



**MARKHAM PUBLIC ART ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
YORK ROOM, MARKHAM CIVIC CENTRE**

**Minutes**

**Meeting No. 2**

**Tuesday, August 20, 2019**

**6:00 p.m.**

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**PRESENT**

Members

Stephen Lusk, Chair  
Bill Pickering  
Ardy Reid  
Ken Wightman

Guest

Helena Grdadolnik, Consultant

**REGRETS**

Taleen Der Haroutiounian  
Adam Keung  
Rahul Shastri  
Alina Tarbhai  
Julie Tiefenbach  
Jenny Tung  
Councillor Reid McAlpine

Staff

Stephen Chait, Director of Economic Growth,  
Culture and Entrepreneurship  
Niamh O'Laoghaire, Manager, Varley Art Gallery  
Yan Wu, Public Art Coordinator  
Bev Shugg Barbeito, Committee Coordinator

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Public Art Advisory Committee was called to order at 6:01 pm with Stephen Lusk presiding as Chair.

**2. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

None was declared.

**3. CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

The agenda was accepted as distributed.

**4. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARKHAM PUBLIC ART  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD ON APRIL 11, 2019**

As there was no quorum, adoption of the minutes was deferred to the next meeting.

## **5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

None was reported.

## **6. PUBLIC ART UPDATES**

Niamh O’Laoghaire and Yan Wu reported on the following public art projects:

### Aaniin Community Centre

Production of the large top and lighting fixtures is underway; installation is anticipated for late fall 2019.

### Downtown Markham Public Art Installation

It was reported that delays have occurred in the negotiations relating to the transfer of the additional piece of land the City requires from the developer to install the work. Markham has approved the fabrication of the work and its storage for up to two years. Markham has also assured the artist that the work will be installed, even if installation at another site becomes necessary.

### Rizal Statue

It was reported that the statue of Dr. Jose P. Rizal has been completed and installed at Boxgrove Community Park. The official unveiling of the statue was scheduled as part of a parade and celebration for the Filipino community to celebrate Filipino Independence Day. Donors have contributed funds for future maintenance of the work.

## **7. PUBLIC ART MASTER PLAN**

Helena Grdadolnik, the consultant selected through a Request for Proposal (RFP) process to develop a Public Art Master Plan, presented a draft public art master plan.

Ms. Grdadolnik reminded Committee members of feedback obtained about a proposed vision for public art in Markham through meetings with internal and external stakeholders, the steering committee, this committee, senior staff, Mayor Scarpitti and Markham Council, and residents who attended a public workshop held in March 2019. The feedback received has formed the basis for “Making Our Mark: Markham’s Public Art Master Plan.

Ms. Grdadolnik briefly advised that the principal recommendations, which make up the proposed Markham’s Public Art Master Plan, include:

- Updating the vision, objectives, guiding principles and definitions within the City of Markham Public Art Policies, Markham Municipal Projects and Private Sector;
- Consolidating the current five contribution options into one single stream: the Markham Public Art Acquisition Reserve Fund;
- Updating Markham Public Art Policy relating to funding investments, including contributions from the capital budget of major City capital projects and private development projects, establishing an annual municipal operating funding for the Public Art Program through the Accommodation Tax, and encouraging partnerships and private donations;
- Adopting the Public Art Site Selection criteria, types and sites;
- Updating Markham Public Art Policy relating to art acquisitions, including procurement and assessing donations and gifts;

- Updating Markham Public Art Policy including the governance process.

Ms. Grdadolnik reviewed the proposed vision, objectives and guiding principles:

- Vision: Innovative Public Art will highlight the city's unique characteristics and create new experiences through which local residents and visitors can engage with each other and the rich surroundings in Markham.
- Objectives:  
Each public art project will meet at least two of the following objectives:
  - Inspire people to live in, work in, visit and invest in Markham.
  - Celebrate the diverse cultures and heritage in Markham from multiple points of view.
  - Connect residents to Markham's built and natural environment.
- Guiding Principles:  
It is proposed that the City of Markham's Public Art Program will follow the following guiding principles:
  - Community education and engagement
  - Cultivation of the local arts sector - in a wide variety of art forms and practices
  - Artistic excellence and innovation
  - Protection of artists' integrity; fair pay for artists who retain their copyright and moral rights
  - Professionalism, fairness and equity in processes
  - Sustainability and responsibility of the program
  - Accessibility and geographic reach of the collection
  - Stewardship of the collection

Case studies within the proposed plan showed how existing examples in other communities are relevant to Markham and how Markham could build on its public art program.

Ms. Grdadolnik presented proposed criteria for public art site selection:

- Meeting City of Markham's strategic and planning goals
- Distribution and variety
- Public activity and use
- Transportation access to site
- Site capacity and appropriateness

These proposed criteria would allow Markham staff to identify appropriate sites for public art.

Ms. Grdadolnik reviewed the proposed site categories:

- Key Existing City Sites, Gateways And Heritage Areas, such as Pan Am Centre Plaza, Markham Civic Centre and Future Civic Square, and Varley Art Gallery Courtyard
- Major Parks and Facilities Projects, such as Angus Glen Community Centre and Victoria Square Community Centre
- Community Parks and Trails, such as Rouge River Trails Markham Centre (Birchmount Park), Rouge National Park trails, and Milne Dam Conservation Park
- Streetscape and Transit, such as Highway 7 transit stops and Main Street Unionville Streetscape

- Major Urban Developments, such as Gallery Square, Movieland Markham, and Remington Centre

She also reviewed a map indicating proposed public art sites for the Public Art Plan period of 2020-25, and other sites proposed for the period beyond 2025.

Committee members discussed the site categories and the associated preferred public art approaches for each, processes for acquisition of public art, donation policies and processes, and funding for the plan. They recommended that

- for financial sustainability, the proposed plan would need to clearly state that City funding would be needed to fund the operating budget to cover costs for staffing
- acceptance of donations be a nuanced process and include a general statement that the process would be consistent with Markham's conflict of interest policies and procedures
- criteria for selection of public art sites include engagement of the community who live in and around the proposed site.

Committee members were advised that Markham Clerks Office would develop terms of reference for the Markham Public Art Advisory Committee, including the roles for Markham Council, Committee members, and Art Selection panels; future Committee members will be selected per City policies and procedures. When discussing Committee roles, it was recommended that the role of providing feedback on the Public Art budget and long range planning be included.

It is expected that the proposed Markham Public Art Master Plan will be presented to Markham Council in October 2019. It was reported that the proposed Markham's Public Art Master Plan, including its proposed policies, procedures and budget, would provide the roadmap to achieve the vision for public art in Markham and relieve Council from day-to-day decision-making related to future public art projects.

Committee members expressed support for the proposed plan. Ms. Grdadolnik advised that additional input from Committee members would be welcome until the end of August 2019.

#### **8. NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next meeting of the Public Art Advisory Committee will be held at 6:00 pm on Wednesday, September 25, 2019.

#### **9. ADJOURNMENT**

The Markham Public Art Advisory Committee adjourned at 8:15 pm.