



# City of Richmond

## Report to Committee

**To:** Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee      **Date:** March 7, 2017

**From:** Jane Fernyhough, Director, Arts, Culture and Heritage Services      **File:** 11-7000-01/2017-Vol 01

**Re:** **Richmond Arts Update 2016**

### Staff Recommendation

1. That the staff report titled, "Richmond Arts Update 2016," dated March 7, 2017, from the Director, Arts, Culture and Heritage Services, be received for information; and
2. That the City of Richmond Arts Update 2016 be circulated to the Community Partners and Funders for their information.

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

Att. 1

<b>REPORT CONCURRENCE</b>	
<b>CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER</b> 	
<b>REVIEWED BY STAFF REPORT / AGENDA REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE</b>	<b>INITIALS:</b> 
<b>APPROVED BY CAO</b> 	

## Staff Report

### Origin

The Richmond Arts Strategy 2012–2017 was developed to help guide the City's actions to make Richmond a city with a thriving cultural life where the opportunities for participation in the arts are accessible, where artists feel they have a place and are seen as contributing to the community, where cultural industries are welcomed and where cultural activity is visible and supported.

The five strategic directions outlined in the strategy guide the City and its stakeholders' involvement in supporting Richmond's arts sector and ensuring a thriving and visible arts scene in Richmond:

1. Strengthen and support the arts community.
2. Increase the number of arts spaces and more effectively use existing ones.
3. Broaden the diversity of arts experiences and opportunities.
4. Expand public awareness and understanding of the arts.
5. Broaden the economic potential and contribution of the arts.

These strategic directions create a solid foundation and help to ensure the City is purposeful in its continued advancement of the arts in the community and that the arts play a strong role in place making, community building, tourism and economic development. This report presents the Richmond Arts Update 2016 (Attachment 1), which highlights the year's achievements in the arts.

This report supports Council's 2014-2018 Term Goal #2 A Vibrant, Active and Connected City:

*Continue the development and implementation of an excellent and accessible system of programs, services, and public spaces that reflect Richmond's demographics, rich heritage, diverse needs, and unique opportunities, and that facilitate active, caring, and connected communities.*

2.3. *Outstanding places, programs and services that support active living, wellness and a sense of belonging.*

2.4. *Vibrant arts, culture and heritage opportunities.*

This report supports Council's 2014-2018 Term Goal #5 Partnerships and Collaboration:

*Continue development and utilization of collaborative approaches and partnerships with intergovernmental and other agencies to help meet the needs of the Richmond community.*

### Analysis

The Richmond Arts Update 2016 profiles the year in the arts with particular attention to the programs and activities led by Community Cultural Development, Richmond Arts Centre,

Richmond Media Lab, Richmond Art Gallery, Richmond Public Art Program and Gateway Theatre. Together, these accomplishments reflect the City's continued support and investment in the arts.

Highlights and achievements of last year include:

- The inaugural Branscombe House artist-in-residence program offering year-round free community activities presented by celebrated visual artist, Rhonda Weppler. During 2016, Ms. Weppler's programs attracted an estimated 1,300 visits to this treasured heritage building for hands-on workshops that enabled the creative exploration of Richmond's ever-evolving identity through its culinary and architectural heritage, gardens and museum artifacts.
- Increased and enhanced programs for local artists including the Artist Mentorship Program (free monthly talks on the Canadian art system at the Richmond Art Gallery), Art at Work (series of low-cost practical skills workshops for artists interested in pursuing a professional arts practice in public art, visual art and community arts) and the addition of City Centre and South Arm Community Centres to the list of locations hosting monthly community art exhibitions.
- The eighth annual Culture Days weekend featuring 88 free, interactive activities at 27 locations, attracting an estimated 6,000 participants. Community activity organizers were overwhelmingly positive about the experience and the numbers maintained Richmond's ranking in Top Five cities across Canada for largest number of Culture Days activities (and Number Two among medium-sized cities).
- A record number of students (3,195) introduced to the world of contemporary art through the Richmond Art Gallery's school art program for preschool to Grade 12 levels. This highly acclaimed program also provides professional development for teachers, helping them develop skills in teaching art in their own classrooms.
- The integration of new works of art into public spaces including local artist-designed utility cabinet wraps and manhole covers, a community-created set of banners to surround the Minoru Complex construction site, 11 high quality works on new private developments and the public art program's first large outdoor community mural at St. Alban's Parish.
- The Richmond Art Centre's eighth annual Children's Arts Festival attracting 1,450 people on Family Day for activities and performances including two sold-out shows by Circus West, and an additional 3,200 school children to the Cultural Centre the following week to take part in dozens of hands-on workshops led by professional artists.
- Media Lab activities and programs designed for diverse ages and interests including the Careers in Media Arts speaker series, Richmond Youth Media Program, Drop-in program for Syrian newcomers, free movie screenings during Black History Month and Connect with Social Media workshop during Seniors Week.
- Another successful season at the Gateway Theatre, drawing audiences in excess of 40,000 to more than 175 performances including the six-play Signature Series season, featuring the Canadian premiere of the family comedy-drama, *King of the Yees* and holiday musical, *The Music Man*, to outstanding critical response.

The report also highlights the significant value and benefits the arts bring to Richmond by encouraging self-expression, creating a sense of community identity and pride, enhancing understanding of issues in society, providing opportunities to develop and foster new skills, and encouraging collaboration and connections. All of these benefits contribute to individual well-being and healthy, sustainable communities.

**Financial Impact**

None.

**Conclusion**

The Richmond Arts Update 2016 highlights activities and achievements in the arts in the community and the importance the arts play in further enhancing Richmond's growth into one of the best places to live, work and play. Art in everyday life creates a sense of meaning and sense of place for citizens. An investment in the arts is an investment in the community's quality of life.



Liesl G. Jauk  
Manager Arts Services  
(604-204-8672)

Att. 1: Richmond Arts Update 2016

City of Richmond

# ARTS UPDATE 2016

Arts, Culture and  
Heritage Services



Digital Carnival, Richmond World Festival





LOGIC WILL GET YOU  
FROM A TO B.  
IMAGINATION WILL TAKE  
YOU EVERYWHERE.

– Albert Einstein



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## Introduction

**I**t has been observed that a healthy arts scene shares characteristics that are essential and sometimes more easily recognized when applied to sports and physical fitness. Both little leagues and beginner piano lessons offer organized entry points to instill valuable skills and habits at an early age. Team sports and artists guilds, alike, provide fellowship and personal development through a common interest. As runners, swimmers and tennis players of all levels strive to improve their individual performances, so do writers, painters and musicians develop their practices, honing their skills and asserting self-expression.

The analogy also applies to civic facilities: just as healthy communities require access to playing fields, walking trails, pools and arenas, their vitality depends on the provision of galleries, studios, public art and performance venues. And, of course, elite sports and athletic competitions inspire, awe and engage their fans and audiences in a way that is in many ways analogous to how art exhibitions, concerts and plays by celebrated artists affect theirs.

It is art that makes life,  
makes interest, makes  
importance and I know of  
no substitute whatever for  
the force and beauty of its  
process.

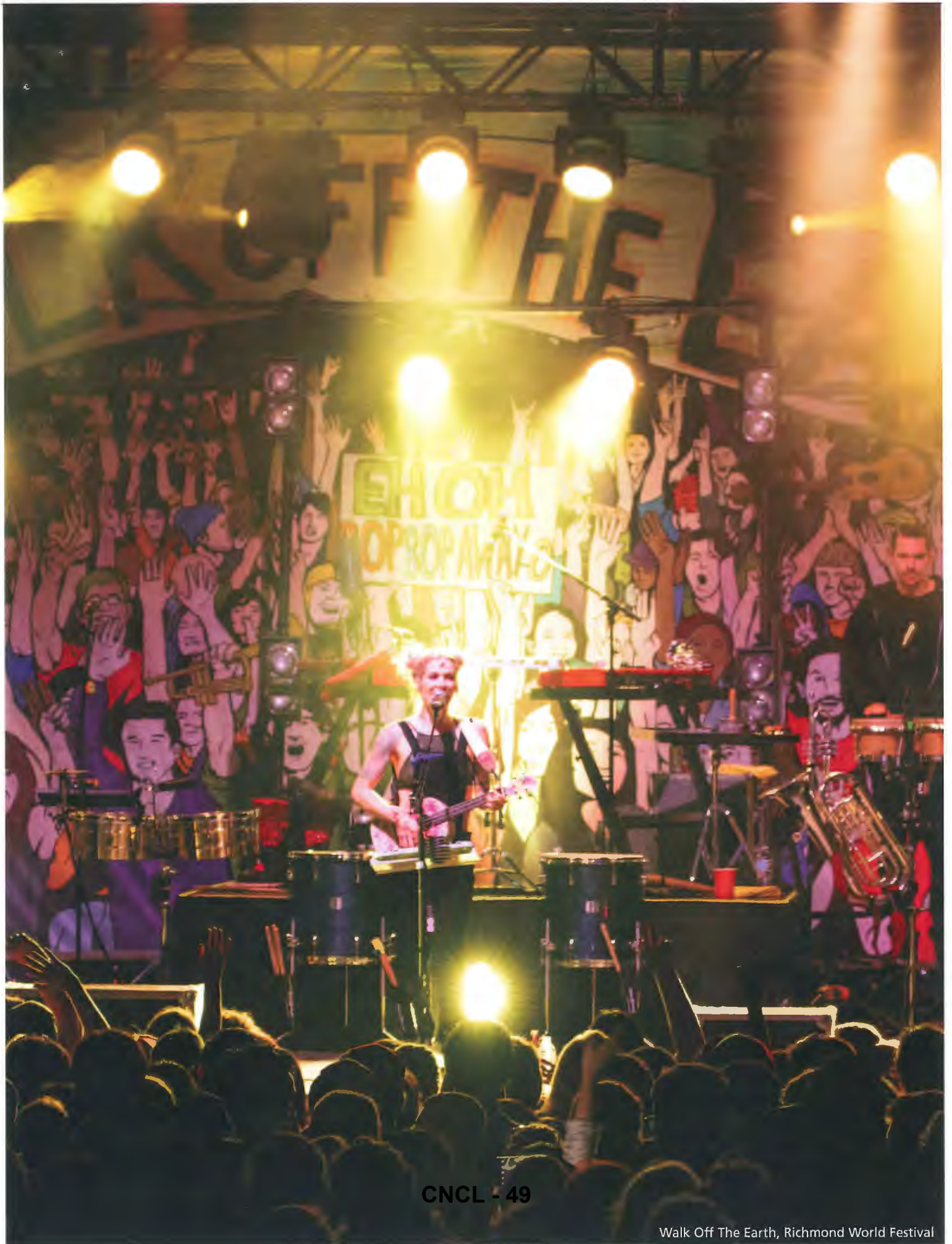
—Henry James

Our hearts, minds and bodies are varied and variable. Our community is similarly diverse, with a wide range of needs, interests and personal tastes. For this reason, a wide range of opportunities to participate in and experience the arts is essential to Richmond's aspiration to be the most appealing, livable and well-managed community in Canada.

Vibrant arts, culture and heritage opportunities are also integral to the 2014–2018 Council Term Goal of *A Vibrant, Active and Connected City*, along with strong neighbourhoods, effective social service networks and outstanding places, programs and services that support active living, wellness and a sense of belonging.

This 2016 Arts Update summarizes the progress made towards achieving the goals of the *Richmond Arts Strategy 2012–2017*. Throughout the document, you will see coloured icons to show how the year's activities help to advance the five strategic directions.







## Richmond Arts Strategic Directions



1. Strengthen and support the arts community



2. Increase the number of art spaces and more effectively use existing ones



3. Broaden the diversity of arts experiences and opportunities



4. Expand public awareness and understanding of the arts



5. Broaden the economic potential and contribution of the arts



## Community Cultural Development

### Lulu Series: Art in the City

The 2016 Lulu Series of guest speakers presented three free-to-the-public events about Art in the City and its importance to creating connections between citizens and their communities:

March 24: Architect **Brian Wakelin**, of the celebrated Vancouver-based design firm, PUBLIC (recent recipient of the Professional Prix de Rome in Architecture) discussed his firm's work designing temporary pavilions, small public buildings and urban infrastructure as gathering places. In contrast to monumental public spaces, these structures are fragments of an incomplete and evolving puzzle that make up the city. His talk was preceded by a short performance by performing artist Sam Herle. Attendance: 98

April 21: **Michael Rohd**, founder of the Center for Performance and Civic Practice (Evanston, IL), offered insights into developing collaborative projects with community and civic organizations. By engaging in a community-defined practice, his work reveals new ways of employing artists to build healthier communities. Michael is also the founding artistic director of Sojourn Theatre, a 17-year old ensemble-based company and 2005 recipient of Americans for the Arts' Animating Democracy Exemplar Award. Attendance: 81

May 18: Seattle-based artist, **Norie Sato** spoke about several of her public art projects from process to completion, describing what she looks for, how she responds to the specifics of a site and which details are most important to her in each project. Sometimes, rather than simply responding to a site, her projects can set the tone and the specifics of a place itself. Her talk was preceded by a short performance by 16-year-old professional yoyo competitor, Harrison Lee. Attendance: 70

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## 2016 RICHMOND ARTS AWARDS WINNERS

Arts Education: Mumtaz Khokhar

Artistic Innovation: Jordan Paterson

Business and the Arts: Innovation Networks

Volunteerism: Margaret Stephens

Youth Arts: Nancy Zhang

Cultural Leadership: Bilal Hamoud

## Richmond Arts Awards

Created in partnership with the Richmond Arts Coalition in 2009, the eighth annual Richmond Arts Award program recognizes artistic achievements and contributions to the cultural community by residents, artists, educators, organizations and business leaders. Their purpose is to:

- honour major contributions by individuals, organizations and businesses 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.

This year, 80 nominations were reviewed and finalists were promoted with website announcements, emails to the arts community and a series of ads in the *Richmond News*. The winners in six categories were announced at the Richmond Arts Awards ceremony in Council Chambers on May 17.

Mayor Brodie presided over the ceremony, which was attended by approximately 100 people. Special guests included guest speakers Genevieve Bucher, president of BC Artscape and local performance poet, Angelica Poversky.

## Arts and Culture Grant Program

The City's Arts and Culture Grants Program was implemented in 2011 to strengthen the infrastructure of arts and culture organizations, increase the investment in arts opportunities, show support for the careers of local artists and support a wide range of artistic and cultural activity. The program offers two types of grants: Project Assistance and Operating Assistance to registered non-profit arts and culture organizations.

On February 1, Council approved the distribution of \$107,497. A total of \$76,000 in Operating Assistance was distributed to nine recipients and \$31,497 in Project Assistance went to seven adjudicated programs and projects. **(See Appendix 1)** Over the summer, each of the grant recipients met individually with staff to discuss the progress of their programs and share feedback about the grant application process.

In 2016, due entirely to the City of Richmond's operating grant, we were able to hire a part-time Project Manager to initiate and develop relationships with potential sponsors in Richmond and Metro Vancouver.

— Richmond Delta Youth Orchestra

## Minoru Chapel Opera

In 2016, the Minoru Chapel Opera series offered a spring season of three concerts (each with a matinee and evening performance) in the historic Minoru Chapel. On April 6, Opera di Concertisti performed *Aida-Reimagined* to more than 145 attendees; on May 4, City Opera Vancouver presented *Great Arias and Duets for Soprano and Baritone* to 160 guests; and on June 1, Opera Opulenza made their Minoru Chapel debut with Pietro Mascagni's *Cavalleria Rusticana* to 138 opera fans. In the fall, Opera Mariposa performed *Prima Donna: A Celebration of Women in Opera* on October 5 to 79 attendees; on November 2 Burnaby Lyric Opera presented *Die Walküre* for 57 people; and City Opera Vancouver regaled 56 guests with a holiday-inspired performance, *Christmas Goes to the Opera* on December 7.

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## CULTURE DAYS BY THE NUMBERS

- 66** participating artists and cultural organizations
- 88** free, interactive public activities
- 6,000** estimated attendees
- 27** event locations across Richmond
- 96%** of surveyed activity organizers positive

## Culture Days

The eighth annual Culture Days (September 30, October 1 & 2, 2016) was another highlight of the year with Richmond continuing to be recognized as a leader in this Canada-wide movement to raise awareness, accessibility, participation and engagement in the arts with free, hands-on and interactive activities.

Among the offerings were historical walking tours around Steveston and a behind-the-scenes peek at First Nations Art at the airport. There were also free hands-on activities in calligraphy, watercolour painting, Filipino dance and drumming; and a wide range of demos, exhibits and activities in 27 different locations across Richmond. The Richmond Cultural Centre was, once again, a hub of arts and cultural activities, including a live radio broadcast that featured music, interviews and cultural content that animated the outdoor plaza of the Cultural Centre all weekend long.

In terms of numbers, in 2016, Richmond played host to 66 individual artists and cultural organizations who collectively presented 88 free, interactive public activities over the three-day weekend. This total is raised to 126 if multiple-day activities are accounted for – a 240% increase since Richmond's first year of participation in 2010. Combined attendance is estimated to be 6,000. Richmond's involvement represents 31% of the total 286 activities in the Metro Vancouver area, and 14% of the 658 registered activities across the province.

As I had never gone to one before I was very impressed by all that I saw. It is very well organized and I can see that a lot of planning and effort went into this event. I will attend again and, if possible, volunteer my time to help in any way possible.

—Diane, Richmond resident

In the national Culture Days "Top Ten" lists, the City of Richmond ranked number two on the list of cities with population 50,000-499,999 for largest number of activities and was in the top five of cities across Canada.

Culture Days provides beneficial professional development opportunities for local artists beyond the experience of organizing a public activity. The national website offers a wide range of how-to's and peer learnings. Artists and organizations that participate in Culture Days are provided with packages of promotional materials (some provided by the national Culture Days office) including posters, programs, balloons, buttons, tattoos, bookmarks and more. Feedback from artists and event organizers continues to be

excellent; almost all (96%) that responded to the follow-up survey found the event to be a positive experience and would both participate next year and recommend others to join in.

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## Writer-in-Residence

In Fall 2016, Richmond hosted its fifth Writer-in-Residence program at the Richmond Public Library, Richmond Arts Centre and Minoru Place Activity Centre. Author Karen X. Tulchinsky led a series of events in October and November that gave Richmond residents the opportunity to engage with a professional author. The focus of this year's residency focused on seniors and emerging writers aged 55+.



Karen X. Tulchinsky is a celebrated novelist, screenwriter, director and educator. Through her residency, she illustrated her commitment to demystify the creative writing process and helped writers to overcome writers block and gain the self-confidence and skills to read their work in public. Other workshops encouraged participants to draw from their experiences through the creation of monologues and helped participants through the process of taking stories from their personal lives and family histories to transform them into fiction.

The Writer-in-Residence program opened with a public reading, Q&A and launch event on September 30 (as part of Culture Days) where her series of free programs for seniors and adults was introduced. During her residency, Karen also offered consultations for eight local aspiring authors to have samples of their writing evaluated and discussed one-on-one with her.

The residency concluded with a multi-generational finale performance on November 20 where 15 participants shared writing developed at workshops in the previous weeks to an audience of 44.

Despite being a published author, Karen did not at all make the participants feel that writing was only for a select few: in fact, she insisted and taught us that we can ALL write well by writing regularly and by crunching out first drafts that should only later be edited. She handled our diversity in linguistic and cultural backgrounds very well ... not letting our lack of writing experience or our limited access with English stand in the way of transforming our ideas into stories.

– Nita, Memoir and Monologue workshop participant

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## Richmond Maritime Festival ❤️🏠👤📈

The 13th annual Richmond Maritime Festival (and fifth as a multi-faceted, large-scale arts, culture and heritage celebration) at Britannia Shipyards National Historic Site attracted an estimated 40,000 visitors on August 6 & 7. A major theme at this year's events was wooden boats and the festival included a variety of wooden boat programming and displays. The heritage site was transformed by delightful maritime-themed art installations, roving costumed characters, staged performances featuring local talents and many exhibits and interactive creative activities involving artists and artisan guilds including the Richmond Carvers Society, Steveston Maritime Modellers, Richmond Pottery Club, Richmond Weavers and Spinners Guild, Richmond Delta Youth Orchestra and Richmond Gem and Mineral Society among many other organizations. Richmond-based artist, Brenda Clark, was selected to create the illustration for the annual promotional campaign. The festival was programmed in partnership with the Richmond Arts Coalition and the Britannia Heritage Shipyard Society.

## Richmond World Festival ❤️🏠👤📈

The second annual Richmond World Festival, on September 3 at Minoru Park, was a high-energy international showcase of music, food, sport and arts. Among the plethora of cultural offerings, visitors (an estimated 35,000) enjoyed exciting technological media installations at the Your Kontinent Digital Carnival presented by Cinevolution Media Arts Society; a Chinese opera showcase at the Bamboo Theatre presented by the Vancouver Cantonese Opera Society; spoken word performances by many of the region's top poets; and numerous performances from the city's best dance groups and musicians. The World Festival received the award for Best Public Entertainment Festival at the Canadian Event Industry Awards and was one of three finalists in Special Event Magazine's international awards competition for Best Festival.

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## How Art Works

**H**ow Art Works, Arts Services' promotional campaign, is designed to raise public awareness about the importance of the arts to vibrant communities. Citing research from a range of sources, the campaign describes the often surprising ways that arts participation impacts health and wellness, quality of life for seniors, cultural empathy, economic impact and academic performance. **(See Appendix 2)**

In 2016, the campaign continued to gain steam with (bilingual) transit shelter advertising, a fold-out cover for the Parks, Recreation and Culture Guide, a robust Instagram social media campaign, website updates and a public art contest that received over 40 submissions from the public and was featured on the Canada Line public art columns. The contest was a unique challenge to the public to create imaginative poster designs that reveal how the arts impact everyday life. The art submissions

focused on a range of themes, such as health and well-being to personal connection and happiness. They highlight the impact the arts can have on an individual and/or community. The colourful designs celebrate creativity and the integral role the arts play in the diversity and vibrancy of our community.



The Changing Plate



Cookie Mural

## Branscombe House Artist-in-Residence

**A**s the inaugural Branscombe House artist-in-residence, celebrated visual artist Rhonda Wepler presented a range of free public programs in exchange for live/work studio space upstairs in this treasured restored heritage building, one of the earliest homes built in the Steveston area.

During 2016, her free public programs attracted an estimated 1,300 visits to the house where Ms. Wepler sparked the creativity of Richmond residents with workshops and exhibitions as well as monthly drop-in activities, typically revolving around the theme of food or using sculptural food materials such as cookie dough, marzipan or fondant, as a medium. Through these weekend making sessions, residents of all ages generated hundreds of little sculptures for a quartet of photo-montage murals displayed in the Richmond Cultural Centre in December.

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Moreover, she shared her talents to enable the creative exploration of Richmond's ever-evolving identity: its culinary and architectural heritage, gardens and museum artifacts. Through workshops to create little artworks of fungus, flowers, foliage and faces, she invited and enabled anyone to develop new skills to paint, sculpt or make prints. Her workshops developed a following of avid makers and new friends. From her first "cookie self-portraits" activity in January to her temporary community collaborative installation at Britannia Heritage Shipyards in December (comprised of miniature illuminated stilt houses meticulously crafted by community members out of reclaimed cardboard food packaging) her public programs encouraged creative expression and participation for a wide range of ages, abilities and interests.

I love how the city has started Branscombe house as an artist's residence and how Rhonda has done so much to involve the community. We love the free programs, not just for kids but for the whole family. It gives us satisfaction to see our own handiwork up somewhere as a public exhibit. Thank you for binding the community together through art.

– Lanie, via Facebook

The artist also generously donated a new bronze artwork, *The Gathering*, as her legacy: a life-size picnic basket of small food items sculpted by dozens of community members. This work will be installed near Branscombe House in 2017.

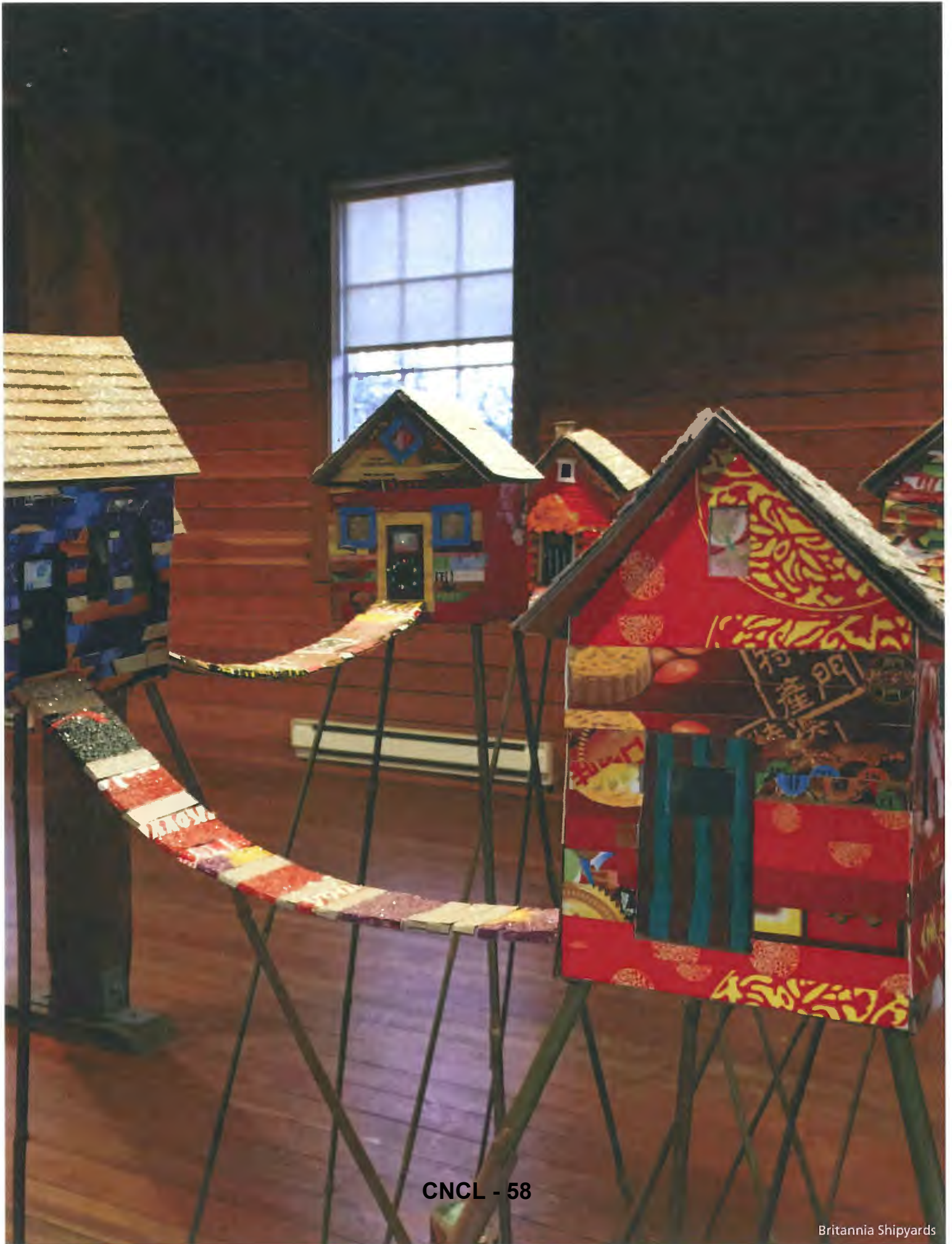
Full details about Rhonda Weppeler's residency can be found on her blog at [medium.com/@branscombehouse](https://medium.com/@branscombehouse) and [rhondaweppeler.com](http://rhondaweppeler.com).

The call for the second annual artist-in-residence attracted 25 proposals from artists hailing from eight countries. A selection of panelists representing the local arts community worked with staff to select Regina artist, Barbara Meneley, as the successful applicant. Her artistic practice will connect to Richmond's history with an exploration of maps and archives. The webpage at [richmond.ca/branscomberesidency](http://richmond.ca/branscomberesidency) is updated regularly to keep the public informed about upcoming free public programs.

## Richmond Artist Directory E-list

Since 2009, Arts Services has annually sent dozens of emails throughout the year to Richmond's arts community to keep them informed about City-led opportunities and programs for and of interest to them. The list currently has more than 370 recipients including individual artists and cultural organizations who receive occasional messages to alert them to Arts Calls, funding deadlines, promotional opportunities, professional development workshops and more. In 2016, the emails were given a graphic facelift to include images, graphic lay out and links to our social media accounts.









## Richmond Art Gallery

**R**ichmond Art Gallery is a nationally recognized municipal gallery known for its diverse array of exhibitions on issues and ideas of importance to our community, featuring Canadian and international artists. Richmond Art Gallery exhibitions, educational programs and events contribute to the growth of a vibrant cultural community in Richmond.

In 2016, the gallery saw a significant shift in leadership with the departure of director Rachel Rosenfeld-Lafo and hiring of Shaun Dacey, former curator at Vancouver's Contemporary Art Gallery.

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### 2016 EXHIBITION ATTENDANCE

- 4,661** Peter Aspell
- 3,759** Lyse Lemieux
- 3,467** Rick Leong
- 3,880** Diyan Achjadi and Shawn Hunt

### Exhibitions

**T**he Richmond Art Gallery presented four exhibitions in the Gallery (accompanied by educational programs that illuminated issues underlying the work) in 2016, representing emerging to senior artists from Canada and beyond, highlighting a range of contemporary issues and practices to this community.

#### PETER ASPELL: THE MAD ALCHEMIST

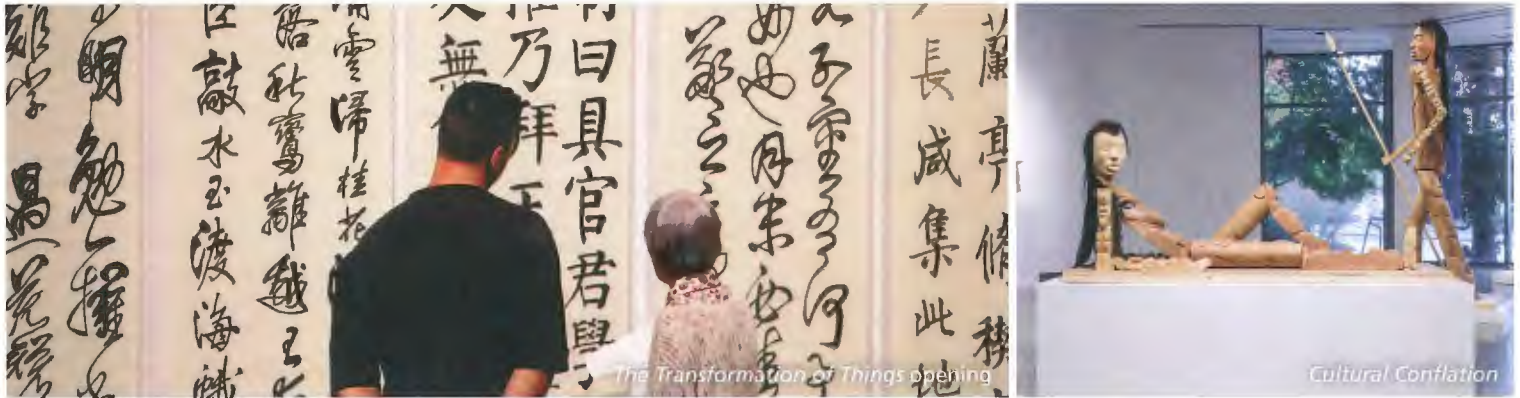
January 23–April 3, 2016

*The Mad Alchemist* celebrated the artwork of painter Peter Aspell (1918–2004), one of a core group of artists to gain early recognition in post-war Vancouver. Known for his exceptional use of colour, Aspell's mystical paintings and symbolic portraits include imagery drawn from diverse cultural sources such as African and Indian art. The exhibition ran concurrently with *Peter Aspell: Saints and Sinners, Mystics and Madness* at the West Vancouver Museum. The two institutions co-produced a monograph publication, *The Art of Peter Aspell* to accompany the exhibitions.

## LYSE LEMIEUX: A GIRL'S GOTTA DO WHAT A GIRL'S GOTTA DO

April 23–July 3, 2016

*A GIRL'S GOTTA DO WHAT A GIRL'S GOTTA DO* was a major solo exhibition by senior Vancouver artist Lyse Lemieux. Her work lyrically balances representation and abstraction while maintaining a relationship to the human figure. The works ranged from the intimacy of small sketchbook drawings to large wall drawings, “drawn” directly on the wall using strips of felt and cloth swatches. The exhibition was supported by the Canada Council for the Arts.



## RICK LEONG: THE TRANSFORMATION OF THINGS WITH WINIFRED LEE, LI DESHENG, PING-KWONG WONG

July 16–October 2, 2016

Victoria-based artist Rick Leong explores traditional imagery and symbols influenced by classical Chinese painting and the Canadian landscape. Leong, Canadian-born of Chinese descent, exhibited his work alongside a group of Richmond artists (Winifred Lee, Li Desheng, Ping-Kwong Wong) whose use of traditional imagery was presented in dialogue with Leong's iconography. The exhibition was supported by the Canada Council for the Arts.

## DIYAN ACHJADI AND SHAWN HUNT: CULTURAL CONFLATION

October 15, 2016–December 31, 2016

Vancouver artists Diyan Achjadi and Shawn Hunt explore the appropriation of cultural artistic forms while developing stunningly beautiful aesthetic works that depict a conflation or collision of cultures. Achjadi's prints and multi-media works and Hunt's wooden sculptures were combined in this exhibition to present complex and sometimes contentious histories.

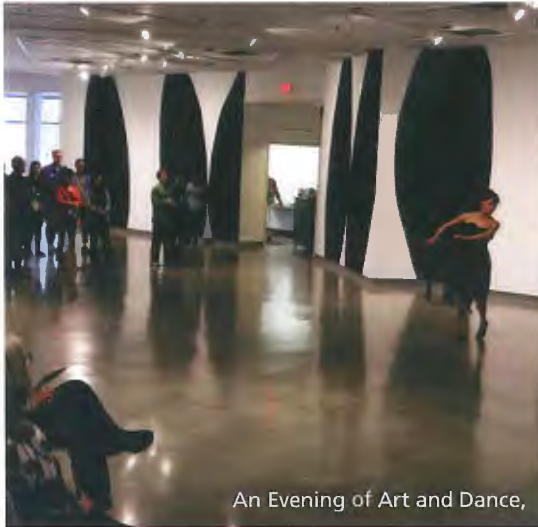
Beautiful – dynamite space. The show is beautifully mounted. The resources are nicely varied, very satisfying, exciting, thought-provoking; curious...I am coming back.

–Gallery visitor

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## Community Outreach and Programs



An Evening of Art and Dance,

### EXHIBITION-RELATED PUBLIC PROGRAMS

During the *Peter Aspell: The Mad Alchemist* exhibition, several talks and tours educated audiences about the work of this prolific artist and the art of painting. RAG Curatorial Assistant, Dr. Hilary Letwin, led a free illustrated talk on the history of portraiture from the Renaissance period up until the 20th century. Links between art historical works and the works of Peter Aspell were discussed with the large group of art lovers, artists and art students. The gallery followed up a few weeks later with a public conversation between *Vancouver Sun* arts columnist Kevin Griffin and RAG Director Rachel Rosenfield Lafo about Peter Aspell's art. For the final program of the exhibition, RAG Director Rachel Rosenfield Lafo led a sold-out bus tour to view the concurrent Peter Aspell exhibition at the West Vancouver Museum.

As part of the exhibition *Lyse Lemieux: A GIRL'S GOTTA DO WHAT A GIRL'S GOTTA DO*, the gallery hosted "An Evening of Art and Music", a dance performance by dumb instrument Dance involving an improvised response to Lemieux's artwork by two dancers and one musician. The performances were followed by a lively discussion with 55 audience members and panelists Nan Capogna, curator, exhibiting artist Lyse Lemieux, dancers Ziyian Kwan and Vanessa Goodman, and musician Stefan Smulovitz.

During the Culture Days 2016 weekend, the gallery hosted more than 400 visitors to view the exhibition *Rick Leong: The Transformation of Things* with Winifred Lee, Li Desheng, Ping-Kwong Wong. A free musical and calligraphy performance was hosted by local artist and instructor Master Li Desheng with qin zither performer Lin Min, and both artists were interviewed in Mandarin as part of the "Leave Your Mark" radio station at Culture Days. The following day, the gallery held a successful hands-on workshop with local ceramic artist Ping-Kwong Wong, where visitors of all ages learned the basics of building objects in clay.

### ARTIST MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

From April to October 2016 the gallery hosted the *Artist Mentorship Program*, a free monthly professional development program for visual artists funded through the City of Richmond's 2016 Arts and Culture Grant. The program connected artists, particularly those who have immigrated to Canada from another country, with information on how to navigate the Canadian art system. Each month a

guest artist or curator shared personal experiences on how to develop a professional arts practice and what opportunities exist for visual artists within the Lower Mainland. Sessions were held in English, but included Mandarin or Cantonese translation upon request. Numbers were limited to 25 participants per session, to ensure that each artist's concerns and questions can be addressed with the group. Sessions were fully booked with artists from various disciplines and levels of experience, creating a great networking opportunity for local artists.

Enjoyed hearing from everyone who contributed (facilitator and artists). Thanks for the opportunity to be heard.

—Mentorship program participant

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## ARTIST INTERVIEWS ON VIDEO

For each exhibition, the Gallery produces video interviews of the artists or curators talking about their work. In 2016, the Gallery produced four interviews:

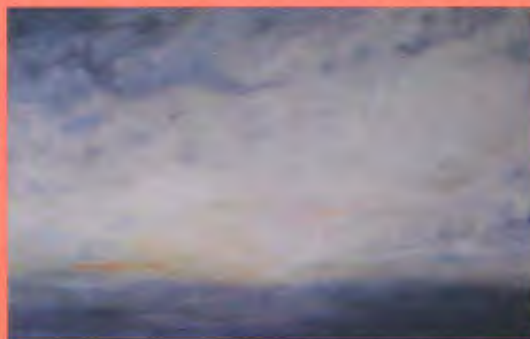
- Curators Darrin Morrison and Rachel Rosenfield Lafo for *Peter Aspell*
- Lyse Lemieux for *A Girl's Gotta Do What a Girl's Gotta Do*
- Rick Leong for *The Transformation of Things*
- Diyan Achjadi and Shawn Hunt for *Cultural Conflation*

## DOORS OPEN AT THE RICHMOND ART GALLERY

During the Doors Open Richmond 2016 weekend, the gallery provided tours of the *Lyse Lemieux: A GIRL'S GOTTA DO WHAT A GIRL'S GOTTA DO* exhibition in English and Mandarin. The gallery also had a presence at the Bridgeport Industrial Park "Pollinator Pasture Picnic" on the Saturday of *Doors Open Richmond* with an activity booth and youth art display. This event marked the finale of the *For All is For Yourself – RAG Youth Outreach* project, which was funded by the Richmond Community Foundation.

The 2015–2016 project brought students and their teachers from three Richmond schools (JN Burnett, Cambie, and McRoberts Secondary) together with professional artists and gallery staff to share skills, interests and ideas about the importance of pollinators in our environment. Gallery staff, Cameron Cartiere and the chART Collective, Jasna Guy, and Jaymie Johnson all shared their work with students and teachers on field trips and in the classroom to inspire art projects at each school that reflect the values of cooperative labour, promote discussion about wild pollinators and support an educational model that provides training for community members to take an active role in habitat solutions for bees.

The youth art display at *Doors Open Richmond* marked a finale to the year-long outreach project with over 100 Richmond secondary art students. At this event, eight youth were selected by their art teachers to present their classmates' art projects and lead interactive art projects with the general public to share their newfound knowledge on how local citizens can help pollinator populations. The entire project is posted online to the gallery website as a student art gallery and documentation of the program.



## CITY HALL GALLERIA EXHIBITION 2016

The Richmond Art Gallery organizes exhibitions by local artists for display at Richmond City Hall. In 2016, the Gallery presented the following exhibitions:

**Jan 12–Mar 8** Marjorie Young, *A Walk in the Woods*

**Mar 9–Apr 27** *My Richmond: A Selection of Works from Richmond Art Centre Acrylic Open Studio*

**Apr 27–Jun 15** Meredith Aitken, *Of Other Spaces: Colour, Light and Place*

**Jun 15–Sep 14** Kerri-Jo Stewart, *Exploring Steveston: the Fraser River*

**Sep 14–Nov 15** *Works from the Richmond Society for Community Living*

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## Ongoing Public Programs

In addition to the many exhibition-based programs offered, year-round the Gallery presents a variety of opportunities for the public to appreciate and learn about art. These programs offer diverse “entry points” into the exhibitions depending on the visitor’s comfort level and learning style. These programs include:



### FAMILY SUNDAY

The Family Sunday program remains a popular monthly program for Richmond families. This program averages 100–160 participants per month, many of whom are regular monthly visitors, who engage with exhibition-related art activities for all ages. *Family Sunday* also provides training and job skills to a team of youth volunteers who assist in the coordination of the program. The program continues to be sponsored by the RBC Foundation enabling it to be offered free of charge.

## 2016 SCHOOL ART PROGRAM BY THE NUMBERS

- 137** school tours and workshops
- 3,195** students
- 20** teachers at the Provincial Pro-D workshop in October

### SCHOOL ART PROGRAM

The Richmond Art Gallery School Art Program introduces students from Preschool to Grade 12 to the world of contemporary art through interactive gallery tours and exhibition-based, hands-on art activities. The program also provides professional development workshops for Preschool and Elementary teachers, helping them to develop skills in teaching art in their own classrooms. The Gallery receives annual funding for the School Art Program from TD Bank Group.

In 2016, 137 school tours and workshops were conducted, serving 3,215 students and teachers from all over the Lower Mainland, including Richmond, Vancouver, Surrey and Delta. RAG also offers Teacher Professional Development workshops throughout the year. Several adult ESL tours were also provided, as well as toddler, seniors and family tours for weekday programs such as the Together Time program.

The staff is really good with the kids and the kids really enjoyed what they did... One kid told me that he had as much fun as when he went to Disney World!!! That says it all...

–Teacher

In 2016, the School Art Program continued its partnership with the UBC Faculty of Education in their Community-Based Field Experience program. This program pairs students from the Teacher Education program with community organizations to allow teacher candidates to gain experience teaching in non-school contexts. Ashley Yun, a secondary art teacher candidate, and Tyler Dennis, an elementary-years candidate, did three-week practicums with the School Art Program’s Coordinator Melanie Devoy. They assisted with tours and art workshops, and gained experience working with children aged 3–12 in a gallery context.

### ART CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS

The RAG also leads innovative art classes and workshops. In February, more than 220 children attended art workshops held at the Gallery during the Children’s Art Festival. During Spring Break, 55 children ages 6-12 participated in a Spring Break Art Intensive focusing on drawing, painting, mixed media and printmaking projects that related to the Peter Aspell exhibition.



## Partnerships

The Richmond Art Gallery has developed and continues to consolidate relationships with numerous community partners such as the Canadian Artists Representation / Les Front des Artistes Canadiens (CARFAC) BC, COR Environmental Sustainability Department, Gallery Jones, Richmond Cares Richmond Gives, Richmond Women's Resource Centre (and their Chinese Grandmothers' group), Richmond School District, Richmond Public Library, Richmond Museum Society, Richmond Public Art Program, Richmond Arts Centre, Richmond Media Lab, SUCCESS, Richmond Delta Youth Orchestra, City of Richmond Seniors Services, UBC Faculty of Education and Vancouver Asian Heritage Month Society.

New partnerships in 2016 include those with Arts Off Main Society, Beaumont Studios and Gallery, Dynamo Arts Association, Gam Gallery, Richmond Multicultural Community Services, Richmond Chinese Community Society, and the West Vancouver Museum.

These partnerships allow the Gallery to create mutually beneficial opportunities for audience crossover, resource sharing and cooperative programming and help to extend the understanding of art's significance in everyday life.

### ART AT WORK

In 2016, the Richmond Art Gallery continued to collaborate with Richmond Public Art and CARFAC BC on *Art at Work*, a series of low-cost professional development workshops for visual artists. The program started in 2016 with a sold-out full-day Art Symposium in January for 90 visual artists, followed by monthly workshops led by various arts professionals offering knowledge and tips on practical skills for artists such as marketing and promotion, documenting artwork for portfolio and marketing uses, preparing exhibition proposals, and getting involved with do-it-yourself artist-run cultures. The series ended June 2016, with plans to continue again in the spring of 2017.



## Funding

The Gallery benefits from financial and in-kind support of many organizations. In 2016, the Gallery received cash and in-kind assistance from three levels of government, businesses, private foundations and individuals.

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Glenn Anderson  
Dream of the River

## Richmond Public Art Program

### RICHMOND PUBLIC ART PROGRAM TO-DATE:

- 185** Total number of artworks in collection
- 132** Permanent artwork installations
- 48** Temporary installations  
(40 no longer on display)
- 137** Total number of permanent and temporary artworks currently on display

**T**he Richmond Public Art Program provides a means for including art in creating a culturally rich environment in a vibrant, healthy and sustainable city. Public art is incorporated into civic and private development projects to spark community participation and civic pride in the building of our public spaces. In addition to permanent and temporary artworks, the Public Art Program offers a stimulating program of educational and community engagement events to increase public awareness of the arts and encourage public dialogue about art and issues of interest and concern to Richmond residents.

### Civic Public Art Program 🖐️💬

**I**n 2016, public art was commissioned by the City and installed at community centres, parks, civic buildings and along city sidewalks. These included:



Deanne Achong and Faith Moosang, *Island*

#### ISLAND

**by Deanne Achong and Faith Moosang**  
Britannia Shipyards National Historic Site

Lulu Suite is a public art project that looks at the history of Richmond through a combination of historical and contemporary lenses. Artists, Deanne Achong and Faith Moosang have created three narrative-based projects that explore questions of technology, public space and the means in which history is collected, archived and shared. In 2016, the third work, *Island*, was permanently installed as part of the Seine Net Loft's new interactive exhibits. The imagery and sounds invite the audience

to consider the beauty of the industrial presence rooted to the site by the hypnotic flow of the river.

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Hilda Yuet Yi Fung,  
*Colouring My Life*



Cover Stories:  
*Britannia Manhole Cover*



Bruce Walther,  
*Homage to Bubbles*

## COLOURING MY LIFE

by **Hilda Yuet Yi Fung**

Richmond Animal Protection Society, 12071 No. 5 Road

As the Richmond Animal Protection Society (RAPS) outgrew its Richmond Animal Shelter facilities, a new trailer was added as an extension to the operation. RAPS, Parks and Public Art coordinated the enhancement of the trailer with an artist-designed wrap representing the themes and values of the Richmond Animal Protection Society. The artwork draws on the current trend of graphic colouring book design depicting animals which are adoptable at the shelter and local fauna.

## COVER STORIES

by **Greg Allen, Caroline Dyck, Susan Pearson and Jeff Porter**

Manhole covers throughout Richmond

In April of 2016, the first of 200 artist-designed storm and sanitary manhole covers was installed enhancing the community's street experience. The four selected artists took common, previously unremarkable pieces of our civic infrastructure and transformed them into pieces of art that celebrate Richmond's cultural heritage. The fabrication company, Westview Sales Limited, sponsored the project, producing the manhole covers at no additional cost. They help establish a sense of place, remembrance and pride.

## City Utility Cabinet Wrap Program

The Public Art Program, in partnership with Engineering and Public Works and the Transportation Department, installed four new art wraps around Richmond in 2016. These included:

### HOMAGE TO BUBBLES

by **Bruce Walther**

Phoenix Pump Station

The artwork is a photographic homage to the Community Mosaic Project done by youth and adults at the Steveston Community Centre in 2007. The mosaic represents Steveston's historic canning, farming, fishing and the meeting of the Fraser River and the Strait of Georgia in Steveston.

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## INTO THE TRAILS

By **Joanne Hastie**

Utility box, 6411 Lynas Lane

The artwork depicts the natural rain forest in which we live and our accessibility to a maintained trail system. Inspired by nature, *Into the Trails* reminds us to revisit our trails and thank all the people who make it accessible.

## SUNSET AT STEVESTON

by **Danny Chen**

No. 5 Rd. Pump Station

The artwork depicted is a watercolour representation of Steveston Harbour at sunset.

## RETURNING HOME—SOCKEYE SALMON

by **Danny Chen**

Gilbert Pump Station, two utility boxes

Building on the location adjacent to the river, this artwork references Steveston's rich fishing heritage.

In addition, several civic public art projects were commissioned in 2016, and are scheduled for installation in 2017–2018 (see **Appendix 3**).



Joanne Hastie,  
*Into The Trails*



Danny Chen,  
*Returning Home - Sockeye Salmon*



Blake Williams,  
*Black Earth Rusted Stories*

## Community Public Art Program 🏠👤💬

### BLACK EARTH RUSTED STORIES

by **Blake Williams**

The Sharing Farm

This piece celebrates the history of Richmond's agricultural heritage and the farmers who have worked the rich, alluvial soils of the Fraser River delta. The assemblage of worn, rusted tools, reminiscent of those used by generations of families who worked this land, provides insight into the daily life, ingenuity and perseverance which lies at the heart of sustainable agriculture. The artwork is located on the north wall of the newly opened Mary's Barn, named in honour of Mary Gazetas, the founding member of the Richmond Fruit Tree Sharing Project now known as the Sharing Farm.

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Joey Mallet,  
The Richmond Peace Labyrinth Mural



Britannia Piano,  
Pianos On The Street



Rhonda Wepler and Caroline Elise Dyck,  
Minoru Complex Community Banner

## PIANOS ON THE STREET 2016

The third annual program built bridges and delighted passers-by throughout the community by bringing pianos to open-air locations in Minoru Plaza, Britannia Heritage Shipyards site and the Terra Nova Rural Park, from July through September 2016. Each piano was decorated either by a local arts group or school arts program to represent the flavour of the community where it was situated and the public was invited to play the instruments and upload media of themselves to a dedicated website, [www.supportpiano.com](http://www.supportpiano.com). This project was sponsored by Pacey's Pianos.

## THE RICHMOND PEACE LABYRINTH MURAL

by **Joey Mallet**

St. Alban's Parish

The Public Art Program supported a community proposal from The Richmond Peace Labyrinth Committee to assist in the creation of the Public Art Program's first large outdoor community mural. The Richmond Peace Labyrinth is based on ancient worldwide designs of meditative labyrinths, and is a replica of the labyrinth at Chartres Cathedral in France. The mural completes the site in creating an experience which builds on the beauty of the labyrinth, references motifs of Chartres Cathedral, and extolls the values of peace, beauty and inclusivity. Richmond Peace Labyrinth and the mural are a contemplative public space for all people, regardless of religion and culture.

## MINORU COMPLEX COMMUNITY BANNER PROJECTS

by **Caroline Elise Dyck and Rhonda Wepler**

Minoru Park

As part of the Minoru Civic Precinct Public Art Plan, members of the community were encouraged to participate in the creation of colourful construction hoarding designs on the Minoru Complex Development site. Artists Caroline Elise Dyck and Rhonda Wepler brought the "past" and "future" of the new facility to life with poetry and sculptures by visitors of all ages who took part in workshops over several weeks. The artworks were unveiled during Culture Days and were so successful that a second set of banners was printed to adorn the Granville Avenue side of the construction site.

## POLLINATOR PASTURE PICNIC

Bridgeport Industrial Park

The Pollinator Pasture hosted a picnic as part of this year's Doors Open celebration. The picnic invited project partners to host a tent and celebrate the first bloom of the Pollinator Pasture with community members. Tent partners included BC Hydro, Vancity, West Coast Seeds and the Richmond Art Gallery. Artist workshops by Sharon Kallis and a participatory sculpture by Samuel Roy Bois engaged visitors as did tours of the pollinator pasture by staff and project leads. Art activation of the park continued through summer 2016 with the making of butterfly net sculptures, by artist Sharon Kallis who led community members in a series of rope-making circles. The butterfly net sculptures were installed in early August with a final gathering and celebration. The Pasture itself is a collaborative effort with Sustainability, Parks and Public Art with private partners, all coordinated by an Emily Carr University Research Team, directed by Dr. Cameron Cartiere.



Christian Huizenga,  
*Layers*



Mia Wainberg,  
*Site Unseen*

## Private Development Public Art Program 🏠👤💬📈

Through the development applications process, private developers continued to provide high quality public art to enrich the public realm. In 2016, the following projects were completed:

### LAYERS

by Christian Huizenga

Museo

This work is the outcome of an innovative partnership between Emily Carr University of Art + Design (ECUAD); Am-Pri Group and the City of Richmond. ECUAD students developed the *Alexandra Road Public Art Plan* in 2015. The Plan was then used to guide the artist selection process for the private development at 9580 Alexandra Road. Artists applying for the opportunity were required to attend a series of three professional development workshops as part of the Art at Work Professional Development Program for artists. Recent graduate, Christian Huizenga, was selected through an arms-length selection process. A reflection of soil, *Layers* is a continuous garden, railing and bench, inspired by the rich aggregation of sediment layers upon which Richmond is built. By defining the greenway, the piece draws emphasis to the continued preservation of green spaces within densifying cities.

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## SITE UNSEEN

by Mia Weinberg

Sorrento

These four sliding doors feature two images of leaf veins and two maps of Richmond: one large scale and one detailed scale of each. Serving a practical function, the work surrounds an otherwise unsightly ground sanitary pump station, hence the title, *Site Unseen*, a whimsical reference to the mechanical networks and conduits that lie hidden beneath our streets and behind the walls of buildings. Just as leaf veins are networks for transporting the lifeblood of a plant, one can imagine streets, power, water, drainage and communication systems as networks transporting the lifeblood of a city.

I think it is a great idea to increase public art in this city. It really adds to the character and makes walking around much more enjoyable.

—Richmond resident

## DREAM OF THE RIVER

by Glen Andersen

The Pier at London Landing

Designed and built to resemble an archaic relic, *Dream of the River* is a surrealist folly wherein a full-size fishing boat “skeleton” is visually married to a salmon backbone. The sculpture is perched on a grass berm overlooking the Fraser River contained within a platform that extends out from a pedestrian walkway. The work was commissioned by Oris Development Corp.

## GINSENG

by Evan Foon Lee

One River Park Place | commissioned by Intracorp

These three photographic enlargements of ginseng roots balance modern materials and processes with natural forms and colours. The three glass panels are installed within a water feature adjacent to the exterior of the development giving passersby the sense that the roots are floating. In addition to being a medicinal plant used by many cultures, and especially in Chinese medicine, ginseng is grown throughout Canada, including farms along the Fraser River. The artwork promotes good health, well-being and connection with nature and through magnification, emphasizes the anthropomorphic nature of the ginseng plant form.

The moon moves swiftly  
but the tree tops  
still hold the rain.



Jeanette G. Lee,  
*Poet's Promenade*

## POET'S PROMENADE

by Jeanette G. Lee

5460 to 5560 Moncton Street | sponsored by Am-Pri Developments

Paying homage to Richmond's deep Japanese roots, this portion of sidewalk along Moncton Street is imprinted with images of leaves and embedded with stainless steel text of haiku poems by Batsuo Basho (translated by Keiko Parker). Poems representing the “four seasons” bring the traveler on this trail symbolically through the many “seasons” of life.

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Support



Art Spaces



Diversity



Public Awareness



Economic Potential



Mark Ashby,  
*Signal Noise*



Bill Pechet  
*Closer Than*



Mark Ashby,  
*Snow / Migration*

## SIGNAL, NOISE

by **Mark Ashby**

Oxford Land | commissioned by Townline

Nine unique entry gates mark the entry points of the south-facing street entrances for Oxford Lane. Digitally fabricated from steel bars, each gate presents a unique three-dimensional surface. The gates also cast interesting and variable shadows on the front walk and gardens of the townhouses. The work was commissioned by Townline.

## CLOSER THAN

by **Bill Pechet**

Mandarin | commissioned by Fairborne Homes

This work consists of an offset grid of 300 identical convex safety mirrors mounted in six rows of 50 mirrors each. Sited along the wall of a new mixed-use housing project facing the Brighthouse Canada Line Station platform, the mirrors produce a shimmering visual plane, which presents the station itself as its subject. The transience of people, space and light produce an evolving and shifting portrait of the station and commuters, where, just like in car mirrors, we are closer than we appear.

## SNOW/MIGRATION

by **Mark Ashby**

Richmond Central at Garden City | commissioned by SmartREIT

Inspired by the migratory passage of Snow Geese, five sculptural lamp standards with broad folded metal reflectors and high-power, white LEDs are programmed to provide an ambient light show. Local sound sensors located on the lamp standards override the ambient program with an interactive experience allowing the artwork to respond to the sound of low-flying aircraft, the cadence of a voice or to be "played" like a musical instrument.

## SPIRIT OF STEVESTON

by **Cheryl Hamilton and Mike Vandermeer**

Kingsley Estates | commissioned by Polygon Homes

On the former site of Steveston Secondary School, *Spirit of Steveston* pays homage to both the golden era of Steveston's marine industry and the site's previous institutional use. The boat and gulls are crafted from stainless steel, polished to a mirror finish, and detailed with cast elements and etched surface treatments. Into the sky, the artists have launched a scene that would be familiar to many of Steveston's previous generations.

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Alyssa Schwann and Michael Seymour  
*Untitled (Nest for Owls)*



Rebecca Belmore  
*Upriver*

### UNTITLED [NEST FOR OWLS]

by **Alyssa Schwann and Michael Seymour**

Jayden Mews | commissioned by Polygon Homes

This piece was created in response to the need for habitat for owls as well as their food sources. To house the nest, a pollarded willow tree was used for its fast-growing characteristics, suitability for the site and historic agricultural presence. The nest itself is a ceramic vessel modeled on an existing tree nest, making it the ideal dimensions for a safe and habitable nesting site.

### UPRIVER

by **Rebecca Belmore**

Riva Development | commissioned by Polygon Homes

Inspired by the nearby Fraser River and the spawning migration of millions of Pacific salmon, the form of this sculpture references the ingenious construction of the bentwood box made by the Northwest Coastal peoples for centuries. Cast in bronze, with a copper-like patina, *Upriver* is rendered to look like it is made out of cedar logs and planks at various levels of processing, referencing the more recent history of the Fraser River as a transportation conduit for the forest industry. The transition from cedar planks to salmon in this piece suggests the inseparable ecological dependency between the migrating salmon and the coastal rainforest.

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Several private development public art projects were commissioned in 2015, and are scheduled for installation in 2017–2018 (see **Appendix 3**).

I think that the public art in Richmond truly enhances our experience as residents. It's too easy to get lost in the concrete and glass of some of the more densely populated areas of the city.

—Richmond resident

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## Unique Projects

### NO.3 ROAD ART COLUMNS

#### Exhibition 9: Small Monuments to Food (Part 2)

This series of artworks (installed December 2015) examined how Richmond's diversity of cultures—including our social, economic and political histories—have influenced the way we think, produce, consume, protect and build community and identity around food. Participating local artists were Eric Button, Catherine Chan and Deborah Koenker.

#### Exhibition 10: How Art Works

The art columns played host to a contest launched in early 2016 in support of the How Art Works campaign (originally created by communication design consultants, 123w). The contest invited creative people to create an artistic graph to communicate how the arts impact their health and well-being and/or that of the community. Nine artists were selected through an arms-length selection process. People's Choice and Honorable Mentions were also selected via online polling.

### CANADA LINE TERMINUS PLINTH PROJECT

*Skydam* by Nathan Lee, the second of two artworks commissioned for the Brighthouse Canada Line Station Art Plinth Exhibition was completed in February 2016. The artwork is comprised of a white steel plated beaver dam with a family of fibreglass red beaver sculptures. The work references the colours of the Canadian flag and acknowledges the cultural and economic importance of the North American beaver. The artwork will remain on display through 2017.



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Nathan Lee, *Sky Dam*  
Canada Line Terminus Plinth Project





## Public Art Education and Engagement Program

### PECHAKUCHA NIGHT RICHMOND

Ten speakers from a variety of different professions and backgrounds presented their stories at each of the three free *PechaKucha Night Richmond* events in 2016. The presentations reflected on influential experiences and the changes that these have brought about in fields ranging from design and art to social inclusion, environmental activism and entrepreneurship. PechaKucha is a presentation format where speakers present 20 images and tell their stories as the photos automatically advance every 20 seconds.

#### — Volume 13: For the Love of Nature

*February 11, 2016, Richmond Nature Park*

Presented in partnership with the Richmond Nature Park, this event featured presentations from a naturalist, conservationist, landscape architect, artist, educator, agriculturalist, parks planner, sustainability advocate and a marine biologist. Attendance: 50

#### — Volume 14: Brain Space

*March 31, 2016, Kwantlen Polytechnic University, Richmond Campus*

Hosted and produced by second year students in the Graphic Design for Marketing Program at Kwantlen Polytechnic University Richmond Campus, this event featured ten speakers on a wide range of subjects. Attendance: 200

#### — Volume 15: Rich City Life

*May 5, 2016, Steveston Community Centre*

Presented in partnership with Youth Services, this event was presented from the perspective of Richmond youth, igniting passion and creative thinking about the urban youth experience in Richmond. Attendance: 34

#### — Volume 16: Finale: Homegrown Inspiration

*November 24, 2016, Richmond Cultural Centre Performance Hall*

Homegrown Inspiration celebrated the last four years of the PechaKucha Night program. It showcased local artists and featured inspiring presenters who inspire others, enrich Richmond and enhance the vibrancy of their communities. Attendance: 30

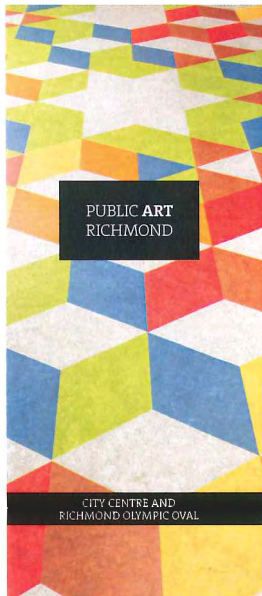
## CNCL - 74

## CULTURE DAYS PUBLIC ART BUS TOURS

Participants of all ages joined Public Art Planner Eric Fiss for two fully subscribed bus tours exploring some of Richmond's newest artworks.

## CULTURE DAYS: LEAVE YOUR MARK FM POP-UP RADIO STATION

In collaboration with the Richmond Media Lab, Richmond Museum and Richmond Art Gallery, Leave Your Mark FM animated the Cultural Centre Plaza during Culture Days. Special guest hosts broadcast live from the plaza and played music selected by local Richmond youth, intriguing interviews with artists and locals and readings of historical letters from the Richmond Museum. The pop-up radio station also promoted other Culture Days events happening throughout the city.



## ART AT WORK

Presented in partnership with the Canadian Artists Representation/Front des artistes canadiens (CARFAC) and the Richmond Art Gallery, this series of professional development workshops and events was designed to provide artists with the knowledge and skills required for pursuing a professional arts practice in the fields of public art, visual art and community arts. Workshops and events for the winter and spring series were free.

## PROMOTION OF THE PUBLIC ART COLLECTION

Richmond's Public Art collection can be browsed online at [www.richmond.ca/publicart](http://www.richmond.ca/publicart) where visitors can also download an interactive map for smartphones and a series of 10-minute self-guided walking tours. In 2016, two illustrated public art walking tour brochures (City Centre/Richmond Olympic Oval and Steveston Waterfront) were updated for distribution online and as hard copies.

## 2016 RPAAC MEMBERS:

Aderyn Davies, Chair  
 Sandra Cohen, Vice Chair  
 Chris Charlebois  
 Simone Guo  
 Valerie Jones  
 Shawne MacIntyre  
 Victoria Padilla  
 Willa Walsh  
 Xuedong Zhao  
 Councillor Carol Day—Council Liaison

## Public Art Advisory Committee

The Richmond Public Art Advisory Committee (RPAAC) is a Council-appointed voluntary advisory committee that provides input on public art policy, planning, education and promotion. At monthly Committee meetings, members received presentations on new civic, private development and community project proposals and provided feedback and recommendations. Updates on discussions on public art for upcoming development were provided by the Committee's appointee to the Advisory Design Panel, Xuedong Zhao.

In 2016, the Committee held three facilitated workshops to review the Administrative Procedures Manual and recommended updates to improve clarity and administration of the Public Art Program.





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Cheryl Hamilton and Mike Vandermeer,  
*Spirit of Steveston*





Adult Ballet Class



Richmond World Festival



Richmond Maritime Festival



Culture Days

It was great to have joined the Richmond Youth Media Program, since I was exposed to an array of awesome media skills, such as video editing. In fact, I'm slowly overcoming my techno-klutziness. I also took on a handful of projects for the City of Richmond and Thompson Community Centre, including producing presentations and videos.

- Shawn Chang, Grade 10 student at Burnett Secondary







Richmond Arts Awards



Forest View Branscombe Hall

I have been bringing my students to the School Art Program regularly for over twelve years and am a HUGE fan. The opportunities available to explore and experience at RAG are far greater than any I have been able to provide in my classroom, and the facilitators are second to none.

- Leanne Teixeira, teacher at Garden City Elementary



Peter Aspell: *The Mad Alchemist*, Richmond Art Gallery



Richmond World Festival



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Richmond Arts Awards





## Richmond Arts Centre

**T**he Richmond Arts Centre provides high quality arts education opportunities in a wide variety of disciplines, including visual arts, dance and movement, music and theatre. The Centre is also home to 11 local arts groups known as the Resident Art Groups.

The vision for the Richmond Arts Centre is to be the hub of artistic opportunity within Richmond, activating and inspiring artists and community members to connect through the arts. The creative contributions of Richmond residents, through dance, theatre or visual arts, have a significant positive impact on community health and celebrate the vibrancy of this diverse and dynamic city.

Registrations in Arts Centre classes continue to stay strong, and demonstrate the commitment of the community to the Arts.

In order to ensure safe and professional spaces the Arts Centre has continued to undergo several facility upgrades, including, in 2016, machinery and ventilation systems in the Lapidary Studio and pottery kiln room.

### ARTS EDUCATION PROGRAMS BY THE NUMBERS:

<b>638</b>	courses
<b>5,683</b>	registered students
<b>581</b>	waitlisted
<b>30+</b>	professional instructors
<b>40,000+</b>	visits

### Arts Education Programs

**T**he Richmond Arts Centre continues to develop and diversify its Arts Education offerings to meet the growing community demand for high quality arts education. The programs developed and offered in 2016 ensure the community has access to a strong base of introductory or beginner arts education while increasing its access to higher-level learning opportunities.

The Arts Centre's *Arts Line-Up* programming guide, launched in 2016, has received extremely positive feedback from patrons. Comments regarding the user-friendliness nature of the publication have solidified the need for this guide, and have reduced the Centre's reliance on external marketing sources.





Adult Art Class



Dance Recital

The Visual and Applied Arts curriculum was introduced to Arts Centre instructors in Fall 2016, with full implementation taking place in Winter 2017. Instructor feedback regarding this framework of outcomes has been mostly positive, as it allows them to better understand the expectations of the programmers.

The year-round dance and musical theatre program continues to be in high demand with 563 students registered and 131 waitlisted. In addition to classes in ballet, tap, jazz and musical theatre, the Arts Centre is home to two dance companies: the Richmond Youth Dance Company and the Richmond Dance Company (19 years +).

In June 2016, the Richmond Arts Centre sent 17 dancers to participate in the internationally recognized Cecchetti Examinations. This marks an important step in establishing the Arts Centre's reputation in the professional dance world.

As in past years, there were several public presentations to showcase the talents of Arts Centre students:

#### "SEASONS" SCHOOL YEAR DANCE RECITAL

In June, 500 dancers presented works in ballet, tap, jazz and musical theatre to an audience of nearly 1,000 over two performances at Gateway Theatre.

#### "THE WINTER'S GIFT" SCHOOL YEAR DANCE GALA

The first of its kind and the first step towards producing a full ballet in Richmond, 100 advanced dancers and 30 lower level ballet students performed for approximately 400 audience members.

#### "KAIROS" RICHMOND YOUTH DANCE COMPANY SHOWCASE

In March, approximately 180 people enjoyed performances choreographed by senior instructor Miyouki Jego with guest artist Troy McLaughlin.

#### PIANO RECITALS

Filling the Performance Hall in June with beautiful music, piano students performed for approximately 50 audience members and participants to celebrate their achievements.

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### RICHMOND ART AWARDS

The Richmond Youth Dance Company performed on stage for arriving guests and dignitaries at the eighth annual ceremony at Richmond City Hall.

### STUDENT ART SHOWCASE

This showcase exhibited the many talents of students enrolled in the Fall 2016 term, and ranged from pre-school to adult ages. Curated by the Visual Arts and Ceramic Technician, work was exhibited down the hallways of the Arts Centre. There are plans to make the Showcase more substantial in 2017, taking over the entire second floor of the Cultural Centre.

### CITY HALL GALLERIA EXHIBITION: ADULT ACRYLIC OPEN STUDIO CLASS

Richmond Art Centre had its first juried student showcase at the City Hall Galleria in March and April.

## Community Arts

### 11 RESIDENT ART GROUPS AT THE RICHMOND ARTS CENTRE

- Richmond Artists' Guild
- Cathay Photographic Society
- Richmond Chinese Artists Club
- Richmond Chinese Calligraphy and Painting Club
- Richmond Gem and Mineral Society
- Richmond Photo Club
- Richmond Potters' Club
- Richmond Reelers Scottish Country Dancing
- Richmond Weavers and Spinners Society
- Riverside Arts Circle
- Textile Arts Guild of Richmond

### RESIDENT ART GROUPS

The Richmond Arts Centre is home to some of the city's most established community arts organizations. Throughout the year, these groups provide workshops, exhibitions and demonstrations for their members as well as participate in community events such as Culture Days. Signature group events for the public include the Resident Art Group Showcase, Potters Club winter and spring sales as well as the Richmond Gem and Mineral Society art markets.

In 2016, the Richmond Chinese Artists Club was welcomed as a new group to the Arts Centre.

### ART TRUCK COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAM

In 2016, the Art Truck program enabled children to experience and experiment with a variety of art mediums during after school hours. The program was hosted at Brighthouse, Grauer and General Currie Elementary Schools, with approximately 72 students taking part in these sessions monthly.

The Richmond Arts Centre's Art Truck program provides art outreach to students after school, taking place for two hours on a monthly basis. Art education in

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In my three years at Currie there have been about 50 students involved in the Art Truck program yearly. The students that attend are often those that are not involved in extracurricular activities and thus, I believe that it has created connections and offered opportunities for many more individuals than if just offered at the community centre.

—General Currie Administrator

traditional and unconventional media, such as performing arts and visual arts, are led by a professionally trained arts instructor.

The fall season (September–December 2016) welcomed new partners to the program to elevate the reach and overall experience offered through the Art Truck Outreach program. With the support of community centres in the area, the program added a physical literacy component and a nutritionist, working in conjunction with Richmond Public Health, who created and executed a Healthy Eating segment, where each participant was able to enjoy a nutritionally balanced snack mid-program.

### COMMUNITY ART EXHIBITIONS

The Richmond Arts Centre leads the selection of local artist exhibitions at the Richmond Cultural Centre, Gateway Theatre and Thompson Community Centre. In 2016, City Centre Community Centre and South Arm Community Centre were added to the exhibition circuit. The program facilitated exhibitions by the Richmond Photo Club, Tony Bowden, Joseph and Becky Wong, Cathay Photographic Society, Glorian Chernochan, Ming Yeung, Chow Cheng Luan, Richmond Artist Guild, Richmond Arts Centre students, Phillippe Gadeane and London Steveston High School students.



Joseph and Becky Wong, Community Art Exhibition



Textile Arts Guild of Richmond

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## Special Events

### CULTURE DAYS

The Arts Centre hosted a “Make Your Mark” project, where participants were invited to measure and record their height on a mural in the Arts Centre, and to leave their mark by including their name and birthdate. This project was inspired by Roman Ondak’s *Measuring the Universe*, an installation at Tate St. Ives in 2011.

### CHILDREN’S ARTS FESTIVAL

The eighth incarnation of this popular event, presented in partnership with the Library and Minoru Place Activity Centre, returned to the Richmond Library/ Cultural Centre, Minoru Place Activity Centre, Minoru Arenas and the Minoru Plaza with interactive arts programs, theatre and music performances and roving entertainers for families and school out trips. On Family Day, February 10, 1,450 people visited. Through the following week, 3,200 school children took part in dozens of hands-on workshops led by professional artists. Highlights included the return of Circus West with two sold-out shows in the Performance Hall as well as hosting the Red Poppy Ladies Percussion Group from Beijing. The festival was presented with the support of returning sponsors Lansdowne Mall, Cowell Auto Group, YVR, and Gnubees, as well as new partners, Vancity Credit Union and local Richmond business, Nature’s Path.

### ART ABOUT FINN SLOUGH

In April, the 16th annual art exhibition featured work by 51 artists representing photography, painting, and ceramics. The show was viewed by more than 640 visitors, setting a record for the event. Two vintage photos of Finn Slough (from 1988) by a Hornby Island photographer were included. The Friday evening celebration which featured Ulrich Gaede’s well-illustrated talk about the *Eva* attracted an unprecedented full house in the 100-seat Performance Hall.



## GRAND Plié

In recognition of International Dance Day on April 29, the Arts Centre hosted their second Grand Plié event. With approximately 40 participants in attendance, dancers were led through a free mini barre class by senior dance instructor Miyouki Jego in the Dance Studio. The event provides an opportunity for participants to learn some of the many benefits of dance in an accessible and enjoyable environment.

## TICKLE ME PICKLE

The Richmond Arts Centre continues its support of Tickle Me Pickle, the only local sketch comedy improv group in Richmond. Their performances at the Performance Hall and Gateway have a loyal multi-generational following and over the years, the Arts Centre has helped the group develop. The company delighted over 150 audience members over three shows in 2016.

## YOUR KONTINENT POP-UP MEDIA FESTIVAL

The City supported Lansdowne Mall and Cinevolution Media Arts Society in presenting a site-specific multimedia festival at the Lansdowne Mall food court titled *Condensation: A Stage with Quiet Applause*. The event presented seven artists from a diverse cultural background and celebrated a diverse range of interactions, coming together within the context of the unassuming plaza space. In early May, more than 1,000 people participated over 10 days.

## Community Partners

In 2016, the Arts Centre partnered with the following community organizations and city departments to increase the community's access to arts program opportunities: City Centre Community Centre, Richmond West Community Centre, Thompson Community Centre, Gateway Theatre, South Arm Community Centre, ten Resident Art Groups of the Richmond Arts Centre, Vancouver Cantonese Opera Society, City of Richmond Parks Department, Richmond Centre for Disability, Richmond Public Library, Richmond Delta Youth Orchestra, Pathways Clubhouse, Richmond Public Health, School District #38, Richmond Museum, Richmond Art Gallery and Minoru Place Activity Centre, Lansdowne Mall, Cowell Auto Group, YVR, and Gnubees, Vancity, Nature's Path.

IT'S ALWAYS FUN TO PLAY GAMES AND  
RELAX IN THE ART SESSION. IT'S THE  
PERFECT PLACE TO BE MYSELF.

–Participant, Brighthouse Outreach program



## Richmond Media Lab

**L**ocated in the Richmond Cultural Centre and operated in conjunction with the Richmond Arts Centre, the Media Lab is designed to increase technology literacy, accessibility and creativity in our community, particularly among youth. Media Lab participants are taught skills and techniques for applying media and computer technology towards artistic activities and practical marketable skills.

### Programs

#### MEDIA ARTS EDUCATION COURSES

In 2016, students took classes in a range of topics, including Acting on Camera, Build a Website, Animation, Coding and Video Game Design.

Everything here is the epitome of all my interests.

– Youth visiting Media Lab for the first time

#### RICHMOND YOUTH MEDIA PROGRAM


The Media Lab's signature program continued to flourish with youth members learning marketable skills and receiving mentorship and volunteer opportunities. A total of 48 program members, 241 guests and 16 adults (including practicum students, youth workers, and professional artists) spent a total of 3,262 hours in the Media Lab and at community outreach events in 2016. On May 2, two RYMP members were recognized as Outstanding Youth at the 2016 U-ROC Awards.

#### YOUTH "TEST DRIVE" PROGRAM

The weekly "Test Drive" drop-in for youth wrapped up in June 2016. With a strong focus on animation and digital design, this drop-in was designed to complement animation and game design classes offered in the Media Lab. Fifteen registered youth and nineteen guests participated.

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## Careers in Media Arts

A speaker series featuring local professionals working in film, animation, music and photography.

Wednesday, April 13, 2016	6-8pm	Film
Wednesday, May 11, 2016	6-8pm	Animation
Wednesday, June 1, 2016	6-8pm	Music
Wednesday, June 29, 2016	6-8pm	Photography


Richmond Cultural Centre Performance Hall.

Are you a young artist? Join us to learn about award-winning work done by local professionals, the most exciting and frustrating aspects of each field, and discover exciting career options within your community.

No registration is required for this free event.

Contact the Richmond Media Lab for more information at [medialab@richmond.ca](mailto:medialab@richmond.ca) or 604-247-8303.

Presented by the Richmond Media Lab and Presenting Sponsor Viva Pharmaceutical Inc.



## CAREERS IN MEDIA ARTS SPEAKER SERIES

The Media Lab presented a series of four events featuring local professionals working in film, animation, music and photography. Discussions ranged from the most exciting and frustrating aspects of each field, to ways to get started and local career options. The events were recorded for future distribution as podcasts. In total, 13 speakers presented to 56 audience members.

- **April 13: Film**  
Jordan Paterson, Lawrence Lam, Tracey Mack
- **May 11: Animation**  
Jeff Chiba Stearns, Ali Lupu
- **June 1: Music**  
C-Infamous, Horsepower, The Stuntman
- **June 29: Photography**  
Harrison Ha, Ariel Kirk-Gushowaty, Femke van Delft, Rob Fillo

## Community Outreach

### RICHMOND RECOVERY DAY PROGRAM

In partnership with Richmond Addiction Services Society (RASS), the Media Lab provided skill development sessions for the Recovery Day Program. This program is designed for youth entering into recovery or struggling to stay in recovery from substance use/misuse and mental illness. Participants spend one afternoon per week developing media arts skills relevant to their interests, as part of a personalized recovery program that includes counselling, support groups and recreation. In 2016, RDP participants spent more than 50 hours at the Media Lab.

### BLACK HISTORY MONTH

In partnership with the Richmond Public Library, the Richmond Youth Media Program helped to present a program of NFB films related to the lives of Black Canadians on February 18 (*Speak It! From the Heart of Black Nova Scotia* and *Joe* featuring Vancouver hero Joe Seraphim Fortes), followed by a discussion moderated by Lindagene Coyle. There were 24 people in attendance.

### SYRIAN NEWCOMER MEDIA LAB DROP-IN

In partnership with ISSofBC, the Media Lab provided a drop-in media arts activity for two groups of newcomer youth (March 19 and 20). Participants tried digital drawing, digital photography and a digital collage activity using Adobe Photoshop software. A total of 13 youth participated.

### YOUTH WEEK CIRCUIT BENDING WORKSHOP

As part of province-wide Youth Week celebrations, the Media Lab presented a workshop on “circuit bending”—creating new musical instruments by creatively customizing electronic devices—with sound and visual artist David Leith. Ten youth attended with additional support provided through a Youth Week sponsorship from WorkSafeBC.

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## DOORS OPEN: "FRANKENSTORY" DROP-IN

As part of the city-wide Doors Open event, members of the public were invited to visit the Richmond Media Lab and participate in an interactive "Frankenstory" media arts activity hosted by the Richmond Youth Media Program (June 4) and Cinevolution Media Arts (June 5). A total of 155 people attended.

## HORIZONS BOYS GROUP

In partnership with Richmond School District 38, the Media Lab hosted three workshops in January and February 2016 for an after-school boys program from Horizons. Seven youth and two school staff members learned media arts skills relevant to their interests.

## SENIORS WEEK : "CONNECT WITH SOCIAL MEDIA" WORKSHOP

As part of the city-wide Seniors Week celebration, older adults were invited to learn how to upload photos and learn other tips and tricks to more easily navigate Facebook and Instagram. The class was sold out with 10 registered participants.

## Services

### VIDEO CREATION

Media Lab staff produced a number of videos highlighting City programs and activities including pieces for the 2016 Arts Update, 2016 Heritage Update, Youth Services "40 Developmental Assets" video, Minoru Complex Update, Sustainability videos (including one on New District Energy) and Mayor Malcolm Brodie's Annual Address. RYMP youth also produced, with professional filmmakers, a live video simulcast of the Richmond Remembers Remembrance Day ceremony.

### YOUTH DJ PERFORMERS

In 2016, Media Lab staff were approached by the mother of a 9-year old interested in learning how to become a DJ. In response, a DJ trained by the Richmond Youth Media Program created a series of one-to-one lessons and was able to deliver them using Media Lab equipment in the Cultural Centre boardroom during RYMP drop-in sessions. Youth DJ performers from the Media Lab also entertained audiences at the Pecha Kucha "Homegrown Inspiration" event, Family Day at Cambie Community Centre, and the Richmond Arts Awards reception.

## Partners and Funders

**I**n 2016, the Media Lab confirmed the ongoing support of presenting sponsor Viva Pharmaceuticals Ltd. and ongoing program support from Vancouver Coastal Health's SMART Fund grant secured through the Media Lab's partnership with Richmond Addictions Services Society.

In addition to the programming partnerships listed above, the Richmond Media Lab continues to develop relationships with service agencies across the region. Members of the Richmond Youth Media Program have been referred to employment, volunteer and workshop opportunities through the Richmond Community Services Advisory Committee, Kaleidoscope Youth Skills Link Program, Richmond Youth Dance Company, Children's Arts Festival, International Day of Dance, Our Community Bikes, and Chimo Community Services.

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Youth DJ, Richmond Media Lab



## MISSION:

To enrich the quality of life in Richmond and surrounding communities by creating outstanding professional theatre and a dynamic hub for the performing arts.

## Gateway Theatre

**G**ateway Theatre is Richmond's live performing arts hub, annually drawing audiences in excess of 40,000 to more than 175 performances.

The cornerstone of activity is the Signature Series, a six-play season of professional theatre plus a play development program. In addition, Gateway offers theatre education programs including classes for children and youth in the Gateway Academy for the Performing Arts.

Gateway is also home to many recitals, events and performances produced by local community and professional organisations.

## Live Professional Theatre

### SIGNATURE SERIES

The Gateway Theatre's 2016 Signature Series productions featured comedy, drama, and music and welcomed some of the most talented artists from the Lower Mainland and across Canada.

Man, this cast is talented...Under Jovanni Sy's direction, this production is as slick as can be.

—Colin Thomas, *Georgia Straight*

#### ***Closer Than Ever***

MainStage, February 4–20, 2016

This popular musical revue by Richard Maltby, Jr. and David Shire examined the highs and lows of mid-life. Directed by Jovanni Sy and featuring a talented cast (Kevin Aichele, Ma-Anne Dionisio, Christopher King, and Caitriona Murphy with Caitlin Hayes and Danny Balkwill), *Closer Than Ever* was nominated for one Jessie Award and five Ovation Awards.

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***The List***

Studio B, March 10–19, 2016

*The List* is Shelley Tepperman's translation of the Governor General's Award-winning play *La liste* by Jennifer Tremblay. Directed by John Jack Paterson, *The List* featured an incredible solo performance by France Perras as a woman tormented by guilt after the death of her friend and neighbour.

***Don't Dress for Dinner***

MainStage, April 7–23, 2016

This hilarious farce was part of a co-production with Thousand Islands Playhouse in Ontario and Western Canada Theatre in Kamloops. Directed by Ashlie Corcoran, *Don't Dress for Dinner* tells the story of French sophisticates and their frantic attempts at romantic liaisons.

***King of the Yees***

MainStage, October 13–22, 2016

Gateway Theatre proudly presented the Canadian Premiere of this family comedy-drama by American playwright Lauren Yee and directed by Sherry J. Yoon. Partly inspired by her own life story, *King of the Yees* tells the story of Lauren's father Larry Yee. When Larry goes missing, Lauren goes on a madcap search for him through the back alleys of San Francisco's Chinatown.

***Long Division***

Studio B, November 17–26, 2016

This world premiere by Peter Dickinson and directed by Richard Wolfe told the story of a tragic school shooting through the language of mathematics. The stylish new piece incorporated multimedia components and choreography to reconstruct a fascinating story of human interconnection.

***The Music Man***

MainStage, December 8–31, 2016

This beloved American musical reunited the creative team of director Barbara Tomasic and music director Christopher King. Starring Jay Hindle as Harold and Meghan Gardiner as Marian, *The Music Man* tells the story of a charming con man who tries to swindle the citizens of a small Iowa town but ends up falling in love with the town's librarian. *The Music Man* played to full houses and outstanding critical response.



From Left, Tess Degenstein, Kirk Smith, Krista Rossini  
*Don't Dress For Dinner* (photo by Mark Tolay) © 2016



Caitriona Murphy,  
*Closer Than Ever* (photo by David Cooper) © 2016

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(From Left) Michelle Collier, Meghan Gardiner and Oliver Gold, *The Music Man* (photo by David Cooper)



(From Left) Milton Lim, Andrea Yu *King of The Yees* (photo by David Cooper)

## PLAY DEVELOPMENT

Gateway Theatre hosted developmental workshops of *Gross Misconduct* by Meghan Gardiner and *Nine Dragons* by Jovanni Sy. *Nine Dragons* is slated for production in Calgary, Winnipeg and Richmond next season.

In addition, Gateway donated more than 150 hours of studio time to other theatre companies to develop their own plays.

## PACIFIC FESTIVAL

In September 2016, Gateway welcomed two local theatre companies who produced shows in association with the Pacific Festival, both in Cantonese with English surtitles.

### ***Boeing Boeing***

Studio B, September 8–10, 2016

This hilarious Cantonese translation of the French farce *Boeing Boeing* played to a sold-out audience. Produced and directed by Joei So, *Boeing Boeing* told the story of a Parisian playboy desperately trying to juggle three separate paramours.

### ***A Taste of Empire***

Lobby, September 15–17, 2016

In this unique performance piece written and directed by Jovanni Sy and translated and performed by Derek Chan, the second floor lobby of Gateway Theatre was transformed into a pop-up demonstration kitchen with café table seating. In *A Taste of Empire*, Sous-Chef Derek cooked an intricate fish dish in real time while comically deconstructing the dish's provenance.

## Theatre Education

### GATEWAY ACADEMY FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS.

The Academy spring classes concluded in April with year-end presentations in classes for students 6–13 in Musical Theatre, Acting, Speech and Singing. The scripts of the Playwriting Class for ages 13-18 were read by professional actors to a public audience. The Acting and Musical Theatre classes for students 13-18 resulted in two productions *The Comedy of Errors*, and a commissioned musical *Solo Sisters*, playing in rep to a paying audience.

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My son had a fantastic experience at this [acting] camp. He really enjoyed the 'create your own play' experience and the improvisation work. I know he would jump at the chance to attend again.

—Parent

As in previous years, Gateway ran camps and workshops over the summer, one resulting in a three-night production of a new, specially-commissioned musical *Not So Different* on our MainStage.

Enrollment for the new season of classes in fall 2016 was so strong that many classes were full, and in some cases, additional classes and instructors had to be added to accommodate demand.

### RBC OUTREACH PROGRAM

Four times a year, secondary school theatre students are invited for a day to study a play on the MainStage. On the day of technical dress rehearsal, students participate in presentations and discussions with Gateway's creative team - participating in backstage tours with production and stage management teams, watching a portion of the technical dress rehearsal, speaking with administrative staff about their roles and responsibilities — and then return to see the show later in the run. The students report back about their experience.

### CONSERVATORY

During the Gateway Conservatory program, 12 participants (ages 16–22) partook in seven workshops throughout the spring. These workshops are taught by professional artists contracted in the Signature Series; workshops range in focus from direction to lighting design to taking risks as an actor.



## 2016 RENTAL CLIENTS

- Amitofo Care Centre
- Axis Theatre Company
- BC Chinese Music Association
- Blackrose Durham Entertainment
- Bob Coyle
- Canada YC Chinese Orchestra
- City of Richmond—Engineering and Public Works
- City of Richmond—U-ROC Awards
- Cooper Ling Dance Co
- David Waardenburg
- Defy Gravity Dance Company
- E & E Global Business
- Elena Steele Voice Studio
- Gabriela's Movement Studio
- Health and Home Care Society of BC
- Impastor Productions Inc.
- Jaguar Music Group
- Kababayang Pilipino
- Music Encore Concert Society
- Natural Physique & Athletics Association
- Pacific International Youth Music Society
- Ping Academy of Dance
- Rachel Brennan
- RichCity Idol
- Richmond Academy Of Dance
- Richmond Arts Centre Dance
- Richmond Community Band Society
- Richmond Hospital Foundation
- Richmond School District
- Richmond Youth Concert Band
- San Hui Buddhist Society
- Sarah Gordon
- Simon Johnston
- Spul'u'kwuks Elementary School
- Studio 200 Entertainment
- The Arts Connection
- The Integration Youth Services Society
- Tong Moo Do
- Vancouver Academy Of Dance

## MENTORSHIPS

Gateway offers emerging artists unique learning opportunities and experiences. In *The Music Man*, 23 amateur actors were cast in ensemble roles to perform alongside two professional artists and ten professional musicians. These emerging artists were able to hone their skills while performing in a large-scale musical with full production values. The Academy also hires emerging designers to develop their skills on a full production. In 2016, nine creative team members joined the program. As well, four senior students volunteered as class assistants, taking on new responsibilities under the guidance of Academy faculty.

## Community Engagement

Gateway Theatre was delighted to play host to a range of community and professional organizations for their events throughout the year. During 2016, 40 different organizations produced events and shows at Gateway, drawing audiences of approximately 20,000. Some of the most popular entertainment events included *A Very Frozen Musical*, a hit with the under 6's, and music tribute show *The Killer, Cash & The King*, a sell-out for the over 60's. The achievements of young artists were celebrated in recitals and events by organisations such as the Richmond Academy of Dance, RichCity Idol and the Pacific Youth Piano Festival Gala.



A WONDERFUL EVENING OF HIGHLY  
PROFESSIONAL ENTERTAINMENT.  
THE PERFORMERS, THE SETS, THE  
COSTUME DESIGN, MUSICIANS,  
LIGHTING—COULD NOT BE BETTER.

— Audience Member

# APPENDIX 1

## 2016 Arts and Culture Grant Program

The following organizations received support:

### ***Operating Assistance***

Cinevolution Media Arts Society.....	\$10,000.00
Community Arts Council of Richmond .....	\$9,750.00
Richmond Arts Coalition .....	\$9,950.00
Richmond Community Band Society.....	\$2,900.00
Richmond Community Orchestra and Chorus Association .....	\$10,000.00
Richmond Delta Youth Orchestra .....	\$10,000.00
Richmond Music School Society .....	\$10,000.00
Richmond Youth Choral Society .....	\$10,000.00
Textile Arts Guild of Richmond .....	\$3,400.00

### ***Project Assistance***

Canadian YC Chinese Orchestra Association .....	\$5,000.00
Philippine Cultural Arts Society of BC .....	\$4,447.00
Richmond Art Gallery Association .....	\$4,000.00
Richmond Singers .....	\$5,000.00
Tickle Me Pickle Theatre Sports Improv Society.....	\$5,000.00
Vancouver Cantonese Opera.....	\$3,800.00
Vancouver Tagore Society.....	\$4,250.00



## APPENDIX 2

### How Art Works

The following five themes comprise the How Art Works campaign:

#### ART'S IMPACT ON STUDENTS

Research has proven that the arts have a tremendous impact on our kids. Children who participate in the arts, particularly music, have been shown to be more likely to stay in school, and get better grades in math and science. They're also far more likely to be elected to student boards and be recognized for academic achievement.

That link between arts and academic achievement continues for life. Top scientists are twice as likely as the general public to have an artistic hobby, and Nobel Prize winners are almost three times as likely to participate in the arts.

You might think practical education is the path to success, but keep in mind that creativity is the number one skill that employers are looking for. The arts help people think creatively and solve problems in unexpected ways.

#### HEALTHY LIVING THROUGH ART

One of the most surprising things about art's impact is how it helps not only our happiness, but also our health. Experiencing art can alleviate stress, reduce the likelihood of depression and even boost your immune system by lowering chemicals that cause inflammation that can trigger diabetes, heart attacks and other illnesses.

The arts also have a powerful therapeutic effect. Music has been widely researched in the field of pain management for cancer patients who have reported additional benefits including an increased sense of control, immunity and relaxation. There is also evidence that use of art and music reduces hospital stays.

Music therapy is even being used to rehabilitate people with serious head injuries as it is proven to help them regain the ability to speak.

#### ART STRENGTHENS COMMUNITIES

When we take in culture – a play, book, concert, etc. – that focuses on a social issue or comes from a perspective that differs from our own, we gain a better understanding of humanity and the groups we live amongst. Art helps to break down boundaries by growing our awareness, tolerance and compassion.

This helps us to be more civic and socially minded. In fact, people who engage in the arts are more likely to volunteer. A recent study of youth found that drama in schools significantly increased students' capacities to communicate, relate to each other and to respect minorities.

Cultural festivals promote celebration and pride as well as awareness of cultural differences. Because dance, music, photography and other visual arts transcend language, they can bridge barriers between cultural, racial and ethnic groups.

Moreover, the arts are one of the primary means of public dialogue. Communities talk about and express difficult issues, emotions and the otherwise inexpressible via the arts.

### A STRONGER ECONOMY THROUGH ART

Arts and culture play an important role in promoting economic goals through local regeneration, developing talent, creating jobs, spurring innovation and attracting tourists.

Statistics Canada estimates that cultural industries (including broadcasting, film and video, interactive media, design, newspapers and crafts) contribute an estimated \$53.2 billion in direct contribution to Canada's GDP and more than 700,000 jobs. That's ten times larger than the estimated economic impact of sports (\$4.5 billion), and well over the impact of utilities (\$35 billion), and the combined impact of agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting (\$23 billion).

Cultural industries can actually turn ordinary cities into "destination cities" giving them a competitive advantage for cultural tourism. And tourists who come for the arts stay longer and spend more money than the average tourist.

### ART IMPROVES QUALITY OF LIFE

The mental and physiological ways that the arts contribute to positive health and well-being for older adults are only now beginning to be understood. Learning new skills when creating a work of art (be it visual or performing) not only provides a greater sense of confidence and control, it can even help our immune systems fight infections.

Among the elderly, those that take part in creative pursuits are less likely to experience mild cognitive impairment. These activities are thought to maintain neuronal function, stimulate neural growth and recruit neural pathways to maintain cognitive function. This is particularly true of those that actively create works of art.

Music appears to be especially beneficial when complemented with standard therapies in treating everything from depression to cancer to Parkinson's.

Moreover, the arts can provide opportunities to meet others, create together and share experiences, all of which can improve perceived health status, chronic pain and sense of community.



## APPENDIX 3

### 2016 Richmond Public Art commissioned in 2016 scheduled for completion in 2017–18

#### ***Civic public art projects:***

- *Fire Fighter* by Nathan Scott. Fire Hall No. 1
- *Errant Rain Cloud*, by Gordon Hicks and Germaine Koh. New Minoru Aquatic Centre
- *Four Types of Water Revealed*, by Germaine Koh. No. 2 Road Pump Station
- *Storeys*, by Richard Tetrault. Storeys housing project
- *Street as Canvas* by Hapa Collaborative. Along Lansdowne Road from No. 3 Road to the Richmond Olympic Oval waterfront

#### ***Private public art projects:***

- ARTS Units. Concord Gardens, Concord Pacific Developments
- *Happy Sail Wall* by Derek Root, Cadence, Cressey Development
- *Relief* by Leonhard Epp, Steveston Flats Development Corp.
- *Spinners*, by Dan Corson. Avanti, Polygon Homes.



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