

Acquisition of Artworks into Public Art Collection

ISSUE

The Public Art Advisory Committee and Administration is recommending the acquisition of four artworks, by way of donation, into the City's Public Art Collection.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Standing Policy Committee on Planning, Development and Community Services recommend to City Council:

1. That the donation of the artworks Contrapuntal Jazz, Dream Walker, Cascadence and River and Sky be accepted as donations into the City of Saskatoon public art collection, as recommended by the Public Art Advisory Committee and Civic Administration;
2. That the Office of the City Solicitor prepare the necessary agreements evidencing the donations for signing by the Artists, the Mayor and the City Clerk; and
3. That the Office of the City Solicitor prepare the necessary agreement with the Saskatchewan Craft Council to allow for the display of the artwork River and Sky on the Craft Council building at 813 Broadway Avenue.

BACKGROUND

The City of Saskatoon (City) Municipal Culture Plan includes specific strategies to facilitate cultural investments including public art in Saskatoon neighbourhoods. Further, donations and purchases of public art are encouraged in Council Policy No. C10-025, the Public Art Policy.

The City has recently been presented with an opportunity to acquire four artworks into its public art collection. All four are currently on display around Saskatoon.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

The goal of the City's Placemaker Program is to add significance to civic spaces through temporary public art. These temporary exhibits transform public spaces and engage with audiences to promote an appreciation for contemporary art practices. Placemaker artworks are leased by the City from the artist. Four Placemaker artworks, with leases that have expired, have been offered to the City as donations. Details for each of the artworks are provided in Appendix 1.

With the expiration of any Placemaker lease, the following options exist:

1. Extend the lease;
2. Do not extend the lease, requiring the artist to remove the artwork;
3. Purchase the artwork; or
4. Acquire the artwork through donation.

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In this case, all four artworks are being offered as donations. As per Council Policy No. C10-025, Public Art Policy, the Public Art Advisory Committee, at their November 8, 2019 Committee meeting, considered the offers to donate and resolved to recommend acceptance of the four artworks offered for donation.

The artworks being offered as donations are:

1. Contrapuntal Jazz by Leslie Potter;
2. Cascadence by Edward Gibney;
3. River and Sky by Tony Stallard, Kenneth Williams and Joseph Naytowhow; and
4. Dream Walker by Leslie Potter.

All four of the artworks being made available to the permanent collection are currently on exhibit:

1. Contrapuntal Jazz - 20th Street and Avenue C;
2. Cascadence - 22nd Street and 5th Avenue;
3. River and Sky - 813 Broadway Avenue; and
4. Dream Walker - Central Avenue and 110th Street.

Administration supports acquisition of these artworks, as each in its own way, helps to animate the public space in which it is exhibited and each promotes an appreciation for contemporary art practices.

The Broadway, Downtown, Riversdale and Sutherland Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) were consulted regarding acquisitions specific to their areas with all four supporting the City in acquiring the artworks as donations into the permanent collection. If approved, the neon light installation River and Sky will complement a similar installation by the same artist team led by Tony Stallard; Land of Berries currently affixed to the north wall of The Remai Arts Centre/Persephone Theatre building.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The total ongoing operating impact to the City for maintenance and conservation of all four artworks is estimated at \$1,000 per year and will be accommodated within the existing budget for public art maintenance.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS

The Public Art Advisory Committee recommendation to City Council is in compliance with Public Art Policy No. C10-025 and Gifts and Memorial Program Policy No. C09-027.

NEXT STEPS

Should City Council accept the donation, Administration will prepare and finalize donation agreements with the artists and arrange a long-term agreement with the Saskatchewan Craft Council for exhibition of River and Sky.

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Further, if approved, Administration will include all four artworks on the interactive public art map application (iMap) located on the City's website.

APPENDICES

1. Acquisition of Sculptures into the Public Art Collections

REPORT APPROVAL

Written by: Kevin Kitchen, Community Development Manager

Reviewed by: Andrew Roberts, Director Recreation and Community Development Division

Approved by: Lynne Lacroix, General Manager Community Services

SP/2019/RCD/Admin Report - Acquisition of Artworks into Public Art Collection/jdw