successful completion of the first few public art projects and the ongoing implementation of the *Public Art Master Plan 2000-2002*, the Public Art Policy will be of lasting and positive benefit to the citizens of the City of Surrey.

Don Hunter, General Manager
Parks, Recreation and Culture

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