

From: ["Singh, Sandra" <Sandra.Singh@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Sandra.Singh@vancouver.ca)
To: ["Direct to Mayor and Council"](#)
Date: 6/27/2025 5:45:47 PM
Subject: Update: Trans Am Rapture

Hello Mayor and Council

Please find an update from Margaret Wittgens, General Manager Arts, Culture and Community Services regarding the public art piece Trans Am Rapture, in light of concerns Council has been receiving about the planned installation at the south end of the Granville Bridge and 4th Avenue.

The information about the planned location for Trans Am Rapture was shared with the media by an external party in advance of the City's communications plan for this work. Staff are following up with individual residents about their concerns and will be sharing more information with the public in the coming weeks and months.

Below is some additional information about the Public Art Program and the process for this piece of work that may support Council in responding to questions that arise in the meantime.

- This artwork was created by artists Marcus Bowcott and Helene Aspinall and was originally temporarily installed at Quebec Street and Milross Street as part of the 2015 Vancouver Biennale.
- In 2019, The City accepted the artwork as a private donation to the City of Vancouver's Public Art collection, however the art needed to be re-sited as its original location had cultural significance to the Indigenous local Nations, and the area is under review for major traffic infrastructure changes.
- The City's Public Art Program administers a Civic Program to site public art on City-owned land.
 - When siting public art, a technical assessment of the site is conducted to ensure a feasible physical installation (including geotechnical and structural considerations).
 - Staff also apply an equity and accessibility lens to determine which types of art occupies historically marginalized neighbourhoods and sites, and culturally significant sites identified by Indigenous local Nations.
- To choose a location for Trans Am Rapture, City staff worked in consultation with the artists to consider sites across the city. The site at Granville Loops Park was a strong site for Trans Am Rapture for a number of reasons including:
 - The sculpture stands at 10 meters, and 5.2 meters wide measuring smaller than the trees on the site and taking up limited green space in relation to the surrounding area.
 - There are other sculptural infrastructure including the Vancouver City Centennial Marker (Stonecoat Industries, 1986) which demonstrate feasibility for installation.
 - Indigenous local Nations x m 0k y m (Musqueam), S wx\u817_w\u7mesh (Squamish), and s lilw ta (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations did not identify it as a culturally significant site.
 - The area is accessible from street level, and the underpass from the eastside.
- A maintenance plan is required for newly installed artworks, with one currently in development specifically for Trans Am Rapture. This will address concerns related to bird excrement and other operational considerations.
- Staff acknowledge that public art is subjective and that not everyone will like every piece, given its appreciation and interpretation are influenced by individual perspectives, experiences, and cultural backgrounds.

More information, including the specific site, will be forthcoming from the City in the near future which we hope will provide more context for this piece of art.

If you any questions, please contact ACCS General Manager Margaret Wittgens at margaret.wittgens@vancouver.ca. She will ensure that your inquiries are addressed through the weekly Q&A process.

Thank you,

Sandra

Sandra Singh | Deputy City Manager

City of Vancouver

E-mail: sandra.singh@vancouver.ca

Pronouns: she/her

Assistant: Laura Holvor

Phone: 604.829.9602

E-mail: laura.holvor@vancouver.ca

Pronouns: she/her

The City of Vancouver acknowledges the unceded homelands of the x m θk y m (Musqueam), S wxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Selílwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.