



**ECONOMIC AND CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT  
MEMORANDUM**

Page: 1  
File:  
Pending #:

---

**TO: MAYOR J. LEHMAN AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL**

**FROM: A. DYKE, CULTURE DEVELOPMENT OFFICER, EXT. 4593**

**NOTED: S. SCHLICHTER, DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC AND CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT**

**A. MILLER, RPP, GENERAL MANAGER OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND GROWTH MANAGEMENT**

**M. PROWSE, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

**RE: THE HORN AND THE HEART BOB HUNTER PUBLIC ART PROJECT UPDATE**

**DATE: SEPTEMBER 28, 2020**

---

The purpose of this Memorandum is to provide members of Council with an update concerning the Bob Hunter public art project, as the installation of the art piece in Meridian Place is to be complete effective Friday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

Background

In follow-up to Staff Reports CE002-19 and CE008-19 provided to Council March 18<sup>th</sup>, and November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019, respectively, Council motion 19-G-055 states:

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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" to Staff Report CE002-19.
4. 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).

In the summer of 2019, the City received the \$50,000 donation from the Hunter Family and a Request for Expressions of Interest was shared nation-wide through the City's standard bidding platform in addition to art sector specific platforms. From that process, twenty-one submissions were received from artists across Canada. An assembled jury of arts, architecture and music experts and representatives from the Downtown BIA and the Hunter family reviewed the submissions, short-listing four artists/artist teams to submit proposed artwork concepts.

The design brief for concepts requires 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 jury's final selected concept, *The Horn and The Heart* by John McEwen meets all the criteria of the design brief, including the available budget.

In December 2019, Council motion 19-G-334 authorized the agreement for John McEwen to fabricate and install *The Heart and The Horn* with the following terms and conditions:

- a) John McEwen will fabricate and install in Meridian Place public artwork titled *Horn and Heart*, 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. (CE008-19) (File: R10-BOB)

### **Fundraising**

Following receipt of the Hunter Family donation, the Barrie Public Art Committee began its fundraising campaign with an aim of raising an additional \$50,000. Donors gifting \$20 or more received a charitable tax receipt, and those gifting \$1,000 or more will have their name listed on a donor plaque, 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. At the time of this memo, the total matching funds raised is \$52,235, surpassing the total goal of \$100,000 to fund the project (\$50,000 Hunter Family donation, \$50,000 fundraised). Approximately 35 donors contributed the project.

### **Installation**

The initial planned installation date for *The Horn and The Heart* was late June so an unveiling event could take place as part of Promenade Days and Canada Day celebrations, however, the impacts of Covid-19 caused unavoidable delays, pushing the installation date by two months. Staff have been in regular communication with the artist during the fabrication process for the artwork and the appropriate stamped drawings, insurance and maintenance information are provided as part of the agreement for the commissioning of the artwork.

The artwork will be professionally installed on Friday, September 25<sup>th</sup>. Staff from the Operations Department and Economic and Creative Development will be on site supervising the install.

### **Unveiling**

The Barrie Public Art Committee had hoped to host a large public unveiling event in Meridian Place to recognize Bob Hunter's contributions to the community and celebrate Barrie's largest commission of public art to date. Due to Covid-19 and associated health and gathering restrictions, this event will not be possible, and the Barrie Public Art Committee will look at a future opportunity, when health and gathering restrictions permit. A small, private gathering to unveil the piece to the Bob Hunter family will be conducted on September 26<sup>th</sup> and will be filmed as part of a future video to showcase the works.



---

**Next Steps**

*The Horn and The Heart* is first time project for the City and the Barrie Public Art Committee where it engaged in a large, site-specific commission process for the purposed of placing public art. A full debrief of the process will be conducted with Staff and the Barrie Public Art Committee to inform existing Public Art Policy and preparing recommendations for improving the policy to reflect current opportunities and protocols. Recommendations from this process will be brought forward to Council for review and approval.

**About Bob Hunter:**

Robert (Bob) Hunter was born 1929 in Barrie and played a significant role in the community. Mr. Hunter was an active member of the Barrie Chamber of Commerce (serving as president in 1968) and the Barrie Rotary Club. He attended Barrie Central Collegiate where he played trumpet with the concert band led by W.A. Fisher. Mr. Hunter developed a lifelong passion for performing music and played in several bands including the Barrie Concert Band, the Baytowne Big Band, the Skyliners and The Bob Hunter Band. He felt strongly that there should be an outdoor facility on Barrie's waterfront where people could gather and enjoy live music. In 1999, shortly before his death, he and architect Millet Salter submitted a proposal to the Trillium Foundation to acquire funding for such a venue. Unfortunately, the project was not realized, but their ideas were quite similar in design and location to the outdoor band shell in Meridian Place.

APPENDIX 'A'

