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**Date** March 18, 2025 **Report No.** 2025-101

**To** Chair and Members  
Committee of the Whole – Planning and Administration

**From** Nicole Wilmot, MCIP, RPP  
Commissioner of Community Development

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### 1.0 Type of Report

Consent Item   
Item For Consideration

### 2.0 Topic Deaccessioning of Art at Brantford and Area Sports Hall of Recognition [Financial Impact: None]

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### 3.0 Recommendation

- A. THAT Report No. 2025-101 Deaccessioning of Art at Brantford and Area Sports Hall of Recognition BE RECEIVED; and
- B. THAT Staff BE DIRECTED to remove the art piece titled “Welcome Sculpture” from the Sports Hall.

### 4.0 Executive Summary

The ‘Welcome Sculpture’, depicting a young hockey player tying their skates that serves as a welcoming feature to the Brantford and Area Sports Hall of Recognition, has suffered structural damage. City staff received a detailed estimate to repair the sculpture at a cost of \$8,235.00. This cost would repair the sculpture, but not prevent further deterioration. Feedback received from the original donor, Brant Mutual Insurance, as well the Sports Hall Executive Committee, indicates that there is no interest from either party in repairing the

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sculpture. As this donated artwork does not belong to the City's Public Art Collection, the City is unable to allocate funds from the Public Art Reserve Fund to address the repairs. Consequently, it is recommended that City staff proceed with deaccessioning and removing of the 'Welcome Sculpture'. This item is being brought forward to the attention of Brantford's City Council as per the City's [Gifts and Donations – External Acquisitions](#) Policy (CORPORATE-014), which provides that all gifts and donations being considered for deaccessioning must be approved by City Council.

## 5.0 Purpose and Overview

The purpose of this report is to inform Brantford's City Council of the recommendations made by the Sports Hall Executive Committee regarding the art piece on display in front of the Brantford and Area Sports Hall of Recognition.

## 6.0 Background

As per staff report CD2013-230, Brant Mutual Insurance Company entered into a donation agreement with the City of Brantford to support the Wayne Gretzky Sports Centre in 2013. The company pledged a total donation of \$30,000 over a four-year period, which was specifically allocated towards the 'Welcome Sculpture' for the Brantford and Area Sports Hall of Recognition. The purpose of the donation was to fund the acquisition and installation of a welcome sculpture ('Welcome Sculpture') that would be situated outside the main entrance of the Sports Hall of Recognition, located at the Wayne Gretzky Sports Centre, 254 North Park Street, Brantford, ON N3R 4L1. Notably, the 'Welcome Sculpture' was donated as a standalone piece to the Brantford and Area Sports Hall of Recognition, and as such, does not fall within the City's Public Art Collection or its associated annual operating budget for the maintenance of the City's public art.

## 7.0 Corporate Policy Context

### 7.1 Public Arts Policy (CORPORATE-035)

The City of Brantford recognizes the value of art in public places that reflects the diversity of our community, provides unique attractions for citizens and visitors, and strengthens community pride. Public Art celebrates our culture, history, people, events and locations while enhancing our economic vibrancy.

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## **7.2 Gifts and Donations – External Acquisitions Policy (CORPORATE-014)**

The City's [Gifts and Donations – External Acquisitions](#) Policy provides that all gifts and donations being considered for de-accessioning must be approved by City Council.

## **7.3 Public Nuisance (By-law Chapter 556)**

- This by-law defines a public nuisance and includes enforcement measures for those found to be in contravention.
- “Graffiti” means an unauthorized and deliberate defacement of property and includes markings, of one or more letters, symbol, marks, designs or drawings placed on any structure, place or thing without the consent of the property owner, excluding all signs as permitted in the Outdoor Sign By-law.

## **8.0 Input From Other Sources**

This Report includes input from staff in the Economic Development, Tourism & Cultural Initiatives, Facilities, and Parks and Recreation Departments. It also includes input from the Brantford and Area Sports Hall of Recognition Executive Committee and Public Art Subcommittee.

## **9.0 Analysis**

### **9.1 Maintenance of Sports Hall Art Piece**

The sculpture, serving as a welcoming feature to the Sports Hall of Recognition within the Wayne Gretzky Sports Centre, has suffered structural damage. The sculpture, designed to mimic the appearance of bronze, is fabricated from composite materials, including fiberglass, Bondo, and paint, to replicate a bronze-like finish. As a result, the materials have cracked in several areas and are beginning to chip away. Furthermore, the armature and the sculpture's body interface have sustained impact damage associated with the public climbing on or striking the artwork.

A professionally accredited conservator from Conservation of Sculptures, Monuments, & Objects (CSMO), a leading organization in the field of sculpture conservation, has provided a comprehensive estimate for the

conservation and remediation of the sculpture. The total cost quoted for the proper remediation and repair of the sculpture is \$8,235.00.

It is important to note that while the conservator possesses the ability to design a stronger armature and implement additional support to anchor the sculpture to the bench, these enhancements will ultimately not change the vulnerability of the composite materials. As a result, the sculpture would remain vulnerable to potential vandalism and damage from impact forces.

Figure 1 Structural damage to the front of the 'Welcome Sculpture'.



## 9.2 Feedback from Public Art Subcommittee

The 'Welcome Sculpture' is a standalone piece that was donated to the Brantford and Area Sports Hall of Recognition and is not part of the City's Public Art Collection or its associated annual operating budget for public art maintenance. Consequently, the Public Art Subcommittee has no comments to provide regarding this matter.

## 9.3 Feedback from Sports Hall Executive Committee

Given that this artwork was donated to the City as a 'Welcome Sculpture' to the Brantford and Area Sports Hall of Recognition, the Sports Hall Executive Committee was consulted regarding the damage to the sculpture. During their board meeting on January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025, it was

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communicated to the Executive Committee that the statue had suffered structural damage, with remediation of the statue to come at a cost of \$8,235.00. The detailed conservator report was provided to the Executive Committee, and the committee was invited to provide feedback on the repair of the sculpture. The committee unanimously decided against allocating any funds towards the sculpture's repair, concluding that their fundraising and sponsorship efforts would be more effectively directed toward other priorities.

#### **9.4 Feedback from Brant Mutual Insurance**

It was communicated to Brant Mutual Insurance that, as the piece is not part of the City's Public Art Collection, the City is unable to allocate funds from the Public Art budget for a conservator to conduct the necessary repairs. The comprehensive report from the conservator was shared with Brant Mutual Insurance, and they were invited to provide their feedback on the proposed repairs.

Written communication from Brant Mutual Insurance to City staff notes that, during their December 2024 board meeting, the board unanimously decided against providing funding to repair the sculpture, citing more effective uses for their funds.

With Brant Mutual Insurance's approval for deaccessioning the sculpture, the City's legal services department is now drafting an agreement to formally terminate the existing donation agreement between Brant Mutual Insurance and the City.

### **10.0 Financial Implications**

There are no financial implications as result of this Report. Staff will remove the statue with caution and care and remediate any damage to the bench as soon as the statue is removed. Any required repairs to the bench will be covered through existing funds in the Sports Hall operating budget.

### **11.0 Climate and Environmental Implications**

There are no direct climate and environmental implications as result of the recommendations in this Report. However, since the sculpture is fabricated from composite materials, it is recommended to dispose the sculpture as hazardous waste so it can be recycled and kept out of the landfill to avoid any potential environmental damage.

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## 12.0 Conclusion

Following the assessment of damage to the 'Welcome Structure' at the Brantford and Area Sports Hall of Recognition, as well as extensive feedback from Brant Mutual Insurance and the Sports Hall Executive Committee, it is recommended that the 'Welcome Sculpture' be removed by City staff.



for

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Nicole Wilmot, MCIP, RPP  
Commissioner of Community Development

Prepared By:

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Attachments (if applicable)

Appendix A – Gift Agreement – Brant Mutual Insurance

Copy to:

Sports Hall Executive Committee

In adopting this report, is a by-law or agreement required? If so, it should be referenced in the recommendation section.

By-law required  yes  no

Agreement(s) or other documents to be signed by Mayor and/or City Clerk  yes  no

Is the necessary by-law or agreement being sent concurrently to Council?  yes  no