



# City of Richmond

## Report to Committee

**To:** General Purposes Committee

**Date:** March 17, 2011

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

**File:** 11-7000-09-20-099/Vol  
01


**Re:** Results from Public Consultation on Acquiring Biennale Artwork

### Staff Recommendation

1. That the report entitled "Results from Public Consultation on Acquiring Biennale Artwork" from the Director, Arts, Culture & Heritage Services dated March 17, 2011, be received for information; and,
2. That no further action be taken at this time.

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

Att. 2

FOR ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT 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 December 13, 2010, Council considered the staff report entitled, "Acquisition of Vancouver International Sculpture Biennale 2009-2011 Artwork" and approved the following motion:

- 1) That a public consultation process be conducted to obtain feedback from the community on their preferred Vancouver International Sculpture Biennale 2009-2011 artwork, as outlined in the staff report dated November 2, 2010 from the Director, Arts, Culture and Heritage Services; and,*
- 2) That based on this feedback a listing of the favoured Biennale artworks and the potential funding options to acquire one or more permanent artwork(s) be brought forward for Council consideration in spring 2011.*

This report provides a summary of the public consultation process.

### **Analysis**

#### Background

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. At the Council meeting on July 28, 2009, Council endorsed the City of Richmond's participation in the Biennale 2009-2011 exhibition. In spring 2011, the temporary exhibition will come to completion and the artworks will go to public auction, scheduled for April 30, 2011.

In response to a letter received from the Chair of the Public Art Advisory Committee requesting that the City consider purchasing one or more of the artworks, Council directed staff to conduct a public consultation process. To receive community input an electronic survey (**Attachment 1**) and hard copy surveys in both English (**Attachment 2**) and Chinese were designed. The electronic survey was available on the City website and hard copies both in English and Chinese were available at City Hall and the Cultural Centre. The survey ran from February 2 – 18, 2011 and was promoted through a City News Release as well as ads in the Richmond Review, Ming Pao, Sing Tao and World Journal newspapers. The survey results are summarized in this report.

Best efforts were made to ensure the validity of the survey through widespread notification that only one survey would be received per household however, within the constraints of an anonymous online and paper survey there was no ability to limit the number of submissions per person.

#### Survey Results

There was a large response to the survey, with a total of 2,657 completed surveys from the Richmond community and 2,810 overall, including responses from other British Columbia communities, across Canada and internationally.

## Survey questions:

1. I am in favour of using funds in the Public Art Reserve, which are designated to the acquisition of public art to purchase a public art piece from the 2009-2011 Biennale collection.

Question #1	Richmond Note 1		Other Communities Note 2		Total	
<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>2,657</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2,810</b>	<b>100%</b>
Strongly Agree	249	9%	107	70%	356	13%
Agree	214	8%	20	13%	234	8%
Neutral	98	4%	1	1%	99	3%
Disagree	164	6%	0	0%	164	6%
Strongly Disagree	1932	73%	25	16%	1,957	70%

## Notes:

- The total number of survey responses includes 31 responses from Richmond received (February 19 to February 21) after the closure of the survey on February 18, 2011. The late responses did not alter the percentage breakdown as summarized above.
  - The responses from communities outside Richmond included 81 from other BC municipalities (58 agree, 1 neutral and 22 disagree), 6 from other Canadian provinces (5 agree and 1 disagree), 22 from the US (21 agree and 1 disagree), and 44 international (43 agree and 1 disagree).
2. I would like the following artworks as part of Richmond's permanent public art collection. Check all that apply:

Question #2 Notes 1, 2, and 3	Richmond	Other Communities	Total
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,244</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>3,483</b>
<i>Olas de Viento (Wind Waves)</i>	505	59	564
<i>Miss Mao trying to poise herself at the top of Lenin's Head</i>	127	12	139
<i>Water #10</i>	321	23	344
<i>Doors of Knowledge</i>	154	103	257
<i>Heads (Cabezas)</i>	105	16	121
Other <sup>Note 2</sup>	65	1	66
None of the above	1,967	25	1,992

## Notes:

- The total number of selected artworks (3,483) exceeds the number of survey responses because people were allowed to select more than one artwork.
- Other artworks suggested for acquisition included Biennale art works currently on temporary display in Vancouver, First Nations artworks, and Canadian art.

## Any other comments/suggestions:

Following the two survey questions, space was provided for additional comments and suggestions. Of the 2,657 survey responses originating in Richmond 1,120 responses included comments, with 16% indicating support of acquisition (175), 3% neutral (36), and 81% opposed to acquisition (909).

Although information was provided on the source and purpose of funding for public art in both the pre-ambles to the questions and within Question #1 itself, there was a misunderstanding about the source and use of the Public Art Reserve as indicated by some of the comments from the public, as noted below.

The most frequent comments are summarized as follows:

Richmond comments **in support** of acquisition:

- The Biennale art enhances the City as a world class city, enriches the culture of the City, and promotes the City as a tourist destination (23)
- The Biennale art is beautiful, creative, admirable and inspiring (25).
- The artwork is agreeable in its present locations, in particular Wind Waves (12).
- Art is essential to daily life (12).

Richmond comments **opposed** to acquisition:

- Tax dollars should not be used to fund acquisition of these artworks (265).
- The Public Art Reserve should be used for non-art related expenditures, including infrastructure, community centres, schools, health care, community safety, reduce taxes, and eliminate the HST (226).
- Any art purchased by the City of Richmond should be by Canadian or First Nations artists (201).
- Funds in the Public Art Reserve should be used for other arts related projects, including subsidies for local artists and renovating arts and heritage facilities (52).
- The Biennale artwork is ugly and offensive (49).
- Art is not a funding priority (35).
- Not opposed to art but want art funded only by private donations (23).

Comments from communities outside Richmond **in support** of acquisition (26):

- These pieces are fantastic and bring a wonderful addition to Richmond.
- Great program! All world-class cities have good public art.
- Doors of Knowledge would be an asset to any City; this sculpture brings joy and warmth to the soul.
- A really inspiring exhibition.

Comments from communities outside Richmond **opposed** to acquisition (9):

- Canadian artists should be given priority, as funding comes from Canadian taxpayers.
- Stop wasting our hard earned money.
- Keep the tax dollars for helping the needy.


### **Financial Impact**

There is no financial impact associated with this report.

## Conclusion

A public consultation process was conducted to obtain feedback from the community on their preferred Vancouver International Sculpture Biennale 2009-2011 artwork to purchase, including the option of not purchasing any of the artwork. The public response to the survey was significant, with a total of 2,810 surveys completed including 2,657 survey responses originating in Richmond.

The opinion from the Richmond community was 17% in support of acquisition, 4% neutral and 79% opposed to the purchase of any of the Biennale artworks. Of the 1,120 survey responses received from the Richmond community that included comments, there were 588 responses (22% of total Richmond survey responses) that did not support acquisition and reflected a misunderstanding of the Public Art Reserve, which is funded from voluntary contributions by private developers and may only be used for the support of public art projects in the City.



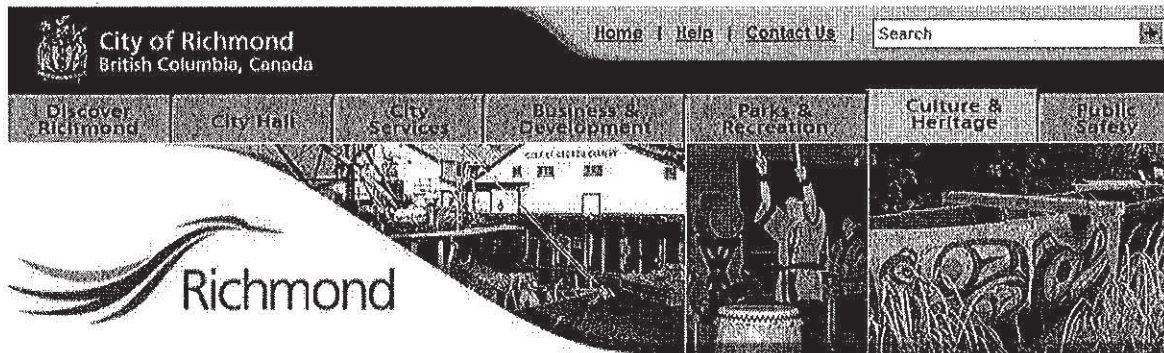
Eric Fiss  
Public Art Planner  
(604-247-4612)

EF:ef



Kim Somerville  
Manager, Arts Services  
(604-247-4671)





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## BIENNALE ARTWORKS

## Opportunity to Acquire Vancouver Biennale Artwork

### Have your say on whether a piece should be purchased

The City of Richmond would like the public's input on which, if any, Vancouver International Sculpture Biennale 2009-2011 artworks should be purchased for the City of Richmond's permanent art collection.

TAKE OUR SURVEY

Deadline to complete the survey is February 18, 2011.

### Background

The Vancouver International Sculpture Biennale is a non-profit organization with the mandate to mount a biannual temporary major outdoor sculpture exhibition featuring world-class international artists. At the completion of the 2009-2011 temporary exhibition, the artworks will go to public auction (tentatively scheduled for Spring 2011). The City has the opportunity to purchase any of the artworks currently installed in Richmond prior to the auction.

The City of Richmond entered into a successful partnership with the Biennale in 2009, which resulted in Council endorsing the installation of eight artworks throughout Richmond. Of these eight artworks, any of the following five works could be acquired, with the appropriate funding, to become part of the City's permanent public art collection:

- [Olas de Viento \(Wind Waves\)](#)  
Artist Yvonne Domenge (Mexico), Garry Point Park
- [Miss Mao trying to poise herself at the top of Lenin's Head](#)  
Artists The Gao Brothers (China), Alderbridge Way and Elmbridge Way
- [Water #10](#)  
Artist Ren Jun (China), Cambie Plaza on Middle Arm Greenway
- [Doors of Knowledge](#)  
Artist Patrick Hughes (UK), Minoru Park
- [Heads \(Cabezas\)](#)  
Artist Javier Marin (Mexico), No 3 Road at Lansdowne Station

### Financial Impact

The cost for acquisition could range between \$300,000 and \$800,000 for any one piece. There is approximately \$650,000 unallocated in the Public Art Reserve that could be used for acquisition. The funds in the Public Art Reserve have accumulated since 1997 from voluntary contributions by private developers, where they chose the option to make a contribution to the Reserve rather than installing public art with their new development. Funds in the Reserve may only be used to support public art projects in the City. There are no tax dollars in the fund.

For more information on the Richmond Public Art Program, including the Policies and Administrative Procedures, please visit [www.richmond.ca/publicart](http://www.richmond.ca/publicart).

### Purpose

On December 13, 2010 Council directed that a public consultation process be conducted to obtain feedback from the community on their preferred Vancouver International Sculpture Biennale 2009-2011 artwork to purchase, including the option of not purchasing any of the artwork. Feedback from the public survey will be brought forward in a report to Council this spring.

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**OPPORTUNITY TO ACQUIRE VANCOUVER BIENNALE ARTWORK**

**Public Survey: Opportunity to Acquire Vancouver Biennale Artwork**

The survey has been closed due to reaching the response limit. **Have your say on whether a piece should be purchased**

The City of Richmond has the opportunity to acquire any of the Biennale Artworks currently on temporary display in Richmond prior to them going to auction in spring 2011.

I am in favour of using funds in the Public Art Reserve which are designated to the acquisition of public art to purchase a public art piece from the 2009-2011 Biennale collection.

REQUIRED

☐ Strongly Agree
 ☐ Agree
 ☐ Neutral
 ☐ Disagree
 ☐ Strongly Disagree

I would like the following artworks as part of Richmond's permanent public art collection. Check all that apply:

REQUIRED

☐ Olas de Viento (Wind Waves) located at Garry Park  
☐ Miss Mao trying to pole herself at the top of Lenin's Head located at Alderbridge and Elmbridge Way  
☐ Water #10 located at the Cambie Plaza on Middle Arm Greenway (Intersection of Cambie and River Rd)  
☐ Doors of Knowledge located at Minoru Park  
☐ Heads (Cabezas) located on No. 3 Road at the Lansdowne Canada Line Station  
☐ None of the above

Other:

Any other comments/suggestions

In order to ensure survey validity, please include your postal code.

REQUIRED

Completed surveys without a postal code will not be included.  
Survey submissions are limited to one per household.

Please click the submit button when you have completed the survey.



City of  
Richmond

**Public Art Survey**  
*Opportunity to Acquire  
Vancouver Biennale Artwork*

February 2, 2011

## Have your say on whether a piece should be purchased

The City of Richmond would like the public's input on which, if any, Vancouver International Sculpture Biennale 2009–2011 artworks should be purchased for the City of Richmond's permanent public art collection.

### Background

The Vancouver International Sculpture Biennale is a non-profit organization with the mandate to mount a biannual temporary major outdoor sculpture exhibition featuring world-class international artists. At the completion of the 2009–2011 temporary exhibition, the artworks will go to public auction (tentatively scheduled for late spring 2011). The City has the opportunity to purchase any of the artworks currently installed in Richmond prior to the auction.

The City of Richmond entered into a successful partnership with the Biennale in 2009, which resulted in Council endorsing the installation of eight artworks throughout Richmond. Of these eight artworks, any of the five works shown below could be acquired with the appropriate funding, to become part of the City's permanent public art collection.

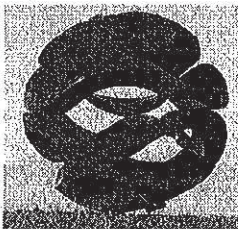
### Financial Impact

The cost for acquisition could range between \$300,000 and \$800,000 for any one piece. There is approximately \$650,000 unallocated in the Public Art Reserve that could be used for acquisition. The funds in the Public Art Reserve have accumulated since 1997 from voluntary contributions by private developers, where they chose the option to make a contribution to the Reserve rather than installing public art with their new development. Funds in the Reserve may only be used to support public art projects in the City. There are no tax dollars in the fund.

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### Purpose

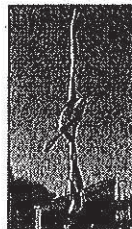
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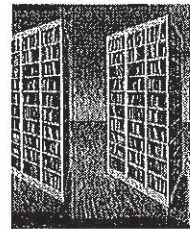
*Olas de Viento (Wind Waves),*  
Yvonne Doméneque (Mexico),  
Garry Point Park



*Miss Mao trying to poise herself at the top of Lenin's Head,*  
The Gao Brothers (China),  
Alderbridge Way and Elmbridge Way



*Water #10,*  
Ren Jun (China),  
Cambie Plaza on Middle Arm Greenway



*Doors of Knowledge,*  
Patrick Hughes (UK),  
Minoru Park



*Heads (Cabezas),*  
Javier Maín (Mexico),  
No. 3 Road at Lansdowne Station

3138115





## Have your say in the City's next public art purchase

(please complete and send in)

1. I am in favour of using funds in the Public Art Reserve which are designated to the acquisition of public art to purchase a public art piece from the 2009-2011 Biennale collection.

☐ Strongly Agree    ☐ Agree    ☐ Neutral    ☐ Disagree    ☐ Strongly Disagree

2. I would like the following artworks as part of Richmond's permanent public art collection. Check all that apply:

- ☐ *Olas de Viento (Wind Waves)* located at Garry Point Park  
☐ *Miss Mao trying to poise herself at the top of Lenin's Head* located at Alderbridge Way and Elmbridge Way  
☐ *Water #10* located at the Cambie Plaza on Middle Arm Greenway (intersection of Cambie Road and River Road)  
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☐ *Heads (Cabezas)* located on No. 3 Road at the Lansdowne Canada Line Station  
☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ None of the above

Any other comments/suggestions: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

In order to ensure survey validity, please include your postal code: \_\_\_\_\_

Completed surveys without a postal code will not be included.

Thank you for your time. Your input is important to us and will be compiled and brought forward in a report to Council this spring.

Please return the completed survey on or before **February 18, 2011**:

- Drop off at Richmond City Hall Information Counter located at 6911 No. 3 Road (Mon-Fri 8:15 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.)
- Fax it to 604-276-4132
- Mail it to City of Richmond c/o The Public Art Program, 6911 No. 3 Road, Richmond, BC V6Y 2C1