




**To:** Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee      **Date:** November 2, 2010  
**From:** Jane Fernyhough      **File:** 11-7125-01/2004-Vol  
 Director, Arts, Culture & Heritage Services      01  
**Re:** **Acquisition of Vancouver International Sculpture Biennale 2009-2011 Artwork**

**Staff Recommendations**

That:

1. 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. 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.

  
 Jane Fernyhough  
 Director, Arts, Culture & Heritage Services  
 (604-276-4288)  
 Att. 1

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<b>ROUTED TO:</b>	<b>CONCURRENCE</b>	<b>CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER</b>	
Communications	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>		
<b>REVIEWED BY TAG</b>	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>REVIEWED BY CAO</b>	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 (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 artworks for inclusion in the Biennale temporary outdoor public art exhibition and on November 8, 2010 Council endorsed an additional Biennale temporary artwork in Richmond.

In October 2010 the City received a letter from the Chair of the Richmond Public Art Advisory Committee (**Attachment 1**) requesting that the City consider acquiring one or more of the art works featured in Richmond when the 2009-2011 Biennale comes to a conclusion.

Participation in this well-respected festival of international art and the potential acquisition of one or more of these works contribute to the Council Term Goal "to advance the City's destination status and ensure our continued development as a vibrant cultural city through enhanced public art".

### Analysis

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 auction, tentatively scheduled for April 30, 2011. The City has the opportunity to purchase any of the artworks currently installed in Richmond prior to the auction.

#### Potential Artworks for Purchase

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, as 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

The remaining three artworks are considered temporary in nature, have a limited lifespan and are therefore not suitable for permanent acquisition:

- *Chandeliers in Series*, artist Hema Upadhyay (India), Aberdeen Centre
- *Homage to Parenthood*, artist Toni Latour (Vancouver), Brighthouse Canada Line Station
- *Blue Trees*, artist Kon Dimopoulos (Australia), Garden City Park (to be installed April 2011)

The cost for acquisition could range between \$300,00 and \$800,000 for any one piece. Prices will be negotiated with the Sculptural Biennale Society and the artist after the public consultation and be included in the report to Council. There is approximately \$650,000 unallocated in the Public Art Reserve that could be used for acquisition.

### Public Consultation Process

In order to determine which works of art might be considered for acquisition, it is proposed that a public process be conducted to gain input from the general public. While both of the local newspapers have conducted informal polls on the people's choice for public art, neither dealt solely with biennale works and the input is not necessarily broad based or diverse.

It is proposed that an on-line survey be created to gain public input as well as an open house to be held. These would be followed by a workshop with a broad cross section of community members invited to participate.

This public consultation would be planned for January and early February, 2011. The results of the public consultation with a recommendation on the potential acquisition of one or more of the pieces as well as potential funding sources will then be brought forward for Council consideration.

### **Financial Impact**

There is no financial impact to the recommendations in this report. Any costs for the public consultation process will be covered through the City's Public Art budget.

### **Conclusion**

Participation in the Biennale temporary exhibition of international art works has brought considerable positive attention and media coverage to the City and its support for art in the public realm. The art works are impressive and of international caliber. A public consultation process to determine the works favoured for possible acquisition by the public in Richmond is recommended with a future report outlining the results and possible funding sources for Council consideration.

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



## Richmond Public Art Advisory Committee

October 6, 2010

Mayor Malcolm Brodie and Richmond City Councillors  
6911 No 3 Road  
Richmond, BC V6Y 2C1

Dear Mayor Brodie and Councillors :

**Re: 2009-2011 Vancouver International Sculpture Biennale Legacies Artworks**

The Richmond Public Art Advisory Committee would like to propose that City Council consider acquiring one or more of the 2009-2011 Vancouver International Sculpture Biennale artworks featured in Richmond.

Due to the immense interest and astonishing dialogue that some of the sculptures inspired it is obvious that art has the power to stimulate discussion and provide excitement in the public realm everywhere and in our City in particular. The range of experiences offered by these iconic artworks went all the way from fascination with the eye-deceiving "*Doors of Knowledge*" to the shock of the *Miss Mao Trying to Poise Herself at the Top of Lenin's Head*, and from the abstract delight of the *Wind Waves* perched on the promontory at Garry Point Park to the landmark *Water #10* at the Cambie Plaza on the Middle Arm Greenway.

Perhaps some form of on-line public survey could help identify those pieces which would be considered for a permanent place in Richmond. As the Canada Line and recent 2010 Vancouver Olympic Games has opened up the City, Richmond is not only a "gateway" but a "destination", welcoming both residents of the greater Vancouver area and tourists from abroad. Iconic artworks are an enormous attraction adding vibrancy and an urban appeal to Richmond and are an effective way to draw people to our City.

Another aspect to explore would be the funding of such an endeavour. The City itself could consider contributing to part of the cost (through the Public Art Reserve Fund) thus showing commitment to this opportunity. There could be a search for sponsors, and corporate donors who would receive recognition for their valued contributions. Other ideas for raising the necessary funds might include offering opportunities for individuals to be a part of the artwork by having their names engraved on pavers surrounding the artwork, holding fundraising events and finding a way to provide dedications, in addition to the popular park bench program in Richmond.

Yours truly,

Willa Walsh, Chair, Richmond Public Art Advisory Committee

cc: Eric Fiss, Public Art Planner