

**TO:** MAYOR & COUNCIL  
**FROM:** GENERAL MANAGER COMMUNITY SAFETY  
**SUBJECT:** **MURAL FUNDING PROPOSAL- 6688 SOUTHOAKS CRESCENT**  
**PURPOSE:** To seek approval for funding for the creation of an artistic mural at Nikkei Cultural Centre at 6688 Southoaks Crescent.

## RECOMMENDATION

**THAT** the cost of \$7,000 for the creation of a mural at 6688 Southoaks Crescent to be funded from the 2023 Mural Grant Program be approved; and

**THAT** payment of \$7,000 to Nikkei Museum and Cultural Centre of 6688 Southoaks Crescent, Burnaby, BC V5E 4M7, subject to the conditions described in the report titled “Mural Funding Proposal – 6688 Southoaks Crescent” dated December 4, 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 rests 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**

The property at 6688 Southoaks Crescent hosts a highly visible wall that is susceptible to illegal graffiti. 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 not only acts as an effective graffiti deterrent but presents a visual element that enhances the aesthetic of the community and celebrates Japanese culture. In particular, the creation of this mural will beautify the Southoaks community for residents and visitors to the Nikkei Centre.

**3.2 Artist Information**

Japan-born artist Taka Sudo, who calls BC home, creatively weaves traditional Japanese symbolism and classical Japanese design motifs with his signature street-style and Western art utilizing bold colours and striking lines. He adeptly illustrates the complexity of the interplay between the traditional and contemporary culture of Japan, and our relationship to that culture through art in Canada.

**3.3 Neighbourhood Benefit**

The community of Southoaks is an area of Burnaby where illegal graffiti has been prevalent. Murals in the area, particularly on Beresford Ave., Kingsway, and Edmonds, have acted as an effective graffiti prevention strategy. The initiative to create a mural at this location not only works to prevent crime but adds an element of beautification and cultural sentiment that enhances the livability of the community. Additionally, the mural theme further strengthens the social capital of the community, embracing the City of Burnaby’s value in celebrating Japanese culture.

Staff conclude that the mural at 6688 Southoaks Crescent satisfies the criteria for funding through our 2023 Mural Grant Program and is of great benefit to the community in support of crime prevention, community beautification and positive social messaging.

**4.0 COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Not applicable.

**5.0 FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

There is sufficient funding for this mural at 6688 Southoaks Crescent through the 2023 Mural Grant Program.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Critchley, General Manager Community Safety

**ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment 1 – Mural Art Nikkei Cultural Centre, 6688 Southoaks Crescent, Burnaby

**REPORT CONTRIBUTORS**

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