




City of Richmond

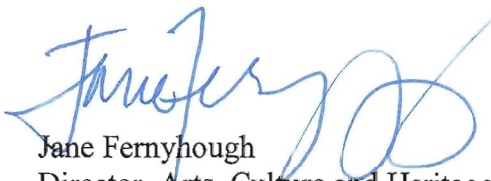
Report to Committee

To: Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Committee **Date:** February 3, 2015
From: John Irving, P.Eng. MPA **File:** 11-7000-09-20-100/Vol
Director, Engineering 01
Jane Fernyhough
Director, Arts, Culture and Heritage Services
Re: **Manhole Cover Art Program Implementation**

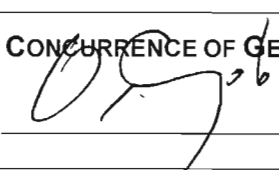

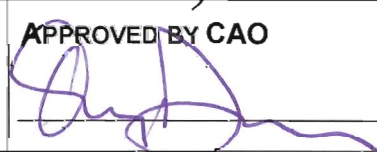
Staff Recommendation

That the implementation of the public art program for integrating artwork on sanitary sewer and storm drainage manhole covers, as outlined in the staff report from the Director, Engineering, and Director, Arts, Culture and Heritage Services, dated February 3, 2015, be endorsed.


John Irving, P.Eng. MPA
Director, Engineering
(604-276-4140)


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

Att. 5

REPORT CONCURRENCE		
ROUTED TO: Public Works	CONCURRENCE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER 
REVIEWED BY STAFF REPORT / AGENDA REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE	INITIALS: 	APPROVED BY CAO 

Staff Report

Origin

On April 18, 2014, Council endorsed the Manhole Cover Art Contest and the community outreach program to engage a large cross section of the community as well as local artists with a wide range of expertise in the design of sanitary and storm sewer manhole covers.

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with information regarding the Manhole Cover Art Contest, the associated community outreach program, the results of the selection process to identify artist designs for integration with sanitary and storm sewer manhole covers, and recommendations for incorporating the designs into fabrication of new manhole covers.

This initiative is in line with Council Term Goal 9.1 Arts and Culture:

Build culturally rich public spaces across Richmond through a commitment to strong urban design, investment in public art and place making.

Analysis

Cover Stories – Manhole Cover Art Contest

The Public Art Terms of Reference for the Manhole Cover Art Contest, titled *Cover Stories*, was officially launched on June 4, 2014, with a media release and posting of application information on the City website (Attachment 1). An independent website (Cover Stories, peoplesart.richmond.ca), dedicated to the contest, was created to allow for posting online submissions and public viewing of the gallery of submissions. The public engagement events included:

- Project WET, Water Education Team Program, City Works Yard – May 20-21, 2014
- Public Works Open House, City Works Yard – May 24, 2014
- Richmond Maritime Festival, Britannia Heritage Shipyards – August 9-10, 2014
- Information Booth, Richmond Centre – August 26, 2014

The public engagement events provided a platform to engage artists of all ages, to educate the public about the important role our storm water and sanitary sewer infrastructure play and the importance of keeping our waters clean. Participants at these events, primarily children, were asked to consider Richmond's cultural heritage, community identity, and ecological history.

One-hundred seventy-four (174) submissions, from throughout Metro Vancouver, were received by the contest closing date on September 12, 2014. These included:

- Sixty-eight (68) student submissions, ranging from K – Grade 7 students
- One-hundred six (106) artist submissions

Artist Selection Process

Following the administrative procedures for artist selection for civic public art projects, a five person selection panel met on October 10, 2014 to review the artist submissions. The panel was comprised of:

- Denise Cook, Heritage Conservation Planner
- Peter Harris, Retired Richmond Museum & Heritage Services Exhibition & Program Coordinator
- David Khang, Artist
- Mark Mazzone, Community Member and Director, Richmond Museum Society
- Colleen Sheridan, Student, Kwantlen University Graphics Design Program

Trevor Brien, representative from the manhole cover supplier, Westview Sales, served as a technical advisor.

Proposals were evaluated on artistic merit, appropriateness to the goals of the contest and the terms of reference, and feasibility to translate into a manhole cover. The panel was empowered to recommend two winning artist designs for the manhole cover commissions (one storm water and one sanitary), plus recognition of three honourable mentions to be awarded prizes.

Recommended Contest Winners

Following a thorough review and discussion of the merits of all the contest submissions, the panel recommended the following two artist proposals for the manhole cover commissions (Attachment 2):

- Caroline Dyck
- Greg Allen

The honourable mention proposals were submitted by the following artists (Attachment 3):

- Anton Gross
- Jeff Porter
- Susan Pearson

The three artist honourable mention selections were acknowledged as equally suitable selections and the panel recommended that they could be used for manhole covers.

In addition to the winning designs, a second honourable mention category for children aged 12 years and under was reviewed by the selection panel. The two student honourable mentions were submitted by the following children (Attachment 4):

- Arthur Zhou, Homma Elementary, Grade 4 -7 Student
- Carys Yang, Chantrell Creek Elementary, K – Grade 3 Student

Through the *Cover Stories* website the public was invited to view the gallery of submissions and vote for People's Choice Award winners in two categories: artists and children. The People's Choice winners are (Attachment 5):

- Phoebe Chua- Artist Category
- Wendy Zhang, General Currie Elementary - Student Category

Recommendations for Implementation

Based on the recommendations from the selection panel, and the representation of a wide diversity of cultures, staff are recommending that four manholes be created from the designs: the two first place winners and the first two runner-up honourable mentions. This will provide two sets of manholes (two storm and two sanitary covers, each) for placement on streets and sidewalks throughout the city. Selected for implementation are the designs by:

- Caroline Dyck
- Greg Allen
- Jeff Porter
- Susan Pearson

Staff will work with the selected artists and the current fabricator and supplier of the sanitary and storm water manhole covers, Westview Sales Limited, to refine and translate the four recommended artist designs into production molds for fabrication. Westview Sales Limited will sponsor the additional costs for creating the unique molds, coordination and labour. There will be no additional costs for the decorative manhole covers above the existing purchasing programs.

Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

The Manhole Cover Art Contest represents an opportunity to engage a large cross section of artists of all ages and creative practices. Incorporating art into functional objects is an affordable, high-impact method of integrating the arts into everyday life and making art accessible to the public.

The manhole cover project builds on other programs for successfully integrating art with civic infrastructure, such as drainage pumps stations and the district energy utility, and is a low cost opportunity to continue this practice.

Integration of public art with manhole covers is consistent with the vision and strategic direction of the Richmond Arts Strategy, to broaden the diversity of arts experiences and opportunities, and supports the Council Term Goal to build culturally rich public spaces across Richmond through a commitment to strong urban design, investment in public art and place making.



Lloyd Bie
Manager, Engineering Planning
(604-276-4075)



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

LB:ef

- Att. 1: Cover Stories Contest Artist Call
2: Recommended Winning Submissions
3: Recommended Honourable Mention Submissions
4: Student Honourable Mention Submissions
5: People's Choice Award Winners

Cover Stories Contest Artist Call

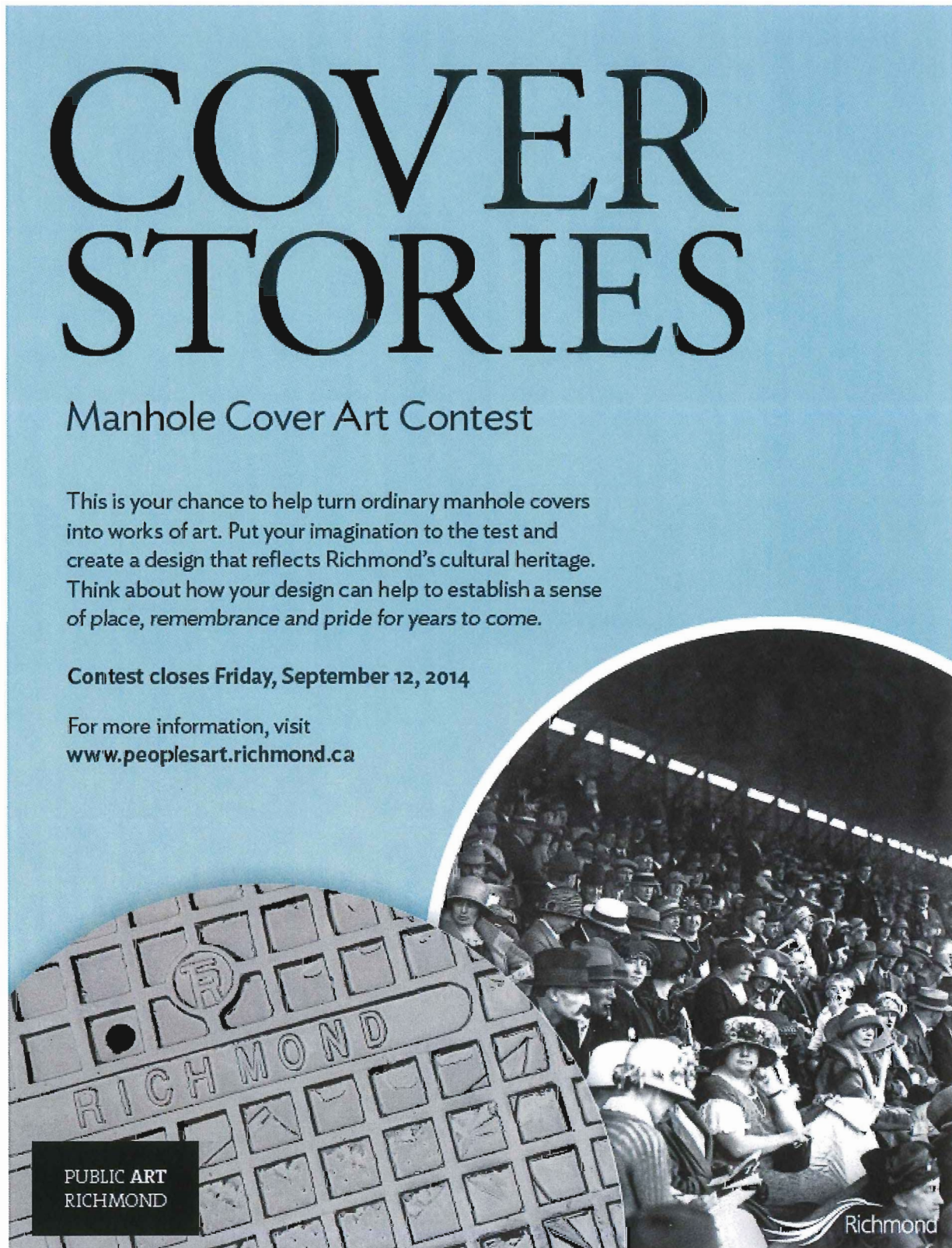
COVER STORIES

Manhole Cover Art Contest

This is your chance to help turn ordinary manhole covers into works of art. Put your imagination to the test and create a design that reflects Richmond's cultural heritage. Think about how your design can help to establish a sense of place, remembrance and pride for years to come.

Contest closes Friday, September 12, 2014

For more information, visit
www.peoplesart.richmond.ca



PUBLIC ART
RICHMOND

Richmond

COVER STORIES

Manhole Cover Art Contest

Context and Themes for the Artwork

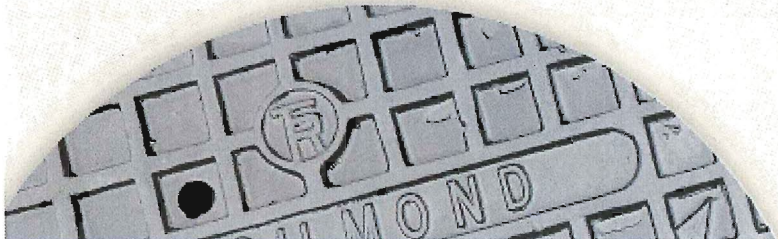
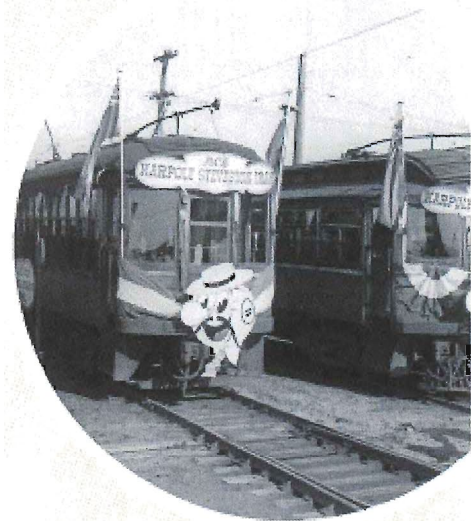
The artwork should reference Richmond's cultural heritage. Artists are encouraged to think about all the pivotal moments in Richmond's history that have shaped the City's cultural, social and political identities. These may include important historical figures or a key historical event. The artwork may tell a story or have an educational message. Think about how the design can help to establish a sense of place, remembrance and pride for years to come.

Design Considerations

Designs should be clear and easily transferable to create the mould for the casting process. The selected artists will be required to work with the fabricator to finalize the design before fabrication. The design should have textural elements to prevent pedestrians and bicycles from slipping on the covers. Designs should be in black and white and be contained within the dedicated circle area of the attached templates. Designs may include text.

Facts about Richmond's Sewer Systems

In Richmond, there are two separate sewer systems: sanitary and storm. Sanitary sewers direct waste water from sinks and washrooms to a treatment plant. Storm sewers prevent flooding by directing water from streets, sidewalks and outdoor spaces to drainage systems that go directly to the Fraser River. As storm water is not treated, it is important that only clean rain water enter storm drains. Harmful chemicals found in soapy water from car washing and pesticides from lawns can harm the ecosystems connected to the storm drainage system.



peoplesart.richmond.ca

Eligibility

The manhole cover art contest is open to anyone who lives in Metro Vancouver. Participants do not have to be a professional artist to enter the contest.

How to Apply

- **Submission deadline is Friday September 12, 2014**
- All designs must use the provided templates and be submitted on-line by following the step by step application process at www.peoplesart.richmond.ca
- Please do not submit more than two designs per person.
- All submissions must be submitted through the on-line process.

Selection Process and Artwork Exhibition

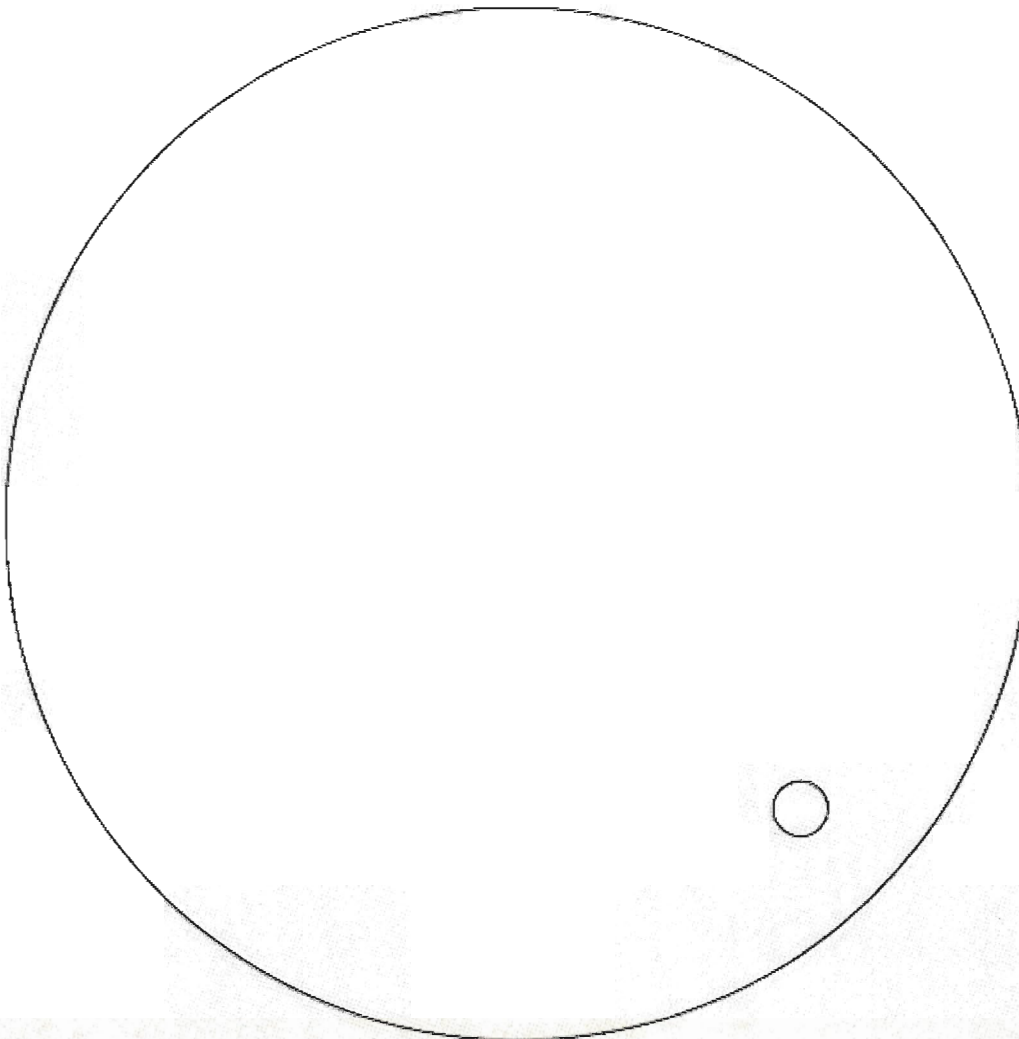
A five-person jury made up of artists, community representatives and art professionals will review all submissions anonymously. Two designs will be selected. The two selected artists will each receive \$2,000. People's Choice and Short-Listed honorable mentions will also be given.

* Special honorable mentions will be presented to school children under the age of 12 years old.

** Submissions will be eligible for selection by the community at large for the on-line People's Choice voting and award.

- Short-listed Artists will be announced in October 2014
- Exhibition of Finalists in November 2014
- Winners and honourable mentions will be announced in November 2014
- Installation in July 2015





Name: _____
Address: _____
City/Postal Code: _____
Phone: _____
Email address: _____

☐ I give my permission for my design(s) to be on public display

For school children, please also include:

Grade: _____
Teacher: _____
School: _____

☐ 12 years of age or under



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Telephone: 604-276-4000
www.richmond.ca

Recommended Winning Submissions – Selected for Fabrication



Caroline Dyck

Artist's description: It's representative of Steveston's historic Japanese fishing community. Paper cranes are associated with luck in Japan, and legend goes, having 1000 can make any wish come true. The cranes are shown catching salmon.



Greg Allen

Artist's description: The Steveston Historic Britannia Shipyard is an important part of Richmond's history where boat construction and repair activities took place for Canada's Pacific Coast salmon fishery.

Recommended Honourable Mention Submissions - Selected for Fabrication

Susan Pearson

Artist's description: I wanted to start with what was here first. The cedar tree....the First Nations made their canoes from this tree and their rope for nets from its bark. The salmon was plentiful and their main source of food, which they would catch from their canoes. The mountains in the background would be the sight they would have seen.



Jeff Porter

Artist's description: The center starts with a blessing of longevity and good health to the City of Richmond using the Shou symbol which also represents the Chinese population. Around it is fish scales surrounded by waves representing the maritime history. Last is a bold pattern representing the Coast Salish band.

Additional Honourable Mention Submission (Not Selected for Fabrication)



Anton Gross

Artist's description: This manhole cover honours the courage and contributions of the original Japanese women who came over 125 years ago to Richmond and helped build Canada's West Coast fishing and canning industries. In the background is The Gulf of Georgia Cannery one of the province's then largest employers.

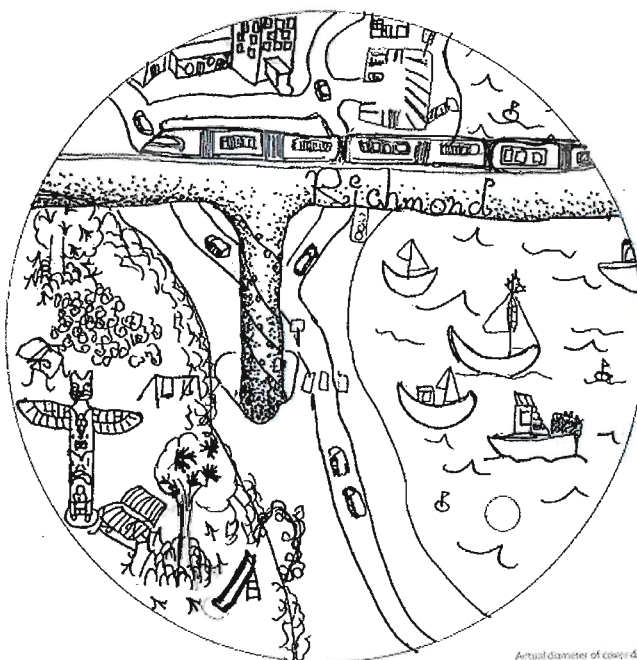
Student Honourable Mention Submissions



Actual diameter of cover design: 87mm

Arthur Zhou, Homma Elementary, Grade 4 -7 Student

Artist's description: House on stilts in the river



Actual diameter of cover design: 87mm

Carys Yang, Chantrell Creek Elementary, K – Grade 3 Student

Artist's description: Various elements in Richmond

People's Choice Award Winners



Artist's statement: City of Richmond, BC

Artist Category
Phoebe Chua

Artist's statement: Right in the center, is an open book representing the history, lifestyle, education and beauty of Richmond. Abundance of food from the seas and lands, rich multi-cultural diversities of its people has shaped its uniqueness where families thrive and harmony dwells.



Actual drawing of cover design

Student Category
Wendy Zhang, General Currie Elementary

Artist's statement: Transportation and landmarks in Richmond