

**TO:** MAYOR & COUNCILLORS  
**FROM:** GENERAL MANAGER COMMUNITY SAFETY  
**SUBJECT:** **MURAL FUNDING PROPOSAL - KENSINGTON OVERPASS**  
**PURPOSE:** To seek approval for funding for the creation of an artistic mural on the pillars and walls beneath the Kensington overpass.

## RECOMMENDATION

**THAT** the cost of \$7,000 for creation of a mural beneath the Kensington overpass, to be funded from the 2024 Mural Grant Program, be approved; and

**THAT** payment of \$7,000 to Ela Maftai, subject to the conditions described in the report titled “Mural Funding Proposal – Kensington Overpass” dated October 21, 2024, be approved.

## 1.0 POLICY SECTION

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

## 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 highly visible walls and pillars beneath the Kensington overpass are regular targets of illegal graffiti vandalism. Visible from both Lougheed Highway and the walking path of Central Valley Greenway, city staff regularly respond to new graffiti reports in this area. The creation of this mural will act as an effective graffiti deterrent while beautifying the Central Valley Greenway with vibrant and uplifting art.

**3.2 Neighbourhood Benefit**

It is anticipated that the creation of a mural on the support pillars beneath the Kensington overpass will deter illegal graffiti and add an element of artistic beauty to the surfaces visible to both pedestrian, cycle and vehicle traffic. This mural will prevent illegal graffiti while promoting positive and legal arts in an area that has long been considered an eyesore due to the abundance of illegal and non-artistic graffiti.

Staff conclude that a mural created beneath the Kensington overpass area satisfies the criteria for funding through our 2024 Mural Grant Program and benefits the community through crime reduction, beautification and promotion of legal art.

**3.3 Artist Information**

Ela Maftai is a Burnaby artist that has painted numerous murals in the Lower Mainland including several murals in Burnaby. She combines traditional landscapes and wildlife painting with street art to create vibrant murals that embrace realism with elements of abstract stylization. A Romanian immigrant, she is inspired by the people, nature and wildlife of Burnaby and BC.

**4.0 COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Not applicable.

**5.0 FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

There is sufficient funding for this mural at Kensington Overpass through the 2024 Mural Grant Program.

Respectfully submitted,  
  
Dave Critchley, General Manager Community Safety

**ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment 1 – Mural concept art for Kensington Overpass

**REPORT CONTRIBUTORS**

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