

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL

TO: MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS

SUBJECT: ECO-SCULPTURE GIFT TO FIRST NATIONS

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **THAT** Council approve the gifting of eco-sculptures to the four host First Nations on whose traditional territory the City of Burnaby is now located: s̓ə lil wətaʔt̓ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nation, x̓w̓məθkʷə ʔəm (Musqueam) Nation, S̓k̓w̓x̓w̓ú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish) Nation, and kʷikʷəł'əm (Kwikwetlem) Nation, after initial Council-to-Council meetings.
2. **THAT** Council approve a one-time cost of up to \$220,000 (\$55,000 each) to build the agreed upon eco-sculptures; and, the ongoing annual funding of up to \$70,000 (\$17,500 each) to maintain the eco-sculpture for all four Nations from the Gaming Interest Reserve.

REPORT

The Executive Committee of Council, at its Open meeting held on March 1, 2023, received and adopted the attached report seeking Council approval and funding to gift eco-sculptures to host First Nations.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor S. Dhaliwal
Chair

Councillor R. Lee
Vice Chair

TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS,
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL

DATE: 2023 March 01

FROM: DEPUTY CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE
OFFICER AND CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER
GENERAL MANAGER PARKS,
RECREATION AND CULTURE

SUBJECT: ECO-SCULPTURE GIFT TO FIRST NATIONS

PURPOSE: To seek Council approval and funding to gift eco-sculptures to host First Nations.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **THAT** the Executive Committee recommend Council approve the gifting of eco-sculptures to the four host First Nations on whose traditional territory the City of Burnaby is now located: səlil wətaʔt (Tseil-Waututh) Nation, xʷməθkʷə ʔəm (Musqueam) Nation, Skw̓xwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish) Nation, and kʷikwəʔəm (Kwikwetlem) Nation, after initial Council-to-Council meetings.
2. **THAT** the Executive Committee recommend Council approve a one-time cost of up to \$220,000 (\$55,000 each) to build the agreed upon eco-sculptures; and, the ongoing annual funding of up to \$70,000 (\$17,500 each) to maintain the eco-sculpture for all four Nations from the Gaming Interest Reserve.

REPORT

1.0 INTRODUCTION

In the spirit of reconciliation, the City of Burnaby seeks to engage with host First Nations through traditional protocols on a Council-to-Council basis to build positive and meaningful relationships. This includes participating in the traditional practice of gift-giving.

The practice of gift giving is an important, life-long experience and tradition practiced by First Nations. Gifts are exchanged or given as a sign of respect, recognition of something important, or to give thanks.

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and General Manager Parks, Recreation and Culture
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2.0 BACKGROUND

As communities opened up and in-person meetings began to resume early last year, the City of Burnaby initiated efforts to engage the 4 host First Nations at a Council-to-Council level.

For the traditional practice of gift-giving, City of Burnaby staff discussed proposing to the Nations a gift of an eco-sculpture. This was considered as an opportunity to engage all participants in a collaborative process that included information sharing about the different plants and cultures; and to create a modern interpretation of their uses in the form of living art. The notion was that the Nations would identify a theme and then collaborate with City of Burnaby to bring the project to fruition through physical participation in planting and completing an eco-sculpture. Once created, the sculpture would be on seasonal display.

3.0 COUNCIL TO COUNCIL MEETINGS & ECO-SCULPTURE GIFTS

An initial meeting with Tsleil-Waututh First Nation had been held before the pandemic, however, due to the government enforced social restrictions of this period, there was no follow up and no opportunity to build on the relationship during that time. Therefore, it was resolved to start new with all 4 host First Nations.

The City attended its first Council-to-Council meeting with Musqueam Nation on July 11, 2022. Musqueam hosted the meeting in their community. City Council and senior management joined Musqueam Chief and Council and their senior management for a meeting in which a meal was shared, gifts were exchanged (the City offered an eco-sculpture), and a commitment was made to work together going forward.

The City hosted a Council-to-Council meeting with Tsleil-Waututh on July 18, 2022, in Burnaby. City Council and senior management joined Tsleil-Waututh Chief and Council and their senior management, for a meeting in which a meal was shared, gifts were exchanged (the City offered an eco-sculpture), and a commitment was made to work together going forward.

The City has not been able to secure dates for Council-to-Council meetings with Squamish Nation and Kwikwetlem First Nation, but efforts will continue this year. Second meetings will also be held with Musqueam and Tsleil-Waututh Nations to continue building the relationships and to learn about these lands on which we live, work, and play. A commitment was made to meet annually.

The eco-sculpture gifts were offered to Musqueam and Tsleil-Waututh Nations by the City, with the option for the host First Nations to have the eco-sculpture located in their community or in Burnaby. If the first option was chosen, the community would be responsible for maintenance, as it was communicated that the City could not provide this service outside of Burnaby. However, City staff could provide training and technical

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knowledge to the Nations, to ensure the ongoing maintenance of the eco-sculptures. If the option to have the eco-sculpture located in Burnaby was chosen, the City would be responsible for its maintenance.

In either location, a plaque would accompany the eco-sculpture to commemorate the first Council-to-Council meeting between the City and the host First Nation. The commitment was that this work would be done collaboratively with the host First Nations. It is expected that gifts at subsequent meetings with all host First Nations will be more modest, but in respect of traditional protocols.

The Tsleil-Waututh Nation has accepted the eco-sculpture gift and discussions have commenced on the type of acceptable eco-sculpture for the Nation. A decision on location has not yet been confirmed. Discussions on the acceptance and plans for the similar gift to the Musqueam Nation has not yet commenced.

Upon Council approval, eco-sculptures will also be offered to Squamish Nation and Kwikwetlem First Nation at initial Council-to-Council meetings.

4.0 TIMING AND FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

City staff will work with the individual Nations to determine acceptable sculptures for their respective traditions. Each sculpture will take approximately 6 months from acceptance of the gift, to display. This time is required to discuss the theme of the sculpture, conduct maquette construction and complete frame construction, which includes the frame being built and stuffed for planting (plant orders are generally made in the fall and ready for use in March). Interpretive signage and site preparation would be done simultaneously with the preparation of the sculpture. The plant order would take place in September and the eco-sculpture would be displayed between June to October.

Depending on the type and size of the eco-sculpture, a one-time cost of \$55,000 would be required to build each of them. All four eco-sculptures would cost up to \$220,000 to build. Also, each year, up to \$17,500 (labour and materials) would be required for the City to maintain the eco-sculptures. This depends on whether the City continues to maintain the eco-sculpture or the respective Nation. The Nation would assume any maintenance costs if they take over the upkeep of the eco-sculpture.

A maximum of up to \$70,000 would be required annually to maintain all four eco-sculptures. The budget for the costs for the first eco-sculpture, should it move forward for 2023, will be funded from contingency, and budget for subsequent eco-sculpture and ongoing operating costs would be included in the 2024 – 2028 Financial Plan with a recommendation to be funded by the gaming interest reserve.

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Upon Council approval, staff would adjust and reprioritize the City's eco-sculpture program to accommodate for the eco-sculpture gifts to the host First Nations.

5.0 RECOMMENDATION

That the Executive Committee recommend Council approve the gifting of eco-sculptures to the four host First Nations and approve respective funding as outlined in this report.



Noreen Kassam, CPA, CGA
DEPUTY CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER AND CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER



Mary Morrison-Clark
GENERAL MANAGER PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE

NK/MS/MMC: eb

Copied to: General Manager, Lands and Facilities
General Manager, Planning and Development
General Manager, Engineering