



CITY OF HAMILTON
PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
Tourism and Culture Division

TO:	Mayor and Members General Issues Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	May 7, 2014
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Public Art Piece Honouring L.M. Alexander (PED14089) (City Wide) (Outstanding Business List Item)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
PREPARED BY:	Ken Coit (905) 546-2424 Ext. 6281
SUBMITTED BY:	Neil Everson Acting General Manager Planning and Economic Development Department
SIGNATURE:	

RECOMMENDATION

- (a) That Tourism and Culture Division staff undertake a Public Art process to commission a Public Art piece honouring Lincoln MacCauley (L.M.) Alexander;
- (b) That the location for the L.M. Alexander Public Art piece be determined as part of the Focus Group consultation as outlined in Report PED14089;
- (c) That the L.M. Alexander Public Art piece be funded from Public Art Reserve Fund 108044 in the amount of \$300,000;
- (d) That this item on the Outstanding Business List respecting a public art piece honouring L.M. Alexander be identified as completed and removed from the General Issues Committee Outstanding Business List.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At the January 15, 2014 General Issues Committee the following motion was passed:

That staff be directed to report back to the General Issues Committee on the feasibility and funding required to develop a public art piece honouring Lincoln Alexander.

Alexander, a Hamilton citizen and former politician, received numerous honours and awards during his lifetime and was remembered with a state funeral when he passed away in 2012 at the age of 90. A permanent, large-scale public art piece would be appropriate to recognize Alexander and would require a minimum budget of \$300,000, to be sourced from the Public Art Reserve Fund 108044. A public process, in keeping

with the Public Art Call for Artists Policy, would be followed to determine project details including location and what aspects and characteristics of Alexander's legacy artists would be asked to address in their submissions. Family and associates of Alexander would be invited to participate in the process as well as residents surrounding potential locations.

Alternatives for Consideration – Not applicable

FINANCIAL – STAFFING – LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial: There are financial implications associated with the recommendations in Report PED14089. A budget of \$300,000 is required for a public art project of this nature. Funds are to be sourced from the Public Art Reserve Fund 108044 which will be left with a balance of \$6,927.

Staffing: N/A

Legal: N/A

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

At the January 15, 2014 General Issues Committee the following motion was passed:

That staff be directed to report back to the General Issues Committee on the feasibility and funding required to develop a public art piece honouring Lincoln Alexander.

Lincoln MacCauley (L.M.) Alexander

Born in Toronto in 1922, Lincoln MacCauley Alexander moved to Hamilton after serving in the Royal Canadian Air Force during the Second World War. He attended McMaster University and Osgoode Hall Law School after which he practised law in Hamilton for many years before running in the 1968 Federal election. Alexander was elected as the Member of Parliament (MP) for Hamilton West in 1968 and in doing so became Canada's first black MP and in 1979 the Country's first black Federal cabinet minister. He continued to make history by becoming the Province's first black Lieutenant Governor, serving from 1985-1991 where he focused his attention on education, racism and youth issues. Alexander was appointed to the Order of Ontario, was Chancellor of the University of Guelph from 1991-2007, was the Honourary Patron of Hamilton's St. John Ambulance, and Honourary Chief of the Hamilton Police Services among other honours and awards.

Alexander passed away on October 19, 2012 at the age of 90. He was remembered with a state funeral organized by the City of Hamilton and the Province of Ontario. In November 2013, the Ontario legislature proclaimed January 21 Lincoln Alexander Day, an annual day of recognition across the Province.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS

The recommendations of Report PED14089 are in keeping with these policy documents:

- The City of Hamilton Public Art Master Plan
- Public Art Call for Artists Policy

RELEVANT CONSULTATION

Marni Alexander, Widow of Lincoln MacCauley Alexander
Manager, Finance and Administration, Planning and Economic Development

ANALYSIS AND RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Proposed Process

Phase 1 – Focus Group Consultation

The focus group consultation phase will differ from the process outlined in Public Art Policy as the subject matter for the artwork, Alexander, has already been identified. As such, the consultation phase has been adjusted and will happen in two stages. Focus groups are anticipated to be held in the Fall of 2014.

Stage 1 – Legacy Characteristics

A focus group made up of Alexander family members, former colleagues, representatives from associations close to Alexander, artists, a historian or biographer and City Staff would be organized by the Tourism and Culture Division. This group would determine what aspects and characteristics of Alexander's legacy artists would be asked to address in their submissions. They will also identify and prioritize potential locations for the artwork(s) to be situated.

Stage 2 – Location Selection

Potential locations will be investigated for feasibility and residents will be consulted to confirm suitability for their neighbourhood. Additional consultation may be required with site specific stakeholders depending on the preferred site. Locations that may be considered include Gage Park, City Hall, Sam Lawrence Park and areas along the Lincoln Alexander Parkway among others.

Phase 2 - Call for Artists

The results of the consultation, additional required research by a historian or biographer and site information would be used to create a Call for Artists document. This document would be issued Nation wide asking artists to propose art work(s) for the project.

It is anticipated that a Call for Artists would be issued in Spring 2015 pending internal City approvals.

Phase 3 - Adjudication

The final Public Art work would be selected by a volunteer citizen jury (including representatives from the focus groups) and all short-listed proposals would be made available for public comment. These comments would be used to inform the jury's winning selection. Adjudication would take place in the Spring and Summer of 2015 assuming preceding phases are on schedule.

Phase 4 – Installation

Once the successful proposal is selected, production of the artwork(s) will begin as coordinated by the artist. Tourism and Culture staff coordinate internal approvals, installation logistics and a launch event once the piece is successfully installed. Installation would be expected in 2016 depending on the complexity of the artwork(s) and pending internal approvals. The project timeline for this phase will be developed with the expectation that a major announcement (announcing the successful artist or the celebration event) will align with the annual Lincoln Alexander Day on January 21.

Proposed Budget

The \$300,000 proposed budget is in keeping with both the City of Hamilton Public Art Master Plan and the scope of previously executed large-scale projects.

ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION

Not Applicable.

ALIGNMENT TO THE 2012 – 2015 STRATEGIC PLAN

Strategic Priority #1

A Prosperous & Healthy Community

WE enhance our image, economy and well-being by demonstrating that Hamilton is a great place to live, work, play and learn.

Strategic Objective

1.6 Enhance Overall Sustainability (financial, economic, social and environmental).

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

N/A

KC:ro