

HQ

‘Skateable Sculpture’



PUBLIC ART PROJECT 2001 - 2003

**Town Of Vincent, Western Australia, Headquarters Youth Facility,
Leederville and Luna Cinema, Leederville**

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Prepared by Alexander Hayes
| <http://www.alexanderhayes.com> |

PROJECT BRIEF

In 2001, the Town of Vincent, Western Australia commissioned three prominent Western Australian Artists to work with young, upcoming Artists in the design of a skateable sculpture, a seat and a drinking water fountain for installation in a park adjacent to the inner city Headquarters (HQ) Youth Facility, Leederville, Western Australia. The \$69,000 public art project engaged young Artists in a *'live work'* training with selection by public consultation, followed by design workshops, prototyping marquettes and computer modelling.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

'...A world class multi-purpose youth facility 'Headquarters', located at Frame Court in Leederville, has been designed and is currently under construction. Headquarters will incorporate a skate park, an Internet café, art galley and space for bands and young performance groups. This exciting project is a joint venture between the Town of Vincent, Rotary Club of Heirisson and SKAWA.'

'The Ministry of Sport and Recreation, Lotteries Commission and Office of Youth Affairs are funding the youth facility with the Town of Vincent providing the land. The Youth Officer has been involved in organising a number of activities in relation to Headquarters. The Public Art Project, to construct a drinking fountain, seat and skateable sculpture is also being progressed with three Artists who will be providing 'live work' training to eleven young people in the Town'.¹

¹ Town of Vincent 'Annual Report - 2000 - 2001'. Available at <https://www.vincent.wa.gov.au/documents/140/annual-report-2000-2001>

PROJECT SELECTION PROCESS

This project was coordinated by the Town of Vincent Youth Officer, Maria Miceli who after receipt of extensive project proposals engaged the services of prominent West Australian Artists, Graham Hay², Alexander Hayes³ and Peter Zappa⁴. The Australia Council⁵ funded the design development stage of the project.

Public Expressions of Interest

Public expressions of interest were advertised in local media, promoted via the Town of Vincent website and through Perth metropolitan Youth Service organisations for Artists to participate in the commission.

Design Workshops

Three (3) design workshops were conducted with young Artist's selected for the project who ranged in age from 14 to 25 years, from culturally diverse backgrounds, multiple talents and remarkable skills. The experienced Artists worked with the young Artists in facilitated public workshops to develop design ideas and explore public art concepts.

Careful attention to the challenges faced by young people in Perth civic spaces, issues involving young people and the Law, matters of express hope and prior experiences listened to, recorded and woven into the final designs for the project. Several young Artist's expressed their wish to see these sculptural forms be made 'skateable' in a public context, meaning that no restrictions be applied to the surrounds of the sculptures.

"...We want to be heard and have a say in how these are 'boss' not 'toy' in Leederville."

² <https://www.grahamhay.com.au/>

³ <https://www.alexanderhayes.com>

⁴ <https://zappartforms.com>

⁵ <https://www.australiacouncil.gov.au/>

DESIGN WORKSHOP #1

Young selected Artists met with three experienced Artists at public skating venues in the central Perth metropolitan area firstly to discuss ideas and build concepts to develop in design workshops. A range of art materials were provided for the young Artist's to explore visual concepts and to discuss ideas with the experienced Artists.



Public Consultation #1 - Photography by Alexander Hayes

DESIGN WORKSHOP #2

The second design workshop was conducted at Luna Cinema sidecourt, Leederville, Western Australia on 14th October 2001.

This workshop was advertised widely inviting ‘...*young people - artists, skaters, musicians, creatives, dreamers, sculptors, designers, friends, cousins, ideas people, painters...*’

This workshop was attended by 11 young people who were supplied with art materials to begin bring concepts and ideas together into three dimensional forms. Discussions were conducted where young people were encouraged to express their ideas and critical points of discovery were recorded for future discussion in Design Workshop #3.





Design Workshop #2 - Luna Cinema, Leederville - Photography by Alexander Hayes

what?

Headquarters youth facility (due to open SOON) will include:

- an international skate facility
- a live music venue
- a youth art gallery & art studios
- an internet café.

We are looking for young people to help design 3 public artworks to be located at Headquarters in Leederville.

Are you interested in being involved in these design workshops?

Workshop #2

headquarters PUBLIC ART PROJECT



debate · create · skate

who?

Young people, artists, skaters, musicians, creatives, dreamers, sculptors, designers, friends, cousins, ideas people, painters...

why?

Because we want as many people involved with this project as possible - we want to design public art that reflects the young people of Perth.

Luna Cinema, Corner Oxford St and Vincent St,
LEEDERVILLE (outdoors)

where?

SUNDAY 14 OCTOBER 2001
1pm - 3pm

when?

SKATEable \
SITable — ART
DRINKable /

For more information contact
Maria on 9273 6043



TOWN OF VINCENT



DESIGN WORKSHOP # 3

The third and final design workshop was conducted at the Robertson Park Artist Studio 176 Fitzgerald Street, West Perth, Western Australia.⁶



Design Workshop #3 - Robertson Park - Photography by Graham Hay

Young Artists were encouraged to freely express their ideas in group discussions, in the construction of semantic 'word clouds' and via small and large scale drawings.

"Sense of place, freedom, social acceptance, beauty, sensory movement, interactive, sexy, bubbles, transport, trains, bikes, skates-blades, scooters, friendships, spiritual, ritual, symbol, ethnic.." ⁷

Graham Hay demonstrated the use of paperclay and in conjunction with other materials such as plastic, cardboard, aluminium and chicken wire a range of 'marquettes' were quickly constructed.

"...A series of hands-on workshops produced a large number of drawings and small paper clay models. Common themes across most of the work were the wheel, the curve and the human body....Alex Hayes, Graham Hay and Peter Zappa then took the common physical elements and themes and over three further workshops distilled the models down to three models. The Wheel entrance idea emerged as a

⁶ <https://www.robparkart.info/>

⁷ <https://www.grahamhay.com.au/hq.html>

way to create a psychological entry statement which would link the other three artworks together. The intention in using common materials, scale and so shapes across the drinking fountains, skateable sculptures, seat and wheel was to create a unifying tone which would enable mental linkages to be created between each work. It also signifies a common origin.” - 2002, Graham Hay⁸

Further discussions with the young Artists resulted in more refined designs closer to the young artists intentions. In discussions with the young Artists it was expressly stated and noted that the:

“..whole intent is for the works of art to be functional, indestructible and most importantly skateable by design, accessible to all who visit the skatepark (...) these skateable sculpture objects are designed to be ridden from end-to-end with a five metre space between each object. The idea is for a rolled entry where skaters "ollie" onto the stainless pole surface and flick off onto path surround at end of ride.” - Young Artists Statement

Artist, Shane Janicki then converted the final designs into AutoCAD plans for the Town of Vincent. Digital photographs, scanned designs and drawings were then loaded onto and promoted by the Artist's websites as well as the Town of Vincent website to stimulate public interest, discussion and feedback.

Final designs were developed by Graham Hay, Alexander Hayes and Peter Zappa, then narrowed down to three ‘working’ designs⁹ presented to the Town of Vincent for comment and development approval;

- (1) Drinking Water Fountains;
- (2) Skateable Sculptures;
- (3) The Seat.

⁸ <https://www.grahamhay.com.au/hq.html>

⁹ The skateable sculptures were designed based on final drawings prepared for and approved by Town of Vincent Council. Alterations recommended in consultation with Rick Hoad, Structural Engineer of Van de Meer & Associates, Perth.were factored into final designs.



Design Workshop #3 - Robertson Park - Photography by Graham Hay

ARTIST'S STATEMENT

“...Common materials, scale and curves unify the final three designs. Sheet metal is to be used, as it is smooth and hard wearing, particularly after exposure to very high skateboard traffic. The surfaces will be untreated so that they can be "tagged", used as a billboard, or later decorated. Stainless steel pipe will be used on all edges to provide non-corrosive, hardwearing and smooth edges.

- (1) The **drinking water fountain** will contain multiple spouts at different heights. This caters for differences in sizes and enables more than one person to drink at the same time, suggesting inclusive physical equality (no queues or preferred age/size);*
- (2) Each of the **skateable sculptures** is at a different height and slope, providing multiple experiences, depending upon direction and speed at which they are approached;*
- (3) The **seat** is an unravelled or incomplete circle, providing a place for people to meet and watch the action. It is suggestive of a reclining form, provides different height seating places and has skateable surfaces.*

The bases of the three public artworks are to be lowered into large "tubs" of fresh concrete, their position and angles fine-tuned, before waiting until the concrete sets. Concrete paving would then be poured around the artworks to provide a smooth rolling and walking surface. We look forward with anticipation to seeing our collective designs finally converted into physical artworks and their installation.” - 2002, Graham Hay¹⁰

¹⁰ <https://www.grahamhay.com.au/hq.html>

PROJECT SUMMARY

On the 6th September, 2002 Alexander Hayes, Artist with the HQ Skateable Sculpture project received a phone call from Mr. Richard Savage, Youth Officer responsible for and involved with the '*Public Art: Skateable Sculpture Project*' with the Town of Vincent, Perth, Western Australia.

Richard notified Alexander Hayes of an extraordinary meeting that had occurred without notice between members of the Town of Vincent and young Artists involved with the project. As a result of that meeting, decisions were made to exclude the 'skateable sculpture' (component 2) due to matters of '*realizable construction*'. Savage stated to Hayes that the skateable sculpture component of this project would NOT proceed. When questioned why this component of the project would not proceed, Richard stated the following reason:

*"...proximity to a world class skating facility, adjacent to the public space proposed for the skateable sculpture, the scale and dimensions of the proposed design work completed in relation to plans endorsed for the park in which it would be located and **for reasons relating to public liability** as a result of its inclusion within this space."*

Alexander Hayes immediately sought consultation by telephone with Jacinta Anthony, Manager Community Development, Town of Vincent however the meeting was declined. After a lengthy discussion with fellow project Artists, Graham Hay and Peter Zappa, a letter was sent to the Town of Vincent notifying them of the immediate resignation of Alexander Hayes from the project citing reasons of;

"....it's exclusion is conditional on my disappointment in the Town of Vincent's decision being duly noted, in official hansard which I expressed to Savage as "...out of contemporary alignment with that of the express wishes gathered through extensive consultation with the young Artists and other Artists commissioned to work on this project". - Alexander Hayes

As per notes by Graham Hay, Artist;

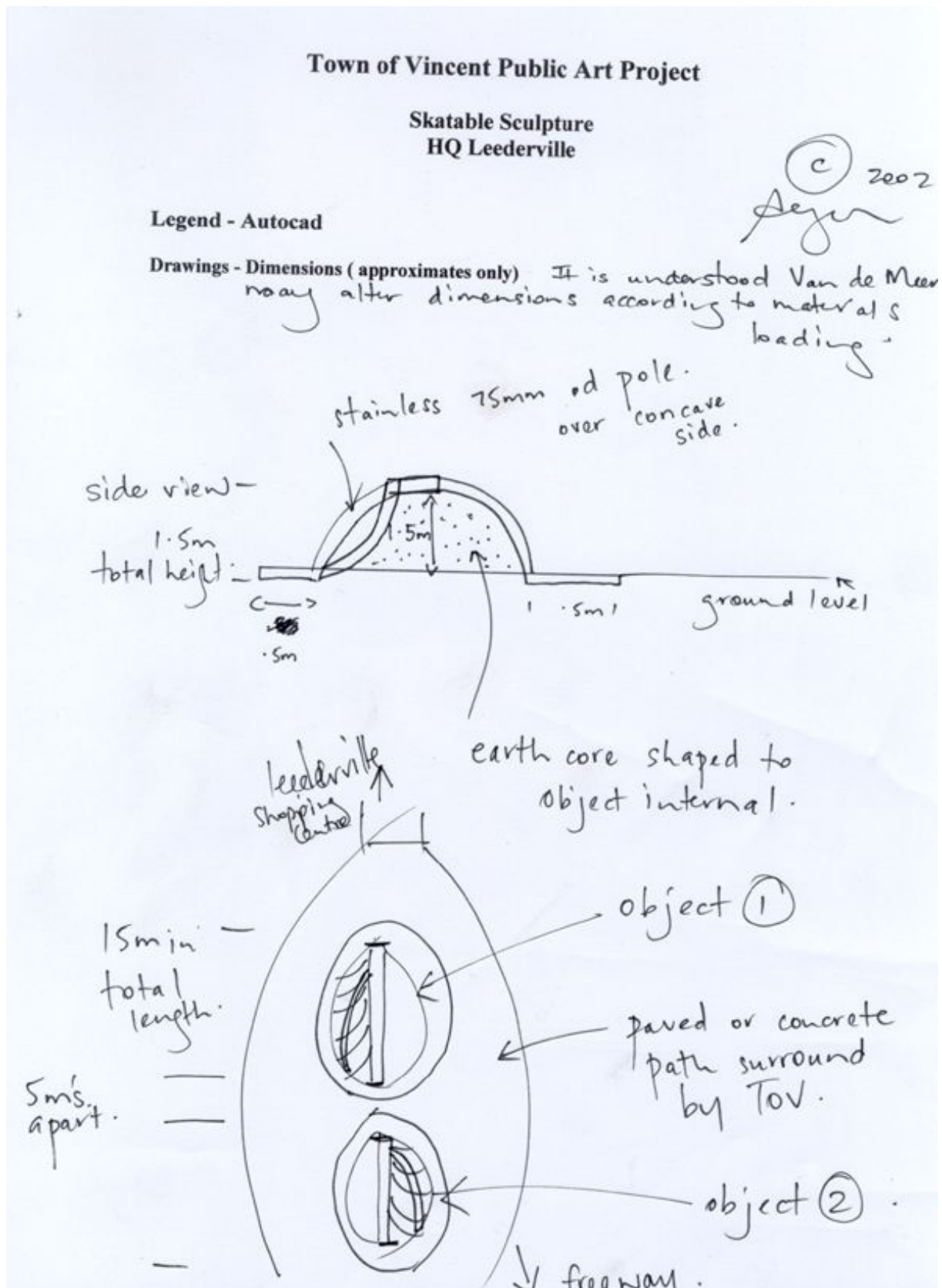
“...In October 2003 the final sculptural seat and water drinking fountains were installed in the redesigned Oxford Street Reserve. Due to increased public liability concerns at that time, the Town of Vincent did not pave the area around both works, preventing skateboarders from rolling/ /sliding / jumping over the works (...) The sculptural seats were designed to be skateboard friendly. After the park was renovated in 2015, the artists were not consulted before the work was moved to a isolated back corner, again in a location preventing skating on them. The surface is untreated so that to leave open the possibility of future murals/Street art. You are invited to create some great art on them, as originally designed.” - Graha Hay¹¹

Despite express wishes by the young Artists and the support by the other Artist's in this project the construction of the two remaining sculptures were completed and installed in 2003.

“...the contempt and disregard demonstrated to the Artist's in this project sadly is a indictment of the times, where public spaces are being shut off from young people and their creative expression commodified or prosecuted. Public art in Perth, Western Australia has consistently been relegated to 'temporary adornment' befitting of the most mediocre aesthetic, the whim of insurance agents, the scourge of a conservative few who would see barbed wire fences erected, surveillance cameras installed and young people's civic engagement trapped in the mausoleums of yesteryear (...) imagine for a moment young people 'getting up' on the panels, 'ollieing' on and off, beats thumping, hearts jumpin'...where did our YOOF go, when all we have to show is a seat and fountain where there could have been a creative mountain.” - Alexander Hayes

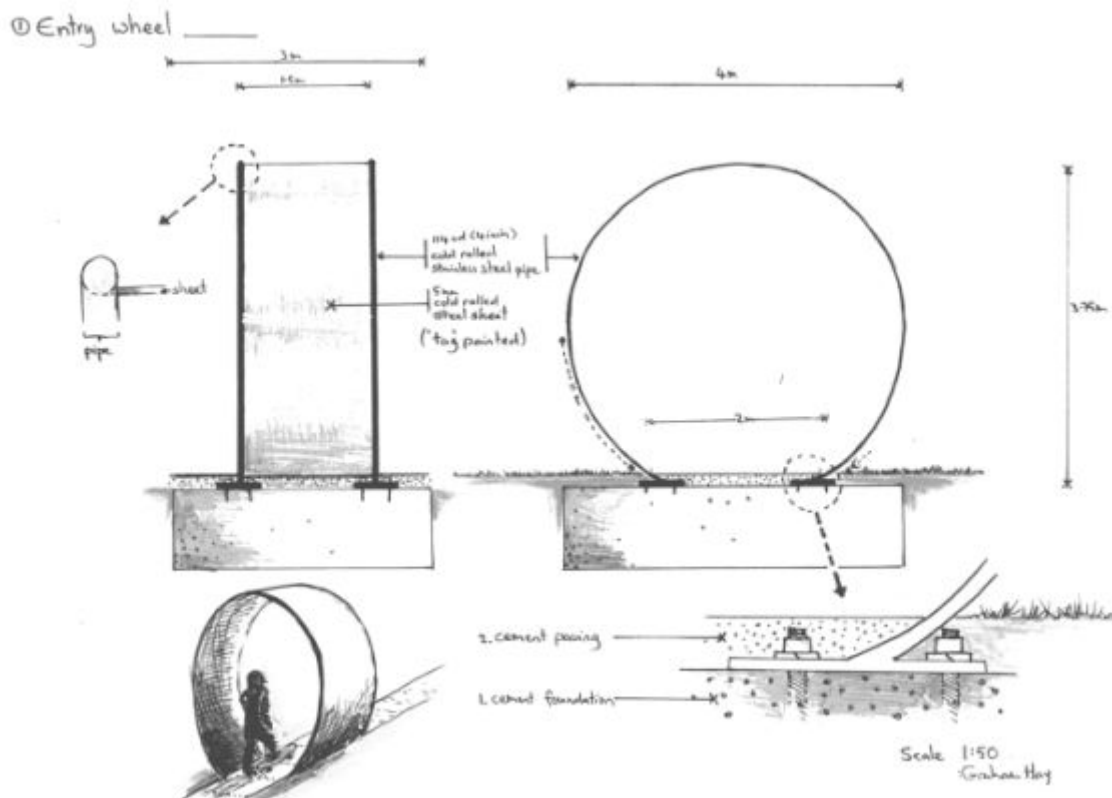
¹¹ <https://www.grahamhay.com.au/hq.html>

APPENDIX 1



AutoCAD Legend - Produced by Alexander Hayes, September 2002.

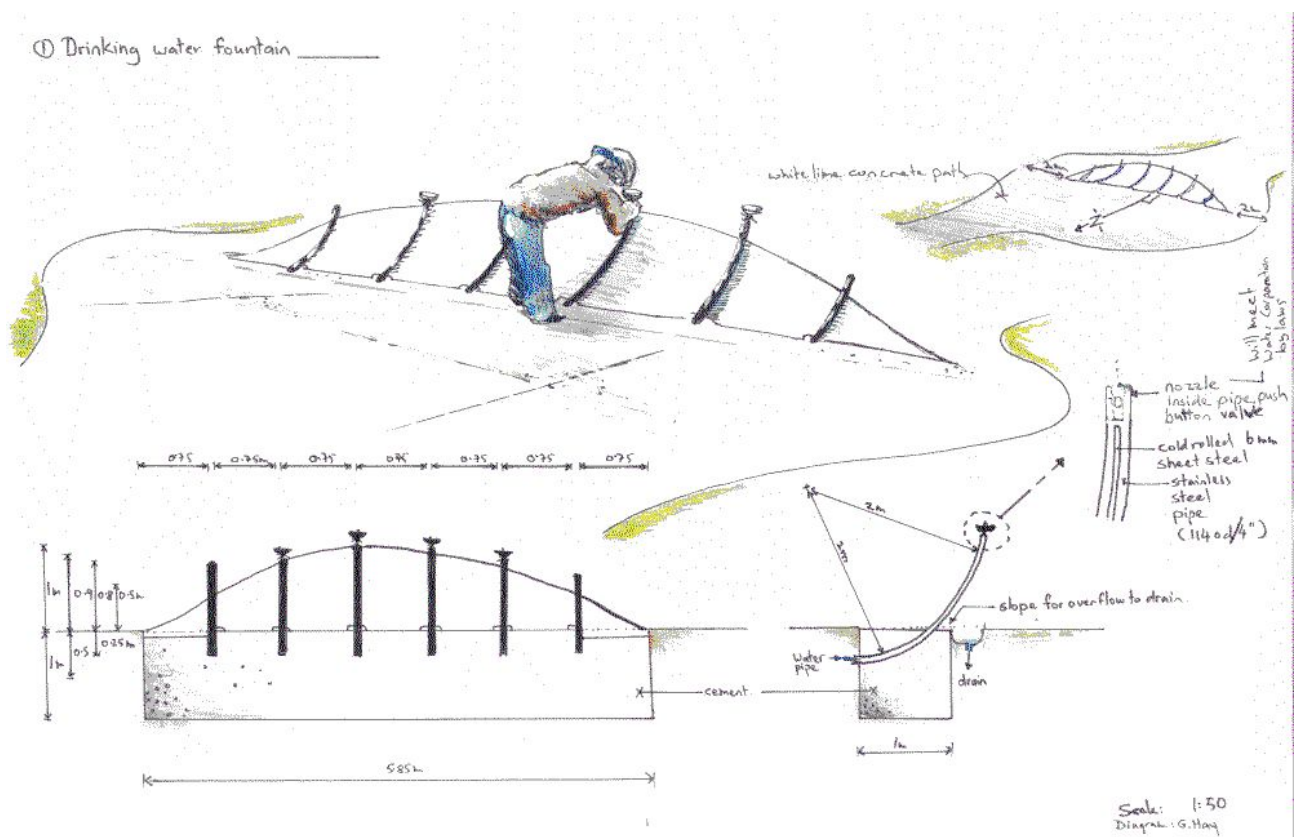
APPENDIX 2



‘The Wheel’ - Deleted from project - Drawing by Graham Hay¹²

¹² <https://www.grahamhay.com.au/hq.html>

APPENDIX 3



'Drinking Water Fountain' - Retained in Project - Drawing by Graham Hay

FINAL DESIGN - SKATE SCULPTURE HQ LEEDERVILLE WA 2002

MATERIALS

- limestone
- concrete
- stainless steel
- lime
- sand
- re-o mesh
- mortar
- paving asphalt

AN AMALGAM OF 2 YEARS OF CONSULTATION

KEY

- BROKEN LIMESTONE FACIA
- REINFORCED WHITE LINED CONCRETE SURFACE
- STAINLESS STEEL TBM (INSET)

PROFILE - SIDE VIEW

0-15 M

5.0 M

5.0 M

7.0 M

5.0 M

PATH LEAD IN

PATH LEAD IN

AERIAL VIEW

skid on

skid off

slope up

slope down

up

down

slope down

oil off!

PATH

2.6 M ST. POLE (FROM BANK TO GROUND SURFACE)

3.2 M STAINLESS TBM (INSET TO SURFACE)

2.0 M WIDE CONCRETE SURFACE

GO!

PREPARED BY ALEX HAYES 2002

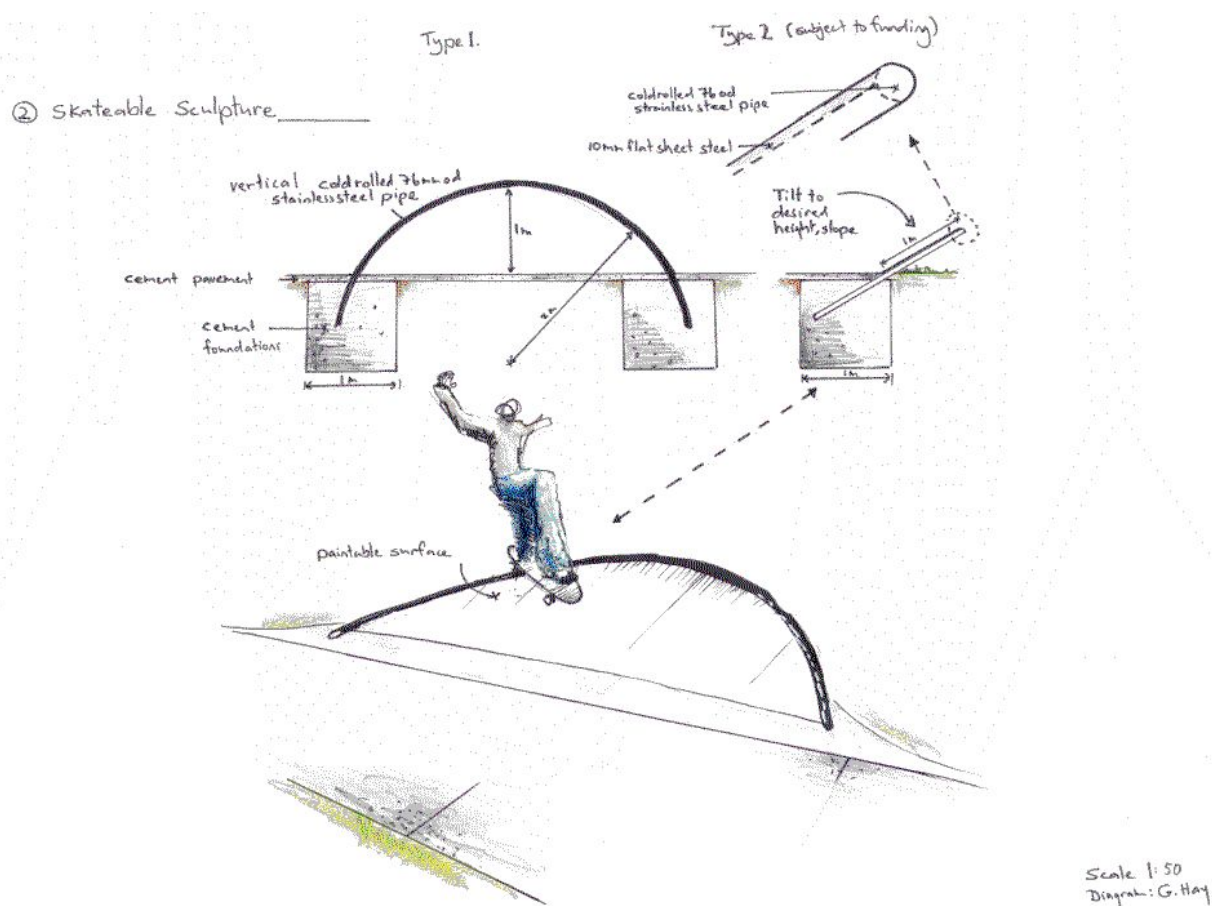
TOWN OF VINCENT 2002

THINGS WHICH, GEMIN X2 AND EVERTONE INSTALLED...

TOWN OF VINCENT 2002

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APPENDIX 5



‘Skateable Sculptures’ - Deleted From Project - Drawing By Graham Hay

APPENDIX 6



'Skateable Sculptures' - Deleted From Project - Marquette by Alexander Hayes

APPENDIX 7



'The Seat' - 2015 - Photograph by Alexander Hayes

APPENDIX 8



'Water Fountain' - 2015 - Photograph by Alexander Hayes