

Schedule 1 to the Minutes of the  
Parks, Recreation & Cultural  
Services Committee meeting of  
Richmond City Council held on  
Tuesday, April 25, 2017.

DOCUMENTS FROM THE  
RICHMOND ARTS CENTRE  
**ADULT DANCE PROGRAM**  
**PARTICIPANTS**

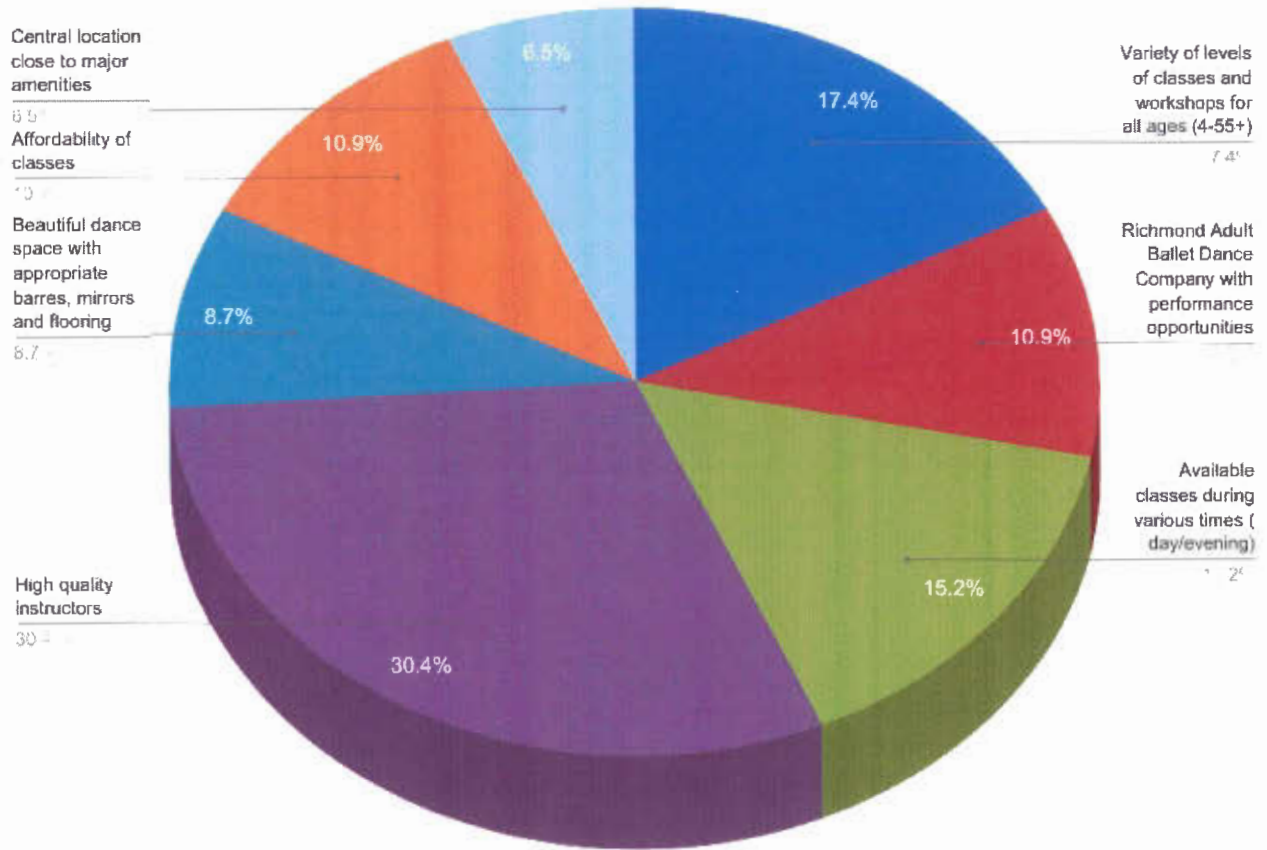
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING  
CITY OF RICHMOND  
25 APRIL 2017



Some group photos of the adult **Richmond Dance Company** from 2015-present



# Top Reasons Why Adults Are Drawn to Ballet Classes at the Richmond Arts Centre, as per survey



## Anecdotes by students of the Adult Ballet Classes

**1.** A major reason why the Richmond Arts Centre adult ballet needs expanding is due to Miss Miyouki's teaching talent and passionate spark for her art form, which is further enhanced by her wisdom about what should be expected from adult ballet students and what students like me want to get out of classes like these. I have taken ballet in the US and Canada for over 20 years and her talent for teaching adults is rare, nearly unparalleled. I drive from the other side of Vancouver into Richmond to take class from her every Thursday at 6pm. I'm sure to sign up for each new session on the day it becomes available because I cannot imagine not being allowed to attend her Thursday evening adult ballet class due to lack of space. That would be a nightmare for me. The limited space also sets up an artificial and awkward level of competition among her students – 'so and so got in but so and so didn't sign up in time' 'this other person "took her place"... slightly-knowing glance and awkward silence. If that happened to me, I wouldn't be able to afford to nor have the space in my schedule between work and family to go somewhere else – nor would I want to. There's no other teacher like Miss Miyouki in the Greater Vancouver Area.

Furthermore, because of the nature of ballet itself, if there wasn't room for me in one session, I would immediately begin to lose the progress I've gained in her class and I'd have to almost start from scratch in my development should I then start taking her class in a following session. Consistency and discipline form the foundation for artistic growth and, like our art form itself, are temporal and immaterial and require tremendous inner strength.

Taking class from Miss Miyouki week after week for over a year has opened up avenues of expression for me physically and creatively that I didn't expect to find nor expect to be able afford in the Greater Vancouver Area. I've discovered expression that I didn't know I had in me as a part-time ballet aficionado. In short, Miss Miyouki's RAC's classes have given me long-term hope and joy and a community in which to bank those feelings.

2. As a teenager/young adult I always longed to be a dancer, I dreamed to be a ballerina, but did not have the means to make this dream come true and believed it was too late for me since the majority of dancers start their training at a young age. I started dancing just under 10 years ago, at age 31, taking partner dance classes in Ceroc/Modern Jive and eventually becoming a certified Ceroc teacher. My ballet journey didn't start till a few years later (2010) where I took a drop in class with a friend and fell in love with ballet after the first class as it brought up all those feelings I used to have when I longed to be a ballerina. I was dedicated and went to class every week for 3 years and moved from beginner to advanced during this time, however, I always felt like my technique had gaps that something was missing and my foundation was not solid and was never able to master certain moves that my instructor would demonstrate. I accepted at that time that because I started so late and the other dancers in my class were adults who learned ballet when they were young that I would never be able to train to have a solid foundation like they had. Another reason my technique didn't improve is because there were no intermediate ballet classes offered so I went straight from beginner to advanced classes leaving me feeling overwhelmed and losing confidence in my ability. I even tried pointe classes which did not work out so well for me so I have unused pointe shoes in my closet. So I stopped going to ballet classes and focused on other dance styles instead. My hiatus from ballet lasted 2 years during which time I continued to take partner style dance classes and teach Ceroc dance but something was missing in my dance repertoire. I searched for it in other dance styles but my spirit did not feel fulfilled. I struggled with this for quite some time and then one day decided it was time to get back into ballet, but I needed to start from scratch and thought perhaps I need to seek out another instructor. I hoped I would find a ballet instructor in Richmond that I would like and inspire/encourage me to work towards my goals. Generally dance schools offer the one adult ballet class for all levels and usually a drop in type of class. So I was pretty skeptical about finding one that would address the concerns I had about the gaps in my technique. When I found beginner ballet classes at the Richmond Arts Centre I was pretty stoked since it's in Richmond and the classes are quite affordable (another reason it took me so long to get back into ballet- the cost of ballet classes and location) so I signed up for a beginner ballet class and was so very excited for my first day.

My first impression of Miss Miyouki was a positive one as I found her to be professional, warm and welcoming. I found her instruction to be clear and focused and found her to be quite knowledgeable and skilled as an instructor. I had no idea how truly fortunate I was to have found her. One thing that stood out about that class was the sense of community I felt right away- there was a family comprised of a mother, father and daughter all taking the class together and I thought that was really neat!

I continue to take classes with Miss Miyouki as her instruction has allowed me to "learn from scratch" to build a strong ballet foundation (something I thought was not possible) She offers classes for every level so I am most confident when moving on to the next level. I even continued to take beginner classes after she said I was ready for intermediate classes as I wanted to ensure I was learning at my own pace and not missing anything. Because the classes are so affordable I am able to take more than one class a week. Another perk about the classes with Miss Miyouki is the opportunity for adults to perform on stage during the year end recital. The quality of the pieces she choreographs is most impressive and I am fortunate enough to be a part of it. Most recently she offered a 10 day Cecchetti ballet boot camp challenge during spring break which afforded the adult ballet students to experience what it would be like to train professionally under Cecchetti's tutelage. I cannot stress enough the amount of QUALITY instruction Miss Miyouki offers her students. She is truly a professional and a hidden gem of the city of Richmond. What she has created here at the Richmond Arts Centre is truly beautiful and amazing!

**3.** Pursuant to my childhood ballet experience, I have always wanted to continue to take ballet classes, but as a youth and then as an adult, never had the time to do so while schooling and working. Following retirement, I finally seized the opportunity and thus started with a single ballet class in January 2010 at Steveston Community Centre. As this solitary class did not give me near enough balletic satisfaction, I enrolled in the only adult ballet class being offered at the Richmond Arts Centre in January 2011. Later in 2011, when Miyouki Jego took over the reins as the senior dance instructor at the Centre, the adult ballet classes began to expand and now include experience and proficiency gradations from beginner through to advanced, to which has now been added pre-pointe and pointe classes. In addition, in 2012, Miss Miyouki started to develop choreography for presentation by an adult class at the yearend class recital at Gateway Theatre in June 2013. Based on the success of that performance, the Richmond [Adult] Dance Company (RDC) was officially formed in September 2013 and has been going strong ever since with increasingly more complex choreography, an expanding repertoire, public performance opportunities, and liaising with the Centre's Richmond Youth Dance Company (RYDC) and pre-Company groups for joint performance pieces.

The ballet programme at the Richmond Arts Centre is totally unique for a community based organization. It allows dancers to grow within the ballet genre, to work toward their individual goals, and at the same time, it provides challenging opportunities for those committed to dance and to seeing ballet being successful not only at the Richmond Arts Centre, but also within the community as a whole. This is a big reason why I, personally, am a firm believer in and supporter for ballet at all levels and open to everyone who wishes to pursue this form of dance. I am very thankful and truly honoured that Miss Miyouki accepted me into the RDC programme. Given my age and the fact that there are some exercises, steps, and moves that are no longer easy for me to perform, does not, it seems, to pose a problem and the choreography assigned to me is always appropriate for my competency level. This attests to Miss Miyouki's incredible penchant for an inclusivity that runs the gamut of experience and capability regardless of age, and in so doing, produce a highly workable and cohesive adult company worthy of showcase.

I know I would not be able to find the mix of class gradation and ballet opportunity anywhere else except for the programme run at the Richmond Arts Centre. Its excellence cannot be over stated! Its meteoric growth over the past 5 years has been phenomenal and it has the potential of only getting better and better. Sadly, the restricted space in which the two Companies, either separate or jointly, rehearse is just too small and further growth may very well not be possible. Those in the RDC and in the adult pointe classes are expected to take two additional technical classes, but some students are not able to get into these due to full registration and thus find themselves on waiting lists. With more space available, more classes could be offered and those involved in RDC or wanting to get pointe instruction could, at last, fulfill the requisite class requirements.

For me, the scope of class choices, the chance of enjoying ballet even in later years, and the fabulous challenge of being part of RDC is a dream come true. I love to be challenged and I find that this desire can be fulfilled by the ballet opportunities offered to me only by the Richmond Arts Centre and the superior programme they have.

**4.** I couldn't imagine dancing anywhere else. Dancing at the Richmond Arts Centre (RAC) is like dancing with close friends and family. You feel like you're a part of something much more than just a simple dance class. It's a safe and comfortable environment that allows you to dance without judgment, and you get to dance with those who are just as passionate about dance as I am.

I've been dancing since I was young. Now twenty, though many things have changed, my love for dance hasn't. It's a great way for me to exercise without feeling like it's exercise, and it allows me to express myself in ways that words can't. There's a beauty when watching others dance, whether it be ballet or break dancing. Every movement has a meaning and a purpose. I love being able to tell stories through movements without words, and being able to embrace a character is my favourite part about dancing. I couldn't imagine my life without dance.

Though I've learnt many things from dancing with the RAC, I've never had an instructor like Ms. Miyouki who has pushed me and encouraged me to come out of my shell. She pushed me to be more of a dancer rather than just a student in class, and since then I haven't looked back. I'm quite a shy person, so I typically hold back in certain aspects of dancing, but Ms. Miyouki saw something in me that past instructors didn't and I'm truly grateful for all that she has taught me and for the opportunities that she has given me to shine. Furthermore, Ms. Miyouki, along with other instructors, make a significant impact on our lives outside the studio. They make us more confident and help us to achieve the goals that we set for ourselves. They bring out the best in us and they do everything that they can to help us to shine in class and on stage.

My favourite element of dancing at the RAC is the performance aspect. I thought graduating from high school would be the last time that I'd be able to dance on a stage, but dancing with the RAC has given me more opportunities than I could of ever imagined. Not only am I able to dance ballet on a stage, but I have an instructor who is as excited and enthusiastic about ballet as I am. She continues to push us to step out of our comfort zones to be able to achieve our full potential. This is the main reason I continue to come back take classes at the RAC.

I grew up to learn that as soon as I step in the studio, everything outside the studio doesn't matter. These classes give me an escape and take me away from the stress and anxiety of school. I feel energized and happy after classes knowing that I had a good workout doing an activity that I love to do.

I've seen the adult classes grow in numbers since it first started, and I can only assume that it will continue to grow. Dancers from the Richmond Youth Dance Company, when they graduate, if they should want to continue to dance, I know that they would want an opportunity to continue dancing with the teacher that they love to learn from in the same studio that they grew up in. I'd hope that we'd have a space that would allow for an expansion of class sizes so that everyone who wants to has an opportunity to dance. Right now, the space that we're dancing in is tight for the size of class that we are. We're dancing underneath ourselves in fear of accidentally hurting someone. As a result, I feel like many of us are holding back in dance class and not able to fully go for the exercise. In the changing rooms, because of the multiple classes that run at the same time, the changing room is flooded with bags and jackets covering the floor and the benches. There isn't any space to sit to change our shoes and to change back into our regular clothing. As a result, most of us bring our things into the hallway in order to find an open space.

**5.** Adult ballet classes at the Richmond Arts Centre is my only intervention to maintain my physical and mental health. I look forward to my one and only class every week. I am healthier and stronger both physically and mentally. I have social connection and share my passion with a group people with similar interest. It makes me happier. I like to dance because it is my therapy. I have a demanding job and busy life at home. My only outlet to keep myself sane and functional is to dance to the music and express my pinned up emotion that no words can express. This is important to me.

The classes at the Richmond Arts Centre is affordable, convenient in terms of location and parking. The instructions are of high quality and the instructor is passionate about teaching ballet. It offers opportunity to perform and allow us to apply the techniques learned in class to real performance. This is the only Cecchetti class available in Richmond.

Ballet builds my confidence as a person and I continue to take classes at the Richmond Arts Centre because other than the convenience and affordable tuition, I love the people I dance with. We learn from each other and I enjoy my social network. My husband even comments I am happier after my dance class and encourages me to attend as much as possible

For future dance classes, I'd like to see more technical classes in the evening along with body conditioning and pointe class. More classes would likely be easier to work with my schedule and I'd absolutely take more classes. Dance is important to me because it is my therapy and my soul food.



**6.** The adult ballet classes that have been offered at the Richmond Arts Centre (RAC) the last years are wonderful, and I have been a dedicated dancer in these classes for the last 9 years. I have been involved in ballet since the age of 12 and, as an adult, it is very difficult to find adult ballet classes offered at the intermediate and advanced levels in Richmond. In fact, they are almost non-existent in Richmond. Dance brings a real joy to life, helps keep healthy, fit and muscles strong.

Along with myself, there is obviously a very active adult ballet community in Richmond, and the adult dance program run by Miyouki Jego has become very popular. The classes at the Richmond Arts Centre fill up extremely fast, especially the evening class, and there is always a waitlist of dancers waiting for a spot, who inevitably do not get in. The limit of 15 students in the RAC dance studio cannot accommodate the wide interest the adult dance program has garnered.

I have found myself looking in other surrounding cities - Vancouver and Burnaby - for additional ballet classes, as I would like to take more than 1 class a week. As well as myself, many of our adult dancers work during the day and cannot attend classes during the lunch hour. This puts real pressure on the one intermediate/advanced class that is offered in the evening.

More studio space would be a huge asset for the large group of dancers the Richmond Art Centre has built up and would reduce the waitlists. More classes could be offered in the evening as well as accommodating more people at the same time. In addition, I would love to see a regular body conditioning class, such as was offered last summer as a one-time special class for dancers and anyone else interested in keeping muscles toned and fit. Another bonus of more studio space would be to have more changing room space. Currently, there is barely enough space for the ongoing class' coats, clothes and personal effects. Dancers changing for the next class have no space to hang coats, put purses down, etc. I have often seen coats on the floor and personal effects perched around the sink in the change room. Larger studio space would also allow dancers to bring their purses into the studio, instead of having to leave them outside in the change room.

All in all, if we could take advantage of more studio space it would be a blessing for any and all dancers currently attending or hoping to attend the Richmond Arts Centre programs.

**7.** The adult ballet classes at the Richmond Arts Centre have filled the niche that I had been trying to fill since I left Chinese Dance over 10 years ago. I had been in a Chinese Dance Academy for 7 years and had enjoyed performing and the competitive nature of the classes. However, the fees and costs of classes played a large factor in my leaving the Academy. Since then, I have tried various types of dance at different studios and community centres across Vancouver and Richmond to fill this void that had arisen. Many of the studios were too costly to sustain attendance and did not offer performance opportunities for adults. Although other community centres were more affordable than the studios, their instructors rarely corrected my ballet technique nor gave individualized feedback to other dancers. As you can imagine, this can be frustrating to someone who has a dance background but not specific to ballet. From just viewing the instructors' examples, it seemed as though some of the technique was similar to Chinese Dance however I was discontent as I felt that without proper instruction, I was not growing as a dancer.

I was so excited when I found out that the Richmond Adult Ballet Company was being formed at the Richmond Arts Centre. We would receive continuity of choreography and performance opportunities. I also enrolled in adult ballet classes taught by Ms. Miyouki at the Richmond Arts Centre. She truly cares about her students and it shows with her individualized feedback and long waitlists for her classes. Under her direction, I was able to and still am growing as a ballet dancer. The performance opportunities, continuous choreography, affordable classes and individualized feedback in a positive environment was exactly what I was looking for! I am able to focus on bettering myself which is partly due to the welcoming and friendly atmosphere within our ballet community that has grown with the increase in participants and classes.

The increased number of participants, classes and waitlists clearly shows that capacity has been reached and expansion is needed. Currently, it's quite awkward to have one change room for both genders of adults and children (not to mention their parents coming in and out of the change room). Ballet is good for physical, mental and emotional wellness and should be shared. The ballet program at the Arts Centre is bursting at the seams and cannot sustain the amount of interested and current participants. Richmond can become renowned for its Arts programs if the ballet program can expand to the vacated Minoru Place Senior's Centre as it currently has proper flooring for dancing and mirrors. There is a solid foundation of dedicated dancers and many more who are interested and willing to travel for these ballet classes, should there be space and availability.

**8.** In June of 2013, my daughter Megan, who was a member of the Richmond Youth Dance Company for three years, did her final performance at the Gateway Theatre. She was graduating from high school and was heading to UBC, and consequently, had aged out of the Company program.

After the performance, as we were walking to our car, I took a look at her and noticed tears running down her cheeks. She broke into tears as she had realized earlier that she would never again dance in the year end recitals, something that has been part of her life, and our lives, since she was five years old. She was heartbroken.

I am so thankful that by September of that year, an adult dance company was formed. My daughter and I now share the unique experience of performing together on stage at the Gateway.

**9.** The adult ballet classes at the Richmond Arts Centre are the best in Richmond! There are very few adult dance classes in Richmond. The Arts Centre offers classes at all levels that are both day time and evening classes. The quality of the instructors is excellent. The current space is inviting as it has mirrors, bars and a change room as well as lockers.

Ballet is not only physically, but mentally challenging. It is also a great way to meet people in the community and the opportunity to perform adds an extra layer of challenge! Costuming and making props is an added bonus!

30 March 2017

To: Councillors and Mayor, City of Richmond, BC

Re: Minoru Seniors' Centre

Dear City Councillors and Mayor,

I have been a resident of Richmond since late 2007 after moving here from Vancouver with my husband and our then 2 month old baby. We had bought an apartment as a new family and we thought we would stay here for a couple of years until we could afford to move back to Vancouver, but over time the city grew on us. Nine years and four children later, having outgrown and sold our apartment, after being completely priced out of the (infuriatingly out of control!) real estate market, we are still here, now living in Terra Nova Housing Coop. Since selling our apartment 3.5 years ago, we have very seriously debated leaving the Lower Mainland numerous times, wishing for a better opportunity to raise our four children without all the stresses of living in one of the most unaffordable places in the world.

However, Richmond possesses something especially unique, which is very dear to me, and has become an essential component of my life, and that is the adult ballet program run by the extremely talented Miss Miyouki Jego at the Richmond Arts Centre. Briefly, I have a rather long personal history of depression and anxiety, which runs in my family. I spent 7 years on antidepressants through the beginning of my twenties and made the decision to go off of medication after my second child turned one, to see what other avenues I could explore to address my mental wellness. At 29, to my amazement, I discovered that adult ballet classes were being offered at the Richmond Arts Centre. I had very much wanted to take dance as a child and youth but the opportunity was not accessible due to circumstance. I have definitely made up for lost time. Beyond my role as a mother and wife, ballet has become my priority and purpose in life; it has been my physical, emotional and spiritual panacea and I feel that I have truly discovered myself through its artistry and through the serious structure and discipline of specifically this program. I have grown more steadily and assured through its challenges and rewards than any other outlet or experience in my life (save childbirth). In fact, ballet was my saving grace when I went through my shockingly unexpected fourth pregnancy 2 years ago. I performed in the June recital at the Gateway Theatre at 7 months pregnant and took technical classes right up until the very night I went into labour, 14 days overdue. Thanks to ballet, it was physically my best pregnancy ever, and I am sure I would have otherwise floundered in the depths of despair had I not had ballet and a VERY encouraging and supportive teacher to carry me through.

Currently I attend two technical classes per week and am also a dancer in the Richmond Dance Company, which, at present rehearses one night weekly together, as well as one other night in a combined rehearsal with the Richmond Youth Dance Company. The members of the adult company are keen and very grateful for the very unusual opportunity to dance in a professional manner without a professional background. I have told a few of my friends from neighbouring cities, who had dance experience from their pre-parenting lives, about the program and they have searched for a similar dance program closer to where they live to no avail. Some of them have contemplated driving all the way to Richmond from New Westminster and Burnaby to attend classes

at the Arts Centre. Unfortunately for them, because studio availability is so scarce, the range of available daytime class options are therefore very limited as well, and so they are not accessible to so many people who are yearning to dance. As well, there is currently only one evening class available, which is always full with a waitlist. One other complication in my friends' equations, as well as mine, is struggling to find childcare for babies and preschool-aged children during those daytime classes, which unfortunately is not currently offered at the Arts Centre.

Another factor that attracts people particularly to the Arts Centre adult ballet program is its structure and the "real ballet" seriousness. Classes are the real deal! This program is incomparable to anything else and is totally phenomenal. As well as the class/program structure, it is also very affordable, which is always a sticking point when living in a place where nothing else feels affordable. The fairly limited number of classes quickly fill up. Stay at home parents are all about kids, and it can be very challenging for parents to make time for themselves. Any little impediment discourages many other mothers I've talked to from registering themselves in both ballet, as well as other sorts of classes. Registering for children's programs is already ridiculous (my children also participate in the ballet program). Registering for adult programs, one would hope, should be at least a bit easier, though ideally it should all be stress free. Program registration has become a competitive sport in itself! I would suggest a course be offered on how to competitively register for other classes in Richmond, but I'm sure the registration process for that itself would be too competitive and result in a long waitlist as well! Not enough class options contribute to family schedule conflicts for dancers and full and waitlisted classes. Scheduling leisure time has come to be very stress inducing; the lower mainland already provides enough stress as it is!

This program has so much to offer and is evidentially sought after, but it's growth is limited by studio time availability and limitations of physical space. Currently there is merely one full-sized studio and one half-sized studio. Company classes warm up in the hallways, which creates a hazardous environment for anyone else that needs to pass through the hall. The dance program has actually already outgrown its facility and is in need of more space and time, which brings me to my request: I understand the Minoru Place Seniors' Centre will soon be vacated. I implore you to repurpose that building to serve the Richmond Arts Centre dance program. This would provide more opportunity for dancers, specifically in the adult program, to discover themselves and be able to find their creative fulfillment. Sorry to have gone on and on so long, but this is really important to myself and so many!

Sincerely and gratefully yours,

Adriana Richmond De Gros



Karen Smith



Email: 

Dear Councillor Day,

I am an adult ballet student with the City of Richmond and a member of the Richmond Dance Company under the direction of Ms. Miyouki Jego who won the 2015 Richmond Arts Award for Arts Education.

I understand that the current Seniors' Centre which is located next to the Arts Centre will be available for alternate purposes in the near future.

There is currently a lack of space at the Arts Centre for adult ballet classes. I am currently on a waiting list for the Thursday evening class (intermediate ballet).

According to the [www.richmond.ca](http://www.richmond.ca) web site, there are now more than 500 students in the ballet program with another 90 wait-listed for beginner classes.


I am hoping that part of the current Seniors' Centre will be available for the Richmond dance community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Karen Smith

6 February 2017



Mayor and Council  
City of Richmond  
Mayor's Office  
6911 No. 3 Road  
Richmond, BC  
V6Y 2C1

Dear Mayor and Council:

This letter is directed to Richmond City Council to advise them that the ballet community of Richmond could make very good use of the soon-to-be-vacated Seniors Centre. The Centre's auditorium space with its sprung floor is ideally suited for ballet and to our benefit could be used as a large dance space for performances or divided into smaller studios for classes.


The Richmond Arts Centre is in short supply of ballet space to meet what the community now demands. The classes that are offered are full to capacity and are overflowing with children and adults wanting to become a part of these incredible programmes. This has created lengthy wait-lists with a growing frustration that ballet classes are not accessible for Richmond citizens, leaving children and adults having to seek registration in jurisdictions outside the city. Hence, ballet has outgrown what the Richmond Arts Centre can offer it in terms of both registration and space.

In addition to regular weekly classes, the Richmond Arts Centre also supports two growing dance company components, the Richmond Youth Dance Company (RYDC) and the Richmond Dance Company (RDC), an adult group. Feeding into these two groups, which often join with each other for public performances, are up and coming pre-company stars from classes of younger dancers. The Arts Centre provides ballet classes by age designation for children and youth, and adult classes that range the gamut from beginner through intermediate to advanced and on to pointe. Both the RYDC and the RDC are unique and their growing importance in and to the community cannot be underestimated.

To make use of the vacated Richmond Seniors Centre is the most feasible solution to the ballet community's current impasse regarding its inaccessibility to classes.

Yours sincerely,

Lynn Maranda  
Senior Ballet Student



26 February 2017

Mayor and Council  
City of Richmond  
Mayor's Office  
6911 No. 3 Road  
Richmond, BC  
V6Y 2C1

Dear Mayor and Council:

The Richmond Arts Centre provides the unique opportunity for residents of our city to learn ballet. The program has been so successful that it has outgrown its current facilities in the Richmond Cultural Centre. This letter is to advise you that the Richmond Arts Centre ballet community could make very good use of the soon-to-be-vacated Minoru Place Seniors' Centre.

The Arts Centre provides ballet classes for children and youth, and adult classes that range from beginner to advanced levels. The classes currently offered in the Cultural Centre have reached capacity. This has created lengthy wait-lists with a growing frustration amongst children and adults wanting to become a part of your incredible programmes. With classes increasingly inaccessible for Richmond residents, children and adults seek dance programmes outside the city, depleting our program of talent.

The Richmond Arts Centre also supports two growing dance companies, the Richmond Youth Dance Company (RYDC) and the adult Richmond Dance Company (RDC). Feeding into these two groups are up-and-coming pre-company stars from classes of younger dancers. These dancers often find themselves doing their pre-class warmups in the upstairs hallway, amidst people picking their children up from, or heading to, other arts programs on the second floor of the building.

The ballet program has clearly outgrown what the Richmond Art Centre can offer in registration and space, and cannot meet the demand of the community.

The Minoru Place Seniors' Centre is uniquely suited to be converted to a dance centre. The auditorium space is already equipped with a sprung floor ideally suited for ballet, and the larger space could be used to host performances. The rest of the building provides smaller studios for classes, storage and administrative offices.

To make use of the vacated Richmond Seniors Centre for the dance program is the most feasible solution to the current impasse regarding the growing issue of inaccessibility to classes and lack of program space.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Dylla  
Adult ballet student and RDC dancer





Creating paper mâché heads and stuffing old tights to form the bodies of a few marionette doll props.



Richmond Dance Company members invested their time, money, and creative efforts into creating props for their ballet performance in June 2016 at the Gateway Theatre.



# DAMINCCI JEWELLERS

WATCH AND  
JEWELLERY  
REPAIR CENTRE

SPECIALIZING IN  
CUSTOM ORDERS

 DAMINCCI  
JEWELLERS

163-8851 Minoru Blvd.  
(Between the Marlin & Piner Hotels)  
604-270-2221  
www.damincci.com

7 Driver, passenger caught having sex in a moving car

# RICHMOND news

RICHMOND-NEWS.COM

## TONY LING



RE/MAX  
Real Estate Services

FREE HOME  
EVALUATION

• Free advice  
on Buying and  
Selling from  
Richmond's  
Real Estate  
Professional

CALL  
NOW!

604-649-0108  
www.tonyling.com

RICHMOND-NEWS.COM FRIDAY, JUNE 10, 2016



# Hitting the Barre

Paul Dylla isn't your average middle-aged man and is very much on his toes during his spare time, preparing for a ballet show

19



**FRONT** *Feature*

# Keeping on your toes during retirement

As a troupe of Richmond amateur, adult ballet dancers prepares for its first ever show, Paul Dylla is proving that, at 58, there's life left in the old legs yet



**ALAN CAMPBELL**  
Staff Reporter  
A.CAMPBELL@RICHMOND-NEWS.COM

**H**overing in the doorway of his daughter's ballet class, Paul Dylla had no idea his life - and limbs - were about to change forever.

Irked by 55-year-old Dylla's proximity to her pointe session at the Richmond Cultural Centre studio, ballet teacher Miyouki Jago issued the watchful dad an ultimatum.

"Mr. Dylla, you have to leave or join in." Almost without hesitation, Dylla, who had a desk job as an I.T. specialist with Telus at the time, ventured out of the shadow of the doorway into the body of the room, slipped off his shoes and peeled off his jacket.

"I think (the teacher) was surprised," laughed the now 58-year-old Dylla, when recalling the encounter three years ago.

"My daughter was probably embarrassed. I think it went OK to start: I was able to keep up, but I was surprised how unfit I was.

"But afterwards, the teacher asked me to join her adult classes. I was working from home at the time and I realized I was getting more and more unfit so I thought I would just go for it."

And so it was, Dylla, your average middle-aged guy to the naked eye, started a beginners ballet class with Jago.

"When I was six, my sister was supposed to go into a ballet class, but got cold feet at the last minute..." said Dylla, when asked if he'd ever considered taking up ballet before.

"I told my mum I'd do it in my sister's place, but I was told I wasn't allowed. I guess I've harboured a desire ever since.

"To be honest though, if my daughter hadn't been doing (ballet) for 15 years, I wouldn't have been exposed to it."

Three years on, Dylla and 10 other adults, ranging from their 20s to their late 50s - and including his 21-year-old daughter, Megan - will form the Richmond Dance Company's performance of *A Winter's Gift* at the Gateway Theatre on Sunday.

They will be joined by Richmond Youth Dance performers - also run by Jago - for their first ever, full hour, independent ballet performance, delivering 10 of the 17 pieces on stage.

**S**ince taking up ballet, Dylla has, shall we say, found out how fit he wasn't and, in the ten months preparing for Sunday's show, is stripping fluff than ever.

"At the time I started ballet, I was working in I.T. with Telus and I was sitting at a desk for much of the day. Because of that, my back and shoulders were done," said Dylla, who has been retired since May 2015.

"I've done aerobics before, but way in

the past. I tried to keep fit but ballet was something else.

"Doing ballet made me realize how balanced and strong you need to be and it really helped me get into shape."

Jago said adults don't need to be particularly fit to take part in her beginners classes; but you do for the advanced program, which leads to show performance levels.

However Jago, who has been running the City of Richmond program out of the Richmond Arts Centre for five years and eight years instructing ballet in total, said teaching middle-aged adults is a world apart from teaching children.

"It's very, very different; the amount of corrections and the way you deliver it is different," she said.

"With children, you have to be more careful how you correct them in terms of their body awareness and the language you use. Some may not know what their abdomen is, for example. And children tend to be more flexible.

"In order to take part in the show, (adults) definitely need stamina, as there are quite a few numbers in the show. We've been training for this since September

"The adults do tend to train very hard and when they realize the magic that ballet can bring and see it in their faces, it really encourages me to keep going with them. A room full of adult (performers) is very exciting; it takes a lot of guts."

Jago has 60 adults in the various programs, one of whom is a woman in her 80s.

As for Dylla, Jago said she was "so pleased" when he decided to join in his daughter's class that day three years ago.

"I made a spot for him. He really did listen to everything and it was a fantastic class," she recalled.

But has he improved in that time? "Absolutely," exclaimed Jago.

**A**sks how people tend to react when told that his main pastime in retirement is ballet, Dylla, of Gibbons Drive, said the initial reaction is surprise.

"I think they're supportive, as well, and they all now realize how hard ballet is," he said.

"The big part is making it look easy and asking your body to do things it hasn't done before.

"The bigger surprise for people is when they learn that my wife - who also does ballet - took it up six months after me.

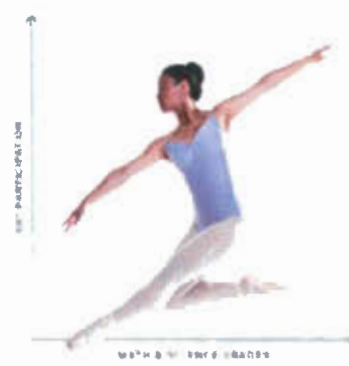
"The question she often gets asked is, 'How did you convince him to do it?'" She answers with, "Oh, he did it first."

*A Winter's Gift* takes place at the Gateway Theatre, 6500 Gilbert Rd. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased in advance online at GatewayTheatre.com/Tickets or by calling the box office at 604-270-1812.



The Richmond Dance Company, above and below, including Paul Dylla (above, second from front), was busy preparing for its performance of *The Winter's Gift*, which runs this Sunday at the Gateway Theatre. The amateur company's ballet dancers range in age from their 20s through to their 60s. Photos and front cover photo by Gord Goble/Special to the News





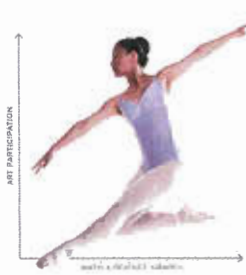
## How Art Works

In Fall 2015, Arts Services launched a new promotional campaign, How Art Works, with postcards, posters and a website at [www.howartworks.ca](http://www.howartworks.ca) to raise public awareness about the importance of the arts to vibrant communities. Citing research from a range of sources, the campaign describes the often surprising ways that arts participation impacts health and wellness, quality of life for seniors, cultural empathy, economic impact and academic performance. (See Appendix 2)

 Support  Art Spaces  Diversity  Public Awareness  Economic Potential

Richmond Dance Company member, Iris Chen, featured in *How Art Works* poster

Close



Iris Chen - Richmond resident, ballerina


### Art's Impact On Students

Research has proven that the arts have a tremendous impact on our kids. Children who participate in the arts, particularly music, have been shown to be more likely to stay in school, and get better grades in math and science. They're also far more likely to be elected to student boards and be recognized for academic achievement.

That link between arts and academic achievement continues for life. Top scientists are twice as likely as the general public to have an artistic hobby, and Nobel prize winners are almost three times as likely to participate in the arts.

You might think practical education is the path to

**ART WORKS**   [Home](#)   [About](#)   [Where](#)   [Resources](#)   [No. 3 Road Art Columns](#)





# March with Mosaico dance performance entwines grace, humour

Richmond News

March 2, 2017 08:41 AM



The Richmond Youth Dance Company will showcase self choreography, Flamenco and comedy in its annual concert at the Richmond Cultural Centre this weekend. Photo submitted

The Richmond Youth Dance Company returns to the stage in March with Mosaico, a collage of different works creating one beautiful piece.

Mosaico (Italian for mosaic) is a collection of ballet pieces presented by members of the Richmond Youth Dance Company.

Under the direction of Miyouki Jego and with guest artists Megan Phillips and Delara Tiv, young dancers will showcase self-choreographed numbers that reflect their individual expression and professional development.

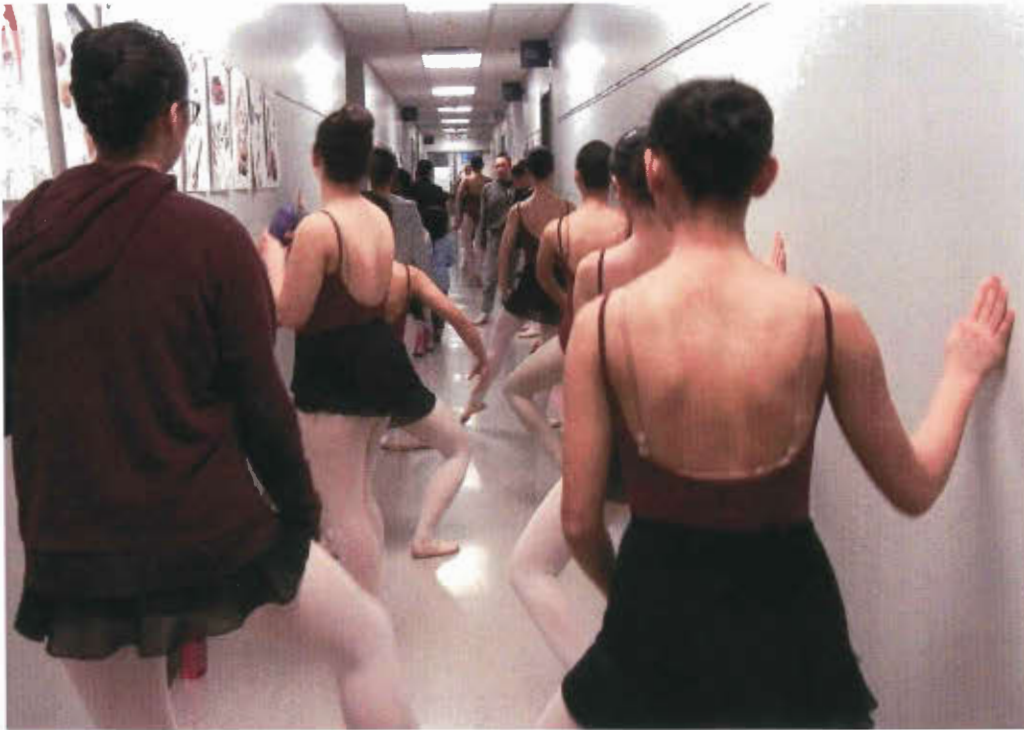
Phillips, a professional actor and acting teacher, brings a technique that helps the dancers use comedy as a way to increase confidence in their artistic expression.

Tiv, meanwhile, uses her mastery of Flamenco to help the dancers incorporate strength and grace.

All these elements are tied together by the Richmond Arts Centre's senior choreographer and head teacher, Jego.

Mosaico marks the seventh annual dance showcase performed by the 24 auditioned dancers of the Richmond Youth Dance Company.

Performances take place on Friday, March 3 and Saturday, March 4 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, March 5 at 2 p.m. at the Richmond Cultural Centre's performance hall. Tickets are \$7 and are available in advance at the centre or by calling 604 247-8300.



The lack of studio space and availability forces company dancers to awkwardly carry out their pre-rehearsal warm-up exercises in the public hallway before the commencement of choreography class.



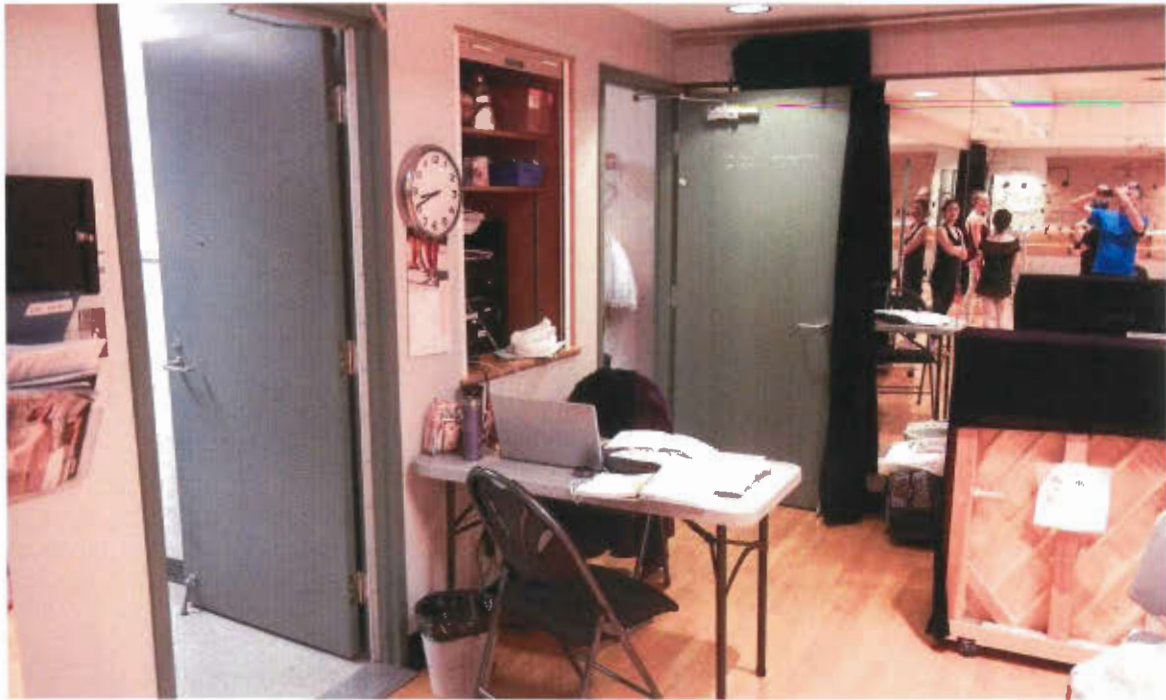




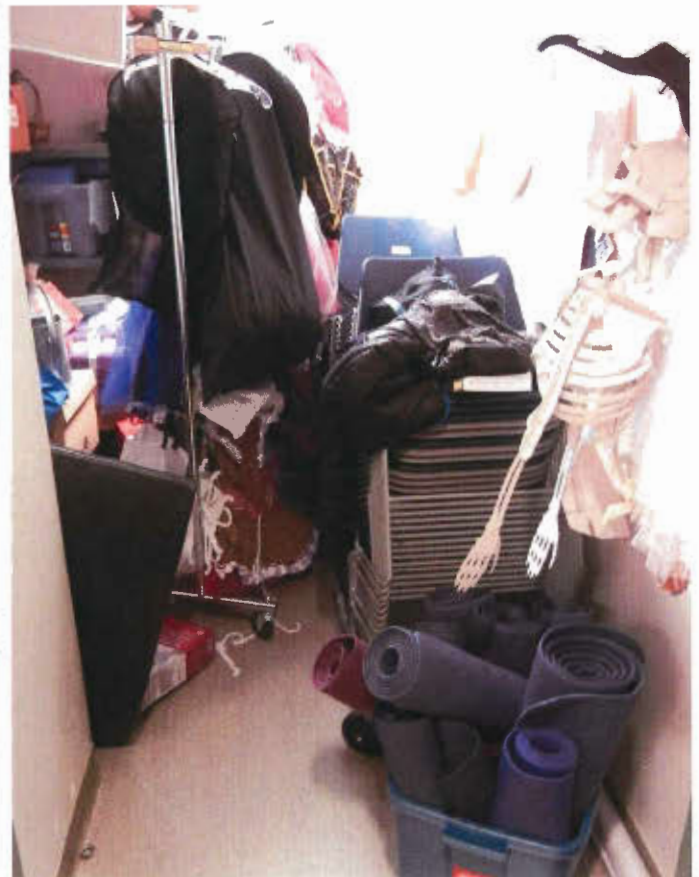
The one and only, universal, all-ages changing room during company rehearsals (on a good day)!







The inadequate studio storage room is overflowing with props, costumes, and equipment, putting limitations on the procurement of additional items.





# Celebrate International Dance Day at the Grand Plié

18 April 2016

Dancers of all ages and abilities are invited to celebrate International Dance Day by taking part in the Grand Plié on Friday, April 29 from 12:15 to 12:45 p.m. Everyone is invited to join the celebration and participate in this free class at Minoru Plaza, 7700 Minoru Gate.

“Dance is a universal art form that knows no boundaries,” said Mayor Malcolm Brodie. “It is an inspiring, entertaining and energizing part of all of our cultural traditions and anyone can take part in this art form regardless of what age you are, where you live or what language you speak.”



The Grand Plié mini ballet barre class will be led by the Richmond Arts Centre’s senior dance instructor Miyouki Jego, and will highlight the physical aspects of the art form while promoting the important role the arts play in building healthy communities.

Grand Plié participants should arrive 15 minutes early to sign-in at the tent located on Minoru Plaza. Fitted clothing with ballet slippers or short socks that can be pulled over the heel are recommended. In the event of inclement weather, the class will be moved indoors to the Richmond Arts Centre’s dance studio.

In 1982, the International Theatre Institute (ITI) Dance Committee founded International Dance Day. It takes place every year on April 29 to celebrate the birthday of Jean-Georges Noverre (1727-1810), the creator of modern ballet.

For more information on the Grand Plié or dance programs at the Richmond Arts Centre, visit [www.richmond.ca/artscentre](http://www.richmond.ca/artscentre) or contact Camyar Chaichian at [cchaichian@richmond.ca](mailto:cchaichian@richmond.ca) or 604-247-8326.

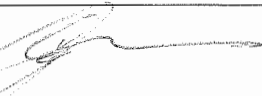
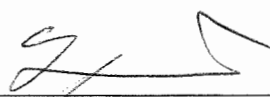


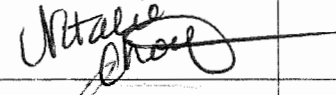

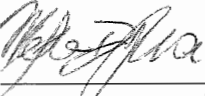


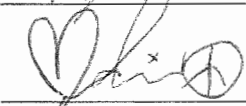



## Richmond Arts Centre dance program at capacity and needs more space

The Richmond Arts Centre dance program has grown significantly since it started running in the Richmond Cultural Centre. A few years ago it reached capacity, with more students wishing to register than the space could handle. This over-capacity issue has continued and today many students are unable to take the ballet courses they require to progress in this art. The only barrier to growth is the lack of dance studios, change rooms and storage rooms.

The Minoru Place Senior's Centre will soon be vacated as it moves to a new building on Gilbert Road. It is an ideal building as it already has one hardwood sprung floor and the cost of converting the building to accommodate a dance school would be lower than repurposing it for another function. It ensures that the Richmond Arts Centre remains in the centre of the city and in proximity to the other arts programs hosted in the Richmond Cultural Centre.

We, the undersigned, request that the City of Richmond repurpose Minoru Place Senior's Centre for the Richmond Art Centre's dance program.

Name (printed)	Address	Phone Number	Signature	Please check one	
				Parent of dance student	Dance student
Lyan Marandok					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Tomoko Usig					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sylvia Wong					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FUMIE ODETTE					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Natalie Choy					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
PAUL DYLLA				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Megan Dylka					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Andrea Minato					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Karon Smith					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Adriana Richmond DeGisi				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Alecia Lam					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

## Richmond Arts Centre dance program at capacity and needs more space

The Richmond Arts Centre dance program has grown significantly since it started running in the Richmond Cultural Centre. A few years ago it reached capacity, with more students wishing to register than the space could handle. This over-capacity issue has continued and today many students are unable to take the ballet courses they require to progress in this art. The only barrier to growth is the lack of dance studios, change rooms and storage rooms.

The Minoru Place Senior's Centre will soon be vacated as it moves to a new building on Gilbert Road. It is an ideal building as it already has one hardwood sprung floor and the cost of converting the building to accommodate a dance school would be lower than repurposing it for another function. It ensures that the Richmond Arts Centre remains in the centre of the city and in proximity to the other arts programs hosted in the Richmond Cultural Centre.

We, the undersigned, request that the City of Richmond repurpose Minoru Place Senior's Centre for the Richmond Art Centre's dance program.

Name (printed)	Address	Phone Number	Signature	Please check one	
				Parent of dance student	Dance student
Janet Mark	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Janet Mark	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Katharine L			Katharine L	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Jenny Jens			Jenny Jens	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SANDRA BAR			Sandra Bar	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
TING LUXN			Ting Luxn	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Catherine Sinclair			Catherine Sinclair	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
MARGUERITE WORTH			Marguerite Worth	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Karen Enger			Karen Enger	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Debbie Talbot			Debbie Talbot	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Brett Featherstone			Brett Featherstone	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Lana Rademsky			Lana Rademsky	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

## Richmond Arts Centre dance program at capacity and needs more space

The Richmond Arts Centre dance program has grown significantly since it started running in the Richmond Cultural Centre. A few years ago it reached capacity, with more students wishing to register than the space could handle. This over-capacity issue has continued and today many students are unable to take the ballet courses they require to progress in this art. The only barrier to growth is the lack of dance studios, change rooms and storage rooms.

The Minoru Place Senior's Centre will soon be vacated as it moves to a new building on Gilbert Road. It is an ideal building as it already has one hardwood sprung floor and the cost of converting the building to accommodate a dance school would be lower than repurposing it for another function. It ensures that the Richmond Arts Centre remains in the centre of the city and in proximity to the other arts programs hosted in the Richmond Cultural Centre.

We, the undersigned, request that the City of Richmond repurpose Minoru Place Senior's Centre for the Richmond Art Centre's dance program.




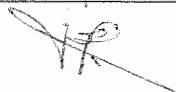


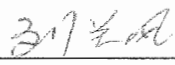
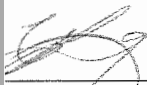
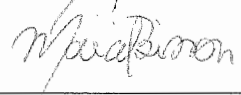
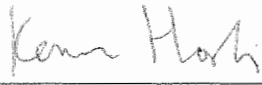

Name (printed)	Address	Phone Number	Signature	Please check one	
				Parent of dance student	Dance student
Tammy Fan	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[Signature]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sandra Wong			[Signature]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gigi Wong			[Signature]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Danny Tsang			[Signature]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ada LAI			[Signature]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SIMONNE RICKETT			[Signature]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ANDREW CHAN			[Signature]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sharon Ho			[Signature]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CATHERINE			[Signature]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CHRISTIE MUSTA			[Signature]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Berry Lee			[Signature]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Richmond Arts Centre dance program at capacity and needs more space

The Richmond Arts Centre dance program has grown significantly since it started running in the Richmond Cultural Centre. A few years ago it reached capacity, with more students wishing to register than the space could handle. This over-capacity issue has continued and today many students are unable to take the ballet courses they require to progress in this art. The only barrier to growth is the lack of dance studios, change rooms and storage rooms.

The Minoru Place Senior's Centre will soon be vacated as it moves to a new building on Gilbert Road. It is an ideal building as it already has one hardwood sprung floor and the cost of converting the building to accommodate a dance school would be lower than repurposing it for another function. It ensures that the Richmond Arts Centre remains in the centre of the city and in proximity to the other arts programs hosted in the Richmond Cultural Centre.

We, the undersigned, request that the City of Richmond repurpose Minoru Place Senior's Centre for the Richmond Art Centre's dance program.

Name (printed)	Address	Phone Number	Signature	Please check one	
				Parent of dance student	Dance student
Jabbe Sheng	[REDACTED]				
Jenny Zhou					
Lindsay Heller				✓	
Larone Li				✓	
Aiharu Kamoshu				✓	
Dinia Parkes					✓
Cindy					
Eva					
Maia Bissot				✓	
KASUMI HOSHI					
Rod Yoshiji					


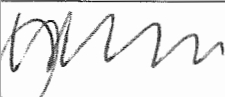

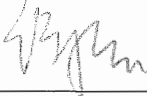

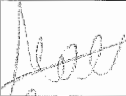







## Richmond Arts Centre dance program at capacity and needs more space

The Richmond Arts Centre dance program has grown significantly since it started running in the Richmond Cultural Centre. A few years ago it reached capacity, with more students wishing to register than the space could handle. This over-capacity issue has continued and today many students are unable to take the ballet courses they require to progress in this art. The only barrier to growth is the lack of dance studios, change rooms and storage rooms.

The Minoru Place Senior's Centre will soon be vacated as it moves to a new building on Gilbert Road. It is an ideal building as it already has one hardwood sprung floor and the cost of converting the building to accommodate a dance school would be lower than repurposing it for another function. It ensures that the Richmond Arts Centre remains in the centre of the city and in proximity to the other arts programs hosted in the Richmond Cultural Centre.

We, the undersigned, request that the City of Richmond repurpose Minoru Place Senior's Centre for the Richmond Art Centre's dance program.

Name (printed)	Address	Phone Number	Signature	Please check one	
				Parent of dance student	Dance student
Annie Zhang	[REDACTED]			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Yenmi Yip				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DOUG VAN DER EERDE				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hua Ting Xu				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BAI QING				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Natalya Sha				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sharon Gunn				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ada Lee				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hassan Khan				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sheng Neshat				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jessica Li				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Richmond Arts Centre dance program at capacity and needs more space

The Richmond Arts Centre dance program has grown significantly since it started running in the Richmond Cultural Centre. A few years ago it reached capacity, with more students wishing to register than the space could handle. This over-capacity issue has continued and today many students are unable to take the ballet courses they require to progress in this art. The only barrier to growth is the lack of dance studios, change rooms and storage rooms.

The Minoru Place Senior's Centre will soon be vacated as it moves to a new building on Gilbert Road. It is an ideal building as it already has one hardwood sprung floor and the cost of converting the building to accommodate a dance school would be lower than repurposing it for another function. It ensures that the Richmond Arts Centre remains in the centre of the city and in proximity to the other arts programs hosted in the Richmond Cultural Centre.

We, the undersigned, request that the City of Richmond repurpose Minoru Place Senior's Centre for the Richmond Art Centre's dance program.

Name (printed)	Address	Phone Number	Signature	Please check one	
				Parent of dance student	Dance student
Maureen Gardner	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[Signature]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Andrea Detwiler			[Signature]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Helen Wang			[Signature]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Victoria Chan			[Signature]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jennine Gao			[Signature]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nadine Robertson			[Signature]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stephanie Uy			[Signature]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Yu Zhang			[Signature]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
YANG LIAI			[Signature]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
K. K. K.			[Signature]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jennifer Zhang			[Signature]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



## Richmond Arts Centre dance program at capacity and needs more space

The Richmond Arts Centre dance program has grown significantly since it started running in the Richmond Cultural Centre. A few years ago it reached capacity, with more students wishing to register than the space could handle. This over-capacity issue has continued and today many students are unable to take the ballet courses they require to progress in this art. The only barrier to growth is the lack of dance studios, change rooms and storage rooms.

The Minoru Place Senior's Centre will soon be vacated as it moves to a new building on Gilbert Road. It is an ideal building as it already has one hardwood sprung floor and the cost of converting the building to accommodate a dance school would be lower than repurposing it for another function. It ensures that the Richmond Arts Centre remains in the centre of the city and in proximity to the other arts programs hosted in the Richmond Cultural Centre.

We, the undersigned, request that the City of Richmond repurpose Minoru Place Senior's Centre for the Richmond Art Centre's dance program.

Name (printed)	Address	Phone Number	Signature	Please check one	
				Parent of dance student	Dance student
Elia Oliveros	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	<i>Elia O.</i>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Madelyn Lee			<i>Madelyn Lee</i>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Diana Lee			<i>[Signature]</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Charity Oliver			<i>[Signature]</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Lily Yang			<i>Lily</i>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Fiona Fung			<i>[Signature]</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Gabriel Wong			<i>[Signature]</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Angel Young			<i>[Signature]</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Janet J.			<i>[Signature]</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Karen Caw			<i>[Signature]</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Rumi Tamayo	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	<i>[Signature]</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

## Richmond Arts Centre dance program at capacity and needs more space

The Richmond Arts Centre dance program has grown significantly since it started running in the Richmond Cultural Centre. A few years ago it reached capacity, with more students wishing to register than the space could handle. This over-capacity issue has continued and today many students are unable to take the ballet courses they require to progress in this art. The only barrier to growth is the lack of dance studios, change rooms and storage rooms.

The Minoru Place Senior's Centre will soon be vacated as it moves to a new building on Gilbert Road. It is an ideal building as it already has one hardwood sprung floor and the cost of converting the building to accommodate a dance school would be lower than repurposing it for another function. It ensures that the Richmond Arts Centre remains in the centre of the city and in proximity to the other arts programs hosted in the Richmond Cultural Centre.

We, the undersigned, request that the City of Richmond repurpose Minoru Place Senior's Centre for the Richmond Art Centre's dance program.

Name (printed)	Address	Phone Number	Signature	Please check one	
				Parent of dance student	Dance student
Gloria Lau	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[Signature]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Emily Kwan			[Signature]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jenny Lo			[Signature]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Zoran Do			[Signature]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bing Wong			[Signature]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ross Au			[Signature]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Liz Ho			[Signature]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jean Lee			[Signature]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jonathan Liu			[Signature]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stephanie Cao			[Signature]	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Lin Fiona	[Signature]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		

## Richmond Arts Centre dance program at capacity and needs more space

The Richmond Arts Centre dance program has grown significantly since it started running in the Richmond Cultural Centre. A few years ago it reached capacity, with more students wishing to register than the space could handle. This over-capacity issue has continued and today many students are unable to take the ballet courses they require to progress in this art. The only barrier to growth is the lack of dance studios, change rooms and storage rooms.

The Minoru Place Senior's Centre will soon be vacated as it moves to a new building on Gilbert Road. It is an ideal building as it already has one hardwood sprung floor and the cost of converting the building to accommodate a dance school would be lower than repurposing it for another function. It ensures that the Richmond Arts Centre remains in the centre of the city and in proximity to the other arts programs hosted in the Richmond Cultural Centre.

We, the undersigned, request that the City of Richmond repurpose Minoru Place Senior's Centre for the Richmond Art Centre's dance program.

Name (printed)	Address	Phone Number	Signature	Please check one	
				Parent of dance student	Dance student
Mandy Sivakowski	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[Signature]		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Lana Aiz			[Signature]		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Kristie Truell			[Signature]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Michelle Kwan			[Signature]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Anne			[Signature]		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Emily			[Signature]		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Patrick			[Signature]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Kimberly Go			[Signature]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Ruthie Tobias			[Signature]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Elise Chaparral			[Signature]		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Helen Ma			[Signature]		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

## Richmond Arts Centre dance program at capacity and needs more space

The Richmond Arts Centre dance program has grown significantly since it started running in the Richmond Cultural Centre. A few years ago it reached capacity, with more students wishing to register than the space could handle. This over-capacity issue has continued and today many students are unable to take the ballet courses they require to progress in this art. The only barrier to growth is the lack of dance studios, change rooms and storage rooms.

The Minoru Place Senior's Centre will soon be vacated as it moves to a new building on Gilbert Road. It is an ideal building as it already has one hardwood sprung floor and the cost of converting the building to accommodate a dance school would be lower than repurposing it for another function. It ensures that the Richmond Arts Centre remains in the centre of the city and in proximity to the other arts programs hosted in the Richmond Cultural Centre.

We, the undersigned, request that the City of Richmond repurpose Minoru Place Senior's Centre for the Richmond Art Centre's dance program.

Name (printed)	Address	Phone Number	Signature	Please check one	
				Parent of dance student	Dance student
Wendy	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Signature]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Paul			[Signature]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jill Schmitt			[Signature]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Winnie Pang			[Signature]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sue Su			[Signature]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Melody			[Signature]	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Viola			[Signature]	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Cassidy			[Signature]	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rosie			[Signature]	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Bella			[Signature]	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Amber			[Signature]	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

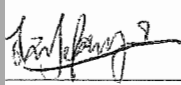
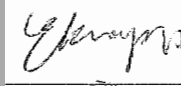
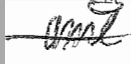

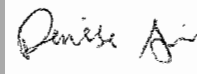
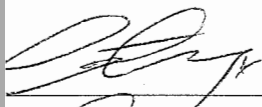

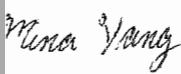

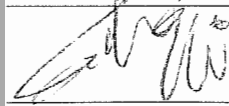



## Richmond Arts Centre dance program at capacity and needs more space

The Richmond Arts Centre dance program has grown significantly since it started running in the Richmond Cultural Centre. A few years ago it reached capacity, with more students wishing to register than the space could handle. This over-capacity issue has continued and today many students are unable to take the ballet courses they require to progress in this art. The only barrier to growth is the lack of dance studios, change rooms and storage rooms.

The Minoru Place Senior's Centre will soon be vacated as it moves to a new building on Gilbert Road. It is an ideal building as it already has one hardwood sprung floor and the cost of converting the building to accommodate a dance school would be lower than repurposing it for another function. It ensures that the Richmond Arts Centre remains in the centre of the city and in proximity to the other arts programs hosted in the Richmond Cultural Centre.

We, the undersigned, request that the City of Richmond repurpose Minoru Place Senior's Centre for the Richmond Art Centre's dance program.

Name (printed)	Address	Phone Number	Signature	Please check one	
				Parent of dance student	Dance student
Tiffany Au					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Emma Knapp					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Annie Lai					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Victoria Cheng					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Denise Siu					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Courtney Cheung					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DANA Go					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mina Yang					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Nailah Crowe					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Genelle Chau					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sophia Anderson					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

> [Home](#) > [News & Events](#) > [2016 News and Information](#) > Richmond Arts Centre dancers pass the test

2016 NEWS AND INFORMATION

## Richmond Arts Centre dancers pass the test

07 November 2016

The Richmond Arts Centre is proud to announce the success of its first group of youth ballet dancers to take exams with the national Cecchetti Society of Canada.

All 17 dancers who were sent to Grade 2, 3, 4 and 5 examinations passed with flying colours and received internationally recognized certificates.



Head instructor, Miyouki Jego, remarked “This is a huge milestone and puts the Richmond Arts Centre on the map in the dance world” while dancer Mina Yang (age 12) exclaimed, “Having the privilege to be assessed by an amazing examiner is an experience I will never forget.”

Ballet registration at the Richmond Arts Centre has increased significantly since the implementation of a Cecchetti-based syllabus during the 2013/2014 school year. There are now more than 500 students in the program with another 90 wait-listed for beginner classes. Programs range from weekly entry level classes all the way to the auditioned Richmond Youth Dance Company which rehearses a minimum of three times a week.

The Richmond Arts Centre School Year Dance Program runs from September to June and also offers jazz, tap and musical theatre classes. The school year program is best known for its conservatory approach with each dance style and large scale three-show recital at Gateway Theatre.

For more information about the programs offered at the Richmond Arts Centre visit [www.richmond.ca/artscentre](http://www.richmond.ca/artscentre) (<http://www.richmond.ca/artscentre>).