

160 Front Street West 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: *11 243742 STE 20 OZ*

SUMMARY

The purpose of this staff report is to seek City Council approval of 160 Front Street West 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; project team; public art objectives; public art location; budget; selection process; jury composition and schedule.

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 160 Front Street West 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 160 Front Street West, with an application address of 156-174 Front Street West and 43-5 Simcoe Street fronting Simcoe Street and Front Street West, a proposal of a 54-storey commercial office tower. The application proposes to

incorporate a portion of the heritage building at 156 Front Street West into the podium of the new office tower, in accordance with the Union Station heritage Conservation District Plan.

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

APPLICATION BACKGROUND

City Council on August 25, 2014 adopted the Final Report - 156-174 Front Street West and 43-51 Simcoe Street - Zoning Amendment Application

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2014.TE34.10>

The Section 37 agreement dated August 25, 2014 was signed between the "Owner" and the "City". The Public Art contribution under section 3. Section 37 Obligations states that "Five hundred Thousand dollars (Canadian) (\$500,000.00 CDN) (hereinafter referred to as the "Art Contribution") for public art in accordance with the City of Toronto's Percent for Public Art Program.

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 location will be in a prominent area, visually and publically accessible within the building, Simcoe Street, Front Street and the new connection to the PATH beneath the building. The two potential locations have been identified in the Public Art Plan but only one will be commissioned depending on the chosen artist proposal, artist preference and the final design of the space.

The proposed art location is supported by City Planning staff and the Toronto Public Art Commission.

An artist will be selected through a two-stage competition process. Stage 1: Open and Invitational Call for Credentials, resulting in the selection of four artists short listed. Stage 2: Finalist Brief, competition with concepts reviewed and selected by a jury.

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.

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 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

160 Front Street West – 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