

114 - 120 Church Street & 59 Richmond Street East - Public Art Plan - Public Art Plan

Date: November 9, 2020
To: Toronto East York Community Council
From: Director, Urban Design
Wards: Toronto Centre - Ward 13

Planning Application Number: 17-253844 STE 28 OZ
Related Applications: 20-110990 STE 13 SA

SUMMARY

The purpose of this staff report is to seek City Council approval of 114-120 Church Street & 59 Richmond Street East 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 within the public park to be conveyed to the City as part of the development.

The Public Art Plan provides a framework and description of the commissioning of public art including: introduction and background; owner; subject site; Indigenous site history; the section 37 agreement; development; public art approach; objectives; sites for public art; artist selection process; jury and technical review; mentorship program; community programming opportunity; estimated public art budget; schedule; and renderings.

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 114- 120 Church Street & 59 Richmond Street East Public Art Plan as attached (Attachment 1) to the report dated November 9, 2020 from the Director, Urban Design.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The recommendations in this report have no financial impact.

PROPOSAL

The development site is located at 114-120 Church Street & 59 Richmond Street East, between Richmond Street East and Lombard Street. Located in close proximity to St. James Park, St. Lawrence neighbourhood, Church and Wellesley neighbourhood, Moss Park, and the Financial District. The development is a 45-storey mixed-use building with retail at grade and 198 square metres of land is to be conveyed to the City for a new park which will include the public art.

The new public park will be accessible from Richmond Street East, with a two (2) metre wide perimeter on the eastern side to facilitate a transition between the proposed building and the future park. The south east corner of the new park will have pedestrian access from Barbed Wire Lane. The proposed art site within the new park, is intended to be integrated with the landscape design.

This approach is supported by City Planning through the Percent for Public Art Guidelines, The Public Art Strategy 2020-2030, The Toronto Public Art Commission, and by the affected divisions Parks, Forestry and Recreation, and Economic Development. The park will be conveyed to the City along with the artwork as per the Section 37 agreement.

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

APPLICATION BACKGROUND

A Request for Directions report in support of the revised development application was considered by Toronto and East York Community Council on July 4, 2018 and adopted without amendment. [City Council](#) adopted this item, with amendments, on July 23, 2018. A copy of the Council decision and reports can be found here: <http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2018.TE34.48>

The owner has entered into an Agreement pursuant to Section 37 of the Planning Act to the satisfaction of the City Solicitor and the Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning, and the Section 37 Agreement will be registered on title of the property to the satisfaction of the City Solicitor, securing community benefits and other matters to support the development including: One million dollars (\$1,000,000) to be allocated to public art that will be located within the future 198 square metre on-site park.

Toronto Official Plan

Public art was secured when this application was reviewed against the policies of the City of Toronto Official Plan as follows:

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.

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

COMMENTS

The proposed public art site will be visually and publically accessible at all times, located in a prominent location within the new park. The artist will be working along with the Landscape Architect to coordinate and integrate the art within the design of the new park.

An artist will be selected through a two-stage design competition process. Stage 1: Invitational Competition and Stage 2: Artists Short List. An artist's long list was created by the art consultant with the developer. The long list was created with a lens on equity and diversity resulting in six (6) artists being selected for the short list.

The artist will be selected by a five (5) person jury composition, drawn from the list provided in the Public Art Plan. The selection process, with a majority art experts is in keeping with the City's Percent for Public Art Guidelines. The jury will consist of independent art experts including one (1) resident of the Ward and one (1) Owner representatives.

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 Indigenous history of Toronto will also form part of the background of the artists terms of reference to be included in the artists brief.

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. The Public Art Plan describes a mentorship program including a budget for mentorship of an emerging artist in alignment with the Percent for Public Art Program and The Public Art Strategy.

This proposal is supported by City Planning staff and was presented to the Toronto Public Art Commission at its meeting on November 4, 2020, which recommended approval of the proposed plan.

Conclusion

114-120 Church Street & 59 Richmond Street East – Public Art Plan is in compliance with the City's objectives for the provision of public art associated with the 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.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

Lorna Day, Director Urban Design
City Planning Division

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Public Art Plan