

NO: **R202**

COUNCIL DATE: **September 10, 2012**

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council**

DATE: **September 6, 2012**

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

FILE: **2240-20/PA**

SUBJECT: **Grandview Aquatic Centre – Public Art Component**

RECOMMENDATION

The Parks, Recreation and Culture Department recommends that Council authorize staff to enter into a contract with Cooke-Sasseville as the artist team for the creation and installation of a pair of sculptures as the public art component of the new Grandview Heights Aquatic Centre project all as generally described in this report.

INTENT

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with background information regarding the Grandview Heights Aquatic Centre project and to obtain approval to retain an artist team to undertake the related public art project.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

The recommendation of this report complies with the City's Public Art Policy. The Grandview Heights Aquatic Centre (the "Centre") will be the first phase of a major community recreation centre in the centre of the emerging community of Grandview Heights.

BACKGROUND

The theme was developed for the public art in the Centre was "an unfolding visual narrative or journey as expressed by the artist's notion of flow, transition and transformation." This theme was developed to correspond to the theme underpinning the architectural design of the Centre and was supported by the Public Art Advisory Committee.

DISCUSSION

A call to artists for expressions of interest (EOI) was issued internationally with 94 artists responding.

A Selection Panel to evaluate the submissions was convened and included the following members:

- Robert McMurray (Public Art Advisory Committee);
- Barbara Cole (Art Consultant, Artist);
- Cameron Cartiere (Dean of Graduate Studies, Emily Carr University);

- Deborah Putman (Surrey Artist);
- Joan Owen (Retired Instructor Kwantlen University, Surrey resident); and
- Brian Duncan (Surrey based businessman).

The Panel was supported by advisors including the project architect, staff from the City's Planning and Development Department, Parks Recreation and Culture Department and Civic Facilities Division. The Panel short-listed five artists who were each invited to submit a more detailed proposal for consideration.

Each of the short-listed artists presented their proposal to the Panel. After careful consideration of each of the proposals, the Panel recommended the artist team and related proposal of Cooke-Sasseville to the Public Art Advisory Committee as the preferred proposal.

Public Art Advisory Committee Endorsement:

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

Description and Location of Artwork:

The Cooke-Sasseville proposal includes the design and installation of a pair of monumental sculptures, titled "***Following the Course***" (working title) that will provide a highly visible iconic presence at the new Grandview Aquatic Centre building. One sculpture will be on the 24 Avenue frontage of the Centre and the other will be near the entrance to the building off the parking lot, each as generally illustrated in Appendix "A".

The sculpture at the entrance to the building off the parking lot will appear as a large blue faucet, with a stream of water appearing to gush out of the faucet onto the ground. However, as the observer approaches the sculpture it will become evident that the running water is actually a dynamic assembly of six life-sized chrome deer with their antlers entwined.

The sculpture toward 24 Avenue will appear as a pair of pipes coming out of the ground that are united at a faucet and appear to be streaming water into the ground. As the observer approaches the sculpture it will become evident that there is an oversized bronze sculpted fawn bent over and drinking from the stream of water. The stream of water will be in the form of a chromed pipe.

These sculptures are intended to be both playful and thought provoking. The sculptures intentionally offer familiar forms, altered to stimulate conversation about the natural environment, the built environment, and our relationship to each. They were inspired by the notions of circulation and fluidity, the movement of water inside the building, the inner connection of nature and culture, and cooperative and competitive aspects of human experience related to water. They are also inspired by the never-ending cycle that begins with the introduction to a sport as a leisure activity that seeds the development of amateur athletes, who in turn are inspired by professionals.

The assembly of six life-sized adult deer with entwined antlers is intended to create an illusion of gushing water with their mirror-chromed surfaces symbolizing competition as well as cooperative efforts such as the choreography of synchronized swimming. The fawn deer that appears to be drinking from a stream of water at the street side of the building is intended to represent the family and childhood and therefore the recreational side of the aquatic centre's programming. This cast bronze deer will be sculpted to be as realistic as possible, but at a monumental scale (the head will be 7 feet above the ground).

The red and blue of the pipes are intended to represent connections – connecting the entrance side with the street side of the building, and appearing to connect with the inner workings of the building including the conveyance of water. Their red and blue colours are intended to signify both hot and cold water, as well the anatomy of the human vascular system (oxygenated and de-oxygenated blood veins).

About the Artists:

Jean-Francois Cooke and Pierre Sasseville live and work in Quebec City. Over the past decade they have developed a practice that flirts with irony and satire, as well as the forms of popular culture. They are known for uncommon use of common forms, and their sculptures playfully intend to subvert conformity. They have completed public art commissions for the Beausoleil primary school in Beauport (The Lovebirds – which takes the form of two bicycles facing each other but sharing a common front wheel), and for the City of Montreal (Mix it All – which appears as a giant hand mixer). They have also completed commissions for Quebec City and other cities including Donnacona, L'Ancienne-Lorette, Petite-Riviere-Saint-Francois and Thetford Mines.

Schedule:

Subject to Council approval of the recommendations of this report, it is expected that the artwork will be completed and installed by the summer of 2014.

Funding:

Based on the Public Art Policy the total budget for this project is \$431,875 including the costs of on-going maintenance of the installed artworks. The artists' budget for the project is \$310,000 inclusive of all costs and taxes.

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 Cooke-Sasseville as the artist team for the creation and installation of a pair of sculptures as the public art component of the new Grandview Heights Aquatic Centre project all as generally described in this report.

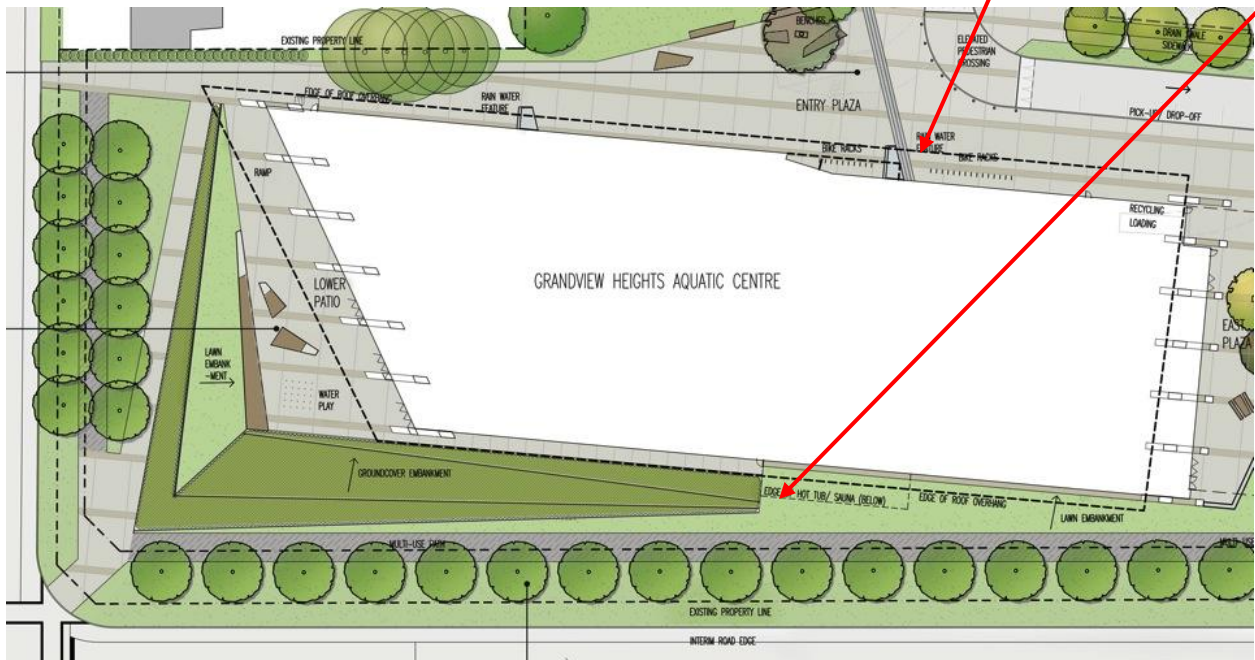
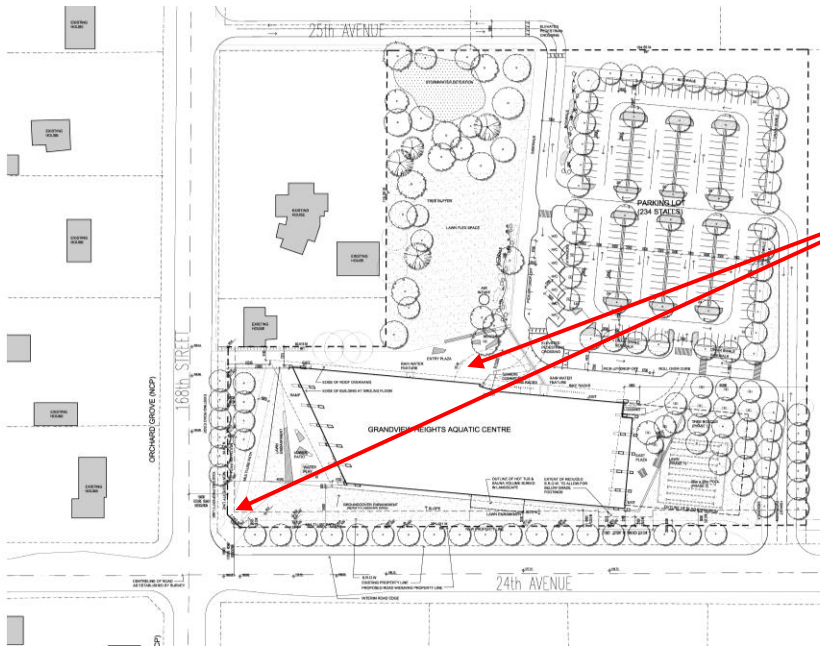


Laurie Cavan
General Manager
Parks, Recreation and Culture

Appendix "A" – Location and Image of the Proposed Public Art at the Grandview Heights Aquatic Centre.

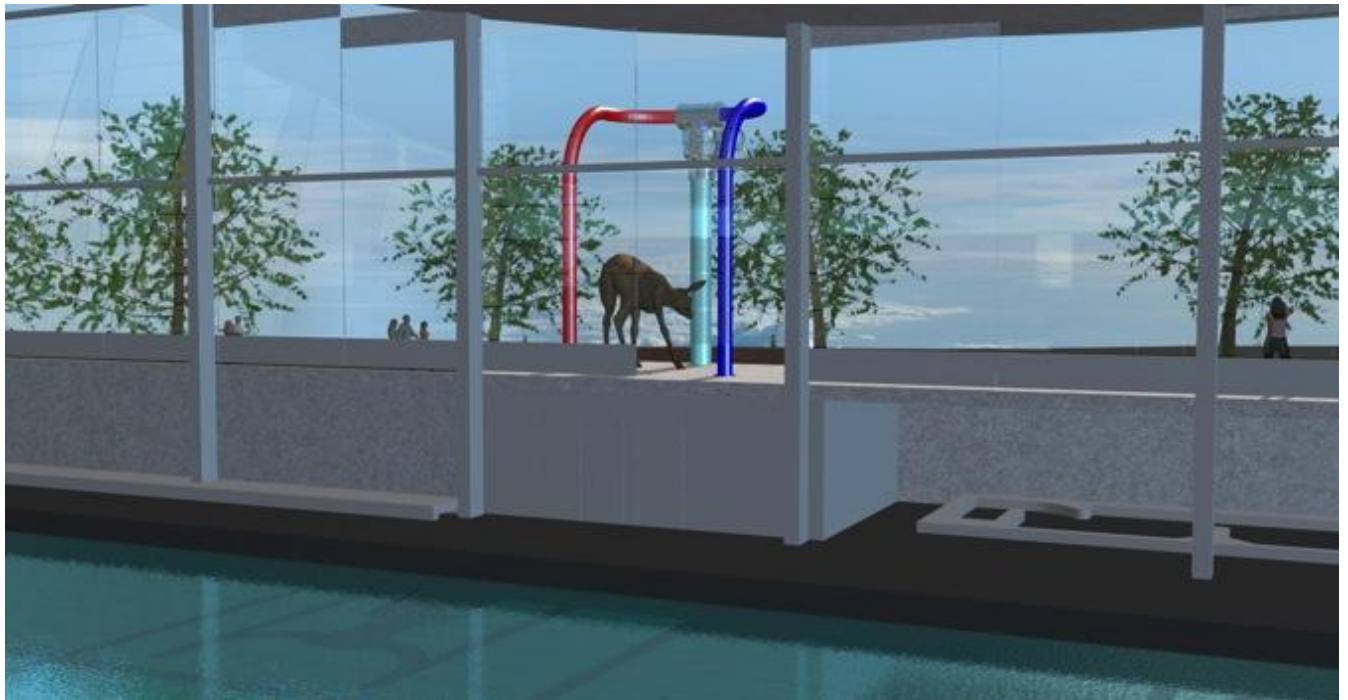
Appendix A

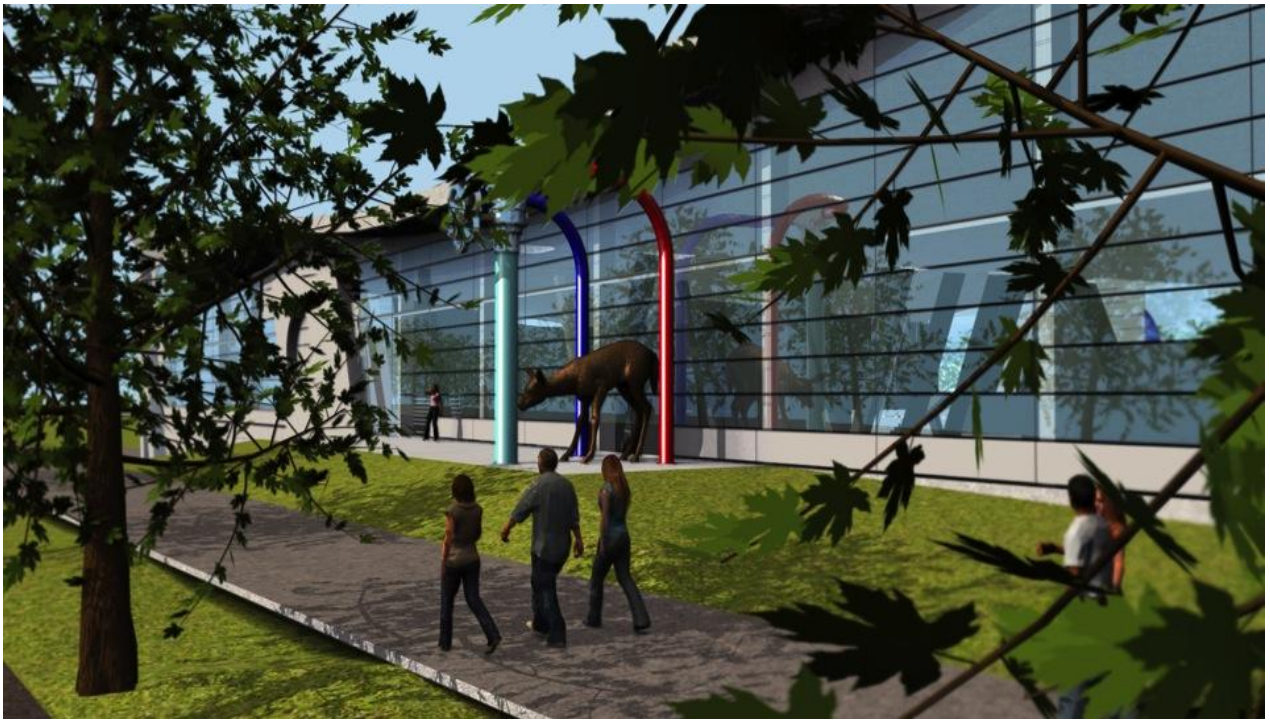
The sites proposed for the two artworks are at the north parking lot entry to the future Grandview Aquatic Centre and along the building on 24th Avenue

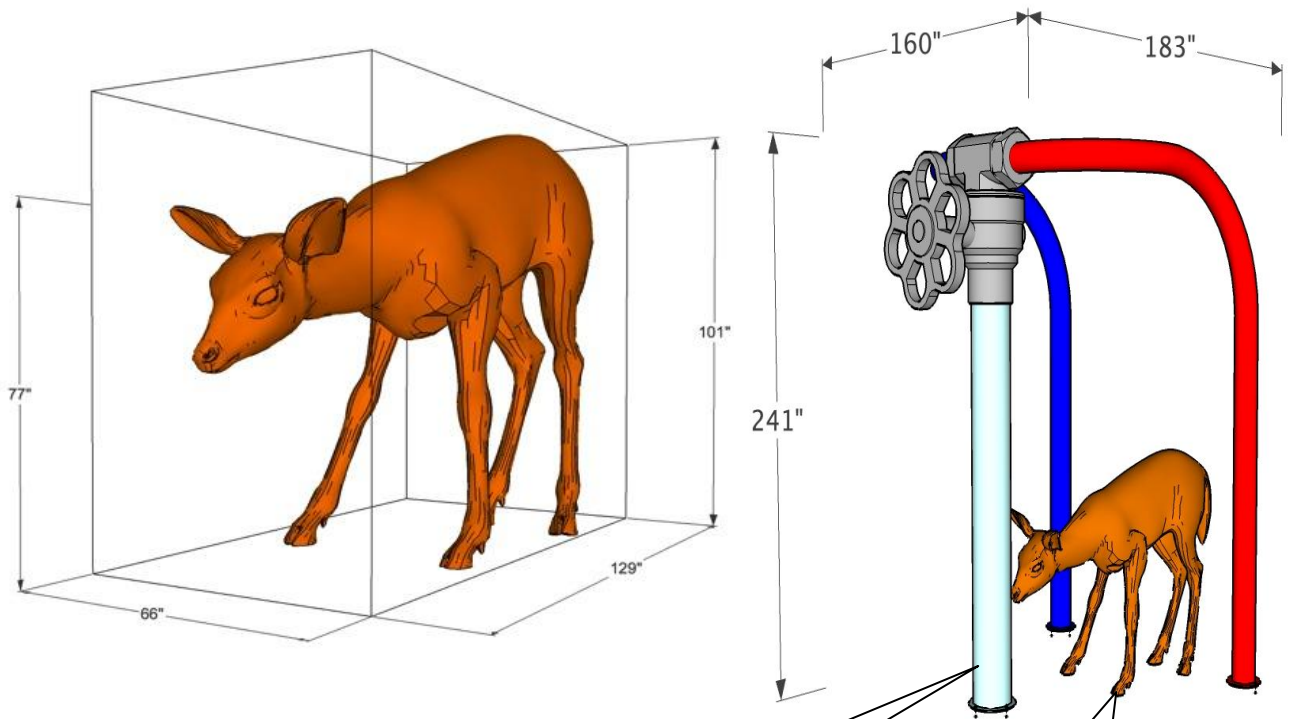


Cooke-Sasseville Artwork Concept for *Following the Course* (working title)

Sculpture planned for outside of the Aquatic Centre, along 24th Avenue



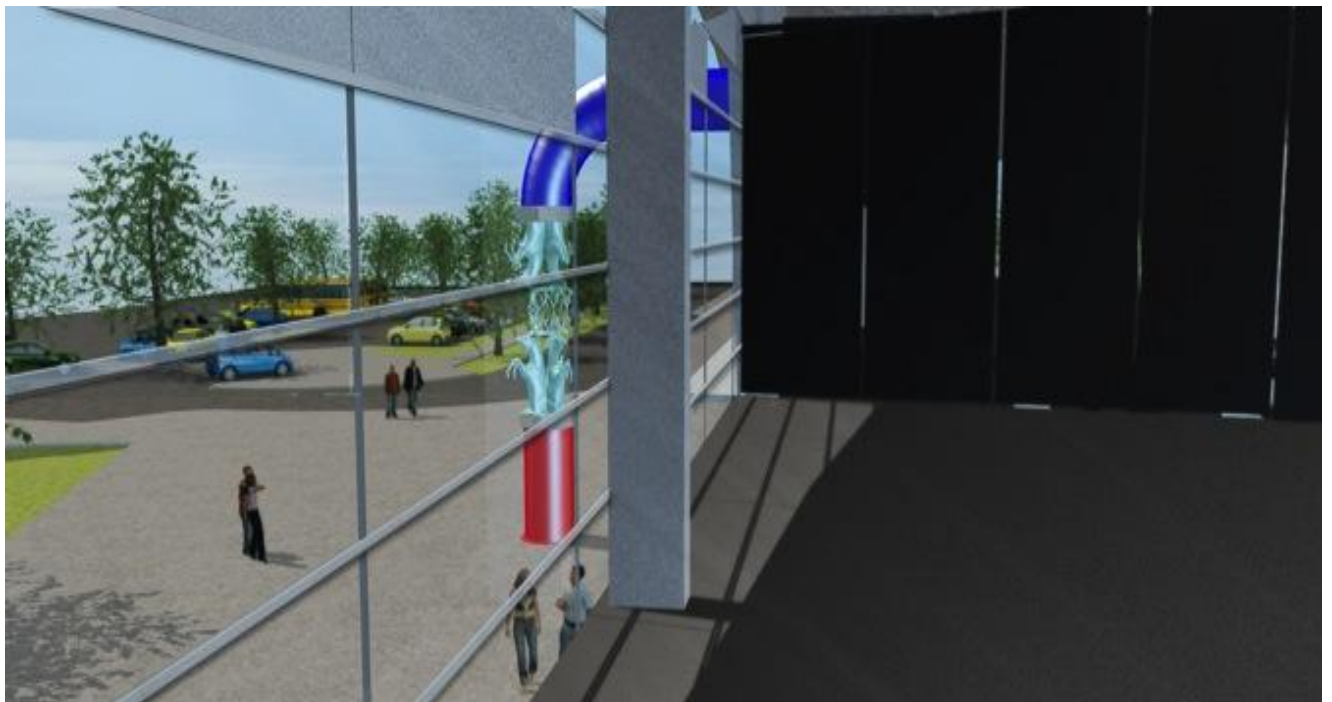
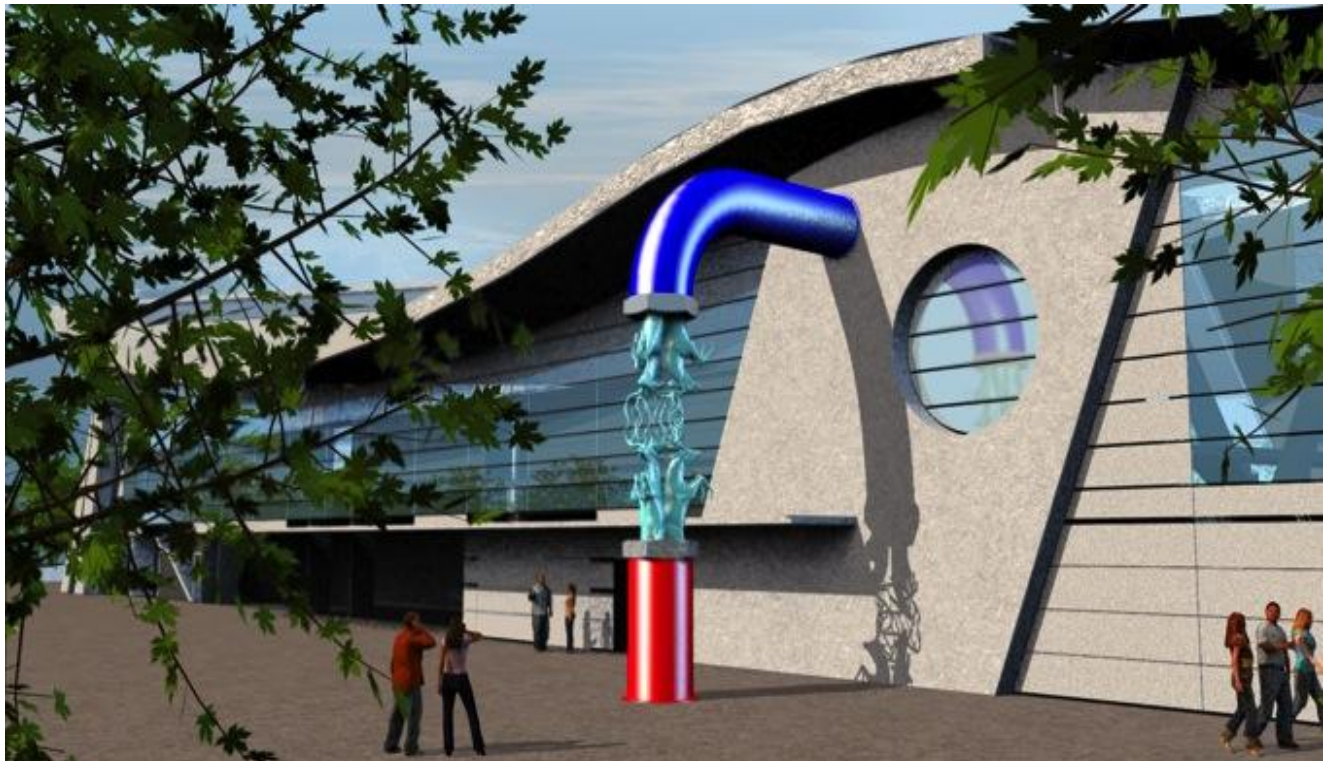




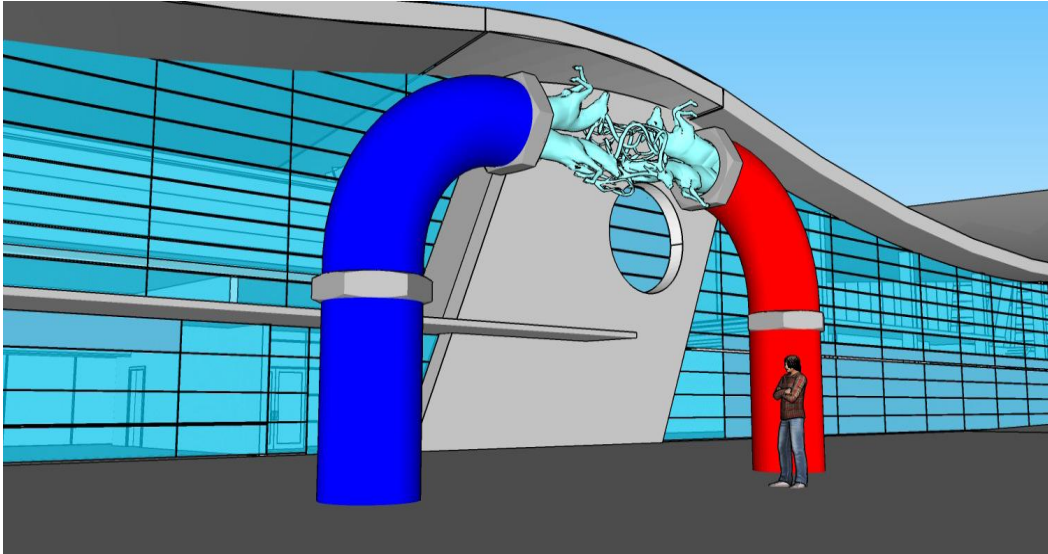
Pipes and water will use commercial aluminum pipes and will be powder coated in red or blue. "Water" will be chromed

Fawn will be custom sculpted in Styrofoam and cast in bronze. Its form and height will be designed to discourage climbing

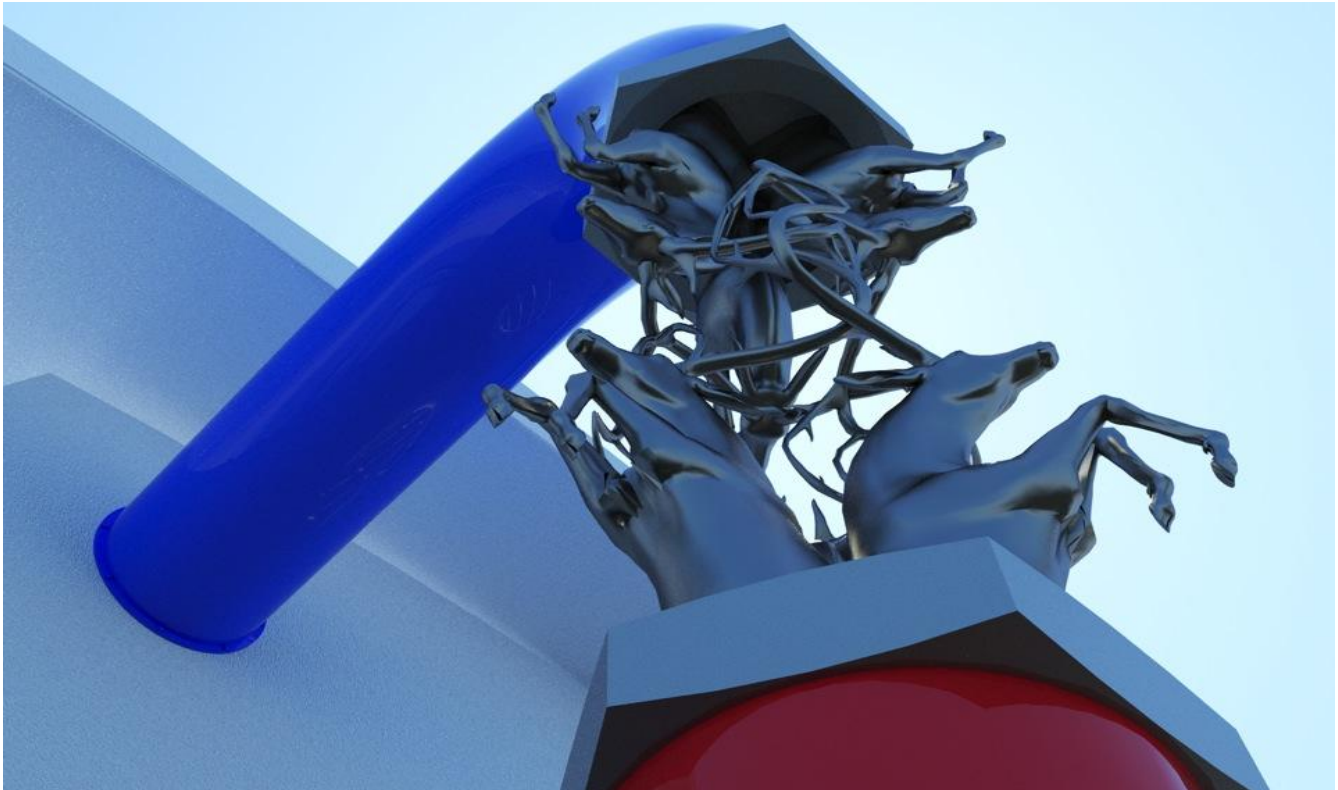
Sculpture planned for the entrance to the Aquatic Centre from the parking lot

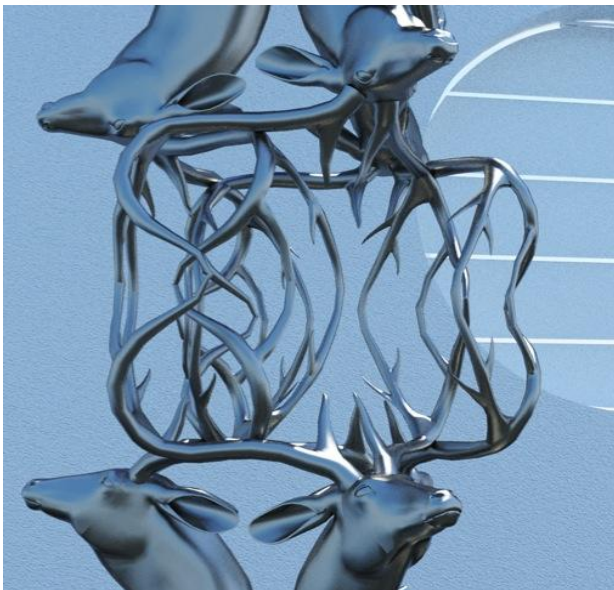
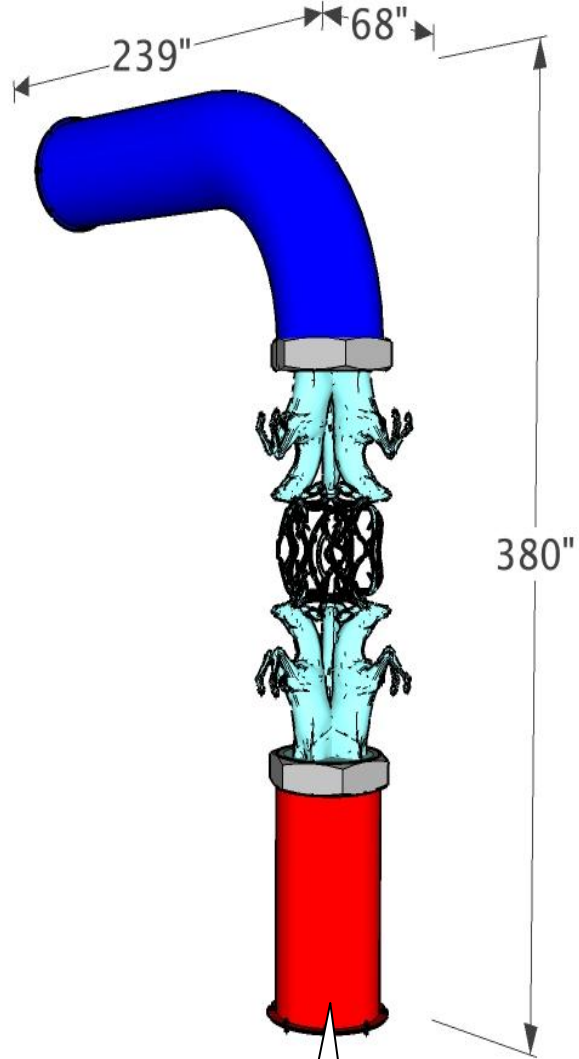
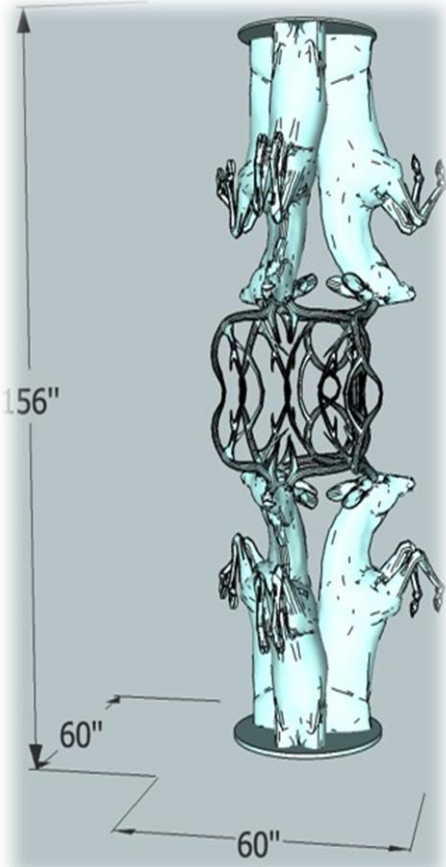


The artists will work with the architects to resolve final site for the sculpture at the entrance and its foundation.



For the sculpture at the entrance, the artists have proposed an alternative design to avoid attaching the sculpture to the building.





Pipes will be formed using commercial aluminum pipes sections and will be powder coated in red or blue. "Deer" will be made of bronze and chromed