



## STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

### Shangri-La, Toronto (180 University Avenue) Public Art Plan

<b>Date:</b>	March 16, 2008
<b>To:</b>	Toronto East York Community Council
<b>From:</b>	Robert Freedman, Director, Urban Design
<b>Wards:</b>	Ward 20 – Trinity-Spadina

#### **SUMMARY**

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The purpose of this staff report is to inform City Council of the Shangri-La, Toronto Public Art Plan. The plan has been prepared by the owners of 180 University Avenue in compliance with the development approval provisions. The full plan, which is Attachment 1, outlines the method by which the owner will commission the public art in the privately-owned, publicly accessible areas of the development. The owner will commence the art program once the plan is approved. The resulting art installation will be owned and maintained by the owners of 180 University Avenue.

The Shangri-la, Toronto Public Art Plan provides a framework for the commissioning of a high profile art installation. The full plan meets the objectives of the City Planning Percent for Public Art Program and is supported by the Toronto Public Art Commission.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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**The City Planning Division recommends that:**

1. City Council approve the attached Shangri-La, Toronto (180 University Avenue) Public Art Plan.

**Financial Impact**

The recommendations in this report have no financial impact.

## **DECISION HISTORY**

The Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendments were approved by City Council on May 23, 24, 25, 2006. Community benefits included public art provisions as outlined in the Section 37 Agreement. The owner's responsibilities include the preparation of a public art plan, when an on-site public art program is selected. The owners of 180 University Avenue opted for an on-site public art installation.

In the fall of 2007, meetings were held with the developer team and City Planning staff to discuss the public art process and public art site potentials. The owner drafted the Shangri-La, Toronto Public Art Plan and worked with City Planning for comment and input. On February 6, 2008, the owner representatives presented the draft plan to the Toronto Public Art Commission (TPAC). Following questions and clarifications, TPAC recommended approval of the draft plan. With further input with City Planning staff, the owner submitted the revised Shangri-La, Toronto Public Art Plan for approval by City Council.

## **ISSUE BACKGROUND**

This Vancouver-based company has elected to work with the Art Gallery of Ontario as both its public art consultant and curator for the Shangri-La, Toronto public art program. The owners recently engaged the Vancouver Art Gallery as its public art consultant for another project and have decided to continue this unique approach for its development in Toronto.

The Shangri-La, Toronto Public Art Plan describes this project as a mixed-use hotel and residential condominiums, on University Avenue, bordered by Simcoe Street to the east and Adelaide Street to south and Richmond Street to the north. The owners of 180 University Avenue have elected an on-site public art installation. The public art plan proposes that the primary site be at grade on the east side of the development, on University Avenue. This site is the highest-traffic and most prominent façade of the development.

## **COMMENTS**

The Shangri-la, Toronto Public Art Plan follows City Planning's process and provides a full plan outlining the method through which the owner will commission the public art. The plan provides a project overview, curatorial vision, and a description of the development. The public art opportunities are identified with key and design objectives. The development team's public art experience and the project team's role as artist selection panel and public art consultant are detailed. The plan outlines the art selection process which is an invitational competition with several national and international artists. Potential public relations and community programming opportunities are

discussed. An estimated art budget is provided and a detailed schedule anticipates the commissioned art will be installed by building completion in 2011.

The public art opportunities work to reinforce the City's Official Plan Policies and Urban Design Objectives that include maximizing the public accessibility and visibility of the artwork, and integrating the art, the building and the landscape.

The Shangri-La, Toronto (180 University Avenue) Public Art Plan meets the City's objectives for the provision of public art in private development and is in accordance with the City Planning Percent for Public Art Program. This plan offers much potential for an exciting and very high profile public art installation. I am in full support and look forward to the results and implementation.

## **CONTACT**

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## **SIGNATURE**

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Robert Freedman  
Director, Urban Design  
City Planning Division

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment 1: Shangri-La, Toronto (180 University Avenue) Public Art Plan