

Appendix 1 - BEC-2023-007

Library and Cultural Centre Plaza Indigenous Public Art Project Background

1. Background

- The Library and Cultural Centre Plaza was identified as a key site for public art in the Public Art Master Plan. Public consultation was part of this process.
- Public art was incorporated as part of the redevelopment phase of the plaza. Public Consultation was part of this process.
- The Library & Cultural Centre is an important site for Indigenous programming facilitated through Cultural Services and the Halton Hills Public Library.
- This single project was approved by two subsequent Public Art Advisory Boards, going back to 2019.
- The Public Art Advisory Board (PAAB) is made up of four community stakeholders and three Town staff.
- The Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation (MCFN) were informed of this project.
- This project was included as a key initiative in the Town's 2021, 2022 & 2023 Business Plans, as well as reports [ADMIN-2021-0041](#) and Confidential Report ADMIN-2020-2025.
- This single project has two phases of funding. Council approved phase 1 funding of the project through the 2022 capital budget.
- This project cannot be completed without phase 2 funding. It is one integrated project with two phases or rounds of funding solely due to the structure of the Public Art Reserve.
- It is standard practice to approve the movement of funds from reserves into capital projects as part of the budget process.
- Significant work has been undertaken on the project including the development of the project brief and budget, initial consultation with Recreation & Parks and HHPL staff, review of best practices for Indigenous Public Art Projects, communication with MCFN, and preparation of the Indigenous Public Art Curator Call (awaiting issue pending Phase 2 funding approval).

2. Project Purpose

- Installation of permanent public art by an Indigenous artist at the highly visible Library and Cultural Centre Plaza presents opportunities for the advancement of Truth and Reconciliation, relationship-building, public education, and artistic expression.
- Provide an opportunity for an Indigenous artist to create a contemporary artwork to speak to the ongoing development of vibrant indigenous cultures and emphasize a current and active role in cultural development.
- Create a community focal point in the plaza for associated programming, discussion, reflection and community (non-indigenous and indigenous) engagement.
- Install the Town's first permanent piece of public art.
- Integrate Truth and Reconciliation into Town programs, practices & policies as part of the Town's broader Truth and Reconciliation initiatives.

3. Project Implementation Process

- Follows best practices and includes contracting an Indigenous Curator to guide the process.
- The Indigenous Curator will be responsible for developing and implementing a public art project plan in accordance with Municipal guidelines. Key duties will include research, project development, consultation, community engagement and education, facilitation of the

commissioning process, coordination of the installation process, curatorial documentation, and promotion and presentation of the installed public art.

- The Indigenous Curator will engage and consult with the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, local Indigenous groups and residents, Town staff, the Public Art Advisory Board, key stakeholders and the public at large.
- The process will focus on relationship-building, transparency, creative expression, and reconciliation.

4. Project Work Completed

- Consultation with Recreation & Parks & HHPL on incorporation of Indigenous Public Art in the Library & Cultural Centre Plaza.
- Project brief & budget developed by PAAB in consultation with Town staff.
- Review of best practices for Indigenous Public Art Projects including Consultation with the Public Art Network (part of Creative Cities Canada).
- Project brief communicated to MCFN, community stakeholders and public at large through public reports and presentations.
- 48% of project funding approved through the 2022 Budget Process.
- Call to Indigenous Public Art Curators drafted, reviewed by PAAB and Purchasing

5. Community Engagement: Public Art Project Plan

- Community engagement is included throughout the development of the project plan and commissioning process for the Indigenous Public Art at the Library & Cultural Centre Plaza.
- Initial public consultation occurred through the development of the Public Art Master Plan, the redevelopment phase of the Library and Cultural Centre Plaza and the participation of the Public Art Advisory Board.
- Town staff will explore the potential to host an information session at the appropriate time in the process.
- The public art process will include engagement with Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities, including:
 - Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation
 - Local Indigenous organizations, groups, and residents
 - The Public Art Advisory Board
 - Town of Halton Hills and Halton Hills Public Library staff
 - Key stakeholders, e.g., residents adjacent to the Plaza
 - Public at large, including youth
- The Indigenous Curator will develop and facilitate the engagement process.
- The Indigenous Curator will develop the commissioning process. The Town's standard process is to establish an Art Selection Panel to review the proposals and make recommendations. This panel is comprised of members of the public.

6. Engagement: Call for Curator

- The Curator role is similar to the project management role carried out by consultants for the development of Town plans such as the Cultural Heritage Master Plan.

- Public engagement does not occur at this stage of the project. It is a procurement process that follows standard Town purchasing procedures and policies.
- An evaluation committee is comprised of internal staff. This minimizes risks around conflict of interest, confidentiality and integrity in the procurement process.
- As is standard practice, subject matter experts will be engaged in the development of calls including the Call for Curator. Subject matter experts for this Indigenous Curator Call include:
 - Indigenous Curatorial Collective – Indigenous curatorial practices and processes
 - Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation – Indigenous verification criteria from an Indigenous Nation perspective
 - Grandmothers Voice – Indigenous verification criteria from an Urban Indigenous Perspective

7. Project Budget

- Project budget has been reduced to \$189,800 which is the total available in the Capital Project Budget and the current balance of the Public Art Reserve.
 - \$92,000 is already within a Capital Project account for this public art being approved by Council through the 2022 budget.
 - \$97,800 is the existing balance of the Public Art Reserve
- 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 tax base as the reserve will not be replenished pending updates to funding mechanisms (future Council report).
- As with all public art projects, the budget covers all costs related to this project (not just the physical artwork) including:
 - Curator Fee – to guide the process in an appropriate way
 - Payment to artist(s) – artist fee, travel costs, fabrication costs, and installation costs (site prep, transportation of artwork, equipment rental). This fee may be spread out amongst a number of artists and/or contractors
 - Process costs – Consultant fees (engineer, architect, material conservators, lighting designer, etc), honorariums and travel costs for short-listed artists, honorariums for Art Selection Panel, documentation (photography, videography)
 - Community engagement, consultation and programming.
 - Marketing & Programming - Promotion of curator, artist, and consultant calls for proposals, signage, educational materials, promotion for launch event, honorariums and materials for programming
 - Maintenance & Contingency

8. Connection to Truth and Reconciliation

- The Town's approach to EDI & TR is to embed these principles, values and practices within Town programs & policies.
- A recent example is the stipulation in a recent artist call that at least one of the three opportunities available would be for an Indigenous, Black or other racialized artist. PAAB had recognized that there was a lack of diversity in the artists exhibited through the Under Wraps project and addressed this through the call for artists. This call resulted in a more diverse pool of

applicants with 44% identified as a Black, Indigenous or other racialized artist. The selection process resulted in two wraps by diverse artists.

- The public art project proposal for Indigenous artwork continues with this integrated approach to TR. The funding for this project is public art funding (not TR funding).
- The Town has dedicated funding assigned for EDI & TR implementation and a TR Action Plan
- The first long-term more permanent piece of public art in the Town's art collection being a work by an indigenous artist is significant
- This project supports the Town's broader Truth and Reconciliation initiatives by:
 - Engaging Indigenous peoples and non-indigenous peoples in project development
 - Providing fair compensation to Indigenous arts professionals
 - Engaging the community in public discussion on Indigenous issues and Truth and Reconciliation
 - Installing a highly visible piece of contemporary Indigenous artwork demonstrating the continued development and advancement of Indigenous cultural and artistic practices
 - Providing ongoing opportunities for Indigenous programming, engagement & representation
- Truth and Reconciliation actions undertaken by the Town to date include, but are not limited to:
 - Development of internal Town processes and a system to assess consultation needs with the MCFN Department of Consultation & Accommodation
 - MCFN and Every Child Matters flags raised permanently at three Town Facilities
 - Land Acknowledgment plaques at 13 Town-owned or operated facilities.
 - Orange Crosswalk installed in Glen Williams
 - Relationship building with Indigenous nations, groups, and peoples
 - Educational opportunities for Council, staff and public including year-round Indigenous public programming
 - Recognition of Indigenous History Month, National Indigenous People's Day, National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, Treaties Recognition Week
 - Engagement of Town and MCFN Councillors and staff in official proceedings and community events in Halton Hills and the MCFN reserve in Hagersville.

9. Next Steps

- Pending approval of the remaining 52% of project budget:
 - Review of Indigenous Public Art Curator Call by subject matter experts
 - Issue call for Indigenous Public Art Curator to guide the project
 - Town staff will explore the potential to host an information session on the project at the appropriate time in the process.