

NO: **R201**

COUNCIL DATE: **September 10, 2012**

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor and Council**

DATE: **September 5, 2012**

FROM: **General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture**

FILE: **2240-20/PA**

SUBJECT: **Public Art for South Surrey Recreation Centre Expansion Project**

RECOMMENDATION

The Parks, Recreation and Culture Department recommends that Council authorize staff to enter into a contract with the artist team of Ruth Beer and Charlotte Wall to create and install a sculpture as the public art component of the South Surrey Recreation Centre Expansion project all as generally described in this report.

INTENT

The purpose of this report is to provide background information regarding the South Surrey Recreation Centre Expansion project and to obtain Council approval in relation to retaining an artist team to undertake the related public art project.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

The recommendation of this report is consistent with the City's Public Art Policy. The Public Art Master Plan identifies South Surrey Athletic Park within which the South Surrey Recreation Centre is located as a site for public art. The South Surrey Recreation Centre Expansion project will expand on the existing public art in the immediate area.

BACKGROUND

A request for proposals was issued to pre-qualified artists for the public art component of the South Surrey Recreation Centre Expansion project. The RFP identified "art, history and nature" as the theme for the public art project. It is intended to reflect both the community and the South Surrey environment and be welcoming to all participants in sporting and cultural activities at the expanded South Surrey Recreation Centre. This theme was developed through a mini charette process involving the building design team, city staff and community representatives and was supported by the Public Art Advisory Committee.

The total budget for this project is \$130,000 including the costs of on-going maintenance. The artists' budget for the project is \$97,500 inclusive of all costs and taxes associated with designing and installing the artwork. In accordance with the Public Art Policy, funding for this project includes contributions from the South Surrey Recreation Centre expansion projects and a number of other smaller City capital projects for which a public art contribution was provided.

DISCUSSION

Directed Call and Selection Process

Using a Directed Call process and criteria approved by the Public Art Advisory Committee, staff pre-qualified six artists, who were then invited to develop competition proposals for the artwork. The artists were prequalified based on the following criteria:

- not currently represented in Surrey's civic public art collection;
- demonstrated experience with creating an outdoor public art installation;
- demonstrated experience working at the expected scale of artwork;
- has both originated design and managed the fabrication and installation of large artworks; and
- lives in the immediate region (Metro Vancouver, Fraser Valley, North Washington State).

A Selection Panel was convened in accordance with the City's Public Art Program procedures. The Panel included a representative of the Public Art Advisory Committee, Grace van Gauthier, along with art experts and community residents as follows:

- Robin Laurence (Art Critic),
- Chris Thornley (Surrey Business Owner),
- Robert Studer (Artist),
- Susie Kim (Surrey Resident and Program Assistant Arts Umbrella), and
- Steve Chitty (Surrey Resident).

The Panel was supported by advisors including the project architect along with staff from the City's Planning Department, Parks Recreation and Culture Department and Civic Facilities Division. It was also informed by comments related to a technical review of the proposals, which included representatives from the Engineering Department and Risk Management Division.

This Panel reached consensus in their review of the proposals, and recommended to the Public Art Advisory Committee the artist team of Ruth Beer and Charlotte Wall for this commission. This recommendation was also supported by the advisory team.

Public Art Advisory Committee Endorsement:

The Public Art Advisory Committee (PAAC) considered the recommendation of the Selection Panel during its meeting on September 4, 2012 and resolved to endorse the recommendation.

Description and Location of Artwork:

The proposed sculpture, titled **Ribbon** (working title) will have a highly visible presence on the entry plaza near the planned new entrance to the expanded South Surrey Recreation Centre. A rendering of the proposed sculpture is attached as Appendix "A". The artwork will be visible to both motorists in the vicinity of the South Surrey Recreation Centre as well as pedestrians entering the Centre and will be a landmark for the Centre. The artwork will measure approximately 40 feet long, 13 feet high and 8 feet wide. The form of the sculpture will be a dynamic, colourful ribbon looping and twisting in space and attached to the ground.

Ribbon will engage a diverse public audience through its historical, cultural and aesthetic elements. It is inspired by a ribbon's accessibility and cultural inclusiveness. **Ribbon** is an iconic yet playful sculpture that welcomes the community into the plaza. People of all generations and cultures have familiarity with the multiple uses of a ribbon, and especially its celebratory forms referring to human gestures. They include everyday activities, sports such as Olympic rhythmic gymnastics, recreation and fitness, and artistic creativity in costumes, visual art and crafts.

The sculpture's twists and turns in space is intended to recognize the historical Semiahmoo Trail, and its colours are responsive to the colourful ceremonial and celebration regalia worn by members of the Semiahmoo first nation. It is also reflective of ribbon dances and decorative arts and crafts practiced by diverse cultures.

The sculpture will be fabricated in steel, and will be coated in a strong epoxy paint that will withstand weathering and have excellent durability. The landscape and foundation supporting and surrounding the sculpture will be welcoming to visitors as well as deter access to its surfaces by skateboards. It will be uplit at night. The artist team and architecture team will collaborate to ensure coordination in the final placement of the sculpture and its installation within the construction schedule of the expansion project.

About the artists:

Ruth Beer and Charlotte Wall are a Metro Vancouver-based artist team with experience in creating artworks, public art and large installations and have been working collaboratively for four years after having pursued individual artistic careers. They share all aspects of the creative process from conceiving the work to its completion. They have completed both private and public art commissions. For example, they have been awarded a public art commission for a Concorde Pacific Development in Richmond, a 2010 Winter Olympic Games commission for Christ Church Cathedral in Vancouver and a site-specific installation at the PWIAS Institute at UBC. Other completed commissions include public artwork for prominent local hotel sites including a roof-top glass and light installation that was installed on a 15 story Westin Hotel (2010) and a large mural that was installed in 2011 in the lobby of the Sheraton Hotel in downtown Vancouver.

Schedule:

Subject to Council approval of the recommendations of this report, it is expected that the artist team will complete the design, fabrication and installation of the artwork by the fall of 2013.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

The proposed artwork supports the socio-cultural and environmental pillars of the City's Sustainability Charter; more particularly, the following scope action items contained within the Charter:

- SC6: Building Cultural Awareness in the Community;
- EC9: Quality of Design in New Development and Redevelopment; and
- EN13: Enhancing the Public Realm.

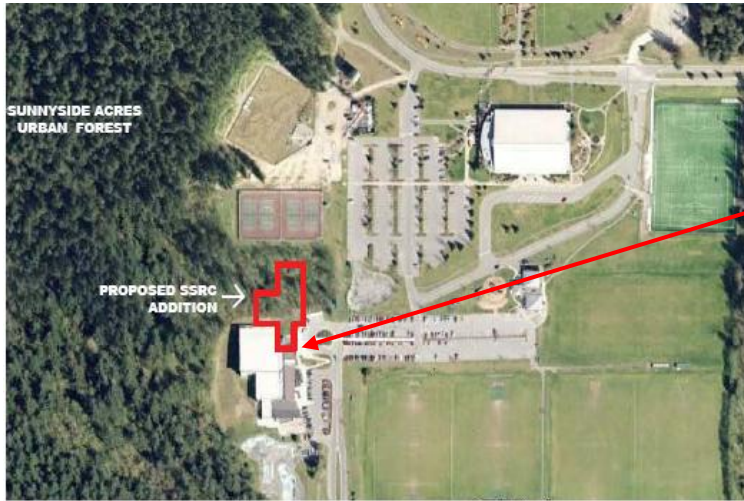
CONCLUSION

Based on the above discussion, it is recommended that Council authorize staff to enter into a contract with the artist team of Ruth Beer and Charlotte Wall to create and install a sculpture as the public art component of the South Surrey Recreation Centre Expansion project all as generally described in this report.

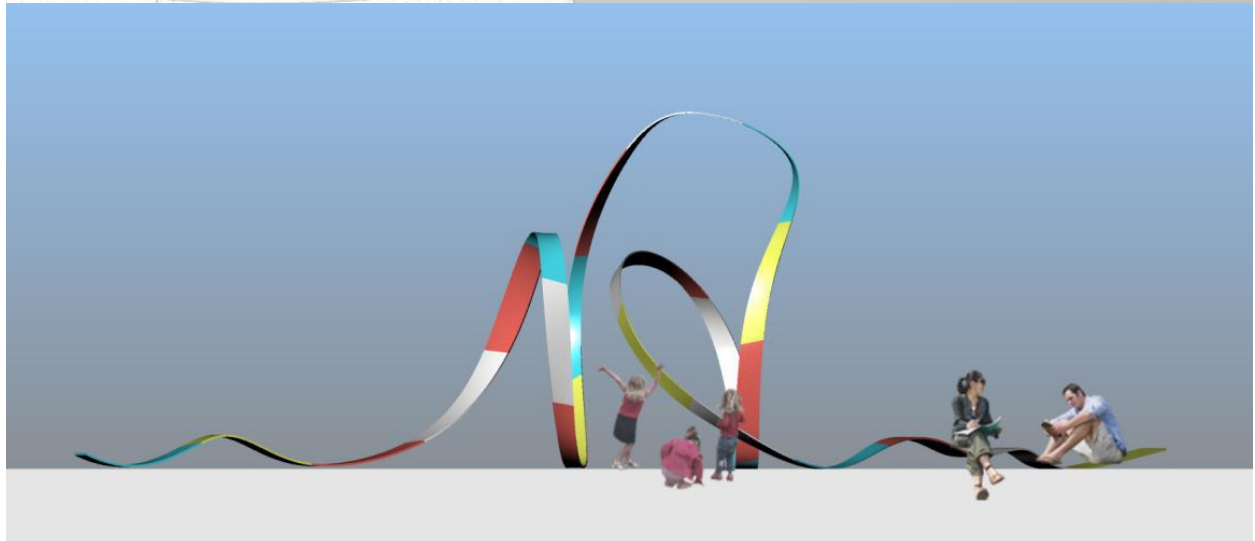
Laurie Cavan
General Manager
Parks, Recreation and Culture

Appendix "A" – Location and Image of the Proposed Public Art to be installed as part of the South Surrey Recreation Centre Expansion Project

Appendix A



The site proposed for the artwork is the entry plaza near the planned new entrance to the expanded South Surrey Recreation Centre and its new fitness and arts spaces. This facility is located between 20th and 24th Avenues and 144th and 148th Streets.



Ruth Beer and Charlotte Wall - *Ribbon* Artwork Concept