



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee **Date:** May 4, 2016

From: Jane Fernyough **File:** 11-7000-09-20-131/Vol 01
Director, Arts, Culture and Heritage Services

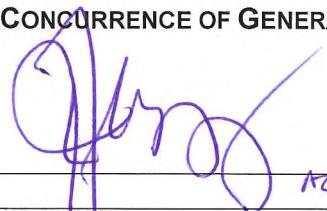
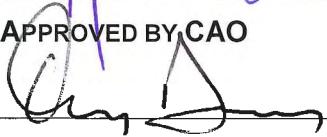
Re: Sharing Farm Community Public Art Project

Staff Recommendation

That the concept proposal for the Sharing Farm Community Public Art Project by artist Blake Williams as presented in the staff report from the Director, Arts, Culture and Heritage Services dated May 4, 2016, be endorsed.

Jane Fernyough
Director, Arts, Culture and Heritage Services
(604-276-4288)

Att. 2

REPORT CONCURRENCE		
ROUTED TO: Budgets Parks Planning Project Development	CONCURRENCE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER  KATIE GM
REVIEWED BY STAFF REPORT / AGENDA REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE	INITIALS: DW	APPROVED BY CAO 

Staff Report

Origin

Through the arts, a community can explore ideas, issues and concerns, voice community identity, express historical and cultural spirit, and create dialogue. The City's Community Public Art Program creates opportunities for collaborative art projects between community groups and professional artists of all disciplines. Working with a professional artist, the community group is involved in all stages of planning and commissioning of a public art project.

This report brings forward for consideration the concept proposal jointly developed by The Sharing Farm Society and the artist Blake Williams.

This report supports Council's 2014-2018 Term Goal #2: A Vibrant, Active and Connected City:

Continue the development and implementation of an excellent and accessible system of programs, services, and public spaces that reflect Richmond's demographics, rich heritage, diverse needs, and unique opportunities, and that facilitate active, caring, and connected communities.

2.4. Vibrant arts, culture and heritage opportunities.

Analysis

Background

The Sharing Farm community public art project originated in 2011, as one of three community groups selected for public art projects that year. The project was proposed by The Sharing Farm Society under the guidance of founding member Mary Gazetas. Due to Mary's untimely passing in 2012, this project was postponed to give the Sharing Farm Society Board time to re-examine the scope of the project.

In consultation with staff, the Board recommended that the Terra Nova Rural Park Sharing Farm replacement barn would be an appropriate location for the public art project. City staff, working with The Sharing Farm and the barn design team supported this direction and developed an Artist Call for this opportunity.

The barn, currently under construction in Terra Nova Rural Park, has subsequently been named *Mary's Barn* in honour of Mary Gazetas in recognition of her work with the Sharing Farm Society and distribution of fresh fruits and vegetables to the Richmond Food Bank.

Terms of Reference – Community Public Art Selection Process

In March 2016, a request for proposals was issued to artists residing in British Columbia (Attachment 1). Artists were encouraged to consider and respond to Richmond's agricultural heritage as an important part of the City's history. The artwork should reflect Richmond's agricultural heritage and the Sharing Farm's motto, "We grow Food. We grow Farmers. We grow Community." An artist orientation was held at the site on March 17, 2016.

The selection panel met on April 14, 2016 to review all of the artist submissions and recommend a shortlist of three artists to develop concept proposals for presentation to the selection panel. The selection panel included the following voting members:

- James Gates, Executive Director, The Sharing Farm Society
- Mary Ann Lui, Artist
- Greg Andrews, Architect for Mary's Barn

Panel advisors included City staff from Parks Services and the Public Art Program as well as a Board Member from the Sharing Farm Society.

A second selection panel meeting was held on April 28, 2016 to interview the shortlisted artists. Artists were evaluated on the basis of artistic merit of past work, appropriateness to the goals of the Program including past work with community groups, artist qualifications, and the artistic merit and technical feasibility of their proposal. The panel recommended Vancouver-based artist Blake Williams for this project.

The artist concept proposal was presented to the Richmond Public Art Advisory Committee (RPAAC) on May 10, 2016. RPAAC endorsed the artist concept and recommended that the artist continue to develop the artwork with the Sharing Farm community to ensure the symbolic meaning and integrity of the piece reflects the overarching values and goals of the Sharing Farm. RPAAC also recommends that the artist takes care to remove and/or dull all sharp edges in the work to ensure public safety.

Recommended Public Art Project

The proposed project is to be located on two wall areas on the north side of the barn, facing the Healing Garden. The artwork will be partially protected from the elements by a 12-foot deep porch roof.

The artist describes the proposal as follows:

"To celebrate Richmond's rich agricultural heritage I would create two large – 5 ft. x 6 ft. – assemblages for the exterior wall of "Mary's Barn." They would be constructed from a variety of rusted, well used found materials symbolic of Richmond's farming history. To deal with safety concerns each sharp edge would be dulled and points flattened."

Further information about the proposed art project, the artists' resume, and examples of the artist's previous public art projects is provided in Attachment 2 to this report.

Next Steps

A technical review and coordination phase with the artist, design consultants and City staff will be included with the design development phase of the artwork to address structural, safety or maintenance concerns and to review construction coordination and implementation budgets. Prior to approval for the fabrication and installation of the artwork, the artist will be required to provide sealed drawings prepared by a structural engineer to certify the structural integrity of the work and to specify the structural attachment to the building.

Financial Impact

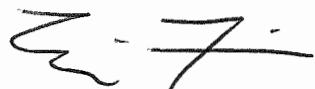
The Public Art Program has allocated \$15,000 for this community public art project from existing funds in the approved 2015 Public Art Capital Project. Any repairs or maintenance associated with the artwork will be the responsibility of the Public Art Program.

Conclusion

Richmond's Community Public Art Program creates opportunities for collaborative public art projects between Richmond community groups and artists of all disciplines. The program is based on the belief that through the arts, communities can explore issues, ideas and concerns, voice community identity, express cultural spirit and create dialogue.

The Sharing Farm community public art project outlined in this report embraces and explores this community's ideals. This project will celebrate Richmond's rich agricultural heritage and acknowledge the importance of community volunteerism.

If endorsed, the project will move into the design and fabrication phase, with implementation scheduled to be completed by late 2016.



Eric Fiss
Public Art Planner
(604-247-4612)

- Att. 1: Call to Artists
2: Concept proposal, artist's resume and examples of past projects

call to artists

PUBLIC ART
RICHMOND



The Sharing Farm Artist Call

RFP

Request for Proposals

March 2016

OPPORTUNITY

The Richmond Public Art Program and The Sharing Farm Society seek an artist or artist team with proven experience in creating sculptural and/or low relief artworks using up-cycled, repurposed, sustainably sourced or recycled materials. The artwork should reflect the aspirations of a unique community dedicated to growing food, supporting farmers, and creating community. The selected artist will have experience working with multiple stakeholders to develop and execute a permanent artwork for The Sharing Farm, as well as a proven ability to fabricate their own work or to work with fabricators and installers.

Budget: \$15,000 CAD.

Eligibility Requirements: Open to professional artists and artist teams residing in British Columbia.

Artist Orientation: Thursday, March 17, 2016. 5:00pm.

Deadline: Thursday, April 7, 2016. 5:00pm.

Completion: August 2016

call to artists

BACKGROUND

In 2001, a group of volunteers started the Richmond Fruit Tree Sharing Project (RFTSP) by picking surplus fruit out of people's gardens to give to the Richmond Food Bank. They were aided by Vancouver Fruit Tree Project and the Richmond Community Kitchen organization. In 2002 the project became a registered non-profit society with five founding directors.

As an Agricultural Community Centre, they have formal and informal education programs that teach new generations of urban farmers and backyard gardeners. Mental health and addiction groups have been blended into their volunteer program as a form of horticultural therapy.

The Sharing Farm operates on a tiny budget, but thanks to the generosity of over 1,000 yearly volunteers and the devotion of a small core of part-time staff, the Farm is able to provide thousands of pounds of fruits and vegetables every year to community meals throughout the city and the Richmond Food Bank. The Sharing Farm Society now cultivates 3 acres at Terra Nova Rural Park.

In 2009, the Sharing Farm raised funds for the construction of a Healing Garden, to create a community gathering place and to cultivate a diversity of medicinal, culinary and ornamental plants. The Garden also hosts a cob oven to complement special events such as the annual Sharing Farm Garlic Festival.

In 2016 "Mary's Barn", named after the late Mary Gazetas, one of the founding members of the organization, will be constructed to serve as the heart of the farm with a work shop, a walk-in cooler for the harvest, a seed-starting and herb-drying area, a produce processing section, a packing zone and sheltered area to house a tractor.

The Sharing Farm believes passionately that what they do is vital to keeping the local community healthy and sustainable.

THEME / CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

Artists are encouraged to consider and respond to Richmond's agricultural heritage as an important part of the city's history. Early settlers were attracted to Richmond by the fertile soils of Lulu and Sea Islands and the promise of agricultural productivity. Over the years, Richmond has grown and evolved into a vibrant, cosmopolitan urban centre. Despite the dramatic changes, a significant portion of Richmond's land area remains agricultural. Today, agriculture forms an important part of the local and regional economy as well as a major land use in the city. The artwork should reflect Richmond's agricultural heritage and the Sharing Farm's motto, "We grow Food. We grow Farmers. We grow Community."

call to artists

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LOCATION

Two locations for the public artwork have been identified at the Sharing Farm. Artists will be required to choose one of two locations for their proposal and submission. These locations are illustrated and further detailed on pages 4 and 5.

ARTIST ORIENTATION AND SITE VISIT

Interested artists are encouraged to attend a site visit and artist orientation on Thursday, March 17, 2016, from 5:00-6:00pm. Please meet at the Buemann House. See Figure 1 for location and context map.

The Sharing Farm is located in Terra Nova Rural Park. Drive west along Westminster Highway past No 1 Rd. Take the second right onto Barnard Drive, then the second left to get back onto Westminster Highway. At 2771 Westminster Highway turn right into the Buemann House parking lot and you'll arrive at The Sharing Farm.

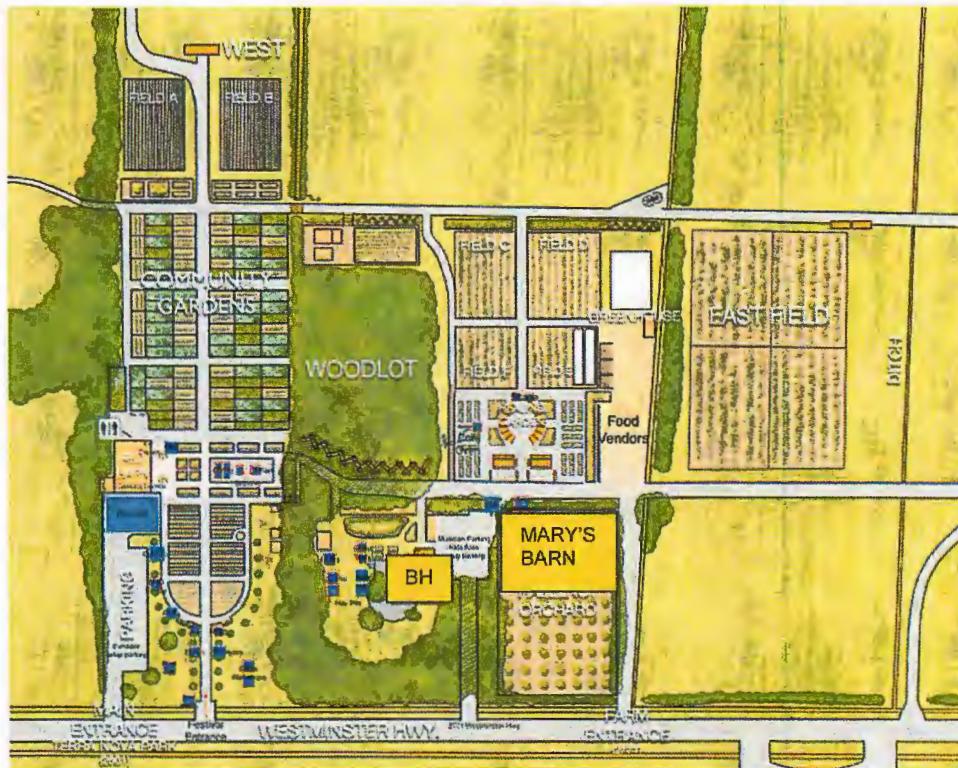


Figure 1. Sharing Farm Site Plan. Buemann House marked "BH".

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LOCATION 01 – MARY'S BARN, EXTERIOR WALL ARTWORK

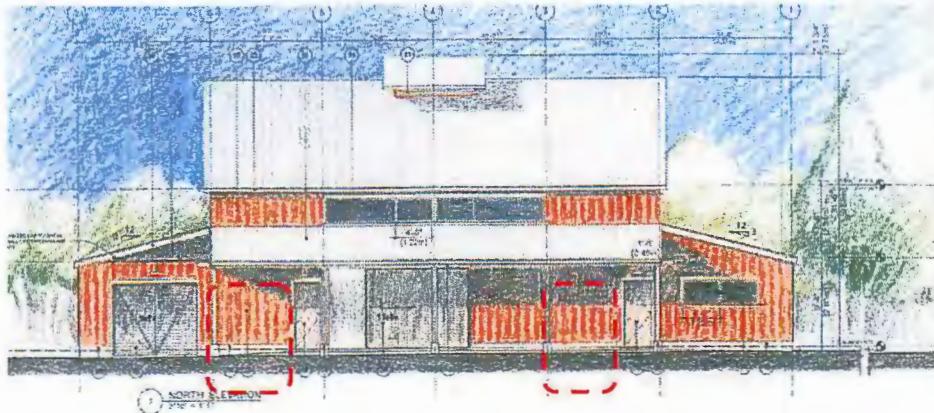


Figure 2. North elevation of barn, showing exterior wall locations for artwork.

Design Considerations:

The artwork will be partially covered and exposed to the elements. Artists are required to consider attachment methods and maintenance when choosing materials. The location of the artwork will be highly visible during the day to day operations by staff, volunteers and visitors. Artists are welcome to propose functional, interactive, or educational elements into the artwork.

Wall Area Dimensions

Wide = 5' ft. (max.), Height = 6' ft (max.), Depth from wall = 8" inches (max.)

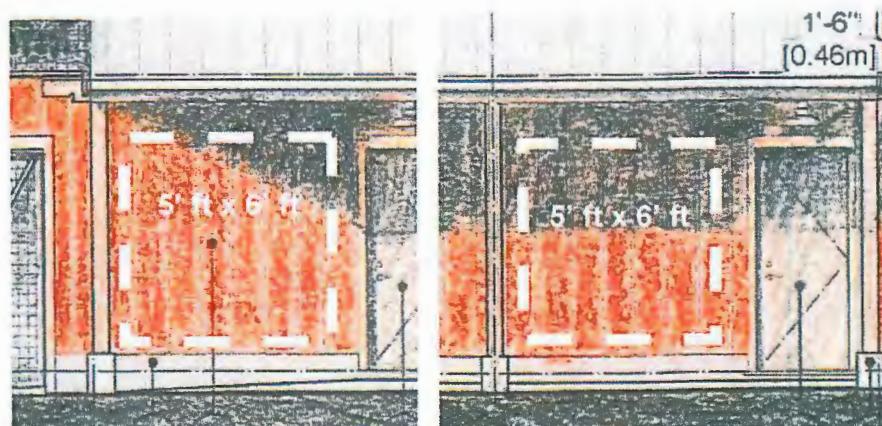


Figure 3. Showing extent of east and west wall areas on painted cementitious wall cladding on wood frame construction.

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LOCATION 02 – SCULPTURAL ARMATURE FOR POLE BEANS

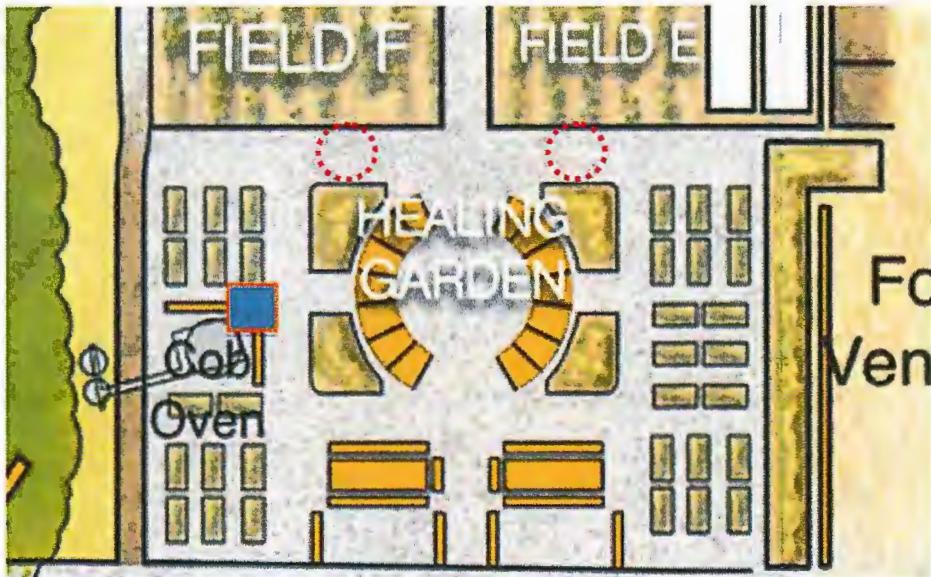


Figure 4. Location no. 2 identified between the garden and fields.

Design Considerations:

Artists are encouraged to consider the seasonal functional and viewing experiences of a sculptural armature for growing pole beans. In the spring and summer, the armature will function as supports for growing vines. In the fall and winter the armature will take on another character and stand alone as a sculptural artwork. Please indicate proposed foundation supports and perimeter bedding treatments and/or design. Soil preparation and planting provided by others.

Two Circular Areas Flanking North-South Passage

Artwork Area = 2 x 8' foot diameter circular areas.



Figure 5. Photographs of site showing locations for growing structures.

call to artists

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SOURCES FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

[The Sharing Farm Society](#)
[Richmond Public Art Program](#)

BUDGET

The total budget established for this project is \$15,000 CAD. This budget is inclusive of artist fees, design, engineering fees, fabrication, installation, photography, travel, insurance and all applicable taxes, excluding GST.

MATERIALS

Preference will be given for artist submissions that aim to incorporate up-cycled, recycled, sustainably sourced, salvaged, found and/or other natural media or construction material. The artwork will be permanent and should have minimal maintenance requirements.

ARTIST ELIGIBILITY

This project is open to professional artists and artist teams residing in British Columbia. Qualified applicants will have experience working with multiple stakeholders and City staff. City staff are not eligible to apply.

SELECTION PROCESS

A three (3) member 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 submissions. At the conclusion of the process, the panel will recommend one artist. The selected artist will enter into a contract with the City of Richmond and finalize the design working in consultation with City staff and Sharing Farm representatives.

ARTIST SELECTION CRITERIA

Submissions to the call will be reviewed and decisions made based on:

- Artist qualifications and proven capability to produce work of the highest quality;
- Artistic merit of the proposal;
- Artist's capacity to work in demanding environments with communities and other design professionals, where applicable;
- Appropriateness of the proposal to the Public Art Program goals: www.richmond.ca/culture/publicart/plans/policy
- Ability of the concept to respond to the existing character of the site by taking into account scale, colour, material, texture, content, and the physical characteristics of the location.
- Degree to which the proposal is technically feasible with probability of successful completion;
- Environmental sustainability of the proposed artwork.

call to artists

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SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

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

- **INFORMATION FORM** – Please complete the information form attached to this document.
- **CONCEPT PROPOSAL** – (2 page maximum). A statement of intent, including artist's rationale and a preliminary concept sketch or visualization. The statement should describe artist's discipline; explain conceptual approach to the work, why the artist is interested in this opportunity and how the project responds to the selection criteria.
- **ARTWORK BUDGET** – (1 page maximum). Budget is inclusive of a maximum artist fee of 15%, administration, insurance, engineering fees, materials, travel, fabrication, installation and contingency costs.
- **ARTIST CV** – (1 page maximum). Teams should include one page for each member.
- **WORK SAMPLES** – Up to 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** – 3 references who can speak to your abilities, skills, and accomplishments. Please provide name, title and contact telephone number and/or email.

PROJECT TIMELINE

*Schedules are subject to change.

Orientation Site Visit: Thursday, March 17, 2016. 5:00pm.

Submission Deadline: Thursday, April 7, 2016. 5:00pm

Shortlist Interviews: Thursday, April 28, 2016

Project Completion: August 2016

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.
4. If submitting as a team, the team should designate one representative to complete the entry form. Each team member must submit an individual resume/curriculum vitae. (See Submission Requirements)
5. All documents must be sent by e-mail to: publicart@richmond.ca

call to artists

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1. The selected artist will 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 reissue 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. We thank all artists for contributing their time and professional work for the initial concept proposal submissions. We believe our smaller scale public art commissions are an opportunity for young or emerging public artists to have an equal opportunity in obtaining commissions when being able to submit a visual representation of their concept proposal.
4. Submissions must be received by **Thursday, April 7, 2016. 5:00pm**. Extensions to this 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

Please contact the Richmond Public Art Program:

E-mail: publicart@richmond.ca

call to artists

PUBLIC ART
RICHMOND

Project Name: _____

Submission Deadline: _____

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

Name: _____

Team Name: (if applicable) _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **Postal Code:** _____

Primary Phone: _____ **Secondary Phone:** _____

E-mail: _____ **Website:** _____
(One website or blog only)

Incomplete submissions will not be accepted. E-mailed submissions over 5 MB will not be accepted. Information beyond what is listed in the checklist will not be reviewed.

List Team Member Names: (Team Lead complete above portion)

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

Would you like to receive direct e-mails from the Richmond Public Art Program?

Yes No

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Submit applications by e-mail 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.

The Sharing Farm
Richmond Public Art



Blake Williams
1318 Grant Street
Vancouver BC V5L 2X5
www.blakewilliams.ca

Concept Proposal

As an artist working the public realm I believe in the potential of public art to contribute to a greater sense of place, while adding vibrancy and identifiable landmarks. Projects that invest in fostering and inspiring pride in one's city or community are opportunities to use art as a vehicle to celebrate, reflect and explore. I believe successful communities are built on a sense of ownership and belonging. We need to feel that we are reflected and acknowledged.

Public art at the Farm Sharing Project can become a meeting place where visitors pause and create opportunities for discussion and interaction; where reflection on place, neighbourhood and community is enhanced.

I'm particularly interested in this project as it is based on The Sharing Farm's visionary approach to food production and distribution. While it honours the history and legacy of agriculture in Richmond it also puts into practice the healing potential of horticultural therapy. I believe it is a good fit for me because I've worked on numerous projects that are community based and which engaged a varied, committed group of local citizens.

To celebrate Richmond's rich agricultural heritage I would create two large - 5' x 6' - assemblages for the exterior wall of "Mary's Barn". They would be constructed from a variety of rusted, well used found materials symbolic of Richmond's farming history. The illustration on the following page illustrates some of the objects that would make up the installations. Shown here are axes, wrenches, shovels, pitchforks, and an assortment of other tools and textures. The final work would contain more detail that would be visible when viewed closer, a woven "fabric" of rusted steel, nails, brackets, small tools and saw blades. To deal with safety concerns each sharp edge would be dulled and points flattened. The background of the piece would either be a panel of weathered barn wood or, to increase the durability, I would print the weathered texture on porcelain ceramic tile. As an interactive element I would include a series of "spy holes" where visitors can look into the piece. (Please see my attached photographs for the Migration project, included with this document as an example of this in practice.)

The construction would be very organic, adding and subtracting to the piece depending on what rusted treasures are found. In addition there can be found a series of metal framed, hand tinted photographic images permanently printed and kiln fired onto glass. These would reflect the abundance that comes from the land and provide glimpses into farm life of the past. I would consult with the members of The Sharing Society to determine the most appropriate imagery and text. I would also like to meet with these members to offer the opportunity to have input into the project. Possibly a workshop where farming stories can be told and personal items brought to become part of the sculpture's rusted memory.

Ninety percent or more of the assemblage will be constructed from up-cycled and repurposed materials. Even the glass for the photographic imagery will be taken from old windows, the not perfect surface and texture of the glass contributing to the story.

Preliminary Concept Sketch

This sketch is a preliminary idea for one of the panels to be installed on "Mary's Barn". A second construction would be created that would be similar in approach but illustrating different aspects of Richmond's farming heritage.



Preliminary Budget

Final Design + Research	2,000
Community Engagement	400
Materials	
found materials	
porcelain	
printing materials	1,300
Image Preparation	450
Studio Fabrication	5,000
Installation	
Transportation	300
Labour	600
Hoist	400
Documentation	300
Insurance	500
Contingency	1,500
Artist Fee	2,250
Total	15,000

Selected Public Art Projects

Bridging Perspectives, The City of Saanich, BC, The Craigflower Bridge,

6' x 13' x 6" curving steel and concrete sculptural form clad in screenprinted and painted fused glass.

The Welcome Project-Migration, The Coquitlam City Centre Public Library, 2013

2 - 2' x 8" x 11.5 ' glass clad "birdhouses" with photographic imagery and text reflecting the experience of immigrants to the city discovered during a series of 8 art making workshops that discussed issues of racism and inclusiveness.

Illuminations-The Necklace Project, The City of Port Moody, 2012

a 6' diameter steel circle with glass mosaic infill with solar powered back lighting, 4 - 2' steel framed circles each with glass mosaic infill and solar back lighting, the work at each location told a brief story of a significant heritage building while speaking to the natural and human history of Port Moody.

All Intertwining, First Capital Realty, The City of Richmond, BC, 2012

a 17' x 36' photographic and painted porcelain panel, inspired by the agricultural heritage of Richmond and the history of blueberry farming which was used as a metaphor for sustainability.

The Flapping of a Single Wing, North Vancouver BC, 2011

4' x 14' suspended glass, concrete and aluminum sculpture with photo-imagery and text, representing North Vancouver's natural and human history.

Body Mind Spirit, Southlands Leisure Centre, Calgary, AB, 2009

4' x 75' ceramic and glass mural cladding a concrete form rising from floor level to 12' representing the activities of the centre and the diverse nature of the user group

R/ISE, Fire Hall #5, Red Deer, AB, 2009

A 6' x 10' free standing steel and glass curving form with imagery and text reflecting on the history and mission of the Emergency services department.

Bruce Eriksen Place, Vancouver, BC, 1999

6' x 35' ceramic mural and 15 - text panels to honour the work of Downtown Eastside activist and city councilor Bruce Eriksen, this project required working with the architect, the contractor, a committee from the housing society, plus interviews with individuals and organizations.

Spectrum International Award

winner of the Award of Merit for design, these awards are given to projects that show original use of materials and have cultural significance, other winners include the Sistine Galleries at the Vatican and the Holocaust Museum.

*The Welcome Project-
Migration,
The Coquitlam City Centre
Public Library, 2013*

2 - 2' x 8" x 11.5 ' glass
clad "birdhouses" with
photographic imagery
and text reflects the
experience of
immigrants to the city
discovered during a
series of 8 art making
workshops that
discussed issues of
racism, inclusiveness.



*The Welcome Project-
Migration, detail*

On either side of the “birdhouse” are a series of spy holes that offer views into the piece where an assemblage of imagery, text and objects further the narrative of the project.

Please Note:

For the Sharing Farm Project I would include a similar device that would allow visitors to peer into the piece and discover small constructions that would expand on the narrative of the work and provide an element of discovery and fun.

