



NOTICE OF MOTION

Release of S. 45 Funds and Agreement with STEPS Public Art to Advance Utility Box and Picnic Bench Beautification in Liberty Village

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Malik

Seconded by: Councillor Perks

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Deputy Mayor Malik, seconded by Councillor Perks, recommends that:

1. City Council increase the 2026 Operating Budget for Non-Program on a one-time basis by \$55,000.00 gross, \$0 net, fully funded by Section 45 community benefits obtained in the development at 125 Western Battery Road (Source Account: XR3028-4500012), secured for community benefits, for the purpose of forwarding funds to STEPS (Sustainable Thinking and Expression on Public Space) Public Art for installation of murals on 12 utility boxes and 2 picnic benches in the Liberty Village neighbourhood (Cost Centre: NP2161).
2. City Council direct that the \$55,000.00 be forwarded to STEPS (Sustainable Thinking and Expression on Public Space) Public Art, subject to STEPS Public Art signing an Undertaking governing the use of the funds and the financial reporting requirements.

SUMMARY:

Since 2025, considerable public engagement has occurred in the Liberty Village neighbourhood around *Liberty for All*, a once in a generation neighbourhood planning study, led by City Planning. The FIFA World Cup has also arrived at the doorstep of this vibrant neighbourhood.

Through both of these processes, opportunities have been sought out to deliver legacy improvements to this community to make it a more vibrant and welcoming place for visitors and neighbours alike. Some utility boxes have been painted in the Liberty Village neighbourhood and surrounding area, through the Street Art program in advance of the FIFA World Cup.

In early 2026, engagement with the Box Murals Program and a local neighbourhood artist

commenced, with a proposal for further utility box painting in Liberty Village, specifically on Bell boxes. Unfortunately, this organization went on hiatus as conversations continued.

Subsequent venues for commissioning of public art on utility boxes and on picnic benches in Liberty Village Park were explored through multiple partners including the City's Street Art team, the Liberty Village BIA, who lacked capacity to complete the work in the 2026 season, as well as STEPS Public Art.

This motion seeks to confirm and secure STEPS Public Art as the lead organization for leading artist calls to beautify the local community through public art on Bell utility boxes and prominent picnic benches in Liberty Village Park, to be completed in Fall 2026.