

ED10.1 - Attachment 1 – Confidential Information

Made public by the Economic Development Committee on February 26, 2016

Appointment of First City of Toronto Photo Laureate

Date:	February 1, 2016
To:	Economic Development Committee
From:	General Manager, Economic Development and Culture

CONFIDENTIAL RECOMMENDATIONS

The General Manager of Economic Development and Culture recommends that:

City Council appoint Geoffrey James to the position of City of Toronto Photo Laureate.

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

Biography

Geoffrey James (b. 1942, St. Asaph, Wales) is a Toronto based photographer who is recognized internationally as a master of landscape and urban photography. James studied at Wellington College, Berkshire, and at Wadham College, Oxford and graduated with a degree in modern history in 1964. James worked as associate editor of *Time* magazine in Montreal from 1967-1975; as head of the Visual Arts, Film and Video section of the Canada Council for the Arts in Ottawa from 1975-1982; while pursuing photography.

Self-taught, James began making images in the early 1970s. In the 1980s, he produced a series on 17th and 18th century gardens, and the Roman Campagna. In the 1990s, his work shifted to North America. Under a project sponsored by the Canadian Centre for Architecture, Montreal, James spent several years photographing urban parks designed by F.L. Olmsted. His 1993 *Asbestos* Series examined impacts of the slag heaps left by the asbestos mines in Quebec. With a recent focus on the built environment- including urban and suburban landscapes-James has moved increasingly toward social commentary in his work. Now based in Toronto, his recent series include *Lethbridge, Toronto, 905* and *Inside Kingston Penitentiary*.

Geoffrey James is a Fellow of the Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts, Chicago, and the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation, New York. He was awarded the Victor Lynch Staunton Prize of the Canada Council, the Roloff Beny Foundation Photography Book Award and was the recipient of the Gershon Iskowitz Foundation Prize. James is a member of the Royal Canadian Academy. In 2012, James received the the Governor General's Award for Visual and Media Arts.