
City of Kelowna

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 4, 2006
FILE: 7800
TO: City Manager
FROM: Manager, Cultural Services Division
Public Art Co-ordinator
RE: Public Art Project – Mission Creek Greenway

**REPORT PREPARED BY: LORNA GUNN, MANAGER, CULTURAL
SERVICES DIVISION**

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT City Council approve the recommendation of the Public Art Committee to award to Richard Watts of Toronto the commission for the design and installation of "*Run*" (a metal sculpture in 3 parts) on Phase I of the Mission Creek Greenway.

AND THAT the Mayor and Clerk be authorized to sign a contract with Richard Watts for an amount not to exceed \$50,000 (funded from the Public Art Reserve) for the design and installation of the artwork.

BACKGROUND:

The City of Kelowna Public Art Committee launched a competition in Spring, 2005 for the creation and installation of a permanent work of public art to be located along Phase I of the Mission Creek Greenway. The competition brief for this project was developed with input from the Public Art Committee, the Friends of Mission Creek, the Regional District of Central Okanagan, and the Ministry of Environment (formerly the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection). The intent of the competition was to solicit a design which would incorporate the use of natural materials and integrate well with the creekside environment and use of the linear pathway. The brief also encouraged artists to reflect on the historical and environmental significance of Mission Creek to the City of Kelowna.

Fifteen submissions were received. 6 submissions were received from Okanagan artists, 7 from artists residing elsewhere in BC, and 2 from artists in the Toronto area. A shortlist of four finalists was invited to provide maquettes (scale models)

of their proposed work. The maquettes were received and reviewed in August, 2005 by a jury consisting of the Public Art Committee, a representative of the Friends of Mission Creek, an environmental technician from the City of Kelowna, and a representative from the Regional District of Central Okanagan Parks Department. By consensus, the entire jury agreed that Richard Watt's series of sculptures entitled "*Run*" would be recommended to Council.

"*Run*" is a series of 3 canoe forms or 'skeletons' constructed in actual scale (approximately 14' long) of 3/8" steel flatiron with a naturally rusted finish. Each end of the canoe will be notched into, and bolted onto boulders. The photograph below conveys the general form, and the large-sized maquette is a to-scale prototype. Each of the three forms will be slightly different, and at least one of the forms will be presented in an inverted (keel up) format.

In the words of the artist Richard Watts: 'The installation uses the metaphor of movement along a river as symbolic of movement through life and through time. It connects the movement of people with the migration patterns of fish and aquatic animals. These sculptures are no longer canoes, but become strange and new bodies: they are boats, they are us, they are fish, they are whales. These bodies are archaeological, positioned along Mission Creek like skeletal relics of creatures uncovered by the receding waters. As such they go back in time and project into the future....The work connects historical settlement movement to contemporary environmental issues through an iconographic form--the canoe--which has always been used for transport and fishing on inland waterways, was originally a First Nations form, but has since become highly symbolic of all of Canada.'



The proposed locations for the works are indicated on the attached map as Location 1 (near the Michaelbrook Marsh site on the south side of Mission Creek, closest to Gordon Drive), Location 2 (on the north side of Mission Creek, a short distance upstream from Location 1) and Location 6 (to the east and upstream of the Viewing Platform). These locations were determined during a site walk with the artist on December 15, 2005. All locations were previously identified and approved as potential locations for art installations by the Regional District, the Ministry of Environment, the Public Art Committee and Friends of Mission Creek. Final installation sites will be confirmed in consultation with all interested parties and agencies in spring, 2006.

As prescribed in the competition brief, the sculptures will be located a sufficient distance from the linear pathway so as not to impede users, and will also be constructed and installed in such a manner that they can be moved in the event of major flooding or dike repairs. Additionally, as the Mission Creek Greenway is a riparian zone, a Natural Environment Development Permit Waiver, imposing certain conditions on the installation process, was issued on November 17, 2005 by the City of Kelowna (File No DPW05-0279). The artist will work closely with the Regional District of Central Okanagan, the City of Kelowna and the Ministry of Environment during the installation process to gain access to the sites, to ensure that there is no undue disturbance of the riparian area and that the conditions of the Development Permit Waiver are fulfilled.

The Board of Directors of the Regional District of Central Okanagan approved the installation of this project by resolution at its meeting on November 7, 2005.

A contract with Richard Watts has been successfully negotiated. The contract provides that the artist will fabricate the work between January and March, 2006 at his Toronto studio. Delivery and installation of the work is scheduled to be completed prior to the end of April, 2006. A dedication ceremony is planned for June, 2006. The standard form contract for public art projects has been extensively revised with assistance from the Clerk's office and the City's legal advisors.

Richard Watts is a graduate of art programs at the Ontario College of Art and Design, the Toronto Art Therapy Institute and the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education of the University of Toronto, and is experienced in major site-specific sculptural installations using concrete, steel and wood. He has exhibited his work frequently in the Toronto area.

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.

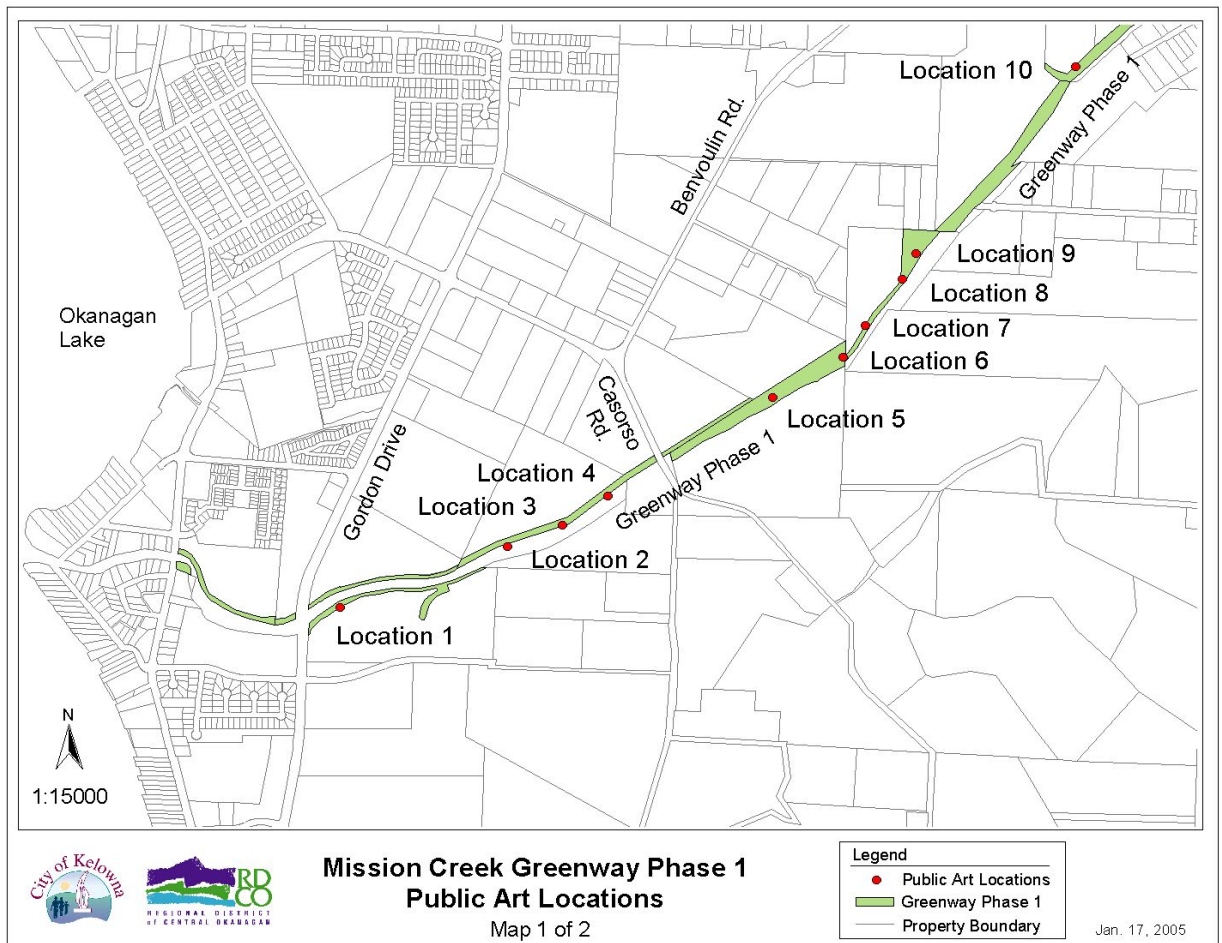
A one page summary of the Public Art Committee's mandate and selection process is also provided with this memo (on the following page) as additional background information.

Lorna Gunn
Cultural Services Division Manager

Approved for inclusion

David Graham
Director of Parks and Leisure Services

LG/sk



CITY OF KELOWNA PUBLIC ART COMMITTEE SELECTION PROCESS

The Public Art Committee consists of 9 individual Kelowna residents. They are appointed by resolution of City Council. The appointments are based on the applicant's knowledge of, and genuine interest in art, art practices and civic enhancement. All committee members serve as volunteers.

Current members of the Public Art Committee are:

Judy Burns (Chairperson)	Gordon Hartley
Peter Werner (Vice-Chairperson)	Dona Moore
Paul Skutshek	Don McIntosh
Larry Foster	Barbara Rhodes

The Committee is mandated (in part) by its Terms of Reference to determine suitable public areas and buildings for public art installations, conduct competitions for the commissioning of public art works, and make recommendations to Council regarding the awarding of a public art commission. In all instances, the final decision regarding any public art commission rests with Council.

Consultations with the public, other interested parties, and with City staff from various departments such as Civic Properties and Parks are frequently a part of the Committee's considerations.

The public art competition process can be summarized as follows:

1. The committee defines the project and determines the budget.
2. A competition brief is prepared and reviewed by staff and the Committee.
3. The competition is advertised and included in the City's normal tendering process.
4. Submissions meeting applicable criteria are reviewed by the committee and, if relevant, by other City staff and interested parties.
5. A shortlist of submissions is prepared.
6. Shortlisted artists are invited to provide further information as needed and/or prepare maquettes (scale models) of their work.
7. The maquettes are reviewed and a final selection is made.
8. A report summarizing the Committee's recommended selection is presented to Council.
9. Upon Council approval, a contract is prepared between the City and the artist including provision for payment, progress timelines and other legal considerations.
10. Cultural Services staff monitor completion of the project and ensure that proper photo documentation of the installation process is completed.
11. Upon completion, Cultural Services staff work with the Mayor's office staff to plan for a public dedication ceremony.

A typical competition process will require 6 months' time between preparation of the brief and signing of the contract. Generally another 3-4 months is then required for completion and installation of the work. Larger, more complex projects will require more time for completion.