



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Parks, Recreation and Cultural Service Committee
From: Terry Crowe
Manager, Policy Planning
Date: May 12, 2004
File: 01-0100-20-RPAR1-01
Re: PUBLIC ART COMMISSION 2003 ANNUAL REPORT AND 2004 WORK PLAN

Staff Recommendation

That, as per the report dated May 12, 2004 from the Manager, Policy Planning, the Richmond Public Art Commission 2004 Work Plan be approved.

Terry Crowe
Manager, Policy Planning

Att. 1

FOR ORIGINATING DIVISION USE ONLY		
CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER		
REVIEWED BY TAG	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
REVIEWED BY CAO	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>

Staff Report

Origin

On June 27, 1997, City Council endorsed the Richmond Public Art Program, Policy Plan and Implementation. As part of that endorsement, the Richmond Public Art Commission (RPAC) is required to present an annual report to City Council, which sets out its activities and accomplishments for the previous year and presents Council, for its approval, a work plan for the following year.

Findings Of Fact

Program Purpose and Context

The purpose of the Richmond Public Art Program is enhance people's quality of life and enjoyment of their community through the integration of public art into parks, streets, public spaces, public and private developments. The Richmond Public Art Program assists in achieving Richmond's Strategic Plan "to be the most appealing, liveable and well-managed community in Canada".

Public Art Program Implementation

- Participation in Public Art Program is voluntary by the private sector.
- There are several ways in which public art is funded and created in Richmond.
 1. City public art projects, which are funded from City and private contributions.
 2. Private sector public art projects, which are funded from private contributions.
 3. Community public art projects, which are funded from City, community and non-profit contributions.

2003 Annual Report & Year 2004 Work Plan

The Public Art Commission 2003 Annual Report and Year 2004 Work Plan (**Attachment 1**) highlights the key activities undertaken in 2003 and proposed work tasks for 2004.

Analysis

The 2003 Annual Report and proposed 2004 Work Plan demonstrate a high level of volunteerism, professionalism and commitment to quality public art in Richmond.

Financial Impact

The Public Art Commission's 2004 Work Plan is to be funded from previously approved expenditures.

May 12, 2004

- 3 -

Conclusion

The Public Art Commission's 2003 Annual Report is presented and the 2004 Work Plan is and recommended for approval.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Kari Huhtala
Senior Planner
(4188)

KEH:cas

**2003 Annual Report
&
2004 Work Plan
Richmond Public Art Commission**

May 12, 2004

2003 Annual Report Richmond Public Art Commission (RPAC)

2003 and 2004 Richmond Public Art Commissions

The members of the 2003 and 2004 Commissions who are instrumental in providing assistance to the City in guiding, managing and implementing the Program are:

2003 & 2004 Commission Members

Diana (Willa) Walsh, Chairperson

Leo Mol, Vice Chairperson

Detlef (Dick) Aporta

Dan Campbell

Valerie Jones

Chris Keatley

Alex Schick

Cliff Vincenzi

Council Liaison

Linda Barnes

City Staff

Kari Huhtala, Policy Planning; Urban Development Division

Suzanne Greening, Cultural Services; Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Division

□ 2003 Richmond Public Art Program Accomplishments

The Richmond Public Art Program is in its seventh year of operation and RPAC members, staff, developers, community groups, council and interested parties are working together well to implement the procedures and policies of the Program.

- Many new projects are underway and public awareness is growing.
- A change in RPAC membership guidelines has resulted in there being more continuity on the Commission.
- The following sections highlight accomplishments of the Richmond Public Art Program over the past year and work now in progress.

□ **2003 Public Art Project Development**

Public Contact, Education and Awareness

These 2003 initiatives have helped to increase public awareness of public art in the City and elsewhere:

Completed Public Art Projects

1. **Aberdeen Centre Artwork “Pixel”** (Private Development Public Art Project)

In December, 2003 Aberdeen Centre had its official opening. The exterior wall comprises the public art work “Pixel” referring to points of light and colour. The glass panels were designed by Bing Thom, Chris Doray, and Stephanie Forsythe.

Pixel is a permanent part of the building. It defines the building’s form and expression. The glass mural is an essential device in anchoring the building to its context and in making relationships between interior and exterior. The composition of glass panels works with the functional requirements of retail yet transcends this purpose to become a work of art that poetically composes the colours and movements of the surrounding environment, celebrating the daily life it supports.



Aberdeen East elevation showing the Artwork “Pixel” on the building façade.



Closer view of the Aberdeen’s glass artwork in the evening.

The developers have also agreed to provide funds for public education about this unique artwork.

2. **“Portals into the Future” Sculptures at the Hollybridge Pump Station**

(City Public Art Project)

The five (5) sculptures are created out of Indiana Limestone and weigh ranging from 3,500 to 4,500 pounds a piece. They are abstract in form, vertical in shape and similar in size (6.5' to 10'). Relating to human scale, they are suggestive of the human form without being recognizably figurative.

The site at the Hollybridge Pump Station was chosen because of the openness of the site, seasonal natural light reflections during the year, including varying silhouettes against the distant background views.

The sculptures were created by Alberto Replanski, Kathy Hill, Noemi Pullvers, Michael Hilde, Yoli Garcia, Vedran Jelincic, Gilles B. Herbert, Reto Marti, Erik Stainsby, Sandra C. Sinclair, and Mark Gallant .



“Portals into the Future” located on the Middle Arm, Fraser River dyke.

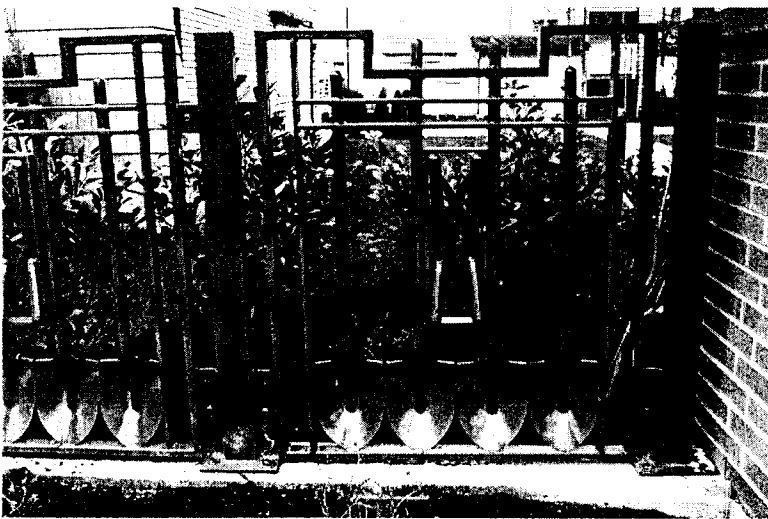
3. **“The Garden Gate”** (Private Development Public Art Project)

“The Garden Gate” by Philip and Kirsty Robbins at Leighton Green is a witty, understated artwork that connects the beauty of garden tools. “The Garden Gate” grows from the conventions of the arts and crafts style and utilizes collections or gardening tools as playfully unexpected design elements. Rather than standard tubular steel construction “The Garden Gate” is composed of the steel tools we use in the creation of a garden.

A community opening of this public art project will take place in the spring, 2004.



The "Garden Gate" facing Garden City Road at the Leighton Green residential development.



Once you notice it, the shovels and the hedge trimmers are easily seen.

4. **“The Lions”** (Private Development Public Art Project)

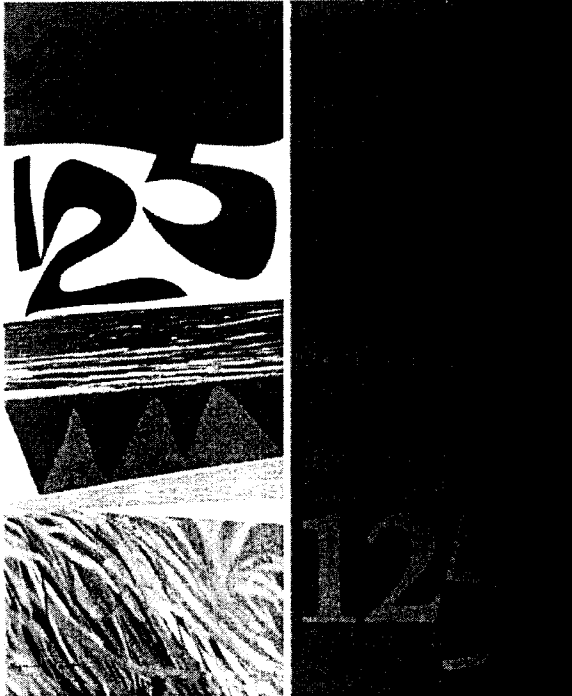
The monumental bronze lions sculpture by artist Arthur (Shu-Ren) Cheng proudly marks the corner of Alderbridge Way and Garden City Road. “



The Lion” is a powerful symbol of pride and presence, strength and security

5. **“Grasslands and WaterScapes”** (City Public Art Project)

The street banners titled “Grasslands and WaterScapes” by Sylvia Tate celebrates Richmond - Rich-Mond: considerable, large, as in 'mondo, multilingual, multi faceted-- a place of diversity and activity; a place of farmlands, water, grasses and Big Sky...flourishing...a place for Art and Industry and Invention.



The street banner celebrates Richmond 125th birthday.



The banner depicts Richmond, as an area with a landscape that looks out on mountains and water...it is a city of fruitfulness and new industry, a hub for all the comings and goings

Media Coverage of Richmond's Public Art

The *Vancouver Sun* (September 27th, 2003) ran a full-scale article on Vancouver and Richmond's public art installations. *Richmond Review* and the *Richmond News* ran extensive articles on public art. Many letters also appeared in both local papers. Two artists who have been involved in Richmond public art projects were featured in newspapers as having gained world recognition for their work – Alberto Replanski and Stephanie Forsythe.

City's Website (Public Art Section)

The City's website has been updated and includes a comprehensive list of information, reports, guidelines and annual reports on the Richmond Public Art Program. All public art competitions and project updates have been placed on the website as well. Names of the present Commission are listed. In 2003, the website received approximately 12,281 public visits to view, read or print information about Richmond's Public Art Program.

2003 Lulu Series – Art in the City

The Lulu Series was a unique combination of a lecture mixed with a Town Hall meeting and a mini performing arts concert. The 4 sessions involved speakers and performers ran the gamut of inspiring, infuriating, exhilarating and challenging the public. Approximately 280 people attended the event with comments ranging from "the series was a call act" to "great topics and presentations were varied and interesting". The series was funded by 2nd Globe, Bing Thom Architects, Polygon and Aberdeen Centre with speakers from Vancouver – B.C., Tacoma – Washington, Austin – Texas, and Toronto – Ontario.

Public Responses

A number of telephone calls, emails and letters have been received complimenting the City on its Public Art Program and successes to date.

Community Public Art Projects

In 2003/2004 four community public art projects are underway by:

- Thompson Community Association,
- Homma Elementary School Parents' Advisory Council,
- Cambie Community Association, and
- Richmond Committee on Disability and Richmond Disability Resource Centre

2004 Work Plan Richmond Public Art Commission (RPAC)

2004 Work Plan

The year 2004 work plan focuses on the following:

1. Bring forward the De-accession Guidelines for approval.
2. Continue to guide, manage and assist public and private development participation in the creation of public art.
3. Continue ongoing public contact, education and awareness, website development, public art unveilings, open houses, conferences, and forums (The 2004 Lulu Series).
4. Create information brochures, city art walks, a directory of artists, news items to the press and other projects.
5. Oversee the public art plan for the development of the North West Quadrant at Terra Nova.
6. Organize a public art presentation and workshop as part of the Lulu series.
7. Identify the Year 2005 community public art initiatives for Council's consideration and approval.

2004 Public Art Projects

The projects underway or nearing completion are:

- City Public Art Projects on City land
 - "Dog Party" sculptures by Michael Swayne at South Arm Dyke Off-Leash Area is in process (will be presented to Council before proceeding).
 - New City Firehall at Sea Island (will be presented to Council before proceeding).
 - New City Firehall at Hamilton (will be presented to Council before proceeding).

- Private Public Art Projects
 - "Bug Gate" by Philip and Kirsty Robbins at Wellington Court residential development is in progress (private funds and private land).
 - "House of Roots" by Jeanette Lee at The Perla residential development located at Saba Road and Buswell Street is in process (private funds and private land) .
 - "Katsura Gate" by Claudia Cuesta and Bill Baker at Katsura Park is in process (private funds are designing and developing the park and artwork, and the park plan including the artwork was presented to Council by Parks in March, 2004).

- Community Public Art Project
 - "The Steveston Project" by Norma Williams at No. 1 Road and Bayview Street. (dependent upon fundraising by sponsor and will be presented to Council before proceeding).

Summary

The Commission has had a very busy and successful seventh (7) year. The collection of public art in the city is reaching a “critical mass” and is therefore more noticeable due to the many new projects which are sited in high traffic areas and are large and imposing.

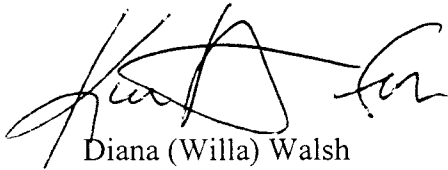
More private sector initiatives will be implemented due to the popularity of the Program.

More community projects will be initiated as groups see the benefits of community involvement. There are also opportunities for the Program to continue working with other civic committees and groups (Parks, Recreation and Culture, Tourism Richmond) who wish to enrich the city’s public landscapes.

Richmond City Council, the Community Arts Council of Richmond and City staff are to be commended upon their foresight in supporting a Public Art Program in Richmond. This Program offers exciting opportunities for the public, artists and developers and has a great impact on the livability and attractiveness of Richmond. It puts Richmond on the world scene in innovative city planning.

Recommendation

That City Council accept the Richmond Public Art Commission 2003 Annual Report.
That City Council approve the Richmond Public Art Commission 2004 Work Plan.



Diana (Willa) Walsh
Chair, Richmond Public Art Commission