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**TO:** GENERAL COMMITTEE

**SUBJECT:** BOB HUNTER PUBLIC ART PROJECT ARTIST SELECTION

**WARD:** ALL

**PREPARED BY AND KEY CONTACT:** A. DYKE, CULTURE OFFICER, DEVELOPMENT EXT. 4593

**SUBMITTED BY:** K. DUBEAU, DIRECTOR OF CREATIVE ECONOMY

**GENERAL MANAGER APPROVAL:** Z. LIFSHIZ, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, INVEST BARRIE

**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER APPROVAL:** M. PROWSE, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

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### **RECOMMENDED MOTION**

1. That the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to execute an agreement to the satisfaction of the Director of Legal Services and the Director of Creative Economy, and in accordance with the following terms and conditions:
  - a) John McEwen will fabricate and install in Meridian Place public artwork titled *Heart and Horn*, made according to the specifications documented in his winning design submission and was selected by a third-party jury on October 23, 2019 as part of the Bob Hunter Public Art Project and as shown in Appendix "A" to Staff Report CE008-19.
  - b) The full cost of the design, fabrication and installation of the artwork will not exceed \$100,000 and to be funded solely through community donations and includes \$5,000 to be held in reserve by the City of Barrie for future maintenance of the piece.
  - c) The design, fabrication and installation of the artwork will comply with all City of Barrie standards and protocols.

### **PURPOSE & BACKGROUND**

2. The purpose of the staff report is to notify Council of the results of the juried Bob Hunter Public Art Project Competition held by the Barrie Public Art Committee and to acquire approval for the installation of *Heart and Horn* by John McEwen at Meridian Place. Please see the attached Appendix "A" for the winning submission by John McEwen.
3. Council Motion 19-G-055 PUBLIC ART DONATION stated:
  - a) That the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to execute an agreement with the family of the late Mr. Robert Hunter to accept their donation of \$50,000 for a public art project in accordance with the City's Donation Policy with terms and conditions agreed to by the Director of Creative Economy and to the satisfaction of the Director of Finance and Director of Legal Services.
  - b) That the Barrie Public Art Committee be authorized to fundraise at least \$50,000 in accordance with the City's Donation Policy in matching funds to be used to commission a piece of public art in honour of Mr. Hunter.

- c) That the Barrie Public Art Committee be authorized to plan for and promote a call for a commissioned piece of public art to be installed on the existing public art footing at Meridian Place, shown in the drawings attached as Appendix "A".
  - d) That the Barrie Public Art Committee undertake the call for a commissioned piece of public art for installation in Meridian Place in accordance with the Barrie Public Art Policy. (CE002-19) (File: R10-BOB).
4. On June 17, 2019 City staff conducted a public call for prospective artists through a Request for Expressions of Interest. Twenty one submissions were received.
  5. A jury of five third-party stakeholders reviewed the 21 submissions from artists across Canada in conjunction with a public art professional from outside the community who served as a facilitator. Four artists or artist teams were selected to enter into Phase Two of the competition. Those artists then submitted complete designs of proposed artworks to be reviewed by the same jury. The jury included representatives from the Hunter family, the Downtown Barrie Business Association, the Barrie music community, the Barrie architectural sector, and from the national arts sector.
  6. The winning artist is a sculptor from the local region, John McEwen. John lives in Hillsdale, ON, and is internationally-renowned for his work. Key public art installations of his include *Searchlight*, *Starlight*, *Spotlight* at Scotia Bank Centre in Toronto, ON, *River as Thread*, *Canoe as Needle* at the Canadian Embassy, in Berlin, Germany, and *Speaker's Circle*, an Australia Centenary Gift from Canada, installed in Canberra, Australia. In 2019, McEwen was awarded the Order of Canada in recognition of his significant contributions to Canada's artistic and cultural sector.

## **ANALYSIS**

7. Council authorized the acceptance of a \$50,000 donation from the Hunter family and for the Public Art Committee to fundraise an additional \$50,000. The Hunter family contribution has been received and fundraising is underway. As of the writing of this report, a total of \$81,000 has been raised. The funds received thus far are held in the public art reserve account 1057-760400 and are intended for this project. The Public Art Committee is confident that they will meet their fundraising goal by the installation date, but have allocated \$20,000 from the public art reserve in case of a shortfall.
8. The Request for Expressions of Interest included a design brief, which specified that the piece should honour the memory of Bob Hunter and celebrate the history of musical performance in Barrie. The artwork is not intended to be a likeness of Mr. Hunter, but rather an interpretation of his passion for music and his legacy in the performing arts community in Barrie. The design brief also required the piece to be durable with respect to the elements, and for maintenance requirements to be minimized. The selected concept by John McEwen meets all the criteria of the design brief, including the available budget.
9. The location of the art work in Meridian Place was pre-determined by the Meridian Square design, which included three footings installed during the construction of Meridian, designated for public art. The location for the commissioned piece was included in the design brief, being the largest of the three footings available, situated on the western side of Meridian Place.
10. A call for Requests for Expressions of Interest generated twenty one submissions from across Canada. The submissions were of high quality and ranged from large and literal to small and conceptual in their approach to design. The four shortlisted proposals and the piece selected by the Jury were circulated to the Executive Management Team for review.
11. The full proposal for the winning concept was reviewed by the Meridian Working Group, which includes representatives from Parks, By-law, the BIA and Creative Economy. There was a recognition that the height of the piece will impact the lines of sight to the stage for a small area immediately behind the piece. The Meridian Working Group determined that the overall impact

would not detract from audiences enjoying concerts or performances on the outdoor stage in Meridian Place.

12. The winning submission speaks to Mr. Hunter's passion for music, his chosen instrument, the trumpet, and to the unique status of music where the best of live music is like a third party, one in which 'the listener feels like the performer and the performer becomes like an enraptured listener'. Mr. McEwen's concept also addresses the selected site as an event and gathering space where the sculpture serves as a threshold, or a two-way street where the possibilities for viewing performances and capturing memories are plentiful.
13. The piece will be 6' 10" high, made of stainless steel. The horn bells portion will be made of laser cut 1/4" thick stainless steel, painted with mirror silver. The materials and finish are selected for longevity and ease of maintenance. The durability of the piece allows for interactions with people.
14. The existing foundation in Meridian Place will allow for minimal disruption to the site and related programming during installation. If approved, the artist will begin fabrication of the piece for an intended installation in June of 2020.
15. Donors gifting \$20 or more will receive a charitable tax receipt, and those gifting \$1,000 or more will have their name listed on a donor plaque to be affixed to the sculpture footing, to be designed and installed upon approval of the Meridian Working Group. The annual public art budget includes funds for signage, which will cover the cost of plaque creation and installation.
16. This project is the first large commissioned public art project in the City of Barrie, and the first time the current process is being used. Staff will review the process with the Barrie Public Art Committee, after which staff will bring a report and recommendation to Council to adopt the formal process for all future commissioned works of public art.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS MATTERS**

17. The following environmental and climate change impacts matters have been considered in the development of the recommendation:
  - a) The selected site in Meridian Place is an existing footing that was poured when the space was developed for the intent of installing public art.
  - b) The artist will undertake all installation activities in accordance with City and regional environmental and permitting authorities.

#### **ALTERNATIVES**

18. The following alternatives are available for consideration by General Committee:

##### **Alternative #1**

General Committee could deny the proposed recommendation by disapproving of the selected piece and withholding the permission or authorization of the Mayor and City Clerk to sign the agreement with the winning artist.

This alternative is not recommended as it would require the Public Art Committee to relaunch the call for submissions and convene a new jury, delaying the project by six months or more, and would jeopardize the ability to use fundraising dollars that have already been received.

**Alternative #2**

General Committee could defer approval until the fundraising goal has been met.

This alternative is not recommended as it would delay the project.

**FINANCIAL**

19. There are no financial implications for the Corporation resulting from the proposed recommendation. The funding for the installation is expected to be covered by the monies raised by the Public Art Committee. Five percent of the total budget is dedicated to maintenance of the work and will be held in reserve.

**LINKAGE TO 2018-2022 COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLAN**

20. The recommendations included in this Staff Report support the following goals identified in the 2018-2022 City Council Strategic Plan:
- Building Stronger Neighbourhoods – create great public spaces
  - Growing Economy – support tourism industry growth
  - Offering Innovative, Citizen-Driven Services – inspire community participation
21. The use of public art to create sense of place, as tribute to cultural heritage, and contributing to civic pride, is a core component of strong neighbourhoods. Meridian Place is a space for community to gather, for visitors to enjoy, and for everyone to engage in culture. The addition of the Bob Hunter work of art will support a vibrant downtown and enhance Meridian Place overall.
22. The City of Barrie's public art has provided iconic brand recognition for the community, drawing visitors and tourists to see works such as the Spirit Catcher and Sea Serpent. The inclusion of the Bob Hunter piece, by an internationally renowned artist, will enhance the tourism draw of Barrie's public art collection. The launch of the public art walking guide in the summer of 2019 will be updated to include the piece once installed, and incorporated into tourism marketing campaigns.
23. The funding for the Bob Hunter piece came solely from community donations. The work will serve to inspire others to consider legacy gifts to support place making and city identity.

Attachments: Appendix A – Winning Design Submission by John McEwen