

DATE: January 22, 1998

**SUBJECT: BUSCHLEN MOWATT FOUNDATION'S INTERNATIONAL SCULPTURE
EVENT**

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Board approve the installation of a temporary sculpture exhibit in Devonian Harbour Park and along the seawall between English Bay and Sunset Beach, from May through October, 1998, with no cost to the Board and subject to advice from the City's Public Art Committee and with all arrangements to the satisfaction of the General Manager.

POLICY:

In 1998 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 adopted Site review Guidelines and a process to assist the Board in considering more formally proposed donations of public art and memorials in parks.

In 1993 the Board adopted the Park Board Arts Policy Report and Recommendations which recommends facilitating temporary art installation in parks.

BACKGROUND:

In December 1997, the Buschlen Mowatt Foundation approached the Board with a proposal for the installation of major sculptural works by international artists for a period of six months in Devonian Harbour Park and along the seawall between English Bay and Sunset Beach. Six works are proposed for the seawall and from four to six for Devonian.

The Buschlen Mowatt Foundation is a charitable organization dedicated in part to the visual arts in Vancouver.

DISCUSSION:

Installation would take place in late April with a plan for all works to be installed by the Victoria Day weekend in May. Depending on the nature of the piece different foundations and

ground plane treatments will be called for.

- 2 -

(eg. Some works may need concrete foundations and some may be placed directly on the ground.)

Some pieces may require lighting and staff will arrange for access to adjacent street lights where possible.

All costs for the project including approvals, site preparation, installation, lighting, security, insurance, signage and site restoration will be born by the Buschlen Mowatt Foundation.

The Review guidelines adopted in 1997 call for a technical review of the sites and describe a variety of public processes for the consideration of proposed donations. Park Board staff will work with Buschlen Mowatt on technical requirements and installations will meet the requirements of the City's Risk Management program (This includes engineer's drawings for anchoring structures) For public information the sites will be posted notifying of the proposal for three weeks. Comments received will be forwarded to both the Board and the Foundation. This is a temporary installation and further consultation is not seen to be necessary.

In keeping with the Board's donor recognition practice, signage on the sites will be approved by the General Manager. Signage will indicate that this is a temporary installation.

Public art staff, in consultation with the Public Art Committee fully support this exhibition. To maximize its positive reception, they recommend that Park Board staff ensure the temporary and non-profit nature of the exhibition is emphasized. They further recommend that future exhibitions of this kind include consultation with the Public Art Committee on independent curation, contemporary art work, and work by regional artists. The Public Art Committee requests that there be an evaluation of the exhibit in the fall by the Park Board in conjunction with the Public Art Committee and that recommendations be brought to the Board. Finally, they recommend that the consideration of any donations arising from this exhibition be especially cognizant of various initiatives to establish a permanent sculpture park or garden in Vancouver.

At the close of the exhibit and following the evaluation, the Board and the Foundation will assess whether there might be a repeat of the project and determine if all the bases need to be removed. If it is determined that there is to be no repeat then the Foundation commits to restore the site to its original state.

If a proposal is presented to install a piece permanently, this will be brought back to the Board and all review and public art processes will be followed.

CONCLUSION:

If this exhibit is to happen within the proposed time frame a decision to approve this is needed immediately.

Prepared by:
Recreation Division
Vancouver Board of Parks & Recreation