

From: "Singh, Sandra" <Sandra.Singh@vancouver.ca>

To: "[Direct to Mayor and Council - DL](#)"

Date: 7/30/2025 5:23:15 AM

Subject: Trans Am Rapture Re-Installation Update

Confidential until stakeholders notified

Good morning Mayor and Council,

After further consideration, the City Manager's Office has directed Public Art staff in ACCS to halt work on the reinstallation of Trans Am Rapture at the planned location at the south end of the Granville Bridge in Granville Loop Park:

- Given the scale and size of the work, staff are being asked to re-review other previously assessed locations and identify any potential new locations that could also work technically.
- As there is already a concrete base in place, Public Art staff will engage with the local neighbourhood and deliver a smaller scale future commission that is in line with what resonates with the neighbourhood's identity.
- All stakeholders – the Vancouver Biennale, the artists, the Public Art Committee, and the local neighbourhood – will be notified today (July 30) at noon regarding this change in direction.
 - It is anticipated that Vancouver Biennale and the artists will express significant concern about this decision.
 - Please note that the Executive Director of the Biennale has a history of communicating with staff in an extremely disrespectful manner, so we will be directing all communications with him through senior staff.
 - The Mayor's Office has engaged with the private philanthropists who funded the donation to the Biennale and the City (Chip and Shannon Wilson).
- Given the high level of media interest in this file, after all stakeholders are notified, staff will release a proactive information bulletin.
- We ask that you keep this information confidential until stakeholders have been notified by staff. We will confirm for Council via email when that has been completed.

We ask that you refer any potential media requests to media@vancouver.ca. If you hear from residents, we ask that you consider the following proposed draft key messages should you feel the need to comment:

- We are pleased that Trans Am Rapture – an iconic public artwork by local artists Marcus Bowcott and Helene Aspinall – is being restored for reinstallation in Vancouver.
- Thanks to the generosity of Chip and Shannon Wilson and the Vancouver Biennale, the artwork, now renamed Trans Am Rapture, has been gifted to the City—along with a budget funding to contribute to funding its restoration and ongoing maintenance.
- We thank and recognize the Public Art team for their expertise and ongoing work on the City's public art collection. Public art is not always easy to site as its appreciation and interpretation are influenced by individual perspectives, experiences, and cultural backgrounds. Varying

- perspectives add to the overall cultural conversation and social connection that art evokes for us all.
- We understand that staff have reassessed plans for the current location, appreciate their adaptability and willingness to review operational decisions when warranted, and look forward to future updates from them as to a new location for the work's reinstallation.

If you have any questions, please feel free to email me or Chloe Miller, Acting General Manager, ACCS and we will work with staff on a response either through the weekly Q&A or via email, as appropriate and subject to the active community and media interest on this file.

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 xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Selílwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.