



To:	Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee	Date:	June 29, 2026
From:	Elizabeth Ayers General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture	File:	11-7000-11-01/2025- Vol 01
Re:	Richmond Arts Facilities Needs Assessment Report		

Staff Recommendation

That the priority needs as outlined in Attachment 1 of the report titled “Richmond Arts Facilities Needs Assessment Report”, from the General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture, dated June 29, 2026, be approved to guide future arts facility planning and investment in Richmond.

Executive Summary

This report responds to the November 14, 2023, Council resolution to undertake an Arts Facility Needs Assessment. It presents the Richmond Arts Facilities Needs Assessment Report (Needs Assessment) that identifies a set of priority needs to guide future arts facility planning and investment in Richmond.

The Needs Assessment found that Richmond has a valued and well-used foundation of purpose-built arts facilities; however, there are clear gaps in the supply, variety and functionality of arts spaces available to support current and future arts activity.

In response, the Needs Assessment identifies the following four priority needs for purpose-built arts facilities in Richmond: (1) Art Exhibition Spaces and Auditorium; (2) Music Performance and Rehearsal Spaces; (3) Theatre Performance and Rehearsal Spaces; and (4) Pottery Studio Spaces. The priority needs are intended to inform future capital planning and related decision-making over a 10-year horizon.

Staff Report

Origin

On November 14, 2023, at the regular Council meeting, Council passed the following resolutions on consent:

(1) That the proposed scope of work for the Richmond Arts Facilities Needs Assessment as presented in the report titled, “Richmond Arts Facilities Needs Assessment,” dated September 6, 2023, from the Director, Arts, Culture and Heritage Services, be endorsed; and

(2) That a one-time funding of \$75,000 be taken from Council Contingency Fund to initiate the Richmond Arts Facilities Needs Assessment.

The purpose of this report is to present the results of the Needs Assessment, including a set of priority needs to help guide future arts facility planning and investment in Richmond.

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.

The Needs Assessment is aligned with several City strategies and plans, including the *Official Community Plan*, the *City Centre Area Plan*, *ArtWorks: Richmond Arts Strategy 2026–2031*, and the *Community Wellness Strategy*. Together, these documents reinforce the importance of arts and cultural infrastructure in supporting a vibrant, inclusive and connected community, while helping guide long-term planning and investment decisions.

Analysis

Background

Arts and culture facilities play an important role in supporting community identity, cultural expression, social connection and quality of life, and help foster an inclusive, healthy and vibrant community by providing places for participation, learning, creation and presentation. This broader community-building role is an important consideration in planning for Richmond’s future arts and cultural infrastructure.

The City’s purpose-built arts spaces include the Gateway Theatre, the Richmond Cultural Centre, including the Richmond Arts Centre, Richmond Art Gallery and Theatre Under the Stairs, and the Richmond Cultural Centre Annex.

The purpose of the Needs Assessment is to provide the City with a clearer understanding of current and future needs, and strategic opportunities related to arts spaces, and to help inform future planning, capital investment, and amenity discussions. The Needs Assessment provides an evidence-based review of current and future community needs and a forward-looking planning

tool to support capital investment decisions over the next 10 years. This is the first step in facility planning and as such program development, facility costing and siting are not included with the scope of this analysis. See Attachment 1: Richmond Arts Facilities Needs Assessment Report 2026.

Approach

The Needs Assessment was developed using a mixed methods approach to provide a comprehensive understanding of current and emerging needs, and future opportunities for arts facilities in Richmond. The approach included:

- a review of the Richmond context;
- targeted Richmond arts community engagement;
- a review of previous engagement;
- a current state analysis of arts in Richmond;
- arts space and arts discipline trends and leading practices review; and
- a review of comparable municipal practices and plans.

Targeted arts community engagement for the Needs Assessment was conducted through 2024 and 2025, and included:

- a targeted survey of Richmond's arts community and arts facility operators, which received 102 responses;
- 10 individual and group interviews involving 13 participants, including members of Richmond's arts community, arts facility board members and operators, and Richmond School District No. 38 (SD38) staff;
- review and validation of findings from a 2018 online survey of Richmond's performing arts community; and
- input from a nine-member project Steering Committee, including external representatives from key arts and cultural organizations and Tourism Richmond, to help guide the process and support meaningful engagement with Richmond's arts community.

Overall, the engagement process provided input from a range of arts disciplines, organizations, facility operators, and education sector representatives, and helped inform the Needs Assessment findings.

Findings

The findings indicate that Richmond has a strong and valued foundation of arts spaces and facilities that are well used by the arts community and have long supported both arts activity and broader community use. Many of Richmond's purpose-built arts facilities continue to perform well in relation to the functions they were originally designed to serve. At the same time, as Richmond's population grows, Richmond's arts community expands, and arts practice continues to evolve, demand is increasing for more diverse and specialized arts spaces in Richmond.

Engagement findings indicated that the strongest areas of interest and opportunity relate to:

- music and performing arts spaces;
- theatre rehearsal and performance spaces;
- arts exhibition space; and
- pottery studio space.

Engagement also highlighted the importance of spaces that are well-matched to discipline-specific practice, while remaining welcoming, adaptable and supportive of a broad range of users and activities.

Current state and inventory analysis found that Richmond's existing arts facilities include important arts assets and highlights opportunities to broaden the range and functionality of arts spaces and facilities over time. In particular, the analysis identified opportunities to:

- expand the provision of non-amplified music performance spaces;
- expand the provision of performance and rehearsal spaces to better support the range and scale of theatre activity occurring in Richmond; and
- provide more flexible and appropriately scaled arts exhibition spaces.

Utilization and growth analysis points to unmet needs across several disciplines, including music, theatre, visual arts and pottery, and reinforces the importance of planning for spaces that can support both current need and continued evolution in artistic practice.

Research into trends, leading practices and comparable communities reinforced the value of:

- flexible, shared and multi-disciplinary arts spaces that can support a range of users and activities;
- a layered approach to provision that includes city-wide facilities, and community-level spaces;
- adaptable exhibition, gallery and performance environments; and
- technology-enabled environments such as media labs, maker spaces, and spaces that support digital and hybrid arts practices.

Richmond School District No. 38 Engagement Findings

Through the engagement process for this Needs Assessment, staff also consulted with SD38 staff regarding the potential use of school district space for musical arts and performing arts activities. Engagement findings indicated that, while SD38 facilities include some arts-related spaces, these spaces are intended to support school-based needs and have limited suitability and availability for broader community arts use. In addition, school district facilities do not currently include larger dedicated theatre or performance venues.

The engagement also identified that SD38 has its own need for affordable performance venue space in Richmond, particularly for school concerts, festivals, and productions. Richmond Cultural Centre spaces were identified as supporting some arts-related needs, and the consultation process also highlighted an opportunity for continued communication with SD38 regarding City arts and cultural opportunities and greater access to City-supported spaces. Overall, input received through the Needs Assessment indicates that SD38 facilities are unable to provide a viable long-term solution to Richmond's broader music and performing arts space needs; however, continued

dialogue and partnership between the City and SD38 may present future opportunities related to arts space.

Priority Needs

Four priority needs have been identified to address current and future needs over a 10-year planning horizon. The space sizes, square footages, seat counts, and other capacity measures identified in the priority needs are preliminary estimates intended to illustrate the general scale and function of facilities required to meet current and future needs. These figures will be refined through future planning efforts including program development, site-specific planning, and concept design.

The priority needs may be delivered in different ways, depending on opportunity, site availability, and future capital planning. They may be accommodated in one facility or across multiple locations, while still addressing the need for more specialized arts spaces in Richmond.

Art Exhibition Spaces and Auditorium

This responds to identified needs for dedicated, purpose-built *Class A arts exhibition spaces, an auditorium, multipurpose/program rooms, event space, and ancillary spaces to support these functions. The Needs Assessment research independently identified this priority need, which aligns with Council's consideration of the Duck Island redevelopment (RZ 20-915237) which was granted third reading by Council on May 21, 2024, and which included securing approximately 30,000 square feet of art exhibition spaces and auditorium space. The 2024 rezoning contemplates the provision of art gallery exhibition spaces of varying sizes, multipurpose/program rooms, an auditorium for performances, event space, and ancillary spaces such as exhibition support, collection storage, circulation and administrative spaces. Given the current economic uncertainties facing the development industry and large-scale development projects, should that development not proceed, the City could consider development of a comparable facility at another suitable location in Richmond. However, such consideration would also need to account for recent changes to provincial planning legislation (Bill 46 and 47) that have affected the City's ability to secure these types of through redevelopment. As a result, alternative delivery, funding and partnership approaches may need to be explored to support provision of a comparable space elsewhere in Richmond. This priority need would expand exhibition capacity within Richmond and the broader region and contribute to Richmond's Tourism Master Plan.

**A Class A exhibition space is an exhibition space recognized for its ability to preserve and display cultural property or artistic work at the highest standard including ensuring that proper environmental controls and security measures are in place.*

Music Performance and Rehearsal Spaces

This responds to identified needs for dedicated, acoustically appropriate spaces to support music performance, rehearsal, creation, and related production activities in Richmond. Needed spaces include a music performance space with 250 to 500 seats, two non-amplified music rehearsal spaces, and music education space(s) with appropriate storage to support specialized music

instruction, practice, and other learning-related activities. These primary program spaces would also require supportive ancillary spaces to enable their effective functioning.

Theatre Performance and Rehearsal Spaces

This responds to identified needs for dedicated, purpose-built spaces to support theatre performance, rehearsal, creation, and related production activities in Richmond. It also includes space that can support dance use, recognizing that while additional dedicated dance space is not identified as an immediate priority, future provision will be required to maintain service levels as Richmond's population grows. Needed spaces include a performance studio theatre with 100 to 150 seats, a rehearsal studio space, and a fabrication workshop intended to support set production and related production activities. These primary program spaces would also require supportive ancillary spaces to enable their effective functioning.

Pottery Studio Spaces

This supports community-based arts education and programming for residents of all ages and skill levels across the city. It responds to the identified immediate need for additional pottery studio space in Richmond, as the City's two existing pottery studios are heavily used and at capacity. Needed spaces include two pottery studios, each 750 to 1,000 square feet.

Existing City of Richmond Purpose-Built Arts Spaces

In addition to the recommended priority needs outlined above, capital funding requests to adapt or update existing spaces will be brought forward for Council consideration where justified by program needs and a demonstrated business case to support the request.

Capital Budget Process

The capital budget process is conducted utilizing established criteria to evaluate and prioritize capital projects that fulfill the needs of the City and the goals and objectives of Council. The use of objective criteria to prioritize capital projects results in optimal capital decisions that withstand public review. Each division prepares its capital submissions based on its area of expertise, needs assessment, Council priorities and funding availability. A Review Team, approved by the Chief Administrative Officer, is tasked with reviewing and ranking the capital submissions and the recommendation is provided to the Senior Management Team for review and discussion prior to being presented to Council for consideration.

Non-City Operated Arts Spaces

The Needs Assessment also identifies needs among emerging and professional artists and arts organizations for dedicated multidisciplinary arts spaces and visual arts studio spaces to support rehearsal, workshops, creative development, production, storage, and ongoing studio work. In Richmond, these types of spaces are not typically provided as City-delivered, purpose-built facilities for the sole or exclusive use of these users. Rather, this need is best understood within the City's broader enabling and partnership role and is aligned with *ArtWorks: Richmond Arts Strategy 2026–2031*. Within this context, the City's role is to support the conditions for artists

and arts organizations to secure dedicated arts spaces in Richmond. This role may be advanced through partnerships, facilitation, planning tools, redevelopment opportunities, amenity contributions, and other enabling measures to improve access to dedicated arts spaces over time.

Richmond already has examples of this approach through development-secured spaces. Building on these approaches over time will support the City's role in investing in community capacity and help respond to these needs through improved access to dedicated space for creation, rehearsal, and sustained artistic practice.

Next Steps

The recommendations are based on current data available at the time of undertaking the Needs Assessment. As new information becomes available and/or circumstances change over time, arts facility and infrastructure priorities may also change in response to evolving community needs, service demands, partnership opportunities, and broader civic planning considerations.

The Needs Assessment is an initial step in addressing arts facility needs in Richmond. Should Council endorse the priority needs, the Needs Assessment will be used to inform future major facility planning processes, capital planning, site and redevelopment discussions, partnership opportunities, and other considerations related to the provision of arts and cultural infrastructure. Further planning, analysis, and engagement may be undertaken, as appropriate, to support any specific facility or infrastructure proposal that may be advanced for Council consideration.

Budgetary Implications

There are no immediate budget implications associated with the receipt of this report. Endorsement of the Needs Assessment and its priority needs outlined will provide strategic directions for future planning and capital investment decisions.

Conclusion

Arts facilities play an important role in supporting community identity, cultural expression, social connection and quality of life in Richmond. The Needs Assessment establishes a strategic foundation for future planning and decision-making by identifying where current facility gaps exist, where demand is growing, and where investment could have the greatest benefit over the next 10 years.

The priority needs presented in this report are intended to inform future capital planning, amenity planning, partnership development and related decision-making, while helping ensure that Richmond's arts infrastructure remains practical, inclusive, adaptable and responsive to the needs of residents, artists and arts organizations.

Respectfully submitted,

Mandeep Bains, Director, PRC Planning and Strategic Initiatives
Marie Fenwick, Director, Arts, Culture and Heritage Services

Report Contributors

This report was prepared by Christine Nesbitt, Research Planner 2, and reviewed by Development Applications and Policy Planning.

Endorsed by Serena Lusk, CAO

Att. 1: Richmond Arts Facilities Needs Assessment Report 2026

City of Richmond

Richmond Arts Facilities Needs Assessment Report



Table of Contents

Table of Contents	2
Executive Summary	5
1. Introduction.....	9
1.1 Project Background.....	9
1.2 Richmond Context.....	10
1.2.1 A Growing Population	10
1.2.2 Guiding City Strategies	11
2. Approach	13
3. Trends and Leading Practices	16
3.1 Evolving Approaches to Arts Space Provision	16
3.2 Changing Trends in Arts Disciplines	18
4. Arts and Culture in Richmond.....	20
4.1 City of Richmond Purpose-Built Arts Facilities	20
4.2 Additional Arts Initiatives Advanced by the City	21
4.3 Identified and Emerging Opportunities for Arts Space.....	23
4.4 Utilization and Growth in Richmond’s Purpose-Built Arts Facilities	24
4.4.1 Measuring Utilization of Richmond’s Arts Facilities.....	24
4.4.2 Arts Facility Utilization (by Arts Discipline)	25
5. Arts Community Engagement Summary: What We Heard	36
5.1 Emerging Themes.....	37
5.1.1 Need for Specialized Arts Performance, Exhibition, Creation, and Practice Spaces	37
5.1.2 Ancillary Spaces and Specialized Features.....	37
5.1.3 Access and Operational Barriers.....	38
5.1.4 Interest in Flexible, Shared Arts Spaces	38
5.1.5 Value of Arts Spaces in Supporting Community Life and Civic Identity	38
5.2 Arts Discipline-specific Needs	38

5.2.1 Visual Arts.....	39
5.2.2 Music and Performing Arts.....	39
5.2.3 Dance	39
5.2.4 Ceramics and Pottery	40
5.2.5 Digital and Media Arts.....	40
5.2.6 Future Facility Design Considerations.....	40
6. Inventory Analysis: City of Richmond’s Purpose-Built Arts Spaces	42
7. Priority Needs	49
8. Conclusion	53
Appendices	54
Appendix A: Engagement Summary.....	54
Appendix B: City of Richmond Purpose-Built Arts Spaces	81
Gateway Theatre	81
Overview.....	81
Arts Spaces.....	83
Theatre Under the Stairs Richmond Cultural Centre	84
Overview.....	84
Facility Description	84
Arts Program Spaces Richmond Cultural Centre and Annex.....	85
Overview	85
Arts Spaces.....	86
Richmond Art Gallery Richmond Cultural Centre	89
Overview	89
Arts Spaces.....	90
Appendix C: Inventory of Arts Organizations with Ongoing Relationships with the City of Richmond.....	91



PRCS - 71



Executive Summary

The City of Richmond strives to provide outstanding arts and culture facilities and programs that support the educational, artistic, and cultural needs of Richmond residents and artists contributing to a healthy, connected and resilient community.

The Richmond Arts Facilities Needs Assessment Report (Needs Assessment) was undertaken to better understand the current state of City of Richmond purpose-built arts spaces, as well as the future needs and opportunities that will shape the City's arts facility investments over time. The purpose of the Needs Assessment is to provide the City with a clearer understanding of current and future needs related to arts spaces in Richmond, and to identify priority needs for purpose-built arts facilities to help inform future planning, capital investment, and amenity discussions. The Needs Assessment provides an evidence-based review of current and future community needs and a forward-looking planning tool to support capital investment decisions over the next 10 years.

The Needs Assessment is grounded in Richmond's unique local context. The Needs Assessment considers key factors such as population growth, demographic change, evolving community needs, and the role of arts and culture within a growing and diverse municipality. The work was informed by arts community engagement, an inventory analysis of City-owned purpose-built arts facilities, research into Richmond's demographic and policy context, utilization and growth analysis, a review of trends and leading practices, and insights from comparable communities. These inputs provide a comprehensive picture of Richmond's current arts facility ecosystem and help identify both immediate and longer-term opportunities to better address Richmond's arts facility needs.

ArtWorks: Richmond Arts Strategy 2026–2031 (*ArtWorks*) provides an important strategic context for the Needs Assessment. As the City’s current arts strategy, *ArtWorks* sets out a vision for a thriving, accessible, and connected arts sector in Richmond and affirms the value of arts and culture in supporting community well-being, civic identity, and quality of life. *ArtWorks* emphasizes increasing awareness of and participation in the arts, improving access and affordability, supporting leadership and investment, and activating public spaces through arts and culture. In this context, arts facilities play an important role not only as places for artistic activity, learning, and presentation, but also as part of the broader civic infrastructure that supports a vibrant and inclusive community.

The Needs Assessment supports the directions set out in *ArtWorks* by providing an evidence-based review and understanding of current and future arts facilities needs in the community. In this way, the report helps translate the City’s broader strategic direction into the identification of priority needs for arts spaces by examining how well current spaces serve Richmond’s artists, arts organizations, and residents, and where additional or different types of spaces may be required over time.

The findings indicate that Richmond benefits from a number of valued and well-used purpose-built arts facilities that contribute meaningfully to the city’s cultural life. At the same time, the Needs Assessment identifies gaps in the overall supply, and variety of specialized adaptable arts spaces to meet the needs of artists, arts organizations, and residents.

Based on the analysis undertaken, the report identifies four priority needs for purpose-built arts spaces in Richmond to help guide future consideration and investment over the next 10 years.

The space sizes, square footages, seat counts, and other capacity measures identified in the priority needs are preliminary estimates intended to illustrate the general scale and function of facilities required to meet current and future needs over the 10-year planning horizon. These figures are approximate and would be refined through future planning efforts such as program development, site-specific planning, and concept design.





Art Exhibition Spaces and Auditorium

This responds to identified needs for dedicated, purpose-built Class A arts exhibition spaces, an auditorium, multipurpose/program rooms, event space, and ancillary spaces to support these functions. The Needs Assessment research independently identified this priority need, which aligns with Council's 2024 consideration of the Duck Island redevelopment (RZ 20-915237) included securing approximately 30,000 square feet of art exhibition spaces and auditorium space. Should that development not proceed, the City could consider a comparable facility at another suitable location in Richmond, subject to legislative, funding, delivery, and partnership considerations. This priority need would expand exhibition capacity within Richmond and the broader region and contribute to Richmond's Tourism Master Plan.

Music Performance and Rehearsal Spaces

This responds to identified needs for dedicated, acoustically appropriate spaces to support music performance, rehearsal, creation, and related production activities in Richmond. Needed spaces include a music performance space with 250 to 500 seats, two non-amplified music rehearsal spaces, and music education space(s) with appropriate storage to support specialized music instruction, practice, and other learning-related activities. These primary program spaces would also require supportive ancillary spaces to enable their effective functioning.



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These findings and priority needs provide an important foundation for future planning and investment decisions. Overall, the Needs Assessment provides a strategic basis to support sound capital investment, inform future amenity opportunities, and strengthen the City's ability to respond to both current and emerging community needs. More broadly, the Needs Assessment supports the ongoing development of Richmond's arts and cultural ecosystem and helps inform future facilities and spaces that are responsive to the current and emerging needs of both residents and the local arts community.

1. Introduction

The arts play a central role in building community identity and strengthening social ties. A vibrant arts community is essential to ensure Richmond offers an excellent quality of life for current and future residents and provides opportunities for the Richmond arts community to flourish.

The City of Richmond Arts Facilities Needs Assessment (Needs Assessment) examines the current provision of arts spaces and community needs to identify priority needs for purpose-built arts facilities in Richmond, with a focus on spaces that support emerging and professional artistic practice, as well as Richmond residents. The objectives are to:

- ✦ Understand the current state of the City of Richmond's arts facilities;
- ✦ Gain an understanding of the current and future arts space needs; and
- ✦ Recommend purpose-built arts spaces that address identified gaps and maximize benefit to the community.

1.1 Project Background

The arts are vital to a city's identity, quality of life, economic prosperity, social cohesion, and vitality. As Richmond and its arts community continue to grow, it is important that the provision of City of Richmond arts spaces keeps pace with the needs of arts groups, arts organizations, and Richmond residents.

Artistic practices are continuing to evolve, influencing the tools, approaches, technologies, and specialized spaces that support artistic creation, production, and expression. At the same time, both regionally and globally, arts communities are facing the loss of space to live, work, exhibit, and perform due to accelerated development and rapidly rising land values.





Artists, the arts sector, governments, agencies, and the broader community all play essential roles in supporting arts and culture spaces. Cities have a direct responsibility through the provision of affordable space, the support of local infrastructure projects, land use and zoning, planning and development, and regulatory policies and processes.

Ensuring there are well-designed arts spaces that keep pace with the city's growth and community needs is a driving force behind undertaking the Needs Assessment. The Needs Assessment has also arisen in response to the value the arts bring to the community, evolving arts practices, and the mounting pressures that Richmond's arts community has reportedly been facing with regard to affordable, accessible, and specialized arts spaces.

1.2 Richmond Context

First designated a city in 1990, Richmond has seen a rapid growth in population and has evolved into a vibrant, culturally diverse community with a mix of agricultural, residential, commercial and industrial areas, as well as waterfront and tourism destinations, community amenities, parks and natural environments.

Richmond boasts geographically dynamic, natural boundaries as it is bordered by the North and South arms of the Fraser River, and the Pacific Ocean. While the city's identity is shaped by its natural splendor, it is recognized for its historical and present-day associations to agriculture, aviation, the fishing industry, migration, intercultural exchange, and more.

Richmond is a highly connected city. It is home to the Vancouver International Airport (YVR), the Canada Line rapid transit system, significant waterways, major highways and connector roads, a diversity of multimodal and cycling paths, and an extensive trail system.

1.2.1 A Growing Population

Richmond is home to a population of 241,375 (2025) residents. It is the fourth largest city in Metro Vancouver, and currently represents 7.9 per cent of the Metro Vancouver population. According to Richmond's Official Community Plan, Richmond is expected to grow to a population of 311,236 by 2050, representing a growth rate of 28.9 per cent over 25 years.

As of 2025, Richmond is Canada's most diverse city, and a significant portion of its growth will continue to be attributed to immigration. According to the 2021 Census of Population, 35.4 per cent of Richmond residents were Canadian by birth, 60.3 per cent were immigrants, and 4.3 per cent were non-permanent residents (individuals from other countries with a usual place of residence in Canada, work or study permit holders, or refugees). In 2021, 78 per cent of newcomers to Richmond had immigrated from China, the Philippines, India, Hong Kong, and South Korea.

Between 2016 and 2021, Richmond experienced rapid growth in its senior's population (24.5%), particularly among the 70 to 74 (52.9%) and 90 to 94 (41.1%) cohorts. The next fastest growth was observed in the 30 to 34 (20.1%) and 35 to 39 (21.3%) age groups. As the city continues to grow, it is anticipated that Richmond will continue to be home to a diverse and aging population.

1.2.2 Guiding City Strategies

The Needs Assessment is aligned with several City Council–adopted strategies and plans. The following section outlines key policy and planning documents that are relevant to the planning and provision of arts spaces in Richmond.

Council Strategic Plan 2022–2026

The Council Strategic Plan 2022–2026 identifies Richmond City Council's collective priorities and focus areas for its current term of office. The Council Strategic Plan provides a framework for the City to effectively manage and deliver civic services that are responsive and flexible to the current and future needs of all those who live, work and play in Richmond. The Needs Assessment supports the Council's Strategic Plan 2022–2026 by realizing the following Focus Areas:

- (i) **Focus Area #1:** Proactive in Stakeholder and Civic Engagement.

Proactive stakeholder and civic engagement to foster understanding and involvement and advance Richmond's interests.

- (ii) **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.

ArtWorks: Richmond Arts Strategy 2026-2031

ArtWorks: Richmond Arts Strategy 2026-2031 (ArtWorks) was developed through engagement with interest holders and the broader community, and identifies opportunities to enhance arts across the City.

The Richmond Arts Strategy's vision is:

Richmond's thriving arts scene animates our city everyday; offers rich arts education and experiences, festivals and events, fosters social connections and wellness; builds arts and culture leadership; and provides creative spaces.

The Five Strategic Directions are:

1. *Increase Awareness, Pride and Participation in the Arts — Arts and culture are valued, celebrated and integrated into community life.*
2. *Provide Affordable and Accessible Arts for All — Everyone feels they can participate in Richmond's arts and culture scene where diversity is embraced.*
3. *Invest in Arts and Culture — Richmond's arts and culture sector is sustainably supported through funding and investment in programs, services, people and infrastructure.*
4. *Build Arts and Cultural Leadership — Richmond's arts and culture sector is supported through building capacity, strengthening networks and enabling community leadership.*
5. *Activate Public Spaces Through (and for!) the Arts — Arts and culture are integrated into the design and everyday experience of Richmond's public spaces to strengthen identity, belonging and vibrant places.*



Official Community Plan

The City of Richmond updated its current Official Community Plan (OCP) in 2026, establishing a long-term planning framework to guide the City's future direction on social, economic, land use, transportation, environmental stewardship, and cultural well-being. The OCP sets out a comprehensive vision supported by goals, objectives, policies, guidelines, and land use designations that reflect the community's priorities. Of particular relevance, Section 4.1—Arts, Culture and Heritage—emphasizes the vital role of arts and cultural expression in building a vibrant, inclusive, and connected community. The OCP calls for proactive planning and investment in cultural infrastructure, including purpose-built arts facilities and public art integration, to ensure cultural accessibility, long-term sustainability, and broad community benefit.

City Centre Area Plan and the Richmond Arts District

The OCP's City Centre Area Plan (CCAP) provides a comprehensive framework for development of the City Centre area. One of the objectives of CCAP is to create an active and connected community by providing vibrant and diverse arts and cultural activities and opportunities for community engagement and connection.

The CCAP proposes the establishment of a Richmond Arts District (RAD) in the Capstan, Aberdeen and Bridgeport Villages to serve as a central magnet for arts services, spaces and opportunities in Richmond. RAD identifies distinct arts and culture hubs for development that would include affordable creation, administrative, live/work and presentation spaces.

City of Richmond Community Wellness Strategy 2018–2023

The City of Richmond developed the Community Wellness Strategy 2018–2023 in partnership with Vancouver Coastal Health and Richmond School District No.38 (SD38). This Strategy underscores that arts are integral to advancing wellness outcomes, by enabling creative expression, enhancing social connections, and contributing to a resilient and healthy city ecosystem.

Richmond Tourism Master Plan 2035

The Richmond Tourism Master Plan 2035 provides a 10-year framework to guide sustainable tourism development in Richmond. Of particular relevance to this Needs Assessment, the Plan recognizes arts and culture as important components of Richmond's appeal to leisure visitors seeking authentic and distinctive experiences. It highlights opportunities to expand arts and cultural offerings, advance multicultural storytelling, strengthen Richmond's culinary identity, and create immersive experiences and destination amenities. The Plan also emphasizes leveraging existing infrastructure and investing in gathering spaces to support increased visitation, events, and year-round activity. Collectively, these directions reinforce the importance of arts and cultural spaces as contributors to community identity, destination development, and future infrastructure planning.

These City Council–adopted strategies and plans can be found on the City of Richmond website, richmond.ca.





2. Approach

The Needs Assessment methodology consists of several components that inform the identification of priority needs for arts spaces in Richmond to better meet the current and future needs of Richmond arts groups and residents while maximizing benefit to the community. The methods and data sources supporting the Needs Assessment include:

- ✦ **Steering Committee:** A nine-member Steering Committee played an essential role in supporting a meaningful engagement process, helping to ensure that the arts community was effectively reached and that its input was thoughtfully reflected throughout the Needs Assessment. In addition to City staff, the Steering Committee included four external Richmond arts representatives:

 - Barbara Tomasic, Executive Artistic Director, Gateway Theatre;
 - Jane Fernyhough, Chair, Richmond Arts Coalition and Chair of Gateway Theatre Board of Directors;
 - Sarah Glen, Vice-Chair, Richmond Arts Coalition; and
 - Ceri Chong, Director, Destination and Industry Development, Tourism and Richmond/Richmond Public Art Advisory Committee Member.
- ✦ **Arts Community Engagement:** With support from the project Steering Committee, engagement efforts focused on Richmond's arts community and arts facility operators. Through a survey and interviews, engagement sought to understand the space-related needs and aspirations of Richmond-based amateur, emerging and professional artists, as well as arts organizations.
- ✦ **City of Richmond Arts Facilities Analysis:** Facility operators were interviewed, and usage data was analyzed to profile current arts and culture facility use, and provide insight into how arts spaces serve the needs of the arts community.

- ✦ **Analysis of Trends in the Arts in Richmond and the Region:** Data was collected and analyzed to identify trends in the growth and popularity of arts disciplines and arts-specific spaces. The analysis also considered local context, including population and demographic patterns, relevant City strategies and plans, the current state of the arts in Richmond, and regional trends in arts space development.
- ✦ **Gap Analysis:** A gap analysis was conducted to compare the current types of spaces available to the community with current and future needs of the community.
- ✦ **Comparable Communities:** While recognizing that local conditions shape facility needs and delivery models, inventory, capacity, and utilization information was gathered from the municipalities of Burnaby, Maple Ridge, Victoria, and Surrey to help inform long-range planning.
- ✦ **Recommended Priority Needs:** The recommended priority needs are grounded in the combined findings. Together, these components provide a strong evidence base that reflects community needs, local context, and broader regional practices. As a result, the recommended priority needs are well-supported and responsive to current and future needs, while remaining adaptable to future research, additional community and interest-holder input, and changing circumstances over time.







3. Trends and Leading Practices

Monitoring trends and leading practices in the arts is an important part of evidence-based planning and decision-making. It helps ensure that arts policies, programs, and infrastructure are aligned with broader community objectives and remains responsive to changing needs and conditions. The arts and culture sector in Canada has experienced significant change in recent decades, particularly following the impacts of COVID-19 on in-person programming, organizational capacity, and the sustainability of non-profit arts organizations. At the same time, digital transformation, evolving patterns of participation, and growth and changing interest across arts disciplines have affected how artists and organizations create, present, and share work. This section outlines key trends shaping the arts landscape in British Columbia and Canada, including trends related to both arts spaces and arts disciplines, and provides context for the needs, gaps, and opportunities considered in the sections that follow.

3.1 Evolving Approaches to Arts Space Provision

Municipal cultural planning increasingly emphasizes affordable, flexible, and multi-disciplinary arts spaces that can support a range of users, activities, and organizational needs. Rather than relying primarily on single-purpose or single-tenant facilities, there is growing recognition of the value of shared and adaptable spaces that can accommodate studios, rehearsal, small-scale presentation, administration, shared equipment, and other complementary functions within one location. This approach responds in part to the high cost of space and the challenges that many arts organizations, non-profits, and practitioners face in securing suitable facilities. It can also improve utilization, reduce overhead, support collaboration, and provide a more sustainable model for delivering arts services and strengthening the local arts sector.

Arts and Culture Hubs and Distributed Provision

Cultural hubs and co-located arts facilities continue to be a relevant model for local governments planning cultural infrastructure. Bringing multiple creative uses and disciplines together in one location can improve utilization, support collaboration and innovation, and create operating efficiencies through shared space, staffing, equipment, and services. Recent federal evaluation of the Canada Cultural Spaces Fund reinforces this direction, noting continued support for creative hubs and shared cultural infrastructure in communities of different sizes across Canada. In British Columbia, this direction is also reflected in the BC Arts Council's Arts Infrastructure Program, which supports planning, renovation, acquisition, specialized equipment, and accessibility improvements that help organizations develop and sustain arts and cultural spaces. For municipalities, these sources suggest that shared and multi-tenant cultural space models remain a practical and policy-aligned approach for expanding cultural capacity, improving access, and making efficient use of limited capital and operating resources.

At the same time, distribution also matters. In addition to centralized hubs, leading practice points to the value of arts spaces embedded in civic facilities,

neighbourhood settings, and community-serving buildings. A balanced approach may therefore include both city-wide destination facilities and smaller-scale distributed spaces that increase local access and support participation closer to where people live.

Adaptable Exhibition, Gallery, and Performance Spaces

Leading practices point to growing value in exhibition, gallery, and performance spaces that can accommodate different scales of work, artistic media, program formats, and audience or visitor flow over time. This includes spaces designed with flexible layouts, movable or reconfigurable elements, adaptable lighting, and supporting electrical and data infrastructure. In the case of exhibition and gallery spaces, adaptability supports changing curatorial approaches, installations, and public programming and reflects a shift toward viewing galleries as community hubs and cultural anchors, rather than solely exhibition venues. In the case of performance spaces, adaptability supports multiple types of live programming through flexible seating, staging, room configuration, and technical systems. Together, these approaches broaden programming potential, improve utilization, and help ensure that facilities remain functional and relevant over time.

Digital and Technology-enabled Arts

Digital technologies, including artificial intelligence, have had a profound transformational effect on the arts and culture sector through the development of new platforms. Many artists and arts organizations have also harnessed digital technology to transform the creative process, improve administrative processes, and engage with audiences and co-creators in novel methods. Additionally, technology has expanded access through virtual galleries, online exhibitions, and digital learning opportunities. Growth in digital, media, VR/AR, and immersive practices is also increasing demand for spaces equipped to support new forms of exhibition, production, learning, recording, editing, and hybrid presentation.

Participatory, Studio-based, and Maker-oriented Arts

Alongside changes in how arts are presented and accessed, there has been continued interest in hands-on, community-based, and studio-oriented participation. This includes practices such as ceramics, textiles, photography, creative writing, digital media, and music. These forms of participation typically require access to affordable, practical, and properly equipped space, including studio space, storage, specialized ventilation and equipment, and opportunities for both instruction and independent practice.

Arts Lending Libraries, Makerspaces, and Incubator Models

The start-up costs of learning a new skill or producing visual arts, music, or performance can be prohibitive. Free or low-cost lending libraries help make learning and producing more accessible to a wider audience. Lending libraries, makerspaces, media labs, and incubator-style models demonstrate how shared access to tools, equipment, and adaptable creation space can lower barriers to participation, support experimentation, and expand opportunities for learning and ongoing practice. These models can also help emerging and established artists build skills, test ideas, and access resources that may otherwise be unaffordable.





Cultural Tourism, Place-making, and Community Identity

Cultural tourism is becoming more important in arts and cultural planning. Across Canada, tourism and visitor spending continue to grow, and cultural experiences such as festivals, performances, galleries, and heritage attractions remain an important part of that demand. In British Columbia, tourism revenues reached \$23 billion in 2024, while culture GDP rose to \$10.5 billion in 2023. Together, these trends suggest that arts and cultural spaces can support both local participation and broader place-making and visitor economy objectives. For municipalities, this reinforces the value of arts facilities not only as community-serving infrastructure, but also as contributors to destination development, downtown vitality, and broader civic identity.

3.2 Changing Trends in Arts Disciplines

In addition to broad changes in arts space provision, there are also changing patterns of interest and participation across specific arts disciplines. These shifts have implications for the types of spaces, equipment, and support functions that may be needed over time.

Participatory Arts

There has been notable growth in participatory and creative forms of arts engagement, including woodworking, playing musical instruments, ceramics, textiles, photography, and creative writing. This reflects broader interest in hands-on learning, self-directed practice, and community-based creative activity.

Textile Arts

Textile arts, also known as fabric arts, encompass a wide range of creative practices that use fibres and fabrics to construct both functional and decorative objects and art. The textile arts have experienced steady growth in interest over recent decades. This growth has been attributed to their versatility, accessibility, sustainability, and the increased appreciation for handmade goods.

Media Arts

Media arts encompass film, television, audio, video games, and digital art that is created and produced by artists/directors who maintain complete creative and editorial control over their work. Media arts in Canada have seen a significant rise in popularity and economic impact, particularly in recent years. This growth is fueled by increased investment from global streaming services, the expansion of the digital landscape, increased access and affordability of software and equipment, and a strong domestic industry.

Ceramics and Pottery

Ceramics, which includes pottery, is a highly versatile medium and amateur potters are increasingly attending classes or open studios where they can engage in one-off sessions or for longer periods through membership access. Growth in demand can be attributed to its hands-on nature, which helps to manage stress and anxiety, accessibility for all skill levels, and socializing opportunities.





4. Arts and Culture in Richmond

Richmond has a growing creative community that reflects the city's diversity, history, and geographic setting. Arts and culture play an important role in expressing Richmond's multicultural character and contribute to the broader arts and cultural sector in Metro Vancouver and British Columbia. According to Hill Strategies' analysis of the 2021 Census, Richmond was home to 1,305 professional artists, representing 1.1 per cent of the city's labour force¹, while arts, culture, and heritage occupations accounted for 2.7 per cent of Richmond's labour force overall. At the provincial level, 154,800 British Columbians worked in arts, culture, and heritage occupations in 2021, accounting for 5.4 per cent of the provincial labour force—the highest share among provinces and above the national average of 4.4 per cent². Metro Vancouver is home to 69 per cent of British Columbia's artists, situating Richmond within a strong and dynamic regional arts ecosystem. While Richmond's share of artists and cultural workers is lower than the provincial average, the city nevertheless plays a meaningful role in supporting and contributing to this broader cultural landscape.

¹ Hill Strategies Research Inc., *Professional Artists in Large Canadian Cities in 2021* (Hamilton, ON: Hill Strategies Research Inc., 2024).

² Kelly Hill, *The Local Arts, Culture and Heritage Workforce in Canada, 2021, Statistical Insights on the Arts*, no. 67 (Hamilton, ON: Hill Strategies Research Inc., 2025).

This presence is reflected in Richmond's festivals, venues, and public spaces. Annually, visitors and residents alike enjoy the lively Richmond Children's Arts Festival, and celebrate summer at the Steveston Salmon Festival and Richmond Maritime Festival. Year-round, the Richmond Art Gallery's diverse array of exhibitions, educational programs and events attracts thousands of visitors. Gateway Theatre—Richmond's vibrant professional performing arts hub – allows for storytelling to flourish in Richmond beyond. The mix of urban textures, the splash of colourful murals and heritage buildings are elements that display the city's diversity, rich history, and innovation in arts and culture.

4.1 City of Richmond Purpose-Built Arts Facilities

Richmond's arts and culture scene unfolds across a number of public and private spaces, venues and facilities. The City of Richmond invests in arts and culture in numerous ways, and across several facilities. The City of Richmond's purpose-built and purpose-renovated arts facilities are the Cultural Centre, Cultural Centre Annex, and Gateway Theatre. Each serves as a cornerstone in Richmond's commitment to fostering arts, education, and community connections. These facilities are integral to Richmond's cultural identity, collectively enhancing accessibility, inclusivity, and creativity throughout the community.

Cultural Centre

Co-located with the Brighthouse Branch of the Richmond Public Library, the Cultural Centre (approximately 98,000 sq. ft., including the Library, Museum and Archives) serves as a pivotal hub for arts engagement in Richmond, offering diverse programs that range from visual to performing arts. Equipped with multi-purpose studios, a pottery studio, and the Richmond Art Gallery, and Theatre Under the Stairs, it supports both professional and amateur artists. The Cultural Centre is home to the Richmond Public Library Brighthouse

Branch and the Richmond Museum, and the City Archives, further reinforcing its role as a central destination for visual arts and cultural programming in Richmond. By fostering creativity and collaboration, the Cultural Centre remains an essential part of Richmond's cultural landscape and a catalyst for ongoing community development.

Cultural Centre Annex

The Cultural Centre Annex (approximately 15,145 sq. ft.) serves as an extension of the program space offered at the Cultural Centre. This facility is home to the Media Lab, a second pottery studio, two dance studios and other creation spaces. The Annex Gallery exhibition space is located within a vibrant community lounge that is used for both informal gatherings and pop-up presentations.

Gateway Theatre

Gateway Theatre (approximately 31,600 sq. ft.) is Richmond's premier performance venue. Built in 1984 and located in the north-west corner of Minoru Park, the theatre is managed and operated by the Gateway Theatre Society and serves as a cornerstone of Richmond's cultural life. It presents in-house productions, touring shows, and community rental events, while also hosting local, national, and international acts that contribute to a vibrant arts and culture scene. Through its performances and educational programs, Gateway Theatre fosters appreciation for the arts, supports the development of local talent, and helps make the arts an integral part of community life.

4.2 Additional Arts Initiatives Advanced by the City

The City's support for arts and cultural spaces takes many forms across Richmond's landscape. In addition to civic arts facilities, the City supports the arts through artist residencies, affordable artist live/work opportunities, partnerships with non-profit organizations, and other initiatives that expand access to arts and cultural space.



Branscombe House

Branscombe House is a restored 1908 Edwardian-style residence in Steveston that is home to the Branscombe House Artist Residency program. Each year, the City holds an open call for professional artists with a community-engaged practice to apply for an 11-month artist residency. The successful artist receives free live/work accommodations to further their practice in exchange for providing free programs and events to the public throughout the year. Since its inauguration in 2016, the program has hosted nine artist residencies.

Capstan Village Artist Live/Work Studios

Capstan Village is a rapidly growing waterfront district that is part of the Richmond Arts District. It features mixed-use residential and commercial developments, arts and community facilities, as well as artist live/work studios located near the new Capstan SkyTrain Station.

In furtherance of the City Centre Area Plan and its objective to provide increased arts and cultural opportunities, the City offered a density bonus to encourage developers to provide affordable Artist Residency Tenancy Studios



(ARTS) units for professional artists who demonstrate financial need. To date, the program has resulted in 20 street-level ARTS units and four work-only studios at the Concord Gardens development, 17 ARTS units at the Pinnacle Sorrento development, and two work-only studios at the Polygon/Fiorella development. These units were negotiated on a site-specific basis and are considered affordable based on low-end market rental rates. All units are privately owned and managed in accordance with a housing agreement with the City.

Chinese Cultural Centre of Greater Vancouver: Capstan Arts Space

The Chinese Cultural Centre of Greater Vancouver (CCC) was established in Vancouver's Chinatown in 1973, and registered as a non-profit charitable organization in 1974. The CCC now has six campus locations throughout Metro Vancouver.

In 1991, the CCC opened the Richmond School Campus to serve Richmond residents. It offers a wide variety of arts activities and events, including dance classes, Chinese calligraphy, singing, opera, and drama. As part of a redevelopment process, the City secured 13,000 sq. ft. of dedicated arts space for lease to a non-profit tenant at a reduced rate at Concord Galleria in Capstan Village. This facility includes dance and visual arts studios and flexible exhibition spaces.





4.3 Identified and Emerging Opportunities for Arts Space

Previous City planning work and current civic projects identify further opportunities to strengthen Richmond's overall arts space network.

Art Exhibition Space and Auditorium

In May 2024, Council considered the Duck Island redevelopment (RZ 20-915237), which included securing approximately 30,000 square feet of art exhibition spaces and auditorium space. The rezoning contemplates art gallery exhibition spaces of varying sizes, multipurpose/program rooms, an auditorium for performances, event space, and ancillary spaces such as exhibition support, collection storage, circulation, and administrative spaces. This would expand exhibition capacity within Richmond and the broader region and contribute to Richmond's Tourism Master Plan. This facility has been secured through the rezoning of the Duck Island redevelopment; should that opportunity not proceed as anticipated, the City could consider development of a comparable facility at another suitable location in Richmond. However, such consideration would also need to account for recent changes to provincial planning legislation (Bill 46 and 47) that have affected the City's ability to secure these types of facilities through redevelopment. As a result, alternative delivery, funding and partnership approaches may need to be explored to support provision of a comparable space elsewhere in Richmond.

Role of City of Richmond Community Centres in Supporting the Arts

Richmond's network of community centres play an important role in supporting arts participation. These facilities contribute to community-level arts and culture access by accommodating arts education, rehearsal, and creative programming across the city.

Existing community centres already support arts and cultural programming by providing accessible neighbourhood spaces for classes, rehearsals, informal exhibitions, and other community-based activities. In many cases, these spaces include adaptable features such as sprung floors, music rooms, or multi-purpose rooms that can accommodate arts use.

This role complements the function of purpose-built arts facilities elsewhere in the city.

Recent and planned civic facilities reflect a growing emphasis on integrating more arts-focused spaces. In recent years, the City has begun incorporating arts-specific spaces into new facilities, such as the woodworking shop, dance studio, and arts studio at Minoru Centre for Active Living, as well as the two music rooms and arts studio at City Centre Community Centre. This improves the functionality of community facilities for arts programming while maintaining flexibility for broader public use.

The Capstan Community Centre will also support arts and creative programming with an active studio with a sprung wood floor, a wet art studio, a creativity studio, and multi-purpose rooms with features that support flexible arts use. Capstan represents an important example of how community-serving civic projects can expand access to arts education and creative activity at the neighbourhood level.



Similarly, the new Steveston Community Centre and Library will add community, learning, and creative space serving Steveston and surrounding neighbourhoods. A key community space will be delivered through the Library's creativity lab. This space will facilitate "maker" activities for a wide range of uses, including music, to robotics, to kinetic sculptures and quilting. Like Capstan, this space is best understood as part of a broader community-based supply of flexible spaces that can support community arts programming, rather than as a substitute for specialized arts infrastructure.

These facilities indicate a clear municipal direction toward embedding more arts-supportive space within civic and community-serving projects. This is a positive and important pattern, particularly for improving geographic access and supporting incremental delivery of arts education and creative spaces across Richmond.

4.4 Utilization and Growth in Richmond's Purpose-Built Arts Facilities

Participation in the arts has grown steadily in Richmond over the decades. Additionally, Richmond has seen a rapid increase in its population over the last 20 years – a trend which is expected to continue. As a result, it is important to explore how the City's spaces are serving the arts community currently, and with an eye to the future.

This section examines utilization across the City of Richmond's purpose-built arts facilities by art disciplines: dance, music, visual arts, pottery, media arts, and performing arts. An analysis by discipline provides insight into the types of activities driving space utilization, where requests for space are most concentrated, which arts disciplines and facility types are experiencing the greatest pressures, and how participation is changing over time. While this analysis helps identify patterns of demand, it does not define needs on its own; need must also consider broader community benefit, equitable access, and the role of City-supported arts spaces in serving Richmond residents.

4.4.1 Measuring Utilization of Richmond's Arts Facilities

Utilization of Richmond's arts facilities can be complex to interpret. While utilization is often measured by the proportion of available time that a space is booked, this does not fully capture the operating and program requirements of arts facilities. Arts activities such as rehearsals, performances, exhibitions, workshops, and technical preparation may require varying durations, and apparent gaps between bookings may be operationally necessary rather than indicative of underuse. If all operating hours are treated as fully bookable, utilization may appear lower than it is in practice. Demand should therefore be understood to include both recorded requests for space and unmet need that may not be visible in booking data. The following are factors that should be considered when interpreting utilization data.

Operational, Set-up and Changeover Time

Many arts uses require additional time for set-up, technical adjustments, installation, take-down, and restoration, as well as longer booking lead times, and multi-day block bookings for events, performances, exhibits and the like. They may also require protected time for maintenance, technical resets, or production holds, which may not appear as publicly programmed hours but are necessary to support operations and can limit back-to-back bookings.

Specialized Space Requirements

Arts demand is often discipline-specific and not easily interchangeable across users. A space suitable for theatre may not work for music, and rehearsal space may not meet the requirements of performance, recording, or visual arts production. Factors such as acoustics, sound isolation, specialized ventilation, ceiling height, technical infrastructure, and storage all affect suitability.

4.4.2 Arts Facility Utilization (by Arts Discipline)

Utilization was investigated across the City's purpose-built arts space; Gateway Theatre, the Richmond Cultural Centre, and the Richmond Cultural Centre Annex. Utilization draws on: (a) performance, rental, rehearsal waitlist data; (b) set/up, maintenance and arts community and facility operator engagement findings; and (c) data on select Richmond community arts groups, including the number and size of groups by discipline.

For the purposes of this review, utilization of arts spaces was assessed based on several indicators:

- ✦ total hours of use over time, including City programs, Resident Art Group bookings, and rentals;
- ✦ use during peak periods, defined as weekdays after 3:00 p.m. and all day on weekends; and
- ✦ operational signs that space is limited, such as wait times, limited scheduling options, and waitlists.

Together, these measures help show which disciplines have the highest demand, where demand is growing, and where space or scheduling constraints may be limiting the City's ability to meet arts space needs.





PRCS - 93



Performing Arts

Richmond's performing arts sector is supported through a mix of rehearsal, production, and presentation spaces used for theatre, musical theatre, and other live performance activities. Current utilization patterns indicate that demand for specialized performing arts space is concentrated during peak periods, with clear evidence of constrained supply in key venues.

Performing Arts Includes

- ✦ Theatre and musical theatre;
- ✦ Opera;
- ✦ Spoken word and slam poetry;
- ✦ Improvisation and comedy; and
- ✦ Non-amplified and amplified music

City of Richmond Facilities with Purpose-Built and Priority Performing Arts Spaces

- ✦ Gateway Theatre;
- ✦ Richmond Cultural Centre; and
- ✦ Richmond Cultural Centre Annex.

Number and Size of Community Groups

Within the performing arts discipline—including theatre, musical theatre, opera, improvisation, and comedy—City data indicates that Richmond may



have fewer groups and participants than some other arts disciplines, with six groups and approximately 240 artists. Membership varies across groups, with sizes ranging from nearly 20 members to more than 80 members.

Utilization of Purpose-built Facilities

The City's purpose-built performing arts spaces show strong utilization, particularly during peak times:

- ✦ Gateway Theatre operates at full capacity through a combination of Gateway Theatre Society programming and rentals, and Gateway Theatre Academy, drawing more than 35,000 audience members annually and hosting more than 150 performances and events in 2025;
- ✦ In 2025, Gateway Theatre's MainStage was in use for 232 days, Studio A was in use for 146 days, and Studio B Theatre was in use for 189 days;
- ✦ Studio B Theatre cannot run performances at the same time as the MainStage, therefore impacting theatre performance space utilization;
- ✦ Theatre Under the Stairs recorded 258 days of use in 2025 and is typically fully booked during peak times (after 3:00 p.m. on weekdays and throughout weekends);
- ✦ Performing Arts Studio 2 and 3 in the Cultural Centre Annex had relatively high utilization rates across all hours, approaching 70 per cent in 2025; and
- ✦ Richmond's arts community has identified ongoing challenges related to the availability and cost of renting performance space, particularly the Gateway Theatre's MainStage, which is the only venue of its type and size in Richmond.

Facility Booking Considerations

A key constraint on the supply of performing arts spaces is the limited availability of specialized venues. At Gateway Theatre, annual planned maintenance periods can total up to approximately six weeks, further reducing the total number of bookable days each year. More broadly, demand is constrained not only by limited space supply, but also by the operating requirements and functionality of existing venues.

Overall, performing arts venue demand in Richmond is strong and concentrated in peak periods. The core issue is limited access to specialized, purpose-built performing arts space, with Gateway Theatre currently operating at full capacity.

Visual Arts

Richmond's visual arts community is supported through studio-based spaces for artistic creation at the Cultural Centre and Cultural Centre Annex, while the Richmond Art Gallery and its off-site exhibitions provide the City's formal curated exhibition spaces. Current utilization patterns indicate that the studio-based spaces are near full during peak periods, with lower take-up during weekday daytime hours, while the Gallery's exhibition program also appears to be operating at or near capacity. Overall, the findings point to strong demand for both studio and exhibition space, particularly for ongoing group access and formal presentation opportunities, alongside interest in other forms of studio access not fully supported by the current model.

Visual Arts Include

- ✦ Traditional fine arts: painting, drawing, sculpture and printmaking;
- ✦ Calligraphy;
- ✦ Photography;
- ✦ Fibre arts; and
- ✦ Lapidary.

City of Richmond Facilities with Purpose-Built and Priority Visual Arts Spaces

- ✦ Richmond Cultural Centre; and
- ✦ Richmond Cultural Centre Annex.

Number and Size of Community Groups

The City regularly engages with 17 visual arts groups, collectively reaching over 450 artists. Membership varies across groups, with sizes ranging from approximately five members to nearly 80 members.

Utilization of Purpose-Built Visual Arts Spaces

Visual arts spaces in City facilities show strong utilization during peak periods, with lower levels of use during weekday daytime hours:

- ✦ For studio spaces, peak times are near fully utilized, with studios typically fully booked during peak times (after 3:00 p.m. on weekdays and throughout weekends);
- ✦ Overall utilization is estimated at approximately 50 per cent of available facility hours, reflecting lower demand during weekday daytime hours between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.;
- ✦ The Art Gallery at the Richmond Cultural Centre sees approximately 22,000 visitors year on year, and hosts six exhibits per year, reflecting that the gallery is at capacity when it comes to arts enthusiasts as well as exhibition opportunities for artists; and
- ✦ The Richmond Art Gallery's off-site exhibition spaces, located in the Richmond Cultural Centre Annex lobby and the City Hall Galleria on the ground floor of Richmond City Hall, are continuously activated and curated throughout the year, supporting an ongoing cycle of installations that indicate these spaces are operating at capacity.



Facility Booking Considerations

Overall, City-operated visual arts spaces in Richmond are heavily used during peak periods, with the primary constraint being the type of space available rather than overall participation demand.

Meanwhile, a key theme emerging from engagement is the demand for non-programmed creation space for visual artists, as well as more exhibition space that is adaptable for different arts disciplines to showcase their work. Artists and arts organizations are also looking for secure, long-term access to dedicated creation and storage space, which differs from the City's current studio model that is primarily oriented toward scheduled programming and group-based rentals.

While the existing model supports strong levels of programming and group access, it is less well-suited to artists seeking dedicated, non-programmed studio and storage space.



Dance

Richmond's dance community accounts for a significant share of demand for arts space, particularly during peak periods. Current utilization patterns indicate strong participation, sustained growth, and consistent use of studio space, especially for sprung-floor studios used during after-school, evening, and weekend hours (peak hours).

Dance Includes

- ✦ Ballet and tap;
- ✦ Modern, contemporary, and lyrical;
- ✦ Jazz;
- ✦ Hip hop;
- ✦ Ballroom and Latin; and
- ✦ Folk and traditional.

City of Richmond Facilities with Purpose-Built and Priority Dance Spaces

- ✦ Richmond Cultural Centre;
- ✦ Richmond Cultural Centre Annex; and
- ✦ Gateway Theatre*.

**Gateway Theatre's MainStage is equipped with a sprung floor and is regularly utilized by dance groups.*

Number and Size of Community Groups

Richmond has consistently high numbers of dance groups and dance group membership. The City regularly engages with 16 dance groups and dance schools. These dance groups tend to have between 10 and 35 members each.

Utilization of Purpose-built Dance Spaces

The City's Dance spaces show very strong utilization, particularly during peak times:

- ✦ Dance participation in both the Cultural Centre and Cultural Centre Annex dance studios is near full-capacity during in peak hours (after 3 p.m. on weekdays and weekend periods), and over 50% during off peak hours, based on a seasonal average; and
- ✦ In 2025, Gateway Theatre's MainStage was in use for 232 days, Studio A was in use for 146 days, and Studio B Theatre was in use for 189 days.

Facility Booking Considerations

While studio-based instruction and rehearsal are generally accommodated through scheduling, performance-related constraints remain. Recital and performance opportunities may be limited by venue availability and functionality. Music, performing arts and dance compete for access to Gateway Theatre's MainStage, which creates further pressure on an already limited supply of specialized performance space. And Studio B Theatre cannot run performances at the same time as the MainStage, which intermittently impacts available recital and performance space. For example, Theatre Under the Stairs has physical limitations for some dance uses, and dates at Gateway Theatre are limited and often require long lead times to secure.

Overall, dance accounts for a significant share of peak-time demand and is expected to remain an in-demand arts discipline in Richmond as the city's population continues to grow.

Music

Richmond's music community demonstrates a distinct utilization pattern shaped by one-on-one lessons, small group instruction, and high overall program hours. Current use patterns indicate strong demand during peak periods, particularly weekday evenings and weekends, alongside additional pressure related to performance and presentation needs that are not fully accommodated through existing venues.

Music Includes

- ✦ Amplified and non-amplified music;
- ✦ Choral;
- ✦ Orchestral;
- ✦ Popular ("Pop"); and
- ✦ Folk.

City of Richmond Facilities with Purpose-Built and Priority Music Spaces

- ✦ Richmond Cultural Centre; and
- ✦ Gateway Theatre*.

**Gateway Theatre's MainStage is a performance space utilized by music groups, however this is not a purpose-built performance hall for music.*





Number and Size of Community Groups

Richmond has consistently high numbers of music groups and music group membership. Across 19 groups that the City regularly engages with, there are nearly 1,200 members. Membership varies across groups, with group sizes ranging from approximately five to more than 370 members.

Utilization of Purpose-Built Music Spaces

Music contributes strongly to overall arts space utilization through a large volume of individual and small-group instruction:

- ✦ Music instruction commonly occurs during peak hours (after 3 p.m. during the week and weekends), when demand for arts space is already concentrated; and
- ✦ Gateway Theatre operates at full capacity through a combination of Gateway Theatre Society programming and rentals, and Gateway Theatre Academy, drawing more than 35,000 audience members annually and hosting more than 150 performances and events in 2025.

Facility Booking Considerations

While music is well accommodated in lesson-based and small group formats, the fit of existing facilities is more limited for performance-oriented music uses. Choral, orchestral, and other non-amplified music presentations are constrained in existing theatre venues, largely due to acoustic limitations. In addition, music and performing arts compete for access to Gateway Theatre's MainStage, which creates further pressure on an already limited supply of specialized performance space.

Overall, music is a significant contributor to utilization across Richmond's arts facilities, particularly through high program volume and recurring lesson-based use. However, current facilities are less well-suited to certain performance and presentation needs, particularly for non-amplified music and larger ensemble-based uses.

Pottery

Richmond's pottery community demonstrates very strong demand, high facility utilization, and significant recent growth. Current use patterns indicate that existing pottery studios are operating near capacity, with sustained waitlists and limited availability. These pressures reflect both growing participation and the specialized spatial and storage requirements associated with ceramics practice.

Pottery Includes

- ✦ Pottery;
- ✦ Ceramics;
- ✦ Wheel throwing;
- ✦ Handbuilding; and
- ✦ Glazing and kiln-based studio practice.

City of Richmond Facilities with Purpose-Built and Priority Pottery Spaces

- ✦ Richmond Cultural Centre; and
- ✦ Richmond Cultural Centre Annex.

Number and Size of Community Groups

The Richmond Potters' Club has experienced substantial growth in recent years. Membership has more than doubled over the last seven years, increasing from approximately 60 members in 2019 to more than 120 members in 2026. This represents a rapid growth rate of roughly 100 per cent.

Utilization of Purpose-Built Pottery Spaces

The City's pottery spaces show very high utilization, with several indicators pointing to constrained supply:

- ✦ The City's two pottery studios have consistently operated at utilization rates above 90 per cent at all times, which is even more remarkable considering the City opened the second of these two pottery studios in 2024;
- ✦ Pottery also experiences consistent waitlists, indicating limited remaining capacity within existing facilities; and
- ✦ Pottery classes are typically full and are widely described as difficult to register for within the City's pottery studios, as the studio time is also needed for pottery artists to create and refine their work.

Facility Booking Considerations

A key constraint for pottery in City facilities is that capacity can be reached not only through scheduled programming, but also when storage space is full. Pottery requires time, equipment, drying, glazing, firing, and multiple stages to complete a project, which means storage and work-in-progress space are critical components of overall studio capacity.

Overall, pottery is a high-demand and high-growth discipline within Richmond's arts facility system. Utilization is extremely strong, demand is consistently evident through full classes and waitlists, and the specialized operational requirements of pottery limit the flexibility of existing space. Demand and utilization are expected to remain strong.





Digital and Media Arts

Richmond's digital and media arts sector represents an emerging area of demand that is supported through specialized and multi-purpose spaces. Recent growth in participation suggests increasing interest in this discipline, particularly following the opening of the Media Lab in the Cultural Centre Annex in the second quarter of 2024. The Media Lab is also a unique City space because, unlike many other City facilities that prioritize registered programs, it is intended in part to provide barrier-free opportunities for youth and support broader youth development objectives. At the same time, utilization patterns indicate that demand remains more moderate than in some other arts disciplines and is shaped by the availability of specialized equipment and room configurations.

Digital and Media Arts Include

- ✦ Digital illustration, vector art, typography and pixel/glitch art;
- ✦ Animation and motion graphics;
- ✦ Cinema and film;
- ✦ Interactive and immersive;
- ✦ Sound and audio;
- ✦ Web, net, and software; and
- ✦ Multimedia and performance.

City of Richmond Facilities with Purpose-Built and Priority Digital and Media Arts Spaces

- ✦ Richmond Cultural Centre Annex.

Number and Size of Community Groups

The number of digital and media arts groups in Richmond has remained relatively stable, with limited recent growth in membership among established groups. At the same time, the Media Lab supports a broader range of users than community group data alone may reflect, including the Richmond Youth Media Program (RYMP) as the City's primary youth group user, as well as other youth-serving partners, including those working with at-risk youth.

Utilization of Purpose Built Digital and Media Arts Spaces

City of Richmond's digital and media arts spaces show growing use, supported by the introduction of new specialized space:

- ✦ As of 2025, Media Lab utilization exceeds 90 per cent, and off-peak use is approximately 45 per cent;
- ✦ About 46 per cent of this peak-hour use supports barrier-free youth opportunities;
- ✦ Participation has grown steadily since the opening of the Media Lab in the Cultural Centre Annex since opening its doors in the second quarter of 2024;
- ✦ In addition to registered programming, the space also supports non-registered program activity. This includes use in support of City-led initiatives and events such as Youth Week, the Children's Arts Festival, and Doors Open; and
- ✦ Demand for digital and media arts space appears to be both time-specific and equipment-specific, as technology-based programs depend on specialized equipment and room configurations that limit flexibility.



Facility Booking Considerations

At present, the addition of the Media Lab appears to have provided sufficient capacity to meet current demand, and there are no major booking constraints identified at this time. However, peak-hour utilization exceeding 90 per cent suggests while overall capacity may appear adequate, access during peak periods is becoming more limited.

This is particularly important given the Media Lab's specialized function and broad range of uses. In addition to registered programming, the space supports barrier-free youth opportunities, partner use, and City-led events. As demand for digital and media arts continues to grow, continued monitoring will be important as participation grows and program needs evolve.

5. Arts Community Engagement Summary: What We Heard

The Needs Assessment was informed by internal and external engagement undertaken through multiple channels, including:

- ✦ the project Steering Committee;
- ✦ a targeted Richmond Arts Community and Arts Facility Operator Survey; and
- ✦ interviews with members of the Richmond arts community, Richmond arts facility board members and operators, City staff, and SD38 staff.

Engagement undertaken in 2024 and 2025 provides important insight into Richmond's arts ecosystem, particularly the space-related challenges, needs, and opportunities identified by professional and community artists. In addition to the 102 survey responses, ten individual and group interviews were conducted involving 13 participants representing a range of arts disciplines and roles within Richmond's arts community. Staff also consulted SD38 staff regarding the potential use of school district space for musical arts and performing arts activities. This input provided additional context on the availability and suitability of non-City spaces in Richmond. Findings from a 2018 online survey of Richmond's performing arts community were also considered in this study.

See Appendix A: Engagement Summary to read the 2024 and 2025 findings in more detail.





5.1 Emerging Themes

Engagement findings pointed to several consistent themes across disciplines related to the availability, suitability, functionality, and accessibility of arts spaces in Richmond. While participants identified needs specific to particular disciplines, they also highlighted several common challenges affecting the arts community more broadly.

5.1.1. Need for Specialized Arts Performance, Exhibition, Creation, and Practice Spaces

- ✦ Participants across disciplines identified a need for spaces designed and equipped for arts use, including spaces for creation, rehearsal, exhibition, presentation, storage, and administration;
- ✦ Existing performing arts venues and spaces currently used for performance are not designed to fully support all theatre, dance, music, and related performing arts functions. In particular, spaces that are currently being used for music do not offer the layout and acoustic qualities suited for choral and orchestral rehearsal and performance, or amplified music;
- ✦ Participants in performing arts and music identified that existing rehearsal spaces are often too small, inadequately equipped, or acoustically unsuitable;
- ✦ Theatre and music groups identified demand for mid-sized performance venues to bridge the gap between smaller community spaces and larger performance theatres, including venues in the 100-150 seat range for theatre and the 250-500 seat range for music;
- ✦ Participants identified a shortage of visual arts and digital and media arts spaces, including exhibition space, studios, wet studios, and maker-oriented space;
- ✦ Participants also identified the absence of a professional cinema or screening venue in Richmond; and
- ✦ Participants identified the absence of fabrication workshop to support theatre set production and related production activities.

5.1.2. Ancillary Spaces and Specialized Features

- ✦ Participants across disciplines identified a need for secure, accessible, and, where appropriate, climate-controlled storage for instruments, props, costumes, equipment, and artwork;
- ✦ Ancillary and support spaces, including dressing rooms, green rooms, dedicated change rooms, backstage areas, and office or administrative spaces were identified as missing or inadequate;
- ✦ Participants emphasized that the functionality of a space depends not only on its size, but also on the support spaces and technical features available within it; and
- ✦ Features identified as important to functionality included acoustic treatment, technical infrastructure, sinks, durable finishes, specialized ventilation, natural light, appropriate room configuration, and accessible storage.

5.1.3. Access and Operational Barriers

- ✦ Rental fees, particularly at Gateway Theatre, were identified as a significant barrier for some community groups and may place professional-quality performance space out of reach for others in a constrained funding environment;
- ✦ Difficulty securing multi-day bookings, limited venue availability, and additional technical or staffing costs were identified as barriers to access;
- ✦ Groups often rely on school gymnasiums or private venues, which may be costly and may not meet their functional needs;
- ✦ Transportation and parking were identified as important considerations, particularly for seniors and groups transporting large instruments or equipment;
- ✦ Access to some spaces may depend on meeting specific operating requirements, such as booking qualified staff or technicians, or satisfying other conditions before access can be granted; and
- ✦ Consultation with SD38 indicated that, while some arts-related spaces exist within school facilities, competing school and childcare priorities, limited availability, rental and custodial costs, and facility constraints limit their suitability and availability for broader community arts use.

5.1.4. Interest in Flexible, Shared Arts Spaces

- ✦ Participants expressed interest in flexible, shared spaces that can support multiple users and disciplines, and that enable collaboration, shared resources, and adaptable programming;
- ✦ Some participants identified a desire for multi-disciplinary, artist-run spaces that could serve as collaborative hubs for arts activity;
- ✦ Participants also identified value in civic spaces, such as plazas and other public gathering areas, that can support informal cultural activity and community interaction; and
- ✦ Some participants expressed support for the adaptive reuse of historic buildings as cultural or arts spaces.

5.1.5. Value of Arts Spaces in Supporting Community Life and Civic Identity

- ✦ Participants emphasized the importance of involving artists in the planning and design of future arts spaces and facilities;
- ✦ Arts and culture were described as important to Richmond's cultural and intellectual development and to the city's broader civic identity; and
- ✦ Participants also described arts and cultural spaces as important to community connection, local identity, and the visibility of arts and culture within the city.

5.2 Arts Discipline-specific Needs

While many themes were shared across disciplines, participants also identified needs specific to particular areas of artistic practice. The following provides a summary of the discipline-specific needs that emerged through the engagement process.





5.2.1 Visual Arts

- ✦ Exhibition space that can be configured for a variety of disciplines and presentation formats;
- ✦ Flexible studio and wet studio space with features such as sinks, specialized ventilation, durable finishes, and natural light; and
- ✦ Maker-oriented spaces that support hands-on creative practice.

5.2.2 Music and Performing Arts

- ✦ Multiple rehearsal rooms with appropriate acoustic design and accessible risers;
- ✦ Performance and rehearsal venues for school music programs;
- ✦ Storage and improved accessibility for transporting instruments and equipment;
- ✦ A professional cinema or screening venue in Richmond, as filmmakers are currently presenting work outside the city; and
- ✦ A fabrication workshop to support theatre arts, space is needed to support set production and related production activities.

5.2.3 Dance

- ✦ The dance groups engaged through the process indicated that dance is generally well served by existing City and private facilities and did not identify significant current gaps in dance space provision, features, or functionality.

5.2.4 Ceramics and Pottery

- ✦ Additional pottery and ceramics space to respond to limited supply and growing interest in the discipline; and
- ✦ Specialized features such as specialized ventilation and accessible storage to support different stages of creation.

5.2.5 Digital and Media Arts

- ✦ Formal exhibition and presentation spaces that can accommodate media-based work and related public programming;
- ✦ Flexible studio, classroom, and maker-oriented space with features and amenities that support digital and media arts programming; and
- ✦ Technical equipment, fixtures, and support features to accommodate evolving media arts practices and technology-based work.

5.2.6 Future Facility Design Considerations

Participants identified a number of features that should be considered in future performing arts facility planning and design, including:

- ✦ multiple performance and rehearsal spaces;
- ✦ box office, concession, and washroom facilities;
- ✦ sound and lighting booths, and collapsible seating;
- ✦ backstage storage and other performer support spaces;
- ✦ appropriate acoustic treatment; and
- ✦ involvement of artists in facility design.

Overall, the engagement findings indicate a need for more affordable, accessible, and appropriately equipped arts spaces in Richmond, including both specialized facilities and flexible multi-disciplinary spaces that can support a range of disciplines and activities over time.





6. Inventory Analysis: City of Richmond's Purpose-Built Arts Spaces

This section reviews the City of Richmond's purpose-built arts facilities and spaces, and their roles in supporting arts activities across the city.

Each purpose-built arts space is then examined through several lenses. These include facility service level within the City's planning framework; primary arts space type; observations informed by leading practices, utilization patterns, and community input; a functional assessment of how well the space supports current arts users and activities; and insights from comparable communities to help contextualize Richmond's current provision. The analysis is intended to provide a clear understanding of how Richmond's existing arts facilities are functioning today and to inform future planning.

Facility Service Level

The City identifies three different service levels for City facilities: community, city-wide and regional. Community facilities primarily serve residents within a PRCS Planning Area and aim to provide equitable access. City-wide facilities draw users from across Richmond, while also serving the needs of the residents of a specific PRCS Service Area. Regional-level facilities are described as destination spaces, attracting users from across and beyond the city.

Type of Arts Space

For the purposes of this inventory analysis, the City's purpose-built arts spaces are grouped into the following categories: (a) Performance Spaces, (b) Exhibition Spaces, (c) Practice and Creation Spaces, and (d) Learning Spaces. While some spaces accommodate multiple uses, each space is categorized according to its primary function.

Insights

Observations have been informed by trends and leading practices in the arts, City of Richmond arts facilities, venues and spaces, utilization and growth of arts in Richmond, and feedback gathered from Richmond's arts community, as identified in previous sections of this Needs Assessment.

Functional Assessment

The functional assessment is a review of how well purpose-built arts spaces function for current arts users. Each functional assessment is informed through site visits, operational experiences, engagement findings, and background documents, and focuses on how well each facility supports performance, program, administrative, circulation, and audience functions.

Insights from Comparable Communities

Setting standards for arts facilities and services is complex because city needs and delivery models reflect local conditions—such as geography, land use and density, transportation links, demographics and cultural interests, and existing civic and partner arts infrastructure. At the same time, a well-designed comparator scan can show whether Richmond's arts facility inventory, capacity, and utilization are broadly aligned with peer communities, and help identify opportunities to expand or diversify Richmond's provision (e.g., purpose-built spaces, rehearsal/production capacity, neighbourhood access). These findings can inform long-range planning and capital prioritization.



The following comparable communities were selected:

- ✦ Burnaby;
- ✦ Maple Ridge;
- ✦ Victoria; and
- ✦ Surrey.

Note: While this Inventory Analysis is conducted solely on the City of Richmond's purpose-built arts facilities, the arts in Richmond also take place in a wide variety of additional City spaces, such as community centres, as well as non-profit and private spaces, schools, parks, green spaces, festivals and events.

(a) Performance Spaces

The following city-wide and regional-level spaces, primarily used for performance, are considered here:

- ✦ Richmond Cultural Centre and the Gateway Theatre provide the City's purpose-built, indoor and year-round performance spaces;
- ✦ The Richmond Cultural Centre's performance space is the Theatre Under the Stairs (TUTS), a city-wide service level; and
- ✦ Gateway Theatre provides a regional service level, with its performance spaces being MainStage, and Studio B Theatre.

Insights

- ✦ Richmond's current inventory does not include a dedicated purpose-built venue optimized for non-amplified music performance.
- ✦ Too few supporting spaces, particularly change rooms and washrooms separate from the public.
- ✦ Black box theatre ceiling height limits the ability to add some types of theatre-specific equipment.
- ✦ Storage space is limited.
- ✦ Large preparation and workshop spaces are important to theatre facilities and are not available in Richmond.
- ✦ Both the Cultural Centre and Gateway Theatre are located within Minoru Park.

Functional Assessment

- ✦ Dressing rooms and performer areas could be enhanced to better support accessibility, separation from public areas, and concurrent events.
- ✦ Back-of-house storage and green room space are constrained relative to current operational needs.
- ✦ Acoustics meet the needs of some groups and not others (non-amplified music).
- ✦ Wayfinding, gathering space, and circulation could be clarified and improved to support a more intuitive user experience.
- ✦ Spaces may benefit from technology upgrades to align with current performance and production needs.

Insights from Comparable Communities

- ✦ As in other communities, rental costs and limited space availability present challenges for a wide range of artists, pointing to the need for affordable performance spaces.



(b) Exhibition Spaces

The following City-wide service level spaces, primarily used as, or related to exhibition spaces, are:

- ✦ The Richmond Cultural Centre is home to the Richmond Art Gallery, a purpose-built gallery that provides a city-wide service level and contributes to the centralized hub of arts activities in Minoru Park;
- ✦ The Richmond Art Gallery includes collection storage, which houses the City's permanent art collection; and
- ✦ The Richmond Art Gallery also oversees off-site exhibition spaces, in the Richmond Cultural Centre Annex lobby, and the City Hall Galleria, located on the ground floor of Richmond City Hall.



Insights

- ✦ Arts exhibition space has not kept pace with population growth.
- ✦ Gallery technology has not kept pace with the evolution in arts disciplines.
- ✦ Climate-controlled art collection storage capacity could be expanded to better conserve the current collection and support future needs.

Functional Assessment

- ✦ Support spaces are undersized.
- ✦ Limited space for programming and events.

Insights from Comparable Communities

- ✦ In comparable communities, growth in exhibition activity has prompted consideration of new art galleries.

(c) Practice, Rehearsal and Creation Spaces

The Richmond Cultural Centre, Richmond Cultural Centre Annex, and Gateway Theatre all provide spaces that serve as practice, rehearsal and creation spaces at the city-wide and regional service level:

- ✦ Richmond Cultural Centre offers the following spaces at a city-wide service level: Arts Studio, Dance Studio, Fabric Arts Studio, Lapidary Studio and Silversmithing Room, Pottery Studio 1, Music Studio 1, Music Studio 2, Performing Arts Studio 1, Painting Studio;
- ✦ Richmond Cultural Centre Annex offers the following spaces at a city-wide service level: Pottery Studio 2, Performing Arts Studio 2, Performing Arts Studio 3, and Creativity Studio; and
- ✦ Gateway Theatre offers Studio A at the regional-wide service level.



Insights

- ✦ Insufficient City spaces for arts organizations to have a home and develop their operation and programming.
- ✦ Rehearsal and studio spaces not always equipped with amenities to meet diverse art needs, such as specialized ventilation, sinks, sprung floors, and acoustic treatments.
- ✦ Storage space is in high demand.

Functional Assessment

- ✦ Dedicated set production and workshop space is missing.
- ✦ Some spaces lack features such as natural light, specialized ventilation, acoustic treatments, and storage.
- ✦ Wayfinding, gathering space, and circulation could be improved.

Insights from Comparable Communities

- ✦ High rental costs, combined with limited access to high-quality rehearsal, production, and fabrication spaces, create affordability and access challenges for professional artists seeking more specialized and better-equipped facilities.
- ✦ Space needs are being explored through innovative use of specialized facilities, programs and grants.
- ✦ Re-use of heritage buildings yields innovative art spaces.
- ✦ Municipalities generally do not provide storage facilities, unless for municipal programs.



(d) Learning Spaces

The following learning spaces are primarily used for arts programming and learning spaces, and are geared towards both the City-wide and community service levels:

- ✦ Richmond Cultural Centre: Pottery Studio 1; and
- ✦ Richmond Cultural Centre Annex: History Lab, Media Lab, Pottery Studio 2, Richmond Art Gallery Classroom.

Insights

- ✦ Current inventory of pottery studios are not keeping pace with growing demand.
- ✦ Opportunities to expand the co-location of dedicated community arts spaces with other civic facilities.
- ✦ These community-level spaces benefit from being located within the hub of arts activity within Minoru Park.

Functional Assessment

- ✦ Some spaces lack features such as natural light, specialized ventilation, acoustic treatments, and storage.
- ✦ Richmond Cultural Centre wayfinding, gathering spaces, and circulation could be refined.
- ✦ The former kitchen space in the Annex presents an opportunity for future adaptive reuse.

Insights from Comparable Communities

- ✦ Pottery studios have been identified as in high demand.
- ✦ Participation studio spaces are being included in new community centres.
- ✦ Youth-driven, digital, and community-based programming is on the rise.
- ✦ Comparable communities are placing increased emphasis on spaces and programming that support multicultural, youth-focused, and Indigenous initiatives.



PRCS - 115

7. Priority Needs

The priority needs below respond to findings from the engagement analysis, inventory analysis, trends and leading practices research, and insights from comparable communities. Together, they set out a layered approach to strengthening Richmond's arts infrastructure over the next 10 years, while allowing flexibility to respond to emerging opportunities, partnerships, and evolving arts and community needs. The priority needs are not presented in ranked order and should not be interpreted as representing priority or sequence of implementation.

Each priority need identifies a type of purpose-built arts space and intended service level.

Collectively, these priority needs are intended to improve access to appropriate, purpose-designed spaces for professional and emerging artists, while also strengthening the contribution of existing facilities to community participation, social connection, wellness, and engagement in arts and culture.

The space sizes, square footages, seat counts, and other capacity measures identified in the priority needs are preliminary estimates intended to illustrate the general scale and function of facilities required to meet current and future needs over the 10-year planning horizon. These figures are approximate and would be refined through future planning efforts such as program development, site-specific planning, and concept design.

Art Exhibition Spaces and Auditorium

This responds to identified needs for dedicated, purpose-built Class A* arts exhibition spaces, an auditorium, multipurpose/program rooms, event space, and ancillary spaces to support these functions. The Needs Assessment research independently identified this priority need, which aligns with Council's consideration of the Duck Island redevelopment (RZ 20-915237), and which included securing approximately 30,000 square feet of art exhibition spaces and auditorium space. The 2024 rezoning contemplates the provision of art gallery exhibition spaces of varying sizes, multipurpose/program rooms, an auditorium for performances, event space, and ancillary spaces such as exhibition support, collection storage, circulation and administrative spaces. Given the current economic uncertainties facing the development industry and large-scale development projects, should that development not proceed, the City could consider development of a comparable facility at another suitable location in Richmond. However, such consideration would also need to account for recent changes to provincial planning legislation (Bill 46 and 47) that have affected the City's ability to secure these types of facilities through redevelopment. As a result, alternative delivery, funding and partnership approaches may need to be explored to support provision of a comparable space elsewhere in Richmond. This priority need would expand exhibition capacity within Richmond and the broader region and contribute to Richmond's Tourism Master Plan.



**A Class A exhibition space is an exhibition space recognized for its ability to preserve and display cultural property or artistic work at the highest standard including ensuring that proper environmental controls and security measures are in place.*



Music Performance and Rehearsal Spaces

This responds to needs identified for dedicated, acoustically appropriate spaces that support music performance, rehearsal, creation, and related production activities in Richmond. It also includes specialized music education spaces intended to support music instruction, practice, and other learning-related activities. The needed spaces are:

- ✦ a music performance space with 250 to 500 seats at 4,000 to 8,000 sq. ft.;
- ✦ two non-amplified music rehearsal spaces at 200 sq. ft. each;
- ✦ music education space(s) with adequate storage, intended to support specialized music instruction, practice, and learning-related activities by music organizations, instructors, and other music users; and
- ✦ supportive ancillary spaces needed to enable the effective functioning of the primary program spaces.

This priority need may be delivered in more than one way, depending on site opportunity, available footprint, and future capital planning considerations. If a large site is available, these spaces could be accommodated within a single music performance and rehearsal facility. Alternatively, they could be delivered across multiple locations. This approach provides flexibility while still responding to the need for more specialized and purpose-designed music spaces in Richmond.

Theatre Performance and Rehearsal Spaces

This responds to needs identified for dedicated, purpose-built spaces to support theatre performance, rehearsal, creation and related production activities in Richmond. It also includes spaces that can support dance use, recognizing that while dance is not identified as a priority need at this time, demand is expected to grow alongside the City's growing population. The needed spaces are:

- ✦ a performance studio theatre with 100 to 150 seats at 2,500 sq. ft.;
- ✦ a rehearsal studio space at 600 sq. ft.;
- ✦ a fabrication workshop at 2,800 sq. ft. intended to support set production and related production activities and to help address a regional shortage of dedicated workshop space for set fabrication; and
- ✦ supportive ancillary spaces needed to enable the effective functioning of the primary program spaces.

This priority need may be delivered in more than one way, depending on site opportunity, available footprint, and future capital planning considerations. If a large site is available, these spaces could be accommodated within a single performing arts centre. Alternatively, they could be delivered across multiple locations. This approach provides flexibility while still responding to the need for more specialized and purpose-designed performing arts spaces in Richmond, including space that can accommodate future growth in dance activity and workshop capacity that would help address a broader regional gap in set production space.

Pottery Studio Spaces

This supports community-based arts education and programming for residents of all ages and skill levels across the city. It is focused specifically on addressing the need for additional pottery studio space in Richmond. The City's two existing pottery studios are heavily used and at capacity, indicating a clear, immediate need for additional space. Pottery studios require specialized design, equipment, infrastructure, and operational planning, and therefore require a more clearly defined approach to delivery.

The needed pottery spaces include:

- ✦ two pottery studios, each 750 to 1,000 sq. ft.

The specific programming and operating models for these studios may vary depending on location, partnership opportunities, and community need. Rather than concentrating all pottery studios in one location, these spaces should be considered throughout Richmond, where feasible, so they can provide broader geographic access and participation. This approach would allow pottery studios to be delivered incrementally over time in a manner that is flexible and responsive to local opportunities and community needs.

Existing City of Richmond Purpose-Built Arts Spaces

In addition to the priority needs outlined above, capital funding requests to adapt or update existing spaces will be brought forward for Council consideration where justified by program needs and a demonstrated business case to support the request.

Capital Budget Process

The capital budget submission process is conducted utilizing established criteria to evaluate and prioritize capital projects that fulfill the needs of the City and the goals and objectives of Council. This Needs Assessment is intended to inform that broader process by identifying priority needs; it does not itself establish capital priorities, approve projects, determine sites, or provide costing. Each division prepares its capital submissions based on its area of expertise, needs assessment, Council priorities and funding availability. A Review Team, approved by the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), is tasked to review and rank the capital submissions and the recommendation is provided to the SMT for review and discussion prior to being presented to Council for consideration.

Non-City Operated Arts Spaces

The Needs Assessment also identifies that emerging and professional artists and arts organizations require dedicated multidisciplinary arts spaces and visual arts studio spaces to support rehearsal activities, workshops, creative development, production, storage, and ongoing studio work. In Richmond, these types of dedicated spaces are not typically provided as City-delivered, purpose-built facilities intended for the sole or exclusive use of these users. Rather, this need is best understood within the City's broader enabling and partnership role and is aligned with ArtWorks: Richmond Arts Strategy 2026-2031, specifically:

- ✦ Strategic Direction 3: Invest in the Arts and Objective 3.1: Invest in the community's capacity through targeted investment, collaborations, organizational development and training.



- ✦ Strategic Direction 4: Build Arts and Cultural Leadership and Objective 4.2: Connect creative producers and enable partnerships among organizations.
- ✦ Strategic Direction 5: Activate Spaces Through (and for!) the Arts and Objective 5.1: Work towards meeting the demand for creative spaces and cultural facilities.

Within this context, the City's role is to support the conditions for artists and arts organizations to secure dedicated arts spaces in Richmond. This role may be advanced through partnerships, facilitation, planning tools, redevelopment opportunities, amenity contributions, and other enabling measures to improve access to appropriate dedicated arts spaces over time.

Examples of this approach already exist in Richmond through artist residency and studio-related arrangements, development-secured spaces, and other policy- and partnership-based mechanisms that expand access to arts space beyond the City's core purpose-built arts facilities. Building on these approaches over time would support the City's role in investing in community capacity, and help respond to the needs of emerging and professional artists and arts organizations by improving access to dedicated, appropriate space for creation, rehearsal, and sustained artistic practice.



8. Conclusion

Arts facilities play a vital role in creating an inclusive, healthy and vibrant community, and contribute to community identity, cultural expression, and local economic vitality. This Needs Assessment was undertaken to better understand the current state of Richmond's purpose-built arts facilities and to identify opportunities to address current and future arts space needs through a strategic, evidence-based approach. The work was informed by community engagement, facility and utilization analysis, trends and leading practices research, and insights from comparable communities, providing a comprehensive picture of Richmond's current arts facility ecosystem and the pressures and opportunities shaping it over time.

The Needs Assessment confirms that Richmond has a strong and valued foundation in arts infrastructure. The Richmond Cultural Centre, Richmond Cultural Centre Annex, and Gateway Theatre continue to play a central role in the city's arts ecosystem and provide important community, city, and regional-serving functions. At the same time, the analysis identifies that the current ecosystem has limitations in the supply, variety, and functionality of arts spaces available to the Richmond arts community. The analysis also highlights demand for more specialized spaces that can support evolving use over time.

The four priority needs set out in this report respond to those findings. Together, they provide a framework for strengthening Richmond's arts infrastructure over the next 10 years.

The priority needs are intended to inform access to appropriate, purpose-designed spaces for professional, emerging, and community artists, while also expanding opportunities for residents to participate in arts and culture across Richmond.

The Richmond Arts Facilities Needs Assessment Report provides a strategic foundation for future planning, investment, and partnership development in Richmond's arts ecosystem by highlighting where current gaps are most significant, where demand is likely to grow, and the priority needs that will help inform future City planning and investment decisions related to arts infrastructure for Richmond's artists, arts organizations, and residents.



Appendices

Appendix A: Engagement Summary



Engagement Summary Report

Arts Facilities Needs Assessment

February 2025



Survey

An online survey was conducted to better understand how arts facilities in Richmond are currently used and to identify the needs and priorities of the arts community. The survey was distributed to over 150 artists, program coordinators, educators, art facility operators, and creative organizations. To reflect the different perspectives of respondents, the survey included two streams: one for arts organizations and independent artists, another for facility operators. All results are self-reported.

Part 1: Arts groups

In total, 93 people from arts groups completed the survey, many of whom wear multiple hats in the creative community. The breakdown of respondents included:

- 53 independent artists
- 59 people affiliated with 44 arts groups based in Richmond
- 72 Richmond-based residents
- 32 who showcase art in Richmond individually
- 56 who showcase art in Richmond as part of a group

See page 11 for more information about the artistic disciplines these groups represent, and Appendix A for a list of affiliated groups.

Part 2: Facility operators

There were nine responses received from seven facility operators, including:

- Richmond Cultural Centre (with response from a Community Cultural Development staff member)
- Gateway Theatre
- Defy Gravity Dance Company
- Lipont Gallery
- Steveston Hub
- School District No. 38

Responses from the Richmond Music School were also included, though they rent space from a church, rather than owning and operating their own space.

An additional four respondents answered part two of the survey, even though they do not operate purpose-built arts venues in Richmond. We were able to draw useful insights from their answers; however, they are not included in all of the analysis. These groups include:

- Richmond Delta Youth Orchestra
- Richmond Community Band Society
- Vancouver Circus School (which operates a purpose-built venue in New Westminster)

106

participants
responded to the
survey to share
their needs.



Part 1: Arts groups

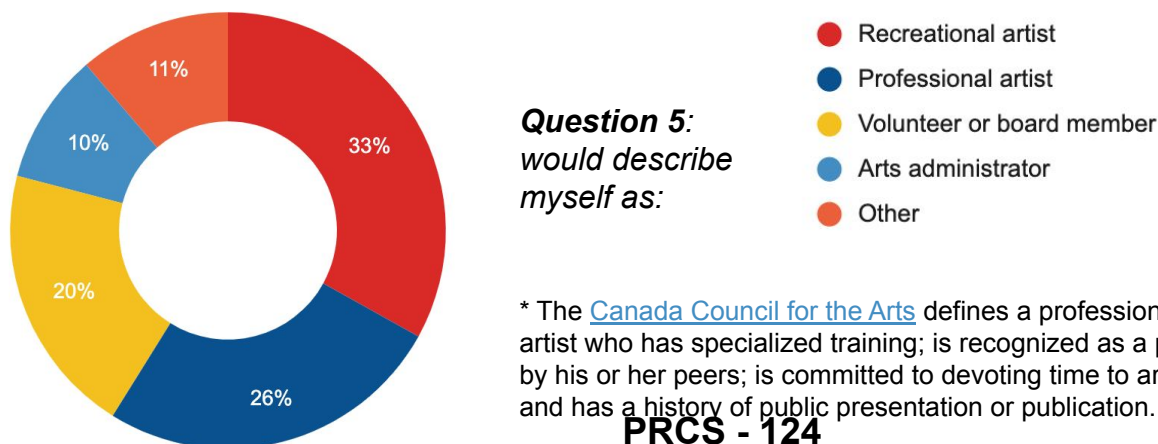
Arts groups profiles

This section summarizes feedback from arts organizations and artists who use arts facilities in Richmond and who responded to Part 1 of the survey. Respondents identified a range of arts disciplines, as summarized in the table below. Most respondents indicated involvement in non-amplified music, such as choir and orchestra, or visual arts. Additional responses provided under "other" included literary arts, ceramics, vocal body work, and education.

Question 4: *I practice the following arts discipline(s):*

	Number of respondents	Percent of respondents
Non-amplified music	42	29%
Visual arts	37	26%
Other	15	10%
Multidisciplinary	13	9%
Textile arts	8	6%
Amplified music	8	6%
Media arts	8	6%
Theatre	7	5%
Dance	5	3%
Circus	2	1%

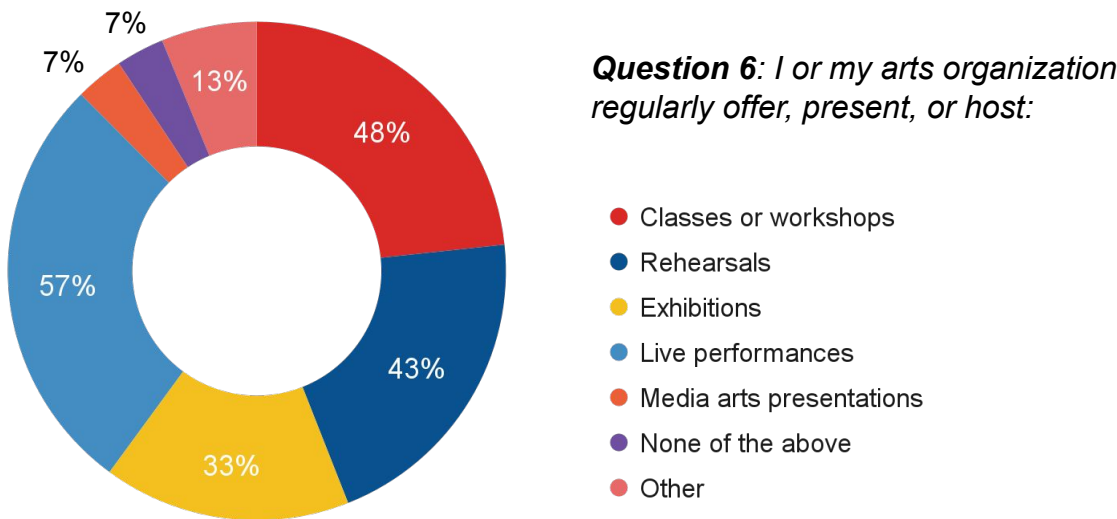
Around one third of respondents described themselves as recreational artists (33%), closely followed by professional artists (26%)*. Additional "other" responses included educator, producer, conductor, consultant, and event organizer.



* The [Canada Council for the Arts](#) defines a professional artist as an artist who has specialized training; is recognized as a professional by his or her peers; is committed to devoting time to artistic activity; and has a history of public presentation or publication.

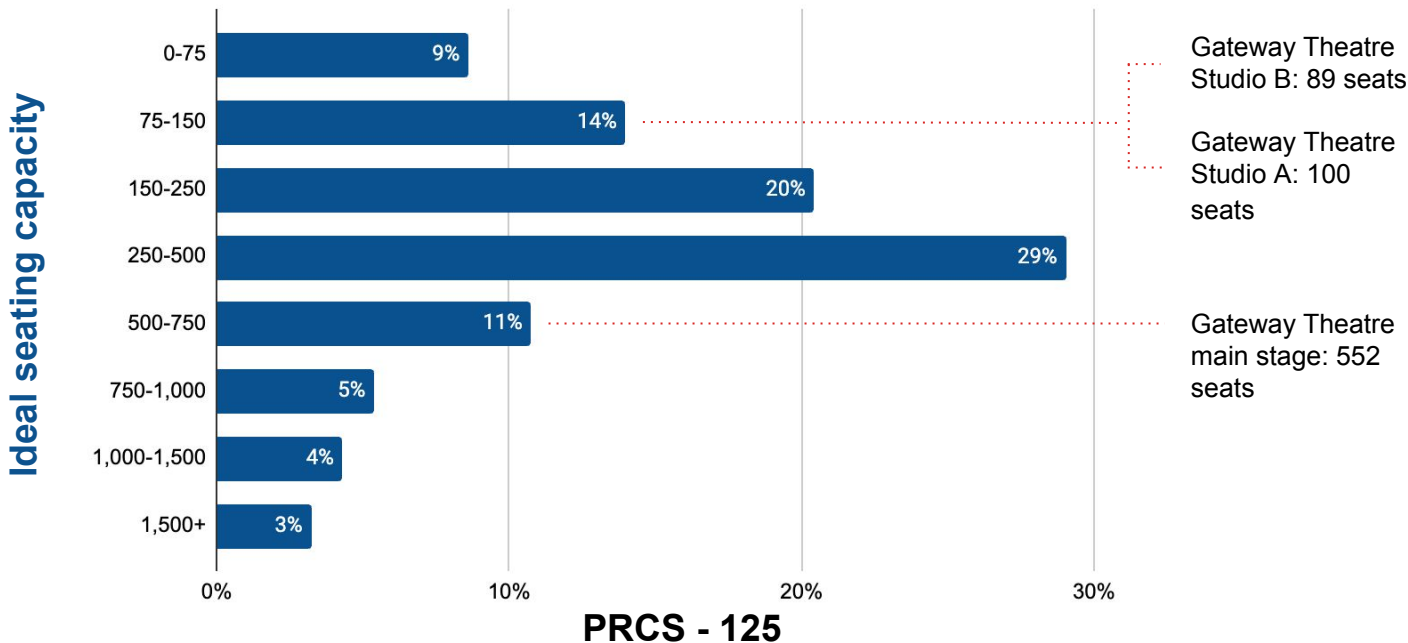
Arts groups profiles (continued)

The survey asked participants what kinds of programs and performances they—or their organization—present. Top responses included live performances (57%) and classes or workshops (48%). Additional “other” responses included community events, fundraisers, sales, film screenings, and presentations.



Performing arts groups and artists (representing dance, theatre, music, and circus) were asked what size venue they would prefer. Roughly half of respondents selected a mid-size venue with a capacity of 150-250 or 250-500 people (49% combined). Similarly, interviewees expressed a preference for venues with a capacity of 200-300 people. For comparison, we indicate the capacity of Richmond’s primary purpose-built performance facilities in the right column below.

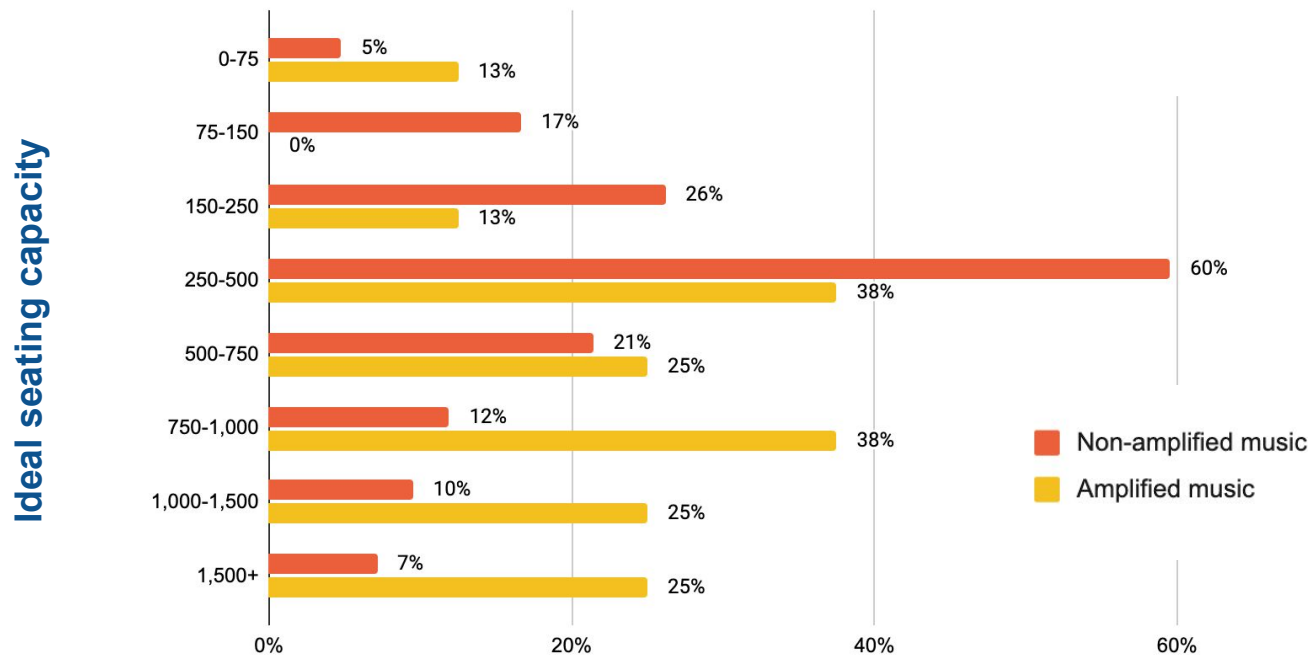
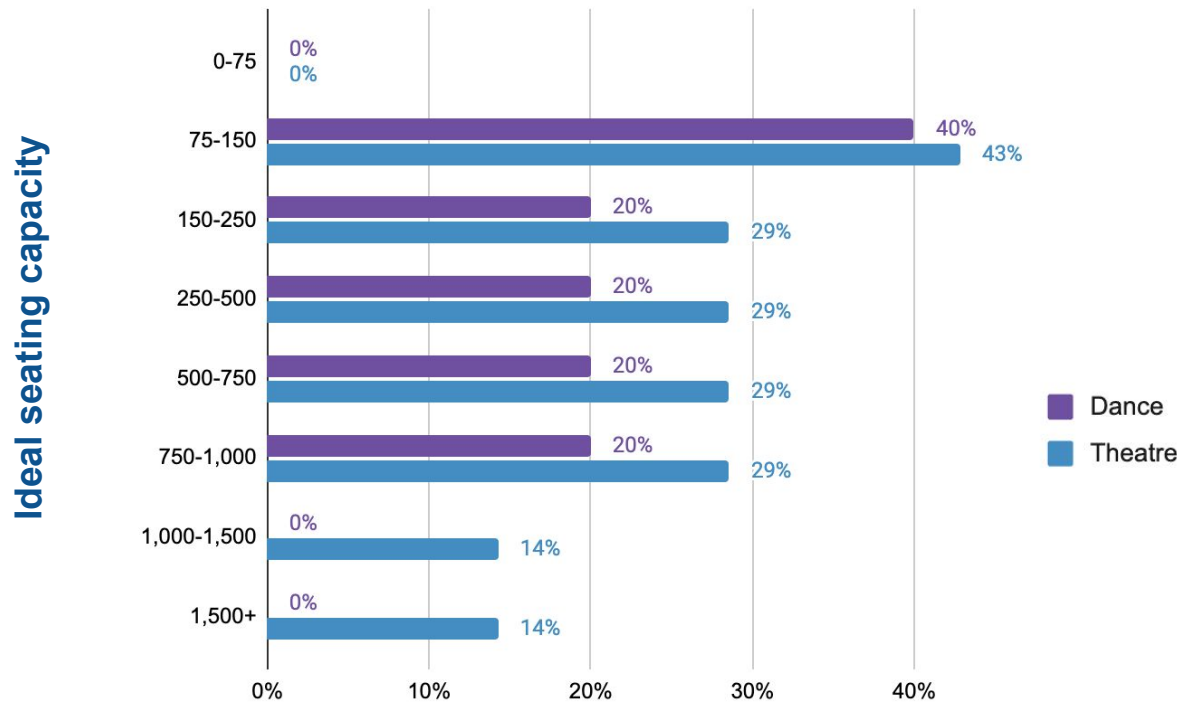
Question 7: *I or my arts organization would ideally perform in a venue with an audience capacity of:*



Arts groups profiles (continued)

The following charts break down the ideal seating capacity of a venue by responses from each performing arts disciplines. Notably the ideal venue size for dance and theatre is 75-150 seats and for music is 250-500 seats.

Question 7: *I or my arts organization would ideally perform in a venue with an audience capacity of:*

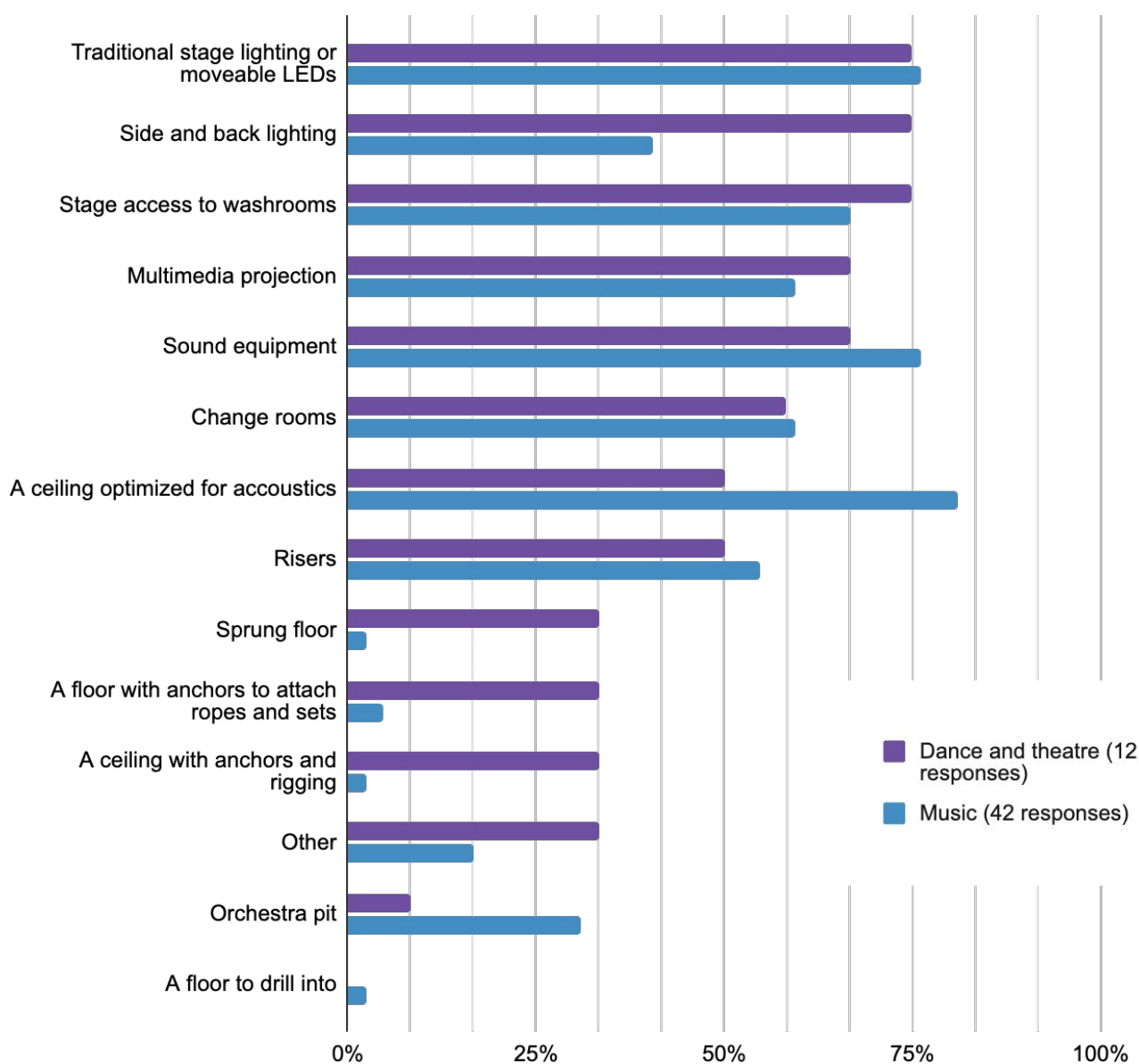


Performance venue amenities

Performing arts participants were asked what types of amenities and equipment they need at arts venues. The graph below shows the percentage of respondents in performance disciplines who selected a given type of amenity or equipment. Responses suggest there is a high need in all disciplines for lighting, access to washrooms, multimedia projection, sound equipment, and change rooms. Theatre and dance groups provided similar responses; therefore, we have grouped them together for simplicity. The chart below also groups amplified and non-amplified music together, due to their similar survey responses.

Additional “Other” responses included storage (including long-term storage), practice rooms for large ensembles, and an acoustic concert hall.

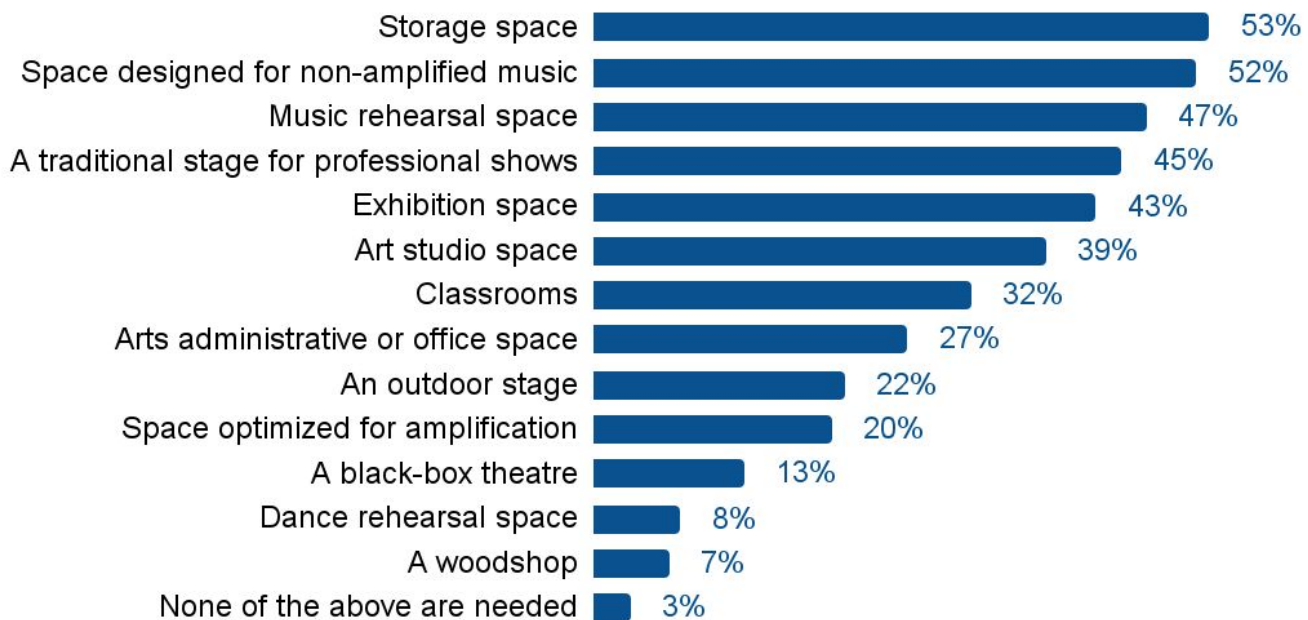
Question 8: *I or my organization require a performance venue with the following features:*



Supportive spaces

The survey asked participants what types of supportive spaces they need to host and prepare for shows and exhibits, and to meet other administrative needs. Storage space was the most common response, followed by rehearsal space for music, specifically for non-amplified music. Additional “other” responses included rehearsal room options, an acoustic concert hall, access to convenient loading space, a professional cinema, presentation space (with equipment), a ceramic studio, and a dance floor (such as a sprung floor).

Question 9: *I or my organization need better access to the following kinds of spaces for hosting, preparation, or administrative purposes:*

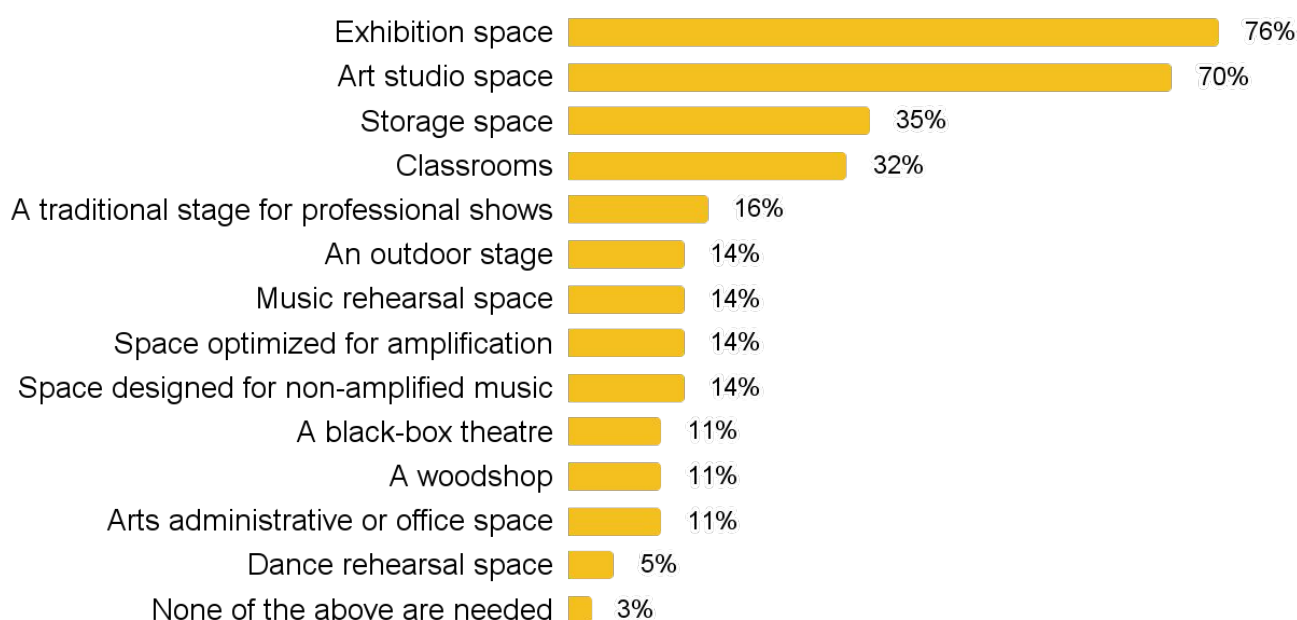


Supportive spaces (continued)

Responses were filtered to this question by visual arts respondents (total 27 responses) to better understand their needs for exhibition and art studio space. The results suggest that:

- Roughly three quarters of artists struggle to find appropriate exhibition and studio space.
- The need for both kinds of spaces is roughly equal.
- The need for these spaces is far greater than any other category of space.

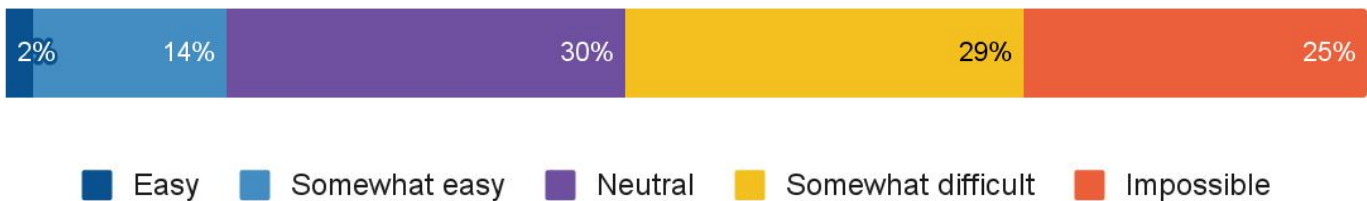
Question 9: *I or my organization need better access to the following kinds of spaces for hosting, preparation, or administrative purposes:*



Difficulty accessing arts spaces

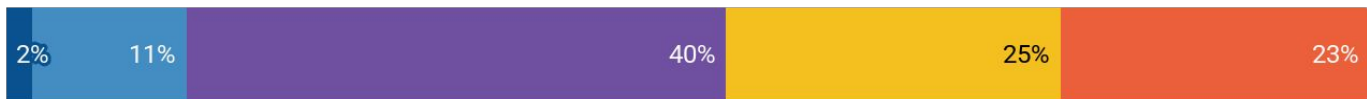
Respondents were asked to rate the level of difficulty in finding spaces that match their needs in Richmond on a scale of one (easy) to five (impossible). Only 2% of respondents expressed that it is easy to find spaces that meet their needs. Over 50% find it somewhat difficult or impossible to find spaces that meet their needs.

Question 10: *How easy it for your organization to find spaces that match you or your organization’s needs in Richmond?*

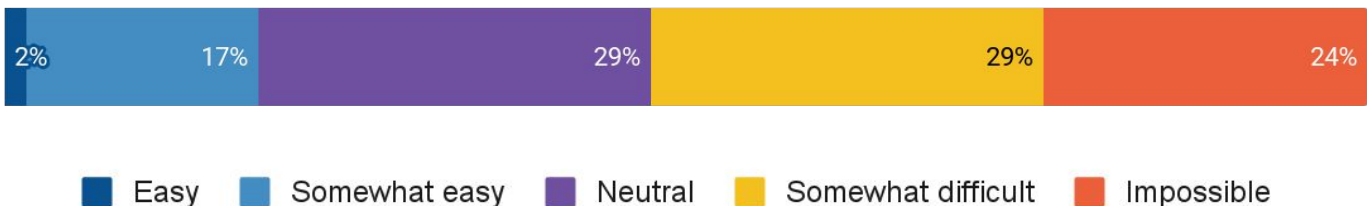


Analysis was conducted on how individual artists answered this same question compared to arts groups, recognizing that their needs may be different. However, there was very little difference in responses. Individual artists and arts groups also shared that they struggled to find space in roughly equal measure.

Individual and independent artists:



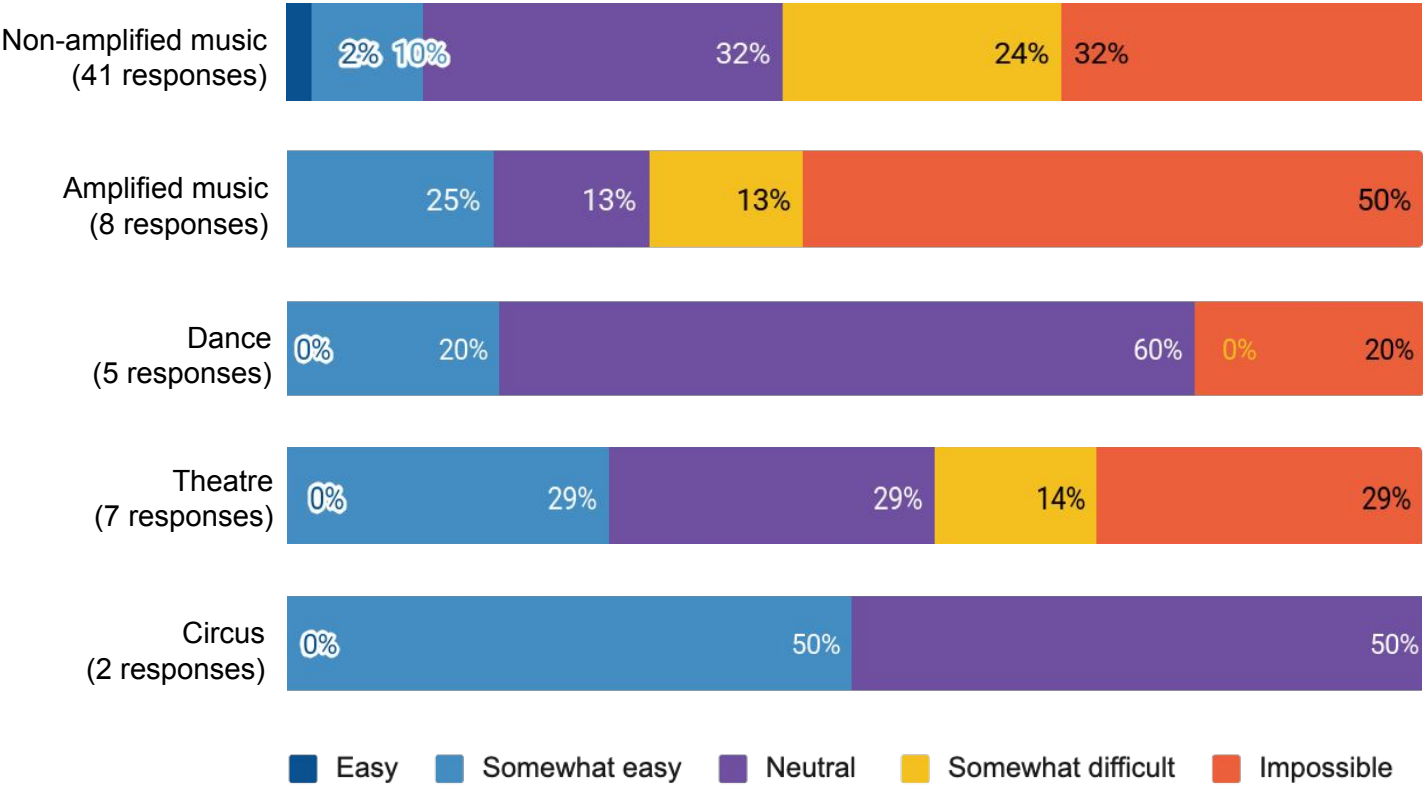
Groups and organizations:



Difficulty accessing arts spaces: Performing arts

The following two pages break down the level of difficulty for accessing spaces by performing arts discipline. Notably, more than 50% of music respondents indicated that it is hard to find spaces that meet their needs (“somewhat difficult” or “impossible”). According to these results, amplified musicians find it hardest to secure adequate spaces in Richmond, compared to all other types of arts groups and artists.

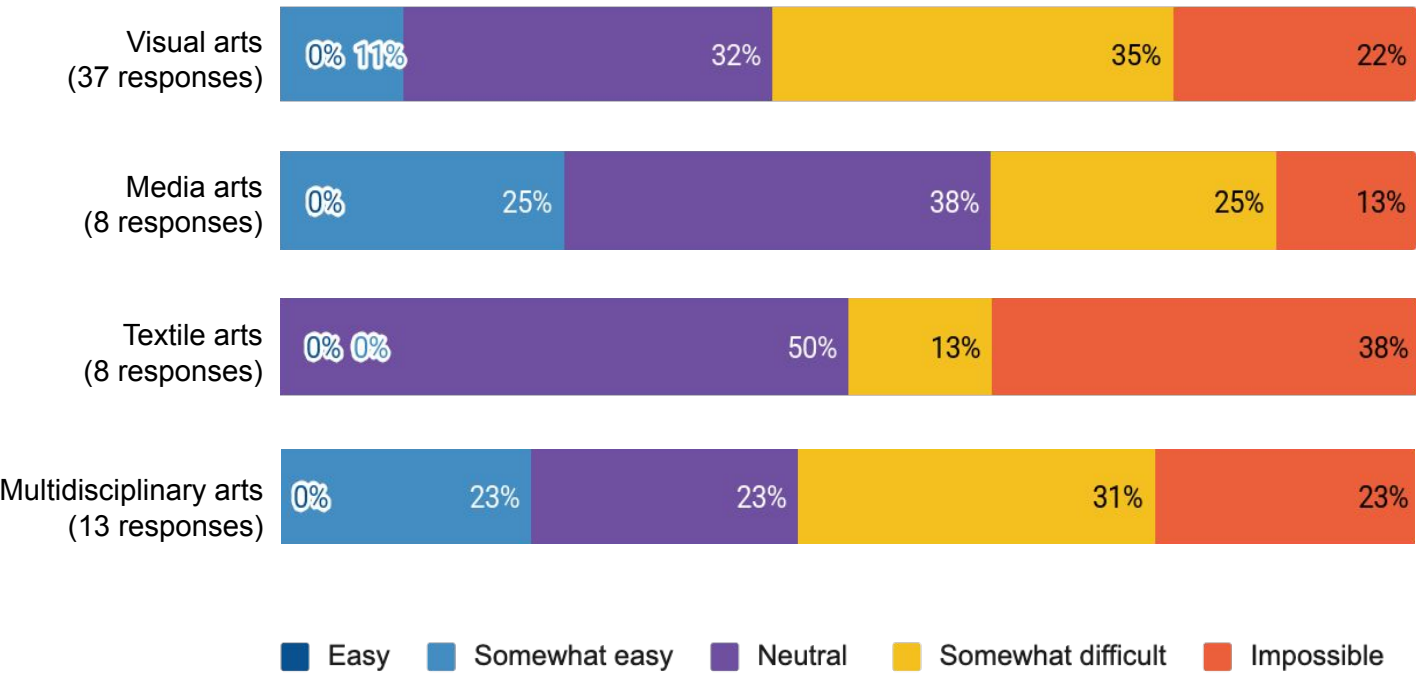
Question 10: How easy it for your organization to find spaces that match you or your organization’s needs in Richmond?



Difficulty accessing arts spaces: Visual and multimedia

The following chart shows the level of difficulty non-performing arts groups experience with accessing arts spaces, including visual, media, textile, and multidisciplinary art groups. No respondent selected “easy” and few (25% or less) selected “somewhat easy.” Among non-performing arts groups, these results find that textile groups face the most difficulty in finding adequate space in Richmond.

Question 10: *How easy it for your organization to find spaces that match you or your organization’s needs in Richmond?*

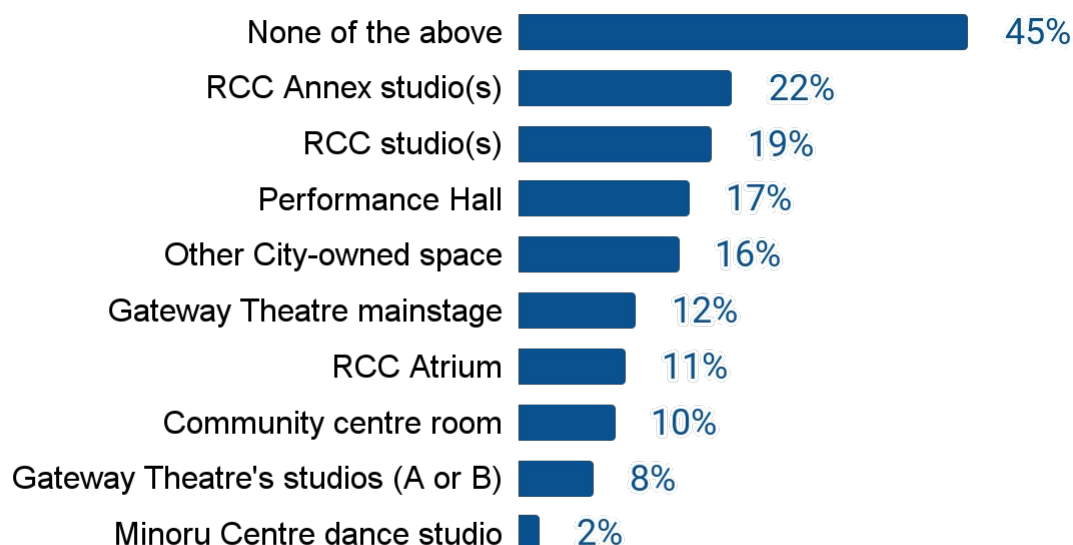


Booking City arts facilities

Respondents were asked which City-owned arts facilities they regularly book. The three most commonly booked spaces identified were RCC Annex art studios (22%), RCC art studios (19%), and the Performance Hall (17%). Almost half of respondents selected “None of the above” (45%), meaning that they do not regularly book City facilities.

Additional “other” responses for City-owned spaces (16%) included the Branscombe House, the Red Barn at Terra Nova Rural Park, the Steveston Museum and Post Office, other spaces at the Minoru Centre (including the gymnasium and front outdoor area), the Sharing Farm, Britannia Shipyards, Steveston Park, and pop-up artist space.

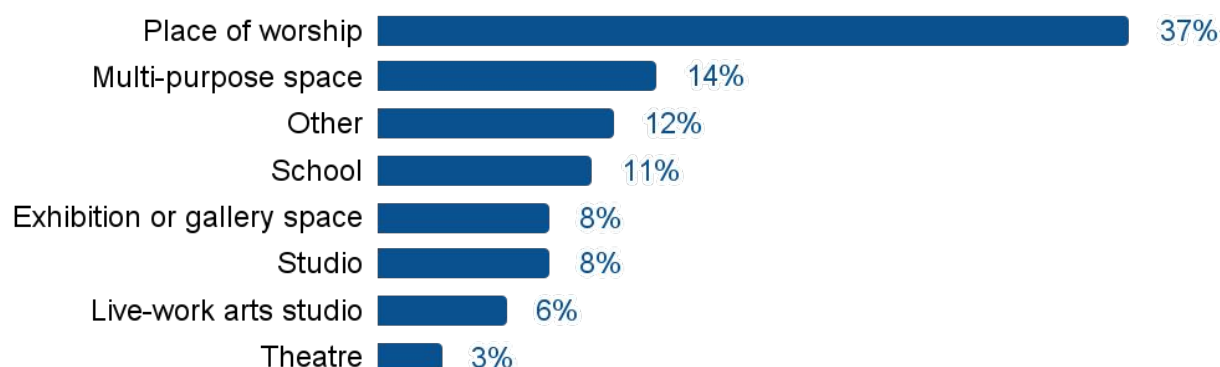
Question 11: *I or my organization regularly book the following City-owned facilities:*



Use of community-based facilities

Respondents were asked what types of non-City-owned facilities they regularly book. The three most common types of venues participants reported booking are places of worship, multipurpose spaces, and schools.

Question 12: *I or my organization regularly book(s) the following non-City owned facilities:*



Respondents shared the names of the venues they use (**Questions 13-19**):

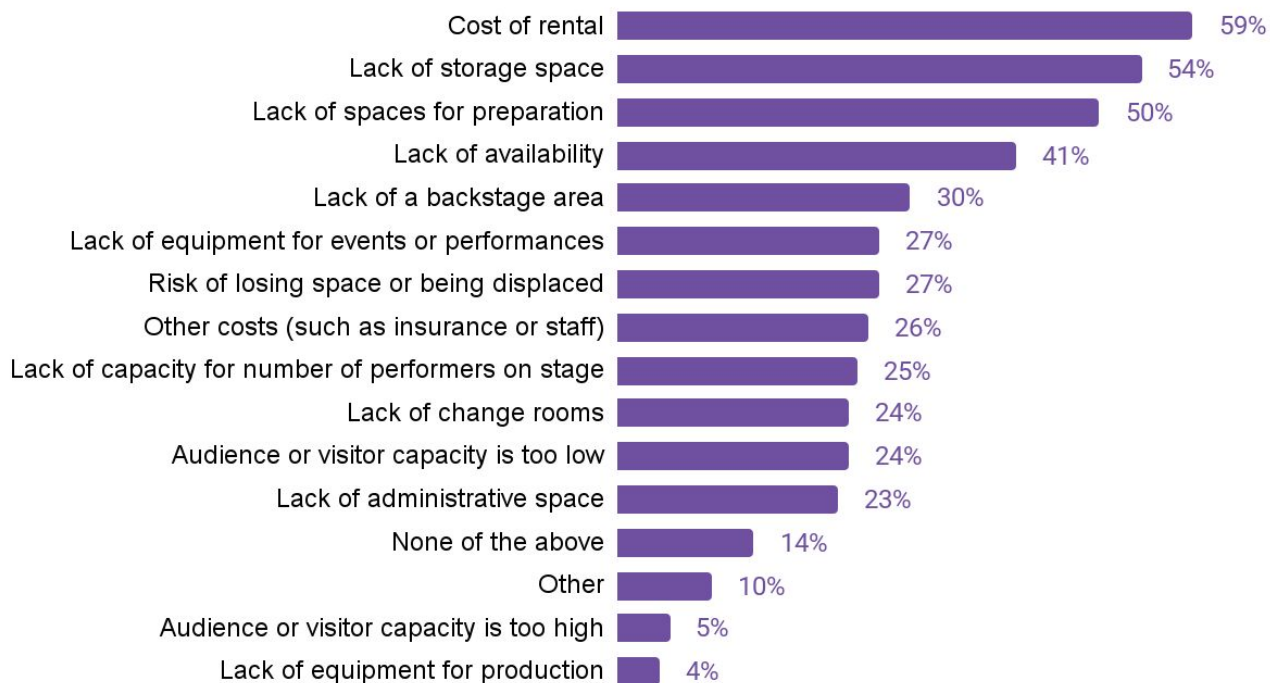
Place of worship	• South Arm United Church • Peace Mennonite Church • Fraserview Mennonite Brethren Church • St. Anne's Steveston Anglican Church • St. Alban's Anglican Church • Richmond Alliance Church • Broadmoor Baptist Church • Gilmore Park United • Canadian Martyrs Parish	School	• J.N. Burnett Secondary School • Richmond Secondary School • Matthew McNair Secondary School • Hugh McRoberts Secondary School • Howard DeBeck Elementary School
Multi-purpose space	• Ukrainian Community Society of Ivan Franko • Amenity rooms in residential buildings • Austria Vancouver Club • Local cafes	Exhibition or gallery	• Lipont Gallery • Steveston Museum and Post Office
Other	• Restaurants and shops • Bank meeting rooms • Lansdowne mall • Outdoor locations • Library and community centre rooms	Studio	• Phoenix Art Workshop • Home studios • gYu Films International • Brown Road Studios
		Theatre	• Genesis Theatre (located in Delta)

Venue challenges

Respondents were asked about the challenges they face at art facilities in Richmond, whether owned and operated by the City or the community. The three most common responses were “costs of rental” (59%), “lack of storage space” (54%), and “lack of spaces for preparation (such as rehearsal or studio space)” (50%). The other top concerns similarly related to difficulty accessing venues or lack of support equipment.

Additional “other” challenges (received from 10% of respondents) included cumbersome processes with the City (e.g., to rent or promote events), limitations in accessing grant money, lack of specialized equipment (e.g., to exhibit fabric art), a lack of collaborative spaces (e.g., a creative hub or space to create music), and the need for more live-work units for artists.

Question 20: *I or my organization face(s) the following challenges at arts facilities in Richmond:*



Over a quarter of participants (27%) expressed concern about losing space or being displaced. Twenty-five respondents elaborated on why they were concerned. The following list offers a summary of the themes they identified.

Question 21: *I am/my organization is worried about losing or being displaced from my/our arts space(s) for the following reason(s):*

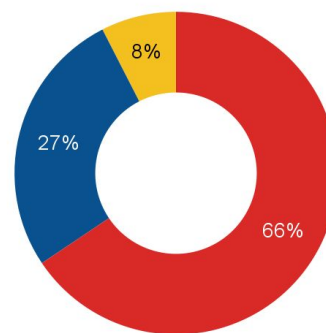
- Rising rental costs and fees for rehearsal and performance spaces.
- A general lack of permanent, dedicated spaces for arts groups in Richmond.
- Limited availability of suitable spaces for groups that have specific needs, such as rehearsal rooms, large ensemble practice spaces, buffered noise features, and storage.
- Dependence on institutions like churches that may change their policies, close, or move.
- Competing priorities of organizations that own multipurpose spaces, such as schools or churches, and that have other tenants.
- Risk that their lease will not be renewed, or sudden changes in lease requirements.
- Generally inadequate infrastructure and support from the City towards the arts.

Venue use

Two thirds (66%) of respondents indicated that they regularly use arts facilities outside of Richmond.

Question 22: *I or my arts organization regularly use(s) arts facilities outside of Richmond:*

● Yes ● No ● No response



In open-ended comments, 24 respondents elaborated on why they use arts facilities outside of Richmond. Below, we summarize the major themes that respondents shared.

Question 23: *Please provide the reason behind using arts facilities outside of Richmond:*

- The options available in Richmond are limited or not adequate.
- The cost of local venues is not reasonable for local groups.
- Stages and venue sizes are not adequate (e.g., needs space suitable for 100-200).
- Facilities lack state-of-the-art equipment (e.g., multimedia, lighting, and dance floors).

Respondents were asked to specifically share which venues they access outside of Richmond. Twenty-three respondents provided comments.

Question 24: *Please provide the name of the facility/ies regularly used outside of Richmond:*

Vancouver	• Arts Umbrella • Basic Inquiry • Carousel Theatre • Celtic Fest stages • Fei and Milton Wong • Experimental Theatre • Green Thumb Theatre • Jericho Arts Centre • Malkin Bowl • Pacific Cinematheque • Pacific Spirit United Church • Pandora Box • Performance Works • PNE Forum • Goldcorp Centre for the Arts • Terasen Cinema • The Dance Centre • The Greenhouse • Unity of Vancouver Church • Vancouver Academy of Music	Delta	• Cedar Park Church • Equinox Theatre • Genesis Theatre • North Delta Centre for the Arts
		New West	• Bully's Rehearsal Studio • Kay Meek • Massey Theatre
		Burnaby	• Capitol Hill Hall • Michael J. Fox Theatre
		White Rock and Surrey	• Peninsula Productions Studio • Surrey Arts Centre • White Rock Players Club
		Coquitlam and Port Coquitlam	• Evergreen Cultural Centre • Terry Fox Theatre

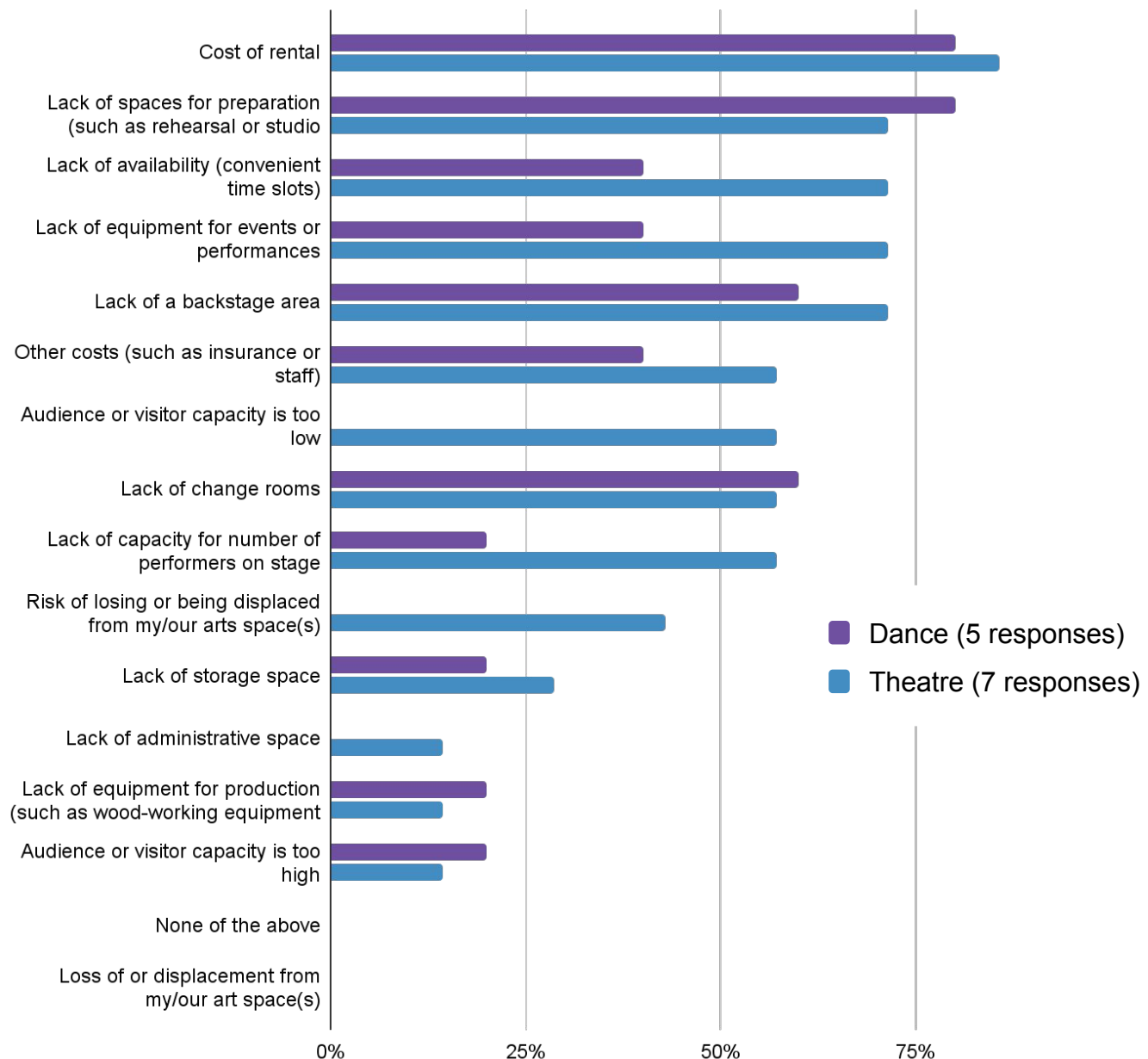
Venue challenges: Dance and theatre

The following chart compares the challenges that dance and theatre groups face when using art facilities in Richmond. These performing arts groups were relatively aligned on most challenges. However, the percentage that reported challenges diverged more significantly on three items:

- Lack of capacity for number of performers on stage: Theatre (57%) and dance (20%).
- Lack of equipment for events or performances: Theatre (71%) and dance (40%).
- Audience or visitor capacity is too low: Theatre (57%) and dance (0%).

These results suggest that generally, theatre groups face greater difficulty finding spaces that meet their needs.

Question 20: *I or my organization face(s) the following challenges at arts facilities in Richmond:*

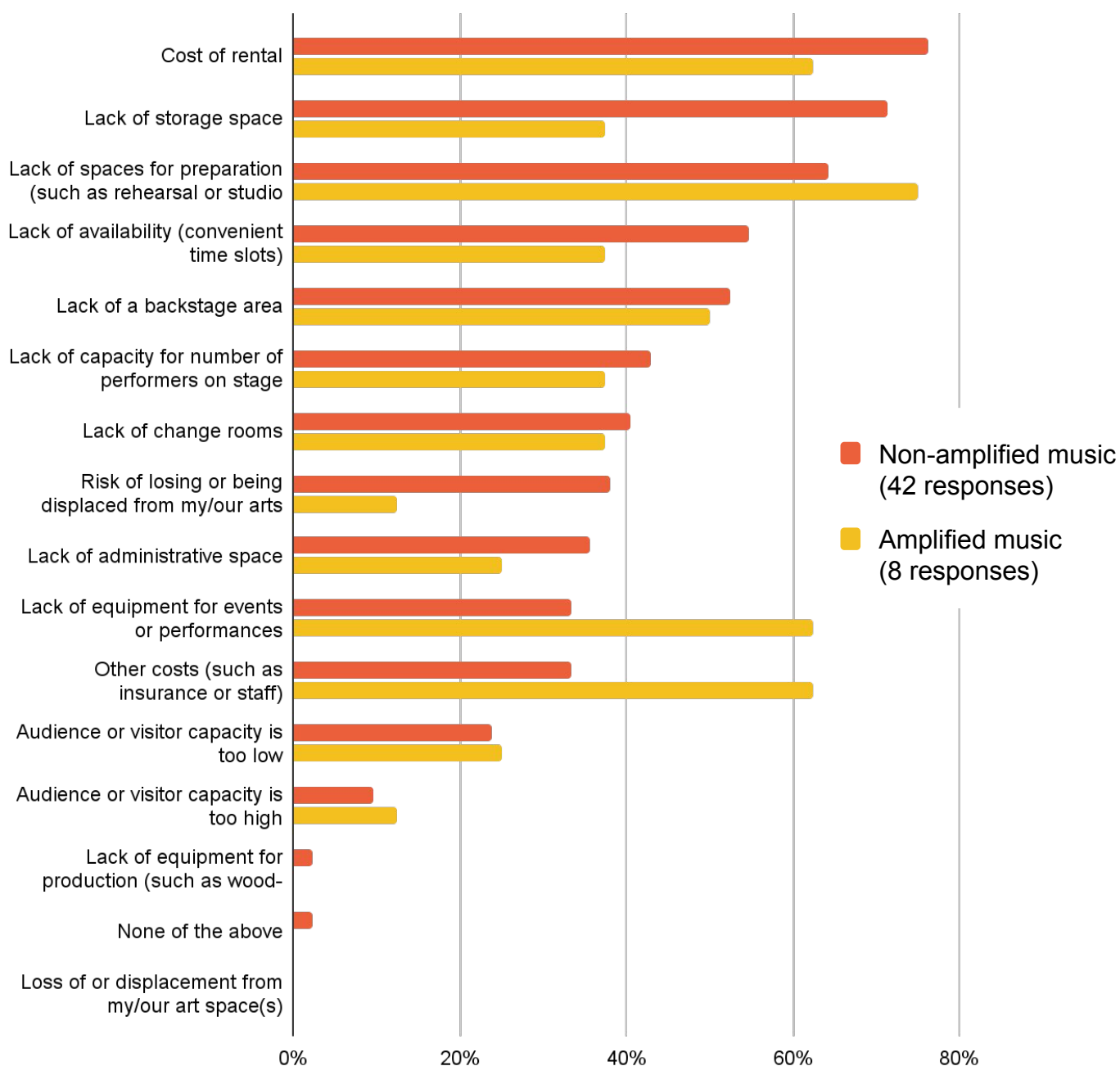


Venue challenges: Music

The following chart compares the challenges that amplified and non-amplified music groups face when using art facilities in Richmond. These music groups were relatively aligned on most challenges. However, the percentage that reported challenges diverged more significantly on three items:

- Lack of storage space: Non-amplified (71%) and amplified music (38%).
- Lack of equipment for events or performances: Non-amplified (33%) and amplified music (63%).
- Other costs (such as insurance or staff): Non-amplified (33%) and amplified music (63%).

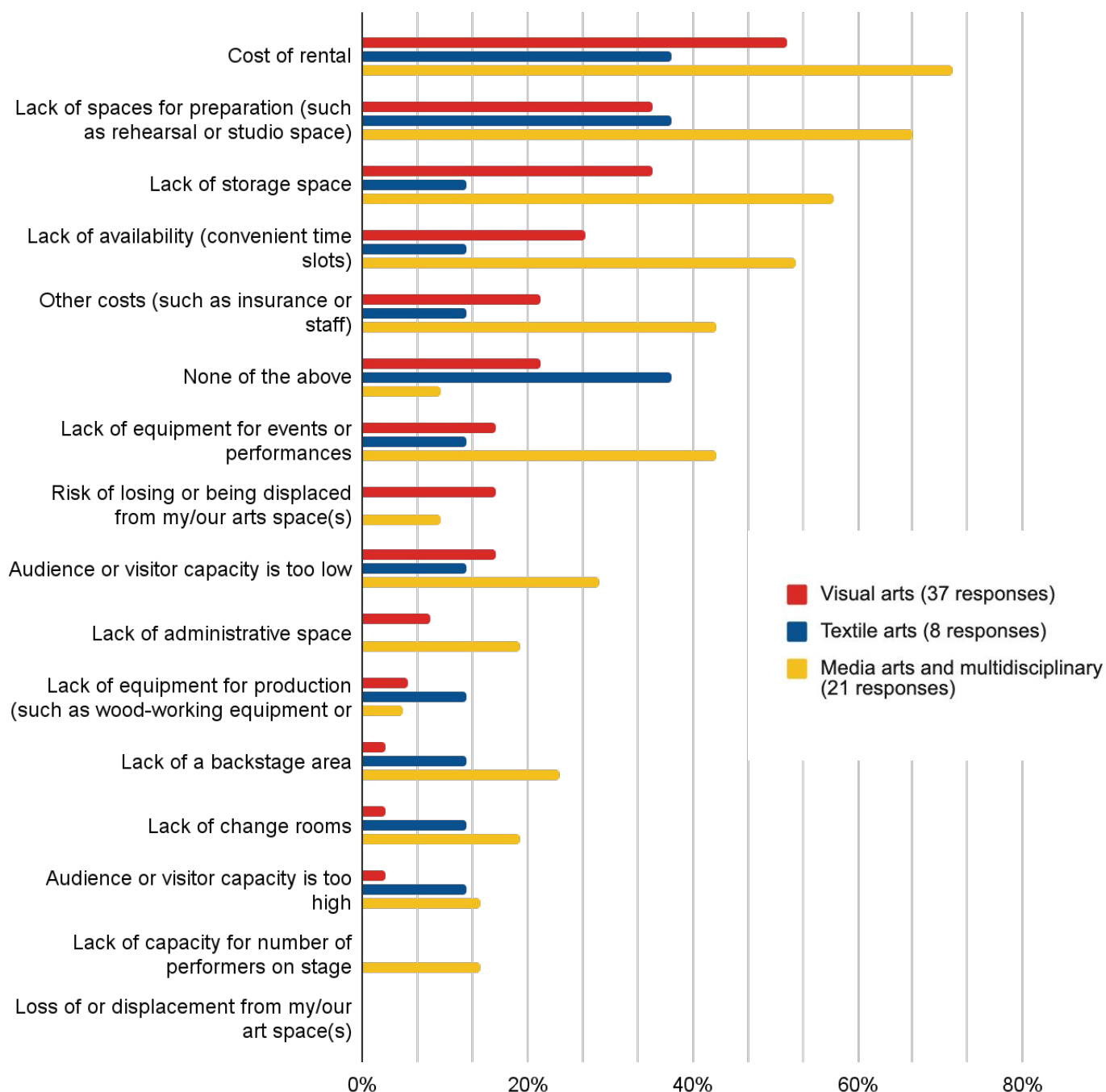
Question 20: *I or my organization face(s) the following challenges at arts facilities in Richmond:*



Venue challenges: Visual and multimedia arts

The following chart compares the challenges that visual, textile, media, and multidisciplinary groups face when using art facilities in Richmond. For almost all issues, a greater proportion of media arts and multidisciplinary respondents reported facing challenges. A similarly high share of media arts groups (75%) and non-amplified music (71%, previous page) selected a lack of storage space as a problem.

Question 20: *I or my organization face(s) the following challenges at arts facilities in Richmond:*



Additional comments from arts groups

At the end of the survey, arts groups were asked to share any additional feedback for the City on their needs and experiences with accessing arts facilities. Fifty-three open-ended comments were received. Overall, the responses reiterated key gaps in existing facility spaces and reflected the concerns heard throughout the survey. In particular, comments emphasized the need for spaces that are purpose-built for arts groups.

Question 25: *I would like to include the following additional feedback on my arts facilities needs in Richmond:*

Purpose-built performance facilities: Thirty-four open-ended comments mentioned the need for new performance spaces of various sizes — to support theatre, dance, cinema, and music — including spaces with high-quality acoustics. Specific ideas for new amenity spaces included a centre for performing arts that could contain multiple venues of various types, or a concert hall that could meet the needs of non-amplified music specifically. Overall, respondents expressed preferences for new amenities to be centrally located and accessible by transit, with adequate parking for visitors and for loading equipment.

Rehearsal and supporting facilities: Respondents expressed a desire for more purpose-built rehearsal spaces for performing arts, specifically music and dance. Participants mentioned that these spaces require specialized acoustics and equipment. Respondents expressed that rehearsal space is limited lack of availability at popular times, and that cost is a barrier. Additional arts spaces that were mentioned included general art studio space, makerspaces, woodworking spaces, and pottery studios.

Storage: Respondents expressed a need for more storage space at existing and new facilities for creative groups to keep instruments, props, sets, and more. They asked that storage be integrated into performance and rehearsal spaces.

Affordability and accessibility: Respondents shared concerns that for non-profits and education programs, rental pricing was out of reach. A number of comments called for subsidized or free spaces, as well as transit-friendly, senior-friendly, and accessible venues.



Part 2: Facility operators

Facility operator profiles

The following pages outline what we heard from part two of the survey, from respondents who indicated that they are involved in operating arts facilities in Richmond. This information is self-reported. It will be verified before it informs the inventory and the needs assessment.

We asked facility operators to identify their ownership model. One quarter reported their facility is City-owned, one quarter reported private ownership, and 42% indicated non-profit or faith-based groups.

Question 26: *The name of the arts facility that I operate, program or represent is:*

Question 27: *The ownership structure of this arts facility is:*

Facility	Ownership
- Richmond Cultural Centre - London Farm - Gateway Theatre	City (25%)
- Defy Gravity Dance Company - Lipont Gallery - Vancouver Circus School	Private (25%)
- Richmond Music School - The Steveston Hub - Richmond Music School (operating out of the Richmond Alliance Church) - Richmond Delta Youth Orchestra (operating out of the Brighthouse United Church) - Richmond Community Concert Band (operating out of the Ukrainian Community Society of Ivan Franko)	Non-profit or faith-based (42%)
Richmond School District	Other (8%)

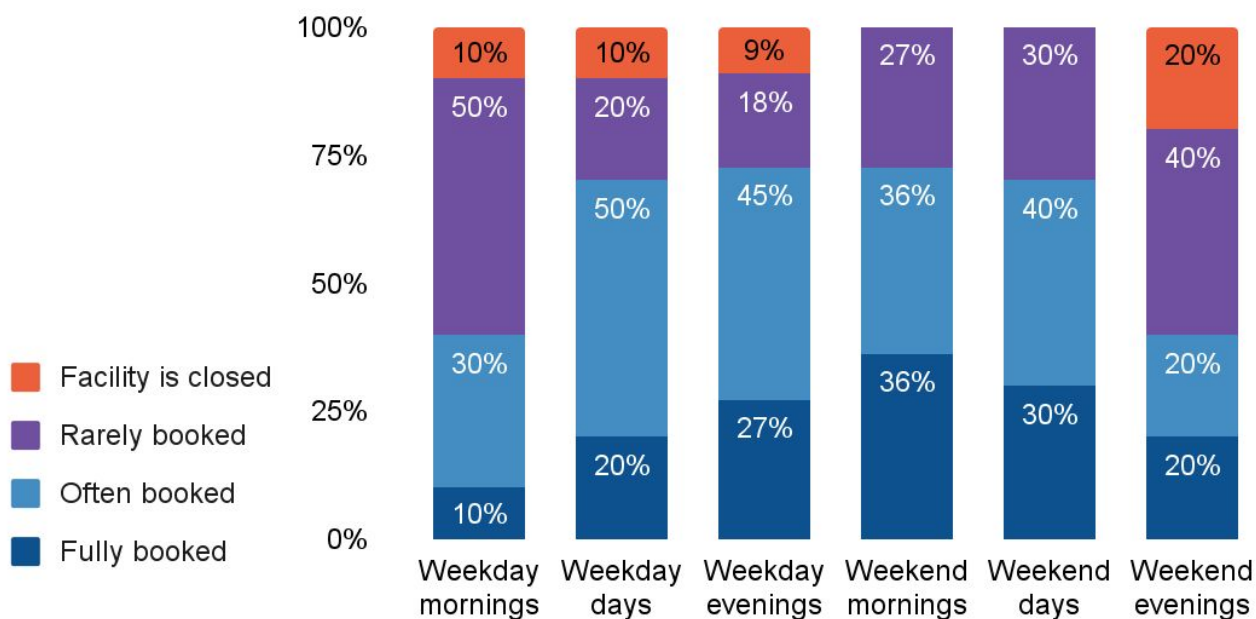
Respondents were asked to provide more detail on the types of spaces, amenities, and equipment available to support performance and visual arts at their facilities. These findings are detailed on the following pages. A number of amenities are not offered at these facilities in Richmond, including:

- Woodshop, makerspace, or other shop production facilities
- Venues with ceilings optimized for acoustic performances (such as orchestra and choir)
- Stage floors to drill into or with anchors to attach ropes and sets

Booking times

The following chart shows how often facilities are booked, according to survey respondents. These responses indicate that the busiest booking times for arts facilities are weekend mornings and weekday evenings. The least busy booking times are weekday mornings and weekend evenings.

Question 28: *The busiest booking times for my arts facility (as a whole) are:*



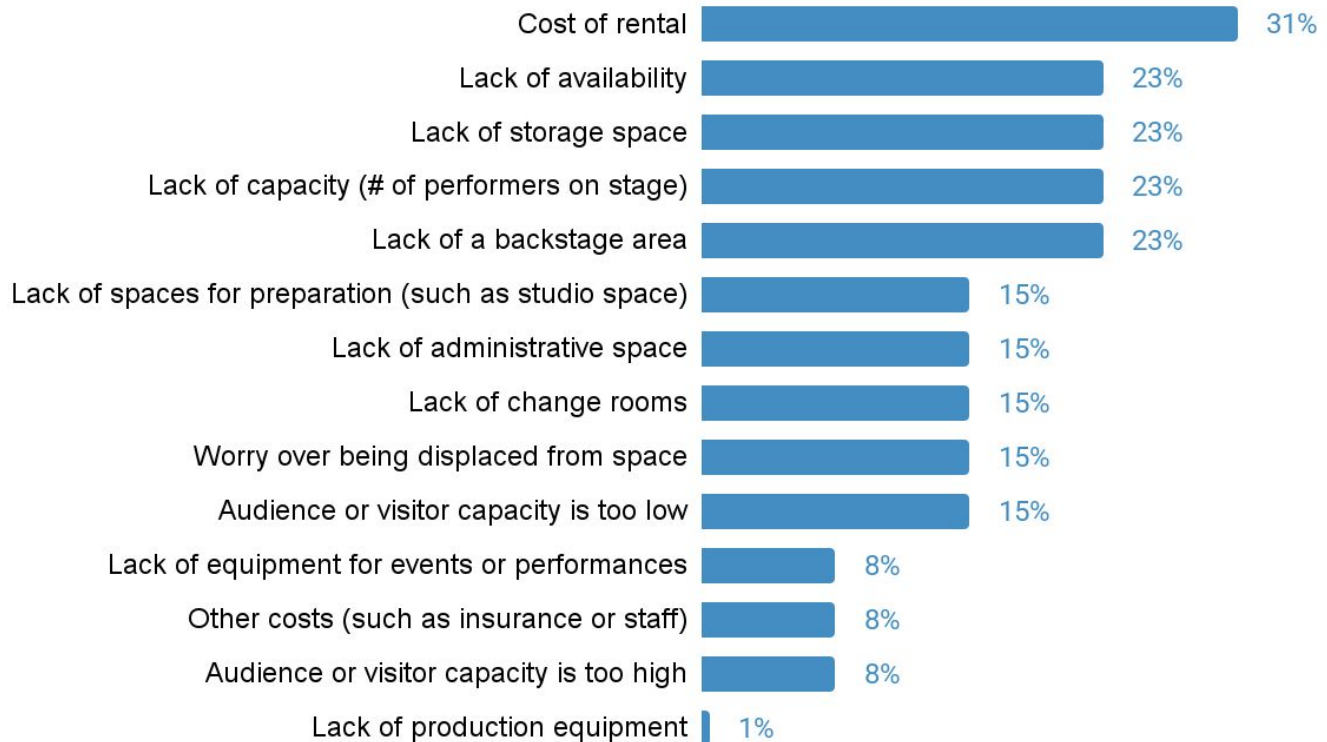
Major concerns at arts venues

Facility operators were asked if they had heard any concerns from the arts groups who access their venue. Half of the respondents (50%) had not heard any concerns and roughly a third (35%) had heard concerns.

Question 36: *I have heard one or more concerns from arts groups who use the facility: [Yes/No]*

The following chart shows the major difficulties that the facility operators indicated are regularly faced by art groups when renting venues. The cost of renting spaces was the most common concern selected by participants (31%), and the lack of availability was also a major concern (23%). Other leading concerns related to the lack of various kinds of spaces at venues, including storage space, backstage areas, administrative space, change rooms, and rehearsal space.

Question 37: *I have received the following concerns from arts groups who use the facility:*



Additional comments from facility operators

At the end of the survey, facility operators were prompted to share any additional feedback on their arts facility and the needs that users have highlighted to them. Eleven open-ended comments were received, which are summarized below by theme. Overall, these responses highlight a strong desire for more accessible, versatile, and affordable arts spaces in Richmond, as well as increased support for the arts community from the City of Richmond.

Question 40: *I would like to include the following additional feedback regarding my arts facility in Richmond:*

Insufficient performance spaces: Respondents expressed that existing venues, such as the RCC and Gateway Theatre, are sometimes unable to accommodate larger audiences, particularly for certain live theatre shows. Respondents also expressed there is a need for more venues that can host small to mid-size school and community performances.

Accessibility concerns: A number of comments mentioned the need to improve accessibility, including both physical access and technological enhancements to ensure all artists and audiences can fully participate. Existing venues have spaces that are difficult for wheelchair users to access. Physical barriers, along with signage and wayfinding gaps, limit full participation for the wider community (including people of all ages, background, and abilities).

Cost barriers: Respondents shared that it is difficult for venues to offer a sufficiently low rental cost that non-profit arts and education groups can afford. These groups struggle to compete with other types of renters for multipurpose spaces at large venues, because they do not have the same funding opportunities to support rental costs.

Need for multi-discipline and purpose-built spaces: Arts facility operators recognized both the need for versatile spaces that can support various art disciplines, as well as spaces that cater to live performances and visual arts exhibitions.

Infrastructure improvements: Respondents suggested improvements including universal washroom upgrades, more parking, technological equipment, and weather protection for audiences (for example, waiting outside the Gateway Theatre).

Dedicated spaces for arts groups: Long-standing community groups (such as the Richmond Community Concert Band and Richmond Delta Youth Orchestra) expressed a need for a dedicated home for rehearsals, performances, and programming.

Daytime availability: Respondents called for incentives to encourage arts facilities to open their spaces for daytime rentals to the arts community.

Lack of arts facilities: Concerns were raised about the lack of state-of-the-art venues and equipment compared to population growth.

Interview highlights

Overall summary

Community groups that regularly rent art space shared several comments. A top concern was that there are limited purpose-built venue options for performing arts in Richmond. The Gateway Theatre is the only large theatre locally available for community groups to rent, while the Theatre Under the Stairs and Gateway Theatre Studio B are the only small theatres locally available. Demand for these spaces is particularly high during busy times of the year, such as winter holidays. Interviewees noted the following specific challenges:

- The Gateway Theatre stages produces its own shows in-house. This leaves limited days available for other renters, and it is difficult to book those remaining days due to high demand.
- The Theatre under the Stairs does not offer the full amenities and equipment of a professional performance venue. It lacks a box office, backstage facilities, acoustic treatment, sprung floor, and comfortable seating. There are also limitations around after-hours access to the building.

Additional concerns interviewees expressed include:

- There is a need for venues to be available for consecutive days to allow a show to run for multiple days, and to enable better setup and teardown.
- There is a need for venues to offer greater flexibility in booking times and duration.
- Existing facilities are not purpose built for non-amplified music performances — such as orchestras — and therefore lack acoustics suited to their needs.
- Many arts facilities lack other supporting amenities, such as storage space, and large loading doors for equipment.

Interview participants did not frequently mention the cost of renting performance spaces. However, they underlined other kinds of costs that create barriers to booking facilities. Unionized venues have staffing requirements that carry additional costs. The cost of specialized technicians often surpasses venue rental fees. A number of venue spaces do not offer storage or production spaces (e.g., for set design), which means that groups need to rent these spaces separately at an additional costs.

The interviews also indicated a need for affordable, regularly available rehearsal spaces in Richmond. There are few purpose-built rehearsal spaces for music and other kinds of performing art, and the spaces that do exist are often overbooked during desirable hours, such as weekday evenings and weekends. Other barriers to access are unique to specific buildings.

The City of Richmond thanks the members of the Richmond arts community who have participated in engagement related to this Needs Assessment, including those who took part in interviews, completed the survey, and contributed to previous engagement and consultation efforts. The input has provided valuable insight into the experiences, needs, and priorities of the arts community, and will help to inform the Arts Facilities Needs Assessment.



List of affiliated groups

Below is a list of groups with whom survey respondents shared they are affiliated. A number of respondents did not share their affiliations. In numerous cases, respondents were affiliated with more than one group.

1. Cambie Secondary School
2. Canada YC Chinese Orchestra
3. Cinevolution Media Arts Society
4. Community Arts Council of Richmond
5. Coupé Dance & Co.
6. Defy Gravity Dance Company
7. Delta Concert Band
8. Gateway Theatre
9. Federation of Canadian Artists
10. Fraser Valley Potters Guild
11. Historical Performance Ensemble
12. Independent Media Art Alliance
13. Johnston School of Highland Dance Society
14. Lipont Gallery
15. London Heritage Farm Society
16. Media Art Alliance of the Pacific
17. Men In Hats Plein Air Group
18. Playwrights Guild of Canada
19. Richmond Artist Guild
20. Richmond Arts Coalition
21. Richmond Chorus
22. Richmond Community Band Society / Richmond Community Concert Band
23. Richmond Cultural Centre
24. Richmond Delta Youth Orchestra
25. Richmond Improv Theatre Society
26. Richmond Music School Society
27. Richmond Music Teachers Association
28. Richmond Orchestra and Chorus Association
29. Richmond Potters Club
30. Richmond Public Art Advisory Committee
31. Richmond Singers Choir
32. Richmond Weavers and Spinners Guild
33. School District No. 38
34. South Delta Plein Air Society
35. St. Anne's Steveston Anglican Church
36. Steveston Historical Society
37. Steveston Hub
38. Textile Arts Guild of Richmond
39. True North Performance
40. Vancouver Dorfmusik
41. Royal City Concert Band
42. World of Music and Arts
43. Writers Guild of Canada
44. Vancouver Circus School



Appendix B: City of Richmond Purpose-Built Arts Spaces

Gateway Theatre



Overview

Richmond's only purpose-built theatre, Gateway Theatre, was built in 1984 and is located in Minoru Park next to Richmond Hospital on Gilbert Road. The facility is operated by the Richmond Gateway Theatre Society, a registered charity and non-profit organization. Supported by the City, the facility is Richmond's live performing arts hub, consistently drawing annual audiences in excess of 35,000 to more than 150 performances.

As "A Stage for Richmond", Gateway provides opportunities for audiences and performers in three key areas:

- ✦ A program of in-house and co-produced productions that share the ideas, stories, values and issues that reflect Richmond.
- ✦ A robust theatre education program where students learn acting, singing, dancing and production skills that enrich their lives both on and off the stage.
- ✦ Community rental events that allow a wide variety of performing arts groups to share their work with the community in a professional performing arts venue.

Office hours are Monday-Friday 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. The box office is open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm, excluding statutory holidays.

Gateway's public program hours vary depending on productions, activities and rentals.

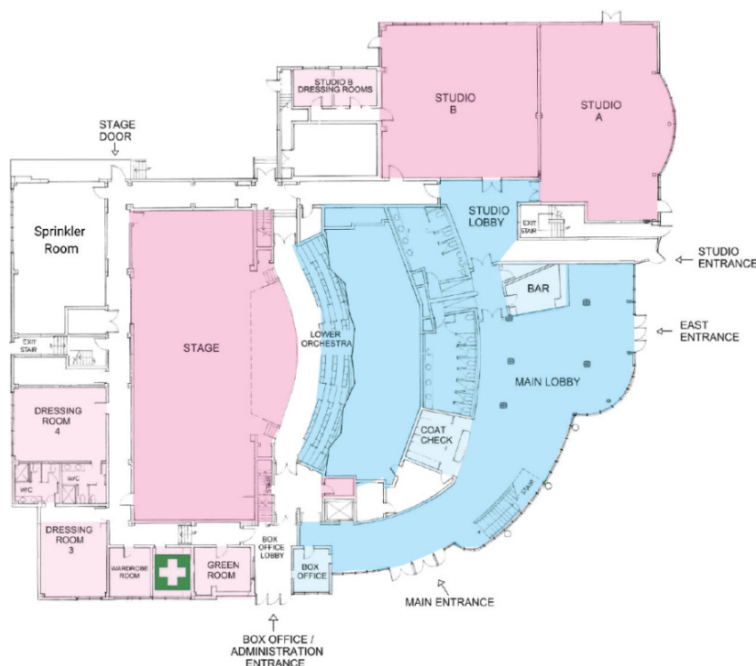
Facility Description

Gateway Theatre's public spaces include one main stage and two studios equipped for rehearsal, instruction and/or presentation of performing arts, as well as a multi-level lobby space with box office, concession, coat check and washrooms.

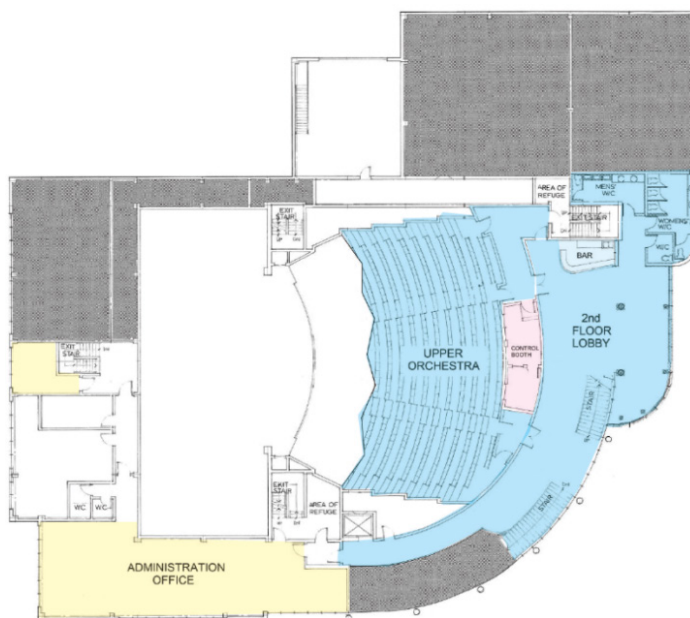
Behind the scenes, the facility includes dressing rooms, storage and administrative spaces.

The following main and second level floorplans show various space usages in Gateway Theatre. Gateway Theatre has a total square footage of 31,600.

Main Floor



Second Floor



Note: Third floor has balcony seats and lobby only.



Arts Spaces

MainStage Theatre

- ✦ 540-seat proscenium theatre
- ✦ 14 rows tiered fixed seating at orchestra level
- ✦ 6 rows tiered fixed seating in balcony
- ✦ 40' x 30' stage
- ✦ orchestra pit with hydraulic lift (accommodates up to 15 musicians)
- ✦ full fly gallery, essential for lighting equipment and hanging set pieces
- ✦ supported by two dressing rooms with washrooms and showers, and one green room (lounge/waiting area for performers)

Studio A

- ✦ 29'x 38' rehearsal/workshop/education space
- ✦ max occupancy: 100
- ✦ high ceilings, natural light and direct exterior access
- ✦ footprint matches MainStage performance area, ideal for rehearsals

Studio B

- ✦ 35'x 25' flexible "black box" theatre
- ✦ seating capacity: 89
- ✦ professional lighting and a sound system
- ✦ seating not retractable, but multiple configurations possible upon request at additional cost
- ✦ supported by two three-person dressing rooms

Lobbies

- ✦ main lobby, connected to orchestra section of MainStage
 - capacity ~ 220 people
 - full bar, coat check, and elevator to second and third floors.
- ✦ second-floor lobby, connected to orchestra section of MainStage
 - capacity ~ 200 people
 - dedicated wall space for art exhibition
 - full bar
- ✦ third-floor lobby, connected to balcony section of MainStage
 - capacity ~ 30 people.

Theatre Under the Stairs Richmond Cultural Centre



Overview

Theatre Under the Stairs (formerly the Performance Hall) is a small performance space on the main floor of the Richmond Cultural Centre. Originally a Lecture Hall when the facility was built in 1993, the space was converted to resemble a black box theatre in 2011. The space is primarily made available for arts, culture and heritage-related uses including, but not limited to, private functions, workshops, craft sales, performances, recitals, concerts and exhibitions.

The Theatre is operated by the City of Richmond, seven days/week.

The Cultural Centre is open 9:00 am to 9:00 pm Monday to Friday, and 10:00 am to 5:00 pm on weekends. The following table outlines the Theatre’s hours of operation which align with the facility operating hours (ending 30 minutes before building closes). These hours can be extended for an additional rental fee.

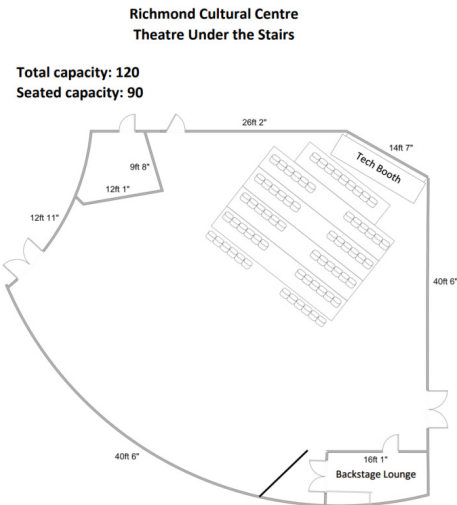
	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
Hours of Operation	9 am to 8:30 pm	9 am to 8:30 pm	9 am to 8:30 pm	9 am to 8:30 pm	9 am to 8:30 pm	10 am to 4:30 pm	10 am to 4:30 pm

Facility Description

The Theatre consists of 1,000 sq ft of open floor space and features specialized lighting, soundproofed walls, tiered seating and audio-visual (A/V) equipment including a large roll-down video screen, as well as access to a baby grand piano. A small backstage lounge for performers offers seating, a table and mirror.

Total capacity is 120. Maximum seating capacity is 90.

The following floor plan illustrates the Theatre’s configuration.



Arts Program Spaces

Richmond Cultural Centre and Annex



Overview

The City operates 14 arts studios in the Richmond Cultural Centre and Richmond Cultural Centre Annex. Nine are located on the second floor of the Richmond Cultural Centre (built in 1994) and five are in the Richmond Cultural Centre Annex (renovated in 2023).

Seasonal programs (Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall) run continuously, except for statutory holidays and maintenance hours. Programs include visual, performing and media arts from a variety of disciplines and cultures.

As a yearly average, the studios host 1,000+ courses, 50+ professional arts instructors, and 8,000+ registered students with 100,000+ visits.

Studios for visual, performing and digital arts host high-quality, artist-led registered programs for all ages each season. These facilities also support eight community arts groups who provide their member artists with regular access to practice their craft and share knowledge. These groups include the Richmond Potters' Club, Textile Arts Guild of Richmond and the Chinese Artists Association of Richmond.

There is some limited availability to rent spaces for rehearsals or personal artistic practice.

The Cultural Centre is open 9:00 am to 9:00 pm Monday to Friday, and 10:00 am to 5:00 pm on weekends. The following table outlines the studios' hours of operation which align with the facility operating hours (ending 30 minutes before building closes). These hours can be extended for an additional rental fee.

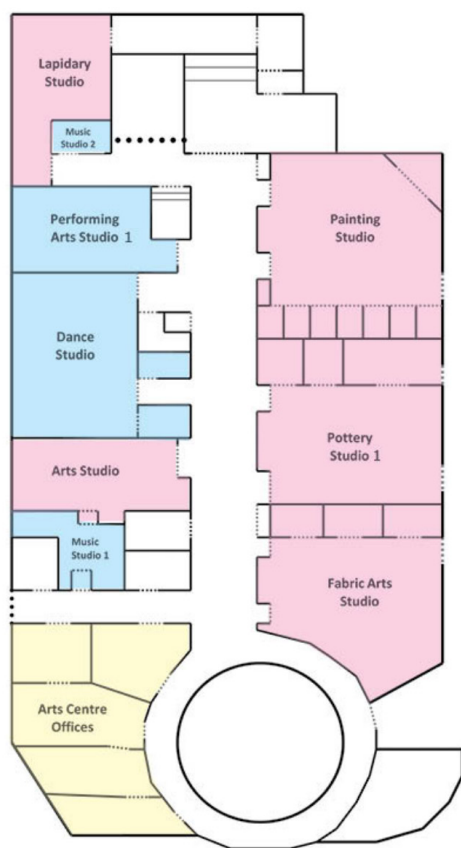
	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
Hours of Operation	9 am to 8:30 pm	9 am to 8:30 pm	9 am to 8:30 pm	9 am to 8:30 pm	9 am to 8:30 pm	10 am to 4:30 pm	10 am to 4:30 pm

Arts Spaces

The following section describes each of the many kinds of arts studios operated by the City. Where applicable, qualitative factors that impact programming/activities and space utilization are included to present a complete picture of each space and how well it supports the intended functions. Unless indicated, all spaces can be booked for community rental use.

The following floor plans identify these public program spaces. Co-located with the Brighthouse Branch of the Richmond Public Library, the Cultural Centre has a total square footage of approximately 98,000. The Cultural Centre Annex is approximately 15,145 sq. ft. in total.

Cultural Centre (upstairs)



Cultural Centre Annex



VISUAL ARTS

Pottery Studios 1 and 2

Pottery Studio 1 is located on the second floor of the Cultural Centre; it is 780 sq. ft. and has a capacity of 21 people for workshops and 15 people for classes. It is well-equipped with 12 pottery wheels, three firing kilns, and specialized tools, equipment and furniture. The space is currently in Year 3 of a three-year pilot program (2024-2026) that provides the Richmond Potters' Club exclusive use of the space. The club provides adult pottery classes, two annual community sales at the Richmond Cultural Centre, participation in local events such as Culture Days, and donations of pottery to charitable organizations.

Pottery Studio 2 is in the Cultural Centre Annex; it is 764 sq. ft. and has a capacity of 15 people for workshops and 10 people for classes. It is well-equipped with 10 pottery wheels, two firing kilns, and specialized tools, equipment and furniture, including wheelchair-accessible wheel and sink. The space is operated by the City and offers approximately 45 classes per season to children, youth, adults, and seniors. These classes range from introductory instruction to specialized lessons in areas ranging from building sculptures to practical items like casserole dishes.

Both spaces have abundant natural light, limited storage areas and are used exclusively for pottery programs. While these Pottery Studios are appropriately sized and equipped for the number and type of current programs, there is a high demand. Classes are typically full with each attracting a waitlist of 10 or more people.

Fabric Arts Studio

Located on the second floor of the Cultural Centre, the Fabric Arts Studio is 625 sq. ft. and has a capacity of 22 people. Notably, this studio is home to 20 looms that are the property of the Richmond Weavers and Spinners Club who regularly use this space, as do members of the Textile Artists Guild of Richmond (quilters). Both Resident Arts Groups have a lockable dedicated storage room for their supplies and equipment.

The studio is well-equipped with a sink, tables and chairs and is regularly used for a variety of different City-run education programs, including quilting, sewing, music and drawing.

Lapidary Studio and Silversmithing Room

Located on the second floor of the Cultural Centre, the Lapidary Studio is 741 sq. ft. with an adjacent 140 sq. ft. Silversmithing Room. The combined capacity is 24. This specialized space is one of very few in the region, and is equipped with custom-made rock grinders, saws, kilns and tools owned by the Richmond Gem and Mineral Club. Limited, secure storage is used for hazardous and specialized materials.

With safety features, the tables and chairs in the space have limited suitability for multi-purpose use but are sometimes used for City-run drawing and painting classes.

Painting Studio

Located on the second floor of the Cultural Centre, this studio is 918 sq. ft. with a capacity of 24 people. It is well-equipped as a “wet room” with a sink, easels, drying racks, tables and chairs. With abundant natural light, this studio’s intended use is painting and has limited suitability for other purposes. The Richmond Artists Guild, Richmond Chinese Artists Association and Chinese Ink Brush Society have regular bookings in this space and each of these Resident Art Groups has a lockable dedicated storage space for their supplies and equipment.

Creativity Lab

Located in the Cultural Centre Annex, this multi-purpose studio is 969 sq. ft. and can accommodate up to 49 people. The room has exceptional natural light and is well-equipped with a sink, tables, chairs, black-out blinds, white boards, and a video table-top demonstration table with large wall-mounted screen. The Richmond Photo Club has regular bookings in this space, as do the Richmond Artists Guild, Richmond Chinese Artists Association and Chinese Ink Brush Society who also use the Painting Studio in the Cultural Centre.

City-run programs and classes include Digital Animation for pre-teens, youth media programs, adult and tot painting and sculpting, and creative composition for adults.

Arts Studio

Located on the second floor of the Cultural Centre, this 403 sq. ft. studio with sink has capacity for 22 people, or 15 for classes. In keeping with its small size, it is equipped with a chalkboard and children’s furniture, and is used for children’s visual arts activities such as Foundations in Art, drawing and painting. This space has limited storage.

PERFORMING ARTS

Music Studios 1 and 2

Located on the second floor of the Cultural Centre, these music studios are 94 sq. ft. and 50 sq. ft. respectively, each with a capacity of two people. Music Studio 1, a converted dark room, is equipped with a baby grand piano and electronic drum machine. Music Studio 2, a converted storage closet, is equipped with one electronic piano.

These studios accommodate private piano, violin, electronic drums, and voice lessons offered by the City. The studios are occupied by individual students most weekday evenings, and weekend days.

Dance Studio +

Performing Arts Studios 1, 2 and 3

The second floor of the Cultural Centre has two performing arts studios: the largest, Dance Studio, is 1650 sq. ft. with a capacity of 80, and the smaller Performing Arts Studio 1 is 627 sq. ft. with a capacity of 60. These capacity numbers are for standing room only. For practical purposes, a class size permits no more than 20 people.

The Cultural Centre Annex has two medium-sized studios: Performing Arts Studio 2 is 1335 sq. ft. with a capacity of 68, and Performing Arts Studio 3 is 1399 sq. ft. with a capacity of 71.

All of these studios are well-equipped for the current programming that includes City- and community-led programs, such as Magic of Guzheng, hosted by the Fangfei Music Academy, and the Richmond Music School's Tiny Tots Piano program. To accommodate the needs of programs like these, the studios have sprung wood floors, mirrors, dance barres, curtains, electric pianos, and storage space.

MEDIA ARTS

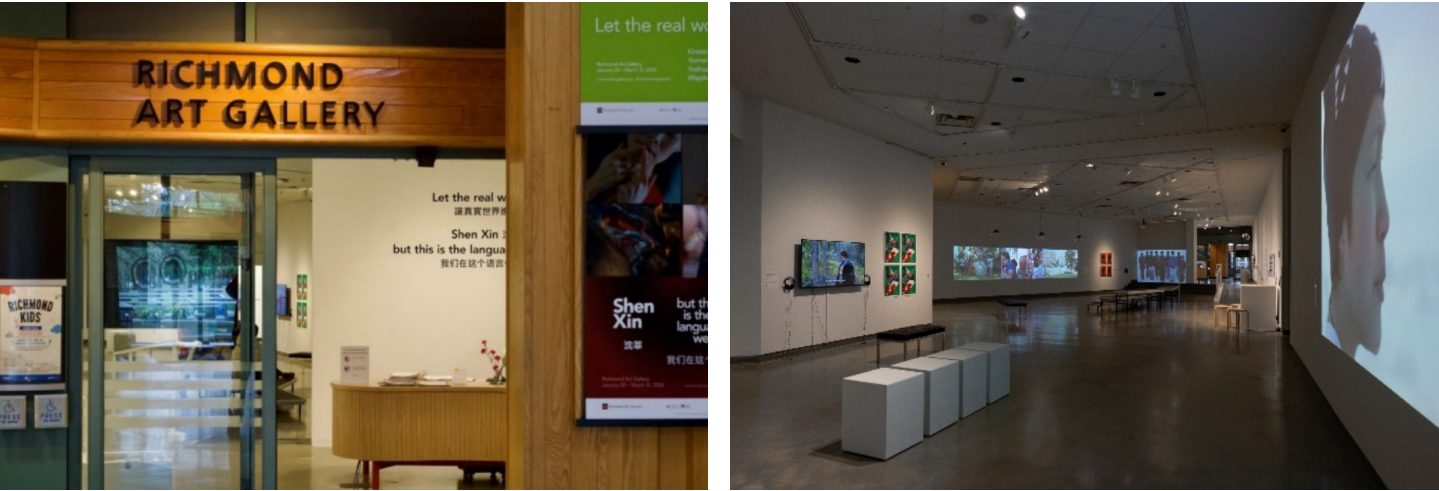
Media Lab

Located in the Cultural Centre Annex, the Media Lab is a specialized studio designed to increase technology literacy, accessibility and creativity in our community, particularly among youth. This 635 sq. ft. space (capacity 33) is for the exclusive use of media arts programs and boasts a sound editing room, and array of media arts equipment including computers, 3D printers, cameras, and music equipment.

The Media Lab is also home the City's signature Richmond Youth Media Program (RYMP), a free, referral-based program for youth ages 13-24. Since its inception, the program has supported approximately 50 youth annually, contributing over 42,000 hours of skill-building and leadership training.

When not in use by RYMP, the space is used for City-led registered media arts classes for adults and youth.

Richmond Art Gallery Richmond Cultural Centre



Overview

Richmond’s only public art gallery, the Richmond Art Gallery (RAG) is located on the main floor of the Richmond Cultural Centre (constructed in 1993) adjacent to the Richmond Museum and the Brighthouse Branch of the Richmond Public Library.

RAG is a nationally recognized contemporary art gallery that contributes to the growth of a vibrant cultural scene in Richmond – and the region -- by promoting dialogue among diverse communities on challenging, topical ideas and issues through local, national and international contemporary art. RAG offers exhibitions, publications, educational programming, events, and significant partnership opportunities that both serve the contemporary arts community in Canada and enrich the quality of life for Richmond and Metro-Vancouver residents. On behalf of the City, RAG also maintains a permanent collection of more than 300 artworks.

RAG is operated in partnership with the Richmond Art Gallery Association (RAGA) an independent non-profit society formed to produce educational and outreach visual arts programming. Proceeds from RAGA’s fundraising efforts contribute to the gallery’s active program of public and school programming described below.

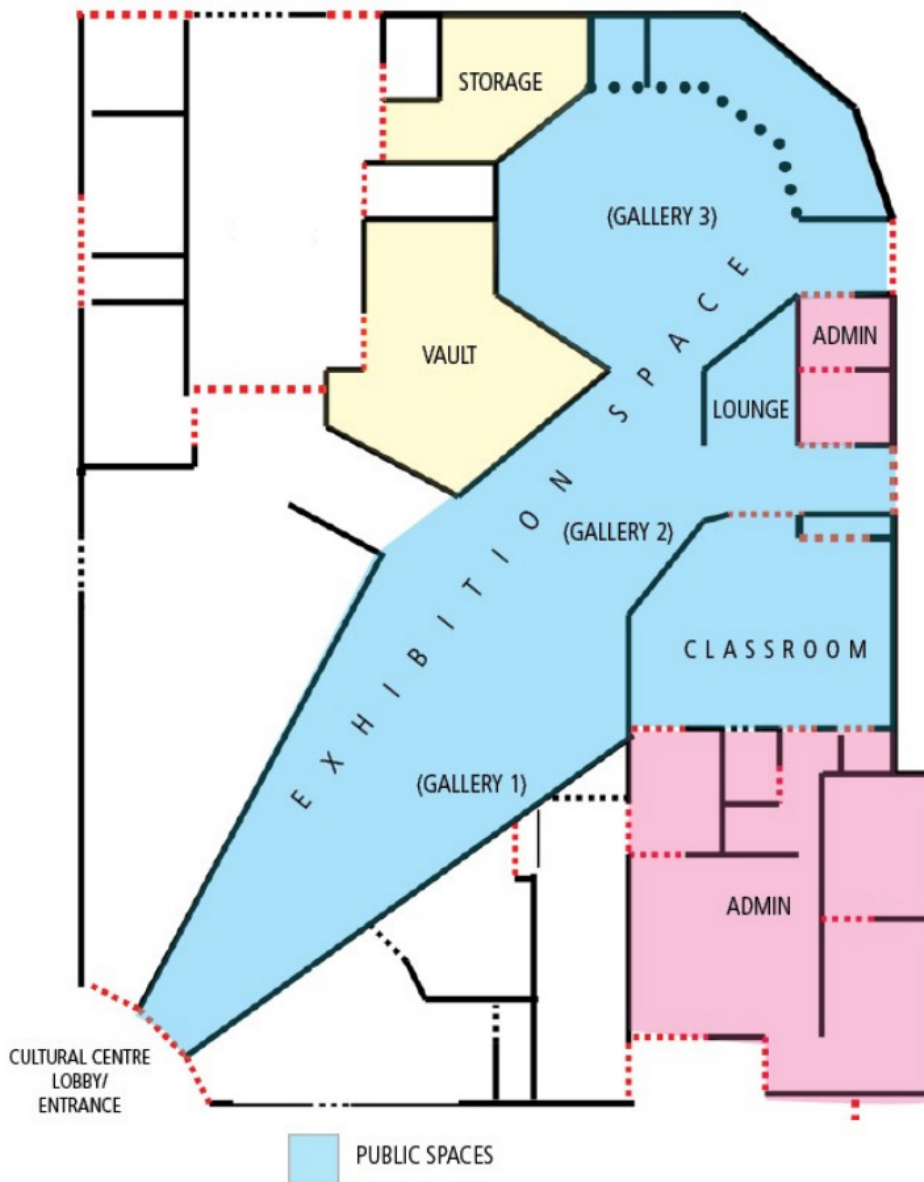
RAG operates seven days/week, except Statutory holidays. The following table outlines the Gallery’s hours of operation.

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
Hours of Operation	10 am to 6 pm	10 am to 6 pm	10 am to 6 pm	10 am to 6 pm	10 am to 6 pm	12 pm to 5 pm	12 pm to 5 pm

Arts Spaces

RAG consists of 4,400 sq. ft. of exhibition space, a classroom for school programs and other public activities and programs, as well as a small “lounge” that is used for supplementary displays and programs related to the exhibitions.

The following floor plan identifies the public program spaces.



In addition to publicly accessible exhibition and program spaces, RAG also has administrative spaces, storage, collection vault and off-site access to a shared workshop for exhibition preparation (in Richmond Cultural Centre Annex).

Appendix C: Inventory of Arts Organizations with Ongoing Relationships with the City of Richmond

	Organization Name
1	Arisun Yue Opera
2	Ballroom Dance
3	BGM Dance Studios
4	Bright Harmonies
5	Busy Fingers / Knitters and Knatters
6	Canada Chinese Performing Arts Society
7	Canadian YC Chinese Orchestra
8	Cantonese Pop Classics Singing
9	Chinese Artists Association of Richmond
10	Chinese Calligraphy
11	Chinese Drum and Guitar Social
12	Chinese Ink and Brush Society
13	Cinevolution Media Arts Society
14	Classical Chinese Ethnic and Folk Dance
15	Community Arts Council of Richmond
16	Danceability
17	Defy Gravity
18	Direct Theatre Collective
19	Gateway Theatre (Jade Circle)
20	Glee
21	Happy Chorus

	Organization Name
22	Joy Singing and Dancing
23	Kingsland Calligraphy
24	Korean Style Dance Circl
25	Kyryl Dance
26	Lipont Gallery
27	Minoru Community Line Dancers
28	Minoru Waist Drum
29	Model Dance
30	Model Walkers
31	Multicultural Dance
32	NPC College of Art and Design
33	Peking Opera
34	Phoenix Art Gallery
35	Photo Group
36	Platinum Players
37	Richmond Academy of Dance
38	Richmond Art Gallery Association
39	Richmond Artists Guild
40	Richmond Arts Coalition
41	Richmond Ballet CDTA
42	Richmond Community Band Society
43	Richmond Community Orchestra and Chorus Society
44	Richmond Delta Youth Orchestra
45	Richmond Gem and Mineral Society

	Organization Name
46	Richmond Improv Theatre Society
47	Richmond Music School Society
48	Richmond Photo Club
49	Richmond Potters Club
50	Richmond Singers
51	Richmond Weavers and Spinners
52	Richmond Youth Choral Society
53	Richmond Youth Concert Band
54	Seniors Saxophone
55	Silver Singers
56	Starlight Choir
57	Swing Out Richmond
58	Textile Artists Guild of Richmond
59	The Arts Conservatory
60	Ukulele Circle
61	Wood Carving
62	Wood Working
63	Yuanji Dance



City of Richmond

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