

My name is Linda Barnes 4551 Garry st and I am here as a Director of the Richmond Arts Coalition My partner is Marina Szijarto (see Art O) 10071 Dyke Road, Chair of the Richmond Arts Coalition

We are here today to present our new Strategic Plan of which you have a copy in your packages and we would be pleased to answer any questions or hear any comments you might have at the end of our presentation.

I'm sure you are all aware of the contribution the arts makes to the Cities economic and cultural bottom lines. The Provincial Government's website includes: "The creative sectors are thriving, largely due to the important contributions made by the arts and culture community. The arts educate, inspire and create a quality of life that attracts new residents and investment, creating jobs and supporting the economy."

The Richmond Arts Coalition, founded in 2005 is pleased to count as members the various art specific groups such as Community Arts Council, Textile and Weavers, Potters, Gateway Theatre, individual artists from all disciplines as well as several Council members - McNulty, McPhail and Dang. While Community groups' roles are more in the production and business of Art the Richmond Arts Coalition's role is to be the voice for Art, Arts businesses and Artists in our community: To be a welcoming and inclusive member-driven association that will support and celebrate culture and arts activity in Richmond. As such, over the past 2 years, the Coalition has conducted a space study, hired a consultant for best practice research for innovative solutions for gallery space, performing and practice space and programming. We recognize space, particularly here in Richmond is at a premium and the need to look at space differently, utilize temporary spaces and repurpose old spaces is needed. While we encourage the city, developers and business to incorporate Arts Space in new development and districts such as City Centre North where we would support opportunities to acquire new or larger spaces for facilities such as the Art Gallery; we also look to areas such as the city centre town centre to repurpose existing space. With the replacement of the pool, seniors centre and Firehall a tremendous opportunity to begin to meet the needs of the Arts Community presents itself. In our space needs survey - amongst other needs - particularly lacking were small scale multi-use spaces (such as an artists co-operative) as well as performance and gallery opportunities. RAC is ready to work with the city to ensure arts spaces are part of the planning for reusing these and other facilities.

As our renewal for membership attachment states RAC works in conjunction with City staff on numerous events. In 2015 the Richmond Arts Coalition created an exciting new project called, ArtRich 2015 - a multi faceted visual and multi media exhibition created in partnership with the Richmond Art Gallery. The exhibition was very successful and drew not only many artists together of different visual disciplines but also appealed to a large viewing audience. Since 2011 the Richmond Arts Coalition has provided the Maritime festival with \$207,000 for performers resulting in a growing, vibrant fun event as well as an award from Georgia Straight for the best run community festival. One of our directors Debbie Tobin, coordinates the Richmond Children's Arts Festival coming up soon - why she can't be with us today - bringing in

funding, local and regional artists as well as recognition for the city. In 2015 the Richmond Arts Coalition created an exciting new project called, ArtRich 2015 - a multi faceted visual and multi media exhibition created in partnership with the Richmond Art Gallery. The exhibition was very successful and drew not only many artists together of different visual disciplines but also appealed to a large viewing audience.

Moving our Strategic Plan forward quickly RAC, which is a small volunteer run board, has just hired our first ever Administrative Assistant to help with our website and membership administration and work plan - Andrew Wade. Each week we feature one of our members on our website and social media pages. In addition we post an online calendar of what's on in Richmond' to our website and also provide a listing of all arts and culture events to the local Richmond paper so much of their listings have come via our hard working volunteers. In 2014 we officially partnered with the Community Foundation and are looking for opportunities to grow the endowment fund created - with the long term goal of being able to provide cash prizes for the Richmond Arts Awards. Our plan is bold, ambitious but needed to ensure Richmond takes its place as a truly great city. "Without art, a city is no more a community than a heap of lumber is a home".

I'd like to end with a quote from Paul Schafer from The Arts and Cities "Here is also the contribution the arts make to the economies of cities. They do so through their ability to generate billions of dollars of investment and expenditure on facilities, equipment, hotels, restaurants, tickets, clothing, transportation, tourism and the like. Nor is this all. The arts attract business, industry, and a skilled Labour force.... Many corporations and industries will not locate in cities that are devoid of stimulating aesthetic encounters and memorable artistic experiences."

We welcome questions, comments and follow up meetings with Council members or staff.
Thank you.