

220, 234 Simcoe Street and 121 St. Patrick Street - Public Art Plan

Date: September 16, 2019
To: Toronto East York Community Council
From: Director, Urban Design
Wards: Ward 10 - Spadina-Fort York

Planning Application Number: *15 218429 STE 20 OZ*

SUMMARY

The purpose of this staff report is to seek City Council approval of 220, 234 Simcoe and 121 St. Patrick Street Public Art Plan. The Plan, which is included as Attachment 1 of this report, outlines the method by which the owner will commission public art on a publicly-accessible area of the development site.

The Public Art Plan provides a framework and description of the commissioning of public art including: introduction; site location; site context; description of development; historic context; selection of option; project team; proposed locations; jury composition; budget and distribution; mentoring bursary to OCAD U; schedule; public art objectives; public art criteria; selection process and artists.

The attached plan meets the objectives of the City Planning's Percent for Public Art Guidelines and is supported by the Toronto Public Art Commission.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The City Planning Division recommends that:

1. City Council approve 220, 234 Simcoe Street and 121 St. Patrick Street Public Art Plan as attached (Attachment 1) to the report dated September 16, 2019 from the Director, Urban Design.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The recommendations in this report have no financial impact.

PROPOSAL

The development site is at 220, 234 Simcoe Street and 121 St. Patrick Street, fronting Simcoe Street and St. Patrick Street. The proposal is a mixed-use development including residential, office and retail uses in three buildings: 39-storeys, 35-storeys and 17 storeys as well as, a public park and open spaces uses at 234 Simcoe Street (a part of 220 Simcoe Street) and 121 St. Patrick Street.

The development review process has resulted in a commitment to public art, resulting in the Public Art Plan (Attachment 1).

APPLICATION BACKGROUND

City Council adopted this item on March 27, 2019 without amendments.
220 and 234 Simcoe Street and 121 St. Patrick Street - Technical Amendments to Zoning By-law 1251-2018

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2019.MM5.27>

City Council adopted this item on April 24, 2018 without amendments.
220 and 234 Simcoe Street and 121 St. Patrick Street - Zoning By-law Amendment Application - Final Report

<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2018/te/bgrd/backgroundfile-113589.pdf>

The subsequent Section 37 agreement dated August 10, 2018 was signed between the "Owner" and the "City". Schedule "G" Public Art Contribution of the agreement under 3. states that "The Owner agrees to make a contribution to Public Art in the amount of \$500,000 " The Public Art Contribution")

The Section 37 agreement under Schedule "G" under 4. states that "The Owner acknowledges and agrees that the Public Art process will be undertaken in consultation with OCAD U, the Grange Community Association, and the Ward Councillor to the satisfaction of the Chief Planner."

In accordance with the options in the agreement the owner with the City have determined that the public art contribution will be on the subject site in a privately-owned, publically accessible area (POPS) of the subject site.

Toronto Official Plan

This application has been reviewed against the policies of the City of Toronto Official Plan as follows:

The City of Toronto Official Plan can be found here: <https://www.toronto.ca/city-government/planning-development/official-plan-guidelines/official-plan/>.

Chapter 3 - Building a Successful City
Section 3.1.4 Public Art

Policy 1. e) encouraging the inclusion of public art in all significant private sector developments across the City.

COMMENTS

The proposed public art site will be located in a prominent location, visually and publically accessible in the proposed pedestrian-only walkway connecting St. Patrick Street and Simcoe Street. This walkway is an area designated as privately owned publically-accessible open space (POPS) that will be fronted by commercial use at grade. The proposed art location is supported by City Planning staff and the Toronto Public Art Commission.

In line with the Section 37 Agreement the Owner agreed that the Public Art process would be undertaken in consultation with stakeholders OCAD U, the Grange Community Association, and the Ward Councillor to the satisfaction of the Chief Planner. The owner has documented in the Public Art Plan the current status of this consultation and involvement going forward. The consultation thus far, has resulted in representatives from OCAD U, the Grange Community Association, the public art consultant and the Owner agreeing to the process and providing general consideration for the jury in assessing and selecting the artist.

The Public Art Plan also includes a mentoring bursary to OCAD U to support student-interns who will be involved through the public art project with responsibilities laid out by OCAD U faculty in consultation with the Public Art Consultant and the Owner.

In accordance with City policy, City Planning continues to encourage the developer to seek artistic excellence and expertise with broad representation from the art community in the selection of artists and jury members.

The artist will be selected by a three (3) person jury composed of two (2) independent art experts and one (1) resident of the Ward and Owner representative. The art selection process, with majority art experts is in keeping with the City's Percent for Public Art Guidelines.

An artist will be selected through a two stage competition process. Stage 1: A long list of artists have been selected in consultation with the stakeholders. Stage 2: From the long list, a possible three to five artists will be asked to provide a proposal, one of whom will be asked to create a site specific work of art.

The estimated budget allocation for the art, administration and maintenance is described in the public art plan which is in compliance with the City's Percent for Public Art Guidelines.

This proposal is supported by City Planning staff and was presented to the Toronto Public Art Commission at its meeting on July 24, 2019 which recommended approval of the proposed plan.

Conclusion

220, 234 Simcoe Street and 121 St. Patrick Street – Public Art Plan is in compliance with the City's objectives for the provision of public art associated with development.

This on-site program is in accordance with the City Planning Percent for Public Art Program, and is supported by the Toronto Public Art Commission. Upon City Council's approval, the owner will commence with the artist selection process as scheduled in the attached plan.

We look forward to the results of the public art completion.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

Lorna Day, Director Urban Design
City Planning Division

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Public Art Plan