COMMUNICATION UPDATE

TO: Mayor and Members
    General Issues Committee

DATE: June 6, 2022

SUBJECT: Placemaking Grant Pilot Program 2022 Update (City Wide)

WARD(S) AFFECTED: City Wide

SUBMITTED BY: Carrie Brooks-Joiner
               Director, Tourism and Culture
               Planning and Economic Development Department

SIGNATURE: [Signature]

The Placemaking Grant Pilot Program (See Report PED20048) was approved by Council on July 17, 2020 with the purpose of funding temporary projects that animated public spaces across the City.

Applications were accepted from groups of residents and non-profit organizations in April 2021 and December 2021. All projects were reviewed for technical feasibility and ranked using the published assessment criteria.

In total, the Placemaking Grant Pilot Program has awarded $100,000 in funding to 23 community-led projects with 13 projects funded in 2021 and 10 projects funded in 2022. The Placemaking Grant Pilot Program was made possible through a $100,000 donation from the Patrick J. McNally Charitable Foundation.

Please refer to Appendix “A” attached to this Communication Update for a list and description of projects awarded funding in 2022.

The Placemaking Grant Pilot Program has been supported by staff across the Corporation including the Tourism and Culture Division; Parks and Cemeteries Section; Recreation Events Team; Facilities Management Section; Roadway Maintenance Section; Neighbourhood Development Section; Landscape Architectural Services Section; Forestry and Horticulture Section; Watershed Management; Business Services and Community Programs (Environmental Services); and Legal and Risk Services Division.
The Placemaking Grant Pilot Program will be reviewed by staff in late 2022 with an Information Report provided to Council in early 2023 highlighting the results of these community-led placemaking projects and potential next steps.

If you require any further information on the above matter, please contact Sarah Ehmke, Senior Project Manager - Placemaking and Animation by e-mail at Sarah.Ehmke@hamilton.ca or at (905) 546-2424 Ext. 7505.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

Appendix “A” - Placemaking Grant Pilot Program 2022 Funded Projects

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Placemaking Grant Pilot Program 2022 Funded Projects

The Garden of Repairs Bioremediation Project

Location: Barton Street West site under consideration (Ward 2)  
Funding Recipient: Group of residents led by Zoe Hayes and Sarah Mihara Creagen  
Funding: $20,000  
Estimated Timeline: Site preparation starts Fall 2022, garden and arts programming in 2023  

Project description:

The Garden of Repairs will be an active bioremediation garden existing for 12 to 18 months. This garden will be a living demonstration of the possibility of soil remediation from contaminants in collaboration with plants, mushrooms and bacteria. It will also act as the focal point for seasonal interventions that will be free and open to all community members, including installations, performance and workshops. Led by local artists, this will animate and engage the community around concepts of remediation, repair, responsibility and relationship to land in this specific context. The gardeners and artists working on this project include folks who identify as Queer and/or disabled, and the Garden of Repairs is in part a meditation on chronic illness and queer community. What does healing and repair look like? Signage on site will share information about the Garden's current physical state and resources to create bioremediation processes at home.

Urban Moorings Two

Location: Princess Point/Cootes Paradise (Ward 1)  
Funding Recipient: Group of residents led by Nora Hutchinson  
Funding: $16,000  
Estimated Timeline: Installation planned for August 2022  

Project description:

In conjunction with the Royal Botanical Gardens launch of their water quality remediation floats installed on the lower Chedoke Creek watershed, Urban Moorings Two will bring together six local artists to create installations sculptures in dialogue with the floating garden flats. This public art project will bring awareness to environmental and cultural challenges within Hamilton’s urban watersheds flowing to Cootes Paradise Marsh.

Animal Alley!

Location: Pedestrian path from Harnesworth Crescent to plaza (Ward 15)  
Funding Recipient: Group of residents led by Bhairavi Jathar Talpade  
Funding: $2,000  
Estimated Timeline: Installation expected Summer 2022  

Project description:

This path is used by residents at Harnesworth Crescent and people who want to avoid busier streets including small kids, dog walkers and elderly people. To help make the pathway more welcoming, a series of portraits will be created featuring dogs and other pets that live in the neighbourhood and signage that encourages dog owners to pick up waste. The project organizers plan to involve kids and pet owners when creating the artwork.
Community Place Keeping

Location: Captain Cornelius Park (Ward 8)
Funding Recipient: Neighbour to Neighbour Centre
Funding: $2,000
Estimated Timeline: Installation expected Summer 2022

Project description:

The Place Keeping Mound Gardens Project will make Indigenous food systems visible in an area that has always benefited from Indigenous presence and stewardship of the land. By engaging local Indigenous seed-savers and poly-culture experts, mound gardens will be created with three-sisters’ plantings in a traditional Haudenosaunee gardening technique. The new gardens will be installed in partnership with local elders and maintained three times per week by an existing garden program adjacent to the new mound gardens. The new gardens will be animated for community engagement during garden sessions three times per week, and during special community teaching events.

EcoHouse Neighbour Nights

Location: 22 Veevers Drive (Ward 5)
Funding Recipient: Hamilton-Wentworth Green Venture
Funding: $2,000
Estimated Timeline: Summer/Fall 2022

Project description:

Neighbour Nights at EcoHouse is an invitation for the community surrounding the historic Veevers property to engage in re-envisioning how this two-acre greenspace in the east end of Hamilton can be used, reanimated and become more recognized as an open community greenspace and neighborhood asset. The pandemic has illuminated how essential greenspaces like this are to a community. On-site programming, seating and new signage will encourage new ways of engaging with the space.

Finding What Grows: Lisa Myer’s Guided Audio Walk

Location: Gage Park (Ward 3)
Funding Recipient: McMaster Museum of Art
Funding: $2,000
Estimated Timeline: Summer 2022

Project description:

Signage will be added to encourage the public to experience “Finding what Grows”, an audio walk by contemporary artist Lisa Myers that calls for remembering and learning from the garden originally planted by the late Mi’kmaq artist Mike MacDonald in Gage Park in 2000 for the public art project “Zone 6b: Art in the Environment”. Guiding listeners around the grounds including the area of the original work, the public is invited to consider the relationships and interconnection between land, humans, pollinators, and plants, always conscious of nearby extractive and refinement industries.
Library Lane Makeover

Location: Alley that runs from Milton Street to Fullerton Avenue (Ward 3)
Funding Recipient: Beautiful Alleys
Funding: $2,000
Estimated Timeline: Summer/Fall 2022

Project description:

The alley is a popular and active part of the Gibson neighbourhood that acts as an alternative pathway for residents, children attending parks, schools and recreation facilities and the local library. Project will install art on the back of the old Colonial Hotel that will reflect the importance that the library plays in our area depicting an educational theme and informally naming it Library Lane. This artwork will contribute to creating a positive and welcoming space that will uplift the area and embrace the history of the neighbourhood and its current use.

Ottawa Market Mural

Location: 204 Ottawa Street North (Ward 4)
Funding Recipient: Clear Eyes Collective
Funding: $2,000
Estimated Timeline: Installation expected Summer 2022

Project description:

The focus of this project is to transform an alley into a beautiful space, creating a warm and inclusive environment for community members to meet and connect. The mural would serve as a visual transformation of the space, aimed at creating a feeling of welcomeness for locals and visitors alike. The mural would be the first step to convert the under-developed alley into a courtyard.

Powell Park Mural

Location: Powell Park (Ward 3)
Funding Recipient: Group of residents led by Brenda Duke
Funding: $2,000
Estimated Timeline: Installation scheduled for June 2022

Project description:

This project will engage an artist to paint a mural on a blank plywood wall that separates the adjoining residential property from Powell Park. The park is home to playgrounds, splash pads and recreation activities. The mural is expected to reflect those aspects and highlight our diverse demographics. It would include the name, address and contact for the Powell Park.

The Hamilton blue line/La ligne bleue de Hamilton

Location: Mainly along James Street, with boundaries being Murray Street in the north, Hess Street in the west, Hunter Street in the south and Mary Street in the east (Ward 2)
Funding Recipient: Centre francophone Hamilton
Funding: $1,800  
Estimated Timeline: Summer 2022  

Project description:  

An urban trail in downtown Hamilton designed to highlight buildings, public art and businesses specifically related to immigration. Places of interest will be indicated with large stickers with a QR code that visitors can scan in order to read or hear the story of people connected to the place. A virtual line to follow will also appear on an interactive map, so they know where to go next to continue on the journey. The trail will also be printed on maps distributed to local businesses. During the summer, artists and community members will perform in front of each of the places of interest and tell immigration stories through their art, animating the line.