



# City of Richmond

## Report to Committee

**To:** General Purposes Committee **Date:** September 17, 2020  
**From:** Marie Fenwick **File:** 11-7000-09-20-281/Vol  
 Director, Arts, Culture and Heritage Services 01  
**Re:** **Alexandra Greenway Integrated Public Art Project Concept**

### Staff Recommendation

That the artist concept proposal for “Water to Earth” by BAGUA Artist Association as detailed in the staff report titled, "Alexandra Greenway Integrated Public Art Project Concept" dated September 17, 2020, from the Director, Arts, Culture and Heritage Services, be endorsed.

*CM Fenwick*

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

Att. 2

REPORT CONCURRENCE		
ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER
Finance Department	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Severna</i>
Parks Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Transportation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>SENIOR STAFF REPORT REVIEW</b>	INITIALS: <i>CF</i>	<b>APPROVED BY CAO</b> <i>[Signature]</i>

## Staff Report

### Origin

On March 9, 2020, Council approved the Alexandra Greenway Public Art Project Terms of Reference. The Call to Artists was posted in March 2020 and invited artists residing in Richmond to submit qualifications and an expression of interest to create a two dimensional (2D) artwork to be integrated into the asphalt paving of a multi-use corridor along May Drive, between Alexandra Road and Alderbridge Way.

This report presents the proposed artwork concept, “Water to Earth” by Richmond-based artist collective, BAGUA Artist Association, as recommended by a Selection Panel committee comprised of professional artists, heritage consultants and community representatives.

This report supports Council’s Strategic Plan 2018-2022 Strategy #2 A Sustainable and Environmentally Conscious City:

*Environmentally conscious decision-making that demonstrates leadership in implementing innovative, sustainable practices and supports the City's unique biodiversity and island ecology.*

This report supports Council’s Strategic Plan 2018-2022 Strategy #3 One Community Together:

*Vibrant and diverse arts and cultural activities and opportunities for community engagement and connection.*

This report supports Council’s Strategic Plan 2018-2022 Strategy #4 An Active and Thriving Richmond:

*An active and thriving community characterized by diverse social and wellness programs, services and spaces that foster health and well-being for all.*

### Analysis

#### Artist Selection Process

On March 24, 2020, the Alexandra Greenway Integrated Public Art Call to Artists was posted to solicit applications from Richmond-based artists (Attachment 1). The deadline for the artist call was April 21, 2020. Six (6) Richmond-based artists responded to the Open Call to artists for the opportunity.

On May 4, 2020, following the Public Art Program administrative procedures for an artist selection process, Public Art Program staff with support from Parks Services and Transportation Services, convened the first Artist Selection Panel meeting comprised of the following members:

- Denise Cook, Heritage Consultant
- Jeanette G. Lee, Artist

- Bruce Pagnucco, Community Representative, Volunteer Member of Richmond Active Transportation Committee
- Jill Wright, Community Representative, Volunteer Coordinator, Paulik Park Community Gardens
- Carlyn Yandle, Artist

Two artists and one artist team were shortlisted and invited to attend an artist orientation session with City staff and professional consultants. The artist orientation provided an opportunity for the artists to ask questions and obtain additional information about specific design considerations, product material information, and production and installation processes of the project. Following the orientation session, artists were provided with a \$250 honorarium to develop a preliminary artwork concept and attend the final artist selection panel meeting to present their artwork concepts to the Selection Panel.

On June 4, 2020, the three shortlisted artists returned to present their concept proposals to the Selection Panel at a meeting facilitated by staff. In accordance with the Public Art Program Administration Procedures, the Selection Panelists reviewed the concept proposals presented by the shortlisted artists and engaged in a thorough adjudication and evaluation process. The Selection Panel recommended the concept proposal by BAGUA Artist Association for the commission and noted that the concept proposal responded well to the natural heritage and history of the Alexandra Neighbourhood and will serve to animate the multi-use corridor while providing a wayfinding feature for commuters and visitors alike. This work is consistent with the Council-Adopted Alexandra Neighbourhood Public Art Plan.

The Public Art Advisory Committee has reviewed the concept proposal and supports the proposed artwork concept by BAGUA Artist Association.

#### Recommended Artist Concept – Alexandra Greenway Integrated Public Art Project Concept

The artist's concept proposal, "Water to Earth" celebrates the local natural heritage of the Alexandra Neighbourhood and is inspired by Chinese ornamental patterns and Richmond's native bog and slough landscape features. The artists describe the artwork as follows:

*The symmetrical emblem comprises local species such as dragonflies, turtles, Labrador tea, bog laurel and skunk cabbage that inhabit the remnants of sloughs in this neighbourhood. The wavy outline is an abstract reference to water, the foundation of where Richmond emerged to be. The artwork intends to raise awareness of the significance of Richmond's bog ecosystem and its biodiversity. Our design sought inspiration from traditional Chinese ornamental patterns ... In Feng Shui, water is the attribute of prosperity, and earth is the attribute of stability and support. Therefore, the artwork carries good wishes of prosperity and stability to the public, facilities and shops in nearby zones.*

Attachment 2 provides further information about the artist team's background and proposed artwork.

In consultation with the artist, a technical review and coordination with staff and City-contracted professionals will be included in the development of the artwork.

### **Financial Analysis**

The total budget for the Alexandra Greenway Integrated Public Art Project is \$50,000. \$5,000 is provided to the artist for design, production coordination and consultation working with the City's contracted professionals and Park Services staff. The remaining budget of \$45,000 will be available to cover all implementation expenses including production, installation, taxes and other associated costs to deliver a completed artwork integrated with the site.

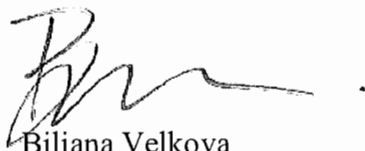
The Alexandra Greenway Integrated Public Art Project is funded by the Public Art Reserve and is included in the City's 2020 Budget and in the Consolidated 5-Year Financial Plan (2020–2024).

The artwork will be applied with thermoplastic paint, which is considered non-toxic and non-hazardous when used for its intended purpose as road markings. The material does not give off any fumes even during the installation process and the specifications comply with Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards. Any repairs to the artwork will be the responsibility of the Public Art Program.

### **Conclusion**

Adopted by Council on November 12, 2013, the Alexandra Neighbourhood Public Art Plan provides a framework for including art in creating a culturally rich environment in a vibrant, healthy and sustainable city.

The Alexandra Greenway Integrated Public Art Project Concept supports the Plan to include an integrated artwork in the Alexandra Neighbourhood. An artwork at this location will connect the local ecology and history to raise awareness and celebrate the aspirations of a sustainable and connected Richmond.



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

- Att. 1: Alexandra Greenway Multi-Use Pathway, Public Art Activation, Call to Artists
- 2: BAGUA Artist Association, Concept Proposal, "Water to Earth"

# call to artists

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## Alexandra Greenway Multi-Use Pathway Public Art Activation

Request for  
Qualifications, RFQ  
March 2020

### OPPORTUNITY

The Richmond Public Art Program, in partnership with Parks Services, is seeking an artist to create a 2D artwork to be integrated into a car-free, multi-use pathway along the east side of May Drive between Alexandra Road and Alderbridge Way.

This is a two-stage open artist call. Following review of the submissions, the Selection Panel will recommend up to three artists to be shortlisted. Shortlisted artists will be invited to develop concept proposals and attend an interview. The commissioned artist will work with third-party contractors and City staff to finalize the artwork design and create a vector-based digital artwork file for the implementation phases. The cost of production and installation will be the responsibility of the City of Richmond. Artists or artist teams residing in Richmond with visual art practices in printmaking, drawing, illustration, painting and other mixed-media disciplines are encouraged to apply.

<b>Artist Fee:</b>	\$5,000 CAD
<b>Eligibility:</b>	Artists residing in Richmond, B.C.
<b>Deadline:</b>	April 21, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.
<b>Completion:</b>	Fall 2020

CNCL - 89

# call to artists

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## BACKGROUND

Formally a semi-rural landscape, the Alexandra neighbourhood is now comprised of multiple family housing developments and places to work, shop and play. It is bordered by residential neighbourhoods to the east and north, and by the urban City Centre to the west. The Alexandra Greenway and new six-acre Alexandra Neighbourhood Park comprise a network of green spaces that connect established residential areas north of Cambie Road to the Garden City Lands south of Alderbridge Way (Figure 1 & 2).

The Garden City Lands are an extraordinary 55.2 hectares (136.5 acres) of open space located within the Agricultural Land Reserve, in the heart of Richmond, between Westminster Highway, Alderbridge Way, Garden City Way and No. 4 Road (Figure 2). The Garden City Lands is in the process of becoming a new community park with diverse uses including, urban agriculture, environmental preservation and interpretation, as well as recreational and cultural uses.

## LOCATION

The section of the Alexandra Greenway that runs north-south along May Drive between Alexandra Road and Alderbridge Way (Figures 1 & 2), is part of a larger neighbourhood pedestrian and cyclist route with resting nodes linking residential areas to new commercial zones.

## “CONNECTING ECOLOGY & NATURAL HERITAGE”

Artists are invited to respond to the theme of “**Connecting Ecology & Natural Heritage**” as it relates to building sustainable and ecologically sensitive cities through the preservation of natural habitat for native plant and animal species. The public art will help promote and animate a safe, multi-use pathway to decrease vehicular traffic in the area and complement new tree plantings, native plant species and a natural stormwater management system.

- **Connecting Ecology:** Richmond’s landscape and hydrology have been formed by its unique location within the Fraser River delta. The Alexandra Neighbourhood contains remnants of historic sloughs and agricultural networks, including an abundance of local wildlife. Public art can play an integral part in bringing awareness to the importance of preserving natural habitat and the role we can play in supporting local ecosystems.
- **Connecting Natural Heritage:** Public Art that references local farming, agricultural heritage and history of the area connects and reminds newcomers and longtime residents of the area’s unique past. History includes telling the story of the land, people and places that have

CNCL - 90

# call to artists

inhabited the area. Public art will assist this new community in creating meaningful connections and memories while acknowledging the past and looking forward to the future.

## BUDGET

The artist fee for this project is \$5,000 for the provision of an artwork design and delivery of vector-based digital artwork file(s). The artist will work in consultation with City staff and contractors retained by the City to refine the design as appropriate. This budget includes (but is not limited to) artist fees and administration, travel expenses, artist studio overhead, photography documentation and all taxes excluding GST. Fabrication and installation costs will be the responsibility of the City of Richmond.

## ARTWORK AND DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

- The artwork will be conceived as a repeating pattern or family of repeating elements.
- The total area of the artwork will cover approximately 20-30% of the asphalt-paved corridor.
- The commissioned artist will propose the layout and placement of the artwork to delineate directions of travel and create an overarching experience and presence on site.
- The commissioned artist must work within the paving product manufacturer's design specifications and submit the artwork as a digital black and white vector-based file without the use of gradients or shading in the artwork.
- The artwork must be original work produced specifically for this artist call.
- The artwork must not include references to political logos/branding, copyright-protected commercial logos/branding or content resembling traffic features or signs.

## ARTIST ELIGIBILITY

This call is open to artists residing in Richmond, B.C. Artists who are currently contracted by the City for a public art commission are not eligible to apply. City of Richmond employees and members of the Richmond Public Art Advisory Committee are not eligible to apply.

## SELECTION PROCESS

A selection panel consisting of a combination of artists, art professionals and community representatives will engage in a two-stage artist selection process to review all artist applications. Three artists will be shortlisted and given a \$250 honorarium to attend an Artist Orientation Session, develop a concept proposal and attend an interview and presentation with the selection panel. At

# call to artists

the conclusion of the process, the panel will recommend one artist for the commission. The selected artist will enter into a contract with the City of Richmond.

## STAGE 1: ARTIST SELECTION CRITERIA

Submissions will be reviewed and decisions made based on:

- demonstrated skills and experience based on artist's portfolio and CV;
- initial approach to the identified thematic framework as described in the Letter of Intent;
- artist capacity to work with other design professionals and stakeholders; and
- appropriateness of the approach to the Public Art Program goals:  
[www.richmond.ca/culture/publicart/plans/policy](http://www.richmond.ca/culture/publicart/plans/policy)

**Note: Submissions should not include a concept proposal for Stage 1 of the artist selection process.**

## STAGE 2: ARTIST SELECTION CRITERIA

Three short-listed artists will submit concept proposals to be reviewed, based on the following criteria:

- interpretation and approach to the identified theme and appropriateness for the site and context of Alexandra neighbourhood;
- merit and technical feasibility of the concept proposal;
- responses to follow-up questions/ and feedback from the Stage 1 selection panel review; and
- appropriateness of the concept to the Public Art Program goals:  
[www.richmond.ca/culture/publicart/plans/policy](http://www.richmond.ca/culture/publicart/plans/policy)

## STAGE 1: SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

E-mail all documentation as one (1) PDF document, not to exceed a file size of 5 MB to: [publicart@richmond.ca](mailto:publicart@richmond.ca)

- INFORMATION FORM – Please complete the information form attached to this document.
- LETTER OF INTEREST – 300 words or less, describing art practice, initial approach to the work and any relevant experience or similar completed projects.
- ARTIST CV – (2 page maximum). Teams should include one page for each member.
- WORK SAMPLES – Up to ten (10) image examples of previous work that illustrate and demonstrate practice, skills and experience for this opportunity. One image per page. Please include artist name(s), title, year, location and medium information to be on each image page.



# call to artists

## PROJECT TIMELINE

\*If shortlisted for the opportunity, applicants must be available to attend the Artist Orientation and Finalist Interview dates and times below.

<b>Application Deadline:</b>	April 21, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.
<b>Artist Orientation for Shortlisted Artists:</b>	May 7, 2020 at 1:00 p.m.*
<b>Shortlisted Artists Interviews:</b>	June 4, 2020, 1:00 p.m., Richmond City Hall, 6911 No.3 Road.*
<b>Project Completion:</b>	Fall 2020

## SOURCES FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- [Alexandra Neighbourhood Public Art Plan](#)
- [Richmond Arts Strategy, 2019-2024](#)
- [Richmond Public Art Program](#)
- [Richmond Archives](#)

## SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

1. All supporting documents must be complete and adhere to these guidelines and submission requirements or risk not being considered.
2. All submissions must be formatted to 8.5 x 11 inch pages. Portfolio images would be best formatted to landscape format.
3. If submitting as a team, the team should designate one representative to complete the entry form. Each team member must submit an individual curriculum vitae. (See Submission Requirements).
4. *Any questions and all documents* must be sent by e-mail to: [publicart@richmond.ca](mailto:publicart@richmond.ca)

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1. The selected artist may be required to show proof of WCB coverage and \$2,000,000 general liability insurance.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. Extensions to the deadline will not be granted under any circumstances. Submissions received after the deadline and those that are found to be incomplete will not be reviewed.

# call to artists



Figure 1. Alexandra Greenway (May Drive Section) Site Plan

# call to artists



Figure 2. Neighbourhood Map showing Alexandria Greenway

# call to artists

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Team Name: (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Secondary Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Website: \_\_\_\_\_  
(One website or blog only)

**Incomplete submissions will not be accepted. E-mailed submissions over 5 MB will not be accepted. Information beyond what is listed in the checklist will not be reviewed.**

List Team Member Names: (Team Lead complete above portion)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please let us know how you found out about this opportunity:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to receive direct e-mails from the Richmond Public Art Program?  Yes  No

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Submit applications by e-mail to: [publicart@richmond.ca](mailto: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 RFQ as required. All submissions to this RFQ 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.

***From Water to Earth***

**Artist Statement**

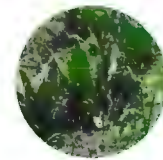
Bagua Artist Association

The concept for the Alexandra Greenway project is to celebrate the rich hydrology and landscape of Richmond. Our proposed artwork illustrates Richmond's bog and slough natural habitat in a Chinese ornamental-pattern style. The symmetrical emblem comprises local species such as dragonflies, turtle, labrador tea, bog laurel, and skunk cabbage that inhabit the remnants of sloughs in this neighbourhood. The wavy outline is an abstract reference to water, the foundation of where Richmond emerged to be. The artwork intends to raise awareness of the significance of Richmond's bog ecosystem and its biodiversity.

Our design sought inspiration from traditional Chinese ornamental patterns. We also took reference from lattice windows in classical Chinese gardens. The repeating emblems are connected by intertwining vines to create a continuous flow that compliments the use of this multipurpose pathway. In Feng Shui, water is the attribute of prosperity, and earth is the attribute of stability and support. Therefore, the artwork carries good wishes of prosperity and stability to the public, facilities, and shops in nearby zones.



OC Design & Layout

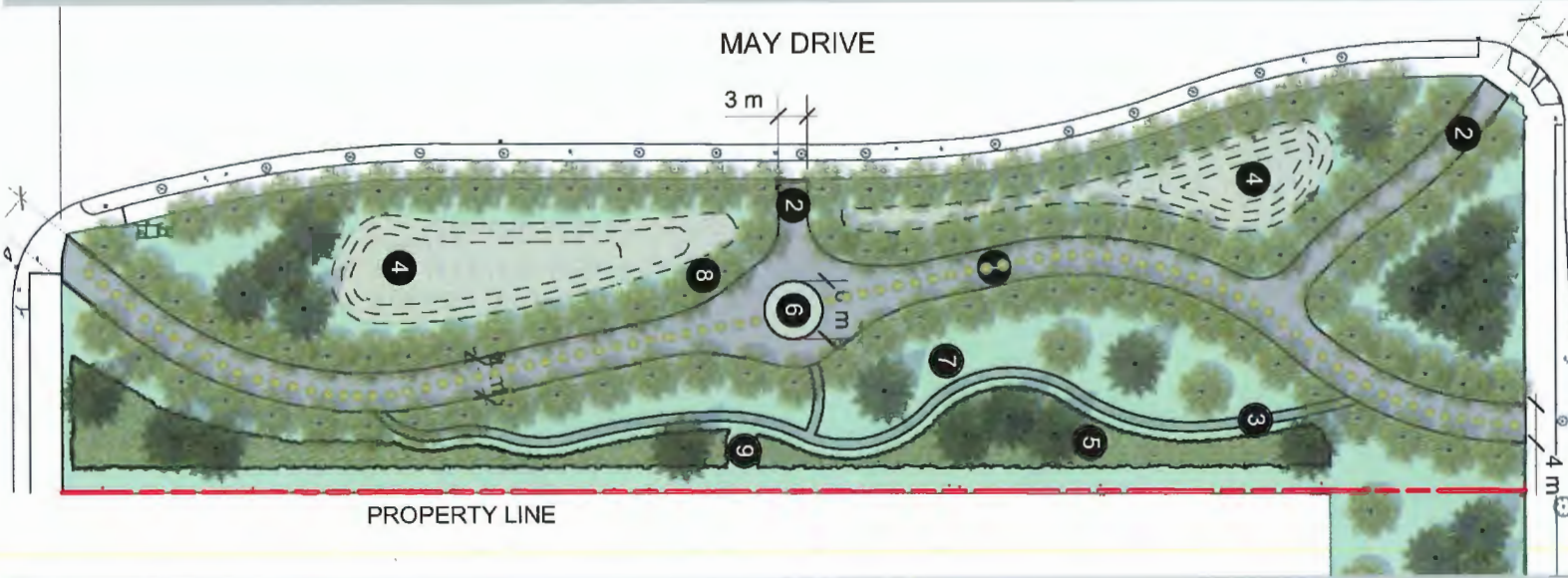








Total coverage of 30% of Greenway = 1615 ft<sup>2</sup> = approx. 100 discs repeat





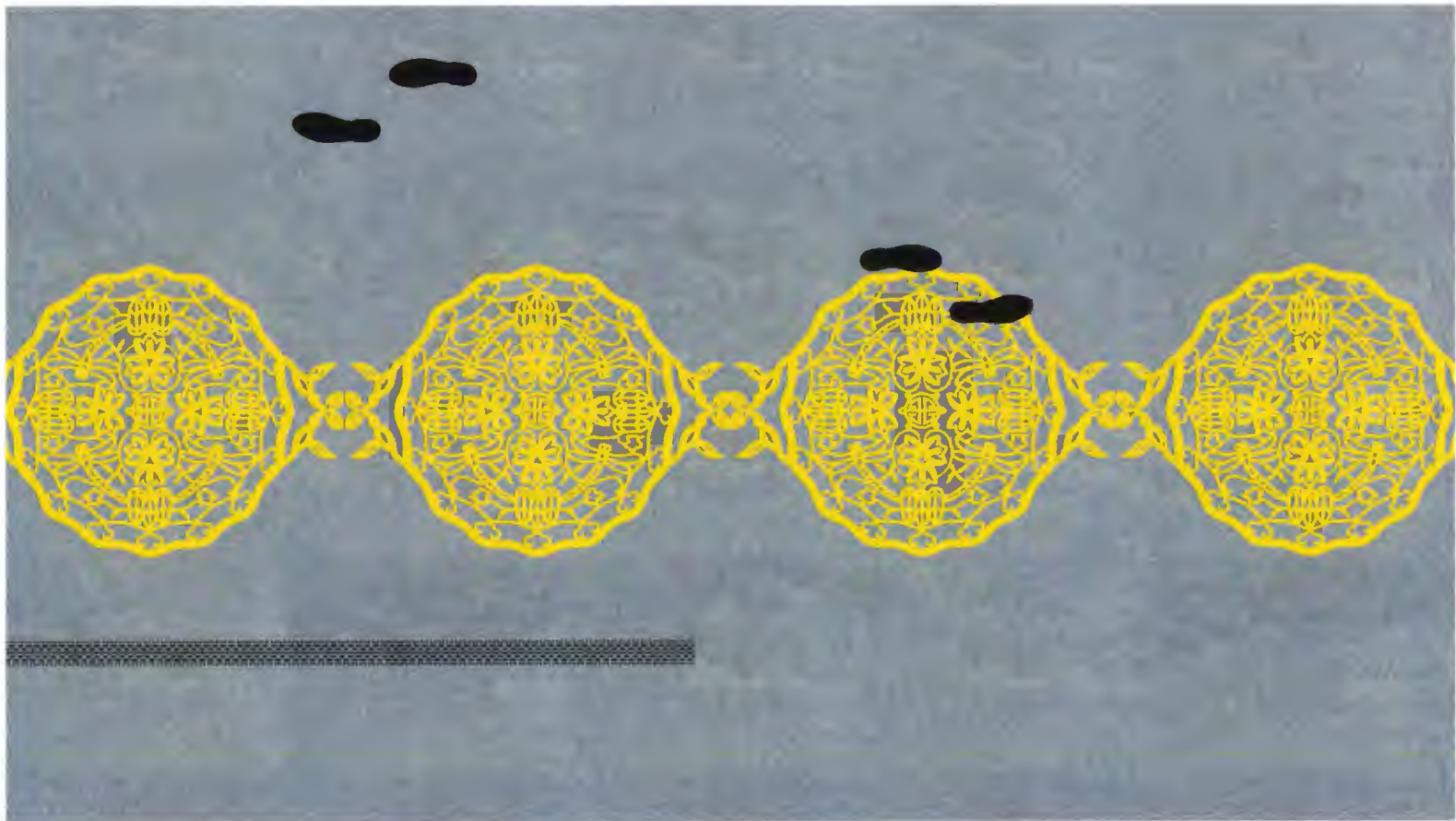
**02. Site Specificity**



Illustrating the distinctive features of sloughs and bogs in Richmond



Celebrate local natural heritage and ecosystems through artwork inspired by Chinese ornamental pattern.



### 03. Bagua Artist Association Bio

**Bagua Artist Association** is an artist collective founded in 2018 on the unceded Coast Salish Territories (Vancouver, BC). The collective's practice is multimedia, including public art, social engagement, new media art, painting and installations are focuses in the collective's practice.



**Katharine Meng-Yuan Yi**

Yi's practice investigates and reflects on contemporary societal occurrences, quotidian subjects, and continuously re-examines the role of the artist in a broader social spectrum. Yi received her BFA from the University of British Columbia in 2014.



**Sean Cao**

Cao received his BFA from Emily Carr University of Art and Design. In Cao's art practice, he explores between the abstract and the representational and attempts to create narratives that can stimulate different receptions in individual viewers.