

NO: **R225**

COUNCIL DATE: **October 22, 2012**

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council**

DATE: **October 18, 2012**

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

FILE: **7800-01**

SUBJECT: **Public Art Component - Guildford Aquatic Centre**

RECOMMENDATION

The Parks, Recreation and Culture Department recommends that Council:

1. receive this report as information; and
2. authorize staff to work with artist Michael Kronld toward the creation and installation of the sculpture “Splash” as the public art component of the new Guildford Aquatic Centre project, all as generally described in this report.

INTENT

The purpose of this report is to provide background information regarding the Guildford 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 Public Art Master Plan identifies the Guildford Recreation Centre, being at a gateway into Surrey and in the core of the Guildford town centre, as a priority site for public art. The proposed artwork will contribute to the urbanization of the Town Centre. The proposed artwork will serve as a landmark in this neighbourhood and for the City.

BACKGROUND

The theme that was developed for the public art in the Centre was “the natural effects of light and water, including reflection, shadow, and illumination”. 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. The location for the artwork at the corner of 152nd Street and Lincoln Drive and the theme for this artwork were supported by the Public Art Advisory Committee and support the directions that are contained within the City’s Public Art Plan.

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:

- Virginia Gillespie (Public Art Advisory Committee);
- Barbara Cole (Curator, Consultant, Artist);
- Darrin Martens (Director/Curator, Burnaby Art Gallery);
- Geraldine Parent (former Curator and past Director of the Art Gallery of South Okanagan, currently Manager of Arts Services, Burnaby);
- Robert Parkes (Surrey Artist);
- Morna Edmunson (Guildford Town Centre Resident); and
- Trish Petrie (Guildford based, Black Bond Books Manager).

The Panel was supported by advisors including the project architects, 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 evaluation.

At the conclusion of the evaluation process the Panel voted unanimously to recommend to the Public Art Advisory Committee the proposal that was submitted by Michael Kronld.

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 proposed sculpture "Splash" is a virtual interpretation of a real fountain, created on a large scale using printed glass and steel as the primary materials. It will be partially transparent and will glow at night. It will be perceived as a curved image of a splash of water and is expected to measure approximately 24 feet high and 33 feet wide.

The artwork is intended to represent the centre of Guildford in the way fountains were created as focal points in the centre of European towns. The artist was inspired by the history of civic fountains, which were originally established to provide a source of potable water for the community, and became important places for community gatherings. Fountains over time became grander as cities grew. They were transformed into symbols of civic pride. "Splash" is intended to represent Guildford's new Aquatic Centre Surrey's as a place for the community to gather. It also recalls the source of the fountain and the formation of a city – the wellspring of fresh water – here recalling the source of the Serpentine River.

This installation will be fabricated using tempered glass panels digitally printed with a form of ceramic pigment. The Aquatic Centre, the landscaping and the sky will be visible behind the top panels of the sculpture as the image here will be partially transparent. The sculpture will be composed of 14 panels, each measuring approximately 8 feet high and 4 feet wide. The design of the structure will be informed by contemporary architecture (clean contemporary design, with its

pixilation referencing the variegated, textured surface of the Aquatic Centre) and will incorporate LED or Fibre Optic lighting units that will illuminate the image at night. During the day, perceptions of the image will change based on the natural light and time of day and season.

This artwork will provide a highly visible iconic presence at the corner of Lincoln Drive and 152nd Street, and will face north toward traffic coming southbound on 152 Street from Highway 1 – an important gateway into the City of Surrey. The artwork is expected to be primarily experienced by motorists. It is to be accessible and engaging to a diverse public audience through its historical, cultural and aesthetic elements. Images of the artwork are contained in Appendix “A”.

About the Artist:

Michael Krondl was born in Prague, grew up in Toronto, and is currently based in New York City. He specializes in the creation of large-scale, site-specific art installations that use photographs. He has completed public art projects in various communities and venues including plazas, transit facilities and integrated with private and public buildings in New York City (New York Metropolitan Transportation Authority), Katonah, New York (Katonah Museum of Art), Prague, Czech Republic (Centre for Contemporary Art), Charlotte North Carolina (Bank of America Plaza), and, most recently, Vail, Colorado (Town of Vail). He also creates artwork for exhibition in public art galleries and museums. He has a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art in New York City.

Schedule:

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

Funding:

Based on the Public Art Policy the total budget for this project is \$343,875 including the costs of on-going maintenance of the installed artworks. The artists’ budget for the project is \$247,000 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 work with artist Michael Krondl toward the creation and installation of the sculpture “Splash” as the public art component of the new Guildford Aquatic Centre project, all as generally described in this report.

Laurie Cavan
General Manager
Parks, Recreation and Culture

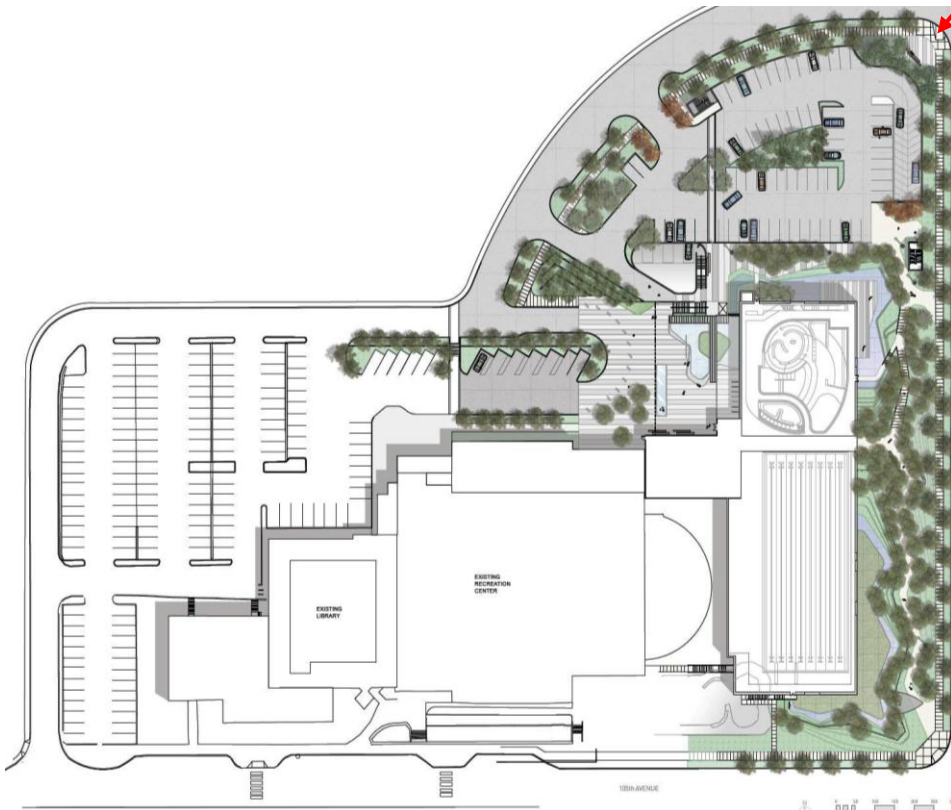
Appendix “A” – Location and Image of the Proposed Public Art at the Guildford Aquatic Centre.

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

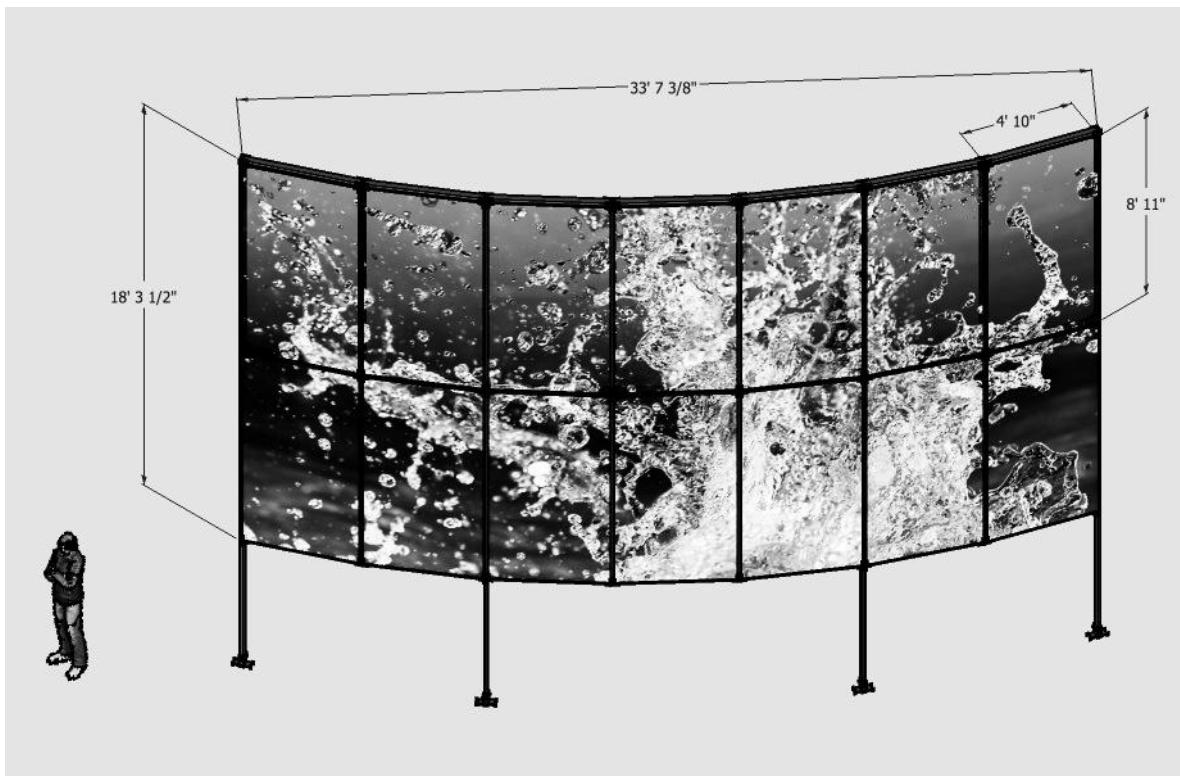


The site planned for the artwork is north of the future Guildford Aquatic Centre near the intersection of Lincoln Drive and 152nd Street.





The artwork will wrap around the corner of 152nd and Lincoln Drive, along the corner supporting the route to underground parking. Its foundation and location will coordinate with the landscape and lighting planned for the parking lot. The artwork will be partially transparent during the day (only the white portions will be opaque). Final design of the structure, foundation and illumination will be developed by the artist in consultation with the project architect and engineers.



The artwork will meet BC engineering and building code requirements and will have an anti-graffiti coating, strength typical for glass structures in transit stations and deterrence to climbing. It will be elevated about the ground.