

Site Options for the Lebanese Emigrant Statue



Purpose

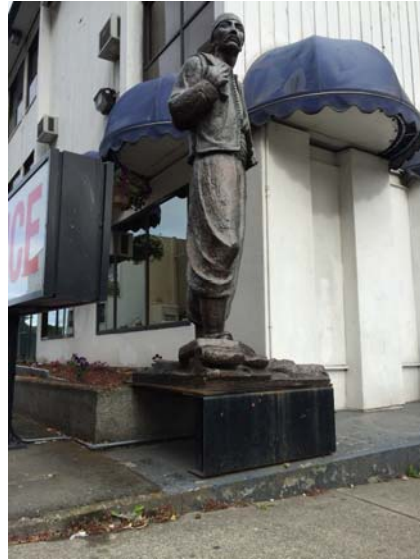
The purpose of this report is to propose site options for Council consideration for the Lebanese Emigrant statue.



Background

The WLCU-BC Council submitted a letter to Mayor and City Council to gift a bronze statue depicting a Lebanese peddler to commemorate the arrival of the first Lebanese emigrant to British Columbia 126 years ago.

At the April 13, 2017 Council directed staff to find a location for "The Lebanese Emigrant" statue, **somewhere in the City of Victoria ideally within the proximity of Victoria Harbour or the City's waterfront** and report back to Council with the recommended locations.



The Lebanese Emigrant Statue



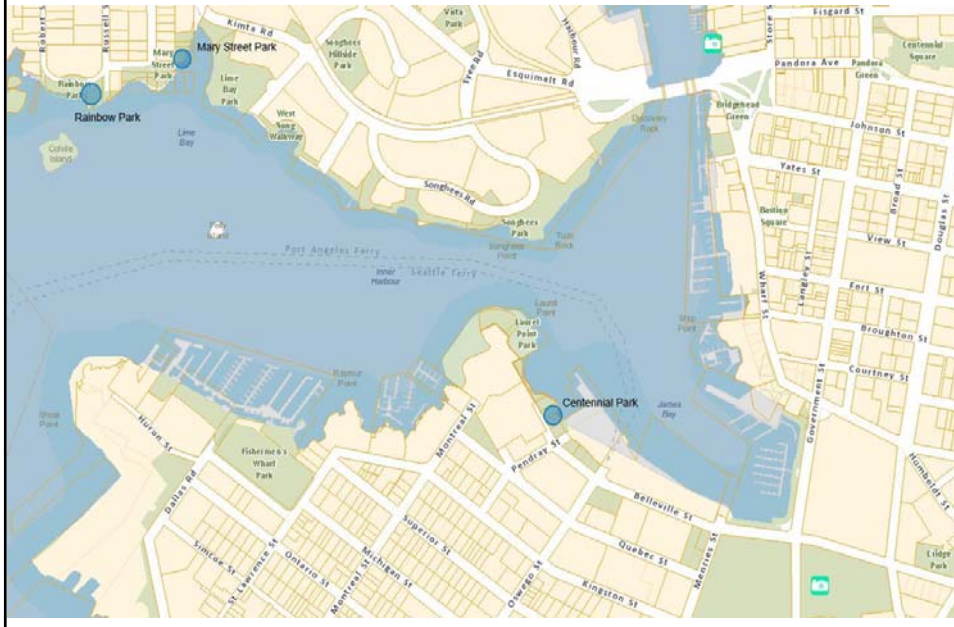
Artist: Ramiz Barquet

Material: Bronze

Dimensions: Statue is 225 cm (7.38 feet) in height by 86.36 wide and 83.82 cm deep.

Note: One of five identical works located in Mexico City, Beirut, Brisbane, Melbourne, and Accra.

Criteria for Site Selection



Recommended Site Option #1: Rainbow Park

Located along the Songhees Walkway at the foot of Russell Street and extending to Robert Street



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Includes a picnic area and seating along the waterfront.

Accessible for pedestrians on Songhees pathway.

Does not have any memorials, artworks or commemorations at this site which would provide a singular focal point of interest for the statue.



Site Option #2: Centennial Park

Located along the Harbour Pathway off Belleville Street.



Site Option #2: Centennial Park



- Accessible for pedestrians along the Harbour pathway.
- Close to hotels and tourism amenities and attractions
- The site is in close proximity to the Morioka Bell and a plaque commemorating the park by the Province of British Columbia.



Site Option #3: Mary Street Park

Located along the Songhees Walkway at the foot of Mary Street.



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- Close proximity to waterfront
- Accessible pedestrian pathway along Songhees
- Smaller footprint within the park area



Recommendations

That Council approve Rainbow Park for installation of the Lebanese Emigrant statue, a gift from the World Lebanese Cultural Union.

Direct staff to create a Service Agreement with the WLCU-BC to ensure all funding associated with installation, as well as a donation of 10% of the assessed value of the statue for the ongoing maintenance to be provided by the WLCU-BC.

