



CITY OF RICHMOND

REPORT TO COUNCIL

TO: Richmond City Council
DATE: November 1, 2000
FROM: Chuck Gale, P. Eng.
General Manager, Engineering & Public Works
FILE: 7000-09-20-001
RE: **City Hall Artwork "SPAN" Relocation Considerations**

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the "Span" artwork not be relocated.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chuck Gale".

Chuck Gale, P. Eng.
General Manager, Engineering & Public Works

STAFF REPORT

ORIGIN

At the September 5th, 2000, General Purpose Committee meeting, Council requested a staff report addressing:

- "suitable locations for the art piece, (which could include locations not at City Hall)
- the cost of relocating this piece on the City Hall precinct and to alternative sites
- that the comments of the artist and the Public Art Commission on the proposed relocation of the "Span" be obtained and included in the report."

ANALYSIS

The "Span" artwork consists of four components: the large bridge structure (north east corner of the North Court), and the three apertures (western edge of North Court and the West Berm). The current placement of the large City-owned artwork piece, "Span" by artist Elizabeth Roy, located on the hard surfaced, concrete plaza, has been found to limit the use of the plaza as a venue for special public events.

City staff undertook a review of a number of possible locations within the City Hall site and other locations throughout Richmond on which to relocate the artwork. The objective of the exercise was to determine the best location for the "Span" artwork, based on a number of location criteria.

- City-owned site, City Centre location site
- A prominent public location to maximize pedestrian viewing
- Allow for all "Span" elements (bridge structure and apertures) to be located on one site
- Ensure maximum artwork security and minimize the potential for vandalism
- Minimize relocation costs

Review process

A number of locations outside of Richmond City Centre were reviewed. They were not pursued because of concerns regarding: artwork security, the potential for vandalism, and the artwork being inappropriate to the natural settings. Several private City Centre locations were also reviewed, but were not pursued due to a variety of concerns including insurance concerns, need for private sector agreements, time, and visibility. Many City owned locations were also identified for serious consideration.

Each site was assessed as to its suitability and the cost of relocating the artwork to the site. After reviewing the many alternatives, it quickly became apparent that to relocate the artwork off-site would be a very costly venture, (in the order of \$55,000 – \$80,000). This being established, The General Manager of Engineering and Public Works directed that the following options receive more detailed consideration:

1. Leaving the Artwork in its current location - (No additional cost)
2. Moving the artwork closer to the North Drive and off the central plaza - (Cost = \$20,000)
3. Moving the Artwork to the North West berm area with the apertures - (Cost = \$40,000)

Fibre Optic Lighting

- The fibre optic lighting associated with the existing artwork is not an essential element of the artwork. If it was eliminated from Options 2 & 3, it would reduce the costs of those options by \$5,000 and \$15,000 respectively.

Consultation with Public Art Commission and Artist

Public Art Commission

The Public Art Commission has discussed the "Span" artwork extensively, and as a result endorsed the following motion at their September 20th meeting:

"That the artist [Elizabeth Roy] shall be consulted and given the opportunity to determine the best location for the artwork [Span], and that the Commission support the artist in that decision, and the Commission supports the integrity of the current public art planning process."

Artist

Elizabeth Roy, the artist, has been kept informed regarding the City's interest in reviewing alternative siting locations. The artist has communicated her thoughts in a letter to Council and staff. The sentiment of her position stresses the retention of that artwork on the current site, for at least a one to two year period, before any relocation of the artwork is considered. A copy of this report has been circulated to the artist, and she has been invited to attend the Council meeting.

Staining issue

The City Hall project provided funding to address the "staining" issue associated with the use of Cortan steel in the base of the artwork. Given Council's request that staff review the siting of the artwork, a stop-work order was placed on the finishing touches until a decision on location is made. All options presented provide a "fix" to the staining issue, which includes removing the staining on the current plaza pavers.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The costs for the three options are as follows:

- Option 1 no cost
- Option 2 \$20,000
- Option 3 \$40,000

Funding for the selected option will be provided from Council's City Hall contingency account.

CONCLUSION

Staff reviewed a number of alternative locations for the artwork. Given the costs associated with the relocation of the work off-site, sites other than at City Hall were not pursued. Within the site, the decision boils down to two significantly different choices. A "do nothing", low-cost option that is reflected in Option 1 or a relocation option of significant cost that is reflected in Options 2 & 3. Unfortunately, Option 1 does not fully address Council's concerns regarding the use of the Plaza. Options 2 & 3 address the concerns, but at significant cost.



C.M. Gale, P.Eng.

General Manager, Engineering & Public Works

cmg: