
REPORT TITLE: Establishment of a Public Art and Monuments Committee

FROM: Sean Baird, Commissioner of Service Excellence and Innovation

RECOMMENDATION

That the establishment of a Public Art and Monuments Committee (the “Committee”) with a makeup and the guidelines as set out in the report of the Commissioner of Service Excellence and Innovation, as listed on the June 24, 2021 Regional Council agenda, titled “Establishment of a Public Art and Monuments Committee”, be approved;

And further, that the proposal for a monument in honour of former Premier of Ontario, William (Bill) Davis be referred to the Committee for evaluation against the criteria set out in policy and guidelines to be finalized by the Committee.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- Staff conducted research of policy and guideline documents from neighbouring municipalities to develop a Public Art and Monuments draft policy and set of guidelines to assess the viability of all public art and monuments proposed for Region of Peel owned and operated properties or land.
- Proposals for public art and monuments should be evaluated by a selection committee in comparison to established guidelines and policies as a best practice.
- A Public Art and Monuments Committee once established will finalize draft versions of policy and guideline documents.
- The Public Art and Monuments Committee would then review a resubmitted proposal for a monument in honour of former Premier William (Bill) Davis to be erected on the grounds of the Peel Art Gallery, Museum and Archives (PAMA) against the criteria in the completed Public Art and Monuments policy. The Committee would provide a recommendation to Regional Council for approval.

DISCUSSION

1. Background

In February 2021, the former City of Brampton Mayor, Peter Robertson, approached staff to propose the installation of a statue on the grounds of the Peel Art Gallery, Museum and Archives (PAMA) in honour of former Premier of Ontario, William (Bill) Davis.

On April 22, 2021, Resolution Number 2021-284 was approved by Regional Council.

‘That staff report back to Regional Council with respect to a policy on monuments and with recommendations for a proposed monument in honour of former Premier of Ontario, Bill Davis, on the grounds of the Peel Art Gallery, Museum and Archives (PAMA) in Brampton.’

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Staff conducted research of policy and guideline documents from neighbouring municipalities to develop a Public Art and Monuments draft policy (see appendix I) and set of guidelines (see appendix II) to assess the viability of all public art and monuments proposed for Region of Peel owned and operated properties or land.

2. Findings

Public Art and Monuments play a vital role in a Community for Life by reflecting a rich history, diverse experiences, and shared social values. Public Art humanizes urban spaces through creativity, beautification, and interaction. It provides a sense of place, a focal point of gathering and encourages discussions. Monuments allow us to honour the exceptional work of individuals and groups, or events that have had a significant impact on humankind. Public Art and Monuments matter because our communities gain cultural, social, and economic value.

Proposals for Public Art and Monuments should be evaluated by a selection committee in comparison to established guidelines and policies as a best practice.

3. Proposed Direction

It is proposed that a Public Art and Monuments Committee be established to create and implement the Public Art and Monuments Program. The Program will provide a comprehensive plan under which all Public Art and Monuments on Region of Peel property are developed and procured. The established Committee will finalize draft versions of the Public Art and Monuments Policy and Guidelines documents. The Committee will also create a Public Art and Monuments proposal form to guide the intake of public submissions. The Program will be consistent with and have regard for the Region's strategic directions and related strategies. It is proposed that the Committee consist of:

- Two PAMA staff members – specialist level or above to provide arts and culture expertise and guidance.
- One member of the Friends of PAMA Advisory Board to provide community input and guidance.
- One Real Property Asset Management staff member – management level to provide input and guidance on all matters related to the installation of the proposed project on Regional property.
- One Office of Diversity and Inclusion staff member - advisor level to provide input and guidance from a diversity, equity, and inclusion perspective, with an emphasis on reputational risks related to proposed projects.
- One Marketing and Communications staff member – management level to provide input and guidance related to the marketing and communications for proposed projects, with an emphasis on community and stakeholder engagement and communication.

Staff from the proposed site will be engaged to advise on the project.

All proposals of Public Art and Monuments will be evaluated by the Committee, prior to a report from the Committee being presented to Council with a recommendation regarding the submission.

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RISK CONSIDERATIONS

All Public Art and Monuments proposals will be evaluated in relation to the enhancement and benefit to the Region; the reputation of the Region; and, any risks to the Region, including the following:

- Reputational
- Physical and psychological impacts
- Health and safety to the community
- Landscape, lighting, pathways and other site-specific considerations
- Cultural heritage, archeological and environmental impacts as applicable
- Design/engineering
- Maintenance and care
- Vandalism
- Identification (plaque)
- Building permit, site plan approval, urban design reviews
- Heritage permits as applicable – site plan and urban design considerations
- Accessibility
- Insurance considerations
- Adherence to Regional Conflict of Interest, Procurement and Code of Ethics Policies.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

All Public Art and Monuments proposals must include a fulsome funding plan which addresses the following costs:

- Artist and materials
- Transportation
- Environmental assessment
- Site planning
- Installation
- Appraisal or evaluation by a certified specialist
- Photographs for inventory and insurance purposes
- Future maintenance and conservation.

CONCLUSION

Public Art and Monuments contribute to a Community for Life and enrich our public spaces. All proposals for Public Art and Monuments must be assessed against established Regional policies and guidelines to ensure the enhancement and benefit to the Region.

The established Public Art and Monuments Committee will review the resubmitted proposal for a monument in honour of former Premier William (Bill) Davis being erected on the grounds of the Peel Art Gallery, Museum and Archives (PAMA) in comparison to criteria as established in the completed Public Art and Monuments policy and the Committee will provide a recommendation to Council.

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APPENDICES

Appendix I – Public Art and Monuments Draft Policy

Appendix II – Public Art and Monuments Draft Guidelines

For further information regarding this report, please contact Rene Nand, Manager, Community and Cultural Engagement, Ext. 3679, rene.nand@peelregion.ca.

Authored By: Rene Nand, Manager, Community and Cultural Engagement

Reviewed and/or approved in workflow by:

Department Commissioner and Division Director.