



Date: June 28, 2004

TO: Board Members - Parks and Recreation
FROM: General Manager - Parks and Recreation
**SUBJECT: Donation of Public Art by the Chilean Consulate
and the Chilean Community of Vancouver**

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board accept the donation of the public artwork (Neruda's Papers) by the Chilean Consul General and the Vancouver Chilean community to be located at the south end of Cardero Park at no cost to the Park Board and with all arrangements to the satisfaction of the General Manager.

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 Park Board Arts Policy states that the Board provide a vibrant public realm and support the experience of public art and cultural events in parks.

BACKGROUND

The Park Board has been approached by the Chilean Consul-General and the Chilean community in Vancouver with a proposal to accept a public art work by Chilean sculptor, Raúl Eberhart. This year marks the 100th anniversary of the birth of the renowned Chilean Poet, Pablo Neruda. Pablo Neruda won the Nobel Prize for poetry in 1971 and was once referred as "the Picasso of poetry, alluding to his protean ability to be always in the vanguard of change." He was a Chilean diplomat who held posts in many countries and is widely recognized outside Chile both for his poetry and his statesmanship. As part of the commemoration of this anniversary, the Chilean government, along with the local Chilean community, would like to present Vancouver with the gift of a sculpture. The theme of the sculpture very much reflects Neruda's love both of the sea and of the daily objects which give our lives form and meaning.

Chileans have a long history in Vancouver; the first documented arrival of a Chilean national to Vancouver occurred in 1875 and 17 years later, in 1892, the Chilean government established the first consulate in Vancouver to be recognized by the Canadian government. The gift of this sculpture allows the City to celebrate a great and much loved poet and to honour the long and successful relationship between Chile and Vancouver.

DISCUSSION

The Park Board's Review Guidelines for the Donation of Public Art or Memorials call for technical review, public consultation and consideration of the design, social and merit issues with advice from the Public Art Advisory Committee.

Public Art Committee

The timeframe within which the proposal was received has not allowed for a formal comment from the City's Public Art Committee.

Technical Review of the Site

The location is at the south end of Cardero Park (see Appendix A) backing onto a screen of bushes in an area designed for the installation of public art. The work will be sited on a raised bed contained by concrete formwork complementary to the hardscape in the park. A change of elevation will indicate to the public that there is a different use of the park where the artwork will be installed.

Staff checked park dimensions to ascertain that the scale of work is appropriate to the site before recommending acceptance. The work is compatible with the park design and will not obstruct views.

Technical Review of the Artwork

The work is made of corten steel which has a rust patina. The stone platform that forms the base of the work is made from jade or another local stone.

The primary consideration in this review addresses public safety. The installation will follow engineered plans. Safety concerns are a primary consideration when reviewing the work. The only identified risk potential was that a portion of the work was at head height. It is recommended that the work be raised on the elevated bed to remove this risk.

Public Consultation

A sign was posted in Cardero Park at the proposed site on June 18th advising of the donation and providing contact information for comments. Letters were sent out to residents within two blocks of the park and to the West End Community Association Board. Letters were delivered as well to the Coal Harbour Marina adjacent to the park.

Notices were posted in the West End and Coal Harbour Community Centres. An ad was taken in the Courier on Sunday July 5, 2004 and an image of the work was posted on the Park Board website.

The results of the public consultation will be compiled and presented at the July 19th Board meeting.

The City does not have formal guidelines to consider gifts of state. The donors requested that a standard technical review and public consultation process be undertaken. In recognition of the long history of the Chilean community in Vancouver and the universal appeal of the poet Pablo Neruda, the proposed work has relevance to Vancouver. A ceremony is planned in the fall of 2004 to dedicate this work.

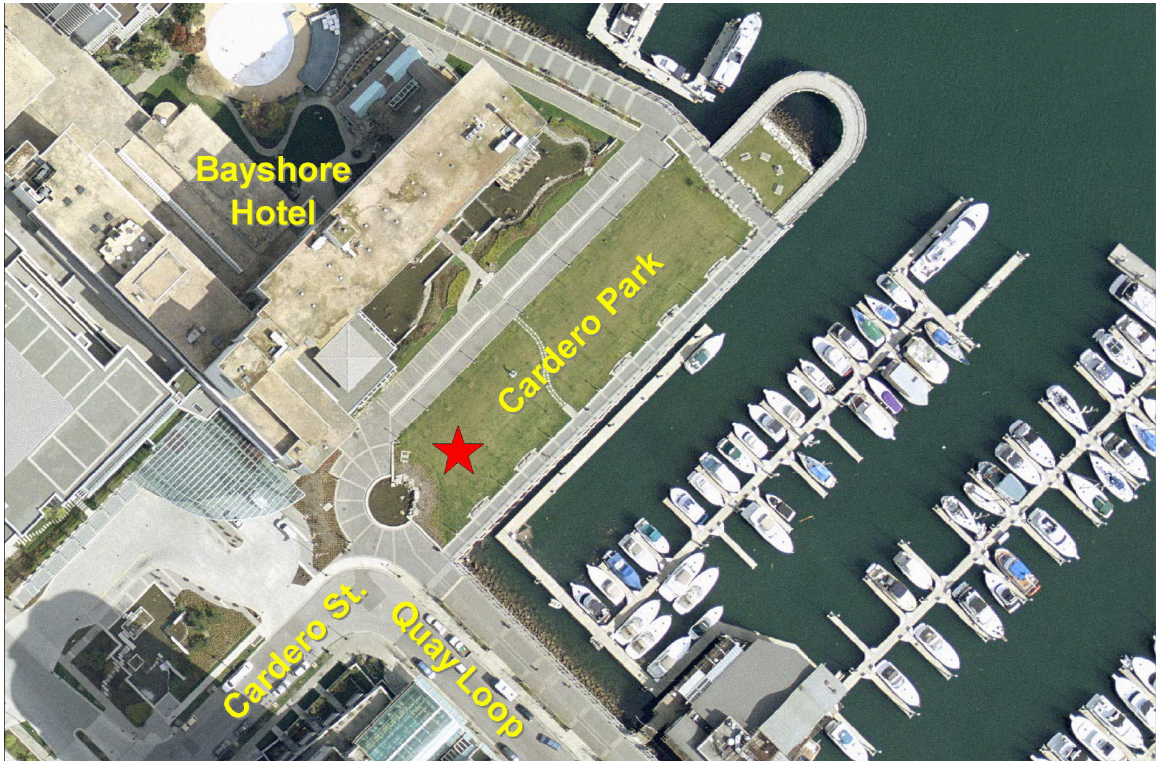
SUMMARY

The public artwork, Neruda's Papers, will bring interest to this park, attention to a great world poet and provide recognition to the presence of a considerable Chilean community in Vancouver.

Prepared by:

Stanley District
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Site Plan for Cardero Park



Rendition of Installation

