



# City of Richmond

## Report to Committee

**To:** General Purposes Committee **Date:** May 10, 2017  
**From:** Jane Fernyhough **File:** 11-7000-09-20-234/Vol  
 Director, Arts, Culture and Heritage Services 01  
**Re:** **Canada 150 Public Art Modular Seating Concept Proposal**

### Staff Recommendation

That the concept proposal and fabrication for the Canada 150 Artist Designed Modular Seating public artwork by artists and designers Becki Chan and Milos Bergovic, as presented in the report titled "Canada 150 Public Art Modular Seating Concept Proposal," dated May 10, 2017, from the Director, Arts, Culture and Heritage Services, be endorsed.

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

Att. 2

REPORT CONCURRENCE		
ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER
Finance Department Major Events & Filming Parks Services Facility Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
REVIEWED BY STAFF REPORT / AGENDA REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE	INITIALS: 	APPROVED BY CAO (Acting) 

## Staff Report

### Origin

At the November 28, 2016 Council meeting, Council formally endorsed the *Canada 150 Celebrations Public Art Plan* as the guiding plan for public art opportunities in support of Canada 150 celebrations and major event programming in 2017.

This report presents the concept proposal for the Canada 150 Artist Designed Modular Seating commission, an innovative public art project to activate civic spaces and to support annual outdoor cultural events in Richmond.

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.*

### Analysis

#### Canada 150 Celebrations Public Art Plan

It is the intention of the *Canada 150 Celebrations Public Art Plan* to support the overall programming established by the Canada 150 Steering Committee. The *Public Art Plan* provides opportunities for permanent and temporary artworks to engage diverse and multi-generational audiences.

The public artwork opportunities strive to support exceptional, sustainable and accessible public spaces and the public artwork recommendations are guided by the following principles:

- contributing to a sense of place;
- creating artworks of the highest quality;
- reflecting the principles of sustainability; and
- achieving synergies between the community, the artists and City staff.

On November 28, 2016, Council endorsed three public art opportunities through the *Canada 150 Celebrations Public Art Plan*: legacy artwork at Richmond City Hall, Canada 150 commemorative painting and mural, and artist-designed benches.

The artist-designed benches were proposed in the *Plan* as a series of portable or permanently installed artist-designed benches in response to the identified themes for the Canada 150 Celebrations. Working across departments with Parks Services, Major Events and Facilities, the

Public Art Program concluded that a series of portable benches would be the most cost effective and create the greatest impact. Portable benches could be moved to be located at various civic plazas and civic events to activate spaces and support programming. The Canada 150 Steering Committee supported the recommendation for portable modular seating. An Artist Call was subsequently developed for the portable modular seating (Attachment 1).

#### Themes for Canada 150 Artist Designed Modular Seating Public Artwork

The three themes used to inform the design of artist designed modular seating for the Canada 150 Modular Seating Commission include:

- *History, Culture, Diversity*: Artwork to reflect Richmond's rich tapestry of cultures, recognizing the original First Nations residents, early European settlers and the immigrants from a multiplicity of cultures that have since made their homes here.
- *Fraser River, Working River*: Artwork to explore Richmond's vital relationship to the Fraser River and reflect on the development of Lulu Island with the key industries of fisheries, agriculture, shipping and other fields.
- *Agricultural Sustainability*: Artwork to celebrate Richmond's relationship to the land, from the first inhabitants, to farmers who recognized and nurtured the bounty of the region's rich delta soils, to recent food security initiatives and innovation in urban agriculture.

#### Canada 150 Artist Designed Modular Seating - Public Art Artist Selection Process

In March 2017, following the Public Art Program administrative procedures for selection of civic public art projects, an Artist Call Request for Qualifications was issued to artists, designers and craftspeople residing in British Columbia. Applicants were invited to submit qualifications and examples of past work for an opportunity to be shortlisted and develop a concept proposal for artist designed modular seating to commemorate Canada's 150th anniversary in 2017 (Attachment 1).

On March 27, 2017, the Selection Panel reviewed the artist qualifications and examples of past work submitted by 12 applicants who responded to the Artist Call Request for Qualifications and shortlisted five applicants to develop concept proposals.

Members of the Selection Panel included:

- Judson Beaumont, Furniture Designer and Artist
- Jenna Buchko, Landscape Architect
- Wendy Lau, Richmond Community Representative
- Donald Luxton, Cultural Heritage Resource Specialist
- Louise McConaghy, Richmond Community Representative

On April 25, 2017, staff presented the five shortlisted concept proposals to the Canada 150 Steering Committee for their feedback to inform the final deliberation by the Selection Panel in the artist selection process.

On April 27, 2017, following the presentations and interviews of the five shortlisted artists, the Public Art Selection Panel reached consensus and recommended the concept proposal by artists and designers Becki Chan and Milos Bergovic, for the Canada 150 Artist Designed Modular Seating public artwork.

#### Recommended Public Art Concept Proposal

The artist designed modular seating will be used to activate civic spaces in Richmond and provide temporary seating during the warmer months of the year. As required, the artist designed modular seating will be used by Major Events, Arts Services and other groups in support of annual Richmond festivals and events such as Richmond World Festival, Culture Days and Richmond Maritime Festival. The artists describe the concept for the modular seating as follows:

*“The Fraser is the lifeblood and defining feature of Richmond. We were inspired by this essential relationship of the City to the river. Taking the winding paths of the Fraser Delta as the departure points for the design, we have derived a simple, but very flexible modular bench form. The design approach is minimalist - the shape and colour of the bench evoke the water, without necessarily making the design inspiration explicit.”*

Attachment 2 provides further information about the proposed concept.

Staff have contracted an independent design consultant to review the feasibility of the proposed modular bench and they have no concerns with fabrication of the design. A manufacturer specializing in producing hard plastic furniture will be contracted by the City to fabricate the design. The completed modules will include the Richmond Canada 150 logo embossed into each seating unit.

A technical review and coordination phase with the City’s facility staff and the City contracted fabricator will be included with the implementation phase of the artwork. The artists and City staff will continue to meet to review fabrication coordination and implementation phases of the project. Management of the use, storage and maintenance of the artwork will be the responsibility of the Public Art Program.

The following feedback was provided by the Selection Panel in support of their recommendation:

- The concept has clarity in design and is immediately understandable in its response to the theme, “Fraser River, Working River”. Although the design is a multiple, it gives the illusion of each unit being unique in the way it is configured.
- The concept allows for multiple configurations for a diversity of civic spaces, functions and major event programming.
- The design allows for seating on both sides of the module, maximizing seating capacity for public spaces and major events.
- The nesting feature of the design allows for easy stacking of the seating units for storage and transportation to different locations, minimizing space requirements.

- The design requires rake-back seating rests and a review of the optimal seat and backrest heights and integration of hand-holds for easy lifting and moving of units by staff.
- Further design development is required for how the units will be connected together to ensure safety and prevent portability of units by the public.

On May 9, 2017, the Richmond Public Art Advisory Committee reviewed the concept proposal by Becki Chan and Milos Bergovic and supports the Selection Panel's artist recommendation.

### **Financial Impact**

In the *Canada 150 Celebrations Public Art Plan*, the total budget for the Canada 150 Artist Designed Modular Seating public artwork was initially proposed at \$40,000. Based on the consultation with the design consultant and review of the proposed concept, staff have concluded that a larger budget will be required to produce a reasonable number of the modular elements. It is estimated that 20 units could be produced within a budget of \$100,000 (i.e., approximately \$5,000 per unit, which includes detailed design and costs for creating the mould to fabricate the units).

The implementation budget of \$100,000 will be funded from available existing funds in the approved 2016 Public Art Capital Project.

Costs associated with the moving of modular seating units for specific City events will be the responsibility of the requesting Department through their operating budgets.

Any repairs required to the artwork will be the responsibility of the Public Art Program. City funds for maintenance would be allocated out of the Public Art Program's annual operating budget.

### **Conclusion**

The Canada 150 Celebrations in 2017 represent an opportunity to acknowledge Richmond's history, heritage and cultural diversity. This initiative also supports the Richmond Arts Strategy's 2012-2017 recommended action to broaden the diversity of arts experiences and opportunities and expand public awareness and understanding of the arts.

Staff recommends that Council endorse the proposed concept and implementation of the Canada 150 Artist Designed Modular Seating public artwork, by artists and designers Becki Chan and Milos Bergovic, as presented in this report.



Eric Fiss  
Public Art Planner  
(604-247-4612)

- Att. 1: Canada 150 Artist Designed Modular Seating Artist Call  
2: Milbec Design Artist Concept Proposal

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## OPPORTUNITY

The City of Richmond Public Art Program invites professional artists, designers and craft persons to submit qualifications for an opportunity to design a series of unique modular and portable seating elements to commemorate Canada's 150th anniversary.

These modular seating elements will be used to activate civic plazas and support special programming and major events in Richmond including, but not limited to Richmond World Festival, Maritime Festival and the Children's Art Festival.

Implementation costs including production and fabrication will be the responsibility of the City of Richmond. The selected artist/designer will be required to work with a third-party manufacturing company contracted by the City.

**Artist Design Fee:** \$10,000

**Eligibility Requirements:** Open to professional artists and designers residing in British Columbia.

**Deadline for Submissions:** Monday, March 20, 2017. 5:00pm

**Completion:** September 2017

## Canada 150 Public Art

### Request for Qualifications, (RFQ)

*Artist Designed  
Modular Seating*  
February 2017

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## THEMES

Applicants are invited to respond to one or a combination of the following three themes in a Letter of Interest:

- **History, Culture, Diversity**  
To reflect Richmond's rich tapestry of cultures, recognizing the original First Nations residents, early European settlers and the immigrants from a multiplicity of cultures that have since made their homes in Richmond.
- **Fraser River, Working River**  
To explore Richmond's vital relationship to the Fraser River and reflect on the development of Lulu Island, with the key industries of fisheries, agriculture, shipping and other fields.
- **Agricultural Sustainability**  
To celebrate Richmond's relationship to the land, from the first inhabitants, to farmers who recognized and nurtured the bounty of the region's rich delta soils, to recent food security initiatives and innovation in urban agriculture.

## BACKGROUND

Canada's 150 Celebrations in 2017 present an opportunity to mark the occasion with new and innovative public artworks in Richmond. Artist-designed portable seating will aim to activate civic spaces and support place making and public programming initiatives.

The project will strive to support exceptional, sustainable and accessible public spaces and be driven by the following guiding principles:

- contribute to a sense of place;
- create artworks of the highest quality; and
- reflect the principles of sustainability.

## DESIGN PARAMETERS

A detailed design brief will be discussed in more detail at the shortlisted applicant orientation on **Thursday, March 30, 2017 at 5:00 p.m.** Applicants are to consider the following:

- Maximum dimensions of 180 cm x 90 cm deep x 90 cm for up to twenty (20) portable and modular seating elements to be designed as a multiple. Larger or smaller seating designs may be considered where a design rationale is provided.
- Seating must be designed to allow for intimate, casual and audience seating configurations.

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- Preferred manufacturing materials include "rodo-molded" plastic, hard coated EPS foam and Gelcoat fibreglass. The City may consider alternative materials subject to design rationale and costing.
- Seating elements must be structurally sound, durable, low maintenance, vandal resistant, comfortable, accessible for seniors and ergonomically correct.

## LOCATION

The portable seating will be used to activate civic plazas and support special programming and events in Richmond including Richmond World Festival, Maritime Festival and the Children's Art Festival.

## BUDGET

An artist/design fee of \$10,000 will be awarded to the successful applicant. The contracted artist/designer will be required to produce detailed design documents and 3D models working with a third party manufacturer. The manufacturer will be contracted separately by the City of Richmond to implement the prototype and fabrication phases of the project.

## ARTIST ELIGIBILITY

Open to professional artists and designers residing in British Columbia. City of Richmond employees and Public Art Advisory Committee members may not apply.

## SELECTION PROCESS

A selection panel comprised of artists, design professionals and community representatives will review all submissions through a two-stage open call process. The panel will select up to five shortlisted artists to develop their concept proposals.

For stage two, the shortlisted artists will be invited to attend an orientation session to discuss the second stage deliverables and review detailed design parameters with City staff. Artists will be asked to prepare a detailed concept design and attend a finalist presentation and interview. An honorarium of \$500 will be paid to each of the shortlisted applicants. At the end of the second stage selection process, the selection panel will recommend one design concept to City Council for endorsement.



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## SELECTION CRITERIA

The following criteria will inform the artist selection process in Stage 1 and Stage 2.

### Stage 1

- Demonstrated qualifications, skills and experience of past work.
- Proven experience with similar scopes of work as demonstrated through past commissioned projects.
- How you understand the identified themes and how it relates and/or informs your practice.
- Capacity to work with other design professionals and stakeholders.

### Stage 2

- Response to any feedback and follow-up questions from Selection Panel.
- Artistic and design merit of statement of intent and concept in response to the design brief, themes and goals for the opportunity.
- 3D artist visualizations and/or models to communicate how the artwork will respond to the design parameters for functionality, maintenance and vandalism.
- Artwork sensitivity to environmental concerns with respect to artwork materials and method of fabrication and installation.
- *Appropriateness of the proposal to the Public Art Program goals:* [www.richmond.ca/culture/publicart/plans/policy](http://www.richmond.ca/culture/publicart/plans/policy).
- Review of Reference checks

## ORIENTATION FOR SHORTLISTED ARTISTS

Applicants for this RFQ are asked to reserve **Thursday, March 30, 2017 at 4:00 p.m.** in the event that they are shortlisted for the commission.

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## SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

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

- INFORMATION FORM – Please complete the information form attached to this document and use as the first page of your application.
- LETTER OF INTEREST – 1 page maximum, including demonstrated past experience, skills, brief artist/designer bio, why you are interested in this opportunity and how you understand the identified themes and selection criteria
- CV – 1 page maximum. Teams should include one page for each member.
- WORK SAMPLES – Up to ten (10) examples of past work. One image per page. Please include artist/designer name(s), title, year, location and medium information on each image page.
- REFERENCES – Three (3) references who can speak to your abilities, skills and accomplishments. Please provide name, title and contact telephone number and/or email. Teams should include two references for each member.

## PROJECT TIMELINE

\*All dates subject to change. RFQ applicants are requested to save dates for Finalist Artist Orientation and Finalist Interviews.

<b>Submission Deadline:</b>	March 20, 2017. 5:00 p.m.
<b>Finalist Notification:</b>	March 28, 2017
<b>Finalist Artist Orientation:</b>	March 30, 2017. 4:00-5:00 p.m.*
<b>Finalist Interviews:</b>	April 27, 2017*
<b>Completion:</b>	September 2017

## SOURCES FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

[Canada 150 Celebration Program](#)  
[City of Richmond](#)  
[City of Richmond Archives](#)  
[Richmond Public Art Program Policy](#)

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## SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

1. All supporting documents must be complete and strictly adhere to these guidelines and submission requirements (above) or risk not being considered.
2. All submissions must be formatted to 8.5 x 11 inch pages. Portfolio images and concept sketches would be best formatted to landscape format.
3. Submission files must be 5 MB or smaller.
4. If submitting as a team, the team should designate one representative to complete the entry form. Each team member must submit a individual resume/curriculum vitae. (See Submission Requirements)

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1. The selected artist may be required to show proof of WCB coverage and \$2,000,000 general liability insurance.
2. 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.
3. All submissions to this Artist Call become the property of the City. All information provided under the submission is subject to the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (BC) and shall only be withheld from release if an exemption from release is permitted by the Act. The artist shall retain copyright in the concept proposal. While every precaution will be taken to prevent the loss or damage of submissions, the City and its agents shall not be liable for any loss or damage, however caused.
4. Submissions received after the deadline and those that are found to be incomplete will not be reviewed.

## QUESTIONS?

Please contact the Richmond Public Art Program:

Elisa Yon, Public Art Projects Coordinator

Tel: 604-204-8671

E-mail: [publicart@richmond.ca](mailto:publicart@richmond.ca)

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## MODULAR AND FLEXIBLE SEATING EXAMPLES



Figure 1. MuseumQuartier's courtyard furniture by architects PPAG, Anna Popelka and George Poduschka. Vienna, Austria. Photography by Hertha Hurnaus.



Figure 2. Nidus Bench by Phillip Farevaag Smallemberg and 3DS/Three-Dimensional Services. Vancouver, BC.

**MILBEC DESIGN**  
Vancouver, BC  
Beckie Cahn and Milos Begovic

## Artist Concept Proposal

### ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Becki Chan is an artist and designer focussed on creating public installations. Milos Begovic is an architect with a professional focus on public educational projects and a broad interest in urban public spaces.

Our works often attempt to synthesize two disparate but complementary interests: cultural, historical and architectural research of the site context, and a fascination with the repetitive use of simple elements and minimalist composition. They typically also explore the relationships between the installed elements and the viewers, adopting a playful and engaging character.

### FRASER RIVER

The Fraser is the lifeblood and defining feature of Richmond. We were inspired by this essential relationship of the city to the river. Taking both the winding paths of the Fraser Delta and a typical dispersion graph of water waves as the departure points for design, we have derived a simple, but very flexible modular bench form.

The design approach is minimalist - the shape and colour of the bench merely evoke the water, without necessarily making the design inspiration explicit.

### MODULAR SEATING DESIGN

Much like the nooks and crannies of a river can foster a variety of human occupation, the forms generated by the repetition of the bench module allow a variety of potential programming.

The wavy form of the bench back can act as both a back and an arm rest, providing a comfortable and accessible seat in an integrated and aesthetically pleasing manner.

### STORAGE

All of the proposed benches are identical for ease of fabrication, and are easily stackable for compact storage.



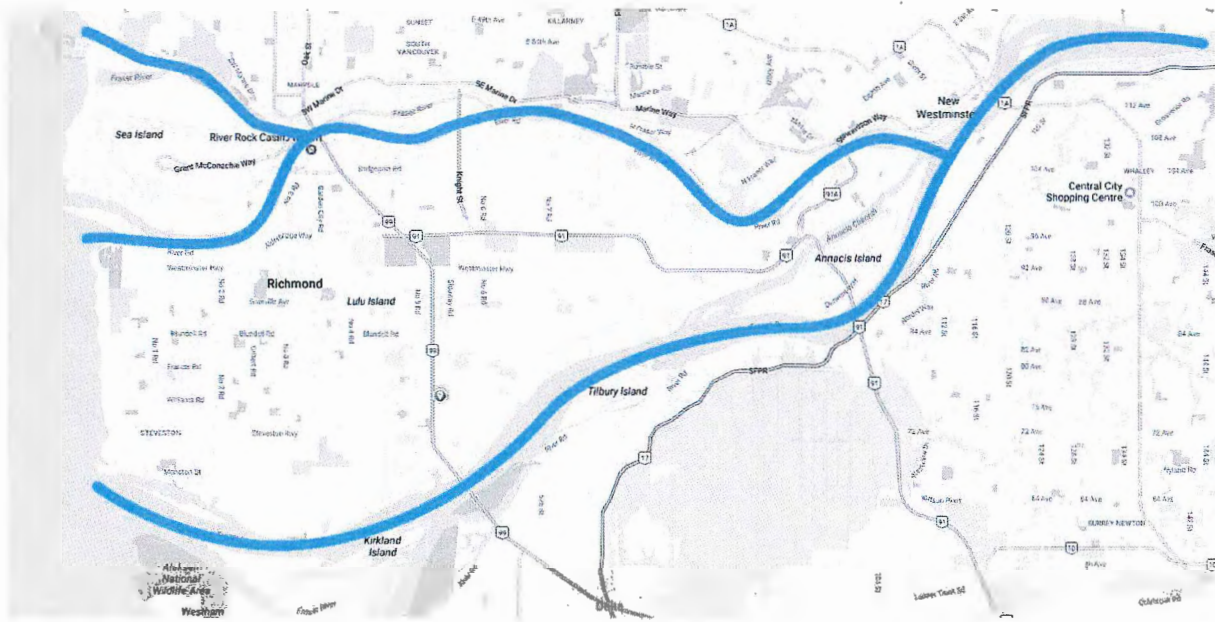


Figure 1 – Map of Richmond showing the winding arms of the Fraser River.

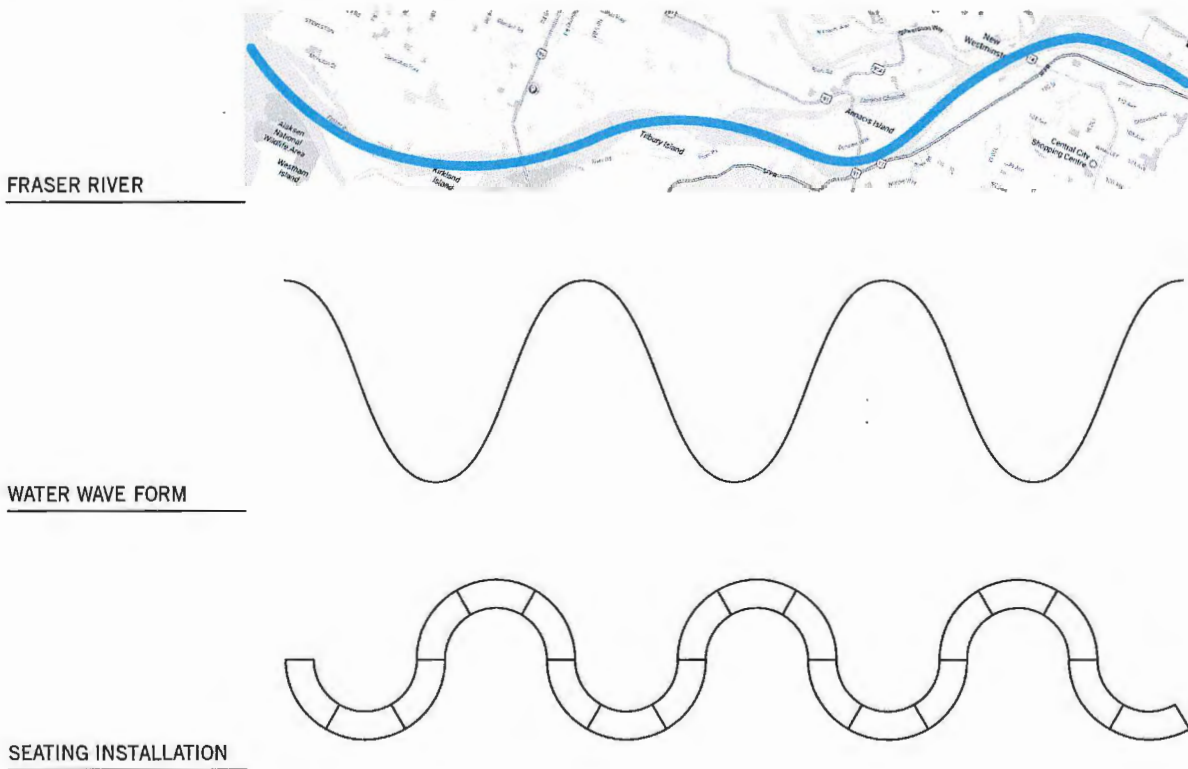


Figure 2 – Development of the seating form installation design.

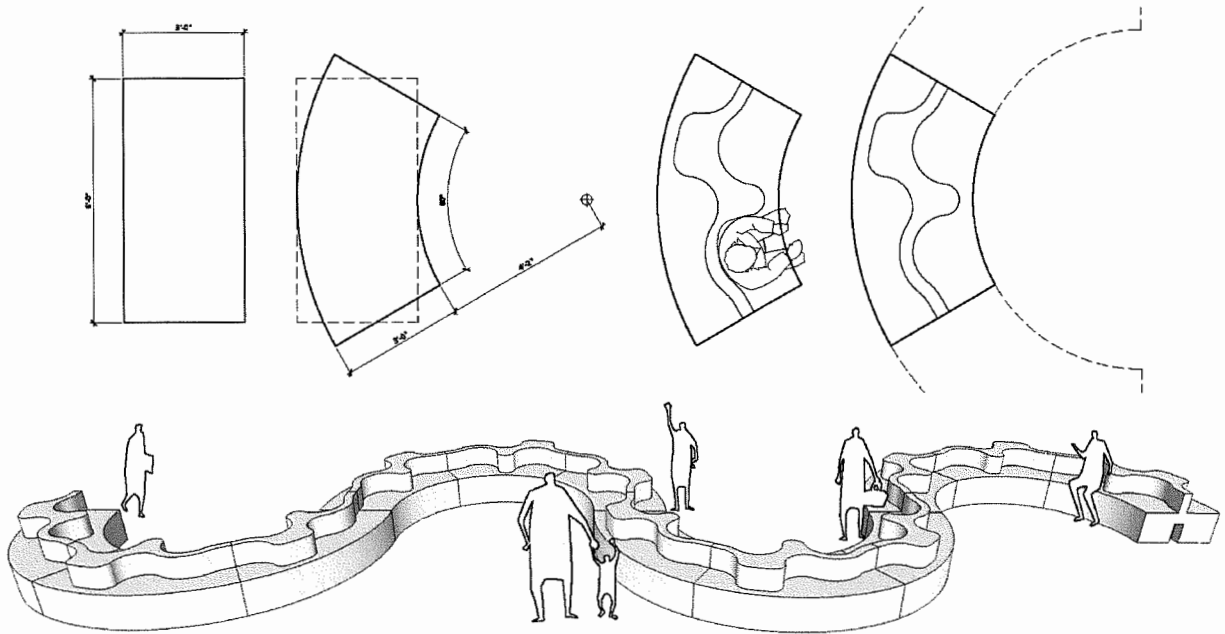


Figure 3 – Overall artist concept and dimensions of module.

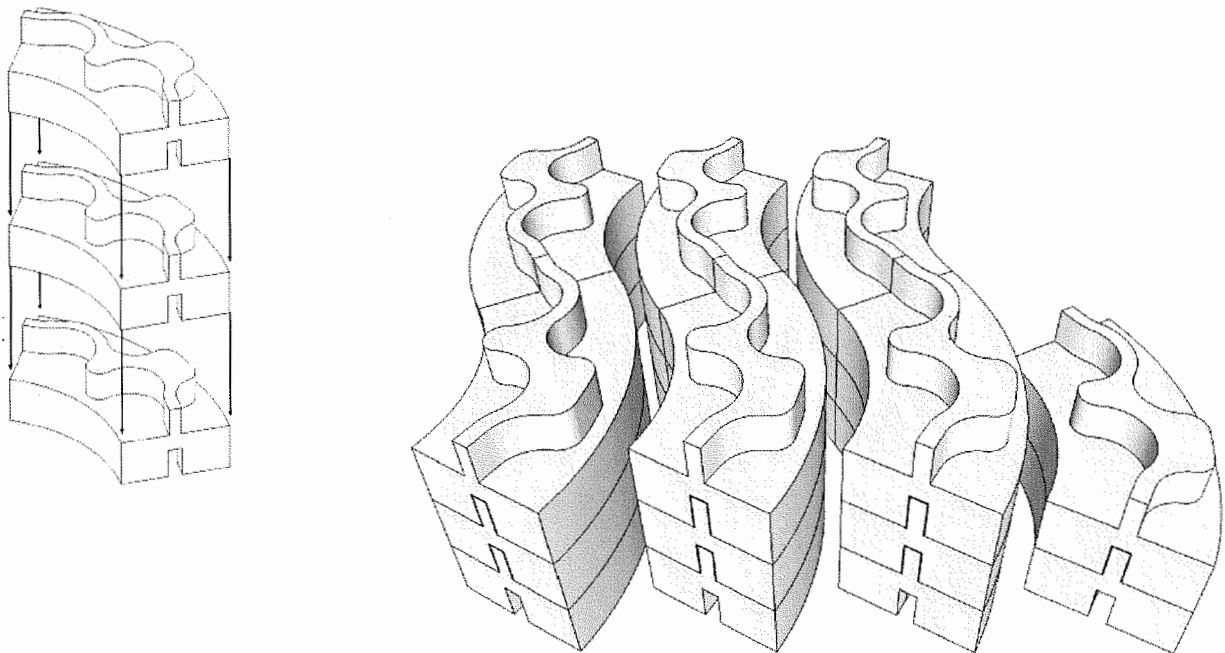
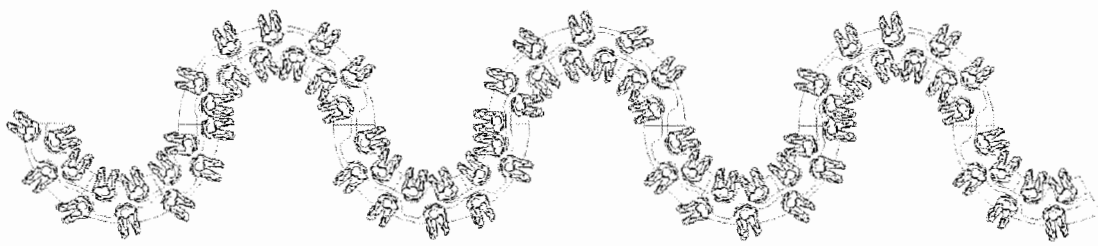
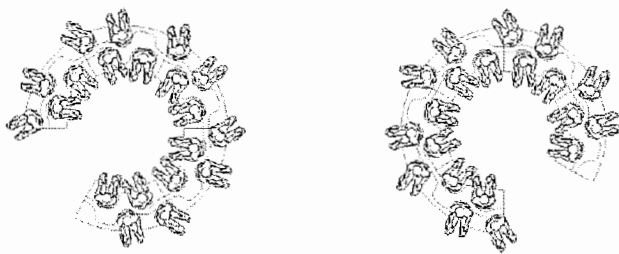
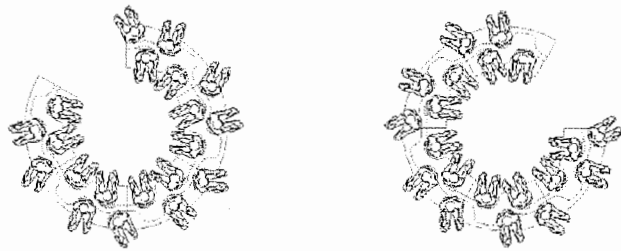


Figure 4 - All of the proposed benches are identical for ease of fabrication, and are easily stackable for compact storage.

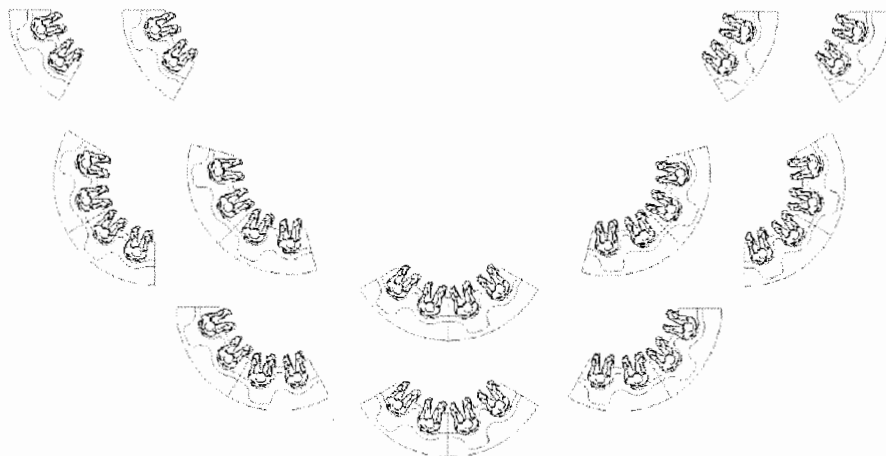


Linear Configuration



Gathering Configuration

Stage



Performance Configuration

Figure 5 – Potential Configurations



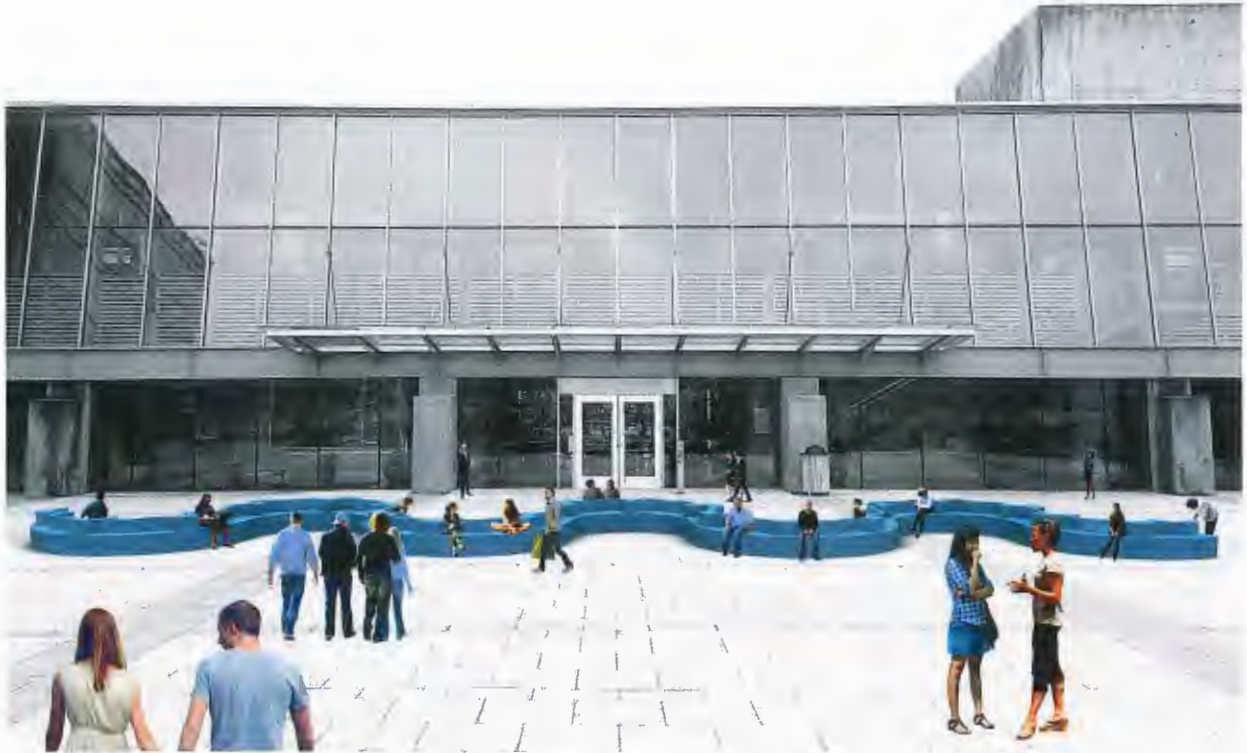


Figure 6 – Artist concept sketch showing linear configuration of seating in Richmond City Hall Plaza.



Figure 7 – Artist concept sketch showing gathering configuration of seating at the Cultural Centre Plaza.



Figure 8 – Artist concept sketch showing audience seating configuration at City Hall Plaza.