

DATE OF MEETING | MAY 27, 2019 |

AUTHORED BY | RICHARD HARDING, DIRECTOR, PARKS AND RECREATION |

**SUBJECT DEACCESSIONING OF THE PUBLIC ART PIECE “THE FRAME”
BY JASON GRESS**

OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report

To provide background to Council regarding the Community Plan for Public Art (2010) in regards to deaccessioning an artwork from the City of Nanaimo’s Public Art Collection. |

Recommendation

That Council approve the deaccessioning of the public art piece “The Frame” by Jason Gress from the City of Nanaimo’s Public Art Collection.

BACKGROUND

In May 2012, the Nanaimo artist Jason Gress fabricated and installed the artwork “The Frame” in Maffeo Sutton Park as part of the Temporary Public Art Program. The artwork was intended to be on display for one year and then auctioned by the Nanaimo Art Gallery at the end of that term. In 2013, rather than auctioning it off, the Nanaimo Art Gallery offered the artwork as a donation to the City of Nanaimo. Following the process outlined in the Community Plan for Public Art (2010), Council accepted the donation through motion on 2013-MAY-06. In the 2013 report, the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission recommended that de-accessioning of the artwork should be discussed when the art piece had reached the end of its lifespan.

As it was constructed as a temporary art piece, the artist took steps upon its donation to the City of Nanaimo to apply sealants to help it withstand the effects of weather, exposure, and public interaction. Later, aluminum was also installed on the seating area and a roof-cap to further prevent wear and tear. Repairs and remuneration to the artist were completed on a regular basis. The following table lists costs incurred for maintaining this artwork, with the exclusion of staff time.

PAYMENT	TYPE	YEAR	AMOUNT
Initial payment to artist	Temporary Public Art Program	2012	\$4,000
Payment to artist	Maintenance	2013	\$725
Payment to artist	Maintenance	2014	\$1,222
Payment to paving company	Asphalt pathway	2015	\$6,375
Payment to artist	Major repairs	2016	\$2,450
		Total	\$14,772

Following extensive repairs in 2016, Parks Operations Staff continued to monitor the art piece. In the fall of 2017, Parks Operations Staff noticed significant degradation in the art piece due to exposure to the weather and elements and types of materials used.

Staff continued to monitor the deterioration through the fall and kept the artist informed. However, in December 2017, the artwork was removed from the park due to concerns regarding its compromised structure, return of dry rot, and concerns for public safety (Attachment A).

DE-ACCESSION GUIDELINES

The Community Plan for Public Art, adopted in 2010, outlines the process for de-accessioning an artwork from the City of Nanaimo's public art collection in Toolkit 4 (Attachment B). One of the accepted reasons for deaccessioning is that an artwork has been damaged beyond reasonable repair. Deaccessioning allows artwork to be officially removed from the City of Nanaimo's Public Art Collection.

PUBLIC ART IN MAFFEO SUTTON PARK

Public art is an important feature in Maffeo Sutton Park and something that adds vitality and interest to the park experience both with temporary and permanent art. Some art installations sit on the public art gallery wall in the Spirit Square and others are displayed in key locations within the park.

If another artwork is desired for this location, Staff would follow the City's policies for Procurement of Public Art and conduct a "Call for Artists" for opportunities for the site. However, the draft Maffeo Sutton Park Master Plan does call for other potential uses in this area and any artwork may have to be moved.

OPTIONS

1. That Council approve deaccessioning of the public art piece "The Frame" by Jason Gress from the City of Nanaimo's Public Art Collection.
 - **Budget Implication:** There are no budget implications for deaccessioning the artwork.
 - **Policy Implication:** Deaccessioning is required for the removal of any artwork from the City of Nanaimo's Public Art Collection and the process is outlined in the Community Plan for Public Art, adopted in 2010.
2. That Council approve deaccessioning of the public art piece "The Frame" by Jason Gress from the City of Nanaimo's Public Art Collection and direct Staff to conduct a "Call For Artists" for a replacement artwork utilizing the current infrastructure in Maffeo Sutton Park.
 - **Budget Implication:** There are no budget implications for de-accessioning the artwork. Depending on the approved budget, funds from the Parks and Recreation Public Art Budget, which has a balance of \$35,000 remaining for 2019, could be committed to a new artwork.
 - **Policy Implication:** Deaccessioning is required for the removal of any artwork from the City of Nanaimo's Public Art Collection and the process is outlined in the Community Plan for Public Art, adopted in 2010.
3. That Council recommend an alternative direction.

SUMMARY POINTS

- The artwork "The Frame" was a temporary public art piece by Jason Gress installed in Maffeo Sutton Park in 2012.
- The artwork was accepted as a permanent donation in 2013.
- The art piece has reached end of life and is beyond repair. It was removed from its location in Maffeo Sutton Park in December 2017.
- Deaccessioning officially removes the artwork from the Public Art Inventory and is required as the original piece is no longer on display in Maffeo Sutton Park.

ATTACHMENTS

ATTACHMENT A: Images of degradation to "The Frame"

ATTACHMENT B: Excerpt, Community Plan for Public Art (2010), Toolkit 4 – Guidelines to De-accession Public Art

Submitted by:

Richard Harding
Director, Parks and Recreation

Concurrence by:

Lisa Bhopalsingh
Manager, Community & Cultural Planning