
CITY OF KELOWNA

MEMORANDUM

Date: January 20, 2003
File No.: 7800-01

To: City Manager

From: Director of Planning & Development Services

Subject: Abbott Street Artwork

RECOMMENDATION

THAT City Council approve the recommendation of the Public Art Committee to award the commission for the design and installation of "Timeline/Waterline", a sculpture to enhance the area along Abbott Street in the vicinity of Lake Street, 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 \$22,000, (funded from the Public Art Reserve), for the design and installation of the artwork.

BACKGROUND

The City of Kelowna Public Art Committee held a competition in September and October of 2002, to design a piece of sculpture focussing on the intersection of Abbott and Lake Streets. The Public Art Committee had been consulted through the Abbott Street Corridor Design exercise, and this location was identified with the consultant as having potential for a public art piece early on in the process.

Sixteen submissions were received and the Public Art Committee shortlisted them to two finalists in the fall of 2002. Letters were sent to the immediate neighbours inviting them to a meeting with the Public Art Committee to review the two models prepared by the artists. A copy was sent to the Kelowna South Central Association of Neighbourhoods for their information. Input was received at the meeting by one of the immediate neighbours, and the presidents of both KSAN and FRACAS.

Timeline/Waterline is proposed by Philip and Kirsty Robbins, two Vancouver artists who did the artwork in the Athans Recreation Centre. It consists of 4-6 coloured cement wall sections that will highlight important historical events and individuals within the Abbott Street neighbourhood. The sculpture uses the area's association with Okanagan Lake as both a physical connection and a metaphor for the passage of time. The top sections will have the pattern of beach sand as well as a small bronze artifact nestled into the surface. The side sections will contain three elements: a date marker, the timeline encircling each wall, and historical images inset into the wall relating to both the date marker and the inset artifact.

The artists are committed to working with representatives of the neighbourhood on the selection of suitable events to be commemorated and the historical images to be displayed. Work on the piece will commence immediately for installation in the spring.

Evaluation criteria (from the brief) were:

- i) The submission includes all elements required in section (c) of this brief, (Artist's statement, resume, budget, drawings etc.) and complies with the specifications required by this competition.
- ii) Creative merit of the proposed artwork, both conceptually and visually.
- iii) Ability of the artwork to engage the public imagination.
- iv) A meaningful relationship between the artwork and the site; in other words, the artwork relates to the streetscape design.
- v) Appropriate scale and material composition of the artwork relative to the site.
- vi) Permanence of the artwork, including structural and surface integrity, ability to withstand damage and avoid vandalism, endurance in a public environment, and ease of maintenance and repair.
- vii) Suitability of the artwork to a public venue, including theme, content and safety of design.
- viii) Suitability of the artist to the project, including quality of previous work, demonstrated ability of the artist to meet project schedules and budget, professionalism and ability to interpret the project as outlined in the Competition Brief.
- ix) Feasibility of the project budget.

As before, all models will be on display in the lobby of City Hall for several weeks following Council's decision.

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