



PUBLIC ART OPPORTUNITY

Introduction:

Grosvenor is an international property group with operating companies in the United Kingdom and Ireland, the Americas, Continental Europe and the Australia Asia Pacific region. To celebrate its 50th anniversary in North America, the company would like to commission a substantial piece of public art by an established artist to provide a lasting legacy for the people of Vancouver. The commission is worth \$500,000 Cdn which must include all associated fees, fabrication and installation costs + a minimum 5% contingency. Discussions with the Vancouver Public Art Program and the Park Board have evolved to the selection of the potential site for the artwork and the acceptance of a recommending process with some public and professional input. Three artists are being invited to submit concept proposals. A fee of \$7500 Cdn. + travel to view the site will be paid for concept development. A decision will be made in July 2003. Pending Grosvenor's acceptance of one of the plans and the results of the public review, the artwork will be commissioned for the site as proposed. There will be a ceremony to announce the artwork during Grosvenor's anniversary celebrations in October. It is not expected that the piece will be completed and installed at that time.

The Setting:

Vancouver is a cosmopolitan multi-ethnic city of nearly two million people on the west coast of Canada. It is an active hub of exchange between the Asia/Pacific region and Canada. There are heavily populated urban/suburban areas around the city. The climate is mild with substantial rainfall. Impressive natural features include the Straight of Georgia and Vancouver Island to the west, the coastal mountains to the north, and the fertile Fraser River basin to the south.

The area where the artwork will be situated is just southeast of Stanley Park, the largest park in the City. It has a history of use as a Coast Salish hunting and gathering site. Urban development in the 19th century brought shipping and industry and more recently cruise ships and float planes to the area. The current development is as a high-density residential area with many public amenities, shopping and parks. You can view the map of the Coal Harbour neighbourhood in downtown Vancouver on the City's website at: www.city.Vancouver.bc.ca/vanmap/.

There are a number of public artworks in the area including bronze tree rings and tree grates by Doug Senft at The Escala that refer to the logging and aviation history of the site; gates designed by Claudia Cuesta at the Calisto development above Harbour Green Park; Eric Neighbour's carved logs in the Park garden; Bill Pechet's *Make West* among the paving stones along the residential towers in Coal Harbour Quay; and a planned piece by Diana Thater at the Shaw Tower near the east end of Coal Harbour. Some of these are pictured in the Downtown Shoreline Public Art Walk brochure.

The proposed site for the artwork is in Harbour Green Park. The park is the maritime forecourt to downtown and has the scale to match that of the giant residential towers flanking the park to the south. It was designed with a series of patterns and images in mind.

-There is a replication of the historical park vernacular of Stanley Park (stone seawall, concrete balustrades, nouveau Grecian urn street lights, benches, etc.).

-The shore is designed as a metaphor representing the original landform...a faux-original shoreline, walls emulating a soil cut and showing striation.

-The rolling grounds at the west end of the site are a metaphor for waves, respecting the dominant wind angles.

The park has three use patterns.

-The seawall is busier than the park itself as it is a well-travelled urban trail to the water.

-The big promenade at the back, particularly where elevated at the east, is the formal downtown edge and the limit of the residential neighbourhood.

-The great lawn in between is a classic, simple open space inviting activity.

Considerations:

The artwork should respect the existing design elements and public use of the area and take into consideration the relationships between the water and the land and the urban and natural environments.

The work will need to be sensitive to the nearby residential situation and the views to the landscape. It must conform to all safety and engineering requirements of the Park Board and the City. Guidelines for installing works on parkland are attached for reference.

The Site:

The "bullnose" is a semi-circular plaza that sits on a section of the seawall that is supported by pilings. It is a section on the pedestrian seawall that juts into the northeast corner of the marina. The surface is paving stones over concrete and the centre is laid in a circular pattern. Approximate measurements are: total area 23m in diameter; the circle pattern 10m in diameter; 8.9m from the centre of the circle to the back of the benches. The site is a prominent point visible from the Park, the seawall, the marina, and the bay. Park Board has expressed a preference for a strong vertical element viewable from 360 degrees at this site.

Technical Notes: The deck is a concrete slab that is designed to support a pedestrian live load of 7.2 kPa and a fire truck with axle spacing of 4.24m and 7.3 tonnes on the front axle and 10.0 tonnes on the rear axle. Lighting is possible at the site. A road-width access for firetrucks must be left unobstructed beside the plaza.

Requests for information should be addressed to the art consultant:

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