

THE PROJECT LEADERS

Mayor
His Worship Donald Atchison

City Council 2003-2006	City Council 2006-2009
Terry Alm	Charlie Clark
Donna L. Birkmaier	Bev Dubois
Bev Dubois	Myles Heidt
Owen Fortosky	Darren Hill
Myles Heidt	Pat Lorje
Elaine Hnatyshyn	Maurice Neault
Maurice Neault	Tiffany Paulsen
Tiffany Paulsen	Glen Penner
Glen Penner	Bob Pringle
Gordon Wyant	Gordon Wyant

Designers
Jyhling Lee & Paul Koopman (Lee-Koopman Projects)
Obert Friggstad (Friggstad Downing Henry Architects)

Engineering
Brian Brownlee
Bruce Sparling

Construction Management
Wolfe Management Ltd.

Project Manager
Chris Dekker



SELECTION JURY

Prof. Suzsan Shantz - Art and Art History, U of S
Dan MacDonald - Visual Arts Placement Jury
Justin Wotherspoon - Saskatchewan Architects Association
Bevan Bradley - Saskatoon Community Youth Art Program
Terry Scaddan - The Partnership
Susan Lamb - Meewasin Valley Authority
Todd Brandt - Tourism Saskatoon
Jeanna South - CoS Urban Design Coordinator
Joe Quewezance - Saskatoon Tribal Council
Chris Dekker - CoS Special Projects



PRAIRIE WIND

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2006



PROGRAM

5:15 p.m.
Gates Open

5:30 p.m.
Welcome

5:35 p.m.
Designers:
Jyhling Lee
Paul Koopman

5:40 p.m.
His Worship Mayor
Donald Atchison

5:45 p.m.
Audio presentation
and official
unveiling

OFFICIAL UNVEILING

Welcome! The official unveiling of *Prairie Wind* marks the end of an exciting centennial year, and the beginning of a new era of site-specific art in our community.

The idea for a landmark in River Landing was first expressed in the South Downtown Concept Plan. The Plan noted that 2nd Avenue will culminate in a turning circle that can act as a visual terminus. "A landmark at this location would become a natural draw and an interesting feature that could be a focus for this area."

At the same time, City Council

recognized the opportunity to produce a public art piece to serve as a lasting recognition of our centennial. As such, the plaza was commissioned to



celebrate Saskatoon's 100-year history, and to look forward to the next 100 years.

The process culminated in the selection of *Prairie Wind*, which draws its inspiration

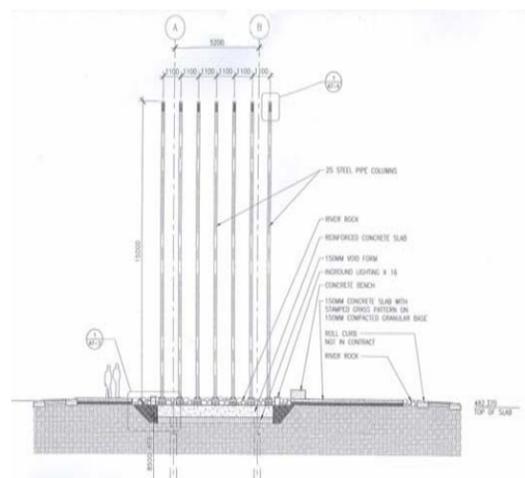
from the wind and the grasses that grow in abundance throughout the prairies and parkland surrounding the city. The experience of watching a field of tall grass swaying in the wind is one that is shared by all Saskatchewan people.

As noted by the selection jury, *Prairie Wind* serves as a visual link between the urban and the rural, the old and the new, the high-tech and the organic.

We hope you enjoy the official unveiling, and will take the time to bring friends and family to visit Saskatoon's *Prairie Wind*!

QUICK FACTS

- The 25 poles are 15 metres tall (45 feet) and are made of steel.
- The positions of the poles are oriented toward true north and south.
- The base of the poles incorporate rubber bearing pads that allow the poles to move in the wind.
- The poles have been engineered to deflect by up to 500mm (20 inches) in a 60 kph wind.
- The plaza is made of a combination of poured concrete with stamped grass and river rock, connecting the urban environment with the prairie and the river.
- Sixteen state-of-the art LED floodlights have been installed at the base of the landmark. A computerized control system will allow the colours to change during different seasons and for special events.
- The concrete sitting pads double as traffic bollards to protect the landmark.



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"Without hesitation he crossed the road and walked through the hip-deep grass stirring in the steady wind; the grass clung at his legs; haloed fox-tails bowed before him; grasshoppers sprang from hidden places in the grass, clicketing ahead of him to disappear, then lift again...by the buildings of the town, warm and living against his face and in his hair."

W.O. Mitchell, *Who Has Seen the Wind*

THE SELECTION PROCESS

In June of 2005, the City of Saskatoon issued a national call for submissions for the design, fabrication, and installation of a landmark to become an integral component of River Landing. The response was extraordinary. Twenty-six local, national, and international submissions were received from various teams of artists, architects, designers, and engineers.

A community selection jury, appointed by City Council, had the unenviable task of reviewing the submissions and short-listing six for further consideration. During the second stage of the process, the design teams were required to provide details of their vision and produce various images along with a maquette (a scale model).

In November 2005, the jury unveiled six finalists, and the City invited the public to review each submission and provide comments and suggestions during a week-long open house held in City Council Chambers. All six submissions, complete with an on-line input form, were also posted on the City's website.

With the public's input in hand and a list of evaluation criteria, the jury began their deliberations. Two days and dozens of cups of coffee later, the jury emerged with their selections for City Council review. Of the two submitted, Council chose "Prairie Wind" submitted by a team consisting of Lee-Koopman Projects from London, England, and Friggstad Downing Henry Architects of Saskatoon. In recommending the submission to Council, the selection jury noted that:

"The jury was most impressed with this submission's grand scale, movement, innovation, and charming connection to prairie grass blowing in the wind. This is truly a landmark that will be visible and attention grabbing from a distance – from 2nd Avenue, across the River, or from the Senator Sid Buckwold and Traffic Bridges.

"It has artistic integrity and sophistication, yet it can be readily understood and appreciated by residents and visitors. Prairie Wind serves as a visual link between the urban and the rural, the old and the new, the high-tech and the organic.

"An interesting and engaging piece is dynamic – and the variable swaying of the stylized steel rods, depending on wind speed and direction, will serve as an ongoing attraction to viewers. Likewise, the option to include the use of coloured lights to mark special events or holidays is an added attractant."

The national commissioning of a site-specific landmark of this kind was a first for the City, and the process was well received by all involved. So much so that a similar procedure is being planned for the commissioning of a sculpture of Chief Whitecap and John Lake for the 3rd Avenue roundabout to be unveiled in summer/fall of 2007.

"This is truly a landmark that will be visible and attention grabbing from a distance – from 2nd Avenue, across the River, or from the Senator Sid Buckwold and Traffic Bridges."



Members of the public reviewed the shortlist at an Open House November, 2005

THE DESIGNERS

Poet Laureate Pier Giorgio Di Cicco said that "creativity owns imagination, and imagination is what builds our cities". Saskatoon's creative class was significantly enhanced when Lee-Koopman Projects was selected as the winning design team during the national commissioning for Century Plaza.

Lee-Koopman Projects is a collaboration between Jyhling Lee and Paul Koopman. Both hold a Masters Degree in Architecture and have a multidisciplinary background in art, architecture, graphic design, and teaching. Jyhling spent her formative years in Toronto and Ingersoll, Ontario enjoying her time in the creative arts and academics. Paul is a native of Saskatoon and attended Victoria School and Walter Murray Collegiate. Paul was a member of the Canadian Gymnastics Team and trained for many years at the Taiso gymnastics club in the city. Together they have lived and worked in Rome, Toronto, New York, and London, England.

Koopman noted that designing and building *Prairie Wind* has been an incredibly rewarding experience.

"We have collaborated with a great team, and the experience of working on the project from concept to reality has been stimulating," Koopman said.

"This project is especially important to me because Saskatoon is the city I grew up in. The view of the city from across the river is a sight that has always captivated me and it is a great privilege to have contributed to this part of the city."

Jyhling Lee said that she has been impressed with the public's enthusiasm and involvement.

"I'm pleased to have worked with local people and learned from their



Paul Koopman, B.E.S., M. Arch. and Jyhling Lee, B.E.S., M. Arch (Distinction) returned to Saskatoon from London, England to oversee the design and installation of *Prairie Wind*.

expertise to realize this special project," Lee said. "This landmark has been a big transition for me, it has brought me to Saskatoon from London, England and I am happy to be here."

Both Lee and Koopman have been generous in their praise noting that Obert Friggstad of Friggstad Downing Henry Architects was invaluable in guiding the project through the detailed design phase, and for assembling a specialist team to work out the technical aspects of the project. The Wolfe Group did an

excellent job in the construction coordination of the landmark.

The pair noted that the technical challenge in this project was to allow the poles to move in light winds and prevent them from moving excessively in very strong winds. Working with Brownlee Beaton Kreke Engineering and Bruce Sparling from the University of Saskatchewan, the team devised a base plate for each pole that employed engineered rubber pads. Extensive physical testing was undertaken at the University of Saskatchewan before the current design was adopted.

With *Prairie Wind* now complete, Lee-Koopman are already looking to the future.

"There is no doubt in my mind that River Landing is an important step forward for Saskatoon," Lee concluded. "I am grateful to have had the opportunity to be part of this great development and I hope to contribute further to the bright path of the city!"



Construction and installation began in October, 2006