



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services
Committee

Date: October 15, 2009

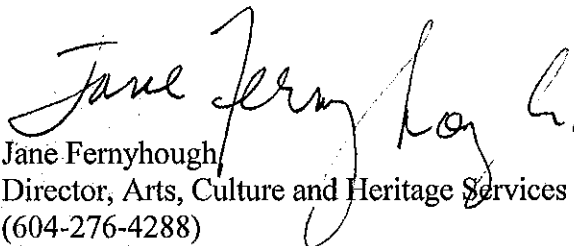
From: Kim Somerville
Manager, Arts Services

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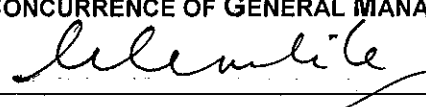

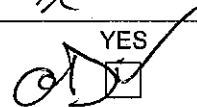
Re: Richmond Arts Update

Staff Recommendation

That the Arts, Culture and Services Arts Update 2008-2009 be received for information.


Jane Fernyhough
Director, Arts, Culture and Heritage Services
(604-276-4288)

Att. 1

FOR ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT USE ONLY		
CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER 		
REVIEWED BY TAG	YES  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
REVIEWED BY CAO	YES  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>

Staff Report

Origin

In April 2008, the Richmond 2010 Arts & Culture Plan was created to guide the City's actions towards enhancing and developing current and new high quality arts, culture and heritage festivals and activities; identifying and showcasing Richmond's artistic talent; increasing the capacity of arts, culture and heritage organizations; and leveraging partnerships, grants and sponsorship opportunities in order to create a legacy for future generations.

This report presents the Arts, Culture and Heritage Services Arts Update 2008-2009 (Attachment 1) to Council for information.

Analysis

The Arts, Culture and Heritage Services update on the arts raises awareness of the value the arts play in community life and demonstrates the vital contribution the arts make to the livability of our city.

Financial Impact

There is no financial impact.

Conclusion

The arts enhance our city and our lives in many unique ways and are central to community life. They provide communities with a sense of identity and shared pride, and create a way to communicate across multicultural boundaries. The Arts, Culture and Heritage Services Arts Update 2008-2009 showcases the varied and vital investment in the arts and the essential role the arts play in building and sustaining a diverse urban community that is socially and economically healthy.



Kim Somerville
Manager, Arts Services
(604-247-4671)

KS:ks



City of Richmond

ARTS UPDATE 2009

Arts, Culture and Heritage Services



A city's identity is defined in many ways: through its arts and heritage, architecture, natural environment and care of its citizens. Creative expression and the arts are essential elements of our community's social fabric. They give voice to our history and our aspirations. They cause us to think and feel, be critical and humane. Through the arts we learn to express ourselves more clearly and honour the expression of others. The arts contribute and foster a sense of wellbeing and livability, and act as a catalyst to creating a healthier city.

Richmond Arts Strategy, 2004

Contents

- 1 Introduction
- 3 2010 Arts & Culture Plan
- 3 City-wide Arts
- 9 Public Art
- 15 Richmond Arts Centre
- 17 Richmond Art Gallery
- 22 Gateway Theatre

Arts Update, October 2009

Introduction

Since mid-2008, the City of Richmond has enjoyed a landmark year in the Arts. We've seen the launch of several new annual events including the Richmond Arts Awards and the Richmond Children's Arts Festival, a record-breaking year for the Richmond Cultural Centre's varied and vital public programs, and the largest investment in public art in the City's history; namely, the Oval Precinct Public Art Program.

Meanwhile, one of the region's most significant public contemporary art galleries, the Richmond Art Gallery has continued to provide top tier exhibitions and outreach to City residents and visitors alike. Behind the scenes, a new City Centre Public Art Plan is being developed in consultation with professional and community groups to raise awareness of and engagement with public art in a myriad of forms and locales.

The establishment and implementation of the 2010 Arts & Culture Plan will ensure that the opportunities afforded by the Olympic Games leave a lasting and meaningful legacy for those in the City's arts and culture sector. The following represents a snapshot of the past year's highlights for the Arts in Richmond.

Richmond's 2010 Arts & Culture Plan

2008 - 2010

April 2008



"We always say there is a difference between sports and the Olympic Games. The Olympics is much more than sport - it is sport and culture."

~ Juan Antonio Samaranch, IOC President, 1998


RICHMOND
Better in *Every* Way

2010 Arts & Culture Plan

In 2008, the City embarked on putting the 2010 Arts & Culture Plan into motion. The plan includes activities and events to support and enhance Richmond's arts & culture community, building the capacity of organizations and individuals by providing opportunities for performing and exhibiting, and increasing opportunities for residents and visitors to experience the diversity and history of our arts, culture and heritage of the community. A variety of programs and initiatives are being delivered during the pre-Games period that will create a lasting legacy and position local artists and community organizations to play an active role during Games time. To implement the plan, a Community Cultural Development Manager has been temporarily hired.

City-wide: Richmond Children's Art Festival

The first annual Children's Arts Festival was held February 19-20, 2009 at the Richmond Cultural Centre. The festival was a unique opportunity for preschool and elementary students to participate in hands-on interactive workshops with professional performers and artists. Both days were sold out with over 950 students and teachers attending the diverse workshops and arts events. The festival was widely praised for its high quality programming and organization. As one of the cultural legacy programs celebrating the 2010 Olympic Winter Games, the plan for the Children's Arts Festival is to expand in 2010.



Richmond Children's Art Festival

City-wide: Asian Heritage Month

In recognition of Asian Heritage Month, the City of Richmond's Diversity Services, Richmond Arts Centre and city partners organized a wide range of events throughout May to celebrate local and regional Asian talent and to explore intercultural connections and influences. Events included the 2nd Annual Richmond Asian Film Festival, an intercultural drumming extravaganza, and a healthy Asian cooking demonstration at the Garrett Wellness Centre by local Master Chef Mr. Ian Lai. The month also featured a number of literary events including a writers workshop by nationally recognized writer, Jen Sookfong Lee and an exploration of the life of Japanese-Canadian Richmond based, civil rights campaigner, Tomekichi Homma. Asian Heritage Month concluded with a multimedia spectacle featuring renowned international author, XU XI and the equally renowned New World Theatre Company.

City-wide: Winter Festival of the Arts

This six-week festival ran in its inaugural year from February 1 to March 15, 2009 to build momentum towards and complement the existing Richmond Winterfest Weekend event that occurs during the third week of February. The purpose of the festival is to bring attention to the arts in Richmond through a campaign of print ads, rack cards, emails, posters, street banners and media stories. Theatre, dance, film, visual and culinary arts were given an extra boost of attention through this initiative by showcasing the rich diversity of creative talent in our midst.



Asian Heritage Month



City-wide: New Asia Film Festival and Monthly Film Series

The second Annual New Asia Film Festival was held May 7-10, 2009 at the Richmond Cultural Centre. The festival grew enormously from its inaugural year in part to the success of the free New Asia Monthly Film Series, which started in September 2008 with the purpose of building a film audience throughout the year. Centred on contemporary and progressive themes related to a broad range of issues in pan-Asian cultures, this film series' mission is to promote intercultural understanding between different ethnic groups, to stimulate critical thinking and new means of expression, and to encourage communication between Canada, Asia, and the world. The film festival will return in 2010 with a new Youth Film Series involving aspiring Richmond filmmakers.

City-wide: Encore Music Society Concert Series

Under the tutelage of acclaimed pianist, Eugene Skovorodnikov, the Music Encore Concert Society brings a top-tier line-up of classical music to Richmond. This series of concerts is paired with lecture recitals at the Richmond Cultural Centre, giving music lovers the opportunity to not only experience the music of artists who have graced concert halls from Moscow to New York, but have the chance to learn about classical music's most famous composers in an informal, educational setting. The Music Encore Concert Series (MECS) creates affordable and accessible concerts and lecture recitals to individuals of all backgrounds and ages. The society's objective is to attract a diverse, multicultural audience to promote education and enthusiasm for classical music.



Musical Expressions

City-wide: Musical Expressions

Musical Expressions is an eclectic monthly series of musical performances by up-and-coming and established musicians at the Richmond Cultural Centre and Britannia Heritage Shipyard. Vocalist and musician, Cherelle Jardine created the series. In 2009, Jardine was a finalist for the first annual Richmond Art Awards and a finalist for the Ethel Tibbits Women of Distinction Award for the Arts. Musical Expressions is sponsored by the City of Richmond, CTV, and Long and McQuade.

City-wide: Arts in Recreation

The City and its community partners are committed to serving the diverse cultural needs of its residents by offering a variety of visual and performing arts classes at community facilities. Each community centre offers accessible and affordable introductory arts classes for children, adults and seniors, such as basic drawing and painting, recreational dance and music lessons. Providing Richmond residents with recreational arts programs is part of the City's plan to increase appreciation of the arts as a whole through participation at any level.



Richmond Arts Awards

City-wide: Richmond Arts Awards

Created in partnership with the Richmond Arts Coalition, this new program recognizes the artistic achievements and contributions to the cultural community by City residents, artists, educators, organizations and business leaders. Its purpose is to:

- honour major contributions by individuals, organizations and business to the arts;
- cultivate greater visibility and understanding of the value of the arts;
- encourage excellence and build new leadership within the arts community; and
- develop patrons for the arts.

In 2009, its inaugural year, 41 nominations were received and three finalists in six categories (18 total) were announced at a public evening ceremony in Council Chambers by Mayor Malcolm Brodie and key members of the arts and business community.

City-wide: Artists Directory & Information for Artists Webpage

In order to communicate directly with members of the arts sector as well as to better understand who the artists are in our community, a self-registered Artists Directory and webpage were established. Targeted emails disseminate information on the Arts Awards, Arts Symposium and other arts-related events and opportunities in the City of Richmond as they emerge. Links to dedicated pages for the Arts Symposium and Arts Awards can be found on the Artists webpage as well as a proposal form for new community events in 2010.

City-wide: Facility Rentals

Arts Services plays a critical role in supporting arts organizations in Richmond. The Richmond Cultural Centre for example was home to over 1,000 facility rentals in 2008, which helped contribute to raising awareness of the arts and increasing the variety and diversity of arts opportunities in the community. Richmond City Hall and Gateway Theatre also host numerous rentals each year and play an integral part in developing an environment where the arts are welcomed and valued.

City-wide: Lulu: Art in the City, Annual Lecture Series

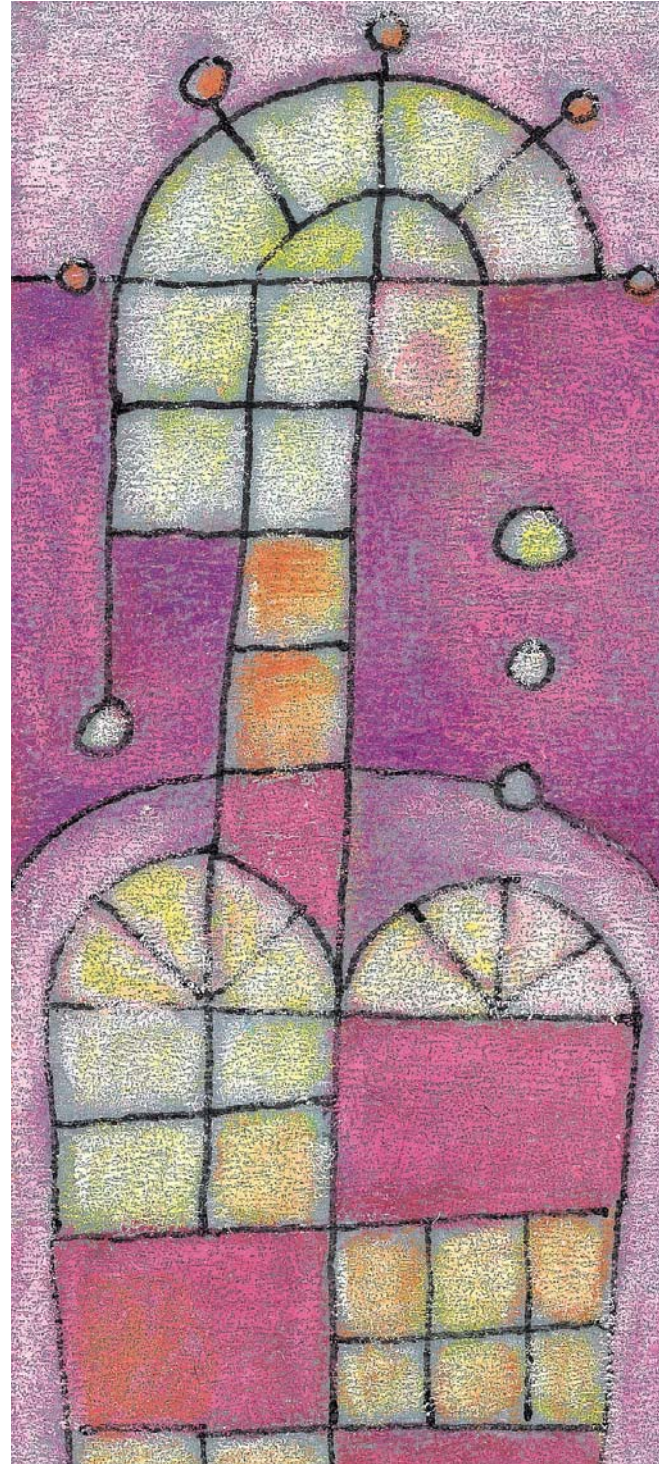
The Lulu: Art in the City annual lecture series invites local, national and international authorities to address the importance and varied roles of art in the city. This year the Lulu Series featured Vancouver-based commercial and editorial photographer, Nick Didlick to recount his experiences as an award-winning photojournalist and to discuss his role as the photo manager for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games, using his own images as a backdrop. Discussions to include the Vancouver International Sculpture Biennale in the Series in 2010 are currently underway.

City-wide: ART AT WORK: First Annual Arts Symposium

Offering professional development opportunities for local artists and others working in the cultural sector, ART AT WORK was created in 2009 to:

- support the growth and development of the arts and cultural sector;
- provide artists and cultural workers with practical, inspiring and career-enhancing programming; and
- encourage networking and sharing within the arts and culture community.

Seventy registered artists and representatives of cultural organizations attended this full day of professional development workshops on grant writing and arts marketing; talks with successful local artists; business and marketing professionals; a panel discussion with professional arts fundraisers and networking with individuals in the arts. More than half of the attendees were Richmond residents.



THE LULU SERIES
ART IN THE CITY



Xiamen Philharmonic Orchestra

City-wide: Xiamen Philharmonic Orchestra

The City of Richmond's Sister City Committee brought this 80-piece orchestra from China to perform at the River Rock Show Theatre on October 4, 2009. Two local choirs sang on stage with the orchestra in two separate concerts: Richmond Youth Honour Choir (who made thank you cards and wrote to the local paper about their experience) and the Richmond Orchestra and Chorus featuring the Chorus. The Xiamen Orchestra also presented guest artists from China including a popular pipa player, folk singer, leaf player and

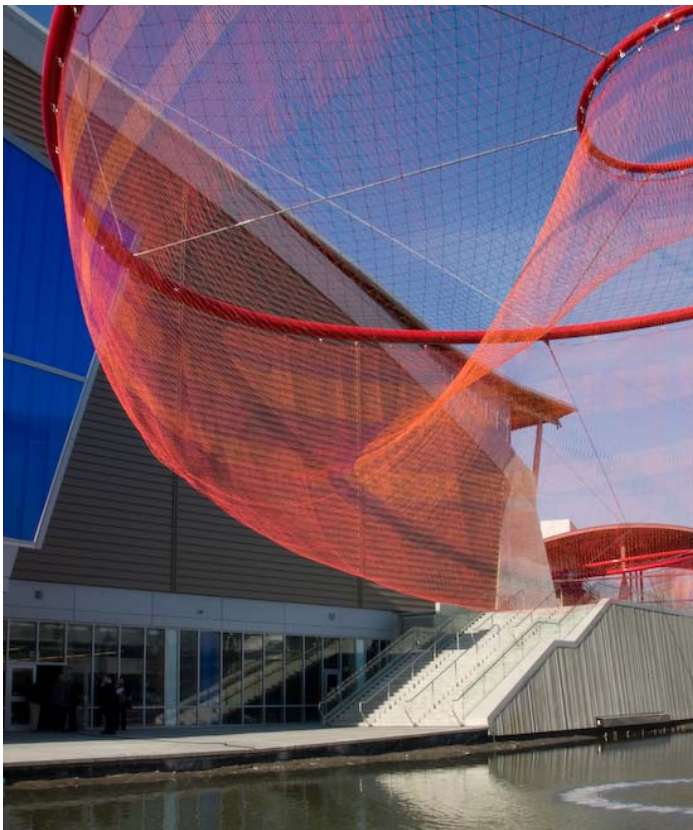
highly acclaimed pianist. Both concerts were almost sold out and at the evening concert, the orchestra enjoyed three standing ovations. Moreover, it was a highly successful cultural exchange event with representatives from local government, businesses and Chinese friendship associations coming together to play host to the musicians while here. Local visual artist, Raymond Chow is creating a painting for the orchestra to be presented as a gift when the Sister City Committee visits Xiamen.

Public Art

The Richmond Public Art Program endorsed by City Council on June 23, 1997 now boasts more than 50 public art pieces. The program consists of three distinctive initiatives: civic, private sector and community. Richmond has seen an increase in civic public art since the Richmond Oval first broke ground in Fall 2005. The Oval precinct itself has attracted public attention with a number of large scale public art projects by internationally acclaimed artists. As the value and benefits of public art become more apparent, developer participation in the program is increasing. More than 23 private sector public art projects now enrich Richmond's downtown centre. As our communities grow, so too does our desire for self-identity and a lasting legacy. To date, Richmond communities have been actively involved in 14 projects, with additional community projects funded annually.

Public Art: Richmond Olympic Oval Precinct

The City's Public Art Program had a watershed year in 2008, with the installation of its most ambitious and dynamic works to date. The City completed three exceptional art works at the Olympic Oval precinct, valued at \$1.5 million, representing the largest investment in public art in the City's history. These works, integrated with the building and grounds, promoted the theme of flow, flight, and fusion, and attracted considerable positive national and local media coverage. A celebration of the artworks hosted by Mayor Brodie with artists, Susan Point (*Buttress Runnels*); Buster Simpson (*Ice Blade*) and Janet Echelman (*Water Sky Garden*) was held on June 21, 2009 on the Legacy Plaza at the Richmond Olympic Oval. More than 200 attendees, including international visitors, came out to meet the artists and view the art.



Water Sky Garden (2009), Janet Echelman, Richmond Olympic Oval



Ice Blade (2007), Buster Simpson, Richmond Olympic Oval

Public Art: Private Development Artworks

As the value and benefits of public art become apparent, private developer participation in Richmond's public art program continues to increase. Several urban projects in the City Centre were complete in 2008, including Stillwater by the well known Vancouver artist, Gwen Boyle; Sky River by Vancouver artist, Jill Anholt; Flow by Vancouver artist team, Cheryl Hamilton and Mike Vandermeer; and Versante by Toronto based artist, Krzysztof Zukowski. Works to date have been installed in high profile locations at street level on sidewalks, integrated into building facades and near popular public parks. Several 2009 private developer projects are set for installation in the coming months along with several private development public art plans underway. Public art will become more prevalent in the upcoming years as private development grows; enhancing Richmond's livability and place making.

Public Art: Vancouver Biennale

Richmond recently secured its participation in the Vancouver International Sculpture Biennale, 2009-2011, a high-profile temporary outdoor public art exhibition featuring world-class international artists. Five to seven sculptures will be located throughout Richmond and will be on display prior to, during and after the 2010 Winter Games, providing exceptional opportunities to enrich the City's cultural fabric, promote tourism and engage the community.



Flow (2008), Cheryl Hamilton and Mike Vandermeer, Ocean Walk, 7555 Alderbridge Way



City Centre Public Art Plan Consultation

Public Art: City Centre Public Art Plan

Staff are currently preparing a Public Art Plan for the City Centre Area with the guidance of a citizen's advisory group, the Richmond Public Art Commission and a multidisciplinary staff resource group. To date, two public consultation workshops, a focus group with the Richmond Chinese Community Society, consultations with the Urban Development Institute (UDI) and an event with a local high school have taken place. Surveys are in circulation with the Chamber of Commerce and UDI members, and a consultation with the Advisory Design Panel is planned. Benefits of this work include increasing public awareness and appreciation of the city collection and attracting media coverage in local papers, Chinese language television and radio stations, and CBC Radio.

Public Art: Program Policy Update

A review of the City's Public Art Policies and Guidelines, as well as the City Centre Public Art Plan, is underway in order to ensure they reflect current practices in Richmond and incorporate best practices from other municipalities. Recommendations from staff are currently being reviewed by the Richmond Public Art Commission for their feedback.

Public Art: Community Program

Two community art projects were recently completed, one at the Richmond Hospital, and the other, *Shaping Hands* at Sea Island Fire Hall. With seed funding from the Public Art Program and \$200,000 from BC150, Steveston High School Alumni Association completed Steveston's Legacy: a sculpture by Norm Williams depicting 1930's-era fishing industry workers. The 100th anniversary of Minoru Park also involved the installation of a life-size statue of Minoru (the horse owned by King Edward VII, and for whom Minoru Race Track was named) facilitated by a local heritage group. There are also upcoming projects in the works for Richmond Nature Park, Gateway Theatre and South Arm Community Centre.

Public Art: Doors Open

An estimated 700 people participated in public tours of artworks: Susan Point's *Buttress Runnels*; Buster Simpson's *Ice Blade* and Janet Echelman's *Water Sky Garden* art at the Richmond Olympic Oval. Doors Open, the second annual community-wide celebration permitted free access to 40 arts, culture and heritage sites on May 2 and 3, 2009. Thousands of residents and visitors discovered artists' studios, places of worship, museums and public art located throughout Richmond.

Public Art: Utility Wrap Project

The City of Richmond Engineering Department initiated a utility wrap pilot project to test the application process, effect, and community response to wrapped utility boxes. A closed call was curated by the Richmond Public Art Commission and sent out to four local artists. A selection panel comprised of three individuals: a Richmond business owner and jewellery designer, a Richmond artist and a local art professional reviewed the artist submissions and selected artist, Jeanette Jarville to create two site specific designs for the utility boxes. Supergraphics printers will work with the City to cover the boxes.

Public Art: Awareness

A colourful 22-page brochure, *Public Art in the City* is now available. This guide includes photos and brief descriptions of more than fifty public art pieces in Richmond, a map and a City Centre walking tour. Copies (7,500) are being distributed to City facilities such as City Hall, the Cultural Centre, community centres as well as through Tourism Richmond members. To raise awareness of Richmond's public art works, the Richmond Public Art Commission also initiated a transit poster and postcard campaign.

Picture right: *Public Art Postcard*

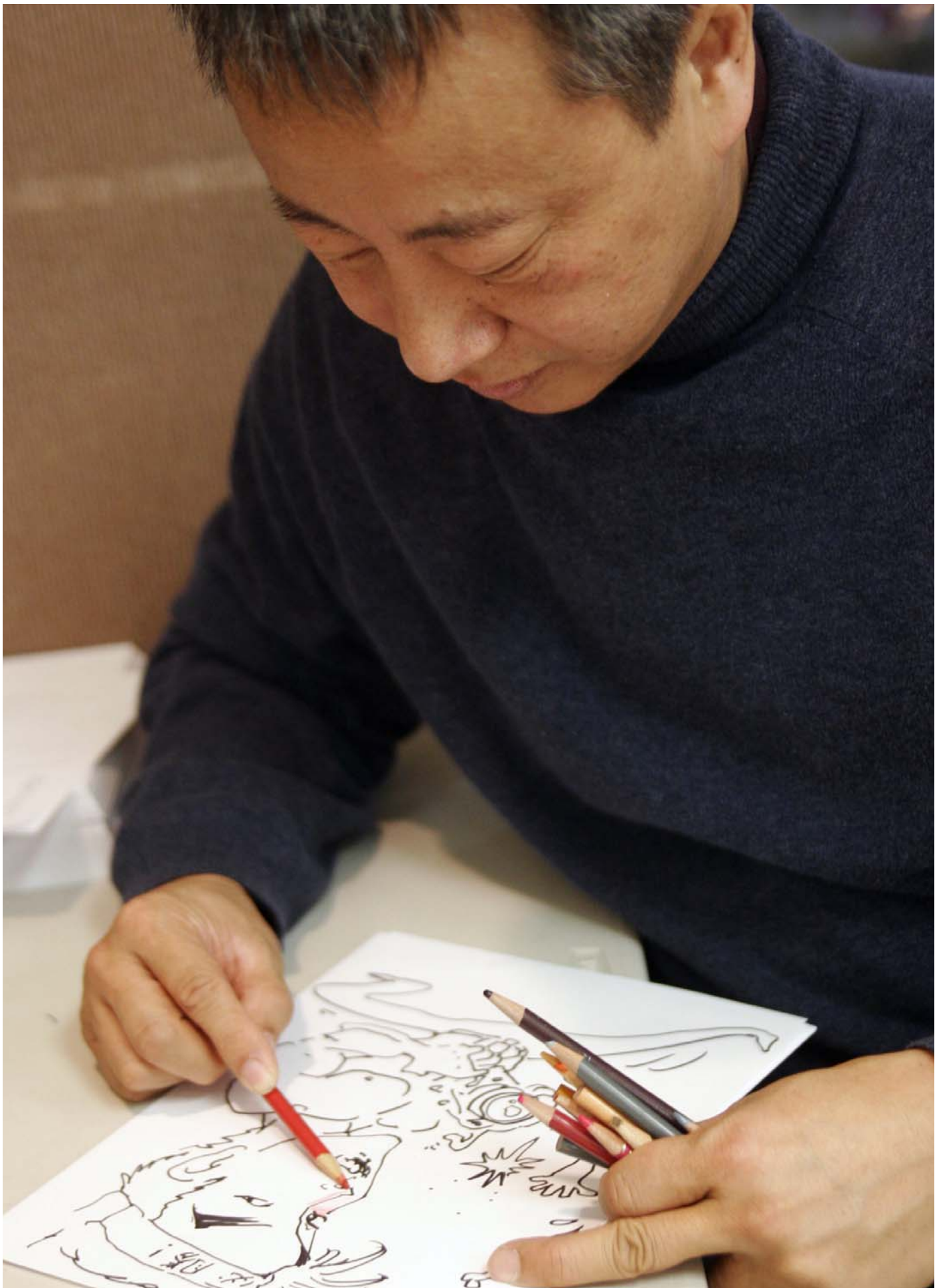
artabout

hand • eye • mind • place • spirit



discovering art in public places
Richmond Public Art Commission

www.richmond.ca



Richmond Arts Centre

2008 marked a record-breaking number of high quality, affordable arts and culture programs for the Arts Centre. The Art Centre's commitment to improving the quality and delivery of visual and performing arts programming in the community resulted in increased attendance in a variety of programs. A sampling of new classes introduced include African dance, Capoeira dance/martial arts with live music and singing, podcasting, private voice, guitar and flute classes, music production, architecture and art, computer animation, and video game design camps.

Arts Centre: Sound Studio

A new Sound Studio was opened in 2008 allowing for an expanded music and singing program. The Arts Centre gratefully acknowledges the loan of \$60,000 worth of music production equipment by one of its new music instructors. The Sound Studio is used particularly by a music-loving youth group, where DJ and podcasting classes are offered.

Arts Centre: Volunteers

The Arts Centre's volunteer program has grown in relation to the demand for help for the increased number of classes. There is now a roster of more than 80 volunteers, who are oriented and trained to provide assistance to the day-to-day operations of the Arts Centre.

Arts Centre: User Groups

The Richmond Arts Centre is proud to be home to more than twenty different user groups. These groups hold regular meetings, classes and workshops in the Arts Centre's studios. Many of them also hold exhibitions at various times of the year and make their work available for purchase by the public.

Picture left: Arts Centre Drawing Class

Arts Centre: Annual Dance Recital

The ever popular annual ballet and jazz school year program dance recital was held at the Gateway Theatre, May 16-17, 2009. Each year the Richmond Arts Centre organizes a three-part dance recital featuring over 500 dance students to sold out audiences. The school year dance program is so popular that each new year, hopeful parents line-up hours before the Centre opens to vie for a coveted spot. The dance program inspires a love of dance through creativity and music while instilling strong technique based on the Royal Academy of Dance teaching syllabus.



Annual Dance Recital

Arts Centre: Art Tours

Art Tours were expanded in 2008 due to popular demand. Young children are taken on affordable half-day tours to various arts and culture institutions throughout the Lower Mainland and then return to the Arts Centre to create a corresponding art piece based on what they have learned. These Art Tours have been held at the Vancouver Art Gallery, the Vancouver Museum, the Vancouver Aquarium, Science World and the Museum of Anthropology. In 2009, Art Tours have continued with an expanded roster of locations, including Terra Nova Park and various heritage sites in Richmond, as well as other major institutions in Vancouver.

Arts Centre: The Art Truck

The Art Truck, a dedicated Children and Youth Arts Outreach program run by the Richmond Arts Centre, had a record-breaking year in 2008 attending most summer festivals and community events and more than doubling its bookings at Richmond schools and at the Arts Centre. The Art Truck teaches a variety of disciplines such as painting, drawing, jazz, hip hop, cartooning and animation, drama, musical theatre, creative movement, singing and break dancing. The philosophy is to teach creativity, self-confidence and fine motor skills as well as colour theory and technical skills.



Arts Centre Pottery Class

Richmond Art Gallery

In 2008, fourteen exhibitions and seven animating exhibits were presented within the Gallery's three main display areas with work by eighteen artists, seventeen of whom live and work in BC, and one, Newfoundland-based artist, Pam Hall, working in collaboration with nationally-renowned Richmond artist, Margaret Dragu. Exhibitions are derived from artists submissions, curatorial proposals and in-house research and development. In 2009, the Richmond Art Gallery will present eleven exhibitions, accompanied by six animating exhibits to enhance visitor experience of the work on display. These shows will address topics ranging from the presence of scientific knowledge in everyday experience through environmental issues, to cultural influence and ethnic identity.

Art Gallery: Gallery Outreach

The Gallery serves the citizens of Richmond, Metro Vancouver, the Gulf Islands and the Lower Mainland as well as visitors from other parts of the province, and national and international tourists. The Gallery's annual attendance averages 32,000 and the website is visited approximately 700,000 times a year. The Richmond Art Gallery publicizes its activities province-wide via electronic and printed promotional materials, and takes registration for events via phone or online.



Arts for Life (2007), Ann Marie Fleming

Art Gallery: Family Sunday

Family Sunday is a free, drop-in program run by teens under the supervision of the Gallery's Education Coordinator on the fourth Sunday of every month. More than 7,000 parents and children have participated in this popular RBC Foundation-sponsored program, now in its seventh year. Family Sunday gives high school students practical skills in organization, planning, preparation and instruction of art projects. The students engage with members of the community and promote the understanding and enjoyment of the visual arts while presenting a positive model of youth participation and contribution.

Art Gallery: Arts Education

The Richmond Art Gallery has a very active education program that works to enhance the understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of the exhibitions and contemporary art, its practices and the issues it addresses. A primary goal of the educational programming is to engage with a culturally diverse community and to provide meaningful experiences that are both familiar and challenging. A corps of volunteer guides offer tours in English and Mandarin on the fourth Sunday of each month, while Gallery Attendants welcome and orient visitors to the current exhibitions daily.

Art Gallery: School Studio Art Program

Students are led in interactive discussions that introduce key concepts in visual art, with an emphasis on visual literacy and the issues addressed by the displays. The School Studio Art Program is led by a professional artist and certified teacher who adapt all tours and workshops to the BC School Curriculum. The program serves Richmond, Delta and Vancouver area schools with an average of 84 visits per year (representing approximately 2,000 children between the ages of 3 and 12 years).



Family Sunday Program

Art Gallery: Professional Development Workshops

The Gallery offers Professional Development Workshops to area teachers, co-sponsored by the Richmond School Board. Workshops are designed to enhance the quality of art instruction in Richmond and feature a gallery tour, hands-on experience with media, techniques and art concepts, a teacher guide and tips on integrating the Visual Arts Curriculum into the classroom. Teachers' nights are also organized to give a preview of upcoming programming and education possibilities. The Gallery works with the School Board to offer secondary school students a one-day seminar called Arts For Life. This popular annual event features lectures and demonstrations on art training and career opportunities by professionals from the Lower Mainland region.

Picture right: *Guise* (2009), Kristi Malakoff
Artwork: Maibaum, Installation View



Art Gallery: Satellite Exhibitions

Richmond Art Gallery organizes the display of work by local artists in the concourse at City Hall and at the Gateway Theatre. These venues offer further diversification of the artists' audience and extends the Gallery's activities outside the physical space. Each year the Richmond Art Gallery presents "Art About Finn Slough" in conjunction with the Finn Slough Heritage and Wetlands Society. Finn Slough is a tiny, relatively unchanged fishing community where the tides, plants, animals and residents each have their own ecological niche. Artists have found inspiration in Finn Slough as both a historical site and as an alternative to fast-paced urban lifestyle.

Art Gallery: Sustainability

Active volunteers and membership support the Gallery and keep it connected to the community. The Board recently completed an intensive development process and is currently reviewing long-standing structures and future goals. The hiring process for a new Gallery Director was completed in March 2009 and the new Curatorial position is to be filled within the next two months. With a dedicated Board of Directors and an experienced Director, the Gallery is set to become ever more vibrant in the future.



Finn Slough Evening, Ulrich Gaede.

Art Gallery: Community Support

The Richmond Art Gallery enjoys strong support from the local and regional community via volunteer assistance, fundraising assistance, corporate and private financial assistance, and through growing partnerships with other arts and heritage organizations, community groups and the business sector. Federal and provincial funding agencies provide operating support, while the City provides operational funds and in-kind contributions. The Gallery has a dedicated membership that offers volunteer support in activities such as clerical, social and technical assistance. In 2008, 65 volunteers contributed an estimated 2,100 hours to the Richmond Art Gallery.

Art Gallery: Assistance

In 2008, the Gallery was successful in securing a number of grants to assist with programming and operations. The following is a list of grant agencies and the amounts received:

- Gaming Commission, programming assistance (\$45,000, annually through 2010)
- Canada Council, presentation assistance (\$10,000 for Marginalia)
- British Columbia Arts Council, operating assistance (\$23,000)
- Legacies Now, board development (\$4,000)
- RBC, Family Sunday program (\$10,000; 2009 request has been submitted)
- TD Bank, School Art Program (\$10,000)

Grant applications are currently being written for 2010 funding.



Marginalia workshop with Artist, Margaret Dragu

Gateway Theatre

The Gateway Theatre is Richmond's only live professional theatre and the Lower Mainland's third largest theatre company. In 2008, performing arts activities at the Gateway Theatre played host to almost 60,000 patrons. The facility experienced an all-time high of 765 uses (Main Stage, Studios, and Lobbies) over twelve months. 132 volunteers contributed 9,301 hours of service, which is the equivalent of \$90,783 in wages.

Gateway: Professional Theatre Series

On the Main Stage, annual productions feature the work of award-winning playwrights and in Studio B, productions celebrate the work of emerging Canadian writers of diverse cultures. Six productions played from October to May on the Main Stage and in the Studio. *Art of Murder*, produced on the Main Stage toured to Vertigo Theatre in Calgary. In the Studio, *Summer of My Amazing Luck* introduced emerging designers and a new director to the community; and *Train* featured Theatre Replacement, the leading Japanese Canadian contemporary theatre company in the Lower Mainland. Tickets for these productions increased 25% from the previous year with attendees from cross-cultural backgrounds.



Daniela Vlaskalic, Natasha Girgis and Beth Graham in *The Drowning Girls* at Gateway Theatre. Photo: Cylla Von Tiedemann.