



CITY OF VANCOUVER

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: February 10, 2005
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Meeting Date: March 15, 2005

TO: Vancouver City Council

FROM: Managing Director, Office of Cultural Affairs in consultation with the City Librarian

SUBJECT: Public Art Programming at Library Square

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council approve the allocation of \$135,000 for public art programming through 2006 (the "Aperture Project") at Library Square, as described in this report; source of funds to be the Library Square Public Art Reserve.

GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS

The General Manager RECOMMENDS approval.

COUNCIL POLICY

Council adopted policies providing for public art in civic and private development in 1991. Budgets for civic public art have been provided in each Capital Plan since 1994.

The Library Square Public Art Reserve funds ongoing public art projects at Library Square on a sustainable basis.

Transfers from City Reserves require Council approval.

PURPOSE

This report seeks Council approval for the allocation of \$135,000 from the Library Square Public Art Reserve to public art programming at Library Square. Two projects are proposed: a 10th anniversary project that would display artwork on the east wall of the atrium; and a second project, beginning in 2006 and lasting approximately four years, that would utilize temporary public art works to address library goals, functions, programs, or site.

Both projects are supported by the Library staff, the Library Board, and the Public Art Committee.

BACKGROUND

Council in 1994 approved an allocation of \$550,000 for public art at the new central library. Artwork costing \$118,000 was commissioned for the fountain beside the Children's Library. At the time, it was decided that the remaining funds (approximately \$432,000) would be placed in a Library Square Public Art Reserve, with Reserve proceeds used to pay for recurring public art projects. With the support of the Library, the community, and the Public Art Committee, Cultural Affairs recommended and Council adopted this plan on 11 April 1995.

Since 1991 there have been a number of independent temporary public art exhibits at Library square and considerable discussion about ongoing public art opportunities. In 2001, Council approved funding to begin a program of recurring artworks at Library Square. To date, \$10,000 has been allocated for the preparation of a report and art plan outlining public art options for Library Square. The consultant's report (on file with the City Clerk) is based on a comprehensive site review and consultation with Library, Facilities, and Cultural Affairs staff, and the Public Art Committee.

DISCUSSION

Two projects are proposed for Library Square, extending over the next two years.

1. The "Aperture Project"

The first project would be part of the Library's 10th anniversary celebrations in May. This "Aperture Project" would commission artists to create large-scale images (10 x 22 feet) for display in purpose-built frames in three large window openings (Apertures) on the east wall of the atrium. The frames provide a standardized format that fits the aperture and reduces art production and installation costs. The frames also permit rapid change-over or removal of the images, opening the window spaces up for other uses. One frame is equipped with an optional rear projection screen, enabling the display of work by multimedia and projection artists.

The Aperture Project budget covers the one-time cost for the frames (estimated at \$35,000, including installation) and artist and art production fees for five artists (estimated at \$65,000). Each artist's images would be displayed for four months, with the first set

launched this May. The budget provided carries the series through to December 2006, after which the images could be re-displayed or replaced. With the frames in place and paid for, the Aperture Project could be extended and the frames made available for use by the artists engaged for the second project, below.

2. The "Artists Projects"

The second set of projects ("Artist's Projects") would begin in 2006. Proponents will be asked to propose projects that illuminate and invent on the information resources, functions, programs, systems and spaces contained within this most public institution. Artist's projects could take the form of residencies, of investigations into specific collections, or indeed could be based on any number of Library programs and services. The intent is to commission artist's projects that increase patron's knowledge and pleasure in their use of the many public services the Library provides.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The two art projects proposed in this report will be funded by proceeds from the Library Square Public Art Reserve.

Aperture Project:		
Infrastructure	35,000	
Programming	65,000	115,000
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Artist's Project:	\$20,000	20,000
Total Request:		\$135,000

Some curatorial projects may also seek to access additional funds from the Canada Council and other non-City sources.

The Library Square Public Art Reserve began in 1995 with a balance of \$432,000 with these funds to be available to pay for recurring public art projects.

The following table shows the current status of the reserve fund, including interest earned and actual expenditures since its inception in 1995 as well as the expenditures proposed in this report:

	Actual	Reserve Balance
Opening Reserve Balance (Jan 1995)		\$432,000
Interest 1995 to 2004	208,000	
2001 Program Expenditures	10,000	
Reserve Balance (Dec 2004)		\$630,000
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2005/06 Requests:		
Aperture Project	115,000	
Artist's Project	20,000	
Anticipated Interest for 2005	15,000	
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Reserve Balance (Projected Dec 2005)		\$510,000

The intent is to maintain the Reserve at no less than \$500,000 to ensure the program's sustainability. Further programming approvals will be the subject of separate reports to Council.

SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The activity described in this report will fulfill a long-standing commitment to provide recurring public art at library Square. The artwork will complement the library's mandate, goals, programs, functions, and physical space.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

A public art consultant will implement the projects described in this report at the direction of library and cultural affairs staff.

COMMUNICATIONS PLAN

Notices to artists and others about Library Square opportunities will be published on the public art listserv and Office of Cultural Affairs website.

CONCLUSION

The projects recommended in this report fulfil a longstanding commitment to provide ongoing artwork at Library Square. The proposed anniversary project and the artist's projects program have been approved by Library staff, the Library Board, and by the Public Art Committee. The cost of this programming is covered by the proceeds of the Library Square Public Art Reserve, the purpose for which that Reserve was intended.

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