



October 24, 2025

MEMO TO : Park Board Commissioners

FROM : Manager, Arts, Reconciliation and Culture

SUBJECT : **Refabrication of *Plenty* Sculpture at Hillcrest Park – Board Briefing Memo**

Dear Commissioners,

The purpose of this memo is to provide an update on the condition and refabrication of *Plenty*, a beloved artwork located in Hillcrest Park. This artwork, installed as part of the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games' Venues Aboriginal Art Program (VAAP), shows extensive weathering and requires refabrication to ensure its long-term preservation. This planned maintenance was included in the current Capital Plan budget for 2025.

Background

Plenty consists of five spindle whorls featuring salmon motifs, referencing Coast Salish weaving traditions and echoing the Olympic rings. Created by Aaron Nelson Moody (Splash, Tawx'sin Yexwulla / Poolx'tun) of the Squamish Nation, the artwork was commissioned through the VANOC Aboriginal Art Program (VAAP), a partnership between the Vancouver Organizing Committee (VANOC) and the Four Host Nations Society – representing the Lil'wat (líl'watəmx), Musqueam (xʷməθkʷəy̓əm), Squamish (Skwxwú7mesh), and Tsleil-Waututh (səlilwətaʔt) Nations. The program supported Indigenous Artists from across Canada and celebrated the Indigenous Culture at the 2010 Olympic Games.

Following the Games, *Plenty* was donated to the Park Board, joining other VAAP works on park land and in community centres across Vancouver. Since installation *Plenty* has served as a welcoming landmark for Hillcrest Park and Community Centre visitors and an enduring symbol of Coast Salish presence and intercultural connection.

Maintenance History

Shortly after initial installation, a risk management review prompted design modifications to address public safety concerns. Between 2011 and 2014, the Park Board and the artist worked collaboratively to redesign *Plenty*, resulting in the installation of new spindle ends that improved safety and structural integrity. In the 11 years since, the concrete whorls are deteriorating. After consultation with the artist, Park Board staff and the Evans Yard Fabrication team, a plan has been developed to refabricate *Plenty* in resin. Durable resin will allow for easier cleaning, refinishing and replacement of individual elements as needed.

Budget

Evans Yard Fabrication -- Remove, cast and reinstall all 5 pieces including materials, cost increase due to new tariffs.	\$25,000
Didactic Panel - Repair to signage using digital engraving on metal panel.	\$1,000
Artist fee - Repair/Refabrication Consultation - Aaron Nelson-Moody (invoice up to 10 half-days - \$400/ per 4-hour consultation min 2 hours – based on CARFAC artist consultation rate)	\$4,000
10% Contingency	\$3,000
TOTAL estimated cost:	\$33,000

Original proposal & 2014 redesign

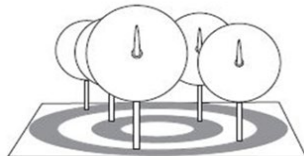
Aaron Nelson-Moody
splashingeagle@shaw.ca

"Spindle whorls"
For Hillcrest Curling venue RFP No. 1146

Five cast cement spindle whorls, influenced by the shapes and materials of curling rocks, and of the five Olympic rings.

These are in a format well-known to Coast Salish carvers, who made these disc shaped weights, and long spindles, for the spinning of wool to weave our valued clothes and blankets.

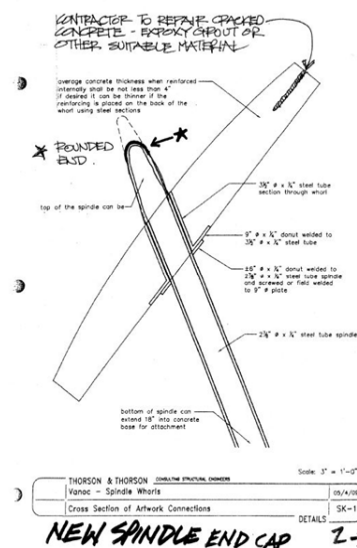
Spindle whorl cast in white concrete, on stainless spindle mounts; placed in concentric gravel rings.



Detail of spindle whorl cast in white concrete, on stainless spindle mounts.



Far left: front view
Centre: side view
Right: top view



2024 visual maintenance check:



Next steps

Refabrication and installation are anticipated to be completed for the end of 2025, following final review by the artist to ensure fidelity to the original vision and adherence to cultural protocols. Park Board Operations will coordinate with contractors for safe installation on the existing foundation.



A re-dedication ceremony will be planned in collaboration with the artist to commemorate the renewal. Following the installation of the refabricated *Plenty*, Arts, Reconciliation and Culture (ARC) staff will work with the artist and Hillcrest Community Centre to formalize a maintenance plan under the ARC Maintenance Program for Indigenous Artworks in Vancouver's Parks.

This renewal will preserve *Plenty* as a meaningful expression of Coast Salish art and as a lasting reflection of the Park Board's commitment to reconciliation, stewardship, and cultural heritage in Vancouver's public spaces.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Rena Soutar". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Rena Soutar (*she/they*)
Manager, Arts, Reconciliation and Culture – Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation

Copy to: PB Leadership Team
PB Communications