

NO: R206

COUNCIL DATE: October 20, 2015

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor and Council** DATE: **October 9, 2015**
FROM: **General Manager, Parks Recreation and Culture** FILE: **7800-01**
SUBJECT: **Recommendation for West Village Park and District Energy Plant Public Art**

RECOMMENDATION

The Parks, Recreation and Culture Department recommend that Council:

1. receive this report as information; and
2. authorize staff to work with artist Erica Stocking to perform the role of the Artist-in-Residence for the West Village Park and District Energy Plant public art project, all as generally described in this report.

INTENT

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with background information regarding the proposed West Village Park and District Energy Plant public art opportunity 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. The implementation of the public art project is guided by the Public Art Master Plan.

BACKGROUND

West Village Park and Energy Plant site is located on 133rd Street south of 104th Avenue just west of the new civic core in the heart of a developing high density residential neighbourhood (**Appendix I**). The goal is for the park and a district energy plant to be integrated into the community and enhance the public realm. The project team agreed that the incorporation of public art, as demonstrated in the Vancouver's False Creek Energy Centre public art project, would help meet this goal.

The Artist-in-Residence will work with the project team to envision the artwork's location, theme and form which potentially could influence the design of the building and the park. The City has engaged the consulting architecture firm Francl Architecture Inc. and Landscape Architecture firm Space2place Design Inc. to work with City staff from Engineering, Parks and Public Art.

This will be a two-phased artist in residence opportunity. Phase 1 includes: research of the operations of the West Village Park and District Energy Plant site and the neighbourhood; development of multiple concepts for public artwork opportunities and concept testing process using a community charrette process. Phase 2 is the development of the supported concept as recommended by this community engagement process, and the Public Art Advisory Committee review process, through to completion, as a permanent public art work for the building and park site.

This approach to the public art opportunity for the West Village Park and District Energy Plant was unanimously supported by the Public Art Advisory Committee.

Call for Letters of Interest and Selection Process:

Due to the advanced schedule for this project, the City's Public Art Program recommended a directed call to five professional artists experienced in working collaboratively with a project team.

Research to establish the prequalified artists list included the following factors:

- Previous collaborative, public art project experience with at least one commissioned and completed public art work;
- Quality of recently completed major art projects, demonstrated adherence to schedules, deadlines, project requirements and budgets;
- Experience working efficiently, collegially and collaboratively with design professionals such as architects and engineers, civic agencies and community stakeholders in design and execution;
- Ability to create artwork appropriate in concept, materials and scale for the identified opportunity; and
- Availability for meetings, presentations and project involvement in design process within the required schedule.

Selection Process:

A Call to available pre-qualified artists for Expression of Interest was issued to five candidates who demonstrate the level of skill in creating public art and experience with the work and methodology of collaboration with a project design team including:

- Jill Anholt
- Rebecca Bayer
- Germaine Koh
- Stephanie Robb
- Erica Stocking

The Public Art Advisory Committee unanimously approved these prequalified artists, as well as the voting members of the selection panel at their meeting on September 17th. The approved short-listed artists attended an information meeting on September 29, 2015.

A selection panel to evaluate the artist candidates was convened and included the following:

Selection Panel Members:

- Penny Priddy, Community Advocate and Surrey Resident
- Stefan Aepli, Francl Architecture
- Jeff Cutler, space2place, Landscape Architect.

Advisors:

- Jim Adams, Public Art Advisory Committee
- Waleed Giratalla, Project Engineer, City of Surrey
- Patrick Klassen, Parks Planner, City of Surrey.

On October 5th, each of the five prequalified artists made a presentation of their proposal explaining their approach, their deliverables, their methodology and schedule of activity. The evaluation criteria included rating their artistry, experience, expertise, and potential to collaborate effectively as part of the project team, as well as the value of their proposed methodology, deliverables and timeline. As a result of this process, the Panel unanimously voted to recommend to the Public Art Advisory Committee the artist Erica Stocking for this commission.

DISCUSSION

About the Artist:

Erica Stocking is a resident of Metro Vancouver, and has a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Emily Carr Institute. She has an active studio practice, and has produced numerous exhibitions since she graduated in 2004. Among them is a group exhibition “How Soon is Now” at Vancouver Art Gallery and two solo exhibits at Artspeak and a solo exhibit at the Richmond Art Gallery. Over the years her practice has included a number of successful collaborations that demonstrate her capability to creatively meet the various demands required of an Artist-in-Residence.

In 2009, Erica completed the public artwork “*Yellow Fence*” for condominium developments at Simon Fraser University in Burnaby and in the same year was awarded the Vancouver Mayor’s Art Award Emerging Public Artist for “*Window Display*” at the Vancouver Art Gallery. Her most significant public art achievement is “*Geysers for Hillcrest Park*”, a permanent public artwork made for the City of Vancouver in 2012, in collaboration with Vanessa Kwan, as well as facility staff, Parks Board members, and various engineers.

She states “I approach public space with the spatial and emotional sensibilities of an artist. My interest in public and private space has been to understand where I end and the world begins. My job as an artist is to ask philosophical questions in visual form - who am I in the world? How do I exist - emotionally, bodily, and intellectually? And what is my connection to the rest of the world?” The full artist profile is attached as **Appendix II**.

Funding:

The total Artist-in-Residence budget is \$99,950 to be divided into Phase 1 - Research and Art Plan (\$15,000) and Phase 2 - Art Project (\$84,950) inclusive of all costs. Two payment schedules will be

based on deliverables for Phase 1 and Phase 2 to be outlined and agreed upon by the City and the selected artist.

Schedule:

Subject to Council approval of the recommendations of this report, it is expected that the artist will begin work in late October, 2015 and conclude with the installation of the artwork by January, 2018.

Public Art Advisory Committee Endorsement:

At its meeting on October 8th, 2015 the Public Art Advisory Committee received the selection panel's recommendation, and voted unanimously to recommend to Council artist Erica Stocking be contracted as the artist for this project.

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

The Parks, Recreation and Culture Department recommend that Council:

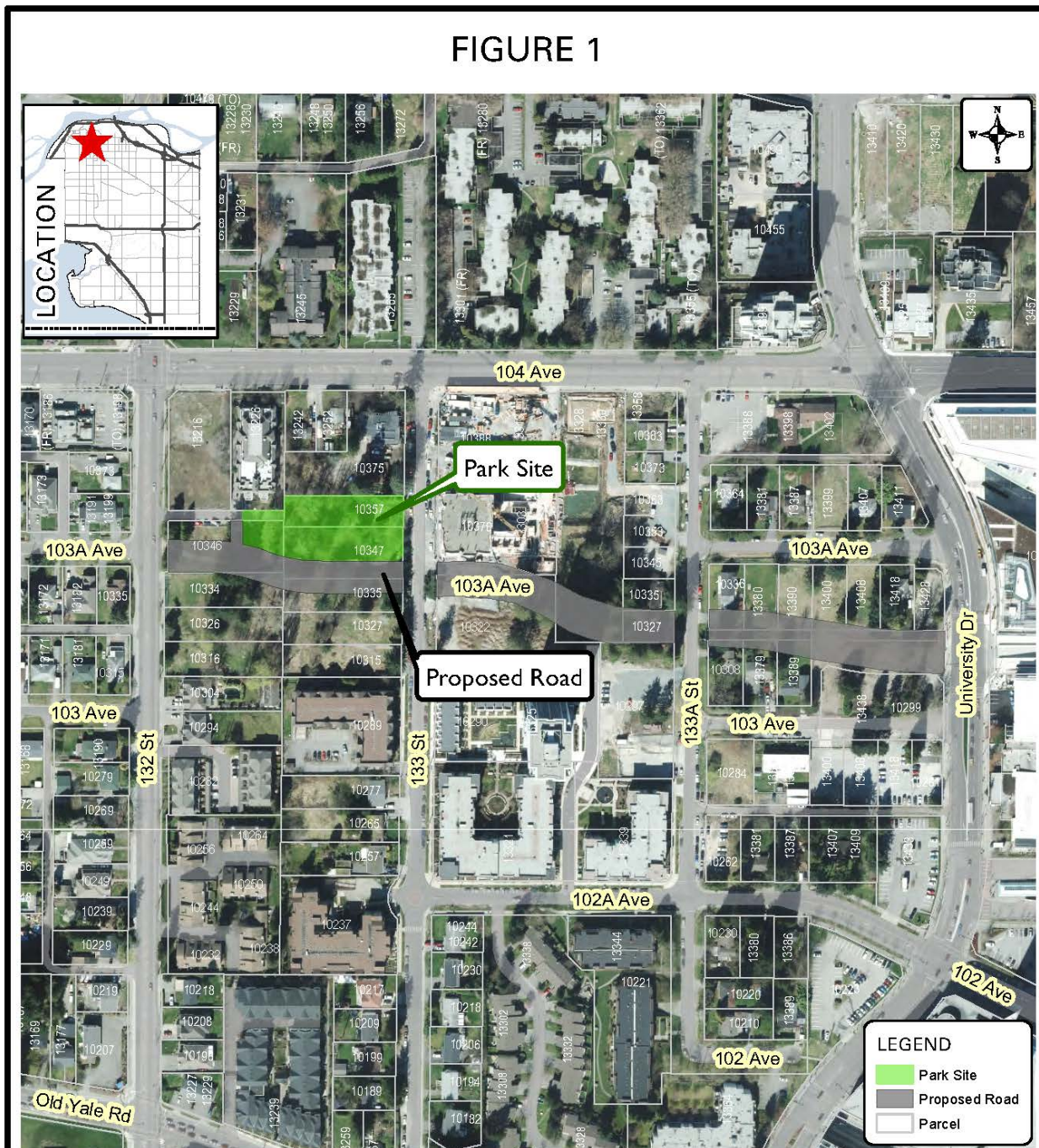
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Laurie Cavan
General Manager
Parks, Recreation and Culture

Appendix I - Location of the West Village Park and District Energy Plant Site
Appendix II - Profile Erica Stocking

Location of the West Village Park and District Energy Plant Site

FIGURE 1



Produced by GIS Section: 13-Mar-2015, JJR



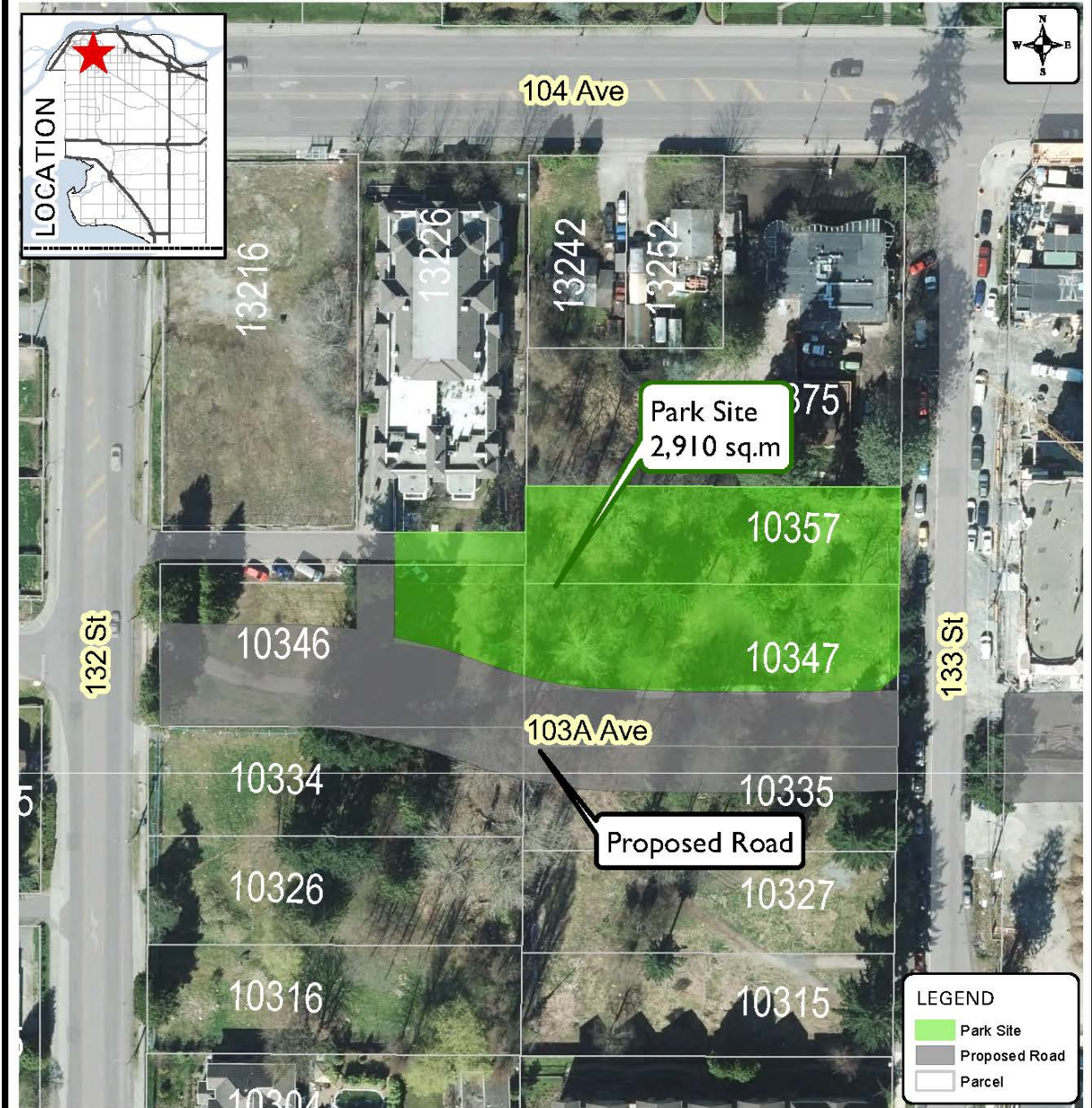
Location of West Village Park

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

The data provided is compiled from various sources and IS NOT warranted as to its accuracy or sufficiency by the City of Surrey.
 This information is provided for information and convenience purposes only.
 Lot sizes, Legal descriptions and encumbrances must be confirmed at the Land Title Office.

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FIGURE 2



Produced by GIS Section: 13-Mar-2015, JJR



West Village Park Site

ENGINEERING
DEPARTMENT

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Profile – Erica Stocking

Artist Statement - In my past work I have used architectural spaces as a context to examine a collapsed duality of how we experience the world. In my recent work I am currently exploring how our bodies are vehicles for experiencing the world.

My work evolves from a desire to find a sense of place in the world, investigating inherent and manufactured value, the drive for connection and notions of place. I usually work with the transformation of found materials or situations as entry points into a space. This is not always something tangible; sometimes it is an idea or source material.

Approach to the Project

Through research, learning and creative envisioning I would determine the site, theme and form for potential artworks while productively contributing to the discussions regarding the overall look and feel of the West Village Park and District Energy Plant.

I am interested in this moment when a person meets the world. We walk out of our homes and encounter...people, places, systems, ideas, culture. Somehow we have to negotiate that with who we are or who we think we are. The project site is fascinating to me in this regard as it functions as an outdoor space for a number of future residents who may not have a private outdoors, so it becomes a place where an individual is both home and not at home. This relationship to home is complicated further when considering that the District Energy Plant is heating the resident's home. So to find oneself at this public park, is also to find oneself at the hearth of an expanded home.

With very qualified and creative professionals already developing the project, I see my job as Artist-in-Residence as existing in the cracks:

In the places that there is gaps in understanding, fearfulness, the places that are uncomfortable to go with questions and possibilities. In a way, I stand in for the public, undergoing the same process of understanding the unique benefits of having an energy plant as part of 'my' local park space.

Throughout the residency I would make visible the research I conduct and the tools I develop to understand this unique relationship between Park and Plant. Through metaphor, symbols and actions, this information will be communicated with the team as well as with the public. An organized charrette would be useful towards the end of November to communicate the research and directions undertaken to date, and also to identify other areas of importance to the community I may have overlooked.

My research is one of expansion and contraction: following tangents picked up in conversation, spending time on site, understanding what the district energy plant is and how it is functioning, combining, editing and fleshing out these areas. Through this, clarity in understanding the opportunities for integration of art into the park will emerge.



"Window Display" by Erica Stocking. Site Specific Artwork for group exhibition "How Soon is Now" at Vancouver Art Gallery in 2009



“Geyser” for Hillcrest Park, by Erica Stocking and Vanessa Kwan, Completion 2012. Commissioned by The City of Vancouver Public Art Program \$278,000 budget

“Geyser” was generated in response to the local oral histories of water in the neighbourhood, the interplay between civic and neighbourhood spaces and the green initiatives of the building. The “geyser” is connected to the greywater system in the building, and only “erupts” when there is a demand for potable water in the system during the dry summer months. In this way the civic fountain becomes a natural geyser making visible one element of the community’s water usage.

“Yellow Fence” consists of 15 powder coated stainless steel gates. It articulates the space between public and private. A yellow construction fence enclosed the HUB building during construction; it was the first definition of access between public and private space on the site. The artwork is a sequence derived from this original construction fence.



“Yellow Fence” by Erica Stocking, Site Specific artwork for the HUB building at UniverCity, SFU Burnaby in 2009. \$55,000 budget