



INFORMATION REPORT

TO:	Mayor and Members General Issues Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	June 16, 2021
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Annual Update - Implementation of the Public Art Master Plan (PED19053(b)) (City Wide) (Outstanding Business List Item)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
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SIGNATURE:	

COUNCIL DIRECTION

On November 16, 2016 Council directed Tourism and Culture staff to provide an annual update on implementation of the Public Art Master Plan 2016 (PED16221) (Master Plan) to the General Issues Committee.

INFORMATION

Implementation Update

This is the fourth update on the Public Art Master Plan 2016 since it was approved by Council in November 2016. The previous update was provided in June 2020 as Report PED19053(a).

Purpose of the Public Art Master Plan

The City of Hamilton Public Art Master Plan is an important tool in the ongoing implementation of Public Art in Hamilton. Its primary intent is to identify and prioritize potential sites and opportunities for new Public Art projects across the City, recommend project budgets and to outline the principles by which sites are selected and this art is commissioned.

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.

Developed in consultation with the public, Councillors, City staff and stakeholders, the Public Art Master Plan 2016 identified 14 priority Public Art projects from over 110 projects initially considered. Within the period of 2016-2022, these 14 projects, along with a series of 19 projects already in progress, are to be funded and implemented.

Project Updates

A list of projects completed since the approval of the Public Art Master Plan 2016, along with the current status of the other projects identified in the Master Plan, is attached as Appendix "A" to Report PED19053(b).

In summary, 50% of the projects identified in the Public Art Master Plan 2016 are complete or in progress. Five projects have been cancelled. In addition, five projects not identified at the time of approval have been completed. Since the Master Plan was approved, the program has received 504 artists proposals, over 4,300 citizen comments and has conducted 38 juries and artist information meetings.

Financial Update

In the period since the previous Information Report ending on March 31, 2020 and until March 31, 2021, \$197,555 of Capital funds were spent to implement Public Art projects including contract, artist fees, fabrication, installation, maintenance, policy development and selection process costs.

The funding for Public Art projects is from the Public Art Reserve, the Downtown Public Art Reserve, project specific Capital budgets, area rating and community partners. The Public Art Reserve is funded through an annual transfer from Operating in the amount of \$171 K. The Downtown Public Art Reserve is funded from voluntary contributions from developers working in the Downtown Community Improvement Plan Area, therefore these funds can only be spent on projects in that area. It is anticipated that contributions to the Downtown Public Art Reserve will diminish in the next few years as incentive programs for the downtown are scaled back. Public Art projects have been identified as important components of Capital projects such as the West Harbour and Gore Park. These projects have included funding for Public Art in their budgets. Community partners, such as the Nicola Tesla Educational Foundation, have proposed to provide funding for specific Public Art projects identified in the Master Plan.

Staff will continue to seek Council approval for the use of funds from the respective reserve at the initiation of each Public Art project. The funding available in the Public Art Reserve projected to 2022 is \$1.5 M; 95% of these funds is already allocated to Public Art projects. A detailed Public Art Implementation and Funding Plan is attached as Appendix "B" to Report PED19053(b).

Public Art Background and Definition

Cities around the world are increasingly realizing the economic and social benefits and quality of life enhancements that flow from creativity and investment in culture and the expression of a community's culture through mediums such as Public Art. In addition to bringing vibrancy to a city's public spaces, Public Art is a tremendous source of civic pride and conveys the identity and cultural image of a city to its residents and visitors.

The City of Hamilton defines Public Art as follows:

- Public Art is created by artists, or in collaboration with artists, through a public process and existing on a publicly accessible City of Hamilton owned property.
- Public Art is created with the intention of reflecting and engaging the community and has undergone a formal adjudicated selection process as per the City's Call for Artists Policy.
- Public Art can take a variety of forms and media; it may have functional as well as aesthetic qualities; it may be integrated into its site, or it may be a discrete piece; it can be permanent or temporary.
- The process by which the City commissions Public Art is set out in the Council approved Call for Artists Policy.

Public Art Project Site Selection Criteria

The Public Art Master Plan is intended to be a living document that will evolve in accordance with changes in urban development, Public Art practice and policy. It therefore anticipates that new opportunities for Public Art may come forward. Given limited resources, any new opportunity would be evaluated based on how well it aligns with the following:

- Site to be owned by The City of Hamilton;
- The potential visibility and public accessibility of the artwork;
- The historic and cultural significance to the community in which the artwork will be located;
- The response to the project during public consultation;

- The implementation potential, including synergies with other City projects and available funding; and
- The distribution of projects across the City.

Public Art Master Plan Renewal

Beginning in 2022, Tourism and Culture staff will undertake a review of the priority Public Art projects not yet completed that are identified in the current plan to determine their feasibility through outreach to staff, community and project stakeholders. In addition, a City-wide public consultation process along with Councillor and staff interviews will be undertaken to identify priority public art projects to be recommended to Council for implementation from 2023 to 2027.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

Appendix "A" - Public Art Projects Status Update, May 2021

Appendix "B" - Public Art Implementation and Funding Plan 2019-2022

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