

NO: R029

COUNCIL DATE: February 24, 2025

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council**

DATE: **February 19, 2025**

FROM: **General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture**

FILE: **0550-01**

SUBJECT: **Recommended Public Art Murals for Newton Athletic Park**

RECOMMENDATION

The Parks, Recreation & Culture Department recommends that Council:

1. Receive this report for information; and
2. Authorize staff to contract Ali Bruce and Jag Nagra to complete public artworks at Newton Athletic Park, as generally described in this report and attached as Appendices “I” and “II”.

INTENT

The intent of this report is to obtain Council approval to proceed with the implementation of artwork designs by Ali Bruce and Jag Nagra at Newton Athletic Park.

BACKGROUND

Newton Athletic Park (the “Park”) is a premiere destination for sports and athletics in the Lower Mainland, offering a wide range of sports facilities and amenities. Given the Park’s wide popularity and use, it was recommended as a future site for public art in the Public Art Master Plan (2020-2029). Additionally, the extensive public engagement, as part of the Focus Newton campaign, expressed Newton residents’ desire for more public art in Newton.

Parks, Civic Facilities, and Public Art staff collaborated to identify two buildings within the Park suitable for public art murals. The first is the Pavilion building, which acts as a backdrop for many of the playing fields and activities in the Park (Appendix “III”). The second will be located on the Washroom/Community Room facility (Appendix “IV”). Both locations are highly visible to all park users.

DISCUSSION

The artist and design for the Pavilion mural was determined through an open artist call and a two-stage community selection panel. The artist and design for the Washroom/Community Room mural was determined through a directed call to artists of South Asian Heritage. On December 4, 2024, staff convened a community selection panel to review all expressions of interest submitted for the Pavilion opportunity, and concept proposals for the Washroom/Community Room opportunity. The community selection panel included the

President of Surrey FC Soccer Club, a liaison from the seniors' user group of the community room, and a local artist with mural experience.

At that time, one artwork concept was chosen for the Washroom/Community Room, and seven artists were shortlisted for the Pavilion opportunity. On January 22, 2025, the community selection panel reconvened to review the submitted concept proposals for the Pavilion. After deliberation, the selection panel voted unanimously to recommend one design by Ali Bruce for the Pavilion (Appendix "I") and one design by Jag Nagra for the Washroom/Community Room (Appendix "II").

About the Artists and Artworks

Pavilion Artwork

Ali Bruce is an artist and illustrator originally from northwestern Ontario. She has been living and working in Vancouver for the past 15 years. She graduated from Emily Carr University in 2014 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts and completed a Certificate in Communication Design at BCIT. Ali has completed numerous murals across the Lower Mainland and participated in the Vancouver Mural Festival.

Ali's artwork proposal, titled *Growing Outside*, represents the vibrant energy, nature, and activities that take place at the Park. It is inspired by the communal outdoor space of the Park, and the connections made there through sport, play, and social gatherings.

Washroom/Community Room Artwork

Jag Nagra is a visual artist and community advocate with a number of artworks in the Museum of Vancouver's permanent collection and is a co-founder of the Punjabi Market Collective, a non-profit, working to revitalize Vancouver's historic Punjabi Market commercial district.

Jag's proposal celebrates the cultural richness and athletic spirit of the Park. It features stylized marigolds commonly associated with prosperity, which holds deep symbolism in South Asian cultures. The mural also celebrates sports, reflecting the range of activities enjoyed by visitors, and speaks to the community's intergenerational connection to the Park.

FUNDING

The murals are funded through Focus Newton and the Public Art Reserve. Total public art costs for the Pavilion project are \$20,000, while total costs for the Washroom/Community Room are \$35,000. Costs include artist fees, design development, fabrication/installation, and maintenance.

CONCLUSION

Newton Athletic Park is a popular and highly used amenity in Surrey, identified for public art in the Public Art Master Plan (2020-2029). The Newton community also expressed desire for more public art in the area through Focus Newton, further supporting the City's plan to provide additional public art in Newton.

The Parks, Recreation & Culture Department recommends Council authorize staff to contract Ali Bruce and Jag Nagra to implement public artworks at Newton Athletic Park, as generally described in this report.

Original signed by

Laurie Cavan

General Manager,

Parks, Recreation & Culture

Appendix: "I" Recommended Public Artwork by Ali Bruce

Appendix: "II" Recommended Public Artwork by Jag Nagra

Appendix: "III" Proposed Artwork Location: Newton Athletic Park – Pavilion

Appendix: "IV" Proposed Artwork Location: Newton Athletic Park – Washroom/Community Room

Recommended Public Artwork by Ali Bruce



Rendering of proposed mural by Ali Bruce on Pavilion



Rendering of proposed mural by Ali Bruce on Pavilion



Rendering of proposed mural by Ali Bruce on Pavilion



Rendering of proposed mural by Ali Bruce on Pavilion

Recommended Public Artwork by Jag Nagra



Rendering of proposed mural by Jag Nagra on Washroom/Community Room



Rendering of proposed mural by Jag Nagra on Washroom/Community Room



Rendering of proposed mural by Jag Nagra on Washroom/Community Room



Rendering of proposed mural by Jag Nagra on Washroom/Community Room

Proposed Artwork Location: Newton Athletic Park – Pavilion



**Proposed Artwork Location: Newton Athletic Park –
Washroom/Community Room**

