



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: General Purposes Committee **Date:** April 12, 2017
From: Jane Fernyhough **File:** 11-7000-09-20-232/Vol
 Director, Arts, Culture and Heritage Services 01
Re: **Canada 150 Legacy Public Art Concept Proposal**

Staff Recommendation

That the concept proposal and installation for the Canada 150 Legacy public artwork by artists Henry Lau and David Geary, as presented in the report titled "Canada 150 Legacy Public Art Concept Proposal," dated April 12, 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 Facility Services Transportation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
REVIEWED BY STAFF REPORT / AGENDA REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE	INITIALS: 	APPROVED BY CAO

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 artwork concept proposal for the Canada 150 Legacy commission, a significant artwork to be located in a prominent location within the landscaped grounds of Richmond City Hall facing Granville Avenue.

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.

2.1. *Strong neighbourhoods.*

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 Vision

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 driven by the following guiding 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.

Themes for Canada 150 Legacy Public Artwork

The three themes used to inform the creation of a permanent artwork for the Canada 150 Legacy Artwork at Richmond City Hall 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 Legacy Public Artwork - Public Art Artist Selection Process

In February 2017, following the Public Art Program administrative procedures for selection of civic public art projects, an artist call was issued for a Canadian artist to create a legacy artwork to commemorate Canada's 150th anniversary in 2017 (Attachment 1).

On March 14, 2017 following the administrative procedures for selection of civic public art projects, the Selection Panel reviewed the artist qualifications and preliminary concept proposals of twenty artists who responded to the Artist Call and shortlisted four artists to further develop their concept proposals for the artwork.

Members of the Selection Panel included:

- Norm Williams, Sculptor, Artist
- Simone Guo, Community Representative and Local Richmond Artist
- Danny Chen, Community Representative and Local Richmond Artist
- Denise Cook, Cultural Heritage Resource Specialist

On April 4, 2017, staff presented the four 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 6, 2017, following the presentations and interviews of the four shortlisted artists, the Public Art Selection Panel reached consensus and recommended the concept proposal *Stylized White River Sturgeon Sculptural Relief* by artists Henry Lau and David Geary, an architect and visual artist collaborative team from Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, for the Canada 150 Legacy public artwork.

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

- The proposed artwork's connection to the "Fraser River/Working River" theme is simplistic. However, visually it is a striking concept, iconic, simple, symbolic,

straightforward, bold and contemporary statement that has the potential to become a Richmond landmark for years to come.

- The size of the fish approximates the size of a 150 year old white sturgeon. The Panel felt this was a unique way to acknowledge Canada's 150th anniversary.
- The artwork brings awareness to the sturgeon as a cultural, social and economic historically significant fish species for the City of Richmond, which has been overshadowed by the salmon. The sturgeon reflects an historical connection to Richmond's Sturgeon Banks.
- The white sturgeon is a species that is under protection by the BC Provincial Fisheries Program. The artwork raises awareness of native wildlife species and environmental sustainability.
- The proposed artwork is an appropriate scale for the location, conducive to pedestrian and vehicular viewing experiences.
- The site is not located in a high traffic pedestrian street and may not engage as many pedestrians as the artists anticipate.

On April 11, 2017, the Richmond Public Art Advisory Committee reviewed the proposal and supports the Selection Panel's artist recommendation. The Committee identified questions about the durability and maintenance of the artwork that are to be addressed by the artist during detailed design. The Committee noted the positive relationship in the positioning of the sturgeon to appear below the water level of the adjacent pond on the south side of City Hall.

Recommended Public Art Concept Proposal

The artwork will be located in a low, recessed concrete retaining wall, located within the landscaped grounds of Richmond City Hall facing Granville Avenue. The artists describe the artwork as follows:

"We propose a stylized stainless steel sculptural relief of a sturgeon as a metaphorical representation of the history and peoples of Richmond. It is a metaphor for the Fraser River and region's fishing industry. The artwork uses the unique durable and reflective qualities of polished stainless steel to engage the public in conveying this story."

Attachment 2 provides further information about the proposed artwork.

A technical review and coordination phase with the City's facility staff will be included with the implementation phase of the artwork. The artists and City staff will continue to meet to review construction coordination and implementation phases of the project. Maintenance of the artwork will be the responsibility of the Public Art Program.

Financial Impact

The total public art budget for the Canada 150 Legacy public artwork is \$150,000 funded from existing funds in the approved 2017 Public Art Capital Project. For this project, a budget of up to \$30,000 is provided to the artist for design services. The balance of \$120,000 will be used for fabrication and installation of the artwork including all related artist expenses. 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 represents 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 installation of the Canada 150 Legacy public artwork, by artists Henry Lau and David Geary, as presented in this report.



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

- Att. 1: Canada 150 Legacy Public Art, Artist Call Terms of Reference
- 2: Canada 150 Legacy Public Artwork Concept Proposal, Henry Lau and David Geary

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Figure 1 - Richmond City Hall, artwork location facing Granville Avenue.

Canada 150 Legacy Public Art

Request for Proposals, RFP

Richmond City Hall
February 2017



OPPORTUNITY

The Richmond Public Art Program is seeking an artist or artist team to create a legacy public artwork to commemorate Canada's 150th anniversary in 2017. The civic artwork will be located in a prominent location at Richmond City Hall, 6911 No. 3 Road. Artists with demonstrated ability and proven practices in sculpture, mixed-media and installation art are encouraged to apply.

This is a two-stage open artist call. Following review of the submissions, the Selection Panel will recommend up to five artists to be shortlisted. Shortlisted artists will be invited to develop their concept proposals and attend an interview. An interview fee of \$500, plus applicable taxes will be paid to each of the shortlisted artists or artist teams. All information about the opportunity is contained herein.

Project Budget:	Up to \$150,000 CAD
Eligibility Requirements:	Open to professional artists residing in Canada.
Deadline for Submissions:	Monday, March 6, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. PST.
Installation:	Fall 2017

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ARTWORK THEMES

Artists will be required to respond to one or a combination of the following three themes in their statement of intent:

- **History, Culture and Diversity**
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**
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**
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 innovations in urban agriculture.

BACKGROUND

Canada's 150 Celebration in 2017 presents an opportunity to mark the occasion with a new public artwork in Richmond. The legacy artwork will occupy a prominent location along Granville Avenue and will be seen against the dramatic backdrop of Richmond City Hall.

The award-winning Richmond City Hall was completed in 2000 and offers amenities and multipurpose spaces, available for public and private events and programming. A large civic plaza with outdoor stage, water elements and heritage, indigenous low-maintenance trees are features of the extensive landscaped gardens that contribute to a welcoming environment, making City Hall a focal point for Richmond's evolving civic centre.

The building construction uses concrete, stone and wood to reduce life cycle energy and premature obsolescence. Artists will consider the symbolic civic nature of the artwork, and its relationship to the building's material palette.

LOCATION

The legacy artwork will be located at Richmond City Hall, 6911 No. 3 Road. An existing low concrete retaining wall facing south on Granville Avenue has been identified as the location for the artwork. The platform supports a viewing stage for the annual Remembrance Day ceremonies in Richmond. Please refer to Figures 2–5 for context images of the site. Applicants are encouraged to visit the site prior to submitting proposal packages.

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MATERIALS

Artists will be required to work with long-lasting materials that are durable, low maintenance and reflect strength and dignity in design.

DESIGN CONSTRAINTS

The artwork shall not exceed the dimensions shown in Figure 3. Attachments and foundation supports should be secure and limited to the concrete retaining wall and ledge.

BUDGET

A total budget of up to \$150,000 CAD, plus applicable taxes is available for this project. This budget will include (but is not limited to) artist fees, design, permitting as required, engineering fees, fabrication, installation, photography, insurance and all applicable taxes (GST excluded). Shortlisted artists will be required to provide a detailed budget as part of their second stage submission package.

ARTIST ELIGIBILITY

This opportunity is open to artists or artist teams residing in Canada. Qualified artists will have proven experience producing artworks for civic projects. City of Richmond staff and its Public Art Advisory Committee members, selection panel members, project personnel, and immediate family members are not eligible to apply.

SELECTION PROCESS

A selection panel will recommend the artist/artist team through a two-stage open call process. For stage one, artists are asked to submit a preliminary idea or approach for the site. For stage two, up to five artists will be asked to prepare a detailed concept design, detailed project budget and attend a finalist presentation and interview. An interview fee of \$500 will be paid to each of the shortlisted artists or artist teams.

Finalists outside of Greater Vancouver will be reimbursed for up to \$500 for travel and lodging expenses to attend the interview in Richmond. If applying as a team, the allowance for travel may not fully reimburse all team members.

A selection panel comprised of artists, art professionals and community representatives will review all artist submissions. The panel will select up to five shortlisted artists to develop detailed concept proposals. At the end of the second stage selection process, the selection panel will recommend one artwork proposal to City Council for endorsement.

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ARTIST SELECTION CRITERIA

The following criteria will inform the Selection Panel deliberation process as part of the artist selection process in Stage 1 and Stage 2.

Stage 1

- Artistic merit of Artist Statement of Intent and Conceptual Artist Sketch in response to project theme and goals.
- Artist's demonstrated qualifications, skills and experience of past work.
- 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's capacity to work with other design professionals and stakeholders.
- Appropriateness of the proposal to the Public Art Program goals: www.richmond.ca/culture/publicart/plans/policy.

Stage 2

- Artist response to any feedback and follow-up questions from Selection Panel regarding artistic merit of Artist Statement of Intent and Conceptual Artist Sketch in response to project theme and goals.
- 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: www.richmond.ca/culture/publicart/plans/policy.
- Detailed project budget including, but not limited to: artist fees, materials, fabrication, administration, insurance, installation, documentation, permits and consultant fees.
- 3D artist visualizations and/or models to communicate how the artwork will respond to the site including scale, colour, material, texture, content, installation method and the physical characteristics of the location.
- Artwork sensitivity to environmental concerns with respect to artwork materials and method of fabrication and installation.

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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, an outline of concept or approach to the identified themes, reference to demonstrated experience in past work and proposed medium or materials for the artwork. If applying as a team, please address how team members will work together.
- **CONCEPTUAL ARTIST SKETCH** – (one page maximum) a preliminary artwork visualization to accompany the Statement of Intent and how you are responding to the identified selection criteria.
- **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 must submit a maximum of 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 in their calendar.

Submission Deadline: Monday, March 6, 2017, 5:00 p.m. PST

Finalist Interviews: Thursday, April 6, 2017*

Completion: Fall 2017

SOURCES FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

[Canada 150 Celebration Program](#)

[City of Richmond](#)

[City of Richmond Archives](#)

[City Centre Public Art Plan](#)

[Richmond Public Art Program Policy](#)

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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. The selected artist will enter into contract with the City of Richmond and may be required to show proof of WCB coverage and up to \$5,000,000 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. Extensions to the submission deadline will not be granted under any circumstances. Submissions received after the deadline and those that are found to be incomplete will not be reviewed.

QUESTIONS

Please contact the Richmond Public Art Program:

Tel: 604-204-8671

E-mail: publicart@richmond.ca

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RICHMOND CITY HALL – ARTWORK LOCATION



Figure 2 – Concrete retaining wall location highlighted in red.



Figure 3 – Artwork dimensions should not exceed 22' length x 3'-4" high x 2' deep.

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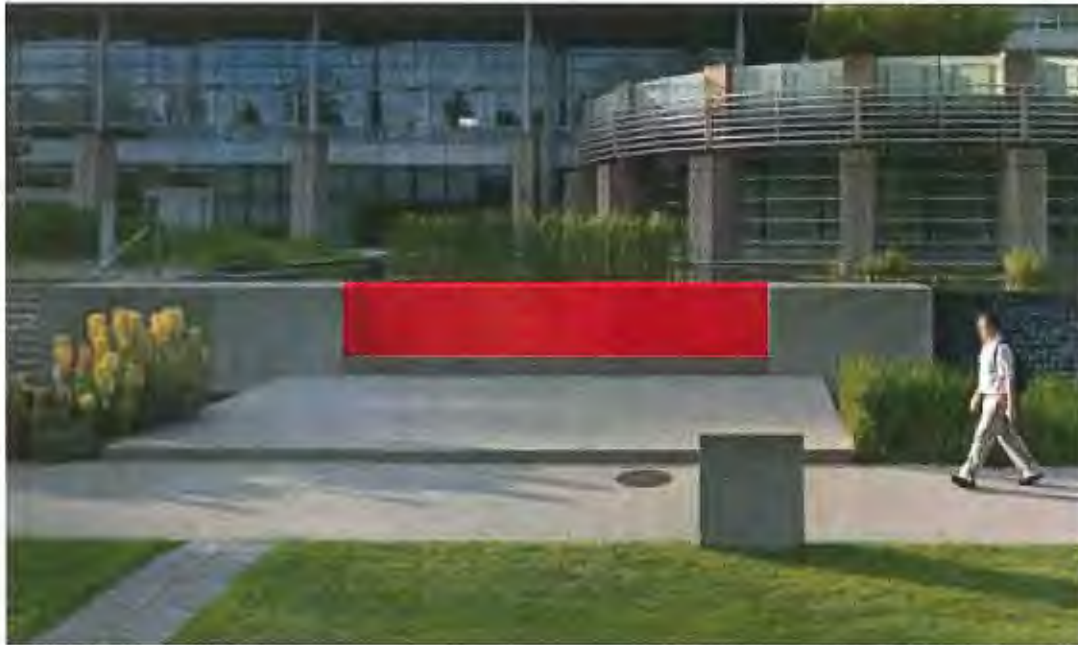


Figure 4 – Detail elevation of recessed retaining wall area.



Figure 5 – Aerial perspective showing site in context along Granville Avenue.

Stylized White River Sturgeon Sculptural Relief **By Henry Lau and Dave Geary**

Artist Statement

We propose a stylized stainless steel constructed relief of a sturgeon as a metaphorical representation of the history and peoples of Richmond. It is also a metaphor for the Fraser River and region's fishing industry. The artwork uses the unique durable and reflective qualities of polished stainless steel to engage the public in conveying this story.

Sturgeons are majestic and legendary. They have survived and persisted through millennia in challenging environments and symbolize resiliency, adaptability, resourcefulness and determination to thrive under harsh conditions.

Sturgeons can be found in the Americas, Asia and Europe. An understanding and appreciation of these legendary creatures is shared by many cultures and can be seen as an evocative and unifying symbol for Richmond's culturally diverse community.

The proposed artwork and the award winning Richmond City Hall are visually complementary. The form and the scale of the artwork will be in dialogue with the proposed site. The artwork will contribute to the elegant and dynamic landscape and backdrop of Richmond City Hall.

The Stainless Steel chosen for the artwork has post-consumer recycled content of up to 82% and all material wastes will be minimized and recycled. The material is very durable and will require minimal maintenance, which reduces the life cycle energy requirement for the artwork.

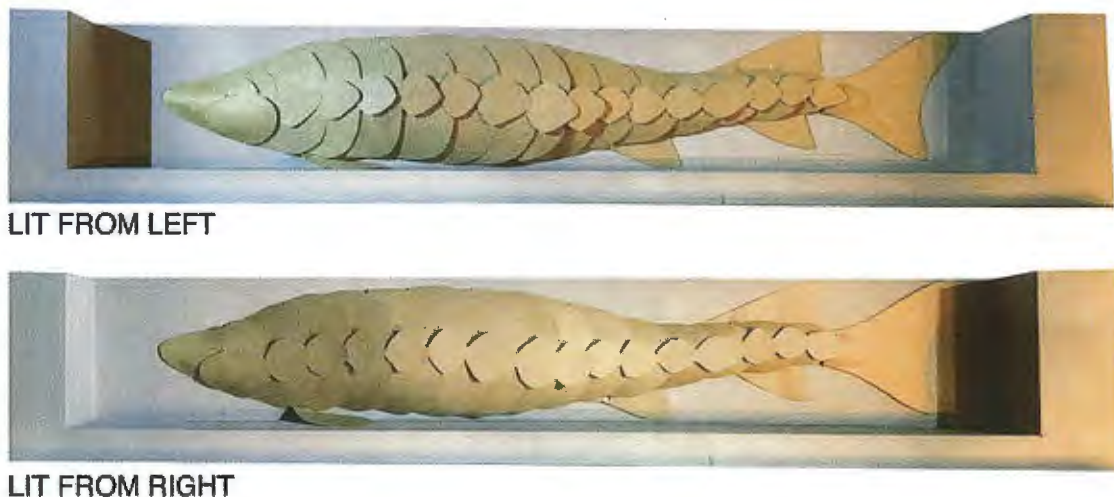


Figure 1 – Artist image of cardboard model



Figure 2 – Artist rendering of the white sturgeon artwork within the existing concrete recess



Figure 3 – Artist rendering of the white sturgeon in context with the site and architecture