



Date: June 21, 2002

TO: Board Members - Parks and Recreation
FROM: General Manager - Parks and Recreation
SUBJECT: Open Spaces, Vancouver International Sculpture Project

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board approve the revised request of the Buschlen Mowat Gallery for a temporary exhibit of sculpture from August through April 2003 with all arrangements to the satisfaction of the General manager.

POLICY

The Board's Art Policy recommends temporary art installations.

BACKGROUND

In July 2000, the Board approved an exhibit sponsored by the Buschlen Mowatt Gallery for the summer of 2001. The exhibit was postponed and rescheduled for 2002. This exhibit was approved for up to seven months during the summer and fall in park lands abutting the Seaside Bicycle route from Spanish Banks to Portal Park. A number of factors have since changed in the development of this exhibit and the revised request is being resubmitted to the Board for approval.

DISCUSSION

Following September 11, 2001, the complexity of mounting this exhibit increased. Shipping and insurance costs increased and artists became cautious in exhibiting their work. This led to delays in confirming the works for this exhibit and has necessitated setting a later installation schedule.

Confirmations are almost complete and the exhibit will featuring some of Britain's finest sculptors. Sixteen to twenty works are planned and artists include Antony Gormley, Anish Kapoor, Rachel Whiteread, Richard Deacon and Sir Anthony Caro. One stone sculpture is being designed specifically for the location by Tony Cragg. The curator for the exhibit is Barry Barker from the University of Brighton in England.

There has been interest expressed in seeing a component of artists representing Canada take part in this exhibit. While funding for this has not been confirmed, the plan is to install about six additional works by some of Canada's foremost sculptors. These will be selected by Canadian curators.

The exhibit is to be installed in August and remain in place until April 2003. Sculptures will be sited primarily along the seawall from Stanley Park through Creekside Park at Science World. Other sites include Harbour Green Park as well as the Library Plaza and other locations around the city.

The Public Art Committee has been informed of this project and are supportive. Engineered installation plans for each sculpture will be provided to the Board.

In addition, Buschlen Mowatt has indicated that they are trying to bring artists, Andy Goldsworthy and David Nash to Vancouver early next year to create an installation in a Vancouver park. These artists are two of Britain's foremost environmental sculptors, integrating wood, bark stones, twigs and leaves to produce extraordinary temporal and permanent site specific work. As part of their process is in site selection, no site has been identified as yet.

SUMMARY

This exhibit will provide an exceptional opportunity to see some fine examples of modern sculpture and enhance the experience of many park visitors.

Prepared by:

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