



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee
Date: August 29, 2022

From: Marie Fenwick
Director, Arts, Culture and Heritage Services
File: 11-7000-09-20-284/Vol 01

Re: **Richmond Animal Shelter Public Art Concept Proposal**

Staff Recommendation

That the Richmond Animal Shelter Public Art Concept Proposal, as presented in the report titled "Richmond Animal Shelter Public Art Concept Proposal" from the Director, Arts, Culture and Heritage Services, dated August 29, 2022, be endorsed.

CM Fenwick

Marie Fenwick
Director, Arts, Culture and Heritage Services
(604-276-4288)

Att. 2

REPORT CONCURRENCE		
ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER
Finance Department	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Sevener</i>
Facility Services & Project Development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Animal Protection Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
SENIOR STAFF REPORT REVIEW	INITIALS: <i>MF</i>	APPROVED BY CAO <i>Sevener</i>

Staff Report

Origin

On July 22, 2019, Council approved the renovation and expansion of the Richmond Animal Shelter located at 12071 No. 5 Road. Construction began in 2021 and the project was completed in spring 2022.

In accordance with the Public Art Program Policy No. 8703, the project budget includes an allocation of one per cent of the construction budget for public art. The one per cent public art contribution for this project is \$44,000.

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan 2018-2022 Strategy #3 One Community Together:

Vibrant and diverse arts and cultural activities and opportunities for community engagement and connection.

3.1 Foster community resiliency, neighbourhood identity, sense of belonging, and intercultural harmony.

3.2 Enhance arts and cultural programs and activities.

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan 2018-2022 Strategy #4 An Active and Thriving Richmond:

An active and thriving community characterized by diverse social and wellness programs, services and spaces that foster health and well-being for all.

4.2 Ensure infrastructure meets changing community needs, current trends and best practices.

Analysis

Terms of Reference – Richmond Animal Shelter Public Artwork

The Public Art Terms of Reference for the Richmond Animal Shelter Public Artwork (Attachment 1) was developed in collaboration and consultation with City staff in Animal Protection Services and Capital Buildings Project Development. The Terms of Reference describes the art opportunity, themes, site description, scope of work, budget, eligibility criteria, selection process, selection criteria, project schedule and submission requirements.

The Terms of Reference for the Richmond Animal Shelter Public Artwork was endorsed by the Richmond Public Art Advisory Committee at their meeting on April 19, 2022 and approved by Council on June 13, 2022.

Richmond Animal Shelter – Public Art Artist Selection Process

Twenty-two submissions by artists from across British Columbia were received during the first stage of the selection process. On July 21, 2022, following the Public Art Program's administrative procedures for artist selection for civic public art projects, a five-person selection panel comprised of professional artists, project stakeholders and community representatives reviewed the submissions. The selection panel included the following individuals:

- Jennifer Heine, artist, Richmond resident
- Nadia Mahamoor, artist, Richmond resident
- Don Montgomery, community representative, Richmond resident
- Susan Taylor, artist, Richmond resident
- Sarah Turner, BC SPCA representative

City staff facilitated and attended the selection panel meeting to provide project background for the selection panel and to address technical questions.

In addition, two members of the Richmond Public Art Advisory Committee participated in the selection process as observers:

- Rebecca Lin
- Paul Dufour

In reviewing the submissions, the selection panel considered how the proposal responded to the theme and objectives identified in the artist call and the potential to create a compelling work of art as evidenced in the samples of past projects provided by the applicants. Following discussion and deliberations, the panel shortlisted three artists to develop a concept proposal and presentation for the second stage of the selection process.

The shortlisted artists were:

- Tanya Bub, Victoria, BC
- Celan Bouillet, North Vancouver, BC
- Amy Bao & IE Creative, Richmond/Vancouver, BC

Following the Terms of Reference, the shortlisted finalists were invited to attend an artist orientation meeting with staff on July 28, 2022. The meeting was conducted virtually and provided an opportunity for staff to share additional information about the site context and review the objectives and opportunities for this project. The artists also asked questions related to materials, installation parameters and budget.

The shortlisted artists were provided a deadline for their concept proposals on August 18, 2022. Artists were able to submit draft concept proposals and project budgets in advance of the deadline to receive technical feedback from staff, including identifying any concerns from a maintenance or operations perspective prior to their presentation to the selection panel. Staff also shared the artist information with the selection panelists prior to the final artist selection panel

meeting. This process serves to support the finalists in presenting the most feasible proposals to the selection panel for their evaluation and deliberation.

On August 25, 2022, the selection panel convened to interview the three shortlisted finalists. Each artist presented their concept proposal followed by a Q&A period. Following a lengthy and thoughtfully considered deliberation, the panel recommended the concept proposal *Leaping Home* by artist Celan Bouillet for the Richmond Animal Shelter Public Art commission. (Attachment 2)

The Richmond Public Art Advisory Committee endorsed the recommended concept proposal by email on August 31, 2022.

Recommended Artist

Celan Bouillet is a visual artist based in North Vancouver whose work references the universal themes of nature, home and our connection to place. She is also inspired by animal fables and folklore shared across cultures. Previously, Ms. Bouillet has collaborated with art advisors, art councils, and corporations to create custom public artworks, including Buffalo Bayou Partnership, Houston Arboretum, and MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas.

Earlier this year, Ms. Bouillet completed an intensive series of professional development workshops with Richmond Public Art as part of the Art at Work Program. The program provided hands-on learning, guidance, writing and presentation skills in developing public art concept proposals.

Recommended Public Art Concept Proposal

Leaping Home is comprised of a series of whimsical animal silhouettes in laser-cut stainless steel, including cats, dogs, birds and rabbits. The animals will subtly follow a gentle waveform with some animals leaping toward the facility entrance and other animals “flying the coop” to their new homes. As a backdrop to these sculptural elements, a series of custom-printed panels will be installed in place of the existing privacy mesh featuring a colorful patterned illustration. This large work that encloses the dog run area, will signal arrival and welcome for visitors of the Richmond Animal Shelter.

The artist describes the artwork as follows:

“The playful sculptures and illustrated panels will add personality and charm to the front of an organization that does so much to improve the lives of the animals in their care.”

Next Steps

Following Council endorsement of the concept proposal, staff will work with the artist to execute a contract and move into a development and fabrication phase with installation of the artwork in the second quarter of 2023.

Financial Impact

The total budget for the Richmond Animal Shelter Public Art Project is \$44,000. \$9,000 has been set aside for installation and administration costs. The remaining budget of \$35,000 will be available to cover all implementation expenses including design, production, fabrication, taxes and other associated costs to deliver a completed artwork integrated with the site.

The Richmond Animal Shelter Public Art Project is funded from the approved Richmond Animal Shelter capital project. Any maintenance and repairs required to the artwork will be the responsibility of the Public Art Program and will be funded out of the Public Art Program's annual operating budget.

Conclusion

The Richmond Animal Shelter Public Art Project supports the 2041 Official Community Plan and Richmond Arts Strategy 2019-2024. An artwork at this location will contribute to the neighbourhood's character and foster a sense of identity and belonging for residents and visitors.



Biliana Velkova
Public Art Planner
(604-247-4612)

- Att. 1: Richmond Animal Shelter Public Art Project, Terms of Reference
2: Richmond Animal Shelter Public Art Concept Proposal

Call to Artists



Architectural Rendering, Richmond Animal Shelter Renovation and Expansion Project.

Richmond Animal Shelter

Request for Qualifications

June 2022

Opportunity

The Richmond Public Art Program is seeking an artist or artist team to create a public artwork as part of the renovation and expansion of the Richmond Animal Shelter, 12071 No. 5 Road. The public artwork will function as a wayfinding feature and create a sense of arrival and welcome at the entrance to the site and facility. All information about the project is described below.

Budget:	\$35,000
Eligibility:	Professional artists residing in British Columbia
Deadline:	July 11, 2022
Completion:	March 2023

Call to Artists

Background

The Richmond Animal Shelter (RAS) was originally built in 1978 with a dog kennel and administrative spaces. In 2016, a portable structure was added to accommodate more than 800 animals a year, including dogs, cats, small animals and birds. In 2019, Richmond City Council approved funding for renovation and expansion of the facility. Construction began in 2021 and the project was completed in spring 2022.

RAS plays an important role in temporarily housing stray animals. Services also include offering residents the opportunity to adopt companion animals, and promoting awareness of animal welfare and responsible pet ownership. The new facility will be operated by the BC SPCA.

Public Art Opportunity

The new public artwork for this facility will function as a wayfinding feature and signal “arrival and welcome” for visitors and staff. The facility is set back from No. 5 Road so it is not readily visible to drivers as they approach. Artwork located at the street entrance will help visitors locate the facility as well as contribute to the neighbourhood’s character and identity.

As shown in Figures 1 to 5, the existing chainlink fence (1.8 meters tall by 20 meters long) encloses the eastern edge of the dog run and runs parallel to No. 5 Road. The dog run provides outdoor space for shelter dogs to run and play under staff supervision. The new public artwork along No. 5 Road will replace all or part of this fence, or co-exist with the chainlink fence if it is installed within the median strip between the fence and sidewalk edge. [See Figures 1 to 5.]

Design Considerations

- If replacing all or part of the chainlink fence, the artwork:
 - must satisfy the same design specifications (minimum 1.8 meters tall by 20 meters long) and function of the existing fence to keep animals safely within the dog run while keeping out predator animal species.
 - cannot have any transparent or see-through openings. This is required in order to minimize stress in the shelter dogs.
- If the artwork is installed as a stand-alone piece, the above design considerations do not apply.
- Materials for the new artwork must be durable and easily maintained, and may include, but not be limited to weather protected/coated steel, aluminium, wood and/or fibreglass.
- The new public artwork will need to co-exist or could be integrated with the building signage. Please refer to Figure 4 and 5.

Call to Artists

- The artwork must provide clearance at the base to accommodate lawn mowers and string trimmer equipment.
- The artwork cannot extend past the sidewalk or fence line. It must be located within the space between the fence and sidewalk as indicated in Figure 3.
- Access to power is located at the base of the free-standing sign.

Location

The Richmond Animal Shelter is located at 12071 No. 5 Road in Richmond's Ironwood neighbourhood. The area is characterized by light industrial and commercial buildings with access to nature and walking trails along the Fraser River. Applicants are encouraged to visit the site to better understand the neighbourhood context.

Budget

A budget of \$35,000 CAD, inclusive of all applicable taxes, excluding GST, is available for this project. The budget will include (but is not limited to) artist fees, engineering fees, materials, fabrication, installation, photography and insurance.

Engineering fees required to certify the structural integrity of the artwork, including foundation design and structural connections will be the responsibility of the commissioned artist. An additional budget of up to \$5,000 will be allocated by the City for materials and labour to install the artwork. If the cost of materials and labour to install the artwork exceeds \$5,000, costs over that amount will be the responsibility of the commissioned artist.

A \$500 artist fee will be provided to shortlisted artists to prepare a concept and presentation materials for the second stage of the artist selection process.

Artist Eligibility

Artists and/or artist teams residing in British Columbia are eligible to apply for this opportunity. City employees and members of the Richmond Public Art Advisory Committee are not eligible to apply. Artists who are currently under contract with the Public Art Program are not eligible to apply.

Selection Process

A selection panel consisting of a combination of artists, art professionals and community representatives will engage in a two-stage artist selection process to review all artist applications. At the conclusion of the process, the panel will recommend one artist and/or artist team for the commission. Indigenous artists and artists from equity-seeking communities are encouraged to apply.

Call to Artists

Stage One: Selection Criteria

- Demonstrated ability to produce work of the highest quality and merit.
- Experience in producing work that reflects community identity and assists in building meaningful cultural places.
- Demonstrated capacity to complete work within established project schedules and timelines.
- Demonstrated ability to work with multiple project stakeholders.

Stage Two: Selection Criteria

- Ability of concept proposal to reflect arrival and welcome, community identity and contribute to building the character and identity of the neighbourhood.
- Ability of the 3D artist visualizations (such as digital renderings, maquettes or models) to communicate the concept and how it responds to the existing character of the site by taking into account scale, colour, material, texture, content and the physical characteristics and design parameters of the location.
- Appropriateness of the proposed project budget including, but not limited to: artist fees, materials, fabrication, administration, insurance, installation, documentation and consultant fees.
- Concept proposal sensitivity to durability, life span and environmental concerns with respect to artwork materials, method of fabrication, installation and maintenance.
- Artist response to any feedback and follow-up questions from Selection Panel regarding artistic merit of the concept proposal in response to project opportunity.
- Appropriateness of the concept proposal to the [Public Art Program goals](http://www.richmond.ca/culture/publicart/policy.htm) (www.richmond.ca/culture/publicart/policy.htm).

Submission Requirements

Email all documentation as one (1) PDF document, not to exceed a file size of 5 MB to publicart@richmond.ca.

Stage One

- ☐ **INFORMATION FORM:** please complete the information form attached to this document.
- ☐ **STATEMENT OF INTEREST:** no more than 300 words, describing artist or creative practice and experience of work and themes/topics of interest you would like to explore for this opportunity. Please consider and reference the Stage One Selection Criteria (above) in your

Call to Artists

Statement. Please do not include text descriptions of a concept proposal. This information will not be accepted and will be removed by staff prior to review with the Selection Panel.

- ☐ **ARTIST CV:** two-page maximum. If submitting as an artist team, please submit maximum one pages per team member.
- ☐ **WORK SAMPLES:** up to ten (10) supporting image examples of previous work. One image per page. Please include artist name(s), title, year, location and medium information to be on each image page.
- ☐ **REFERENCES:** three (3) references who can speak to your skills and experience. Please only provide the names, titles and email and/or telephone contact information for each individual. Only references for shortlisted artists will be contacted.

Stage Two (shortlisted artists ONLY)

- ☐ **CONCEPT PROPOSAL:** no more than 500 words, describing concept, rationale in response to the public art opportunity, materials and location/site.
- ☐ **CONCEPT VISUALIZATION:** may include digital artist renderings, maquettes/models to fully communicate dimensions, scale, colour, viewer experience, materials and relationship to site features.
- ☐ **PROJECT BUDGET:** to outline the allocation for expenses, including but not limited to artist fee, administration, materials, production, fabrication, installation, insurance, documentation, engineering design fees, other consultant fees.
- ☐ **PRESENTATION/INTERVIEW:** 15–20 minute artist presentation to the Selection Panel followed by a Q+A to present the shortlisted artist concept proposal for consideration.

Project Timeline

*Applicants are requested to be available for a meeting on this date.

Submission Deadline:	July 11, 2022
Finalist Notifications:	July 21, 2022
Shortlist Artist Orientation:	July 26, 2022*
Contract Start:	October, 2022
Completion:	March, 2023

Call to Artists

Submission Guidelines

1. All supporting documents must be complete and strictly adhere to these guidelines and submission requirements (above) or risk not being considered.
2. All submissions must be formatted to 8.5 x 11 inch pages. Portfolio images and concept sketches would be best formatted to landscape format.
3. Submission files must be 5 MB or smaller.
4. All documents must be sent by email to publicart@richmond.ca

Accessibility

We strive to implement an inclusive and accessible program that enables all individuals to engage fully in our programs. If completion of the written application poses barriers, we will accept oral applications. Please contact publicart@richmond.ca or phone 604-204-8671 if you require additional support or have any accessibility-related questions.

Additional Information

1. The selected artist may be required to show proof of WCB coverage and \$2,000,000 general liability insurance.
2. Please be advised that the City and the selection panel are not obliged to accept any of the submissions and may reject all submissions. The City reserves the right to re-issue the Artist Call as required.
3. All submissions to this Artist Call become the property of the City. All information provided under the submission is subject to the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (BC) and shall only be withheld from release if an exemption from release is permitted by the Act. The artist shall retain copyright in the concept proposal. While every precaution will be taken to prevent the loss or damage of submissions, the City and its agents shall not be liable for any loss or damage, however caused.
4. Extensions to the deadline will not be granted under any circumstances. Submissions received after the deadline and those that are found to be incomplete will not be reviewed.

Questions

Email: publicart@richmond.ca | Tel: 604-204-8671

Call to Artists

PUBLIC ART
RICHMOND



Figure 1. Aerial map location of Richmond Animal Shelter at 12071 No.5 Road.

ANIMAL SHELTER BUILDING – RENOVATION AND EXPANSION SITE PLAN | FLOOR PLAN

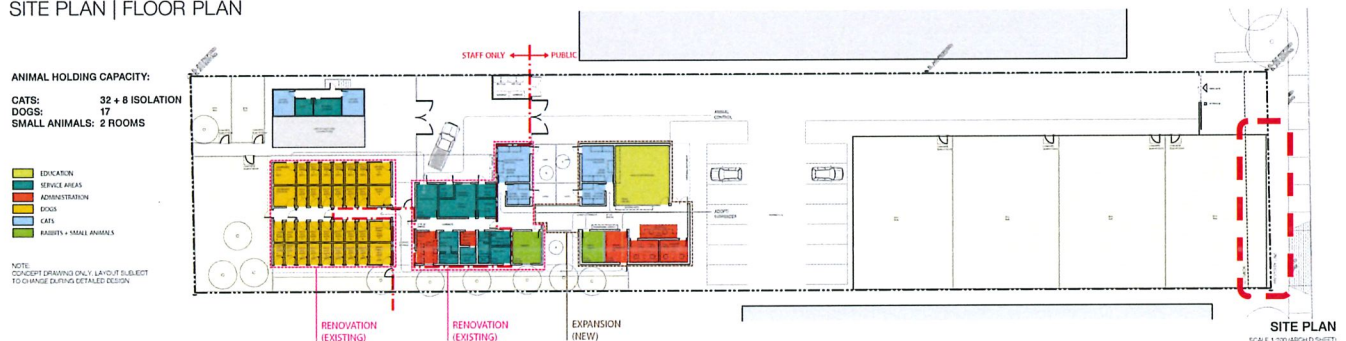


Figure 2. Site Plan of Richmond Animal Shelter Renovation and Expansion. Proposed location of the public artwork is indicated by the red dashed rectangle at the eastern edge of the dog run perimeter fence, parallel to No.5 Road.

Call to Artists

PUBLIC ART
RICHMOND

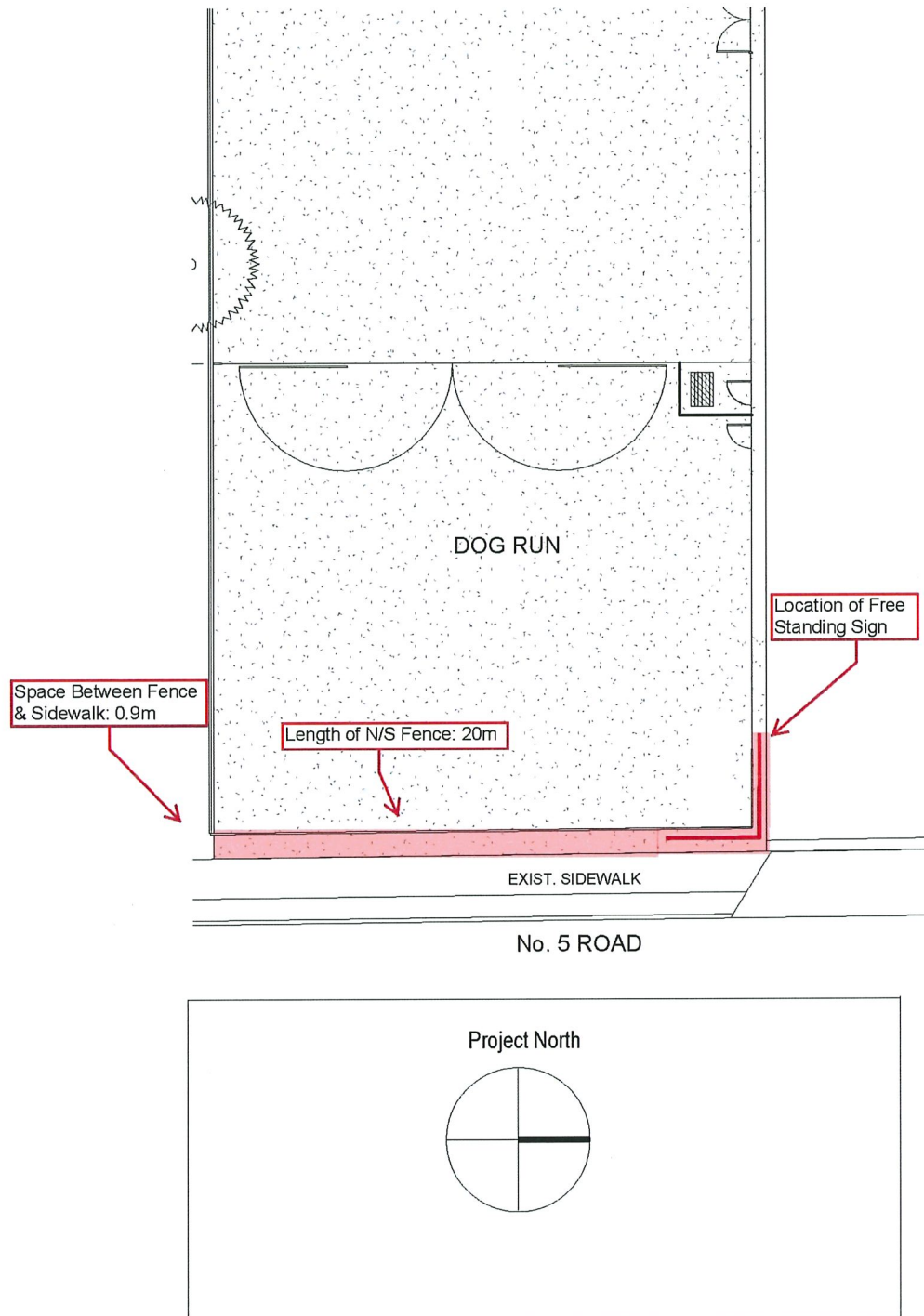


Figure 3. Cropped site plan showing proposed location of public artwork and extent of the east section of chain link fence. The artwork will work with or around the existing free standing sign.

Call to Artists



Figure 4. Site photo and rendering showing 6-foot high chainlink fence with mesh scrim and building signage. The public artwork will co-exist with the building signage.

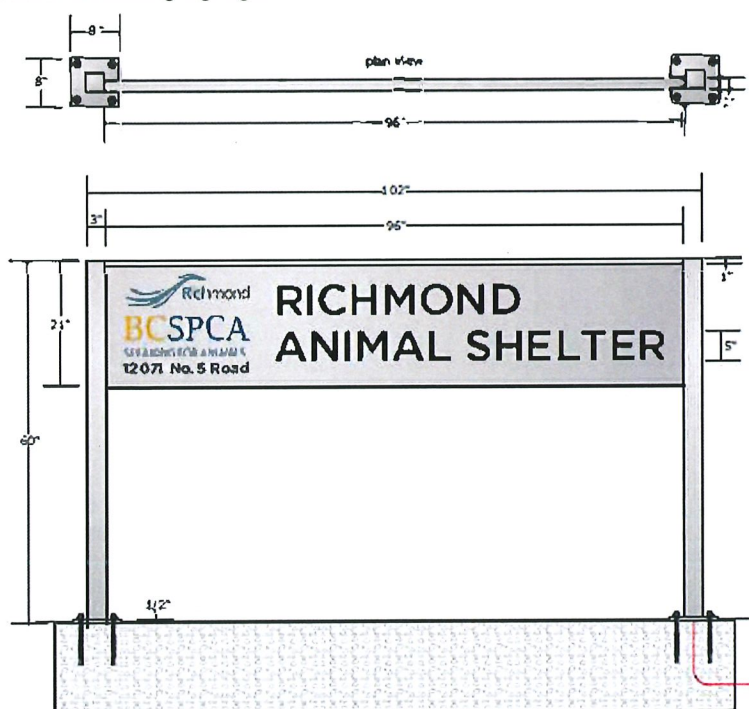


Figure 5. Building signage at entrance to RAS driveway. Overall dimensions 5' high x 8' 6" length

Call to Artists

PUBLIC ART
RICHMOND

Attach one (1) copy of this form as the first page of the submission.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Postal Code: _____

Primary Phone: _____ Secondary Phone: _____

Email: _____ Website: _____
(One website or blog only)

Incomplete submissions will not be accepted. Emailed submissions over 5 MB will not be accepted.

The 2019–2024 Richmond Arts Strategy's guiding principles include advancing and promoting inclusivity and diversity in the arts. The City invites members of diverse groups, including those typically under-represented, to participate in the telling of their story in the Richmond context and through creative expression.

Do you self-identify as a member of an equity-seeking and/or under-represented community? If so, please specify:

Please let us know how you found out about this opportunity:

Would you like to receive direct emails from the Richmond Public Art Program? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Submit applications by email to: publicart@richmond.ca

Additional Information

Please be advised that the City and the selection panel are not obliged to accept any of the submissions and may reject all submissions. The City reserves the right to reissue the RFQ as required. All submissions to this RFQ become the property of the City. All information provided under the submission is subject to the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (BC) and shall only be withheld from release if an exemption from release is permitted by the Act. The artist shall retain copyright of the submitted documents. While every precaution will be taken to prevent the loss or damage of submissions, the City and its agents shall not be liable for any loss or damage, however caused.

Celan Bouillet
Project Proposal
The Richmond Animal Shelter
“Leaping Home”

For the entrance of the Richmond Animal Shelter, I envision creating a whimsical laser cut sculpture in stainless steel weaving together silhouettes of leaping animals including cats, dogs, birds, and rabbits cared for at the shelter. Small plexiglass shapes in a rainbow of colors will be interspersed throughout the animal designs. The animals will subtly follow a gentle wave form with some animals leaping towards the ‘Richmond Animal Shelter’ sign and other animals flying the coup in the other direction to their new homes. In addition to the sculptural elements, privacy panels will be installed in place of the existing mesh featuring a colorful patterned illustration to form a private enclosure for the dogs while at the same time acting as a wayfinding device for visitors of the Shelter.

The privacy panels will extend from the front of the fence to around the corners of the dog-run bringing attention to the new Shelter from all directions of travel. By using stainless steel (with an orbital finish) for the sculpture and Alupanel for the privacy panels, the artwork will be long-lasting with little maintenance required. In addition, Alupanel has an anti-graffiti surface and the patterns will act as a deterrent for tagging.

I will begin the project by designing the colorful illustrations for the background panels and the dozen sculptural animal forms. From there, I will partner with local fabricators Brenco who will laser cut stainless steel silhouettes of the leaping animals and Caliper to laser cut a rainbow of plexiglass shapes. Each animal form will be installed using vertical poles held securely in place with a concrete base. The Vancouver Sign Group will print my illustrations on 11 Alupanel sections and install the panels on top of the existing fence using additional hidden posts.

I feel confident in my ability to partner with the Richmond Animal Shelter and the City of Richmond, to meet deadlines, and to deliver a project that will resonate with the Richmond community. I have previously collaborated with art advisors, art councils, and multiple corporations to create custom public art including work for the Buffalo Bayou Partnership, Houston Arboretum, and MD Anderson Cancer Center. Most recently, I completed a commissioned work for Houston Arts Alliance and United Airlines to create a serene nature nook in the new bustling United Terminal C North at Bush Intercontinental Airport.

I look forward to the prospect of working with the Richmond Animal Shelter and City of Richmond towards adding a little whimsy to the visitor experience (for both humans and animals) at the shelter. The playful sculptures and illustrated panels will add personality and charm to the front of an organization that does so much to improve the lives of the animals in their care. As a parent of an adopted kitten that we have called family for the past twelve years (and that our two daughters call big sister), I would be honored to create a tribute to the love and joy our animal friends bring into our lives.



Figure 1. Leaping Home by Celan Bouillet