



# City of Richmond

## Report to Committee

**To:** Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services  
Committee

**Date:** April 4, 2018

**From:** Jane Fernyhough  
Director, Arts, Culture and Heritage Services

**File:** 11-7000-09-20-204/Vol  
01

**Re:** **Minoru Centre for Active Living Inaugural Artist-in-Residence Project**

### Staff Recommendation

That the concept proposal for the Minoru Centre for Active Living inaugural artist-in-residence project by artist Sylvia Grace Borda, as presented in the report titled "Minoru Centre for Active Living Inaugural Artist-in-Residence Project," dated April 4, 2018, from the Director, Arts, Culture and Heritage Services, be endorsed.

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

Att. 2

REPORT CONCURRENCE		
ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER
Finance Department	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Parks Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Recreation Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Facility Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>REVIEWED BY STAFF REPORT / AGENDA REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE</b>	<b>INITIALS:</b>  CS	<b>APPROVED BY CAO</b>  

## Staff Report

### Origin

On March 10, 2014, Council formally endorsed the Public Engagement Plan for the Minoru Major Facility Replacements as the guiding plan for a comprehensive public consultation process, including an objective to ensure the public is engaged and excited about the benefits to the community of these planned facilities.

At the October 14, 2014 Council meeting, Council formally endorsed the Minoru Civic Precinct Public Art Plan as the guiding plan for public art opportunities in the Minoru Civic Precinct, including the proposed Minoru Centre for Active Living.

This report presents the artist residency public art project concept proposal for the Minoru Centre for Active Living Inaugural Artist-in-Residence commission, to build excitement for the opening of the facility and assist in transitioning and introducing new and existing users to the building.

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

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

2.1. *Strong neighbourhoods.*

2.3. *Outstanding places, programs and services that support active living, wellness and a sense of belonging.*

2.4. *Vibrant arts, culture and heritage opportunities.*

### Analysis

#### Previous Artist-in-Residence Projects

Previous Artist-in-Residence projects have been successful in partnering with Richmond community associations and other city organizations to support artists with socially-oriented practices. These include *Harvest Full Moon Project* by local Richmond-based artist Marina Szijarto, with a successful legacy work that continues to be produced on an annual basis by the City Centre Community Association and the artist. Other recent artist-in-residence projects include *spART* by Pierre Leichner at the Thompson Community Centre and *Minoru Seniors Legacy Stories* by Catrina Megumi Longmuir at the Minoru Place Activity Centre. These project-based artist residencies have been successful in building community, encouraging cross-cultural and intergenerational exchanges, and providing an opportunity for individual self-expression and identity through socially engaged art-making practices.

#### Minoru Civic Precinct Public Art Plan Vision for an Artist Residency Program

This Artist-in-Residence Project aims to create an opportunity to explore in-depth relationships and understandings that will come from the artist and the community working together over a

period of time. Artists may have an array of practices including socially-engaged and performance-based art forms that may incorporate both two- and three-dimensional visual art mediums. Consideration will be given to artists with experience and/or interests in engaging culturally diverse and intergenerational community members.

The vision for the Minoru Centre for Active Living is to be exceptional, sustainable, accessible, synergistic, connected and a centre of excellence for active living and wellness. This project supports the guiding principles by:

- Contributing to an inclusive environment and sense of place;
- Creating artworks of the highest quality;
- Achieving synergies between the community user groups, the artist and visitors of Minoru Park Precinct.

#### Terms of Reference – Minoru Centre for Active Living Inaugural Artist-in-Residence

The Public Art Terms of Reference for the Minoru Centre for Active Living Inaugural Artist-in-Residence (Attachment 1) describes the art opportunity, themes, site description, scope of work, budget, selection process, schedule and submission requirements. Eligibility was for professional artists residing in British Columbia.

#### Artist Selection Process

During the first stage of the process, eight submissions by artists from the Metro Vancouver region were received. On March 1, 2018, following the Public Art Program's administrative procedures for artist selection for civic public art projects, a selection panel, including three members from Richmond and one arts professional from Vancouver, reviewed the submissions.

Members of the selection panel included:

- Brigitte Fritz, Aquatic Services Board;
- Keith Lang, Minoru Centre for Active Living Program Advisory Committee;
- Cyndy Chwelos, artist, art educator and administrator, and
- Keely O'Brien, 2018 Branscombe House Artist-in-Residence.

City staff attended the selection panel meeting to provide project background and to answer any questions regarding the facilities and administrative processes.

Following discussion and deliberation, the panel shortlisted three artists to attend a finalist interview and provide a presentation on their work and proposal.

The shortlisted artists were:

- Pierre Leichner, Vancouver, BC;
- Sylvia Grace Borda, Vancouver, BC; and
- Emilie Crewe, Vancouver, BC.

The shortlisted artists responded to the theme, “Engaging Mind, Body and Spirit,” to reflect the multiple functions and users of the new Minoru Centre for Active Living. This theme reflects Minoru Park Precinct’s significant role as a centre of sports and community gathering within Richmond and provides opportunities to connect to the site’s history for visitors to the Minoru Centre for Active Living and the Minoru Park Precinct.

On March 8, 2018, the selection panel met to interview the three shortlisted artists. Following a thoughtful and considered deliberation, the panel recommended Sylvia Grace Borda for the Minoru Centre for Active Living Inaugural Artist Residency. The Selection Panel was impressed with the artist’s experience and creativity in engaging intergenerational participants in a variety of participatory and hands-on art-making activities.

### Recommended Artist

Sylvia Grace Borda is an interdisciplinary photography-based artist. Her work has been exhibited and published internationally, with solo exhibitions in the UK, Canada, and Italy. She is currently leading an artist-in-residence program at Kwantlen Polytechnic University examining the role of art and science in learning today. Further information about the artist is contained in Attachment 2.

### Recommended Artist Residency Project Proposal

The artist project will appeal to a culturally diverse and multi-generational audience. Participants will be invited to help illustrate “what are you doing?” This question will be asked in relation to the activities visitors usually undertake while at the Minoru Precinct. The artist aims to engage facility users and resident groups at the Minoru Aquatic Centre, Minoru Place Activity Centre, Richmond Cultural Centre and the sports field user groups to identify interest and participation in the types of art projects to be created while working with the artist. Through hands-on and participatory digital media and photography-based art-making activities and dedicated work sessions with community members and arts groups, the artist aims to produce a series of legacy artworks with participants that may include a photography-based on-line archive, temporary art installations, exhibitions, hand-made participant artist books, and a series of framed artist photographs to be displayed at the new Minoru Centre for Active Living (Attachment 2).

The artist describes the project-based artist residency as follows:

*“My project goals are to recognize the importance of the users’ social and physical activities, and to balance this with the aim of engaging their body, mind, and spirit to create artwork together.”*

On March 13, 2018, the Public Art Advisory Committee reviewed the concept proposal and endorsed the project. The total public art budget for the Minoru Centre for Active Living Inaugural Artist-in- Residence Project is \$15,000 funded out of the approved Major Facilities Phase I Projects.

### **Financial Impact**

None.

April 4, 2018

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## **Conclusion**

The inaugural artist residency at Minoru Centre for Active Living facility represents an opportunity for an artist to create socially-oriented public artworks that respond to the cultural and social significance of Minoru Precinct. The project aims to create opportunities for cultural and intergenerational exchange and assist in transitioning existing and non-users to the new facility. The proposed artist project supports the goals of the Minoru Centre for Active Living Public Art Plan.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eric Fiss', with the word 'FOR' written in smaller letters below it.

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

- Att. 1: Artist Call Terms of Reference
- 2: Artist Project Proposal

Artist Call Terms of Reference

# call to artists



Figure 1 - Artist renderings for the Minoru Centre for Active Living. yourminoru.ca

## Minoru Centre for Active Living

### Inaugural Artist-in-Residence

### Request for Proposals (RFP)

January 2018

#### OPPORTUNITY

The City of Richmond Public Art Program seeks an artist or artist team with socially oriented practices to engage culturally diverse and multi-generational audiences in anticipation of the opening of Minoru Centre for Active Living, a new multi-purpose civic facility due for completion in summer 2018 in Minoru Park. This inaugural artist-in-residence opportunity invites professional artists with experience engaging seniors, adults, youth, children and individuals with special needs in performance or socially-engaged forms of artistic expression. The artwork will aim to foster individual creative expression and introduce Richmond residents to the amenities of the facility. The artist project will contribute to the programming of the grand opening celebration for this new facility, anticipated for summer 2018.

- Budget:** \$15,000 CAD
- Eligibility:** Professional artists residing in British Columbia
- Deadline:** February 22, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. PST
- Duration:** April 2018 – April 2019

# call to artists



## BACKGROUND

The Minoru Centre for Active Living is a new 110,000 square foot multi-purpose complex currently under construction in Minoru Park at the heart of Richmond's civic precinct. The new facility will house aquatic and fitness services, seniors' services and amenities to support the park's sports fields. This new facility will replace and expand the functions of the existing Minoru Aquatic Centre and Minoru Place Activity Centre (Seniors Centre), as well as the former Minoru Pavilion.

The Guiding Principles adopted by City Council for the Minoru Centre for Active Living reflect high expectations and will inform forward-thinking design, public art and community-building possibilities:

- Be a "Centre of Excellence for Active Living and Wellness"
- Be Exceptional
- Be Connected
- Be Accessible
- Be Synergistic
- Be Sustainable

Many current users are looking forward to the opportunities for expanded programming and services that will be provided in this state-of-the-art facility. However, some users may have an element of trepidation, including some who have participated in programs and activities at the Minoru Place Activity Centre and/or the Minoru Aquatic Centre for decades. In particular, some current users feel that they will lose the familiarity, sense of community and belonging they have enjoyed over the years.

## THEME

### "ENGAGING MIND, BODY AND SPIRIT"

The Artist-in-Residence project will invite Minoru Park amenity users in participatory visual art interventions and/or performance-based work that will aim to build excitement for the new civic facility and assist existing users of the Minoru Place Activity Centre, Minoru Aquatic Centre and former Minoru Pavilion to transition into the new integrated Centre.

The artist or artist team will aim to provide participants with opportunities to express a greater sense of self, identity, community and place through learning, experience, participatory mixed-media or performance-based art making. This may include photography, digital mixed-media, literary and text-based art practices. The work must be publicly accessible and appeal to culturally diverse and multi-generational audiences in Richmond. The artist will work with community to inform and/or co-create physical and/or social legacies for the community.

# call to artists



Art happenings, temporary installations and performances can activate places and supplement ongoing programs and services with unexpected and remarkable experiences. Socially oriented artist projects engage the power of the collective imagination and draw people together through the artist's immersive and imaginative experiences. Artists are encouraged to propose projects that activate and respond to the new facility amenity spaces and features.

## ARTIST SCOPE OF WORK

The artist or artist team will propose an approach or concept for a project-based artist residency. The artist will have up to a minimum of 5 months to a maximum of 12 months to complete the work. The expectation is for the artist to participate and have a strong presence in the programming for the opening of the Minoru Centre for Active Living, anticipated for summer 2018. As such, it is expected that a significant focus will include engaging current users in the months leading up to the opening of the new Centre.

## ARTIST WORKSPACES AND LOCATIONS

The artist or artist team will have access to the existing facilities including indoor and outdoor multi-purpose spaces within the Minoru Aquatic Centre, Minoru Place Activity Centre and Minoru Park. City staff will aim to accommodate the artist requirements; however, some spaces may be subject to scheduling and availability. Artist site-storage requirements can be negotiated. Once the Minoru Centre for Active Living is open to the public, the artist or artist team will have access to the Centre's outdoor plazas, meeting rooms, multi-purpose rooms, and viewing areas. Other amenity spaces may be available subject to availability, scope of work and project feasibility. Please visit [yourminoru.ca](http://yourminoru.ca) for additional information on the building features, artist renderings and floor plans.

## BUDGET

The total budget established for this project is \$15,000 CAD. This budget includes (but is not limited to) artist fees, production, installation, photography, insurance and all taxes, excluding GST. Travel to Richmond and/or accommodation is at the artist's expense.

## ARTIST ELIGIBILITY

This call is open to artists residing in British Columbia. Artists who are currently contracted by the City for a public art commission are not eligible to apply. City of Richmond employees and staff and board members from the following organizations are not eligible to apply:

- Minoru Centre for Active Living Program Committee
- Minoru Seniors Society;
- Richmond Fitness and Wellness Association;
- Aquatics Services Board
- Richmond Sports Council.



# call to artists



## SELECTION PROCESS

A selection panel consisting of artists, art professionals and community representatives will engage in a two stage artist selection process to review all artist submissions. Up to five applicants will be shortlisted. A \$100 honorarium will be provided to shortlisted artists to attend an interview with the selection panel. At the conclusion of the process, the panel will recommend one artist or artist team. The selected artist(s) will enter into a contract with the City of Richmond and work to research and develop a detailed proposal to be submitted for review by the Richmond Public Art Advisory Committee (RPAAC) and City Council before starting the implementation phases of the work.

## ARTIST SELECTION CRITERIA

The following criteria will inform the artist selection process.

### Stage 1

- Artistic merit of statement of intent in response to the identified theme and selection criteria;
- Artists demonstrated ability, qualifications and capacity to undertake and complete the proposed work within the identified time frame;
- Artist proven capacity to work with cultural diverse community stakeholders;
- Appropriateness of the proposal to the Public Art Program goals: [www.richmond.ca/culture/publicart/plans/policy](http://www.richmond.ca/culture/publicart/plans/policy)

### Stage 2

- Artist response to any feedback and follow-up questions from Selection Panel regarding artistic merit of Statement of Intent in response to project theme and goals;
- Artist response to any feedback and follow-up questions from Selection Panel regarding appropriateness of the proposal to the Public Art Program goals: [www.richmond.ca/culture/publicart/plans/policy](http://www.richmond.ca/culture/publicart/plans/policy);
- Preliminary project budget and timeline including, but not limited to: artist fees, materials, production, administration, insurance, installation and documentation;
- Sketches or artist visualizations and/or models, if applicable;
- Artist project sensitivity to environmental concerns with respect to artwork materials, production methods and presentation.

# call to artists



## SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

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

- INFORMATION FORM – Please complete the information form attached to this document.
- STATEMENT OF INTENT – (1 page maximum) explaining artist practice, why the artist is interested in this opportunity, proposed conceptual approach to the work or project you would like to implement and produce during the residency and how the project responds to the identified theme and selection criteria.
- ARTIST CV – (2 page maximum). Teams should include one page for each member. Please identify relevant present and past work and experience.
- WORK SAMPLES – Ten (10) supporting image examples of previous work. One image per page. Please include artist name(s), title, year, location and medium information on each image page. For digital video examples please include URL links to Vimeo, Youtube or other on-line digital media sharing platforms.
- REFERENCES – Provide a list of three (3) individuals including name, title, phone number and e-mail who can speak to your abilities.

## PROJECT TIMELINE

**Submission Deadline:** February 22, 2018 at 5:00 p.m.

**Finalist Notification:** March 2, 2018

**Finalist Artist Interviews:** March 8, 2018, from 5:30 p.m.\*

**Duration:** April 2018– April 2019

\*Applicants must be available on March 8, 2018, from 5:30 p.m. in the event they are short-listed for the commission.

## SOURCES FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- [Minoru Centre for Active Living](#)
- [Minoru Precinct Public Art Plan](#)
- [Minoru Seniors Society, Minoru Place Activity Centre](#)
- [Minoru Aquatic Centre](#)
- [Minoru Park](#)

# call to artists



## SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

1. All supporting documents must be complete and strictly adhere to these guidelines and submission requirements (above) or risk not being considered.
2. All submissions must be formatted to 8.5 x 11 inch pages. Portfolio images would be best formatted to landscape format.
3. Submission files must be 5 MB or smaller.
4. If submitting as a team, the team should designate one representative to complete the entry form. Each team member must submit an individual resume/curriculum vitae. (See Submission Requirements)
5. All documents must be sent by e-mail to: [publicart@richmond.ca](mailto:publicart@richmond.ca)

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

## QUESTIONS

Please contact the Richmond Public Art Program:  
Tel: 604-204-8671  
E-mail: [publicart@richmond.ca](mailto:publicart@richmond.ca)

## ATTACHMENT 2

Artist Project Proposal for “What are you doing?” by Sylvia Grace Borda

The artist project will appeal to a culturally diverse and multi-generational audience. Participants will be invited to help illustrate “what are you doing?” This question will be asked in relation to the activities visitors usually undertake while at the Minoru Precinct. The artist aims to engage facility users and resident groups at the Minoru Aquatic Centre, Minoru Place Activity Centre, Richmond Cultural Centre and the sports field user groups to identify interest and participation in the types of art projects to be created while working with the artist. Through hands-on and participatory digital media and photography-based art-making activities and dedicated work sessions with community members and arts groups, the artist aims to produce a series of legacy artworks with participants that may include a photography-based on-line archive, temporary art installations, exhibitions, hand-made participant artist books, and a series of framed artist photographs to be displayed at the new Minoru Centre for Active Living.

The artist project goals are to:

- transition existing and new users of Minoru Aquatic Centre, Minoru Place Activity Centre and Minoru Park sports and recreation field users to the new Minoru Centre for Active Living;
- build excitement for the opening of the new Centre in fall 2018;
- enhance the spirit and experience of visitors and users of the Minoru Precinct facilities and Park;
- imagine new ways to show how users day-to-day actions can create artistic outcomes; and
- acknowledge participant contribution and time spent working with the artist.

The participatory artwork may have several outcomes including:

- a digital photography archive with physical or temporary display on site and/or on-line for ‘What are you doing?’
- creation of a set of texts to explore ideas of action, participation and art making to engage the mind in new mind-body interactions
- the creation of a set of low-tech artist books/journals that can be developed over one or several visits.
- Temporary and/or permanent legacy artworks that can be installed on walls or other spaces in the new Minoru Centre for Active Living once it is open, in consultation and approval from City staff.

Artist Bio

Sylvia Grace Borda is a Vancouver international award-winning artist. She studied Fine Arts at the University of British Columbia (MFA) and Media & Photography at Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design (BFA). Borda has produced a variety of socially engaged collaborative and interdisciplinary projects since the mid-2000s. Past work includes the *Kissing Project*, engaging residents of Nelson, BC to pose and kiss at important heritage landmarks and places in the City. The artist then incorporated the images into Google Streetview to be accessible by the public.

Sylvia has received a number of public grants and awards, including Best Public Works Project for the Province of British ACEC Award of Excellence, Canada (2012) in tandem with the City of Richmond Public Art Commission: *Working River* at the No.4 Pump Station.



Figure 1 – *Kissing Project*, Sylvia Grace Borda, 2017. John and Theresa Southam, Waits News, Baker Street. Media: Panosphere Google Street View net artwork and print.



Figure 2 - Figure 1 – *Kissing Project*, Sylvia Grace Borda, 2017. Mary Whitlock and Nancy Rosenblum, Cottonwood Falls. Media: Panosphere Google Street View net artwork and print.