

The following is copy of **Clause 2, Report No. 12-2011** of the **Executive Committee**, which was **ADOPTED** by City Council at its meeting held on **August 17, 2011**:

**2. Remai Art Gallery of Saskatchewan
Public Open House
(File No. CK. 4129-15)**

RECOMMENDATION: that the information be received.

The following is a report of the City Manager dated July 4, 2011 providing information regarding the above:

“BACKGROUND

During its special meeting held on May 30, 2011, City Council approved the Remai Art Gallery of Saskatchewan schematic design, and authorized the Administration to proceed to the public input phase of the project. This report provides an overview on the public’s response to the public open house and in-person and online survey.

REPORT

The public was invited to view the concept drawings for the Remai Art Gallery of Saskatchewan at a public open house held from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 22, 2011, at TCU Place. A PowerPoint presentation at 5:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. by the design architects provided the public with an overview of the architecture of the new art gallery and the inspiration that was captured in the design as a result of the unique geography; quality of the natural light of the prairies; the South Saskatchewan River; and, the evolving identity of Saskatoon. Following each presentation, the public was provided with an opportunity in an open forum to ask questions of the architects, City and Mendel Administration, which were specific to the design and the project in general. Prior to and following the open forum, the public also had the opportunity to individually discuss the design with the architects as two stations of storyboards were set-up which provided drawings of the concept design, as well as organization of the functional program for the four-storey building.

The concept drawings and public input forms (Attachment 1) were also available from June 13 - 29 in the lobbies of City Hall and the Mendel Art Gallery. In addition, the concept drawings were available for viewing on the Mendel website, and people could comment through an online survey.

The public open house was attended by 92 people. Survey forms were completed at the open house, in both lobbies, and online for a total of 223 surveys submitted. While this is not statically valid, it does capture the thoughts and feelings of some members of the community. The Administration asked the public for their opinions, which included both positive and constructive feedback, as this information could be used by the architects to further refine their design during the next stage of design development.

A summary of the comments from the survey is as follows:

- Respondents were asked to highlight, from a list of 11 features of the new gallery, which ones were of interest to them. The top three selections were: Special Exhibitions; Collection Exhibitions; and, Bistro Café.
- The respondents were asked to rate, on a scale from “disagree strongly” to “agree strongly”, four statements about the Remai Art Gallery:
 - the building design takes full advantage of the river view
 - the building is welcoming
 - the design incorporates the features that interest me the most
 - the gallery will enhance the value of River Landing

The majority of respondents from the in-person surveys agreed strongly with all four statements. The online results mirrored the in-person surveys, except for a larger number of respondents indicating that they did not find the building welcoming.

- The respondents were asked which elements/aspects/features of the design they liked the most. The comments ranged in the following themes:
 - design (including: boxy/cubic design the architecture the colour, the mesh, etc.)
 - interior spaces (including: bright spaces, the glass, openness, etc.)
 - view
 - location (in River Landing, surrounding the Remai Arts Centre, close to the river, etc.)
 - gallery spaces
- The respondents were asked what elements/aspects/features of the design they liked the least. The comments ranged in the following themes:
 - design (including: boxy/cubic design, the architecture, the colour, the mesh, etc.)
 - interior spaces (including: bright spaces, the glass, etc.)

- view
- location (including: keep it at the Mendel, doesn't fit in with the surroundings, too close to the freeway, etc.)
- cost
- gallery spaces
- **Additional Comments:**
 - need room for visible and secure bicycle parking
 - want to have free parking
 - want to have free admission
 - want to have lunchtime and weekend activities
 - would like the café to serve local, unique food products
 - concerned about cost of maintenance and staffing
 - put in a rooftop patio for weddings or dining
 - the Mendel is now too small for travelling exhibitions
 - stay at current location and upgrade the Mendel
 - preserve the Mendel legacy

A majority of participants at the open house were excited about the design, and a good dialogue occurred between participants and the architects during the open forum. The public asked the architects to consider: green energy and sustainable design; secure bike parking (both at street level and in the underground parkade); use of indigenous building materials; the ability to animate interior and exterior spaces along the south face; and, the importance of the community gallery for public programming. Additional comments included: the space should be used primarily for art and not public gatherings; and, ensuring the acoustics of the lecture theatre were adequate to meet a wide range of public program needs.

The Administration will forward both a summary of the comments and each written survey to the design architects for their review and consideration during the next stage of design development. The survey also provided the opportunity for people to list their contact information if they had specific questions or wanted a follow-up phone call. The Administration is currently contacting those individuals.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no environmental and/or greenhouse gas implications.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice pursuant to Section 3 of Policy No. C01-021, Public Notice Policy, is not required.

ATTACHMENT

1. Remai Art Gallery of Saskatchewan Survey Form.”

Remai Art Gallery of Saskatchewan

We would like to hear from you about the plans for the Remai Art Gallery of Saskatchewan. Please take a few minutes to complete the following survey. Thank you very much!

Date: _____

1. The Remai Art Gallery of Saskatchewan will have many features, some of which are listed below. Please indicate those that are of interest to you.

- _____ art studio classrooms
- _____ atrium lobby/community gathering space
- _____ bistro café
- _____ Gallery Gift Shop
- _____ meeting rooms and event space
- _____ Mendel Legacy Salon
- _____ parkade
- _____ community gallery
- _____ collection exhibitions
- _____ special exhibitions
- _____ lecture and film theatre

2. Please indicate your response to the following statements:

	Disagree Strongly	Disagree Somewhat	Agree Somewhat	Agree Strongly	Don't Know Not Applicable
The building design takes full advantage of views of the river.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The building is welcoming.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The design incorporates the features that interest me most.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The Gallery will enhance the value of River Landing.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

3. What elements/aspects/features of the design of the Remai Art Gallery of Saskatchewan do you like the most?

4. What elements/aspects/features of the design of the Remai Art Gallery of Saskatchewan do you like the least?

5. Do you have any other comments? (please use the other side of the page if you need more room)

Please put in the drop-box or return by June 28, 2011 to the Mendel Art Gallery, 950 Spadina Crescent East, Saskatoon, S7K 3L6, or fax (306) 975-7670.

Optional: If you would like to be contacted to follow up on your comments or questions, please include your contact information below (please print clearly).

Name: _____

Address: _____ Postal Code: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email Address: _____