



Date: May 27, 2002

TO: Board Members - Parks and Recreation
FROM: General Manager - Parks and Recreation
SUBJECT: Public Art in Coopers' Park

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Board accept the donation of a sculpture by artist Doug Taylor to be installed on the waterfront pavilion in Cooper's Park west of the Cambie Street Bridge on-ramp 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. These guidelines are designed to ensure that high quality work is added to Vancouver's public spaces. Included in the guidelines are procedures for accepting or rejecting proposed donations of art in a manner fair to the donor and fair to the public. The guidelines also outline a consultation process which includes independent assessments by artists and other members of the professional art community as well as feedback from both local representatives and the general public.

BACKGROUND

The Board has received a proposal from Vancouver sculptor Doug Taylor to install a kinetic sculptor on the pavilion in Cooper's Park. The sculptor is to be sponsored by Herb Auerbach and will be a representation of a heron. In 1996, Mr. Auerbach donated another work by the same artist to the Park Board - the Wind Swimmer at Kits Pool.

DISCUSSION

As the False Creek Basin returns to a more natural state, the great blue heron has returned. Khenko is the First Nations name for the great blue heron and the name of the sculpture proposed for this location. Khenko will be a kinetic sculpture (moved by the wind) made of aluminum and stainless steel. The sculpture will fly over the pavilion attached to the central pole.

Doug Taylor has installed similar works in the Pacific Northwest for many years. The Wind Swimmer at Kits Pool has met with a very positive public response and been featured on the Tourism Vancouver Magazine. Mr. Taylor combines folk art, and hi-tech mechanics to “thematically explore the relationships between society, technology and the environment.”

On December 10th 2001, the Public Art Committee appointed a panel to review the proposal. The panel consisted of a representative of the Roundhouse Community Association, a resident of the area and a curator of a public gallery. The panel was unanimous and enthusiastic in recommending the installation of the sculpture and requested that lighting be considered to highlight the work.

This recommendation was followed by a public consultation process consisting of posting a sign on site and asking for public feedback. This process was completed in April and staff received four comments and all were positive.

Staff are recommending the Board approve this proposal. If approved, the artist will complete the final design of the work and an agreement will be developed with regards to the work's ongoing maintenance.

SUMMARY

This sculpture meets Board's criteria for “Long Term Gifts of Public Art”. The sculpture relates to this site in bringing attention to the natural history of the area. Previous works by this artist have been well received by the public.

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