



April 25, 2016

TO: Park Board Chair and Commissioners
FROM: General Manager - Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation
SUBJECT: Love Locks Sculpture - Final Concept

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Vancouver Park Board approve the concept for a love locks sculpture to be installed in Queen Elizabeth Park as described in this report.

POLICY

The Park Board approves major changes in parks.

BACKGROUND

On October 21, 2015, the Park Board Commissioners reviewed the Board Report titled “Love Locks Sculpture Location and Development”. Staff were directed to report back with a proposal from the successful artist and this report responds to that request.

DISCUSSION

Following Board approval to use Queen Elizabeth Park for Vancouver’s first love lock sculpture, a competitive RFP process was publically issued to select a local artist to design, fabricate and install the sculpture.

Contract Award

An RFP was advertised between December 1, 2015 and January 12, 2016. Five potential teams attended the bidders meeting at Queen Elizabeth Park and three submissions were received for the competition. The proposals were evaluated by a team of four staff members with expertise in public art, landscape design, and construction. Key criteria for the evaluation included:

- Whether the design was unique to Vancouver and complemented the site specific location;
- Did the design further incorporate public amenity (i.e.; the sculpture also created seating, shade, lookout, etc.);
- Would the form be visually appealing as the amount of locks grows;
- Could the sculpture be made structurally sound and approved by a structural engineer;
- Did the proponent have experience in successful public art and/or commemorative projects.

After individual staff evaluations were amalgamated, it was shown that Bruce Voyce had submitted the successful submission.

Artist Profile: Bruce Voyce

Bruce is a well-known and highly celebrated artist residing in the Strathcona neighbourhood in Vancouver. Since 2005 he has collaborated with many Lower Mainland municipalities to produce site specific public art works. Additionally his work has animated public spaces as far away as Japan.

Bruce studied art in Florence and Pietrasanta Italy, and honed his skills for large scale artwork through independent studies at Capilano University. Bruce describes his work as follows:

“I feel that art has transformative power; it can open our minds and hearts. Public art can shape our shared spaces into places of inspiration and connection. By exploring the interface between nature and humanity, I am creating artwork that celebrates life. With each project I am pursuing the realization of the public imagination by changing a passing moment into something mysterious and beautiful.”

Examples of Bruce Voyce’s past works are attached as Appendix A to this report, and include works in Burnaby and Surrey.

Proposed Concept: Love in the Rain

The proposed love locks sculpture for Queen Elizabeth Park will be built in the look-out above the Quarry Garden. The location for the sculpture is illustrated in Appendix B.

The sculpture is called “Love in the Rain” and it is a participatory art project that speaks of love in the temperate rainforest.

This art project celebrates the shelter that love brings and the union that it forms. Love has no boundaries and therefore the human forms in the sculpture have been left both ageless and genderless, locked together in an everlasting embrace.

With the sculpture being located in Queen Elizabeth Park, attention to horticulture detailing has also been accommodated. Flowering vines will be planted at the base of each couple, and trained up the centre to eventually cascade over the umbrellas, creating a canopy of dappled shade and respite from the elements. The surrounding horticultural beds will be themed in a colour scheme of red, black, yellow and white to symbolize and celebrate all peoples. Interpretive signage about the project will be included.

Bruce will handcraft the artwork and it will be designed to support several thousand locks on the skirts of each couple. Keys will be collected through a box on site, and eventually melted down to become part of a future sculpture. Staff will explore a partnership with a local business to provide and potentially engrave padlocks for sale. There is also potential to have a portion of sales contributed to local charities.

With Board approval of this concept, the anticipated timeline for completion of fabrication and installation of the artwork is August 2016.

Link to the Strategic Plan

This proposal links to the Park Board Strategic Objective for Active Community Participation. By providing a new interactive arts and culture experience this project encourages active participation in parks.

CONCLUSION

Bruce Voyce is a talented local artist with many successfully completed public art pieces in the Lower Mainland. The concept of “Love in the Rain” designed for Vancouver’s love lock sculpture and further refined with staff input, meets and exceeds all the criteria set out in the RFP. The sculpture will provide both an aesthetically pleasing and engaging opportunity for the public to lock their love to or simply to enjoy as a new whimsical feature in the park. Staff recommend that the Board approve this concept allowing fabrication to commence on the sculpture.

General Manager’s Office
Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation
Vancouver, BC

Prepared by:
T. Mack, Manager of Park Development
L. Hache, Park Designer

TM/LH/AD/clc

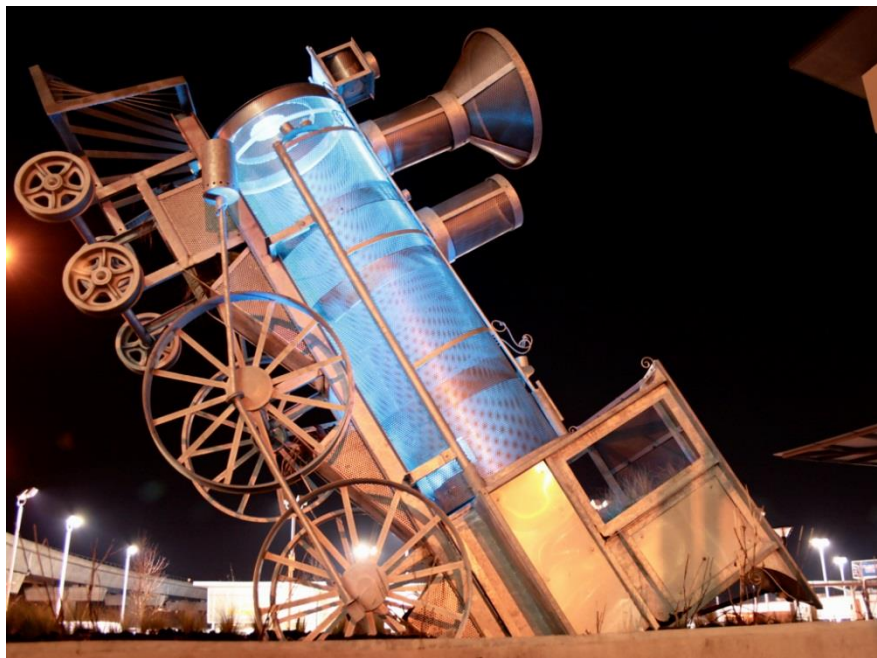
Examples of Artist Bruce Voyce's Work

Guardian Eagles - Burnaby



Six 15' tall steel sculptures were developed for the 2009 World Police and Fire Games in collaboration with the Burnaby Parks Board.

The Search Engine - Burnaby



A large hybrid of metal and plants reminds of the legacy of a train engine that sank into nearby Still Creek 100 years ago. This sculpture connects the adjacent Skytrain with the hidden history of the area.

Floraforms - Surrey



Seven large semi-transparent sculptures were designed for Holland Park in Surrey, BC. The project celebrates regional food and medicinal plants. As a testament to the quality of the workmanship, this collection of sculptures has received an American Galvanizing Association Award of Excellence,

Location of Love Locks Sculpture



Proposed Love Locks Sculpture Concept



Before and After

Left: existing site conditions

Below: proposed sculpture with conceptual granite pad and planting.

