

Date: October 14, 2024

To: Public Art Advisory Committee

From: Michelle Traver, Public Art Program Administrator

Subject: Deaccession Recommendation: BLW.009 *Tanner Creek*

In 1998, *Tanner Creek* designed by the Westside Light Rail Design Team artists was installed at the Kings Hills/SW Salmon MAX Station on the MAX Blue Line. The Permanent Record, a current photograph are included for reference.

Tanner Creek consists of a granite paver in the platform etched with the story of Tanner Creek is etched in a granite paver at the station's platform and in the splits in the shelter roof which allowed rain water to fill the letters of the paver below. The shelter was subsequently removed when the station was closed. The paver remains in the "platform," which is no longer a station though TriMet still owns the property (and is in the process of negotiating a lease for the use). The "Goose" sculpture that had been at the platform was deaccessioned on June 18, 2024. (It was an oversight not to request deaccession of *Tanner Creek* at that time).

Recommendation

Tanner Creek meets the criteria per the "Policy for Deaccessions" (2001), in that:

- 1) The station is closed and "The condition or security of the artwork cannot be reasonably guaranteed,"
- 2) The paver cannot be sold or traded, since it was not purchased or fabricated by an artist and therefore cannot be sold or returned to an artist, and
- 3) Removal of the paver would introduce a potential safety hazard even though the station platform is closed.

Deaccession of *Tanner Creek* and for the paver to remain in-situ is recommended.

In the years before the city, a creek flowed where you are standing. It descended out of the hills to the west, through alder and hemlock groves to the Willamette River. The creek provided for animals and indigenous inhabitants, like any stream.

Then a pioneer settlement—the Carter farm—grew up along its banks. The tributary got its name when the West Coast's first tannery was built nearby, with vats made of basalt rock taken from the creekbeds. Its waters attracted flocks of geese, so the place became known as Goose Hollow.

By the 1890s, Chinese gardeners had created a gathering of small shacks along the creek, and cultivated fresh produce for the growing city. Its waters attracted flocks of geese, so the place became known as Goose Hollow.

As the 20th century began, Tanner Creek was buried under tons of fill and encased in brick and concrete pipes because it had become a nuisance to encroaching development. In its natural state, it flowed over impermeable clay and basalt and flooded nearby roads during torrential rains.

Now it winds far below the city, hidden, forty feet beneath this very spot. Its path can still be traced by the cracked façades of some of the buildings above it.

BLW.009

Title Tanner Creek

Artist Bill Will, Joel Weinstein, Westside Design Team

Date 1998

Dimension 3' wide x 13' long

Description Letters are etched in a granite paver at the station's platform. Splits in the stainless-steel roof panes allow rain water through to fill the letters below.

Artistic Intent The story of Tanner Creek is etched in a granite paver at the station's platform. The flow of the old creek is echoed in the splits in the roof which allow rain water to fill the letters of the story below. Tanner Creek was once a significant natural resource but as Portland grew, was buried in culverts 40' below ground. The artwork honors the natural history of the area by bringing the story of the creek back into public awareness.

Desired Appearance The words should be readable. Replace if severely cracked or broken. If removed, return broken pieces to Bill Will.

Maintenance Recommendations Power wash carefully -- be aware of paint chipping from the letters.

Material Granite, Infill paint, Stainless steel

Material Details Thickness: 1-inch. Granite pavers obtained from a single quarry., Infill paint to highlight letters, Roof panel

Supplier Cold Springs Granite

Fabricator Great Northern Granite & Marble Co., Inc.

Fabrication Details Sandblasted typeset lettering into flamed granite paver. Computer typesetting was provided by John Laursen of Press-22 Book Design and Production, 231-8022. Sandblasting stencil was created by Great Northern from computer files provided by Laursen.

Anti-Graffiti Material None

Replacement Pieces none

Graphic Materials (1) Technical drawings and specifications. (2) Disk containing text.

Graphic Materials Storage Art element permanent files (Rebecca Banyas, 710 NE Holladay St., 239-2146)

Party Bill Will, Joel Weinstein, Press-22, Norie Sato, Tad Savinar, Richard Turner, Mierle Ukeles, Zimmer Gunsul Frasca Partnership, Great Northern Granite & Marble Company, Inc., Westside Design Team

Party Role Lead artist, Writer, Designer, Design team artist, Contractor, Design team artist, Design team artist, Architect, Fabricator

Individual John Laursen, Norie Sato, Tad Savinar, Richard Turner, Mierle Ukeles, Contact

Title Typographer

Public Image

