

MOTION WITHOUT NOTICE

Re-opening of Item 2026.MM42.23 - Authorization to Release Section 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

SUMMARY:

At the June 2026 meeting of City Council, City Council confirmed and approved 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.

Since this agreement, some additional time and resources have been identified as necessary for STEPS to thoroughly liaise with Bell on logistical matters, necessitating some additional costs. The motion is aimed at ensuring STEPS has access to the necessary funds to complete this work.

Reason for Urgency: To allow for STEPS Public Art to begin work immediately to liaise with Bell to prepare the utility box sites and undertake public engagement and artist selection as soon as possible.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

City Council amend its previous decision on Item 2026.MM42.23 by:

1. In Recommendation 1, deleting the dollar value "\$55,000" before the word "gross" in Recommendation 1 and replacing it with "\$60,000; "deleting Section 45 community benefits" and replacing it with, "with funds obtained through minor variance decision A0739/11TEY, 125 Western Battery Road"; and deleting the Source Account code "XR3028-4500012" and replacing it with "XR3028-4500112"; such that the decision now reads as follows:
 - a. City Council increase the 2026 Operating Budget for Non-Program on a one-time basis by \$60,000 gross, \$0 net, fully funded with funds obtained through minor variance decision A0739/11TEY, 125 Western Battery Road (Source Account: XR3028-4500112), 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); and

2. Deleting Recommendation 2 in its entirety and replacing it with:
 - a. City Council authorize the Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning, or designate, to enter into a letter of agreement with STEPS to direct \$60,000 to STEPS for installation of murals on 12 utility boxes and 2 picnic benches in the Liberty Village neighbourhood, on terms and conditions satisfactory to the Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning, or designate, and which shall include addressing financial reporting requirements, and insurance and indemnification provisions, all in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor.

Date July 29, 2026