



Town of Newmarket
395 Mulock Drive P.O. Box 328,
Newmarket, Ontario, L3Y 4X7

Email: info@newmarket.ca | Website: newmarket.ca | Phone: 905-895-5193

Public Art at Mulock Park Update Information Report to Council

Report Number: INFO-2022-10

Department(s): Recreation and Culture Services

Author(s): Colin Service, Director, Recreation and Culture Services

Distribution Date: March 15, 2022

In accordance with the Procedure By-law, any member of Council may make a request to the Town Clerk that this Report be placed on an upcoming Committee of the Whole agenda for discussion.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to advise members of Council as to the approach for the development of 3 key public art program components that are embedded within elements of the park. The Mulock Park Public Art Strategy was presented to and approved by Council in December 2021.

Background

ART+PUBLIC UnLtd was engaged by PLANT Architect Inc. in August 2021 to define the future direction for the Mulock Park public art program. ART+PUBLIC UnLtd developed recommendations for public art at Mulock Park by facilitating and synthesizing a series of scenarios workshops with project and community stakeholders, to distill program priorities with a view to balancing aspirations with administrative and budgetary considerations. This culminated in the Mulock Park Public Art Strategy document that articulates key insights and a vision for the program. This strategy was shared with Council and presented at the PIC meeting in December 2021 where community members learned about the program and had the opportunity to ask questions.

The Mulock Park Public Art Strategy is the foundation for the creation of a Mulock Park Public

Art Plan, which is currently being developed. This plan will expand on the vision, guiding principles and program components to further define implementation with phasing, site-specific budgets, procurement processes, and funding sources.

While a full and comprehensive plan is underway in its development, there are three public art opportunities that are embedded within park elements that must proceed

ahead of the overall plan development in order to ensure that design/construction timelines remain on track.

Discussion

As identified through the Mulock Park Public Art Strategy, Public Art will play an instrumental role in the creation of a vibrant space. There will be a variety of types and scale to the art contained within the park. As such, and has been consistent with our past practices of public art installation, there will be a variety of approaches adopted in the implementation of a Public Art Plan.

There is considerable opportunity in taking what could be traditionally utilitarian items, and integrating Public Art integrally into the design of these items. This report will highlight the approach to be taken to commission work for three artworks that are embedded in the overall park design.

Embedded Artworks at Mulock

PLANT has identified three key embedded artwork opportunities for Mulock Park. These include:

1. Maintenance Building: Artistic treatment on gates or screening
2. Entry bridge: Railing / screen applied graphic or cutout treatment
3. Wet Plaza: Ground surface treatment (ex: colour treatment, texture, pattern, inlays)

ART+PUBLIC UnLtd and PLANT Architects will move forward with the artist selection process for these embedded works in the park. These works need to be defined with artists contracted by summer 2022 in order to align with PLANT's construction schedule. The artist procurement process for this program

component is laid out within this report. However, the full Mulock Public Art Plan will articulate different types of procurement processes for the various public art opportunities within the park. These will unfold across 2023 to 2025.

Artist selection process for Embedded works (3)

For these works we are doing an artist selection process, as opposed to an artwork selection.

Our goal is to select an artist who will develop an artwork concept through a highly collaborative process with the PLANT team. The artist will lead on design development and PLANT will lead the fabrication/integration.

This will be accomplished through a two step selection process which includes a Request for Expressions of Interest and Artist Interviews. In step 1 an open call will go out to artists, inviting expressions of interest. All applications will be reviewed and a shortlist of candidates will be invited to an interview. In step 2, interviews with shortlisted artists will allow PLANT and Town staff to converse with the artists to understand their capabilities, interest, approach and willingness to collaborate with the project team.

This process and meetings will be facilitated by ART+PUBLIC UnLtd.

Conclusion

This approach affords the architects the ability to embed public art as a foundational element of the design process. This approach is necessary to ensure that construction timelines are not adversely impacted with the inclusion of public art. While this approach is critical for the embedded program components, different approaches will be considered for temporary installations and more iconic, independent installations. Approaches for further art installations will be included in the finalized Mulock Public Art Plan.

Business Plan and Strategic Plan Linkages

Well managed – this initial approach ensures that a top calibre artist is engaged while remaining within budget and within established timelines.

Consultation

Various departments have been involved through the Mulock Property Task force.

Human Resource Considerations

None.

Budget Impact

This approach has been considered within the context of the Mulock Property budget.

Attachments

None.

Contact

For further information contact Colin Service, Director, Recreation & Culture Services at cservice@newmarket.ca.

Approval

Colin Service, Director, Recreation & Culture Services