

TO: MAYOR & COUNCILLORS
FROM: GENERAL MANAGER COMMUNITY SAFETY
SUBJECT: **MURAL FUNDING PROPOSAL - 7244 ARCOLA ST.**
PURPOSE: To seek approval for funding for the creation of an artistic mural at 7244 Arcola St.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the cost of \$1,075 for the creation of a mural at 7244 Arcola St., to be funded from the 2024 Mural Grant Program, be approved; and

THAT payment of \$1,075 to Natalie Warkentin, subject to the conditions described in the report titled “Mural Funding Proposal – 7244 Arcola St.” dated April 15, 2024, be approved.

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 7244 Arcola St. hosts a highly visible wall that has an extensive history of attracting 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 with the promotion of peace.

3.2 Artist Information

Natalie Warkentin is a Burnaby mural artist who strives to create art as a collective with members of the community. Ms. Warkentin has created several murals in the Edmonds area engaging community youth in the colourful pieces that embrace unity of people. Working with the City of Burnaby Community Safety department, Ms. Warkentin submitted a signed Artist Mural Agreement along with full colour concept art that is intended to illustrate and celebrate the theme of peace.

3.3 Neighbourhood Benefit

The prominent wall at 7244 Arcola St. is regularly targeted by graffiti vandals and is widely considered a neighbourhood eyesore. The creation of a community engagement mural will transform the barren brick walls into a community landmark that will prevent illegal graffiti while projecting a positive message of peace.

Staff conclude that the mural at 7422 Arcola St. satisfies the criteria for funding through our 2024 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 7244 Arcola St. through the 2024 Mural Grant Program.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Critchley, General Manager Community Safety

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – 7244 Arcola St. Mural Concept

REPORT CONTRIBUTORS

This report was prepared by Todd Polich, Anti-Graffiti Coordinator.