

April 18, 2017

Mike Velonas  
Planning and Conservation Manager  
Meewasin  
402 Third Avenue South  
Saskatoon SK S7K 3G5

Dear Mr. Velonas:

**Re: Where Our Paths Cross Artwork in Victoria Park**  
**Our File No.: 1870-13**

This letter is to inform you that the City of Saskatoon in partnership with the Saskatoon Tribal Council has commissioned a public artwork that we would like to have located in Victoria Park. Primarily funded by the Government of Canada through its Canada 150 Program, this artwork is intended to:

- Convey that Saskatoon is in Treaty Six Territory, and is homeland of the Métis and is a welcoming community to peoples from all over the world;
- Respond to TRC Calls to Action # 79 so as to educate and create a sense of shared awakening;
- Engage community (both before and after the artwork is installed) in a meaningful dialogue that encourages an exchange and reciprocal understanding between Saskatonians of different cultural backgrounds; and
- Affirm the City's commitment that public space is shared space where Indigenous stories are told and Indigenous voices are heard.

The artist selected for the commission is Gordon Reeve. Mr. Reeve is an accomplished Canadian public artist with works on public display across Canada. His experience in Aboriginal art and engagement includes the Chatham, Ontario sculpture "A Place of Many Grasses" that is a tribute to the Shawnee Chief Tecumseh.

Reeve's concept is a burnished stainless steel sculpture 35' high at its highest point, 27' to the top of the arch and 20' wide at inside ground level. It will reflect the sun and the moon. Jingles and fringe will be made of either anodized stainless steel or aluminum depending on the sound quality. Reeve proposes that the main structure be geothermally heated and cooled so that people will find natural comfort in winter and summer from Mother Earth.

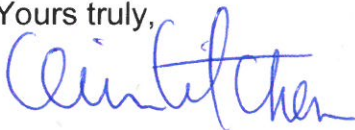
Symbolically, the longer pole, pointing north, represents First Nations long history and the shorter pole pointing south, represents Métis history. Both are anchored in the earth. Their paths cross, high above us as in the distant past. On the First Nations pole there are 29 sets of healing jingles, representing the children taken from each of the twenty-nine communities in Treaty Six territory. The multi-coloured metal sash fringes on the Métis pole signify generations of people who suffered injustice and denial of Metis history and culture. Of particular note is that Artist Reeve's commemorative artwork was conceptualized after extensive front-end consultation with community; both First nation and Métis.

The recommended and preferred location for the sculpture is Victoria Park, northwest of the Park's designated festival site, in proximity to a cluster of seven coniferous trees and just south of Spadina Crescent. While a number of sites were considered, Victoria Park was identified by First Nation and Métis Elders as having particular significance and meaning; namely that it has been the site of two Truth and Reconciliation events and provides; the space is large enough to accommodate community gatherings; and it is has a view of the South Saskatchewan River.

Attached is our Meewasin Development Review Application Form along with a conceptual image of the artwork and an aerial photograph marking the proposed location in Victoria Park. For your information, the City's Public Art Advisory Committee will be reviewing the artwork for its artistic merit and will be commenting on the proposed location at its next meeting on May 12, 2017. Meewasin is invited to attend that meeting to provide feedback and comment. The meeting will be held in Committee Room B, second floor City Hall, at 2:30 p.m.

In closing, please let me know what steps are next required to secure Meewasin approval.

Yours truly,



**Kevin Kitchen, Community Development Manager**  
Recreation and Community Development Division  
306-975-3181

KK:kk

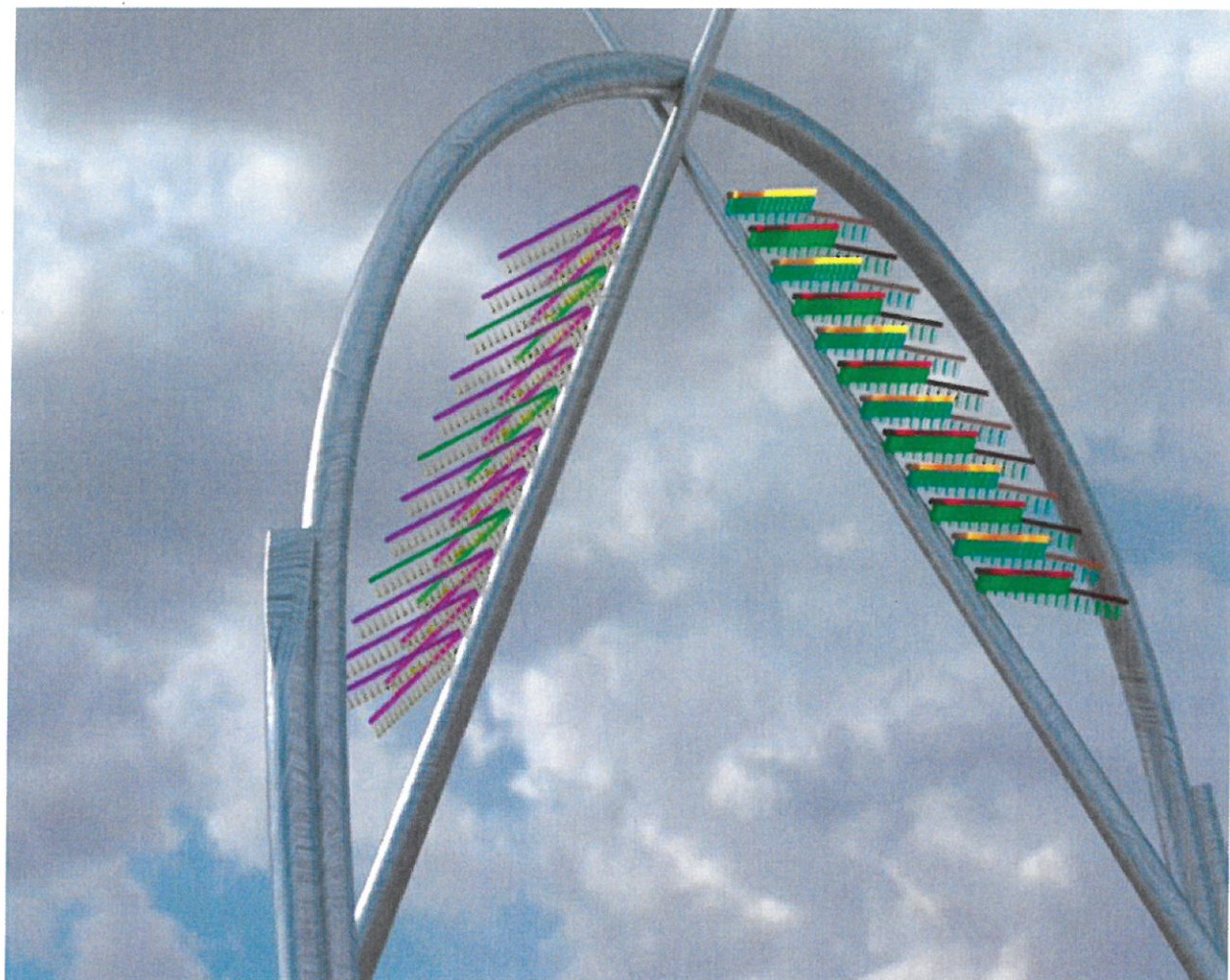
cc: Priscilla Wolf, Saskatoon Tribal Council  
Gilles Dorval, Director of Aboriginal Relations, City of Saskatoon

Attachment 1











Attachment 2



## Location of Commemorative Artwork – Where Our Paths Cross

