

## Offer to Commission and Donate Two Artworks – The Cranes Dance and The Autumn Flight

### ISSUE

Dream Unlimited Corporation (Dream) has offered to commission and donate two sculptures, The Cranes Dance and The Autumn Flight, to the City of Saskatoon (City) for display in the Brighton neighbourhood. The Public Art Advisory Committee (Committee) recommends that the City accept the offer to commission and donate.

### RECOMMENDATION

That the SPC on PDCS recommend to City Council:

1. That acceptance to commission and donate two artworks entitled The Cranes Dance and The Autumn Flight as recommended by the Public Art Advisory Committee and Civic Administration be approved; and
2. That the City Solicitor be requested to prepare the appropriate agreement, evidencing the commissioning and donation for signing by Dream, His Worship the Mayor and the City Clerk.

### BACKGROUND

Private Developer public art and donations of public art are encouraged under [Council Policy C10-025, Public Art](#). In 2019, a similar offer from Dream for a large-scale sculpture, titled “Coming Home”, was recommended by the Committee and approved by City Council. The “Coming Home” sculpture is now located on the roundabout at the intersection of Brighton Boulevard and Brighton Common.

The Public Art Advisory Committee, at its meeting on [November 18, 2022](#), considered Dream’s offer to commission and donate two sculptures entitled The Cranes Dance and The Autumn Flight. The Committee considered the following:

- Artistic excellence and durability;
- Reputation of the artist; and
- The placement of the artworks in the Brighton neighbourhood.

Following deliberation, the Committee recommended the City accept Dream’s offer to commission and donate the artworks and that Dream undertake further consultation with neighbourhood residents.

### DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

The details of the two sculptures to be commissioned and donated are as follows:

- Cranes Dance (see Appendix 1) is a stylized flock of Cranes designed as a metaphorical representation of a welcoming, vibrant and harmonious community. The 7m wide by 4m high sculpture will be powder-coated aluminum and steel in semi abstract forms of Cranes dancing. The metallic colour, with subtle shine,

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will respond to seasonal changes animating the Cranes sculpture throughout the year. The stylized Cranes will be constructed of 5mm sheet aluminum and steel, shaped and formed individually into abstract images of Cranes, similar to the traditional Japanese Origami folding technique. The Cranes sculpture will be anchored to concrete piles with the surrounding xeriscape design consisting of field boulders and ornamental grass species which will complement the Cranes sculpture.

- The Autumn Flight (see Appendix 2) is a stylized flock of wild Geese in flight designed as a metaphorical representation of the passage of time and seasons. The sculpture will be 7m wide by 5m high and be constructed of 5mm aluminum sheets, shaped and formed individually. The sculpture will be supported by high tensile steel rods anchored to the concrete piles and the surrounding spaces will utilize low-maintenance xeriscaping with field boulders and ornamental grasses.

The artist for this project is Henry Lau, a professional public artist and architect. He was born in Hong Kong and moved to North Battleford as an international high school student. He then attended the University of Saskatchewan and the University of British Columbia, receiving his Bachelor of Fine Arts and graduate degree in Architecture. Mr. Lau began his professional career in 1994 and is experienced in all aspects of public art, urban design and architecture. He has been directly responsible for a number of successful projects from western Canada to the Caribbean.

The commission and donation of these sculptures represent an additional investment in public art by Dream in the Brighton neighbourhood. If approved, the sculptures will be placed on roundabouts and will complement Dream's 2020 donation of the large-scale sculpture "Coming Home". Further, the two sculptures are intended to be in geographic alignment with the "Coming Home" sculpture, with The Cranes Dance scheduled for installation in 2023 and The Autumn Flight in 2024 (see Appendix 3).

The Public Art Donation Agreement for the two sculptures would be similar to the one completed in respect of "Coming Home" and would contain the following terms:

- Dream would assume responsibility for the costs of the production of the artwork and installation;
- The City would have a defined date of delivery for each aspect of the artwork;
- Upon installation, the artwork shall become the property of the City;
- Dream can use the artwork to promote its own business;
- The City will identify the contribution of Dream and recognize the artist at the site(s);
- Once installed, the City will insure and maintain the artwork; and
- The City will receive suitable warranties of uniqueness, quality and condition.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The approximate cost of this project is \$320,000. Dream will fully fund the fabrication and installation of the artwork. The estimated annual operating impact to the City is \$500 comprised of \$250 per sculpture for cleaning and maintenance. 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 sculpture designs will be submitted to the Transportation and Construction Division for review to ensure sight distance compliance with roundabout guidelines after which the Office of the City Solicitor will prepare the necessary agreement, evidencing the donation for signing by Dream, His Worship the Mayor and the City Clerk.

**APPENDICES**

1. The Cranes Dance Visualization
2. The Autumn Flight Visualization
3. Sculpture Locations

**REPORT APPROVAL**

Written by: Kevin Kitchen, Manager, Community Development  
Reviewed by: Andrew Roberts, Director of Recreation and Community Development  
Approved by: Lynne Lacroix, General Manager, Community Services

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