

Lisa Clausen

From: Michael Lafreniere
Sent: Thursday, July 16, 2009 1:30 PM
To: 'win4joy@comcast.net'
Subject: RE: Statues in Burien/Interim Arts Space

Mr. Goodwin,

Thank you for contacting the City of Burien regarding the sculptures next to Town Square Park. The sculptures and the area you are referring to are part of the Burien Interim Art Space (or B/IAS) project. For your information, the project is not part of Town Square Park or on public property; it is on private property. The B/IAS project is a temporary art park, open to the public, and created by the community. It is designed and intended to creatively use land that would otherwise be sitting idle. The site is scheduled for construction of the next phase of the Burien Town Square project; at that time the art will be removed and returned to the artists. More information about the project is available at www.interim-art-space.com.

Certainly many people often have a wide range of opinions regarding public art, and I do respect your point of view. As has long been said, art is in the eye of the beholder. It is also the case that we have heard many positive comments about the project from the public. It has also led to some interesting partnerships that are beneficial to the community. For example, students from the Highline School District's Puget Sound Skills Center recently learned to fabricate metal sculptures for display at the site, and members of the local plumbers and pipefitters union stepped forward to work with the students on this effort. There is also art there made by students at Gregory Heights and Cedarhurst elementary schools, and the hubcap art you mentioned was done by students from Highline High School. Due to the uniqueness of the B/IAS concept regarding the use of unused spaces for community art, this project has certainly received considerable press, most all of it positive, and significant regional attention for the city of Burien.

As I clarified earlier, the B/IAS site is not part of the City's new park but is on private property; it is not owned or maintained by the City. The artwork placed there does not require the Council's review or approval. The site is maintained by community volunteers from a local non-profit arts organization. The project is a partnership between a handful of art organizations and the property owner, i.e. the Town Square developer, Urban Partners. The City did not commission the creation of any of the art on the site. The City does however have an "Art in Public Places" fund for public art projects, both permanent and temporary. The City did contribute some funds along with other organizations, including the Town Square developer, Urban Partners, to the arts organization to assist it with its project, principally their efforts to bring the large mother-and-child sculpture (known as "The Passage") to Burien. As I said, this exhibition is expected to be on display through the end of the year. We will relay your comments to the citizen volunteers who have organized the B/IAS project. If you would like to contact them directly, you can do so through their website.

If you have further questions or suggestions, or if you have some art that you would like to contribute to the space, you can contact our Cultural Arts Supervisor, Gina Kallman, at 206-988-3713.

Sincerely,

Michael Lafreniere
Director of Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services
michaell@burienwa.gov
425 SW 144th Street
Burien, WA 98166-1545
tel: (206) 988-3700
www.BurienParks.net
"Innovative Stewards of Public Trust"

From: Joyce and Gene [mailto:win4joy@comcast.net]
Sent: Thursday, July 16, 2009 12:32 AM
To: Council
Subject: Statues in Burien/Interim Arts Space

Whatever were you people thinking?

CFTR: 8/3/09

I recently drove through Burien and saw those horrible statues in your town square. The two large statues are exceptionally ugly and offensive to the eye. There is nothing beautiful or inspirational in this work. They are a blight on the landscape.

They are poorly conceived and executed from junk metal, and that is where they belong...in the junkyard.

The smaller nude lady on the other hand is beautifully executed and would be a nice addition to a semi secluded garden or pool setting.....but not displayed in the middle of a busy, dusty town square. Why would you put her there.

Apparently, you have no taste.

Gene H. Goodwin

Lisa Clausen

From: Council
To: Joyce and Gene
Subject: RE: Statues in Burien/Interim Arts Space

Thank you for your message to the Burien City Council. It will be forwarded to the appropriate staff for response and included in the Correspondence for the Record.

L. Clausen
City Manager's Office

From: Joyce and Gene [mailto:win4joy@comcast.net]
Sent: Thursday, July 16, 2009 12:32 AM
To: Council
Subject: Statues in Burien/Interim Arts Space

Whatever were you people thinking?

I recently drove through Burien and saw those horrible statues in your town square. The two large statues are exceptionally ugly and offensive to the eye. There is nothing beautiful or inspirational in this work. They are a blight on the landscape.

They are poorly conceived and executed from junk metal, and that is where they belong...in the junkyard.

The smaller nude lady on the other hand is beautifully executed and would be a nice addition to a semi secluded garden or pool setting.....but not displayed in the middle of a busy, dusty town square. Why would you put her there.

Apparently, you have no taste.

Gene H. Goodwin

