

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
Senate Committee on University Priorities
Memorandum

TO: Senate

FROM: John Waterhouse
Chair, SCUP
Vice President Academic

RE: Bill Reid Centre for Northwest Coast
Art Studies (SCUP 06-15)

DATE: March 14, 2006



At its March 8, 2006 meeting SCUP reviewed and approved the proposal for the creation of the Bill Reid Centre for Northwest Coast Art Studies. This Centre will be a Schedule A Centre in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, housed in the Department of Archaeology and the First Nations Studies Program.

Motion

That Senate approve the creation of the Bill Reid Centre for Northwest Coast Art Studies

Rationale

The proposed Centre will promote understanding of the history and principles of Northwest Coast Indigenous art through research and connoisseurship, and to promote its application to contemporary art and design in British Columbia with special reference to the interests of Indigenous Peoples.

Through various fundraising efforts detailed in the proposal, Centre activities are expected to be self-sufficient.

Further details about the objectives of the Centre are provided in the attached documentation.

encl.

c: J. Pierce
G. MacDonald

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

MEMORANDUM
OFFICE OF VICE-PRESIDENT, RESEARCH

TO: Sarah Dench, Secretary
Senate Committee on University
Planning (SCUP)

FROM: B. Mario Pinto
Vice-President, Research

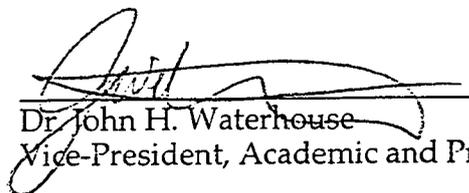
RE: Bill Reid Centre for Northwest
Coast Art Studies

DATE: February 8, 2006

Attached is a proposal from Dr. John T. Pierce, Dean, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, for the establishment of the Bill Reid Centre for Northwest Coast Art Studies as a Schedule A Centre.

The Governing Committee for Centres and Institutes recommends that the Centre be granted approval by SCUP. Once approved by SCUP, the proposal is to be forwarded to Senate, followed by submission to the Board of Governors.

Governing Committee:


Dr. John H. Waterhouse
Vice-President, Academic and Provost


Dr. B. Mario Pinto
Vice-President, Research

Attachment

C: Dr. John T. Pierce, Dean, FASS
Dr. G. MacDonald, Archaeology Department
Dr. David Burley, Chair, Department of Archaeology

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
Office of the Dean, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
MEMORANDUM



To: John Waterhouse
VP Academic

From: John T. Pierce
Dean, FASS

Subject: A Proposal for the Creation
of the Bill Reid Centre for
Northwest Coast Art Studies

Date: December 16, 2005

John, please find attached a proposal for the creation of the Bill Reid Centre for Northwest Coast Art Studies (Schedule A Centre). Although the proposal comes from Archaeology, its inspiration comes from George MacDonald, the Director of the Bill Reid Foundation and an associate member in the Department of Archaeology.

Appended to this proposal is a more in-depth rationale from George MacDonald regarding the need for such a Centre and the numerous functions that it will perform. SFU is well positioned to act as a digital library and archive for Northwest Coast Native art, one of the key innovative functions of the proposed Centre.

SFU is indeed fortunate to have someone of the stature of George MacDonald who is prepared to assist us in networking and fundraising with the larger community.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to be "JTP".

JTP/rt

Attachments

Cc: G. MacDonald, Director, Bill Reid Foundation
D. Burley, Chair, Department of Archaeology

MEMORANDUM
DEPARTMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGY
SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF THE DEAN

DEC 14 2005

FACULTY OF ARTS
UNIVERSITY OF SIMON FRASER

TO: JOHN PIERCE, DEAN
ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

FROM: DAVID BURLEY, CHAIR
DEPARTMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGY

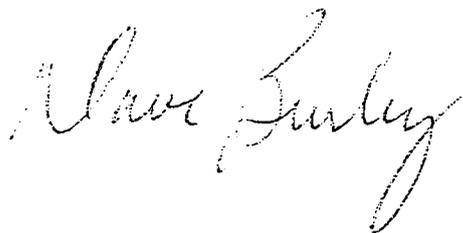
SUBJECT: Creation of The Bill Reid Centre for Northwest Coast Art Studies

DATE: December 13, 2005

Please find enclosed a proposed constitution for creation of "The Bill Reid Centre for Northwest Coast Art Studies" for your consideration. This is proposed as a Schedule A Centre in accordance with university policy R 40.01). Also attached is a more in depth proposal for the Centre prepared by Dr. George MacDonald, Director of the Bill Reid Foundation and associate member of the Archaeology Department.

It is my understanding that, once receiving your approval, the proposal must be submitted to Gwen Bird of the WAC Bennett Library for library resource review. Here I would like to note that virtually all courses potentially to be taught by the Centre have already been delivered through Archaeology and First Nations Studies course offerings, including one in Northwest Coast Art. I believe, therefore, that no new library resources would be required. Indeed, if the Centre operates as proposed, and brings together a digital archives of NWC art and related documentation, it would massively expand the library's holdings in these areas with no additional cost. As for sources of funding for the Centre, the in-depth proposal indicates a fund raising campaign of the type successfully undertaken for the Bill Holm Centre at the University of Washington. I think it important to highlight the fact that Dr. MacDonald was the manager and critical individual in that campaign. Dr. MacDonald also has been a very successful fundraiser throughout his lengthy career in the Museum field and I have little doubt that also will be the case for the Centre.

Should you have queries or concerns, please let me know.



BILL REID CENTRE FOR NORTHWEST COAST ART STUDIES

CONSTITUTION

1. Statement of Purpose:

The objective of the Centre is to promote the understanding of the history and principles of Northwest Coast Indigenous art through research and connoisseurship, and to promote its application to contemporary art and design in British Columbia with special reference to the interests of Indigenous Peoples.

2. Governance:

2a. The Bill Reid Centre for Northwest Coast Art Studies shall be governed in accordance with University policies including R.40.01, CENTRES AND INSTITUTES. If this document and University policy differ on any issue, University policy shall prevail.

2b. The Bill Reid Centre for Northwest Coast Art Studies is a Schedule A Centre (R40.01, page 2) and comes under the direct authority of the Dean of Arts and Social Sciences. The Dean shall be the Administrative Officer responsible for the governance and budgetary accounts of the Centre.

2c. The Bill Reid Centre for Northwest Coast Art Studies is housed in the Department of Archaeology and the First Nations Studies Program.

3. Appointment of Director

3a. The Director of the Centre shall be appointed by the Dean of Arts and Social Sciences under advisement from the Centre Steering Committee. Term of office for the Director shall normally be for three years.

4. Internal Governing Procedure

4a. The Centre shall be governed by a Steering Committee including three Simon Fraser University faculty members with at least one representative from each of the Department of Archaeology and the First Nations Studies Program, the Director of the Simon Fraser University Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, and up to three representatives from the community, including at least one First Nations representative. Members will be appointed by recommendation to the Dean of Arts and Social Sciences by the Director. Appointments shall be for a three year term with the possibility for renewal.

4b. The Steering Committee shall be chaired by the Director of the Centre. Meetings will normally take place once a quarter.

5. Associate Members of the Bill Reid Centre for Northwest Coast Art Studies

5a. The Centre shall consist of a body of interested associates from both within the University Community and outside it and individuals linked to the Centre through the projects and other activities it sponsors and supports. Associate member status is proposed by the Director and approved by the Steering Committee.

The Bill Reid Centre for Northwest Coast Art Studies

Dr. George MacDonald

Prologue

The role that the Haida artist Bill Reid has played in the revival of Northwest Coast Native art is recognised both nationally and internationally and has been well documented in books and articles. Reid's expertise was accumulated and refined over more than four decades during which he was closely associated with scholars like Wilson Duff, Michael Kew, Bill Holm, Edmund Carpenter, Claude Levis Strauss and others. Reid also worked closely with museum curators in America and Europe from which he gained a thorough knowledge of the best historical collections of art and ethnography worldwide. Reid put great effort into establishing good working relationships with aspiring young Native artists on Haida Gwaii and throughout the coast who continue to carry on his artistic legacy.

His own talents ranged from fine jewelry in precious metals to monumental pieces in plaster, bronze and wood. All of his monumental pieces are now national icons which in turn has led to the inclusion of three of his large bronzes and a two dimensional graphic on the reverse of the new Canadian twenty dollar bill (of which more than two billion examples are planned to be issued over its twenty year life cycle). Much of Reid's time was spent in supervising apprentices in the grammar of Northwest Coast graphics and sculptural forms. Successful contemporary artists such as Robert Davidson, James Hart, Don Yeomans, Guujau and many others obtained much of their training from him, and his emphasis on the well-made object has subsequently guided them in their highly successful careers.

Objectives for the Bill Reid Centre for Northwest Coast Art Studies

Since Bill Reid's death in 1998 and the closing of his atelier on Granville Island, there has been a void in the training of apprentices in Northwest Coast art forms in British Columbia. Vancouver now lacks a dynamic centre open to scholars, visual and performance artists involved in Northwest Coast art and art studies. It is therefore appropriate that a centre bearing Bill Reid's name should be established to promote scholarly research and greater public understanding of the Native Art of the Northwest Coast at Simon Fraser University.

Based on the phenomenal success of the Bill Holm Centre for the Study of Northwest Coast Art recently established at the University of Washington, it is anticipated that a centre in honour of Bill Reid will attract sufficient funding through research grants and private support to operate the centre and to nurture new generations of students and artists. Over three million dollars was raised in a period of two years by the Bill Holm Centre to fund graduate student research assistanships, guest lecture series and digital collections building. Significant grants were received from corporate and family trusts. State, local and federal arts agencies contributed over half of their funding. The benefit to

the Art History Department and the Burke Museum at the University of Washington are already significant.

A Bill Reid Centre associated with SFU's downtown campus would provide a place where students and artists could meet with Native and non-Native members of the public at workshops, studio sessions, lectures, seminars and a variety of social and cultural events. The resource centre would include some traditional reference materials but would emphasise digital libraries and archives that draw together seamlessly the contents of literally hundreds of repositories on Northwest Coast Native art that have already been digitised. Consortia of digital museums and archives are forming between institutions in American, Europe, Asia and the Pacific Region that can benefit future generation of students and scholars at universities that host the relevant portals. The University of British Columbia through the Museum of Anthropology has received multi-million dollar grants from the Federal Government of Canada to make their collections digitally accessible to Native communities throughout the Province and between other museums.

A Bill Reid Centre would provide a needed physical meeting ground for students and scholars of diverse background on the west coast and serve as a virtual access portal for Native Community Centres, museums and academic departments around the world. It would be uniquely focused on contemporary art and art history rather than ethnography.

Much of Reid's artistic production pushed the boundaries of materials and fabrication processes that led to new kinds of Northwest Coast art including fashion, furnishings, architecture and personal adornment. He embraced new technologies like binocular laser scanning of his monumental works for conservation and replication purposes using technology developed by the National Research Council of Canada. His work laid the foundation for the imminent development of a vernacular style for the Northwest, analogous to the Southwestern style in the US, the latter being a multibillion dollar a year industry that made Santa Fe the second largest art market in North America. The powerful elements of the Northwest Coast style communicate across cultural frontiers and would be most appropriate as the lead expression for the evolution of a Pacific Rim Style. Simon Fraser University, with its range of campus specialties and interests is perfectly suited to spearhead such a stylistic innovation.

Faculty and Associate Faculty Involvement with the Centre:

Dr George F. MacDonald, Director Bill Reid Foundation and Associate Member of Department of Archaeology

Dr. Barbara Winter, Curator Simon Fraser University Museum

Dr. Knut Fladmark, Professor, Department of Archaeology.

Dr. Annie Ross Assistant Professor, First Nations Studies and School for the Contemporary Arts.

Dr. Roy Carlson, Professor emeritus, Archaeology for courses in the origin and development of the prehistoric art of the coast

Dr. Alan MacMillan, Adjunct faculty, Department of Archaeology

Expenses Related to Simon Fraser University

Expenses for the program would be required to mount specialized courses either through sessional stipends (regular SFU course delivery) or in a cost recovery format (workshops or special non academic courses). Through various fund raising efforts as outlined above, Centre activities are expected to be self-sufficient.

Infrastructure Requirements

Negotiations are currently underway with the Chief Dan George Centre to house exhibit, office and studio space for the Centre. This will include a research library in Northwest Coast Native Studies, with study area, workspace and suitable equipment for up to six students. Shared studio space for artists and workshops may also be negotiated with the School of Contemporary Arts and other possible partners including remote Native communities.

If established in the Chief Dan George Centre and the SFU Downtown campus, courses potentially could service needs of the students of the Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design for art historical courses and provide a basis for reciprocal use of specialised studio facilities at their Granville Island location.

Summary

The time is appropriate for Simon Fraser University to establish the Bill Reid Centre for Northwest Coast Art Studies in association with its downtown campus in the heart of Vancouver. The location is ideal to bring together students, Native people and increasing numbers of academics and artists from the Pacific Rim who live in, or frequent the area, to interact and celebrate their various skills and identities. In the words of Bill Reid himself:

“Once we discard ethnocentric, hierarchical ideas of the how the world works, we will find that one basic quality unites all the works of mankind that speak to us in human, recognisable voices across the barriers of time, culture and space; the simple quality of being well made.”

[Bill Reid from the introduction to a show by Bill Koochin at the Burnaby Art Gallery, 1980]

By creating a centre that is open to all and which lays equal stress on the value of cultural traditions of the past, along with creative challenges of the global society and economy, there is a unique opportunity to create a highly visible and effective dynamo for new

cultural creativity. It would take advantage of the heavy investment of the cultural community world wide in the digitisation of knowledge and heritage assets and serve as a hub for new creativity and community pride.

**DID YOU KNOW...**

there is an annual scholarship in memory of Gene Bridwell?

40 YEARS

[SFU Library Home](#) > [About the SFU Library](#) > [Collections](#) > [Library Course Assessments](#) > [billreidcentre.htm](#)

Library Assessment for Bill Reid Centre for Northwest Coast Art February 23, 2006

This is the Library's report on the proposed Bill Reid Centre for Northwest Coast Art.

The SFU Library supports the establishment of this Centre as outlined in the proposal. Library personnel have had discussions with Centre proponents, and both parties have agreed to the following:

- 1) The proposal indicates that the Centre will be involved in offering courses in Archaeology and First Nations Studies, including Northwest Coast art. As these courses will be offered at SFU Vancouver, not in Burnaby where visual and print holdings exist to support such courses, the Centre agrees to provide a list of core resources and \$2,000 one-time funds to cover the cost of establishing a core collection of related materials at the Belzberg Library.
- 2) The SFU Library will be an active partner in the digitization projects undertaken by the Centre in order to ensure the broadest possible access to the repository, and to capitalize on the university's existing substantial investment in digitization infrastructure in the SFU Library.
- 3) On pages 2 and 3 of the proposal, there is reference to the formation of a resource centre that would "include some traditional reference materials..." and "include a research library in Northwest Coast Native Studies..." The Centre will work closely with the SFU Library in the establishment of such a resource centre, with the goal of centralizing important information resources in the established branches of the SFU Library.

Total additional library cost: \$2,000 one-time

Maintained by: Gwen Bird [gbird@sfu.ca]

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