

# CITY OF VANCOUVER

## Culture, Arts & Heritage Commission



**DATE:** September 14, 2023

**TO:** City of Vancouver Culture, Arts & Heritage Commission

**FROM:** Stacey Donovan, Cultural Services Manager

**RE:** Mother Camas Project - Review Guidelines

Fourth Plain Forward has been working in partnership with Medicine Bear Community to install a Welcoming Figure of Mother Camas by Yakima Tribe artist Toma Vila in the traffic island at Saint John's Boulevard and E. Fourth Plain Boulevard. Privately-owned art installed in the public right of way is subject to a Long Term Right of Way Permit and the City's Art in the Right of Way policy. The project team is working with Public Works to obtain the permit and seeks the Culture, Arts and Heritage Commission's approval of the artwork to satisfy the Art in the Right of Way policy.

### Project Description

From the project team: "We are thrilled to introduce an exceptional art installation to Vancouver, WA. 'Mother Camas' is a captivating Welcoming Figure by the talented Yakama Native American artist Toma Villa. This magnificent piece is inspired by the rich cultural heritage of the Suquamish tribe but also represents the deep connection between Fourth Plain Forward and the community they serve. Through 'Mother Camas,' we aim to foster a sense of unity, connection, and appreciation for our diverse community. We invite you to experience this remarkable artwork that beautifully intertwines tradition and creativity." Landscaping by Jane Tesner Kleiner will feature native species to compliment and support the artwork. The landscape has been designed to support pollinators, account for dry and sunny conditions and maintain safe viewsheds for vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians.

### About Fourth Plain Forward

Fourth Plain Forward is the Place-Based Development Organization overseeing a diverse 2.4 sq mile district in central Vancouver, focused on addressing systemic racism, poverty, and health disparities. Serving marginalized communities, and collaborating with systems, grassroots organizations, and businesses to dismantle barriers and extend support beyond geographical boundaries. Our mission is to accelerate equity for our community.



### **About Medicine Bear**

Medicine Bear, under the direction of RedStone Rodolfo Serna, a local community mural artist, seeks to bring healing and opportunity to our community by providing Indigenous art and culture programming. Originally Medicine Bear was providing spiritual guidance and cultural mentoring to at-risk youth, families, and the houseless community through traditional Native American Ceremony, Sobriety Promotion, and Education.

## **Criteria for Consideration**

### **Approval of Location**

This location was recommended for public art installation by Vancouver's Public Art Committee in 2020.

### **Approval of Artwork**

- The artwork should enhance its setting and help create a sense of place
- Artwork must be suitable for display to a diverse audience, including children
- Artworks that contain profanity, religious or political messages, obscenity or explicit sexual imagery, nudity, graphic depictions of violence or would create a hostile environment are not permitted
- Artwork must be safe for display in the public right of way (e.g. no unsealed rust, sharp edges) and for people interacting with the art.
- All materials used in the artwork must be provided, maintained, and paid for by the applicant