

From: ["Mochrie, Paul" <Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca)

To: ["Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"](#)

Date: 6/30/2021 4:28:51 PM

Subject: [Memo: Proposed Commercial Drive Mural addressing the legacy of Residential Schools](#)

Attachments: [image001.png](#)

[ACCS-ENG - GM - Memo \(Mayor Council\) Commercial Drive street painting \(2021-06-29\).pdf](#)

Dear Mayor and Council,

The attached memo from Sandra Singh, General Manager, Arts, Culture and Community Services and Lon LaClaire, General Manager, Engineering Services, regarding a proposed temporary street mural installation on Commercial Drive addressing the legacy of Residential Schools. Highlights include:

- The City was approached in early 2021 by Haida filmmaker and artist Tamara Bell, who planned to paint ["Native Lives Matter"](#) on Commercial Drive in East Vancouver.
- City staff asked the artist to work with the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations to secure their approval of the idea;
- Through subsequent engagement with artists and others in the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations, and to address the recent discoveries at the sites of Residential Schools, Bell has shifted the focus of the Commercial Drive temporary street mural project's focus, and now proposes to create a text mural reading "Every Child Matters."
- The project includes the painting of a temporary mural on Commercial Drive (between Charles Street and William Street). There will be temporary road closures to allow for the installation and associated speakers.
- Staff continues to make all efforts to ensure the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations are informed, consulted and engaged, and that this installation and others are executed safely and conform to necessary regulations.

Should you have any questions, please contact Sandra directly, at Sandra.Singh@vancouver.ca or Lon directly at Lon.LaClaire@vancouver.ca and they will ensure they are responded to through the weekly Council questions process.

Best,

Paul

Paul Mochrie (he/him)

City Manager

City of Vancouver

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The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

MEMORANDUM

June 29, 2021

TO: Mayor and Council

CC: Paul Mochrie, City Manager
Karen Levitt, Deputy City Manager
Lynda Graves, Administration Services Manager, City Manager's Office
Maria Pontikis, Director, Civic Engagement and Communications
Katrina Leckovic, City Clerk
Anita Zaenker, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office
Neil Monckton, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office
Alvin Singh, Communications Director, Mayor's Office
Margaret Wittgens, Deputy General Manager, Engineering Services
Lisa Parker, Branch Manager, Street Activities, Engineering Services
Branislav Henselmann, Managing Director, Cultural Services, Arts, Culture & Community Services

FROM: Sandra Singh, General Manager, Arts, Culture and Community Services
Lon LaClaire, General Manager, Engineering Services

SUBJECT: Proposed Commercial Drive Mural addressing the legacy of Residential Schools

PURPOSE

This memorandum is to inform the Council of a proposed temporary street mural installation on Commercial Drive addressing the legacy of Residential Schools.

BACKGROUND

The City was approached in early 2021 by Haida filmmaker and artist Tamara Bell, who planned to paint "Native Lives Matter" on Commercial Drive in East Vancouver.

- City staff asked the artist to work with the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations to secure their approval of the idea.
- Bell then continued to work on engagement for the project and returned to the City recently with a more developed proposal.
- In response to the discovery of Indigenous children's graves at the Kamloops Residential School, Bell also organized the spontaneous memorial in the form of the shoes on the steps of the Vancouver Art Gallery facing Robson Square.
- Through subsequent engagement with artists and others in the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations, and to address the recent discoveries at

the sites of Residential Schools, Bell has shifted the focus of the Commercial Drive temporary street mural project's focus, and now proposes to create a text mural reading "Every Child Matters."

- Bell wishes to expedite the project and paint it in time for July 1.

DISCUSSION

- The City is engaged in several projects with the goal to increase Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh visibility and voice on their unceded territories.
- As a partner in Reconciliation, the City wants to reflect MST Nations' priorities when developing or supporting public art projects, including those by Indigenous artists.
- Staff have written to the Nations this week to inform them of this project.
- The project includes the painting of a temporary mural on Commercial Drive (between Charles Street and William Street). There will be temporary road closures to allow for the installation and associated speakers.
- At the same time, City staff recognize the significance of this time for Indigenous people in Vancouver, and artists who are working to address the legacy of Residential Schools.
- Staff are working to expedite review and coordinate City agencies in supporting projects on short timelines.
- Details are currently being finalized to support this installation on the morning of July 1st.

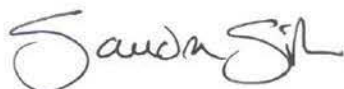
NEXT STEPS

City staff are working with the artist and her collaborators, and City departments and agencies, including VPD, with a goal of allowing this installation to proceed on the artist's proposed schedule. Staff will also be reaching out the Commercial Drive BIA to notify them of this project.

FINAL REMARKS

While the City typically works to ensure all uses of public land pass through sufficient review and engagement, staff recognize that in exceptional circumstances, during a time of grief and collective mourning, City processes may need to be adapted to respond to the acute need of the communities. Staff continues to make all efforts to ensure the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations are informed, consulted and engaged, and that this installation and others are executed safely and conform to necessary regulations.

If Council has any further questions or needs additional information, please feel free to contact us directly.



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Arts, Culture and Community Services
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