

**COMMON COUNCIL REPORT**

M&C No.	2022-251
Report Date	July 15, 2022
Meeting Date	July 25, 2022
Service Area	Growth and Community Services

Her Worship Mayor Donna Noade Reardon and Members of Common Council

***SUBJECT: Service Agreement for John Hooper's Timepiece***

***AUTHORIZATION***

Primary Author	Commissioner/Dept. Head	City Manager
<b><i>Kate Wilcott</i></b>	<b><i>Jacqueline Hamilton</i></b>	<b><i>John Collin</i></b>

***RECOMMENDATION***

1. That the City enter into a Service agreement with Hooper Studios and Byers Studios to provide the restoration work for John Hooper's Timepiece.
2. That the Mayor and Common Clerk be authorized to execute the Service Agreement (Attachment 'A').

***EXECUTIVE SUMMARY***

John Hooper's Timepiece has been a way faring anchor for residents and visitors to the city since it was commissioned as part of the development of Market Square in 1983. Built from polychromed and gilded mahogany and oak, the public art piece stands at 762.0 cm in height and has spent the past 38 years subjected to the outdoor elements, requiring both major and minor restoration work on the wooden pieces as well as the clock mechanism.

After suffering vandalism in 2020, and needing extensive restoration due to weather damage, city staff and the Hooper family moved the piece to the Hooper Studios for restoration. This move coincided with the redevelopment of the area around Market Square.

Due to the material of the statue and the amount of restoration needed, staff and the Hooper family, in consultation with the Saint John Community Arts Board, will chose a new indoor public location for this beloved public art. The Hardman Group originally offered to house the piece in the atrium of Market Square but have informed staff that they are no longer able to place the Timepiece within their building.

Work on the Timepiece will take place during the summer months and will be completed by early fall 2022.

## **PREVIOUS RESOLUTION**

n/a

## **REPORT**

Public art can express community values, enhance our environment, transform a landscape, heighten our awareness, or question our assumptions. Placed in public sites, the art is there for everyone, a form of collective community expression. Many of these large-scale forms are intended to be interacted with, viewed close-up, and touched.

Saint John area-based artist John Hooper contributed a vibrant array of large scale whimsical wooden sculptures to the City of Saint John's Public Art landscape. Revered as one of the country's foremost practitioners of wooden art, the late Mr. Hooper's works are celebrated for their humour, satire, bright colours, and comments on social justice and human triumph over adversity.

Hooper's art can be viewed at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa, the Pilgrim School in Los Angeles, the Sinclair Centre in Vancouver, as well as various locations in and around Greater Saint John.

One of Hooper's most recognizable sculptures is Timepiece, an almost two story, three-tiered column with wooden figures and a time mechanism, commissioned in 1983 by the Rocca Group Market Square Development Ltd as part of the construction of the Market Square Complex. Hooper was also commissioned to create People Apart Coming Together, located near the entrance to the Saint John Trade and Convention Centre in the Market Square Complex.

The City of Saint John and the Hardman Group, the lessee of Market Square, are the current owners of the Timepiece.

In the Spring of 2020, the Timepiece was damaged through vandalism and upon inspection it was deemed to require repairs and restoration to various parts of the structure.

The Timepiece was relocated from its base at the St. Patrick Street entrance of Market Square to Hooper Studios in Hampton, where it is to be cleaned, repaired and restored by Hooper Studios and Byers Studios. This coincided with the redevelopment of the area around Market Square, including the St. Patrick Street entrance, the Boardwalk, and Market Slip.

The restoration of the Timepiece will be performed at Hooper Studios by members of the Hooper Family and Darren Byers in accordance with the quote provided (Schedule A) and the contractual agreement. The City will continue to

insure the Timepiece at all times. The work will be completed by the end of summer 2022, and the City will then relocate the sculpture to another location.

Due to the material used in the construction the Timepiece, the age of the piece, and the climate of Saint John, both city staff and the Hooper family have made the decision to relocate the piece to an indoor location.

The City and Hardman Group had agreed to relocate the Timepiece to the Atrium of Market Square after the restoration, but the Hardman Group has since informed staff they will not house the Timepiece in the complex.

A new public location will be chosen by staff, the Hooper family, and the Saint John Community Arts Board.

Another Hooper piece, People Waiting, has been moved to an indoor storage location and extensive restoration work has begun. Once the Timepiece is completed, Hooper Studios and Byers Studios will reengage with People Waiting and it too will be moved to a highly visible indoor public location.

### ***STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT***

#### **Belong**

- Livable Neighborhoods: Improve quality of life with targeted long-term neighborhood planning
- Vibrant City: Cultivate Community pride and unity by promoting beautification, arts, culture, and heritage

### ***SERVICE AND FINANCIAL OUTCOMES***

The City shall pay the cost of the restoration of the timepiece, (\$12,020.00) from the Public Art Fund. This cost incorporates the insurance of the art while it is off site, the purchased paint, the cleaning, repairing, restoration of the art and transportation of the piece to the Hooper Studios (Attachment 'B')

### ***INPUT FROM OTHER SERVICE AREAS AND STAKEHOLDERS***

This report was prepared in consultation with staff including Arts and Culture, Real Estate, Planning, General Counsel's Office, Risk Management, the Carpentry Shop, and all are supportive of the project.

### ***ATTACHMENTS***

*Attachment A Contract Agreement*

*Attachment B Schedule A Quote from Hooper Studio*