



To: General Purposes Committee **Date:** August 2, 2023
From: Marie Fenwick **File:** 11-7000-09-20-346/Vol
 Director, Arts, Culture and Heritage Services 01
Re: **Richmond Cultural Centre Annex Public Art Mural Project Proposal**



Staff Recommendation

That the artist project proposal for “Seasons of Colour” by Laura Kwok as detailed in the staff report titled, “Richmond Cultural Centre Annex Public Art Mural Project Proposal” dated August 2, 2023, from the Director, Arts, Culture and Heritage Services, be endorsed.

Marie Fenwick

Marie Fenwick
 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"/>	
Facility Services & Project Development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
SENIOR STAFF REPORT REVIEW	INITIALS: <i>EF</i>	APPROVED BY CAO 

Staff Report

Origin

On June 12, 2023, Council approved the Richmond Cultural Centre Annex Public Art Mural Project Terms of Reference. The Call to Artists invited artists residing in British Columbia to submit qualifications and an expression of interest to create a community engaged mural artwork to be placed on the high-level exterior fascia around the perimeter of the building.

This report presents the artist's project proposal, "Seasons of Colour" by Laura Kwok, as recommended by a Selection Panel committee comprised of a professional Musqueam artist, Richmond Arts Centre representatives, Richmond Public Library representative, and a community member-at-large, for council's consideration.

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan 2022-2026 Focus Area #6 A Vibrant, Resilient and Active Community:

Vibrant, resilient and active communities supported by a wide variety of opportunities to get involved, build relationships and access resources.

6.1 Advance a variety of program, services, and community amenities to support diverse needs and interests and activate the community.

6.2 Enhance the City's network of parks, trails and open spaces.

6.3 Foster intercultural harmony, community belonging, and social connections.

6.5 Enhance and preserve arts and heritage assets in the community.

Analysis

Artist Selection Process

On June 13, 2023, the Richmond Cultural Centre Annex Mural Public Art Call to Artists was posted to solicit applications from professional artists residing in British Columbia (Attachment 1). The deadline for the artist call was July 4, 2023. Twenty-six (26) artists and artist teams responded to the call.

On July 11, 2023, following the Public Art Program administrative procedures for an artist selection process, staff convened the first of two artist selection panel meetings, with the following members:

- Botao Chen, Richmond Youth Media Lab Representative;
- Deanna Marie Point, Musqueam Professional Artist;
- Denise Hui, Richmond Public Library Board Trustee and Community Representative;
- Vickie McLeod, Textile Arts Guild of Richmond Representative; and
- Winston L. Sayson, Community Member-at-Large Representative.

One artist and three artist teams were shortlisted and invited to attend an artist orientation session with staff and professional consultants. The orientation provided an opportunity for the artists to ask questions and receive additional information about specific project parameters and site considerations. Following the session, artists were provided with a \$250 honorarium to develop their project proposals.

On July 27, 2023, the four shortlisted artists presented their project proposals at the final Selection Panel meeting. In accordance with the Public Art Program Administration Procedures, the Selection Panel reviewed the project proposals, which included a short art activity and social engagement demonstration by the artists. Following the presentations, the Selection Panel engaged in a thorough adjudication and evaluation process.

The Selection Panel recommended the project proposal by Richmond-based mural artist, Laura Kwok. The Selection Panel noted that the proposal responded well to the aims and objectives of the opportunity including a thoughtful and comprehensive approach to the community engagement phase of the project.

The Richmond Public Art Advisory Committee has reviewed the project proposal by email sent on August 1, 2023 and supports the proposal by Laura Kwok.

Recommended Artist Proposal – Richmond Cultural Centre Annex Mural Project Proposal

The artist's project proposal, "Seasons of Colour" aims to reflect hope, rejuvenation, local pride and a sense of belonging. The artist describes the artwork as follows:

My goal for this mural is to create a vibrant and hopeful expression of Community, Culture, and Creativity. I am particularly interested in highlighting the natural beauty of Richmond, honouring our rich cultural heritage, and celebrating our continual growth in the Arts. I have designed the workshops to share my art skills and serve the community, while building relationships and receiving valuable public feedback that will ultimately enhance the mural design.

Attachment 2 provides further information about the artist's background and project proposal.

In consultation with the artist, coordination of five (5) community engagement sessions will be included as part of Richmond Culture Days, from September 22 to October 15. Following the community engagement phase, the artist will present mural concept sketches for review with staff and project stakeholders, prior to the installation of the mural in spring 2024.

Financial Impact

The RCCA Community Mural Project budget is \$40,000 funded by one per cent of the total construction cost of the facility's capital project budget (\$10,000) supplemented by \$30,000 from the approved Public Art Program budget, which is funded through the voluntary contributions of private developers. As per the Terms of Reference, \$35,000 is the total budget for mural implementation and \$5,000 is allocated for administration costs.

Maintenance for the mural artwork will be the responsibility of the Public Art Program.

Conclusion

The Richmond Cultural Centre Annex Public Art Mural Project supports ArtWorks: Richmond Arts Strategy 2019-2024 by activating public spaces through and for the arts and providing affordable and accessible arts for all.



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

- Att. 1: Richmond Cultural Centre Annex Mural, Call to Artists, Terms of Reference
- 2: Richmond Cultural Centre Annex Mural Project Proposal

call to artists

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Figure 1: Architectural Rendering: RCCA, north façade. Fascia areas for mural application highlighted in red. Note: mural to encircle building.

Richmond Cultural Centre Annex Mural Project

Request for Qualifications (RFQ)

June 2023

OPPORTUNITY

The Richmond Public Art Program is seeking an artist or artist team to develop and implement a community-engaged artist process to create a public art mural for the new Richmond Cultural Centre Annex, 7660 Minoru Gate.

Artists or artist teams with demonstrated experience in executing outdoor murals and working with community groups and multiple project stakeholders are encouraged to apply.

Deadline: July 4, 2023

Budget: \$35,000

Eligibility: Artists Residing in British Columbia

Completion: Spring 2024

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BACKGROUND

The Richmond Cultural Centre Annex (RCCA) is a newly renovated facility located directly across from the Richmond Cultural Centre/Richmond Public Library in Minoru Park. This building, formerly known as the Minoru Place Activity Centre, will open to the public in fall 2023 with an array of purpose-built cultural spaces including:

- Two performing arts studios, primarily for dance;
- Pottery studio;
- Flex lobby with space for art exhibitions and casual public performances and events;
- History Lab for Richmond Museum schools programs;
- Media Lab with computers, green screen, recording studio and more; and
- Creativity Studio for visual and performing arts education.

These spaces will address increased demands for City arts and cultural programs as well as be available for rent by local community arts and cultural organizations for a wide range of activities.

LOCATION

The commissioned mural will be located at the RCCA, 7660 Minoru Gate. The mural will be installed on the exterior upper fascia surfaces, surrounding the building. Please refer to pages 1 and 6 for images that highlight the surface areas to receive the mural. Applicants are encouraged to visit the site and view the existing collection of public artworks located in Minoru Park, including *Continuum* by Richard Tetrault and Jerry Whitehead, the mural surrounding the upper exterior fascia of the Richmond Cultural Centre/Richmond Public Library located directly opposite.

THEMES

Themes and subject matter will be identified through artist-led community engagement workshops. The commissioned artist or artist team will be expected to develop and implement a minimum of five (5) public engagement workshops with the first to happen on site during the Richmond Culture Days kick-off weekend on September 23, 2023. The workshops can incorporate art activities and prompts to foster community dialogue, relationship-building, and skills-sharing with resident art groups, staff and community members.

The expectation is for the mural to engage multiple generations, including children, youth, adults and seniors. The mural may reflect the diversity of activities offered in the new facility and may also reference Richmond's cultural and natural heritage.

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ARTIST SCOPE OF WORK

The commissioned artist or artist team will coordinate with City staff to implement the community engagement process. The City of Richmond will provide workshop spaces and assist in communication/promotion of the public engagement sessions.

Upon completion of the community engagement process, the commissioned artist or artist team will propose a concept mural design for presentation to City staff and community stakeholders. Artists will respond to stakeholder feedback, which may result in revisions to the mural design.

The total building surface area to be painted is approximately 1,600 sq.ft.

The commissioned artist or artist team will be required to coordinate work on site and obtain all the necessary insurance and permitting to use lift equipment or scaffolding as necessary. An approved installation work plan will be developed and approved in consultation with the City of Richmond.

BUDGET

The budget for this opportunity is \$35,000. This is inclusive (but not limited to) artist fees, painting supplies, equipment, artist supplies, administration, documentation, insurance, travel, accommodation and all taxes, excluding GST.

ARTIST ELIGIBILITY

Artists residing in British Columbia are eligible to apply. Indigenous artists are encouraged to apply. City employees and volunteers serving on City of Richmond Public Art Advisory Committee are not eligible to apply.

Artists that are currently engaged in a public art project contract with the City are ineligible until their current contract is deemed complete.

SELECTION PROCESS

This will be a two-stage artist selection process. The Selection Panel will be comprised of artists, community representatives, and arts professionals. In the first stage, a five-person Selection Panel will convene to review all artist packages and shortlist up to three (3) artists for the commission.

In the second stage, shortlisted artists will be provided with a \$150 honorarium to develop a proposal, outlining proposed artist methodology and how the artist will engage community for the project. A preliminary budget will also be required. Upon Council approval, the commissioned artist or artist team will enter into a contract with the City of Richmond.

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SELECTION CRITERIA

- Artist's demonstrated mural experience and proven capability in producing murals that reflect community identity and assist in building rich cultural places.
- Artist's capacity to engage community stakeholders and work with other City contractors and staff professionals if required.
- Appropriateness of the proposal to the Public Art Program goals: www.richmond.ca/__shared/assets/Public_Art_Program__Policy_8703_32088.pdf

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

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

INFORMATION FORM – Please complete the information form attached to this document.

STATEMENT OF INTENT – 300 words or less, highlighting past relevant experience and skillsets, artist methodology, and why the artist is interested in this opportunity.

ARTIST CV – (1 page maximum) Teams should include one page for each member.

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 to be on each image page.

REFERENCES – Submit the names, titles and contact information of three (3) individuals who can speak to your relevant experience.

PROJECT TIMELINE

Submission Deadline:	July 4, 2023
Shortlist Artist Orientation:	July 13, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. (Virtual)*
Artist Interview:	July 27, 2023, 5:00 p.m. (In-person)*
Artists Notification:	August 2023
Community Engagement:	To begin on September 23, 2023*
Project Completion:	Spring 2024

* Applicants are asked to keep this date and time available.

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SOURCES FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- City Centre Public Art Plan, www.richmond.ca/culture/publicart/plans
- Community Mural Program, www.richmond.ca/culture/publicart/whatsnew/communitymural
- Richmond Public Art Program, www.richmond.ca/culture/publicart
- Richmond Public Art Registry, www.richmond.ca/culture/publicart/collection/Default.aspx
- Richmond Archives, www.richmond.ca/city-hall/archives.htm

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

1. All supporting documents must be complete and strictly adhere to these guidelines and submission requirements (above) or risk not being considered.
2. All submissions must be formatted to 8.5 x 11 inch pages. Portfolio images and concept sketches would be best formatted to landscape format.
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 email to: publicart@richmond.ca.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1. Selected artists will be required to show proof of WCB coverage and appropriate general liability insurance.
2. Please be advised that the City and the selection panel are not obliged to accept any of the submissions and may reject all submissions. The City reserves the right to reissue the Artist Call as required.
3. All submissions to this Artist Call become the property of the City. All information provided under the submission is subject to the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (BC) and shall only be withheld from release if an exemption from release is permitted by the Act. The artist shall retain copyright in the concept proposal. While every precaution will be taken to prevent the loss or damage of submissions, the City and its agents shall not be liable for any loss or damage, however caused.

QUESTIONS

Please contact the Richmond Public Art Program:

Tel: 604-204-8671

Email: publicart@richmond.ca

call to artists

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Figure 2. Architectural Rendering: RCCA, east façade. Fascia areas for mural application highlighted in red. Note: mural to encircle entire building.



Figure 3. *Continuum*, Richard Tetrault and Jerry Whitehead, Richmond Cultural Centre, 2019

call to artists

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

Name: _____

Team Name (if applicable): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Postal Code: _____

Primary Phone: _____ Secondary Phone: _____

Email: _____ Website: _____

(One website or blog only)

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

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

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

Would you like to receive direct emails from Richmond Arts Services? Yes No

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Submit applications by email to: publicart@richmond.ca

Additional Information:

Please be advised that the City and the selection panel are not obliged to accept any of the submissions and may reject all submissions. The City reserves the right to reissue the RFQ as required. All submissions to this RFQ become the property of the City. All information provided under the submission is subject to the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (BC) and shall only be withheld from release if an exemption from release is permitted by the Act. The artist shall retain copyright of the submitted documents. While every precaution will be taken to prevent the loss or damage of submissions, the City and its agents shall not be liable for any loss or damage, however caused.

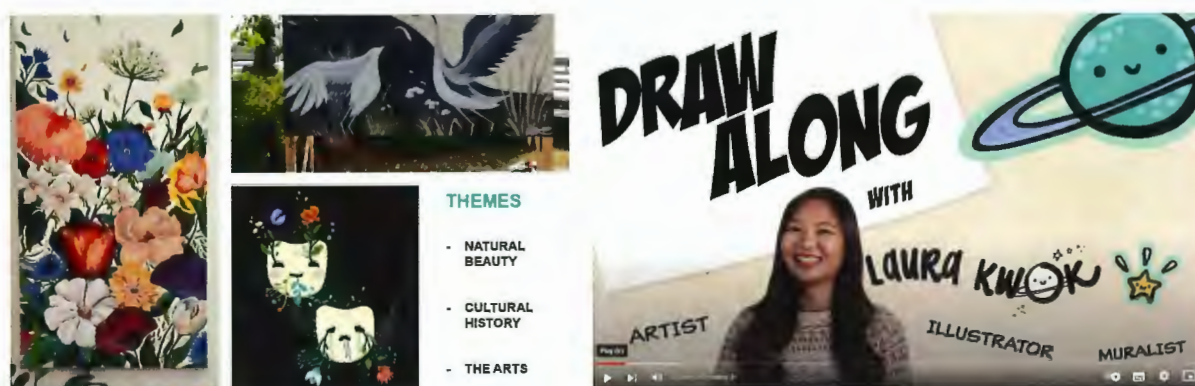
Seasons of Colour
Richmond Cultural Centre Annex Public Art Mural Project
 by artist Laura Kwok

This community mural project will focus on community, culture and creativity.

Laura Kwok is a Richmond-based illustrator and mural artist. She is captivated by the beauty of nature and her artwork is inspired by the grandeur of the natural world. Her recent work focuses on capturing the fluid and ethereal life cycles of flowers and creating a personal language of floral symbolism as a means of self-expression. Laura is curious about how art plays a therapeutic role in healing humans, creating connections, and strengthening communities.

Seasons of Colour will focus on implementing a meaningful and comprehensive series of community engagement sessions to inform the artist’s mural design, including interactive storytelling and painting sessions, a public art walk and scavenger hunt, an interactive “Memory Corner”, and a social media campaign inviting individuals to share personal stories. Through free and accessible arts-based community engagement activities, resident art groups, building users and the general public will have hands-on art-making opportunities to contribute and inform the creation of the mural for the Richmond Cultural Centre Annex.

Examples of proposed community engagement sessions and themes:



WORKSHOP 2 Capstan Art Walk & Scavenger Hunt



EXAMPLE PROMPTS:

- 1) What makes our city special?
- 2) What is your favourite part of Richmond?
(ie. type of activity, food, location, event, etc.)
- 3) Tell me some of your favourite plants and wildlife that you've seen in Richmond!



From left to right: art activity themes for community workshops, digital social media engagement, outdoor public art walk and scavenger hunt, and example prompts for arts-based community engagement sessions.