

То:	General Purposes Committee	Date:	February 14, 2020
From:	Cecilia Achiam General Manager, Community Safety	File:	01-0100-30-SCIT1- 01/2020-Vol 01
Re:	Sister City Advisory Committee 2019 Year in Rev	view	

### **Staff Recommendation**

That the staff report titled "Sister City Advisory Committee 2019 Year in Review", dated February 14, 2020, from the General Manager, Community Safety, be received for information.

Cecilia Achiam General Manager, Community Safety (604-276-4122)

Att. 2

REPORT CONCURRENCE	
SENIOR STAFF REPORT REVIEW	INITIALS:
APPROVED BY CAO	

### Staff Report

### Origin

The City of Richmond's Sister City Advisory Committee (SCAC) was established on February 11, 1974 (formerly the Sister City Twinning Committee) and fosters mutual understanding and meaningful cultural connections with designated Sister/Friendship cities in the interests of Richmond citizens for their common benefit.

In accordance with the SCAC Terms of Reference, this report updates Council on work completed by the SCAC, in 2019, towards the 2019-2022 Activity Plan (Attachment 1) endorsed by Council on January 14, 2019.

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.

3.2 Enhance arts and cultural programs and activities.

3.4 Celebrate Richmond's unique and diverse history and heritage.

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.

4.1 Robust, affordable, and accessible sport, recreation, wellness and social programs for people of all ages and abilities.

### Background

The role and purpose of the Sister City Advisory Committee (SCAC) is to provide advice to and assist Council with promoting the City's culture and values. The SCAC is also responsible for delivering the Sister City Program and pursuing the City's goal to establish and sustain cultural, educational and sustainable ties with approved Sister/Friendship Cities. Additionally, the SCAC will advise the City of any economic development, international trade and business opportunities presented to the Committee or its subcommittees arising from SCAC activities.

The City of Richmond has had a Sister City relationship with Pierrefonds, Quebec since 1967; Wakayama, Japan since 1973; and Xiamen, China since 2012. The City formed a Friendship City relationship with Qingdao, China in 2008.

### **Finding of Fact**

### Summary of 2019 Year in Review

In 2019, Council approved the Sister City Advisory Committee Four Year Activity Plan (2019-2022) (attachment 1) which outlines the SCAC's work plan for the next four years. The 2019 SCAC Program Activity budget was \$60,000 and the Program Administration budget was \$11,000. The SCAC activities and events during 2019 are outlined in Attachment 2.

Some of the highlights from 2019 include:

- Cherry Blossom Festival, April for the first time the SCAC participated in the Cherry Blossom Festival. The booth featured a photo gallery of relationship milestones with Wakayama, Japan.
- **Richmond-Wakayama Student Exchange, May** 36 students and eight adults from Richmond travelled to Wakayama, Japan for the annual Richmond-Wakayma student exchange. The students participated in a homestay with local families and visited local schools.
- Steveston Salmon Festival, July 50 volunteers participated in the parade including the Taiko 55 drummers, Wakayama school exchange students and Richmond community volunteers.
- Inaugural Book Club, July the Sister City Advisory Committee and the Richmond Public Library partnered for the first annual "One Book, Three Cities" book club. This event featured residents from Richmond, Qingdao and Xiamen who read the "Life of Pi" by Yann Martel and participated in a number of events throughout the summer, including an online discussion forum and an event facilitated by the author Yann Martel. The books from the book club were donated to the Richmond School District No. 38.
- **Qingdao Art display, October** from October 15 to 31, 2019, art from local artists in Qingdao, China was displayed in the atrium of Richmond City Hall as part of the Sister City Program, in partnership with the Richmond Art Gallery. The art was donated to the City of Richmond.
- Inaugural Bookmark Collection, October the SCAC released the first bookmark collection titled the "Skyline Scenery Bookmark Collection". These bookmarks will be distributed at local community events and will be used as gifts for delegations with Richmond's sister and friendship cities.
- French Immersion Pen Pal Program, November 48 elementary school students corresponded in French for a French Immersion pen pal program with Pierrefonds, Quebec. The Sister City Advisory Committee facilitated the connection and provided an oversized post card featuring iconic Richmond scenery.

### Looking ahead to 2020

Work is well underway for Sister City Program activities on 2020. Highlights for 2020 include:

- Opening celebration of the Richmond Gardens in Pierrefonds, Quebec in spring;
- Two sports exchange activities a girls softball team is travelling to Wakayama for a tournament and a Wakayama Judo team is visiting Richmond;

- From the success of the 2019 book club, all five sister and friendship cities have precommitted to the 2020 summer reading book club with the "One Book, Five Cities Book Club"; and
- Exploring active living and connected community activities with other Council advisory bodies, Richmond Public Library & Richmond School Board.

### Financial Impact

None.

### Conclusion

The SCAC 2019-2022 Four Year Activity Plan provides a structure to deliver events and activities to further strengthen the existing sister and friendship city relationships. 2019 marked the SCAC's most active year to date and the plan is to continue this momentum into 2020.

Mike Romas Manager, People Development (604-276-4081)

MR:mr

Att. 1: SCAC 2019-2022 Four Year Activity Plan 2: SCAC 2019 Year in Review



## 2018 Sister City Advisory Committee Members:

Members	Allen Chan	Charan Gill	Ihsan Malik	
Vice-Chairs	Ed Gavsie	Glenn Kishi	Helen Quan	Eden Jiang Zhang
Chair	Lisa MacNeil			

Melissa Zhang

Donna Sargent School Board

Kim Ng Razzak Paracha

**ATTACHMENT 1** 

# Sister City Advisory Committee

Mandate: to provide advice to and assist the City in the promotion of the City's culture and values, delivery of the Sister City Program and the pursuit of the City's specific goal to establish and sustain cultural and educational ties with approved Sister/Friendship Cities.



Wakayama 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Tree Planting Ceremony

## <u> 2017 – 2018 Achievements</u>

- Hosted delegations from Japan & Taiwan
- Celebrated sister city relationship milestones
  - Wakayama, Japan 45 years (2018) Qingdao, China – 10 years (2018)
    - Viriguao, Unina 10 years (2013) Xiamen, China – 5 years (2017)
- 66 Richmond high school students participated in school exchange with students from Wakayama, Japan
- Supported Steveston Judo Club members (15) to travel to Wakayama
- / Participated in 2018 Canada Day Parade with entry of more than 100+ participants
  - Shared Canada 150 greetings with Sister & Friendship Cities
- Researched potential friendship cities for future consideration



2018 Canada Day Parade

### 2019 – 2022 Activity Goals

- Celebrate harmonious relationship with Pierrefonds
- Build on current relationships with sister/friendship cities
  - / Increase # of school visits
- Explore non-visit activities and showcase innovative programs around the city
  - Consider activities for ALL age groups
- Begin path towards twinning with a Friendship city

## Sister City

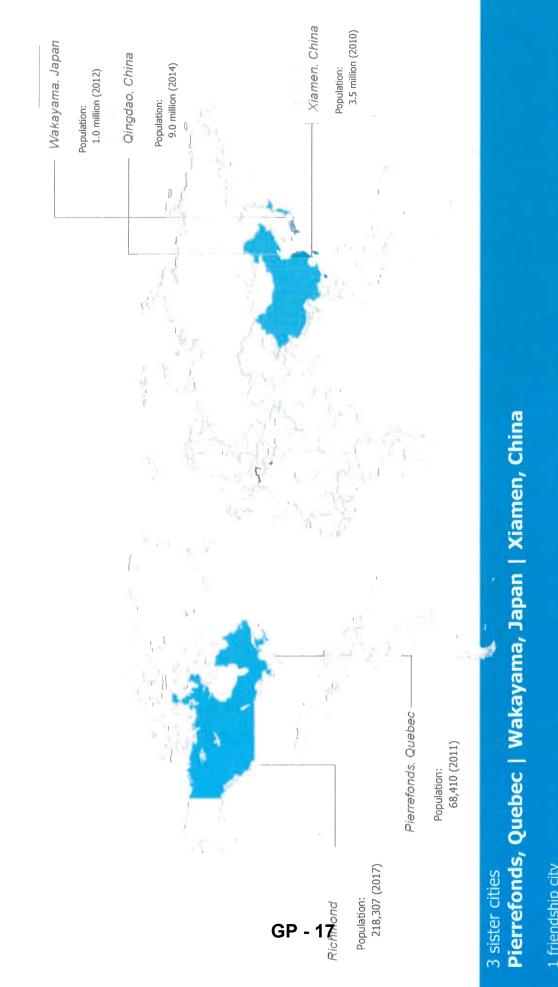
a city that is linked to another, usually for the purposes of cultural exchange

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## **Friendship City**

less formal relationship than sister city

## Definition



### 1 friendship city Qingdao, China

## Activity Summary

	2019	2020	2021	2022
Annual Base Program Activities (Visit)				
Education	Wakayama	Wakayama	Wakayama	Wakayama
		Pierrefonds (Pilot)	Pierrefonds	Pierrefonds
Sports	Steveston Judo Club	Xiamen Youth Rugby	Steveston Kendo Club	Hockey Tournament
	Table Tennis	Steveston Kendo Club	Table Tennis	
Anter an Activities (Non-Visit)				
Annual "state of the city" letter	×	×	×	×
Excessingly of cities' annual reports and city plans	×	×	×	×
SCAC Annual Summary	×	×	×	×
Canada Day Parade	×	×	×	×
Art/Culture & Education	×	×	×	×
Relationship Activities				
Annual City-to-City Recognition	×	×	×	×
Anniversary Milestones				Pierrefonds (55 years)
	のないである	The second second	Low Lewis	Xiamen (10 years)
City Council/Delegation Visits		to be s	to be scheduled	
Activity Plan Relationship Review				×
Future Twinnings				
Explore new Sister City Relationship	×	×		C. S. S. Lines and

Outbound Activity

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## Budget Summary

2022
2021
2020
2019

### Annual Base Program Activities

Education	\$12,000	\$22,000	\$22,000	\$22,000
Sports	\$22,500	\$20,000	\$25,000	\$10,000
Art/Culture	\$19,000	\$20,000	\$17,000	\$12,000
Canada Day Parade	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500

### **Relationship Activities**

Annual City-to-City Recognition	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200
Anniversary Milestones				\$750
City Council/Delegation Visits				

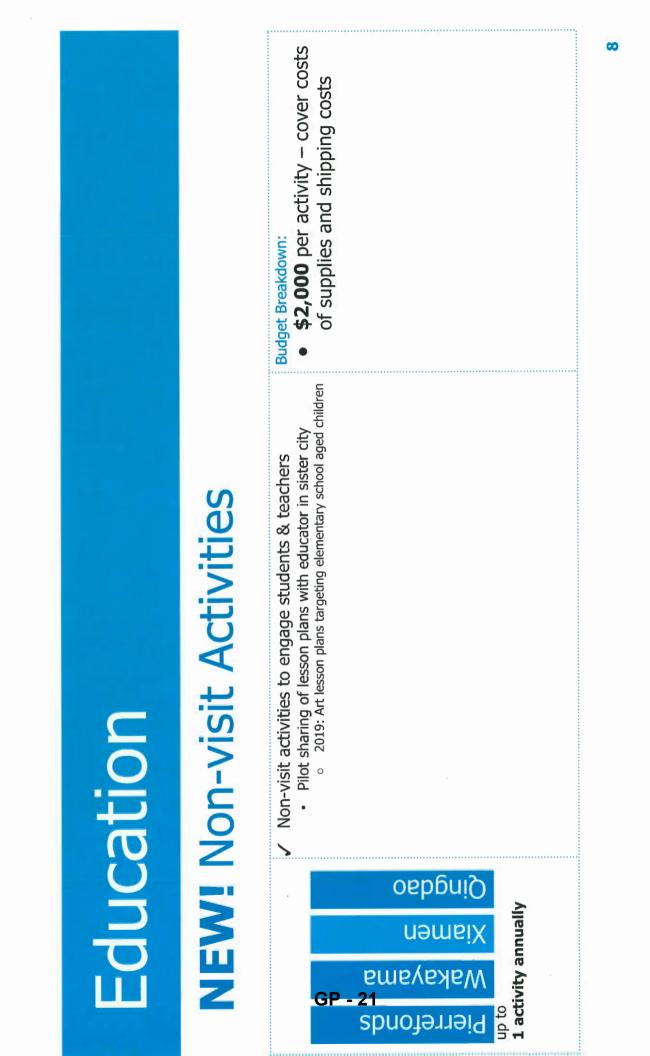
### Administration

Administration Costs	\$11,000	\$11,000	\$11,000	\$11,000

\$/e,/UU \$/8,/UU	\$59,450

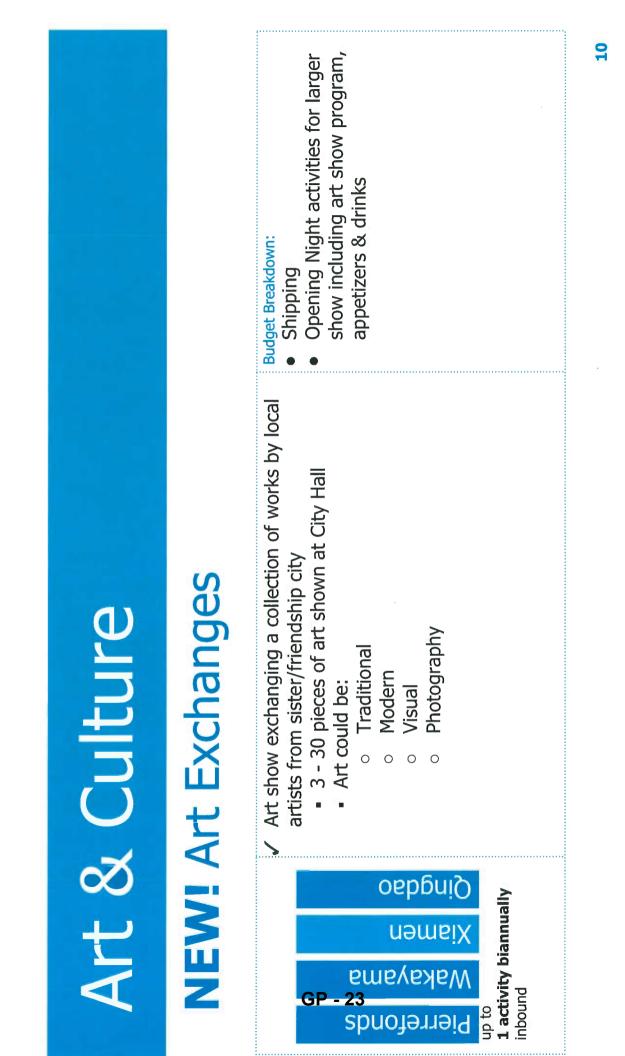
\$283,050	
GRAND TOTAL	







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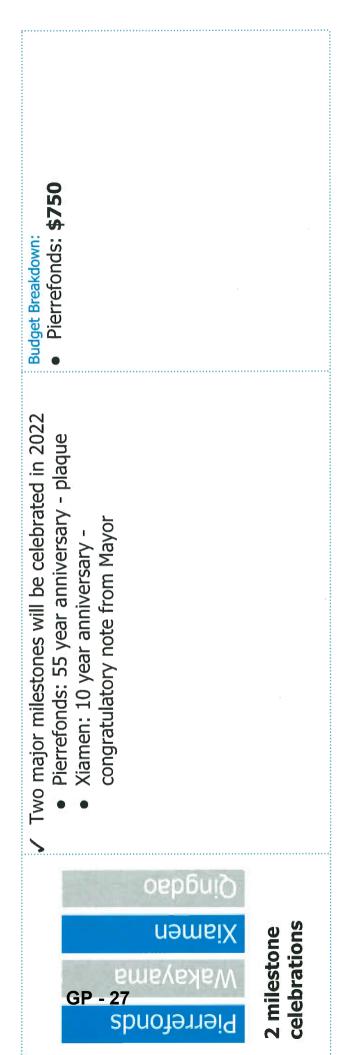
	Show	<ul> <li>Budget Breakdown:</li> <li>Funds to cover printing, in case sister cities do not have access to 3D printers</li> <li>Shipping costs</li> <li>Light panels (TBC)</li> <li>Opening Night function</li> </ul>	
Art & Culture	NEW! 3D Lithophanes Photo Show	<ul> <li>Photographers from Richmond &amp; Sister Cities to share landscape pictures of their community. All photos will be gathered to create a photo show. Photo show will visit each community participating.</li> <li>2019 show to feature high school students from local photography classes &amp; include senior photo club</li> <li>3D Lithophanes Photo Show to have a gallery opening night</li> <li>Credit to Richmond Public Library for recommendation to print photos as 3D Lithophanes</li> </ul>	
$\infty$	5	Qingdao	
T	E	Хіател	****
A	Ζ	Pierrefonds Bb54 Bb54 Bierrefonds	

	ublic Library - Book Club	<ul> <li>Budget Breakdown:</li> <li>Sister Cities to participate in Richmond Public Library book club program</li> <li>Bookmarks: printing &amp; distribution</li> </ul>	12
Art & Culture	NEW! Richmond Public Library	Launch various programs to coordinate sharing of information with sister city libraries. The activity plan would be to continue or expand on successful activities: 1 Book, up to 4 Cities book club (annually) with various audiences: Adults Adults • Adults • Adults • Adults • Adults • Nouth Bookmarks to be exchanged with sister city libraries to commemorate milestone anniversary celebrations in 2022 • local artists to design OR leverage city street banner artwork	
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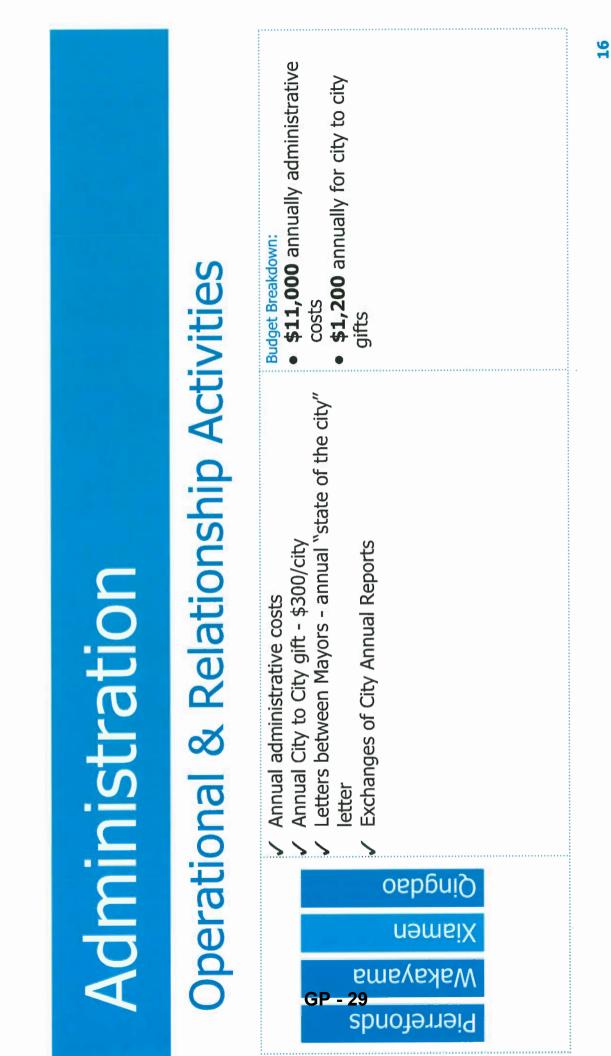


## Occurring in 2022



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### City of Richmond

### Sister City Advisory Committee 2019 Year in Review

### 2019 Summary:

The Sister City Advisory Committee (SCAC) manages the relationships with three official Sister Cities: Pierrefonds, Quebec (since 1967), Wakayama, Japan (since 1973), and Xiamen, China (since 2012); as well as one Friendship City: Qingdao, China (since 2008). Information from various SCAC activities and events are outlined in the following pages.

### 2019 Committee Members:

Chair	Lisa MacNeil
Vice Chair, Pierrefonds	Ed Gavsie
Vice-Chair, Wakayama	Glenn Kishi
Vice-Chair, Qingdao	Melissa Zhang
Vice-Chair, Xiamen	Helen Quan
Members	Seemah Aaron
	Allen Chan
	Charan Gill
	Bernard Loh
	Ihsan Malik
	Kim Ng
	Polly Tang
Council Liaison	Councillor Linda McPhail
School Board Liaison	Heather Larson Donna Sargent (Alternate)



### 2019 Sister City Relationship Highlights

### January

• Newly appointed SCAC members were introduced at the first meeting in January.



Back: Melissa Zhang, Glenn Kishi, Allen Chan, Heather Larson, Ed Gavsie, Bernard Loh Front: Seemah Aaron, Helen Quan, Kim Ng, Polly Tang, Lisa MacNeil, Councillor Linda McPhail, Ihsan Malik, Charan Gill

- The SCAC elected the Chair and Vice-Chairs for Pierrefonds, Wakayama Qingdao and Xiamen sub-committees and selected members to the following subcommittees:
  - Pierrefonds Sub-Committee;
  - o Wakayama Sub-Committee;
  - Qingdao Sub-Committee; and
  - o Xiamen Sub-Committee.



### February

 Richmond City Council and the Sister City Advisory Committee sent New Year's greetings to Richmond's Sister City Xiamen and Friendship City Qingdao, China on February 5, 2019.



**Richmond City Council New Year Greeting** 

SCAC New Year Greeting

 Members of the Sister City Advisory Committee welcomed a business delegation from Wakayama, Japan from on February 14, 2019. Local Japanese products were displayed at the Cultural Centre from February 13 to 28, 2019.



Left: Japanese products on display; Right: Delegation from Wakayama, Japan



- The Sister City Advisory Committee celebrated its 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Committee. Since the inception of this committee in February 1974 the objectives of the Sister City Program remain the same:
  - Carry out a continuing program of cultural exchanges
  - Emphasize student and athletic exchange for the benefit of youth
  - Promote a better understanding of our cultures and ways of life.



Signing Ceremony Pierrefonds, Quebec (1967) and Wakayama, Japan (1973)



Signing Ceremony Qingdao, China (2008) and Xiamen, China (2012)

### April

• On April 7, 2019 SCAC members participated in the Cherry Blossom Festival, held among the Akebono cherry blossom trees at Garry Point Park in Steveston. The booth featured a photo gallery of relationship milestones with Wakayama, Japan.





Left: Bookmark front Center: Sister City Booth Right: Bookmark back







### May

 From May 13 to 26, 2019, 36 students and 8 adults from Richmond travelled to Wakayama, Japan for the annual Richmond-Wakayama student exchange. The City of Richmond is a financial sponsor of this trip. The students participated in a homestay with local families in Wakayama and visited local schools. In addition to their stay in Wakayama students travelled to Nara, Arashiyama, Katsuragawa River, Kiyomizu, Okayama, Yakage, Hiroshima, Miyajima Island, Tokyo, and Joto.

The Richmond-Wakayama exchange has a rich history of over 45 years of exchanges. This program continues because of the strong ties made by students and teachers who participate in these exchanges.



Students and teachers from Richmond, BC and Wakayama, Japan



Students learning Japanese dancing and playing the Koto instrument





### June

 On June 4, 2019, the Richmond-Wakayama Student Exchange was featured on the City of Richmond's Facebook page. This is the first time the Sister City Program has been featured on social media and highlights sustained efforts made by the Committee to increase the program's reach to the residents of Richmond.



City of Richmond - Local Government

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The annual school exchange with the City of Wakayama, Japan, a Sister City to Richmond, took place in May.

This year, 36 students from Burnett, Palmer and Steveston-London secondary schools visited Wakayama. Thank you to the Wakayama School District for being such a great host.

For more information on our Sister Cities, visit www.richmond.ca/discover/about/sistercity/about.htm..



🕛 🔘 You and 57 others

City of Richmond post on Facebook

City of Richmond 6401217 12 Shares



### July

• On July 1, 2019, the SCAC participated in the Steveston Salmon Festival. Fifty volunteers participated in the parade including the Taiko 55 Drummers, Wakayama school exchange students and Richmond community volunteers.



Sister City Advisory Committee entry to the Steveston Salmon Festival Parade



Taiko 55 Drummers in the SCAC entry to the Steveston Salmon Festival



• On July 4, 2019, the Sister City Advisory Committee and the Richmond Public Library partnered for the first annual "One Book, Three Cities" book club. This event featured residents from Richmond, Qingdao and Xiamen who read the "Life of Pi" by Yann Martel and participated in a number of events throughout the summer, including an online discussion forum.



Opening Ceremony at the launch event for the "One Book, Three Cities" book club



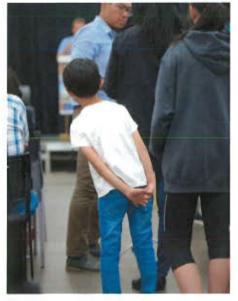
### August

• On August 1, 2019, Yann Martel, the author of the "Life of Pi", visited the Richmond Public Library to facilitate a discussion and meet with book club readers. In addition, Mr. Martel participated in the online discussion forum to engage with readers in China and signed translated copies of his book for book club participants in China.



Yann Martel presentation and signing at the "One Book, Three Cities" book club

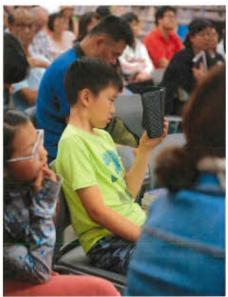














Yann Martel presentation and signing at the "One Book, Three Cities" book club

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• On August 2, 2019, students from Mio, Japan met with Acting Mayor Harold Steves and Councillor Bill McNulty at Richmond City Hall. The students were presenting a film at Vancouver's Powell Street Festival.



Acting Mayor Harold Steves addressing students from Mio, Japan with Councillor Bill McNulty

- On August 20 and 21 an economic delegation from Wakayama, Japan met with a local grocery store and members from the Sister City Advisory Committee.
- On August 30 and 31, 2019, the Sister City Advisory Committee hosted a booth at the Richmond World Festival to promote the Sister City Program to the community. The booth featured display boards with information about the Sister City Program and each of Richmond's sister city relationships and an interactive question board asking the community "What activities would like to participate in with Richmond's Sister Cities?" and "What book should we read for the next book club?".



Richmond World Fest Sister City Program booth display



### September

On September 7, 2019, the summer reading program concluded, ending the wildly successful "One Book, Three Cities" book club. This program was so well received; each of Richmond's Sister City relationships has expressed an interest in participating in 2020.





### Summer Reading Snapshot





Mayor Malcolm Brodie speaking at the conclusion of the summer reading series.

### summer Reading 2019 with Your Library Congratulations to all of our Summer Reading Club and One Book, Three Cities participants for a fantastic summer of reading and discussion. A special thank you to award-winning author Yann Martel for visiting RPL to talk about his book "Life of Pi". Join us in 2020!

**City of Richmond** 6401217





### October

From October 15 to 31, 2019, art from local artists in Qingdao, China was displayed in the atrium of Richmond City Hall as part of the Sister City Program, in partnership with the Richmond Art Gallery. The art was donated to the City of Richmond.



Artwork on display from Qingdao, China





• The SCAC released the first bookmark collection titled the "Skyline Scenery Bookmark Collection". These bookmarks will be distributed at local community events and will be used as gifts for delegations with Richmond's sister and friendship cities.



**Skyline Scenery Bookmark Collection** 







**City of Richmond** 



### November

 In November 2019, 48 elementary school students corresponded in French for a French Immersion pen pal program with Pierrefonds, Quebec. The Sister City Advisory Committee facilitated the connection and provided an oversized post card featuring iconic Richmond scenery.

City of Richmond, British Columbia	

### Postcard for French Immersion Pen Pal Program

• On November 1, 2019, a China Fair for International Trade (CFIT) delegation from Xiamen visited Richmond's Olympic Oval and met with Councillor Chak Au and members of the SCAC.



**CFIT Delegation Visit to Richmond Olympic Oval** 

### December

• The SCAC had its final meeting where the Committee scored each of the Sister/Friendship cities participation over the past year. All cities achieved a highly engaged score on the Sister City Program's annual relationship scorecard.