



Arts Integration Project in the Architecture of the Town Hall : ABC Policy

Because the Town of Sutton receives a grant from the Quebec government for the renovation of its town hall, it is subject to the *Politique d'intégration des arts à l'architecture et à l'environnement des bâtiments et des sites gouvernementaux et publics*. This policy, which is colloquially called the "1% Policy " remains, to this day, "the only government action in North America (...) which aims to integrate arts in buildings and public places ". And it does not date from yesterday! In 1961, "the government of Quebec adopted the first of a series of measures that led to the current integration policy. "

It is the *ministère de la Culture et des Communications*, which is responsible for implementing this policy throughout the province. Concretely, this means that the Ministry manages the whole intergration process, like here in Sutton, and the artists data base.

Three-step Process

A committee was established in order to choose a work of art. Because of the construction and renovation high budget for Sutton's town hall, the Ministry determined that it is an *integration*, that is to say the creation of a work of art, and not simply an acquisition. In addition, Sutton committee was composed of six voting people, including a representative of the Ministry and two visual arts specialists appointed by the Ministry. These specialists can be for example artists, teachers, art historians or critics.

The integration process involves three steps realized by the committee:

- 1) Determine a program: the nature and location of the work and "the main parameters which the artist must consider in the design and implementation of the work."
- 2) Select the candidates: "The committee will examine the artists' files in the data base in order to retain the candidates who will be invited to submit a model. The selection of candidates is done based on artistic disciplines selected in the program. "
- 3) Select the artist: "The committee receives the selected artists. Each has his work of art proposal in model form. The committee chooses the one that best suits the program and has the artistic qualities. "

Artists Data base

This database includes all the artists who have taken the initiative to register and whose professional practice corresponds to the criteria established by the Ministry. The file contains three groups (2D, terrain and 3D) divided into various disciplines for each administrative region. It is confidential and can only be accessed once the integration program was decided by the committee.



In addition, because of the project cost of Sutton, the Ministry established that three artists from across western Quebec were to be selected to design the models.

Integration of art and architecture: a building project

The sums paid by the Town for the realization of the integration work may seem high. Yet the cachet that will receive the artist is rather modest compared with the total budget for the completion of the work and the time spent making it. Two golden rules prevail when it comes to public art public, safety and durability. Indeed, the work must have the same useful life as the building to which it is integrated, a minimum of 25 years. A significant part of the budget is devoted to the selection of sustainable materials. In addition, the artist must work with conservationists, lighting specialists as well as the architect and sometimes even an engineer. It must provide adequate hanging and minimal maintenance. The creation of a public work of art is therefore akin to a small construction project!

A call for citizen participation Sutton

Sutton's landscapes will be at the heart of the integration project of Eric Lamontagne, the selected artist. He wants to develop his work with you to embody your experience of the landscape here. You are invited to submit photos or to indicate views that are dear to your heart, which, for you, well represent Sutton. Fill out the short questionnaire on the website of the Town, in the section Discover Sutton www.sutton.ca