

Public artworks will be a permanent legacy

From B1

There will be startling new light art under the Cambie Street Bridge by the new Canada Line subway stop and Second Avenue.

Artists are being invited to design massive light projections for the sides of public buildings, including city hall. Pole-mounted artworks will be installed on the Kingsway medians one block east and west of Knight Street.

Several city streets used as pedestrian corridors during the Olympics will receive upgraded lighting.

Light art of the kind seen over the streets in Turin, Italy, at the 2006 Winter Games could be coming to some streets, including Hamilton and Mainland in Yaletown.

Artists are also being invited to submit proposals for site-specific works at locations of their choosing.

Altogether, more than 15 public artworks are expected to go up around the city during the next 15 months. The total price tag works out to about \$5.8 million. The works are all permanent and meant to be legacies of the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Controversy over public art isn't new to the city. *Device to Root Out Evil*, an aluminum sculpture that resembled an upside-down church, was installed in a patch of grass off West Cordova in Coal Harbour during the Vancouver Sculpture Biennale. Always intended to be temporary, it generated both support and opposition before it was relocated to Calgary earlier this year.

But Richard Newirth, the city official in charge of the public art program, said he doesn't mind if the new public art generates healthy controversy. In fact, he welcomes it.

"That's what public art is meant to do — provoke controversy," he said in an interview.

"Some people say that public art is not successful if everyone loves it because then it's not inspiring any debate or reaction. It's just bland. If you water it down to the lowest common denominator, you'll lose everything.

"Hopefully, some people will love some things and hate some things, but love that the city is doing it."

Newirth said he wants the public art selected to be contemporary and reflect the unique situation the city finds itself in as it hosts the Winter Games.

"It's really about capturing what Vancouver means, how it's changing, how it's reacting, how the Olympics is impacting on it and what the city will look like afterwards."

The program is funded by the city of

Vancouver, not Vanoc, the organization responsible for the 2010 Olympics.

Two of the highest-profile sites will be the West Georgia plaza outside the downtown public library and the entrance to Stanley Park. At \$800,000 and \$900,000 respectively for each one, they're the largest individual public art projects in the city's history. They're both open to international competition, as are the light-related artworks.

Although a public art process usually follows a more sedate pace, the accelerated timeline means artists and civic officials have to move at light speed to get all the artworks designed, approved and installed by January 2010, the month before the Winter Games begin.

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Not all listeriosis cases reported

From B1

None of the B.C. cases in the current outbreak has involved pregnant women.

Dr. Eleni Galanis, a physician epidemiologist with the B.C. Centre for Disease Control, said up to 30 per cent of those who get listeriosis die.

Galanis said the 78 cases reported since 2002 are very likely an underestimate since not all cases are reported.

Unpasteurized milk and soft cheeses like Brie, Camembert and feta are at the top of the list of foods pregnant women should avoid to reduce the risk of listeriosis. But the article in the *BCMJ* by Galanis and others said a recent survey of leading public health nurses, obstetricians, midwives and family doctors, conducted from March to May of this year, found that the health professionals admitted their own knowledge about listeriosis is lacking, one reason why they

do not consistently provide advice to their patients.

"Health care providers [want] better information for themselves and resources they could share with pregnant women," says the article, co-written by Marsha Taylor, an epidemiologist at BCCDC and the Public Health Agency of Canada and Olga Bitzikos, an environmental health officer with Vancouver Coastal Health.

"The information provided to pregnant women by health care providers needs to be targeted and clear," the authors say, adding that as a result of the spring survey, BCCDC will start a project to better inform health care providers and their patients about food safety risks during pregnancy.

Listeriosis is caused by a bacterium called *Listeria monocytogenes* which is present in soil, decaying vegetable matter and the intestinal tracts of animals.

From there, it finds its way into such as meats and produce.

Listeria is killed only by pasteurization. Most people it may never develop listeriosis, but for pregnant women, and for those with compromised immune systems, it is a very old, very young and very serious chronic disease.

The Maple Leaf outbreak has led to a flurry of urgent bulletins among health professionals. Vancouver General Hospital issued information for patients to make them familiar with the tests, treatment and infection. Around the same time, the Health Program issued a list of professionals looking for women with similar infections.

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6	1	3	2	4	9	7	5	8
2	7	4	8	5	3	9	6	1
4	8	9	5	2	1	6	7	3
3	6	7	4	9	8	2	1	5
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