

Offer to Donate Artwork Entitled “The Bond”

ISSUE

Saskatchewan artist Floyd Wanner has offered to donate his sculpture “The Bond” to the City of Saskatoon. The Public Art Advisory Committee and Civic Administration recommend the sculpture be accepted into the City of Saskatoon’s (City) public art collection.

RECOMMENDATION

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

1. Acceptance of the donation of the artwork entitled “The Bond” from artist Floyd Wanner (as recommended by the Public Art Advisory Committee and Civic Administration) be approved; and
2. The Office of the City Solicitor be requested to prepare the necessary agreement, evidencing the donation for signing by Floyd Wanner, the Mayor, and the City Clerk.

BACKGROUND

The City of Saskatoon 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 C10-025, Public Art.

At its March 12, 2021 meeting, the Public Art Advisory Committee (Committee) considered Saskatchewan artist Floyd Wanner’s offer to donate his sculpture, “The Bond”, to the City. The Committee considered the following:

- 1) artistic excellence;
- 2) durability;
- 3) reputation of the artist; and
- 4) possible locations for the artwork.

Following deliberation, the Committee recommended the City accept the offer of donation and explore opportunities for placement of the artwork in a public space outside of the City Centre.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

Artist Floyd Wanner, born and raised in Saskatchewan, studied sculpture at the University of Saskatchewan under the direction of Bill Epp. Mr. Wanner is a full member of the Prairie Sculptor's Association in Saskatoon, Canadian Artists’ Representation/Le Front des Artistes Canadiens, the Saskatchewan Craft Council and has participated in gallery shows across western Canada. Mr. Wanner’s main working

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medium is stone, with a preference for monumental works, utilizing both abstract and realistic forms to express his themes. The City has two Floyd Wanner stone sculptures in its public art collection:

- Muskox on 20th Street and Avenue C; and
- Dream Maker on 19th Street at 1st Avenue.

“The Bond” is a dolomite stone sculpture which incorporates two stylized figures. One depicting an adult and the other a child. Between the two figures exists a symmetrical element which may be interpreted as a divider or bonding agent. In his artist statement for the piece, Mr. Wanner states:

“although there are always dividing conflicts between parents and their children; in the final analysis the family bond is the strongest tie between them”.

“The Bond” was accepted into the City’s Placemaker Program as a short-term lease between 1999 and 2005.

Administration supports the acquisition by donation of this sculpture as an opportunity to animate a public space outside of the city centre, and has identified Lakewood Civic Centre, where it is currently on temporary display, as a location for long-term placement.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

“The Bond” has an estimated value of \$8,000. As a stone sculpture, the ongoing operating impact to the City for maintenance and conservation is estimated at \$250 per year. The City’s existing public art maintenance budget has sufficient funds to cover this impact.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS

The advice of the Public Art Advisory Committee is in compliance with Council Policy C10-025, Public Art.

NEXT STEPS

If the donation is approved, the Office of the City Solicitor will prepare the necessary agreement, evidencing the donation, for signing by Floyd Wanner, the Mayor, and the City Clerk. Further, an image of the artwork will be added to the public art map application (iMap) located on the City website.

APPENDICES

1. The Bond

REPORT APPROVAL

Written by: Kevin Kitchen, Community Development Manager
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Approved by: Lynne Lacroix, General Manager, Community Services