

The Corporation of the City of Kawartha Lakes

Council Report

Report Number ED2018-003

Date: June 19, 2018
Time: 2:00 p.m.
Place: Council Chambers

Ward Community Identifier: All

Subject: Public Art Policy

Author Name and Title: Debra Soule Economic Development Officer – Arts, Culture and Heritage

Recommendation(s):

RESOLVED THAT Report ED2018-003, **Public Art Policy**, be received; and

THAT the policy entitled Public Art Policy appended to Report ED2018-003 be adopted, numbered and inserted into the Corporate Policy and Procedures Manual.

THAT any unspent funds in the Public Art area be transferred annually to the City's Contingency Reserve for future use in the Public Art initiative. (1.3209).

Department Head:_____

Financial/Legal/HR/Other:_____

Chief Administrative Officer:_____

Background:

Public Art is a mechanism for carrying out Strategic Direction Three in the Cultural Master Plan's Implementation Plan: "Explore New and Innovative Channels to Tell Our Story" and Strategic Direction Two: Strengthen Connections between Culture and Economic Development, includes "Create an Environment that Attracts Creative and Cultural Industries" as an ongoing priority.

Public Art also supports Goal One, Objective One, within the City's Economic Development Strategy: Build an awareness of the City of Kawartha Lakes as a destination: Seek new opportunities for place making initiatives to attract new residents, visitors and businesses (i.e. heritage conservation districts, cultural districts art programs trails etc.).

The resident surveys completed under the Downtown Revitalization Program for Downtown Lindsay, Fenelon Falls, Omemee and Cobocok / Norland identified public art as an important addition that would contribute to the revitalization of our downtowns.

This report addresses these objectives.

Rationale:

The City is currently the owner of public art located on City property. Economic Development has been receiving an increasing number of inquiries from community groups about public art projects in which residents and business owners are seeking information on the City's role in public art projects.

Economic Development is working with community partners on two mural projects in Omemee. The first is a mural project coordinated by the Omemee Downtown Revitalization Working Group's Beautification subcommittee, funded by the Omemee Lion's Club and RTO8. The mural, which will be installed on the Canadian Legion building, depicts Omemee's local natural attractions as a component of the Discover Omemee project. The second is a panel-based mural commemorating Neil Young's Hometown Concert based on a painting that was created for the former Youngtown Museum in Omemee, initiated by the Omemee Downtown Revitalization Working group, which will be installed at Coronation Hall.

Although there has never been a formal inventory, the City's inventory of public art currently consists of five works of art and at least two historic artifacts:

1. The Chainsaw Carving outside of 180 Kent Street West in Lindsay was created by Gerald Guenkel, a former instructor at Fleming College.
2. The Tulip in Rivera Park is a metal sculpture created in memory of Leroy Wilson's wife Rivera. The petals of the flower were counter-balanced to

- move with the wind, but they are now immobile. The artist is not identified on the sculpture.
3. The Inuksuk located in Victoria Park was built in recognition of the cross-Canada 2010 Olympic Torch Relay. The artist name is not known.
 4. The Iron Maple Tree located near the entrance to Coronation Hall was installed and is maintained by the Omemee and District Historical Society. The tree that was created by artist Dave Huitson in 2014, is constructed of wrought iron with leaves that are embossed with the names of 19 former Horticultural Society past presidents.
 5. A mural created on panels installed on the Community Centre in Kinmount, created by artist Donna Bisschop in 2017 depicting the history of Kinmount.

Artifacts:

1. The Horse Water Trough, now located in front of 180 Kent Street West in Lindsay was the original water trough available to those doing business on Kent Street during the 1800's when they travelled by horse power.
2. The locomotive engine in display in Memorial Park on Lindsay Street South in Lindsay is a reminder of days gone by when rail transport was a key component of Lindsay's economy.

Although there is already a public art collection in the City's ownership, we do not have a policy that clarifies copyright ownership, acquisition, maintenance, liability or other related issues. There are currently public art projects in progress and others that are being pursued by community organizations. Articulation of the City's role and responsibilities with respect to public art, and those of community partners or donors is needed. Such a policy would also facilitate the acquisition of public art in conjunction with the Downtown Revitalization program in an effective and professional manner.

The proposed policy emphasizes public art acquisition through partnerships and donations. However, it is recommended that a \$10,000 public art budget line be created within the existing Economic Development Officer - Arts, Culture and Heritage annual budget towards the potential purchase of Public Art. Realistically, an allocation of this size would be insufficient to purchase public art and would have to be utilized as a matching fund in conjunction with a grant or partnership arrangement. This allocation would be incorporated within the City's Contingency Reserve through an annual transfer and would continue to grow if it is not required during each budget year. In addition, \$2,500 from the existing Arts, Culture and Heritage budget should be allocated for possible maintenance or repair needs or for installation costs associated new public art acquisitions.

Many municipalities that have well-established public art collections and substantial acquisition budgets have established Public Art Committees of Council. As an alternative, a public art panel comprised of members of the

community can be established as a temporary body to adjudicate in the selection process for each public art acquisition.

Other Alternatives Considered:

There are a number of alternatives that could be considered that are listed below:

Option One: Adopt the public art policy and allocate \$12,500 annually to the Arts, Culture and Heritage budget, of which \$10,000 would be directed to public art purchases and \$2,500 towards possible maintenance or installation costs. This is the recommended option.

Option Two: Do not adopt the public art policy:

This option would see the City not adopting a public art policy. However, this would not address the lack of policy to guide liability, maintenance and installation requirements for public art that is already owned or that will be acquired by the municipality.

Option Three: Adopt the Public Art Policy but do not include a budget for purchase:

This option would address the need for current and future policy direction on the acquisition, installation, maintenance and liability associated with City owned public art, and would not impact the current arts, culture and heritage budget, but would limit future acquisitions to those that are donated by external organizations.

Option Four: Adopt the Public Art Policy and include a more substantial allocation for purchase of public art by the City:

This would facilitate the creation of public art under the Downtown Revitalization program and enable a more active role by the municipality in the initiation and selection of projects.

Financial/Operation Impacts:

The City's annualized budget for Arts, Culture and Heritage of \$36,470 is fully tax supported. If the recommendation by staff is approved by Council this budget will be increased by \$12,500 for the 2019 budget year.

Relationship of Recommendation(s) to the 2016-2019 Strategic Plan:

This policy contributes to Goal 1: A Vibrant and Growing Economy, and Goal 2: An Exceptional Quality of Life, from Council's Strategic Plan.

Consultations:

Director of Development Services
Economic Development Manager
Insurance Risk Management Coordinator
City Solicitor
Treasurer
Manager of Corporate Assets
Manager – Parks, Recreation and Culture
Parks and Open Space Supervisor
Curator, Art Gallery of Peterborough

Attachments:

Appendix A: Public Art Policy



20180606 Draft
Public Art Policy.docx

Department Head E-Mail: cmarshall@kawarthalakes.ca

Department Head: Chris Marshall