



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee **Date:** June 17, 2024

From: Marie Fenwick, Director, Arts, Culture and Heritage Services **File:** 11-7000-09-20-109/Vol 01

Re: Canada Line Station Art Plinth Public Art Project Concept

Staff Recommendation

That the concept for the Art Plinth public artwork *Tales in Current* by artist Linfeng Zhou, as presented in the report titled "Canada Line Station Art Plinth Public Art Project Concept", dated June 17, 2024, from the Director, Arts, Culture and Heritage Services, be approved.

Marie Fenwick
 Director, Arts, Culture and Heritage Services
 (604-276-4288)

Att. 2

REPORT CONCURRENCE		
ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER
Finance Department Transportation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
SENIOR STAFF REPORT REVIEW	INITIALS: 	APPROVED BY CAO

Staff Report

Origin

On June 12, 2023, Council endorsed the terms of reference for the next Canada Line Station Art Plinth Program Public Art Project at Richmond-Brighouse Station. The terms of reference recommends a temporary artwork that signals welcome and arrival, while contemplating the nature of everyday travel and referencing Richmond's culture, history and natural heritage.

This report presents for Council's consideration the public art concept proposal by Linfeng Zhou for the replacement of *Skydam* at Richmond-Brighouse Station.

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan 2022-2026 Focus Area #6 A Vibrant, Resilient and Active Community:

Vibrant, resilient and active communities supported by a wide variety of opportunities to get involved, build relationships and access resources.

6.1 Advance a variety of program, services, and community amenities to support diverse needs and interests and activate the community.

6.3 Foster intercultural harmony, community belonging, and social connections

Analysis

Background

On April 8, 2013, Council approved the Canada Line Station Art Plinth Program which provides temporary art installations at the Canada Line terminus located at Richmond-Brighouse Station. Council authorized artist calls for five (5) to eight (8) temporary art projects for this program.

On December 9, 2013, Council approved the first two temporary public artworks: *Cluster* by Carlyn Yandle, installed in September 2014, and *Skydam* by Nathan Lee, which has been in place since March, 2016.

The artwork has remained on display for an extended period due to the redevelopment of the adjacent site located at 6388 No.3 Road: The Paramount by Keltic Canada Development. Since the completion of the development in 2022, access to the right-of-way and concrete column supporting the Art Plinth platform has been re-established, and new transportation routes now located in the immediate vicinity have created a new context for the artwork.

As per the terms of reference for the Canada Line Station Art Plinth Program, the temporary artwork that is currently installed is to be replaced. The existing artwork will be dismantled, removed and recycled for materials.

Staff reviewed the City Infrastructure Protocol and the Richmond Access Agreement with InTransit BC. On September 26, 2023 and in accordance with Section 3.6 of the Protocol Agreement, a formal written approval to remove the existing artwork and installation of a new

artwork was executed with InTransit BC and South Coast British Columbia Transportation Authority. The removal and installation work will be performed in accordance with the Protocol Agreement.

Art Plinth Program – Public Art Selection Process

As per the City's Public Art Program Policy, following Council's approval of the terms of reference for the Canada Line Station Art Plinth Program Public Art Project, a province-wide call to artists was issued on January 22, 2024 (Attachment 1). Thirty-two (32) submissions from professional artists were received during this first stage of the process.

The selection of public art follows the Council-approved Public Art Program Policy with the objective to select art through a transparent and arms-length process incorporating professional advice and community input. On March 13, 2024, following the Public Art Program's Administrative Procedures for artist selection for civic public art projects, a five-person selection panel committee comprised of artists, arts professionals and community representatives reviewed all 32 submissions:

- Michelle Li, community representative, Richmond Public Art Selection Panelist Roster
- Simone Guo, artist and community representative, Richmond Public Art Selection Panelist Roster ;
- Sora Park, artist, Richmond Public Art Selection Panelist Roster;
- Tiffany Yang, community representative, Richmond Public Art Selection Panelist Roster; and
- William Thomson, artist, Sculptors' Society of BC.

City staff facilitated the selection panel committee meetings to ensure a thorough evaluation process was implemented and to answer any process or technical questions from the panel. In addition, a member of the Richmond Public Art Advisory Committee participated in the selection process as an observer.

In reviewing the submissions, the selection panel considered the applicants' experience, skill sets, and past projects that responded to similar themes and objectives identified in the artist call. Applicants were also evaluated based on their potential to create a compelling work of art as evidenced in samples of past projects provided by the applicants. Following deliberations, the selection panel shortlisted three artists to develop a concept proposal and presentation for the second stage of the selection process.

Following the terms of reference, the shortlisted finalists were invited to attend an artist orientation meeting with staff and a representative from InTransit BC on March 26, 2024. The meeting provided an opportunity for staff and InTransit BC to share additional information about the site context and design parameters. The artists also asked questions related to thematic framework, materials, design limitations, installation methods, budget and project timeline.

Prior to the final selection panel meeting, shortlisted artists submitted their concept proposals to staff for technical review. Feedback was provided to the shortlisted artists in advance of the final artist interview and presentation meeting. In addition, staff checked references provided by each

shortlisted artist. The concept proposals, technical review summary and referee responses were provided to the selection panel prior to the final artist selection meeting. Following best practices to achieve the Policy objectives, all participants in the selection were instructed not to share or discuss the artist proposals nor the details of their deliberations outside of the selection process.

On May 16, 2024, following a lengthy and thoughtful deliberation, the selection panel recommended the concept proposal *Tales in Current* by artist Linfeng Zhou for the Canada Line Station Art Plinth Program Public Art Project.

Recommended Artist

Linfeng Zhou is a Vancouver-based artist and designer with cultural roots in Southwestern China and an educational background in architecture and industrial design. His work aims to cultivate meaningful interactions and deeper connections with people and their immediate surroundings.

Recommended Public Art Concept Proposal

Tales in Current imagines the guideway of the Canada Line as a symbolic waterway flowing through the city. The Canada Line is a vital resource for urban residents, akin to the Fraser River and its importance in sustaining local ecosystems and agriculture. The sculpture highlights spawning salmon and symbolically reflects a well-known Chinese folk story about a group of koi fish swimming upstream against the current to reach the top of a waterfall; the fish that reach the top of the waterfall are turned into powerful dragons by the gods. The story reflects determination and perseverance in pursuit of a goal.

The artist describes the artwork as follows:

“To fully appreciate the sculpture, visitors must move around the installation. As they do, they encounter an artwork that shifts in perspective and appearance. This interaction mirrors the daily rhythms and personal stories of passersby, encouraging a moment of reflection amidst the rush. Like the salmon and koi, each individual navigates their own currents of life and work”.

The artwork materials include exterior grade acrylic and aluminium. During the detailed design phase of the project, the artist will contract and work with a structural engineer to ensure the artwork’s structural integrity and specify appropriate attachment methods to the existing steel frame support on top of the plinth. A conservation report will be completed to ensure all the proposed materials, paint and protective coatings will endure the three to five-year exhibition period. As a project stakeholder, InTransit BC will also review and approve the detailed artwork design proposal prior to the artist’s artwork fabrication phase.

Further information about the artwork concept proposal is in Attachment 2 of this report.

On June 18, 2024, the Public Art Advisory Committee reviewed the selection process and the concept proposal; they endorsed the project and selection process.


Financial Impact

The Art Plinth Public Art Project budget for this artwork is \$50,000 and is funded by voluntary developer contributions to the Public Art Program Reserve Fund. The amount is included in the City's approved 2022 budget as part of the Consolidated 5-Year Financial Plan (2022-2026) adopted by Council.

Conclusion

The Canada Line Station Art Plinth Program provides an excellent opportunity for the City of Richmond to contribute to and develop a long-term relationship with InTransit BC's public art program, as well as enhance the public realm and community experience around the Richmond-Brighouse Station.

Richmond's Public Art Program creates opportunities for artists to enhance public spaces across Richmond through a commitment to strong urban design, investment in public art and place-making. The Canada Line Station Art Plinth Program at Richmond-Brighouse Station embraces and explores these goals.



Biliana Velkova
Public Art Planner
(604-247-4612)

- Att. 1: Art Plinth Call to Artists, Terms of Reference
- 2: *Tales in Current* Canada Line Station Art Plinth Program Public Art Project Concept Proposal

call to artists



Figure 1. *SkyDam*, Nathan Lee, 2016. Brighthouse Canada Line Terminus Station.

Richmond- Brighthouse Canada Line Terminus Station

Art Plinth Program

Requests for Qualifications, RFQ

January 2024

OPPORTUNITY

The City of Richmond Public Art Program seeks artists or artist teams to create a temporary public art installation at the terminus Canada Line station: Richmond-Brighthouse, located at No.3 Road and Cook Road in Richmond, British Columbia.

Richmond-based artists, including those from equity-seeking communities, are encouraged to apply.

Artist Budget:	\$50,000 CAD
Eligibility:	Artists residing in British Columbia
Deadline:	February 29, 2024
Completion:	Spring 2025

call to artists

BACKGROUND

Initiated in 2014, in partnership with InTransit BC, the Art Plinth Program is one of a number of public art initiatives along the Canada Line. In the first phase of the program, two temporary artworks were commissioned for installation at the end of the Canada Line: *Cluster* (2014) by Carlyn Yandle (Figure 4) and *Skydam* (2016) by Nathan Lee (Figure 5).

Following extensive recent development, the site is located in a new urban promenade along No.3 Road, a busy commuter hub located across from Richmond Centre near adjacent restaurants and businesses and a short walking distance from City Hall and Minoru Park.

The commissioned artwork will join a family of public artworks on the Richmond Canada Line, which includes annual installations as part of the Capture Photography Festival and two-dimensional mixed-media artwork installations for the No.3 Road Art Columns program at Lansdowne and Aberdeen Stations, as well as integrated artwork such as *closer than* by Bill Pechet, viewed from the interior of Richmond-Brighthouse Station.

ARTIST OPPORTUNITY

This opportunity invites artists and other creative professionals to propose a new artwork that signals welcome and arrival, while contemplating the nature of everyday travel and referencing Richmond's culture, history and natural heritage.

The temporary but durable artwork will be securely fixed to a structural steel frame located on the upper ledge of the terminus column at Richmond-Brighthouse Station. Public safety in a high voltage environment on the Canada Line tracks is a major consideration; therefore, all proposed attachment methods will be reviewed by InTransit BC to ensure compatibility. While the artwork may extend upwards and outwards from the column, it should not be conducive to people attempting to climb onto the work. Figure 3 illustrates the overall space allowance for the artwork. If selected, the artist will be required to work in cooperation with City and InTransit BC's engineering and public safety guidelines.

ARTWORK DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

- Maximum Load: 1 tonne (approx. 1,000 kg).
- Structural Frame: 2" x 2" stainless steel hollow tube with 12mm diameter bolt holes @ 4" on centre for various types of fixing solutions.
- The artwork will be highly visible by both vehicular and pedestrian traffic and will consider pedestrian and vehicular viewing sight lines.
- The artwork will consider the character of the site by taking into account scale, colour and materials.

call to artists

BUDGET

The total budget for this project is \$50,000. This budget includes, but is not limited to, artist fees, production, fabrication, engineering fees, installation, photography, insurance, WCB and all applicable taxes, excluding GST. Travel to Richmond and/or accommodation is at the artist's expense.

At the end of the exhibition period, the artwork will be dismantled, removed and returned to the artist, or recycled for materials.

ELIGIBILITY

This opportunity is open to artists and design professionals who reside in British Columbia. Professional Richmond-based artists and artists who self-identify as a member of an equity-seeking community (including but not limited to Indigenous, racialized, LGBTQ2S+, disabled or Deaf) are encouraged to apply.

City of Richmond employees, Richmond Public Art Advisory Members and artists who are currently contracted by the Richmond Public Art Program are not eligible for this opportunity.

Note: Existing work by artists will not be considered.

SELECTION PROCESS

A selection panel consisting of professional artists, art professionals and community members will engage in a two-stage artist selection process. Shortlisted artists will receive a \$500 honorarium to develop an artwork concept proposal for the second stage selection process. At the conclusion of the process, the panel will recommend one artist or artist team for the commission. Upon approval of the artwork concept by City Council, the City will enter into an agreement with the artist or artist team.

ARTIST SELECTION CRITERIA

Applications and shortlisted concept proposals will be reviewed and evaluated using the following criteria:

Stage One: Selection Criteria

- Artistic merit of artist statement of interest.
- Experience in producing work that reflects community identity and assists in building meaningful cultural places.
- Understanding of the relevance of the site and its parameters.
- Potential for making engaging artwork, suitable for multiple audiences.
- Demonstrated capacity to complete work within established project schedules and timelines.
- Demonstrated ability to work with multiple project stakeholders.

call to artists

Stage Two: Selection Criteria

- Ability of concept proposal to reflect arrival, welcome and community identity, and contribute to building the character and identity of the neighbourhood.
- Ability of the 3D artist visualizations (such as digital renderings, maquettes or models) to communicate the concept and how it responds to the existing character of the site by taking into account scale, colour, material, texture, content and the physical characteristics and design parameters of the location.
- Appropriateness of the proposed project budget including, but not limited to, artist fees, materials, fabrication, administration, insurance, installation, documentation and consultant fees.
- Concept proposal sensitivity to durability, life span and environmental concerns with respect to artwork materials, method of fabrication, installation and maintenance.
- Artist response to any feedback and follow-up questions from Selection Panel regarding artistic and technical merit of the concept proposal in response to project opportunity.
- Appropriateness of the proposal to the City of Richmond's [Public Art Program Goals](#).
- Compliance with the InTransit BC Public Art Display Policy, which stipulates that the artwork not convey religious messages, present demeaning or derogatory portrayals of individuals or groups, nor contain anything which is likely to cause offence based on generally prevailing community standards.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Email all documentation as one (1) PDF document, not to exceed a file size of 5 MB to: publicart@richmond.ca

- **INFORMATION FORM** – Please complete the information form on page 5 of this document
- **STATEMENT OF INTEREST** – 300 words (max.), a brief bio of the artist, subject matter, materiality or themes the artist is interested in exploring for this opportunity, and how the opportunity will inform the artist's practice. Please do not include text descriptions of a concept proposal. This information will not be accepted and will be removed by staff prior to review with the Selection Panel.

call to artists

- **ARTIST CV** – Two (2) pages maximum, including relevant education, training, mentorships, artist residencies and exhibition record.
- **WORK SAMPLES:** Up to ten (10) examples of previous work. Please include artist name(s), title, year, location and medium information as captions on the bottom of each image page. If submitting digital video, please include link to YouTube, Vimeo or similar online platform. Please do not submit digital video files.
- **REFERENCES:** Three references who can speak to your abilities and accomplishments. Provide contact name, title, phone number and email. References will only be contacted if applicant is shortlisted.

PROJECT TIMELINE

Submission Deadline:	February 29, 2024
Finalist Notifications:	March 2024
Shortlist Artist Orientation:	March 26, 2024, 1:00-2:00 pm*
Finalist Interviews:	May 16, 2024, 5:00-8:00 pm*
Installation/Completion:	Spring 2025

*Applicants are asked to reserve this date and time in the event they are shortlisted for the opportunity.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Richmond Public Art Program:
<https://www.richmond.ca/culture/howartworks/publicart>
- Canada Line Art Program:
<https://thecanadaline.com/art-program>

ACCESSIBILITY SUPPORT

The City of Richmond strives to create artist opportunities that are inclusive and accessible to individuals of all abilities. If you are living with a disability and require assistance in completing the written application, please contact PublicArt@Richmond.ca or Tel: 604-204-8671.

call to artists

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1. Please be advised that the City and the selection panel are not obliged to accept any of the submissions and may reject all submissions. The City reserves the right to reissue the Artist Call as required.
2. All submissions to this Artist Call become the property of the City. All information provided under the submission is subject to the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (BC) and shall only be withheld from release if an exemption from release is permitted by the Act. The artist shall retain copyright in the concept proposal. While every precaution will be taken to prevent the loss or damage of submissions, the City and its agents shall not be liable for any loss or damage, however caused.

Questions? Please contact: PublicArt@Richmond.ca

call to artists

ART PLINTH AT RICHMOND-BRIGHOUSE CANADA LINE STATION

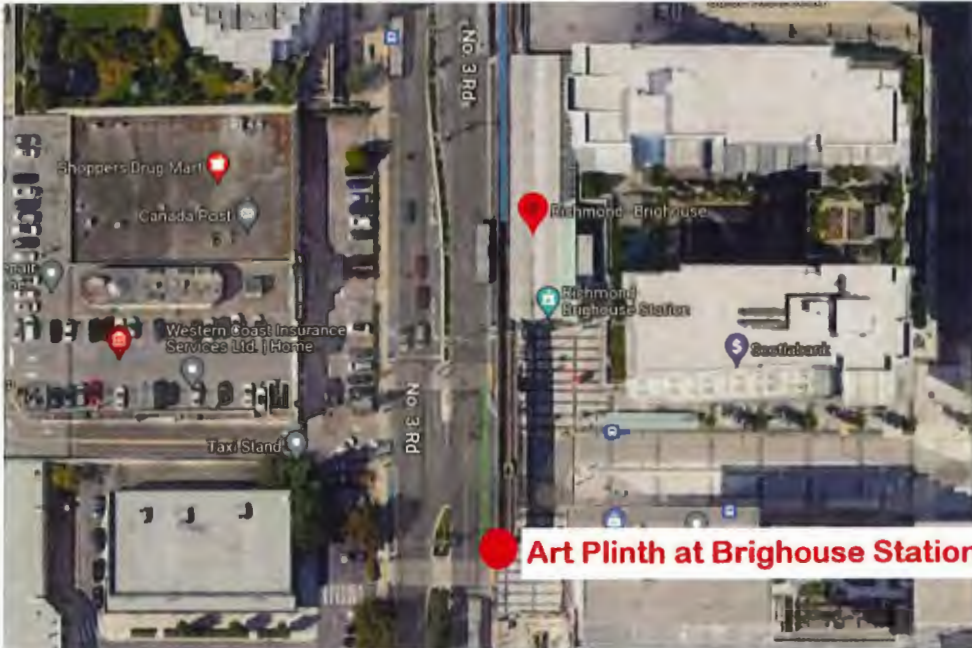


Figure 2. Art Plinth at Richmond-Brighouse Station Location

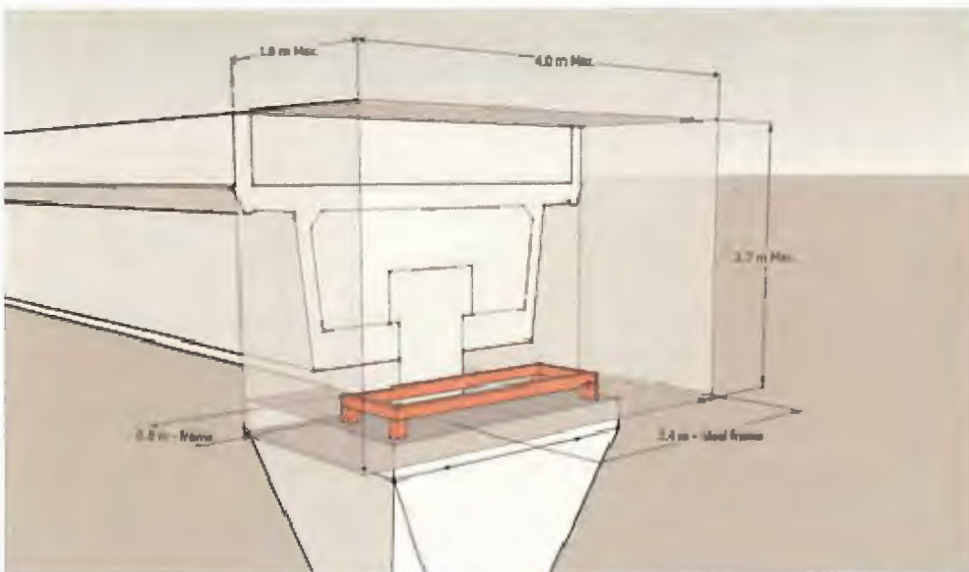


Figure 3. Art plinth structural frame and overall space allowances and dimensions for artwork.

call to artists



Figure 4. *Cluster*, Carlyn Yandle, 2014. Richmond-Brighouse Canada Line Terminus Station.

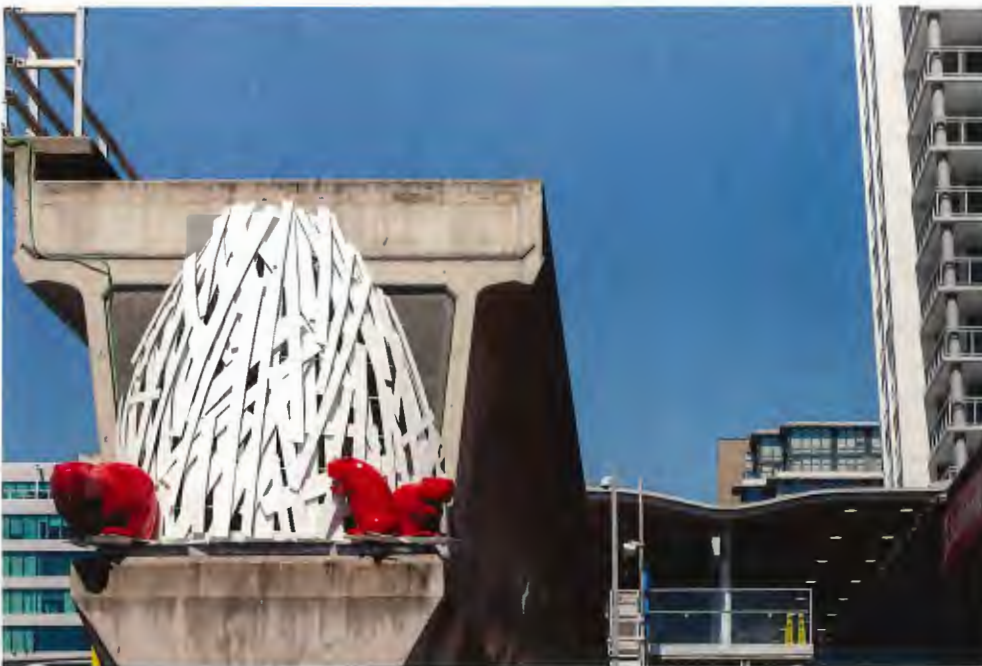


Figure 5. *SkyDam*, Nathan Lee, 2016. Richmond-Brighouse Canada Line Terminus Station.

call to artists

Attach one (1) copy of this form as the first page of the submission.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Postal Code: _____

Primary Phone: _____ Secondary Phone: _____

Email: _____ Website: _____
(One website or blog only)

Incomplete submissions will not be accepted. Emailed submissions over 5 MB will not be accepted. Information beyond what is listed in the Submission Requirements will not be reviewed.

Optional: Do you self-identify as a member of an equity-seeking and/or underrepresented community? (examples: Indigenous, person of colour, LGBTQ2S+, mixed ability, newcomer, Deaf, hard of hearing, living with a disability, etc.) If so, please specify:

If applicable, please indicate additional members of your artist team:

Would you like to receive direct emails from the Richmond Public Art Program? Yes No

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Submit applications by email to: PublicArt@Richmond.ca

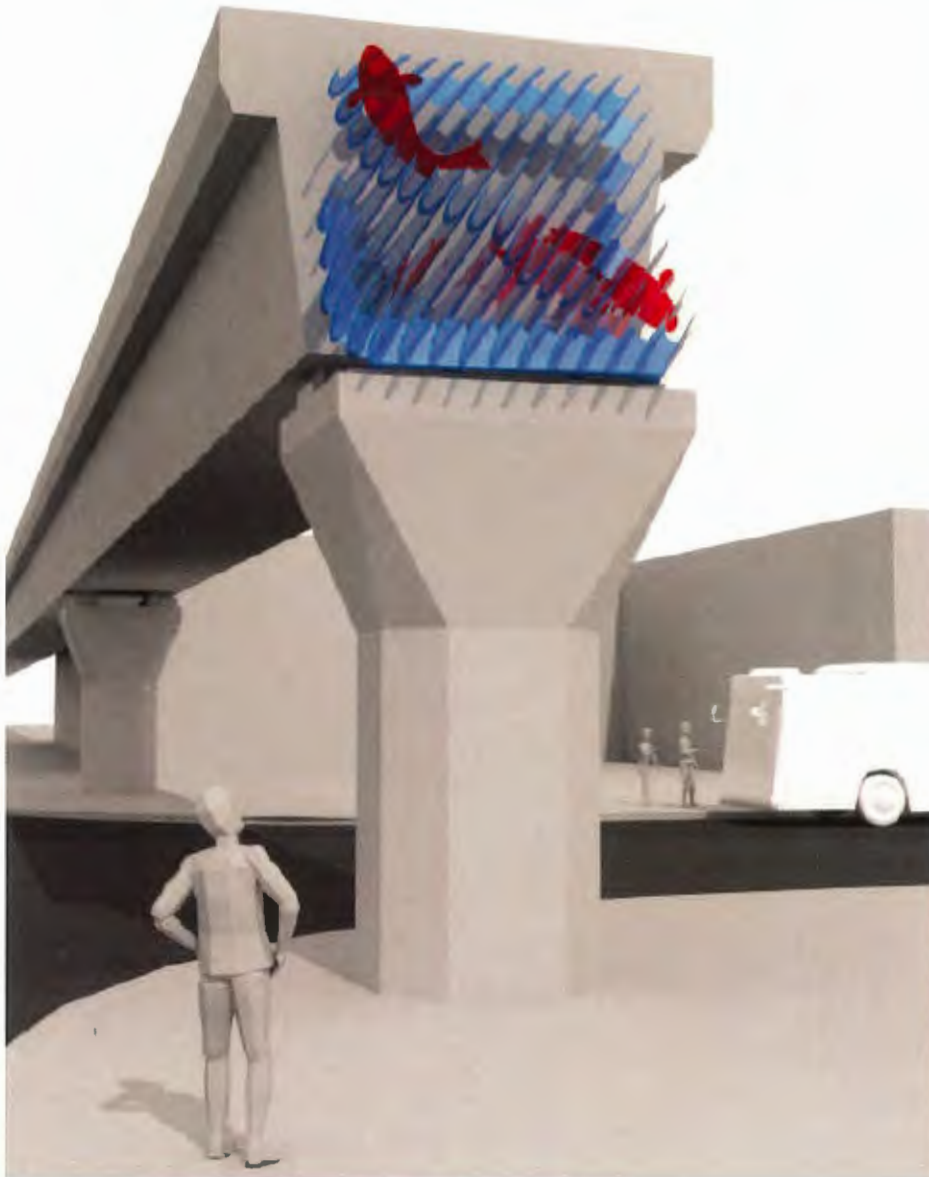
Additional Information

Please be advised that the City and the selection panel are not obliged to accept any of the submissions and may reject all submissions. The City reserves the right to reissue the EOI/RFP, as required. All submissions to this EOI/RFP become the property of the City. All information provided under the submission is subject to the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (BC) and shall only be withheld from release if an exemption from release is permitted by the Act. The artist shall retain copyright of the submitted documents. While every precaution will be taken to prevent the loss or damage of submissions, the City and its agents shall not be liable for any loss or damage, however caused.

Tales in Current
by Linfeng Zhou

Canada Line Station Art Plinth Program Public Art Project Concept Proposal

This prominent artwork at Richmond Brighthouse Station will aim to create a sense of arrival and welcome for the City Centre.



View of artwork from No.3 Road pedestrian concourse

Artist Statement:

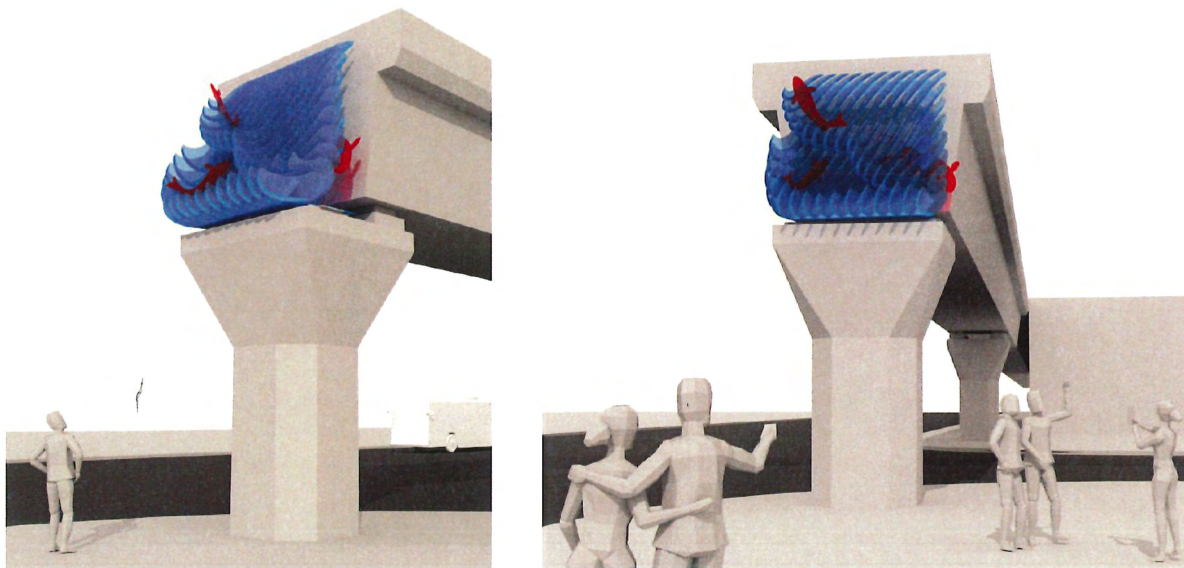
Situated at the terminus of a public transit train track in Richmond's urban centre, the art installation *Tales in Currents* re-imagines the concrete railway as a symbolic waterway flowing through the city. Just as the train track is a vital infrastructure to the city dwellers, the Fraser River sustains the wildlife around the delta islands known as Richmond.

Through its dynamic and abstract forms, the installation merges two profound stories associated with water. The first is the natural marvel of salmon spawning, an awe-inspiring phenomenon that occurs annually in the Fraser River. These salmon, journeying upstream to their birthplaces, epitomize resilience and determination. The second story is drawn from East Asian folklore, featuring the koi fish's leap over the mythical Dragon Gate waterfall in an attempt to become a dragon, symbolizing the pursuit of lofty goals against all odds.

The installation depicts three fishes, each at a different phase of climbing the waterfall. To fully appreciate all three figures, visitors must move around the installation. As they do, they encounter an artwork that shifts in perspective and appearance. This interaction mirrors the daily rhythms and personal stories of the commuters passing by, encouraging a moment of reflection amidst the rush.

Like the salmon and the koi, each individual navigates their own currents of life and work. The installation recognizes the viewers' personal stories and motivations are integral to these broader tales of currents. Like the title, a playful pun, the installation embodies multifaceted meanings, merging elements of nature, culture, and individual human experience into Richmond's urban landscape.

Linfeng Zhou is a Vancouver-based artist and designer with cultural roots in Southwestern China and an educational background in architecture and industrial design. His work aims to cultivate meaningful interactions and deeper connections with people and their immediate surroundings. He has a Masters degree of Architecture from the University of Calgary (2018).



Views of artwork from No.3 Road pedestrian concourse