



City of
Peterborough

TO: Members of the Committee of the Whole

FROM: Ken Doherty, Director of Community Services

MEETING DATE: April 6, 2009

**SUBJECT: Report CSACH09-007
Public Art Policy**

PURPOSE

A report to recommend the adoption of a Public Art Policy for the benefit of City residents and visitors.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council approve the recommendations outlined in Report CSACH09-007 dated April 6, 2009 of the Director of Community Services, as follows:

- a) That Council adopt the Public Art Policy set out in Appendix A to Report CSACH09-007 as recommended by the Arts, Culture & Heritage Advisory Committee, and the Board of the Art Gallery of Peterborough; and
- b) That a funding goal of 1% of the City's annual capital levy be considered as the City's contribution towards public art in the 2010 budget deliberations.

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

In recent years, funds have been allocated within the Arts, Culture & Heritage Division's capital budgets as follows: \$30,000 in 2006; \$60,000 in 2008 and 2009. If during the 2010 budget deliberations, Council considered the recommended 1% of the annual capital levy, this would result in a projected contribution of \$78,070 in 2010.

Alternatively, Council could consider maintaining the current funding level and continue to work towards the 1% goal in future budget deliberations.

BACKGROUND

Policy Context

In 2005, the City established the Arts, Culture & Heritage Advisory Committee to advise and support the Arts, Culture & Heritage Division, and to advise and to formulate and recommend policies for the City on arts, culture and heritage matters. One of the Committee's responsibilities is to assist in the development, selection, acquisition, installation and maintenance of a public art programme. In 2008, the Advisory Committee identified the development of a Public Art Policy as a priority.

Public art reflects the identity of a community and gives a voice to the community. It gives meaning to place by interpreting the social, historical, cultural and natural environment. Public art enhances our quality of life, contributes to economic development and helps us to celebrate our rich history. It brings art to life for our citizens in many everyday settings and shows our commitment to local artists. Through public art, Peterborough residents will have access to art from local, regional, national and international artists.

The Public Art policy is intended to guide the Municipality, community groups and private sector developers in planning, creating, locating, maintaining and de-accessioning a public art collection. However, more specific goals and objectives of the policy are to:

- Guarantee an approved, fair and consistent public selection process for public art;
- Ensure that all works of public art that are to be purchased, commissioned or donated by the City of Peterborough will be subject to the terms and conditions of the Public Art Policy;
- Provide stewardship for public art and municipal collections;
- Ensure that public art is included in the planning and design of publicly accessible spaces;
- Ensure that public art continues to make our environment visually engaging, while reflecting our heritage and cultural diversity.

Process

In developing the Public Art Policy, staff at the Art Gallery consulted stakeholders and residents using a public survey and a public meeting to ensure that there was community input in the writing of the policy. These initiatives were held to generate interest, excitement and exposure to the development of the policy document. The local media was made aware of the plans for the Public Art Policy and assisted in raising awareness of the process. Earlier drafts of the policy were reviewed by the Arts, Culture & Heritage Advisory Committee, and committee members' recommendations have been included in the policy. Terms of reference documents for the management,

preservation, interpretation, development and promotion of the City's public art collection will be developed. A Public Art Advisory Committee (PAAC) will be established as a subcommittee of the Arts, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee (ACHAC), as part of the Community Services Department for the City of Peterborough. PAAC will advise on all aspects of Public Arts Policy, planning, education and promotion, including the allocation of funds from designated municipal sources. PAAC will be facilitated by City staff through the Arts, Culture and Heritage Division.

Capital Contribution

Funding for Public Art in other municipalities is frequently based on a 1% levy on large capital projects, although in some cases an annual budget allocation is the source. Beginning in 2010, the Policy recommends using a "percentage for public art" strategy with a 1% target as a goal of the City's annual capital levy. It is hoped, however, that additional funds for public art will be considered whenever the City undertakes major renovations or capital reconstruction projects for City facilities.

Recent Public Art Projects

Over the past decade, the City has initiated public art projects as legacy components during significant community celebrations including:

Millennium Park:

- Ojibway Calendar by Curve Lake artist Keith Knott
- "Esker" sculpture by Haliburton artists Maryanne Barkhouse and Michael Belmore (sponsored by Kawartha Rotary)
- "Co-opportunity" sculpture by Belleville artist James Smith (sponsored by the Peterborough & district Labour Council)
- Children's Discovery area with sculptures by Montreal artist Laura Brown Breetvelt

City Centennial Benchmarks Project:

- "Launch Pad" by Warsaw area artist Michael Fortune
- Untitled by Millbrook artist John Ireland
- "Bench for Richard B. Rogers" by Peterborough artist Caroline Langill
- subsequently, the Art Gallery of Peterborough selected an additional work from the competition and commissioned "Loveseat" by Earnest Daetwyler

Fallen Firefighter Monument

- Earlier this year, the City commissioned Toronto area artists Myros Trutiak and Yolanda vanderGaast to construct and install a commemorative sculpture "Their Sacrifice, Our Gratitude" in Del Crary Park in late summer 2009, with the support of the local Firefighter's Association and in recognition of the Fire Services' 100th anniversary in 2008.

SUMMARY

Public art is considered to be a key component to the attractiveness and identity of a city. It demonstrates the character of the community; it strengthens the local economy through an investment in the arts; and it reflects a progressive municipality.

Submitted by,

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Director Community Services

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Attachments:
Appendix A - Public Art Policy