



July 6, 2026

MEMO TO : Park Board Commissioners

FROM : General Manager, Board of Parks and Recreation

SUBJECT : **Sunset Beach Mural and Sport Court - Update - Board Briefing Memo**

Dear Commissioners,

The purpose of this memo is to provide an update on the Sunset Beach mural and sport court project, proposed by the 'Art x Sport' and supported by Board direction. Considering the timeline for delivery, and with neither public art materials for review nor funding identified by the proponent, staff are pausing the project indefinitely.

In the future, consideration for the Unsolicited Proposal Process (UPP) will ensure consistency, equity, and effective allocation of resources to support third-party proposals. Following the UPP for this project likely may have optimized proposal assessment.

Background

Art x Sport brought forward a unique proposal for Sunset Beach comprising sport court renewal and mural activation. In 2024, the Board [directed](#) to staff to advance the project, contingent on the artist raising required funds. The following year, City Council added \$60K to the [Capital Plan Mid-Term Update](#) to support Park Board staff facilitating the public art mural for the project.

Process

Staff worked with the proponent to outline deliverables and funding requirements, identify opportunities for in-house assistance (including site preparation), and roadmap necessary dependencies and phase gates to ensure the project was on track for implementation in 2025. Submission of public art materials and the identification of funding were essential for delivery.

A process for the expedited review of public art materials was shared with the proponent, but ultimately no materials were submitted. Art x Sport sought several opportunities for financial contribution from various sponsors; unfortunately, they were unsuccessful in securing funding.

Staff resources were dedicated through several meetings, reviews of proposed ideas and budgets, and general project management, including the preparation and delivery of Board reports, presentations, and memos. \$15K was spent on an external sponsorship valuation from the \$60K provided by City Council. Legal support was committed for review of potential agreements related to image rights, sponsorship and advertising, and use of temporary workspace. Without submitted materials, these resources were not required.

The project has been indefinitely paused due to lack of materials and required funding and the remaining Capital Plan funds required to be spent before end of 2026 will be returned. 'Art x Sport' has been informed of this close out and opportunity to engage through improved process in the future.



Future Process Considerations

The Board approved the [Unsolicited Proposal Process – Report Back](#) in February 2025 for reviewing and implementing third-party project proposals for public parks and recreation assets. This process ensures that staff resources are not spent delivering, or attempting to deliver, initiatives that do not meet fundamental criteria for public benefit or provide necessary materials and committed funding. The UPP also establishes an equitable, consistent approach for proponents to submit pitches to the Park Board, encouraging innovative partnerships and leveraging external resources to enhance parks and recreation in Vancouver.

If considered under the submission criteria for the UPP, the Art x Sport project would not have advanced beyond initial intake stages, freeing staff resources to potentially deliver other proposals with completed submissions and identified funding.

This status update does not preclude the project moving forward in the future. Should Art x Sport develop public art material for review and identify funding, staff recommend submitting through the Unsolicited Proposal Process.

Regards,

Steve Jackson
General Manager - Vancouver Parks and Recreation

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PB Communications