

THE TRILLIUM PUBLIC ART COMPETITION

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION

WINNER SELECTED IN INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC ART DESIGN COMPETITION

Halifax, 2 June 2009 - The Planning & Design Centre, in partnership with W. M. Fares Group, has completed a two-stage international design competition intended to create a permanent piece of public art in front of a new live/work development called The Trillium, currently under construction in downtown Halifax.

Three finalists, selected by a blind jury in Stage One of the competition, were challenged to further articulate their idea, showing in greater detail how the piece would be built and its relationship to the building and the area. The finalists were:

Jonathan Leahey (Victoria, Australia)

Lance Decker (Baltimore, Maryland)

Alexander (Sandy) Graham (Dartmouth, Nova Scotia)

Mr. Leahey's submission "Entry" is a large, well-crafted paper airplane, a sculpture that is playful and joyful, an immediately and universally recognisable image of childhood. It celebrates and reflects the importance of the entry of humanity - by way of immigration - embedded into Halifax's past, present and future.

Mr. Decker's proposal is a simple, symmetrical object, which complements the building's elegant design. It is a dynamic and precise sphere, representing the cycle of rebirth - an egg, a seed, an opening flower. Lighting plays an important role in bringing this piece of art to life at night, while during the day it is more transparent and reflective.

Mr. Graham's piece is an interpretation of an iconic maritime symbol, the lighthouse. Seven sculptures fashioned out of galvanized iron recast the lighthouse as a solid, metallic structure that is permanent and timeless.



Jonathan Leahey



Lance Decker



Sandy Graham

THE TRILLIUM PUBLIC ART COMPETITION

The members of the jury were drawn to the elegant grouping of lighthouses proposed by Sandy Graham. The iconic image of lighthouse, a beacon and symbol of protection has special resonance for this region. This grouping of lighthouses set in an urban site becomes a monument to a time, place and way of life that are at risk. The architecture of the sculpture works in concert with the building and provides it with a foil. The jury remarked on the way the repeated forms evoke community and gathering.

The jury chose Mr. Graham's work after careful deliberation and much lively discussion about the future of public art in Halifax. They feel that Mr. Graham's proposal speaks to the high caliber of art being produced in this region. Mr. Graham will receive a \$5,000 grand prize and the commission for installation of the piece. The winning sculpture is expected to be installed by 2010.

The Planning & Design Centre would like to thank the dedicated and experienced jury for their enthusiasm and commitment to public art in Halifax. The jury was chaired by Frank Palermo (Faculty of Architecture & Planning, Dalhousie University); jury members include:

Doug Bamford, Artist and Senior Technician, NSCAD University
Peter Dykhuis, Director / Curator, Dalhousie Art Gallery
Sarah Fillmore, Acting Chief Curator, Art Gallery of Nova Scotia
Andrew David Terris, Principal, ARTS NOVA Cultural Research and Consulting
Roy Willwerth, Architect, Duffus Romans Kundzins Rounsefell Ltd.

Jury members are excited about the installation of the first piece of public art in Halifax since the adoption of HRM's Public Art Policy, and are committed to championing the next steps in the process. A public exhibition of all submissions will run from May 30 to June 7, 2009 at the Exhibition Room, Faculty of Architecture & Planning.

- 30 -

The Planning & Design Centre is a collaborative, non-profit organisation dedicated to improving the quality of life in the Halifax region by making planning and design a more visible, inclusive, and vital aspect of our everyday experience. The Centre increases awareness about current projects and reports, provides forums for the exchange of ideas, both locally and globally, and advances innovative propositions. To fully establish itself as a new institution by Spring 2009, the Centre is securing a street-front space in downtown Halifax as well as long-term private and public funding.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT: www.pdcentre.ca/publicart

MEDIA CONTACT:

Heather Ternoway
902 494 7703
competitions@pdcentre.ca

1096 Queen Street, Suite 231
Queen Street Plaza
Halifax, NS B3H 2R9

902 494 7705
competitions@pdcentre.ca
www.pdcentre.ca/publicart

