



CITY OF VANCOUVER

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Date: March 08, 2005
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Meeting Date: April 26, 2005

TO: Vancouver City Council

FROM: Director of Current Planning

SUBJECT: City of Vancouver wins "Project Honor Award for Residential Development" from The Waterfront Centre for False Creek North/Concord Pacific Place

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council receive the report for information.

PURPOSE

This report informs Council of the "Project Honor Award" bestowed upon the City of Vancouver by The Waterfront Centre of Washington, DC for the planning, design, and shoreline treatment of False Creek North/Concord Pacific Place. This award was received in conjunction with Concord Pacific Group, Inc.

DISCUSSION

The Waterfront Center is an international, non-profit organization based in Washington, DC that seeks to assist communities and the professions in making the wisest and best long-term uses of waterfront resources for maximum public benefit. This is their 23rd year of holding an annual, juried awards program to recognize innovative waterfront planning worldwide.

Awards are based on a project's ability to fulfill five main criteria:

- Sensitivity of the design to the water - how well a project engages and activates the waterfront as a means for public enjoyment, allowing for physical and visual access;
- Quality and harmony of the design - how well a project integrates its surroundings and incorporates unique historic and cultural features of the community;

- Civic contribution - how a project has helped the economy, has boosted civic pride and has had a positive effect on the area;
- Environmental - how sustainable approaches have been integrated;
- Educational - how well a project conveys essential information to the public (where applicable).

The completed Quayside, Roundhouse and Beach neighbourhoods of False Creek North were featured in the award. It was notable that 100% of the waterfront along the project is publicly-accessible via a waterfront promenade and parkland. Special design treatments were noted, including view promontories, public docks and shoreline steps that invite the user to interact with the water's edge.

The award acknowledged that False Creek North has a sense of urbanity with its dense built form and extension of the city's street grid into the new neighbourhoods. The 'tower and podium' form and use of light-coloured glazing seeks to optimize views and minimize obtrusiveness. Commercial 'high-streets' animate the area year-round and provide local services to residents within walking distance of their homes.

The broad package of amenities in False Creek North, including provisions for social housing was highlighted as a significant civic contribution. The area's history as a rehabilitated brownfield industrial site, the numerous green-roof projects, and its compact, pedestrian nature were referenced as notable.

More information on The Waterfront Center can be found at:

www.waterfrontcenter.org

More information on the City's "Project Honor Award" can be accessed at:

<http://www.waterfrontcenter.org/awards/awards2004>

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