Women's Monument Design Competition Guidelines

Monuments have traditionally been built to publicly remember figures and events in history that men have considered important.

How would a Women's Monument be different?

The Women's Monument Project has, over the past three years, worked to establish a permanent piece of public art in Vancouver to address the issue of violence against women. The Project is made up of a committee of volunteers and Project staff members, is sponsored by the Capilano College Women's Centre, and is supported by government, corporate, and individual donations.

The Monument will be located in Thornton Park, at Main Street and Terminal Avenue, a transportation hub of Vancouver and a site surrounded by many diverse neighbourhoods and communities. Thornton Park was approved as the site for the Women's Monument by the Vancouver Park Board, and this elected body will have final approval of the Monument design.

Historically, few women have had the opportunity to create permanent public art. The design of the Monument will be chosen through a national design competition open only to women and juried by an independent group of Canadian women who have achieved recognition in the fields of art, architecture, art history, and feminist activism.

When fundraising is complete, the successful artist will receive the commission to build the monument with a construction budget of $115,000.
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I. Project Concept

Social and Cultural Context

In 1991, 225 women were murdered in Canada. Of these, 208 were killed by a family member or acquaintance. The number of women killed has increased dramatically over the past decade.

Canadian society is beginning to recognize that the violence that occurs behind closed doors is systemically connected to the acts of rape and murder that take place on the street. These, in turn, are connected to supposedly random acts such as the murder of fourteen women at the Université de Montréal on December 6, 1989. This mass shooting, occurring in public space, focused attention on the issue of violence against women in all social spaces.

The Women’s Monument is conceived as a national, permanent work of art to be located in Thornton Park in Vancouver, B.C., dedicated to all women who have been murdered by men, and naming the fourteen women killed in Montreal on December 6, 1989. It will provide a focus for healing, a tangible symbol of remembrance, and a site for many forms of women’s resistance to male violence.

The Women’s Monument will:

▸ provide a place for large gatherings and also allow for quiet, individual contemplation

▸ in some way allow visitors to interact with the artwork.

▸ promote dignity and respect for the lives of women.

▸ strengthen public resolve to end violence against women.

Envisioned Uses

This artwork will be situated on a public urban site. How will this dedicated site be used by women individually and collectively?

1. December 6: A National Day of Remembrance and Action. Since 1989, groups of people numbering from 50 to 1,000 have gathered for commemoration ceremonies at college and university campuses, the downtown Art Gallery steps, and other sites throughout the Lower Mainland. The Monument will provide a site specifically dedicated to the memory of this tragic day in Canadian history.
One-half of all Canadian women have experienced at least one incident of violence since the age of 16.

One-in-six currently married women reported violence by their spouses; one-half of women with previous marriages reported violence by a previous spouse.

42% of women with disabilities have been or are in abusive situations.

98% of women murdered in Ontario between 1974 and 1990 were killed by men, usually by an intimate partner.

2. **March 8: International Women's Day.** The site will provide a starting or finishing point for the annual public rally and march that marks this day instituted by the United Nations to recognize the struggle for economic and social equality for women worldwide.

3. **Spontaneous gatherings** in response to the murders of women locally.

4. **Individuals** will be able to visit the Women's Monument to remember friends or family they have lost or to seek healing for the effects of their own experiences of violence.

5. **Educational visits** planned for students by a number of Vancouver educators as part of their curriculum.

6. **Chance encounters** provided by the proximity of the site to the train, bus, and rapid transit stations and, in future, by the corridor of green space and bicycle paths planned for the area.

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**Background of the Project**

In the winter of 1990-91, the Capilano College Women's Centre Steering Committee voted in favour of a student's proposal to build a monument in memory of the women murdered at the Université de Montréal in 1989 and, symbolically, of all women affected by male violence. The founding Women's Monument Committee quickly expanded to include interested women from the various communities of Vancouver.

As the project developed, and as comments were offered by supporters and critics, the committee clarified the purpose of the project: to face the most frightening and difficult extreme of violence against women by focussing exclusively on murdered women — the fourteen in Montreal and all women murdered by men.

Since that time, a group of feminists working in education, the media, cultural organizations, political advocacy, visual art, and architecture have volunteered their time to develop this project, secure a site, raise funds, and devise the design competition. Fundraising for the capital costs of the Women's Monument is ongoing.
The Site

Thornton Park, Vancouver, British Columbia. Thornton Park is located in east Vancouver at Main Street and Terminal Avenue.

History of the Site.

Thornton Park was built during the Edwardian period (1901-1911) in an Edwardian style. This style is characterized by a formal and balanced geometry, with walkways that intersect the site creating square components and circular features. Often used in “railway parks,” the Edwardian style of park design has been used in several Canadian cities.

Over time, some walkways in Thornton Park have been replaced or installed in such a way that the original geometry has been compromised. The Park Board would like to re-establish the original symmetry of the design, so any walkways planned as part of the monument should bear this goal in mind. The monument design should take into consideration the original design philosophy of the park.

Thornton Park: The Neighbourhood.

Thornton Park is situated in the midst of a rapidly changing neighbourhood. Historically, the area has been one of mixed use: train yards, warehouses, light and heavy industry, and residential hotels.

The surrounding neighbourhoods are: Strathcona, Mount Pleasant, Downtown Eastside, and Chinatown. These neighbourhoods are characterized by ethnic diversity and a concentration of poverty in some areas. Nearby are False Creek, Yaletown, and Grandview Woodlands.

Recently, a cement plant situated across the street from the park was torn down and replaced with condominiums. More condos will be built on the nearby Expo lands.

Thornton Park is situated at an important transportation hub. The Park is at the corner of the intersection of two major commuter and truck routes – Main Street and Terminal Avenue. The Vancouver bus depot
and the CN passenger train station are directly east of the park. The park is adjacent to the Skytrain rapid transit system and serviced by several city bus routes. The park is also close to two important bike routes which will be expanded in the future.

Within a half mile radius of Thornton Park are the following: Science World and its park, major condominium and townhouse developments, False Creek, gas stations, hotels, artists' studios, the CN passenger train station, the Vancouver bus depot, Skytrain rapid transit, major roadways, train yards, warehouses, retail stores, theatres, bars, fast food outlets, houses, and apartments.

**Why Thornton Park?** Many places in Vancouver were considered for the site of the Women's Monument. Over time, Thornton Park emerged as an ideal location, able to meet the particular needs of this project. The park's ambience, accessibility, and relative safety make it particularly suitable.

**Access.** Thornton Park is in a central urban location and highly accessible to people who drive, walk, bicycle, or use public transportation. It is physically accessible to seniors and visitors who are disabled and is open 24 hours a day.

**Safety.** The park itself has sufficient lighting and is not heavily landscaped. It is visible from the street and residences nearby. The entrances and exits can accommodate groups of visitors. Phone booths, cross-walks, and traffic lights are close to the site.

**Ambience.** Thornton Park is surrounded by diverse neighbourhoods. There is light, steady pedestrian traffic through the area. The park is open and flat, yet offers potential for a sense of privacy. Acoustics are somewhat hampered by the noise of nearby traffic at the edge of the park; however, the sound level is not overwhelming. Washrooms and conveniences such as restaurants and gas stations are close by.
**The Dedication**

In order to:
- recognize the historical importance of the mass shooting at the Université de Montréal in escalating the struggle for an end to violence against women in Canada,
- place this loss in the context of the many women lost, and
- honour and commemorate each life,

the following dedication will be located at the site. The means and specific placement of the dedication will be determined by the artist.

Geneviève Bergeron  
Hélène Colgan  
Nathalie Croteau  
Barbara Daigneault  
Anne-Marie Edward  
Maud Haviernick  
Barbara Maria Klueznick  
Maryse Laganière  
Maryse Leclair  
Anne-Marie Lemay  
Sonia Pelletier  
Michèle Richard  
Annie St-Arneault  
Annie Turcotte  
murdered December 6, 1989, Université de Montréal

We, their sisters and brothers, remember, 
and work for a better world. 
In memory and in grief for all the women murdered by men, 
for women of all countries, all classes, all ages, all colours.

The dedication will be translated into a number of languages and Braille.
Plans for Maintenance

The chosen design will be made of strong materials resistant to graffiti and other forms of vandalism. The structure should not change the existing maintenance demands on the Park Board.

As with any public structure, the Monument will be susceptible to vandalism. We intend to allow a certain amount of graffiti and damage to just stand. We would prefer that the Women's Monument be defaced rather than have that expression of anger turned on a woman or women.

The chosen design will not include landscape art or architecture with plantings because of the endless upkeep needed to care for them. The use of water will be considered, within limits. Fountains or ponds requiring recirculation pumps cannot be considered because of the associated maintenance demands.
2. The Competition

**Eligibility criteria**

Historically, very few women have had the privilege of creating permanent public art in Canada, despite the belief that within a democracy public space belongs to everyone. Women have rarely participated in creating the many permanent objects that make up our built environment. At this point in history, and particularly on the topic of violence against women, it is most appropriate that women reclaim a part of public space in which to speak.

This public art competition is open to individual women or groups of women who are Canadian citizens or landed immigrants. Women students at post-secondary schools are especially encouraged to apply.

**Application process**

Prospective applicants can contact the Women’s Monument Project office by fax, telephone, or in writing to obtain this package (The Women’s Monument Design Competition Guidelines). Packages will be mailed out beginning January 4, 1994.

**Competition Schedule**

January 4, 1994: Stage One Competition packages mailed to applicants
January 15, 1994: Stage One begins
April 15, 1994: Deadline for receipt of Stage One submissions
June 15, 1994: Applicants notified of Stage One decisions
June 16, 1994: Stage Two begins
August 15, 1994: Deadline for receipt of Stage Two submissions
September 15, 1994: Final design chosen by jury
**Competition: Stage One**

Starts: January 15, 1994

Deadline for submission: April 15, 1994

Format: Anonymous. The jury will not know the names of applicants at this stage. For more information on the membership of the jury, please see Jury Selection Procedure on page 13.

Materials to submit:
1. Stage One Identification Form (see appendix)
2. Six copies of:
   - a Site Plan of Thornton Park with your work's placement clearly indicated,
   - a brief, clear Artist's Statement regarding the work you propose, and
   - up to six drawings, photographs or photocopies, limited to 11 x 17 inches, labeled with the prospective measurements, materials and compass point.
3. One self-addressed, stamped business size envelope.

Send submissions to:
The Women's Monument Design Competition
Capilano College Women's Centre
2055 Purcell Way
North Vancouver, B.C.
V7J 3H5

Communications Policy: Women's Monument Project staff and committee members are able to answer questions on:
- how to get a package,
- who is eligible,
- how to contact the Professional Advisor.

Any other questions are to be directed in writing to the Professional Advisor by February 15, 1994.

Phone: (604) 986-1911 local 2078
Fax: (604) 984-4985
Judging: Your proposal will be evaluated by the jury. Up to five finalists will be chosen. The jury will evaluate your proposal according to the concerns outlined on page 5 and the Artists Guidelines on page 14.

**Competition: Stage Two**

The finalists chosen in Stage One will be invited to submit a Detailed Proposal, and each will be paid a fee of $2,500 to complete this work.

**Stage Two starts:** June 16, 1994

**Deadline for submission:** August 15, 1994

**Format:** Open submissions: At this stage of the competition, the jury will have access to the names of the applicants.

**Materials to submit:** The Detailed Proposal must include:
1. Schedule for Completion
2. Site Plan
3. Written indication of your background in whatever way you wish to represent yourself. This could be a C.V, resume, or other relevant document.
4. Visual representations — one or more of the following:
   - drawings, any media
   - photographs of scale model
   - scale model
5. Electronic rendering
6. Future maintenance requirements
7. Detailed Budget: At Stage Two, you must provide a cost breakdown based on $115,000. Please include:
   - design development: co-ordination work with project team
   - material costs
   - fabrication costs and labour (assistants, contracts)
   - installation costs
   - insurance costs (up to and including installation)
   - living and travel expenses associated with production and installation
   - technical consultants (We have already allotted and raised $11,500 for the technical support team. This must be reflected in submitted budgets.)
- artist's fee
- studio expenses (if applicable)
- 10% of overall construction budget for maintenance fee required by City of Vancouver
- contingency fund (including legal fees, etc, if applicable)
- taxes
8. Expanded Artist's Statement that includes your expectations of the working process between yourself, the Project, and others concerned with the completion of the artwork

Send submissions to:
The Women’s Monument Design Competition
Capilano College Women’s Centre
2055 Purcell Way
North Vancouver, B.C.
V7J 3H5

Communications Policy: All questions from applicants should be mailed or faxed to the Professional Advisor by June 1, 1994 (see page 10). The Professional Advisor will send you a written answer by mail or fax.

Judging: Detailed Proposals will be reviewed by jury members in a group process, facilitated by the Professional Advisor. The jury will make the final selection. The selected finalist will receive $5,000 to further develop the chosen design and present a final budget. A final artist's fee to reflect the time spent in completing the construction should be included as part of the Detailed Proposal budget.

Exhibition of Designs

If funding and appropriate venues become available, the Women's Monument Project intends to invite the finalists selected to develop Stage Two Detailed Proposals to exhibit their designs in temporary exhibitions locally and nationally. These exhibitions are intended to promote the development of similar projects in other cities, to raise awareness of the issue of violence against women, and to recognize the contribution of the finalists to the Women’s Monument Project.
Jury Selection Procedure

We consider it important to recognize that it has primarily been women from the feminist community who have brought the issues of domestic violence and other forms of violence against women into public discourse. As part of this recognition, the five members of the jury for the Women's Monument Project will be selected from the feminist community, including women who have made significant contributions in the fields of visual art, architecture, and art history.

The jury process will be facilitated by the Professional Advisor. This jury will be as representative as possible of Canadian cultural and regional diversity and will reflect the variety of races, ethnic groups, and sexual orientations among Canadian women. The decision of the jury will be final. The jury's responsibilities end with this decision. Any public inquiries regarding the chosen design will be administered by the members of the Women's Monument Committee.

Jury Process
1. The names of the jury members shall be released when the final selection has been made.
2. Jury members should declare any conflict of interest regarding a specific application and withdraw from the adjudication of that individual's or group's work.
3. Jury members will be paid an honorarium and a per diem. Their transportation costs will also be covered.

The Professional Advisor
The Professional Advisor will facilitate the jury process, but will not have voting privileges. This woman will contact jurors, ensure that all the applications are considered fairly, and record the selection process. She will report to the Women's Monument Competition Subcommittee and will also be in charge of returning materials to applicants. She will take care of all jury and applicant correspondence according to Communications policy, as well as distribute honoraria to jury members and those invited to complete Detailed Proposals.

The Professional Advisor will notify the successful applicant and correspond with those whose work is not chosen. This position will be a
temporary contract which will begin before the Competition launch and continue until the Competition is complete. Her final report will be made to the Women's Monument Committee as a whole.

**Artists Guidelines**

Given the opportunity to permanently mark our grief and outrage over the murder of women, how do you envision a monument dedicated to their memory?

1. Social Change:
   a) The Women's Monument should involve the viewer, bearing in mind the potential of public art to initiate social change.
   b) The potential for an individual/contemplative experience as well as a public gathering place exists within the site and should be considered by the artist. The site will be accessible 24 hours a day, and the design should respond to this challenge.

2. The Women's Monument should be permanent and not subject to deterioration due to weather, pollution, or vandalism (see Plans for Maintenance).

3. Dedication:
The Women's Monument itself, or the monument site, must include the dedication as follows:

   Geneviève Bergeron
   Hélène Colgan
   Nathalie Croteau
   Barbara Daigneault
   Anne-Marie Edward
   Maud Haviernick
   Barbara Maria Klueznick
   Maryse Laganière
   Maryse Leclair
   Anne-Marie Lemay
   Sonia Pelletier
Michèle Richard
Annie St-Arneault
Annie Turcotte

murdered December 6, 1989, Université de Montréal

We, their sisters and brothers, remember;
and work for a better world.
In memory and in grief for all the women murdered by men,
for women of all countries, all classes, all ages, all colours.

The dedication will be translated into a number of languages and Braille.

4. Depending on the nature of the artwork, the artist may be required
to be present and active, working collaboratively with the group of
tradeswomen, engineers, and project staff on the installation of the
artwork. This part of the artist’s time and labour should be reflected
as the artist’s fee in the Detailed Proposal budget.

5. The work should recognize contextual issues of the site such as
climate, view, the surrounding trees, buildings, and neighbourhoods,
some of which have a Heritage designation. The original park design
should be considered in the Monument design.

6. The Women’s Monument should be accessible to persons with
disabilities.

7. Safety:
   a) There should be no sharp or jagged edges in accessible locations
      that might cause injury.
   b) Issues of safety for visitors, such as lighting and visibility, should
      be considered.

8. Naming contributors: The Women’s Monument itself, or the
monument site, must include the names of the contributors to the
project. We expect to include the full names of approximately 5,000
individuals and organizations whose names represent a commitment
to the goals of the project and not just an indication of financial
contribution.
Technical Site Criteria

Lighting: Any additional lighting for the artwork will be coupled to the existing photo-electric street lighting as indicated on the Site Map. The artist is responsible for obtaining cost estimates for additional lighting.

Excavation: Any plans for excavation work must be made in consideration of the enclosed underground services diagram. Contingencies for unmapped pipes and wires must be factored into your budget. Landfill is a consideration from Main Street and further west.

Plantings: Existing trees cannot be removed. Structures, generally speaking, must avoid the drip-line of existing trees as indicated on the Site Map. Additional landscaping and plantings cannot be considered due to the associated maintenance costs.

Water: The use of water (not including recirculation pumps) will be considered within limits. The artist is responsible for obtaining cost estimates for any water hookups planned.

Park Design: It is crucial to consider the formal geometry of the heritage park design in plans for the placement of the monument (see The Site).

Contingencies: The final design should be flexible enough to accommodate unforeseen technical constraints.

Environmental Considerations

Precipitation: The rain in Vancouver is slightly acid, which is caused by water coming directly from the ocean. It has a pH range of 5. Acid rain is not an issue in Vancouver because there are no sources of contamination as there are in eastern Canada.

Total precipitation ranges from an average monthly low of 36 mm to a high of 179 mm per year.
Pollution: The Air Quality Index in Vancouver generally falls between good and fair.

Vehicular traffic is heavy along two sides of the park throughout the year.

Temperature: The lowest temperature is approximately -17.9°C and the highest is 33.4°C. The average monthly temperatures range from a low of 1.0°C to a high of 21.7°C.

Sunshine: The average monthly total sunshine hours range from 54 to 196.

Wind: Generally, Vancouver is not a windy city; however, winds have reached maximum sustained wind of 89 km per hour, maximum gust of 129 km per hour.

Sources for Statistics


Report prepared for The Women We Honour Action Committee, by Maria Crawford and Rosemary Gartner.


Appendix
THE
Women's Monument
Design Competition

Stage One Identification Form

Please complete

Name:

Address:

Phone: residence (____)  -  work (____)  -

Seal this form in the envelope provided and include it with your submission.

Applicants must ensure that there is no identifying information on their submissions. Applicants who include identifying information on their support materials will be disqualified.