

REPORT FOR ACTION

Mino Bimaadiziwin Plaque Installation

Date: August 30, 2024

To: The Board of Governors of Exhibition Place

From: Don Boyle, Chief Executive Officer

Wards: 10 - Spadina-Fort York

SUMMARY

This report provides information on the proposed installation of a plaque identifying Mino Bimaadiziwin (the 'Good Life'), the new Indigenous Art Feature Wall in Centennial Square Park, and articulating the significance of this concept, as well as acknowledging the artists and partners who made this art piece possible.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Chief Executive Officer recommends that:

1. The Board approve the installation of a plaque identifying Mino Bimaadiziwin, the new Indigenous Art Feature Wall in Centennial Square Park, and articulating the significance of this concept, as well as acknowledging the artists and partners who made this art piece possible.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Approval of this report will result in an expenditure of approximately \$7,000 for the fabrication and installation of the plaque. Exhibition Place will also finance the ongoing maintenance of the plaque.

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting of July 26, 1999, the Board adopted a policy for the installation of commemorative plaques on the grounds. The policy sets out guidelines and responsibilities for the installation of plaques at Exhibition Place.

At its meeting of April 26, 2022, City Council adopted EX31.1 - Actions to Advance Truth and Justice for Indigenous People in the City of Toronto: Reconciliation Action Plan 2022-2032. The plan establishes Actions for Justice that include supporting Indigenous placemaking and celebrating Indigenous arts and culture.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2022.EX31.1>

At its meeting on June 9, 2022, the Board approved the draft 2022-2026 Strategic Plan as outlined in the report from the Chief Executive Officer, Exhibition Place on May 26, 2022. Goals established by this plan include promoting site animation 365 days a year and exceeding client and visitor expectations.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2022.EP24.1>

At its meeting of April 25, 2024, the Board approved the award of Contract No. 24-094-39474 (RFT No. EP103-2024) to Duron Ontario Ltd. of Mississauga, Ontario for the Centennial Square Park Installation of an Indigenous Feature Wall.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2024.EP9.4>

COMMENTS

The removal of the former buildings, collectively known as Kids World, on the north section of the Centennial Square Park, has impacted community enjoyment of the park due to the proximity of the Gardiner Expressway. Exhibition Place staff contracted with Studio TLA to facilitate the design a Feature Wall and develop a Master Plan for the entire square. The Master Plan and the Feature Wall were developed based on inputs received from the community, and interest groups through comprehensive consultation.

Overwhelmingly, community members advocated for an Indigenous theme and artwork highlighting the area's history. The Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation (MCFN) was an engagement and advisory partner in developing the Art. Indigenous artists, August and Luke Swinton, were selected by MCFN, and employed to prepare the conceptual design of the artwork, Mino Bimaadiziwin. This design will mitigate Gardiner Expressway noise levels and safety concerns, provide an animated and artistic background for future events, and honour the area's Indigenous history.

The production and installation of Mino Bimaadiziwin is currently underway with completion anticipated in Fall 2024 and a plaque will be installed. The proposed plaque will be approximately 30 x 40 cm in size, mounted on a four-foot pole and have the following wording:

Mino Bimaadiziwin - Good Life
Luke Swinson & August Swinson
2024

Mino Bimaadiziwin is an Indigenous philosophy and way of being that translates to living a "Good Life." A Good Life is one where we reach our fullest potential as people, are interconnected to the Earth and in relationship with Creation. Mino

Bimaadiziwin encourages us to respect the land, ourselves, and each other; just as our ancestors have since time immemorial.

The plaque will also include the logos of Exhibition Place, Studio TLA, and MCFN, as well as QR code that will link visitors to a page on the Exhibition Place website with further details about the artwork.

The details of the plaque and its installation adequately address or otherwise satisfy the issues and procedures required by the Exhibition Place Plaque Policy. As well, the plaque will not impede vehicular or pedestrian traffic and will not present a problem to any show or event held at Exhibition Place.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

Don Boyle
Chief Executive Officer