

ATTACHMENT A

ART IN PUBLIC SPACES WORKING GROUP – DRAFT GUIDELINES (JANUARY 2021)

Background

The work of the Culture & Events team, within the department of Parks, Recreation and Culture, is centered on championing creativity and building community through arts and culture. It is guided by City plans, including the *2019-2022 Corporate Strategic Plan*, the *Cultural Plan for a Creative Nanaimo 2014-2020* (2014), and grounded in respectful, collaborative relationships with the diverse communities we serve. Our role is that of convener, connector, facilitator, enabler and funder.

In 2020, City Council endorsed the creation of an Art in Public Spaces Working Group, to be administered by Culture & Events. The purpose of the Art In Public Spaces Working Group is to provide strategic and technical advice and expertise to Staff in order to advance the City's public art programs. The Working Group will formalize a mechanism for community consultation and will contribute to a cohesive trajectory for the City's public art program, informing and following projects from start to finish, to create the conditions for deeper community engagement, consistency and accountability.

A five-member group will be formed in 2021 through an open Call for Applications. Based on applications, individuals with diverse and relevant experience in the field of public art and creative place-making will be appointed by Council to participate as volunteers on the Working Group for a two-year term. Staff will review applications and present recommendations on membership to Council for decision.

Working Group Purpose

- To collaborate to advance priorities articulated in City plans and policies, including the *Community Plan for Public Art* (2010), and *A Cultural Plan for a Creative Nanaimo 2014-2020* (2014), and subsequent updates to these plans by providing input grounded in best practice, on future policy development.
- To provide both strategic and technical advice as required, and act as a resource on matters relating to art in public spaces.
- To champion the role of artists and creative practitioners as professionals and promote processes and policies that support the livelihood and well-being of the creative economy.
- To promote awareness and understanding of the public value of art in the City and its potential roles in the public realm.
- To contribute community-based knowledge related to equity, diversity and accessibility priorities.

Accountability

The Art in Public Spaces Working Group acts as an informed community voice, providing ongoing feedback and expertise, and is accountable to City Council and, administered by Culture & Events. This is intended to support a cohesive trajectory and longer term planning for public art and its implications for our community.

Specific Duties

In order to achieve these aims, the Art in Public Spaces Working Group will:

- Advise the City on public art issues and relevant trends and provide input on the update of programs, plans and policies.
- Advise and consult on specific matters related to public art, including but not limited to collection management, conservation, interpretation and knowledge creation, donations and sponsorships, private sector projects, community art projects, and other issues.
- Review Calls to Artists, Requests for Proposals, and other competition processes and provide feedback.
- Serve on the selection panel for specific art projects and make recommendations to advance to Council for final approval and suggest additional panel members when specific expertise is required.

Reporting

The Working Group is an opportunity for community expertise to be incorporated into processes related to Public Art initiatives being undertaken at the City. Advice and recommendations provided to City Staff will be included as part of staff reports to Council.

Members

The Committee consists of five applicants from the public, who:

- have demonstrated experience and/or training in aspects of visual art; and
- represent a variety of professions with expertise in public art, including: artists, arts administrators, art historians, art conservators, educators, curators, landscape architects, design professionals, architects, Indigenous cultural knowledge keepers.

Members from the Culture & Events section will provide leadership to the Working Group; Staff from other departments across the City will also be invited to participate in Working Group discussions as required.

Term

- Members of the Art in Public Spaces Working Group will serve on a volunteer basis for staggered terms of 24 months.
- Members are required to re-apply for service upon the completion of their term.
- Members can serve a maximum of two terms.

- Group members serve voluntarily and without compensation.
- Applications will be considered on a bi-annual basis, or as the need arises.

Conduct

- Members of the Working Group shall participate in the spirit of collaboration.
- Members of the Working Group must declare potential conflicts of interest.
- Members shall not enter any City of Nanaimo public art competition, or contract any services to City-involved public art projects during their term of service.
- Group members shall conduct themselves in a professional and respectful manner.

Meetings

The Working Group will meet according to a mutually agreed schedule or at the call of the Culture & Events Staff. Meetings may be scheduled bi-monthly, quarterly, annually, or on an as-needed basis. Group meetings are professional and technical work sessions and shall not be open to others, except by invitation by Staff.

Support

The Art in Public Spaces Working Group will receive support from Culture & Events Staff, such as administrative support including meeting scheduling and logistical coordination; agenda preparation and circulation; meeting summary preparation and distribution.