

TO: MAYOR & COUNCILLORS
FROM: GENERAL MANAGER COMMUNITY SAFETY
SUBJECT: **MURAL FUNDING PROPOSAL - STILL CREEK DRIVE**
PURPOSE: To seek approval for funding for the creation of an artistic mural on the Willingdon Avenue and Still Creek Drive overpass retaining wall.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the cost of \$7,000 for the creation of a mural at Still Creek Drive, below the Willingdon Avenue overpass, to be funded from the 2024 Mural Grant Program, be approved; and

THAT payment of \$7,000 to Emily Gray, subject to the conditions described in the report titled “Mural Funding Proposal - Still Creek Drive” dated December 16, 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 benefited 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 Willingdon Avenue overpass retaining wall accessible from Still Creek Drive is a frequent target of graffiti vandals. The north facing wall visible from Still Creek Drive and the Central Valley Greenway is defaced by illegal graffiti several times a year causing visual degradation of the community and requiring substantial staff resources in restoration. In this location, the creation of an artistic mural would not only deter graffiti but will also provide a compelling and creative visual element for the many pedestrians and cyclists that utilize the Central Valley Greenway path along Still Creek Drive.

3.2 Neighbourhood Benefit

Creating a mural on the Willingdon Avenue overpass retaining wall will act as a strong method of graffiti prevention while providing a stunning visual element to the many cyclists and pedestrians that frequent this location along the Central Valley Greenway. The nature-based art theme portrays a positive message of ecology that will be both beautiful and inspiring.

Staff conclude that a mural created at this location satisfies the criteria for funding through our 2024 Mural Grant Program and will benefit the community with proven crime prevention, beautification, and the promotion of legal street art.

3.3 Artist Information

Emily Gray is an experienced local artist who has painted numerous murals in the Lower Mainland, Sunshine Coast and most recently in the United States. Emily is a nature and wildlife enthusiast, inspired to create images that showcase the beauty of B.C. and the importance of local ecology. Emily’s artworks often portray the interconnectivity of people and nature in beautiful vibrant colour.

4.0 COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Not applicable.

5.0 FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

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

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Critchley, General Manager Community Safety

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Still Creek Drive Mural Concept Art

REPORT CONTRIBUTORS

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