**

**Community Development Report**

**Committee Consideration – 4 December 2018**

**Council Resolution – 18 December 2018**

**Table of Contents**

Item No. Page No.

[CM05.18 Purchase of Artwork from Sculptures by the Sea 2](#_Toc531186170)

|  |
| --- |
| CM05.18 Purchase of Artwork from Sculptures by the Sea |

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| **Committee** | 4 December 2018 |
| **Council** | 18 December 2018 |
| **Applicant** | City of Nedlands |
| **Officer** | Marion Granich - Manager Community Development |
| **Director** | Lorraine Driscoll – Director Corporate and Strategy |
| **Attachments** | 1. Support Information Artworks Under Consideration for Purchase by City. |

**Executive Summary**

This report is being presented to Council as it involves expenditure for the purchase of public artworks. The Terms of Reference for the Arts Committee state that the Arts Committee can recommend to Council any expenditure on public artwork, which must then be approved by Council.

**Recommendation to Committee**

**Council agrees to:**

**1. Purchase the artwork “Inspired by Rosie” by Tanya Spencer and install it within the Tresillian grounds, on the site currently occupied by a play equipment due for removal;**

**2. Purchase the artwork “Loyalty” by Ayad Alqaragholli and install it in the**

**Carrington Street Dog Park, Carrington Street, Nedlands;**

**3. Purchase the artwork “Pot Will Fly” by Yoshio Nitto and install it on Melvista Reserve, Nedlands.**

**Background**

The Arts Committee is charged with the responsibility of investigating options for public artworks for the City and making recommendations to Council on:

* the *commissioning* of public artwork; and/or
* the *purchase* of public artwork for the City.

In recent months, the Arts Committee has been progressing projects that fall into both categories listed above – i.e. a commission and also some purchases.

Commissioning: the Arts Committee is in the process of commissioning a public artwork for a site in Mt Claremont. (The location of and expenditure on the Mt Claremont artwork were approved by Council in June 2018). This information on the Mt Claremont project is provided as an update only, as the Mt Claremont project is not the focus of this Council report.

Purchasing of artworks: The focus of this report is on the proposed purchase of three public artworks for the City.

**Discussion**

On 19 November 2018, the Arts Committee made a formal decision recommending to Council the acquisition of three public artworks for the City, available to be purchased from the Sculptures by the Sea organisation. The three artworks being recommended for purchase are:

1. “Inspired by Rose” by Tanya Spencer;
2. “Loyalty” by Ayad Alqaragholli; and
3. “Pot Will Fly” by Yoshio Nitto.

“Inspired by Rosie” is an artwork by West Australian artist Tanya Spencer, who works from her regional home in Lake Grace, WA. Construction is from 16 mm mild steel rod and 2.5 mm mild steel wire, spray-painted with black rustkill paint. The artist advises a 10 – 20 year lifespan for the work if re-painted regularly. Further support information on “Inspired by Rosie” is provided at Attachment 1 – Support Information Artworks Under Consideration for Purchase by City.

A possible location for “Inspired by Rosie” is within Tresillian’s grounds, in the area that is currently occupied by a playground that is scheduled for removal. This area would require some landscaping to integrate the artwork into the site.

“Inspired by Rosie” is available for purchase from Sculptures by the Sea for $11,800. Allow a further $3,000 to cover transport, footings and installation. Therefore, the estimated total cost of purchasing and installing “Inspired by Rosie” is $14,800.

“Loyalty” is an artwork by West Australian artist Ayad Alqaragholli. The work is currently available for viewing at the Gomboc Gallery in Middle Swan. Construction is from bronze and stainless steel. Maintenance is not required, and a lifespan of 1,000 years is estimated. Further support information on “Loyalty” is provided at Attachment 1 – Support Information Artworks Under Consideration for Purchase by City.

A possible location for “Loyalty” is within the Carrington Street Dog Park, Nedlands. It would require some landscaping to integrate the artwork into the site.

“Loyalty” is available for purchase from Sculptures by the Sea for $48,000. Allow a further $3,000 to cover transport, footings and installation. Therefore, the estimated total cost of purchasing and installing “Loyalty” is $51,000.

“Pot Will Fly” is an artwork by Japanese artist Yoshio Nitto. Although Yoshio is not a local WA artist, he does have a long-term connection with WA. He has been to Perth more than 10 times over the past 15 years, for exhibitions and for residencies here. He has made many connections within the arts community of WA and is inspired to create artworks that respond to the local setting and community. The City of Melville and the Town of Cottesloe have both acquired Yoshio Nitto works for their collections. “Pot Will Fly” is currently available for viewing at the Gomboc Gallery in Middle Swan.

Construction is copper cladding over resin with stainless steel and fibreglass internal armature. Work by Yoshio Nitto in the Town of Cottesloe shows no sign of deterioration. Copper has a reputation for longevity. Maintenance is not required and a lifespan of 10 – 20 years is estimated. Further support information on “Pot Will Fly” is provided at Attachment 1 – Support Information Artworks Under Consideration for Purchase by City.

A possible location for “Pot Will Fly” is within the Melvista Reserve. This is a relatively substantial artwork that requires careful placement on a fairly large site, that allows both appreciation from a distance and also closer interaction with the work. It would require some landscaping to integrate the artwork into the site.

“Pot Will Fly” is available for purchase from Sculptures by the Sea for $25,000. Allow a further $3,000 to cover transport, footings and installation. Therefore, estimated total cost of purchasing and installing “Pot Will Fly” is $28,000.

**Key Relevant Previous Council Decisions**

Nil.

**Consultation**

Council is considering the purchase of these three public artworks, following the recommendation from the Arts Committee to do so. Before making the recommendation to Council, the Arts Committee:

* Met with representatives of the Sculptures by the Sea
* Sought further information on the works
* Considered the relevance of each work to the City of Nedlands and wider WA community
* Considered longevity and maintenance of the works
* Obtained a reduction in price for each work under consideration for purchase.

The Mayor has also viewed the two works that are currently in the Perth metropolitan area, being “Loyalty” and “Pot Will Fly”, as well as viewing up-to-date photographs of “Inspired by Rosie”, which is currently in regional WA.

Making a recommendation to Council on the purchase of public artworks is consistent with the Arts Committee’s purpose as stated in its Terms of Reference.

**Budget/Financial Implications**

Purchase of the artworks under consideration is within the City’s approved budget for public art. A summary of the available funds is provided below.

**Table 1: Public Artwork Budget Information**

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| Available funds | $210,000 |
| Less proposed expenditure:   * $80,000 - Mt Claremont Commission * $14,800 - “Inspired by Rosie” ($11,800 purchase + $3,000 transport, footings & installation) * $51,000 - “Loyalty” ($48,000 purchase + $3,000 transport, footings & installation) * $28,000 – “Pot Will Fly” ($25,000 purchase + $3,000 transport, footings & installation) | * $173,800 |
| Remaining funds if all works commissioned / purchased | = $36,200 |

Council’s Art Reserve Account currently has $210,000 available for expenditure. Council has already approved expenditure of up to $80,000 on the Mt Claremont project. If all three artworks recommended by the Arts Committee in this report are purchased, transported and installed, then $36,200 will remain in Council’s Art Reserve Account.

**Conclusion**

It is recommended that Council purchase the three public artworks - “Inspired by Rosie”, “Loyalty” and “Pot Will Fly” - as recommended by the Arts Committee and installed in the locations that have also been recommended by the Committee.

“Inspired by Rosie” and “Loyalty” are both by significant WA artists who are well recognised and experience in the area of public art. While the creator of “Pot Will Fly” is not a local WA artist, he does have a strong, ongoing connection with WA, with a number of his significant works having been purchased by WA Councils. Supporting WA artists and the WA art scene generally contributes to a strong local art industry, enriching local cultural standards, practice and appreciation.

The three artworks under consideration represent good value-for-money, being unsold following the March 2018 Sculptures by the Sea exhibition. Further works will become available in the 2019 Sculptures by the Sea exhibition. However, purchase of these, if made at the time of the exhibition, is less likely to achieve such value-for-money.