



**STAFF REPORT
ACTION REQUIRED**

77 Charles Street West Public Art Plan

Date:	April 23, 2009
To:	Toronto and East York Community Council
From:	Robert Freedman, Director, Urban Design
Wards:	Ward 27 –Toronto Centre-Rosedale
Reference Number:	p:\2009\Cluster B\pln\te090020

SUMMARY

The purpose of this staff report is to seek City Council approval of the 77 Charles Street West Public Art Plan. The plan has been prepared by the Owners Public Art Consultant in compliance with the development approval provisions. The plan, which is included as Attachment 1 of this report, outlines the method by which the Owner will commission public art in the publicly accessible area of the development.

The 77 Charles Street West Public Art Plan provides a framework for the commissioning of art at the entrance of the 16 storey building. The attached plan meets the objectives of the City Planning Percent for the Public Art Program and is supported by the Toronto Public Art Commission.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The City Planning Division recommends that:

1. City Council approve the attached 77 Charles Street West Public Art Plan.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There are no financial implications resulting from the adoption of this report.

DECISION HISTORY

As part of the development approval process, the Section 37 provisions included a clause for public art. This requires a contribution of \$225,000 for on-site public art (indexed annually) implemented under the City’s public art provisions and practises.

For on-site public art, the owner is required to produce a public art plan for review by City Planning staff and its advisory panel, the Toronto Public Art Commission. Initial meetings were held with the owner team and urban design staff to discuss public art site potentials. A preliminary presentation was made to the Toronto Public Art Commission for feedback at its October 24, 2007 meeting. The owner representative returned with a final draft on April 1, 2009 at which time the Toronto Public Art Commission recommended approval of the 77 Charles Street West Public Art Plan.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

The owners and City Planning staff met to discuss the public art process and to identify the public art site potentials. Applying City Planning's comments and input, the owner prepared a public art plan. As part of the development agreement with the City, the developer has agreed to make a contribution of not less than \$225,000 plus annual increases based on the construction price index (indexed annually based on the construction price index). The art budget and its component breakdown are included in the plan, along with a description of the art selection method.

COMMENTS

The 77 Charles Street West Public Art Plan provides a project overview, introduction and objectives for the public art program. The plan proposes to locate the public art at the entrance to 77 Charles Street West situated at the terminus of St. Thomas and St Charles Street. The art will be prominently located for optimum public viewing inside and outside of the building. The location reinforces Urban Designs objectives to maximize public accessibility and visibility of artwork through the public art plan, the owner has opted for a direct commission. The artist proposal will be reviewed by an advisory committee which will include a representative from the board.

The 77 Charles Street West Public Art Plan meets the City's objectives for the provision of public art in private development, is in accordance with the City Planning Percent for the Public Art Program, and is supported by the Toronto Public Art Commission. We look forward to the results of this art commission.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

Robert Freedman
Director, Urban Design
City Planning Division

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: 77 Charles Street West Public Art Plan

Attachment 1
Public Art Program
7 Charles Street West
Aspen Ridge Homes

For presentation to the TPAC on April 1, 2009

1. Introduction:

Aspen Ridge is currently developing a stunning new building designed by internationally acclaimed architect Yann Weymouth of HOK (New York) for the 77 Charles Street development in the heart of the Cultural District of Toronto. The site is situated on the south side of Charles Street at its intersection with St. Thomas Street.

The entrance to the 16 storey building will be on axis with the intersections of Charles and St. Thomas Streets. Nearby are situated buildings designed by David Pontarini at 2 St. Thomas Street and Robert Stern Architects at 1 St. Thomas Street. The Gardiner Museum, the ROM and the University of Toronto are all neighbours.

As part of their development agreement with the City of Toronto, the developer has agreed to make a contribution of not less than \$225,000. Which shall be increased each year from the execution of the development agreement to completion of the public art program. The percentage increase will be based on changes in the Construction Price Statistics at Toronto (as published by Statistics Canada) and the final amount will be confirmed with the City prior to building occupancy.

A presentation providing a context and introduction to the project was made to the TPAC on October 24, 2007 and this plan reflects their comments.

2. Project Team:

The developer is Aspen Ridge (77 Charles- Design Build) Ltd.
The public art consultant is Karen mills, Public Art Management, Toronto
The design architect is Yann Weymouth (HOK)

3. The Budget:

\$225,000. plus annual increase based on CPS- Toronto

10 % directed toward administration

15% directed toward coordination and provision for installation.

75% directed toward artwork commission.

4. The Location

The location is the entrance “zone”. The termination of St. Thomas Street and Charles Street will be the primary location for the artwork. Possibilities include an installation within the glass “container” above the entrance or at ground level, flanking the entrance. This site is visible at all times and offers the recommended artist team an excellent opportunity to create a work that will engage the public while remaining relatively easy to maintain.

5. Artist Selection

The developer and art consultant reviewed a significant number of candidates for the program throughout 2008. Given the budget and the suggestion of the TPAC, we are proposing a direct commission for this project.

The candidate team recommended for the public art commission for 77 Charles is the team of Inges Idee, a Berlin based artist collective with commissions around the world. The artwork will be fabricated in Canada.

6. Schedule

Concept development will commence upon approval of the program by Toronto City Council.

7. 77 Charles Artists Reviewed

Michal Bartosik, Toronto
Bucholz Ross, Montreal
Ed Carpenter, USA
James Lahey, Toronto
Bettin Burkle, Germany
Karin Guisti, USA
Maha Mustafa, Mississauga
Ludwika Ogorzelec, France
Joost Van Santen, Netherlands
James Lahey, Toronto
Douglas Walker, Toronto
Bettina Burkle, Germany
Marianne Lovinck, Toronto
Stephen Cruise, Toronto
Francisco Gazitua, Pirque, Chile
Science and Sons, Toronto
Steve Mazza, Hamilton, Ont
Kelly Mark, Toronto
April Hickox, Toronto

Max Streicher, Toronto
Luis Jacob, Toronto
Richard Storms, Toronto

Possible Advisory Committee Candidates based on availability- all are artists in visual and performing arts (collectors).

Barbara Astman
Margaret Priest
Douglas Coupland
Geddy Lee