



Report Number: PFC2020-1168

Meeting: Priorities and Finance Committee

Meeting Date: 2020 October 13

NOTICE OF MOTION

RE: Public Art in Northeast Calgary

Sponsoring Councillor(s): George Chahal

WHEREAS on June 13 2020, northeast Calgary was devastated with a catastrophic hail and rain storm that caused substantial damage to public and private infrastructure including businesses, homes, and automobiles with an estimated total insurable loss close to \$1.5 billion;

AND WHEREAS Northeast Calgary, including Ward 5, has been historically underserved by The City with respect to service level delivery and capital infrastructure investment resulting in a demand for fairness, transparency, and accountability from area residents;

AND WHEREAS The City's public art program provides Ward 5 and Northeast Calgary with less public art funding compared to other areas in Calgary;

AND WHEREAS in 2018, Calgary City Council passed a Notice of Motion approving funds for an Artificial Turf Field at the Genesis Centre, motivated by the fact that Northeast Calgary has 1% of the overall allocation of citywide Athletic Park, Class A, B, and C fields;

AND WHEREAS when the Genesis Centre was being developed, The City allocated a budget of \$700 thousand for the Wishing Well art piece, which was eventually removed due to design safety issues, and no replacement was provided;

AND WHEREAS Northeast Calgary has a diverse community of local artists who, with support from the City, will uplift and brighten their communities through their artistic abilities;

AND WHEREAS public art plays a crucial role in the development of modern and vibrant cities by enhancing our city's cultural capital and shaping our cultural identity;

AND WHEREAS supporting local artists provides economic and social benefit for Northeast communities;

AND WHEREAS the Public Art Capital Fund provides financial support for public art in Calgary.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Council direct Administration to:

- 1) Explore public art opportunities in Ward 5 and surrounding Northeast Calgary communities, with an emphasis on replacing the gap left by the Wishing Well at the Genesis Centre and further compensating for a historically inequitable distribution of public art funds in these communities, where opportunities may include, but not limited to, community programming, local artist residencies, public art

installations, community story-telling demonstrating resilience and strength, as shown in the response to the June 2020 hail storm, and considering the investment as mechanism for economic resiliency;

- a. Immediately start public engagement with a diverse group of stakeholders including community members until the end of 2020, and ;
- b. Report back to Council by Q1 2021, with recommendations on potential projects, funding sources, scope of work, and implementation plan.