Memo

To: Mayor McCarthy, City Council

From: Jeff Arango, AICP – Director of Community Planning

Date: January 14, 2014

Re: Arts Commission + One Percent for the Arts Program

Background

The Mayor and City Council requested the staff to develop a proposal for the establishment of a Langley Arts Commission for the purposes of establishing and maintaining a public art program. The public art program consists of a one-percent for the arts requirement for new capital projects such that one percent of the project budget will be allocated to public art. The commission’s first task will be to develop a public art program to guide the planning, design, solicitation, selection and funding of the public art program that may include public art installations that aren’t associated with a capital project.

In preparing this proposal staff met with members of the arts community to solicit input and feedback on the proposal.

DRAFT Proposal

Purpose. The Langley Arts Commission advises the Mayor, City Council and City Staff regarding the city’s public arts program and implementation of the city’s one percent for the arts policy for capital projects. The commission shall advise the Mayor and City Council regarding the planning, design, solicitation and selection of artists and public art installations for the city. When requested by the Mayor or City Council the commission will also advise the city on any art related issue such as promoting the arts in Langley, partnerships between the city and other arts organizations, the facilitation and management of arts related events and arts education.

Commission Organization. The Langley Arts Commission shall consist of 7 members appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council based on the following requirements:

- Three Members must reside in the City of Langley
- Three representatives must be practicing artists
- One member must be a professional designer (architectural, landscape or interior)
- One member must represent an art gallery in Langley
- One member must be a staff person at an arts organization
- One member must be a business owner in Langley
Four terms shall be for three years and three shall be for two years. The Mayor and City Council may waive or modify the above requirements on a case-by-case basis as necessary to implement the arts commission and public art program.

**Annual Work Plan.** The Arts Commission’s shall develop an annual work plan to be presented to the city council for approval annually by January 31st of each year.

**Public Art Plan.** The Arts Commission is responsible for developing a public arts plan for approval by the city council. The plan should be updated every five years or at the request of the city council. The plan shall address the planning, design, funding, and implementation of a public art program. As an addendum to the public art plan the commission shall review annually the city’s capital program to assess public art opportunities and provide recommendations to the Mayor and City Council.

**One-Percent for the Arts.** All capital projects must allocate at least one percent of the construction cost for public art unless waived by the City Council. The City Council has full discretion in determining the applicability and appropriateness of incorporating one percent of the capital project budget into public art, which may include increasing the amount of money allocated to public art. All public art installations shall be consistent with the city’s comprehensive plan and development regulations. All public art projects shall be selected via a request for proposals that includes a proposed concept design and budget for the installation.

**Public Art Fund.** The City of Langley hereby establishes a public art fund within the city’s general fund for the purpose of funding a public art program. The Mayor and City Council shall determine the annual allocation to the fund during the budget process based on city priorities and financial capacity.

**Local and Regional Preference.** Whenever appropriate, public art by artists with local or regional emphasis and backgrounds will be given priority.

**Public Art Program.** In addition to the one percent for the arts policy the city desires to establish a public art program independent of the one percent for the arts program. The program shall be focused on the planning, design, funding and implementation of public art installations primarily in the downtown area, but may include other areas as determined by the city council. At the discretion of the city council and following a recommendation from the Mayor the city may establish a public art fund as part of the general fund that will be used to fund public art including the purchase of art, maintenance and any infrastructure necessary to support the public arts program. The city council shall approve all public art projects prior to installation following recommendations from both the Arts Commission and the Design Review Board.

**Definitions**

“Municipal capital project” means any project over $5,000 paid for wholly or in part by the city of Langley to construct or remodel any building, decorative or commemorative structure, park, street, sidewalk, or any substantial portion thereof within the limits of the city of Langley. “Municipal capital project” for purposes of this chapter shall not include: above ground utility projects (unless specially determined by the city council), below
ground utility projects, routine maintenance, the repair of existing public facilities, or the replacement of fixtures in such facilities.