



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: General Purposes Committee

Date: January 16, 2019

From: Biliana Velkova
Public Art Planner

File: 11-7000-09-20-244/Vol
01

Re: Hollybridge Way Public Art Landmark Proposed Location

Staff Recommendation

That the proposed location for the Hollybridge Way Public Art Landmark artwork "Typhas" by artists Charlotte Wall and Puya Khalili, as presented in the report titled "Hollybridge Way Public Art Landmark Proposed Location," dated January 16, 2019, from the Director, Arts, Culture and Heritage Services, be endorsed.

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

Att. 5

REPORT CONCURRENCE		
ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER
Finance Department	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Parks Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Engineering	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Transportation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
REVIEWED BY STAFF REPORT / AGENDA REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE	INITIALS: 	APPROVED BY CAO

Staff Report

Origin

Following discussion of the Staff Report titled “Hollybridge Way Public Art Landmark Concept” at the Regular Council meeting on December 10, 2018 Council made the following referral motion:

(1) That the concept proposal and installation for the Hollybridge Way Landmark public artwork "Typhas" by artists Charlotte Wall and Puya Khalili, as presented in the report titled "Hollybridge Way Public Art Landmark Concept," dated November 1, 2018, from the Director, Arts, Culture and Heritage Services, be endorsed; and

(2) That the proposed location for the "Typhas" public artwork installation be referred back to staff for alternative siting on the Hollybridge Way Public Art Landmark.

This report responds to part two of the referral.

Analysis

As per the Hollybridge Way Public Art Landmark Terms of Reference, approved by Council in June 2018, and as identified in the City Centre Public Art Plan as adopted by Council in 2011, the siting of *Typhas* is intended to:

- mark a high profile location at the terminus for the proposed Lansdowne Road ceremonial route;
- act as a gateway/landmark for the new Hollybridge Waterfront Park and Pier; and
- provide a signature artwork anticipated to attract people to gather, pose for photos and create a sense of place.

At the December 10, 2018 Council meeting, additional issues were raised regarding whether the artwork would block the view of the river, whether the mirror finish of the artwork would pose a safety risk for motorists and whether the location of another artwork in the adjacent development would compete visually.

Staff has conferred with Parks, Public Works, Engineering and Transportation accordingly.

Oval Precinct and Surrounding Area Public Art Plan

The Richmond Olympic Oval Precinct and Surrounding Area Public Art Plan, approved by Council on April 25, 2006, incorporates the themes “flow, flight and fusion” to guide the shape and form of the art, landscape design and architecture in the precinct.

These themes support design and artwork that encapsulate the spirit of Olympic speed skating, the legacy of a community health and wellness centre and the growing complete community located at the water’s edge. Public artworks within the precinct have taken the themes of “flow, flight and fusion” as a point of departure in developing their artworks; these include Susan Point’s *Buttress Runnels*, Janet Echelman’s *Water Sky Garden* and Buster Simpson’s *Ice Blade*.

Typhas will mark the completion of the Oval Precinct and Surrounding Area Public Art Plan, making the area an important collection of a number of high profile and diverse works of public art in Richmond.

City Centre Public Art Plan

The City Centre Public Art Plan builds on the guiding principles of the City Centre Area Plan to create continuity throughout the City Centre and its individual villages. The City Centre Public Art Plan identifies themes and opportunities for public art to play a role in achieving a connected community.

“Richmond: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow” is the thematic framework within which artists will design their artwork. This framework offers context to create continuity and synergy, while allowing room for artistic expression and diverse projects.

Oval Village—a high-density, mixed commercial and residential district—is an important location for public art and builds on the success of the Richmond Olympic Oval’s public art program. The growth underway in this area provides an opportunity to incorporate public art which reflects the cultural history and waterfront environment.

The City Centre Public Art Plan identifies an estimated budget of \$100,000–\$350,000 for artwork related to the Middle Arm Waterfront Art Walk, in which Hollybridge Park is located.

Location Options

As this artwork is part of the Council approved Olympic Oval Precinct and Surrounding Area Public Art Plan funded from the Oval Precinct Public Art Capital Budget, only locations within the Olympic Oval Precinct have been considered in this report. Any locations elsewhere in the city would require an alternative funding source.

See Attachment 1 for a map showing the following identified locations:

- A. Hollybridge Way Pier
- B. Hollybridge and Lansdowne Intersection
- C. Grand Staircase

Any locations involving the dike or pump station are not considered options due to the potential negative impact to current and future flood protection infrastructure. The Riverside Plaza area which is already fully programmed with public artwork, volleyball court, etc. is also not considered an option for the siting of this work. The Legacy Plaza is, as well, fully programmed and already has a large-scale public artwork, *Water Sky Garden*. (Attachment 2)

Option A: Hollybridge Way Pier (Attachment 3)

In the initial planning stages of the area, Hollybridge Way Pier was considered as a location for the Hollybridge Way Public Art Landmark; however, it was concluded that placement of an

artwork there would limit programming opportunities for the pier as well as visually compete with the pier design and river view.

The City has entered into a contract for construction of the pier, which is scheduled to start in 2019. The project has been delayed for two years due to a lengthy process to obtain approval from the Province (for the license agreement). To locate *Typhas* on the pier would necessitate changing the contract to add this additional scope of work which is already tendered. First, a structural engineer would need to be retained to do a feasibility study to determine the nature of the new structural reinforcement to install the artwork and related additions (such as electrical power supply). The estimated cost for retaining a structural engineer for this feasibility study is up to \$15,000, which is not available in the Oval Precinct Public Art Capital Budget. Additionally, there is no dedicated funding source for the expenses that would follow the feasibility study: detailed design and specifications as well as additional construction costs for the structural and other modifications.

A changed scope of work would also be expected to result in renewed costly delays in obtaining approval from the Province.

Option B: Hollybridge and Lansdowne intersection (Attachment 4)

This location, due to its proximity to Hollybridge Canal Park, would thematically link with the intent of the artwork to connect with the river ecology. In order to accommodate the artwork, the site would require engineering and construction of a reinforced footing and installation of a new electrical power supply with an additional estimated combined cost of \$50,000 to \$75,000, which is not available in the Oval Precinct Public Art Capital Budget. There is significant underground infrastructure in this area including drainage box culverts, BC Hydro and the Metro Vancouver Gilbert Trunk Sewer, so placement of the artwork would also need to take this infrastructure into account.

Option C: Grand Staircase – (Recommended):

The landing on the grand stairs is a high profile location with visibility from the dyke trail, Dinsmore Bridge and No. 2 Road Bridge.

This location avoids conflict with event staging on the pier, safe pedestrian and cyclist movement, and road end turn-around (Attachment 3).

As this staircase location was previously designated for the placement of a piece of public art, the landing midway up the stairs was reinforced to take up to 8,000 kg (4 tonnes) in weight and up to 6 metres (20 ft.) in height. The recommended artwork has been designed specifically for this location based on these technical specifications as well as in response to the environmental heritage of the site as per the Council- approved Terms of Reference.

From the street level of Hollybridge Way, the river view is not visible due to the height of the dike (See photos on Attachment 5). The placement of the artwork at the mid-stair location follows the City Centre Area Plan recommendation of installing “markers” along the riverfront at the ends of view corridors to enhance way finding; the intention is to lead people to walk up the stairs to discover and enjoy the view, at which point, the artwork will be behind them.

Additional Concerns

A technical review and coordinating phase with City staff as well as other stakeholder agencies will be included with the design development phase of the work to ensure it meets safety and maintenance standards. Transportation staff have reviewed the art concept and do not have concerns with the mirror finish of the artwork from traffic safety and operational perspectives.

With the installation of *Typhas* (marking the completion of the Oval Precinct Public Art Plan) and additional artworks installed at adjacent developments, the Oval Precinct will feature a number of high profile works of public art. A new public art work by Douglas Coupland proposed to be installed at the plaza located along River Road at Hollybridge Way as part of the Aspac Development, will not be visible from the recommended Hollybridge Way stairs location and, therefore, will not visually compete with the work.

Financial Impact

There will be no financial impact to install the work in the recommended location.

There will be no financial impact as the funding for the public artwork is from the approved Oval Precinct Public Art Capital Budget.

Conclusion

The Hollybridge Way Public Art Landmark supports the Oval Precinct and Surrounding Area Public Art Plan to include an integrated artwork in the new Hollybridge Way Park. The recommended location is on the staircase leading up to the dike and Pier. This location best fulfills the criteria, approved by Council, to be a landmark gateway to the Hollybridge Way Park and Pier. A major artwork at this landmark location that celebrates "River and Sky" provides an opportunity to reveal the connection of Richmond to the Fraser River estuary and Pacific flyway. Hollybridge Way Landmark public artwork will enhance this culturally and ecologically rich place and contribute in making a vibrant, healthy and sustainable city.



Biliana Velkova
Public Art Planner
(604-247-4612)

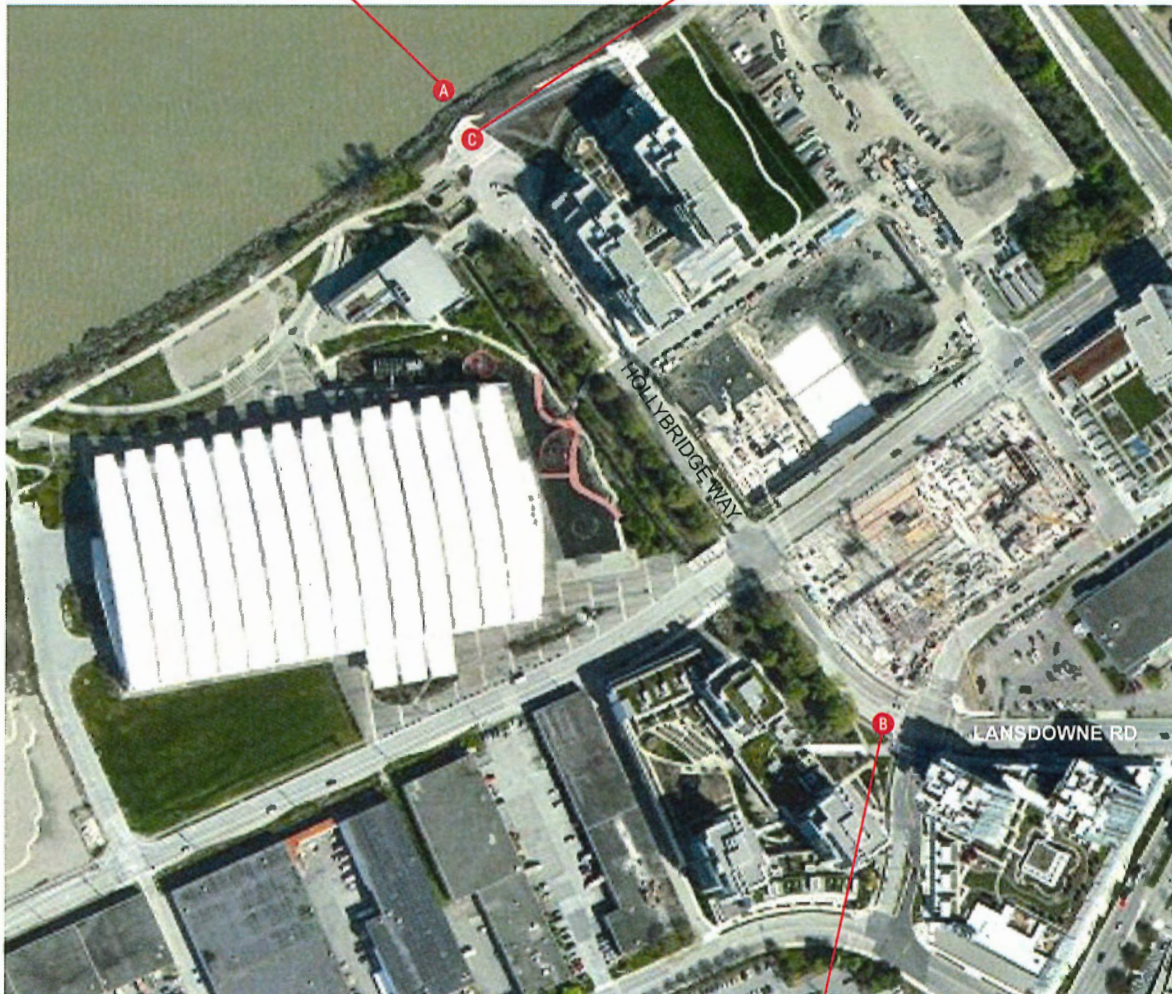
- Att. 1 Aerial View of Oval Precinct
- Att. 2 Aerial view of Richmond Olympic Oval Site
- Att. 3 Aerial View of Option A and Option C
- Att. 4 Aerial and Street View of Option B
- Att. 5 Street Level View of Grand Staircase

AERIAL VIEW OF OVAL PRECINCT

Attachment 1

Option A. Future Hollybridge Way Pier (in progress)

Option C. Grand Staircase



Shaded area indicates Oval Precinct

Option B. Hollybridge and Lansdowne Intersection



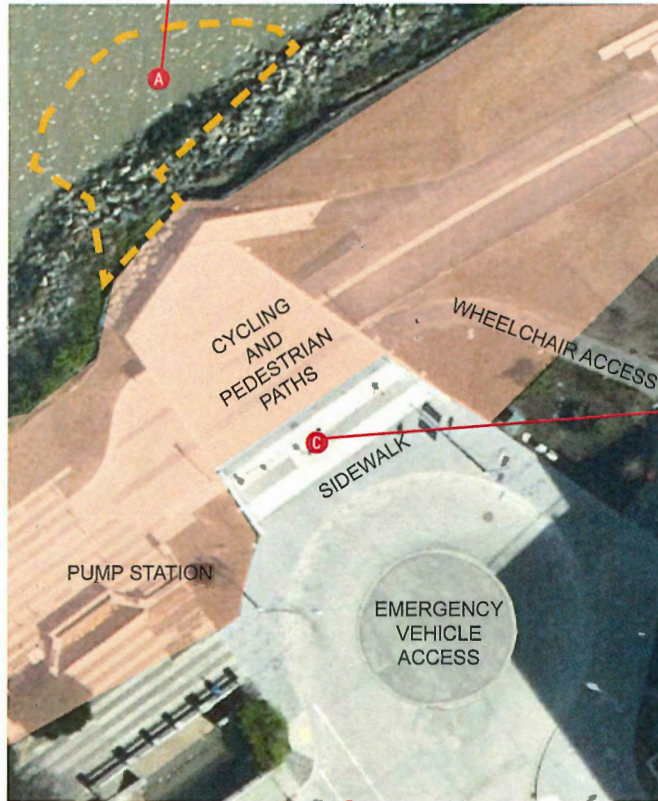
INSTALLED EXTERIOR PUBLIC ARTWORKS

- ① *Buttress Runnels*, Susan A. Point
- ② *Hupakwanum: The Chief's Treasure Box*, Nuu-chah-nuth artists
- ③ *Sight Works*, Elspeth Pratt and Javier Campos
- ④ *Water Sky Garden*, Janet Echelman
- ⑤ *Ice Blades*, Buster Simpson
- ⑥ *Star Arc*, W3

Shaded area not viable artwork location due to current and future flood protection infrastructure

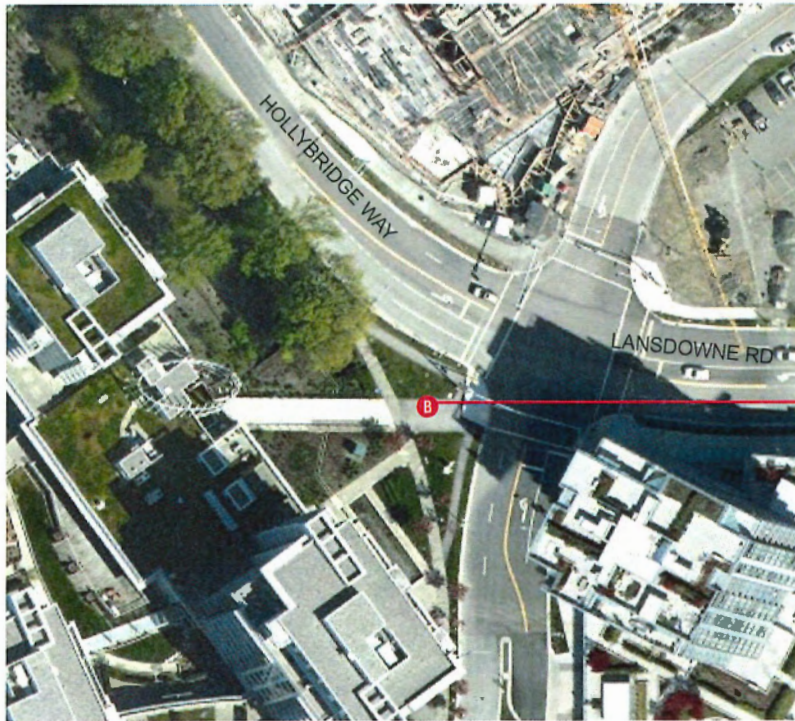
Shaded area not viable due to current and future flood protection infrastructure

A. Future Hollybridge Way Pier (in progress)



C. Grand Staircase with reinforced base





Option B.
Hollybridge
and Lansdowne
Intersection



View of Option B from street level



View of grand staircase from street level



View of artwork concept in recommended location, at street level