



Date: April 29, 2003

**TO: Board Members - Parks and Recreation**  
**FROM: General Manager - Parks and Recreation**

**SUBJECT: Donation of Public Art in Coal Harbour Park**

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## **RECOMMENDATION**

*That the Board give conditional approval for the use of the bullnose in the northeast corner of Harbour Green Park Coal Harbour as a site for public art donated by Grosvenor, with final approval by the Board following the completion of the established public art selection process*

## **POLICY**

In 1988, the Park Board adopted the Acceptance Guidelines for Long Term Gifts of Public Art developed by the City of Vancouver's Art in Public Places Committee (now the Public Art Committee)

In 1997 the Board approved Site Review Guidelines and a process to more formally consider donations of public art and memorials.

The Board continues to apply these guidelines to proposals as they appear.

## **BACKGROUND**

The Civic Public Art Committee advises on artist selection processes and on public art matters generally.

Grosvenor is an international property group with operating companies in the United Kingdom and Ireland, the Americas, Continental Europe and the Australia Asia region. To celebrate its 50th anniversary in North America, the company wishes to donate a substantial piece of public art to the City of Vancouver.

In March, 2003, Grosvenor approached the City's Office of Cultural Affairs with the offer and on March 12th Park Board staff met with Grosvenor and City staff to begin discussions on the process for the donation.

Grosvenor was asked to consider a site in Coal Harbour. The chosen site is the small bullnose plaza at the N.E. corner of Harbour Green Park. The bullnose is a circular plaza on the seawall that overlooks the Coal Harbour marina. It was designed purposely to hold public art. Grosvenor selected this site.

## **DISCUSSION**

This donation is one of the most significant to be offered to the City and provides an exciting opportunity to enhance this currently vacant public space. The budget for the commission is \$500,000, not inclusive of a maintenance deposit to the City's public art maintenance reserve. This proposal has come to the Board with a very tight time line.

Grosvenor would like to have a concept in place by July, 2003 in order for it to be announced in October during the anniversary celebration.

Grosvenor has agreed to meet all the requirements of the Public Art process. They have hired a public art consultant to assist them with an artist selection process and have included in the call the considerations provided by Park Board staff including views, sensitivity to the neighbouring residents and safety and engineering requirements.

The Public Art Committee approved the selection process on April 14th 2003. An invitation has been sent to 20 artists of national and international repute advising of this opportunity and asking for an indication of interest. Ten expressions of interest were received. A panel composed of art professionals, a resident of the Coal Harbour neighbourhood and a representative of Grosvenor has met to review the submissions. This panel was advised by a representative of the landscape architecture firm which designed the park.

The panel has selected three qualified artists who will be asked to develop concept proposals. Before working on these, the artists will be invited to Vancouver for an information meeting with City and Park Board staff.

Upon conditional approval of the site by the Board, the public consultation process will proceed. A sign will be posted to advise park users and neighbours of the proposal and notices will be posted at public facilities and distributed in the neighbourhood.

The artists will be asked to submit a concept proposal by the end of June and Grosvenor will make the final selection.

Once a final concept proposal is chosen, a report will be brought to the Board with details concerning the public response, the work, the schedule, agreements and maintenance.

Approval at this point is conditional on the successful completion of the agreed upon process and the satisfaction of any technical concerns.

**SUMMARY**

The very generous gift of a significant piece of public art is one which will provide a lasting legacy for the people of Vancouver.

Prepared by:

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