



Report Number:

Meeting: Select a meeting type

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NOTICE OF MOTION

CONFIDENTIAL

RE: Independence & Governance in Delivering the Public Art Program

Sponsoring Councillors: COLLEY-URQUHART, KEATING, WOOLLEY

WHEREAS

1. The City of Calgary has invested in public art for more than a century, building a collection of over 1300 diverse works of art;
2. The City of Calgary's Public Art Program was formalized with the intent to preserve Calgary's long history of providing "...the opportunity for cultural experiences that are freely accessible to all" (City Council, 2004);
3. In June 2018 Council has directed that the Public Art Program funds remain under suspension until an extensive review of its current challenges and opportunities are resolved;
4. On 2019 March 13 Council accepted for information a status update on The Public Art Program's review of work through the following:
 - a. Five Key Areas of Focus: (1) a pooled funding model, (2) parallel procurement strategies, (3) governance model, (4) communication and engagement strategies, and (5) non-government investment opportunities; and
 - b. Three Foundational Pillars: (1) Accessible, (2) Prioritizing investment in the local creative economy, (3) Transparency in decision-making and financial reporting.
5. Since 2019 March, Administration has conducted over 50 hours of engagement with the local arts community and other key stakeholders to understand the current challenges and opportunities;
6. The City of Calgary is reviewing all options related to service models and cost efficiency for best program delivery to Calgarians;
7. Other Canadian municipalities like Edmonton and Winnipeg have seen success in the establishment of arm's length organizations (whether self-created or through a partner) to deliver their Public Art Programs on behalf of the City; and
8. Council recognizes that an independent perspective is required to examine all options of an alternative service model that includes delivery through an existing arts organization independent organization.

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NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT

2. Administration be directed to work with a third-party consultant to examine:

- a. All past and current research;
- b. A review of external arts organizations who may potentially have the skills and scope to deliver a public art program;
- c. A risk and opportunity analysis around the use of an external delivery model; and
- d. Recommendations around the use of an external partner versus establishing an arms-length public art agency as a third party delivery model.

With the intention of being able to answer the following questions:

- o Does or could an external organization have an aligned scope to deliver public art for Calgarians?
- o Would an external organization have the ability to steward funds in an efficient, effective, responsible way?
- o Which skills and expertise would support the operational delivery of an external public art program?
- o Does the reputation of existing external organizations among local artists, external stakeholders and the greater Calgary community set the program up for success?
- o Is there a strong, functional, strategic governance model for delivery?
- o Is or could there be established a strong model to ensure public oversight?
- o Would this organization remove current barriers to improve service delivery?
- o Is there merit in considering the establishment of an independent arm's length organization?

3. And report back through the SPC of Community and Protective Services no later than 2019 November.