

Appendix E



London Arts Council

June 3rd, 2013

Corporation of the City of London
300 Dufferin Ave PO Box 5035
London, Ontario Canada N6A 4L9

Attention: Ms. Robin Armistead – Culture Manager, City of London

Re: Review of proposed donation of artwork from the private collection of the Blackburn Foundation.

Dear Ms. Armistead,

Please accept this letter regarding the donation of *The Sentinel* sculpture from the Blackburn Foundation of London, Ontario.

The London Arts Council was asked to review the following:

- 1) The artist
 - 2) The artwork and original contract background information
 - 3) Location
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- 1) The Artist
Gino Lorcini, is one of Canada's renowned artists and a former Londoner, Lorcini was born in England and immigrated to Canada in 1948. An award-winning sculptor, photographer and professor, he's been creating and exhibiting for more than half a century. Lorcini's style is abstract and draws attention to line, form and space. Lorcini was Artist in Residence at the University of Western Ontario (Western University) in 1982, just prior to creating *The Sentinel*.
 - 2) The artwork and background
The Sentinel is a welded aluminum sculpture created in 1986. The piece is a memorial to Mr. Walter Blackburn commissioned by his wife Mrs. Marjorie Blackburn through a contracted process. The materials used in the piece are of a common treatment for sculptures of this nature and are easily maintained for many years. According to the contract documentation due process has been followed both in the appropriate acquisition of the piece and proper installation. The artist agreed that the sculpture would be a one-of-a kind sculpture and that any edition of maquettes would be created only with the permission of the Mrs. Blackburn (the client). Copyright is held with the artist.

3) Location

The Sentinel is currently located on the former CTV lands in South London. As part of the donation the Blackburn Foundation has requested a prominent location in close proximity to the Martha Blackburn *jet d'eau fountain* at the Forks of the Thames.

The City of London's Public Art Site Selection Team (PASST) met in September 2012 to review possible site locations for placement of the sculpture, two sites were identified as potential sites for the piece. Ultimately, the site located to the south of Riverside Drive situated in the park was accepted by both the London Arts Council Review Team and the Blackburn Foundation. The artists' wishes were considered in the final location of the sculpture that being "a pastoral setting with the sculpture being approachable by community members walking in the area, as well as, visible from the road".

Recommendation

It is therefore the recommendation of the London Arts Council Review Team to the City of London Culture Office that the sculpture known as *The Sentinel* be accepted and added to the Public Art Inventory of the City of London. Thus, the sculpture will be more widely enjoyed by Londoners and become an integral part of our public art walking tour in London, Ontario.

Please note, the London Arts Council was not asked to confirm the following:

- a) current value of the sculpture
- b) legal ownership
- c) height and weight specifications
- d) proper installation
- e) maintenance and insurance considerations

If you require any further assistance please contact the London Arts Council at programs@londonarts.ca

Thank you,

Patrick Mahon, Chair – Public Art Task Force
London Arts Council