

Date: June 25, 2009



**TO: Board Members – Vancouver Park Board**  
**FROM: General Manager – Parks and Recreation**  
**SUBJECT: Vancouver International Sculpture Biennale**

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## **RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT the Park Board approve the return of three sculptures as part of the Vancouver International Sculpture Biennale's next temporary exhibition, as outlined in Appendix A.**

## **POLICY**

The Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation adopted the *Arts Policy and Recommendations* in November 1993 and a renewed *Arts Policy* in December 2003. The *Arts Policy* states that the Park Board provides a vibrant public realm and supports the experience of public art and cultural events in parks.

The Park Board controls and approves the use of park land and park facilities. When artworks are proposed for sites under their jurisdiction, the Park Board ascertains that Park Board processes and policies were properly implemented and makes its decision based on the results of technical analysis conducted by staff, consultation with the public, and the aesthetic and artistic merit as assessed by arts and design professionals.

In August 2005, the Park Board and Vancouver International Sculpture Biennale signed an agreement to install temporary sculptures in public parks for a ten-year period ending in 2015. Each exhibition period is up to 18 months in duration and occurs on pre-approved exhibition sites.

On February 16, 2009 the Park Board approved a recommendation that allows sculptures temporarily installed as part of the Biennale to remain on park land beyond the original 18 month period, and that sculptures removed after one exhibition may return as part of a subsequent exhibition.

## **BACKGROUND**

The next temporary exhibition period begins in July 2009. Among the sculpture pieces being considered for this installation are three works that have already been part of a previous exhibition. The sites proposed are locations previously approved for the exhibition of Biennale sculptures.

In May 2008, organizers of the Vancouver Biennale Foundation requested the Park Board consider permitting three sculpture pieces to either relocate to another exhibition site or remain in a current site, for the upcoming temporary exhibition period. Staff has examined each of these requests in accordance with the established process of technical and artistic review.

## **DISCUSSION**

The three sculpture pieces and locations which have been proposed are listed below, along with information on the original exhibition. A photograph of each sculpture and a map showing the proposed location are indicated in Appendix A.

### **1) The Engagement Rings, Dennis Oppenheim**

Original exhibition location:	English Bay, across from 2099 Beach Avenue
Original exhibition period:	July 2005 – January 2008
Proposed exhibition location:	Sunset Beach Park (foot of Broughton & Nicola)
Proposed exhibition period:	August 2009 – February 2011

### **2) 217.5 Arcs x 13, Bernar Venet**

Original exhibition location:	Vanier Park
Original exhibition period:	July 2005 – December 2007
Proposed exhibition location:	Sunset Beach
Proposed exhibition period:	July 2009 – January 2011

### **3) King and Queen, Sorel Etrog**

Original exhibition location:	Harbour Green Park
Original exhibition period:	August 2005 – July 2009
Proposed exhibition location:	Harbour Green Park
Proposed exhibition period:	July 2009 – January 2011

## **SUMMARY**

Based on the positive response the three pieces have received during the original exhibitions, staff recommends the Board approve the return or continuation of the three sculptures for the upcoming exhibition period (Appendix A).

Prepared by:  
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**1) Dennis Oppenheim (USA) *Engagement Rings***



**Proposed Exhibition Site: Sunset Beach Park**  
at the foot of Broughton and Nicola



**Proposed Exhibition Period: August 2009 – February 2011**

**2) Bernar Venet (France) *217.5 Arcs x 13***



**Proposed Exhibition Site: Sunset Beach**



**Proposed Exhibition Period: July 2009 – January 2011**

**3) Sorel Etrog (Canada) *King and Queen***



**Proposed Exhibition Site (same as current): Harbour Green Park**



**Proposed Exhibition Period: July 2009 – January 2011**