

## West End Extra

### Sculpture inspired by Shonibare's Ship in a Bottle set to sail into Victoria



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THIS is the first image of what a new sculpture set to be installed in a Victoria street could look like.

The sail-like piece by the acclaimed artist Yinka Shonibare will be installed in Wilcox Place once City Hall approves the final designs next week.

The fibreglass structure is being erected as part of a deal made by the council and property developers who built new offices and luxury flats in nearby [Howick Place](#), as first reported in the West End Extra in May.

It is intended to provide a "legacy" of Shonibare's Ship in a Bottle that stood on the fourth plinth in Trafalgar Square in 2012 and planning documents said the piece was designed to "...explore the notion of movement through the idea of capturing the volume of wind and freezing it in a moment of time".

The general concept, but not exact appearance, of the sculpture was given the green light last year after councillors' concerns that it would provide shelter for rough sleepers were dealt with.

The planning committee had made officers responsible for tackling rough-sleeping in Victoria look at the size and shape of the sculpture to make sure it did not provide an "opportunity for anti-social behaviour".

In response to the concerns, documents filed at City Hall last year confirmed "the sculpture has been carefully designed to provide no real shelter to rough-sleepers. There will be no canopy or canopy effect. There will also be no areas for seating or ledges with the design which would allow shelter."

It added: "The council's rough-sleepers unit has confirmed they are reassured that the sculpture will offer no further opportunity of anti-social behaviour."

It is expected to be granted final approval next week once a committee of councillors have approved the colour scheme and exact location.