



**STAFF REPORT
ACTION REQUIRED
Confidential Attachment**

The Toronto Public Art Commission – New Members

Date:	January 9, 2009
To:	Planning and Growth Management Committee
From:	Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning
Wards:	All
Reason for Confidential Information:	This report deals with personal matters about identifiable persons.
Reference Number:	pg090001

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to seek approval of new citizen volunteers to serve on the Toronto Public Art Commission. These individuals were nominated through a selection process as outlined in this report. In addition to current nominations, a reserve list of potential members was prepared, in the event one or more of the members may wish to step down from Toronto Public Art Commission during the current term of City Council.

The Toronto Public Art Commission provides valuable independent advice to City Planning and City Council in the review, identification and commissioning of public art in the public realm. The Toronto Public Art Commission advises on the City Planning’s “Percent for Public Art Program”, public art policies and guidelines whenever needed. When public art is secured through development approval, part of the subsequent process includes input from the Toronto Public Art Commission.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The City Planning Division recommends that:

1. Council approve the recommended new members for the Toronto Public Art Commission outlined in Attachment 1; and
2. Council approve the public release of the confidential information in Attachment 1.

IMPLEMENTATION POINTS

Upon City Council approval, the recommended individuals can serve as members on the Toronto Public Art Commission.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There are no financial implications resulting from the recommendations of this report.

DECISION HISTORY

City Planning's Percent for Public Art Program began in 1985 in the former City of Toronto with public art policies for both city and private lands. At the same time the Public Art Commission was established as a group of citizen volunteers to advise on public art projects that evolve through City Planning and Urban Design's public art programming in the public realm.

On July 22, 23 and 24, 2003, City Council approved the expansion of the Toronto Public Art Commission to assist in the implementation of City Planning's "Percent for Public Art Program" across the entire City. As approved by City Council in April 2005, new members were added to the group. In the fall of 2008, a new call and nomination process was initiated as there was a need to replace some of the volunteers who had retired their term.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

The Toronto Public Art Commission is a group of citizen volunteers appointed by City Council to act as an informed peer review group and advise on public art projects and policies. Toronto Public Art Commission provides valuable independent advice to City Planning staff and the private sector in the review of private developer Percent for Public Art Public Art Plans. Further information on the Commission and its mandate can be found at the City of Toronto's website at http://www.toronto.ca/planning/urban_design/public_art.htm

Toronto Public Art Commission membership can include artists, urban designers, architects, landscape architects, public institution representatives, art historians, critics, developers, lawyers and other corporate representatives and individuals from the community with experience in public art. Membership is comprised of eleven citizens

from across the City and Toronto Public Art Commission meets approximately eight times a year.

Appointments to the Toronto Public Art Commission are usually four years for the term of City Council. All members may be re-appointed to serve longer terms.

COMMENTS

Nomination Process

The nomination process was carried out according to past procedures and similar to other recruitments for advisory panels such as City Planning's Design Review Panel Pilot. In keeping with the City's Policy for Citizen Appointments for Program Advisory Bodies, the 'Call for Members' was advertised on the City's website. Notices were posted with the visual arts community, architecture and design professional associations including the Ontario Association of Architects, Ontario Association of Landscape Architects. Electronic ads were placed in Akimbo, a digital visual arts information site.

The response was very encouraging with over 30 applications submitted in response to the advertisements. Urban Design management from the four districts conducted a preliminary review of the applications. A subcommittee, of current Commission members and staff, facilitated by Toronto Public Art Commission Chairperson, was formed to review the submissions and make recommendations. Using the criteria described below, and after careful review of all applications, a number of recommendations were made. As in the past, the subcommittee recommended individuals for immediate inclusion and also, a reserve list in the event that any of the current or new members need to resign in advance of the conclusion of the current City Council term.

Nomination Criteria

As noted earlier, the Toronto Public Art Commission includes a wide range of professionals from the corporate community and individuals from the community at large. All potential members must have experience in the field of public art. All applicants must either reside or work in the City of Toronto.

The following criteria were used to nominate members for the Toronto Public Art Commission to achieve the approved new member makeup:

1. Professional and practical experience in public art
2. Ability to promote awareness and understanding of the importance of high quality public art
3. Ability to provide guidance and advice to City Council, developers and City staff on public art

Conclusion

City Planning's Percent for Public Art Program has produced dozens of high quality public art installations and landmarks across the City of Toronto. Through the Official

Plan, City staff identifies and encourages public art in the public realm. When the approval process for public art is secured through development review, input from the Toronto Public Art Commission serves as valuable resource for both city staff and the private sector. The citizen volunteers who are appointed to the Toronto Public Art Commission play a significant role in the beautification of the public realm through public art. Through the recent nomination process, a number of talented individuals are volunteering their time to assist the City in this important program.

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