

# Official Community Plan Redesign – Public Art

## ISSUE

As part of the Official Community Plan Redesign project, a draft of a new Official Community Plan (OCP) has been developed. This report provides an introduction to the redesign project, as well as an overview of content related to public art.

## BACKGROUND

The OCP is a statutory plan created under the authority of *The Planning and Development Act, 2007*, that provides a comprehensive policy framework to shape the long-term growth and development of Saskatoon. Its purpose is to guide the physical, environmental, economic, social and cultural development of the community through a broad set of goals, objectives and policies. These policies provide a framework for decision-making that guides future development and redevelopment in Saskatoon and helps to achieve the community that residents collectively desire and envision. This framework encompasses and supports other civic policies, such as Policy No. C10-025 Public Art Policy and Policy No. C10-020 Civic Heritage Policy. The OCP provides the long term vision that supports these policies and connects them to the overall vision for the City.

Since the last major update of the OCP, in 2009, a number of initiatives have helped shape a new direction for the City of Saskatoon (City), including: the *Saskatoon Speaks* Community Visioning process; Plan for Growth and associated initiatives; the Culture Plan and its subsequent update; as well as adoption of the Strategic Plan and its subsequent update. Consolidating these changes into the OCP ensures a consistent direction for development in the city and provides residents, City Council and the Administration a clearly defined vision for the city's future, supported by the policies necessary to achieve that vision.

## CURRENT STATUS

Long Range Planning has led the Official Community Plan Redesign project. Intent of the project is to update the OCP to appropriately reflect the current vision for Saskatoon, based on current management documents and endorsed initiatives. The result includes a reorganization of the layout of the OCP to align it with the Strategic Plan, including making use of the Strategic Goals as titles for individual sections of the document.

Each section is being drafted based on an extensive review of City management documents and endorsed initiatives, as well as internal engagement with relevant City staff to confirm direction. Internal engagement occurred throughout 2017, 2018 and 2019 and included meetings with representatives from 29 of the 34 City divisions. Resulting updates to the OCP will reflect this engagement, as well as the engagement that informed each guiding document or direction.

A comprehensive review and approval strategy has been developed to ensure all appropriate committees have the opportunity to consider the proposed sections of the OCP. Before the full document is presented for approval at a public hearing, an overview of each section of the proposed OCP will be shared with the Municipal Planning Commission. An overview of relevant content is being provided to each of the City's five advisory committees, as well as to City Council, through its Standing Policy Committees.

### **DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS**

This report provides an overview of content proposed to be included in the draft OCP regarding public art. General details of this section are included below, with additional information provided in Appendix 1 – Proposed Content – Public Art.

Public art is proposed to be addressed under Section D3.0 – Arts and Culture. Other relevant sections include Section C1.0 – Civic Vision, Section D7.0 Placemaking, and Section G1.1 – Downtown and City Centre. Each of these sections works together within the OCP to provide an overall framework for how the City of Saskatoon supports public art.

New and updated content provides direction on public art in the city. This includes content on:

- Culture
  - Cultural development;
  - City Centre and Downtown as cultural destinations;
  - Cultural economy and tourism;
  - Programming, festivals, and events in civic spaces; and
  - Cross-cultural initiatives.
- Public Art
  - Public art in spaces throughout the city;
  - Public art into civic capital projects;
  - Diversity of public art and artists; and
  - Awareness and understanding of public art.
- Placemaking
  - Overall network of public spaces;
  - Improvements to the public realm; and
  - Saskatoon as a four-season city.

- Downtown and City Centre
  - Overall design and image of the City Centre;
  - Downtown as the centre of financial, administrative, cultural, and commercial activities of the city;
  - Encouragement of art in public places throughout the City Centre and in other business improvement districts;
  - Design and programming of public spaces that serve residents during all seasons in the City Centre; and
  - Provision of open space and pedestrian amenities in the City Centre.

It includes updates to wording from the following sections of the [current OCP](#):

- 6.1 – The Downtown; and
- 14.0 – Urban Design and Design Review.

New and updated content is informed by:

- [City of Saskatoon Strategic Plan 2018 - 2021](#)
- [Public Art Policy C10-025](#)
- [City of Saskatoon - Culture Plan](#)
- [City of Saskatoon - Culture Plan Implementation Refresh 2018-2022](#)
- [City of Saskatoon - City Centre Plan](#)
- [City of Saskatoon – City Centre Plan Phase 1 – Public Spaces, Activity, and Urban Form](#)
- [Saskatoon Speaks - Community Vision \(June 2011\)](#)

The proposed updates address Strategy 2 – *Integrate a cultural approach to the community planning and development process* of the Culture Plan by embedding cultural development considerations into the OCP. The updates also ensure alignment between the OCP and the above listed plans, strategies and policies.

The policy directions summarized above and in Appendix 1 provide overall direction for how the City makes decisions relating to public art. For implementation of these policies, they should be considered in the context of the full OCP and decisions should be assessed against all of the policies contained within it.

### **NEXT STEPS**

Reports providing an overview of each of the sections of the proposed OCP are being provided to the Municipal Planning Commission for review. Additionally, each of the City's five advisory committees are being provided reports summarizing topics relevant to their mandate. As these reports are reviewed, updates to the draft OCP will be made as needed, based on discussions at the Municipal Planning Commission and the

Advisory Committees. Once every section has been reviewed, discussions and direction from the Municipal Planning Commission and Advisory Committees will be summarized in a final report to the Municipal Planning Commission. This report will provide an overview of the proposed OCP document and will include a recommendation that the report be forwarded to City Council recommending, that at the time of a public hearing, City Council consider the Administration’s recommendations that the proposed OCP Bylaw be approved.

**APPENDICES**

1. Proposed Content – Public Art

**REPORT APPROVAL**

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SP/2020/PL/Admin Report - Official Community Plan Redesign – Public Art/gs