





Please find enclosed a Proposal Specifications package for

04 ROUNDABOUT 05

The City of Penticton is seeking outdoor installation art proposals for the centre of a new traffic roundabout in its waterfront district on Okanagan Lake. This competition is open to all artists who are permanent residents of British Columbia and available to create temporary works of art in October 2004 and May 2005. The selected individual or collective will receive a \$3,000 artist fee, up to \$3,500 in material fees and free access to a variety construction equipment. If you have any questions or require further information please call Curtis Collins at the Art Gallery of the South Okanagan (250) 493-2928 or email roundabout@telus.net or go to www.penticton.ca and click 04 ROUNDABOUT 05.

**The deadline for receipt of proposals is
Friday, October 1st, 2004.**

04 ROUNDABOUT 05

PROPOSAL SPECIFICATIONS

Project Description: The City of Penticton is seeking outdoor installation art proposals for the centre of a new traffic roundabout in its waterfront district on Okanagan Lake (see enclosed specification drawing and photographs). This competition is open to all artists who are permanent residents of British Columbia and available to create temporary works of art. Interested artists are required to propose a pair of sequential installations which will be on display from October 2004 to January 2005 and then from May to August 2005.

Site Features: The centre of the roundabout features a circular concrete pad that is 2.7 meters in diameter and 200 millimeters thick. Located on the edge of the concrete pad is an electrical outlet (122-44 volts) and a water feed (110 pounds per square inch). The pad is further situated within a circular garden area that is 12.6 meters in diameter with a soil depth of 300 millimeters. Thus the pair of sequential installations can not exceed a diameter of 12 meters and a height of 5 meters. Please note that the garden area is set within a larger circular bricked area, which allows for transport and boat trailer rollovers. This area must remain unaffected.

Conceptual Considerations: Interested artists should consider water, electricity, plant life and wind as their primary materials. Other substances such as wood, styrofoam, rock, cardboard, metal, found objects and plastic might be treated as secondary or support materials. The proposed installations may change, grow, or degrade over the exhibition periods so as to underline the temporary quality of this project. The seasonal changes that occur in fall-winter and spring-summer are also an important conceptual consideration. Artists are encouraged to recycle the materials used in the first installation for the second installation.

Support Services: The City of Penticton and Art Gallery of the South Okanagan will provide the selected artist with free access to construction equipment such as a fork lift, boom truck and a range of power tools during the creation periods. The Art Gallery of the South Okanagan will oversee the production and distribution of signage, didactic displays and promotional materials.

Fee Structure: The selected artist will receive an artist fee of \$3,000 to be paid in two installments following the completion of the proposed installations in October 2004 and May 2005. The selected artist will have up to \$3,500 in material costs for the pair of sequential installations to be paid upon submission of receipts. The selected artist will receive two return trips from his-her city of residence in British Columbia during the creation periods, up to a week of accommodations at a local hotel and a commensurate per diem.

Selection Process: The City of Penticton Public Art Advisory Committee will conduct the selection process in two stages. Three finalists will be chosen from those installation proposals received by the October 1st, 2004 deadline. Each of these finalists will be awarded \$350 upon receipt of a model, materials budget, equipment requirements and construction time lines. The winning proposal will be announced on October 13, 2004. Please note that all proposals will be placed on display in the Art Gallery of the South Okanagan's Project Room for a period of six weeks.

Submission Requirements: Proposals for the 04 ROUNDABOUT 05 competition should include a series of drawings or digital images, an artist's statement, curriculum vitae, five slides or j-pegs of previous works, and a S.A.S.E. for return of materials. **The deadline for receipt of proposals is Friday, October 1st, 2004.** Hard copy proposals can be sent to 04 Roundabout 05, Art Gallery of the South Okanagan, 199 Marina Way, Penticton, BC, V2A 1H3. Electronic proposals can be sent to roundabout@telus.net.

Proposal for the "04 Roundabout 05" "The Baggage Handler"

Michael Hermesh
2011 West Bench Drive
Penticton, BC
V2A 8Z3

The centerpiece of my proposed installation will be a plaster "Man with Baggage" slightly over sized with a suitcase standing in a sea of suitcases supported on steel posts. The suitcases will be the same height as the one held in the hand of the central figure. The suitcase in the central figure will be sculpted in the same fashion as the figure and be closed.

The suitcases in the perimeter of the piece will be actual suitcases sourced from secondary sources such as the Salvation Army or Value Village, but preferably donated by Gallery participants to keep within in the "significance context" of the installation. It is hoped that each bag will symbolically contain a degradable article that the donator literally wishes to release. (example: teddy bear, poster etc.) This is the symbolic participation of people releasing "Old Baggage".

The suitcases will be held at the same height as the mans suitcase and held open to various degrees to allow them to hold soil, suitable xeriscape type plants, and release the items contained inside during the second phase of the project.

The area under the suitcases will be planted with wild grasses.

The sculpture will be an experiment in permanence and impermanence and a statement on the integration of organic processes with the processes of conscious intent, and a juxtaposition of the ideas of possession as the act of holding on to, defining and owning objects as compared to a passive observation being a form of ownership. A questioning of what can be possessed, what possesses, what can be owned and what can be discarded.

The central piece will be constructed with welded steel armature, which will be very stable. It will be sculpted in my studio with plaster impregnated by S-1 epoxy. This should work as a medium of some permanence but is not entirely certain. I have used this process to stabilize degraded wood successfully, however this will be the first time I will use it in plaster. I have talked to tradesman in the boat building industry that use S-1 epoxy and they feel that there will be no problem. If it were to degrade in any way – it would degrade in the same way that a stone breaks – into solid cohesive pieces. When dry, S-1 epoxy is completely stable and cohesive. So there should be no clean up problems even if there is breakage. Though I don't believe there will be unless we encounter fairly persistent vandalism.

The suitcases will be degradable or not, depending on the individual suitcase construction. The organic processes of the organic matter contained within them will aid the decomposition of the suitcases. The bags will be welded on an internal platform. When opened a container made from discarded plywood will be placed inside to support the soil and plants and discarded objects.

The sequential nature of the sculpture will be in the suitcases that will remain closed for the winter and opened in the second part of the installation with organic matter (earth) and plants allowed to grow inside. The "baggage" contained within each suitcase will also be "released" or partially "released".