

Session Name: Public Art & the Plurality of the City

Date: November 6, 2018, 11am

## Notes

Policy re: culturally diverse audience or performers - inclusion

- Lada Pata (South Asian professional dance company) – mandate is to not only serve the community but also to define dance traditions that are from the South Asian Community. Not specific to dance, but mixed-media.
- Whitby - Policy speaks to diversity and telling that narrative of the community. It is not explicit but it is changing the way
- Waterloo – diversity is implied but not articulated. Important to define what diversity means. There are more communities that are not well represented (both artists and artwork) – narrative is focused to Mennonite community. Trying to tailor public art calls to reach broader audiences.
- B.C. - Upcoming project is focused to Pride. Consulted the community and did a lot of outreach with schools, community groups. Council supported this project. Council is not currently educated in public art (currently collection is very colonial). Would not have support to rewrite the policy from Council. Existing policy is about 10 years old.
  - Council did not support the engagement piece; felt the outreach was overboard
- St. Albert follows similar direction as. Policy is under review. PA advisory committee have identified key priority projects (i.e. indigenous) and are working on ways to address them.
- Richmond, BC – redoing the art strategy. Council just passed two key components around reconciliation and inclusion/diversity. Mix of cultures, mainly European and East Asian. New politicians want to take control of public art. There is a push to use local artists. One way to deal with this is opening up what the realm of public art is – smaller and temporary opportunities are being offered at festivals, etc.
- Mississauga – introduced a mentorship opportunity to build an Artist in residence in the next five years, in every department in the City. Allows combination of resources and budget. This is for local artists to work alongside more experienced artists.
- Saskatoon – strategy calls for greater inclusion. Are currently a number of equity reviews happening for all City policies. Issue: decision makers are not diverse. Making changes to this by identifying who should be part of the committee. Tool – anti-racism coordinator developed an equity and inclusion policy review tool.
- Orillia – in starting phase developing a public art action plan – considering scaling projects to fit local artists and larger ones for larger names. Call goes out on Friday for Committee members. Policy has been in place since 2010.
- Edmonton have been doing different public art pieces. Some communities gave pushback feeling insulted and were forced to move them afterwards. Invited representatives from communities to include different voices. Held information sessions and held members from each community to the sessions. A public call was put out through their networks asking for members to be representatives for their communities. A substantial multifaceted outreach was executed.

- Held a luncheon with the Chinese community who were unhappy and petitioning to have the original art piece removed and invited them to be a part of the future piece.

#### Public Art Committees / Advisory committees / Jurors

- most have an advisory committee who recommends jury members for evaluations.
- Edmonton has a Call for Jurors. Jurors are not always diverse and open to different languages.

#### How is Diversity addressed for Jurors:

- Waterloo – having trouble
- Saskatoon – not diverse so have come up with a hybrid (not in policy) made up of committee members and bringing in community representatives. Trying to break away from colonialism. Adjudication process becomes part of the outreach/engagement. Practices and tools around public art are changing – process needs to be rethought. Are we using the right language? What do we mean by public art and culture?

#### How to build local artists

- Richmond – include community members early on. What tools to the local artists have to develop as an artist? Need to take risks, but is challenging in public art. Where do public artists learn to be artists? Are there mentors?
- Haliburton – Fleming College School of the Arts – have opportunities for developing artists to give back to the community through the Community Structure Park.
- Whitby – do not support advisory committees because it is the same people on all, with no diversity. Started a Cultural Roundtable instead. Engagement with schools and LGBT+ groups. Provided information for the areas they feel safe, so that the art would be located in a spot that is where they feel safe. Developing and building relationships with schools. Trying to find ways to build capacity with local youth artists through engagement and public art projects. Identified they wanted a place they could gather.
- Mississauga – Sheridan School of Arts & Design – went directly to the instructors and asked them to include specific requirements to give opportunities to possible future or emerging artists. Has worked really well.

#### How can this be part of the procurement process?

- Orillia - Procurement process excludes art / entertainers
- Mississauga – Public Art and Performers are exempt from purchasing bylaw. Has worked really well, expedites the process
- Waterloo – runs everything through procurement but has a separate process for procurement and doesn't follow the same steps as all other purchases.
- Kitchener – excluded from procurement process. The output has to be more than just art. How do we talk/approach this to stakeholders.
  - Saskatoon – trying to break away from the colonial approach. Included Tribal Council leaders, consulting Elders. The input from the community became part of the output. The pieces are very deliberate and do take long to complete, but very meaningful. Giving pushback to project managers to slow down the

public art process to allow for more engagement. The policy is in place but the process is being developed and reviewed.

Mississauga – a moratorium is on donations. Were approached by the Vietnamese Community to donate a piece. Represented 1% of the City, but voice is important. The City allowed them to complete the required work themselves, and the City acted as a resource to help them along. The group did a Call, held fundraisers, ended up with a surplus of money. City recommended some places. Organic solutions started to form and are working to ingrain this in the policy moving forward