

A-Maze-ing Laughter sculptures nominated for Great Places contest

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A-maze-ing Laughter at night

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VANCUVER - A-Maze-ing Laughter, the art installation near English Bay in Vancouver popular with snap-happy tourists and locals, has been nominated as one of the best public spaces in Canada.

The 14 bronze figures, grinning self-portraits of Chinese artist Yue Minjun, have been given a nod in the third annual Great Places In Canada contest

sponsored by the Canadian Institute of Planners.

The installation was erected four years ago in Vancouver thanks to The Vancouver Biennale, a not-for-profit organization that mounts major art exhibitions in public spaces.

Canadians can vote online for their favourite streets, neighbourhoods and public spaces at www.GreatPlacesInCanada.com. According to the institute, more than 200,000 people voted in last year's competition.

Nominations will be accepted online until Sept. 2. The voting period ends Sept. 23 and the winners will be announced on World Town Planning Day on Nov. 8.

Canada's Great Places are selected on the basis of both popularity and planning excellence as judged by a panel of experts.

A-Maze-ing Laughter was meant to be a temporary art installation. However, it became permanent after Lululemon founder and Vancouver billionaire Chip Wilson and his wife Shannon donated \$1.5 million to keep the work of art.

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