

TO: MAYOR & COUNCIL
FROM: GENERAL MANAGER COMMUNITY SAFETY
SUBJECT: **MURAL FUNDING PROPOSAL- BARNET MARINE PARK**
PURPOSE: To seek approval for funding for the creation of an artistic mural at Barnet Marine Park.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the cost of \$7,000 for the creation of a mural at Barnet Marine Park to be funded from the 2023 Mural Grant Program, be approved; and

THAT payment of \$7,000 to artist Mihai Darvasa, subject to the conditions described in the report titled “Mural Funding Proposal – Barnet Marine Park” dated November 20, 2023, be approved.

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER’S COMMENTS

I concur with the recommendation of the General Manager Community Safety.

1.0 POLICY SECTION

Enhancing aesthetics of community infrastructure aligns with policy objectives contained in the City’s Moving Forward initiative, Burnaby Community Safety Plan (2020) and the Burnaby Strategic Plan (2022).

2.0 BACKGROUND

Burnaby has benefitted from a strong and established Mural Grant Program. Since the creation of the program in 2008, installed murals have added vibrancy and visual creativity to neighbourhoods and deterred illegal graffiti vandalism. The Mural Grant Program operates on a 50% cost-sharing model contributing up to \$7,000 with local businesses and organizations. Eligible and documented mural expenditures are reimbursed after satisfactory completion of a mural.

Properties eligible for mural grant funding have publicly visible walls with a history or high probability of illegal graffiti vandalism. Grant funding is allotted to such locations where a mural is likely to decrease the invitation of vandalism and other property crime through beautification and enhancing livability of the community. To be successful for the mural grant, an applicant must include a completed Artist Mural Agreement, Property Owner Agreement, concept art and an estimate of the mural cost. Mural designs will demonstrate a high degree of artistic ability and a theme that is in alignment with City of Burnaby social values. Once a mural has been created, staff then confirm the work is completed as agreed, and receipts are reviewed prior to reimbursement of eligible costs.

3.0 GENERAL INFORMATION

3.1 Mural Location

Barnet Marine Park has a history of graffiti vandalism requiring removals several times a year. The creation of a mural presents an element of beautification that is generally respected and not vandalized by those in the graffiti subculture. The creation of this mural on the concession building acts as an effective graffiti deterrent and presents a visual element that will enhance the aesthetic of the park. In particular, the creation of this mural will beautify the concession building as a focal point of the marine park.

3.2 Artist Information

Mural artist Mihai Darvasa creates vibrant murals combining street art style with themes of nature and people. Mr. Darvasa was selected by the City of Burnaby to paint a mural at the Barnet Marine Park concession facility for the 2023 grant funding year. Working with the City of Burnaby Community Safety department, Mr. Darvasa submitted a signed Artist Mural Agreement along with full colour concept art that is intended to illustrate and celebrate the cultural diversity of the world.

3.3 Neighbourhood Benefit

The concession facility at the Barnet Marine Park has long been challenged with illegal graffiti. The initiative to create a mural at this location not only applies an element of crime prevention but adds a beautification component that will enhance the experience in visiting the park and beach. The mural theme embraces the City of Burnaby’s value in celebrating multi-cultural diversity and welcoming people from all over the world. The mural presents larger than life portrait illustrations of many of the cultures that make Burnaby diverse and culturally rich.

Staff conclude that the mural at Barnet Marine Park satisfies the criteria for funding through our 2023 mural grant funding program and is of great benefit to the community in regard to crime prevention, community beautification and positive social messaging.

4.0 COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Future public communications are being planned for consideration by Marketing and Communications.

5.0 FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

There is sufficient funding for this mural at the Barnet Marine Park through the 2023 Mural Grant Program in conjunction with separate funding from Parks and Recreation.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Critchley, General Manager Community Safety

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Mural Art Barnet Marine Park, Burnaby, BC

REPORT CONTRIBUTORS

This report was prepared by Todd Polich, Anti-Graffiti Coordinator and reviewed by Dawn Virginillo, Crime Reduction and Intervention Manager.