

2018 May 31

Standing Policy Committee on Community and Protective Services  
City Clerk's Office  
The City of Calgary  
P.O. Box 2100, Station M, Mail Code #8007  
Calgary, AB T2P 2M5

**Re: The City of Calgary Notice of Motion 2017-32  
Amendments to the Corporate Public Art Policy**

As public members of The City of Calgary Public Art Board, and as indicated in our mandate established by City Council, we take this opportunity to provide our advisory comments with respect to the recent Notice of Motion regarding the Corporate Public Art Policy.

We are a board of architects, landscape architects, art historians, design professionals, artists, business representatives and citizens-at large. As advocates for public art, and in the interests of promoting awareness of the Public Art Program, the Board undertook various initiatives to further understand the public position regarding the Policy and Program. We invited past Board members, including three past Board chairs, to engage with us to convey their thoughts regarding the strengths and weaknesses of the Board and Program. We met with artists to hear their concerns, and support of the Program, and encouraged all we met with to provide their thoughts to Council; it is our understanding that some have chosen to provide this information.

As contributors to the Notice or Motion response process, members of the Board attended the facilitated conversation regarding the Public Art Program and processes, provided by Engage.

To ensure strong advice and balanced leadership, the Board believes we may play an active role encouraging citizens to apply for the Board, for consideration by the Nominations Committee established by Council; in addition to The City of Calgary recruitment and advertisement processes.

Based on our understanding of the recommendations, which administration is bringing forward in response to the Notice of Motion, we have developed the following perspectives for Council consideration.

Public Art Funds

We support the pooling of eligible capital projects funds. This will enable strategic planning of Public Art Program projects in alignment with the four year municipal business cycle, resulting in a comprehensive application of funding across communities, where most appropriately allocated and with the strongest cultural impact.

Executive Steering Committee

The Board looks to administration for the implementation of best practices to facilitate a Public Art Program which is; reflective of our City, supported by our communities and embraced by our citizens.

Public Art Advisory Committee

The Public Art Board is classified as an advisory board within The City of Calgary criteria of boards, commissions and committees. We believe that the advisory classification is appropriate for the work undertaken, however, we recognize that there is confusion in the public realm regarding the word *board*, which is typically applied to bodies undertaking governance scopes of work. To clarify and strengthen the role of the public members, we support the refinement of the Public Art Board into the Public Art Advisory Committee. The Board has undertaken a review of its Mandate and the potential development of Terms of Reference over the previous few months, working with The City Clerk's Office and information provided. We look to refine and complete this work under the recommendations adopted by Council.

Procurement Process

Based on comments received from artists, the Board acknowledges that local, regional and national artists may be intimidated and challenged by the standard procurement process the Calgary Public Art Program is required to implement. We support the notion of a parallel process which would more effectively include culturally appropriate artists and their work within our community.

Engagement Strategies

We have heard through the Calgary Public Art survey that Calgary citizens are interested in public art and desire to contribute to the process of acquiring works of art within their neighborhoods. This is a perspective which has resonated across our city; continued development of a variety of engagement strategies and opportunities are important to our community.

Communications

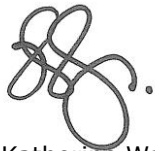
The Board believes that clear, timely communications regarding the Public Art Program are essential to continued support of the work undertaken.

Implementation

The work undertaken by administration and the Board in response to the Notice of Motion has been fruitful and enriching. We believe that timely implementation of the accepted recommendations will be a significant reaffirmation of the contribution of public art to the richness of our city and the lives we live.

Thank you for your consideration of our advisory comments; we are here as a resource to Council and will respond with pleasure to any queries brought forward or clarifications required. As community builders, we look forward to continuing our work to support public art on behalf of the citizens of Calgary.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'K. Wagner', with a stylized, looping flourish at the end.

Katherine Wagner, Chair and Calgary Arts Development Authority Representative

*On behalf of:*

Anthony Eagle, Citizen-at-Large  
Lisa Gibson, Citizen-at-Large  
Dr. Anuradha Gobin, Citizen-at-Large  
Carrie Phillips Kieser, Visual Artist  
Tamara Marajh, Citizen-at-Large  
Joey Stewart, Citizen-at-Large