
CITY OF KELOWNA

MEMORANDUM

Date: May 23, 2001
File No.: 7800-01
To: City Manager
From: Director of Planning and Development Services
Subject: Public Art Committee Recommendation for
Athans Aquatic Centre Artwork

RECOMMENDATION

THAT City Council approve the recommendation of the Public Art Committee to award the commission for the design and installation of two individual pieces of Public Art within the Athans Aquatic Centre to Philip and Kirsty Robbins of Vancouver;

AND THAT the Mayor and Clerk be authorized to sign a contract with Philip and Kirsty Robbins for an amount not to exceed \$42,000 (funded from the Public Art Reserve) for the design and installation of the two projects.

BACKGROUND

The Public Art Committee has been working with the building committee for the Athans Aquatic Centre renovation project to define opportunities for public art within the renovated building. Although not within a Town Centre, the Athans Aquatic Centre provides a key community function and can be considered as an important central meeting place within our community. Public art within this location fulfills the mandate of the Public Art Committee "to make recommendations on suitable publicly accessible areas and public buildings for public art installations". This is the first project to date where the Public Art Committee has worked with the architect and the building committee from the early stages of project design to ensure that the public art is well integrated with the form and function of the space.

The Public Art Committee recently held a competition for two separate projects within the building: the lobby floor, and the glass wall separating the change facilities from the natatorium. The competition was structured in two parts, Competition A (lobby \$20,000) and B (windows \$22,000). Artists could make submissions on either or both of the public art locations. The two competitions attracted a dozen submissions, with some artists submitting on both. A jury consisting of the Public Art Committee, representatives of the YM-YWCA, and the project architect, reviewed the submissions. The selected artist

team submitted designs for both competitions, and it is recommended that the same artists be chosen for both projects in order to provide design continuity within the building.

The recommended pieces of art are entitled jointly "H2O", a reference to the water molecule in all its forms, as people swim in, dive through, and splash about in it. The attached description of the pieces prepared by the artists elaborates on this theme and its applicability to the Aquatic Centre. The simple yet effective design provides a connection between the pieces and serves to thematically link the different parts of the building, while addressing the function of the components.

Hazel Christy, MBA, MCIP
Special Projects Planning Manager

Approved for inclusion



R.L. (Ron) Mattiussi, ACP, MCIP
Director of Planning and Development Services

HC/hb
Attach.



Phillip & Kirsty Robbins

Water splashes, gurgles, ripples and foams. Water has a wonderful magical attraction and people love to swim in, it. We are all familiar with water, and the synonymous with the liquid in all its looks at water in all its forms to present

Water, at its simplest, is a basic two hydrogen and one oxygen (H_2O). This microscopic combination of elements bears an uncanny resemblance to water on a macroscopic scale. Beads of water on a floor (left in a trail by wet feet) and bubbles rising to the surface (created by energetic bodies) share the same basic shape as the water molecules that make them up.

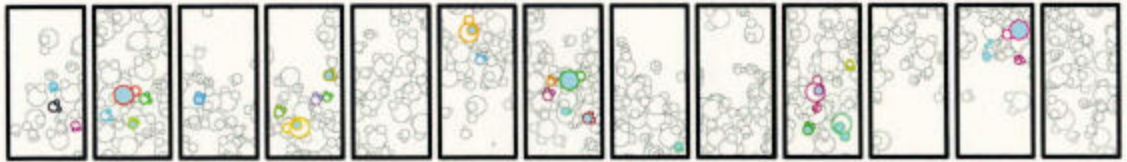
The two sections of the H_2O project highlight the connection of micro and macro as a way of uniting what goes on at the Athens Aquatic Centre and what it contains.

The lobby component references the beads of water left on the floor by wet feet. Waterjet cut aluminum "molecules" splash across the lobby and act as a subtle wayfinding device from the entrance to reception and on to the changing area.

The glass wall component references the dynamic nature of water as it splashes and sloshes about. From close up people see a froth of bubble (molecules), only as they move down to the pool area does this image coalesce into a stylized wave rolling along the full length of the windows. Additionally, along this length will be applied large and small magnifying lenses that will afford limited views into the pool area yet maintain modesty! The view will be akin to looking through an oversize droplet of water. .

The H_2O project for the Athens Aquatic Centre strives to whimsically combine the fundamental structure of water with its dynamically fluid nature.





printed frosted
adhesive vinyl

magnifying lenses



