



## City of Richmond

## Report to Committee

*To Parks, Rec + Culture - NOV 29, 2005*  
**To:** Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services **Date:** November 7, 2005  
**From:** Jane Fernyhough **File:** 7000-09-20-054  
Manager, Cultural Services  
**Re:** Paulik Gardens Neighbourhood Park  
- Community Public Art Proposal

### Staff Recommendation

That an allocation of \$30,000 for the development of a Community Public Art Project at Paulik Gardens Neighbourhood Park, as presented in the report dated November 7, 2005 from the Manager, Policy Planning, be approved.

*Jane Fernyhough*  
Jane Fernyhough  
Manager, Cultural Services

Att: 2

| FOR ORIGINATING DIVISION USE ONLY |   |                                       |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|---|
| <b>ROUTED TO:</b>                 | <b>CONCURRENCE</b>  | <b>CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER</b> |   |
| Parks.....                        | Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>              | <i>Relieved</i>                       |   |
| Policy Planning.....              | Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>              |                                       |   |
| Budgets.....                      | Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>              |                                       |   |
| <b>REVIEWED BY TAG</b>            | YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>dw</i> NO <input type="checkbox"/> | <b>REVIEWED BY CAO</b>                | YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>dw</i> NO <input type="checkbox"/> |

## **Staff Report**

### **Origin**

This report presents a proposal from the City of Richmond to undertake a Community Public Art project and recommends that \$30,000 be allocated to the project.

### **Findings Of Fact**

#### Richmond Public Art Program

The Richmond Public Art Program, which was endorsed by City Council on June 23, 1997, was developed with the assistance of a Steering Committee involving representation from the community, business, arts, development and design sectors.

The Program sets a framework for creating opportunities for people to experience art in everyday life and for artists and the community to participate in the design, look, and feel of Richmond.

#### Community Public Art

Community Public Art is one component of the City's Public Art Program and invites neighbourhood residents to collaborate with artists and other community organizations to create art works for significant neighbourhood sites.

The Community Public Art goals are:

- ❑ To foster neighbourhood identity by highlighting local site(s) through art works;
- ❑ To support residents' leadership in local art projects while respecting the creative role of artists and other design professionals, and including the diversity of cultures and interests of neighbourhood residents;
- ❑ To encourage the creation of permanent art works having both artistic merit and community benefit.

Since 1997, City Council has approved more than 12 projects for installation on public lands. Projects have used a wide range of media including murals, earth works, stone, tile, banners, and paint. Sponsoring organizations have included community associations, school parent advisory committees, youth groups and other not-for-profit societies.

#### Paulik Gardens Neighbourhood Park Proposal

This proposed community art project was initiated by Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services and is to be undertaken in collaboration with the community at large surrounding the new Paulik Gardens Neighbourhood Park.

A Call for Submission was executed Spring 2005 with a deadline of May 19, 2005 (**Attachment 1**). Twelve artists expressed initial interest. A 5-person panel comprised of Richmond residents, University of British Columbia professor, artists and landscape architect (Linda Civkin, Keva Picha, Barbara Zeigler, Jeanette Lee and Masa Ito) juried the submissions on July 5, 2005 and short-listed three artists/teams. These 3 artists/teams presented preliminary concepts to the panel on October 24, 2005 and a decision was made to offer the project to artist/team Jacqueline Metz

and Nancy Chew. The Richmond Public Art Commission has reviewed this proposal and endorses it as presented (**Attachment 2**).

#### Land Ownership

- ❑ The proposed community public art project will be located on City land in Paulik Gardens Neighbourhood Park.
- ❑ City staff and the Public Art Commission recommend approval.

#### **Financial Impact**

##### City

\$30,000 is recommended from the Project #40853, originally approved in the 2003 Capital Plan for expenditure on artwork.

The unallocated funds remaining in this account will be \$70,500.

#### **Conclusion**

The Paulik Gardens Neighbourhood Park Community Public Art Proposal represents a community partnership opportunity to enhance the community identity, building, education and vibrancy. Artists Jacqueline Metz and Nancy Chew will be working with the community including individuals, strata councils, neighbourhood groups and schools to create a wonderful addition to Paulik Gardens Neighbourhood Park. They will be looking at cultural history, community and personal stories, Paulik Family history and the history of the Park



Suzanne Greening  
Arts Coordinator  
(604 231-6433)

SEG:seg



**McLennan South Neighbourhood Park  
Community Art Project  
Call for Expressions of Interest  
Deadline Thursday, May 19, 2005**

The City of Richmond Public Art Commission seeks expressions of interest from profession artists/teams to design, fabricate and install site-specific community-based artwork at the new McLennan South Neighbourhood Park in Richmond, BC. This call seeks only an expression of interest and relevant examples of your current art practice; no design proposal is required at this stage.

The project intent is to develop artwork that draws on the unique qualities of the Park and, by means of a community process, create a sense of ownership in this new neighbourhood Park by the local community. Artists should therefore anticipate community process in the form of meetings, proposal reviews, etc. They need to be community minded, site oriented, open to ideas and prepared to work collaboratively with a design team drawn from the McLennan South Neighbourhood Park Community and City Staff. Together, the artist and the design team will determine the direction for the community art project.

McLennan South Neighbourhood Park is located between Heather and Ash Streets, south of General Currie and north of Blundell. A new public artwork, "*House of Roots*" by Jeanette Lee, will be installed by summer, 2005.

Referring to McLennan South Neighbourhood Park Final Report of August 2, 2004, the properties that make up the McLennan South Park site have a wealth of unique existing features that illustrate the area's history:

- **Woodlots**—A large number of mature trees including a 2-acre block of conifers.
- **Ornamental Garden**—A large ornamental garden that continues to be maintained by the former owner who has been retained as the park caretaker.
- **Fruit Trees and Shrubs**—Cultivated blueberries producing an abundance of berries as well as fruit trees and grapevines.
- **Lulu Island Water Gardens**—Remnants of the Lulu Island Water Gardens (later the Granville Water Gardens), a commercial operation started in the late 1930's, which specialized in flowering bulbs, water plants, and fish and frogs for residential ponds. The condition of the remnant ponds is not yet known although neighbouring residents have reported a frog population still inhabits the area.
- **Songbirds**—A large songbird population supported by the variety of trees and shrubs found on site as well as the large areas of tree and shrub cover currently found in the neighbourhood. The Park will become an important habitat area for songbirds in the future as the neighbourhood develops.

A pdf of the McLennan South Neighbourhood Park site plan is attached. This community art call and Park plan is also available for viewing at [www.richmond.ca/culture/publicart/opportunities.htm](http://www.richmond.ca/culture/publicart/opportunities.htm).

A five-person selection panel will ask short-listed candidates to discuss their approach to the project, their ideas and opportunities for community involvement and to show examples of previous relevant work. Panelists representing the artist community and the Park neighbourhood will be joined by an independent landscape architect. A team of City staff will participate as advisors and as a resource to the Panel, but will not vote on artist selection.

### **Budget**

The total budget available to the artist(s) or artist team, inclusive of all expenses (including GST), will be \$30,000.00.

### **Eligibility**

This invitation is open to professional artists. Artists who reside outside of Greater Vancouver should be within a reasonable commuting distance.

### **Submission Materials**

Candidates should confirm their interest in a letter of no more than two pages indicating an approach to the project and how their approach relates to their art practice. Please append a brief (maximum three page) resume that includes relevant experience and at least two references (who may be called at a later stage). Please include up to (10) images of artwork and/or projects drawn from your current art practice (on slides, photos, or CD). Images should be labelled with artist's name, numbered and accompanied by an identification sheet.

**Submission packages marked "McLennan South Neighbourhood Park Community Art Project" should be received no later than 5:00 PM, May 19, 2005 by**

Suzanne Greening, Arts Coordinator  
City of Richmond  
Richmond Cultural Centre  
7700 Minoru Gate  
Richmond, BC V6Y 1R9  
604 231-6433  
[sgreening@richmond.ca](mailto:sgreening@richmond.ca)

Candidates will be advised of the outcome of this competition when their submission materials are returned, at the end of the jury process.

**Letter of Interest**

McLennan South Neighbourhood Park  
Community Art Project  
City of Richmond Public Art Competition

Jacqueline Metz & Nancy Chew, Muse Atelier  
106-1956 Haro Street, Vancouver, BC, Canada V6G 1H6  
tel: 604.685.6184 fax: 604.267.1158 e-mail: jmetz@digital-rain.com

**Introduction**

We are professional public artists, with numerous commissions from regional, national and international competitions. We have worked together since 1997. Our practice explores ideas of place and perception, nature and culture. We work in the public realm, exploring the intersection of private imaginings and the public sphere, examining what is and what we project onto the world around us.

**Conceptual Approach**

*"site specific . . . conceptually powerful . . . strength of ideas conveyed in various mediums . . . possessing a powerful simplicity"*<sup>1</sup>

Our approach is phenomenological, it refers to sense of place and to the sense we bring to each place. Each installation is an integral part of the surrounding environment: we develop a conceptual framework which plays off the inherent qualities of the site, landscape, architecture - from urban design issues to the tactile experience. Underlying all our work is a fascination with landscape, especially the human imprint, the layering of experience, the cultural landscape. We work in different media and on a number of levels - visual, tactile, cerebral - whatever is most appropriate to the concept and the context.

Each work is site-specific - an assemblage of components is placed within a site to create a space and an experience through which the viewer moves. These evocative installations are both representational, and abstracted by a fragmentary quality, by scale, and by suggestions of myth. In the end this openness allows the viewer to make his own reading.

*"I find the piece to be dramatic, innovative and involving. The idea of the viewer moving through the work gives them a greater understanding of the work's intention and meaning. The fact that they move through it at different times and on different levels (both physically and mentally) makes the entire building part of the work. The interactive features heighten the viewer/participant's involvement and makes them take on a stronger ownership of the work as they have become part of it."*<sup>2</sup>

**The McLennan South Neighbourhood Park** is shaped not only by its natural setting but also by its cultural history as private and commercial land. The art project offers an intriguing opportunity to extend the imprint of the community onto the landscape. It is an appropriate and exciting opportunity to continue our exploration on ideas of place and perception, nature and culture.

<sup>1</sup> Jurors' comments for *Nature & Culture: A Work in Progress*, for the National Capital Commission, Ottawa

<sup>2</sup> Jim Adams, Artist and Chair of the Public Art Advisory Committee, City of Surrey about *The Meeting of Mind & Body*

**Preliminary Concept - a starting point:**

Our approach is informed by ideas of:

- personal memory and community story telling - about nature and gardens
- stories of the community informed by and conveyed through the landscape - nature and culture intertwined
- the dichotomy of material and immaterial
  - for example, words imprinted in stone
  - the virtual garden and the planted garden

**A Starting Point - Potential Elements:**

These are initial ideas of how the stories might intertwine and weave through the park, culture expressed through text, *art as landscape / landscape as art*:

*Forest of Words*

branded into the bark of trees, or ornamenting the stripped trunks of dead trees, are peoples' stories

*Memory Garden*

text about gardens sandblasted into stone pavers, boulders, slabs

- "my grandmother's garden was filled with bachelors' buttons" - and around it are planted bachelor buttons
- a path of words

*WE/blog*

the community connection - an internet community blog site

- the community can submit stories and images about gardens and nature, which are then edited and posted for public viewing
- the community can see how the artwork "grows"- from conceptual sketch to built garden
- stories would be gathered in various languages to express the multi-culturalism of Richmond
- there is also the idea that the garden itself becomes a kind of 'blog'- words overlaid on nature

**Collaboration & Experience (please also see Resume)**

We are professional artists, adept at collaboration, and with strong organizational and technical skills. We are experienced in working with community groups of all ages on art projects. All our work is site-specific: each project has involved collaboration. In our experience as public artists who enjoy working closely with team members, we have found that each contribution enriches the other. Throughout the process we have a close working relationships with builders, architects, landscape architects, engineers, and planners; we have found that We ensure that all technical specifications are reviewed by the architect and engineers of record; we also consult engineers and various specialists as required for technical design. We are experienced in presenting to the public and municipal bodies.

Nancy Chew & Jacqueline Metz

Muse Atelier, 106 - 1956 Haro Street, Vancouver, BC Canada V6G 1H6 Tel 604.685.6184

2

## **Resume**

### **Site Specific Art in the Public Realm Nancy Chew & Jacqueline Metz (Muse Atelier)**

106-1956 Haro Street, Vancouver, BC, Canada V6G 1H6  
tel: 604.685.6184 fax: 604.267.1158 e-mail: jmetz@digital-rain.com

#### **National Commissions**

*between the earth & the sky: measuring the immeasurable*

Brookfield Bankers Hall Public Art Project, Calgary, completed 2003-2004

*Nature & Culture: A Work in Progress*

Capital Builders' Recognition Project

National Capital Commission, Confederation Boulevard, Ottawa

Construction pending funding

These are the jurors' comments:

*"site specific . . . conceptually powerful . . . strength of ideas conveyed  
in various mediums . . . possessing a powerful simplicity"*

#### **International Competitions - Winning Commissions**

*walls of memory/lantern of light*

The Calgary Police Officers' and Firefighters' Tribute Plaza

Municipal Hall, Calgary, Alberta, completion 2005

*mapping*

International Building, University College of the Cariboo

Kamloops, BC, completion 2005

*poised/motion study*

Dixon Recreation Center, University of Oregon

Corvallis, Oregon, completion 2005

#### **International Competitions - finalist**

*Firefighters Memorial*, Salem, Oregon

spring 2005

#### **National Competition Finalist**

*the luminous void*

Finalist, Pier D Art Installation, Lester Pearson International Airport

Greater Toronto Airports Authority with Moshe Safdie and SOM New York, 2001

*Earth's Curve/Skyview*

Second-place finalist, Commission for Mississauga Reciprocal Gift to Japan, 2000

*Presence & Absence*

Second-place finalist, Humanitarian Aid Workers' Monument.

In collaboration with James Cutler, FAIA

Rideau Falls Park, Ottawa, 1999

*Nancy Chew & Jacqueline Metz*

*Muse Atelier, 106 - 1956 Haro Street, Vancouver, BC Canada V6G 1H6 Tel 604.685.6184*

1



## **Provincial Competition Finalist**

### *Silent Form*

Finalist, 401 Burrard, Vancouver, Canada Lands Corporation, 2001

## **Community based Public Art Commissions**

### *Imprints*

Sunset Community Centre, Vancouver Parks Board, completed 2000

### *Automata - Moving Pictures*

Queen Alexandra Elementary School, Vancouver, completed 1999

### *School Banners Project*

District of North Vancouver & Insurance Corporation of British Columbia, completed 2001

## **Regional Public Art Commissions**

### *sliding edge*

500 Nicola, Coal Harbour, Vancouver, ASPAC Developments Ltd., completed 2003-2004

### *Through the Looking Glass*

Jack Loucks Court, North Vancouver, City of North Vancouver, completed 2001

### *The Garden & the Wilderness*

Chateau Whistler, CP Hotels, completed 2000

### *WAVE*

Skateboard Park Integrated Art, City of North Vancouver, completed 2004

### *still point/from the centre outwards*

New Semiahmoo Library/RCMP Building, City of Surrey, completed 2003-2004

### *StillMotion*

Gilmore Skytrain Station, Burnaby

Rapid Transit Project 2000, completed 2002

### *Lines in the Landscape*

Rupert Skytrain Station, Vancouver, Rapid Transit Project 2000, completed 2002

### *The Meeting of Mind & Body*

Guildford Community Centre, Surrey, completed 2001

### *Shadow of Flight*

Shellmont Plaza, Richmond, City of Richmond, completed 2001

### *Inflections*

Shortlisted Proposal, Chinatown Monument, City of Vancouver, 2000, competition cancelled

*Nancy Chew & Jacqueline Metz*

*Muse Atelier, 106 - 1956 Haro Street, Vancouver, BC Canada V6G 1H6 Tel 604.685.6184*

2