



LOCKE STREET PUBLIC ART COMPETITION

Jury Report

November 23, 2009.

Background

The Locke Street Public Art Project volunteer jury met for the second time on the evening of Wednesday November 18, 2009 to complete the final stage of the jury adjudication process selecting the successful artist from the top three proposals: **Concrete Poetry** by Simon Frank; **hOley pOley** by Philip Toms; and **Untitled** by Bryce Kanbara and Brian Kelly.

Process

The jury carefully reviewed each of the three proposals, each artist's response to questions posed at the first jury meeting and results of the public consultation. This public consultation included numerous comments submitted by members of the public from September 11th to October 8th via the City website and the Locke Street Library. The jury also conducted short interviews with each of the three proponents.

Based on this information the jury assigned a score out of 30; 10 points for technical, 10 points for artistic excellence and 10 points for response to context. An additional score out of 10 was assigned based on the results of the public consultation. These scores were combined with the scores assigned in stage one of the adjudication to determine the successful artist.

Successful Artist

Concrete Poetry by Simon Frank was selected as the successful proposal having been assigned the highest score. **hOley pOley** by Philip Toms received the second highest score and **Untitled** by Bryce Kanbara and Brian Kelly the third.

Jury Comments

The jury members expressed their thanks to all of the artists that made submissions to the Locke Street Public Art Competition and especially to the three finalists.

Concrete Poetry

The jury initially felt as did many members of the public that there was not enough detail information about the poem provided in the first stage. In this last stage the artist provided clear answers to the jury's concerns about detail specifying in his interview that the poem would begin and end near Tuckett and Locke Streets. He also indicated that it was his intent that the poem has an overall reading recalling ideas of walking and moving through the city but that it will also respond to specific locations along the street. It therefore can be read as a whole for those that would want to walk the entire route or as specific episodes in one small area for those that experience the street everyday. The jury felt that this proposal therefore provided the best opportunity to reflect the diversity and interconnectivity of the context of Locke Street as expressed in the focus group and the public charrette.

hOley pOley

The jury commended the artist for a very compelling and professional presentation and proposal.

The artist reiterated in the interview that one of the most important aspects of this proposal is that the public is encouraged to interact with this piece by attaching various things to the poles, such as posters, signs, and planters that will change the work over time. Over a period of several years this could easily result in a project that looks very different from the clean, bold and colourful project initially presented to the public and the jury. This project has a small maintenance budget, there were no clear guide lines provided for how things may be added to the poles and the materials proposed may be susceptible to scratching. Technical advisors therefore confirmed jurors concerns that this desired change over time could result in poles that look marked, messy and cluttered. Given these concerns and similar concerns raised by the public this proposal received a lower technical score.

The jury did encourage the City to work with the artist to explore ways to implement this proposal in other locations in the city with larger sidewalks, no existing hydro poles or in a public plaza and to provide an adequate budget and plan to accommodate the ongoing maintenance and programming aspects of the work. The jury suggested that it should be considered for a possible future public art project for the Pan-Am games.

Untitled

The jury noted that this proposal dealt with larger themes about nature and the urban environment and did not specifically address the diverse social and interactive context of Locke Street as well as the other two proposals.

Volunteer Jurors:

Anne Cibola	Graphic Designer and member of the City of Hamilton Arts Advisory Commission
Brandon Stanicak	Owner of The West Town Bar and Grill and member of the Locke Street Merchant's Association
Shirley Madill	Director, Rodman Hall Art Centre and Locke Street Resident
Priti Kohli	Owner of The Transit Gallery and member of the Locke Street Business Improvement Area
Siobhan Lynch	Artist and member of the Kirkendall Neighbourhood Association

Technical Advisors:

David Zimmer	Senior Landscape Architect, City of Hamilton Downtown and Community Renewal Division
Therese Charbonneau	Senior Conservator, City of Hamilton Culture Division
Facilitator: Ken Coit	Art in Public Places Coordinator, City of Hamilton Culture Division



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Culture Division