



CITY OF  
ST. CATHARINES

## Public Art Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday March 15, 2012

4:00pm – 5:30pm

Committee Room 1 – 3rd Floor – City Hall

**Present:** Lesley Bell (Co-Chair), Marcie Bronson, Councillor Mark Elliott, Sandra Merk, Stephen Remus (Co-Chair), Peter Vietgen, Michael Zuberec  
**Staff:** Rebecca Cann, Scott Ritchie, Jennifer Tupling

### 1. Welcome and Introductions

L. Bell welcomed everyone to the meeting and highlighted the density of the meeting's agenda.

### 2. Approval of Agenda

**Motion:** To approve the agenda for Thursday March 15, 2012 with the addition of **Community Public Art Initiatives** following item 8, **Public Art Initiatives**.

L. Bell suggested that this remain a regular agenda item.

**Moved:** P. Vietgen

**Seconded:** S. Merk

**Approved.**

### 3. Approval of Minutes

**Motion:** To approve the meeting minutes from Thursday February 16, 2012 with a spelling correction in item 9d.

**Moved:** P. Vietgen

**Seconded:** M. Zuberec

**Approved.**

### 4. Business Arising from the Minutes

R. Cann reported that a letter of support regarding the Niagara HERE project has been sent to the Niagara Artists Centre containing the motion approved by this committee at the February 16, 2012 meeting.

### 5. Correspondence

#### a. Nomination for the City of St. Catharines Volunteer Award

P. Vietgen has competed and submitted the nomination of S. Remus for the City of St. Catharines Volunteer Award on behalf of the Public Art Advisory Committee.

### 6. Development of Public Art Procurement Process

#### a. Discussion: The scope of the collection

M. Bronson reviewed with the group the notes from the January meeting discussing the scope of the collection, while referring to the current Public Art Policy. She shared Calgary's Collection Procurement Policy and how they differentiate their collections. The group discussed the difference between a Civic Art Collection and a Public Art Collection, considering if Public Art is strictly site specific. They also conversed about the idea of unassigned

artwork and if there was a place for the discussion in the St. Catharines Procurement Policy. Returning to the current Public Art Policy, the Committee looked at the term 'cultural property' and what this referred to. The Committee also discussed the importance of including new media artwork in the policy as well as ensuring variety and quality of art collected. M. Bronson will edit the Scope of Collection draft.

**7. Review the Public Art Advisory Committee Terms of Reference**  
**a. Review work of Committee to date (2003 to 2012) – Deferred**

**b. Review Public Art Policy and role of PAAC in it, and with relation to it.**

R. Cann briefly discussed with the group the composition of the Public Art Advisory Committee, if more members should be added or the group kept at its current size. They discussed how to manage projects utilizing staff and volunteer time, having different committee members working on projects.

**8. Public Art Initiatives**

**a. City Hall Exhibits**

R. Cann reported that the Impressions of Culture, the Culture Plan exhibit is now on display at City Hall and that the jury for the annual exhibit will be meeting after the PAAC meeting. She announced that 58 artists submitted 116 works, the most in the history of the program.

**b. Kiwanis Aquatic Centre Public Art**

R. Cann reported that the project is moving along well. The selection process for a framer is almost complete. She noted that acquisition funds were used to assist with the extra costs of framing and lighting. A visit to Naoko Matsubara's studio is scheduled for next week and she has informed R. Cann that the work is complete! The work will have to be formally accepted into the collection.

**c. City Hall Sculpture Program**

R. Cann reported that the call is in its final stages with the City of St. Catharines' purchasing and legal departments. The budget for the program is \$7,500 and she hopes that the call will be released in the next two weeks.

**d. 1812 Public Art - Richard Pierpoint**

J. Tupling reported on a presentation she attended at Brock discussing Richard Pierpoint and the Coloured Corp. She collected some contacts that would be helpful in the future of the project. J. Tupling shared some information regarding locations in St. Catharines associated with Pierpoint. S. Ritchie shared a possible location that has been identified by the Planning Department as a future gateway; the island created by Race and Carlisle streets opposite to the east corner of the Performing Arts Centre site. This area is close to where Dick's and 12 Mile Creeks meet (underground). The group was agreeable to this site and considered other funding that could be

utilized to enhance the project.

**Action:** S. Ritchie will confirm the technical capability of this site and if it is scheduled for any future construction. The project group will consider the type of public art they are interested in and the budget required.

**e. Centennial Gardens Exhibit**

The group reviewed the draft Call to Artists created by the Niagara Artists Centre (NAC). They inquired about the original idea of the project being for youth only. S. Remus, reporting on behalf of NAC, said that they envision a blend of professional and recreation artists and would like to encourage full participation from the arts community. He also explained that they are reconsidering the title and investigating the idea of including QR codes to share the created “history” for each work. The call will be returned to the Committee via email for further review. R. Cann explained that she will be discussing with NAC the role and responsibilities of the project. It is possible that the selection committee could be a blend of Public Art Advisory Committee and NAC representatives.

**f. Downtown Performing Arts Centre Public Art**

**i. Presentation of Arts Centre Design**

R. Cann shared images of the arts centre design with the group. During the presentation she highlighted possible locations for Public Art installations. S. Remus talked about the possible installation of equipment in the lobby to display digital media. R. Cann asked the group to start considering Public Art options for the centre. She will extend an invitation to a future Public Art Advisory Committee meeting to Steve Solski, Executive Director of the centre, and a member of the architectural team.

**Action:** R. Cann will email the design images with the committee.

**9. Community Public Art Initiatives**

R. Cann reviewed a mural request submitted to the City of St. Catharines for a project in Port Dalhousie. The group discussed the project and their concerns. They felt that the timeline was too restricting, that murals are best developed on found walls with some consideration to graffiti eradication and they felt that the theme was not as unique as it could be. They also considered that the project would require review from the Heritage Committee as it would be located in a designated Heritage District and that it may violate City heritage district guidelines. The group noted that the mural would become the responsibility of the City once it was completed; there is a financial cost to this, and the question of how it relates to the current and future Collection Policy is unresolved.

**Action:** S. Ritchie will check on the heritage guidelines for the site. R. Cann will present the Public Art Advisory Committees concerns to the mural planning

group.

## **10. Art Collection**

### **a. Collection Updates**

R. Cann reported that a Report to Council regarding the Port Dalhousie cenotaph has been completed and will be included on an upcoming agenda. The report regarding the St. Catharines cenotaph is also moving forward. She has been discussing the project with others including the Niagara Region regarding the effects of the new Burgoyne Bridge on the monument. Construction on the bridge's east side is not expected for a couple years so some repairs can be completed on the cenotaph prior to this. However, the Monument to Workers, which is located close to the current bridge, will have to be relocated as a result of the new bridge's construction.

### **b. Twinning Artwork – Photos from Visit – Deferred**

## **11. Reports**

### **a. Culture Committee – P. Vietgen**

P. Vietgen reported that the Culture Committee reviewed their workplan: SCCIP timelines may be changed from their current dates and a festival/events stream is being considered for the program in response to a request from Council to the Tourism office. The Heritage Committee recently made their yearly presentation to Council and had a display in the St. Catharines Public Library for the month of February. The Niagara Region is looking for each municipality to participate in the Niagara Night of Arts event as part of the Cultural Capitals of Canada 2012 programming. The St. Catharines Downtown Association has volunteered to lead the St. Catharines event. Banners celebrating Niagara Cultural Capitals of Canada 2012 have begun being installed around City Hall and throughout downtown.

### **b. Joint Mural Task Force – S. Merk**

S. Merk reported that the group has not had a meeting since her last report. There is nothing further to report at this time.

### **c. Cultural Services – R. Cann**

R. Cann stated that the most important items have already been reported. There is nothing further to report at this time.

## **12. Other Business**

S. Remus shared information with the group regarding a newly formed St. Catharines Hospital Arts Board that he has become a member of. The group will advise on the existing collection and future acquisitions. They are currently looking at the possibility of installing a work of Public Art at the site of the new hospital on 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. They will be looking to create calls to artists in the future for such initiatives. S. Remus is also hoping they will look at creative ways to recognize donors throughout the new building. He would like to suggest that a

member of the Public Art Advisory Committee also join the group. He asked that the committee consider this moving forward, but was not asking for an immediate volunteer.

**Motion:** To adjourn the meeting of March 15, 2012.

**Moved:** M. Bronson **Carried.**

Meeting Adjourned at approximately 5:56 pm

**Next Meeting:** Thursday April 19, 2012 – 4:00pm – Ante Room, City Hall

**Red Opening:** Thursday March 26, 2012 – 4:00pm – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Exhibit Space, City Hall