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**TO:** ACTING CITY MANAGER **DATE:** 2021 June 29

**FROM:** DIRECTOR PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURAL SERVICES **FILE:** 51000-40

**SUBJECT:** YUNOMI/YOU KNOW ME PROJECT

**PURPOSE:** To request approval and funding for the Yunomi/You Know Me Project proposal outlined in this report.

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**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. **THAT** Council be requested to approve the Yunomi/You Know Me Project proposal, outlined in this report.
2. **THAT** Council be requested to forward a copy of the report to the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission.

**REPORT****1.0 BACKGROUND**

During the Covid-19 pandemic, staff at the Shadbolt Centre for the Arts have been quite creative with adapting events, programs and services to meet the challenge of providing safe access to arts and cultural experiences to as many community members as possible.

**Yunomi/You Know ME Project**

This is a proposal for an artist-to-artist exchange program between ceramic artists in Burnaby and our Sister City Kushiro, Japan as a gesture of friendship and solidarity that does not require people to travel, originated by Rebecca Nowosad, Ceramics Programmer.

**2.0 POLICY SECTION**

The Yunomi/You Know Me Project aligns with the Corporate Strategic Plan by:

**A Connected Community**

- Enhance social connections throughout Burnaby

To: Acting City Manager  
From: Director Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services  
Re: Yunomi/You Know Me Project

..... Page 2

### **An Inclusive Community**

- Provide opportunities that encourage and welcome all community members and create a sense of belonging
- Create more opportunities for the community to celebrate diversity.

### **A Healthy Community**

- Improve upon and develop programs and services that enable ongoing learning

### **A Thriving Organization**

- Ensure that our core values are reflected in our policies, programs and service delivery.

## **3.0 PROCESS**

The "humble cup": every culture in the world is familiar with this form: taller than it is wide, expert at quenching thirst, and a universal symbol of friendship. In Japan, the Yunomi is an informal cup used daily for tea. The idea behind the Yunomi/You Know Me Project (hereinafter called the Project) is an exchange of cups between potters from the City of Burnaby and Kushiro, Japan to extend the hand of friendship in the wake of a global crisis and reach out and communally, if distantly, enjoy a beverage in a beautiful cup. The title Yunomi/You Know Me describes the Project to a "tea"; the exchange offers artists a way to get to know each other through their art.

### **Why are we doing this?**

At a time when the world is experiencing a great deal of upheaval with the pandemic, climate change, political division, increased xenophobia and isolation, it has never been more important to come together and keep our ties to the global community strong. Burnaby is a global citizen and the Project is one way to remind ourselves and our neighbours of the things that remain good in the world and the resiliency of art despite global crisis.

### **Who will be Involved?**

City of Burnaby ceramic artists will be asked to contribute one hand-made ceramic cup to the Project. The call for submissions will be open to staff, instructors, students, Burnaby Potters Guild members and local artists who are residents of the City. All submissions will be considered regardless of skill level and will be subject to a jurying process managed by local ceramic artists. A connection will be made with an arts organization in Kushiro, Japan to send them 20 tea cups and ask them to have their potters make and send us back 20 tea cups in exchange. Each person who contributes a cup will receive a cup.

To: Acting City Manager  
From: Director Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services  
Re: Yunomi/You Know Me Project  
..... Page 3

### **How will the cups be chosen?**

Parameters for each cup will be established and all submissions must fit dimensions no greater than 10 cm. in diameter and 15 cm. tall, wheel-thrown or hand-built. We will encourage artists to submit a cup that is reflective of their own personal style and artistic practice. The artists will supply their own clay and fire the cup in keeping with their individual style. Motivation to participate in the Project is voluntary with the intrinsic value being the human connection of the exchange.

Cups are required to be submitted by November 30 so that ceramic specialists can jury and select the cups to be sent to Kushiro. The jury will include non-participating Guild members, students, and staff from the Ceramics Department. The jury process will be blind to yield a fair representation of the submissions. An additional cup will be created by a Shadbolt ceramic artist for Mayor Hurley to gift to Kushiro's Mayor.

### **Where will the cups be seen?**

The Project will include exhibits of cups sent and received both at the City Hall and documented in an online gallery on the Shadbolt Centre's webpage. After successful completion of the exchange with our Sister City Kushiro, Japan, the Project could continue by engaging Burnaby's other Sister and Friendship cities and beyond, with the Committee's approval.

### **Steps for Engagement**

1. Initiate connections with an arts centre in Kushiro, Japan (now).
2. Discuss the criteria for the Project with the designated Kushiro partner group and establish timeframe for delivery and return (July-August).
3. Inform Burnaby ceramic artists of the Project's purpose, criteria and deadlines, (July-September).
4. Assemble the ceramic artist jury (October).
5. Receive submissions (November 30).
6. Jury review and selection (December).
7. Coordinate exhibits in Burnaby of cups headed to Kushiro (January-February, 2022).
8. Crate and deliver Burnaby's Yunomi cups to Kushiro (March, 2022).

### **When the cups made by the Kushiro artists arrive in Burnaby:**

1. Prepare for the exhibits at City Hall and on-line.
2. Using a lottery-style method, connect one cup with each artist who submitted a cup for Kushiro.
3. Organize a tea ceremony to celebrate the exchange with all participants.

To: Acting City Manager  
From: Director Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services  
Re: Yunomi/You Know Me Project  
..... Page 4

**Budget**

The following is a preliminary cost estimate for the Project:

Materials and supplies	\$500.00
Packing crate custom made for boxes coming to and from Kushiro	\$1,500.00
Shipping to and from Kushiro	\$3,000.00
Exhibition at City Hall	\$100.00
Promotion (Press release, social media, posters, website)	\$100.00
Celebration Tea Ceremony	\$500.00
Additional costs	<u>\$300.00</u>
<b>Estimated Total</b>	<b>\$6,000.00</b>

**4.0 RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that approval and funding be granted for the Yunomi/You Know Me Project proposal. Project details will be reported back as it unfolds.



Dave Ellenwood  
DIRECTOR PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURAL SERVICES

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cc: Acting City Manager  
Assistant Director-Cultural Services  
Director Finance