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Fall 1999 Neighbourhood Matching Fund Allocations and 2000 Artists in Residence

INFORMATION REPORT

In 1992/3 the Board held extensive processes of research and consultation to determine its role in the arts and the means to encourage and support neighbourhood-based decision making and park ownership. In November, 1993, it adopted an Arts Policy Report and Recommendations and the Neighbourhood Matching Fund Program as core to its mandate in this area.

The booklet, A Guide to Some of Vancouver's Community Based Art, provides directions to a number of the projects funded by both the Artist in Residence program and the Neighbourhood Matching Fund.

Neighbourhood Matching Fund

The Neighbourhood Matching Fund program is funded through the Capital Plan. It provides support for community initiated, participatory, neighbourhood improvement projects which build a sense of community and strengthen community connections. The community project matches the funds requested through volunteer workshops, design meetings, other funds raised and/or donated materials and services. The budget for the current capital plan is \$150,000.

Neighbourhood Matching Funds have supported such projects as unique park benches, historical markers, youth gardens, street banners and murals. Mosaic Creek Park at Charles and Maclean Grandview/Woodlands is an example of and outcome of community-based planning and creative collaboration.

The program is guided by an advisory committee, appointed by the Board, composed of community members and community association representatives. The program has two annual deadlines for applications and, following each, staff conduct a technical review and the committee reviews and makes funding recommendations to staff. A pamphlet fully describing the program is available.

In November 1999, 6 applications were reviewed and four were funded. Those funded are:

1.) Urban Oasis - \$3,100.00

Sponsored by the Environmental Youth Alliance, a youth driven non-profit, this project will involve inner city youth from Strathcona, Grandview Woodlands and Mount Pleasant in designing and building interpretive signs, benches and a tool shed for the youth gardens in Strathcona Park.

2.) Stepping Stones Project - \$2,000.00

Students, parents and neighbours of Jules Quesnel School on Crown street will work with artists to create pebble mosaics to enhance the front entrance of the school.

3.) Hastings Spray Park Mosaic - \$2,500.00

The Hastings Community Association has been working with the Board to develop a spray park near the community centre. Funds from this program will supplement \$17,000 provided by the City's Community Public Art program to allow for the community creation of a mosaic on a retaining wall in the play area.

4.) Talking Poles - \$5,000.00

Britannia Community Services Centre has been working with Woodland Park neighbours in a community carving project. This funding enables them to carve two logs which will be installed in a grouping with two completed poles on the south side of the fieldhouse.

The applications not funded were the Commercial Drive Clock at the Broadway SkyTrain Station which may come back for funding when it has requisite approvals and a timeline and Project Dragonfly for phase two of a project sponsored by Aunt Leah's Lifeskills Society. This project sees community members in southwest Vancouver creating sculptures for installation around the area. Dragonfly is a large project which received \$18,000 from Community Public Art. They have been asked to reapply in the spring if additional funds are needed.

Artist in Residence Program

The purpose of the Artist in Residence program is to support artists working in community contexts on projects addressing mutually agreed issues such as diversity, identity and intergenerational connections. Residencies are jointly funded by the Park Board, the participating community centre association and the City of Vancouver, Office of Cultural Affairs.

Each \$7 - 8,000 project takes place over an estimated three-month period and results in legacies such as community quilts, murals, stream markers, or celebrations and an enhanced understanding of the value of the arts in community life. A pamphlet describing the program is attached.

The year 2000 Artist in Residence program has just completed the artist selection process. Five community centres are participating this year, some for the first time. Artists selected are:

1.) Martin Borden at Strathcona Community Centre

"2000 Views of Strathcona: A Community Portrait" will involve community members working with artist Martin Borden to produce a millennial image mosaic of their neighbourhood. Different methods, including photography, printmaking, digital imaging and written texts will be used to generate images that address the

themes of neighbourhood identity and diversity. The finished mosaic will be presented in multiple formats including wall-mounted cards and a slide installation.

2.) Andrew Alexander Currie at Champlain Heights Community Centre

This spring "The Champlain/Fraserlands Mural Project" will create murals to enliven the interior of the community centre. Participants will work with artist Andrew Currie to develop mural concepts, solicit community response to designs and paint the murals. The images created will explore the history of the area and reflect the community' s visions for the well-being and future of the neighbourhood.

3) Kevin Schmidt at False Creek Community Centre

The "Our Favourite Places" drawing and postcard booth will be appearing in the community centre lobby and in other neighbourhood locations during artist Kevin Schmidt' s residency in False Creek. Community members will be invited to describe their favourite places in the neighbourhood and tell stories about those locations. Kevin will then photograph the locations and invite people of all ages to join him in drawings from the photos. Postcards created from the drawings and stories and will be created and available for people to take away.

4.) Linda Pearce at Trout Lake Community Centre

The north wall of Trout Lake Community Centre will be the site of a mural project this summer. Starting in the spring, artist Linda Pearce will be working with community members to determine the ideas and design for the mural. Participants will then work with Linda to create a patchwork of images which will provide a lively backdrop to the Farmer' s Market and the many activities in the surrounding park.

5.) Judy McNaughton at Riley Park Community Centre

A "Community Labyrinth" composed of ceramic tiles created by individuals in the community will be created for Riley Park. Artist Judy McNaughton writes "The installation will be based on the concept and form of the labyrinth, a winding pattern whose single path leads to a central core . a symbolic journey embarked upon by the residents, as they explore issues of concern to them and their community through their artwork."

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