



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee **Date:** April 11, 2024

From: Marie Fenwick, Director, Arts, Culture and Heritage Services **File:** 11-7000-09-20-283/Vol 01

Re: **Bowling Green Community Activity Centre Public Art Concept Proposal**

Staff Recommendation

That the concept proposal *Welcome* by artist Luke Ramsey, as presented in the staff report titled "Bowling Green Community Activity Centre Public Art Concept Proposal," dated April 11, 2024, from the Director, Arts, Culture and Heritage Services, be approved.

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

Att. 2

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

Staff Report

Origin

On December 11, 2023, Council approved the Artist Call Terms of Reference for the Bowling Green Community Activity Centre Public Art Project.

This report presents for Council's consideration the public art concept proposal *Welcome* by artist Luke Ramsey for the Bowling Green Community Activity Centre Public Art Project.

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

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

6.2 Enhance the City's network of parks, trails and open spaces.

6.5 Enhance and preserve arts and heritage assets in the community.

Analysis

Background

Minoru Park is located in Brighthouse Village, the traditional heart and civic focal point of Richmond's City Centre and a zone of high-density, mixed commercial and residential use. The Park is home to the Richmond Cultural Centre and Brighthouse Public Library, Richmond Cultural Centre Annex, Minoru Centre for Active Living, Brighthouse Fire Hall No. 1 and Gateway Theatre, all of which have public artworks amongst their immediate grounds and facilities. A new public artwork for the Bowling Green Community Activity Centre will complement the existing collection of artworks in the area to bring art, sport and nature together in the Minoru Civic Precinct.

Bowling Green Community Activity Centre - Terms of Reference

The Council-approved Public Art Terms of Reference for the Bowling Green Community Activity Centre Public Art Project (Attachment 1) describes the art opportunity, themes, site description, scope of work, budget, selection process, schedule and submission requirements. Artists were invited to respond to the theme "Honouring Yesterday, Celebrating Today, Building Tomorrow" as it relates to creating inclusive and welcoming spaces for all in Minoru Park. An artist call for submissions was issued on January 3, 2024, with a deadline of February 5, 2024. Eligibility was for professional artists residing in British Columbia.

Bowling Green Community Activity Centre – Public Art Artist Selection Process

There were 31 submissions received during the first stage of the selection process. On February 13, 2024, following the Public Art Program's administrative procedures for artist selection for civic public art projects, a five-person selection panel comprised of arts professionals, project

stakeholders and community representatives reviewed the submissions. The selection panel included the following individuals:

- Adriano Renzi, professional artist;
- Amy Leung, Richmond Bowling Club Society representative;
- Ana Himani, community representative;
- Carmen Levy Milne, professional artist; and
- Joan Le Drew, Richmond Fitness and Wellness Association representative.

City staff facilitated and attended the selection panel meetings to provide project background for the selection panel and to address technical questions.

In addition, a member of the Richmond Public Art Advisory Committee participated in the selection process as an observer.

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

The shortlisted artists were:

- Glen Andersen;
- Dolores Altin and Elvira Monteforte; and
- Luke Ramsey.

As per the terms of reference, the three finalists were invited to attend an artist orientation meeting with staff on February 20, 2024. The meeting provided an opportunity for staff to share additional information about the site context and design parameters. The artists also asked questions related to materials, procurement methods, project schedule and budget.

On March 21, 2024, the selection panel convened to interview the three finalists and review their concept proposals. Following deliberation, the panel recommended the concept proposal *Welcome* by artist Luke Ramsey for the Bowling Green Community Activity Centre Public Art Project (Attachment 2).

Recommended Artist

Luke Ramsey is a freelance illustrator, designer, painter, animator and muralist. In 2017, he was awarded a two-year Artist-in-Residence term with the City of Victoria. His work has a contemporary reverence for nature and is inspired by the West Coast Canadian landscape. Luke has completed a number of high profile murals in the Lower Mainland, including a ground mural in Vancouver's Mount Pleasant, at 201 East 14th Ave as part of the Vancouver Mural Festival, that has successfully transformed a simple road into a bright, public square.

Recommended Public Art Concept Proposal

Welcome aims to create a sense of arrival and home with the depiction of a welcome mat or living room rug that offers a gesture of warmth at the park entrance to Minoru Lakes and the Bowling Green Community Activity Centre. The design creates an inclusive and welcoming space for all visitors in Minoru Park, connecting to the theme outlined in the Terms of Reference for this public art opportunity. The symmetrical design invites entry from all directions and the abstracted depiction of orcas and fish moving in different directions represent Pacific West Coast marine ecology, suggesting movement. The weaving patterns also symbolize the texture and connectivity of community.

The recommended concept proposal will be further refined through the detailed design process and staff will ensure that the artwork design adheres to current safety and accessibility guidelines.

As per the Terms of Reference, the artwork design will be integrated into the northeast entrance plaza, using paving materials and colours consistent with the rest of the building project's landscape design. (Attachment 2).

The Selection Panel cited the following rationale in their recommendation:

- a simple and bold composition;
- straightforward design, easily executed by the paving sub-contractor;
- orcas and fish acknowledge Pacific West Coast;
- artwork as “welcome mat” to the park entrance is an accessible concept that will appeal to a wide audience; and
- appreciation of the artist's attention and conscientious detail working within the design parameters.

On April 16, 2024, the Public Art Advisory Committee reviewed and endorsed the selection process and the concept proposal.

Financial Impact

The total public art budget for the Bowling Green Community Activity Centre public artwork is \$33,000, funded from the approved Bowling Green Community Activity Centre capital project. Any maintenance and repairs required for the artwork will be the responsibility of the Public Art Program and will be funded out of the Public Art Program's annual operating budget.


Conclusion

The new Bowling Green Community Activity Centre facility represents an opportunity to contribute to an inclusive, safe and welcoming public spaces for a culturally diverse and growing community of Minoru Park users. The public artwork will join a family of other unique artworks in creating a sense of vibrancy and identity in the Minoru Civic Precinct.

April 11, 2024

- 5 -

This project is consistent with the guiding principles and actions of the 2019-2024 Richmond Arts Strategy: to foster a built environment where one has spontaneous encounters with art, to identify and make creative use of the built environment and civic facilities, and to use public art and cultural programming to reimagine public spaces with an eye for creative placemaking.



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

Att. 1: Bowling Green Community Activity Centre, Artist Call, Terms of Reference
2: Public artwork *Welcome* Public Art Concept Proposal by Luke Ramsey

call to artists



Figure 1. Bowling Green Community Activity Centre. Architectural rendering.

Bowling Green Community Activity Centre Public Art Opportunity

Request for Qualifications, RFQ

OPPORTUNITY

The Richmond Public Art Program is seeking an artist or artist team to create a unique paving design to be integrated into a plaza located at the north-east entrance to Minoru Park at 6131 Bowling Green Road. This project is part of the Bowling Green Community Activity Centre construction project and will serve to create a sense of arrival to Minoru Park.

This is a two-stage open call to artists. Following review of the submissions, the Selection Panel will recommend up to three shortlisted artists. Shortlisted artists will be invited to develop concept designs and attend an interview. An artist fee of \$500.00, plus applicable taxes, will be paid to each of the shortlisted artists or artist teams. All information about the opportunity is contained herein.

Artist Fee:	\$5,000.00 CAD
Eligibility:	Professional artists residing in British Columbia
Deadline:	February 5, 2024.
Completion:	Fall 2025

call to artists

BACKGROUND

The Richmond Lawn Bowling Club was founded in 1963 with a mandate to promote the sport of lawn bowling and operate a social club. One 8-rink lawn bowling green served the club until 1989 when a second green was installed in Minoru Park to serve a growing club membership. Approximately 10–15 percent of its members compete at a provincial, national and international level and 28 club tournaments are organized annually from May to September. Social activities, including annual BBQs, club dinners and opening day celebrations, play a key role in creating a community-oriented facility for members to enjoy.

The new Bowling Green Community Activity Centre will serve as both a clubhouse and community amenity building for use by the larger public. The facility will be well-suited for workshops, programs and meetings.

MINORU PARK

Minoru Park is a vibrant social, cultural, recreational and community gathering place — a signature civic park located in Richmond's city centre. As one of the oldest parks in Richmond, Minoru Park has a rich history including its beginnings as the Minoru Race Track (1909) and hosting the first airplane flight in British Columbia (piloted by American Charles K. Hamilton in 1910).

The park contains several community-oriented facilities including the Gateway Theatre, Minoru Centre for Active Living, Minoru Arenas, and the Richmond Cultural Centre and Cultural Centre Annex, home of the Richmond Art Gallery, Richmond Arts Centre, Richmond Public Library, Richmond Archives and Richmond Museum.

The Bowling Green Community Activity Centre will be located on the existing site of the Richmond Lawn Bowling Clubhouse along the east edge of the Lakes District in Minoru Park, a place of tranquility and respite where visitors can quietly stroll or rest and connect with nature. This recently revitalized area provides environmental benefits and contributes significantly to Richmond's ecological network. Numerous trails connect the northern, peaceful Lakes District to the active, sporting areas to the south. The District's amenities can be enjoyed throughout the year, including picturesque walking routes with perennial floral displays and majestic trees (Figure 2).

BOWLING GREEN COMMUNITY ACTIVITY CENTRE

The new single storey, 3,200 sq.ft. Bowling Green Community Activity Centre will feature a multipurpose room, kitchen, change rooms with lockers, washrooms and storage. An arrival plaza located north-east of the building will connect and guide visitors to multiple public promenades in the park. The entrance plaza will have paving comprised of unit pavers mortared onto a concrete base.

call to artists

ARTIST OPPORTUNITY

The City Centre Public Art Plan aims to instill a sense of place and cultural identity within the urban core. Artists are invited to respond to the theme *"Honouring Yesterday, Celebrating Today, Building Tomorrow"* as it relates to creating inclusive and welcoming spaces for all in Minoru Park.

Shortlisted artists will be invited to propose a unique paving design to be integrated into a plaza located at the north-east entrance to Minoru Park at 6131 Bowling Green Road. More information regarding the type, size and colour options for the stone pavers will be provided to shortlisted artists prior to the second stage artist selection process. A \$500.00 artist honorarium will be provided to all shortlisted artists.

The commissioned artist will create and submit a digital artwork file and work with City staff and City contractors to implement their unique design to cover a portion of the north-east entrance plaza to Minoru Park.

The project will join a growing number of artworks as part of a civic public art trail linking artworks located at Richmond City Hall to Minoru Park, including the Richmond Cultural Centre, Gateway Theatre, Minoru Centre for Active Living, Brighthouse Fire Hall No.1, Minoru Arenas and, in 2024, the Cultural Centre Annex.

The public artwork will contribute to the City Centre's cultural identity and the Minoru Precinct's significance within the downtown core.

LOCATION

The artwork will animate the north-east entrance plaza into Minoru Park. Please refer to Figure 2 for artwork location.

To understand the site context, applicants are encouraged to visit Minoru Park and the Lakes District prior to submitting an application.

MATERIALS

The commissioned artist will be required to work with paver types and colours specified by the City of Richmond to develop and create a unique design. The installation of the paving artwork design will be carried out by City contracted professionals.

The commissioned artwork must work with the surrounding paving treatment, bearing in mind constructability, walkability, accessibility, safety and durability.

BUDGET

An artist fee of \$5,000.00 CAD, inclusive of all applicable taxes, excluding GST, is available for this project. The artist fee will include administration and coordination meetings with City staff and City contractors, submission of a digital artwork file, and documentation photography.

call to artists

ARTIST ELIGIBILITY

This opportunity is open to artists or artist teams residing in British Columbia. Qualified artists will have proven experience producing artworks for civic projects. City of Richmond staff, Public Art Advisory Committee members, selection panel members, project personnel and artists who are currently contracted by the Richmond Public Art Program are not eligible to apply.

SELECTION PROCESS

A selection panel comprised of artists, arts professionals and community representatives will recommend the artist/artist team through a two-stage process. An artist honorarium of \$500.00 CAD will be paid to each of the shortlisted artists or artist teams to develop a concept proposal and attend an interview with the selection panel.

Any concept proposals submitted as part of the Stage 1 application and selection process will not be accepted.

Shortlisted artists will be required to attend an artist orientation session prior to developing a concept proposal.

ARTIST SELECTION CRITERIA

Stage 1

- Artist response to the Artist Opportunity cited above
- Artist's demonstrated qualifications, skills and experience of past work
- Artist's demonstrated ability to respond to the existing character of a site by taking into account scale, colour, material, texture, content and physical characteristics of the location
- Artist's capacity to work with other design professionals and stakeholders
- Appropriateness of the submission to the Public Art Program goals: richmond.ca/culture/howartworks/publicart.

Stage 2

- Artist response to any feedback and follow-up questions from Selection Panel regarding Artist Statement of Intent
- Artist response to any feedback and follow-up questions from Selection Panel regarding ability of the artwork to respond to the existing character of the site by taking into account scale, colour, material, texture, content and the physical characteristics of the location
- Artist response to any feedback and follow-up questions from Selection Panel regarding appropriateness of the proposal to the Public Art Program goals: richmond.ca/culture/howartworks/publicart

call to artists

- Artist visualizations, sketches or renderings to communicate how the artwork will respond to the site including scale, colour, material, subject matter, and physical characteristics of the location.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

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

- **INFORMATION FORM** – Please complete the information form attached to this document.
- **STATEMENT OF INTENT** – (one page maximum) a brief artist bio, demonstrated experience and past work, subject matter interest or exploration. If applying as a team, please address how team members will work together.
- **ARTIST CV** – (one page maximum) current professional CV. Artist teams will include a one page CV for each team member.
- **WORK SAMPLES** – Artists and artist teams can submit up to ten (10) samples of past work that best illustrate their qualifications for this project. One image per page. Please include artist name(s), title, year, location and medium information.
- **REFERENCES** – Three references who can speak to your abilities, skills and accomplishments. Please provide name, title and contact telephone number and/or email. Reference letters are not required. Teams should include two references for each member.

PROJECT TIMELINE

*Applicants are asked to reserve this date and time in their calendar.

Submission Deadline:	February 5, 2024
Artist Orientation: (for shortlisted artists)	February 20, 2024, 1:00pm* (Virtual Meeting)
Finalist Interviews:	March 21, 2024, 5:00 – 7:00pm*
Completion:	Summer 2025

call to artists

SOURCES FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

[Minoru Park](#)

[City of Richmond Public Art Program](#)

[City of Richmond Archives](#)

[Richmond Public Art Program Policy](#)

[Minoru Lakes Renewal Project](#)

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

1. All supporting documents must be complete and strictly adhere to the guidelines and submission requirements or risk not being considered.
2. All submissions must be formatted to 8.5 x 11 inch pages. Past work images and concept sketches would be best formatted to landscape format.
3. Submission files must be a single PDF file that is 5 MB or less.
4. If submitting as a team, the team should designate one representative to complete the entry form. Each team member must submit an individual resume/curriculum vitae. (See Submission Requirements)
5. All documents must be sent by e-mail to: publicart@richmond.ca

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

QUESTIONS

Please contact the Richmond Public Art Program:

Tel: 604-204-8671

E-mai: publicart@richmond.ca

call to artists



Figure 2. Context aerial site plan showing existing location of the Richmond Lawn Bowling Club (in red)

call to artists

PUBLIC ART
RICHMOND

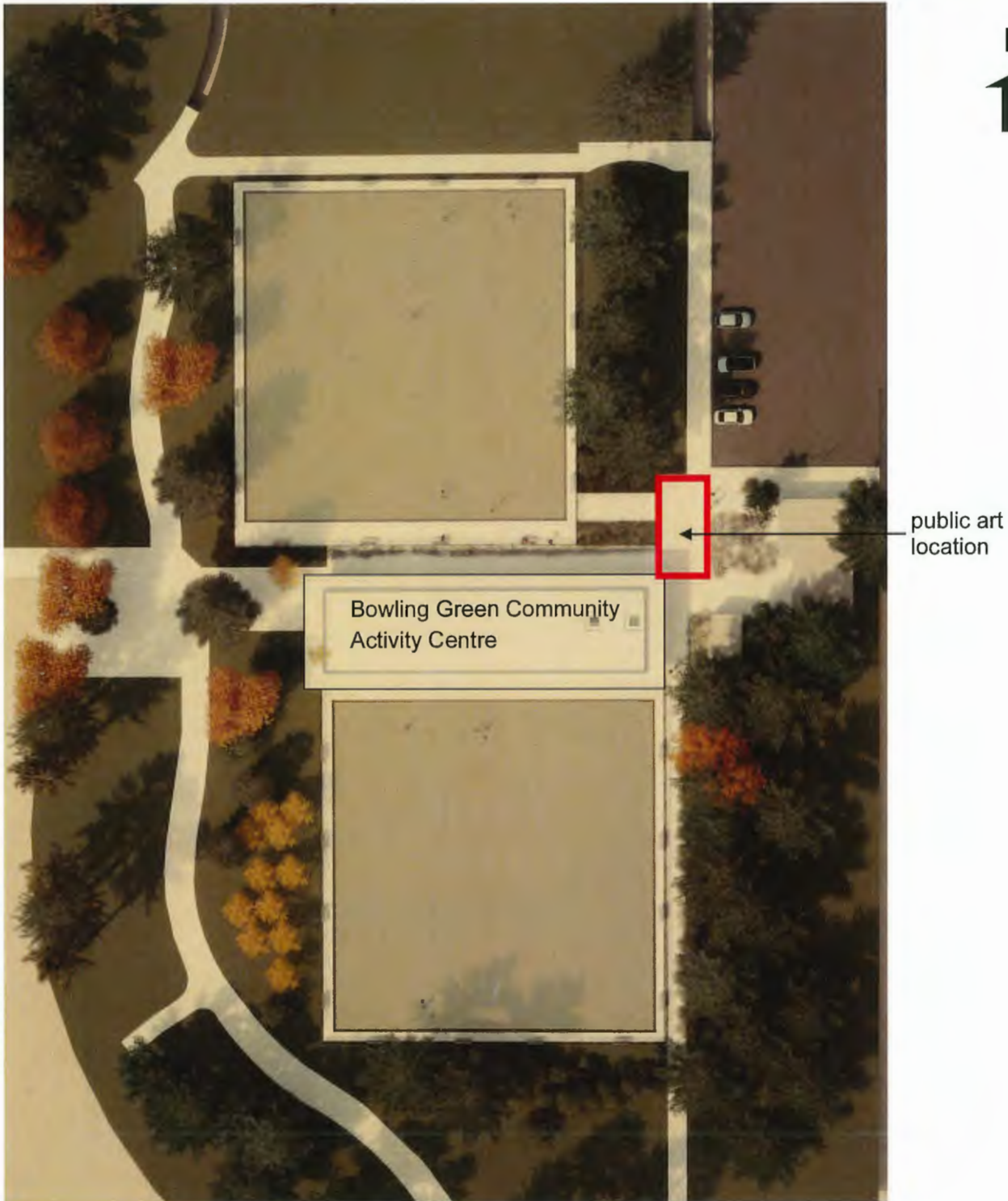


Figure 3. Site Plan showing location of the integrated paving artwork.

call to artists

PUBLIC ART
RICHMOND



Figure 4. Aerial view towards north-east entrance to Minoru Park. Architectural Rendering.



Figure 5. Bowling Green Community Activity Centre entrance plaza view from parking lot. Architectural Rendering.

call to artists

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Postal Code: _____

Primary Phone: _____ Secondary Phone: _____

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

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

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

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

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

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

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Submit applications by e-mail to: publicart@richmond.ca

Additional Information

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

*Welcome***Bowling Green Community Activity Centre Public Art Project**

by artist Luke Ramsey

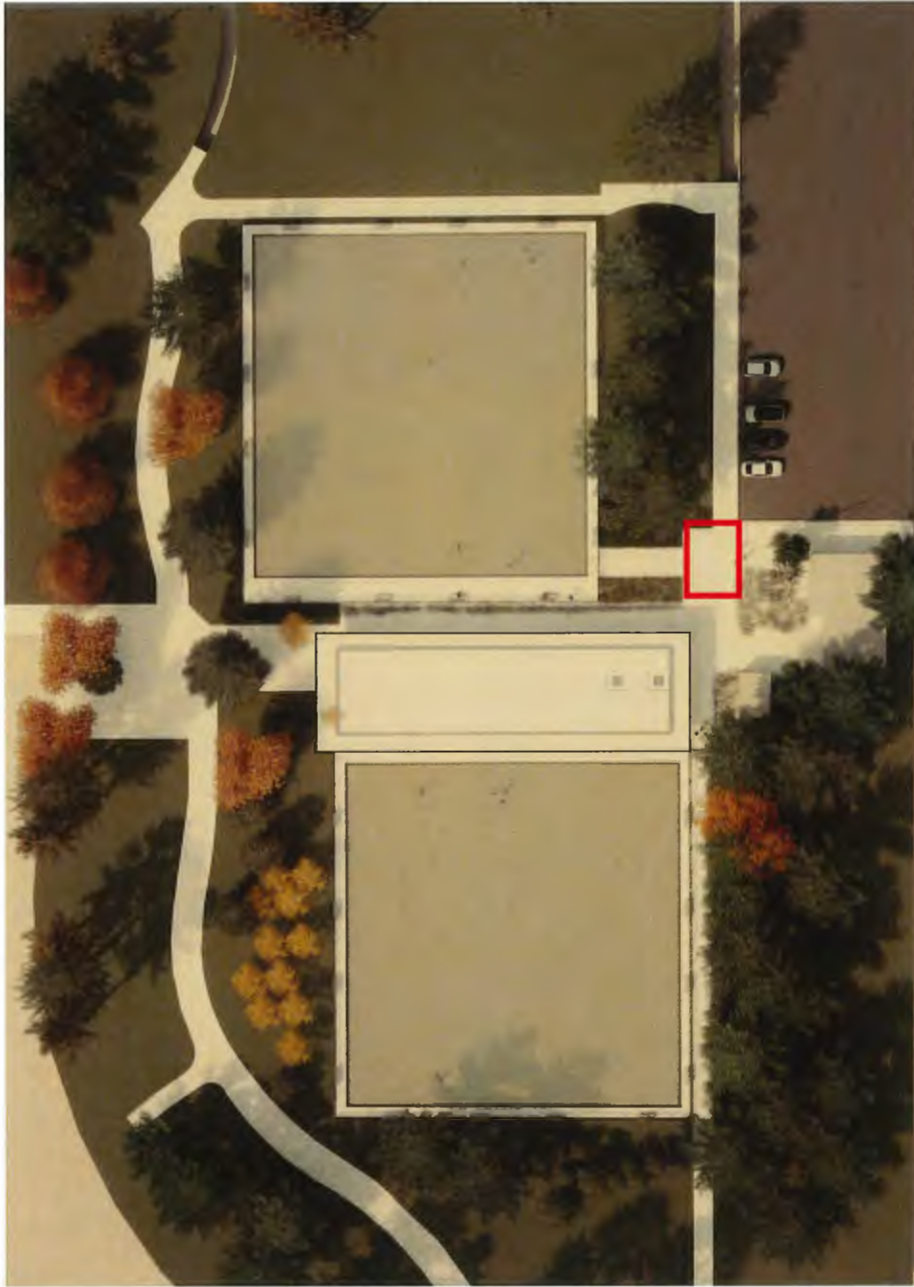
This integrated paving artwork will create a sense of arrival and welcome for Minoru Park.

Luke Ramsey is an artist based in Powell River, BC, whose work has a contemporary reverence for nature that is inspired by the Canadian West Coast landscape. He is a freelance illustrator, designer, painter, animator and muralist, and in 2017, was awarded a two-year Artist-in-Residence term with the City of Victoria.

Welcome aims to instill a sense of arrival and warmth at the entrance to Minoru Lakes and the Bowling Green Community Activity Centre. The artwork is inspired by the idea of a welcome mat and abstractly depicts orcas and fish of the Pacific West Coast. The design will be integrated into the northeast entrance plaza, using paving materials and colours consistent with the rest of the building project's landscape design.

Proposed Concept Proposal:

*Birds-eye view of artwork paving design**Mock-up perspective at park entrance showing artwork in-situ*



Location of artwork