



Date: June 12, 2001

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

**SUBJECT: SCULPTURE EXHIBITS ON ENGLISH BAY - 2002**

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## RECOMMENDATION

**THAT the Board approve a temporary sculpture exhibit for up to seven months during the summer and fall of 2002 in park lands abutting the Seaside Bicycle Route from Spanish Banks to Portal Park sponsored by the Buschlen Mowatt Gallery in collaboration with the Yorkshire Sculpture Garden; at no cost to the Park Board and with all arrangements to the satisfaction of the General Manager.**

## POLICY

Recommendation 2.1 of the Arts Policy Report and Recommendations:

**To facilitate temporary art installations in parks.**

## BACKGROUND

On June 12, 2000, the Board approved a proposal for a temporary sculpture exhibit along English Bay sponsored by the Buschlen Mowatt Gallery in collaboration with the British Council and the Yorkshire Sculpture Park for the summer of 2001. In a staff report of April 6, 2001 the Board was informed that this exhibition could not go ahead for summer of 2001 due to the lead time required to produce the exhibition.

## DISCUSSION

The Park Board's regular process of issuing a Call for Expressions of Interest to produce a temporary sculpture exhibition for English Bay was followed for the summer of 2002. No responses were received by the deadline. Subsequently the Buschlen Mowatt Gallery proposed the collaborative exhibition with the Yorkshire Sculpture Park --which they have been working towards for some time-- for the summer of 2002.

The exhibition the Gallery has proposed differs from previously mounted exhibitions in that it will be curated by the Executive Director of the Yorkshire Sculpture Park, focused on a survey of 20<sup>th</sup> century British sculptors and include an expanded list of sites on park, city and private land. The process for selecting the artworks and their sites will involve a visit to Vancouver by the curator and potentially several of the artists and some of the works may be created specifically for the sites selected. The works will not all be within walking distance of each other.

Previous exhibitions sponsored by Buschlen Mowatt Gallery proved to be immensely popular. Some of this popularity stemmed from the enjoyment of the number and variety of sculptures being displayed along the heavily used English Bay walkway. The exhibition proposed for 2002 would not provide this experience as the sculptures would be sited in more widely dispersed sites, however the curation of the exhibition should provide an additional stimulus for the public to tour the works. The Gallery has asked that no other sculptures be placed along the Seaside Bicycle Route in order to further strengthen the perception of cohesion for the exhibition. As no other response was received to the Call for Expression of Interest in mounting sculpture exhibitions for the summer of 2002, the Board would not entertain additional requests for these areas. However, individual efforts emanating for example from an "artist in residence" program would still be considered.

The directors of Stanley and Queen Elizabeth Districts have both been consulted and see merit in this exhibition. As in previous years Park Board staff will review both the works and the sites for safety and suitability for the sites. The Gallery has suggested that while the majority of the sculpture locations will be high profile, some of the sculptures may be sited "in less obvious sites to promote a process of discovery." The Director of Queen Elizabeth District has indicated that these sites need to be closely reviewed in consideration of the increased possibilities for vandalism and that the Gallery be reminded that they are responsible for the condition of the works.

The span of park land requested for potential sites for the sculptures is much larger than previous years exhibitions in English Bay. As this is a significant change from previous years this exhibition should be treated as a pilot and not as a precedent. Public response will be a very important indicator of the potential for this to be repeated.

## **CONCLUSION**

The 2002 event meets the vision outlined in the Arts Policy to make the arts a part of everyday life and has, at no cost to the Board, proved immensely popular in both 1998 and 2000.

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