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**MEMORANDUM**

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**TO:** BELLINGHAM PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD  
**FROM:** SHANNON TAYSI, PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
**CC:**  
**SUBJECT:** SCULPTURE DONATION  
**DATE:** NOVEMBER 8, 2023

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The City of Bellingham has been approached by a donor interested in providing annual art funds to Whatcom County as part of their legacy. Currently funds are being held at the Whatcom Community Foundation for pilot projects. For this initial pilot project with the City of Bellingham, criteria provided by the donor was to procure a sculpture with a fun/whimsical feeling. The sculpture would be located ideally where children can interact with the piece.

The City put out a call for artwork which resulted in six submissions, which were reviewed and ranked by the Arts Commission. The budget for this procurement is \$15,000. The donor is also prepared to set aside funds for maintenance which, at this time, will also be held at the Whatcom Community Foundation. The Bellingham Arts Commission is recommending the attached sculpture proposal. These sculptures are relatively small, so staff is seeking an environment which isn't too vast where they could get lost. If possible, installation in a park or area of town that isn't already served with artwork would be a preference.

Staff has discussed potential locations and determined a neighborhood park would be ideal. The recommendations from staff are Harriet Spanel Park, Arnie Hanna Aquatic Center and the Library Lawn and as top choices for consideration (see attached locations). Staff is seeking a recommendation of one of these locations and if the Parks Board is not in support of any of these locations, staff is requesting the Parks Board identify a different Park for installation.

Harriet Spanel Park



Arnie Hanna Aquatic Center



Library Lawn



## uckiood - Missy Douglas & Kim Rask

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### Re: Letter of Interest for Community Park Sculpture in the City of Bellingham

Dear Members of the Selection Committee,

We would like to express our interest in being considered for the fabrication and installation of an original sculpture for a community park in the City of Bellingham.

We are *uckiood*, the Seattle-based studio of married Swedish-American and British artists, Kim Rask and Missy Douglas. As well as producing fine art gallery pieces, we focus on creating distinctive, site responsive, mixed-media public art commissions. We design medium to large scale sculptural works which both compliment the function and narrative of the space and aim to reflect the needs of the client and community. Fueled by a desire to create moments of childlike wonder in everyday life, our single and multi-piece installations are colorful, bold, tactile, sensory and gestural with a strong attention to detail and playful characterization. As we use robust materials (fiberglass, resins), our work is perfectly suited to exterior spaces and can withstand varied weather conditions with minimal ongoing maintenance. Our two most high profile public art projects to date - *Odd Jelly Out* (purchased by Amazon PLC and now on permanent display in Rainier Square, Seattle WA) and *The Little People* (an Honoraria installation for the Burning Man Organization and now housed in a private collection) - are testament to our ability to create captivating and whimsical sculpture which can engage both children and adults. In short, we take pride in producing high quality and buoyant work to deadline and budget which strives to educate and elicit joy, love and hope.

We propose to the Committee **Billy & George**, a custom-made iteration of our previous *Odd Jelly Out* sculpture installation, comprising two figures: one large and one small. Specific details of the concept and design are explored below. The placement of the sculptures in a specific park would be at the Committee's discretion. We would prefer, however, a location with a flat surface and access to full/partial sunlight to fully exploit the luminosity of the sculptures' finish.

We would love the opportunity to create **Billy & George** for the City of Bellingham. Thank you for your time and consideration.



Missy Douglas & Kim Rask, uckiood

## Description of Artwork

- Our proposal focuses on **Billy & George**, two custom created figures from our *Odd Jelly Out* series of sculptures. A eponymous, witty reference to William Bellingham and George Vancouver, these two characters draw inspiration in their shape and characterization from Jelly Babies, the iconic British candy. **Billy & George** are simplified and huggable humanoid forms with broad smiles and rotund bellies. Both are posed as if in playful dialogue with each other.
- **Billy & George** are immediately relatable by virtue of their human attributes and innocent, joyous personalities. While the relative small and large scale of the figures is designed to reflect and attract adults and children, both exploit stance, color, detail and gesture to elicit a sense of curiosity, emotional response and physical interaction. Passersby are invited to enter their intimate space and engage via touch, embrace and imaginary conversation. We hope that **Billy & George** will be welcomed as two new quirky members of the neighborhood.
- Please note that **Billy & George** are partially completed at the time of application. The fiberglass shells have been molded and the resin pieces have already been hand-cast. Only the application and finishing of the decorative skin is still to be done. We are confident that we can deliver the sculptures on time and to budget.

## Dimensions

- **Billy** - Large form: 48 in (H) x 30 in (W) x 30 in (D)
- **George** - Small form: 30 in (H) x 18 in (W) x 18 in (D)

## Weight

- **Billy** - Estimated 80lbs
- **George** - Estimated 30lbs

## Materials

- Both the large and small forms comprise a hand molded, sealed fiberglass shell with a brilliant white polyester resin decorative skin. Within this white skin are embedded 5000 (large form) and 2000 (small form) pieces of 3/4in, hand cast, highly-colored, translucent resin cylinders. These cylinders create a highly detailed, multicolored effect - small, three-dimensional 'pools' of color glow and shimmer in the sunlight. This skin is then sanded multiple times to render an ultra-smooth and highly tactile finish.

- All materials are naturally UV resistant to ensure the longevity of color and vibrance. Two layers of additional industrial sealant are applied to add extra protection from damage.
- All the materials used are customary in the fields of boat construction and aeronautical fabrication and are, therefore, robust and able to stand up against extreme weather conditions.

### Maintenance Requirements

- As the sculptures are monolithic with no moving parts and are created from durable materials (as above), they require very minimal maintenance.
- Annual cleaning with regular soap and water would be recommended. In addition, should you wish to ensure the brilliance of color, we would recommend an annual reapplication of 303 Aerospace Protectant (can be purchased for under \$20).
- We would be happy to provide a simple yet detailed maintenance plan should the contract be granted.

### Installation Plan

- Four large industrial steel L-brackets are embedded into the reinforced fiberglass base of each sculpture. These brackets can then be directly bolted into place with anchor bolts. As the chosen terrain - concrete, grass etc - is unknown at this stage, we would require liaison with the Parks & Recreation Department to identify the securest solution for maximum stability. No heavy duty machinery would be needed.
- As requested, the installation of the sculptures would be carried out by us, and transported directly from our studio in Burien, WA on the Committee’s desired date.
- Transport to the site and installation would take approximately one day.

### Purchase, Delivery & Installation Cost

<b>Item</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Purchase inc. Tax	\$ 14,144
Delivery - Mileage	\$ 131.00
Loading, Transport & Installation Fee	\$400.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 14,675.00</b>

Images of Proposed Sculptures



(1) Mock up of Billy & George in Ridgemont Park





BUSBOOM PHOTOGRAPHY

(2) Example of previous *Odd Jelly Out* sculptures (completed in glass/mirror but showing similar form and color layout)



(3) Further examples of previous *Odd Jelly Out* sculptures (on permanent placement in Rainier Square, Seattle WA)



(4) Example of embedded, highly-colored resin 'pools' to be used on the decorative skin of Billy & George



(5) Example of previous work using the embedded resin technique (as above) proposed for Billy & George



(6) Interaction with *Odd Jelly Out*