



**STAFF REPORT
ACTION REQUIRED**

88 Queens Quay West RBC Waterpark Place - Public Art Plan

Date:	May 28, 2012
To:	Toronto and East York Community Council
From:	Robert Freedman, Director, Urban Design
Wards:	Ward 28 – Toronto Centre - Rosedale
Reference Number:	te12044

SUMMARY

The purpose of this staff report is to seek City Council approval of the 88 Queens Quay West Public Art Plan. 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, privately-owned area of the development site.

This public art plan provides a framework for a public art commission including the introduction and public art objectives; the site context and public art locations; a preliminary budget, the artist selection process; and anticipated schedule. The attached plan meets the objectives of City Planning’s Percent for Public Art Guidelines and is supported by the Toronto Public Art Commission.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The City Planning Division recommends that:

City Council approve the 88 Queens Quay West - Public Art Plan as attached to the report dated May 28, 2012, from the Director, Urban Design.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

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

DECISION HISTORY

The property at 85 Harbour Street was approved under By-law 255-69, as amended by By-laws 508-84 and 874-2002. In accordance with September 14, 2011, Notice of Decision Minor Variance/Permission under Section 45 of the Planning Act, approval was based on several conditions including that “ the owner shall provide and maintain public artworks pursuant to a Percent for Public Art Program to be located on publicly-accessible portions of the site to a value not less than one percent of the gross construction costs of all buildings and structures to be erected on the site.”

In compliance with City Planning’s Percent for Public Art Guidelines, 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 between the owner and City Planning Staff who met to discuss the public art process and to identify the site potentials. On May 16, 2012, the owner representatives made a presentation to the Toronto Public Art Commission, at which time the Toronto Public Art Commission recommended approval of the 88 Queens Quay West Public Art Plan.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

As outlined in Attachment 1, the owner is developing Phase Three of an existing two-tower commercial development complex. The building will be a head-office for major banking business and includes an above-grade pedestrian bridge connection to the PATH system from the site and cross Lakeshore Boulevard underneath the Gardiner Expressway. The public art will be commissioned to address the Queens Quay lobby, the pedestrian bridge and the entrance into the PATH system.

COMMENTS

As stated in the 88 Queens Quay West Public Art Plan, all three public art sites are publicly-accessible and highly-visible locations. The estimated budget breakdown provides allocations to each site. In the artist/art process, the owner has opted to run a three stage competition beginning with an open call for credentials. Stage 2 will be a request for an expression of interest. In Stage 3, the short-list of artists will be selected and those artists will prepare detailed concepts for which they will be paid an honourarium. The jury that will determine a preferred concept will be comprised of three members, to include two independent art specialists, one of whom will either work or live in the work.

The public art plan also introduces provisions for a mentorship program and offers an artist the opportunity to work on any of these three commissions.

The 88 Queens Quay West Public Art Plan is in compliance with the City’s objectives for the provision of public art in private development. This on-site program is in accordance

with the City Planning Percent for the Public Art Program, and is supported by the Toronto Public Art Commission. Upon City Council's approval, the owner will commence the art selection method as described in the attached plan.

We look forward to the results of the public art competition.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

Robert Freedman

Director, Urban Design
City Planning Division

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: 88 Queens Quay West RBC Waterpark Place – Public Art Plan

Attachment 1
88 Queens Quay West RBC Waterpark Place – Public Art Plan