



CITY OF KIRKLAND
Department of Parks & Community Services
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MEMORANDUM

To: Cultural Arts Commission

From: Lynn Zwaagstra, Director of Parks and Community Services
John Lloyd, Deputy Director of Parks and Community Services

Date: 4/21/2021

Subject: Request to make donation of artwork at Juanita Beach Park

RECOMMENDATION

That the Kirkland Cultural Arts Commission (KCAC) receive a briefing on a request to donate a piece of artwork at Juanita Beach Park and make a recommendation to accept or reject this donation.

BACKGROUND DISCUSSION

In the fall of 2020, Parks and Community Services (PCS) received an offer from Ms. Karen Lightfeldt to donate an interactive wind sculpture to be placed near the new playground at Juanita Beach Park. The sculpture called is called the Glassinator and is designed by Seattle artist Andrew Carson. The interactive art consists of a stainless-steel pole topped by many pieces of glass that move in opposite directions with the wind, designed to catch and reflect the light in an interesting and interactive way. An example of the piece can be seen in **Attachment A**. The proposed sculpture would feature a 10-foot stainless steel pole to the base of the spinning portion of the piece. The upper portion of the piece would be 48" wide. Mr. Carson has works installed in all 50 states and all over the world, including right here in Kirkland. There is a similar sculpture installed at Carillon Point and a smaller piece on loan from a resident installed at Marsh Park. See galleryofmodernmasters.com/artist/Andrew-Carson for additional information.

As this is not a typical 1% for Art project, this request was first reviewed by the Park Board to determine if it should be sited within Juanita Beach Park. The Park Board received a presentation from Ms. Lightfeldt and Mr. Carson at the March 31, 2021 Park Board meeting. The presentation discussed the proposed location, size, height, and materials, the piece's durability, and ongoing maintenance/cleaning needs of the artwork. The artist highlighted the fact that similar pieces have been installed in many public spaces throughout the country with little to no reported damage or vandalism. Staff noted that the art located in Marsh Park has had components bent at least two times over the past 10 years. As an alternate to glass, the artist proposed the possibility of using copper bowls for the upper part of the sculpture. The Park Board was very appreciative of the donation but sought more feedback before making a final recommendation. Specific concerns of the Park Board included placement of the artwork, overall durability/materials of the artwork, and how the piece would fit in with the park and the City's full collection of art. The Park Board asked staff to further analyze these issues and to seek feedback from the KCAC prior to bringing back to Park Board for further discussion.

Following the Park Board meeting, PCS staff discussed the potential locations for the artwork, addressing the concerns identified by the Park Board. While staff appreciate Ms. Lightfeldt's desire to site the sculpture near the playground, there is a concern this would make the sculpture an attractive target

for vandalism. Broken glass and children playing on a playground are not a good mix. No matter the park, glass is subject to vandalism. Recently, the glass block windows in the Marina Park restroom building were damaged multiple times. Other incidents of vandalism can be seen in **Attachment B**. Staff recommend further analysis on the structural integrity of the sculpture as well as placement in a location with less foot traffic. The recommended placement and the design of the sculpture may cause further challenges including loss of open space, blocked sightlines from the lifeguard office, and potential conflicts with traffic flows within the park. Staff recommend the sculpture be placed further away from the playground. One potential concern with the staff recommended location is the proximity to planned artwork associated with the "1% artwork" recently approved for installation. A comparison of the artist/donor's recommended placement and the staff recommendation can be found in **Attachment C**. Considering the initial request to donate this piece of artwork for installation adjacent to the playground, the final location would need to be agreeable to the donor.

Acceptance of this piece of art would come with ongoing costs which the city would need to absorb. Costs would include annual cleaning and maintenance and repairs needed in the event of vandalism. Due to the intricate nature of the design and the fragility of the glass, cleaning and maintenance could add \$1,000 - \$2,000 per year to the budget. It is unknown how much replacing damaged glass pieces would cost at this time.

Staff are seeking feedback from the Kirkland Cultural Arts Commission about all the above noted concerns with the proposed donation.

Attachment A – Glassinator Art Image

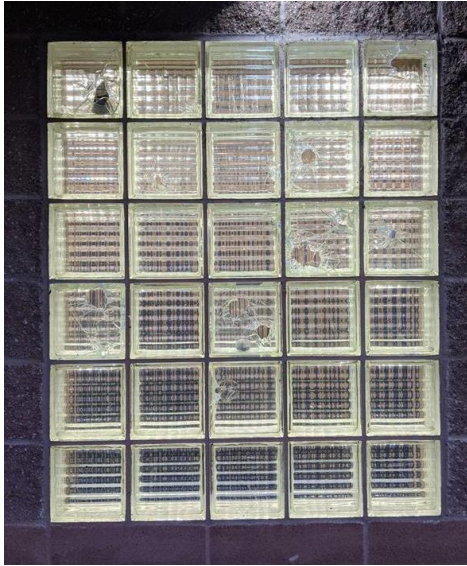
Attachment B – Vandalism Examples

Attachment C – Recommended Location Comparison

Attachment A – Glassinator Art Image



Attachment B – Vandalism Examples



Marina Park Restroom Window



North Kirkland Community Center Backboard



South Rose Hill Park Backboard



North Kirkland Community Center Restroom



Nesting Sculpture



Dock Lights

Attachment C – Recommended Location Comparison

Artist/Donor Proposed Location



Staff Recommended Location

