

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL**TO:** MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS**SUBJECT: PUBLIC ART POLICY****RECOMMENDATION:**

THAT the City of Burnaby Public Art Policy Framework included as Attachment 1 and the Public Art Policy included as Attachment 2 to the report titled “Public Art Policy” dated October 4, 2023, be approved; and

THAT a copy of this report be forwarded to the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission for information.

REPORT

The Executive Committee of Council, at its Open meeting held on October 4, 2023, received and adopted the attached report seeking Council approval for a City of Burnaby Public Art Policy Framework and Policy to establish guidelines for the acquisition and management of public art on public and private lands.

On behalf of Executive
Committee of Council,

Councillor S. Dhaliwal
Chair

Councillor R. Lee
Vice Chair

TO: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL (ECC)
FROM: GENERAL MANAGER PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE
SUBJECT: PUBLIC ART POLICY
PURPOSE: To seek Council approval for a City of Burnaby Public Art Policy Framework and Policy to establish guidelines for the acquisition and management of public art on public and private lands.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the City of Burnaby Public Art Policy Framework included as Attachment 1 and the Public Art Policy included as Attachment 2 to the report titled “Public Art Policy” dated October 4, 2023, be approved; and

THAT a copy of this report be forwarded to the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission for information.

1.0 POLICY SECTION

The City of Burnaby Public Art Policy Framework (**Attachment 1**) and accompanying Public Art Policy (**Attachment 2**) are aligned with the Social Sustainability Strategy (2011) that identifies the importance of arts and culture in establishing and celebrating community. The Policy aligns with Burnaby’s Economic Development Strategy, Official Community Plan, and Corporate Strategic Plan.

2.0 BACKGROUND

The City of Burnaby has collected works of art for placement in public places for many years, either as gifts or acquisitions. These works are located near civic facilities and in public parks. In 1990, the City of Burnaby Arts Policy made recommendations for public art. In 2005, Commission adopted a policy for public art, which guides the process to acquire, maintain and deaccession works primarily in City-owned public places. Private sector developers and business owners have placed works of art on private properties viewable by the public. In recent years, more have expressed interest in placing works of art for public enjoyment on private lands.

In the past, in the absence of a Council-adopted Policy, City Councils and Parks and Recreation Commissions of the day made project-by-project decisions to acquire and place these works on City property.

Following a City of Burnaby Internal Audit in 2014 initiated by the Finance Department, recommendations have been implemented related to public art management:

- All public art has been inventoried and accessioned into the permanent collection;
- All public art has received a full valuation; a conservator has performed a condition assessment and developed a maintenance plan for existing works; and
- Parks, Recreation, and Culture Commission has requested and received from Finance revisions to the annual budget for acquisitions, maintenance and restoration.

The General Manager Parks, Recreation and Culture, General Manager Planning and Development, General Manager Engineering, and Deputy Chief Administrative Officer/Chief Financial Officer, the City Solicitor and the Director Indigenous Relations have contributed to and reviewed the proposed Policy. The proposed Policy has been drafted with feedback from all of the departments listed above, community consultation, and a thorough scan of local and national municipal best practices.

3.0 GENERAL INFORMATION

The proposed Policy will allow the City to standardize processes and procedures that are currently being employed, such as public art contributions within the private sector, making a streamlined, fair and transparent process for the acquisition of public art within the private sector. The Policy promotes an organized approach and a cohesive public realm experience.

It is recommended Council approve a new City of Burnaby Public Art Policy and Guidelines to manage the acquisition, maintenance, and the lifecycle planning of public art in the city on both public and private lands.

4.0 COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Since 2014, a database containing all public art in Burnaby has been accessible to the public. A webpage for public art offers in-depth information on key artworks in the City.

A review was undertaken of sectoral policy and leading practices of area municipalities, Canadian municipalities of comparable size, civic program delivery models, private sector regulations and procedures that could impact/enhance policy direction. Review included:

- City of Vancouver, Public Art Policy and Procedures for Rezoned Developments, 2014;
- City of Victoria, Art in Public Places Policy, 2018;

- City of Surrey Public Art Policy, 2018 & City of Surrey Private Development Public Art Program, 2011;
- City of New Westminster, Public Art Policy, 2012/2020;
- City of Richmond Policy Manual-Public Art Program, 2020 & Richmond City Centre Public Art Plan, 2011; and
- City of North Vancouver, Public Art Private Sector Guidelines.

Policy development included feedback surveys from Host Nation artists and artists working closely with municipal and private sector public art programs.

Policy development included leading practice workshopping as a member of Provincial and National Committees, including review of CCNC Public Art Toolkit (2010) for national recommendations in processes, an in-practice evaluation of policy application, and project case analysis reviews. Key sector networks include:

- BC Public Art Network; and
- Creative Cities Network of Canada – National Public Art Network.

5.0 FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The proposed Policy, Program and Procedures sets out clear guidelines and streams of private sector contribution for commissioning of works of art, receipt of gifts, and cash-in-lieu contributions. Contribution of funds will be held in Reserve Accounts for the purposes of new commissions and ongoing lifecycle maintenance, making significant investments to culture.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Morrison-Clark, General Manager Parks, Recreation and Culture

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment 1 – City of Burnaby Public Art Policy Framework
- Attachment 2 – Public Art Policy

REPORT CONTRIBUTORS

This report was prepared by Jennifer Cane, Visual Arts Coordinator, and reviewed by Denis Nokony, Director Culture.