

Date: September 11, 2009



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

RECOMMENDATION

*THAT the Park Board approve the return of the sculpture *Walking Figures* by Magdalena Abakanowicz installed as part of the Vancouver Biennale's temporary exhibition, as outlined in Appendix A.*

POLICY

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

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.

BACKGROUND

In May 2009, organizers of the Vancouver Biennale Foundation requested the Park Board consider permitting four sculpture pieces to either relocate to a new installation site or remain in a current site, for a new temporary exhibition period. In June 2009 three of these proposals were approved by the Board.

DISCUSSION

The final returning sculpture which is now proposed is listed below, along with information on the original siting. A photograph of the sculpture and a map showing the proposed new location is indicated in Appendix A.

1) *Walking Figures*, Magdalena Abakanowicz – returning work in new location

Original installation location:	Queen Elizabeth Park
Original installation period:	July 2005 – January 2007
Proposed installation location:	English Bay (between Park Drive and Chilco Street, parallel to Beach Avenue. Site of the previously installed Dennis Oppenheim <i>Engagement Rings</i> in 2005)
Proposed installation period:	Sept. 2009 – March 2011

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Board approve the return of this sculpture as a temporary installation for a period of 18 months.

Prepared by:
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APPENDIX A

Magdalena Abrakanowicz, *Walking Figures*



Proposed Installation Site:
Proposed Exhibition Period:

English Bay
September 2009 – March 2011

