

TO: CITY MANAGER 1999 November 18

FROM: DIRECTOR PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURAL SERVICES

SUBJECT: VISUAL ARTS BURNABY UPDATE

PURPOSE: To provide Council with an update regarding the recent activities of Visual Arts Burnaby.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT this report be received for information purposes.

REPORT

At its meeting of 1999 November 17, the Parks and Recreation Commission received the above noted report and adopted the recommendation contained therein.



Kate Friars
PARKS, RECREATION
AND CULTURAL SERVICES

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SUBJECT: VISUAL ARTS BURNABY UPDATE

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT a copy of this report be sent to City Council for information.

REPORT

This report provides information to the Commission on the recent activities of Visual Arts Burnaby.

VISUAL ARTS ADVISORY BOARD (VAAB)

The Visual Arts Advisory Board has approved the exhibitions for the year 2000 as well as initiated a fundraiser to commemorate the completion of the restoration of Ceperley Mansion.

ATTENDANCE

Overall attendance saw a marked increase over the past year. Attendance in the Gallery at Ceperley House as of June 1999 was over 10,000. Outreach programs and exhibitions in the libraries and at the Shadbolt Centre brings the number of people who have enjoyed the exhibits and programs to over 38,000. The public subsidy dropped significantly from \$45 per person-visit in 1996 to approximately \$4.25 per person-visit in 1999.

PARTNERSHIPS

In the past year staff of Visual Arts Burnaby established partnerships with the Burnaby School District, Burnaby Hospital and the Simon Fraser Health Region. An exhibition and program entitled *Ribbons of Life*, will begin in January of 2000 with long-term care senior residents of the Burnaby Hospital. Artists and staff of Visual Arts Burnaby will go into the hospital to instruct and assist residents in making works of art that explore both their private and public histories. These works of art will then tour to five hospitals in the Simon Fraser Health Region.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Educational programs are divided into two groups: Public Programs and School Programs. To complement the exhibitions, panel discussions entitled Ceperley Salons are designed to engage the public and create an opportunity to meet the artists and take part in a discussion about their concepts and art practices. For the exhibition *Divining For Lost Sound* held in July, "The Voice, The Ghost" offered an opportunity for the public to learn about the history of the Spiritualist Movement and to discuss recording techniques. In September, the public was invited to a talk by senior artist Gordon Smith, artist Landon MacKenzie and Brian Foreman, public programmer with the Vancouver Art Gallery, regarding "An Exploration of Landscape Painting" to complement the exhibit *The Hidden Forest: The Art of M.A. Yewdale*.

Upcoming Salons will be held in the next three months entitled consecutively "Deer Lake through the Camera Lens", "Suspended Looking: The Art of Presenting the Forbidden" and "Long Ago in the Future: Creating a Past".

School Programs during the 1998/99 year saw over 2,300 students either visit the gallery or participate in outreach visits to the schools. This year, through a grant from the Burnaby School District, each class is offered one free visit and workshop. Upcoming workshops include "The Quietness of Nature", "Basic Elements" and "Composition & Colour", and "Long Ago in the Future". These programs are tours and workshops held at the Gallery at Ceperley House. Outreach programs to the schools involve Visual Arts Burnaby staff taking works from the Permanent Art Collection into the schools and offering a rare opportunity for students to create personal symbols and prints.

A collaborative tour with the Burnaby Village Museum was designed to celebrate Women's History Month. Led by programmers from both Burnaby Village Museum and Visual Arts Burnaby this walking tour discussed both historical and contemporary women and their association with Deer Lake Park. The discussion covered Harriet Woodward, Florence Hart, Grace Ceperley, Muriel Yewdale and Doris Shadbolt. Two tours were offered with over 30 people in attendance.

RESTORATION

The restoration of Ceperley Mansion is complete. Although over the summer months the renovations interrupted the public entering the Gallery, staff worked in the community to continue to offer programs.

CURATORIAL PROGRAMS

The exhibitions in the Gallery at Ceperley House have been scheduled until the beginning of the year 2001.

During the renovation of Ceperley Mansion, exterior exhibitions occurred throughout the gardens and park surrounding the Gallery. Thanks to collaborative work with parks staff sculptures were installed in the ponds between the Shadbolt Centre and Ceperley Mansion.

THE COLLECTION

As the Managers of the City of Burnaby's Permanent Art Collection, staff have developed a working relationship with the Burnaby Art Gallery Association, and assisted them in the selection of works for exhibition until September 2000. Discussions have occurred on concurrent exhibits to complement each group's exhibition and educational programs.

The first exhibition of the Permanent Art Collection hosted by Visual Arts Burnaby was shown in the Bob Prittie Library during the months of June, July and August. Figurative drawings by renowned artist Harley Parker were featured and well received. Large canvases from the Permanent Art Collection have been installed throughout the Galleria of the Shadbolt Centre for the Arts as a permanent display. Other possible exhibition locations at the Bob Prittie Library are being researched.

In 2000, ninety percent of the exhibitions will feature works from the City of Burnaby's Permanent Art Collection. There will be two large exhibitions focussing entirely on the Collection: in the upper gallery from the beginning of June to the end of July, and in the main floor galleries for the month of August 2000.

The Bob Prittie Library will have a series of exhibitions featuring Canadian illustrators of Children's Books that will run throughout the 2000 school year. These exhibits also include a series of educational programs in the programming room of the library

The Kingsway Library also has exhibits that are curated through Visual Arts Burnaby.

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

The Visual Arts Coordinator/Curator has drafted a Collections Policy for the City of Burnaby Art Collection. It is undergoing final approval by the Visual Art Advisory Board, and will be put to forward for Commission's consideration in the near future.

ART RENTAL/GIFT SHOP

The Gift Shop will be moved upstairs in January 2000 and will be located within the art rental gallery. The billiard room will then become a room in which to exhibit the Permanent Art Collection, house a library for research of the collection and allow for public programming, special events and rentals.

The art rental program will be further developed and new partnerships generated beginning in the new year.

FUNDRAISING

A grant application was submitted to the Vancouver Foundation in support of the *Ribbons of Life* program to begin in January 2000. The Burnaby Hospital Foundation is also actively seeking support for this collaboration and have committed to support in the amount of \$6,000. The Burnaby School District has given a grant of \$2,500 to support the School programs, and further partnerships with corporations are being pursued.

On October 21, 1999 the Volunteers and Visual Arts Advisory Board hosted "A Taste of Heritage" to celebrate the completion of the renovations. This event, attended by over 100 people, raised over \$2,000 towards educational programs for the 1999/2000 school year.

CONFERENCES

The Visual Arts Coordinator/Curator attended the B.C. Museums Association Conference where she was invited to give a paper on building bridges with the community. It was an opportunity to develop partnerships with other galleries and museums throughout B.C. A project with the Richmond Art Gallery, Vancouver Art Gallery, and Visual Arts Burnaby for the year 2000 are being researched.

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