



**City of Richmond**

**Report to Committee**

*To General Purposes - Feb 20, 2006*

**To:** General Purposes Committee

**Date:** February 15, 2006

**From:** Greg Scott, P. Eng., LEED A.P.  
Director, Major Projects

**File:** 11-7000-09-20-053/2005-  
Vol 01

**Re:** **Oval Facility Cladding & Buttress Art Opportunities**

**Staff Recommendation**

That Council endorse an allocation of \$30,000 from the 2003 Public Art Project to retain two artists to collaborate with the Cannon Design Team in the design of the Richmond Oval's polycarbonate cladding and buttresses.

per. Greg Scott, P. Eng., LEED A.P.  
Director, Major Projects

Att. 1

FOR ORIGINATING DIVISION USE ONLY							
ROUTED TO:		CONCURRENCE		CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER			
Budgets .....	Y	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N				
Recreation & Cultural Services .....	Y	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N				
Policy Planning .....	Y	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N				
<b>REVIEWED BY TAG</b>	YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO	<b>REVIEWED BY CAO</b>	YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO
		<i>DW</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>			<i>RE</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Staff Report

### Origin

In the fall of 2005, the City retained the services of 4Culture to prepare an Oval Public Art Plan and Implementation Program. The outcome of this Plan is to ensure that public art is incorporated into the Oval building, public spaces and plazas.

One of the purposes of retaining a Public Art Consultant was to identify significant opportunities through combining art, engineering and architecture in a visible display of the building's design: for example window glazing elements, entry ways and plazas, interpretive and way finding signage, roof structure and form, rain water handling, structural elements, shading, lighting and screening systems.

While the Public Art Plan is not complete, the consultants in collaboration with the Cannon Design Team have identified two opportunities within the building architecture where the contribution of an artist can have significant impact on the exterior appearance of the Oval. The time schedule of the building design and construction requires that artists be hired at this time if these opportunities are to be activated.

This report outlines these opportunities and seeks Council approval to engage artists in this process.

### Findings Of Fact

#### Artist Design Team

A design team artist should be brought into the architectural design team process to:

1. Take advantage of the two identified art opportunities in Oval design process, before it has been finalized.
2. Be part of the working Cannon Design Team.
3. Manipulate the approved list of building materials to:
  - increase the nuances of colour,
  - provide pattern or texture; reveal more depth or richness in the materials; or
  - push the level of innovative uses of common building materials.
4. Incorporate appropriate artistic design language into the construction tender package in order to permit the artwork to be implemented at a later stage.

For a modest design fee investment, the design team artist will ensure that the Oval's ultimate architectural design is further enhanced to include a unique artistic identity and character.

### Artist Opportunities in Oval Design Process

There are two immediate opportunities for a design team artist to get involved in the Oval design process:

#### *Opportunity #1 - Oval Exterior Cladding*

The current Oval facility design and cost estimate calls for a double layer of polycarbonate material in a curtain wall system. The south elevation of Richmond's Speed Skating Oval will be clad in a translucent polycarbonate skin, in a limited palette of blue.

Through close collaboration with the Cannon architectural team, an artist with a refined and mature sense of color will maximize the silk-like qualities of the Oval cladding through choices around layering color, and the transitions between tones.

Within that basic framework there are a myriad of choices. The material can be made muted by layering a colour. Texture can be enhanced or minimized by choice of ribbing materials and widths. Even the pattern, size, division and rhythm of the window mullion placement can be expressed to create a more unique structure.

For this work, it is proposed that an artist with a background in textile design, weaving and painting will add a professional to the team with specialized skills that will make the entire project more successful.

The design team artist will be instructed to work within the parameters of the current estimated cost of the cladding and mullion system hence no additional cost for materials.

Takao Tanabe is an outstanding and internationally recognized artist with considerable experience in the use colours and textures (**Attachment 1**). Because of his long and illustrious career lasting 50 years, he has become one of Canada's most pre-eminent artists. As such, he has developed a level of maturity and skills that will add significant artistic tribute to the design of Richmond's 2010 Speed Skating Oval.

Takao Tanabe is considered the best internationally known artist and staff recommend him for the exterior Oval cladding design process. It is noted that the Oval Public Art Plan, which will be presented soon, will identify numerous other artist opportunities that will be initiated through open multi-phased public art competitions.

#### *Opportunity #2 – Buttresses – Relief Pattern*

This opportunity looks at creating relief designs in the concrete at the pedestrian level that will add texture and interest to the large expanses of concrete. Determining how much surface of the buttresses to cover will be balanced with the art possibilities on the entire site, especially the adjacent landscape areas.

In order to take advantage of this opportunity, the design/construction schedule dictates that adequate language about casting relief patterns in concrete exists in the construction documents to make sure a design can be implemented when the artist's chosen by Council. (Themes and concepts for the design will be recommended in the upcoming Plan.)

An expert in casting artist designs into concrete, Vicki Scuri of Siteworks, has agreed to write and review the construction documents (**Attachment 1**). Once the construction documents have been finalized, then at a later date the actual artist call selection process can be initiated to choose the appropriate artist for Council's approval.

#### Artist Design Budget

Design Team Fee Summary	
Polycarbonate Cladding: Colouration	\$25,000
Buttresses: Construction Documentation	\$ 5,000
Total	\$30,000

#### Design Team Artist Hiring & Supervision

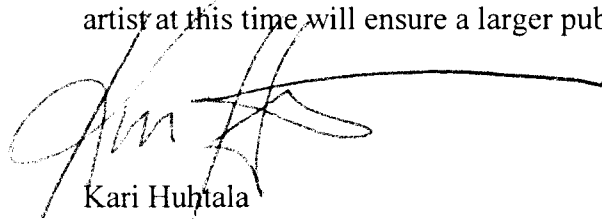
To take advantage of the tight Oval design window of opportunity and to allow the artists to participate in the design process, City staff in consultation with 4culture will select, hire and oversee the design team artist work as part of the Oval design team process. City Council will be kept informed and advised on the details on the artistic work and staff will report on the progress to date as part of the Oval Public Art Plan's presentation to Council in March 2006.

#### **Financial Impact**

That \$30,000 be transferred from the 2003 Public Art Program project to the Richmond Oval Public Art project. Unallocated funds remaining in the 2003 and 2005 Public Art Program projects is \$139,537.

#### **Conclusion**

The design team artist proposal is made in advance of the Oval Public Art Plan because the window of opportunity in the present design process is very small, and including a design team artist at this time will ensure a larger public art result with minimal expenditures.



Kari Huhtala  
Senior Planner  
(4188)

KEH:keh

## INTERESTED DESIGN TEAM ARTISTS

### TAKAO TANABE

Takao Tanabe is a landscape artist of international reputation and an influential teacher of younger generations of Canadian artists. The son of a commercial fisherman, Tak Tanabe was born in Prince Rupert in 1926. During the Second World War, he was interned with other Japanese-Canadians in British Columbia's Interior.

He has painted and studied in Winnipeg, New York, England, Italy, Denmark and Japan. He has served as head of the art department at the Banff School of Fine Arts and has also served on juries and committees at the National Capital Commission and Canada Council.

Takao Tanabe's landscapes are evocative of British Columbia at its finest - the rolling hills and grassy meadows of the Caribou, the lonely seascapes, intriguing cloud formations and breathtaking dawns and sunsets of the coast, and the winter beauty of snow and ice. Powerful straight-line horizons dominate his works. His skies can be dark and foreboding or brilliantly coloured, sometimes reflected in the water or shading the land below.

Working now from his studios in Errington, near Parksville, and Vancouver, Tak Tanabe's outstanding achievements in the world of art continue to be recognized and much sought-after by collectors across Canada and around the world. He is a 1993 Recipient of the Order of British Columbia.

### VICKI SCURI

Vicki Scuri's company SiteWorks, is based in Seattle, WA. For 20 years she has specialized in art as infrastructure including freeway bridges, parking garages, and retaining walls. Vicki is a pioneer in the use of custom designed form liner treatments. She has a background in printmaking and drawing, and is knowledgeable about urban design, fabrication techniques, specification writing and contract document preparation for complex integrated artwork, and construction schedules. She brings persistence of vision, patience, communication skills, technical skills and creative depth to all her projects.

Vicki's site-integrated works are located in the Seattle area and around the United States. In recent years she has completed bridge projects in Wichita, Seattle, and Phoenix. In the early days of design team collaboration, Vicki was one of the five lead artists who developed the award-winning downtown Seattle bus tunnel stations. The artist is a recipient of a Merit Award from the US Department of Transportation and the National Endowment for the Arts.