

**Date:** 2021-10-19

**Subject:** **Municipal Public Art Conservation Update and Recommendation Report**

**Contact:** **Jason Tamming**  
**Director, Strategic Communications, Culture and Events**  
**905-874-2889 | [jason.tamming@brampton.ca](mailto:jason.tamming@brampton.ca)**

**Report Number:** Corporate Support Services-2021-1188

**Recommendations:**

1. That the report titled: **Municipal Public Art Conservation Update and Recommendation Report**, dated October 19, 2021, to the Committee of Council meeting of November 17, 2021, be received;
2. That staff be directed to replace The Veteran wooden sculpture with a new replica crafted from durable materials intended for permanent display; and
3. That the Director, Strategic Communications, Corporate Support Services, be authorized approve and execute any required agreements and other documents deemed necessary for commissioning the artwork for the replacement of The Veteran, on such terms and conditions as may be satisfactory to the Director, Strategic Communications, Corporate Support Services or designate, and in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor or designate.

**Overview:**

- The City of Brampton has a growing municipal public art collection, currently comprised of 25 permanent and temporary assets. As part of responsibly managing this collection, staff retained a professional public art conservator to conduct a comprehensive condition assessment in Q4 2019-Q1 2020. Based on recommendations emerging from this assessment, conservation work on the collection was undertaken in 2021.
- Continuing this best practice, a comprehensive professional condition assessment of the permanent collection is intended to be performed every two years going forward, with conservation needs identified and prioritized for

implementation. Temporary works will be monitored by staff and maintained for the duration of their intended display.

- Through the condition assessment and conservation work, it was identified that The Veteran, a wooden sculpture located in Gage Park, Downtown Brampton, has reached the end of its viable life.
- Wood is considered a non-durable material for outdoor public art installations, which are exposed to the elements, insects, and other environmental factors.
- Recognizing the civic importance of The Veteran, it is recommended that staff be directed to replace the wooden sculpture with a new replica crafted from durable materials intended for permanent display.
- Based on industry consultation, the estimated cost of such replacement is approximately \$150,000. There is sufficient budget available in Public Art Capital Project 196860-001 to fund the replacement of The Veteran.
- Replacement of The Veteran would be supported by an appropriate communications plan, which would include liaising with key stakeholders and temporary location signage advising the public of the removal and replacement of the sculpture.
- There are two additional wooden sculptures in the municipal public art collection: Kwakiutl, located inside the Chinguacousy Greenhouse (permanent collection), and The Arts, located on the grounds of Central Public School (temporary collection).
- Based on the conservator's recommendation, Kwakiutl will be relocated to a more suitable location for its long term preservation and appreciation.
- The Arts has reached the end of its viable life and will be respectfully deaccessioned (removed from display) following best practices. Documentation of The Arts will be captured on the City's public art webpage for posterity and celebration of this temporary piece's contributions to Brampton's public realm.
- This report provides an update on municipal public art conservation activity and makes a recommendation for the management and replacement of an asset with significant civic value. Pending Council approval of this recommendation, staff will undertake the next steps in its implementation.

## **Background:**

The City of Brampton has a growing municipal public art collection, currently comprised of 25 permanent and temporary assets. As part of responsibly managing this collection, staff retained a professional public art conservator to conduct a comprehensive condition assessment in Q4 2019-Q1 2020. Based on recommendations emerging from this assessment, conservation work on the collection was undertaken in 2021.

See **Appendix A** for a list of municipal public art assets and their current state.

This is the first time that a comprehensive condition assessment of the municipal public art collection has been undertaken. Previously, assessment and conservation of individual assets were performed on an as-needed basis. This information is foundational for supporting a well-maintained collection and program planning in alignment with key City strategies such as Brampton Plan and the Culture Master Plan, as well as the integration of public art into the Corporate Asset Management Plan and annual State of Local Infrastructure Reporting.

Recognizing the importance of continuing this best practice, a comprehensive professional condition assessment of the permanent collection is intended to be performed every two years going forward, with conservation needs identified and prioritized for implementation. Temporary works will be monitored by staff and maintained for the duration of their intended display.

### **Current Situation:**

Through the condition assessment and conservation work, it was identified that The Veteran, a wooden sculpture located in Gage Park, Downtown Brampton, has reached the end of its viable life.

While typically less expensive than other sculptural materials, wood is considered a non-durable material for outdoor public art installations, which are exposed to the elements, insects, and other environmental factors. While maintenance can prolong their expected lifespan, outdoor wooden sculptures are not intended for permanent display. Depending on the location, type of wood used and exterior coating, the lifespan of such sculptures can generally range from 5 to 10 years.

The Veteran was originally carved by artist Jim Menken in 2005, in honour of the National Year of the Veteran, from the trunk of a dying red oak tree that stood in Gage Park for more than a century. Due to the natural deterioration of the wood, the sculpture was replaced in 2012.

The sculpture is modelled after Brampton resident Bill Bettridge, a decorated veteran of World War II and survivor of Operation Overlord, in Normandy, France. The sculpture stands in silent tribute to the many men and women who served and continue to serve our nation in wars and peacekeeping missions around the world.

See **Appendix B** for a picture of The Veteran sculpture.

Recognizing the civic importance of The Veteran, it is recommended that staff be directed to replace the wooden sculpture with a new replica crafted from durable materials intended for permanent display. Based on industry consultation, the estimated cost of such replacement is approximately \$150,000.

Pending Council approval of the recommendation, replacement efforts would include the following next steps:

- Removing the wooden sculpture from its base and storing it in a City facility, where it will be temporarily kept and used as a template for crafting the replacement.
- Undertaking a process under the Purchasing By-Law Schedule D Non-Application Items 9j: for a work of art and 9k: entertainment, cultural or artistic services, to retain a qualified artist vendor for the replacement.
- Developing an appropriate communications plan to support this project that includes temporary location signage advising the public of the temporary removal and replacement of the sculpture, and liaising with key stakeholders including the Royal Canadian Legion Branches 15 and 609, and the original artist, who have been apprised of this report.

### **Management of Additional Wooden Assets in Collection**

There are two additional wooden sculptures in the municipal public art collection, detailed in Appendix A:

#### ***Permanent Collection***

Title	Kwakiutl
Artist	Simon Charlie <i>*Renowned Coast Salish Indigenous Canadian artist who was named a 2003 recipient of the Order of Canada for his contribution to education and preservation of his cultural heritage.</i>
Description	Kwakiutl was commissioned in 1972 by the Township of Chinguacousy as a welcome statue to stand at the entrance of the new municipal offices. This sculpture has been kept indoors since its acquisition.
Location	Inside the Chinguacousy Greenhouse, 225 Central Park Drive, Brampton.
Next Steps	Based on the conservator's recommendation, staff will relocate the sculpture to a new indoor site that is more environmentally suited to the permanent preservation and appreciation of this historic asset.

#### ***Temporary Collection***

Title	The Arts
-------	----------

Artist	Robbin Wenzoski
Description	The Arts depicts symbols of various art forms, including and not limited to music, visual arts, performing arts, and literary arts.
Location	Outdoor grounds of Central Public School, 24 Alexander Street, Brampton.
Next Steps	The Arts has reached the end of its viable life and will be respectfully deaccessioned (removed from display) following best practices. Documentation of The Arts will be captured on the City's public art webpage for posterity and celebration of this temporary piece's contributions to Brampton's public realm.

### **Corporate Implications:**

#### Financial Implications:

There is sufficient funding available under the Strategic Communications, Culture and Events Division for the replacement of The Veteran. Funding is available in the Public Art Investment capital project 196860-001.

#### Legal Implications:

Legal Services will review and approve as to form any agreements necessary for commissioning the artwork for the replacement of The Veteran.

#### Parks Maintenance and Operations Implications:

Through its community outreach programming, Parks Maintenance and Operations has developed a number of artful wooden benches and small carvings. Cultural Services will support Parks Maintenance and Operations in assessing, monitoring and maintaining these existing pieces throughout their intended life, and reviewing them for potential inclusion in the Temporary Public Art Collection.

### **Term of Council Priorities:**

This report supports the Term of Council Priorities of Brampton is a Well-Run City and Brampton is a Mosaic, by effectively managing municipal assets that contribute to inclusive civic and cultural expression.

### **Culture Master Plan**

This report aligns with the vision and definition of culture in Brampton and the strategic themes of Supporting Success, Developing a Creative Community of Practice, and Building Brampton's Identity.

### **Conclusion:**

This report provides an update on municipal public art conservation activity and makes recommendations for the management and replacement of an asset with significant civic importance. Pending Council approval of these recommendations, staff will undertake the next steps in their implementation.

Authored by:

Reviewed by:

---

Victoria Mountain, Manager, Culture  
Kelly Stahl, Senior Manager, Cultural  
Services

---

Jason Tamming  
Director, Strategic Communications, Culture  
and Events

Approved by:

Submitted by:

---

Michael Davidson  
Commissioner, Corporate Support  
Services

---

David Barrick  
Chief Administrative Officer

### **Attachments:**

Appendix A: List of Municipal Public Art Assets – Current State

Appendix B: Image of The Veteran sculpture