



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee
Date: March 4, 2016

From: Jane Fernyhough
 Director, Arts, Culture and Heritage Services
File: 11-7000-09-20-188/Vol 01

Re: **Polygon Development 273 Ltd. (Kingsley Estates) Donation of Public Artwork *Spirit of Steveston***

Staff Recommendation

That the donation by Polygon Development 273 Ltd. (Kingsley Estates) of the artwork *Spirit of Steveston* to the City of Richmond, as presented in the report from the Director, Arts, Culture and Heritage Services, titled "Polygon Development 273 Ltd. (Kingsley Estates) Donation of Public Artwork *Spirit of Steveston*", dated March 4, 2016, be approved.

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

Att. 4

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

Staff Report

Origin

As part of the Polygon Kingsley Estate development at 10388 No. 2 Road, the developer proposes to donate a public artwork to the City. This report presents for Council's consideration the proposed public artwork, artist and location.

This report supports Council's 2014-2018 Term Goal #2: A Vibrant, Active and Connected City:

Continue the development and implementation of an excellent and accessible system of programs, services, and public spaces that reflect Richmond's demographics, rich heritage, diverse needs, and unique opportunities, and that facilitate active, caring, and connected communities.

Analysis

Richmond Public Art Program

The Richmond Public Art Program sets a framework for creating opportunities for people to experience art in everyday life, encouraging citizens to take pride in public cultural expression, and complement the character of Richmond's diverse neighbourhoods through the creation of distinctive public spaces. Donations of artwork to the City are an important part of Richmond's growing Public Art Collection.

Development Proposal

Polygon's "Kingsley Estates" development is a residential townhouse development at 10388 No. 2 Road (formerly 10440 and 10460 No. 2 Rd) located on the site of the former Steveston Secondary School. The 133-unit townhouse development, currently under construction, includes dedication of parkland and provision of a City-owned child care facility within the entry plaza park space fronting No. 2 Road on a lot transferred from Polygon to the City.

Council approved the development's rezoning application (RZ 13-649524) and development permit (DP 15-692659) on June 22, 2015. As part of the rezoning and development permit, the developer agreed to integrate a public art project on the development's site or vicinity.

Detailed Public Art Plan

The development's Draft Detailed Public Art Plan (Attachment 1) was presented to the Public Art Advisory Committee on March 18, 2014, by Chris Ho, project manager for Polygon Homes, and public art consultant Emily Nixon from Durante Kreuk Ltd. The Public Art Advisory Committee supported the Public Art Plan with the recommendation that an open call to artists be considered and that the artist collaborate with the park planner and design team to integrate the artwork at a public location on the site, including locations on the Entry Plaza and Greenway (Attachment 2). Subsequent to the release of draft Public Art Plan the greenways locations were adjusted but the overall intent of locating the art work on No. 2 Road remains appropriate.

Terms of Reference

The two-stage call to artists, issued May 5, 2014, incorporated the recommendations from the Public Art Advisory Committee for a call open to all professional artists residing in British Columbia, and identified that the public art should reflect the history of the site as the former Steveston Secondary School and be located along the Greenway and Entry Plaza. The Terms of Reference described the art opportunity, site description, theme, budget, schedule, artist selection process and submission criteria.

The public art consultant worked with Polygon Homes to reach out to the community in Steveston and to the Alumni Association of Steveston High. The site's history as a high school as the theme for the public art was supported at open houses held by the developer to introduce the project.

Proposed Location

The Detailed Public Art plan proposed that the public art be located at the Entry Plaza where it would be most publicly accessible and visible from No. 2 Road, and will act as a landmark and gateway to the London/Steveston Neighbourhood Park connected by greenways along the perimeter of the site. A new child care facility will be located adjacent to the Entry Plaza.

Public Art Selection Process

Under the terms of the Public Art Program administration procedures, a five-member selection panel met on July 15, 2014 to review a list of 23 local BC artists who responded to the artist call. Three members of the selection panel were Steveston Secondary alumni, including a former principal. The selection panel recommended that four artists be shortlisted and invited to submit a concept proposal. Four artists subsequently submitted proposals.

On September 3, 2014, the selection panel met to review the concept proposals and interview the shortlisted artists for this opportunity. The concept proposal presented by the artists Cheryl Hamilton and Michael Vandermeer was recommended for the commission (Attachment 3).

The Richmond Public Art Advisory Committee reviewed this proposal on October 13, 2015, and recommended that Council support this proposal for the donated artwork subject to refinement of the site location to maximize visibility from No. 2 Road. Members noted that this piece will act as a landmark and discussed concerns about the location noting that they would like it in as public a location as possible.

The artist consultant team has worked with staff to address this concern. The art work has been shifted closer to the southwest corner of the Entry Plaza and positioned in front of a cluster of cherry trees to emphasize its height and improve its visibility. The work has been aligned to serve as a focus from both the street as well as from major walkways within the site.

Proposed Artwork

The proposed sculpture, *Spirit of Steveston*, is approximately 12 feet long x 30 feet high. It is based on the iconic Steveston image of a Seine Fishing Boat followed by a flock of seagulls as it returns to port (Attachment 2).

It will be made from cast and fabricated stainless steel, chosen for its non-toxicity and exceptional corrosion resistance. All edges and corners will be rounded. The entire sculpture will be welded, without bolts.

The tilted poles that hold the boat and its flock of seagulls represented by books is to be smoothly polished stainless steel. The poles will be of a narrow diameter and set at such an angle so as to prevent climbing. The surrounding area will be grass.

The *Spirit of Steveston* fulfills two functions:

- The sculpture links the site to its history as Steveston Secondary, celebrating the lives of the sites' previous inhabitants.
- The sculpture links the site to the larger cultural context of Steveston, acknowledging marine industry and the culture of the region.

Cost of the Artwork Donation

The developer has provided a Letter of Credit on May 19, 2015, in the amount of \$185,237 as security towards the administration, selection, fabrication and installation of public art as a condition of the development approval process.

Of the total public art contribution of \$194,986, an amount of \$9,749 (5%) in cash has been deposited to the City for Public Art Administration in accordance with Council Policy 8703, and \$15,067 (8%) of the \$185,237 Letter of Credit security has been allocated for public art consulting and administration costs by the public art consultant retained by the developer. The artist contract is for \$170,170. A tax receipt for the donation will not be issued as the donation of the artwork is in exchange for the commitment made to a voluntary contribution for public art through the development approvals process.

Financial Impact

The artwork will require minimal periodic washing and maintenance by the City at an approximate cost of \$300 per cleaning every two years. City funds would be allocated out of the Public Art Program's annual operating budget.

Conclusion

Public art animates the built and natural environment with meaning, while contributing to a vibrant city in which to live and visit. The proposed artwork by Cheryl Hamilton and Michael Vandermeer and donated by Polygon Development represents a significant gift to the City of Richmond. It is a continuing show of support by developers for the importance of public art to neighbourhoods and the City.

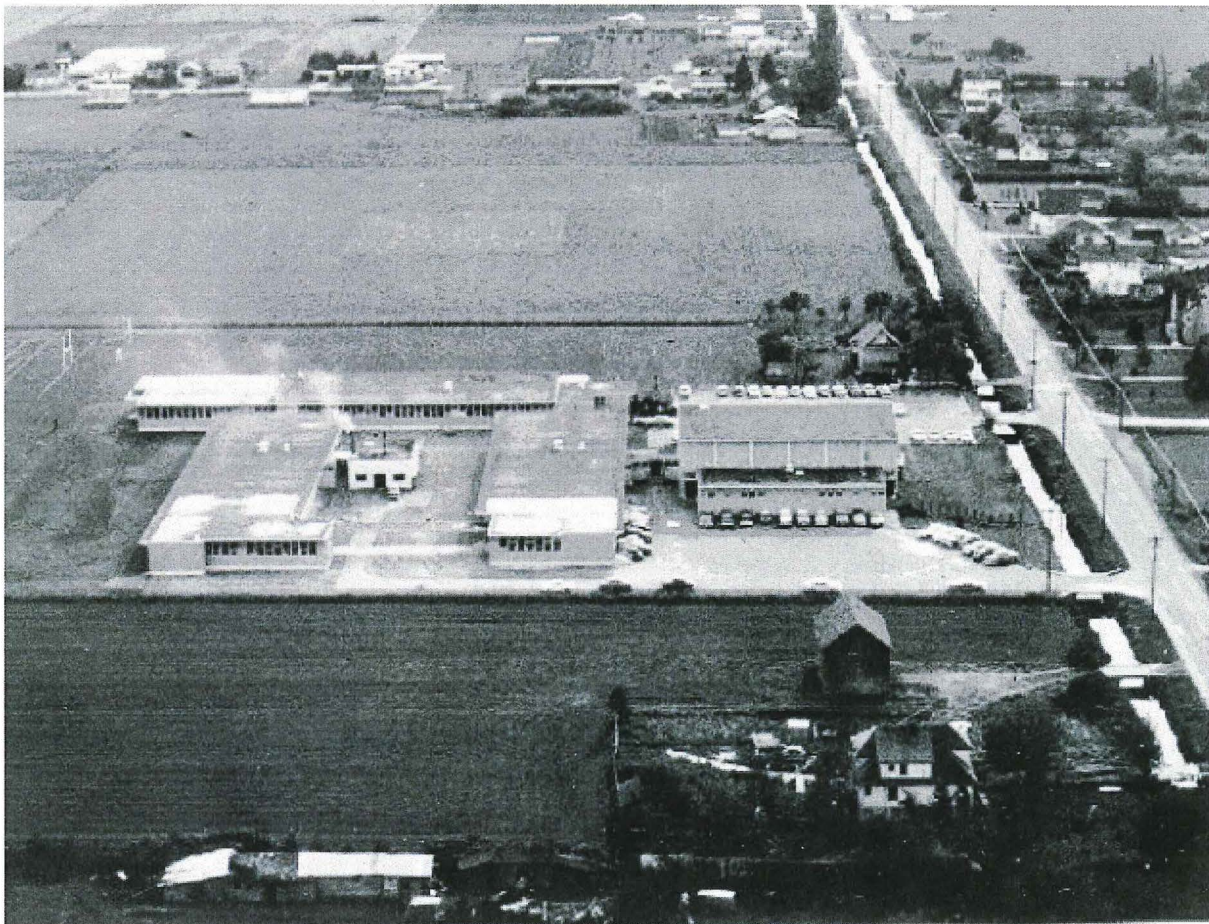
The artwork will interpret the rich heritage of Steveston and Steveston Secondary and activate this new addition to the London/Steveston Park for the enjoyment of visitors and residents.



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

- Att. 1: Detailed Public Art Plan
- 2: Site Plan
- 3: Artist Concept

Steveston Site Townhouses Draft Detailed Art Plan



Steveston high, 1964. City of Richmond Archives

March 12, 2014
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Prepared For:
Polygon Development 273 Ltd.



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1. Overview



High School + Art

This detailed public art plan outlines the vision for the art allocation of the development at 10440 No. 2 Road in Richmond BC. This site was, since the year 1956, the location of Steveston Secondary School until the year 2008, when it merged with another school in Richmond leaving the building empty.

The site was purchased by Polygon Homes in 2013, and a plan is now being developed to convert the site into a 5 acre public park and a townhome development.

The plans are in early stages; the character of the architecture and the features of the park are in development. Polygon views the history of the high school - and its shared history among the lives of thousands over its lifetime - as significant, and proposes that it be commemorated and interpreted through a work of public art.

The school has had a long history of community involvement and charitable works, notably featuring an in-house salmon hatchery constructed in 1988, which enabled students to participate in their local ecology by releasing thousands of fish into streams annually. Beginning in 1983, students also sponsored an orphanage in Guatemala by fundraising throughout the school year. Groups of students would visit once a year and contribute volunteer efforts to make improvements to the building. To this day, former students are



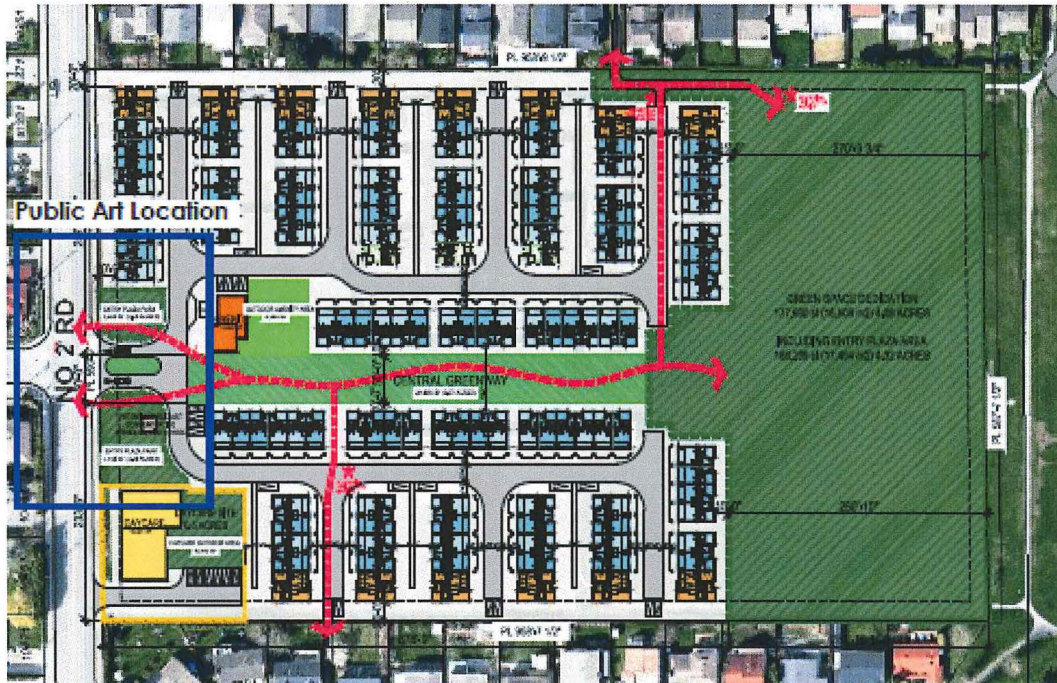
Steveston high, 1977. City of Richmond Archives

active in an Alumni association, with regular reunions and fundraisers for community projects.

This public art project is therefore an opportunity for the alumni to participate in a work that commemorates the school and its impact on many lives. Polygon is interested in including alumni in the selection of an artist or artists to execute the piece.

2. Location

The residential portion of the site will be bisected by a public greenway that will connect Wallace Road to the park. It is proposed that the artwork be located at the entrance to the greenway where it will be most publicly accessible and visible, and will act as a landmark and a gateway piece to the park beyond.



Steveston Site, Polygon Homes.

3. Budget

Total allocation.....	\$200,200.00
City of Richmond Administration Costs (15%).....	\$30,030.00
Public Art Consultant (10%).....	\$20,020.00
Amount for honoraria/project costs (5%).....	\$10,010.00
Honoraria:	
Selection Panel: 5 x \$500.00....	\$2500.00
Artist Concepts: 5 x \$1000.00....	\$5000.00
Total for Public Art.....	\$170,170.00

DRAFT DETAILED PUBLIC ART PLAN: STEVESTON HIGH SCHOOL

4. Process – Invited Competition

4.1 Assemble a Selection Panel:

Composition

- 2-3 Steveston High School Alumni
- Developer or developer's representative
- Design consultant: Architect or Landscape Architect
- Richmond Art professional

The public art consultant proposes to create a process based on community input. The Steveston High School Alumni Association will be contacted to solicit interest in participating in the Selection Committee, with the goal of including a minimum of two alumni. Members of the Richmond and Steveston art communities will also be researched. The public art consultant may also take advisement from the Richmond Public Art Committee for potential Selection Panel Members. They will be required to meet three times throughout the selection process.

First Meeting:

- Develop a base understanding of the project
- Discuss criteria for artist selection
- Selection Panel Members to research and submit artist names to Public Art Consultant after this first meeting, and two weeks in advance of the second meeting.

4.2. Create a Shortlist and Terms of Reference

The Selection Panel will submit their lists of 3-5 names to the public art consultant and she will contact them to determine interest in the project and collect credentials. At the second meeting, the Selection Panel will narrow down the long list of artists through discussion and vote, with the aim of achieving a list of 5 artists.

Instructions to the artists will also be discussed, in order to develop a "Terms of Reference" document to send out to the artists to reference in developing their concepts.

Preliminary Terms of Reference

- The artwork, at a personal scale should complement the pedestrian environment, being possibly tactile, visually intriguing, and memorable.
- Art work should be safe and prevent physical injury. Artists should consider issues such as climbability.
- Maintenance considerations should be a part of the proposal, and artwork proposed should be simple to maintain and resistant to vandalism.
- Materials proposed for the art should be durable and able to withstand outdoor environmental effects.
- Seasonal and diurnal cycles should be considered: Could the artwork be changed by the changing light and seasons to maximize its impact? Would the proposed piece be enhanced or improved by lighting?

- Artists should consider signage and artwork identification in their proposal.
- Artists should be conscious of the art's impact on vehicular circulation and sightlines, neighbourliness, and liveability of this emerging residential neighbourhood.

Second Meeting:

- Review artist credentials (sent in advance of the meeting) and select a short list of 3-5 names
- Create Terms of Reference

4.3 Review Concept Submissions

Selected artists will be given an honorarium of \$1000.00 to develop their work. Their concept presentations should include the following:

- A scaled maquette or rendering of the proposed artwork
- Concept statement
- Material samples
- Sketches and renderings as needed to convey the relationship of the piece to its surroundings
- Budget, including but not limited to material costs, artist fees, legal fees, consultant fees, site lighting (if required)
- Timeline
- Maintenance considerations

The artists will be given an allotment of time to present their concepts to the Panel, and the Panel will have the opportunity to interview the artists on the presentation day. Through discussion and vote, the Panel will choose one artist to execute the commission.

Second Meeting:

- Review artist presentations
- Interview artists with predetermined questions
- Select one artist to carry out the commission

5. Timeline

First Selection Panel Meeting:.....	May 7, 2014
Selection Panel Submits Artist List:	May 21, 2014
Second Selection Panel Meeting/ Shortlist.....	June 12, 2014
Second Selection Panel Meeting/ Concept Reviews.....	July 28, 2014

6. Artist Work Schedule

Detailed design phase:	August 2014- October 2014
Artwork construction and site coordination.....	October 2014 – October 2015

During the artwork development, the artist must be available to meet with the developer and project consultants periodically. The public art consultant will work with the artist and developer to determine project milestones and schedule coordination meetings with project necessary project team members.



Steveston's Legacy. Norm Williams, class of 1962.

Spirit of Steveston

by Cheryl Hamilton and Michael Vandermeer

Artistic Overview

“**SPIRIT OF STEVESTON**” is a visual essay that celebrates the relationship between industry and learning. Rendered in mirror-finish stainless steel, and integrating cast stainless steel components, the sculpture boldly strikes a sense of wonder, and is imbued with a subtle humor.

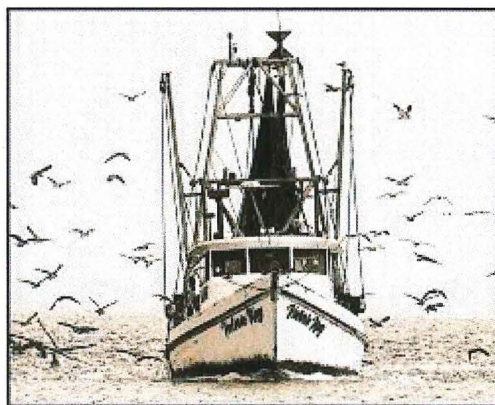
As homage to both the golden era of Steveston’s marine industry and the site’s previous institutional use we have chosen to launch into the sky a scene that would be familiar to many of Steveston’s previous generations - a fishing boat, darting upward to crest a roller, pursued by a flock of ocean birds. The roar of engine, the sigh of wind, the crashing waves and the shriek of gulls will echo in the minds’ eye.

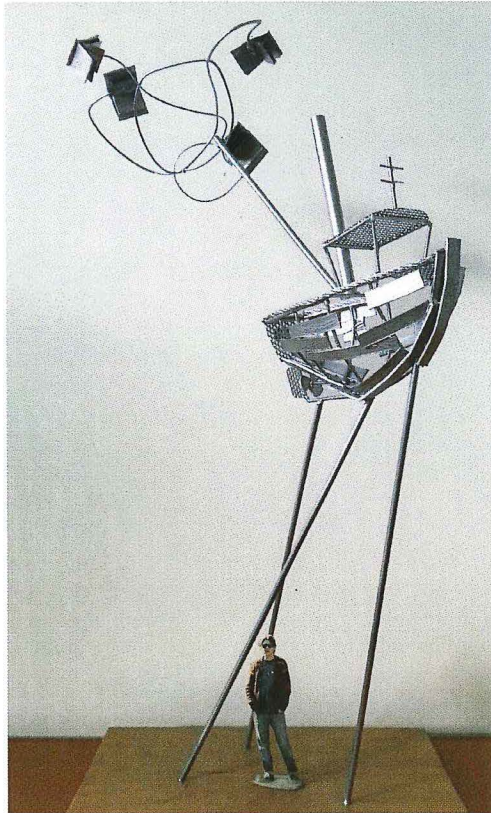
But this work eludes a simple observation. The entirety of the vessel is thrust upwards from the plane of the viewer, visible from a distance, and positioned to place the more proximal viewer literally under the hull. And looking up, on closer study, the birds are revealed as books, artfully swooping and diving.

The ensemble is oddly exhilarating, and immediately engaging; it is playful and it evokes wonder. Placing the viewer into an entirely unique position the SPIRIT OF STEVESTON offers an opportunity to consider the harmony between ocean and air, between knowledge and industry, and between past and our future.

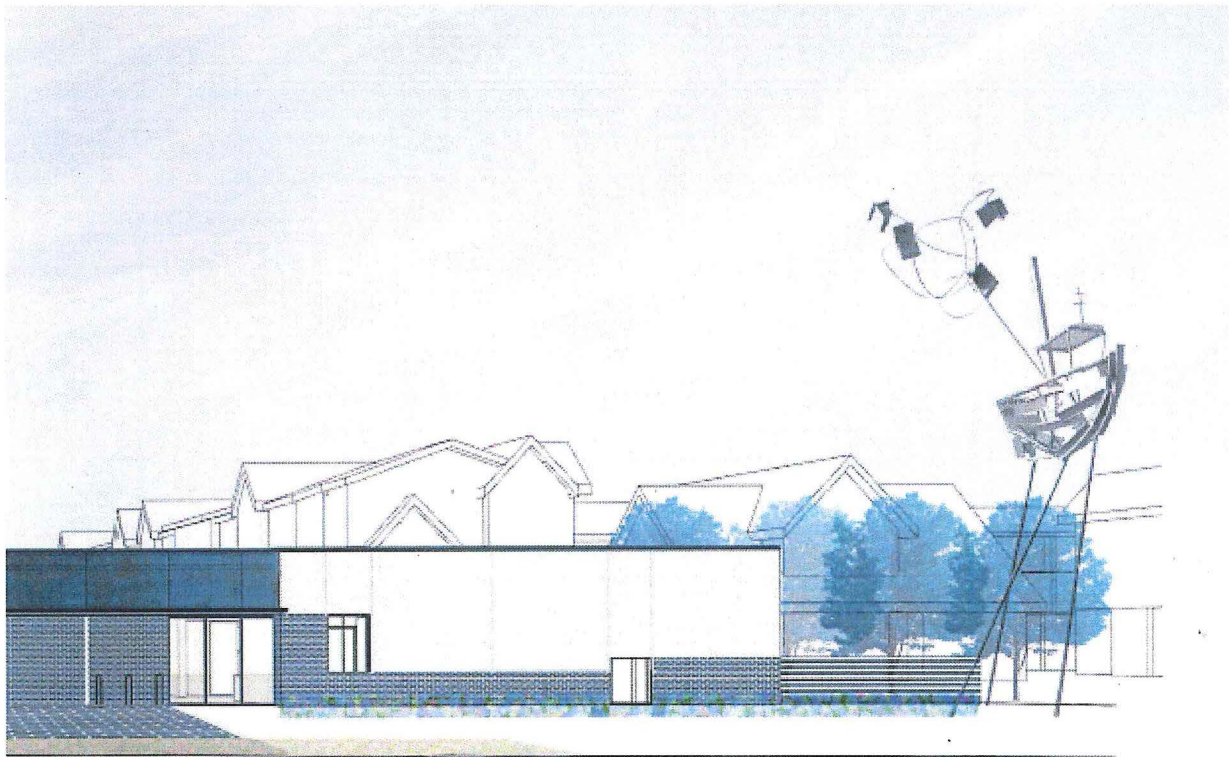
The boat will be crafted from stainless steel, polished to a scintillating mirror finish, and detailed with cast elements and etched surface treatments. It will be beautiful, durable, and will be easily maintained.

The SPIRIT OF STEVESTON is sited to take advantage of views for both local pedestrian and vehicular traffic. The site’s relative expansiveness provides an emphasis for the artwork’s prodigious verticality. And the viewing opportunities available for users with closer proximity speak to a shift from distance and objectivity to the immersive, speculative and ludic. The sculpture accomplishes this shift through use of bold composition at the architectural scale and meticulous elaboration at the intimate scale.



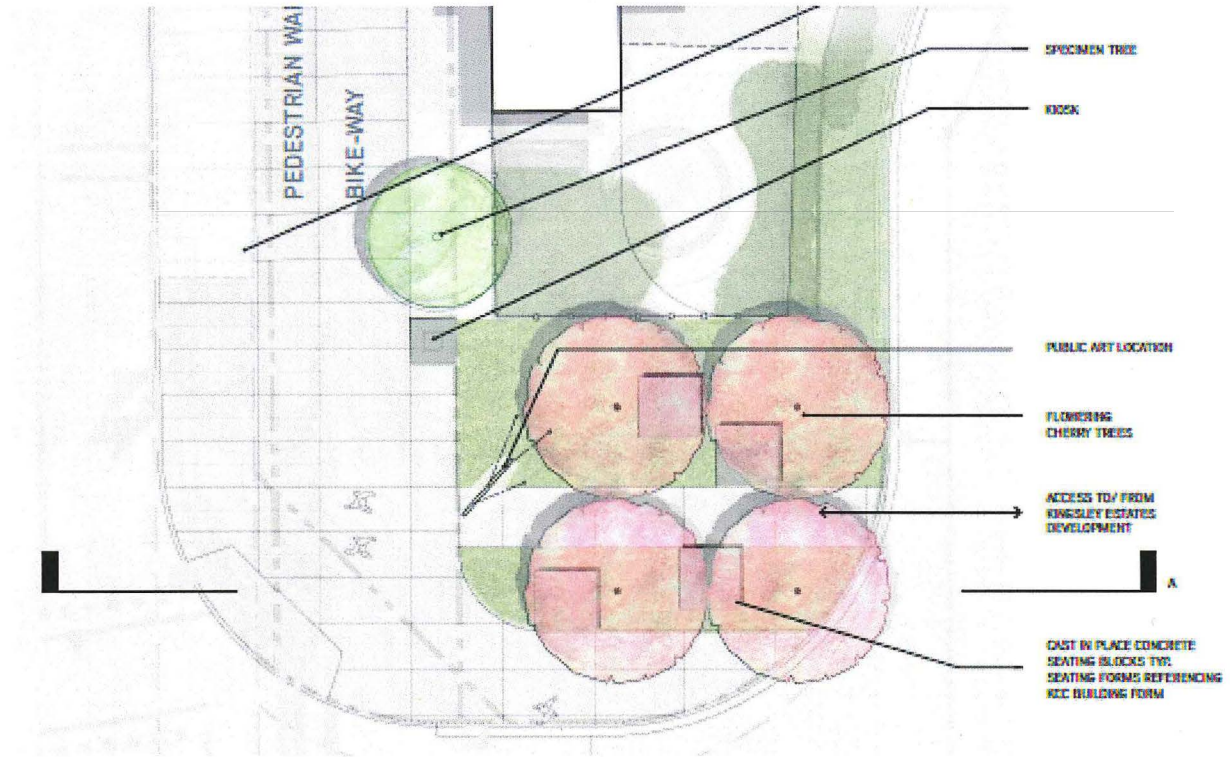


Spirit of Steveston, Cheryl Hamilton and Michael Vandermeer



View from No 2 Road

Entry Plaza Site - Plan and View



1 ENTRY PLAZA PLAN
1:1000

