

Centre in the Park – Public Art**Report Purpose**

To update Council on plans and requirements for a public art piece for Volunteer Plaza in Centre in the Park.

Motion on the Floor

THAT the commissioning and completion of the art sculpture for the Volunteer Plaza area, as identified in the Centre in the Park Public Art Program and as portrayed in Enclosure 3 to the July 19, 2016, Transportation and Agriculture Services report, be approved.

Recommendation

THAT the motion on the floor be withdrawn or defeated.

Council History

July 19, 2016 – Council referred the motion back to administration to return to Council in the fall of 2016 with additional information and recommendations with respect to commissioning and completion of art work for the Volunteer Plaza, including recommendations related to any necessary approvals required under policy.

July 8, 2014 – Council approved the Public Art Plan, which states that artworks exceeding \$250,000 will be taken to Council for approval.

Strategic Plan Priority Areas

Economy: The Centre in the Park project is an innovative, mixed-use development integrating public and private investment.

Governance: n/a

Social: The Volunteer Plaza area is to be a focal point, with a sense of identity that establishes a place and an opportunity for community interaction.

Culture: The Centre in the Park Public Art Master Plan Program is an integral component of the public open space urban design for Centre in the Park.

Environment: Centre in the Park's vision is to achieve a walkable, pedestrian-oriented community that supports sustainable development.

Other Impacts

Policy: FIN-001-024 Financial Reserves Policy; Strathcona County Public Art Plan

Legislative/Legal: A legal and governance review was conducted.

Interdepartmental: Recreation, Parks, and Culture; Transportation and Agriculture Services; Financial Services; Facility Services and Legislative and Legal Services

Summary

The *Public Art Plan* was approved by Council in June 2014, with the primary goal of identifying funding for art projects and a process for obtaining art for our community. The plan identifies that one percent of project costs be allocated to art, *Percent for Art*. The intent of the approved plan was for *Percent for Art* to apply to new projects, not for those approved prior to June 2014, including the Community Centre and the Centre in the Park projects. (Enclosure 1, Clause 7.4 *Percent for Public Art*, page 22).

The *Art in the Park* program contemplated art/open spaces for Centre in the Park. The artist group, Tricycle, under contract with our consultants ISL, helped identify three distinct separate art pieces for Centre in The Park.

1. Momentum, constructed in 2011, includes four stainless-steel screens in the west plaza of the Community Centre. Openings in the screens create complex patterns of light, shadow and reflection.
2. Prairie Walk Rocks and Sound, constructed in 2014, introduced three groupings of large boulders set to form seating areas and stopping points. A large flat cut, mirrored boulder reflects the prairie sky.
3. The Volunteer Plaza Sculpture was not constructed. It is intended to be a large truncated conical volume over four metres high with curved steel plates which provides a dramatic expression of compression and release as the natural light passes through the prism, tying into the prairie setting of Prairie Walk. The proposed Volunteer Plaza Sculpture has an estimated cost of \$700,000.

When the Community Centre was constructed for \$106M, a number of community functional spaces and artist-inspired architecture were added to the design which included the Agora, Gallery@501, Artrium and the Galleria. Also as part of the library space within the Community Centre, three art pieces were acquired including the fused-glass installation and two Alex Janvier pieces. It is difficult to calculate a price for the art-orientated public space and architecture, though we do know that the art pieces in the library were acquired at a value of \$96,500 and the construction of Momentum was at a cost of \$83,470, which were both part of the \$106M.

The Centre in the Park project includes construction and development of roads, sidewalks, pathways and landscaping at a total estimated cost of \$14,385,000. Not all costs are used for calculation of the *Percent for Art* under the plan. When the eligible costs are tallied, they amount to \$4,839,482. Therefore, if the *Public Art Plan* (Enclosure 1, Clause 7.4 *Percent for Public Art*, page 22) is applied, the total amount for *Percent for Art* on this project would be \$48,395. Prairie Walk Rocks and Sound was completed for a cost of \$87,000 leaving no funding for public art in Volunteer Plaza.

Volunteer Plaza is identified in the *Public Art Plan* as having a sculpture of some kind that is compatible with other art, and represents the area. Volunteer Plaza is a large space and will require an art piece that appropriately reflects the location (Enclosure 1, Clause 6.6 *Public Art Location*, page 19-20 and Appendix 9 page 51). When there are enough funds collected in the *Public Art Fund* from future smaller Capital Projects, art would be commissioned for this space. Procedures outlined in the *Public Art Plan* would be followed, including the artist selection guidelines (Enclosure 1, Clause 6.2 *Process for Building a Public Art Portfolio*, page 15-16). Although this does not commission an art piece in the immediate future, it does allow for the development area to be completed and in time, a compatible art piece to be commissioned.

Enclosure

1 Public Art Plan