



# City of Richmond

## Report to Committee

**To:** Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee      **Date:** December 20, 2021

**From:** Marie Fenwick, Director, Arts, Culture and Heritage Services      **File:** 11-7000-09-01/2021-Vol 01

**Re:** **City of Richmond Utility Box Art Wrap Program Update**

### Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled “City of Richmond Utility Box Art Wrap Program” dated December 20, 2021, from the Director, Arts, Culture and Heritage Services, be received for information.

*CM Fenwick*

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

Att. 1

REPORT CONCURRENCE		
<b>ROUTED TO:</b>	<b>CONCURRENCE</b>	<b>CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER</b>
Finance Department Transportation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Sevencia</i>
<b>SENIOR STAFF REPORT REVIEW</b>	<b>INITIALS:</b> <i>MF</i>	<b>APPROVED BY CAO</b> <i>[Signature]</i>

## Staff Report

### Origin

On July 28, 2014, Council endorsed the City of Richmond Utility Box Art Wrap Program to engage local artists in the design of art wraps for utility boxes across the city.

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with information regarding the program as well as give a summary of the projects completed by Richmond artists for the 2020-2022 Art Wrap Program.

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.*

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.*

This report supports the following Supporting Actions in Artworks: Richmond Arts Strategy 2019-2024 under Strategic Direction 4.3:

*Engage the Richmond community with creative experiences and artistic encounters with their daily life:*

- *Continue to foster a building environment where one has spontaneous encounters with art through the Public Art program.*
- *Increase visual and performing arts opportunities in public spaces to showcase Richmond artists.*

This report supports the Artworks: Richmond Arts Strategy 2019-2024 Strategic Direction 5:

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

### Analysis

#### Background

The Utility Box Art Wrap Program is an inter-departmental project that involves Engineering, Parks Services, Public Works, Transportation, Arts, Culture and Heritage Services and Planning and Development Services. The program is funded by voluntary developer contributions to the Public Art Program Reserve Fund.

Since Council's endorsement of the Utility Box Art Wrap Program in 2014, numerous art wrap designs have been installed around Richmond to improve the look of various kinds of utility boxes

including traffic cabinets, sanitary pump station equipment boxes, BC Hydro kiosks, and recycling and waste receptacles. All of these projects have contributed to animating the public realm of the city, enriching the lives of residents as well as deterring vandalism and graffiti.

The themes and designs for the utility box wraps are as diverse as their locations. Artists take into consideration the historical, geographical and cultural heritage of each specific site. For example, utility boxes that are located within natural areas incorporate themes related to the environment and sustainability.

To streamline the artist selection process for these numerous art opportunities, the art wraps are designed by Richmond-based artists who have been pre-selected to be on the Art Wrap Program Roster, through the following process:

- An Open Artist Call for the Art Wrap Program Roster is issued bi-annually to provide a list of pre-qualified local artists. The roster includes artists with a range of art styles, media and approaches. In 2020, the Roster's terms of reference were revised to include only Richmond-based artists. The call for the 2022-2024 Art Wrap Program Roster will be issued in early 2022.
- Following the administrative procedures for artist selection for civic public art projects, a three-person selection panel convenes to review the artist submissions. Artists are selected based on previous work, experience in producing work that reflects community identity and diversity of themes. Placement on the Roster does not guarantee that an artist will be selected for a wrap project.
- For each project opportunity, artists are selected from the Art Wrap Program Roster by an inter-departmental staff team, including representatives from Engineering, Parks, Transportation and Arts, Culture and Heritage Services, as suitable for each project. Selection is based on availability of the artist, appropriateness of the artist's practice and past work, and their experience with specific project requirements.
- Artists may also be considered for other projects such as construction hoardings, traffic barriers or other design treatments for utility objects in the public realm as they arise.

#### 2020-2022 Utility Box Art Wrap Program

The following is a summary of projects completed between 2020 and 2022 as part of Richmond's Utility Box Art Wrap Program (Attachment 1):

2020:

- Four traffic cabinets and four uninterruptible power supply (UPS) cabinets located at intersections as well as two utility boxes were wrapped by artists Andrew Briggs, Desiree Patterson, Nora Monteil, Laara Cerman and Jennifer Heine, in partnership with Transportation, Public Works and BC Hydro.

- Three art wraps by artists Melissa Luk and David Pacholko were installed on utility boxes at West Richmond Community Centre in partnership with the West Richmond Community Association.
- As part of the #RichmondHasHeart initiative, artists Tara Callaghan, Laura Kwok, Ronn Martin and Megan Yung created designs for reusable masks worn by City of Richmond staff.

2021:

- Five traffic cabinets and five uninterruptible power supply (UPS) cabinets were wrapped with works by artists Jeni Chen, Joyce Kamikura, Adrienne Moore, Krystle Coughlin Silverfox and Loraine Wellman, in partnership with Transportation.
- Artists Jeni Chen, Laura Kwok and Dawn Lo were selected by an external community partner, TransLink, to create original transit-themed designs for hoarding to surround the construction site of the new Capstan Canada Line Station. These hoardings will be installed in early 2022 with costs covered by TransLink.

### Next Steps

Staff will issue a call for Richmond-based artists to be considered for the 2022-2024 Art Wrap Program Roster in early 2022. In response to a growing range of art opportunities, the Roster's terms of reference will expand to include other opportunities for designs such as temporary construction hoarding, traffic barriers and other design treatments for utility objects in the public realm.

The Art Wrap roster provides numerous opportunities for Richmond-based artists to participate in the Public Art Program through a streamlined pre-selection process.

### **Financial Impact**

The Art Wrap Program's annual budget is \$10,000 and it is funded by voluntary developer contributions to the Public Art Program Reserve Fund. The budget is included in the City's 2022 Public Art Program capital budget as part of the 2022 budget process and will be implemented once the proposed Consolidated 5-Year Financial Plan (2022-2026) is adopted by Council.

The budget covers artist fees for each project. Fabrication and installation fees are covered by the partnering City department(s) or community partner.

## **Conclusion**

The City of Richmond Utility Box Art Wrap Program provides opportunities for local artists with a range of creative practices to participate in the Public Art Program. Incorporating art into functional objects is an affordable, high-impact method to integrate the arts into everyday life and make art accessible to the public while benefitting the city through beautification of the public realm.

Integration of public art on utility boxes and other utilitarian surfaces is consistent with the vision and strategic directions of the Richmond Arts Strategy, to broaden the diversity of arts experiences, support local artists and create community pride.








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




Att. 1: 2020-2022 Utility Box Art Wrap Program Summary

## 2020-2022 Utility Box Art Wrap Program Completed Projects

### 2020

	<p><b>Andrew Briggs, <i>Brighthouse</i></b> Fire Hall No.1, 7191 Granville Ave. UPS (uninterruptible power supply) cabinet in partnership with Transportation</p>
	<p><b>Andrew Briggs, <i>Brighthouse</i></b> Fire Hall No.1, 7191 Granville Ave. Traffic cabinet in partnership with Transportation</p>
	<p><b>Desiree Patterson*, <i>Shifting Times</i></b> Lansdowne Rd. and Kwantlen St. Traffic cabinet in partnership with Transportation</p>
	<p><b>Desiree Patterson*, <i>Shifting Times</i></b> Lansdowne Rd. and Kwantlen St. UPS (uninterruptible power supply) cabinet in partnership with Transportation</p>
	<p><b>Laara Cerman*, <i>Golden Rod and Canary Grass</i></b> Moncton St and No.2 Rd. UPS (uninterruptible power supply) cabinet in partnership with Transportation</p>

	<p><b>Lara Cerman*</b>, <i>Golden Rod and Canary Grass</i>  Moncton St and No.2 Rd.  Traffic cabinet in partnership with Transportation</p>
	<p><b>Nora Monteil*</b>, <i>Compassion</i>  9160 Steveston Hwy.  Traffic cabinet in partnership with Transportation</p>
	<p><b>Nora Monteil*</b>, <i>Compassion</i>  9160 Steveston Hwy.  UPS (uninterruptible power supply) cabinet in partnership with Transportation</p>
	<p><b>Jennifer Heine</b>, <i>Sturgeon Banksii</i>  9271 Maskall Dr.  Utility box in partnership with Public Works</p>
	<p><b>Jennifer Heine</b>, <i>Gilded Cage</i>  9271 Maskall Dr.  Utility box in partnership with BC Hydro</p>



	<p><b>David Pacholko*</b>, <i>Let's Go Out and Play</i>  9180 No 1 Rd.  Utility box in partnership with West Richmond Community Association</p>
	<p><b>Melissa Luk*</b>, <i>Owl and Frog</i>  9180 No 1 Rd.  Utility box in partnership with West Richmond Community Association</p>
	<p><b>Melissa Luk*</b>, <i>Owl and Frog</i>  9180 No 1 Rd.  Utility box in partnership with West Richmond Community Association</p>
	<p><b>Laura Kwok</b>  #RichmondHasHeart reusable mask</p>
	<p><b>Megan Yung</b>  #RichmondHasHeart reusable mask</p>



	<p><b>Ronn Martin</b> #RichmondHasHeart reusable mask</p>
	<p><b>Tara Callaghan</b> #RichmondHasHeart reusable mask</p>

\*Artist from 2017-2019 Art Wrap Roster, work completed in 2020.

## 2021

	<p><b>Adrienne Moore, <i>Richmond's Secret Gardens</i></b> River Parkway and Cambie Rd UPS (uninterruptible power supply) cabinet in partnership with Transportation</p>
	<p><b>Adrienne Moore, <i>Richmond's Secret Gardens</i></b> River Parkway and Cambie Rd Traffic cabinet in partnership with Transportation</p>

	<p><b>Jeni Chen, <i>Recharge and Renewal</i></b>  Gilbert Road and River Rd.  UPS (uninterruptible power supply) cabinet in partnership with Transportation</p>
	<p><b>Jeni Chen, <i>Recharge and Renewal</i></b>  Gilbert Road and River Rd.  Traffic cabinet in partnership with Transportation</p>
	<p><b>Krystle Coughlin Silverfox, <i>Untitled</i></b>  Silverfox, Cambie Rd. and No. 3 Rd.  UPS (uninterruptible power supply) cabinet in partnership with Transportation</p>
	<p><b>Krystle Coughlin Silverfox, <i>Untitled</i></b>  Silverfox, Cambie Rd. and No. 3 Rd.  Traffic cabinet in partnership with Transportation</p>
	<p><b>Loraine Wellman, <i>Rudbeckia</i></b>  River Parkway and Ebco Cross.  Traffic cabinet in partnership with Transportation</p>



**Loraine Wellman, *Rudbeckia***  
River Parkway and Ebco Cross.  
UPS (uninterruptible power supply) cabinet in partnership with Transportation



**Joyce Kamikura, *Poppies and Irises***  
River Parkway & Leslie Rd.  
Traffic cabinet in partnership with Transportation



**Joyce Kamikura, *Poppies and Irises***  
River Parkway & Leslie Rd.  
UPS (uninterruptible power supply) cabinet in partnership with Transportation