Corporate Report

NO: C006

COUNCIL DATE: June 4, 2001

COUNCIL-IN-COMMITTEE

TO: DATE: Mayor &

2001

May 22,

Council

FILE: 8092-010 FROM: General Manager of Parks,

Recreation and Culture

"When I Grow Up" CD Presentation SUBJECT:

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive the presentation for information.

INTENT

The intent of this report is to recognize a successful project partnership between K.B. Woodward Elementary students and staff, the Surrey School Board, the Surrey Art Gallery, the Vancouver Film School and artist Leah Decter. The project, "When I Grow Up..." consisted of an artist in residence project, the production of artworks for an exhibition at the Surrey Art Gallery, and the creation of a documentary CDRom. A brief visual presentation of the CD will be provided to share highlights of the project with Council.

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION

In the spring of 2000, supported with funding from the City of Surrey's Millennium Magic Fund, the Surrey School Board, corporate sponsors and grant monies, the Surrey Art Gallery initiated a collaboration with artist Leah Decter. With the support of the Surrey School Board, Leah served as an artist in residence working with the teachers and students of K.B. Woodward Elementary (over 500 students) to create the project When I grow up... The final project presented a child's eye view of the future in a series of hand made books. Using standard elementary school media, students from Kindergarten to Grade 7 each created an image and text 'page' expressing their ideas of the future. These pages were then bound together and made into class books. Each book explored a different topic chosen by the class, such as jobs, environment, family, and entertainment. The process of creating the artwork with the school took place in March and April 2000. The completed works (as well as a banner with handprints of each child and teacher) were exhibited as part of the Surrey Art Gallery's 25th anniversary exhibition last summer. K.B. Woodward Elementary has placed the final books into their school library, and will retain the handprint banner.

In addition to establishing the partnership with the school, the Gallery also initiated a partnership with the Vancouver Film School to produce a documentary CD about the process and production of the When I Grow **Up...** artist in residency project. The CDRom was produced by students of the Vancouver Film School's New Media program, and was completed this year. It honours the children and their vision for the future. It documents every image and text created by each child, and includes documentation of the workshops with students and teachers, the Silver Celebration of the opening day of the exhibit, and video of the exhibition installation. It was designed to be child friendly, and to encourage future partnerships. A copy of this CD will be deposited in public libraries across Canada by the Surrey Art Gallery.

On Friday, April 20, Surrey Arts Centre staff, artist Leah Decter and Councillor Barbara Steele made a presentation to KB Woodward School, which included the distribution of the CD to all students and staff. The presentation of the documentary CD was the final step to complete the process of this collaboration. It was an opportunity to thank the students and teachers for sharing their ideas and imaginations with our Surrey community.

Don Hunter, General Manager of Parks, Recreation and Culture

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