




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

TO:	Mayor and Members Committee of the Whole
COMMITTEE DATE:	June 3, 2020
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Art in Public Places Policy (PED20068) (City Wide) (Outstanding Business List Item)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
PREPARED BY:	Ken Coit (905) 546-2424 Ext. 6281
SUBMITTED BY:	Carrie Brooks-Joiner Director, Tourism and Culture Planning and Economic Development Department
SIGNATURE:	

RECOMMENDATION

That the Art in Public Places Policy, attached as Appendix “A” to Report PED20068, be approved.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Art in public places is recognized by cities around the world as important to their social, cultural and economic success. Understanding this, the City of Hamilton approved its first Public Art Master Plan in 2009. Since that time, the City has built a successful public art program, having commissioned 77 artworks for public places across the City.

Through formal consultation and informal feedback, artists, citizens and businesses have noted that the current public art program is limited to certain types of art and projects and suggested that the role of public could be expanded and enhanced to provide more opportunities to contribute to the culture and vitality of public places. The Art in Public Places Policy has been developed to address this gap.

The proposed Art in Public Places Policy sets out a set of principles to guide the conception, planning and implementation of successful art in public places projects and sets out five processes for commissioning public art that provides more flexibility and opportunity for artists, citizens and businesses seeking to contribute art to public places.

OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

The five processes include: Publicly Commissioned Art; Donated Art; Community Art; Integrated Art and Temporary Art. The Policy also recognizes the importance of art on the publicly accessible and visible private properties that surround many of our important public places.

Alternatives for Consideration – Not Applicable

FINANCIAL – STAFFING – LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial: Individual projects or groups of projects will be brought to Council as they are identified by staff and the community for any required funding approval before proceeding.

Staffing: N/A

Legal: N/A

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The development of a City of Hamilton Art in Public Places Policy was first identified as a need during public consultation for the Public Art Master Plan 2016 review. Participants noted that the Publicly Commissioned Art process is only one of many ways in which art is created for the public realm. Staff were directed by Council to develop the Art in Public Places Policy at the November 16, 2016 General Issues Committee (Report16-029 Item 13(f)).

“That Tourism and Culture staff be directed to develop an Art in Public Places Policy to guide and encourage citizens, businesses and stakeholder groups to create high quality types of art in public places not addressed in the Public Art Master Plan 2016 such as; community art, temporary art, art on publicly accessible private property, donated art, art integrated into city buildings and infrastructure, and art memorializing a specific individual, event or cultural group and report back to the General Issues Committee in 2018.”

POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS

The recommendation is in keeping with the following goals and recommendations of the Council approved Cultural Plan, Transforming Hamilton Through Culture 2013:

Goal: Quality of Life Quality of Place

Recommendation: Develop and animate public spaces and places.

RELEVANT CONSULTATION

Internal

- Senior Project Manager, Urban Indigenous Strategy, Children's Services and Neighbourhood Development Division, Healthy and Safe Communities Department
- Manager of Transportation Operations, Public Works Department
- Manager, Landscape Architectural Services, Environmental Services Division, Public Works Department
- Manager, Parks and Cemeteries, Environmental Services Division, Public Works Department
- Project Manger, Neighbourhood Development, Children's Services and Neighbourhood Development Division, Healthy and Safe Communities Department
- Coordinator, Urban Renewal Incentives, Planning and Economic Development Department
- Director of Recreation, Healthy and Safe Communities Department
- Manager, Community Planning and GIS, Planning Division, Planning and Economic Development Department
- Cultural Projects Specialist, Chair - S.E.A.T, Recreation Division, Healthy and Safe Communities Department
- Senior Project Manager, Continuous Improvement, Energy Fleet and Facilities Management Division, Public Works Department
- Manager, Strategic Planning, Capital & Compliance, Energy Fleet and Facilities Management Division, Public Works Department
- Project Manager, Neighbourhood Development Division, Healthy and Safe Communities Department

External

Consultation with artists, arts administrators and arts community leaders was undertaken between November 2019 to January 2020.

Participants included:

- Leon Robinson, Visual Artist, Concrete Canvas Festival
- Mike Kukucska, Fabricator and Photographer; “HAMILTON” Sign Designer
- Petra Matar, Visual Artist, Architect, Hamilton Audio Visual Node
- John Smith, Media Artist, Hamilton OPTICKS
- Kerry Jarvi, Executive Director Downtown Hamilton Business Improvement Area
- Eli Nolet, Visual Artist, Arts Educator, Youth Advisory Committee
- Dope Chief, Visual Artist
- Stephanie Vegh, Visual Artist; Former Executive Director of Hamilton Arts Council
- Shirley Madill, Executive Director Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery; Former Chief Curator of the Art Gallery of Hamilton
- Queen Cee, Visual Artist, Musician, Community Artist
- Tor Lukasic-Foss, Director - Programs and Education, Art Gallery of Hamilton; Visual and Performance Artist
- Claire Lougheed, Executive Director, Dundas Valley School of Art
- Melissa Bennett, Curator of Contemporary Art, Art Gallery of Hamilton
- Colina Maxwell, Executive Director, Centre [3] for artistic + social practice
- Jordyn Stewart, Art Spin Hamilton; Video and Performance Artist
- David Trautrimas, Art Spin Hamilton, Public and Visual Artist
- Yvonne Felix, Public and Community Artist
- Hannah Lobb, Semester in Residence Student, City Lab
- Ameya Nair, Semester in Residence Student, City Lab
- Gurvir Chana, Semester in Residence Student, City Lab

- Salo Rodriguez Solarte, Semester in Residence Student, City Lab
- Ada Zhu, Semester in Residence Student, City Lab

Arts Advisory Commission:

- Councillor Jean-Paul Danko; Monika Ciolek; Janna Malseed; Annette Paiement; Lisa LaRocca; Monolina Bhattacharyya-Ray; and Ranil Sonnadara

Creative Café at The Cotton Factory:

- Annette Paiement (Coordinator); Debbie Ellis; Susan Barton-Tact; Karen Logan; Harrison Wheeler; Kamila Miszelska; Alyssa Tisson; Judy Marsales; Paize Usiosefe; Patty Lynes; Lesia Mokrycke; Shane Clair; Marta Hewson; Jerrod Hewson and David Hudson

A complete summary of consultation details and discussion themes is attached as Appendix “B” to Report PED20068.

ANALYSIS AND RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Art in public places has been recognized by cities across the country and around the world as playing an important role in a community’s history, culture and economy. It reflects and reveals our society, enhances meaning in our civic spaces and adds uniqueness to our communities.

The City of Hamilton approved its first Public Art Master Plan in 2009. Since that time, it has commissioned 77 works of public art. These works have been selected through an open, adjudicated call for artists process that relies on extensive public consultation. Hundreds of artists proposals and thousands of citizen comments have been received through this process resulting in landmark and award-winning Public Art installations across the city.

Although Hamilton’s Public Art program is perceived to be successful, an evolving city culture and arts sector has revealed opportunities to expand and enhance the role of public art in the city. Hamilton has seen a series of evolving public art practices and types of art that have demonstrated new ways to engage the community and improve public space. Staff, artists and community members have identified a need to extend methods for commissioning public art beyond the process and definitions set out in the Public Art Master Plan, in order to facilitate more and varied ways for artists, businesses and citizens to contribute to the public places of the City. As part of the review of the Public Art Master Plan in 2016, Council directed staff to work with the community to develop an Art in Public Places Policy that would include these opportunities and practices.

Consultation addressing the breadth of art in public places practices and Hamilton's contemporary context was undertaken between November 2019 and January 2020. In a series of 12 conversations, 57 artists, arts administrators, arts community leaders and City staff contributed their perspectives. The discussions identified the following key priorities for art in public places in Hamilton:

- Embracing placemaking - express the evolving physical, cultural, and social identities that define us;
- Encouraging social cohesion and cultural understanding - public art as a catalyst for discourse, social engagement and reinforcing social connectivity;
- Empowering artists, arts organizations and community groups to take greater ownership of the public realm;
- Embracing digital and social media technology to assist in accessibility, share stories and bring people to places;
- Encouraging public health and belonging through active living and social connectedness essential to mental health.

The proposed Art in Public Places Policy, informed by these key priorities, provides guidance to staff, artists, citizens and business on the planning and implementation of art in public places projects that will be meaningful to the community and will enhance public places across the city. It also sets out five methods to commission art in public places. These include Publicly Commissioned Art, which is the current process outlined in the Public Art Master Plan; and Donated Art, a process described in the Council approved Art and Monuments Donation Policy. An additional three new processes are set-out in the policy; Community Art; Integrated Art and Temporary Art. The Policy also provides guidance to private property owners that commission art for publicly accessible and visible private properties.

If approved, this Policy will provide greater opportunity for more art in the City's public places through collaboration with artists, businesses and citizens. It will allow citizens a greater role in evolving the character of public places; and will maximize City resources through more partnerships with community funders and donors.

Upon approval of the Art in Public Places Policy, staff in the Tourism and Culture Division will develop a set of communication tools and templates to assist staff, local artists, businesses and citizens to plan, gain approval and implement art in public places projects. A Community Art Toolkit model was drafted for Hamilton by City Lab students in 2019 to assist in the conceptualization, planning, implementation and celebration of successful community art projects in public places. The Community Art Toolkit will be refined by staff and shared with Council and the wider community as part of the implementation of the Policy.

ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION

Not Applicable

ALIGNMENT TO THE 2016 – 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN

Community Engagement and Participation

Hamilton has an open, transparent and accessible approach to City government that engages with and empowers all citizens to be involved in their community.

Economic Prosperity and Growth

Hamilton has a prosperous and diverse local economy where people have opportunities to grow and develop.

Healthy and Safe Communities

Hamilton is a safe and supportive City where people are active, healthy, and have a high quality of life.

Built Environment and Infrastructure

Hamilton is supported by state-of-the-art infrastructure, transportation options, buildings and public spaces that create a dynamic City.

Culture and Diversity

Hamilton is a thriving, vibrant place for arts, culture, and heritage where diversity and inclusivity are embraced and celebrated.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

Appendix “A” - City of Hamilton Art in Public Places Policy

Appendix “B” - Art in Public Places Consultation Summary

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