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Vancouver, Canada

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Vancouver Biennale, Tourism Vancouver and the West End Business Improvement Association join forces to get the word out: Vote for "A-maze-ing Laughter" in the Great Places in Canada Contest. A win will be great promotion for the city we love and a great acknowledgement of the cultural and economic impact of public art. Go to Great Places In Canada Contest and vote today. The nation-wide contest ends September 23rd.

"Metro Vancouver municipalities are well underway in their understanding of public art as foundational to community building and the role it plays in creating livable cities, but A-maze-ing Laughter is a prime example of how public art can also be a sound business decision and economic driver," said Barrie Mowatt, president of the Vancouver Biennale. "Having a public art installation designated as a Great Place in Canada will invariably encourage people from neighbouring communities, municipalities, provinces and countries to come and experience it for themselves."

"We are always looking for ways to promote Vancouver as an appealing destination for international travellers with a wide range of interests," said Paul Sontz, manager of Cultural Tourism for Tourism Vancouver. "The city is already known for its stunning scenery, but inventive art pieces like "A-maze-ing Laughter" showcase our rich arts and culture offerings. We encourage locals and visitors alike to vote for "A-maze-ing Laughter" to share this amazing piece with the rest of the world."

" 'A-maze-ing Laughter' has given the West End – already known for its beach town vibe – a cultural beacon that delivers on the quintessential Vancouver experience," said Stephen Regan, West End BIA. "The incredible beauty of the ocean, the recreational play along the seawall, and the energy of the urban street scene all come together at 'A-maze-ing Laughter'. It brings an added cultural dynamic and global perspective to the area and makes the West End experience even more unique and memorable. More visitors means more shopping, more restaurant meals and more hotel stays"

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