

# City of Mississauga Corporate Report



Date: February 13, 2025

To: Chair and Members of Heritage Advisory Committee

From: Jodi Robillos, Commissioner of Community Services

Originator's files:

Meeting date:  
March 18, 2025

## Subject

**Request to Alter a Heritage Property, 1300 Lakeshore Road East (Ward 1), 80 Years of Resistance Exhibit**

## Recommendation

That the request to alter the property at 1300 Lakeshore Road East (Ward 1), as per the Corporate Report from the Commissioner of Community Services, dated February 13, 2025, be approved.

## Executive Summary

- The Subject Property is Designated by By-law under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act.
- A community partnership between Creative Hub 1352 and the Consular General for the Kingdom of the Netherlands are seeking to install an exhibit commemorating the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the liberation of the Netherlands.
- Through discussion with City Staff, a section of the Waterfront Trail, located at 1300 Lakeshore Road East, was selected as an ideal location for the exhibit.
- The property retains heritage attributes dating to World War II, including original baffles from the rifle range.
- The exhibit will feature approximately 20 metal sculptures depicting images and stories of those who were liberated as well as those who participated in the liberation.
- The exhibit is planned to be temporary in nature and celebrates a storied part of Canada's involvement in World War II. As such, it should be approved.

## Background

1300 Lakeshore Road East is part of the Waterfront Trail which extends across the City and beyond. Prior to its current use, the lands were part of a larger Arsenal lands complex which included the Small Arms Inspection Building and lands to the east. These lands were part of a

large military industrial complex and was the source of a significant contribution to the Allied efforts in World War II.

1300 Lakeshore Road East was designated by Council in 2017 as it was the location of the outdoor rifle range, part of the overall Arsenal lands complex. The area saw active training and testing throughout the early twentieth century and was a key location for the manufacture and training of small arms used by Allied soldiers.

A community partnership consisting of Creative Hub 1352 and the Consular General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands are requesting to alter the property by installing an exhibit along the current trail. Titled '80 Years of Resistance', the exhibit seeks to commemorate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Liberation of Holland and would consist of approximately twenty metal sculptures which would display images of Dutch citizens who experienced both occupation and liberation, as well as images of the Canadian soldiers who participated in the liberation of the Netherlands in 1945 (Appendix 1). The partnership has engaged the Mississaugas of the Credit as well as the Canadian War Museum to ensure that there are equitable stories of Canadian veterans displayed.

## Comments

City staff have been actively working with the partnership for several months to review the physical aspects of the exhibit as well as the material being provided. Critically, the partnership is not seeking a partnership with the City on the exhibit and seeking approval to display the exhibit within a public park for period of at least one year.

Collaboration on the exact placement of the exhibit along the trail is still underway however City staff have reviewed the engineering plans and safety procedures provided by the partnership to ensure that this exhibit aligns with City policies, including the Public Art guidelines so that the exhibit can be safely displayed within an active park space (Appendix 2). Final location approvals will be determined through a separate approval with the Parks, Forestry and Environment Division (Appendix 3). The location of the Waterfront Trail at 1300 Lakeshore Road East was selected by the partnership as part of the discussions with City staff due to the connection with World War II history as well as it being a high traffic part of the trail, providing the opportunity for a high level of engagement.

Third party displays in City parks require permission from the City to use these spaces. As part of the City's review of these displays is a review against all relevant policies and procedures. As noted, the Public Art policy, as well as Collections and Exhibits policy from the Museums of Mississauga were used to determine appropriateness of the exhibit. The staff review against these policies has determined that as this exhibit is focused on a significant part of Canada's military history and achievement as an Allied nation in World War II, this exhibit meets all relevant parts of the policies as it relates to physical presence and appropriateness of material

on display. As such, it is recommended that this exhibit be approved for display along the Waterfront Trail at 1300 Lakeshore Road East.

## Financial Impact

There are no financial impacts resulting from the Recommendations in this report. The partnership is not seeking funding as part of this project.

## Conclusion

A community partnership consisting of Creative Hub 1352 and the Consular General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands is seeking approval to exhibit a display titled '80 Years of Resistance' at 1300 Lakeshore Road for a period of at least one year. The display is appropriately tied to the military history of this property and should be approved.

## Attachments

Appendix 1: 80 Years of Resistance Information Package

Appendix 2: Engineering Drawings

Appendix 3: Tentative Locations



Jodi Robillos, Commissioner of Community Services

Prepared by: John Dunlop, Manager, Indigenous Relations, Heritage and Museums