



City of Nedlands

Minutes

Public Art Committee Meeting

12 October 2020

ATTENTION

This is a Committee which has only made recommendations to Council. No action should be taken on any recommendation contained in these Minutes. The Council resolution pertaining to an item will be made at the next Ordinary Meeting of Council following this meeting.

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City of Nedlands

Minutes of a meeting of the Public Art Committee held at the City of Nedlands Administration Building, 71 Stirling Highway and online via livestream on Monday 12 October 2020 at 5.30 pm.

Public Art Committee Agenda

Declaration of Opening

The Presiding Member declared the meeting open at 5:30pm.

Present and Apologies and Leave of Absence (Previously Approved)

Councillors and

Voting Members	Councillor B G Hodsdon	(Chairperson) Hollywood Ward
	Councillor A W Mangano	Dalkeith Ward
	Councillor L J McManus	Coastal Districts Ward
	Councillor K A Smyth	Coastal Districts Ward
	Ms Alexandra Thompson	(from 5.39 pm) Community Member

Staff	Ms M Granich	Manager Community Development
	Ms R Stewart	Administration and Events Officer

Public Nil.

Press Nil.

Leave of Absence (Previously Approved)

Apologies	Luke Hollyock	Community Member
	Councillor G A R Hay	Melvista Ward

Disclaimer

Members of the public who attend Council meetings should not act immediately on anything they hear at the meetings, without first seeking clarification of Council's position. For example, by reference to the confirmed Minutes of Council meeting. Members of the public are also advised to wait for written advice from the Council prior to taking action on any matter that they may have before Council.

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1. Public Question Time

Nil.

2. Addresses by Members of the Public (only for items listed on the agenda)

Addresses by members of the public who have completed Public Address Session Forms will be invited to be made as each item relating to their address is discussed by the Committee.

Nil.

3. Disclosures of Financial and/or Proximity Interest

The Presiding Member reminded Councillors and Staff of the requirements of Section 5.65 of the *Local Government Act* to disclose any interest during the meeting when the matter is discussed.

There were no disclosures of financial interest.

4. Disclosures of Interests Affecting Impartiality

The Presiding Member reminded Councillors and Staff of the requirements of Council's Code of Conduct in accordance with Section 5.103 of the *Local Government Act*.

There were no disclosures affecting impartiality.

5. Declarations by Members That They Have Not Given Due Consideration to Papers

Councillor Smyth declared that she had not given due consideration to the papers due to being on an approved leave of absence.

6. Confirmation of Minutes

6.1 Public Art Committee Meeting 17 August 2020

Moved – Councillor Hodsdon
 Seconded – Councillor Mangano

The Minutes of the Arts Committee 17 August be accepted as a true and correct record of that meeting.

**CARRIED 3/1
 (Against: Cr Smyth)**

7. Items for Discussion

7.1 Health Professionals Tribute Project

Applicant	City of Nedlands
Employee Disclosure under section 5.70 Local Government Act 1995	Nil.
Director	Lorraine Driscoll
Attachments	(Confidential attachment only.)
Confidential Attachments	1. Artworks Available for Purchase for Health Professionals Tribute Project.

Alexandrea Thompson joined the meeting at 5:39pm.

Moved- Councillor Mangano
 Seconded – Councillor Hodsdon

Committee Recommendation

That the Public Art Committee:

1. considers the range of public artworks available to be purchased, at confidential Attachment 1 – Artworks Available for Purchase for Health Professionals Tribute Project;
2. selects ‘Colossus Holds up the World’ by Egor Zigura as the Committee’s preferred work; and
3. selects Dot Bennett Park as the Committee’s preferred location for the siting of this work.

LOST 2/3
 (Against: Alexandria Thompson and Crs. Smyth & McManus)

Regulation 11(da) – Not Applicable – Recommendation Adopted

Moved- Alexandra Thompson
Seconded – Councillor McManus

Committee Recommendation

That the Public Art Committee:

- 1. considers the range of public artworks available to be purchased, 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)**

Recommendation to Committee

That the Public Art Committee:

1. considers the range of public artworks available to be purchased, at confidential Attachment 1 – Artworks Available for Purchase for Health Professionals Tribute Project;
2. selects (insert name of artwork) as the Committee’s preferred work; and
3. selects (insert name of location) as the Committee’s preferred location for the siting of this work.

Executive Summary

This report presents the Committee with a range of public artworks that are available for sale; and that could also express the Committee’s intention of paying tribute to the role that health workers have played in supporting the community during the COVID-19 pandemic. Please note that the artworks are provided as a confidential attachment, in order to avoid offense to artists not eventually selected for this project.

Discussion/Overview

At its last meeting, on 17 August 2020, the Public Art Committee decided:

- to defer its decision on the location for the Healthworks Tribute Artwork project, until the work itself was selected; and
- requested that administrative staff supply information on suitable artworks that are available for purchase.

The purpose of this report is now to come back to the Committee with a list of suitable works, so that the Committee can select its preferred work and its preferred site where the work would be located. (Please note that once the Committee has expressed both preferences - for the work and for the site - then three key aspects of the project, being the work itself, the site for location and the expenditure all need to be approved by Council.)

Please find attached a confidential list of artworks that are currently available for purchase; and that also meet the brief of expressing the Committee's intention to honour and pay tribute to the work of health workers during the pandemic. The list is at Confidential Attachment 1 - Artworks Available for Purchase for Health Professionals Tribute Project.

In relation to the list of works provided in the attachment, please note that there are:

- 3 pages, 3 categories based on price point: Under \$50k, Close to \$50k, Over \$50k.
- Artworks are all in WA, except for 1, which would need to be transported to WA if selected (on page 1, 'Colossus Holds up the World' bronze figure).
- Artworks are from a range of artists, all professional and collectible but not all are WA artists. Intention is to present suitable works that are available for purchase.
- Purchasing of any of these works are all through WA art galleries, so would support local WA visual art industry
- It is possible some prices could be negotiable.

Please note that not all artworks in the confidential attachment will fit the budget allocation. However, a broader range of works has been included in the attachment in order to demonstrate the range of works available and their prices. Becoming more familiar with the cost of public artworks will, over time, strengthen the Committee's capacity to make budget and other recommendations to Council on public art.

Details about each artwork have not been provided in this report, as the images of the works themselves will help the Committee to decide its preference, along with the title given to the work by the artist. The plaque that will be installed

beside the chosen artwork will “tell the story”, explaining the motivation behind the purchase of the work and how the work expresses the intention to pay tribute to health workers.

The range of artworks presented includes figurative, abstract and also a screen work, as various Committee members have expressed interest in each of these styles. Each of the artists represented on this confidential list have achieved a large and respected body of work; and all works on the list would be significant additions to the City’s public art collection.

Additional Expenditure

As well as the purchase price, some additional costs need to be allowed for within the total budget of \$50,000 that is available for expenditure on public art in the current financial year. These additional costs are estimated as follows:

- Transport – all works will require transport, even those located in WA. Allow \$600 for works already within WA and \$1,500 for “Colossus Holds up the World”, being interstate.
- Installation – City staff will excavate and prepare the site, so there is no additional cost for site preparation. A contractor is required for the concrete pour, so allow approximately \$800 for most works and approximately \$1,200 for the screen artwork, which will need extra installation work as it needs to be anchored to the concrete footings over a longer expanse.
- Plaque – allow \$400.

An estimate of the full cost of purchase, transport and installation of the artworks is summarised below.

Table 1: Summary of Approx. Cost of Purchase and Installation of Works

Task	Range of Costs	Maximum Cost
Transport	\$600 - \$1,500	\$1,500
Installation (assumes no traffic management)	\$800 - \$1,200	\$1,200
Plaque	\$400	\$400
Total Additional Costs	\$1,800 - \$3,100	\$3,100
Purchase Price: (Amount remaining for purchase price of Artwork, being \$50,000 less total of additional costs.)		\$46,900 - \$48,200

Similar Projects by Other Local Governments

In researching these available public artworks, some of the galleries and artists contacted by City staff have referred to possible other similar projects being undertaken by other LGA’s – i.e. public art projects addressing COVID and health care workers. For example, City staff were told that one LGA is considering commissioning a work specifically to do with masks. No definite information was provided on the other LGA’s or their projects, presumably

because any such projects are still confidential at this stage. However, the Committee will wish to ensure its project is unique and it would be desirable for it to lead the field in terms of timing.

Therefore, the optimal approach may be to ensure that the artwork selected is not too literal; and that it is actioned reasonably quickly so that it is the first in the public domain.

Site

The Committee is also required to decide on its preferred location for the artwork it selects. There has already been extensive discussion by the Committee on various options for location of the work. However, an additional factor may now need to be taken into account: the impact of the location on the launch event for this artwork. It is likely that the launch of this artwork will be a high-profile affair, with significant state and local dignitaries invited. For example, the Committee may wish to consider inviting the Premier, Health Minister and high-profile medical representatives to attend the launch. If so, the setting for the artwork and therefore the launch event may be better to be an established site that is already a fitting setting for this work. While Highview Park and Dot Bennett Reserve are both close to the major medical centres in the City, Highview Park is not as beautifully landscaped as Dot Bennett Reserve. Additionally, Highview Park is scheduled for Master Planning and major re-development in the near future. Therefore, the preferred option may be Dot Bennett Reserve, given its existing high level of aesthetic amenity. However, the Committee may prefer to select another location.

Key Relevant Previous Council Decisions:

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

Budget/Financial Implications

\$50,000 has been approved for expenditure on public art in Council's 2020/21 budget. While this amount has been approved by Council for expenditure on public art, the Public Art Committee's Terms of Reference require that it still has to go back to Council for approval of any expenditure greater than \$10,000.

Can we afford it?

The City can afford to purchase a public artwork within the current financial year's budget, providing the total cost of the purchase, transport, installation and plaque is \$50,000 or less.

How does the option impact upon rates?

The allocation of \$50,000 for public artwork in the current financial year's budget has already been factored into the impact on rates for the current financial year.

Strategic Implications

How well does it fit with our strategic direction?

In its vision statement, the City's Strategic Community Plan states that "we will live in a beautiful place". The work of the Public Art Committee contributes to this vision and therefore is consistent with the City's strategic direction as stated in the Plan.

Who benefits?

All community members and visitors to the City benefit from public artwork, which increases the amenity of the area and reputation of the City as a place to live, visit and recreate.

Does it involve a tolerable risk?

Yes.

- The risk of purchasing a depreciating artwork is mitigated by ensuring that only work from respected professional artists with significant bodies of highly regarded public artwork have been included on the list for consideration.
- The risk of exceeding the approved budget allocation is mitigated by having all other costs associated with the transport and installation of the work, included in this report so that Committee members are aware of these costs before selecting an artwork that is within the budget allocation.

Do we have the information we need?

Yes. However, it should be noted that the additional costs to do with transport and installation are estimates only, as actual costs cannot be obtained until the specific artwork is identified.

Consultation

Two members of the local community have been appointed by Council as full voting members of the Public Art Committee, in order to ensure community input into the recommendation the Committee makes to Council on the acquisition of public artworks.

Summary

It is recommended that the Committee selects its preferred work from the list of artworks provided in the confidential attachment Artworks Available for Purchase for Health Professionals Tribute Project. The only provision is to ensure that the preferred artwork, plus the costs of transporting and installing the work, total no more than \$50,000.

It is also recommended that the Committee identifies its preferred location for the work. Given the likely high-profile nature of this artwork and its launch, the

Committee may wish to give particular consideration to the aesthetic standard of the site that is selected. The site itself is likely to have a significant impact on the way this work is perceived and received by the broader community, for a long time to come.

Once the Committee has identified its preferred artwork and site, the three elements of artwork, price and location can then be put to Council for approval. Following the Council decision, the selected work can be purchased and installed, and the launch event held.

8. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Public Art Committee will be held on Monday 16 November 2020.

Declaration of Closure

There being no further business, the Presiding Member declared the meeting closed at 6.25 pm.