

NO: **R059**

COUNCIL DATE: **April 27, 2015**

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council**

DATE: **April 14, 2015**

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

FILE: **7800-01**

SUBJECT: **Recommended Artist for Hazelgrove Park**

RECOMMENDATION

The Parks, Recreation and Culture Department recommend that Council:

1. receive this report as information; and
2. authorize staff to work with artist Susan Point toward the creation and installation of the sculpture “Water Guardians (Frog Umbrella)” as the public art component for the new Hazelgrove Park as generally described in this report.

INTENT

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with background information regarding the proposed Hazelgrove Park sculpture project and to obtain Council approval to retain an artist to undertake this public art project.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

The recommendation of this report complies with the City’s Public Art Policy. Funding for this project resulted from equal contributions received by the City under the Private Development Public Art Program that was approved by Council in 2011, and City funding drawn from the percentage for public art contributed from the construction budgets for new parks in Surrey. The Public Art Master Plan identifies Hazelgrove Park as a priority site for the development of a public art feature to enhance the Park and fulfill plans for public art in the Cloverdale area.

BACKGROUND

The artwork will be located in Hazelgrove Park on a low grassed mound near the park entrance at 190th Street and 71st Avenue as shown on the map attached in **Appendix I**. The artwork will be easily visible from 190th Avenue, the main entrance to the park and parking lot, and from the main pathway connection to Hazelgrove Elementary School.

The artwork theme “Water” was recommended to and supported by the Public Art Advisory Committee. Artists answering the call were invited to envision a sculpture that responded to

water as a critical element for sustaining life. Water is also a fundamental component found within the park design and its community context with the park being adjacent to the new Metro water reservoir and City of Surrey pump station and the park features of a splash pad and a bio-swale to both detain and bio-remediate wastewater.

The total budget for the artist to create and install the sculpture is \$100,000 inclusive of all costs including artist fees, design, materials, insurance, all engineering expenses, fabrication, delivery, installation, travel and taxes.

DISCUSSION

A Call for Expression of Interest was issued nationally resulting in sixty – six (66) submissions received by the City. A Selection Panel to evaluate the submissions was convened and included the following members:

- Dorothy Barenscott, Ph. D., Art Historian Faculty Position (Kwantlen Polytechnic University);
- Deborah Putman, Surrey Artist;
- Paul Oraziotti, Cloverdale Business Improvement Association, Executive Director, and Surrey Resident;
- Grace Van Gautier, Public Art Advisory Committee; and
- Jay Meneely, Parks Designer.

The panel short-listed four (4) artists to develop and present proposals to the Panel. The shortlisted artists were Doug Taylor, Muse Atelier (Jacqueline Metz and Nancy Chew), Coast Salish Arts (Susan Point), and Juanjo Novella.

On January 24, 2015, there was a site visit with these artists to review the location; potential issues; community context and values; proposal expectations in the competition contract and the Public Art Project Artist Agreement. The artwork proposals submitted by the shortlisted artists were also reviewed prior to the final presentation by a technical committee of City staff that included representatives of the Parks Operations and the Risk Management Sections.

On February 24th 2015, the shortlisted artists presented their proposal to the Artist Selection Panel. As a result of this process, the Panel unanimously voted to recommend to the Public Art Advisory Committee the artist Coast Salish Arts (Susan Point) for this commission.

Public Art Advisory Committee Endorsement:

At its meeting on March 31st, 2015 the Public Art Advisory Committee considered and endorsed the recommendation of the Artist Selection Panel in relation to the artist team, Coast Salish Arts, and the proposed art work.

Description of Artwork:

The proposed sculpture, *Water Guardians (Frog Umbrella)*, will engage a diverse public audience through its historical, cultural and aesthetic elements. (See **Appendix “II”** for images).

The artwork is an illustrative tilted umbrella representing a changing landscape. The focal point is the canopy, symbolic of a water lily flower with either four (4) or eight (8) frogs sitting. The

canopy of the artwork has a width of ninety-eight (98) inches diameter (point to point) and the lowest level of the canopy will be at least nine (9) feet and the highest point approximately eleven (11) feet. Pierced from three-quarter inch, three stage powder pigmented structural aluminium are smiling frog motifs used to symbolically remember the history of the site, with its many ponds and creeks.

Susan Point's water theme design, "Water Guardians", is an original design created specifically for Hazelgrove Park that interacts with the intended young, family oriented audience. All design elements are created from Coast Salish iconography in a form that represents the past, present, and future.

The overall imagery in the design reflects on the history of the site, the continued changes of the site, and the natural site itself. Susan has incorporated smiling frog and tadpole motifs representing the continuance of life, and small transformative beginnings. The frog also symbolizes the rhythm of the land, as songs sung by frogs have always been the indicators of the changing seasons to First Nations people of the Pacific Northwest.

About the Artist

Susan A. Point O.C., DFA., RCA., D.Litt. is a descendant of the Musqueam people and is the daughter of Edna Grant and Anthony Point. She is a distinguished Coast Salish artist with numerous public art works including sculptures installed at the Smithsonian Institute's National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, Vancouver International Airport and Stanley Park. Susan is an Officer of the Order of Canada, and was presented with the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal for her contributions to Canada. An internationally acclaimed artist, Susan Point has played a prominent role in the renewal of the Coast Salish First Nation's cultural heritage. Combining traditional symbols with a wide range of materials, she has produced inventive and distinctive works that have been exhibited in Canada and abroad. The City of Surrey commissioned the artist for a sculpture for the South Surrey Recreation Centre called "Frogs" in 2004. (See **Appendix "III"** for images).

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 2016.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

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

- 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 authorizes staff to work with Coast Salish Arts (Susan Point) towards the creation and installation of the sculpture “Water Guardians” (Frog Umbrella) for Hazelgrove Park, all as generally described in this report.

Laurie Cavan
General Manager
Parks, Recreation and Culture

Appendix I- Location of the Proposed Public Art in Hazelgrove Park

Appendix II- The artist’s concept proposal for a sculpture for Hazelgrove Park

Appendix III- Susan Point’s sculpture “Frogs” in South Surrey Recreation Centre

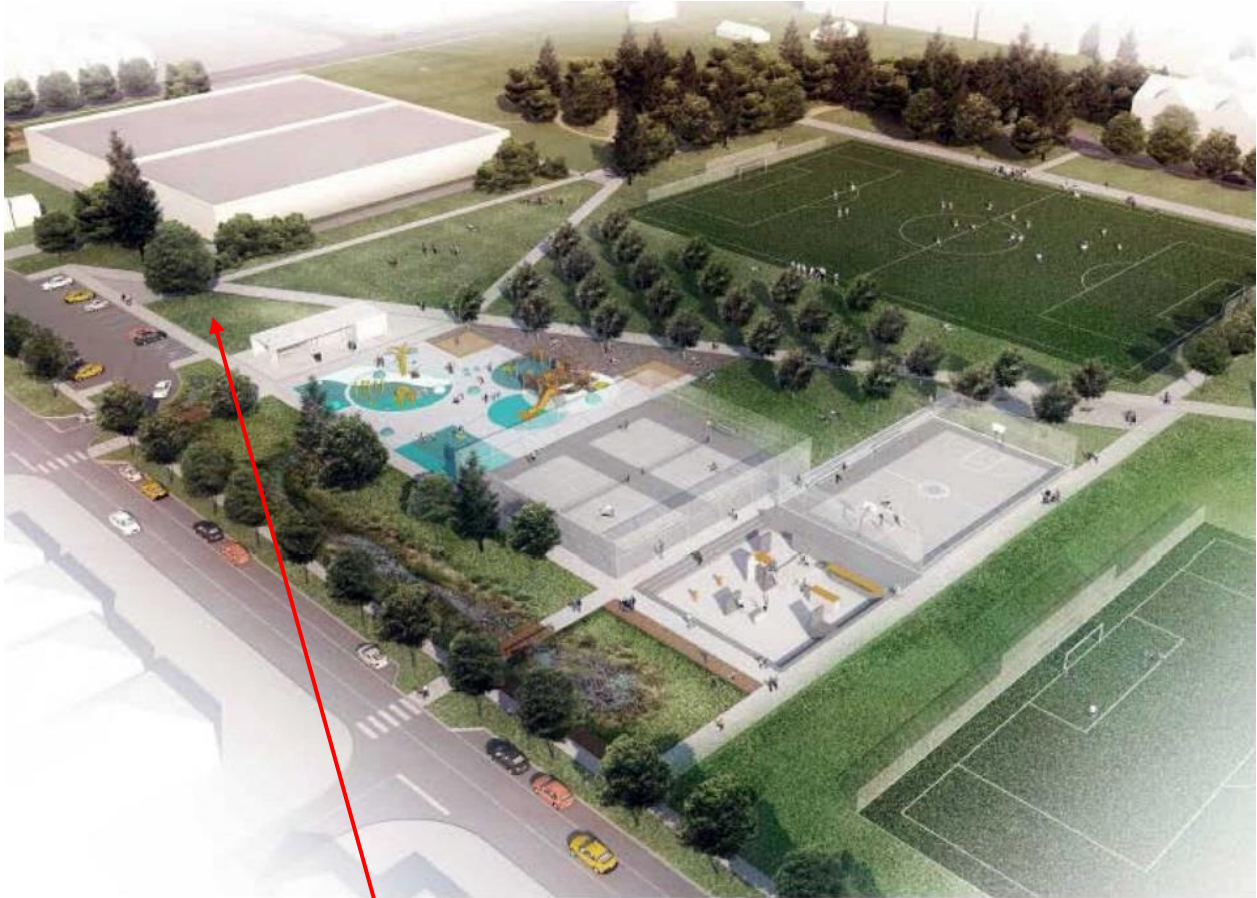
Appendix I

Location of the Proposed Public Art in Hazelgrove Park

Hazelgrove Park is located at 7080 190th Street between 190th and 191st Streets, north of Hazelgrove Elementary School and south of 72nd Avenue.

★ Location of proposed Public Art





The artwork site is on a mound near the main entrance to the Park from 190th Street and is adjacent to the main pathway that connects to Hazelgrove Elementary School.

The artwork will be visible from the parking lot and will be a welcoming form for entering the park.

Appendix II

The artist's concept proposal for a sculpture for Hazelgrove Park

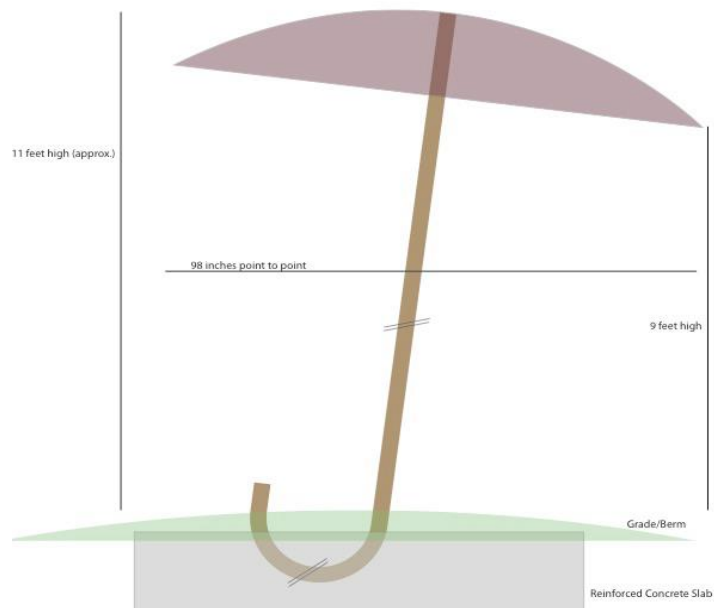
Coast Salish Arts Artwork Concept "Frog Umbrella"

The sculpture will be in the form of a large umbrella with a canopy pierced with the design of seated frogs. During sunny days, the images will also be projected on the ground as light and shadow. The image of tadpoles may also be incorporated between the frogs as the design is further developed. Susan states "What I really like about this design is that while viewing from the outside, you can really only see one frog; but while standing beneath, the viewer sees the whole design, which creates a kaleidoscope effect. The imagery within this design can suggest many other images by the Salish forms that I use including birds and butterflies."

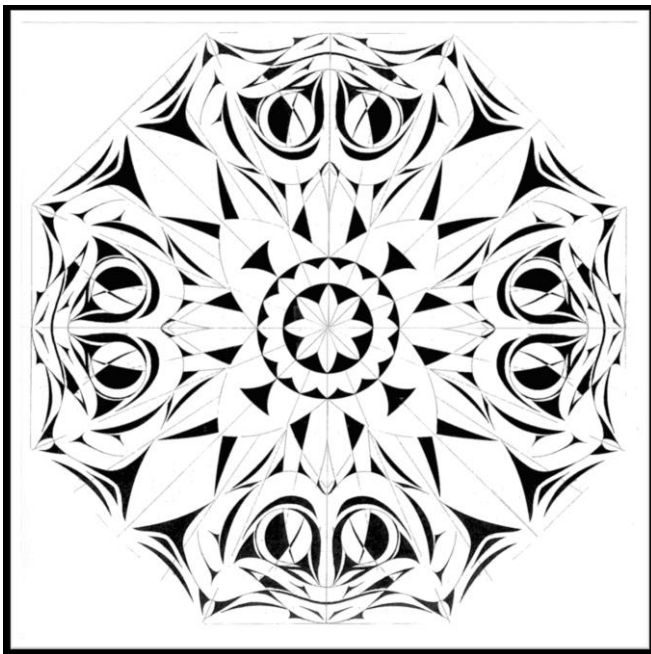
Note the scale of this artwork is preliminary and final colour and dimensions will be determined as the artist proceeds through final drawings and quotes from the fabricator. The City's request will be for the artwork to be as large as possible, and the canopy to be higher than fingertips can reach.

Right: Overall form of the artwork *Frog Umbrella* sited on mound in park.

Below: the frog design intended for the canopy



Not to scale



Appendix III

Susan Point's sculpture "Frogs" in South Surrey Recreation Centre



Frogs is a series of panels with an interlinked metamorphic image that is repeated in a way that suggests it can go on forever. The artist states that "in many First Nations groups, the frog is the voice of the people. It symbolizes innocence, stability and communication. The voice of the frog heralds the coming of spring and its silence is the first sign that the environment is suffering."

