City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To:	General Purposes Committee	**Date:**	October 22, 2026
From:	Elizabeth Ayers General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture	**File:**	11-7400-01/2025-Vol 01
Re:	**City Signature and Community Events Program 2027**		

Staff Recommendations

1. That the City Signature and Community Events Program 2027, as outlined in Table 1 of the report titled "City Signature and Community Events Program 2027", dated October 22, 2026, from the General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture, be approved for the following events and initiatives:

    a) Children's Arts Festival;
    b) Richmond Cherry Blossom Festival;
    c) Doors Open Richmond;
    d) Community Celebration Grant Program;
    e) Neighbourhood Block Party Program;
    f) Steveston Salmon Festival;
    g) Richmond Maritime Festival; and
    h) Richmond Farm Fest.

2. That the expenditures totaling $1,115,000 for the City Signature and Community Events Program 2027 with funding of $960,000 from the Rate Stabilization Account, $95,000 estimated sponsorship and $60,000 estimated grant revenue be included in the 2027 budget process.

Executive Summary

On October 21, 2024, Council approved the City of Richmond Signature and Community Events Plan for 2025–2029 (the Plan). The program of events and initiatives proposed for 2027 supports the Council-endorsed Plan as well as other Council-endorsed strategies.
Events enrich the lives of residents by providing opportunities for the community to connect, learn, and celebrate together. Events contribute to social and economic wellbeing, provide valuable volunteer opportunities, build a sense of community and enhance quality of life.

This report provides information about the 2026 event program as well as recommendations for 2027, including additional planning work for a future Minoru Lakes Festive Lights Event.

Should Council approve the report a one-time additional level funding request of $960,000 will be brought forward for consideration as part of the 2027 budget process.

Staff Report

Origin

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an overview of the 2026 City signature and community events program, the proposed program of events and initiatives for 2027 and an associated budget for consideration as part of the 2027 budget process.

Additionally, this report responds to a Council resolution and recommends next steps for a Minoru Lakes Festive Lights Event. At the November 24, 2025, Council meeting, Council endorsed the report titled "City Signature and Community Events Program 2026", dated October 27, 2025, from the Director, Arts, Culture and Heritage Services which included the following resolution:

> *That a Community Festive Lights Event at Minoru Lake be investigated, including timing, budget and potential partnerships.*

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.*

This report also supports a number of Council endorsed strategies including: The City of Richmond Signature and Community Event Plan 2025–2029, The Richmond Arts Strategy 2026–2031, Cultural Harmony Plan 2019–2029, City of Richmond Youth Strategy 2022–2032, City of Richmond Seniors Strategy 2022–2032, City of Richmond Accessibility Plan 2023–2033, the Richmond Tourism Master Plan and the Steveston Heritage Interpretive Framework.

Analysis

Background

Events enrich the lives of residents by providing opportunities for the community to connect, learn, and celebrate together. Events contribute to social and economic wellbeing, provide valuable volunteer opportunities, build a sense of community and enhance quality of life.

On October 21, 2024, Council approved the City of Richmond Signature and Community Events Plan 2025–2029 (the Plan). The program of events and initiatives proposed for 2027 supports the Council-endorsed Plan, including the Guiding Principles for City events:

1. Build capacity of local event organizers by prioritizing and investing in community-driven events;
2. Provide opportunities for Richmond residents and community groups to collaborate, contribute and participate;
3. Maximize social connections and foster sense of community pride and belonging for both volunteers and event participants;
4. Celebrate local themes, cultural diversity, and include programming that is uniquely Richmond;

5. Advance the City's environmental sustainability and accessibility goals;
6. Ensure events are safe, well-organized and sustainably funded; and
7. Encourage and support the development of unique events with a regional draw that bring economic and community benefit and raise the profile of Richmond.

Overview of 2026 City Signature and Community Events Program

With over 225,000 attendees at City events, 42 Community Celebration Grant-funded events, and 28 Neighborhood Block Parties, the 2026 City Signature and Community Events Program was well received by the community. It included a full program of annual signature events as well as the Ships to Shore event in May featuring a visit from the Japanese Tall Ship, the Kaiwo Maru, and the Richmond Celebrates Soccer Program in June and July. An overview of the 2026 program can be found in Attachment 1.

Proposed 2027 City Signature and Community Events Program

The proposed 2027 Signature and Community Events Program detailed below supports the delivery of a mix of events, including neighbourhood, community, and city-wide events that align with the Council-approved Plan. Accessibility and community safety will continue to be a priority in the planning of events in 2027. All of the proposed events are in alignment with the Council-approved Plan and its guiding principles.

Children's Arts Festival 2027

Proposed Program – February 15 to 19, 2027

Similar to the 2026 program, the proposed 2027 program will include arts education experiences at the Richmond Library/Cultural Centre and Annex on Family Day with community centres added through the school days component. All programs will be led by professional artist instructors in a wide variety of arts disciplines, including visual, literary, performance, media arts and more.

The school days program, with the support of Richmond School District No. 38, will run from February 17 to 19, 2027. School days programming will be offered at community centres throughout Richmond.

The objective of the event is to engage Richmond’s children and expand their horizons through a large assortment of culturally and artistically diverse activities such as:

- Participatory art activations;
- Drop-in Art in Action stations;
- Arts and culture workshops; and
- Performances led by local artists and art educators.

The Children's Arts Festival represents a unique opportunity for residents, youth and artists to come together to build community. The festival strives to instill awareness and youth engagement in the arts to fulfill the goals outlined in the Richmond Arts Strategy.

Proposed 2027 Budget of $113,000; City funding $78,000 plus an estimated $35,000 in sponsorship.

Richmond Cherry Blossom Festival
Proposed Program – April 4, 2027

The proposed 2027 festival theme will be 祝 "Iwai" or "Shuku" which translates as Celebration or to Celebrate. This theme was chosen by the festival organizing committee to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Richmond Cherry Blossom Festival. The organizing committee will be commemorating the 10th anniversary with additional programming for this festival, which has emerged as a major spring event to bring visitors together to enjoy the transient beauty of the cherry blossoms.

As initially envisioned by the B.C. Wakayama Kenjin Kai, the Richmond Cherry Blossom Festival celebrates the natural and transient beauty of the 255 Akebono cherry trees in bloom at Garry Point Park, while providing festival visitors the opportunity to experience unique Japanese customs and traditions. As in past years, this year's festival will feature performances, demonstrations and hands-on activities provided by local Japanese craftspeople.

For one year only, the Richmond Cherry Blossom Festival includes a request for funding support for additional programming. This would include an additional tent with special anniversary programming, including information about the history of the Wakayama Kenjin Kai and the festival.

Proposed 2027 Budget of $74,000: City funding of $69,000 (inclusive of the one-time request for $10,000 for additional anniversary programming) plus an estimated $5,000 in grants.

Doors Open Richmond
Proposed Program – June 5 to 6, 2027

Doors Open Richmond is an annual two-day event featuring free opportunities to explore behind the scenes in Richmond's unique places. The event promotes intercultural understanding by allowing visitors unique opportunities to explore cultural, faith-based, municipal and other sites. Working with these sites, Doors Open Richmond helps organizations and communities share their cultural practices with the public in their own way and with their voice. It also helps newcomers to Richmond to understand various services available in the community.

For its 20th year, the Richmond Museum Society will support the delivery of programming at over 40 sites across the city, offering a shuttle bus program for faith-based organizations along No. 5 Road and various cultural centres, and providing online programming for sites unable to invite public inside a facility. To enable the delivery of these activities, the event will be supported again by a robust volunteer ambassador program.

To commemorate the 20th anniversary, the organizing committee is looking to hold a recognition event to recognize the significant contributions of the participating sites and their volunteers and add additional program elements to celebrate the anniversary including a 20th anniversary poster contest.

As in previous years, any additional funds the Richmond Museum Society secures through grants and/or sponsorship will be used for program enhancements.

Proposed 2027 Budget of $61,000: City funding of $46,000 (inclusive of a one-time request for $6,000 for additional anniversary programming) plus an estimated $15,000 in grants.

Community Celebration Grant Program
Proposed Program – June 1 to December 31, 2027

The proposed Community Celebration Grants will provide up to $2,000 of funding opportunities for Richmond-based non-profit groups to host an event open to the public, subject to Council approval. Eligibility and evaluation criteria include:

- Richmond-based non-profit groups, including faith-based groups, Parent Advisory Committees, and Student Councils;
- Event must be held in Richmond;
- Event must demonstrate alignment with program objectives including creating events that build community in Richmond;
- Event must take place outside of regular working hours to ensure a diverse range of people are able to attend;
- Event must be free and open to the public;
- Organizer must demonstrate the ability to host events that welcome all community members and must agree to promote their event through the City's Event calendar and at City facilities;
- If required, applicants must complete the Richmond Event Approval Coordination Team (REACT) application and are subject to REACT approval;
- Applicant must demonstrate capacity to safely host the proposed event outlined in the application and provide a realistic estimate of resources needed and total budget required; and
- Applicant must provide a final report including, copy of receipts and two photos of the event with signed photo waivers.

Events associated with a political party or those that have received funding from another City of Richmond grant program are not eligible.

The proposed 2027 Community Celebration Grant Program will be launched in Q1 2027. Proposed grant recipients will be brought for Council approval in Q2 2027 for events to be held June 1 to December 31, 2027.

Proposed 2027 Budget: $60,000 of City funding.

Neighbourhood Block Party Program

This program offers up to $500 of funding for neighbourhood groups to connect, create a sense of community, and enhance safety and awareness in neighbourhoods. Block parties can take place in a variety of spaces, including parks, on local streets or on private property. Proposed eligibility and evaluation criteria include:

- Applicants must be two Richmond-based residents living in the same neighbourhood street or block (two individuals not living in the same household) and/or a strata complex;
- Block party must be held in Richmond;

- Block party must demonstrate alignment with program objectives including creating events that build community in Richmond;
- Block party must be free to the Richmond residents in that neighbourhood, street or block;
- Applicants must demonstrate capacity to safely host the proposed event and provide a realistic estimate of resources needed and total budget required;
- If required, applicants must complete a REACT application and are subject to REACT approval; and
- Applicants must provide a final report, including a copy of receipts and two photos of the event with signed photo waivers.

Block parties associated with a political party are not eligible.

If approved, the Neighbourhood Block Party Program will be launched in Q1 2027, and applicants will be able to apply for up to $500 of funding for a Neighbourhood Block Party held between May 21 and October 11, 2027. Applications will be reviewed and approved as they are received.

Proposed 2027 Budget: $20,000 of City funding.

Steveston Salmon Festival / Canada Day
Proposed Program – July 1, 2027

Working in partnership with the Steveston Community Society, Richmond Agricultural and Industrial Society and the Steveston Salmon Festival Planning Committee, the 2027 event is anticipated to include many of the same elements as the 2026 festival, including the parade, performance stages and entertainment throughout the site, the Japanese Cultural Show, children's activities, the Salmon Run Youth area, the traditional Salmon Bake, Chow Mein booth and food trucks. The footprint of the event will differ from previous years as the new Steveston Community Centre and Library will be open to the public.

The Steveston Salmon Festival Planning Committee is exploring options to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the festival and may bring an additional request to Council at a later date.

Proposed 2027 Budget of $417,000: City funding of $367,000 plus an estimated $25,000 in sponsorship and $25,000 in grants.

As in previous years, any additional funds the Steveston Community Society/Richmond Agricultural and Industrial Society secures through grants and/or sponsorship will be used for program enhancements.

Richmond Maritime Festival
Proposed Program – August 21 to 22, 2027

The Richmond Maritime Festival continues to serve as one of Richmond's signature events, showcasing the diverse cultural and maritime heritage of Britannia Shipyards National Historic Site and Steveston. In 2027, this will be accomplished through visiting heritage wooden boats, cultural activities, performances and maritime-themed displays.

Proposed 2027 Budget of $253,000: City funding of $213,000 plus an estimated $25,000 in sponsorship and $15,000 in grants.

As in previous years, any additional funds brought forward by the Richmond Arts Coalition or Britannia Shipyards National Historic Site Society through grants and sponsorships will be used for program enhancements.

Richmond Farm Fest
Proposed Program – September 12, 2027

This one-day event delivered in partnership with Kwantlen Polytechnic University at the Garden City Lands celebrates Richmond's rich agricultural heritage and exciting future. This family-friendly event brings together the best of farming, food, and community in the heart of the city. Agriculture is a vital part of Richmond's cultural and economic story. With over 200 active farms, thriving restaurants, and a strong connection to land and food, Richmond is a hub for urban agriculture and unique culinary experiences.

In 2027, the festival will once again feature opportunities to learn about local agriculture, food security, the history of agriculture in Richmond and the local farm community. The site will feature a children's area, food trucks, local music, and the popular hay wagon ride.

Proposed 2027 Budget of $67,000: City funding of $57,000 plus an estimated $10,000 in sponsorships.

Budgetary Implications

Table 1 – Proposed 2027 City Event Budget:

Event	2026 City Funding	2026 Actuals/Estimated Net Costs to City as of Sep 30, 2026	2027 Proposed City Funding	2027 Estimated Sponsorship and Grant Revenue	2027 Total Proposed City Event Program Budget
Children's Arts Festival (CAF) (February 15–19).	$72,800	$72,800	$78,000	$35,000	$113,000
Children's Arts Festival (CAF) (February 15–19) City Events Contingency.		$3,197			
Richmond Cherry Blossom Festival (April 4).	$57,300	$55,216	$59,000	$5,000	$64,000
Richmond Cherry Blossom Festival Anniversary (1 year only)			$10,000		$10,000
Doors Open Richmond (June 5–6).	$41,400	$39,019	$40,000	$15,000	$55,000

Event	2026 City Funding	2026 Actuals/Estimated Net Costs to City as of Sep 30, 2026	2027 Proposed City Funding	2027 Estimated Sponsorship and Grant Revenue	2027 Total Proposed City Event Program Budget
Doors Open Richmond Anniversary (1 year only)			$6,000		$6,000
Community Celebration Grant Program (June – December).	$58,000	$55,228 *	$60,000		$60,000
Neighbourhood Block Party Program Fund (May – October). *	$20,000	$13,477 *	$20,000		$20,000
Steveston Salmon Festival/ Canada Day (July 1). *	$359,000	$359,000 *	$367,000	$50,000	$417,000
Steveston Salmon Festival Contingency (1 Year Only 2026).	$50,000	$0	$0		$0
Richmond Maritime Festival (August 21–22). *	$208,300	$208,300 *	$213,000	$40,000	$253,000
Richmond Farm Fest (September 12). *	$56,100	$56,100 *	$57,000	$10,000	$67,000
Community Event Safety Enhancements* (1 Year only 2026).	$55,000	$53,000 *	$0		$0
Subtotal	$977,900	$915,337*	$910,000	$155,000	$1,065,000
City Events Contingency	**$50,000**		**$50,000**		**$50,000**
Total	**$1,027,900**	**$915,337***	**$960,000**	**$155,000**	**$1,115,000**

*Estimated net expenses by year end. Any unspent funds from the 2026 event program will be returned to the Rate Stabilization Account.

Should Council approve the 2027 City Events Program, the proposed total budget of $1,115,000 with funding of $960,000 from the Rate Stabilization Account, $95,000 estimated sponsorship and $60,000 estimated grant revenue will be included in the 2027 budget process. The proposed budget for each City event, and the Community Celebration Grant Program budget, has been increased by 2

per cent to represent the cost of living. Some event costs are expected to increase by more than 2 per cent. If the event cannot be scaled to accommodate this increase, the contingency fund may be used. The proposed budget for the Neighborhood Block Party Program remains the same as the program was not fully subscribed to in 2026. The $155,000 estimate for grants and sponsorships represents a 55 per cent increase from the $99,427 that was received in 2026. Any additional sponsorship or grants above the budgeted targets will be used for budget relief. In addition to the City budget identified above, that community partners also pursue grants, sponsorships and in-kind support for events. As in previous years, funding and in-kind support secured by community partners will be used for program enhancement.

Consistent with previous years, an event contingency of $50,000 is included in the proposed budget to address any unanticipated challenges that may arise with any individual event. This may include things such as production issues related to weather, increased rental costs, additional safety requirements, event alterations due to construction, and/or sponsorships or grant shortfalls.

Should any contingency funding be needed, the General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture, would preapprove any expenses to be charged to contingency.

Minoru Lakes Festive Lights Event

Richmond has historically marked the winter holiday season with light installations along major roadways and at prominent public locations throughout the City. The proposed Minoru Lakes Festive Lights Event (Event) is an addition to this City-wide program. Intended to celebrate light during a time of the year many cultures celebrate renewal and the New Year, the Event would bring the community together to enjoy specialty light displays in Minoru Park, concentrated around Minoru Lake. See Attachment 2 for the proposed location. The Event would be programmed with landscape lighting displays, specialty features, cultural programming and refreshments. Several community partners including City Centre Community Association, Gateway Theatre Society, the Richmond Arts Coalition, the Richmond Lawn Bowling Club, and the Highway to Heaven Association have expressed an interest in collaborating on this new Event.

The Event would be free to attend with the light features and decorations illuminated every evening after sunset, ending at 10:00pm for approximately 10 weeks. While the Event's related infrastructure (lights, equipment, etc.) would remain in place for the duration of the Event, during the day, Minoru Park would remain open for regular use as a park space for walking and recreation.

The Event would include the following elements to activate the park space:

- Light Displays and Decorations: Enchanting displays of lights and decorations would be available for the Event that the public can enjoy daily during the evening hours when the lighting features are activated. See Attachment 3 for examples. Two lighting strategies are proposed to be implemented in the landscape around the Lake;
    - Landscape Lighting: Vegetation (trees, shrubs, etc.) and landscape features (bridges, fountain, handrails and the lake edge) would be illuminated in creative ways to create a fully immersive illuminated experience for visitors; and
    - Specialty Light Features and Decorations: Light sculptures and seasonally themed features would be strategically located throughout the Event space. Functioning as landmarks, these features would guide visitors as they walk through the Event space.

These focal points become opportunities for taking photos with visitors posting their experiences on social media platforms, further promoting the Event;

- Animating the Lake: The Lake's surface would add a dynamic multi-sensory element due to the surface's reflective quality, thus becoming an additional meaningful and interactive programming opportunity. For example, floating lantern festivals are held in many Asian countries; and
- Celebrating Cultures: The Event will include activities and refreshments highlighting Richmond's vibrant culture. Enhanced offerings of food, music and arts could focus on seasonal holidays such as Diwali, Hanukkah, Christmas, New Year and Lunar New Year.

Initial feasibility work has been completed and staff will continue to work with community partners to better understand their proposed contributions to the event, pursue sponsorship and report back with more information and a refined budget for Council consideration. It is anticipated that a report will be brought back in Q2 of 2027.

Community Event Safety Enhancements

In 2026, Council approved additional funding to enhance safety at community events. The following actions were implemented in 2026:

- In alignment with the Municipal Insurance Association of British Columbia's *Risk Management Guide for Local Government Community Events*, an Event Safety Plan worksheet was developed for all Richmond Event Approval Coordination Team (REACT) applications. The worksheet is designed to help event organizers identify potential risks associated with their events and develop appropriate mitigation measures. The worksheet was added to the REACT webpage and implemented for all events beginning in spring 2026;
- Portable event bollards, traffic delineators and traffic cones were purchased and made available for community event organizers; and
- Staff attended several REACT-approved community events during the 2026 event season to observe event operations; ensure safety plans and measures were implemented appropriately and support community safety. At this time, it is not anticipated that this level of staff attendance will be required in 2027.

Community event safety will continue to be supported in future years through the REACT application process and using the new resources outlined above. Funding for additional safety measures is not required in 2027.

Conclusion

Events enrich the lives of residents by providing opportunities for the community to connect, contribute, learn, and celebrate together. They contribute to social and economic well-being, foster community resiliency, build community capacity and a sense of community identity and contribute to a vibrant city with a strong sense of place and distinct identity. The proposed program of events and initiatives for 2027, provides opportunities for the City to work collaboratively with a range of community organizations to safely deliver on several priorities identified in the Plan and it is recommended it be approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Fenwick
Director, Arts, Culture and Heritage Services

Report Contributors

This report was prepared by Dee Bowley-Cowan, Program Manager, Events and Alex Kurnicki, Manager, Parks Programs and reviewed by: Business Services, Finance, Parks Services, Recreation and Sport Services, RCMP, and Richmond Fire Rescue.

Endorsed by Serena Lusk, CAO

Att. 1: Overview of 2026 City Signature and Community Events Program
2: Proposed Minoru Lakes Festive Lights Event Location Map
3: Example of Festive Lights Displays

Overview of 2026 City Signature and Community Events Program

The following is an overview of the Council approved event program for 2026.

Children's Arts Festival

The annual Children's Arts Festival (CAF) is the City's signature event for children, families and educators. The 17th year included two components: a free public event held on BC Family Day, February 16, 2026, at the Richmond Library/Cultural Centre and Annex, and school days programming held February 18–20, 2026, at the Richmond Library/Cultural Centre and Annex and five community centres across the city. The CAF celebrates the power of the arts to foster understanding and connection among families and communities across generations and cultures, building community, inspiring curiosity, and exploring through play. The CAF was supported by East Richmond Community Association, City Centre Community Association, Hamilton Community Association, Thompson Community Association, and South Arm Community, the Richmond Public Library and Richmond School District No. 38.

Participation highlights include:

- Over 9,000 people attended the festival during the Family Day public event on February 17, 2025;
- 833 children representing 35 classes from 17 Richmond elementary schools participated in the school days program from February 18 to February 20, 2026, at the Richmond Library/Cultural Centre and Annex and community centres (Cambie, City Centre, Hamilton, Thompson and South Arm);
- 55 volunteers contributed 443 volunteer hours;
- 205 performers/artists;
- 74 social media stories;
- 480,120 ad impressions;
- 3,364 clicks to the website; and
- 2 food trucks.

Images of the Children's Arts Festival 2026



Photo credit: Alisha Weng

Richmond Cherry Blossom Festival

Celebrating the arrival of spring and the blooming of Garry Point Park's 255 Akebono cherry trees, this annual event is produced in partnership with representatives from the BC Wakayama Kenjin Kai. Held on April 12, 2026, the event featured live performances, demonstrations, food from a local restaurant and food trucks, Japanese cultural displays, and children's crafts and activities. The 2026 Cherry Blossom Festival theme was ありがとう (Arigato), meaning thank you, to extend gratitude to the festival's volunteering performers and supporters from the Japanese Canadian community. The Sister City Advisory Committee once again displayed chochin (paper) lanterns and visitors could take a photo at the Sister City Advisory Committee selfie stations.

Participation highlights include:

- Over 6,000 visitors attended the festival;
- 34 volunteers contributed 213 hours;
- 51 performers/artists;
- Average time spent at the event was two hours;
- Visitor origins were 41 per cent Richmond residents with a strong regional visitation from Vancouver, North Vancouver and West Vancouver;
- 287,601 ad impressions;
- 4,373 clicks to the website; and
- 10 food trucks.

Image of the Richmond Cherry Blossom Festival 2026



Photo credit: Alisha Weng

Ships to Shore – Kaiwo Maru

After a month-long journey from Japan, the Kaiwo Maru arrived in Richmond on Thursday, April 30, 2026, and was greeted by the community. The Ships to Shore event included two days of public programming in Garry Point Park and a one-day school education program.

The three-day festival included ship boarding and viewing, food trucks, and local performances on three stages (Neptune Stage, Dockside Stage or Coracle Stage). Visitors were also able to enjoy the Makers Corner featuring a selection of artisan vendors offering handcrafted goods inspired by culture, creativity and craftsmanship. At Partner's Circle visitors were able to explore

interactive activations and cultural experiences from local community partners detailed below, and kite demonstrations by a local kite club.

On the school day, students from the Richmond School District No. 38 participated in an onboard educational program, which included a classroom manual and tour of the Kaiwo Maru.

Participation highlights include:

- Over 70,000 visitors attended the festival;
- 2,450 visitors boarded the ship;
- 711 students from 28 classes participated in the onboard school program;
- 130 volunteers contributed 1,045 hours;
- 70 performers/artists;
- Average time spent at the event was over two hours;
- Visitor origins were 52 per cent Richmond residents with a strong regional visitation from Vancouver, North Vancouver and West Vancouver;
- 75 social media stories;
- 1,680,000 ad impressions;
- 151,959 clicks to the website;
- 15 food trucks; and
- Participation from local community organizations and sites, including Britannia Heritage Shipyard National Historic Site, Gulf of Georgia National Historic Site, Richmond Sister City Advisory Committee, Steveston Japanese Language School, Steveston Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre, Nikkei National Museum and Cultural Centre, and Tonari Gumi.

Images of the Ships to Shore – Kaiwo Maru Event 2026





Photo credit: Amber Pacific Studios

Doors Open Richmond

The 19th year of Doors Open Richmond was held on June 6 to 7, 2026, offering visitors a diverse range of free cultural, historical, artistic and community-based experiences offered at 45 partner sites. The 2026 event welcomed seven new partners including the Alexandra District Energy Utility, artist Marion Webber and the Richmond Arts Coalition.

The event reflected Richmond's diverse communities and heritage, with participating sites representing Musqueam, Muslim, Sikh, Hindu, Catholic, Filipino, Buddhist, Japanese, Baha'i and Chinese communities. Two new videos were produced for the event, highlighting the Philippine Cultural Arts Society of British Columbia and Musqueam Elder Mary Point.

Participation highlights include:

- Over 20,000 visitors attended the sites;
- 1,453 participants attended 12 pre-registered programs, including guided tours of Richmond City Hall and two guided bus tours;
- 532 volunteers contributed 3,246 hours;
- 5 performers/artists;
- 125 social media stories;
- 452,652 ad impressions;
- 623,000 clicks to the website; and
- To enhance accessibility, participating sites identified the languages spoken by their volunteers and representatives during the Doors Open weekend. Collectively, the participating sites offered support in 22 different languages, reflecting Richmond's linguistic and cultural diversity.

Images of Richmond Doors Open 2026





Photo Credit: Paradigm Creative Productions

Community Celebration Grant Program

The 2026 Community Celebration Grant Program was launched on January 12, 2026, through the City's website, social media platforms, direct outreach to past applicants, and postings in community facilities across Richmond. Richmond-based not-for-profit organizations, not-for-profit faith-based groups, Parent Advisory Committees, and School Student Councils

were invited to submit creative proposals for free public events aimed at bringing residents together from diverse backgrounds through shared interests, arts and culture.

In total, 56 applications were received by the February 8, 2026, deadline. 40 projects received funding, totalling $55,228. Originally, 42 projects received funding totalling $58,000, however two applicants returned their grant funding upon making the decision to cancel their event in 2026.

Participation highlights include:

- Individual event participation ranged from 25 to 500 people;
- 7 Richmond Parent Advisory Committees events;
- 28 Richmond-based not-for-profit organization events;
- 5 Richmond-based not-for-profit faith-based groups; and
- Activities delivered through the grant included intercultural celebrations, an outdoor concert series held by Minoru Seniors Society, art activities in the park, a community carnival at Spul'u'Kwuks Elementary School and sporting events, including the Dolphin Park Classic.

Richmond Neighbourhood Block Party Program

The 2026 Richmond Neighbourhood Block Party Program was launched on March 30, 2026, and was promoted through the City's website, Parks, Recreation and Culture e-News, social media channels, and targeted outreach to Richmond School District No. 38, Community Associations and Societies, and Parks, Recreation and Culture facilities.

The program encouraged Richmond residents to strengthen neighbourhood connections and foster a sense of community by hosting block parties in a variety of spaces, including local parks, streets, and private strata properties. Funding was available to pairs of residents – living in the same neighbourhood but in different households/strata or Richmond Block Watch Captains – who applied to organize a free block party for their neighbours.

28 out of 31 applications were approved for a combined total of $13,477 of funding.

The first block party took place on June 20, 2026, and the final block party took place on October 9, 2026. The 2026 intake period concluded on September 13, 2026.

Program Highlights:

- 14 Strata neighbourhood block parties;
- 3 Block Watch block parties;
- 11 Neighbourhood block parties;
- Block parties were hosted in more than 10 neighbourhoods across Richmond, with the majority held in the Steveston, East Cambie, and Brighouse;
- Funding supported expenses such as table and chair rentals, food, lawn game rentals, sustainable initiatives such as compostable utensils and dishes, barricade rentals and marketing materials; and

- Activities included barbeques, a pancake breakfast, children's crafts, games, face-painting, and neighbourhood bingo.

Richmond Celebrates Soccer Program

Richmond hosted a range of initiatives and events including a grant program, a kick-off event, nine community watch parties and a signature event during the FIFA World Cup '26 period from June 12 to July 19, 2026. This program was delivered in partnership with Tourism Richmond and the Richmond Hotels Association.

Overall Program marketing highlights include:

- 75 social media stories;
- 5,490,000 ad impressions; and
- 73,056 clicks to the website.

Kickoff Event – June 12, 2026

The Richmond Celebrates Soccer program kicked off at the Richmond Olympic Oval on June 12, 2026. The event included a school component where students enjoyed soccer activities on the field, visited the Richmond Olympic Experience, and engaged with players from the Vancouver Rise Football team, Fusion Soccer Club and Foosball Canada. In addition to the on-field demonstrations and activities, the event featured match viewing and a music performance.

Participation highlights include:

- 3,400 visitors attended the festival;
- 1,300 children representing over 45 classes from Richmond elementary schools participated;
- 10 performers/artists;
- Average time spent at the event was over two hours;
- Visitor origins were 76 per cent Richmond residents with a strong regional visitation from Vancouver, North Vancouver and West Vancouver;
- 12 on field activities, plus the Richmond Public Library To Go Van and visits to the Richmond Olympic Experience;
- Two local soccer clubs; and
- Sport trivia between the two matches.

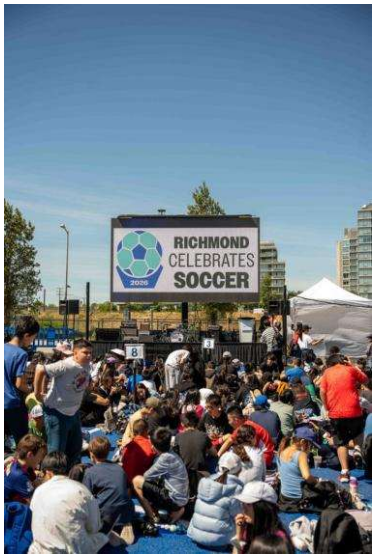


Photo credit: Richmond Olympic Oval

Hamilton Soccer Slam Event – June 14, 2026

The Hamilton Soccer Slam hosted by the Hamilton Community Association on June 14, 2026, at Hamilton Community Park featured a match between Japan and the Netherlands, celebrating the global appeal of the sport while gathering in a shared community space.

Additional activities included Soccer try-it lessons, target kicking challenges, soccer-themed bouncy castles, an inflatable soccer field, and bubble soccer obstacle course encouraging people of all ages and abilities to connect through physical activity and play. Together, these activities created an inclusive and engaging event that celebrated diversity, promoted cultural exchange, and strengthened community connections.

Participation highlights include:

- 300 visitors attended the community event;
- 16 volunteers contributed 112 hours; and
- 1 performer.



Photo credit: Hamilton Community Association

Golden Boot Gathering Event – June 18, 2026

The Golden Boot Gathering, hosted by the Minoru Senior Society on June 18, 2026, at the Minoru Centre for Active Living Plaza featured two matches; Switzerland versus Bosnia and Herzegovina and Canada versus Qatar.

Additional activities included food, soccer-themed crafts, a DJ, and popcorn. The event encouraged collaboration among community organizations including the Minoru Seniors Society and the Richmond Public Library. Following the event, the Seniors Centre at Minoru Centre continued to see a diverse population come together to watch soccer matches on TV inside the Center.

Participation highlights include:

- 600 visitors attended the community event;
- 39 volunteers contributed 234 hours; and
- 3 performers/artists.



Photo credit: Minoru Seniors Society

City Centre Celebrates Soccer – June 21, 2026 – City Centre Community Association

The City Centre Celebrates Soccer hosted by City Centre Community Association on June 21, 2026, at Garden City Community Park featured a match between New Zealand and Egypt. Many attendees came to support the Egyptian team, creating a vibrant atmosphere by waving flags and celebrating together throughout the match.

Additional activities included a performance by a youth band, inflatable attractions, and lawn games, creating a welcoming and engaging environment for families and community members. Together, these activities encouraged intercultural interaction, celebrated cultural diversity, and promoted greater understanding within the community.

Participation highlights include:

- 400 visitors that attended the community event;
- 13 volunteers contributed 78 hours; and
- 5 performers/artists.



Photo credit: City Centre Community Association

Community Soccer Fest – June 24, 2026 – Thompson Community Association

The Community Soccer Fest hosted by Thompson Community Association on June 24, 2026, at Thompson Community Park featured three matches on the big screen: Switzerland versus Canada, Scotland versus Brazil and Czechia versus Mexico.

Additional activities included live entertainment, healthy snacks and refreshments, and soccer-themed inflatables. The event brought together a wide range of community partners to animate Thompson Community Park, including Richmond Football Club, Friends of the Richmond Public Library, Rompers Preschool, Terra Nova Nature School, local musicians, food vendors, volunteers, and schools in the neighbourhood.

Participation highlights include:

- 1,500 visitors attended the community event;
- 30 volunteers contributed 240 hours; and
- 10 performers/artists.



Photo credit: Thompson Community Association

United by Soccer – July 6, 2026, South Arm Community Association

The United by Soccer hosted by South Arm Community Association on July 6, 2026, at South Arm Community Park featured the round 16 match between Switzerland and Columbia.

Additional activities included interactive soccer activities and demonstrations, dance and singing performance by local artists and community booths. Community members met through games and other engaging activities, made new friends and experience the spirit of building community connection.

Participation highlights include:

- 800 visitors attended the community event;
- 50 volunteers contributed 150 hours; and
- 25 performers/artists.



Photo Credit: South Arm Community Association

Cambie Kickoff – July 7, 2026 – East Richmond Community Association

The Cambie Kickoff hosted by East Richmond Community Association on July 7, 2026, at King George Community Park featured the match between Portugal and Spain.

Additional activities included interactive soccer activities and community booths. The event brought people together through sport. Soccer served as a universal language, encouraging participants of all ages, cultures, and abilities to connect through interactive activities, games, and shared experiences.

Participation highlights include:

- 400 visitors attended the community event;
- 11 volunteers contributed 66 hours; and
- 1 performer.



Photo credit: East Richmond Community Association

Burkeville Soccer Celebration – July 11, 2026 – Sea Island Community Association

Burkeville Soccer Celebration hosted by the Sea Island Community Association on July 11, 2026, at Burkeville Neighbourhood Park featured two matches: Norway vs England and Argentina vs Switzerland.

Additional activities included interactive soccer activities in the park, creating a fun and accessible space where families, neighbours, and visitors could gather and engage with one another. The event also fostered collaboration by bringing together local organizations, including Richmond Football Club, whose participation added engaging recreational opportunities and strengthened community partnerships. Their involvement helped animate the park while connecting residents with local programs and services.

Participation highlights include:

- 800 visitors attended the community event;
- 8 volunteers contributed 48 hours; and
- 4 performers/artists.



Photo credit: Sea Island Community Association

West Richmond Celebrates Soccer – July 14, 2026 – West Richmond Community Association

West Richmond Celebrates Soccer hosted by the West Richmond Community Association on July 14, 2026, at Hugh Boyd Community Park featured the France vs Spain match.

Additional activities included several opportunities to learn about soccer, develop basic soccer skills, and learn about soccer programs from Richmond United FC and Fusion coaches and players.

All attendees were able to participate in a Latin Dance Party, learn about programming offered at West Richmond and other community facilities, and celebrate the FIFA World Cup together as a diverse community.

Participation highlights include:

- 650 visitors attended the community event; and
- 24 volunteers contributed 144 hours.



Photo credit: West Richmond Community Association

Steveston Celebrates Soccer – July 18, 2026 – Steveston Community Association

Steveston Celebrates Soccer hosted by the Steveston Community Association on July 18, 2026, at Steveston Community Park featured the FIFA World Cup bronze medal match, France vs England.

Additional activities included family-friendly carnival games, inflatables, face painting, and community performances creating a vibrant neighbourhood gathering space. Steveston Celebrates Soccer was an inclusive event that brought people of all ages and backgrounds together through sport and community.

Participation highlights include:

- 700 visitors attended the community event;
- 35 volunteers contributed 210 hours; and
- 6 performers/artists.



Photo credit: Steveston Community Society

The Final - July 19, 2026 – City of Richmond

The Final event of the Richmond Celebrates Soccer was held July 19, 2026, at Aberdeen Neighbourhood Park.

The event included a welcome ceremony and watch party where soccer enthusiasts cheered on Spain vs Argentina as they competed for the World Cup 26. The site was activated with a variety of soccer-themed demonstrations, stilt soccer, soccer themed crafts and activities, local performers, and food trucks. The festival ended with the finale of local band Uncle Strut on the main stage.

Participation highlights include:

- Over 5,400 visitors attended the event;
- 20 volunteers contributed 84 hours;
- Over 30 performers/artists;
- Average time spent at the event was over two hours;
- Visitor origins were 63 per cent Richmond residents with a strong regional visitation from Vancouver, Burnaby and Delta; and
- 9 food trucks.





Photo credit: Amber Pacific Studios

Richmond Celebrates Soccer Community Celebration Grant

The 2026 Richmond Celebrates Soccer Community Celebration Grant Program was launched on January 12, 2026, through the City's website, social media platforms, direct outreach to past applicants, and postings in community facilities across Richmond. Richmond-based not-for-profit organizations, not-for-profit faith-based groups, Parent Advisory Committees, and School Student Councils were invited to submit creative proposals for free public events aimed at bringing residents together from diverse backgrounds through shared interests, arts and culture. All approved events were to be delivered between June 11 and July 19, 2026.

In total, eight applications were received by the February 8, 2026, deadline. Five projects received funding, totalling $10,000, and all projects were delivered.

Participation highlights include:

- Event participation ranged from 25 to 200;
- 5 Richmond-based not-for-profit organization events; and
- Activities delivered through the grant included soccer-themed programming, including a watch party at Hugh Boyd Park during the Richmond Youth Soccer tournament, a multicultural story exchange at the Richmond Caring Place hosted by Richmond Multicultural Community Services, and soccer-themed sport activities during the Sunset Fraser Team Sport Festival at the Burnett/Thompson Community Park – Lacrosse Box.

Richmond Celebrates Soccer Neighbourhood Block Party Fund

For 2026 only, Richmond Celebrates Soccer Neighbourhood Block Party Program was launched on March 30, 2026, and was promoted through the City's website, Parks, Recreation and Culture e-News, social media channels, and targeted outreach to Richmond School District No. 38, Community Associations and Societies, and City-operated Parks, Recreation and Culture facilities.

The program encouraged Richmond residents to strengthen neighbourhood connections and foster a sense of community by hosting soccer-themed block parties in a variety of spaces, including local parks, streets, and private strata properties. Funding was available to pairs of residents – living in the same neighbourhood and/or but in different households/strata or Richmond Block Watch Captains – who applied to organize a free block party for their neighbours.

4 applications were received for the 2026 program. All 4 Richmond Celebrates Soccer Neighbourhood Block Parties were approved and received a combined total of $1,800.

The first block party took place on June 12, 2026, and the final block party took place on July 18, 2026. The 2026 intake period for this stream concluded on July 19, 2026.

Program Highlights:

- 2 Richmond Strata neighbourhood block parties;
- 2 Richmond Neighbourhood block parties;
- Block parties were hosted in 3 neighbourhoods across Richmond: Steveston, Brighouse, and Ironwood; and
- Activities included barbeques, watch parties, and soccer-related sports activities

Steveston Salmon Festival / Canada Day

The 79th Annual Steveston Salmon Festival was once again successfully delivered in partnership with the Steveston Community Society and the Richmond Agricultural and Industrial Society. This year's event was in alignment with the same vision theme from 2024 and 2025: "It's about COMMUNITY".

The 79th annual Steveston Salmon Festival on July 1, 2026, included:

- The Steveston Salmon Festival Parade, Salmon Bake and Chow Mein Community Food Booth, and market/trade show;
- A welcome ceremony including local, federal and provincial government and First Nations representatives;
- Traditional Steveston Salmon Festival programming, including the Japanese Cultural show and demonstrations:
- Sponsor Row zone for the festival's dedicated community groups and vendors;
- Activities for both youth and children at Sammy's Fun Zone and the Salmon Run Youth Zone, including performances by young up-and-coming artists and a local community group like the Buttery Biscuits on the Catch of Day stage;
- New for 2026 was the additional soccer program which including stilt soccer, soccer activation with a local soccer club, soccer darts and soccer skills;
- A variety of artist and performers across the site; and
- A grand finale performance by Barney Bentall and the Legendary Hearts at the Spirit of Steveston Zone stage.

Participation highlights include:

- Over 70,000 visitors to the festival;
- 250 volunteers contributed 1,500 hours;
- 40 local performers/artists;
- Average time spent at the event was over 2 hours;
- Visitor origins were 45 per cent Richmond residents with a strong regional visitation from Vancouver, Surrey and Burnaby;
- 51 social media stories;
- 1,250,000 ad impressions;
- 13,850 clicks to the website;
- 18 food trucks; and
- 86 parade participants.





Photo credit: Amber Pacific Studios

Richmond Maritime Festival

The 23rd annual Richmond Maritime Festival animated the Britannia Shipyards National Historic Site on August 22 to 23, 2026. The event program featured 12 wooden and working boats along the dock including local restored heritage boats, maritime-themed décor and installations throughout the site, live music on two stages, roving performers and musicians, popular hands-on activities, multicultural array of food vendors, and community booths. The River Queen boat rides presented by Tourism Richmond were a popular attraction for the visitors.

Participation highlights include:

- Over 30,000 visitors to the festival;
- 68 volunteers contributed 600 hours;
- 134 performers/artists;
- Average time spent at the event was over 2 hours;
- Visitor origins were 41 per cent Richmond residents with a strong regional visitation from Vancouver, Burnaby and Delta;
- 88 social media stories;
- 691,000 ad impressions;
- 172,000 clicks to the website; and
- 11 food trucks.





Photo credit: Alisha Weng

Richmond Farm Fest

On September 13, 2026, Richmond Farm Fest, in partnership with the Kwantlen Polytechnic University (KPU), returned to Garden City Lands for a free, family-friendly celebration of farming, food and community. The festival featured a farmer and artisans' market, cooking demonstrations from Black and Blue Steakhouse head chef Jonathon Lee, food trucks, KPU's Brew Barn, a Little Farmers kids' zone, agricultural and garden displays, farm wagon tours and live local performances featuring Richmond's own Rachel Chiu. Visitors immersed themselves in the agricultural heart of the city by exploring Richmond's agricultural story, enjoying a plant labyrinth, old fashion farm Olympics and learning about sustainability.

Participation highlights include:

- Over 5,000 people visited the festival;

- 72 volunteers contributed 417 hours;
- 16 performers/artists;
- 739,040 ad impressions;
- 48,116 clicks to the website; and
- 6 food trucks.

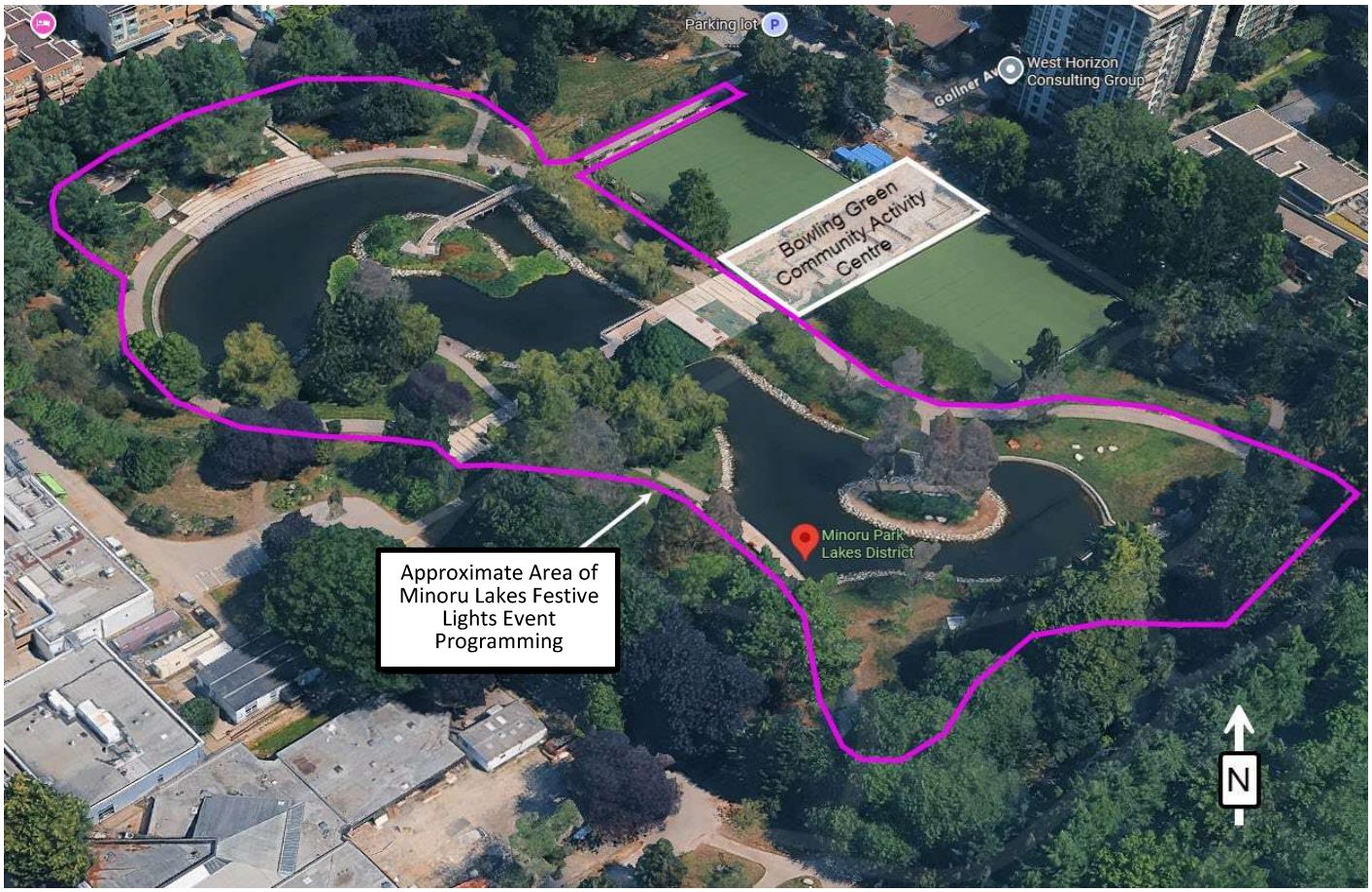




Photo credit: Francis Burgos

Proposed Minoru Lakes Festive Lights Event Location Map

Figure 1 – Location of the Minoru Lakes Festive Lights Event



Examples of Festive Light Displays





Above: Examples of large-scale seasonal light displays in a park setting.



Left: An example of large-scale seasonal light displays reflecting on the adjacent water feature.

Below: Examples of custom light structures and features.



