
WELLINGTON SCULPTURAL HIGHWAY PROPOSAL- PUBLIC ART PANEL RESPONSE

Purpose

1. The purpose of the report is to inform the Economic Growth and Arts Committee of the Public Art Panel's response to Marco Zeeman's *Wellington Sculptural Highway* proposal.

Summary

2. On 28 April 2015 Marco Zeeman presented the *Wellington Sculptural Highway* proposal to the Council.
3. Marco Zeeman requested the following:
 - Council's support in principle for the project
 - That the Council appoints a representative/s to the project team
4. Wellington City Council has a Public Art Policy, Public Art Panel and City Arts team to guide and approve public art activity including proposal submission and assessment, support in principle for public art activity.
5. On 25 May 2015 Marco Zeeman presented his *Wellington Sculptural Highway* proposal to the Council's Public Art Panel. The Public Art Panel's responses follow:
 - The Wellington City Council's Public Art Panel support the integration of art concepts and/or design features and/or physical artworks in the city's public infrastructure as outlined in outcome 6 of the Council's Public Art Policy.
 - The Public Art Panel supports Mr Zeeman to continue his discussions with the New Zealand Transport Agency.
 - The proposal for the *Wellington Sculptural Highway* is at a high level stage. For the Public Art Panel to assess the proposal in relation to the Council's criteria for public art activity, including support in principle, more detailed information is required. This would include a fully developed concept and process.
 - As the Wellington City Council has an established process for guiding and assessing public art activity through the City Arts team and Public Art Panel, it would not be necessary for a representative to join the *Wellington Sculptural Highway* project team. The City Arts team can continue to provide advice and feedback on the proposal and project as it develops.

Recommendation

That the Economic Growth and Arts Committee:

1. Receive the information.

Background

6. On 28 April 2015 Marco Zeeman presented his *Wellington Sculptural Highway* proposal to Council.
7. Marco Zeeman requested the following:
 - Council's support for the project
 - That the Council appoints a representative/s to the project team
8. The *Wellington Sculptural Highway* focuses on two significant NZTA projects currently underway - the new Linden to MacKay's Crossing and Kapiti Expressway (new and improved highway). It proposes that 12 interchanges from Linden to Otaki would be enhanced with the addition of large sculptures, each unique and identifiable to the community they service. Mr Zeeman advises the estimated cost of this section of the 'Northern Corridor' is estimated at over \$1.7+ Billion. The total cost of his proposal is unknown but estimated at less than 1% of the overall highway budget. One of the 12 interchanges is within the boundaries of Wellington City.
9. On 25 May 2015 Marco Zeeman presented his *Wellington Sculptural Highway* proposal to the Council's Public Art Panel.

Discussion

10. Wellington City Council has a Public Art Policy, Public Art Panel and City Arts team to guide and approve public art activity including proposal submission and assessment. The City Arts team assesses proposals in collaboration with Council's Public Art Panel to ensure they meet the criteria and reflect the outcomes for public art activity. This includes support in principle for public art activity.
11. The inclusion of art concepts and/or design features and/or physical artworks in infrastructure projects is one of the Council's key outcomes for public art activity. To ensure an integrated approach it is important that public art is considered at the start of an infrastructure project.
12. In a letter dated 12 May 2015 to Hon Nathan Guy (Member of Parliament for Otaki), the Hon Simon Bridges (Minister of Transport) advises of his expectation for "the NZ Transport Agency to focus its investment on providing transport outcomes to reduce severe trauma and to reduce road congestion."
13. The Public Art Panel recommends Mr Zeeman could focus on approaching the New Zealand Transport Agency regarding the inclusion of artworks in infrastructure projects at the consenting stage.
14. Panel members advise the most appropriate time to advocate for the inclusion of artworks in an infrastructure project is at the consenting stage. During this stage artworks can be included to mitigate the effects of new highways and

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- roads. Advocating for the inclusion of artworks at this early stage also ensures the artwork is fully integrated into the design brief and budget.
15. The Public Art Panel supports Mr Zeeman to continue his discussions with the New Zealand Transport Agency.
 16. Wellington City Council encourages all ideas to be developed through robust processes and engagement with relevant parties at the proposal stage and thereafter. In addition, the Council seeks evidence of a high level of artistic engagement, with curators and artists, in terms of project personnel and processes at proposal stage and thereafter.
 17. In a letter dated 14 May 2015 Sue Elliot, the Chair of the Wellington Sculpture Trust confirms the Trust's support to provide guidance on briefs to artists, selection processes and assessment.
 18. People seeking support from the Wellington City Council for public art activity must show that their proposed activity is of a high standard of artistic merit and has a strong link to one of the outcomes in the Council's Public Art Policy, and meet mandatory requirements including taking place within the Wellington City Council area.
 19. In the experience of the Public Art Panel, support in principle can be interpreted as ongoing support for the project with an expectation of a future commitment including funding.
 20. The proposal for the *Wellington Sculptural Highway* is at a high level stage. For the Public Art Panel to assess the proposal in relation to the Council's criteria for public art activity, more detailed information is required. This would include a fully developed concept and process.
 21. As the Wellington City Council has an established process for guiding and assessing public art activity through the City Arts team and Public Art Panel, it would not be necessary for a representative to join the *Wellington Sculptural Highway* project team. However, the Panel recommends Mr Zeeman clearly defines the parameters for his working party including the terms of reference. The City Arts team can continue to provide advice and feedback on the proposal and project as it develops.

Attachments

Nil

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