



Date: October 22, 2004

TO: Board Members - Parks and Recreation
FROM: General Manager - Parks and Recreation
SUBJECT: Donation of Public Art to David Lam Park

RECOMMENDATION

- A. THAT the Board receive a donation of funds to commission the fabrication of Khenko, a sculpture by artist Doug Taylor, with all arrangements to the satisfaction of the General Manager.**
- B. THAT the Board approve the installation of Khenko in David Lam Park with all arrangements to the satisfaction of the General Manager.**
- C. THAT the General Manager be authorized to enter into a legal agreement with the artist, the sponsor and, if necessary, the City of Vancouver, on terms and conditions acceptable to the General Manager and the Director of Legal Services.**
- D. THAT no legal rights shall arise and no consents, permissions or licenses are granted hereby and none shall arise or be granted hereafter unless and until all contemplated legal documentation has been executed and delivered by all parties.**

POLICY

In 1988, 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 approved Site Review Guidelines and a process to more formally consider donations of public art and memorials.

The Park Board Arts Policy states that the Board provides a vibrant public realm and supports the experience of public art and cultural events in parks.

BACKGROUND

In May 27, 2002, the Board unanimously agreed to accept the donation of “Khenko”, a sculpture by artist Doug Taylor to be placed in Cooper’s Park. Khenko is the First Nations name for the Great Blue Heron. It was intended for placement on the north shore of False Creek celebrating the return of the False Creek Basin to a more natural state following a century of industrial use. The Great Blue Heron, not seen here for many years, is now in evidence. At that time, the donation had a sponsor who was raising the funds for the work which was to be installed on the waterfront pavilion in Cooper’s Park, west of the Cambie Street Bridge on-ramp.

Since the original report, the artist’s intent for the work changed (see Appendix A). The work is a sculpture of a heron, suspended below sails that rotate with the wind and cause the heron’s wings to move. The overall height of the work is 40 feet (13 metres). The scale and motion of the work is such that installing the work on the pavilion is no longer suitable for the design of the pavilion.

DISCUSSION

A working model for Khenko was displayed at the David Lam Park opening May 24th, 2003 and received an enthusiastic response from the community. At this time, the Roundhouse Community Arts and Recreation Society indicated an interest in the project and the model was demonstrated to the audience assembled for the viewing of the film “City Edge” on May 4th, 2004 at the Roundhouse.

Following this event, a sponsor came forward wishing to be the sole contributor to the work providing that the sculpture is located within David Lam Park. The sponsor has asked to donate the funds to the Park Board and that the Board contract the artist to construct the artwork.

Site

The proposed site for the sculpture is on the south-west corner of David Lam Park - on the edge of the promontory adjacent to the False Creek ferry dock (see Appendix B). Staff from Parks, Culture Affairs, Engineering and Planning Departments as well Concord Pacific support locating the sculpture on this site. This site is currently under the jurisdiction of the Engineering Department, although it was designated as park in the Official Development Plan. The Park Board will manage the site and an agreement will be drawn up to this effect.

Public Consultation

The sculpture’s location in the park has been “signed” since July asking for comment from the public. One comment was received expressing opposition to any public art along the waterfront.

Staff sent out approximately one thousand letters to residents surrounding the park advising that the work would be on display at a forum and offering contact information for comments. Concord sent out about 600 letters to pre-purchasers of immediate residences. In response to this mail-out, staff received 5 phone calls (four in support – one against) and 10 e-mails (three in support – seven against). Opposition was based on aesthetics and size concerns. The Roundhouse Community Arts and Recreation Society continues to support the project.

A consultation forum was held on Thursday October 21, 2004 at Concord's Presentation Centre. About 30 people attended and all but one response were supportive. The concern expressed was a desire to keep the waterfront natural.

Public Art Committee Advice

There has been discussion about this work with the City's Public Art Committee (PAC). The proposal was on the agenda of the PAC at its June meeting but there was not a quorum then or in July and the September meeting was cancelled.

In October, the PAC noted that work approved by the earlier panel process was for a different site and that the work had changed and a standard public art process would call for an advisory panel consideration of the new site and work.

Agreements

A legal agreement will address the terms of the donation (work schedule, ownership and rights in the work etc.) As this is a kinetic work, it will require maintenance and the artist agrees to maintain it for ten years as part of his fee as well as supplying the Board with a maintenance manual. Park Board will supply the lift mechanism to the artist to maintain the work. The usual maintenance fee will not be deposited with the City at the sponsor's request. Staff have agreed to this and will work with the artist to ensure effective maintenance.

SUMMARY

The installation of Khenko will bring attention to the ongoing environmental restoration of False Creek and add a significant work of public art to the False Creek basin.

Prepared by:

Stanley District
Board of Parks & Recreation
Vancouver, B.C.

Khenko - a sculpture by artist Doug Taylor



David Lam Park Site Plan
Amended Proposed Site Location for the Khenko Sculpture

