



REPORT

TO: Mayor Lawlor and Members of Council

FROM: Glodeane Brown, Public Art Coordinator

DATE: May 10, 2023

REPORT NO.: BEC-2023-007

SUBJECT: Library and Cultural Centre Plaza Indigenous Public Art Project

RECOMMENDATION:

That Report No. BEC-2023-007, dated May 10, 2023, regarding Library & Cultural Centre Plaza Indigenous Public Art Project be received;

AND FURTHER THAT, having already approved Phase 1 through the 2022 Budget, Council approve Phase 2 of the Public Art – Library and Cultural Centre Courtyard capital project (project 4000-10-2101);

AND FURTHER THAT, funding for Phase 2, in the amount of \$97,800, come from the existing Public Art reserve, reducing the balance to zero.

AND FURTHER THAT Council direct staff to review the funding mechanism for the Public Art Program as part of the Public Art Policy Review and report back to Council on recommended approaches.

KEY POINTS:

The following are key points for consideration with respect to this report:

- Phase 1 of the project was approved through the 2022 capital budget process.
- Phase 2 was reviewed through the 2023 capital budget process, and it was suggested that staff report back to Council with an approach to proceeding with Phase 2 in 2023.
- Approval of Phase 2 is required to implement the project with sufficient funds available in the Public Art Reserve.

- The Town is committed to advancing Truth and Reconciliation (TR).
- The Library & Cultural Centre Plaza Indigenous Public Art Project is part of the Town's Truth and Reconciliation (TR) initiatives. It will engage Indigenous peoples and non-Indigenous peoples, provide fair compensation to Indigenous arts professionals, and engage the community in public discourse.
- The Public Art reserve is intended for public art projects and can be used as a funding source for the Library & Cultural Centre Plaza Indigenous Public Art project.
- Funding the capital project budget from reserves has no impact on the current operating budget.
- Public art was incorporated as part of the redevelopment phase of the Library and Cultural Centre Plaza.
- Initial consultation on this project has taken place with the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation.
- The Public Art Advisory Board (PAAB) developed and approved this project between 2019 – 2022.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION:

The Library and Cultural Centre Plaza was identified as a key site for public art in the Public Art Master Plan. The Public Art Advisory Board (PAAB), made up of community stakeholders and Town staff, identified the plaza as an appropriate site for Indigenous public art as the Library & Cultural Centre is an important site for Indigenous programming facilitated through Cultural Services and the Halton Hills Public Library. The Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation flag has also been permanently raised at this location.

The installation of permanent public art at the highly visible and well used Library and Cultural Centre Plaza presents opportunities for the advancement of Truth and Reconciliation, relationship-building, public education, and artistic expression. The intention of the public art piece is to create an opportunity for an Indigenous artist to create a contemporary artwork.

As part of Truth and Reconciliation efforts, the Library & Cultural Centre Plaza Indigenous Public Art will engage Indigenous peoples and non-Indigenous peoples in project development, provide fair compensation to Indigenous arts professionals, engage the community in public discussion and result in a highly visible piece of contemporary Indigenous artwork demonstrating the continued development and advancement of Indigenous cultural and artistic practices. The Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation (MCFN) were informed of this project as were additional stakeholders in the process to develop the project.

The Public Art Advisory Board supports the implementation of the Public Art Master Plan in coordination with Town staff and consultants as needed. The previous PAAB (March 2018- February 2021) proposed the project idea in 2019/2020 and the current

PAAB (March 2021-Feb 2023) developed the scope, scale, budget and concept for the project.

Due to the current structure of the Public Art reserve, this project was designed in two phases in order to accumulate the required funding. A budget of \$92,000 was approved for Phase 1 through the 2022 budget and is available in a capital project. Funding for Phase 1 covers the costs of contracting an Indigenous Curator to direct the process for commissioning a piece of Indigenous art and developing and distributing a Call for Artists. Funding for Phase 2, as recommended, would cover the costs of a two-step selection process (which involves a shortlisting process), payment for the Indigenous artist, and fabrication and installation of the public art.

The proposed project budget for Phase 2 is \$97,800, increasing the total budget for both phases from \$92,000 to \$189,800. The needed funding will be derived from existing funds in the Public Art reserve. Phase 2 of the project budget does not impact the operating budget. The total project budget incorporating Phase 1 and Phase 2 covers the total costs of compensation for Indigenous curators and artists, consultant fees (engineer, architect, conservator etc.), fabrication, installation, public consultation and programming, documentation, and marketing. Funding for Phase 2 is required to complete the project. Without Phase 2 funding, the project cannot proceed.

The Public Art reserve is the primary source of funding for Public Art projects. The reserve is funded through a contribution from the operating budget to maintain a minimum reserve balance of \$100,000 on an as-needed basis. As capital projects are approved, the reserve funding is transferred to the capital project to complete public art installations. This then requires operating funding to replenish the reserve, up to the \$100,000 minimum.

The existing \$97,800 currently in the Public Art Reserve was always intended to be used to complete the Library & Cultural Centre Plaza Indigenous Public Art Project. Transfer of these funds from the reserve to the capital project budget does not impact the current operating budget.

Future public art projects in the long-range financial forecast have not yet been developed or communicated to stakeholders or the public. To maximize the effectiveness of the Public Art reserve, it is recommended that staff review funding mechanisms for the Public Art Program and report back to Council with recommendations as part of a future Public Art Policy Review.

Communications and public consultation will take place throughout the project. This public art project will be developed in consultation with Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities, Town staff, the Public Art Advisory Board, and key stakeholders with a focus on relationship-building, transparency, creative expression, and reconciliation.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

This report aligns to the Town's Strategic plan recognizing the value to foster a healthy community that provides a clean environment and range of economic and social opportunities to ensure a superior quality of life in our community.

This report also identifies shaping growth as one of the Town's Strategic priorities.

RELATIONSHIP TO CLIMATE CHANGE:

This report is administrative in nature and does not directly impact or address climate change and the Town's Net Zero target.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT:

Public Engagement will be required; consultation with Communications staff to follow.

The Public Art Advisory Board (PAAB) developed and supports the project. Public engagement will be required during the process to implement the public art project plan.

INTERNAL CONSULTATION:

In preparation for this report, staff from Finance were consulted.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

This report will be funded through an existing approved budget source.

Funding for Phase 1 of the Library & Cultural Centre Indigenous Public Art project (4000-10-2101) was approved through the 2022 capital budget. Phase 2 is required to move forward with the project. Phase 2 requires a funding transfer from the existing Public Art reserve of \$97,800 increasing the total budget for both phases from \$92,000 to \$189,800. Funding of Phase 2 does not impact the current operating budget. The Public Art Reserve will have a zero-balance following this transfer.

Reviewed and approved by,

Catherine McLeod, Manager of Culture and Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

Moya Jane Leighton, Director of Finance & Town Treasurer

Damian Szybalski, Commissioner of Business, Environment & Culture

Chris Mills, Chief Administrative Officer