

Authorization to Use Nathan Phillips Square Reflecting Pool as a Temporary Location for Sculpture.

Date:	April 30 2013
To:	City Council
From:	General Manager, Economic Development and Culture
Wards:	Ward 27 –Toronto Centre Rosedale
Reference Number:	

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to obtain City Council approval for the temporary installation of the sculpture *Circle of Animals/Zodiac Heads* in the reflecting pool at Nathan Phillips Square, from 10th June to 27th October 2013.

Circle of Animals/Zodiac Heads is the work of renowned contemporary Chinese artist, Ai Weiwei and has been the centerpiece of a global, multi-year touring exhibition that has been presented in the United States, Europe, and Asia by the AW Asia Foundation of New York. The local presenter will be The Art Gallery of Ontario.

This installation will coincide with a summer exhibition of the artist's work at the Art Gallery of Ontario which runs from August 17 to October 27, 2013.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The General Manager, Economic Development and Culture recommends that:

1. City Council approve the temporary installation of *Circle of Animals/Zodiac Heads* in the Reflecting Pool at Nathan Phillips Square from June 10 to October 27, 2013 provided that the organizers meet all requirements of an Application for a Special Event Permit issued through Event Support, EDC.
2. Event Support EDC staff co-ordinate the installation of the sculpture with Facilities Management and Parks, Forestry & Recreation.

Financial Impact

There are no financial implications for the City of Toronto that result from this report.

The costs associated with the installation, removal and ongoing security will be the responsibility of the AGO and the owners of the sculpture – The AW Asia Foundation.

DECISION HISTORY

Municipal Code Chapter 237-2 C “Nathan Phillips Square” prohibits the placing of objects within the pool without the prior approval of Council.

City Council approval of a By-Law Exemption is required to allow this sculpture to be installed in the Nathan Phillips Square Reflecting Pool.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

In April 2013, the Cultural Services, Special Events was approached by the Art Gallery of Ontario for assistance with permissions to locate *Circle of Animals/Zodiac Heads* in the reflecting pool in conjunction with their exhibition *Ai Weiwei: According to What?*

COMMENTS

Cultural Services, Special Events unit has worked with the AGO to coordinate their request with appropriate Facilities Management and Parks, Forestry & Recreation employees and by providing advice on various permit requirements.

The work features 12 monumental sculptures, each representing a sign of the Chinese zodiac (snake, horse, ram, monkey, rooster, dog, pig, rat, ox, tiger, rabbit and dragon). The figures are rendered in fabulously detailed bronze, each approximately 10 feet high.

Once installed, the sculpture will be within the pool and will not affect the footprint of other events being held on Nathan Phillips Square.

CONTACTS

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SIGNATURE

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