

Deborah Liske

From: Corporate Services
Subject: FW: Mural Festival bylaw exemption

CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ESQUIMALT
RECEIVED: June 14, 2021
For Information __CAO __Mayor/Council
Other _____
Referred to: <u>Anja</u>
For __Action __Response __Report
For Agenda <u>X</u> Council __COTW __IC
(not for late item)

From: susan gage [REDACTED]
Sent: June-13-21 1:03 PM
To: Meagan Brame <meagan.brame@esquimalt.ca>
Cc: Mayor and Council <mayorandcouncil@esquimalt.ca>; Laura Hermakin <laura.esquimaltunited@gmail.com>; barenda jonel dupuis [REDACTED]; Amy Campbell [REDACTED]; Zsuzsa Harsman <[REDACTED]>; Corporate Services <Corporate.Services@esquimalt.ca>; ECAH <laurabeth@ecah.ca>
Subject: Re: Mural Festival bylaw exemption

Hello Meagan,
Thanks so much for letting us know. We look forward to hearing the outcome of Monday's Council meeting.

Yours,
Susan & the EUC Mural Team

On Jun 13, 2021, at 12:41 PM, Meagan Brame <meagan.brame@esquimalt.ca> wrote:

Thank you for your email - as you have also sent it to corporate services it should be added as a late agenda item for the meeting.

Councillor Meagan Brame
Township of Esquimalt

> On Jun 13, 2021, at 12:28 PM, susan gage wrote:

>

> > Dear Mayor Desjardins and members of Council,

> I am attaching a letter from Esquimalt United Church regarding our hope for a mural facing Lyall St., to be created during the Esquimalt Mural Festival in late August. I realize this is a very late submission, but hope that it can be considered in your deliberations when Laura-Beth Keane of ECAH makes her presentation to you on Monday.

>

> Thank you!

>

> Yours,

> Susan Gage

> Esquimalt United Church Mural Team



ESQUIMALT UNITED CHURCH

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June 13, 2021

Esquimalt Mayor and Council
Township of Esquimalt Municipal Hall
1229 Esquimalt Road
Esquimalt, BC V9A 3P1

Re: Mural Festival bylaw exemption

Dear Mayor Desjardin and Council Members,

As members of the Esquimalt United Church Mural Team, we are writing to you in support of the proposal being presented at Monday's council meeting by Laura-Beth of ECAH (Esquimalt Community Arts Hub). Her proposal asks Council to allow bylaw exemption so that Esquimalt United Church and Tudor House be permitted to participate in the Esquimalt Mural Festival. Our plan is to have a mural on the outside of Wheeley Hall, facing Lyall St.

We'd like to tell you what this mural would mean for us. Ever since we learned of the ECAH-directed Esquimalt Mural Festival, our congregation has been excited by the idea of participating and continuing visibly our commitment to reconciliation with First Nations. You may remember that our church has been working on reconciliation for some time; in 2019 we organized a number of events around reconciliation, including the KAIROS Blanket Exercise for which we received an Esquimalt Council community grant. Several Esquimalt Councillors attended this event as well as the police and some key municipal staff.

We envision the mural as being a step further on this journey of reconciliation. We are building on the many meetings and consultations we had with Florence Dick, our cultural liaison of the Songhees Nation in 2019 & 2020, where she requested we support projects that focus on Indigenous youth. The project management & artistic design will be led by an experienced Indigenous mural artist. They will also be responsible for mentoring the 10 youth (Indigenous & non-Indigenous) to develop the skills and vision to implement the mural.

We have the full support of our Board and have held a congregational meeting to collect ideas and are working closely with the Victoria Native Friendship Center, UVIC Center for Youth & Society, Debbie Douez Art Therapy and Laura-Beth Keane at ECAH. The cost of our mural is estimated at \$16,000. We have already raised nearly \$11,000 by securing a United Church ProVision Fund grant and receiving donations, and we have a series of fundraising events planned within our congregation to raise the rest. We are confident we can meet the full cost of the mural.

Our community and our larger society are reeling from the losses and insecurity brought by the COVID-19 pandemic, our colonial history and the ecological violence all around us. These are constant reminders that show us that something deep is broken and in need of healing. This mural and its theme of reconciliation would be a way forward, to continue to learn, heal and grow together. It would reach into the community to give voices to our youth and encourage conversations about art and reconciliation – the kind of conversation that we believe you, as members of Esquimalt Council, are committed to as well.

We hope you will allow this bylaw exemption and help to further our dreams of reconciliation.

Yours sincerely, on behalf of the EUC Mural Team,

Laura+

Rev. Dr. Laura Hermakin, Amy Campbell, Barendra Jonel Dupuis, Susan Gage, Zsuzsa Harsman