



**To:** General Purposes Committee

**Date:** July 5, 2011

**From:** Jane Fernyhough  
Director, Arts, Culture & Heritage Services

**File:** 11-7000-09-20-112/Vol  
01

**Re:** Richmond Community Safety Building Public Art Project

**Staff Recommendation**

That the revised concept proposal and installation of the Richmond Community Safety Building Public Art Project "The Coat of Arms" by artist Glen Andersen, as presented in the report from the Director, Arts, Culture & Heritage Services dated July 5, 2011, be approved.

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	
RCMP		Y	<input type="checkbox"/>	N	
Project Development		Y	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N	
<b>REVIEWED BY TAG</b>		YES	NO	<b>REVIEWED BY CAO</b>	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		

## Staff Report

### Origin

On May 16, 2011 the General Purposes Committee reviewed the concept proposal for the RCMP Community Safety Building Public Art Project "The Crest" by artist Glen Andersen, as presented in the report from the Director, Arts, Culture & Heritage Services dated May 2, 2011, and endorsed the following referral:

*That the RCMP Community Safety Building Public Art Project be referred back to staff to work with the artist on further options.*

### Analysis

At the May 16, 2011 General Purposes Committee meeting the proposed public art project for the new community safety building was presented by artist Glen Andersen.

Committee members expressed their appreciation for the artist's work and recommended that the theme focus on the City of Richmond and its community and characteristics, as set out in the "City of Richmond Public Art Program Call to Artists" for this public art opportunity.

Based on the Committee's direction, the artist has revised the proposal. The artist has maintained the concept of a "deconstructed crest" but has shifted the content to reflect the Richmond community. This has been achieved by basing the artwork on the City of Richmond "Coat of Arms". The resulting concept is a stronger proposal, with a more immediate connection to the heritage and environment of Richmond.

The entrance plaza mosaic paving is based on robes, cornucopia, and alluvial river flows, effectively creating the two arms of the Fraser River to welcome visitors and staff into the building. The disappearing animal in the reeds is represented by three salmon, a direct reference to the three salmon on the shield within the Coat of Arms. The text panel, which completes the elements of the Coat of Arms, bears the inscription "Child of the Fraser" (**Attachment 1**).

The revised concept proposal has been reviewed by the Public Art Selection Panel and the Richmond Public Art Advisory Committee, who recommend that Council endorse the revised concept proposal.

### Financial Impact

A public art budget of \$100,000 was allocated in the construction budget for the Richmond Community Safety Building replacement. The allocation is based on the construction costs of the capital project and excludes soft costs (i.e., administration, professional and legal fees, furnishings and permit fees).

A budget of \$90,000 is provided to the artist for the design, fabrication and installation of the artwork including all related artist expenses. The remaining \$10,000 in the approved budget is for administration of the project, including selection panel expenses, design honoraria paid to the five short listed artist teams, and a contingency fund. The operating budget impact (OBI) for cleaning and maintenance of the art work is included in the approved OBI for the 2010 Public Art Program capital project.

**Conclusion**

The new community safety building represents an opportunity to use public art to honour the history and identity of the City of Richmond. Staff recommend that Council endorse the revised concept proposal and installation of the Richmond Community Safety Building public art project “The Coat of Arms” by artist Glen Andersen, as presented in this report.



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

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## Richmond Community Safety Building: Re-design of Public Art components

### Richmond Coat of Arms



This new design for the public art at the Richmond Community Safety Building takes the concept and formal elements of the original design and reworks them based on the Richmond Coat of Arms. This way the City is represented via its own symbols, and should the use of the building ever change from RMCP/Police Force to another City use, the relationship to Richmond will remain intact.

The Coat of Arms, used for many decades and originally drawn by an un-credited artist (as was not uncommon in the day), comprises a representation of the Fraser River on the shield with the Goddesses of Fortune flanking it. They each hold a cornucopia, representing Richmond's past and present agricultural bounty which forms the ground on which they stand. A knight's helmet tops the shield with floral regalia floating from it. A dove-like bird, which more closely resembles a cedar waxwing (common to these parts) stands on the dogwoods and maple leaves adorning the crown. Underlining the shield is the phrase "Child of the Fraser", the first line of a poem by Thomas Kidd, a significant social contributor and historian of early Richmond.

### **VISUAL CONCEPT:**

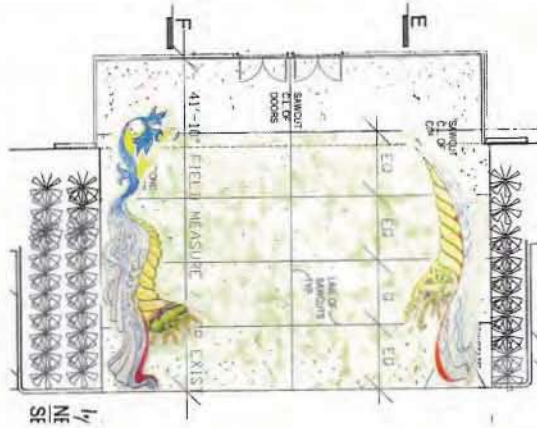
The robes of the goddesses are represented in tile mosaic, morphing into the folds of the north and south arms of the Fraser River, which frame the plaza, as the cornucopias pour their abundant garden and farming wealth into the central plaza. The fabric accoutrements to the knight's helmet are also worked into this river/robe collage.

This proposal also includes re-paving the inner section of the plaza with seeded glass and aggregates of greens, suggesting the verdant meadows of the Delta prior to development. Of course, under all the present development still lies a wealth of fertility, a reality that is easy to forget in the sweep of progress. Some fingers of blue can similarly suggest the many sloughs that once fed water deep into the what we now call "Lulu" and "Sea" Islands. In front of the doorway, the waxwing/dove is rendered in pebble mosaic, cast in independent slabs and recessed, flush with the surrounding pavement.

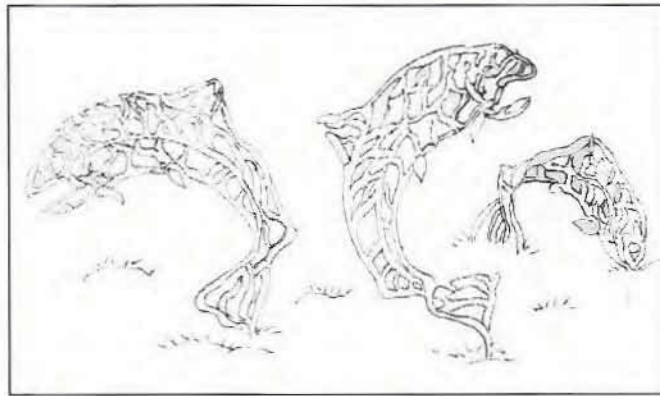


**Entrance Plaza – Mosaic Design**

The salmon have taken the place of the originally-conceived buffalo sculpture on the grassy mound to the south.



**Grassy Mound – Salmon**



The original site for signage, along the balcony fascias, will host the phrase “Child of the Fraser”, cut out of metal sheets, with light on the wall behind for night-time viewing. While this latter element could be seen as just signage, it is in fact an integral part of the artistic rendering of the Richmond Coat of Arms.



**Balconies – Child of the Fraser**



### **Technical Considerations:**

**MOSAICS:** The tile mosaics at either side of the plaza would be built to grade with the final level of the plaza. All pavement has been removed and upon repaving would be seeded with the colored aggregates. This technique is consistent with standard exposed aggregate, except with additional material being scattered during paving. Recesses would be created for the tile mosaic using plywood "blanks" which permit the tile to reach a flush level when complete.

The 3 jumping salmon would be rendered in steel rods, built to resemble estuary reeds and grasses. Viewing of them will be privileged so that as one passes, on foot, bike or car, the clarity of the 3-D image comes and goes, leaving the view of a simple grove before and after the animal image crystallizes. This effect underlines the "now you see it ; now you don't" aspect of public art (as well as that of the natural estuaries, which tend to get obliterated by development).



**Previous examples of pebble mosaic application by the artist in other Lower Mainland locations**