



To: COUNCIL

Meeting Date: 11/5/2024

Subject: Terms of Reference for New Recreation Complex Public Art

Submitted By: Lesley Head, Director of Recreation and Culture

Prepared By: Shane Taylor, Manager of Recreation, Placemaking Capital Projects

Report No.: 24-106-CD

File No.: C11

Wards Affected: Ward 7

RECOMMENDATION(S):

THAT Report 24-106-CD Terms of Reference for Public Art be received;

AND THAT Council approve the Terms of Reference and direct staff to release the Invitation for Public Art Proposal for the Cambridge Recreation Complex.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Purpose

To seek Council approval of the attached Terms of Reference for the procurement of custom artwork to be installed in Cambridge's new signature Recreation Complex facility.

Key Findings

As per the Public Art Policy, upon Council approval of the Terms of Reference, an Invitation for Public Art Proposal will be issued. The Public Art Subcommittee will work to procure a custom art piece for the new Cambridge Recreation Complex in coordination with the facility construction schedule.

Financial Implications

The total budget for the new public art piece is \$200,000 and will be funded through the Recreation Complex construction project budget. It is proposed that the Invitation for Public Art Proposal total \$175,000 and will include the ultimate art purchase and

installation, leaving the remaining \$25,000 to account for contingencies and additional expenses incurred, including but not limited to artist solicitations and jury honorariums.

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT:

Strategic Action

Objective(s): Not Applicable

Strategic Action: Not Applicable

OR

Core Service

Program: Arts & Culture

Core Service: Cultural Offerings

The City of Cambridge believes that public art adds value to the cultural, aesthetic and economic vitality of a community, and that public art should be accessible to all. Public art aligns with the City’s objective of placemaking, to promote and create a wide range of destinations and activities for the public. It supports the City’s strategic action of creating and activating spaces that offer things for people to do.

BACKGROUND:

New Cambridge Recreation Complex

2024 has seen the start of construction of the new Cambridge Recreation Complex, the anchor piece to a new community hub in the south end of the City of Cambridge.

This modern, multi-purpose recreation complex will include:

- 10 lane, 25m swimming pool and warm water leisure pool
- 3 FIBA Gymnasiums
- Running/walking track and fitness area
- Multi-purpose rooms
- Concession
- Cambridge Public Library
- Community Park with amenities

The facility will be located on city-owned lands, adjacent to a new public/catholic elementary school that contains a childcare facility.

The new joint-use campus will offer educational, recreational and cultural activities for all ages in a rapidly developing community. The 32.5-acre campus is located north of the intersection of Dundas Street South and Branchton Road. The Recreation Complex is expected to be completed in 2026.

New Public Art Installation in the Cambridge Recreation Complex

The City of Cambridge has a limited inventory of public art in comparison to other municipalities of similar size and capacity in southwestern Ontario. The new Recreation Complex is a signature facility for the City of Cambridge and, as such, will showcase a new custom piece of public art that will demonstrate the City's commitment to investing in arts, culture and placemaking.

The City of Cambridge supports the inclusion of art in public spaces. The objectives of the Public Art Policy include:

- public art is available and accessible
- there is a process for acquiring public art that is open, fair and equitable
- adequate funding is provided to acquire and preserve public art
- a collection of works representing the highest quality by professional artists and artisans is built

The Public Art Policy C-30.140 was introduced more than a decade ago. From the policy, the Terms of Reference outlines the process by which a piece of public art will be acquired. It is important to note that the Public Art Policy is currently being reviewed and an updated policy will be presented to Council for approval in the near future.

Public art is supported through a variety of funding mechanisms including a direct contribution from the City and is held in the Public Art Reserve Fund. The recent Arts and Culture Action Plan has made further public art funding recommendations including allocating a percentage of the Municipal Accommodation Tax (MAT).

ANALYSIS:

Responsibilities and Acquisition Process

The Public Art Subcommittee of the Arts and Culture Advisory Committee (ACAC) is responsible to Council for overseeing the collecting of new works of public art. When a new capital public art project is approved, ACAC will direct the Public Art Subcommittee

to recommend an appropriate course of action and to oversee the entire acquisition process.

To initiate a public art project, Council must first approve the Terms of Reference. The process of soliciting proposals for public art should:

- be kept fair, meaningful, inclusive, equitable, and transparent
- encourage creative expression, innovation, and experimentation in arts and culture
- attract and include artists from across a variety of disciplines and lived experiences

Acquisitions of works of art may be made through one of the following methods:

- commissioned via open or invited competition
- purchase or loan of existing work from directly from artists or through reputable dealers
- donation or loan of existing work from private collections

The below is the criteria required for commissions and/or direct purchase of public art:

- authenticity and originality of the artistic work
- quality and condition of the work
- relevance to Cambridge's natural, heritage, and built environment and unique story whether historical or contemporary in nature
- qualifications of the artist(s): preference will be given to artists with Canadian citizenship or Permanent Resident status (with further preference given to artists in Cambridge and the Region of Waterloo)
- suitability of the work for the intended Public Space
- cost and effort related to ongoing care, maintenance, and storage of the work
- durability of the work, including its ability to withstand environmental challenges of its intended location and physical interaction

City Council is responsible for:

- serving as an advocate for art in public spaces
- approving the Public Art Policy and any required amendments
- approving the Terms of Reference to initiate the commission of a piece of work
- authorizing expenditures from the Public Art Reserve Fund
- approving an annual public art budget

Terms of Reference for the Public Art Installation at Cambridge Recreation Complex

The full Terms of Reference document is included as appendix A to this report. The City of Cambridge is seeking to commission a new piece of public art to be installed in the new Cambridge Recreation Complex. Highlights of the Terms of Reference follow.

Specifications:

- 13M x 9M x 12M x 4.5M
- Maximum weight to be hung from roof structure overhead is 450 kg total load allowance, maximum point load 225 kg
- 9.15M floor-to-ceiling height (to lower lobby level)
- 3.5M from ceiling to bottom of artwork

Furthermore, the art must:

- Be original, and display a high quality of design and technical skill in the execution
- Be engaging to the public
- Be permanent, durable, low maintenance, resistant to light exposure, safe and vandal-proof
- May involve aesthetic, historic or commemorative objects
- This piece will be suspended from the ceiling
- All materials proposed and/or used must be Canadian and operating impacts will be considered as part of the selection process.

The jury will be composed of 6 members: three well-established, nationally recognized experts and three local representatives. The jurors are knowledgeable, highly qualified, and widely respected within their fields.

The jury will include,

- An art critic/professor
- A curator of site-specific installations
- A curator of a gallery
- A local indigenous artist

And, by public application,

- A young adult from Waterloo Region; post-secondary undergraduate, graduate or recently graduated within two years, and having studied fine arts or related arts courses
- And a qualified member of the public (Cambridge citizen at large)

The jury will be asked to review the submissions and to provide commentary on how each relates to the competition theme and the local, physical and social context. This information and their recommendation will then be provided to the Public Art Subcommittee who will make a recommendation to ACAC, who will then advise Council for a final approval.

The Invitation for Public Art Proposal should be prioritized and issued without delay. Specific installation requirements from the artist should be coordinated with the base building as early as possible during the construction phase of the new Recreation Complex project to avoid potential construction delays and/or extra costs.

EXISTING POLICY / BY-LAW(S):

This request aligns with the current Public Art Policy C-30.140.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Capital Costs

As per Public Art Policy C-30.140, the Public Art Reserve Fund receives annual transfers of \$25,000 from the Capital Works Reserve Fund. The Public Art Reserve Fund is further supported by contributions equal to one per cent of capital construction budgets with budgets over \$100,000. As per the policy, the maximum amount transferred to the Fund from a civic facility capital project will be \$200,000. Eligible projects include new construction or construction that achieves major changes in the scope of the facility such as new programs, services, or functions. Projects that are funded from Development Charges are not eligible for providing a contribution to the Public Art Reserve Fund. Private sector and community gifts and donations are also encouraged and enabled.

In lieu of a contribution to the Public Art Reserve Fund, the new Recreation Complex will deliver a new piece of public art, funded through the construction budget A/00463-41 for a total of \$200,000. The amount dedicated to the artwork supply and installation will equal \$175,000; the remaining \$25,000 will account for contingencies and additional expenses incurred, including but not limited to artist solicitations and jury honorariums.

Operating Costs

The ongoing operating costs of the piece of public art will be determined following selection of the final artwork; ongoing maintenance and conservation of the new art piece will be funded through the Public Art Reserve Fund.

PUBLIC VALUE:

The City of Cambridge recognizes that public art is a powerful placemaking tool that both beautifies and animates the places we inhabit. Public art brings the community together, activates imagination and creativity, and encourages deeper engagement with the public realm and surrounding environment. Public art also brings art from Canada and the world to Cambridge community members. Through public art we can cultivate vibrant spaces, highlight the city's natural and heritage assets, and celebrate both the historic and contemporary stories and spaces that reflect all those who live, work and play in Cambridge.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE INPUT:

Advisory Committees Consulted

Representatives from the Public Art Subcommittee reviewed the options on how to approach the Invitation for Public Art Proposal and arrived at the proposed Terms of Reference (refer to Appendix A). The Arts and Culture Advisory Committee supports this Terms of Reference.

PUBLIC INPUT:

Posted publicly as part of the report process.

INTERNAL / EXTERNAL CONSULTATION:

The Recreation Complex Project Management Team made recommendations for the ultimate location and size of the public art installation based on structural design of the new facility; this location was vetted through the Recreation Complex Steering Committee. The preferred location was recommended for its visibility and long-term secured protection from vandalism and outdoor elements, located at the heart of the new Recreation Complex. Architectural drawings and specifications, prepared by MJMA Architects, were delivered to the Arts and Culture Advisory Committee and the Public Art Subcommittee for incorporation into the Terms of Reference.

CONCLUSION:

This Terms of Reference is an extension of the Public Art Policy and is reflective of principles of the City of Cambridge strategic plan. The Public Art Subcommittee and the Arts and Culture Advisory Committee are committed to a fair and transparent process with the goal of delivering a custom piece of high-quality public art installed in Cambridge's new signature Recreation Complex.

REPORT IMPACTS:

Agreement: **No**

By-law: **No**

Budget Amendment: **No**

Policy: **No**

APPROVALS:

This report has gone through the appropriate workflow and has been reviewed and or approved by the following as required:

Director

Deputy City Manager

Chief Financial Officer

City Solicitor

City Manager

ATTACHMENTS:

1. 24-106-CD Appendix A – Terms of Reference