

DATE OF MEETING September 9, 2019

AUTHORED BY CHRIS BARFOOT, CULTURE AND HERITAGE COORDINATOR

SUBJECT **[SPINDLE WHORL MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR]**

OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report:

To inform Council that the “whorl” from the public art project titled “Spindle Whorl” will be replaced and permanently attached to the existing base and spindle.

BACKGROUND

The “Spindle Whorl” was carved by Snuneymuxw Coast Salish artist Joel Good in 2013. As shared by the artist, spindle whorls were historically used as a tool for spinning wool into yarn and have become iconic symbols for the Snuneymuxw First Nation. Carvings in relief depict family stories and legends.

The “Spindle Whorl” was displayed in Maffeo Sutton Park in 2013 as part of the City’s Temporary Public Art Program. In 2015, the City of Nanaimo purchased the artwork and permanently relocated it to the corner of Albert Street/Victoria Crescent as part of a minor space enhancement. In March 2019, the whorl portion was forcibly removed, leaving only the spindle and base remaining on site (see Attachment A).

DISCUSSION

Since the forcible removal of the whorl, Staff have been working with the artist to develop a viable and permanent solution to repair the artwork. Staff will utilize funds from the Temporary Public Art program to cover the approximate \$6,000 necessary to complete the work.

Work will include the creation of a new permanent whorl by the artist, constructed of both steel and chip-carved cedar secured to the existing metal base. The replacement and modifications are necessary to ensure the project will be both vandal- and theft-proof while maintaining its aesthetics and meaning to the area.

The Spindle Whorl is in the City of Nanaimo’s permanent public art collection, which means it can be relocated from its current location, if required as part of any future park development.

CONCLUSION

The project is expected to be completed by the end of September 2019.

SUMMARY POINTS

- In March 2019, the whorl portion of the “Spindle Whorl” art piece was forcibly removed from its permanent location at the corner of Albert Street/Victoria Crescent, leaving only the spindle and base remaining on site.
- Staff have been working with the artist to develop a viable and permanent solution to repair the artwork, which will include the creation of a new permanent whorl constructed of both steel and chip-carved cedar.
- Staff will utilize funds from the Temporary Public Art program to cover the approximate \$6,000 necessary to complete the work.
- The project expected to be completed by the end of September 2019.

ATTACHMENTS

ATTACHMENT A: Photo of “Spindle Whorl” Base and “Spindle Whorl” prior to removal

Submitted by:

Lisa Bhopalsingh
Manager, Community Planning

Concurrence by:

Bill Corsan
Director, Community Development

Laura Mercer
Director, Finance

Dale Lindsay
General Manager, Development Services