

Chairperson and Committee Members

ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

8 MAY 2014

Meeting Status: **Public**

Purpose of Report: For Decision

PUBLIC ART PANEL RECOMMENDATIONS

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1 The purpose of this report is to provide a recommendation regarding two artworks in the Council's Public Art Collection and to gain approval for the purchase of a new artwork for the Collection.

SIGNIFICANCE OF DECISION

- 2 This report does not trigger the Council's Significance Policy.

BACKGROUND

- 3 The Public Art Panel was established following the adoption of the Council's Public Art Policy (2013) and its approval of the Terms of Reference for the Public Art Panel in November 2013. Council approved appointees to the Panel in a meeting on 13 February 2014. The appointees are Deb Donnelly (independent arts professional), Tane Moleta (independent urban design professional), Cr Jackie Elliott, Tracey Huxford (iwi) and Janet Bayly (Mahara Gallery). The Public Art Panel has met to discuss and progress its work programme for the remainder of this Financial Year, to 30 June 2014.
- 4 The Panel has focused on two main issues: recommendation on two of the artworks in the Council's Public Art Collection; and a recommendation for purchase of a new artwork for the Collection, from the Public Art Acquisition budget.
- 5 The two artworks in the collection are a sculpture, known as The Tui, created by Brendon Nolan and Don de Macedo; and a pastel portrait of Jackie Sturm, created by Brendon Nolan.
- 6 The Tui sculpture was on display in Paraparaumu Beach until June 2012. At that time, the Council decided to remove it from public display due to strong public sentiment. The portrait, hanging in the Paraparaumu Library, was put into storage at the same time.
- 7 There is provision in the Council's budget for the purchase of a public artwork in this financial year, and there has been discussion about an artwork on the large empty wall in the foyer of the new Civic Building.

CONSIDERATIONS

Issues

Disposal or Retention of Two Artworks

- 8 The Public Art Panel discussed the options for the two artworks, and referred to the Public Art Policy. The Panel noted that the Policy did not exist at the time of the purchase or at the time that they were removed from public exhibition. The Panel agreed that in the case of these two artworks, exceptional and unforeseen reasons exist for proceeding with their possible de-accessioning.
- 9 The Panel felt that the two works should be treated separately.
- 10 The Tui sculpture was discussed in depth. It was noted that damage to the artwork (rust) had been documented when it was dismantled. This has not been treated, and due to its large size, the artwork has been stored outside, although it is under a tarpaulin cover.
- 11 The Panel felt that the sculpture would always be controversial if it remained in Council ownership. They agreed that if a suitable purchaser could be found, that The Tui should be sold, rather than spending any further funds on its repair, ongoing maintenance, insurance and storage. Before proceeding with its sale, a valuation should be obtained from a recognised organisation.
- 12 There have been two approaches made to the Council regarding possible purchase of the sculpture. One would keep the sculpture in the northern part of the District, probably siting it on private land in a bush setting mainly visible to senior citizens, but also visible by visiting members of the public. The other interested party is located in the Coromandel, and would also probably site it on private land and visible to the public.
- 13 The Panel expressed a slight preference to keep the sculpture in the Kāpiti Coast District. However, either of the two options would be suitable, and they felt that these should be progressed first, before opening up the process to an open sale situation.
- 14 The portrait of Jackie Sturm is slightly different in that it does not need to be exhibited in a public place. The work has been created in pastels, and is in good condition.
- 15 The portrait had been purchased by the District Libraries with assistance from the Friends of the Library, to honour Jackie Sturm, a former Paekākāriki resident, a noted Maori writer and academic, a librarian, and also wife of James K. Baxter. The identity of the artist had not been a factor in the purchase.
- 16 The Panel agreed that the family and descendents of Jackie Sturm should be consulted about their views on the retention or disposal of the artwork, and the issue reviewed again once that had been done. The Panel is progressing this.

Purchase

- 17 The Panel discussed the site in the foyer of the Civic Building. Given the significance of the building to all the residents of the Kāpiti Coast District, it was felt that a significant artwork should be commissioned for this location.
- 18 The location and environmental factors (heat, light, wall surface) were all discussed.

- 19 The Panel recommended that an approach be made to Robyn Kahukiwa for an artwork with the theme of "Future Vision".
- 20 Robyn Kahukiwa is a Kāpiti resident, and an artist of national and international significance. Robyn's career has spanned 40 years, and in 2012 Mahara Gallery exhibited a survey of selection of her works from 1971-2012.
- 21 Robyn is known to have a growing focus on children and the future, and this, along with her highly significant artistic reputation, makes her an ideal choice for this commission.
- 22 The Panel would like to approach her to gauge her interest, and if she is willing to accept the commission, the Panel would work with the Council in proceeding with that. The Council would manage the contractual side of the commission.
- 23 The Panel would work closely with Robyn throughout the execution of the Commission. The Panel would also work with the Council on suitable installation methods.

Financial Considerations

- 24 The Tui's current value is unknown and would require a professional valuation. Original purchase and installation costs were approximately \$45,000. The cost of the valuation would be offset by revenue from the sale of The Tui.
- 25 The portrait was purchased for \$3,500.
- 26 The public art acquisition budget has \$38,000 to 30 June 2014. This amount would cover both purchase cost and installation costs of any artwork.
- 27 Decisions to de-accession works from the Council's Public Art Collection will be infrequent. As such it is proposed revenue from the sale of The Tui is returned to the public art acquisition budget to be reinvested in the collection.

Legal Considerations

- 28 There are no legal considerations.

Delegation

- 29 The Environment and Community Development Committee has delegated authority to consider this matter. Reference Section B.1 clauses 6 and 7.1 of the Governance Structure which read:

Generally this delegation provides authority to exercise all functions, duties and powers relating to all matters assigned to this Committee, as adopted by the Council from time to time, where financial provision has been made for the decision or activity in the LTP or Annual Plan, and where the action proposed is not contrary to established Council strategy and/or policy, or the power of delegation.

Without limiting the generality of this delegation, the Committee has the following functions, duties and powers:

- 7.1 *Authority to develop (within any wider existing strategic framework) policies and work programmes that support the social, economic, environmental and cultural interests of the community. This authority encompasses the power to:*

- *Have oversight of all cultural, arts and heritage matters;*

Consultation

- 30 The Public Art Panel will consult with the family of the portrait subject. No other consultation has been undertaken and, under the Public Art Policy, none was anticipated for these decisions.

Policy Implications

- 31 There are no policy considerations.

Tāngata Whenua Considerations

- 32 There are no tāngata whenua considerations.

Publicity Considerations

- 33 A media release will be required on the Committee's decisions, especially as there is still considerable public interest in the fate of The Tui sculpture.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 34 That the Committee supports the Public Art Panel's recommendation to sell The Tui sculpture, and that a professional valuation be obtained before the sale proceeds.
- 35 That the Committee supports the Public Art Panel recommendation that the views of the family of Jackie Sturm be sought with regards to the retention or disposal of the portrait in the Public Art Collection, and that a recommendation be brought to the Committee following that consultation.
- 36 That the Committee supports the Public Art Panel recommendation that Robyn Kahukiwa be approached regarding the commissioning of a work (in this Financial Year) themed on "Future vision" for the large wall in the foyer of the Civic Building, and that the Public Art Panel work with Council staff to manage that commission.

Report prepared by:

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