

4. APPROVAL OF SITE FOR A NEW PUBLIC SCULPTURE



General Manager responsible:	General Manager Strategy and Planning
Officer responsible:	Programme Manager, Liveable City Strategy and Planning Group
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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of the report is to seek Council approval to site a public sculpture commissioned by Art & Industry Biennial Trust (the Trust) on stopped road in the central city.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. The Art & Industry Biennial Trust in conjunction with the Christchurch City Council has commissioned a permanent public sculpture which will be gifted to the city as part of the SCAPE 2006 Biennial of Art in Public Space. Four sites have been investigated as part of the design process. A preferred site has been identified in consultation with the artist and Council officers on the corner of High, Manchester and Lichfield Streets. The proposed site is stopped road in the central city and Council approval to site a sculpture here is required.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

3. The sculpture commission has a value of \$110,000. \$40,000 has been granted to the Trust from the Christchurch City Council Art in Public Places budget allocation in the 2005/06 financial year, under the category 'Response to New Initiatives'. \$70,000 is being funded by two private benefactors. The Art & Industry Biennial Trust will manage the project in conjunction with the Christchurch City Council, and the sculpture will be gifted to the city once completed.

BOARD RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Council approve the siting of the proposed sculpture commissioned by Art & Industry Biennial Trust on road reserve on the corner of High, Manchester and Lichfield Streets.

(John Freeman asked that his vote against this decision be recorded.)

BACKGROUND ON PROPOSED SCULPTURE

4. Each SCAPE Biennial of Art in Public Space commissions one permanent artwork for the city. To date the Trust who run this event have commissioned three permanent public artworks for Christchurch:
 - *Radii* by Marcus Moore - a programmed kinetic sculpture sited at The Crossing Bus Exchange in association with the Carter Group;
 - *Blue* by Bill Culbert, an aerial neon sculpture sited at the Christchurch Convention Centre in association with Signtech, the Signmasters;
 - *Circuit* by Peter Roche sited at the Arts Centre in association with the Rutherford's Den Trust.

SCAPE 2006 is Art & Industry's fourth biennial, and New Zealand's only biennial dedicated to public art.

Phil Price is a local Canterbury sculptor based in Amberley. His kinetic work is highly regarded and he has significant public works sited in both Auckland and Wellington. His works are also included in a number of major private collections throughout Australia and New Zealand. One of his works *Dinornis maximus* was temporarily displayed at Riccarton Bush as part of SCAPE 2004, but he has no permanent kinetic works on display in Christchurch.

Phil's work derives from the lineage of John Britten and Neil Dawson. His kinetic sculptures are beautifully crafted pieces of industrial design, and their elegant movements which are achieved through delicate balancing and precision engineering, are almost counter-intuitive. Phil constructs the works himself with kiwi ingenuity and a do-it-yourself attitude, qualities which are increasingly rare in the hi-tech world of international public art.

The work will be site specific and has been inspired by the urban form of Christchurch. Phil describes this work as:

“The artwork is a celebration of place. The beautifully formed whole, and precisely proportioned parts are a direct representation of Christchurch, with its well planned and laid out built environment. All the parts of the whole are connected and necessary for the whole to function. This relates to the cultural diversity of Christchurch.”

The artwork has been commissioned by the Trust and the final design is being developed currently. It will be installed in September 2006 as part of the SCAPE 2006 Biennial.

OPTIONS

5. Four potential sites were identified and discussed with the artist and the Art & Industry Trust including North Hagley Park, City Mall and Friendship Corner. North Hagley Park and City Mall were not available owing to the time constraints associated with other Council projects. After consultation with the artist, the Trust, Greenspace and Transport & City Streets the preferred site on the corner of High, Manchester and Lichfield Streets was selected.

The proposed site has been discussed with the design teams for the South City Charrette and the City Mall. Both design teams have indicated that they believe this will be an ‘exciting’ site that will support the outcomes of the charrette and the City Mall projects.

PREFERRED OPTION

6. In accordance with the Council’s Arts Policy and Strategy the site has been ranked on the matrix for prioritising artworks in public places contained in the Artworks in Public Places: Five Year Plan. The combined score for the site was equivalent to the third highest score of the 108 sites identified in the Plan.

ASSESSMENT OF OPTIONS

The Preferred Option

7. **Matrix for prioritising artworks in public spaces**
(From the Artworks in Public Places: Five Year Plan)

Place related criteria:

(1)	Linked to walkways and cycleways	Yes
(2)	Commercial activity/housing density	Central City Zone
(3)	Space associated significance	High
(4)	Association with facilities	No
(5)	Visibility based on vehicular traffic flow	Minor arterial road
(6)	Association with public transport interchanges	No

Project related criteria:

(1)	Support for research and/or consultation (for artworks)	No
(2)	Artwork link to other planning processes	No
(3)	Integrated with an identified capital programme	No
(4)	External funding sources	Yes
(5)	Association with a significant event	Yes – SCAPE 2006

People related criteria:

(1)	Identified stakeholders	No
(2)	Identified with Council target groups	No
(3)	Cultural significance to Maori	No
(4)	Association with visitors	Yes

Bonus criteria:

(1)	Outstanding factors	Gateway to central city
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Total: **8**

8. This proposal is consistent with the Council's Arts Policy and Strategy. In particular the proposal helps to achieve:

Goal 5

Buildings and public spaces that reflect the past, celebrate the present and provide a legacy for the future.

Objective 5.4

Ensure that the Council as a developer leads by example in achieving excellence in design and incorporating public artworks into its capital programmes.

The proposal is aligned with two community outcomes:

A City for Recreation, Fun and Creativity

Everybody is included in the creation and enjoyment of the arts.

An Attractive and Well-designed City

Christchurch is attractive and well-maintained.