

DECISION/DIRECTION NOTE

Title: Art Procurement Recommendations 2023

Date Prepared: November 21, 2023

Report To: Regular Meeting of Council

Councillor and Role: Councillor Sandy Hickman, Arts and Culture Advisory Committee

Ward: N/A

Decision/Direction Required: Approval of the 2023 Art Procurement jury's recommendation to Council regarding purchase of artwork submitted to the 2023 Art Procurement program.

Discussion – Background and Current Status: The Art Procurement program considers submissions by individual artists and commercial art galleries for purchase by the City and subsequent inclusion in the Civic Art Collection. Pieces in the Civic Art Collection are displayed throughout City Hall and other City buildings, in offices, boardrooms, public spaces, etc. These artworks are also regularly displayed in Wyatt Hall as a part of seasonal or themed exhibitions intended to share the collection with the general public and encourage engagement with the visual arts.

This year in response to the call for submissions, there were 231 pieces submitted for consideration, from 85 artists. Each artist can submit up to three pieces for consideration.

The jury for the Art Procurement program is comprised of subject matter experts in the area of visual art: practicing artists, art teachers, art writers, curators, and/or other persons knowledgeable in the area of visual art.

The jury met virtually on November 20, 2023, and selected fourteen (14) pieces for purchase (please see attached), totaling \$19,281. The annual budget for Art Procurement is \$20,000.

Upon approval, agreements will be signed between the City and the selected artists and/or the commercial gallery representing them, and the selected artworks will be delivered to the City Archives for cataloguing and inclusion in the Civic Art Collection.

Key Considerations/Implications:

1. **Budget/Financial Implications:** The 2023 budget includes \$20,000 for the purchase of artwork through the Art Procurement program. The jury has recommended the purchase of artwork totaling \$19,281.
2. **Partners or Other Stakeholders:** City staff worked with an external jury to assess and select artworks to be recommended for purchase.

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3. Alignment with Strategic Directions:

A Connected City: Increase and improve opportunities for residents to connect with each other and the City.

A Connected City: Develop and deliver programs, services and public spaces that build safe, healthy and vibrant communities.

4. Alignment with Adopted Plans: Planning for a Creative Future: The City of St. John's Municipal Arts Plan

5. Accessibility and Inclusion: N/A

6. Legal or Policy Implications: Selected artists and/or the commercial galleries representing them will enter into an agreement with the City.

7. Privacy Implications: N/A

8. Engagement and Communications Considerations: The Call for Submissions was promoted through City channels. Tourism, Culture and Events staff and Communications staff will work to determine the most appropriate means through which an announcement concerning the selected pieces may be shared.

9. Human Resource Implications: N/A

10. Procurement Implications: Once approved, the artworks selected by the Jury will be acquired for inclusion in the Civic Art Collection.

11. Information Technology Implications: N/A

12. Other Implications: N/A

Recommendation:

That Council approve the 2023 Art Procurement Jury's recommendations for purchase as attached.

Prepared by: Théa Morash, Arts & Cultural Development Coordinator

Approved by: Erin Skinner, Manager of Tourism, Culture & Events