



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee
Date: March 16, 2021

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

Re: **Arts Services Year in Review 2020**

Staff Recommendation

That the Arts Services Year in Review 2020 as presented in the staff report titled, "Arts Services Year in Review 2020," dated March 16, 2021, from the Director, Arts, Culture and Heritage Services, be circulated to Community Partners and Funders for their information.

CM Fenwick

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"/>	<i>Sevencia</i>
SENIOR STAFF REPORT REVIEW	INITIALS: <i>MF</i>	APPROVED BY CAO <i>[Signature]</i>

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 2020* (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 2020* 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 & Heritage, such as in the Parks Department, Recreation and Sport Department and at the Gateway Theatre.

Across the board, in 2020, many of the City's public programs and services were transitioned to online delivery, reduced, and/or cancelled in response to health order restrictions on gathering. In spite of these limitations (and in some cases, because of them) the arts maintained their vital and sustaining presence in the community. Programming and artist-led themes explored cultural identity, reconciliation, climate change, and Richmond's heritage and local ecology. Throughout the COVID-19 Pandemic residents were invited to discover and share new arts experiences, in the public realm and, of course, online.

Highlights and achievements of 2020 include:

- The 12th annual Children's Arts Festival was Richmond's last major public event before the pandemic was declared. It attracted a combined 6,500 attendees on Family Day and the week after, providing artist-led, hands-on activities for students of 24 schools.
- In direct response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, four community-engaged projects by Richmond artists were commissioned via the #RichmondHasHeart campaign to promote mental health, well-being and creativity while maintaining physical distancing protocols and fostering community connections. The projects ranged from the personal (snail mail postcards and handmade memorial shrines) to the interactive (a mural that invites socially distanced "dancing") to the virtual (an online collection of stories, images and more regarding "Eating in the time of COVID.")
- The Richmond Art Gallery (RAG) began its 40th anniversary year with *Labour's Trace*, an exhibition of works by Karin Jones, an artist of African-Nova Scotian descent living in Vancouver, and Amy Malbeuf, a Métis artist based in Nova Scotia. Although the exhibition was forced to close early due to health protocols, RAG was among the first of Richmond's public amenities to re-open in July. With the exhibition still in place, the works gained particular timeliness during a summer of increased public attention to issues tied to race and cultural identity. A virtual tour was also provided.
- In partnership with the Richmond Arts Coalition and Britannia Shipyards National Historic Site Society, the Richmond Maritime Festival was successfully reimaged with 11 days of online programming delivered by 62 local artists, 18 artisans and 19 heritage performers.
- Ranked No. 1 in B.C. and No. 5 in Canada (for mid-size cities) in 2020, Richmond continued to be a national leader with the 12th annual Culture Days campaign with 58 individual free, in-person and online activities by 28 artists and cultural organizations. A new self-guided Cycling Art Tour Map was successfully launched online, attracting media attention and inspiring a national map-making activity.

- \$116,815 was invested through the 2020 Arts and Culture Grant Program providing operating and project assistance grants to 16 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 tenth year as a signature offering of the Richmond Media Lab. In 2020, 30 RYMP members made a natural transition to online programs and marked the 10th Anniversary with a lively online celebration that included both current and former RYMP members.
- The Public Art Program saw three large-scale painted murals completed in 2020: *Ladybug and the Sun* by Laura Kwok at West Richmond Community Centre, *Richmond's Home of Curl'ture & Curl'munity* by Mark Anderson at the Richmond Winter Club and *A Mid-way Point: The Present is an Infinite Moment* by Popo and Lola at the Thompson Community Centre.

The report 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 2020 highlights activities and achievements in the arts in the community and the importance the arts play in further enhancing Richmond's growth into one of the best places to live, work and play. In good times and challenging times, art in everyday life creates a sense of meaning and sense of place for citizens.



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Att. 1: *Arts Services Year in Review 2020*

City of Richmond

ARTS SERVICES YEAR IN REVIEW 2020

Arts, Culture and
Heritage Services



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



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Introduction

In 2020, Richmond joined the world in responding and adapting to the uncertainties of the COVID-19 pandemic, officially announced by the World Health Organization on March 13. Almost overnight, our performance spaces, studios and galleries were closed and, almost as quickly, our offerings “pivoted” online, and—when health orders permitted—to the outdoors or limited indoor settings with strict safety protocols.

Unprecedented. Destabilizing. Challenging. These oft-repeated descriptors set a tone as much as they sought to describe our shared predicament, as we offered support to those in our communities that were most directly impacted. Early in the year, Arts Services deployed artists to provide four community-engaged programs that promoted mental health, well-being and creativity (#RichmondHasHeart), and provided visual and performing arts outreach classes to the children of essential workers in physically distant classroom settings.

Meanwhile, we quietly continued to recognize community achievements in the arts: the Richmond Arts Awards were announced via social media, Richmond Art Gallery marked its 40th anniversary with an exhibition of works from the permanent collection and Richmond Youth Media Program members and alumni gathered in person and online to celebrate 10 years as a signature offering of the Richmond Media Lab.

While some in-person programs were necessarily suspended or adapted for fewer people, others found new and larger-than-ever audiences in livestream and pre-recorded formats online. Participants from around the world discovered our professional development programs for artists and the Richmond Art Gallery via RAG@Home. The Public Art Program contracted a record 31 Richmond-based artists in 2020, who painted murals, designed face masks, sparked community creativity and adorned utility boxes and No. 3 Road Art Columns with their original designs and depictions of local landscape and heritage.

The 2020 *Arts Services Year in Review* captures this spirit of resilience recording the many ways the City continues to foster vibrant and diverse arts and cultural opportunities for community engagement and connection as a way to achieving the Council Strategic Plan 2018-2022 Goal: One Community Together.

For more about the arts in Richmond, visit www.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.



Culture Days activity by Keely O'Brien

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 staff regularly offer practical professional advice, information and workshops to build capacity in the arts sector, for individual artists as well as non-profit organizations. In 2020, six professional development workshops covered topics that ranged from taxes to copyright to board fundamentals as part of the Art at Work Series (page 10). In addition, staff worked directly with Richmond Music School and Cinevolution Media Arts Society staff providing free organizational development facilitation based on methods developed by the Nonprofit Lifecycles Institute, involving an examination of business models, operational systems and board governance.



Arts & Culture E-Blasts

Since 2009, the Community Cultural Development office has kept Richmond's arts community members informed about City-led and other opportunities and programs for and of interest to them. In 2020, 21 e-blasts were sent to **more than 494 subscribers** including individual artists and organizations who received helpful news of Artist Calls, funding deadlines, promotional opportunities, professional development workshops and more.

2020 RICHMOND ARTS AWARDS RECIPIENTS

Arts Education: Richmond Music School

Artistic Innovation: Direct Theatre Collective/Dawn Lo (tie)

Business and the Arts: Jason Ko, Viva Pharmaceutical

Volunteerism: Ray Chin

Youth Arts: Rotem Levy

Cultural Leadership: Terry Point

“Richmond’s Arts and Culture Grant has allowed the Textile Arts Guild of Richmond (TAGOR) to maintain contact with members and community partners. Most importantly, this support has allowed us to plan for the recovery and return to full operations as soon as possible.”

Richmond Arts Awards

Created in partnership with the Richmond Arts Coalition in 2009, the 12th 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 arts community; and
- develop patrons for the arts.

This year, **65 nominations** were reviewed by a selection panel comprised of community members and six recipients were selected. The 2020 Richmond Arts Awards ceremony, originally scheduled to take place in Council Chambers on May 12, was cancelled due to COVID-19. In lieu of the ceremony, each recipient was profiled through an online campaign over the summer, highlighting their work and contributions to the Richmond arts community via the @HowArtWorks Instagram account. The honourees will also be invited to join future recipients, in person, when the ceremony can, once again, be held in person.

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 February, Council approved the distribution of \$116,815. A total of **\$86,385 in Operating Assistance** was distributed to eleven recipients and **\$30,430 in Project Assistance** went to five adjudicated programs and projects (see Appendix 1, page 51). In May of 2020, Council approved a plan that provided flexibility for using the grants in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. 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, staff also hosted a free online grant writing workshop that was attended by individuals and organizations from the local arts and culture community. The workshop was co-presented with the Richmond Arts Coalition and the Community Arts Council of Richmond.



Culture Days tour with Branscombe House Artist-in-Residence, Lou Sheppard

CULTURE DAYS BY THE NUMBERS

- 28 participating artists and cultural organizations
- 58 free, public activities

Culture Days

The 12th annual Culture Days (September 25 to October 25, 2020) was another highlight of the year with Richmond continuing to be recognized as a national leader in this Canada-wide movement to raise awareness, accessibility, participation and engagement in the arts with free, hands-on and interactive activities. Reimagined to engage and delight despite uncertain times and strict health protocols, Culture Days 2020 was a year unlike any other. Extending beyond the traditional three-day weekend, the festival morphed into an interactive and accessible four-week run taking place indoors, outdoors, and online across Canada. While being safe and respecting regulations on social distancing and staying apart, the community came together to celebrate arts and culture with virtual concerts, live shows, self-guided exhibitions, digital demonstrations, hands-on workshops and more.

Among the Richmond offerings were a Taiko Drumming workshop, online Heritage Fair and gallery exhibitions, interactive online workshops with writers and visual artists, online concerts, physically distant in-person plant workshops at Terra Nova Park, film screenings and public art tours. Despite the pandemic, Richmond played host to 58 individual activities by 28 different artists and cultural organizations. Based on the number of activities, Richmond ranked **Number 1 in British Columbia** and, according to national lists, ranked Number Five for Mid-Sized Cities and was in the Top Ten Overall across Canada.

Culture Days provides beneficial professional development opportunities for local artists beyond the experience of organizing a public activity. The national website offered artists and organizations that participated in Culture Days online tools and instructional videos for planning, implementing and promoting both safe in-person and online events. In a post-event survey of Richmond participants, 88% of respondents reported they felt online programming was a good addition to Culture Days.

Cycling Art Tour Map

Richmond Arts Centre staff, supported by Richmond Public Art, City Centre Community Centre and Thompson Community Centre, produced a self-guided cycling tour of community and public art experiences in Richmond. The project was highlighted on CBC radio, *Richmond News*, *Richmond Sentinel* and *Vancouver Is Awesome*, and inspired a national map-making virtual activity for Culture Days. The free PDF map, viewed 665 times at the time of printing, is published on the City website and was created for residents of all ages to get outdoors and enjoy art in a safe, physically distant, way.





National Indigenous People's Day

Cultural organizations across Richmond worked together to implement a successful week of virtual programming as part of National Indigenous People's Day celebrations. Throughout the week of June 15–21, 15 virtual live and on-demand presentations, talks and films were offered to the public and provided an opportunity for all ages to learn more about local Indigenous heritage and culture. These included the following from Arts Services:

- *Acknowledging our Indigenous Plant Nations* virtual presentation with Lori Snyder, as part of Victory Gardens for Adversity programming presented by Public Art in partnership with Terra Nova Rural Park (Additional information on page 27).
- *Sea to Sky* video interview with Musqueam artist Thomas Cannell and Michael Mayer of Franz Mayer of Munich describing the large-scale glass artwork to be installed as part of the Keltic development in City Centre in 2021.
- *The Birth of a Family* film presented online by the Richmond Media Lab in partnership with the Richmond Public Library, Connections Community Services and the National Film Board. The documentary follows the stories of four siblings as they meet for the first time since they were removed from their Dene mother and adopted into separate families during Canada's infamous 60's Scoop.



Lindsay Wong

Writer-in-Residence

In Fall 2020, Richmond hosted its ninth annual Writer-in-Residence program completely online. Award-winning author Lindsay Wong provided advice to emerging writers through free virtual public workshops, events and conversations.

The Writer-in-Residence program officially kicked off with a virtual Meet & Greet with Lindsay on Sunday, September 27. This free event was presented in conjunction with Culture Days. Through the program, eight writing programs and three special events were presented to the community. Program participation resulted in the compilation of a chapbook, featuring writing from 10 participants of the program.

Lindsay Wong is the best-selling, award-winning author of the memoir *The Woo-Woo: How I Survived Ice Hockey, Drug-Raids, Demons, and My Crazy Chinese Family*. This memoir won the 2019 Hubert-Evans Prize for Nonfiction, was a finalist for the 2018 Hilary Weston Prize for Nonfiction and was featured in on CBC Radio's *Canada Reads* in 2019. She has a Bachelor of Fine Arts in creative writing from the University of British Columbia and a Master of Fine Arts in literary nonfiction from Columbia University. Lindsay is now based in Vancouver.

Richmond's Writer-in-Residence program is presented by the Richmond Arts Centre, Richmond Public Library and the Seniors Centre at the Minoru Centre for Active Living.



ART AT WORK BY THE NUMBERS

- 6** Free professional development workshops
- 179** Participants
- 241** 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 2020, Art at Work presented the following free workshops:

- **Taxes for Artists** presented by Jessica Somers. Attendance: 20
- **Copyright for Artists** with Martha Rans, sponsored by CARFAC. Attendance: 35
- **How to Apply to Public Art Submissions** with Biliانا Velkova, Public Art Planner. Attendance: 32 (Plus 78 Youtube views)
- **How to Sell your Artwork** with Jeffrey Boone. Attendance: 42 (Plus 163 Youtube views)
- **The Art of Grant Writing** presented by Camyar Chaichian, Program Manager, Community Cultural Development, in partnership with the Richmond Arts Coalition and Community Arts Council of Richmond. Attendance: 24
- **Board Fundamentals** presented by Vantage Point in partnership with the Richmond Arts Coalition and Community Arts Council of Richmond. Attendance: 26

"Despite the challenges of the pandemic my time at Branscombe House has been incredibly rewarding. I learned so much about what it means to have a community-engaged practice, and what it means for an artist to be in service to a community.

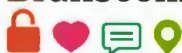
I set out to create work that would allow the Richmond community to come together and reflect on Richmond's changing climate. Instead we began living the effects of climate change, and I saw that my role as an artist-in-residence in Richmond could be to provide space for reflection, comfort, and support through this difficult time."

- Lou Sheppard



Lou Sheppard

Branscombe House Artist-in-Residence



During their 11-month tenure in Steveston, the fifth annual Branscombe House Artist-in-Residence, Lou Sheppard, facilitated an array of free workshops, events and performative walks focused on connecting community through topics of environment, language and embodied experience.

Sheppard is a Canadian artist working in interdisciplinary audio, performance and installation based practice. In their current practice, Sheppard uses processes of translation and metaphor to interrogate structures of power and performativity in data and language. Their work often leads them to collaborate with communities and with musicians, visual artists and performing artists.

Sheppard's experience, care and resilience supported the community-minded residency's successes in spite of the global pandemic. Drawing on their digital expertise, free public programs quickly pivoted to **virtual workshops, online film screenings, self-guided tours with downloadable maps with audio and QR codes, outdoor sensory walks/rolls, a pandemic comfort cookbook, temporary installations at the heritage home and weekly social media art prompts.** Sheppard sought out collaborative opportunities with community groups such as the Richmond Singers who virtually performed and recorded a choral score based on local snow geese migration patterns.

Additionally, Sheppard created a #RichmondHasHeart public artwork at Lansdowne Centre, presented a virtual artist talk with Richmond Art Gallery, co-presented an Earth Day program with Toronto Biennial, and participated in both Culture Days and Richmond Pride Week. In April 2020, Sheppard was announced as a winner of the Sobey Art Award by the National Gallery of Canada.

Residency highlights can be found at lousheppard.com/branscombe.





Sexsmith Artist Studios

In 2013, through the development and rezoning process, the City secured the provision of four affordable work-only artists studios to be part of the Concord Gardens Development at 8833 Hazelbridge Way. Owned and managed by Concord Pacific and located close to 20 affordable Artist Residential Tenancy Studio (ARTS) units that were completed in 2017, these new street level units are rented under the same terms as typical affordable housing units with the added criteria that tenants must meet the definition of "professional artist" as described by the Canada Council for the Arts.

In 2020, the Sexsmith Artists Studios were completed and rented to five artists who met the income and career criteria for this innovative program. These visual artists pursue a range of professional practices including painting, photography, sculpture and mixed media. These tenants join a "village" of artists in the Capstan area, as part of the realization of the Arts District envisioned in the Official Community Plan for City Centre.



Dan Propps, Richmond Maritime Festival



Canada Day at Home

Richmond Maritime Festival

In response to the Provincial Health Authority ban on events with more than 150 people, and in alignment with the Restoring Richmond Plan, the organizers of the Richmond Maritime Festival (Richmond Arts Coalition, Britannia Shipyards National Historic Site Society and City staff) planned and delivered a re-imagined online event over 11 days from August 28 to September 7. Original content delivered by 62 local artists, 18 artisans and 19 heritage performers was premiered daily via social media channels and at richmondmaritimefestival.ca, featuring pre-recorded musical, theatrical and artistic performances, a live digital performance, hands-on activities led by professional artists and storytelling that celebrated local maritime heritage, with the Britannia Shipyards National Historic Site as the backdrop.

Canada Day at Home

With the cancellation of what would have been the 75th annual Steveston Salmon Festival, the organizers collaborated with City staff to develop an online program that reinforced the importance of adhering to provincial health orders while providing opportunities for Richmond residents to get creative in celebrating local and national pride, together but apart. The online program featured videos by local artists, including Uzume Taiko's drumming and drum making demonstration and Arts Centre instructor Mr. Tony's instructional video inspiring viewers to make and decorate a Canada Day hat to wear in the Home Parade contest. More than 16,000 people viewed Richmond's content across all digital platforms.



Richmond Arts Award recipients, Isabel Sanchez and Jill Raymond, Direct Theatre Collective



Emily Neufeld, *Prairie Invasions: A Lullaby*

Richmond Art Gallery

Richmond Art Gallery (RAG) is a nationally recognized municipal gallery featuring Canadian 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. 2020 marked the 40th anniversary of the Gallery.

In response to the Gallery closure from March to July, as well as limited attendance numbers due to public health orders, public programs moved online 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 now collecting a growing archive of digital content.

2020 GALLERY ATTENDANCE

- 1,991** Karin Jones, Amy Malbeuf
Labour's Trace
- 235** Emily Neufeld
Prairie Invasions: A Lullaby
- 172** Selected Stories: 1980–2020

Exhibitions

Richmond Art Gallery presented three exhibitions in the Gallery, two offsite installations, two at Richmond City Hall Galleria and one digital exhibition in 2020, representing emerging to senior artists from Richmond, the Metro Vancouver region, Canada and beyond. Each exhibition highlights a range of contemporary artistic mediums.

GALLERY

LABOUR'S TRACE

Karin Jones and Amy Malbeuf
February 15–March 16, July 17–August 8, 2020

Karin Jones, an artist of African-Nova Scotian descent living in Vancouver, and Amy Malbeuf, a Métis artist based in Nova Scotia, presented works engaging with traditional and contemporary materials and techniques that encouraged discussions regarding labour, identity, cultural knowledge and cultural legacies. In response to COVID-19 restrictions, a virtual tour was made available online.



Amy Malbeuf, *Labour's Trace*



[Selected Stories: 1980-2020]
Brian Grison, *Three Boats on a Beach*

"The art was deeply powerful and sombre."
-gallery visitor, *Labour's Trace*

PRAIRIE INVASIONS: A LULLABY

Emily Neufeld
August 21–October 17, 2020

This solo exhibition of photographs and sculptures was a culmination of the artist's exploration of abandoned farmhouses dotting the Canadian Prairies. Probing for traces of the lives and histories of those who resided there, Neufeld's actions underpin her desire to understand the powers and influences shaping a place and the incremental changes that occur over time.

A live-streamed panel discussion about the exhibition featured the artist in conversation with herbalist Cease Wyss and soil specialist Amy Norgaard, moderated by Curator, Nan Capogna.

SELECTED STORIES 1980 – 2020

Diyan Achjadi, Gabriele Ailey, Yasuo Araki, Michael Batty, Betty Jean Drummond, Greg Girard, Pnina Granirer, Brian Grison, Shirley Inouye, Evan Lee, Wayne Ngan, Toni Onley, Larry Osland, Susan Point, Arthur Renwick, Jack Shadbolt, Kinichi Shigeno, Arnold Shives, Anna Wong, Alan Wood and Gu Xiong
October 28–January 30, 2021

Highlighting the RAG's remarkable journey over 40 years, *Selected Stories: 1980–2020* showcased a selection of works from the Gallery's permanent collection including early works by established B.C. artists such as Wayne Ngan, Susan Point and Gu Xiong. The exhibition was curated by Sofia Stalner.



The Return of Pierre Vassura

In November/December, RAG hosted a special exhibition by senior Richmond artist, Pierre Vassura, who was the subject of a solo exhibition of artworks in 2018. *Flowers*, a new body of work created in isolation during the COVID-19 pandemic, was exhibited in the Cultural Centre Upper Rotunda with 50% of sales proceeds donated to RAGA.



ONLINE

GOD IN REVERSE: WHEN WISDOM DEFIES CAPTURE

Curator: Mohammad Salemy
June 3–September 16, 2020

In anticipation of the upcoming in-gallery exhibition *God In Reverse* (in 2021) and in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Richmond Art Gallery presented the filmic contributions of 15 artists from around the globe in an online platform for public viewing. The platform garnered more than 5,000 views.

OFF-SITE

CAPTURE FESTIVAL ON THE CANADA LINE

Emily Neufeld and Manuel Axel Strain
April 1–September 1, 2020

(In partnership with Richmond Public Art and Capture Festival)

Through the summer, RAG presented photo-based installations at Lansdowne and Aberdeen Canada Line stations and online tours featuring the artists.

Self portrait with mended flesh by two-spirit artist Manuel Axel Strain was installed at Aberdeen Station. The piece was born out of the artist's internalized struggle to accept their own identity. Wrapped in their grandmother's scarf, the artist's arms metaphorically carry a spiritual connection and kinship to their ancestors.

Shilling's House by artist Emily Neufeld was installed at Lansdowne Station. Growing up on the Canadian Prairies, a descendant of Mennonites, Neufeld's interest lies in the relationships between the environment and the people who inhabit it. Over the last two years Neufeld has visited and photographed dozen of empty farmhouses. Installed in urban Richmond, one can visualize the farmlands that once encompassed the area.



CITY HALL GALLERIA EXHIBITIONS

The Richmond Art Gallery organizes exhibitions by local artists for display at Richmond City Hall. In 2020, RAG presented the following exhibitions before COVID-19 restrictions:

Visibility by Ya-Wei Lin | January 14–March 3

A series of photographic images that reflect and contemplate the meaning of the word "visibility" in both the artistic and physical sense.

Antediluvian by Wade Comer | March 3–April 21

A collection of images that highlight the still remaining rustic aspects of Richmond.



"Thank you for the Artist Salon. I enjoy meeting with, learning from and being inspired by the stories and experiences of other artists. Please continue to do what you do."
 - Artist Salon participant

2020 ARTIST SALON ATTENDANCE

- 270 Livestream
- 750 Video views

Community Outreach and Programs

Through 2020, RAG stayed connected with Richmond's artists and art lovers through 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 grant 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 an online format in 2020, delivered as monthly livestreams of artist or curator talks followed by Q&A with online participants. All sessions were recorded and now provide a video library of resources for artists, available via the RAG website and YouTube channel. By moving to an online format, the program expanded its audience beyond Richmond to include participants from all over the world.

ARTIST INTERVIEWS ON VIDEO

For each exhibition, RAG produces video interviews of the artists or curators talking about their work. In 2020, there were four exhibition videos: Karin Jones and Amy Malbeuf each speaking about their works in *Labour's Trace*, Emily Neufeld for *Prairie Invasions: A Lullaby*, and Guest Curator Sofia Stalner for *Selected Stories*.

In addition to the video interviews, a virtual exhibition tour was developed for the *Labour's Trace* exhibition while the gallery was closed in the spring of 2020.

PACIFIC CROSSINGS

Pacific Crossings is an ongoing conversation and public presentation series that draws participants from various regions across the Pacific Ocean. Since 2018, the Art Gallery has been part of this collaborative project with other institutions including Nanaimo Art Gallery and Centre A: Vancouver International Centre for Contemporary Asian Art. The series of residencies and talks bring together perspectives in an evolving and dynamic exchange, instigating events and activities that can increase public awareness of the multitude of traditions, histories, and practices, offering potential routes for intersection to take place.

Thinking both metaphorically and ecologically, the series addresses the care and consideration that must emerge for long-term healthy exchange, and the sharing in responsibility as much as resources. In 2020, the series hosted *Triangulations*, three online discussions with artists and curators in Hong Kong, Beijing and Manila, encompassing shared concerns germane to the pandemic and locational contexts. The initiative gathered local and international artist communities in constructive and supportive dialogue.

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 workshops and resources online to help teachers incorporate contemporary art practices and content on local, regional and national Canadian art and artists into their lessons.

In 2020, the gallery was closed for the entire month of January and was open for regular school field trips from Feb 18–March 12, a total of only 18 school days. During that brief window, the gallery offered **30 school tours and workshops for 599 students**. Youth volunteers and community members served as volunteers by preparing art supplies and assisting with these gallery field trips. Once the gallery reopened to the public in July, although unable to offer art workshops, staff provided **three free gallery tours that involved a total of 26 students**.

Online offerings included lessons on Métis beadwork in response to Amy Malbeuf's exhibition, wearable art in response to Karin Jones' exhibition, and nature collages in response to Emily Neufeld's exhibition.

To provide art-making experiences for schools that were not able to visit the fall exhibition *Prairie Invasions: A Lullaby*, staff created a comprehensive art kit that included a teacher guide, lesson plans, virtual gallery tour, art supplies, and six video art lessons that connected the themes of the exhibition to classroom art-making activities. Teachers remain able to order this kit, pick up the supplies from the gallery, and receive the pedagogical materials digitally. This kit was also **adapted for families who are homeschooling their children**.



Caribou hair tufting demonstration by Michelle Sound [School Art Program kits]



Summer Youth Program



Summer Youth Program

“This is a great video. You have really polished up the process. It’s very professional and impressive. I will use some of the techniques and parts of the video with my “Art Hive” after-school club in Spring.”

- Sandra Lim, Art Teacher at Crofton House School

SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAM

Over the summer, nine Richmond youth were selected to take part in a three-week art intensive held online and outside in local parks. Participants worked with lead artist facilitator Emily Neufeld, guest artists Holly Schmidt and Laara Cerman, and herbalist Lori Snyder on various art projects that explored their natural environment. Participants worked outdoors to develop drawing studies, collecting plant samples, creating sunprints, and taking photographs. The culmination of their studies led to the development of a panorama photograph for a public artwork, with each photograph printed into a lantern structure installed in the ponds at Minoru Park. The public art installation was installed in Minoru Park from September 19–October 25 as part of Culture Days.

RAG@HOME

While the gallery was closed, staff created three art-making videos related to the gallery exhibitions, in an effort to reach out to families and schools. To date, there have been more than 1,065 views of these offerings on YouTube.

ARTSTARTS IN SCHOOLS PROJECT

At the start of 2020, the School Art Program partnered with artist Hannamari Jalovaara on an ArtStarts in Schools project with two classes at Quilchena Elementary. These classes visited the *Labour’s Trace* exhibition in February and were to have multiple classroom visits by Jalovaara and a guest artist; however, once schools closed, the program was reconfigured into four videos. The students created an “identity box” to reflect understandings of their own cultural identities and each narrated a video describing their artworks.

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 10–14 years. For the 2020–2021 session, the program was hosted online, bi-weekly over seven months. Students received a package of art materials at the start of the course, and met online as a group with either an ECUAD or RAG instructor. Both facilitators shared images and videos from current RAG exhibitions to develop projects that explored the artistic practices of contemporary artists.

Guest artists Diyan Achjadi and Brendan Fernandes were also included via livestream sessions to share their work and practices directly with the students. The online sessions proved very popular, and the course registration reached capacity for this session.

RAGA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Jas Lally, President
- Simranpreet Anand, Director
- Kristal Hamakawa, Director
- Jenny Ho, Director
- Gina Holliday Jones, Director
- Lei Tian, Director
- Russna Kaur, Director
- Vivian Ching, Director
- Daria Sheina, Director
- Kurt Aydin, Director
- Allision Liu, Director
- Council Liaison: Councillor Carol Day

Richmond Art Gallery Association

The Gallery benefits from financial and in-kind support of many organizations via Richmond Art Gallery Association (RAGA). In 2020, the RAGA received cash and in-kind assistance from three levels of government, businesses, private foundations and individuals. Through the COVID pandemic, RAGA has been supported with emergency funding from BC Arts Council and Canada Council for the Arts, allowing us to retain the majority of RAGA staff and programs.

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.

VIDEO PRODUCTION

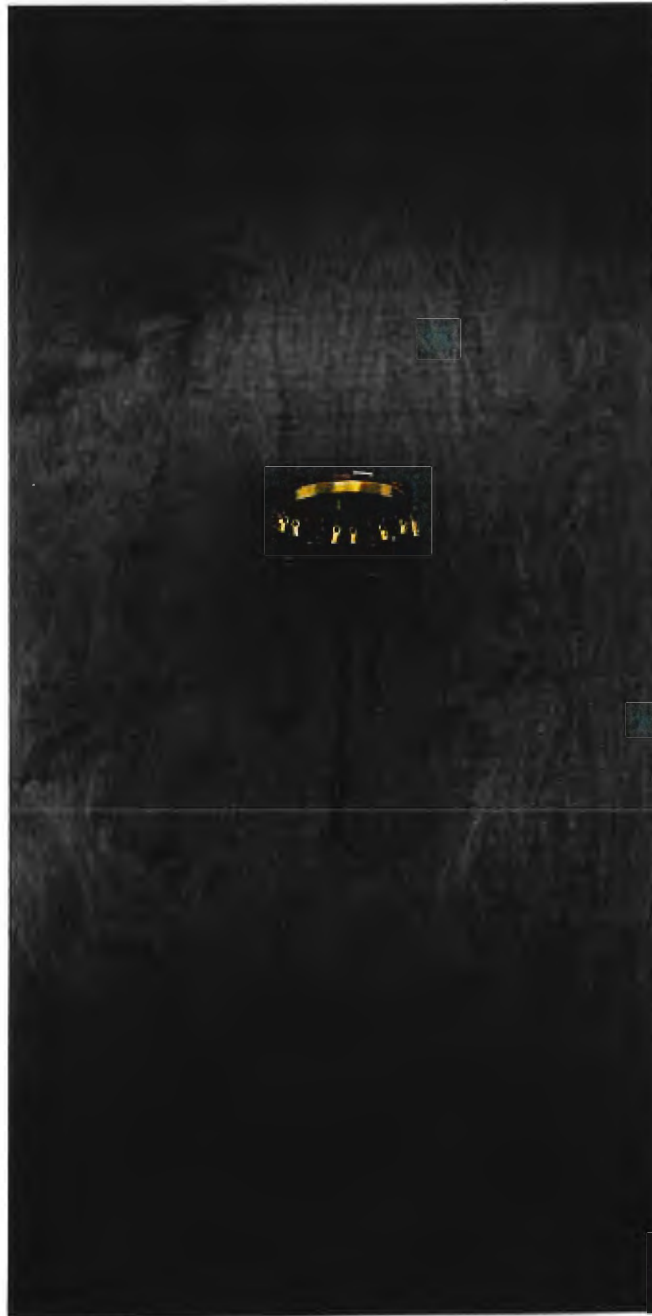
In 2020, RAG staff created 14 videos for the following City of Richmond programs and facilities combined: Richmond Public Art, Richmond Aquatics, Richmond Arts Centre and Richmond City Hall.

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, Richmond Public Library, Richmond Museum Society, Richmond Public Art Program, Richmond Arts Centre, Richmond Media Lab, SUCCESS, UBC Faculty of Education, Cinevolution Media Arts Society and Vancouver Asian Heritage Month Society.

New partnerships in 2020 included those with Centre A, Art Gallery of Greater Victoria, Nanaimo Art Gallery, Quilchena Elementary school, and Wesleyan University.

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.



Karin Jones, *Labour's Trace*



PUBLIC ART PROGRAM BY THE NUMBERS

- 308** Total number of artworks
- 185** Permanent artwork installations
- 119** Temporary installations (69 no longer on display)
- 35** New works of art installed in 2020 (28 temporary, 7 permanent)
- 227** Total number of permanent and temporary artworks currently on display
- 15,000+** 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 2020, public art was commissioned by the City and installed at community centres, parks, civic buildings and along city sidewalks.

FOUR SEASONS OF MOVEMENT

by Janet Wang
Clement Track Fence, Minoru Park

The chain-link pattern on the fence surrounding the Clement Track was designed to depict people participating in activities that commonly take place in Minoru Park. The artists depicted motion on and around the Track through all four seasons of the year, with a cohesive forward direction through figurative movement and linear elements. The pattern begins in the Spring and ends with the Winter, with either an interplay between past and present, or between different sports, in every panel.



Janet Wang, *Four Seasons of Movement*



Atelier Anonymous and Michael Seymour, *Wind Flowers*

WIND FLOWERS

by Atelier Anonymous and Michael Seymour
Gilbert Road Greenway

Wind Flowers is a large-scale public artwork that draws its inspiration from Richmond's natural heritage and landscapes. It is comprised of 13 tall, undulating "wind-catchers" rising out of a field of native plant species. The artwork is located along the Gilbert Road Greenway to mark this important visual gateway to the city.

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 2020, the following projects were completed:

285 APPLES

by Gathie Falk
8800 Hazelbridge Way

285 Apples is a pyramid of stacked life-size apples installed on a plinth and situated on the edge of a small public plaza space that includes seating with two areas of vegetable and fruit garden boxes extending east and west on either side of the plaza. The public can walk directly up to this sculpture for a closer look, and its bright red colouration attracts the eyes of passers-by who are walking, jogging or cycling along the southern east-west route. Gathie Falk is a well-known, senior local artist and this is one of her first works of public art.



Gathie Falk, *285 Apples*



Gathie Falk, *2 Half Apples*

2 HALF APPLES

by Gathie Falk
3300 Ketcheson Road

2 Half Apples is based on the celebrated artist’s work entitled *12 Apples* from 1973—a series of twelve life-size ceramic half apples. For this public art project, two of Falk’s half apples were scaled up to approximately five feet in diameter and presented as a ground-oriented sculpture on the edge of the neighbourhood park. There are pedestrian walkways that almost encircle this site making it easy for the audience to view these pieces from all angles. The two halves are situated in “conversation” with each other and are fully accessible for people to interact with directly.



Sara Graham, *Richmond Plats*

RICHMOND PLATS

by Sara Graham
5191 Steveston Hwy

Two rectangular columns represent the shifting landscape and history of Richmond by providing viewers with a historical and contemporary property map. One column depicts a historical map of Richmond from the 1930’s, while the second column shows a present-day map from 2020. By presenting these contrasting images, the artist reminds us that maps are not benign representations of landscapes; they speak to systems of navigation, identification and property ownership. As such, the works encourage the viewer to look beneath the surface of maps and consider the region’s shifting history.

Civic and Private Public art projects commissioned in 2020 for installation in 2021–22 are listed in Appendix 2 (page 52).

Community Mural Program     

The City of Richmond’s 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 and can include partnerships with community associations and societies, businesses and schools.

LADYBUG AND THE SUN

by Laura Kwok
West Richmond Community Centre, 9180 No.1 Rd

Ladybug and the Sun is a vibrant garden utopia of flowing florals and happy little critters that incorporates flowers from the artist’s childhood memories growing up in Richmond such as buttercups, daisies and dandelions. Other local botanicals include cranberries and cherry blossoms to allude to the city’s largest agricultural crop and historical ties to one of Richmond’s sister cities, Wakayama, Japan. The lush tropical tones of the mural were chosen to complement the bright colours of the adjacent playground and park areas where people of all ages enjoy outdoor activities. The artwork design was informed by a series of in-person and virtual community engagements led by the artist in collaboration with the West Richmond Community Association.



Mark Anderson, *Richmond's Home of Curl'ture & Curl'munity*

**#RichmondHasHeart
Face Masks**

Through the #RichmondHasHeart program, Public Art commissioned custom face mask designs by Richmond artists listed on the Art Wrap Artist Roster.

The four local artists—Tara Callaghan, Laura Kwok, Ronn Martin and Megan Yung—created unique designs to be worn by City of Richmond staff across a multitude of facilities and sites.

RICHMOND'S HOME OF CURL'TURE & CURL'MUNITY

by Mark Anderson
Richmond Winter Club, 5540 Hollybridge Way

The Richmond Winter Club mural consists of elements and narratives composed through the guidance and enthusiasm of the curling community. Like a storyboard, the artist depicted various stories along the length of the mural to touch upon important themes including the champion wheelchair athletes that frequent the club, the youth that are creating the future of curling and aspects of local geography and wildlife. The energy of the mural shows the dynamics of the sport and the vibrancy of the people who make up the Richmond Winter Club.

#RichmondHasHeart    

Richmond Public Art launched four artist-initiated projects, as part of the #RichmondHasHeart campaign developed in response to the COVID-19 crisis. The projects promoted **mental health, well-being and creativity while maintaining physical distancing protocols and fostering community connections** during this destabilizing and challenging time. The following programs were funded through the voluntary contributions of private developers to the City's Public Art Program Reserve fund.

DEAREST
by Keely O'Brien

Dearest was a community art project that encourages connection, interpersonal exchange and safe methods of social contact through the lens of creative snail mail. Participants signed up online to receive a pack of three artist-designed, pre-stamped blank postcards in the mail that they could fill out with messages of love and encouragement and mail on to friends and loved ones. The project responded to the experience of loneliness, grief and isolation felt by many in the community.

Keely O'Brien, *Dearest*Lou Sheppard, *Murmurations: A Score for Social Distancing*

"I am grateful for the City of Richmond and the #RichmondHasHeart campaign for supporting and enabling this meaningful work which offered opportunities for connection and creativity to so many community members."

- Keely O'Brien

EATING IN THE TIME OF COVID

by Christy Fong and Denise Fong

Eating in the Time of COVID-19 is an online collection of stories, quotes, photos, poems and illustrations that captures culturally diverse and multigenerational experiences with food during the coronavirus pandemic. The project is ongoing until fall 2021 and will engage The Sharing Farm Society, Richmond Food Security Society, local farmers, grocery store owners, restaurateurs, food bloggers and the general public in Richmond, in answer to the question: How has your relationship with food changed since the pandemic? The website will function as the online exhibition and as a legacy piece to document the voices, feelings, and visual representations of the COVID-19 experience. For more information, visit richmondfoodstories.ca

MURMURATIONS: A SCORE FOR SOCIAL DISTANCING

by Lou Sheppard

5300 No. 3 Rd

Murmurations: A Score for Social Distancing is a choreographic notation for seven dancers. Based on the movements of birds flying in a flock, the choreography invites the dancers to perform an interconnected set of movements while never coming within two metres of each other. The temporary work was installed on the parking lot in front of Lansdowne Mall and referenced the social distancing directions that we now see in public spaces. *Murmurations* invited visitors to follow the directional markings on the pavement, like an interconnected hopscotch, and perform the dance.

LOVING: MEMORIES

by Marina Szijarto

Loving: Memories was a community engagement project to honour those we have lost. Following easy, illustrated instructions and design guidelines, Richmond residents were invited to create secular memorial shrines in memory of loved ones or to honour someone special in the community (or elsewhere.) Displayed in household windows, the shrines were illuminated by electric candles; thus, within neighbourhoods and through these beacons of light, community members expressed and witnessed each other's mourning and humanity, connected through the honouring of those we have lost during these unprecedented times.



Family Fun Day, Victory Gardens for Diversity



Family Fun Day, Victory Gardens for Diversity

2020 PUBLIC ART BY THE NUMBERS

- 67** Submissions received for 5 Public Art Calls
- 31** Richmond artists contracted for Public Art commissions
- 8** Community Groups engaged to inform and create public art projects
- 50+** Volunteer hours served
- 500+** Participants attended 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.

VICTORY GARDENS FOR DIVERSITY: RECIPES FOR COMMUNITY-BASED ECOLOGICAL ENGAGEMENT

by Lori Weidenhammer
Artist-In-Residence, Terra Nova Red Barn
Terra Nova Rural Park

Victory Gardens for Diversity was an artist-initiated project led by Lori Weidenhammer and supported by a collective of artists including Lois Klassen, Crystal Lee, Jenn Pearson, Catherine Shapiro and Indigenous educator + herbalist Lori Snyder.

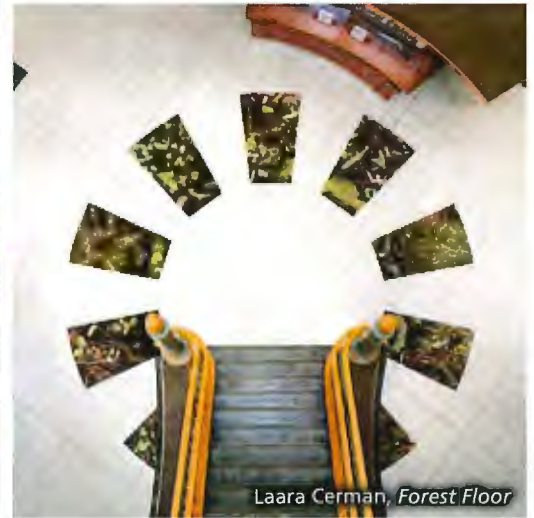
Inspired by the historical WWII Victory Gardens movement and popular slogans such as: "grow your own, can your own," "grow vitamins at your kitchen door," and "make-do and mend," the artists presented a series of in-person and virtual community engagement events from January through to October 2020.

In addition, the artists prepared and planted a variety of native plant species donated by the David Suzuki Foundation in garden beds at the Red Barn. During spring and summer, temporary signage panels were installed in the garden to educate the public on a variety of native plant species. The plants were harvested in late summer and used as materials for artist-led workshops presented during Richmond's Culture Days in September and October 2020.

Project partners include the Richmond Food Security Society, Sharing Farm Society, Terra Nova Nature School, City of Richmond Parks Programs and the David Suzuki Foundation, David Suzuki Butterfly Rangers. For more information about the project, visit victorygardensfordiversity.blogspot.com.



Popo and Lola, *A Mid-way Point: The Present is an Infinite Moment*



Laara Cerman, *Forest Floor*

“This is my first time working on a larger project with Thompson Community Association, but it felt very welcoming since the first meeting, when we first started reviewing the artists’ profiles. After meeting the artists, discussing, and voting, we chose April and Dawn as the artists for this project. We then came up with a plan for public engagement events and meetings. Despite the virus, the artists were able to come up with well thought out drafts and execute it perfectly.”

Clara Fu, Thompson Community Centre Art Committee

A MID-WAY POINT: THE PRESENT IS AN INFINITE MOMENT
 by Popo and Lola (April dela Noche Milne and Dawn Lo)
 Thompson Community Centre, 5151 Granville Ave.

To create this 80 x 20 ft. mural, the artists led a series of participatory activities, including zine-making, social media campaigns and handmade artistic postcards, where community members expressed what was important to them in making the Thompson Community Centre and surrounding neighbourhood their home and a place where they want be. The mural depicts the Centre’s ever-bustling nature as a safe place for connection where people from a variety of cultures and backgrounds can come together to form long-lasting friendships while engaging in their favourite activities and programs. For more information about the project, visit popoandlola.art.blog/thompson-mural-project.

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.

FOREST FLOOR
 by Laara Cerman
 Richmond Cultural Centre, 7700 Minoru Gate

With this temporary installation, the lobby rotunda floor has become a window to what might lie beneath the building now, in an era far into the future or in a long-ago past. The hyper-real imagery was created from digital scans of various composited, magnified elements found in the forests of coastal British Columbia, and gives us the impression of the forest trying to break through. The inner perimeter shows the edges of a nursery stump, with the forest floor and all the new life growing around it. From the centre of the artwork, the visitor might sense new growth sprouting from the remains of a once mighty tree. While there may be feelings of sadness in seeing a fallen tree, it’s important to remember that though it may no longer be living, it still has an important role in allowing life to thrive.

CAPTURE PHOTOGRAPHY FESTIVAL ON CANADA LINE

In partnership with Richmond Art Gallery, two photo-based installations at Aberdeen and Lansdowne Canada Line Stations were installed as part of the Capture Photography Festival: *Schilling's House* by Emily Neufeld and *Self-portrait with mended flesh* by Manuel Axel Strain. (More information about these works on page 16).

ART WRAPS

The Public Art Program partners with Engineering and Public Works, Parks, Transportation, Environmental Programs and Heritage Services to beautify new and existing utility boxes throughout the city. In 2020, twelve traffic cabinets were wrapped at five intersections with works by Andrew Briggs, Desiree Patterson, Nora Monteil, Laara Cerman and Jennifer Heine.

- *Brighthouse*, Andrew Briggs, Fire Hall No.1, 7191 Granville Avenue. A series of historical archival photographs was abstracted and reinterpreted using digital mixed media techniques for this work that highlights the rich history of Richmond's firefighters dating back to the early 1900s.
- *Shifting Times*, Desiree Patterson, Lansdowne Rd. and Kwantlen St. This work is inspired by the history of Lansdowne Park Racetrack and the KPU Chip Wilson School of Design's technical fields of fashion, graphic and interior design.



Andrew Briggs, *Brighthouse*



Jennifer Heine, *Gilded Cage & Sturgeon Banksii*



Laara Cerman, *Golden Rod and Canary Grass*



Nora Monteil, *Compassion*

- *Compassion*, Nora Monteil, 9160 Steveston Hwy. Inspired by the decorative features and details of the International Buddhist Society, this photographic work captures the natural light and ambience of the holy sanctuary. The composition aims to extend the spirit of the temple beyond its inner walls and transform the utility boxes into landmarks.
- *Goldenrod and Canary Grass*, Laara Cerman, Moncton and No.2 Rd. Canada Goldenrod (*Solidago canadensis*) and Canary Grass (*Phalaris*) specimens are printed larger than life, inviting the viewer to take a closer look. Arranged in interlocking spirals, they reflect the interconnectedness of different species in the environment.
- *Gilded Cage & Sturgeon Banksii*, Jennifer Heine, 9271 Maskall Dr. Both the Gilded Cage and Sturgeon Banksii are found close to the artist's home on Richmond's West Dyke. The title is a playful reference to both the area and the many plant species named for the noted naturalist Sir Joseph Banks, who sailed with Captain James Cook aboard the Endeavour on his first voyage to the region.



Tom Taylor, *View from the Bridge*
[Richmond Artists Guild]

NO. 3 ROAD ART COLUMNS EXHIBITIONS 15 & 16

This year's exhibitions aimed to celebrate and raise awareness of local Richmond-based community arts groups and their work within communities. The following arts groups were selected by their peers and art professionals through an open call process:

- Richmond Artists Guild,
- Textile Arts Guild of Richmond (TAGOR),
- Men in Hats,
- Danny Chen Art Studio and Gallery and the
- Community Wellness Group.

From February 2020 through February 2021, two six-month exhibitions featured work inspired by Richmond's past, present and future including agricultural heritage, Fraser River, aviation history, Steveston village and contemporary scenes of a rapidly growing city. The Art Columns and ongoing program of exhibitions are located at Aberdeen and Lansdown Canada Line Stations.

ART WRAPS AT WEST RICHMOND COMMUNITY CENTRE

The Richmond Public Art Program in partnership with the West Richmond Community Association commissioned artists Melissa Luk and David Pacholko from the Richmond Art Wrap Artist Roster for a series of three art wraps:

- ***Let's Get Out and Play*, David Pacholko** Intended to inspire those who want to get out, play and have fun in a whimsical way, this illustration is punctuated with myriad colours and set against a lush green backdrop.
- ***Owl and Frog*, Melissa Luk** A series of two art wraps inspired by the community's active lifestyles and natural heritage depicts scenes of flora and fauna, cattails, snow geese, kids in the pond and a parade of people and animals to evoke a sense of peacefulness, grace, humour and irony.

2020 RPAAC MEMBERS:

Bronwyn Bailey

Mackenzie Biggar

Imu Chan

Ceri Chong

Emily De Boer

Paul Dufour—Vice Chair

Rebecca Lin

Vicki Lingle—Chair

Minghui Yu

Council Liaison: Councillor Kelly Greene

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.



Marina Szijarto, *Loving: Memories*



ARTS EDUCATION PROGRAMS BY THE NUMBERS:

- 200+** Courses
- 1,500+** Registered students
- 20+** Professional instructors
- 9,000+** 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 also produces one of Richmond’s signature events, 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 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Arts Centre in-person offerings were significantly reduced while five studios were adapted to provide a new and growing roster of online programs in visual and performing arts for all ages.

Of particular note, following the cancellation of in-person programs in March, 15% of the 2019/20 School Year Private Music program transitioned to weekly online music sessions held on Zoom. The program grew over the year, servicing up to 35 students weekly, with four instructors teaching piano, guitar, ukulele and singing.

Community Programs and Outreach

“There is not much more we could hope for; our learners experiencing drama while expressing feelings, ideas, and experiences in creative ways. You were also able to so quickly establish a safe learning environment—the kids were so confident and uninhibited!”

- Catherine Ludwig, SD38

ART TRUCK AND SD 38 COVID RESPONSE

In the spirit of the #RichmondHasHeart campaign, School District 38 and the City of Richmond provided an enriching arts education opportunity to children of essential workers who were being taught in three local schools during the early days of the pandemic.

From Monday, April 27 to Friday, May 1, staff from the Richmond Arts Centre and Richmond Art Gallery presented in-school arts education which included visual and performing arts activities to groups of five to 15 children. The drama activities focussed on physical movement and awareness while the visual arts classes allowed students to learn drawing and painting techniques, creating art to take home and share online.

The children whose parents are on the frontline of keeping the community safe and fed were given an opportunity to stretch their imaginations and spark their creativity through activities that nurtured their minds and bodies.

COMMUNITY ART EXHIBITIONS

With the closure of the Richmond Cultural Centre, art exhibitions that are usually enjoyed in the Upper Rotunda Gallery were suspended, so an online gallery was created so that members of the Resident Art Groups could exhibit their works virtually. The gallery link was posted on [Richmond.ca/connect](https://richmond.ca/connect) and on other relevant pages on the City website.

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 2020, these groups continued to access the studio spaces for limited numbers of members at a time, when permitted by public health orders.

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 Dance Group
- Richmond Weavers and Spinners Society
- Riverside Arts Circle
- Textile Arts Guild of Richmond



Richmond Potters Club

“Many families told us that your presentation and the information you shared was very useful to them.”

- Annie Leung, Touchstone Family Association

SCHOOL INFORMATION TOUR

In February, Arts Centre staff visited Thompson and Cook elementary schools in Richmond as part of Touchstone Family Association’s Community Action Program for Children. During the visits, staff discussed the importance of arts and arts resources and events available to the community. The audience included 20+ new immigrant parents.

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.



Under The Sea, Art Truck



Haunted Mansions, Art Truck



Space Ships, Art Truck

ART TRUCK SUMMER OUTREACH

Over the summer, the Art Truck program worked alongside Community Centres to bring free, engaging art workshops to day camps. The program strived to meet three community needs: 1) provide arts experiences for community members who may not otherwise have access to them, 2) promote public awareness of art within the community, and 3) make arts education readily available to the public.

With support through Human Resources Development Canada, two summer students led **25+ lessons between July and August**, as well as created two online videos to further connect with community members through the Art Truck program.

Sessions were held at the following locations:

- South Arm Community Centre
- City Centre Community Centre
- Steveston Community Centre
- Thompson Community Centre
- West Richmond Community Centre
- Cambie Community Centre
- Richmond Arenas



DIY Easter Egg Workshop



Katherine Somody, Grand Plié

DIY EASTER EGG WORKSHOP BY THE NUMBERS:

- 365 Instagram impressions
- 260 Instagram reach
- 1,828 Facebook reach
- 107 Facebook engagements
- 21 Facebook shares

DIY EASTER EGG WORKSHOP

On April 11, community members were invited to participate in a free, online Easter egg workshop with natural dye recipes highlighting “on-hand” ingredients. Participants were encouraged to share their results via social media. The workshop was published on the Arts Centre’s Facebook and City of Richmond’s @howartworks Instagram accounts, and was shared widely by community centres and others.

Special Events

BLACK HISTORY MONTH EXHIBITION

From February 1 – 15, artist Chrystal Johnson’s exhibition, *Are We*, explored themes of identity and vulnerability through her soapstone sculptures. The exhibition marked Richmond’s fifth Black History Month celebrated by the City and its partners.

GRAND PLIÉ

On April 29, for International Dance Day, the Arts Centre hosted the annual *Grand Plié* event in partnership with the Richmond Art Gallery and Ballegro Music Player. With a free, online introductory barre class, dancers and dance lovers of all ages and abilities were invited to celebrate and move gracefully with Katherine Somody, a long-time ballet instructor at the Arts Centre.

Hosted on YouTube, the uploaded *Grand Plié* video reached 77 views on the day. Participants also shared their participation by taking part in the *Grand Plié* Selfie Challenge by sharing photos of their participation on social media platforms of their choice, using the hashtag #RichmondConnects.

The *Grand Plié* video remains online on the Richmond Arts Centre’s Facebook page, as a way for all to stay engaged with dance from the comfort of home.



Kaylie Lau, Children's Arts Festival



Children's Arts Festival

2020 CHILDREN'S ARTS FESTIVAL BY THE NUMBERS

- 6,500 + Attendees
- 24 Schools
- 40+ Artists
- 60+ Volunteers

CHILDREN'S ARTS FESTIVAL

The 12th annual Children's Arts Festival, Richmond's last major event before the pandemic lockdown, was held from February 17–21, at the Richmond Library/ Cultural Centre, and Minoru Plaza.

The event boasted a fun-filled public day of creativity and entertainment on Family Day, February 17. Attendees of all ages wandered through multiple zones, enjoyed fun performances and participated in hands-on arts activities. For the rest of the week, school children and their teachers experienced a tailor-made version of the Festival. For many of the schools, this event has become an annual tradition.

Highlights this year included a new poster and brand design by local Richmond artist, Dawn Lo, feature children's author presentation by Jeff Chiba Stearns and *The Hungry Feast Dish* performance by the award-winning Axis Theatre Company. The event also achieved new goals in sustainability, becoming balloon- and glitter-free, and placed a focus on waste reduction with all arts activities.

Community Partners

In 2020, the Arts Centre partnered with the following community organizations and City departments to increase the community's access to arts opportunities: City Centre Community Association, West Richmond Community Association, Thompson Community Association, Gateway Theatre, South Arm Community Association, East Richmond Community Association, Minoru Seniors Society, Hamilton Community Association, Steveston Community Society, Sea Island Community Association, Resident Art Groups of the Richmond Arts Centre, Vancouver Cantonese Opera Society, Richmond Public Library, Richmond Delta Youth Orchestra, Pathways Clubhouse, Richmond Public Health, School District #38, Richmond Museum, Richmond Art Gallery, Lansdowne Mall, Cowell Auto Group, Made In BC, Lifecycles Non Profit Institute and Finn Slough Artists.





**RICHMOND MEDIA LAB
BY THE NUMBERS:**

- 30** Richmond Youth Media Lab (RYMP) members
- 1,314** 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, completed its tenth year 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 for the Richmond Youth Media Program in partnership with Richmond Addiction Services Society.

In 2020, RYMP adapted to COVID-19 with such initiatives as **Remote RYMP on Discord and Zoom**, and **RYMP in the Park**, a socially distant outdoor version of the program that ran on Fridays from July to September. As well, the program benefited from the participation of two work placement students from McMath Secondary School who banked 100 hours of volunteer time while maintaining their studies and preparing for post-secondary.

In 2020, 30 program members, 57 guests and 26 adult mentors (including youth workers and professional media artists) spent 1,314 hours at various RYMP skill sessions and events. RYMP members also participated in a variety of community events and initiatives, including the following:



"RYMP 100% changed my life for the better. I've decided to study Recreation Management at Langara. My positive experiences at RYMP really solidified my love for community recreation. I have nothing but great things to say about RYMP and how it benefited my life."

- RYMP Alumnus

AWARD-WINNING RYMP MEMBERS:

2020 U-ROC AWARDS

During Youth Week, two RYMP members were recognized at the annual U-ROC Awards; Nathan Feng (aka DJ Spacey) and photographer Christopher Riaz. Local director, and recent guest of RYMP's CIMA event, James Sprott also won an award as an Asset Champion for his work helping Richmond youth learn more about working in "Hollywood North".

2020 RICHMOND ARTS AWARDS

RYMP member Rotem Levy was the recipient in the Youth Arts category.

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 2, CIMA was presented online for the first time, and featured a professional animator (Karen Poon), musician (Joseph Gallant from Dot Mp3) and graphic designer (Mustaali Raj). This year's event reached 15 youth.

RYMP 10TH ANNIVERSARY AND REUNION

On October 10 (aka 10.10.2020) staff hosted an online celebration for up to 10 youth to watch the online party together in the Cultural Centre Performance Hall. This lively event attended by 44 participants included current and alumni RYMP youth now in Richmond, Vancouver, Surrey, Toronto and Halifax, as well as several program staff, volunteers, funders, partners and youth workers. Participants also created collaborative images through Google Jamboard.

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 in the Cultural Centre Plaza over a low-power FM signal on Saturday, October 17 and the recording was later published to Mixcloud.com. The recording has had 14 listens to date and 30 community members were engaged with this project.

PRIDE WEEK

Youth Development Coordinators partnered with the Media Lab to present a live, online dance party on July 24 for Pride Week in Richmond. A total of 134 people joined the Mixcloud livestream, and the associated Instagram posts garnered 79 likes and 12 shares.

RICHMOND REMEMBERS IN PLACE LIVE VIDEO SIMULCAST

Under the direction of professional filmmakers Kryshan Randel and Zac Fudge, four RYMP youth provided live coverage of *Richmond Remembers In Place* for a live community webcast. RYMP Youth also edited the video that was shown during the ceremony.

Programs & Activities

MEDIA ARTS EDUCATION COURSES

Throughout 2019, students took classes in a range of topics, including 3D Modelling, Graphic Design, Digital Illustration, and Manga & Comic Building.



AMERICAN RAMADAN FILM SCREENING

Documentary film lovers and those curious to learn about the contemporary Muslim experience of Ramadan were invited to attend a free online event on May 7 presented by the Richmond-based Islamic Art British Columbia (in association with Envoy Films) in partnership with the Richmond Media Lab and Richmond Public Library. The feature film was followed by a live Q&A discussion with the director, Naeem Randhawa, along with some members of the cast and an inter-faith subject specialist. Attendance: 27.

The initiative also supported the City's Cultural Harmony Plan to offer opportunities for deeper understanding of Richmond's diverse cultures while providing educational connections for community members. Viewers encountered an intimate understanding of the meaning behind the holy month of Ramadan and fasting, and were invited to reflect on the universality of the practice of "Fasting for Faith".

MEDIA CREATION SERVICES

Media Lab staff members have worked with partners from a variety of partners from within the City and beyond to support the production of original videos to highlight program achievements, assist with staff training, and provide documentation. In 2020, the list of videos includes: 2019 Children's Arts Festival 2019 video, Olympic Oval *Kristina Groves* video edit, *2019 Arts Services Year in Review* video, IRIS Video Series for Richmond Human Resources Dept, *Let Your Spirit Dance* video with support from VCH Community Investments and VCH Aboriginal Health, *Musical Theatre Showcase* for Richmond Arts Centre, City of Richmond *One Team Challenge* staff video and *O Canada* video edit.

"I am consistently impressed with RYMP's commitment to encouraging youth to really lead the projects they work on, and this shows in the participants' overwhelmingly positive feedback. Through these projects and the Youth Advisory Board, there are many ways in which youth can build their capacity and skills, both technically through the media programs they use, and socially/emotionally with each other and trusted adults."

— Vancouver Coastal Health
Community Grants Coordinator

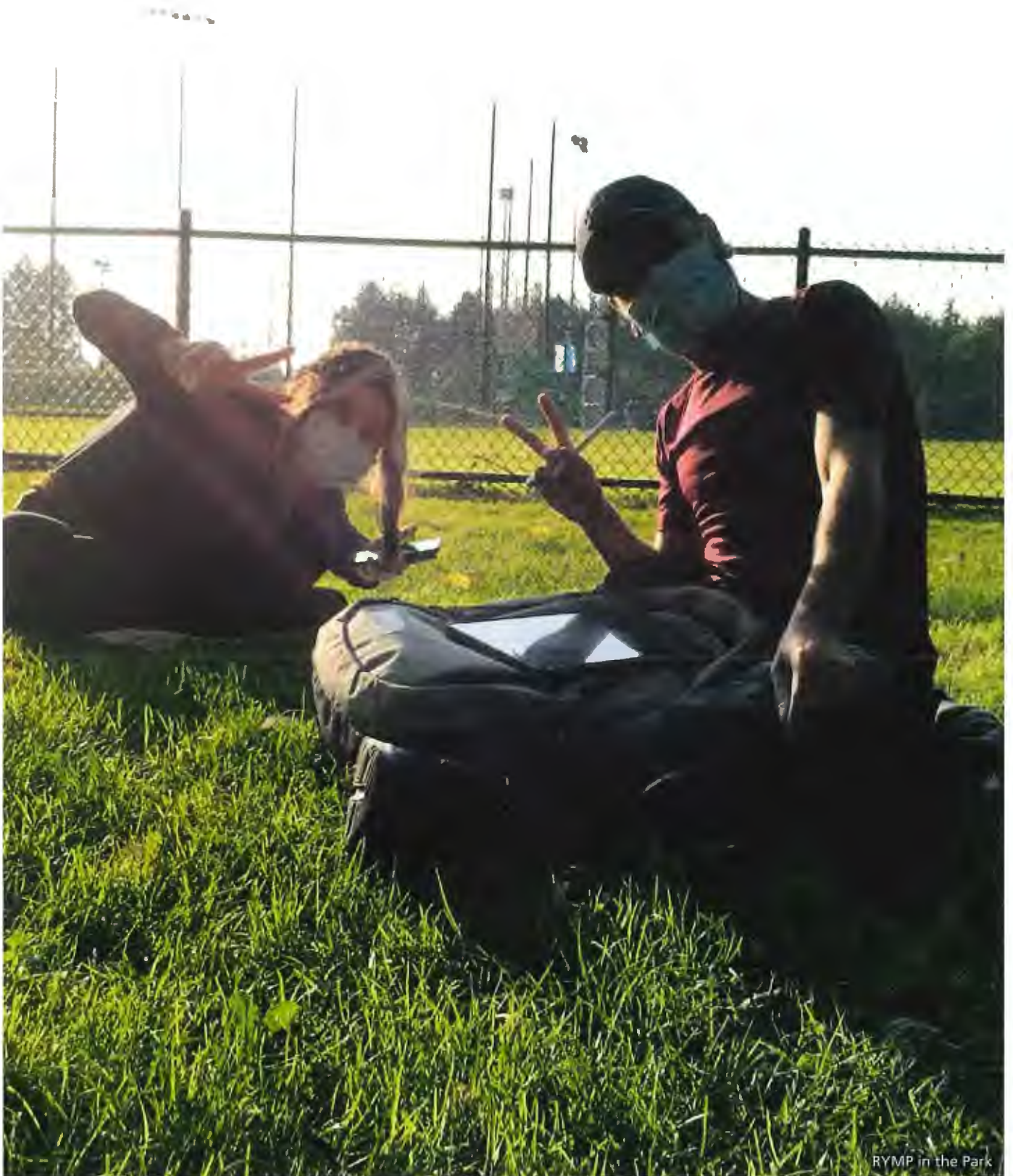
Partners and Funders

In 2020, the Media Lab confirmed the ongoing support of Richmond Addictions Services Society.

The 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.

After the pandemic-related closure of the Richmond Media Lab, RYMP staff successfully applied for an *Adobe Creativity Grant, allowing them to provide 25 one-year Creative Cloud licenses to program members*. Staff also launched a Pandemic Food Security program for RYMP youth, resourced with one-time funding from Vancouver Coastal Health.

The Richmond Youth Media Program (RYMP), presented in partnership with Richmond Addictions Services Society (RASS), has completed one year of its current three-year funding cycle with the Vancouver Coastal Health SMART Fund.





Harvest Full Moon Festival. Photo: Marina Szijarto

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, and Recreation and Sport.

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION ARTS PROGRAMS BY THE NUMBERS:

- 400** Arts courses offered
- 2,100** Registered participants
- 9** Participating community associations

Community Associations

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 was decreased due to the COVID-19 pandemic, more than 400 arts-focused courses were offered in 2020 for 2,100 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. As well, arts activities are regularly embedded into child care programs offered by community associations. A few of the programs are highlighted below.

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.

OUTDOOR ART IN THE PARK

This outdoor opportunity at South Arm Community Centre’s courtyard provided creative opportunities to inspire children to explore a combination of art mediums while developing new skills.



ART CAFÉ

This free, weekly open art studio activity at City Centre Community Centre included free coffee and tea, music and art supplies (including sewing machines). Participants included amateur and professional artists, urban professionals looking for a relaxing outlet, young adults on dates and friends looking for after-dinner fun. Furthermore, Turning Point OARS programs, Richmond Society for Community Living and other social agencies refer their clients to this free “therapeutic” activity. In 2020, Art Café was offered in January, February and March but was suspended thereafter due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

AFTERNOON ART

A partnership between the East Richmond Community Association and the Richmond Art Truck program, these free art-making sessions were held outdoors at King George Park. Participants of all ages engaged their creativity, developed new skills, and had fun making a variety of art projects.

MUSICAL INTERLUDES

The Seniors Centre at Minoru Centre for Active Living launched an online bi-weekly music program for 55+ participants. Community members used Zoom to participate in live sing-a-long style piano and guitar performances, with special guest performers invited at different times of the year. Music enhances mood and improves cognition, and these sessions provided a much needed social opportunity for seniors.

YOUTH ART INITIATIVE

Thompson Community Centre Youth started an “Artist Showcase” that highlighted different artists in the Lower Mainland with the goal to help youth find their spark, and introduce them to new experiences through video interviews and questionnaires. The initiative also allowed the artists to have a creative outlet to inspire and connect with those who are interested, and those who have yet to discover art.

BIRDS OF TERRA NOVA

The Terra Nova Nature School participated in a six-week program learning about the birds that surround them, through creating paintings, imprints and models of areas like "The study of a Chickadee" and "What we know about birds". The highlight was the class creation of an eagles' nest, whereby a model and art pieces were temporarily installed in the Thompson Community Centre lobby.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Throughout the year, arts programming supports themes and special events. For example, in recognition of ERASE Bullying Day in Richmond, recreation facilities used art to demonstrate and reinforce positive behaviours during February of each year. In recognition of Pride Week, West Richmond Community Centre hosted a virtual performance with queer artist, Matthew Presidente, and Hamilton Community Centre, in partnership with the Richmond Public Library, hosted a Drag Queen Storytime that taught children lessons of diversity, self love and an appreciation of others.

City Centre Community Centre's annual Harvest Full Moon Project offered artist-led workshops in lantern making, harvest flower arranging, vegetable lantern carving and moon cake making for all ages. In 2020, the celebration was moved online. Memories and photos were shared leading up to the Harvest Full Moon and local artist Marina Szijarto created a tutorial video on how to create a lantern with household supplies. The community was encouraged to take socially distant walks in their neighbourhoods in lieu of the large procession of previous years.



2020 Street Banner Contest

The 2020 street banner contest, organized and coordinated by Richmond's Parks Department, was launched on August 13, 2019 and concluded with the banner unveiling ceremony on March 9, 2020. The contest attracted more than 400 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 on the City's Facebook page. The Top 10 designs with the most "Likes" were chosen as the winners.

The winning artists were Andrea Laing, Brian Phillips, Eugene Hernandez, Glen Andersen, Harris Hui, Regina Cid, Tina Lai, and Victor Jacinto.



Drag Queen Storytime



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

By all accounts, 2020 was a remarkable year: the organization started with a regular season, imagined and tested new programs, responded to building construction, hired new artistic leadership, and adapted to a global pandemic. Thanks in part to the sustaining support of the City of Richmond and other funders, sponsors and donors, Gateway Theatre was able to approach the pandemic as an opportunity—one in which the organization explored new ways to connect with audiences and build relationships in the community.

Artistic Programming     

STRAIGHT WHITE MEN

Mainstage, February 6–15, 2020

Hot off its 2018 Broadway premiere, *Straight White Men* by Young Jean Lee made its Western Canadian debut at Gateway Theatre. In this satirical comedy, three brothers are caught off-guard by a shift in their family dynamic, forcing them to examine the effects of traditional masculinity. This presentation attracted 1,545 audience members over 11 performances.

ARTS WHILE APART

Online, August 28–September 11, 2020

Gateway Theatre’s first venture into digital production was a three-episode program hosted by Barbara Tomasic, Director of Artistic Programs, leading spirited conversations with past collaborators covering everything from backstage mishaps to the art of puppet making. The series attracted 574 views.

GATEWAY SALON SERIES: BUILDING BRIDGES

Online, September 12–13, 2020

Gateway Salon Series: BUILDING BRIDGES connected emerging artists with fellow creatives in the performing arts sector. Hosted via Zoom in partnership with the Greater Vancouver Professional Theatre Alliance and with support from Rumble Theatre, three events featured artistic leaders from local companies who shared their personal experiences and industry knowledge. In all, eight arts organizations and nine professional artists engaged with 72 participants through this initiative.

HALLOWES' EVE PAPER THEATRE KIT

September 28–November 13, 2020

This innovative program meshed visual and performing arts for DIY at-home play. Illustrated by local artist Keely O’Brien (and former Branscombe House Artist-in-Residence), *Hallows’ Eve* paper theatre kits included an enchanting build-your-own miniature theatre, a *Hallows’ Eve* story to act out with its characters and backdrops, and a house program full of fun, family-oriented activities. The kits reached 129 households in 28 cities across Canada and the U.S.



Straight White Men



Hallows' Eve Paper Theatre Kit



Hallows' Eve Paper Theatre Kit

**HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS
BY THE NUMBERS:**

- 934 Views
- 331 Households reached
- 40+ Cities reached across four countries
- 319+ Hours watched

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Online, December 18, 2020–January 1, 2021

This online musical revue featured performers and songs from the most beloved musicals ever to grace Gateway Theatre’s MainStage. Families gathered safely at home to enjoy musical numbers from *Annie*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *The Sound of Music* and more.

"Such fun! Great to meet Oliver Castillo as a real person. Such a great craft, easy to do at home and with all ages!"

- Arts While Apart Audience Member



Online Engagement

While the theatre doors were closed, digital outreach including newsletters, blogs and social media allowed Gateway to celebrate local artists, share vital resources, and lift other community organizations in need. 2020 saw Gateway attract 13,821 engagements from its followers on various social media platforms and 41,104 visitors to its website.

As Gateway continued to celebrate and connect with their English-speaking audiences, the theatre also worked to create new relationships with Chinese-speaking community members, providing Chinese text on their website and launching an official WeChat account in late 2020.

Gateway Theatre also explored several ways to connect audiences with local theatre artists digitally. The online interview series *Arts While Apart*, hosted by Director of Artistic Programs, Barbara Tomasic, allowed artists to share their behind-the-scenes insights on the craft of theatre. The video series *Offstage: The Best of Richmond from these Gateway Actors*, which highlighted the lives and experiences of actors from Richmond, achieved an engagement rate 266% higher than average on Twitter.

Gateway Academy

This year, Gateway Academy provided theatre arts classes to 223 students, delivering more than 5,400 hours of educational programming to Richmond youth. While classes moved online in early April, by Fall of 2020, classes were held both online and in-person following strict health and safety protocols. The Academy's offerings were as follows:

- Musical Theatre (January–April, July Summer Camp, October–December)
116 students aged 6–18 built confidence as they explored vocal and acting techniques, choreography, and the musical and dramatic expression of lyrics.
- Acting (January–April, October–December)
76 students aged 6–18 developed skills integral to all theatrical disciplines, as well as developed confidence, focus, listening, and trust-building.
- Speech (January–April)
25 students aged 8–13 learned to use their voice with strength and confidence, improving technique and public presence with greater sense of self-awareness.
- Creating in New Spaces (November–December)
6 students aged 18–24 went beyond a typical playwriting class to explore writing and creating in a variety of mediums including projects that are socially distanced or presented through social media.



Community Partners

Gateway Theatre provides a vital service to community partners who present performing arts, dance, concerts, martial arts and band recitals in the facility. During a typical year, Gateway can host up to 40 community partners with approximately 18,000 patrons coming through its doors. Due to COVID-19, the majority of the rental events had to be cancelled in 2020.

In support of these community partners, Gateway took the initiative to celebrate many of them via blogs and social media platforms, including Dance Co, Richmond Academy of Dance, and TMD Martial Arts. On Facebook, posts celebrating rental community partners had an engagement rate 250% higher than average, and through their pre-recorded recital, Dance Co Graduates performed for 1,236 Gateway Theatre followers on this platform alone.

The community partners that we were able to present in 2020 before shutting our doors were the following:

- City of Richmond Engineering and Public Works
- City of Richmond—Community Services
- Richmond School District No. 38 (Jazz Night)
- Pythagoras Academy

Artist & Designer credits:

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Full cast of *Home for the Holidays*. Directed by Barbara Tomasic, Costume & Aesthetic Supervision by Donnie Tejani.

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Daniel Martin, Carlo Marks and Sebastian Archibald in *Straight White Men* by Young Jean Lee. Set Design by Shizuka Kai, Costume Design by Laura Fukumoto, Lighting Design by Sophie Tang. Photograph by Tim Matheson.

Hallows' Eve paper theatre kit. Kit illustrated by Keely O'Brien.

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Gateway Academy. Photography by Natasha Zacher.

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Gateway Academy. Photography by Gateway Academy, Musical Theatre C Class.



APPENDIX 1

2020 Arts and Culture Grant Program

The following 16 organizations received \$116,815 in financial support:

OPERATING ASSISTANCE

Canadian YC Chinese Orchestra Association	\$ 9,400
Cinevolution Media Arts Society.....	\$ 9,550
Community Arts Council of Richmond	\$ 8,800
Richmond Arts Coalition	\$ 9,400
Richmond Community Band Society.....	\$ 3,500
Richmond Community Orchestra and Chorus Association	\$ 8,400
Richmond Delta Youth Orchestra	\$ 9,400
Richmond Music School Society	\$ 9,300
Richmond Potters' Club	\$ 6,500
Richmond Singers	\$ 9,405
Textile Arts Guild of Richmond	\$ 2,730

PROJECT ASSISTANCE

Caravan Stage Society.....	\$2,500
Direct Theatre Collective Society.....	\$ 3,670
Philippine Cultural Arts Society of BC	\$ 4,000
Richmond Art Gallery Association	\$ 4,700
Steveston Historical Society	\$ 1,500
Tickle Me Pickle Theatre Sports Improv Society.....	\$ 4,700
Vancouver Cantonese Opera.....	\$ 4,700
Vancouver Tagore Society.....	\$ 4,660

“We were incredibly grateful for the flexibility in the funding we received from the City. It enabled us to move to a completely different (but related) virtual program and get money into the hands of artists who were struggling. Without this flexibility we would have had to cancel our event entirely.”
 - Steveston Historical Society

APPENDIX 2

Richmond Public Art scheduled for completion in 2021-22

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:

- *Lily Tree*, Devon Knowles
- *Cascade*, Marie Khouri
- *Water Off a Duck's Back*, Douglas Coupland



Charlotte Wall & Pua Khalili, *Typha*
[artist rendering]

How Richmond supported and invested in arts and culture in 2020*

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

Supporter



COMMUNITY ART EXHIBITIONS

9 exhibitions in **6** locations including Richmond City Hall



RICHMOND ARTS AWARDS

65 nominations
6 awards presented annually



CULTURE DAYS

58 registered activities¹ by **28** local arts groups and individuals

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



RICHMOND ARTS CENTRE

provided **11** arts groups **552** hours of room rentals at a subsidy of **\$27,175**

Facility Operator



RICHMOND CULTURAL CENTRE

121 hours room rentals by cultural organizations at subsidized rates



RICHMOND ARTS CENTRE

200+ arts courses
20+ professional instructors
1,500 students registered



RICHMOND MEDIA LAB

9 media arts courses
30 Richmond Youth Media Lab members spent **1,314** hours at the Media Lab



RICHMOND ART GALLERY

9 exhibitions onsite, offsite and online presenting **41** artists
29 school visits and **612** students
37 free public programs in-person and online with **1,423** participants
6,871 YouTube video views



COMMUNITY CENTRES²

400 visual arts, dance & music courses
2,100 participants

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

Communicator



ARTS & CULTURE E-BLASTS

21 e-newsletters
494 subscribers

ART AT WORK PROGRAM

6 free professional development workshops for artists & organizations
179 participants
241 YouTube views

Investor



ARTS & CULTURE GRANTS PROGRAM

\$116,815 to **16** organizations



PUBLIC ART PROGRAM

308 artworks to date
35 new works in 2020
31 Richmond artists contracted for civic art commissions
8 community group partners
15,000 hours of community participation in the Engaging Artists in the Community Program to-date

Presenter



FESTIVALS

4 major events showcasing **145** local artists and arts groups
80 activations & performances
88,500 attendees (in-person & online)



ARTISTS-IN-RESIDENCE

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

Facilitator



FILM OFFICE

6 purpose-built film studios
759 employed in Richmond
\$22.2 million earned annually by Richmond residents in film sector



ART TRUCK

25 children of essential workers at **2** schools
25 sessions at **7** civic facilities, reaching **225+** participants in summer outreach program



GATEWAY THEATRE³

11 in-person performances attracting **1,545** attendees
8 online presentations attracting **1,580** views

600+ households reached in **68** cities over **4** countries

3: Operated by Richmond Gateway Theatre Society with support of City of Richmond; 2018/2019 Season

* 2020 statistics represented unless otherwise noted

“A problem is a chance
for you to do your best.”

-Duke Ellington



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cover photo: *Murmuration: A Score for
Social Distancing* by Lou Sheppard