



## CITY OF VANCOUVER

# A4

### ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: November 15, 2007  
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Meeting Date: January 15, 2008

TO: Vancouver City Council  
FROM: Managing Director of Cultural Services  
SUBJECT: Public Art Program, Shangri-La Public Art Site

#### RECOMMENDATION

- A THAT Council authorize the Director of Legal Services, in consultation with the Managing Director of Cultural Services and Risk Management, to prepare and execute an agreement between the City and the Vancouver Art Gallery Association (the "VAG") for the delivery and management of a public art program involving the ongoing display of temporary exhibits at the public art site located in 1100 block of West Georgia Street; on such terms and conditions satisfactory to the director of Legal Services and as set out in Appendix "A" to this report; and
- B. That Council authorize payment for the public art program described in Recommendation "A" at an annual estimated cost of \$200,000 to be funded from the Shangri-La Public Art Endowment fund and from revenues derived from certain Shangri-la encroachments fees.

#### GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS

The General Manager of Community Services RECOMMENDS approval of Recommendations A and B.

## COUNCIL POLICY

City Council adopted the Public Art Program for Civic and Private Development in 1990. In 1994, Council established interest-bearing Reserves to fund public art commissions and maintenance. In 1995, Council approved a dedicated Library Square Public Art Reserve to fund on-going public art programming at Library Square.

## PURPOSE

This report seeks Council's authorization to enter into an agreement with Vancouver Art Gallery to provide public art programming at the Public Art Site at the Shangri-la development at 1100 West Georgia St. Funding will be provided by a City Reserve (the Shangri-La Public Art Endowment) contributed by the developer.

## BACKGROUND

The Shangri-La development at 1100 West Georgia is a major rezoning approved by Council on November 20, 2003. As part of a package of public amenities, the developer, Westbank Properties, agreed to provide, equip, and maintain a major public art site and a public right-of-way between West Georgia and Alberni Streets. The total artwork exhibition area is estimated to be 2,429.2 m<sup>2</sup> (26,148 sq. ft.). The developer also agreed to provide funds sufficient to program the site with on-going installations of professionally curated public artworks, intended to engage a broad public.

## DISCUSSION

The design of the Public Art Site was developed in concert with the Vancouver Art Gallery. It is equipped with special paving, a projector, a screen, anchor ties, and it has the capacity to be flooded. The passageway between Georgia and Alberni, and a landscaped passageway up to a second-level roof garden, provide additional exhibition areas. Public access to these areas is secured by statutory right-of-way which together, provide a variety of spaces to exhibit artworks that animate the surrounding urban context and explore contemporary art issues.

Vancouver Art Gallery's input to the design and set-up of the public art site, added to its knowledge of artists and expertise in public art, recommend that institution's nomination as the first contracted programmer of the site. Appendix A contains the draft terms of a five-year renewable agreement with the Gallery to implement a public art exhibition program at an estimated annual cost of \$200,000.

In late 2008, coincident with the development's completion, the Gallery will initiate the first program of temporary public art installations. Up to three projects per year are anticipated in the main space with additional projects installed in the other exhibition areas on an occasional basis. The artwork will be commissioned by the Gallery from local, national, and international artists, and selected on the basis of artistic quality, innovation, relationship to the site, and diversity of ideas. Preference will be given to new works that respond to the site and its configuration, but existing works will also be considered.

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

All operations at the Public Art Site—programming, site maintenance, insurance, etc.--will be funded by proceeds from the Shangri-La Public Art Endowment/Reserve provided by the developer. In all, a Reserve of \$2.4 million—the development’s public art budget of \$631,750 added to a cash contribution of \$1,768,250--was provided. This Reserve currently generates approximately \$96,000 per year. Other funds and benefits secured by agreement with the developer provide annual encroachment fees of \$112,500, and in-kind accommodation for visiting artists (provided by the on-site hotel). All together, these funds provide an annual operating budget currently in excess of \$200,000 per year. All Public Art Site operations and costs will be funded by this budget.

In addition to providing the public art endowment, the developer will spend an estimated \$2,311,000 to construct and equip the site.

## CONCLUSION

The realization of the Shangri-La public art site—a place for the temporary display of public artworks that explore contemporary art issues in new and traditional media, at no cost to the City--fulfills a long-standing ambition of Vancouver’s arts community. Since the public art program’s adoption in 1990, successive public art committees, artists, architects, and members of the public have sought this kind of opportunity. In its June 16, 2003, review of the proposed site the Public Art Committee resolved:

“THAT the Public Art Committee enthusiastically recommends the creation of the sculpture garden [Public Art Site] at 1120 West Georgia Street, and thanks the developer, the architect, the Vancouver Art Gallery, City Council and staff for their imaginative achievement of this longstanding need.”

Vancouver Art Gallery’s internationally respected curatorial resources offer a quality public art program to Vancouver’s increasingly sophisticated audience for contemporary public art. Staff recommend execution of an agreement with the Vancouver Art Gallery for the provision of public art services which will ensure ongoing temporary exhibits at the Public Art Site at 1100 West Georgia that will animate and enliven the City.

## Appendix A

### Terms of Agreement for the Shangri-La Public Art Site Public Art Program

#### Purpose:

- The Public Art program is to provide a series of one to three temporary public artwork installations annually to be curated by the Vancouver Art Gallery at the Public Art Site.

#### Public Art Site:

- Publicly accessible, outdoor area at grade at 1111 Georgia Street (Lot G Block 18 District Lot 185 Plan LMP1597) as defined in the Agreement dated October 20, 2004 between the Developer and the City of Vancouver, the "Public Art Site".

#### Term:

- Five years commencing January 1, 2008. Twelve months prior to the expiration of the term, and based on a review of the services and financial viability of a future program, the Vancouver Art Gallery may request a subsequent term which will be considered by City Council.

#### Curatorial Services:

- The Vancouver Art Gallery will be responsible for the complete coordination and management of the Public Art Site program, with a changing series of one or three public art installations annually including:
  - engaging artists,
  - scheduling art installations,
  - paying artists and all production costs,
  - arranging artist accommodation,
  - providing liaison between the artist and the Owner or property manager to arrange, as needed, installation and exhibition requirements such as electricity, projector use, illumination, sound, anchoring, the provision or removal of water from the water feature, site storage, site preparation including alteration or removal of landscaping and site restoration including restoration or replacement of landscaping,
  - risk management reviews, and providing suitable and adequate insurance,
  - overseeing artwork installation, exhibition, and removal,
  - maintenance and repairs as required
  - coordinating exhibition openings, publicity, and documentation,
  - providing such services and oversight as a professional and prudent steward of the public art and related public sites might reasonably be expected to perform.

**City Contribution:**

- The City shall make available to the Vancouver Art Gallery:
  - Annual interest from a Shangri-La Public Art Reserve Funds (Endowment); and
  - Annual encroachment fee payments received with respect to the Public Art Site.
- These funds shall be applied exclusively to the program of commissioning, selecting and displaying artwork in the Public Art Site and related public areas, and other costs required by such display.
- While it is anticipated that the interest earned and fees collected will be approximately \$200,000 per year (in 2007 dollars), the Vancouver Art Gallery acknowledges that this amount will vary from year to year and that the City is not obligated to provide any additional funding beyond that itemised above.

**Reporting and Payments:**

- The Vancouver Art Gallery will submit a plan and budget to the City prior to payment. Payments will be made on a quarterly basis to the Vancouver Art Gallery.

**City Acknowledgement:**

- The Vancouver Art Gallery will acknowledge the City of Vancouver and the Public Art Program's contribution in all printed and other references to the Public Art Site and subsequent programming.

**Termination:**

- Upon default or if the Public Art Site becomes unusable for reasons beyond the City's control.

**Additional Terms:**

- All other terms and conditions as required by the Director of Legal Services in consultation with the Managing Director of Cultural Services.