



DATE: December 8, 2020

TO: Mayor and Members of Council

FROM: Sharon Gaum-Kuchar, Senior Art Curator and Planner
Raphael Costa, Acting Director, Economic and Cultural Development

RE: **COMMUNICATION – Special Committee of the Whole (Budget)**
December 8, 2020

Item #1 - DRAFT 2021 BUDGET AND 2022 FINANCIAL PLAN
(REFERRED)

ACQUISITION OF ORIGINAL WORKS OF ART DEPCITING
VAUGHAN’S NATURAL AND BUILT ENVIRONMENTS

Recommendations

1. That staff be authorized to investigate the acquisition of an individual collection of original works of art:
 - a. currently available in the marketplace (and not already accessible to the public through a recognized public sector gallery);
 - b. that depicts subjects illustrating the natural and built environments within the Township of Vaughan and the Village of Woodbridge, the Town of Vaughan and the City of Vaughan, and;
 - c. that exhibits artistic value and holds curatorial merit subject to the evaluation of the Senior Art Curator and Planner.
2. That staff return to a future Committee of the Whole to report on the results of the investigation that inform a recommendation and receive approval to acquire identified works;
3. That staff bring forward an Art and Artist Stewardship Policy Framework in 2021 to guide the Corporation in employing best practice to manage and advance collection asset management, art acquisition and integration, exhibition development and artist remuneration

Background

1. How many items meet the above criteria;

A fine art collection has been identified relevant to Vaughan's archival cultural heritage featuring the work of an established artist that is currently available for purchase. The collection consists of 47 paintings, seven of which meet the criteria laid out in Recommendation 1. These works chronicle a series of nostalgic vistas that illustrate disappearing rural Vaughan landscapes painted "en plein air" (in the open air) during the 1970s-90s.

The collection features work by Salvatore Gallo, a painter represented by the Kipling Gallery. Gallo is an established Toronto-based visual artist, who painted alongside members of the Group of Seven and whose work is housed in a number of private, corporate and public collections. The Kipling Gallery is a respected Vaughan-based commercial art gallery featuring original fine art by contemporary artists in the GTA, provincially and internationally.

The City's curatorial evaluation of the collection of 47 Gallo paintings currently available for purchase from the Kipling Gallery, deems seven works exhibit a degree of artistic value and curatorial merit compatible with the calibre established for Vaughan's Corporate Art Collection. This assessment was based on each of the seven works meeting a set of art evaluation criteria measuring technical competence, aesthetic value, artistic originality, relevance of subject matter, painterly composition and interpretive narrative.

2. What the individual and collective purchase price might be;

Seven of the 47 works available for purchase on the Kipling list merit acquisition for the City's Corporate Art Collection. The total fair-market value and listed price for these seven paintings is \$12,995 with the most expensive work offered at \$2,465. All seven works require remounting and proper framing for professional display at an estimated cost of \$3,150. The total estimated expenditure to acquire all seven works at asking price with framing and taxes is \$18,245.

Please see the attached list of seven works with images, descriptive labels and the Kipling Gallery's list prices reflecting fair-market values.

3. Where the said artwork might best be exhibited;

It is proposed the artwork be exhibited in publicly accessible locations that can accommodate a collective grouping of the artist's paintings with some interpretive context. The following locations present a number of relevant (but not exhaustive) installation site options: Vaughan Archives and other Vaughan City Hall public areas, VPL boardrooms, and eventually, within the new Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital (in keeping with a proposed future partnership with the City of Vaughan to exhibit curated installations featuring selected work from the City's Corporate Art Collection).

For more information, contact Sharon Gaum-Kuchar, Senior Art Curator and Planner, or Raphael Costa, Acting Director, Economic and Cultural Development.

Attachments:

- 1) List of Identified works

Respectfully submitted by

Jim Harnum, City Manager

LIST OF WORKS

ATTACHMENT #1



1. The Grain Ready Harvesting
Pine Valley
June 27th 1991
18 x 14 inches

\$1,270.00



2. Rivalda Farm
Weston Road South of Highway 7
October 19th 1989
18 x 24 inches

\$1,900.00



3. NW corner of Weston Rd. & Rutherford Rd., 1984
The grain is ready to harvest
Oil on board
28" x 21 7/8"

\$2,465.00



4. City of Vaughan
Jane St. and Langstaff Rd. looking East,
1989
Oil on board
18" x 14"

\$1,170.00



5. The Maple Hill
Weston Rd North of Major Mackenzie
July 15th 1990
28 x 22

\$2,650.00



6. The Man Walking in the Snow
Pine Valley South of Major Mackenzie
Oil on Canvas
Jan 2nd 1976
20 x 16

\$1,460.00



7. The Cultivators
Rutherford North West
June 27th 1980
Oil on Board
26 x 20
\$2,080.00