



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services
Committee

From: Marie Fenwick
Director, Arts, Culture and Heritage Services

Re: **Arts Services Year in Review 2021**

Date: March 3, 2022

File: 11-7000-01/2022-Vol
01

Staff Recommendation

That the Arts Services Year in Review 2021 as presented in the staff report titled, "Arts Services Year in Review 2021," dated March 3, 2022, from the Director, Arts, Culture and Heritage Services, be circulated to Community Partners and Funders for their information.

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

Att. 1

REPORT CONCURRENCE		
ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER
Recreation Services Parks Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
SENIOR STAFF REPORT REVIEW	INITIALS: 	APPROVED BY CAO

Staff Report

Origin

ArtWorks: Richmond Arts Strategy 2019–2024 was developed through extensive community engagement, guidance and consultation to help guide the City's actions in making Richmond a city with a thriving arts scene that animates the city every day; offers rich arts education and experiences, festivals and events; fosters social connections and wellness; builds arts and culture leadership; and provides creative spaces.

The Strategy provides Five Strategic Directions to guide the City and its stakeholders' involvement in supporting the arts sector and ensuring a thriving and visible arts scene in Richmond:

1. Ensure affordable and accessible arts for all.
2. Promote inclusivity and diversity in the arts.
3. Invest in the arts.
4. Increase awareness and participation in the arts.
5. Activate public spaces through (and for) the arts.

These strategic directions create a foundation and help to ensure the City is purposeful in its continued advancement of the arts in the community and that the arts play a strong role in place making, community building, tourism, health and social well-being, economic development and more. This report presents *Arts Services Year in Review 2021* (Attachment 1), which highlights this last year's achievements in the arts.

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.

3.3 Utilize an interagency and intercultural approach to service provision.

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.

Analysis

The *Arts Services Year in Review 2021* describes last year's achievements in the arts with particular attention to programs and activities led by Community Cultural Development, Richmond Arts Centre, Richmond Media Lab, Richmond Art Gallery, Richmond Public Art Program and Major Events. It also recognizes arts activities and programs offered beyond the Department of Arts, Culture and Heritage, such as in the Parks Department, Recreation and Sport Services Department and at the Gateway Theatre.

In 2021, many of the City's public programs and services continued with online delivery and reduced registration for indoor programs in response to health order restrictions on gathering. In the second year of such restrictions, the arts maintained their vital and sustaining presence in the community. Programming and artist-led themes explored Richmond's local ecology, cultural and community identities, reconciliation, climate change, and more. Amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, residents were invited to discover and share new arts experiences at cultural venues, in the public realm and, of course, online.

Highlights and achievements of 2021 include:

- The 13th annual Children's Arts Festival happened entirely online with a series of six artist-led, Lunar New Year-inspired videos that were provided to schools with accompanying hands-on art supplies for the students. As of Family Day, the videos were offered online, for free, to the general public.
- Now in its third year, the Community Mural Program saw a record six new large-scale murals completed to enhance our public realm, three of them for Richmond School District No. 38, where students and staff played a vital role in their designs. As well, Gateway Theatre's massive exterior was transformed with *Stages of Bloom*, a colourful and symbolic floral mural inspired by stories from Gateway's board, staff and Academy students as well as the broader Richmond community.
- Over the summer, Richmond Art Gallery's popular *Imperfect Offerings*, presented hundreds of broken ceramic and natural objects painstakingly repaired by way of the Japanese *kintsugi* technique whereby imperfections and cracks are mended and traced with gold. With themes of rebuilding, recovery and transformation through healing, the show mirrored our collective journey through the pandemic and our slow and careful return to sociality.
- In partnership with the Richmond Arts Coalition and Britannia Shipyards National Historic Site Society, the 18th Richmond Maritime Festival was successfully (re)imagined with a blend of online and on-site programming delivered by more than 60 local artists, performers and "pop-up" style heritage storytellers, amidst maritime-themed décor and installations throughout the site. As well, wooden and working boats along the dock included several local, restored heritage boats.
- Ranked No. 2 in B.C. and No. 5 in Canada (for mid-size cities) in 2021, Richmond continued to be a national leader with the 13th annual Culture Days campaign with 63 individual free, in-person and online activities by 32 artists and cultural organizations. Richmond's BC Culture Days Ambassador, Jeni Chen, a visual and graphic artist, was commissioned to design the volunteer t-shirts.

- \$116,815 was invested through the 2021 Arts and Culture Grant Program providing operating and project assistance grants to 20 non-profit arts organizations, in order to strengthen the infrastructure of arts and culture organizations, increase funding for arts opportunities, show support for the careers of local artists and support a wide range of artistic and cultural activity.
- The Richmond Youth Media Program (RYMP), a free referral-based program for youth aged 13–24, completed its 11th year as a signature offering of the Richmond Media Lab. In 2021, 31 RYMP members racked up more than 1,300 hours learning media arts skills and building community connections. RYMP members worked collaboratively to win the annual WorkSafe BC Student Safety Video Contest in the Grades 8–10 category.
- There were 23 Richmond-based artists contracted for public art commissions this year, which included three murals, ten utility box wraps, six No. 3 Road art column exhibitions, one permanent public art work and two community-engaged artist projects.
- Pride Week was celebrated through creative expression at three community centres (Thompson, South Arm and City Centre) who offered an online poetry workshop, *Tie Dye in the Park* event and a live musical performance, respectively.

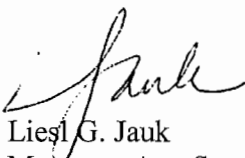
The *Arts Services Year in Review 2021* also highlights the significant value and benefits the arts bring to Richmond by encouraging self-expression, creating a sense of community identity and pride, enhancing understanding of issues in society, providing opportunities to develop and foster new skills and encouraging collaboration and connections. All of these benefits contribute to individual well-being and healthy, sustainable communities.

Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

The *Arts Services Year in Review 2021* highlights activities and achievements in the arts in the community and the importance the arts play in further enhancing Richmond's identity as one of the best places to live, work and play. Art in everyday life creates a sense of place as well as a sense of personal meaning and community identity.



Liesl G. Jauk
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Att. 1: *Arts Services Year in Review 2021*

City of Richmond

ATTACHMENT 1

ARTS SERVICES YEAR IN REVIEW 2021

Arts, Culture and
Heritage Services



PRCS- 75



Guiding Principles

- Striving for **excellence** among all who participate in and contribute to the artistic life of Richmond from City services to community organizations to individuals of all ages and skill levels.
- **Sustainability** to 'future-proof' the arts through funding, education, infrastructure, mentorship and the integration of the arts into the everyday fabric of our city.
- Expressing **creativity** through experimentation and fostering collaboration among diverse voices.
- Providing broad **accessibility** to arts experiences and advancing **inclusivity** to connect people through the arts.
- **Community-building** through creative engagement and dialogue, and honouring the spirit of Reconciliation.
- **Celebration** to showcase and inspire Richmond's artistic vibrancy.

Vision

Richmond's thriving arts scene

- animates our city every day;
- offers rich arts education and experiences, festivals and events;
- fosters social connections and wellness;
- builds arts and culture leadership; and
- provides creative spaces



Richmond Cultural Centre

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Introduction

Following almost a year adapting to the COVID-19 pandemic, 2021 was less about “pivoting” than about community resilience and perseverance. Ever-changing public health orders required regular adaptations on the number of in-person activities, but art and artists continued to meaningfully engage with our multi-faceted population be it online or in our cultural venues, schools, libraries, community centres, festivals or outdoor spaces.

Identity, public participation and local ecology were themes repeated with urgency and intention in 2021: the majority of activities and exhibitions showcased, supported and/or actively involved members of diverse, equity-seeking communities; staff training in response to the new National Day of Truth & Reconciliation and videos created for National Indigenous People's Days deepened understanding of Indigenous history and culture; hands-on activities and public art sparked awareness of climate change in terms of Richmond's unique ecosystems, plants and animals; and everywhere, we were (still) reminded to “be kind, be calm, be safe.”

From weaving with invasive species to personalized dancing Lego figures, from delicately repaired ceramics to large-scale murals, and from graphic novels by Arabic- and Farsi-speaking newcomers to Pride Week Tie Dye in the Park workshops, Richmond saw itself reflected and revealed through the arts.

Meanwhile, Richmond Youth Media Program members won a WorkSafe BC Student Safety Video Contest; winners of the 13th annual Richmond Arts Awards were, again, celebrated online rather than on stage; the Art at Work professional development program for artists attracted more than 1,500 Youtube views to recorded workshops; and the Richmond Maritime Festival made a triumphant return to the Britannia Shipyards site. Not bad at all for a “pandemic year.”

The 2021 Arts Services Year in Review recounts the myriad ways the City continues to foster vibrant and diverse arts and cultural opportunities for community engagement and connection. As such, the arts are essential to achieving the Council Strategic Plan 2018-2022 Goal: One Community Together.

For more about the arts in Richmond, visit howartworks.ca.



ArtWorks: Richmond Arts Strategy 2019 – 2024

Major Strategic Directions



1. Ensure affordable and accessible arts for all



2. Promote inclusivity and diversity in the arts



3. Invest in the arts



4. Increase awareness and participation in the arts



5. Activate public spaces through (and for) the arts

The Arts Services Year in Review summarizes progress made towards achieving the goals of *ArtWorks: Richmond Arts Strategy 2019–2024*. Throughout the document, you will see coloured icons that show how the year's activities help to advance the Strategy's five strategic directions.



BC Culture Days Ambassador, Jeni Chen, with her Culture Days t-shirt design

Community Cultural Development

Community Cultural Development refers to a wide range of programs, activities and events that support local artists and/or cultural organizations through direct investment, public profile or recognition, professional development and other creative opportunities for collaboration and mentorship.

In addition to the annual programs and events described below, Arts Services was able to fill the vacant role of Community Arts Coordinator. As in every year, Arts Services staff regularly offered practical professional advice, information and workshops to build capacity in the arts sector, for individual artists as well as not-profit organizations. In 2021, four professional development workshops covered topics that ranged from tax basics to applying to public art calls as part of the Art at Work Series (page 9). In the summer, working specifically with the Richmond Music School, staff continued coaching begun in 2020, using the Nonprofit Lifecycles framework.



Arts & Culture E-Blast and How Art Works Instagram



As part of the Richmond Arts Strategy, Arts Services continues to engage with the Richmond arts community through the Arts & Culture e-blast. In 2021, 20 e-blasts were sent to **more than 500 subscribers** including individual artists and organizations who received helpful news of artist calls, funding opportunities, professional development and more. Meanwhile, the @howartworks Instagram account, established in 2015, amassed **829 followers** and continued to offer another outlet to reach the general public.



Accessibility



Diversity



Investment



Awareness/Participation

PRCS- 80



Public Spaces

2021 RICHMOND ARTS AWARDS RECIPIENTS

Arts Education: Brigid Coult

Artistic Innovation: Artists Rendering
Tales Collective Inc.

Business and the Arts: Aberdeen Centre

Volunteerism: Jiliang Yao

Youth Arts: Jackie Lai

Cultural Leadership: Chiyoko "Mary"
Hirano

Richmond Arts Awards

Created in partnership with the Richmond Arts Coalition in 2009, the 13th annual Richmond Arts Awards recognizes artistic achievements and contributions to the cultural community by residents, artists, educators, organizations and business leaders. The purpose is to:

- honour major contributions by individuals, organizations and businesses to the arts;
- cultivate greater visibility and understanding of the value of the arts;
- encourage excellence and build new leadership within the arts community; and
- develop patrons for the arts.

This year, **51 nominations** were reviewed by a selection panel comprised of community members and six recipients were selected.

The Richmond Arts Awards ceremony is usually held every May. However, as in 2020, this year's event was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In lieu of the ceremony, each recipient was profiled in an online campaign highlighting their work and contributions to the Richmond arts community via the @HowArtWorks Instagram account. This initiative was supported by the Arts Awards' long-standing partner, *Richmond News* with an announcement and articles published in mid-June. The 2020 and 2021 honourees will also be invited to join future recipients, in person, when the ceremony can, once again, be held that way.

A first for this year was the inclusion of a youth member from Richmond School District No. 38 on the selection panel. As part of the City's commitment to providing meaningful opportunities for youth, this member added excellent insight and context to the Youth Arts and all other categories.

Arts and Culture Grant Program

The City's Arts and Culture Grant Program was established in 2011 to strengthen the infrastructure of arts and culture organizations, increase investment in arts opportunities, show support for the careers of local artists, and support a wide range of artistic and cultural activity. The program offers two types of grants: Project Assistance and Operating Assistance to registered non-profit arts and culture organizations.

In 2021, Council approved the distribution of \$116,815. A total of **\$85,875 in Operating Assistance was distributed to 12 recipients and \$30,940 in Project Assistance went to 8 adjudicated programs and projects.**

Throughout summer and fall, grant recipients met individually with City staff to discuss the progress of their programs and share feedback about the grant application process.

In October, an article providing tips and advice on how to complete a successful grant application was included in the Arts & Culture e-blast as part of the grant deadline announcement.

"The grant allowed us to top up our Canada Summer Jobs funded position so that interns could be paid a living wage, and will also allow us to maintain our newly created Accessibility Coordinator position."

– Cinevolution Media Arts



Accessibility



PRCS- 81 Diversity



Investment



Awareness/Participation



Public Spaces



Barigold Studios Lego animation workshop

CULTURE DAYS BY THE NUMBERS:

- 32** participating artists and cultural organizations
- 63** free, public activities
- 270** volunteer hours

Culture Days



The 13th annual Culture Days (September 24 to October 24, 2021) offered a hybrid of in-person and online activities providing free, hands-on and behind-the-scenes access to arts and culture in Richmond. The theme for 2021 titled, *Re:Imagined*, reflected a continuing pivot to the changing climate, while adhering to the evolving health protocols. Following the 2020 strategy, Culture Days was programmed over four weeks, instead of the traditional three-day weekend.

The Richmond Cultural Centre opened Culture Days with in-person programming with an estimated 1,500 attendees over the first three days. Many resident art groups hosted displays, demonstrations, and interactive opportunities in the outdoor plaza. Richmond Culture Days at the Cultural Centre also marked the opening of *Reinventing Richmond*, the latest Richmond Museum exhibition, on until October 2022. The Richmond Public Library and Richmond Public Art offered self-guided walking tours.

Richmond's BC Culture Days Ambassador, Jeni Chen, a visual and graphic artist, offered online and in-person art journaling workshops. Chen was also commissioned to design a graphic art piece for Richmond Culture Days volunteer t-shirts.

One highlight was an interactive workshop led by Barigord Studios. Visitors were able to create unique Lego figurines used in a stop-motion animated dance sequence for a film called *Reconnecting* that featured a full re-creation of the Richmond Cultural Centre that remains on display in the lobby of the facility.

Richmond, once again, ranked within the **Top 10 most engaged cities across Canada**, and placed in the Top 5 for mid-size cities, as well as in second place for all of British Columbia. While continuing to adjust to the realities of the pandemic, Richmond hosted 63 events across the four weeks. Feedback from post-event surveys indicated that participants were in favour of the hybrid model for Culture Days, noting that online events created accessibility opportunities for some who may not have otherwise been able to participate. Respondents also noted the impact of being able to meet in-person, going to events, and feeling more connected with the community.



Cecilia Point

National Indigenous People's Day



Two new video works were created and/or presented to coincide with National Indigenous People's Day in 2021:

- Local Indigenous artist Atheana Picha presented a video speaking of her art practice, influence and mentors. The video was created as part of the artist's engagement activity with students from Tomekichi Homma Elementary School, where she created a mural exploring themes of local Indigenous stories and community connections.
- Richmond Art Gallery produced a new welcome video with Cecilia Point of x̱məθkʷəy̱əm (Musqueam) Nation. Shot on the banks of the Fraser River in Steveston, Point shared stories of her family's lineage in the area. The video continues to play within the gallery and is accessible on the Gallery website and on YouTube.



Accessibility



Diversity



Investment



Awareness/Participation

PRCS- 82



Public Spaces



Sonya Lalli at Finale event

Writer-in-Residence

In Fall 2021, Richmond hosted its 10th annual Writer-in-Residence program both online and in-person. Acclaimed novelist, Sonya Lalli, offered a professional development workshop series and mentorship to local and emerging Richmond writers.

The Writer-in-Residence program kicked off with an in-person Meet & Greet with Sonya at the Richmond Public Library on September 25. This event offered a glimpse of Sonya's work, and her continued efforts in improving representation of women of colour in novels, as well as supporting female writers of colour. Sonya's workshop series, *Breaking Down Barriers*, focused on editing, and the publishing process, helping emerging writers in professionalizing their work.

Sonya Lalli is a romance and fiction author of Punjabi and Bengali heritage. Her books have been featured in *Entertainment Weekly*, *NPR*, *Washington Post*, *Glamour*, *Globe and Mail*, *CBC*, *Toronto Star* and more. Her debut novel, *The Matchmaker's List*, was a Target Diverse Book Club Pick and a Cityline Book Club Pick. Her fourth novel, *A Holly Jolly Diwali*, was published last October and her debut psychological thriller, *Are you Sara?*, will be published in summer 2022.

The 2021 Writer-in-Residence program offered seven workshops, and events over two months. This residency culminated in a digital legacy project, where workshop participants had their readings filmed, as both a keepsake and professional development experience. Richmond's Writer-in-Residence program is presented by Richmond Community Cultural Development, Richmond Public Library and the Minoru Seniors Society.

ART AT WORK BY THE NUMBERS:

4	Free professional development workshops
161	Participants
1,578	Post-event Youtube views

Art at Work Program

Presented in collaboration with the Richmond Art Gallery Association and Public Art, Art at Work provides professional development opportunities for local artists and others working in the cultural sector. The goals of the program are to:

- support the growth and development of the arts and cultural sector;
- provide artists and cultural workers with practical, inspiring and career-enhancing programming; and
- encourage networking and sharing within the arts and culture community.

In 2021, Art at Work presented the following free workshops:

- **Tax Basics for Artists** virtual presentation by Marianna Scott. Attendance: 45
- **Financial Management for Artists** virtual presentation by Zachary Kennedy. Attendance: 35
- **How We Make Public Art** virtual presentation with Germaine Koh, Alyssa Schwann, Sara Graham. Attendance: 30
- **Paying Artists for Online Work** with Annie Briard and April Britski. Attendance: 51





Weaving with invasive species



Chromatography workshop

"I set out to help community members connect with each other and with our environment here in Richmond ... to share my excitement about the very unique ecosystems, earth and islands here."

— Rachel Rozanski

Branscombe House Artist Residency

During her 11-month tenure in Steveston, the sixth annual Branscombe House Artist-in-Residence, Rachel Rozanski, offered a range of workshops, events and installations that helped build community connections and sparked conversations about the arts and environment. Activities included printmaking, chromatography, weaving with invasive plant species, film screenings, zine-making, artist talks, professional development workshops, online arts-integrated family programs and an open house event.

Rachel Rozanski is a Canadian artist whose interdisciplinary works explore biological, geological and material transformations appearing as we enter the Anthropocene era. She studied Visual Arts at Emily Carr, Capilano and Langara, and received an MFA from Ryerson University in Documentary Media.

The artist has exhibited across Canada and internationally, showing interdisciplinary works that explore scientific concepts focusing on environmental timelines. Through residency projects in the Yukon, Northwest Territories, Nunavut and Iceland, she has collaborated with researchers and been inspired by the study of land change, pollutants and adaptations, and extinctions.

Following this residency, Rozanski will continue to contribute to Richmond's vibrant arts scene as a new resident and artist instructor at Richmond Arts Centre.

Highlights can be found at rachelrozanski.com/branscombeblog2021



Accessibility



Diversity



Investment



Awareness/Participation



Public Spaces



"I really hope that you do this again!!! My out of town family said it was the best salmon they ever had...and hats off to all the volunteers that day of pickup!

Thanks for help making some great memories!"

– Canada Day attendee

CANADA DAY BY THE NUMBERS:

3,700+ social media interactions

7,000+ video views

Canada Day at Home presented by Steveston Salmon Festival 🇨🇦 ❤️ 💬 📍

Given ongoing restrictions on gatherings, the Steveston Salmon Festival Organizing Committee, comprised of members from the Steveston Community Society and City staff, celebrated the decades-long traditions of the Steveston Salmon Festival with a primarily online program in 2021. Canada Day at Home was shared and celebrated through performances, demonstrations, storytelling and interactive activities that showcased local talent and highlighted the community's history, diversity and resilience. Leading up to July 1, the program focused around the theme of a "Salmon BBQ at Home" that supported the Society's drive-thru Salmon Sale fundraiser. Supportive online content on the stevestonsalmonfest.ca website included:

- demonstrations from local chefs sharing different ways to prepare salmon;
- Sammy's Fun Zone, featuring activities for kids as well as a salmon-themed public art scavenger hunt; and
- a video produced in collaboration with the Gulf of Georgia Cannery.

Additional online content released on July 1 included:

- a Digital Parade featuring video messages from community organizations, sports and arts groups, local businesses and cultural groups;
- a Japanese Cultural Show highlighting the contributions that Japanese-Canadians have made to the Steveston Community Centre, as well as martial arts demonstrations;
- a virtual Mainstage featuring pre-recorded performances by local artists including the Coastal Wolfpack, a local Coast Salish song and dance group; and
- a re-imagined Horticulture Show featuring an online photo contest along with videos providing gardening and nature photography tips.

The online program generated more than 3,700 interactions across all social media platforms and 7,000+ video views.



Accessibility



Diversity

PRCS- 85



Investment



Awareness/Participation



Public Spaces



Cherry Blossom Festival



Britannia Shipyards site interpreters at Richmond Maritime Festival

RMF BY THE NUMBERS:

9,000	est. visitors over two days
4,500	website visits
60+	artists, performers and storytellers
70	volunteers
360	volunteer hours

Richmond Maritime Festival

The 18th annual Richmond Maritime Festival (RMF) was re-imagined for 2021 with an event program that included a blend of online and on-site programming. The eclectic program, organized in collaboration with the Richmond Arts Coalition and Britannia Shipyards National Historic Site Society, included maritime-themed décor and installations throughout the site, roving performances, “pop-up” style heritage storytellers, five food trucks and 10 wooden and working boats along the dock that included several local, restored heritage boats.

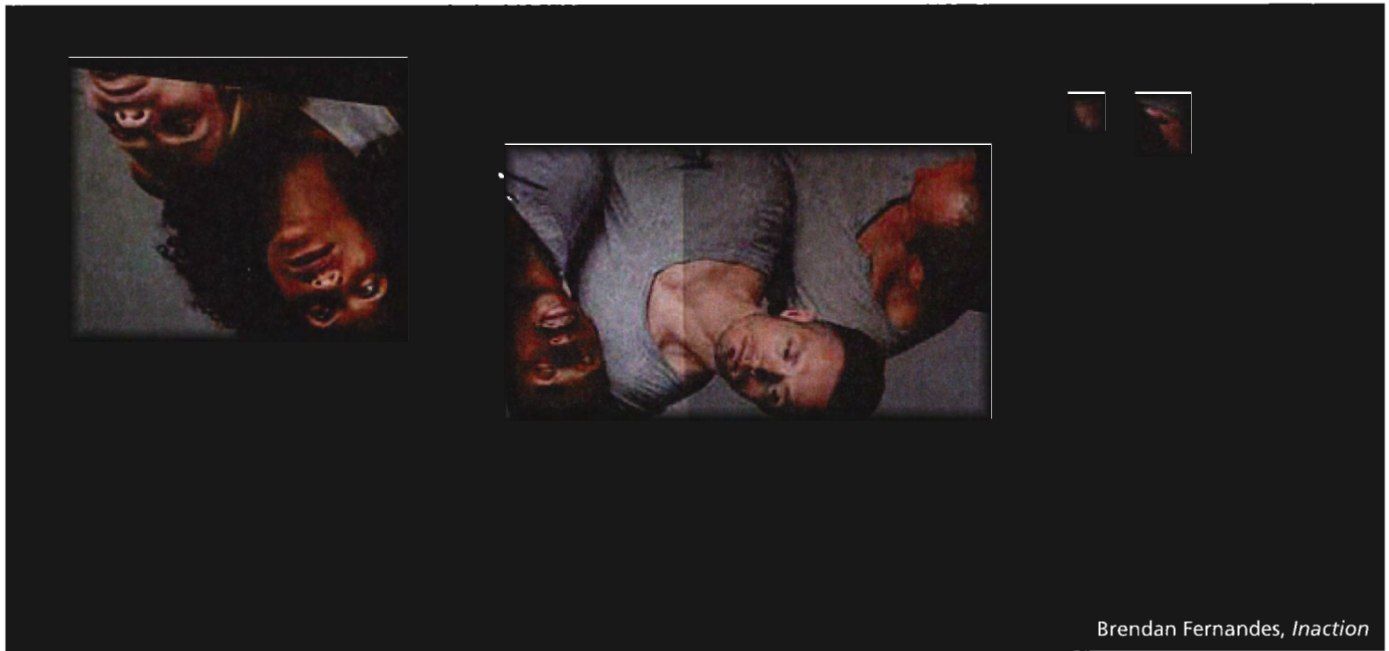
Richmond Cherry Blossom Festival

Following the cancellation of 2020's event due to COVID-19, a virtual festival launched on April 11, 2021. The online festival, produced in collaboration with the festival directors from the Wakayama Kenjin Kai, featured a custom website at richmondcherryblossomfest.ca that gave viewers the opportunity to click on five virtual “tents” to explore facets of local Japanese culture through a series of new videos presenting performances, how-to demonstrations and more. The theme of this year's festival was the Japanese word 希望 (Kibou) or “hope”, a timely concept as the country continued to navigate the challenges of the pandemic.

Social media content reached more than 80,000 individuals and the online program, uploaded as videos to YouTube, was viewed almost 4,000 times. The **website saw more than 5,300 users throughout the cherry blossom season**, which resulted in more than 13,000 page views.



Chromatography workshop at Branscombe House during Culture Days

Brendan Fernandes, *Inaction*

Richmond Art Gallery

Richmond Art Gallery (RAG) is a nationally recognized municipal gallery featuring Canadian, Indigenous and international artists. It is known for a diverse array of exhibitions, educational programs and events that address issues and ideas of importance to our community and contribute to the growth of a vibrant cultural scene in Richmond.

RAG continues to navigate the ongoing pandemic. Through 2021, it continued to welcome audiences into the space itself and hosted limited in-person events to great success. The gallery continues to develop its digital programming via RAG@Home, an ongoing series of live digital talks and on-demand video content found on the gallery's website and YouTube. By having all these sessions recorded, the gallery is collecting a growing archive of digital content.

2021 EXHIBITION ATTENDANCE

451	Inaction
871	UNION
1,709	Imperfect Offerings
1,400	A Practice in Gestures
799	ArtRich 2021

Exhibitions



RAG presented four exhibitions in the gallery and two off-site installations in 2021, representing emerging to senior artists from the Lower Mainland and beyond. Each exhibition highlights a range of contemporary artistic mediums.

GALLERY

INACTION

Brendan Fernandes

February 12 – April 3, 2021

Inaction addressed the potential for change through collective action. Working in collaboration with the design firm Norman Kelley, Fernandes designed a set of mobile dance supports for activation by local dancers. In performances throughout the exhibition, Fernandes' choreography guided dancers to utilize

the sculptural objects in movement, referencing a mix of childhood play and professional dance warm-up exercise. Paired with the installation was the video work *Free Fall: for Camera* exploring the act of falling. Featuring 16 dancers, the work demonstrates the cataclysmic moments when bodies fall onto a stage. *Inaction* reflects on this current moment, how our bodies are affected by systemic violence, and the potential for positive change through gathering, protest and physical collectivity. Presented in partnership with the Ezra and Cecile Zilkha Gallery at Wesleyan University.

UNION

Nancy Lee 李南屏 and Kiran Bhumber ਕਰਿਨਸੀਪ ਕੌਰ ਭੰਬਰ

April 24 – June 5, 2021

UNION presented a new body of work created by Vancouver-based, interdisciplinary media artists, Nancy Lee and Kiran Bhumber: a speculative sci-fi exhibition centred around a narrative of two beings discovering their ancestral memories through the longing for touch and the rituals practiced in their post-apocalyptic wedding ceremony. The exhibition incorporated XR, performance, sculpture, multi-channel sound and video installation. Co-presented with Cinevolution Media Arts Society.

"As a cancer survivor, it has me thinking about my scars and the journey I have been going through to accept and love my new body with all of its imperfections."

– gallery visitor,
Imperfect Offerings

IMPERFECT OFFERINGS

Jesse Birch, Naoko Fukumaru and Glenn Lewis

June 26 – August 22, 2021

Imperfect Offerings featured new commissions and past works by three BC artists with a ceramics practice whose works embody both function and beauty. Recalling the artists' hands, foregrounding the tactility of creating, rebuilding and healing, the exhibition's core themes resonated with our collective journey through the COVID-19 pandemic, highlighting recovery and a careful return to sociality. Several of the pieces were also functional pieces of pottery used to serve tea or share food and drink. Each featured artist has a unique connection to the rich history of pottery in the province, which was influenced by the revolutionary studio pottery movements of renowned Japanese potter Shōji Hamada and British ceramicist Bernard Leach.



Naoko Fukumaru, *Imperfect Offerings*



Nancy Lee and Kiran Bhumber, *UNION*



Accessibility



PRCS- 89
Diversity



Investment



Awareness/Participation



Public Spaces

Barbara Zeigler, *A Practice in Gestures*

ArtRich 2021

"Staff-guided tour comments certainly enriched my visit. Many thanks for having a real person as well as not only by QR codes! Merci."

– gallery visitor,
A Practice In Gestures

A PRACTICE IN GESTURES

Farheen HaQ, Deborah Koenker, Bev Koski, Mitra Mahmoodi, Bettina Matzkuhn and Barbara Zeigler

September 10 – November 14, 2021

A Practice in Gestures drew together works by six artists living and working in British Columbia whose practice includes textile works such as beading and embroidery as well as video, ceramic and mixed media. The diverse selection of works and approaches shared a vocabulary of simple gestures rooted in domestic familiarity giving shape to meaningful rituals and practices. At the same time, the works confronted colonial and patriarchal narratives in addition to environmental imperatives.

ARTRICH 2021

December 3 – December 31, 2021

ArtRich 2021 is the fourth bi-annual, juried exhibition presented in partnership with the Richmond Arts Coalition. This year's eclectic selection of works by more than 50 artists from Greater Vancouver included paintings, drawings, sculptures, textile arts and digital art. In a partnership with Richmond Public Art, three *ArtRich* artists were selected to have their artwork featured on the No.3 Road Art Columns in 2022.



Naoko Fukumaru

Artist Interviews on Video



For each exhibition, RAG produces video interviews of the artists or curators talking about their work. In 2021, there were seven exhibition videos produced: Naoko Fukumaru, Glenn Lewis, Jesse Birch and Mick Henry were interviewed for *Imperfect Offerings*; Brendan Fernandes for his work in *Inaction*, Nancy Lee and Kiran Bhumber for their work in *Union*; and Curator Nan Capogna introduced the six artists for *A Practice in Gestures*.



Accessibility



Diversity



Investment



Awareness/Participation

PRCS-90



Public Spaces

OFF-SITE

CAPTURE FESTIVAL ON THE CANADA LINE

Chun Hua Catherine Dong and Brendan Fernandes

April 1, 2021 – March 15, 2022

(In partnership with Richmond Public Art and Capture Festival)

In 2021, RAG presented a series of photo-based installations at Lansdowne and Aberdeen Canada Line stations and offered online tours featuring the artists.

Chun Hua Catherine Dong's *The Misfits* illustrates the rich symbolic value of Chinese textiles to explore issues of gender and culture. The phoenix and dragon are interconnected symbols in Chinese culture and are often used together to symbolize auspicious and blissful relations between husband and wife. In ancient Chinese history, the phoenix could be male or female. However, as the dragon became associated with Chinese emperors as an imperial symbol, the phoenix became exclusively associated with female identities. Within this diptych installed at Aberdeen Station, Dong envisions the phoenix and the dragon not as opposites but as mirrors of each other. Adding her own twist to a traditional medium, the artist used blue to return masculinity to the phoenix and plum blossoms to offer femininity to the dragon.



Brendan Fernandes, *The Left Spaces*



Chun Hua Catherine Dong, *The Misfits*

Brendan Fernandes' *The Left Space* uses historically significant patterns to tell stories of power and resistance. Evoking a sense of urgency and emergency, "dazzle" patterns, which were painted on warships to confuse the enemy, are coupled with purple and magenta plaid, which at once symbolizes British colonial rule in Kenya, a warning to predators in the wild, and the flashing of police lights. Fernandes playfully wrapped this symbolic print across Lansdowne Station. The gesture offered a moment to contemplate solidarity, resiliency, protection and care during these trying times.



Accessibility



PRCS- 91

Diversity



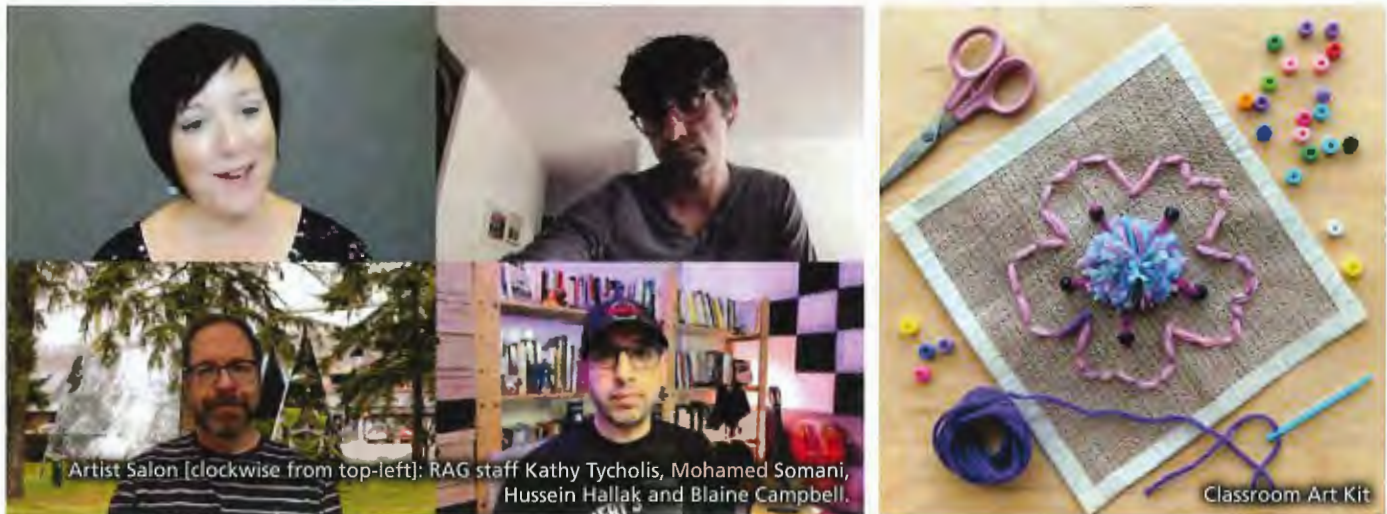
Investment



Awareness/Participation



Public Spaces



Community Outreach and Programs

Through 2021, RAG stayed connected with Richmond's artists and art lovers through a combination of unique digital and in-person programming.

ARTIST SALON SERIES

Artist Salon is an ongoing program for visual artists supported through the City of Richmond's Arts and Culture Project Assistance program. The series connects local emerging and established artists, particularly those who live or work in Richmond, with professional artists and arts workers to provide information, feedback and discussion on career development opportunities.

The program moved to a hybrid format in 2021, delivered as monthly live-streams or in-person artist or curator talks that included Q&A with participants. All online sessions were recorded and provide a video library of resources for artists, available via the RAG website and YouTube Channel, and are viewed by participants from all over the world. The in-person sessions provided a more intimate setting where participants could connect directly with presenters for personalized discussions as well as a networking opportunity.

EXHIBITION TOURS IN ENGLISH AND MANDARIN

The gallery resumed in-person tours in the summer of 2021, and started to offer online tours to groups within Metro Vancouver. In-person tours were led by gallery staff or exhibiting artists to provide a deeper understanding of the exhibitions and to offer visitors the opportunity to ask questions directly to the artist or curator.

Online tours were also available for groups no longer able to visit in person, particularly those in seniors homes, post-secondary institutions and language schools.

As well, a tour in Mandarin was scheduled for each exhibit, both online and in-person, providing some Richmond residents the opportunity to learn about the local art scene in their first language.

"I attribute the successful application of my first public art to the Richmond Artists Salon because of the knowledge I've learned and the encouragement from the people I've met. I have really benefited a lot from the knowledge and support."

– Artist Salon participant

2021 ARTIST SALON ATTENDANCE

237	Livestream and In-person
762	Video views



RAG/ECUAD Youth Art + Culture Lab program



RAG/ECUAD Youth Art + Culture Lab program

Youth Programming

SCHOOL ART PROGRAM

The Richmond Art Gallery Association's School Art Program introduces students from Preschool to Grade 12 to the world of contemporary art through interactive gallery tours and exhibition-based, hands-on art activities. The program also provides professional development opportunities for teachers with online workshops and resources to help them incorporate content on local, regional and national Canadian art and artists into their lessons.

In 2021, RAG partnered with Cree and Métis artist Michelle Sound on the creation of two Classroom Art Kits on the topic of Indigenous art that launched in January and September. **Twenty-eight art kits were purchased by teachers for use in their classrooms, serving a total of 561 students.** As well, the collection of free online programming was expanded with four new videos of classroom art activities on topics such as printmaking and drawing with a total of **1,007 views**.

Limited in-gallery school programs included free tours for elementary and high school students, and field trips for spring and summer camps. The gallery offered 18 in-gallery school programs in 2021.

ECUAD YOUTH ART + CULTURE LAB

Continuing the partnership started in 2018 with Emily Carr University of Art + Design (ECUAD), RAG co-hosted an art course for youth aged 12–15 years. For the 2021–2022 session, the program was hosted in-person at the gallery, bi-weekly over seven months. Students met online as a group with an ECUAD instructor, or on site with a RAG instructor. Both facilitators shared images and videos from current exhibitions to develop projects that explored the artistic practices of contemporary artists. The culmination of the program will be a curated student exhibition in the Cultural Centre Rotunda Gallery in April 2022.

Guest artists Deborah Koenker, Jane Wong and Jeni Chen were also included via in-person sessions to share their work and practices directly with the students. The program is gaining in popularity each year, and the **course registration reached capacity once again for this session.**

"I have never seen the whole class into an art lesson as much before. I have some boys who hate art, and can never sustain focus, always doing the bare minimum, but they really got into this. Thank you!"

— Grade 5 teacher



Accessibility



PRCS- 93 Diversity



Investment



Awareness/Participation



Public Spaces



RAGA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2020-2021

Simranpreet Anand

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Richmond Art Gallery Association

The Gallery benefits from financial and in-kind support of many organizations via the Richmond Art Gallery Association (RAGA). In 2021, RAGA received cash and in-kind assistance from three levels of government, businesses, private foundations and individuals. Through the COVID-19 pandemic, RAGA has been supported with emergency funding from BC Arts Council and Canada Council for the Arts, allowing it to continue public programs through the pandemic.

RAGA is an independent, non-profit society formed to support the Richmond Art Gallery through fundraising, membership and advocacy. In 1987, RAGA was registered as a non-profit society to enable the Gallery to receive donations and issue tax receipts as a charitable organization.

By developing educational and public programming, RAGA provides the community with opportunities to learn about contemporary art and participate in art-making activities. Proceeds from RAGA's fundraising efforts contribute to the gallery's active program of artist and curator talks, panel discussions, tours, workshops and video interviews as well as brochures and catalogues that serve as interpretive texts accompanying exhibitions.

Partnerships

The Richmond Art Gallery has developed and continues to consolidate relationships with numerous community partners such as the Capture Photography Festival, Canadian Artists Representation / Les Front des Artistes Canadiens (CARFAC) BC, Emily Carr University, Mobil Art School, Richmond School District No. 38, Richmond Public Library, Richmond Museum Society, Richmond Public Art Program, Richmond Arts Centre, Richmond Media Lab, SUCCESS, University of British Columbia Faculty of Education, Cinevolution Media Arts, Centre A, Art Gallery of Greater Victoria, Nanaimo Art Gallery, Quilchena Elementary School, Wesleyan University, and Vancouver Asian Heritage Month Society.

These partnerships allow the gallery to create mutually beneficial opportunities for audience crossover, resource sharing and cooperative programming and help to extend the understanding of art's significance in everyday life.



PRCS- 95

Nancy Lee and Kiran Bhumber, *UNION*

Bagua Artists Collective, *From Earth to Water*

RICHMOND PUBLIC ART PROGRAM TO-DATE:

344	Total number of artworks to date
192	Permanent artwork installations
147	Temporary installations (69 no longer on display)
36	New works of art installed in 2021 (including 28 temporary and 7 permanent artworks)
263	Total number of permanent and temporary artworks currently on display
16,000+	hours of community participation in the Artists Engaging Community Program to-date

Richmond Public Art Program

The Richmond Public Art Program provides a means for including art in the creation of a vibrant, healthy and sustainable city. In addition to permanent and temporary artworks, the Public Art Program offers a stimulating program of educational and community engagement activities to increase public awareness of the arts and encourage public dialogue about art and issues of interest and concern to Richmond residents.

Civic Public Art Program

In 2021, public art was commissioned by the City and installed on two civic properties.

FROM EARTH TO WATER

Bagua Artists Collective
Alexandra Greenway

This integrated artwork into the asphalt multi-use pathway celebrates the local natural heritage of the Alexandra Neighbourhood and is inspired by Chinese ornamental patterns and Richmond's native bog. The emblematic design highlights local plant and animal species. The work is installed along the multi-use pathway from Alexandra Road to Alderbridge and brings local ecology and history together to raise awareness and celebrate the aspirations of a sustainable and connected Richmond.



Portals to the Future

PORTALS TO THE FUTURE | RELOCATION PROJECT

Mark Gallant, Yoli Garcia, Gilles B Herbert, Michael Hilde, Kathy Hill, Vedran Jelincic, Reto Marti, Noemi Pullvers, Alberto Replanski, Sandra C Sinclair and Erik Stainsby
Tait West Park

This series of five stone pillar sculptures was originally installed along the dike path at Hollybridge in 2003. In 2015, upgrades to the urban realm and road construction required some of the pieces to be removed and temporarily stored. In July 2021, the sculptures were “re-united” when they were all relocated to Tait West Park at No. 4 Road and River Drive.

Portals into the Future is a legacy “Millennium” project that was developed through a partnership between the artist Alberto Replanski (1939–2008) and the Community Arts Council of Richmond, who funded the project with support from the Vancouver Academy of Art. Under the direction of Replanski, five artist teams each created an original sculpture based on the theme of “portals and gateways.”

Jacqueline Metz and Nancy Shew,
koyo-te, through the bog

Private Development Public Art Program



Through the development applications process, private developers continued to provide high quality public art to enrich the public realm. In 2021, the following projects were completed:

KOYO-TE, THROUGH THE BOG

by Jacqueline Metz and Nancy Chew
23100 Garripie Avenue

koyo-te, through the bog is an enigmatic assemblage of elements that reference the local ecological and cultural history of a site that includes thousands of years of food gathering and farming.

A finely detailed plinth suggests weathered wooden crates, such as those that may have been used for storing cranberries, perhaps by Japanese settlers at one time. Set atop is the sculptural bronze form of a coyote, still and watchful, and located slightly above the eye level of passers-by. The animal is at home in this neighbourhood, moving between the lush landscape of the bog and the river, almost invisibly interwoven with the lives of residents.

Devon Knowles, *Lily Tree*

LILY TREE

by Devon Knowles
8199 Capstan Way

Lily Tree references the lily pad plant that thrives near the threshold between land and water. This artwork consists of four lily pads, considerably enlarged, abstracted, and made of brightly painted steel. Just as the lily pad provides cover for fish and aquatic life in the water, these structures provide shade for passers-by. Meanwhile, at a distance, they resemble an abstracted version of a windswept forest.



Accessibility



PRCS- 97 Diversity



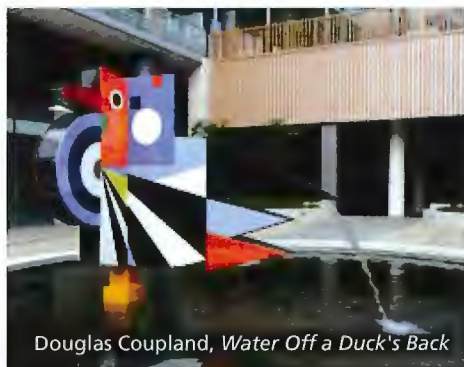
Investment



Awareness/Participation



Public Spaces

Douglas Coupland, *Water Off a Duck's Back*

WATER OFF A DUCK'S BACK

by Douglas Coupland

6699 River Road

Richmond's waters are home to many species of birds including ducks, most of which are at their most visible during seasonal migration. In this water feature, we see a quartet of waterfowl drakes: a Harlequin duck, Wood duck, Mallard duck and Mandarin duck. The sculpture heightens the simple joy of birds, and the richness they bring to those lucky enough to share their habitat. Douglas Coupland is a celebrated Canadian author and artist with public artworks commissioned across Canada.

Khan Lee, *Bell*

BELL

by Khan Lee

8699 Hazelbridge Way

In this work, a single plate of steel has been transformed into a tall, three-dimensional form in a manner that does not create any waste, nor require additional materials such as fasteners or welding. As such, Bell invites viewers to compare the nature and functions of this single element in two different states. Khan Lee works in performance, media, sculpture and drawing. His practice involves experimentation with form and process in order to express inherent relationships between material and immaterial content.

Lucien Durey and Jeff Kulak, *High-Fives*

HIGH-FIVES

by Lucien Durey and Jeff Kulak

8155 Capstan Way

High-Fives is an airbrushed mural depicting five birds in flight amongst five floating clouds to offer a hopeful message to residents and passers-by. Based on their research into Chinese numerology and symbolism, the artists chose to work with the number five to represent the five elements (earth, water, fire, wood and metal) and to depict clouds to represent abundance and good fortune. For the artists themselves, the project also reflects a spirit of possibility and celebration, inspired by the act of collaboration.

Civic and Public art projects commissioned in 2021 for installation in 2022-23 are listed in Appendix 2 (page 52).

Community Mural Program

The City of Richmond Mural Program provides opportunities to add vibrancy to highly visible public spaces, foster community dialogue and cross-cultural exchange, and engage diverse and multi-generational communities. The program is funded through the voluntary contributions of private developers to the City's Public Art Program Reserve fund.

LET'S PLAY LET'S GO

by Dawn Lo and April dela Noche Milne

Westwind Elementary School, 11371 Kingfisher Drive

Through a series of engaging workshops with students, the artists found that Westwind Elementary School was a safe space for all to feel welcomed for who they are. This mural is about friendships and the relationship between play and learning, as well as showing care to nature and the environment.



Accessibility



Diversity



Investment



Awareness/Participation

PRCS- 98



Public Spaces

Andrew Tavukciyan, *Richmond Ice Centre Mural*Dan Lo and April dela Noche Milne,
Let's Play Let's GoKaren Yurkovich and Tristesse Seeliger, *Metamorphosis*

"The mural does more than beautify our space! It is amplifying a sense of community to our neighbourhood. It tells a story of play, relationships, nature and learning. We are blessed and so happy with the final expression."

— Principal, Westwind Elementary School

RICHMOND ICE CENTRE MURAL

by Andrew Tavukciyan

Richmond Ice Centre, 14140 Triangle Road

This large-scale mural references the activities that take place at the Richmond Ice Centre, including hockey, figure skating, ringette and ball hockey. The dynamic nature of these activities is conveyed through the composition and form of the abstracted sports equipment, while the colour palette was inspired by the teams that play there: blues for the Richmond Jets Minor Hockey and Richmond Ringette teams, reds for the Richmond Ravens Female Hockey team, and yellows for the Connaught Skating Club and Richmond Ball Hockey Association. Created with support from the Richmond Arenas Community Association.

METAMORPHOSIS

by Karen Yurkovich and Tristesse Seeliger

12651 Mitchell Road

Interconnected and interwoven, *Metamorphosis* makes visual the essential cycles of nature as it responds to both historical and existing shifting relationships with place and territory. The mural honours these endless transformations and, metaphorically, the return of industry back to nature. The three plants that are depicted — Lyngbye's sedge, *Typha latifolia* and *Juncus balticus* — are native to British Columbia and Mitchell Island. The artwork's form also reflects the theme as the design allows passers-by and motorists to recognize the cyclical theme, regardless of which direction they are travelling.



Accessibility



PRCS- 99 Diversity



Investment



Awareness/Participation



Public Spaces

McMATH SCHOOL MURAL

by Dean and Christina Lauzé

McMath Secondary School, 4251 Garry Street

Dean and Christina Lauzé's process included community engagement workshops with Grade 11 leadership students from McMath Secondary School to inspire the design of the mural, which celebrates the activities taking place in the school while considering the themes of school spirit, recreation and local landmarks. Created with support from McMath Secondary School.

THINKING LEARNING CARING

by Fiona Tang

Thompson Elementary School, 6211 Forsyth Crescent

This mural was inspired by Thompson Elementary School's motto: Thinking. Learning. Caring. Through her large scale drawings, the artist's goal was to minimize the distance between humans and animals. The viewers engage with the work emotionally and physically and are overwhelmed with a sense of vulnerability and wonder by the sheer size. Through interacting with these animals, the audience is made aware of their existence and reverses the passive relationship between the viewer and artwork.



Dean and Christine Lauzé,
McMath School Mural



Fiona Tang, *Thinking Learning Caring*



Carmen Chan, *Stages of Bloom*

STAGES OF BLOOM

by Carmen Chan

Gateway Theatre, 6500 Gilbert Road

This mural aims to reflect the magical personal transformation and unity experienced by students, staff, visitors and patrons of the Gateway Theatre, a safe place that welcomes, inspires, explores and encourages growth through play. The variety of flowers in different stages of bloom symbolize the diversity and inclusive nature of the individuals who make up the Gateway Community: poppies represent the marginalized, wild and free; hibiscuses originate from the South Pacific, so represent the many immigrant families that have found their home in the City of Richmond; a reimagined daisy with rainbow-coloured petals represents all who identify with the LGBTQ2S+ community; and lastly, there is a classic pink peony, a poetic and beautiful flower beloved by all, just like Gateway Theatre itself. Created with support from Gateway Theatre Society.

Creative Café Collective, *Whimsical Garden*Rachel Rozanski,
Exploring Ecology Through Place

2021 PUBLIC ART BY THE NUMBERS

- 195** submissions received for 9 Public Art Calls
- 23** Richmond artists contracted for Public Art commissions
- 12** Community groups engaged to inform and create public art projects
- 80+** volunteer hours
- 400+** participants at Public Art events and programming

Engaging Artists in Community Public Art Program



The following programs were funded through the voluntary contributions of private developers to the City's Public Art Program Reserve fund.

WHIMSICAL GARDEN

by Creative Café Collective

Artist-In-Residence, William Cook Elementary School

Whimsical Garden was led by community-based artist J Peachy with support by Pat Calihou, Yolanda Weeks, Melissa West Morrison and Tiffany Yang. The year-long project engaged Grades 4 and 5 students at William Cook Elementary to activate outdoor spaces in their school yard through a series of virtual and outdoor in-person art activities and workshops incorporating Indigenous carving, puppetry and eco-arts. A legacy artwork entitled *Four Directions Canoe Garden* was completed in June and was installed on the school grounds to be enjoyed by park visitors and neighbourhood residents alike. For more information about this project, visit cookwhimsicalgarden.ca

EXPLORING ECOLOGY THROUGH PLACE

by Rachel Rozanski

Richmond Public Library

This year-long artist-initiated project aimed to showcase and highlight Richmond's natural heritage and unique ecosystems through artist-led workshops presented at the Steveston and Brighthouse Library branches. The workshops engaged a variety of community members including families, seniors and youth. The artist used natural and locally found materials and processes for all of the workshops. A final legacy artwork was completed by the artist with contributions from community members. The legacy artwork is presented and displayed at the Brighthouse Library branch. For more information about the project, visit exploringecology.wixsite.com/home



Accessibility



PRCS- 101
Diversity



Investment



Awareness/Participation



Public Spaces

Jean Bradbury, *Stories of Home – Past and Present*Sam McWilliams, Paige Gratland and Phranc with WRCA, *Signs of Pride*

STORIES OF HOME – PAST AND PRESENT

By Jean Bradbury

Richmond Multicultural Community Services

In partnership with Richmond Multicultural Community Services (RMCS), this community-engaged project invited Arabic- and Farsi-speaking newcomers to participate in a series of drawing and painting workshops with the artist. Participants were invited to share their stories of home and learned how to draw using simple graphic novel formats, combining painting and embroidery. In collaboration with the artist, participants presented an exhibition of their completed artworks in partnership with the Richmond Public Library–Brighthouse Branch and the launch of a Community Art Wall. The exhibition, on display from November 6, 2021 to January 6, 2022, included a celebratory exhibition opening and gathering with the participating community artists leading conversation circles with visitors to discuss the work and newcomer experiences.

“This project, for me, was a great success, not just because of the beautiful artwork that was produced, but because of the wonderful time the youth had during the project, and the access to meaningful mentorship.”

– Youth Development Coordinator

SIGNS OF PRIDE AT WEST RICHMOND COMMUNITY CENTRE

by Sam McWilliams, Paige Gratland and Phranc
with the West Richmond Community Association

In celebration of Richmond’s Pride Week, the Public Art Program partnered with the West Richmond Community Association to commission artists Sam McWilliams, Paige Gratland and Phranc to create a public artwork in collaboration with LGBTQ2S+ youth. The youth played an active role in developing the project opportunity, including the development of the artist call, artist selection, concept development and implementation of the public art project.

Signs of Pride is presented on three exterior concrete columns on the west façade of the West Richmond Community Centre. The work mixes archival material of LGBTQ2S+ history and imagery with some of the youth’s more personal ephemera and symbols of pride expressed visually as line drawings and incorporated into a vibrant colour pattern. The contributions from the youth responded to the prompt: “What makes you feel welcome in a space?”



Accessibility



Diversity



Investment



Awareness/Participation

PRCS- 102



Public Spaces

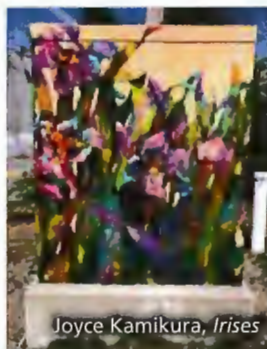
Community Public Art Programs

The following programs were funded through the voluntary contributions of private developers to the City's Public Art Program Reserve fund.

ART WRAP PROGRAM

The Public Art Program partners with BC Hydro, Engineering and Public Works, Parks Services, Museum and Heritage Services, Transportation and Environmental Programs to beautify new and existing utility boxes throughout the city. In 2021, ten traffic cabinets were wrapped in partnership with Engineering and Transportation with works by Jeni Chen, Krystle Coughlin Silverfox, Joyce Kamikura, Adrienne Moore and Loraine Wellman.

- **Recharge and Renewal, Jeni Chen, Gilbert Road and River Road**
These art wraps acknowledge and celebrate the natural resources of the Fraser River and its vital habitats for a wide diversity of fish, birds, mammals, invertebrates and plants. The artworks aim to highlight the delicate balance between building a vibrant community and protecting an important bio-diverse ecosystem.
- **Untitled, Krystle Coughlin Silverfox, Cambie Road and No. 3 Road**
As a First Nations visual artist, Krystle is inspired by land, identity, belonging and culture to create visual artworks. Her practice combines Northwest Coast formline design elements with digital photography, scenography and traditional collage.



- **Poppies and Irises, Joyce Kamikura, River Parkway & Leslie Road**
These works depict the artist's love of poppies and irises, and their natural beauty. The artist used original paintings entitled *Revelling in Spring* and *Dashing Poppies* to digitally create compositions for the art wraps.
- **Richmond's Secret Gardens, Adrienne Moore, River Parkway and Cambie Road**
Digital reproductions and compositions were produced from original paintings by the artist entitled *Waterlily Garden* and *Secret Garden*. The works reference natural and unspoiled lily ponds near Garry Point Park and the well-tended city gardens of the city of Richmond, whose unofficial title of "Garden City" is well-known.
- **Rudbeckia, Loraine Wellman, River Parkway and Ebco Crossing**
The compositions for these art wraps were produced from original paintings by the artist depicting a garden of Rudbeckia flowers.





Glen Andersen,
The Old Normal – a storyboard for simple pleasures



Aman Aheer
Beyond the Break



Anja Novkovic,
Blue Heron & Plantain Leaf

NO. 3 ROAD ART COLUMNS EXHIBITION 15

Public Art continued to support the #RichmondHasHeart Campaign in 2021, aimed at bringing the community, residents and businesses together to show their support for those working to fight the COVID-19 pandemic and to explore new and meaningful ways to find connection while maintaining physical distancing protocols. Two exhibitions of work by local artists were presented as part of the No. 3 Road Art Columns program, featuring artwork by Aman Aheer, Glen Andersen, Fanny Bok Yin Tang, Anja Novkovic, Keely O'Brien, and Manuel Axel Strain.

PART I

- ***Rhododendron, Crazy Yellow Daisy, Spring Dream Pink Magnolia Flowers & Gill*, Fanny Bok Yin Tang** A series of flower paintings captures life's journey, surrounded by the earth's ethereal beauty and glory, and within a world that is undeniably separate from the one in which we are living. Isolation and uncertainty are present during the pandemic but we can still hope to grow strong and beautiful.
- ***Dearest*, Keely O'Brien** A series of postcards celebrates the kindness, interconnection and care community members expressed for one another during a recent snail mail-based interactive art project. Each message is both a record of an intimate correspondence between participants and a public wish extended to all passers-by.
- ***The Old Normal – a storyboard for simple pleasures*, Glen Andersen** A photographic series depicts playgrounds set in mysterious spaces around Richmond as if set in a parallel world. The children playing on them symbolize the hope, resilience and adaptation of a new generation despite the current trying and turbulent times.

PART II

- ***A Closer Walk (Scarlet Stilts), Beyond The Break, Divine Flight, Bridge*, Aman Aheer** This series highlights transformation and defiance by depicting the intimate relationship between the spirit and the human body. Aman Aheer is a Richmond-based, queer painter of Indian heritage. His practice weaves textiles into the surfaces of his works and often mixes seemingly opposing or contradictory materials.
- ***Barn Owl & Dandelion, Blue Heron & Plantain Leaf, Rabbits & Red Clover, Coyote & Milk Thistle*, Anja Novkovic** This series of illustrations depicts medicinal plants and animal species found in the Garden City Lands. Anja Novković is a Richmond-based artist. In her illustrations, she often focuses on nature and employs symbolism, dreamy line-work and joyful colour palettes to depict flora and fauna.
- ***Different Grounds*, Manuel Axel Strain** This photographic work asserts the presence of the Indigenous body to uplift and honour the relationship to the ground we walk upon. Manuel Axel Strain is a non-binary, Two-Spirit artist of Musqueam, Simpcw and Inkwupulux ancestry whose art practice confronts and undermines the imposed realities of colonialism, proposing a new space beyond these systems of power.



Emily's Pandemic Food Experience (RSCL)

Eating in the Time of COVID-19

Eating in the Time of COVID-19 was initiated in 2020 as one of four artist-initiated projects for #RichmondHasHeart campaign and was completed in December 2021. In answer to the question "How has your relationship with food changed since the pandemic?", artists Christy Fong and Denise Fong collated responses and stories from The Sharing Farm Society, Richmond Food Security Society, Turning Point Recovery Society, Storey's Café, local farmers, grocery store owners, restaurateurs, food bloggers and the general public in Richmond.

A final **video is available online** along with an exhibition to document the voices, feelings, and visual representations of the COVID-19 experience. Through 2021, the website attracted **more than 600 visitors from 20 countries**. For more information, visit richmondfoodstories.ca.

CAPTURE PHOTOGRAPHY FESTIVAL ON CANADA LINE

In partnership with Richmond Art Gallery, a series of photo-based installations at Aberdeen and Lansdowne Canada Line Stations were installed as part of the Capture Photography Festival: *The Misfits* by Chun Hua Catherine Dong and *The Left Space* by Brendan Fernandes. (More information about these works on page 17.)

Education and Outreach

Richmond Public Art partnered with other City service divisions to incorporate public art-based activities and programs as part of signature events for the City.

2021 RICHMOND CULTURE DAYS

The Public Art Program, in partnership with community partners, offered a variety of free, family-friendly activities and events for Culture Days:

- **Richmond Public Art Walking Tour** Public Art staff led a walking tour of public art works in the Olympic Oval precinct including recent additions to the collection such as *Water Off a Duck's Back* by Douglas Coupland, *Wind Flowers* by Alyssa Schwann and Mike Seymour, as well as established works such as *Water Sky Garden* by Janet Echelman
- **StoryWalk(R) with Rachel Rozanski and Richmond Public Library** This artist-led and nature-inspired activity at Minoru Park playground invited children to follow a story by visiting trees with storybook pages on them. The event promoted literacy, learning and outdoor play and was presented in partnership with the Richmond Public Library.
- **Richmond Public Art Self-Guided Mural Tour** The public was invited to take a self-guided tour of six new murals created through the 2021 Community Mural Program.

"It was my first art walk ever, I learned a lot about my own community, and the different public art sectors. Thank you for having me, I had so much fun."

– Art Walk participant



Accessibility



PRCS- 105



Investment



Awareness/Participation



Public Spaces

"My kids had fun doing the scavenger hunt, and it got us out and about in Richmond. Great work in putting it together. We enjoyed it."

– Salmon-themed Scavenger Hunt participant



Annual RPAAC walking tour

2021 RPAAC MEMBERS:

Bronwyn Bailey

Imu Chan – Vice Chair

Ceri Chong

Emily De Boer

Paul Dufour – Chair

Jose Larano

Rebecca Lin

Jerome Teo

Minghui Yu

Council Liaison: Councillor Harold Steves

- **Artist Salon with Signs of Pride** LGBTQ2S+ youth artists joined professional artists Sam McWilliams, Paige Gratland and Phranc to speak about their public art project at the West Richmond Community Centre. They discussed what it was like for the artists and the youth to work on developing a community art project, and provided insight into what artists need to consider when planning works or programs that work directly with a community. This event was presented by the Richmond Art Gallery.
- **Whimsical Garden: Four Directions Canoe Garden Party** Creative Café Collective (J Peachy, Pat Calihou, Tiffany Yang, Melissa West Morrison, Yolanda Weeks) with Simon Daniel James and special guest Ian Lai, Executive Director of Urban Bounty, hosted a family-friendly event with artist-led tours of the garden, eco art-making activities and a natural salve-making demonstration using local beeswax and Indigenous plants.

PUBLIC ART SALMON-THEMED SCAVENGER HUNT

Public Art offered a Public Art Salmon-Themed Scavenger Hunt as part of the Canada Day at Home celebrations presented by the Steveston Salmon Festival. The on-demand activity was accessible from the festival's website for the month of July and took players across Richmond to find a series of ten salmon-themed artworks. The contest received 14 submissions and offered a fun, family friendly activity that followed safe, social distancing protocols.

Richmond Public Art Advisory Committee

The Richmond Public Art Advisory Committee (RPAAC) is a Council-appointed voluntary advisory committee that provides input on public art policy, planning, education and promotion. At monthly Committee meetings, members receive presentations on new civic, private development and community project proposals and provide feedback and recommendations.



Accessibility



PRCS- 107

Diversity



Investment



Awareness/Participation



Public Spaces



ARTS EDUCATION PROGRAMS BY THE NUMBERS:

- 360+** courses
- 1,500+** registered students
- 30+** professional instructors
- 16,000+** visits (virtual & in-person)

Richmond Arts Centre

The Richmond Arts Centre provides high quality arts education opportunities in a wide variety of disciplines, including visual arts, dance and movement, music and theatre. The Centre is also home to 11 local arts organizations known as the Resident Art Groups.

The vision for the Richmond Arts Centre is to be the hub of artistic opportunity within Richmond, activating and inspiring artists and community members to connect through the arts. The creative contributions of Richmond residents, through dance, theatre or visual arts, have a significant positive impact on community health and celebrate the vibrancy of Richmond as a diverse and dynamic city.

The Richmond Arts Centre is also home to the Children's Arts Festival.

Arts Education Programs 🗝️❤️📈💬📍

The Richmond Arts Centre continues to develop and diversify its Arts Education offerings to meet community demand for high quality arts education. The programs ensure affordable access to a strong base of introductory and beginner arts education programs as well as higher-level learning opportunities.

In 2021, virtual, outdoor and in-person programs ran throughout the year, responding to current health protocols and conditions. By fall, eight studios successfully re-opened for in-person registered programs and community use.



Art Truck: Bowling Painting

"When our pottery studio reopened we all took a huge breath of relief! It gave us the opportunity to restart our connection with long-time friends, rekindle our love for creating pottery and remind ourselves what 'normal' feels like!!"

— Richmond Potters' Club member

11 RESIDENT ART GROUPS:

- Richmond Artists' Guild
- Cathay Photographic Society
- Chinese Artists Association of Richmond
- Richmond Chinese Calligraphy and Painting Club
- Richmond Gem and Mineral Society
- Richmond Photo Club
- Richmond Potters' Club
- Richmond Reelers Scottish Country Dancing
- Richmond Weavers and Spinners Society
- Textile Arts Guild of Richmond

Community Programs and Outreach

ART TRUCK SUMMER OUTREACH

Over the summer, the Art Truck program visited Minoru Arenas to bring free, engaging art workshops to day camps. The program strived to meet three community needs:

- provide arts experiences for community members who may not otherwise have access to them,
- promote public awareness of art within the community, and
- make arts education readily available to the public.

Two summer students designed and facilitated four inspiring camps, with guidance and support from Arts Centre staff. Creating art through embodied activity, movement or sport, like "bowling painting" or "dance painting", and large-scale mural activities, made for a fun and inspiring introduction to art-making.

ARTS PROGRAMMER ROUNDTABLE

Initiated by the Richmond Arts Centre, the inter-municipal Arts Programmer Roundtable unites 20+ programmers representing 12 municipalities. In light of the pandemic, meetings were held bi-monthly, focusing on identifying successes and challenges, supportive and creative problem solving, and sharing best practices.

RESIDENT ART GROUPS

The Richmond Arts Centre is home to some of the city's longest-running community arts organizations who receive reduced rates on regular room rentals for their activities. Throughout the year, typically, these groups provide workshops, exhibitions and demonstrations for their members as well as participate in community events such as Culture Days.

In 2021, these groups continued to access the studio spaces, for limited numbers of members at a time, when permitted by public health orders. Partnering on a special project, the Richmond Arts Centre provided the Textile Arts Guild of Richmond with a digital platform and support for a series of four live online workshops. These workshops were attended by 126 participants.

COMMUNITY ART EXHIBITIONS

In 2021, the Cultural Centre Upper Rotunda resumed community art exhibitions including the Richmond Arts Centre's Resident Art Groups, children and youth, and local artists. Highlights included:

- Richmond Arts Centre Instructors Show with artists Tony Bowden, Jill Raymond, Laura Rivera and Ming Yeung.
- *Any Day Now* by Keely O'Brien, a site-responsive installation that explored experiences of displacement, especially in circumstances of renovation, development and gentrification.
- *Density of Light* by Dominique Norville, a series of purely abstract paintings and an experiment in the expression of movement and balance.





National Day of Truth & Reconciliation

Arts Services is advancing the City's *Cultural Harmony Plan* by responding to the Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and integrating inclusion and accessibility in program offerings. To recognize the recently designated National Day of Truth & Reconciliation on September 30, 2021, two Reframing Relations workshops led by Indigenous and Non-Indigenous artist facilitators from the Community Arts Council of Vancouver were delivered to 40 Arts, Culture & Heritage Department managers, staff and arts educators.

To augment the workshop, a staff-engaged art installation was created and displayed at the Richmond Cultural Centre. Participants were invited to reflect on their knowledge of Truth & Reconciliation, creating weavings of orange yarn in commemoration of Orange Shirt Day.

2021 CHILDREN'S ARTS FESTIVAL BY THE NUMBERS

2,800+	Virtual Attendees
37	Schools
800+	students
7	Artists



Oh, that's looking really nice. So you can use your imagination. Think,

Children's Art Festival video

Special Events

BLACK HISTORY MONTH EXHIBITION

As in-person attendance to the Cultural Centre was minimal in February, the Black History Month exhibition was postponed until August 2021. Artist Eric Mazimpaka's exhibition, *Afrofuturism* explored the rich history of East African art, and classical and Renaissance painters within a contemporary African pulse. The exhibition marked Richmond's sixth Black History Month celebrated by the City and its community partners.

CHILDREN'S ARTS FESTIVAL

The annual Richmond Children's Arts Festival was re-imagined to happen online with two components: an outreach program for schools and a series of free, online activities for the general public. Presented in partnership with Richmond School District No. 38, Gateway Theatre, Richmond Public Library and Richmond Art Gallery, six artist-led videos were produced and shared with Richmond schools, accompanied by hands-on art supplies for the students:

- *Introduction to Chinese Shadow Puppetry* with Annie Katsura Rollins
- *Air Dry Clay Moons* with Sean Karemaker
- *Red Decorations* with Dawn Lo
- *Dragon Puppets* with Keely O'Brien
- *Scroll Creation* with Mr. Tony
- *Clay Creations* with Emily Sheppard

The Children's Arts Festival saw registration from 37 schools, resulting in participation by more than 800 students throughout the community.

Following school participation, all videos were released to the public on Family Day, February 15, accompanied by supply lists for each activity. In addition to the videos released by the Children's Arts Festival, the Richmond Art Gallery created a video, *Fabulous Figures*, for community members to enjoy.



Drawing and Painting – Preteens. Instructor: Serisa Fitz-James



RICHMOND MEDIA LAB BY THE NUMBERS:

- 31** Richmond Youth Media Lab (RYMP) members
- 1,303** hours RYMP members spent learning media arts skills and building community connections
- 9** Media Lab courses
- 50+** registrations for Media Lab courses

Richmond Media Lab

Located in the Richmond Cultural Centre and operated in conjunction with the Richmond Arts Centre, the Media Lab is designed to increase technology literacy, accessibility and creativity in our community, particularly among youth. Media Lab participants are taught skills and techniques for applying media and computer technology towards artistic activities and practical marketable skills.

Richmond Youth Media Program (RYMP) 📱❤️💬

The Richmond Youth Media Program (RYMP), a free referral-based program for youth ages 13–24, has been running continuously for more than ten years as a signature offering of the Richmond Media Lab. RYMP members gain skills in media arts and build connections in the community, with a focus on asset development. This year saw a continuation of support from presenting sponsor, Viva Pharmaceuticals and Vancouver Coastal Health's ongoing grant support in partnership with Richmond Addiction Services Society (RASS).

RYMP continued to present flexible programming, including outdoor summer sessions at RYMP in the Park, Remote RYMP online sessions on Discord and Zoom, and a return to in-person skill sessions.

In 2021, 31 members, 62 guests, 24 adult mentors (including youth workers and professional media artists) and one work placement student spent 1,303 hours at RYMP skill sessions and events. RYMP members also participated in a variety of community events and initiatives, including the following:

RICHMOND REMEMBERS IN PLACE LIVE VIDEO SIMULCAST

Under the direction of professional filmmakers Kryshan Randel and Zac Fudge, six RYMP youth came forward to provide live coverage of *Richmond Remembers In Place* for a live community webcast. The video attracted **more than 2,670 views**.



"In total, we received 58 entries this year, so you should feel particularly proud given the tough competition this year! Your video was fun, creative and thoughtful."

— WorkSafe BC

RYMP AT 2021 U-ROC AWARDS

During Youth Week, three RYMP members were recognized as Outstanding Youth at the annual U-ROC Awards: Lucas Lee, Noble Bhathena and Vashika Jain. One RYMP graduate was recognized as an Asset Champion: Sammi Zheng and so was RYMP staff member, Mia Mascarina.

In order to ensure the safety of all U-ROC Award winners, RYMP staff led the production of the U-ROC Awards Ceremony on Zoom. The event featured a black-tie emcee (youth worker Omar Rajan), guest speakers, VIPs and pre-recorded musical performances by two local youth artists.

108 people tuned in to enjoy the show.

WORKSAFE BC STUDENT SAFETY VIDEO CONTEST WINNER

In 2021, RYMP members collaboratively created an animated video PSA for the annual WorkSafe BC contest while remaining physically distant throughout the process. *Pandemic Teamwork*, went on to win the contest in the Grades 8–10 category, one of four winners among 58 entries. The youth producers were awarded \$2,500 and video has been **viewed more than 800 times**.

YOUTH WEEK – CAREERS IN MEDIA ARTS (CIMA)

Careers in Media Arts is an annual event that introduces youth to professionals working in different areas of media arts. On May 7, CIMA was presented online, and featured a location scout from the film industry (Tonya Hartz), a 3D animator (Aerone Elpa), and a musician and entrepreneur (Masia One) who joined from Malaysia. There were 15 participants from Canada and the US.

CULTURE DAYS: RYMP FM

The annual RYMP FM broadcast, created by six youth members, was recorded remotely this year and included one interview program recorded over Zoom. The show was broadcast from the Media Lab in the Cultural Centre over a low-power FM signal on Saturday, October 17, and the recording was later published to Mixcloud.com.

YOUTH ART MART

A youth-led initiative, this annual event has been running since 2013, but was cancelled in 2020 due to the pandemic. In 2021, RYMP staff organized an expanded event to two days, and invited a wider range of artists to participate (ages 13–30). Each vendor was also provided with a \$25 gift card to support the creation of their art. Over November 5 and 6, 167 customers shopped at the Youth Art Mart.

RICHMOND YOUTH MUSIC VIDEO CONTEST (MVC)

RYMP partnered with West Richmond Community Centre for the inaugural Richmond Youth Music Video Contest (MVC). The idea came from musician and former RYMP volunteer, Rob Fillo, who needed a music video for a newly released song. This led to a city-wide contest showcasing local young talent with lots of ideas, varying degrees of video experience and a drive to learn who together created four videos. All were thrilled to be part of something meaningful.



Accessibility



PRCS- 113 Diversity



Investment



Awareness/Participation



Public Spaces



"Just wanted to say that I'm so glad you have the Sat sessions in-person. It's been a place for [my son] to decompress and just hang out after doing online classes during the week. He never wants to miss it; he really loves it that much. It's been pretty isolating for him so the Sat drop-in sessions has been his life-line during Covid-19. Thanks so much!"

– RYMP parent

Programs & Activities

MEDIA ARTS EDUCATION COURSES

2021 saw the year begin with Media Lab courses being held online and transitioning to in-person classes with the reopening of the Richmond Arts Centre. Throughout 2021, students took classes on a range of topics, including Digital Illustration, Manga & Comics, and Digital Photography. In the fall, the Media Lab introduced a new series of Filmmaking and Stop-Motion Animation courses in response to increased demand for instruction in video creation during the pandemic.

DIGITAL STUDIOS

The Media Lab set up a number of digital studios in the Richmond Cultural Centre to facilitate online programming for both Media Lab courses and the Richmond Arts Centre courses. Stations were set up with multiple cameras and lighting to support the teaching of digital arts, visual arts and dance programs.

SPRING BREAK & SUMMER CAMPS

The Media Lab and Arts Centre joined forces to offer enriching arts camp programming across disciplines for both spring break and summer. Programmers also partnered with the Richmond Art Gallery to provide field trips and enhanced art experiences.

Media Creation Services

Media Lab staff members have worked with partners from a range of City departments and community partners to support the production of original videos to highlight program achievements, assist with staff training, provide documentation, and/or offer technical support and advice.

In 2021, the list of projects included: PerfectMind online registration instruction videos, 2020 Arts Services Year in Review video, 2020 Heritage Services Year in Review video, 2020 Wellness Strategy Update video, U-ROC Awards video intro and livestream hosting of awards show, Cherry Blossom Festival video edits, Canada Day video edits for the online O Canada performance, 2021 Arts Awards photography of awards recipients, Richmond Maritime Festival video edits, Writer-in-Residence Program event filming and Culture Days welcome video with Mary Point.

Partners and Funders

In 2021, the Media Lab confirmed the ongoing support of Richmond Addictions Services Society and presenting sponsor VIVA Pharmaceuticals.

The Richmond Media Lab continues to develop relationships with service agencies across the region. RYMP members have been referred to employment, volunteer and workshop opportunities as part of the program benefits.

The Richmond Youth Media Program (RYMP) is at the end of its current three-year funding cycle with the Vancouver Coastal Health SMART Fund, and will be seeking renewal in 2022.



WorkSafe BC Student Safety Video Contest



Accessibility



PRCS- 115
Diversity



Investment



Awareness/Participation



Public Spaces



Beyond Arts Services

While much of Richmond's arts programs, exhibitions, events and experiences are offered through the Department of Arts, Culture & Heritage, the arts play a vital role in the activities of other areas in the Community Services Division, including Parks Services and Recreation and Sport Services.

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION ARTS PROGRAMS BY THE NUMBERS:

- 1,500** Arts courses offered
- 4,900** Registered participants
- 9** Participating community associations

Community Associations

As part of our relationship-based approach, the City of Richmond works with community associations and societies who deliver a wide variety of programs and services at community centres across the city, including the Minoru Centre for Active Living. Program offerings and events include visual arts, dance, music and theatre opportunities which play a vital role in the continuum of arts programming in Richmond. Although the delivery of arts programs continued to be impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, more than 1,500 visual arts, dance and music courses were offered in 2021 for 4,900 participants in both virtual and in-person formats. Many of these activities were adapted to take place outdoors to adhere to health and safety protocols.

Participating associations include City Centre Community Association, East Richmond Community Association, Hamilton Community Association, Sea Island Community Association, South Arm Community Association, Steveston Community Society, Thompson Community Association, West Richmond Community Association and Minoru Seniors Society.

Activities

OUTDOOR ART IN THE PARK

Piloted in 2020 in response to the pandemic, this outdoor activity at South Arm Community Centre's courtyard provided creative opportunities to inspire children to explore a combination of art mediums while developing new skills.



"Musical Interludes gives me something to look forward to, even if we can't sing in-person, I feel like I'm still a part of it."

– Richard Y., participant



In addition to the children's program, Outdoor Art in the Park was offered to youth over the summer season, when participants explored a variety of process-based art projects, enabling their creativity to flourish.

OUTDOOR DANCE

To ensure the health and safety of participants and staff during the pandemic, the Steveston Community Society adapted their summer preschool and children's dance programs to be held safely outdoors in Steveston Community Park. These programs were wildly successful and included Outdoor Fairy Tale Dancing, Princess Dance and Storybook Ballet.

MUSICAL INTERLUDES

The Minoru Seniors Society at the Seniors Centre at Minoru Centre for Active Living continued to offer an online bi-weekly music program. Seniors participated in sing-along-style piano and guitar performances that enhanced moods and improved cognition. These sessions also provided a much-needed social connection for the participants.

ONLINE ORIGAMI FOLDING

The Minoru Seniors Society presented two workshops on the Art of Origami in early 2021. Participants joined online to learn the skills of this beautiful yet simple Japanese art form, as they created colourful paper shapes. Workshops included an intergenerational session on Family Day.

JAZZ PIANO COMPING AND CLARINET

The Minoru Seniors Society introduced new music programs to increase skill, build knowledge and have fun with Beginner Jazz piano and clarinet lessons. Participants learned the basics and met weekly to "tune up" their abilities and gain confidence in playing and performing. The sessions have hit a "high note" with additional levels added for 2022.

VIRTUAL FAMILY PAINT NIGHT

In collaboration with seven community associations, an arts instructor from Hamilton Community Centre led families to complete a step-by-step painting of a snowman. This virtual event was a wonderful opportunity for families to connect and have fun together through the arts.

DRAMA, PHOTO AND GLEE ONLINE

Throughout 2021, arts groups from the Seniors Centre at Minoru Centre for Active Living continued to meet and practice online. The Platinum Players Drama group met weekly to rehearse short skits and performed the comedic parody *The Peppersonis* over Zoom for Seniors Week and Culture Days. The Minoru Photo Group and Glee singers attended their programs online throughout the year, maintaining their vital connections to the arts and to each other. A member of the photo group was also named as a Street Banner photo contest winner.



Pride Out Loud



2021 Street Banner Contest

The 2021 street banner contest, organized and coordinated by Richmond's Parks Department, was launched on August 10, 2020 and concluded with the banner unveiling ceremony on February 22, 2021. The contest attracted more than 650 original submissions consisting of photographs, graphic art, collages and other art medium formats. A community judging panel reviewed the submissions and selected 20 designs as semi-finalists. The public was then invited to vote for their favourite designs through the City's Lets Talk Richmond website. The Top 10 designs with the most votes were chosen as the winners.

The winning artists were Alissa Ritchie, Brian Phillips, Dawn Levelton, Eva Wong, Jaida Siu, Jenyse Grimm, Megan Yung, Micah Groberman, Paul Lung and Vergilio Gloriani.

Special Events



Throughout the year, arts programming supports important themes and special events, such as the Harvest Full Moon Project, ERASE Bullying Day and Pride Week.

HARVEST FULL MOON PROJECT

The Harvest Full Moon Project legacy continued at City Centre Community Centre with a creative adaptation in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Project and artist lead, Marina Szijarto, and her team activated the centre to reflect the significance of the Harvest Full Moon Project where cultures from the east to west come together to give thanks and gratitude as we celebrate the harvest season through intercultural activities and art. Activities included a mooncake-making demonstration, box and bunny lantern making and an interactive Indigenous storytelling session led by Coast Salish artist, Christine Mackenzie.

ERASE BULLYING DAY

While inclusion, kindness and acceptance are a year-round focus, the City and community associations continued to raise awareness and stand up against bullying on February 22 for ERASE Bullying Day. This year was accomplished with several initiatives. For example, Cambie Community Centre's Youth Taking Charge leadership group formed positive messages that held personal meaning to the members. These messages were turned into graphic designs as well as stencils. These designs were printed and posted around the Centre and on the @CambieYouth Instagram account, and the stencils were used to spray rain-activated graffiti on the Cambie grounds. These positive messages were revealed when it rained, bringing brightness and inspiration to the dreary winter days.

PRIDE WEEK

For Pride Week 2021, Thompson Community Centre hosted an online poetry workshop facilitated by queer and non-binary poet, Angelic Goldsky, titled *Abundance in Poetry: Claim Your New Beginnings*. The opportunity was free, designed for the LGBTQ2S+ community, and open to all "word weavers" of any kind. It was a meaningful evening of personal connection through creative expression and attracted viewers from as far away as Korea!

As part of South Arm Community Centre's Pride Week festivities, park-goers were invited to experiment with colours and designs to create patterned t-shirts at the *Tie Dye in the Park* workshop. Participants were also invited to test their knowledge of the history and origins of Pride Week with the *Pride Trivia Challenge*. Through scanning rainbow QR codes scattered throughout South Arm Park, this activity sought to inform and engage the community in conversation and knowledge sharing.

City Centre Community Association celebrated Pride Week with *Pride Out Loud*, a free indoor concert with live entertainment by Richmond-based singer and songwriter, Jason Qiu.





MISSION

To enrich the quality of life in Richmond and surrounding communities by creating outstanding professional theatre and a dynamic hub for the performing arts.

Gateway Theatre

Gateway Theatre is managed and operated by Richmond Gateway Theatre Society, a registered charity and not-for-profit organization. Supported by the City, the theatre facility is Richmond's live performing arts hub, normally drawing audiences in excess of 35,000 to more than 150 performances.

In recent years, Gateway Theatre has collaborated with companies such as Western Canada Theatre, Pi Theatre, ITSAZOO, Ruby Slippers Theatre, Vertigo Theatre and Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre. Building on a tradition of artistic residencies in the venue, in 2021, Gateway launched a more formal Company-in-Residence pilot program, welcoming New(to)Town Collective as the inaugural company.

Gateway's newer community-driven initiatives include participatory and immersive artistic offerings which take place off-site or make innovative uses of Gateway's premises. Recently, Gateway has partnered with other organisations, such as S.U.C.C.E.S.S, Aberdeen Centre and the Gulf of Georgia Cannery National Historic Site, in these artistic offerings.

Gateway also remains an important local rental venue, home to many recitals, events and performances produced by community and professional organisations.

Artistic Offerings

TRANSFORMATIONS PROJECT

January 11 – 21, 2021

Taiwanese-Canadian artist Johnny Wu responded to the question “What would it take to transform our society for the betterment of all?” in his piece, *Relearning Filial Piety: The Journey From Keeping My Head Down To Speaking Up*. Commissioned by Gateway Theatre, this piece was part of the Transformations Project, an initiative of the National Arts Centre. Johnny’s thought-provoking video piece attracted **239 views** and was followed by a discussion with fellow Transformations Project artist Norman Yeung, hosted by Gateway Theatre’s Artistic and Community Producer, Jasmine Chen, over **Facebook Live with 50 participants and 365 views afterwards**.

CHINESE SHADOW PUPPETRY WORKSHOPS

February 15 – March 31, 2021

Hosted in collaboration with the Richmond Children’s Arts Festival, these hands-on, digital workshops by artist and researcher Dr. Annie Katsura Rollins gave families, schools and artists an opportunity to explore this ancient theatre practice. The workshops (in two languages) **engaged 47 households and 18 artists**.

MAD PRACTICE: SANITY SKILLS FOR CRAZY TIMES

May 15, 2021

With normalcy on hold, mental well-being was more important than ever. *Mad Practice: Sanity Skills for Crazy Times* invited community members to take a moment for themselves with JD Derbyshire, performing artist and “certified insane person,” in a space where humour and grief could co-exist. At this mental health Zoom meet-up, JD drew connections between emotional, mental and physical health, and allowed **49 attendees** to participate in discussion at their own comfort level.

SONGS OF SUMMER

July 10 & August 14, 2021

Showcasing three local performing artists, these outdoor in-person concerts welcomed back Gateway audiences after a long pause and brought the joy of music and live performance to the Gateway Theatre Grove, a pleasant patch of grass just outside this venue. In total, **132 community members attended these performances**.

HALLOWS’ EVE POP-UP THEATRE

October 23, 24, 30 & 31, 2021

A free, family-friendly artistic offering brought the whimsical world of Hallows’ Eve to life. This life-size recreation of the miniature Hallows’ Eve paper theatre kit from 2020 included a cast of fun-loving, adventurous characters and brought the Halloween spirit to the Gulf of Georgia Cannery National Historic Site and Aberdeen Centre. Families created magical moments as they stepped into this enchanting set, beautifully illustrated by local artist Keely O’Brien. This presentation attracted **569 participants**.

“The two hours flew by, with a blend of history, video, how-to instructions and time to complete a puppet. Skilled and amateur artists all felt welcome. I look forward to the next Gateway workshops.”

– Chinese Shadow Puppetry workshop participant

“JD is a first rate excellent facilitator and mentor and mental health spokesperson, role model and advocate and activist and all round mental health super hero!”

– Mad Practice participant



Accessibility



PRCS- 121
Diversity



Investment



Awareness/Participation



Public Spaces



"[Gateway Theatre] gives us enjoyment, camaraderie and gets us more active in the community. Arts is an essential part of a community and Gateway is a big part of that."

– Gateway Theatre patron

"I was so moved at some parts, due to the COVID-19 situation, that I was tearing up. I only wish the performers could have seen our smiling faces behind our masks. I really appreciated the social distancing Gateway had in place with our seating."

– A Broadway Holiday attendee

S.U.C.C.E.S.S PLAY READING

November 17 and 22, 2021.

Gateway Theatre hosted three online play readings for S.U.C.C.E.S.S language learning students. Each class had the opportunity to read excerpts from JD Derbyshire's play *Certified*, which is to be presented at Gateway Theatre in March 2022. During the reading, **46 students in three classes** had the chance to interpret the script and bring forward their ideas about the play. Through reading the script, students engaged with relevant themes of mental health, peer support, and self-discovery.

A BROADWAY HOLIDAY

Musical Direction by Jenny Andersen

Stage Direction by Barbara Tomasic

Created by Christopher King and Barbara Tomasic

December 16-23, 2021

This holiday season, Gateway invited audiences back to the beautiful theatre to celebrate everything we love about Broadway and the holidays. There was also a digital video-on demand version of the concert for those who preferred to sing along in the comfort of their own home. With nine performances featuring seven talented singer-musicians, patrons were treated to festive hits from Broadway shows like "Let it Snow", "Sleigh Ride" and "White Christmas" to name a few. This presentation attracted **1,215 in-person audience members with 67 households experiencing it at home.**

Gateway Academy

The success of the Education Department's Academy programming during these uncertain times lies in the adaptability of the Academy families, students and faculty, and the creativity and flexibility of the artist-educators.

Creative expression is vital to the mental well-being and resilience of many young people, and this knowledge motivated Gateway Theatre to find a way to offer classes despite the constraints of COVID-19. Year-long classes were shifted entirely to a sessional structure, offering Acting and Musical Theatre classes in-person, and Speech classes online. To ensure everyone's safety, class sizes were reduced, class schedules were shifted, and hygiene protocols were stipulated.



Accessibility



Diversity



Investment



Awareness/Participation

PRCS- 122



Public Spaces

"The program gave our daughter a very good introduction to the world of acting. It was surprising to see her perform with such emotion and enthusiasm. We enrolled her to allow her to explore her curiosity about acting, and we could not be happier with the results."

– Academy parent

Under unusual circumstances, Academy instructors dove deeper into process with their students, creatively adapting curriculum and class plans to make way for the world of physical distancing, masks and online teaching.

In 2021, the Gateway Academy delivered **more than 500 hours of education to a total of 142 students**. The classes were as follows:

- In-person Acting Classes (January–April, September–December 2021) Acting students not only developed skills integral to all theatrical disciplines, but also universal skills such as confidence, focus, listening, and trust-building.
- In-person Musical Theatre Classes (January–April, September–December 2021) Musical Theatre students built confidence as they explored vocal techniques, choreography, and expressing lyrics musically and dramatically.
- Online Speech Classes (January–April 2021) Speech students learned to use their voice with strength and confidence, improving their vocal technique and public presence while developing a greater sense of self-awareness.
- In-person Acting Summer Camp (July 2021) Acting campers not only developed skills integral to all theatrical disciplines, but also universal skills such as confidence, focus, listening, and trust-building.
- In-person Musical Theatre Summer Camp (July 2021) Musical Theatre campers built confidence as they explored vocal techniques, choreography, and expressing lyrics musically and dramatically.



Carmen Chan, *Stages of Bloom*

Stages of Bloom

Gateway Theatre, in collaboration with Richmond Public Art, engaged artist Carmen Chan to transform its Gilbert Road-facing wall into a colourful, uplifting artistic piece embodying the beloved theatre and its community. Engaging with Gateway's board, staff, Academy students, and the wider Richmond community, they shared their stories and favourite Gateway moments with Carmen, to inspire the mural design. Details on page 26.

Photo artist & designer credits:

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Hallows' Eve Pop-up Theatre at Gulf of Georgia Cannery National Historic Site. Photo by Irina Dordic.

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Songs of Summer. Jason Sasaki and Tiana Jung. Photo provided by Gateway Theatre.

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S.U.C.C.E.S.S. Play Reading. Photo provided by Gateway Theatre

Cast of *A Broadway Holiday*. Musical Director: Jenny Anderson. Stage Director: Barbara Tomasic. Production Design: Sophie Tang. Costume Associate: Melicia Zaini. Photo by David Cooper

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Stages of Bloom Mural. Photo by Kary Cheng.



Accessibility



Diversity



Investment



Awareness/Participation



Public Spaces



Richmond Cultural Centre, December 2021

APPENDIX 1

2021 Arts and Culture Grant Program

The following 20 organizations received \$116,815 in financial support:

OPERATING ASSISTANCE

Canadian YC Chinese Orchestra Association	\$8,100
Cinevolution Media Arts Society.....	\$9,200
Community Arts Council of Richmond	\$8,400
Richmond Arts Coalition	\$9,300
Richmond Community Band Society.....	\$1,600
Richmond Community Orchestra and Chorus Association	\$8,000
Richmond Delta Youth Orchestra	\$8,000
Richmond Music School Society	\$9,400
Richmond Potters' Club	\$5,800
Richmond Singers	\$8,000
Richmond Youth Choral Society	\$8,000
Textile Arts Guild of Richmond	\$2,075

PROJECT ASSISTANCE

Arisun Yue Opera Society.....	\$3,490
BC Philharmonic Society.....	\$4,000
Direct Theatre Collective Society.....	\$2,500
Philipine Cultural Arts Society of BC	\$3,500
Richmond Art Gallery Association	\$4,450
Steveston Historical Society	\$4,000
Uzume Taiko Drum Group Society.....	\$4,550
Vancouver Cantonese Opera.....	\$4,450

"[Our] Society was awarded a grant to support a series of three virtual concert events streamed on YouTube May and June 2021. The project gave 14 artists and two technical crew motivation and inspiration to create during COVID times when many performing opportunities were cancelled.

We are thankful for the Grant Program that made it possible for us to create online arts programming for the benefit of Richmond residents and beyond!"

— Uzume Taiko Drum Group Society



APPENDIX 2

Richmond Public Art scheduled for completion in 2022-23

CIVIC PUBLIC ART PROJECTS:

- *Typha*, Charlotte Wall and Puya Khalili
- *Wake*, Tait Waterfront Park, Aaron and Christian Zenga
- *Pergola Garden*, Polymetis

PRIVATE PUBLIC ART PROJECTS:

- *Cascade*, Marie Khouri
- *Fireside*, Nathan Lee
- *Sea to Sky*, Thomas Cannell



Thomas Cannell, *Sea to Sky*

How Richmond supports and invests in arts and culture

The City wears many hats, acting as a supporter, presenter, facilitator, communicator, investor and facility operator

Supporter



COMMUNITY ART EXHIBITIONS

10 exhibitions
in **2** locations



RICHMOND ARTS AWARDS

51 nominations
6 awards presented annually



CULTURE DAYS

63 registered activities¹
by **37** local arts groups and individuals

1: Ranked Number 2 in BC, Number 5 in Canada for medium-sized cities; in Top 10 overall



RICHMOND ARTS CENTRE

provided **8** arts groups
2,000+ hours of room rentals at a subsidy of
\$42,829 to assist them through the pandemic

Facility Operator



RICHMOND CULTURAL CENTRE

1,688 face masks provided to maskless visitors



RICHMOND ARTS CENTRE

360+ arts courses
30+ professional instructors
1,500 students registered



RICHMOND MEDIA LAB

9 media arts courses
31 Richmond Youth Media Lab members spent **1,303** hours at the Media Lab



RICHMOND ART GALLERY

7 exhibitions onsite, offsite and online presenting **67** artists
870 school program participants of **8** in-gallery programs
28 classroom kits
28 free public programs in-person and online with **1,019** participants
3,514 YouTube video views



COMMUNITY CENTRES²

1,500 visual arts, dance & music courses
4,900 participants

2: Delivered by Community Associations Plus: Libraries, Museums and Heritage sites that partner with Arts Services

Communicator



ARTS & CULTURE E-BLASTS

20 e-newsletters
500+ subscribers

ART AT WORK PROGRAM

4 free professional development workshops for artists & organizations
161 participants
1,578 YouTube views

Investor



ARTS & CULTURE GRANTS PROGRAM

\$116,815
to **20** organizations



PUBLIC ART PROGRAM

344 artworks to date
36 new works in 2020
23 Richmond artists contracted for civic art commissions
12 community group partners
16,000 hours of community participation in the Engaging Artists in the Community Program to-date

Presenter



FESTIVALS

5 major events showcasing
82 local artists and performers
165 performances
256 virtual experiences
54,600+ in-person and online attendees



GATEWAY THEATRE³

1 community engagement event
5 types of online offerings
11 in-person performances attracting **2,665** attendees
Provided more than **500** hours of education to **142** students

3: Operated by Richmond Gateway Theatre Society with support of City of Richmond; 2020/2021 Season

Facilitator



FILM OFFICE

6 purpose-built film studios
1,870 employed in Richmond
\$17.9 million earned annually by Richmond residents in film sector



ARTISTS-IN-RESIDENCE

2-month Writer-in-Residence
11-month Branscombe House Artist-in-Residence
10 Artists-in-Residence as part of Engaging Artists in the Community Program

"Everybody's creative.
We create our songs and
our paintings, our families
and our children. Every
one of us is on the cutting
edge of the future."

— Buffy Sainte-Marie



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Cover art by Amerie

Drawing and Painting — Preteens

[Instructor: Keely O'Brien, Richmond Arts Centre]

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