



City of Richmond

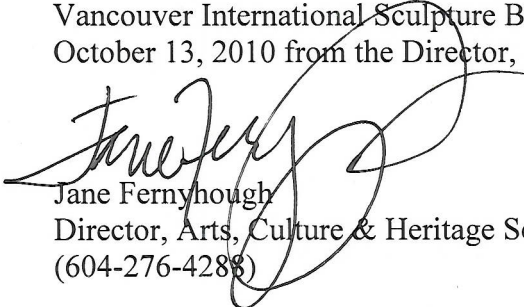
Report to Committee

To PRCS - OCT 26/10

To: Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee **Date:** October 13, 2010
From: Jane Fernyhough **File:** 11-7000-09-20-099
 Director, Arts, Culture & Heritage Services
Re: **Additional Opportunity for the City of Richmond Public Art Program
 Participation in the Vancouver International Sculpture Biennale, 2009-2011**


Staff Recommendation

That the installation of the artwork "Blue Trees" for temporary exhibition in Richmond by the Vancouver International Sculpture Biennale, 2009-2011, as outlined in the staff report dated October 13, 2010 from the Director, Arts, Culture & Heritage Services, be endorsed.



Jane Fernyhough
 Director, Arts, Culture & Heritage Services
 (604-276-4288)

Att. 1

FOR ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT USE ONLY			
ROUTED TO:		CONCURRENCE	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER
Budgets		Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	
Parks Planning, Design & Construction		Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	
Parks Maintenance & Operations		Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	
REVIEWED BY TAG	YES	NO	REVIEWED BY CAO
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>JK</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>DEPUTY</i> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>

Staff Report

Origin

At the Council meeting of July 28, 2009, Council endorsed the City of Richmond's participation in the Vancouver International Sculpture Biennale 2009-2011, as outlined in the staff report entitled 'City of Richmond Public Art Program Participation in the Vancouver International Sculpture Biennale, 2009-2011'. At that time five artworks were endorsed for temporary exhibition in Richmond.

On October 26, 2009, Council endorsed two additional art works for inclusion in the Biennale temporary outdoor public art exhibition.

The Vancouver Biennale has come forward and proposed to install an additional temporary art work in Richmond, "*Blue Trees*", by Australian artist Konstantin Dimopoulos, which is presented in this report for Council endorsement.

Participation in this well-respected festival of international art contributes to Council Term Goals to advance the City's destination status and ensure our continued development as a vibrant cultural city.

Analysis

The Vancouver International Sculpture Biennale (Biennale) is a non-profit organization with the mandate to mount a biannual temporary major outdoor sculpture exhibition featuring world-class international artists.

Current Biennale art works installed in Richmond

Seven works previously endorsed by Council are now installed:

- Yvonne Domenge (Mexico), *Olas de Viento (Wind Waves)*, Garry Point Park
- The Gao Brothers (China), *Miss Mao trying to poise herself at the top of Lenin's Head*, Alderbridge Way and Elmbridge Way
- Ren Jun (China), *Water #10*, Cambie Plaza on Middle Arm Greenway
- Hema Upadhyay (India), *Chandeliers in Series*, Aberdeen Centre
- Patrick Hughes (UK), *Doors of Knowledge*, Minoru Park
- Javier Marin (Mexico), *Heads (Cabezas)*, No 3 Road at Lansdowne Station
- Toni Latour (Vancouver), *Homage to Parenthood*, Brighthouse Canada Line Station

New opportunity

An additional opportunity for a temporary environmental artwork installation in Richmond has been proposed by the Biennale. The art work is titled "*Blue Trees*" by Australian artist Konstantin Dimopoulos (**Attachment 1**). The installation consists of a grouping of up to 40 young trees, with their root balls in burlap sacking, arranged in a cluster in the shape of a seed pod. The artist, with volunteer assistants, would then apply an environmentally safe blue colourant to the trees, as a form

of public performance art work. While existing trees would also be suitable for this art project, it would be easier to apply the colourant to unplanted trees still in their root sacks, without the cost or liability of using ladders, as the young trees can be coloured while horizontal and then tilted up to their final position.

The “performance” phase would require one to two weeks to complete, and would be scheduled for late April, to coincide with Earth Day which is celebrated annually around the world on April 22nd. Additionally, the United Nations has declared 2011 the International Year of Forests to raise awareness about the benefits of forests to current and future generations. The trees would remain in their temporary location for four to eight weeks, with the blue colourant fading over time and exposure. The City would provide irrigation to the trees as necessary. Afterwards, the trees would be permanently planted in designated Richmond locations.

The proposal was presented to the Richmond Public Art Advisory Committee and was enthusiastically supported.

Location for art project

Several locations have been reviewed by staff for this temporary art work performance and installation. The recommended location is within Garden City Community Park, adjacent to the new Alberta Road greenway and the park arboretum.

Afterwards, the trees would be considered for permanent planting in the park and greenway or moved to an alternate City owned location for permanent planting.

Technical review

Consistent with the approvals process for the previously endorsed works, a staff team will review the technical requirements for this work and the suitability of the proposed location, and sites for the permanent planting of the trees. The City Sustainability Unit has been consulted and has advised that any potential environmental or health concerns associated with the use of the Ultramarine blue colourant can be addressed with site procedures, including management of water runoff. Informational signage identifying the work and artist along with a description of the art work would be included at the installation site.

The City Parks Department would secure the trees for use in this project, maintain the trees and plant them in their permanent locations after completion of the event, with associated costs coming from the Tree Management Provision. The artist would be responsible for providing the colourant and the Biennale would be responsible for the artist’s accommodation, transportation and other expenses.

Financial Impact

Funding from the Public Art Reserve for the City’s participation in the Biennale temporary exhibitions has previously been endorsed by Council on July 28 and October 26, 2009. No additional funds from the Public Art Reserve are required for this new art opportunity. The Vancouver Biennale will pay the artist’s honorarium, provide accommodation and assistants. The artist will provide the colourant and be responsible for all necessary equipment to apply the

colourant. The Australian High Commission has expressed support for this project and will provide the artist's transportation.

The City of Richmond will acquire, transport, and maintain the trees for the duration of the art work, and plant them in their final locations after the project is completed, with these costs funded from the Tree Management Provision. The maximum expenditure from the Tree Management Provision for this project, including purchase, transportation, watering and planting of the trees in their final locations will be \$25,000. The Operating Budget Impact (OBI) for the ongoing maintenance of the trees will be absorbed into the annual Parks Operational budget.

Conclusion

Participation in the Biennale temporary exhibition of international art works contributes to the City's destination status and ensures our continued development as a vibrant cultural city through enhanced public art. The installation of "Blue Trees" offers an opportunity to enrich the City's cultural fabric, promote tourism, provide a legacy of community engagement, and bring awareness to the role of trees in City beautification and for environmental sustainability. The final planting of the trees, to be determined in consultation with the Parks Division, will be an enduring legacy of the project.



Eric Fiss
Public Art Planner
(604-247-4612)

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The Blue Trees

Art Installation and Legacy Project



Konstantin Dimopoulos
artist Australia

The Blue Trees

*They took all the trees, and put them in a tree museum
And they charged the people a dollar and a half to see them
No, no, no, don't it always seem to go
That you don't know what you've got till it's gone
They paved paradise, and put up a parking lot
Joni Mitchell's Big Yellow Taxi*

The Vancouver Biennale has invited artist, Konstantin Dimopoulos to create *The Blue Trees* as part of its 2010 performance art program.

The Blue Trees
Konstantin Dimopoulos

www.kondimopoulos.com
dimops@bigpond.net.au

Cell: +61400139691
T: +613 9830 4626



The trunks and larger branches are coloured a rich, ultramarine blue, a colour not normally associated with trees.

The Colourant

The colour is biologically safe and has been used for more than 20 years on the turf at the Melbourne Cricket Ground with absolutely no issues.

It is a water-based colourant, *not* paint and as such has a different composition. The product has been specifically developed for this project and has been successfully trialled on trees here in Melbourne.

The colour is ultramarine blue.

The binder is purely cellulosic and contains no vinyl acetate or acrylics. There are two non-hazardous pigments:

1. Calcium Carbonate CAS 1317-65-3
2. Ultramarine Blue CAS 57455-37-5
classified by Germany KBWS as non-hazardous to waters under regulation No. 1426.
To this blend a small amount of pine oil (less than 0.5%) is added as preservative.

The colourant is classified as a non-hazardous substance according to the Australian National Occupational Health and Safety Committee.

Other than water there are small amounts of a defoamer and wetting agents that are non-hazardous.

The amount of water in the colourant determines how long the colour will last on the trees.

Ultramarine is a manmade version roughly equivalent to the ancient blue stone Azurite and as such, will return minerals to the soil.

Related events

Public art programs in association with public art galleries and local council

Artist lectures at universities and art galleries

On-site discussions – this is a performance art installation and as such will benefit from having groups of people of all ages visiting the site and having the artist discuss this project with them.

Education programs at schools

Planting out ceremonies.

Outcomes

Greater public awareness about the importance of trees in the environment and to humans

Greater public awareness about protecting trees

Greater public awareness about the role of art in addressing social and environmental issues

Ongoing discussion and debate.

Requirements

30 to 50 trees of 10-12 feet in height with root balls wrapped in sacking (the more trees the greater the visual impact)

\$CA1500.00 for the blue water-based pigment which the artist will supply

Paintbrushes, buckets, water supply, rags to be sourced locally in Richmond by the artist

Some timber may be required to prop up some trees if the artist wishes to put them on a lean

Volunteer assistance will be required to unload trees from truck and to move trees into place once coloured by the artist

Food brought to the artist on site during this performance and all meals

Transport for the artist each day between his accommodation and the site (volunteer drivers)

Professional photographer, videomaker to document the performance

All accommodation expenses (Vancouver Biennale meeting this cost).