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

Date: 8/12/2022 11:15:19 AM

Subject: [CM: Council Memo – Pilot Project, Graffiti Art Wall in laneway of 133 West Pender Street - RTS 14562](#)

Attachments: [Council Memo - Pilot Project, Graffiti Art Wall in laneway of 133 West Pender - RTS 14562.pdf](#)

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Dear Mayor and Council,

Please see the attached memo from Margaret Wittgens. This memo provides an update on the City's first graffiti wall pilot project:

- The City will partner with artist Trey Helten from the Overdose Prevention Society and the DTES Artist Collective, and Vancouver Native Housing Society to test a graffiti art wall located in the lane behind 133 West Pender Street.
- A specific goal of this pilot is to support local Indigenous graffiti artists.
- This pilot project will be supported by Council's June 7th, 2022, motion to approve up to \$20K for community artist collectives to work with graffiti artists.
- As part of this pilot, staff will study the benefits of a graffiti art wall, identify the oversight and supports that are needed to make it a success, and consider the future viability of graffiti art walls in Vancouver.
- Graffiti art walls are considered temporary and as such, the pilot at 133 W Pender Street will be reviewed after one year to determine next steps.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Margaret Wittgens at 604-673-8227 or [margaret.wittgens@vancouver.ca](mailto:margaret.wittgens@vancouver.ca).

All the best,

Karen

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**Karen Levitt**, Deputy City Manager (she/her)  
[karen.levitt@vancouver.ca](mailto:karen.levitt@vancouver.ca) telephone

The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm/Musqueam, Skwxwú7mesh/Squamish and səliłwətaʔ/Tsleil-Waututh nations

## MEMORANDUM

August 12, 2022

TO: Mayor and Council

CC: Paul Mochrie, City Manager  
Armin Amrolia, Deputy City Manager  
Karen Levitt, Deputy City Manager  
Katrina Leckovic, City Clerk  
Lynda Graves, Administration Services Manager, City Manager's Office  
Maria Pontikis, Chief Communications Officer, CEC  
Anita Zaenker, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office  
Neil Monckton, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office  
Alvin Singh, Communications Director, Mayor's Office

FROM: Margaret Wittgens  
Deputy General Manager, Strategy and Integrated Planning, Engineering Services

SUBJECT: Pilot Project, Graffiti Art Wall in laneway of 133 West Pender Street

RTS #: 14562

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### Purpose

The purpose of this memo is to update Council and provide information about the City's first graffiti wall pilot project.

### Background

In response to an increase in nuisance graffiti throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Council directed staff to explore the benefits and feasibility of sanctioned graffiti zones.<sup>1</sup> Specifically, Council asked staff to gauge interest with the BIA's and street art community and identify potential locations. A memo<sup>2</sup> updating Council on the work to date including jurisdictional scan was provided on June 3, 2022. In addition, on June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Council approved up to \$20K for community artist collectives to engage in graffiti abatement and street art initiatives.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://council.vancouver.ca/20210518/documents/b6.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <https://vancouver.ca/files/cov/2022-06-03-council-memo-update-on-sanctioned-graffiti-wall-research.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <https://council.vancouver.ca/20220607/documents/regu20220607min.pdf>

## **Pilot Project**

As a first step in exploring the feasibility of graffiti art walls, staff are partnering with artist Trey Helten from the Overdose Prevention Society and the DTES Artist Collective, and Vancouver Native Housing Society on a graffiti art wall pilot located in the laneway of 133 West Pender Street. The site was identified by the partners and determined by the City to be a good candidate location due to the large amount of graffiti already present there.

As part of this pilot, staff will study the benefits of a graffiti art wall, identify the oversight and supports that are needed for its success, and consider the future viability of graffiti art walls in Vancouver. The learning and outcomes of this pilot could potentially inform best practices for future pilots. A specific goal of this pilot is to support local Indigenous graffiti artists.

Graffiti art walls are considered temporary and as such, the pilot at 133 W Pender Street will be reviewed after one year to determine next steps.

The graffiti art wall pilot initiative is part of a broader suite of tools that the City has to manage graffiti. This includes an Integrated Graffiti Management Program (IGMP) that provides strategic direction and programs, including the oversight of contracted graffiti removal services for public property, the Free Paint Program and the Mural Program. More information can be found on the website at: <https://vancouver.ca/home-property-development/manage-graffiti.aspx>.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.



Margaret Wittgens, MCIP, RPP  
Deputy General Manager, Strategy and Integrated Planning  
Engineering Services

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