

## COMMUNITY PUBLIC ART WORKING GROUP

Meeting held October 21, 2025

A meeting of the Community Public Art Working Group is held this day commencing at 5:00 o'clock p.m. via Zoom video conference, there being present the following members:

Ashley Kijewski  
Donna Jean Mayne  
Spencer Montcalm  
Nadja Pelkey

### ***Absent from the meeting:***

Brian Brown  
Terrence Travis  
Utsav Ghimire

### ***Also present are the following resource personnel:***

Jen Knights, Executive Director of Culture  
Michelle Staadegaard Chair, and Manager of Cultural Affairs  
Salina Larocque, Cultural Development Coordinator  
Madelyn Della Valle, Museum Curator  
Karen Kadour, Committee Coordinator

## **1. Call to Order**

The Chair calls the meeting to order at 5:06 o'clock p.m. and the Committee considers the Agenda being Schedule A attached hereto, matters which are dealt with as follows:

The Working Group acknowledges and remembers **Leisha Nazarewich** for her dedicated service and longstanding contributions to Windsor's arts, culture, and heritage community. Leisha served as a member of the Public Art Working Group, the former Public Art Committee, and multiple Museum committees. Her passion, advocacy, and leadership helped shape the growth of public art and cultural programs in our city. Her commitment continues to inspire our collective work.

The Chair welcomes two new members, Donna Jean Mayne and Spencer Malcolm. Members are invited to share their name, background, and area of expertise, and to provide a few words about their interest in serving on the Community Public Art Working Group.

## **2. Declaration of Conflict**

Donna Jean Mayne discloses an interest and abstains from voting on Item 4.1 as she is the Sculpture Artist of the “Three Sisters”.

### 3. Adoption of the Minutes

Moved by Nadja Pelkey, seconded by Ashley Kijewski,  
That the minutes of the Community Public Art Working Group of its meeting held July 24, 2024 **BE ADOPTED** as presented.  
Carried.

### 4. Business Items

#### 4.1 Three Sisters

Salina Larocque Cultural Development Coordinator advises that the Three Sisters is a bronze sculpture that was created by the artist Donna Jean Mayne at the request of Molly and Pierre Poirier. They would like to donate this piece to become part of the City of Windsor’s Public Art Collection. She adds it is a work of their three daughters and would like to see it placed in a public space, such as Reaume Park.

**Clerk’s Note:** As Donna Jean Mayne has disclosed an interest on this matter and there is no longer a quorum, it is generally agreed that an E-mail Poll be conducted to determine next steps.

Nadja Pelkey suggests that a public art strategy be drafted as it would be beneficial for the city and the Working Group and would ensure that the works that are approved are reflective of the communities within the city.

The Chair concurs with the proposal put forth by Nadja Pelkey regarding a public art strategy. She adds if it would be helpful to the Working Group to have a guiding principle document.

Nadja Pelkey questions if an ad-hoc subcommittee can be struck to discuss policy strategy creation. The Chair to provide an update at the next meeting.

#### 4.2 All We Are Is All We Were

The Chair advises that the “All We Are Is All We Were” artwork is currently located on the Mill Street Windmill in Sandwich Town. It was originally installed back in 2013 and is a hand-shaped LED neon sign by Justin Langlois. She adds it was part of an initiation to commemorate the Bicentennial of the War in 1812. It was commissioned through the Windsor-Essex Community Foundation through a grant. She advises they are looking at the accessioning and decommissioning of this piece as the LED lighting has failed and has gone above its lifespan. The piece will be removed and decommissioned from the collection.

Moved by Nadja Pelkey, seconded by Ashley Kijewski,

That the request for the deaccession of the public artwork titled “*All We Are Is All We Were*,” a temporary LED light installation located on the Sandwich Windmill in Mill Park, **BE APPROVED**, as the artwork has reached the end of its intended ten-year lifespan and the lighting elements are no longer operable or repairable, and further,

That Administration **BE AUTHORIZED** to proceed with the safe removal and documentation of the work in accordance with the City of Windsor’s Public Art Policy and Procedure.

Carried.

## 5. New Business

### Update on Public Art Restoration and New Installations

Administration provides an update on ongoing public art restoration, conservation, and new installations completed within the City of Windsor’s Public Art portfolio in 2025.

Restoration work undertaken over the summer included conservation of several key sculptures within the Windsor Sculpture Park collection, namely *Morning Flight*, *Space Plough*, *Dancing Bear*, and the *Vietnam Memorial*.

Work was also completed at the Eternal Flame lookout area in Dieppe Gardens, which included the replacement of existing park lighting with new poles and LED fixtures, installation of a new concrete pathway around the memorial flame, and rehabilitation of the adjacent asphalt pathway along Riverside Drive. The project, now complete, enhances accessibility, safety, and visibility at this important commemorative site.

Further restoration and conservation projects include:

- **Restoration of Hiram Walker’s Front Porch** – preservation and structural improvements to the historic architectural feature, ensuring stability and longevity.
- **Restoration of the Dieppe Raid Interpretive Panels** – refurbishment of interpretive signage and replacement of damaged components to enhance public understanding of Windsor’s wartime history.
- **Ongoing relocation of the “Shift Change” mural in Ford City** – Administration continues to work with the Ford City BIA and community partners to identify an appropriate site for re-installation of the artwork.
- **Conservation work on the “Athena” tapestry, Mackenzie Hall** – textile stabilization and protective measures implemented to ensure preservation of the historic piece within the collection.
- **Deaccession of the War of 1812 Wampum Peace Belt** – completed in accordance with the City’s Public Art Policy and Procedure following Committee approval.

In addition, Administration has engaged a specialized metal restoration company to undertake the restoration of the sculpture *Trees*, ensuring its long-term preservation and stability within the collection.

As part of the City's annual conservation program, four Conservation Students were hired during the summer of 2025 to complete regular maintenance, cleaning, and condition assessments across the City's public art inventory. Their work supports the ongoing preservation of the collection and ensures that public art assets remain safe, accessible, and well-maintained.

A major highlight for 2025 was the official opening of the Legacy Beacon – Streetcar 351 on April 24, 2025. This milestone marks the culmination of a multi-year restoration project of the historic streetcar and the establishment of a new interpretive and cultural facility along the riverfront. The site has since welcomed more than 27,000 visitors between April and October 2025, serving as both a local landmark and an educational destination celebrating Windsor's transit heritage and community storytelling.

Administration also highlights the completion of two new public art installations at the Pelissier Street Parking Garage, delivered as part of the Strengthen the Core: Downtown Windsor Revitalization Plan.

The first installation, "Park in Perfect Harmony," was created in partnership with the Windsor Symphony Orchestra (WSO) and features themed parking levels named in honour of composers Bach, Mozart, Beethoven, and Tchaikovsky, with the rooftop level dedicated to the late Maestro Robert Franz (1968–2025). The installation incorporates sensor-operated musical interludes recorded by WSO musicians and interpretive signage designed by Twist Creative Studio.

The second installation, "The Language of My World," is a large-scale mural by Windsor artist David Derkatz (DERKZ). Spanning approximately 2,315 square feet, the mural celebrates Windsor's cultural diversity through imagery of music, dance, and visual art. Commissioned through a public call to artists at a value of \$55,000 and funded through the Parking Garage Capital Rehabilitation Program, the mural showcases DERKZ's distinctive fusion of graffiti and fine art.

In addition, City Council approved the renewal of Art Windsor-Essex's (AWE) "Look Again! Outside!" temporary public art exhibition for 2025–2026, extending the outdoor display of up to twenty-seven framed reproductions of artworks from the AWE collection across neighbourhoods and Business Improvement Areas throughout Windsor. Two new works will also be installed at Willistead Park. The renewed exhibition continues to strengthen community access to visual arts, enhance public spaces, and support the City's commitment to cultural vibrancy and accessibility.

Further, Administration notes the successful restoration and re-dedication of the Boer War Memorial at Jackson Park. The \$675,000 project—led by the Community Services Division through Parks, Recreation and Culture, in partnership with +VG Heritage Architects and Clifford Restoration Limited—was completed in 2024 and marked by a special ceremony on October 2, 2024. The restored monument, originally dedicated in 1906, honours 48 Windsor-Essex residents who served in the Boer War (1899–1902) and remains one of Windsor's earliest commemorative landmarks.

Together, the Boer War Memorial restoration, site-specific restoration and conservation projects, Pelissier Street Parking Garage installations, and Look Again!

Outside! renewal demonstrate the City's continued commitment to cultural stewardship, historic preservation, and public engagement through art.

Congratulations to city staff – momentous opening of transit beacon and other work that goes working group acknowledging

**6. Minutes of the Museum Capital Reserve Fund Committee**

Moved by Nadja Pelkey, seconded by Ashley Kijewski,

That the following minutes of the Museum Capital Reserve Fund **BE RECEIVED:**

- April 25, 2024
- May 6, 2025

Carried.

**Minutes of the Museum Subcommittee**

Moved by Nadja Pelkey, seconded by Spencer Montcalm,

That the following minutes of the Museum Subcommittee **BE APPROVED:**

- June 5, 2024
- September 11, 2024
- October 16, 2024
- December 4, 2024
- March 5, 2025
- May 14, 2025

Carried.

**7. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Community Public Art Working Group will be held at the call of the Chair.

**8. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting is adjourned at 5:59 o'clock p.m.