

ART

At the

Waterfront

Researched and presented by:

Donna Gilhooey - 622-3056 donnag@tbaytel.net

Lorraine Cull - 344-4636 kull@tbaytel.net

Roy Thomas - 577-7162 roy_thomas@shaw.ca

Herbert O'Hearn - 345-6363, Ext 213 hlohearn@aol.com

Pauline Shesnicky - 768-6653 pauline@notc.on.ca

**Presentation
Waterfront Development Consultants
March 25, 2003**

Speaking Notes

- Thanks for the opportunity to come before you today.
- Introduce, Lorraine Cull, artist, business manager of a locally owned art supply store, Hubert O'Hearn, president of TBRAC, writer, theatre producer and director, Roy Thomas, renowned Canadian artist, Donna Gilhooly; arts supporter.

Who Are We?

- We are representatives of a larger and more wide-ranging committee of artists and arts supporters.
- We were initially brought together by Thunder Bay Ventures.
- Thunder Bay Ventures undertook a study to determine the need for a community arts center. This study was undertaken by the corporation in their belief that, "the arts and crafts sector is a potential economic driver in the community".
- In the process of conducting their study they brought together artists and arts supporters. We come on behalf of that group.

Why Are We Here?

- Although, we are not fully aware of the terms of reference for the Waterfront Park project, we believe that we all share a common goal: to create a beautiful, living/breathing waterfront which is uniquely our own.
- We are here because we believe that arts and heritage is a cornerstone for this development.
- We believe that building the waterfront on this foundation will create a great source of community pride and establish a clear link to economic and social activity.
- We also come to give you our full support and cooperation. We hope that this meeting represents the beginning of an on-going relationship and that a working partnership will be formed.
- We want to present to you some very specific needs that have been identified in the arts and heritage community. We believe that the

Some Hard Evidence

- There have been 2 separate and independent studies within the last year. One done by TBRAC and one by Ventures.
- Development adjacent to the park is heading in the direction of an Arts/Entertainment District

TBRAC

TBRAC study was done in 2002 and stated a number of relevant points:

1. TBRAC Study 2002 – dynamic arts councils have storefront operations from which they operate. These storefront operations attract and create multi - sectoral activity and enliven the arts community itself. It was recommended that TBRAC move in this direction.
2. TBRAC also interviewed local artists and confirmed the need for meeting space, affordable workspace and increased exhibit space.
3. TBRAC Study also found that arts organizations would benefit from opportunities to share resources.

Thunder Bay Ventures

Thunder Bay Ventures is a federally- funded agency formed to undertake strategic planning, community economic development, business counseling and investment. It just completed a comprehensive study concerning the need for a permanent arts center because “The Corporation views the arts and crafts sector as an economic driver in our community.” Their research confirmed the following needs:

1. Development of an arts center, a “central hub”, something that is common to any vibrant arts community, giving this sector much needed visibility.
2. Office space for arts organizations – resource library, sales and information area common to all – sustained in part by rents, locating all of the governing type bodies in a single location so that all arts info is centralized and accessible.
3. Studio space – large, affordable, inexpensive – sustained by rents (natural light and running water the key).
4. Performing space – very flexible space for various media – with storage for practice/rehearsals (music, film, theatre).

- Outdoor sculpture, market stalls and play spaces – i.e. skating rinks.
- Unique and delicious food, a café perhaps.
- Exhibit and sales outlets for artists.
- A large flexible performing space – allowing for multi-disciplinary use by many smaller groups including rehearsals and performances, receptions, family gatherings, shared circles and Pow Wows.
- Artist studios, recording and workshop space – creating the opportunity for educational and development courses for all ages to be conducted at the park.

An Emerging Arts/Entertainment District

The area adjacent to the park is already moving in the direction of an Arts/Entertainment District. How can park development strengthen what is already happening in the area and vice versa? Here is some of the existing activity located nearby:

- Creed's Coffee House and Gallery, the Mosaic Gallery, Definitely Superior – Artist- Run Gallery, Northern Woman's Bookstore and Northern Women's Center, Cumberland Theatre
- The Apollo Bar and Grill – performance space which often features new music.
- The Painted Turtle Art Supply Store and Gallery, Wolf Tracks – Wearable Art and Art Store, The Framing Post – Framing and Gallery, The Cave – Art Supplies and Gallery, Barrow Carving – studio located on Red River Road.
- Water Color Society – Atkinson Jewelers.
- More Studios – St Paul Street (Visual Artist), Thomlinson Building on the corner of Red River and Cumberland (5 Visual artists and a group of musicians), Ruttan Building – (Photographer and Flashframe, a new film-making collective).
- The Fringe Festival is held in Waverley Park and the downtown core area.
- Ann Clarke (Visual Artist and Painting and Drawing Professor at Lakehead University) – Studio Space on Pearl Street.
- Magnus Theatre is within walking distance of the Park located in Canada's first publicly-funded park – Waverley Park.
- Waverley Park is a designated Heritage district.
- The Thunder Bay Charity Casino is located adjacent to the park. Since its opening a number of new restaurants have opened including the Aurora Grill and Porto Davino.

recommended that one of the locations for outdoor art/sculpture is the site of the former Pool 6 elevator. The debris is striking and should not be removed. In fact, we feel it should be recycled and incorporated into the park as sculpture. The debris is after all, remnants of structures that are part of our Industrial Heritage. This approach could also save money. Art would be commissioned to enhance this site. It would be spectacular. The commissioned artists would work with the consultants to address issues of access and public safety in the design.

2. Local artists should be commissioned to work with the consultants to either enhance existing structures (think of the world's ugliest pedestrian overpass), or participate in designing or enhancing new park features such as bridges, seating, lighting, doors, windows etc. Let's create something uniquely our own. The basic driver in park design up to this point has been maintenance.
3. Whatever visual identity is determined for the Waterfront should be extended to the Arts/Entertainment district in some way. Commissions for art would extend to this area to encourage movement between the 2 sites and to create a sense of continuity. Something as simple as signage and lighting might do the trick.
4. Designate the Pool 6 building for community arts. The building is very small and may have to be added to, to make it viable. However, it is a perfect spot for the arts community to work, sell, teach and meet. It is a perfect spot in which to create a "hub" of activity. Because the space is so limited we recommend that Thunder Bay Ventures be approached to assist in carrying out and funding a quick study/business plan. A plan is needed to determine the improvements required to the building and what best should be located in it and around it - not only to support the arts community but to attract people to the park. In particular, the community center model should be explored as an option for operating the community arts center. This model includes a non-profit board managing the building, providing programs and services in return for use of the space, utilities and building improvements. This plan should be supervised by the City Arts and Heritage Coordinator in conjunction with a representative advisory committee.
5. Outdoor market stalls, kiosks, staging areas with electrical services and lighting should be placed adjacent to the Pool 6 building and the train station.

dimension. It would relate directly to the significance of this harbor as a zone of transit for people and products on water, rail and land. This area was aptly referred to as the "Terminus," the "Hinge of the Nation," the "Zone of Transit" in the historical records. The history of the waterfront could set the themes for commissioned works of art at the site, or influence over all the design elements of park development. This is a prime location in which to illustrate the significance of our Industrial Heritage. Local and regional historians are more than capable of acting as advisors and contributors to the project.

Interpretative Center

This would present to the public an overview of the historical importance of the Lakehead to succeeding generations over thousands of years, as a meeting place and 'zone of transit' between east and west.

It would incorporate the following elements:

- a) Early settlements from the Paleo-Indian through the Archaic to the Woodlands peoples of the Anishinabeg Nations. (9,000 BC – the present)
- b) The Fur Trade and contacts with the east from the arrival of Du Lhut in 1679 to the mid-19th century.
- c) A Transportation and Communication element, which would illustrate the significance of this 'Hinge of the Nation' to the development of Canada 'from sea to shining sea'. The Railways, from 1882 - (CPR, The Canadian Northern, The Grand Trunk Pacific)
The Building of the Dawson Road , begun in 1870, from the harbour at Prince Arthur's Landing to the water route of interlocking rivers and lakes leading to the Red River settlement in the west.
- d) The Grain Trade, from the building of the first elevator in 1883, to the opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway in 1959.
- e) Shipping, Ship Building and Passenger transport on the Great Lakes.

Art at the Waterfront - Local Artists



01 - Les Barrow - Kestrels



02- John Books - Angel



03 - Dog River Pottery



04 - Guy Dufresne - My Jackpine



05 - Lorraine Cull - Little Rock



06 - Nancy Bjorgo - Chickadees



07 - Sean Randall - Birch Point Sculpture



08 - Damon Dowbak



09 - Jane Komoski - Amethyst Set

Art at the Waterfront - Local Artists



10 - Joyce Seppala - wearable art



11- Nancy Bjorgo - Spring Green Blazer



12 - Ann Clarke - Eden



13 - Chris Stones - Pangolin



14 - Raimo Saharinen - Confetti



15 - Fritz Lehmberg



16 - Sharon Breckenridge - Mid-life



17 - Pauline Horricks



18 - Ruth Tye McKenzie - Bird Ladies of Sky

Art at the Waterfront - Local Artists



19 - Joe Mikulinski



20 - Foster Gauley



21 - Roy Thomas - Visiting Water Spirits



22 - Alice Massaro



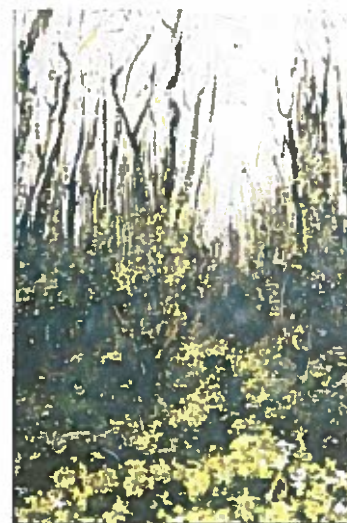
23 - Lillian Kellogg - Roses



24 - Dick Spooner



25 - Peter Humeniuk - Water Colour #1



26 - Stephanie Siemienuk - Journey to the Emerald City



27 - Jane Komoski - Sleeping Giant Bangle

Art at the Waterfront - Local Artists



28 - Roly Martin - Art in the Park at Sleeping Giant



29 - Alison Kendall - Superior Garment



30 - Catherine Kozyra - Viscgra in Situ II at SI Giant Park



31 - Joe Mikulinski



32- Sean Randall - Pigeon River Bench

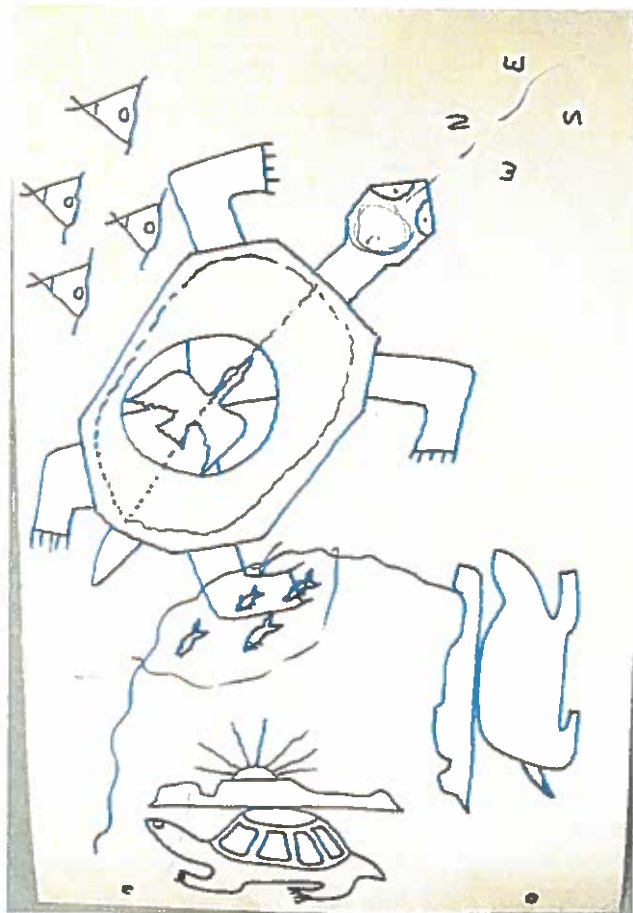


33 - Roy Thomas - Time and Life

Use of these images is permitted
ONLY with permission of the artist!

In a Perfect World – A Dream Building at Marina Park

Picture This:



© Roy Thomas 2003

A vision created by Roy Thomas and shared by many:

- The Turtle, symbolic of Mother Earth, coming out of Lake Superior from the east, built in harmony with the earth and hosting 'living, learning' spaces inside and out.
- A Centre that celebrates the arts and cultural heritage of the peoples who live, work and create on the north shore of the largest fresh water lake in the world.
- A Centre that brings together the cultures, teachings and art of the Heritage peoples who share this coastline – Aboriginal and Caucasian.
- A Centre that is in harmony with the earth and water – using environmentally friendly, renewable energy resources to sustain itself.

Inside the Dream Building:

(All accessible to the public / participation by jury)

Picture this:

- A three story building in the shape of a turtle as diagrammed above with:
 - An open central atrium to be used as exhibit/conference/meeting/pow-wow space; could have a built-in stage useful for practice and performances by small theatre groups. The atrium would be open through all three levels, ending in a ceiling skylight. When one enters the building, the meaning of the 'Turtle' will be readily apparent
 - Main level atrium surrounded by a retail art gallery selling work exclusively by local and regional artists and artisans.
- A basement (with ground level windows) housing:
 - 2 or 3 large workshop spaces – for local or invited artists and artisans to conduct workshops for the community (adults and children) that cannot presently be offered locally.
 - Shared work and storage space for theatre groups (to build/store set props).
 - A resource library for the arts.
- Appendages (5 or 6) from the main floor central space to be used for:
 - Lake Superior interpretive centre (including perhaps an aquarium or glass bottom observatory).
 - Shared office space for local arts organizations.
 - A special place where the Elders, both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal will be honoured and where they will share their wisdom and teachings on a regular basis with artists, visitors and the community.
 - A dedicated exhibit space for non-traditional, non-commercial art produced by LOCAL artists.
 - A City Festival office.
- Second level to house artist studios in a circle around perimeter of building with an interior walkway (open to public) and windows for viewing artists at work:
 - printmaking; ceramics; sculpture; carving; glass blowing; painting; woodlands art; jewellery making; metal work (some of these would, perhaps, have to be housed in a separate building such as the 'Pool 6' office building for safety & cleanliness reasons)
 - recording studio
- Third level – restaurant with a view, plus more studios.
- Engineering design to include solar/wind etc. power and perhaps hot water feed from Ontario Power Generation Corp. (dual project to preserve the ecology of the bay and use waste hot water to heat the turtle).

Outside the Dream Building:

Picture this:

Outdoor sculpture, market stalls, and play spaces (i.e. skating rink), all designed with input from local artists and artisans, and all themed to link the Arts Centre to the downtown core.

The ARTS are a measure of the quality of life of a community.

