

Allen East District Public Art Strategy

Date: August 18, 2021
To: North York Community Council
From: Acting Director, Urban Design, City Planning
Wards: York Centre - Ward 6

Planning Application Number: 15 202615 NNY 10 OZ

SUMMARY

The purpose of this staff report is to seek City Council approval of the Allen East Public Art Strategy. The plan, which is included as Attachment 1 of this report, outlines the method by which the owner will commission public art.

The Public Art Strategy provides a framework and description of the commissioning of public art including: introduction and background; project team; development context; site context; project objectives; public art typologies; public art opportunities; art selection process; maintenance provision for public artworks; funding and implementation; conclusion; and next steps.

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

RECOMMENDATIONS

The City Planning Division recommends that:

1. City Council approve the Allen East Public Art Strategy as attached (Attachment 1) to the report dated August 18, 2021 from the Acting Director, Urban Design, City Planning.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The recommendation in this report has no financial impact.

PROPOSAL

The development area is within the Allen East District identified in the Downsview Area Secondary Plan (DASP). The Allen East District Public Art Strategy is informed by the Secondary Plan and the Allen East District Plan Urban Design Guidelines (UDG).

The Allen East District is bounded by Sheppard Avenue West to the north, Allen Road to the west, Wilson Heights Boulevard to the east, and Transit Road to the south. Included in this area is the TTC's Sheppard West subway station and Banting Park, a City-owned park. The land use designations within the Secondary Plan consist of Mixed-Use Areas, Apartment Neighbourhoods, Neighbourhoods, and Parks and Open Spaces.

The Secondary Plan recognizes that public art plays an important role in “strengthening local identity and image” and “supporting and enhancing the park-like setting central to the Secondary Plan area’s character” (Section 3.3). Policies require the identification of potential public art locations and opportunities in District Plans (Policy 3.3.2) and that new developments, of significant scale or in prominent locations, provide on-site public art, in publicly visible and accessible locations (Policy 3.3.1).

The Allen East District Public Art Strategy forms part of the Allen East District Plan and proposes a district-wide program, for the lands east of Allen Road, which allows for a comprehensive approach to the identification of opportunities to allocate public art projects throughout the Allen East District. The Public Art Strategy identifies public art opportunities that may be delivered as a component of development and neighbourhood infrastructure. The UDG inform the Public Art Strategy with respect to the street network; enhanced streetscapes; parks and open spaces; land uses; and gateways and view corridors, which form the foundation of public art opportunities in Allen East District.

The objective of the Public Art Strategy is to integrate public art throughout the District including: district gateways; enhanced streetscapes; greenway connections; parks; POPS (privately-owned, publically-accessible spaces); urban plaza/transit plaza; and the storm water management facility.

Public art opportunities can be located on private lands (on-site), and on public lands (off-site). The public art will be sensitive to context, standalone or independent, semi-integrated within the built form or public realm, or fully integrated in the elements of the building and/or landscapes. These opportunities allow for collaboration with architects, landscape architects and other design professionals on a project.

The artist selection process, as outlined in the City's Percent for Public Art guidelines, will be adhered to in the Public Art Strategy. The Strategy provides a framework for the selection of the jury and the artists. The selection of artists will be made through a competitive process that is supported by the City. Both the jury and artists selection will be made through an equity and diversity lens.

The Allen District Public Art Strategy is being managed by CreateTO and their Public Art Consultants, with consultation, review and input from City of Toronto staff. CreateTO will implement the Public Art Strategy working with the City, consultants and developers.

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

APPLICATION BACKGROUND

The Allen East District Plan – Final Report was considered by North York Community Council on June 23, 2021 and was adopted with amendments. City Council considered this item on July 14, 2021. The item was deferred until the September 30 and October 1, 2021 meeting of City Council. The Allen East District – Final report can be found at the following link:

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2021.NY25.6>

The DASP was initially approved in 1999 and amended in 2001, however, at its meeting of April 28 and 29, 2008, City Council directed City Planning staff to undertake a review and update of the DASP. In February 2010, a Final Report from the Director Community Planning, North York District recommended adoption of amendments to the Official Plan, including an updated Secondary Plan and approval of a Transportation Master Plan and Servicing and Storm water Master Plan. Consideration of the Final Report was deferred three times by North York Community Council. At its meeting of April 21, 2011, North York Community Council recommended adoption of the Secondary Plan with amendments. At its meeting of May 17, 18 and 19, 2011 City Council referred the recommended Plan back to North York Community Council for further consideration following more public consultation. An appeal was made to the former Ontario Municipal Board and on August 17, 2011, the Board approved the updated Downsview Area Secondary Plan and related amendments to the City's Official Plan.

The Downsview Area Secondary Plan can be found at the following link: The Downsview Area Secondary Plan can be found at the following link:

[7 - Downsview Area Secondary Plan \(toronto.ca\)](#)

Toronto Official Plan

The Public Art Strategy 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 locations and objectives identified in the Allen East District Public Art Strategy have been developed primarily through the planning process to ensure public art is implemented in tandem with the development blocks, as different phases of the District Plan proceed. The art will be visually and publically accessible throughout the Allen East District. The proposed art locations are supported by City Planning staff and TPAC.

The Percent for Public Art Program allows for artist selection to be made through three types of competition - Open Call, Invitational Competition, or a Direct Commission. The selection will be made through a review of a long list of artists including representation from equity seeking groups. The submissions will be reviewed by an independent jury composed of a majority of art experts.

Detailed public art opportunities, artist selection method, competition process, and jury composition will be submitted to the City through future Zoning By-law Amendment applications, which will include a public art plan for each phase of development and/or individuals sites. This will be reviewed by TPAC, and staff and approved by City Council in the future, as the developments progress through the application review process.

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 TPAC at its meeting on May 19, 2021.

Conclusion

Allen East District Public Art Strategy is in compliance with the City's objectives for the provision of public art associated with the Downsview Area Secondary Plan and Allen East District Plan and Urban Design Guidelines.

This public art program is in accordance with the City Planning Percent for Public Art Program, and is supported by TPAC. Upon City Council's approval, CreateTO will commence with the next steps towards the realization of the Public Art Strategy.

CONTACT

Lara Tarlo, Senior Urban Designer, Tel. 416-338-1132, Lara.Tarlo@toronto.ca

SIGNATURE

Emilia Floro, Acting Director Urban Design
City Planning Division

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Allen East District Public Art Strategy