

**TO:** MAYOR & COUNCILLORS  
**FROM:** GENERAL MANAGER COMMUNITY SAFETY  
**SUBJECT:** **MURAL FUNDING PROPOSAL - KENSINGTON AND LOUGHEED OVERPASS**  
**PURPOSE:** To seek approval for funding for the creation of an artistic mural at Kensington Overpass on Lougheed Highway.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** the cost of \$7,000 for the creation of a mural at Kensington and Lougheed Overpass, to be funded from the 2023 Mural Grant Program, be approved; and

**THAT** payment of \$7,000 to Mihai Darvasa, subject to the conditions described in the report titled “Mural Funding Proposal – Kensington and Lougheed Overpass” dated December 11, 2023, be approved.

### **1.0 POLICY SECTION**

Enhancing aesthetics of community infrastructure aligns with policy objectives contained in the City’s Moving Forward initiative, Burnaby Community Safety Plan (2020) and the Burnaby Strategic Plan (2022).

### **2.0 BACKGROUND**

Burnaby has benefitted from a strong and established Mural Grant Program. Since the creation of the program in 2008, installed murals have added vibrancy and visual creativity to neighbourhoods and deterred illegal graffiti vandalism. The Burnaby Mural Grant Program permits either a cost sharing model with a local business, or the full funding of a mural installation on City-owned infrastructure. As this is City-owned infrastructure, it is therefore recommended that this proposed Kensington mural be fully funded through the 2023 Burnaby Mural Grant Program for \$7,000.

Properties eligible for mural grant funding have publicly visible walls with a history or high probability of illegal graffiti vandalism. Grant funding is allotted to such locations where a mural is likely to decrease the invitation of vandalism and other property crime through beautification and enhancing livability of the community. To be successful for the mural grant, an applicant must include a completed Artist Mural Agreement, Property Owner Agreement, concept art and an estimate of the mural cost. Mural designs will demonstrate a high degree of artistic ability and a theme that is in alignment with City of Burnaby social values. Once a mural has been created, staff then confirm the work is completed as agreed, and receipts are reviewed prior to reimbursement of eligible costs.

**3.0 GENERAL INFORMATION**

**3.1 Mural Location**

The Kensington overpass that spans Lougheed presents highly visible walls that are regularly defaced with illegal graffiti. The creation of a mural offers an element of beautification that is generally respected and not vandalized by those in the graffiti subculture. The creation of this mural not only acts as an effective graffiti deterrent but presents a visual element that enhances the aesthetic of the community and celebrates underwater ecosystems and wildlife.

**3.2 Artist Information**

Mural artist Mihai Darvasa creates vibrant murals combining street art style with themes of nature and people. Working with the City of Burnaby Community Safety department, Mr. Darvasa submitted a signed Artist Mural Agreement along with full colour concept art that is intended to illustrate and celebrate the oceans’ wildlife.

**3.3 Neighbourhood Benefit**

The prominent wall of the Kensington overpass is visible to Lougheed Highway traffic as well as community members that utilize the Central Valley Urban Trail. The creation of this mural will provide a colourful and uplifting transformation of the grey concrete wall while providing a strong deterrent to illegal graffiti.

Staff conclude that the mural at the Kensington and Lougheed overpass satisfies the criteria for funding through our 2023 Mural Grant Program and is of great benefit to the community in support of crime prevention, community beautification and positive social messaging.

**3.4 Funding Structure**

The Kensington and Lougheed overpass is owned and managed by the City of Burnaby, therefore no external community partners will be associated with the creation of this mural. With this consideration, the proposed Kensington project could be fully funded for the total \$7,000 amount from the 2023 Mural Grant Program.

**4.0 COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Not applicable.

**5.0 FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

There is sufficient funding for this mural at the Kensington and Lougheed overpass through the 2023 Mural Grant Program.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Critchley, General Manager Community Safety

**ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment 1 – Kensington and Loughheed Overpass Mural Concept

**REPORT CONTRIBUTORS**

This report was prepared by Todd Polich, Anti-Graffiti Coordinator.

**Kensington and Lougheed Overpass Mural  
Concept Art  
Artist: Mihai Darvasa**

