

DATE OF MEETING MARCH 22, 2021

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**SUBJECT ART IN PUBLIC SPACES PUBLIC ART COLLECTION  
DE-ACCESSION 2021**

## **OVERVIEW**

### **Purpose of Report**

To provide for Council's consideration the proposed deaccession of three artworks from the City of Nanaimo's Public Art Collection. |

### **Recommendation**

That Council approve the de-accession of the following artworks from the City of Nanaimo Public Art collection:

1. Dan Richey, *Dungeness Crab* (2013);
2. Yvonne Vander Kooi and students of Bayview Elementary, *The Hummingbird Project* (2013); and,
3. Yvonne Vander Kooi, *At Play* (2007).

## **BACKGROUND**

The City of Nanaimo's *Community Plan for Public Art* was adopted by Council in May 2010. The plan began as a legacy project under the Cultural Capitals of Canada Program and was developed through a community process involving artists, arts managers, neighbourhood representatives and members of the public. It identifies Nanaimo's vision for public art, and goals and priorities for implementing public art projects. The plan also includes guidelines and toolkits for artists and decision-makers, so that projects are developed in a manner that is inclusive, fair and creative.

### **De-accession Policy and Procedure**

At the time the plan was adopted, the City identified de-accession guidelines that direct how to consider the removal of existing artwork from the Public Art Collection. Section 3.10 states:

*"De-accessioning is the process of removing existing installations of artwork from the public collection. The De-accession Guidelines (Toolkit 4) recognize that over time there may be reasons to remove artwork. Reasons for de-accessioning may include, but not be limited to, situations where artwork has been damaged beyond reasonable repair, where artwork is deemed inappropriate, or requires removal because of new developments in the direction of the public art collection. The Cultural Committee shall review any proposed de-accessioning of public art, and shall forward a recommendation to the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission for consideration."*

The plan specifies an annual review of artworks being considered for de-accessioning take place through the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission and the Cultural Committee, with recommendations to be reviewed by Council. Since the time of plan implementation, changes

have occurred, and the Culture Commission and Cultural Committees are no longer in place. While new processes are in consideration, City Staff have reviewed the works following the principles and guidelines of the *Community Plan for Public Art* Section 3.10.

According to the Deaccession Guidelines – Toolkit 4 (Attachment A) all works in the collection are eligible for consideration for de-accession, including:

- artworks purchased or commissioned through the Public Art Program;
- gifts of artwork accepted by the City of Nanaimo in accordance with the gift acceptance policies of the Public Art Program; and
- all other artwork previously purchased by the City or received as a gift to the City.

In 2020, Culture & Events Staff renewed efforts to document and evaluate the condition of the artworks in the Public Art Inventory by conducting site visits in order to assess and schedule maintenance, and when deemed appropriate, identify artworks for de-accession. In 2020, site reviews were conducted of artworks in Maffeo Sutton Park, Bowen Park and Deverill Square Gyro Park. The following artworks have been identified for removal (Attachment B):

**1) Dan Richey, *Dungeness Crab*, 2013**

Fabricated in cedar and airbrush painted, the work exemplifies the City of Nanaimo's embrace of Temporary Public Art in Maffeo Sutton Park. This work was originally installed as a temporary art piece in 2013 on loan from the artist until 2014. Following its removal, its popularity prompted a purchase of the work by the City of Nanaimo so that it could be reintroduced to the park in its location near the crab dock. The purchase was incorporated into the City's Public Art Inventory at that time. As a temporary work initially intended to endure a few seasons of elemental wear and tear, after seven further years of display its surface treatment has eroded significantly. It has also sustained significant damage to the front claw. Further degradation of the work's appearance is expected, making removal and de-accession for this work recommended. Documentation of the project will be included in the Public Art Inventory for future public information and to celebrate the project. A discussion with the artist about potential to reclaim the cedar materials is underway.

**2) Yvonne Vander Kooi & students of Bayview Elementary, *The Hummingbird Project*, 2013**

Located in Deverill Square Gyro Park, this community art project adorns the fences of the park. The majority of the panels have reached the end of their lifespan. Significant shifting and weathering have taken place over the years. City Staff, in consultation with the artist and Bayview Elementary, are in the process of identifying a selection of panels that may be reclaimed by the artist, by the school and those that will be disposed of. Documentation of the project will be included in the Public Art Inventory for future public information and to celebrate the project.

**3) Yvonne Vander Kooi, *At Play*, 2007**

Nineteen panels are located along the east-facing fence in Deverill Square Gyro Park. Initially commissioned by the South End Community Association, the panels have reached the end of their material lifespan. City Staff, in consultation with the artist, recommend that the panels be disposed of. Due to the advanced state of decay, further documentation is not possible.

## **OPTIONS**

1. That Council approve the de-accession of the following artworks from the City of Nanaimo Public Art collection: 1. Dan Richey, *Dungeness Crab* (2013); 2. Yvonne Vander Kooi and students of Bayview Elementary, *The Hummingbird Project* (2013); and 3. Yvonne Vander Kooi, *At Play* (2007).
  - Advantages: Safeguarding the Public Art Collection by ensuring adequate care and maintenance.
  - Disadvantages: Staff time will be required to undertake the de-accessions.
  
2. That Council identify which of the following artworks may be deaccessioned from the City of Nanaimo Public Art collection: Dan Richey, *Dungeness Crab* (2013); Yvonne Vander Kooi and students of Bayview Elementary, *The Hummingbird Project* (2013); and Yvonne Vander Kooi, *At Play* (2007).
  - Advantages: Safeguarding the Public Art Collection by ensuring adequate care and maintenance.
  - Disadvantages: Works that are not de-accessioned will require financial resources and Staff time to undertake maintenance.
  
3. That Council provide alternate direction. |

### **SUMMARY POINTS**

- As per the procedures outlined in the *Community Plan for Public Art*, work is underway to ensure the ongoing care of the City of Nanaimo's Public Art Collection, including periodic evaluation of artworks for de-accession.
- Three works are identified as having reached the end of their lifespan and are recommended for de-accession: 1. Dan Richey, *Dungeness Crab* (2013); 2. Yvonne Vander Kooi and students of Bayview Elementary, *The Hummingbird Project* (2013); and 3. Yvonne Vander Kooi, *At Play* (2007).

## **ATTACHMENTS:**

ATTACHMENT A – Toolkit 4 – Guidelines to De-accession Public Art

ATTACHMENT B – Artworks Proposed for De-accession

### **Submitted by:**

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### **Concurrence by:**

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