

DATE OF MEETING    OCTOBER 5, 2020

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**SUBJECT              UPDATE ON RFP NO. 2489 CALL FOR ARTISTS  
FOR PERMANENT PUBLIC ART AT MAFFEO SUTTON PARK**

## **OVERVIEW**

### **Purpose of Report:**

To provide an update on the outcome of 'Request for Proposals No. 2489 Call for Artists, Supply and Oversee Installation of Artwork of Maffeo Sutton Park' issued in October 2019.

## **BACKGROUND**

In October 2019, the City issued a 'Request for Proposals No. 2489 Call for Artists, Supply and Oversee Installation of Artwork of Maffeo Sutton Park', with a closing date of 2020-JAN-22.

In February 2020, a Council-appointed Selection Panel was established for RFP No. 2489. The panel consisted of four members with professional expertise in visual art, two members of City Council, and three Staff members. Due to COVID-19 precautions, the Review Panel meeting was held by video conference on 2020-MAY-06.

In advance of the meeting, members of the Review Panel were provided with ten complete proposals as received. Having reviewed and discussed each proposal in detail, members unanimously determined that none of the proposals were suitable to advance and recommend to Council.

The group noted that the project budget of \$50,000 was not adequate to realize a major, permanent and iconic artwork for a high-profile location at Maffeo Sutton Park. The panel recommended that Staff re-consider the ways in which Requests for Proposals for public art are developed and look to best practice regarding public art in other municipalities. Based on this recommendation by the Review Panel, the RFP was officially cancelled and artists who submitted were notified.

## **DISCUSSION**

Funds allocated to the project can be held for a future opportunity and Staff will report to Council to provide recommendations. In the interim, Staff are undertaking research and moving forward with a review of the City's public art program. Such a review will examine a range of issues including:

- How City resources are best leveraged
- How to engage local expertise to inform the trajectory of the City's art collection
- Possibilities for collaboration
- New strategies for interpretation
- How to make Calls to Artists widely accessible to allow for increased and diverse participation
- How to better plan for the long term care and maintenance of City-owned artworks

A separate report to be presented at the 2020-OCT-05 Governance Priorities Committee meeting recommends the creation of an Art in Public Spaces Working Group, who could provide advice to Staff and help inform the research and the development of future Calls to Artists.

## **CONCLUSION**

Based on feedback from the Review Panel and the cancellation of RFP No. 2489, Staff are engaging in a review of City public art programs and will provide Council with options and information in a future report.

## **SUMMARY POINTS**

- The *'Request for Proposals No. 2489 Call for Artists, Supply and Oversee Installation of Artwork of Maffeo Sutton Park'* was cancelled at the recommendation of the Council-appointed Review Panel.
- The group noted that the project budget of \$50,000 was not adequate to realize a major, permanent and iconic artwork for a high-profile location at Maffeo Sutton Park. The panel recommended that Staff re-consider the ways in which Requests for Proposals for public art are developed and look to best practice regarding public art in other municipalities.
- Based on this recommendation by the Review Panel, the RFP was officially cancelled and artists who submitted were notified.

### **Submitted by:**

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