

# **Community Development Report**

**Committee Consideration – 10 November 2020  
Council Resolution – 24 November 2020**

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<b>CM09.20</b>	<b>Council Contribution to Rotary Centenary Event</b>
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<b>Committee</b>	10 November 2020
<b>Council</b>	24 November 2020
<b>Applicant</b>	City of Nedlands
<b>Employee Disclosure under section 5.70 Local Government Act 1995</b>	Nil
<b>Director</b>	Marion Granich – A/Director Corporate and Strategy
<b>Attachments</b>	Nil.
<b>Confidential Attachments</b>	Nil.

## Executive Summary

The Rotary Club of Freshwater Bay has requested the City's participation in an event to celebrate the centenary of Rotary International being established in Australia. Council approval is required because participation in the event involves unbudgeted expenditure.

## Recommendation to Committee

### Council:

1. **agrees to participate in a tree planting ceremony to commemorate Rotary's centenary in Australia; and**
2. **approves expenditure of \$1,500 on a plaque and plinth to mark the occasion.**

## Background

Rotary International is a service organisation with over 35,000 clubs worldwide. Rotary members believe that they have a shared responsibility to take action on the world's most persistent issues and to promote peace; fight disease; provide clean water, sanitation, and hygiene; save mothers and children; support education; and grow local economies. Their mission is to provide service to others, promote integrity and advance world understanding, goodwill and peace through fellowship with business, professional and community leaders.

Rotary International was founded in Chicago, USA, in 1905. Rotary in Australia began operating in 1921, with 2021 being its important first centenary milestone.

## Discussion

The Freshwater Bay Rotary Club has requested the City's support in an event to celebrate the centenary of Rotary International operating in Australia, to be held in April 2021.

The proposed event would involve a ceremonial tree planting by Mayor De Lacy with Freshwater Bay Rotary Club president Dianne Collins, followed by refreshments with about 30 invited guests. Rotary expects to invite various high-profile guests to mark this significant occasion, including federal and state Members of Parliament, Rotary Club District Governor and City of Nedlands Councillors and senior staff.

While the Freshwater Bay Rotary Club does not meet within the City of Nedlands, the City is its nominated area, which means that much of its work and services are delivered within the City of Nedlands. For example, the Club works closely with the City's local primary schools on a range of on-going projects; and has also previously undertaken joint projects with the City previously, such as publishing a walking route map for the City of Nedlands.

The Club has indicated that they would be happy with any appropriate location chosen by the City for the tree planting. They are also open to suggestion on how costs for the event can be shared. It is proposed that responsibilities for the event are that:

- the City provides the tree and plaque and the Mayor addresses guests; and
- Rotary is responsible for invitations and catering, including any drinks.

## Location

The City's Parks staff advise that the most suitable location would be on the Nedlands river foreshore; and that the most suitable tree would be a native species from the list of trees suitable for that site. A *Eucalyptus Rudis* could be considered.

## Cost

The tree, worth approximately \$280, could be paid for from the City's approved tree-planting budget. The additional cost for the City resulting from this event would be the plaque commemorating Rotary's Australian Centenary: allow \$1,500 for the plaque, plinth and cement foundations. Rotary would organize all aspects of the event other than the tree and plaque; and meet all costs to do with invitations and catering.

## Event Approval

As the event organizer, Rotary would be required to apply for approval to hold the event on Council land. This is a relatively straight-forward process and gives the City the opportunity to ensure the event is well-run, including that it meets COVID-safe guidelines.

## Key Relevant Previous Council Decisions:

Nil.

## **Consultation**

This project has been initiated by Freshwater Bay Rotary Club; and the City has liaised with former Mayor Max Hipkins as the representative of the Club.

## **Strategic Implications**

### **How well does it fit with our strategic direction?**

The project does not connect directly with any specific strategic outcome; rather, Council participating in the event relates its general role in supporting local community organisations.

### **Who benefits?**

The broader community benefits from Council having a positive relationship with community organisations such as Rotary. The local, national and international community benefits directly from a wide range of activities undertaken by Rotary Clubs throughout the world.

### **Does it involve a tolerable risk?**

Yes – there is very little risk associated with this event.

### **Do we have the information we need?**

Yes – the City has liaised with the Rotary Club of Freshwater Bay on the event.

## **Budget/Financial Implications**

The cost of participating in the event as recommended in this report is \$1,500 for the commemorative plaque, its plinth and foundations. The \$280 for the mature tree is not an additional cost, as this would in any case be spent on tree planting in this location.

### **Can we afford it?**

Yes.

### **How does the option impact upon rates?**

Very low impact.

## **Conclusion**

It is recommended that Council agrees to the Mayor's officiating at this event; and to the additional expenditure of \$1,500 on a plaque to commemorate Rotary's first centenary in Australia. The City has long had strong and positive relationships with local Rotary Clubs, including the Freshwater Bay, Nedlands and Dalkeith Rotary Clubs. These clubs not only provide services internationally, but also provide ongoing projects and services within the City of Nedlands. Therefore it is fitting for the City to recognise the value of 100 years of Rotary operating in Australia.

<b>CM10.20</b>	<b>Public Artwork Health Workers Tribute Project</b>
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<b>Committee</b>	10 November 2020
<b>Council</b>	24 November 2020
<b>Applicant</b>	City of Nedlands
<b>Employee Disclosure under section 5.70 Local Government Act 1995</b>	Nil
<b>Director</b>	Marion Granich – A/Director Corporate & Strategy
<b>Attachments</b>	
<b>Confidential Attachments</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Public Artworks Available for Purchase.</li> <li>2. Statement of Artworks' Connection to Brief</li> </ol>

## Executive Summary

This report informs Council of the Public Art Committee's recent decision on selecting an artwork to pay tribute to the role of health workers during the pandemic, including its location and cost. It is being presented to Council because Council approval is required on works selected by the Committee; use of the site; and any expenditure over \$10,000. Installation of the artwork recommended by the Committee would cost the full \$50,000 that has been allocated to public art in the 2020/21 budget. This report also provides information on the range of artworks that Committee members had available to them to consider, in choosing this artwork to recommend to Council.

Note: the reason the attachments are confidential is that the City does not have the right to reproduce images of these artworks.

## Recommendation to Committee

**Council approves:**

1. purchase of the public artwork "Circle" by Tetsuro Yamasaki;
2. expenditure of up to \$50,000 (excluding traffic management) on the purchase and installation of the artwork specified at clause 1;
3. installation on Dot Bennett Park of the artwork specified at clause 1.

## Background

On 18 May 2020, the Public Art Committee recommended that Council approves \$50,000 for expenditure on public art in the 2020/21 Council budget for the acquisition of a public artwork commemorating the work of health workers during the COVID-19 pandemic, from the 2020/21 Public Art Budget allocation. Council then approved the \$50,000 allocation as part of its 2020/21 budget.

## Discussion/Overview

On 17 August 2020, the Public Art Committee considered how it would go about the Health Workers Tribute project and requested Administration to report back with a list of suitable artworks that were currently available for purchase; and that also suited this brief. The Committee preferred to purchase an *existing* artwork, if a suitable one could be found, rather than commissioning a *new* work, for two main reasons: cost and time.

*Cost:* an existing artwork, purchased “off the hook”, is likely to be more cost-effective than commissioning a work, because commissioning involves calling for Expressions of Interest and paying a number of shortlisted artists to develop their proposals; as well as then paying the artist who wins the commission to develop their work and have it fabricated. Commissioning is also generally more expensive because it involves extensive liaison between the Committee and the artist, so more of the artist’s time is required. And finally, commissioning is more expensive because it is a bespoke process.

*Timing:* purchasing an existing artwork will always be quicker than commissioning a new work, since the work is already in existence and has only to be purchased and installed. The Committee is aware that much of the impact of the gesture of acknowledging the role of health workers depends on the work’s timely installation. Other bodies are now also considering similar projects – not surprising, since the idea of an artwork recognizing health workers now has currency around the world. A high-profile public launch of the proposed artwork will have its greatest impact, contributing positively to the City’s standing, if the City’s project is the first of its kind in WA.

On Monday 13 October, the Public Art Committee considered a range of existing artworks that are available for purchase, for its proposed project of honouring health workers, as at Confidential Attachment 1 – Public Artworks Available for Purchase.

### Artworks Available for Purchase

The Committee had previously asked Administration to compile a list of artworks that fit with the brief of honouring health workers; and that are also available to be purchased. These artworks are shown at Confidential Attachment 1 – Public Artworks Available for Purchase. Note: not every artwork included in this list is within budget. The attachment is divided into three sections: works under \$50,000; works close to \$50,000; and works over \$50,000. (Works that would exceed the budget are also provided, to show the broader context of what is available at what price. This helps with understanding pricing in the public art market). Note also that approximately \$2,000 needs to be allowed, over and above the purchase prices, for transport and installation of the artwork. Therefore, to remain within the approved budget of \$50,000, Councillors should consider *only artworks with a purchase price below \$48,000*.

The Public Art Committee also requested Administration to provide Council with a brief statement on *why* each work on the list was selected – i.e. how it relates to the brief of paying tribute to health workers. This information is provided at Confidential Attachment 2 – Statement of Artworks’ Connection to Brief.

## **Public Art Committee’s Preferred Artwork and Site**

On 13 October 2020, the Public Art Committee considered the artworks presented to it at Confidential Attachment 1 – Public Artworks Available for Purchase. These works are all considered appropriate to the brief of honouring health workers. In response, the Public Art Committee recommended to Council the purchase of the work titled “Circle” by Tetsuro Yamasaki; and recommended Dot Bennett Park as the appropriate location, being close to major medical institutions and suitable for a high-profile launch event to which significant medical professionals and government officials will be invited. The Public Art Committee’s recommendation to Council is provided below:

### **That the Public Art Committee:**

- 1. considers the range of public artworks available to be purchased, as at Confidential Attachment 1 – Artworks Available for Purchase for Health Professionals Tribute Project;**
- 2. selects ‘Circle – Yakibame (Shrink Fit) (C-11)’ by Tetsuro Yamasaki as the Committee’s preferred work; and**
- 3. selects Dot Bennett Park as the Committee’s preferred location for the siting of this work.**

**CARRIED 3/2  
(Against: Crs. Smyth & Mangano)**

### **The Artwork “Circle” by Tetsuro Yamasaki**

*Description:* “Circle” is a sculpture fabricated in Corten steel in the form of an upright circle, set on a flat base that it also circular. The main form of the upright circle contains an inner circle and an outer circle. The inner circle is composed of many, varied blocks; and is surrounded and supported by the outer circle. The blocks of the inner circle are firmly connected to those next to them. If one strike anywhere on the work, the entire circle will resonate. Dimensions: H 200 centimeters x W 285 centimeters x D 115 centimeters. Cost: \$48,000.

*Meaning:* Different people see different things in an artwork, which is part of art’s joy. Abstract artworks are particularly open to interpretation, not relying on the more literal meaning that realistic works convey. However, the use of well-recognised, archetypal shapes, with their long history of associations, tends to generate responses that many people recognise and can agree on. The circle is a strong and archetypal image that represents wholeness and strength. This has been its association for many centuries and across many cultures.

This sculpture’s inner circle is made of many building blocks that give it strength and layers of interest. This inner circle can be interpreted as symbolizing the community, with its many and varied individuals. This inner circle is held within a solid, strong outer circle which can be interpreted as representing health workers whose strength successfully supports the inner circle, which in turn represents the many and varied individuals in the community – also whole and strong. The material (steel) itself



conveys strength – vis. common expressions such as “steely resolve”. The work is both physically strong and metaphorically so.

*Artist’s Statement: “We are not alone. There are men and women of all ages here. We can be united by clasping each other’s hands. If even one of the blocks in this work falls out, this Circle will not hold. Even blocks of different shapes resonate as a whole by being strongly united. I have taken great interest in the efficient “Circle” which I believe must have some special meaning. A dewdrop on a leaf, a soap bubble, a sleeping animal...it is present in so many things in our universe”.*

## **Key Relevant Previous Council Decisions**

30 June 2020– Council decision approving 2020/21 budget, including \$50,000 for public art.

## **Consultation**

Two community members are full voting members of the Public Art Committee, to ensure community input into the Committee’s recommendations to Council.

## **Legal / Policy**

Copyright Act (*Australia*) 1968.

The attachments to this report are confidential because the City does not (as yet) have the right to reproduce images of these artworks. Copyright of each artwork belongs to the artist. If the City purchases an artwork, it would then be able to reproduce images of that work for two main reasons: the work would then be in the public domain; and while copyright would remain with the artist, some minor aspects of copyright, such as the right to reproduce the image, can be conferred in the context of the purchase.

The Public Art Committee’s Terms of Reference allow it to select preferred artworks and recommend them to Council. The Terms of Reference also state that any expenditure > \$10,000 must be approved by Council.

## Strategic Implications

### How well does it fit with our strategic direction?

The acquisition of public artwork improves the City’s amenity and is consistent with the vision statement in the Community Strategic Plan that “We will live in a beautiful place”.

### Who benefits?

All members of the community benefit from public art, as by its nature it is in the public realm; and - at least if well chosen - should improve the amenity of the area. Improved amenity can also positively impact the prestige of the area and its desirability as a residential area.

### Does it involve a tolerable risk?

Yes. There is little risk in the purchase and installation of the artwork titled “Circle”. It is well-constructed from durable materials that will require little or no maintenance. It is safely constructed, with no features that such as sharp edges. It is suitable for installation and display in a public place.

### Do we have the information we need?

Yes. We have the relevant information on price; the artist; the current location of the work; the work’s availability for sale; the appropriateness of the work to the brief of honouring health workers; the suitability of the work for display in a public place; and that it is the work recommended to Council by the Public Art Committee.

## Budget/Financial Implications

Council has approved \$50,000 for expenditure on public art in the 2020/21 budget. Therefore, the total expenditure on this work must not exceed \$50,000 if the project is to stay within the approved budget.

Note: \$2,000 towards transport and installation must be allowed for within the total project budget of \$50,000. Therefore, the budget for the purchase of “Circle” is as follows:

*Table 1: Total Project Budget for “Circle”*

Purchase Price	\$48,000
Transport and installation*, allow	\$2,000
<b>Total Project Budget</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>

\*Costs provided exclude traffic management as it is not yet determined whether traffic management is required. If required, traffic management would be paid from an operational budget line item, rather than from the approved capital budget for public art.

### **Can we afford it?**

Yes. The artwork “Circle” can be purchased and installed within the current approved budget for public art.

### **How does the option impact upon rates?**

This has already been considered as part of the 2020/21 budget process; and judged by Council to be at an appropriate level.

### **Conclusion**

The Public Art Committee's preferred artwork, “Circle” by Tetsuro Yamasaki, is recommended to Council for purchase and installation on the Dot Bennett Park. The work is a strong and durable circle - an archetypal image that represents wholeness and strength. It reads clearly and simply; and can easily be interpreted to fit the brief of acknowledging the strong, supportive role of health workers in keeping our community healthy and whole. The work can be purchased and installed within the approved budget. Dot Bennett Park is a fitting location for the artwork, being close to the major health institutions; and being an appropriate place for the anticipated high-profile public launch of the work once it has been installed.

Similarly-inspired projects are taking place around the world, amid new data on the mental health impacts of the pandemic on health workers and their families, even in areas with relatively low rates of infection. Key examples of such art projects include Banksy's work in his home City of Bristol in the UK; major works commissioned by the City of Hamilton in Canada; and Jorge Rodriguez-Gerada's murals in New York, to name a few.

Therefore, expenditure of \$50,000 on the purchase and installation of the Public Art Committee's choice of the artwork “Circle” on Dot Bennett Reserve is recommended to Council.