



**Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee**

**Anderson Room, City Hall  
6911 No. 3 Road**

**Wednesday, April 24, 2019  
4:00 p.m.**

Pg. #      ITEM

MINUTES

**PRCS-4**      *Motion to adopt the **minutes** of the meeting of the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee held on March 26, 2019.*



NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING DATE

May 28, 2019, (tentative date) at 4:00 p.m. in the Anderson Room

COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION

- ARTS SERVICES YEAR IN REVIEW 2018**

(File Ref. No. 11-7000-01) (REDMS No. 6156917 v. 2)

**PRCS-11**

**See Page PRCS-11 for full report**

*Designated Speaker: Liesl Jauk*

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

*That the Arts Services Year in Review 2018 as presented in the staff report titled, "Arts Services Year in Review 2018," dated March 29, 2019, from the Director, Arts, Culture and Heritage Services, be circulated to the Community Partners and Funders for their information.*



Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee Agenda –  
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2.      **DRAFT RICHMOND ARTS STRATEGY 2019-2024**  
(File Ref. No. 11-7000-01) (REDMS No. 6158128)

**PRCS-75**

**See Page PRCS-75 for full report**

*Designated Speaker: Liesl Jauk*

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

- (1)      *That the Draft Richmond Arts Strategy 2019-2024, included as Attachment 1 of the staff report titled “Draft Richmond Arts Strategy 2019-2024,” dated April 2, 2019, from the Director, Arts, Culture and Heritage Services, be adopted for the purpose of seeking stakeholder and public feedback on the strategy; and*
- (2)      *That the Final Richmond Arts Strategy 2019-2024, including the results of the stakeholder and public feedback, be reported back to the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee.*



3.      **PROPOSED TIDALLY INFLUENCED TERRA NOVA SLOUGH UPDATE**  
(File Ref. No. 06-2345-20-TNOV4) (REDMS No. 6160886 v. 10; 5621988)

**PRCS-128**

**See Page PRCS-128 for full report**

*Designated Speakers: Jamie Esko and Alexander Kurnicki*

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

- (1)      *That Option 1: Enhance the Existing Freshwater Pond, as outlined in the staff report titled “Proposed Tidally Influenced Terra Nova Slough Update” dated April 5, 2019 for the Director, Parks Services, be endorsed; and*
- (2)      *The funding of \$225,000 for the proposed habitat enhancement and management plans be considered in the 2020 Budget process.*





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4.      **UPDATE ON COMMUNITY RECREATION PROGRAMS AND SERVICES 2018**

(File Ref. No. 11-7000-01) (REDMS No. 6151724 v. 41)

**PRCS-159**

**See Page PRCS-159 for full report**

*Designated Speaker: David Ince*

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

*That the staff report titled “Update on Community Recreation Programs and Services 2018,” dated April 5, 2019, from the Director, Recreation and Sport Services be received for information.*

5.      **MANAGER’S REPORT**

ADJOURNMENT



## Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee

Date: Tuesday, March 26, 2019

Place: Anderson Room  
Richmond City Hall

Present: Councillor Harold Steves, Chair  
Councillor Chak Au  
Councillor Bill McNulty  
Councillor Linda McPhail  
Councillor Michael Wolfe

Also Present: Councillor Carol Day

Call to Order: The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

### MINUTES

It was moved and seconded

*That the minutes of the meeting of the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee held on February 26, 2019, be adopted as circulated.*

**CARRIED**

### NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING DATE

Wednesday, April 24, 2019, (tentative date) at 4:00 p.m. in the Anderson Room

## COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION

1. **MUSEUM AND HERITAGE SERVICES YEAR IN REVIEW 2018**

(File Ref. No. 11-7000-01) (REDMS No. 6139176)

Marie Fenwick, Manager, Museum and Heritage Services presented a brief video (copy on file, City Clerk's Office) with highlights from the 2018 Museum and Heritage Services Year in Review. An additional video (copy on file, City Clerk's Office) depicting the Zylmans family's journey to Canada was also presented to Committee. Ms. Fenwick noted that the video was developed as a part of the Animating History workshop where students create a stop motion animation based on Richmond history.

In reply to questions from Committee, Ms. Fenwick advised that (i) the 2018 Museum and Heritage Services Year in Review video will be available on the City's website and YouTube channel and provided to community groups including Tourism Richmond and heritage societies, (ii) a variety of City departments and staff are involved in the development of interpretive signage and museum and heritage services staff work with the planning and parks departments on its development, (iii) a report regarding the Richmond Museum model is anticipated to come forward in May, and (iv) the artifacts from the Phoenix Netloft have been consolidated into the three collection storage warehouses maintained by the City, two located on River Road and one on Shell Road, and staff worked with real estate to expand the City's existing footprint in the warehouses to accommodate.

Committee also commended all the volunteers involved in the restoration of the Steveston Interurban Tram in 2018.

It was moved and seconded

(1) *That the Museum and Heritage Services Year in Review 2018, as presented in the staff report titled "Museum and Heritage Services Year in Review 2018" dated March 4, 2019, from the Director, Arts, Culture and Heritage, be received for information; and*

(2) *That the Museum and Heritage Services Year in Review 2018 be circulated to Community Partners and Funders for their information.*

**CARRIED**

2. **2015–2020 SENIORS SERVICE PLAN: ACTIVE AND HEALTHY LIVING - 2018 UPDATE**

(File Ref. No. 07-3400-01/2019) (REDMS No. 6140099 v. 4)

Debbie Hertha, Seniors Coordinator and Heather Muter, Program Manager, Social Development acknowledged the importance of the various partnerships between the City and community partners including associations, societies, and other organization in delivering programs in 2018.

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In response to queries from Committee, Ms. Hertha and Ms. Muter commented that (i) a number of volunteer opportunities are available for seniors including Music Works and a number of outreach programs and the Minoru Senior's Society and Minoru Place Activity Centre actively recruit volunteers for a number of them, (ii) there are a variety of programs with joint senior and youth involvement including the youth technology program and also a number of community centres and associations work with neighbouring Richmond schools to provide intergenerational programs and opportunities, (iii) there are currently 285 seniors accessing the recreation fee subsidy program, which represents 30% of the total program and staff are monitoring and reviewing the volume of program participation and potential impact, and (iv) the Minoru Seniors Legacy Stories Public Art project is available through the City's website and the Minoru Centre for Active Living website.

John Woolgar, Manager, Aquatic and Arena Services, in reply to questions regarding the Minoru Centre for Active Living Seniors Centre advised that to date there has been an increased membership of 34%, approximately 500 visits per day, up from 300 visits per day average of the previous facility, and 100% revenue increase in the cafeteria.

In further response to Committee's questions, Ms. Hertha and Ms. Muter remarked that (i) the City is still in partnership with the falls prevention program and staff refer those at risk or in need of services to Vancouver Coastal Health, (ii) in terms of health and safety for seniors, there are workshops offered through the Minoru Place Activity Centre and the Seniors Advisory Committee on fraud and scam prevention working with the RCMP and the Canadian Revenue Agency as well as free legal clinics through Seniors First, and (iii) staff work with a number of other organizations to provide information regarding programs for seniors in other languages.

Discussion then took place on (i) providing designated parking for motorcycles, mopeds, electric bicycles, and other personal electric vehicles at Minoru Centre for Active Living, and (ii) fraud protection and awareness programs for seniors.

Ms. Hertha and Ms. Muter, in reply to queries from Committee, advised that (i) there are a number of programs offered through the City and its partners which target men's health, (ii) staff work in consultation with Vancouver Coastal Health to identify locations in the City where seniors feel isolated, (iii) staff utilize partnerships between schools and other community partners in recruiting participants for intergenerational programs and it can be challenging to recruit a sufficient number of youth to participate, and (iv) a report on seniors housing is anticipated to come forward in late spring.

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It was moved and seconded

- (1) *That the staff report titled, “2015–2020 Seniors Service Plan: Active and Healthy Living – 2018 Update” dated March 11, 2019, from the Manager, Community Social Development, be received for information; and*
- (2) *That the 2015–2020 Seniors Service Plan: Active and Healthy Living – 2018 Update be distributed to key stakeholders and posted on the City website.*

**CARRIED**

**3. BOATING BC ASSOCIATION’S REQUEST FOR PRESERVING ACCESS TO WATERWAYS**

(File Ref. No. 11-7200-01) (REDMS No. 6080291 v. 13)

In reply to queries from Committee, Paul Brar, Manager, Parks Programs remarked that the marina located on Shelter Island, Royal City Marina as well as the marina at Tom-Mac Shipyard are the only boating infrastructure locations currently located close to the East Richmond/Hamilton area. In response to further questions regarding the Hamilton area development Jamie Esko, Manager, Parks Planning, Design and Construction advised that there is currently a waterfront park planned for the area where there is a potential for some recreational water based access to be designated.

It was noted that Gilbert Beach, the Gilbert Road access, should be added to the inventory list of public and private boating infrastructure in Richmond listed in attachment 2 of the staff report.

In further response to queries from Committee, Mr. Brar commented that the Imperial Landing Dock is quite popular from May until October and is promoted on a number of regional and provincial boating sites as it is one of a few transient moorage stops along the Fraser River. Mr. Brar further noted that a parking meter installed on site provides usage information for the dock and a report is anticipated to come forward in July regarding the transient moorage areas and fishing activities at Imperial Landing.

In reply to additional questions from Committee, Mr. Brar advised that (i) marina rent increases in Richmond have typically been consistent with increases in land prices, (ii) Boating BC’s revised UBCM resolution will be submitted by the Township of Esquimalt, and (iii) staff are actively reviewing changes to boating infrastructure in Richmond due to the Dike Master Plan infrastructure for any potential to add waterfront activity infrastructure.

Discussion took place regarding the Gilbert Road access point and staff noted that this location did not appear on an initial inventory scan and will be revisited.

4.

**Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Committee**  
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It was moved and seconded

- (1) *That the staff report titled “Boating BC Association’s Request for Preserving Access to Waterways,” dated March 7, 2019, from the Director, Parks Services, be received for information; and*
- (2) *That the City support the Boating BC Association’s revised UBCM resolution “Public Access to Waterways” and that staff be directed to communicate the City’s support through correspondence to Boating BC.*

**CARRIED**

4. **COMMUNITY GARDENS UPDATE**

(File Ref. No. 11-7200-20-CGAR1/2019) (REDMS No. 6058928 v. 11)

In reply to queries from Committee, Emily Sargent, Acting Coordinator, Leisure Services and Mr. Brar clarified that:

- complaints received about community gardens are usually addressed by Richmond Food Security Society (RFSS) who ensure that the sites remain clean and address any issues;
- there is currently a one to three year waiting list for a plot depending on the preferred sites listed by the applicant and there is typically a 15-20% turnover each year for those who do not renew;
- the waitlist for a community garden plot is managed by RFSS who follow up yearly with those on the waitlist to provide a status update;
- there is no maximum time period in which a space can be rented as long as the plot is renewed yearly;
- the bee colonies currently near the Terra Nova, South Dyke, and Paulik Neighbourhood Park community gardens are all still alive and are managed by community partners;
- the plots at the Garrett Wellness Centre as well as Gilbert (South Dyke) will be made available by the spring and construction of the proposed plots on the Garden City Lands is anticipated to begin in the fall after Farm Fest; and
- signage was increased last year at the community gardens as a way to deter and mitigate theft issues.

Discussion then took place on identifying other locations for additional community garden spaces including the Gardens development on Steveston Highway and No. 5 Road and direction was given to staff to provide an update on the status of the Gardens Agricultural Park garden plots.

5.

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It was moved and seconded

*That the staff report titled "Community Gardens Update," dated March 7, 2019, from the Director, Parks Services, be received for information.*

**CARRIED**

**COUNCILLOR HAROLD STEVES**

The Chair advised that a referral regarding the reorganization of Steveston based heritage organizations would be considered as Item No. 5.

**5. REORGANIZATION OF STEVESTON HERITAGE ORGANIZATIONS**  
(File Ref. No.) (REDMS No.)

The Chair distributed materials to Committee, (attached to and forming part of these minutes as Schedule 1), and spoke to a proposed referral to review the governance of Steveston Heritage sites as well as potentially establishing an overall Board. The Chair further remarked that the Britannia Heritage Shipyard should include water based recreational activities similar to the previously run Parks Afloat Program and introduced the following **referral motion**

It was moved and seconded

*That governance of Steveston Heritage sites be reviewed to consider:*

- (1) the establishment of an overall Steveston Heritage Sites Board including London Farm, Britannia Shipyard, Steveston Museum, and Gulf of Georgia Cannery Societies, with possible representation from the Heritage Advisory Committee;*
- (2) the responsibility of the Steveston Historical Society be expanded to include the Steveston Tram and Branscombe House; and*
- (3) the responsibility of the Britannia Heritage Shipyard Society be expanded to include the Phoenix Net Loft and new moorage float, Imperial Landing Float, Garry Point Pilings, and Scotch Pond.*

The question on the referral motion was not called as discussion ensued regarding the possible inclusion of other Richmond based groups.

The question on the motion was then called and it was **CARRIED**.

**6. MANAGER'S REPORT**

None.

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In response to questions from Committee regarding a referral on the Marpole Rail Bridge, Ms. Esko advised that a report regarding the matter is anticipated to come forward later this year.

In reply to queries from Committee regarding the public consultations on the Canadian Chinese Museum, Ms. Fenwick noted that staff has contacted the province and had an initial meeting and staff will provide more information as the project develops.

In reply to questions from Committee regarding the damaged trees outside the Richmond Nature Park, Todd Gross, Director, Parks Services remarked that there has been a consolidated effort between parks City staff, engineering City staff and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) to alleviate damning issues and flooding in that area. Mr. Gross further noted that staff are waiting to see how much water movement occurs by spring and develop a longer term solution on how to mitigate water issues in the area.

## ADJOURNMENT

It was moved and seconded  
*That the meeting adjourn (5:21 p.m.).*

**CARRIED**

Certified a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the meeting of the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee of the Council of the City of Richmond held on Tuesday, March 26, 2019.

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Councillor Harold Steves  
Chair

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Amanda Welby  
Legislative Services Coordinator





# City of Richmond

## Report to Committee

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

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

**Re:** **Arts Services Year in Review 2018**

**Date:** March 29, 2019

**File:** 11-7000-01/2019-Vol 01

### Staff Recommendation

That the Arts Services Year in Review 2018 as presented in the staff report titled, "Arts Services Year in Review 2018," dated March 29, 2019, from the Director, Arts, Culture and Heritage Services, be circulated to the Community Partners and Funders for their information.

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

Att. 1

<b>REPORT CONCURRENCE</b>	
<b>CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER</b>	
<b>REVIEWED BY STAFF REPORT / AGENDA REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE</b>	<b>INITIALS:</b> 
<b>APPROVED BY CAO</b>	

## Staff Report

### Origin

The Richmond Arts Strategy 2012–2017 was developed to help guide the City’s actions to make Richmond a city with a thriving, cultural life where the opportunities for participation in the arts are accessible, where artists feel they have a place and are seen as contributing to the community, where cultural industries are welcomed and where cultural activity is visible and supported.

The five strategic directions outlined in the Strategy guide the City and its stakeholders’ involvement in supporting Richmond’s arts sector and ensuring a thriving and visible arts scene in Richmond:

1. Strengthen and support the arts community.
2. Increase the number of arts spaces and more effectively use existing ones.
3. Broaden the diversity of arts experiences and opportunities.
4. Expand public awareness and understanding of the arts.
5. Broaden the economic potential and contribution of the arts.

These strategic directions create a solid 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 and economic development. This report presents Arts Services Year in Review 2018 (Attachment 1), which highlights the year’s achievements in the arts.

### Analysis

The Arts Services Year in Review 2018 profiles the arts with particular attention to the programs and activities led by Community Cultural Development, Richmond Arts Centre, Richmond Media Lab, Richmond Art Gallery, Richmond Public Art Program and Gateway Theatre. Together, these accomplishments reflect the City’s continued support and investment in the arts.

Highlights and achievements of 2018 include:

- Over the spring and summer, the Community Cultural Development office invited the public to participate in the development of the new Arts Strategy to be launched in 2019. Public engagement included a bilingual online survey (that attracted more than 470 completed responses) and more than 30 pop-up kiosks and other feedback opportunities offered at events and public spaces throughout Richmond.
- During her tenure as the third annual Branscombe House artist-in-residence, visual and performing artist Keely O’Brien attracted more than 500 participants to a range of free hands-on workshops, walking tours and map drawing to explore the idea of “home” and what it means to create a sense of belonging and build community.
- Over the summer, the Richmond Art Gallery presented Germaine Koh’s *Home Made Home*, a gallery exhibition and micro-dwelling outdoor installation (in collaboration with Public Art) to probe the complex issues surrounding housing in the Lower Mainland. In

November, the Gallery featured colourful sculptures and paintings representing more than 40 years of work by a previously unknown 82 year old Richmond artist, Pierre Vassura. These exhibitions attracted approximately 3,000 visitors each.

- The Public Art Program received three honours: the BC Recreation and Parks Association Program of Excellence Awards for *Pollinator Pasture*, Creative City Summit Year in Review recipient for Richmond's Canada 150 Public Art Program and Public Works Association of BC Project of the Year Award for the *No. 2 Road Pump Station*.
- The Richmond Arts Centre offered more than 400 courses in visual and performing arts taught by more than 30 professional instructors, registered 7,232 students and waitlisted 1,184.
- Art Truck programming expanded from four elementary schools to six (Cook, Tomsett, General Currie, Grauer, Blundell and Brighthouse). The program provided more than 340 students facing barriers with high quality after-school arts education paired with physical literacy and healthy eating components.
- The 10th annual Children's Arts Festival provided interactive arts programs, theatre and music performances and roving entertainers to more than 9,000 young people on Family Day and the following four school days. With the support of a community sponsor, a new program was introduced to enable a school with financial barriers to attend the festival with a full subsidy.
- Created in partnership with the Richmond Arts Coalition, the Richmond Arts Awards, emceed by Mayor Malcolm Brodie, also celebrated its 10th anniversary with a special video presentation honouring past recipients as part of the annual ceremony in May.
- The Media Lab continued to add to its complement of educational programs with Manga & Illustration as well as Online Comic Creation to augment programs such as Build a Website, GIF Creation, Filmmaking, Animation, Coding and Video Game Design.
- As the city's live performing arts hub and essential local rental venue for community and professional organizations, the Gateway Theatre facility drew audiences in excess of 33,000 to more than 152 performances. As part of the Gateway Theatre Society's Signature Series, the world premiere of Giovanni Sy's *Nine Dragons* won a Jessie Richardson Award for Outstanding New Play.
- Richmond maintained its national status as a Top Five "medium-sized city" for the number of activities offered over the Culture Days weekend. An estimated 5,000 participants took part in 76 individual activities by 55 different artists and cultural organizations in 28 locations. Participants got a behind-the-scenes look at many of Richmond's cultural spaces and took part in hands-on activities and demos, exhibits and activities such as calligraphy, beat-boxing, life drawing, pottery and steel drumming.
- Council approved the repurposing of the Minoru Place Activity Centre to be a community arts programming and education facility for the next ten years.

- The second year of the Engaging Community and Public Art program saw four projects:
  - Artist Faith Moosang worked with Minoru Arenas Community Association to share the history of Minoru Park through colourful mural wraps on the interior concrete pillars;
  - Donald Gunn and Bryn Finer worked with Hamilton Community Association to create a steel Great Blue Heron sculpture for Hamilton McLean Park;
  - The Artists Rendering Tales Collective Inc. worked in residency with the Britannia Heritage Shipyard Society to produce a performance work that shared little-known tales of the site; and
  - Catrina Megumi Longmuir worked with the Minoru Seniors Society to record stories of the organization and several members in films, a booklet and website.

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 2018 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. Art in everyday life creates a sense of meaning and sense of place for citizens. An investment in the arts is an investment in the community's quality of life.



Liesl G. Jauk  
Manager Arts Services  
(604-204-8672)

Att. 1: Arts Services Year in Review 2018



City of Richmond

# ART SERVICES YEAR IN REVIEW 2018

Arts, Culture and Heritage Services



Richmond Arts Centre



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“I THOUGHT ART WAS  
A VERB, RATHER THAN  
A NOUN.”

– Yoko Ono





*Meander, Becki Chan and Milos Begovic*

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## Introduction

Throughout 2018, in the midst of the *Art Works* community engagement campaign and public participation in the development of a new Arts Strategy (to be completed soon, in 2019), Richmond residents frequently expressed pride in, and appreciation for, the range of arts and cultural experiences available in their city. They singled out public art and festivals while repeatedly noting that the arts can, and should, be tasked to bring different cultural groups together.

The generosity and positivity exhibited by those who thoughtfully participated in the online survey, in-person dialogue sessions and dozens of pop-up kiosk activities, was not only an indication of how important the arts are understood to be among residents. It was a powerful demonstration that the arts transcend language and can be the mechanism to express what connects us as fellow humans.

Working in the municipal context, we know that art works; we understand the power of the arts from the perspective of city-building and community cohesion with vital roles in public realm design and planning, cultural identity and civic pride, personal well-being and social connection.

It is noteworthy that in recent years “social prescribing” is taking hold in the medical profession. Hands-on arts-based activities build neural pathways, provide outlets for creative expression and reduce stress, just as joining a choir or enrolling in a dance class will combat loneliness and even forge friendships.

Meanwhile, according to a recent study\*, interest in the arts has been found to be a reliable predictor of social responsibility. Those that attend museums, performing arts events and/or create art, are more civic-minded, engaged, tolerant and altruistic. That is, people with an active interest in the arts contribute more to our communities than those with little or no such interest.

Richmond boasts a richly diverse and multi-faceted community with myriad needs, interests and personal tastes. The arts can help us find what we have in common; therefore, a wide range of opportunities to participate in and experience the arts is essential to Richmond’s aspiration to be the most appealing, livable and well-managed community in Canada.

\*“Interest in Arts Predicts Social Responsibility” (University of Illinois) published in Science Daily, 2012







## Richmond Arts Strategic Directions



1. Strengthen and support the arts community



2. Increase the number of art spaces and more effectively use existing ones



3. Broaden the diversity of arts experiences and opportunities



4. Expand public awareness and understanding of the arts



5. Broaden the economic potential and contribution of the arts

This Arts Services Year in Review summarizes the progress made towards achieving the goals of the Richmond Arts Strategy 2012–2017 (as staff, with community support, work to complete a Richmond Arts Strategy 2019–2024.) Throughout the document, you will see coloured icons to show how the year's activities help to advance the Strategy's five strategic directions.



Richmond Youth Dance Company at the Richmond Arts Awards

## 2018 RICHMOND ARTS AWARDS WINNERS

Arts Education: Ted Hesketh

Artistic Innovation: Kerri-Jo Stewart

Business and the Arts: Ampri Real Estate Development Group

Volunteerism: Dale Bailey

Youth Arts: Emily May

Cultural Leadership: Marina Szijarto

# Community Cultural Development

## Richmond Arts Awards ❤️💬

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

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

This year, 86 nominations were reviewed by a selection panel comprised of community members and 18 finalists were promoted with website announcements, posters and emails to the arts community. The winners in six categories were announced at the Richmond Arts Awards ceremony in Council Chambers on May 15.

Mayor Brodie presided over the ceremony, which was attended by approximately 90 people. This year marked the tenth year for the awards and the ceremony included a special video presentation honouring past recipients, created by the Richmond Youth Media Lab. Local artist and inaugural award recipient, Adrienne Moore, also gave a short speech. The event featured performances by Richmond artists: harpist Janelle Nadeau, Canadian YC Chinese Orchestra, Richmond Youth Dance Company and Richmond Orchestra and Chorus Association.



Emily May, Recipient of the 2018 Youth Arts Award



## Arts and Culture Grant Program

With these funds, we were able to pay our director and accompanists and purchase new music and assist in paying for rehearsal and performance venue costs which are steadily increasing.

– Richmond Singers

The City's Arts and Culture Grants Program was implemented 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 \$112,059. A total of \$89,159 in Operating Assistance was distributed to eleven recipients and \$22,900 in Project Assistance went to six adjudicated programs and projects. (See Appendix 1). Over the summer, each of the grant recipients met individually with staff to discuss the progress of their programs and share feedback about the grant application process.

## Lulu Series: Art in the City

The 2018 Lulu Series of guest speakers presented three free-to-the-public events about Art in the City and its importance to creating connections between citizens and their communities:

March 15: **Michael Henderson**, Principal Architect at HCMA, discussed how taking a non-traditional approach to collaboration and community engagement allows his firm to have a meaningful social impact and take a fresh approach to problem-solving. The talk was preceded by a short performance by classically trained harpist, **Janelle Nadeau**. Attendance: 89

April 5: **Darren O'Donnell** of Toronto's Mammalian Diving Reflex spoke about his wildly successful project *Haircuts by Children* and his belief that the inclusion of children in as many realms as possible can offer incredible potential for social, cultural and economic innovation. This talk was preceded by a short performance by award-winning tabla player, **Amarjeet Singh**. Attendance: 73

May 10: Visual artist **Germaine Koh** discussed the value of taking an unplanned, D.I.Y. approach to art-making and how commonplace and everyday objects inform her creative work. The talk was preceded by a short performance by Nouveau Flamenco/Latin Jazz Guitarist, **Dave Mortone**. Attendance: 71







### CULTURE DAYS BY THE NUMBERS

- 55 participating artists and cultural organizations
- 76 free, interactive public activities
- 5,000 estimated attendees
- 28 event locations across Richmond
- 100% of surveyed activity organizers felt positive about their experience

In the national Culture Days “Top Ten” lists for largest number of activities, the City of Richmond ranked in the Top Five for cities with population 50,000–499,999 and in the Top Ten among all cities across Canada.

### Culture Days

The tenth annual Culture Days (September 28 to 30, 2018) 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.

Among the offerings were a multicultural creative writing festival, multilingual art tours, live folk music in Britannia’s historic Chinese Bunkhouse and a behind-the-scenes peek at many of Richmond’s cultural spaces, including the Gulf of Georgia Cannery. There were also free demonstrations in calligraphy, pottery, beatboxing, life drawing and steel drumming, as well as a wide range of hands-on activities and exhibitions in public and private spaces across Richmond. The Richmond Cultural Centre was, once again, a hub of arts and cultural activities, including interactive workshops and creative performances. The Cultural Centre’s outdoor plaza was animated throughout the weekend with musical workshops, a live pop-up radio station and painting demonstrations.

Richmond played host to 79 individual activities by 55 different artists and cultural organizations in 28 locations over the three-day weekend. This total is raised to 120 if multiple-day activities are accounted for. The combined attendance for these activities is estimated to be 5,000.

Culture Days provides beneficial professional development opportunities for local artists beyond the experience of organizing a public activity. The national website offers a wide range of how-to’s and peer learnings. Artists and organizations that participate in Culture Days are provided with packages of promotional materials (some provided by the national Culture Days office) including posters, programs, balloons, buttons, tattoos, bookmarks and more. Feedback from artists and event organizers continues to be excellent; 100% of organizers that responded to the follow-up survey found the event to be a positive experience and would both participate next year and recommend others to join in.

Visitors to my studio were excited to try my “Free-flow” method of painting and were thrilled it was free and that they could take home their paintings.  
 – Catherine Adamson



## Writer-in-Residence

Andrew was very encouraging. He gave me lots of help and ideas for literary magazines that I could submit my articles  
 – participant

In Fall 2018, Richmond hosted its seventh Writer-in-Residence program at the Richmond Public Library, Richmond Arts Centre and Minoru Place Activity Centre. Acclaimed and award-winning crime novelist, **Andrew Battershill** led a series of workshops and events in October and November that gave Richmond residents the opportunity to engage with a professional writer.

The Writer-in-Residence program opened with a public reading, Q&A and launch event on September 29, as part of Culture Days at Brighthouse Library where his series of free programs were introduced. During his residency, Andrew provided a series of free, innovative workshops and readings, as well as weekly opportunities for one-on-one conversations with the public.

In his workshops, Andrew taught the tools (not rules) of employing creative writing styles. The participants transformed the skills that they learned in Andrew’s workshops into short stories and memoirs that were published in a chapbook. The residency concluded with a multi-generational performance on November 24 where program participants from Andrew’s workshops shared writing developed during the program with an audience of 37 people.



Pop-up kiosk at Lansdowne Centre

## Arts Strategy Community Engagement

Over the spring and summer, the Community Cultural Development office helped to get the word out and gather information to inform the new Richmond Arts Strategy, to be launched in 2019. Public engagement included promotion of an online survey, as well as more than 30 pop-up kiosks, sounding boards and cultural cafes set up at events and public spaces across the Richmond. The office also ran a robust social media campaign and collected community input via online forums and email. These community engagement initiatives resulted in the collection of approximately 500 pieces of feedback and input that will inform the strategic directions and actions set out in the new Richmond Arts Strategy.





Richmond Maritime Festival



Richmond World Festival



Richmond Cherry Blossom Festival

### Richmond Maritime Festival

Returning for its 15th year, Richmond Maritime Festival at Britannia Shipyards National Historical Site attracted an estimated 40,000 visitors on July 28 & 29.

“Our family loves all of it. The variety of different music, interactive activities, wandering performers is excellent.”  
– Maritime Festival visitor

Over the two days, landlubbers and sea-goers of all ages enjoyed discovering local lore, visiting wooden boats along the dock and creating works of art. The heritage site was animated with maritime-themed décor and art installations, music and stage performances by 235 local talents, roving costumed characters and many creative interactive activities involving artists and artisan guilds, including the Richmond Carvers Society, Steveston Maritime Modellers, Richmond Pottery Club, Richmond Weavers and Spinners Guild, Richmond Delta Youth Orchestra and Richmond Gem and Mineral Society among other organizations.

The 2018 Richmond Maritime Festival art illustration was created by local artist Ashley Rose Goentoro. The festival was programmed in partnership with the Richmond Arts Coalition and the Britannia Heritage Shipyard Society.

### Richmond World Festival

“I loved every thing about this festival.”  
– World Festival visitor

The fourth annual Richmond World Festival continued as a two-day event over the Labour Day long weekend. With over 140 artists on nine stages, 50+ food trucks in the FEASTival of Flavour, the many cultural crafts of Global Village and the brand new African Zone, festival goers were able to enjoy a plethora of cultural offerings. Two evening concerts rocked the YVR Mosaic Main Stage on Friday and Saturday night with LIGHTS and Magic!

An estimated 55,000 visitors attended the festival and were able to take part in interactive media installations at the Your Kontinent Digital Carnival presented by Cinevolution Media Arts Society, view the Chinese Opera Program at the Bamboo Theatre presented by the Vancouver Cantonese Opera Society and listen to spoken word performances by many of the region’s top poets.



### Richmond Cherry Blossom Festival 🇨🇦 🏠 🌿 📈

The Richmond Cherry Blossom Festival was set amongst 255 Akebono cherry blossom trees at Garry Point Park. An estimated 4,000 attendees took part in traditional music and dance performances during the *Wa* (Harmony) Show orchestrated by Mary Hirano. Additional programming at the festival included interactive music and art by the Japanese ambient movement, kimono-tying demonstrations, Ikebana floral arrangements and bonsai demonstrations. Guests feasted on bento boxes and green tea. The festival was produced in partnership with Jim Tanaka, Mary Hirano and Sammy Hirano, along with the BC Wakayama KenjinKai.

### Richmond Canada Day in Steveston 🇨🇦 🏠 🌿 📈

The annual Richmond Canada Day in Steveston Festival featured a free, full day street party throughout Steveston Village alongside the much beloved Steveston Salmon Festival. An estimated 80,000 attendees took over the Village and wandered through the Artisan Marketplace, explored many merchants along the streets and enjoyed delicious treats. Attendees enjoyed performances at the Gulf of Georgia, Steveston Tram and Steveston Historical Museum. A headline performance by Juno Award-winners, Big Sugar, on the main stage was followed by a dazzling display of fireworks over the Fraser River.



Magic! Performing at Richmond World Festival



I found [Keely's] workshops to be thoughtfully planned and executed in a way that brought people together. I was particularly touched by the "Perfect Strangers" workshop ... left a lasting impression on me ...

– Workshop Participant

## Branscombe House Artist-in-Residence 🏠👤💬

During her 11-month tenure in Steveston, the third annual Branscombe House Artist-in-Residence, Keely O'Brien, offered a range of workshops, events and exhibitions that introduced local residents to a variety of creative techniques including collage, postcard making, miniatures and sculpture. She also incorporated walking tours and map drawing into many of her activities, which encouraged participants to explore and experience the area around Branscombe House in new ways.

Generosity was a theme throughout Keely's residency and many of her projects encouraged neighbours and community members to create gifts for neighbours and strangers. She also focused much of her projects around the idea of "home" and explored what it means to build a sense of belonging and build community in a new place.

Her very popular workshops, events and exhibitions attracted more than 500 participants to historic Branscombe House. The artist also participated in City-led initiatives such as Doors Open, Richmond Maritime Festival, Richmond Arts Awards and Culture Days. She presented a talk and workshop at the Richmond Art Gallery and collaborated with the Richmond Poverty Response Committee to help that group express their lived experience of housing instability through photography and theatre.

The open call to select the fourth annual Artist-in-Residence attracted 31 proposals from artists around the world. A panel representing the local arts community worked with staff to select interdisciplinary media artist Paige Gratland as the successful applicant.

Paige's artistic projects move playfully across media and include video, performance, sculpture and printmaking. Applying her background in video and film, Paige will host a series of film screenings, hands-on workshops and collaborative projects through the lens of a queer feminist, artist and labourer. The webpage at [richmond.ca/branscomberesidency](http://richmond.ca/branscomberesidency) is updated regularly to keep the public informed about upcoming free public programs.



Branscombe House Artist Residency activity



## Richmond Artist Directory E-Blasts

Since 2009, the Community Cultural Development office has annually sent dozens of emails throughout the year to Richmond’s arts community members to keep them informed about City-led opportunities and programs for and of interest to them. The list currently has over 430 recipients including individual artists and cultural organizations who receive messages to alert them to Artist Calls, funding deadlines, promotional opportunities, professional development workshops and more.

In 2018, 39 emails were circulated which included graphically inviting and vivid images and links to City social media accounts.

## Richmond Cultural Centre

The Richmond Cultural Centre/Brighthouse Library building is a year-round hub of creativity with activities beyond the walls of the arts and culture facilities located within.

In 2018, the second annual Kwantlen St. Farmers Market, attracted hundreds of shoppers and artisans to the outdoor plaza weekly between April and October; two Arts Centre resident art groups took advantage of free exhibitor space and musical entertainment was enjoyed by all. The Rooftop Garden, maintained in partnership with the Richmond Garden Club, was well-used by community members (as well as City staff) for lunch time gatherings and outdoor meetings. New wall signage was installed to improve visibility of community art exhibitions displayed in both the Upper Rotunda and Minoru Hall Gallery spaces.

And, the 30th annual Menorah Lighting ceremony was attended by hundreds of community members to watch Mayor Malcolm Brodie and former Premier Bill Vander Zalm light the 25-foot high, Arthur Erickson-designed menorah and celebrate the start of Chanukah with music, crafts and seasonal treats.



Kwantlen St. Farmers Market



Ho Tam: Cover to Cover opening reception

## Richmond Art Gallery

Richmond Art Gallery is a nationally recognized municipal gallery known for its diverse array of exhibitions that engage with issues and ideas of importance to the community, featuring Canadian and international artists. Richmond Art Gallery exhibitions, educational programs and events contribute to the growth of a vibrant cultural community in Richmond.

### 2018 EXHIBITION ATTENDANCE

- 3,233** Transference
- 9,435** For the Left Hand Alone/  
Cover to Cover
- 2,991** Home Made Home
- 3,154** In Suspended Silence/  
To My Unborn Child
- 3,190** Pierre Vassura
- 530** Different Ways

### Exhibitions

The Richmond Art Gallery (RAG) presented seven exhibitions in the Gallery and six off-site installations in 2018, representing emerging to senior artists from Richmond, Canada and beyond, and highlighting a range of contemporary artistic mediums and previously unknown local artists.

### GALLERY

#### TRANSFERENCE

**Aimée Henny Brown, Saskia Jetten, Ross Kelly, Colin Lyons and Kathleen Ritter**

**January 13–March 18**

**Guest Curator: Hannamari Jalovaara**

The artists comprising this group exhibition employed digital technologies to explore and reconsider what printmaking can be. From the poetic to the inventive, their works included hand pulled prints, animated and digitized collage, rubbings and castings, chemical experimentations with iron-fertilization and printed punctuation marks transposed as sound.



FOR THE LEFT HAND ALONE

Karilynn Ming Ho  
April 6–May 27

Vancouver-based artist Karilynn Ming Ho used the metaphor of “phantom limb syndrome” to explore the idea of fragmented realities in an age of digital information bombardment. Set to the musical commissions of one-handed pianist, Paul Wittgenstein, *For the Left Hand Alone* framed phantom pain as an unrequited longing, an incomplete figure, and the feeling of uncertainty experienced in an increasingly disembodied world.

I was quite moved by your video. Powerful and sensitive, inspiring.  
– visitor (*For The Left Hand Alone* exhibition)

COVER TO COVER

Ho Tam  
April 6–May 27

Born in Hong Kong, educated in Canada and the U.S. and with work experience in advertising firms and community psychiatric facilities, Ho Tam is an award-winning visual artist and videographer. *Cover to Cover* was a retrospective exhibition of his photographs, videos and magazine images presented in a collage format to reveal a multi-faceted notion of the “self.”



HOME MADE HOME

Germaine Koh  
June 17–August 26

With this exhibition, Vancouver-based artist Germaine Koh contributed to the current conversations around housing through an exploration of small-scale dwellings and “social sculptures”. An advocate of creative space design, accessibility, sustainability and self-sufficiency, Koh’s own compact structures probed many of the complex housing issues relevant to the Lower Mainland. In collaboration with Richmond Public Art, she also presented a mobile, functional micro-dwelling, *Home Made Home: Lululiving*, installed on the lawn outside the Cultural Centre.

Thank you for sharing this as art and bringing the issue to the masses.  
– visitor (*Home Made Home* exhibition)

**TO MY UNBORN CHILD**

Wen-Li Chen

September 15–November 10

Curated by Tyler Russell of Centre A, International Centre for Contemporary Asian Art

*To My Unborn Child* included various modes of image making by Taiwanese artist Wen-Li Chen, an artist contending with her inheritance of Kavalan and Sakilaya Indigenous cultures from her paternal side and her maternal Han Chinese culture. Chen's work considered personal identity and the future of Indigenous Taiwanese peoples in an ever-changing social and geographic environment.

**IN SUSPENDED SILENCE**

Xiaojing Yan

September 15–November 10

Xiaojing Yan, an Ontario-based Chinese-Canadian artist, reimagines traditional visual languages through a contemporary lens. Inspired by the utopian scenes depicted in traditional Shan Shui paintings, Yan assembled an installation of gauze curtains embedded with pine needles to create a contemplative landscape charged with symbolism. As well, life-size busts embedded with cultivated lingzhi mushrooms and wood chips combined the cultural and natural realms.

Very nice use of geometry/ asymmetry. Love how the images are a common theme but are unique and have different stories. Lots of respect from PA, USA.  
– visitor (Pierre Vassura exhibition)

**PIERRE VASSURA: NEW WORK 1983–2018**

November 24, 2018–January 20, 2019

Curators: Jonathon Middleton and Eli Boronowsky

More than forty years in the making, this exhibition showcased an eclectic range of sculptures, paintings and drawings by a previously unknown 82-year old, Richmond artist. With a strong graphic style and vibrant use of colour, the exhibition was a joyous celebration of storytelling and visual culture that crossed national, cultural and language boundaries and evoked classic literature including *The Decameron*, *The Divine Comedy* and *Aesop's Fables*.

**OFF-SITE****CAPTURE FESTIVAL ON THE CANADA LINE**

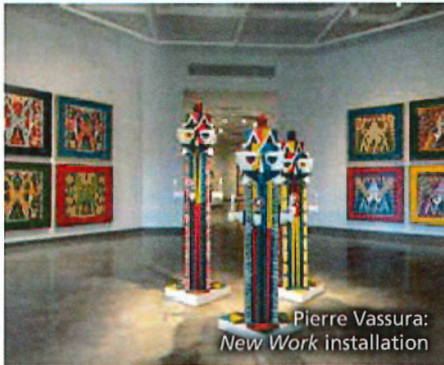
Marisa Kriangwiwat, Karilynn Ming Ho, David Semeniuk and Ho Tam

April 1–September 1

In partnership with Richmond Public Art and Capture Festival

Through the summer of 2018, RAG presented a series of photo-based installations at five Canada Line stations (Bridgeport, Aberdeen, Lansdowne, Brighthouse and Waterfront). The artists each responded to the context of No. 3 Road as a vital transit hub and shopping thoroughfare.





Pierre Vassura:  
*New Work* installation



Farooq Rai,  
*Peace and Harmony* opening reception



*Barbershops*, Ho Tam,  
Lansdowne Canada Line Station

## PEACE AND HARMONY

Farooq M. Rai

August 31–September 4

Richmond Cultural Centre Upper Rotunda

Presented by Richmond Art Gallery and Richmond World Festival

Farooq Rai is a Richmond-based Canadian of Pakistani origin who considers the inspirational message of Allama Iqbal (poet and philosopher b. 1877) as a means to preserve a unique cultural identity and heritage within British Columbia. The exhibition presented a selection of Rai's unique collages highlighting Arabic/Urdu calligraphy and a message of peace and harmony.

## DIFFERENT WAYS

Terrance Houle and Lisa Birke

August 31–September 1

In partnership with Cinevolution Media Arts Society

RAG hosted this two-day installation as part of Cinevolution Media Arts Society's 7th annual Digital Carnival during the Richmond World Festival. *Different Ways* is a collaborative project between Terrance Houle, an interdisciplinary artist and member of the Kainai Nation and Lisa Birke, settler, video artist. This project takes to heart the Call to Action for all Canadians to begin a conversation—to listen and to learn—in a bid for Reconciliation.

## ARTIST INTERVIEWS ON VIDEO

For each exhibition, the Gallery produces video interviews of the artists or curators talking about their work. In 2018, the Gallery produced four videos:

- Aimée Henny Brown, Saskia Jetten, Ross Kelly, Colin Lyons, Kathleen Ritter and Hannamari Jalovaara for *Transference*
- Karilynn Ming Ho for *For the Left Hand Alone*
- Ho Tam for *Cover to Cover*
- Germaine Koh for *Home Made Home*
- Xiaojing Yan for *In Suspended Silence*
- Pierre Vassura, Jonathon Middleton and Eli Boronowsky for *Pierre Vassura: New Work 1983–2018*



Artist Salon

## 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 also offers a space for local artists to connect and network, building a stronger artist community in Richmond.

Thanks so much for helping to build the local artist community and offering this program for the past few years.

– Artist Salon regular, Naomi H.

## Community Outreach and Programs

Every year Richmond Art Gallery Association (RAGA) organizes a dynamic set of public programs in conversation with the art gallery's exhibitions:

*Transference* opened in January with a panel discussion featuring artists in the exhibition, followed by the opening reception. During the Richmond Children's Art Festival, the gallery welcomed more than 500 young participants with artist-led hands-on printmaking with processes used by the exhibiting artists. The gallery also launched its year of multilingual outreach programs with public tours of *Transference* held in Mandarin and Cantonese.

During Ho Tam's *Cover to Cover* and Karilynn Ming Ho's *For the Left Hand Alone* exhibitions, the gallery hosted a number of tours both of the gallery exhibitions and of the off-site public art installations along the Canada Line. The gallery also hosted an artist talk, free drop-in hands-on collage night and a screening of Ho Tam's video works. In May, the Gallery participated in the BC Tourism Challenge for the first time, attracting hundreds of visitors daily.

Germaine Koh's *Home Made Home* was launched with a half-day symposium entitled *Resistance Begins at Home* featuring prominent educators, artists, city planners, historians, researchers and social activists involved in local housing issues. Free guided tours of Koh's tiny house situated outside of the Gallery were held twice a week to hundreds of curious visitors. Branscombe House Artist-in-Residence Keely O'Brien also held a workshop in the Gallery, asking visitors to create collage versions of their ideal home. Visitors were asked to contribute their ideas on the gallery walls, and many interesting and thoughtful comments were left by hundreds of visitors throughout the summer months.

In the fall, the Gallery's exhibition with artist Xiaojing Yan drew many visitors curious about the use of mushrooms within her artwork. Tour groups from the Vancouver Mycological Society, SUCCESS Richmond, BC Art Teachers Association, UBC AHVA program and the Surrey Art Gallery booked tours in



English or Mandarin to learn more about the exhibition. Programs specifically on mushrooms included a talk in Mandarin from a local mushroom farmer who specialized in growing lingzhi mushrooms, as well as a hands-on workshop to create a growing mushroom sculpture.

In the fall, RAG and Centre A gallery screened a new documentary about a man's quest for information on his Taiwanese roots, followed by a panel discussion. The Gallery also collaborated on a temporary installation curated by Shizen Jambor, with an evening book launch event featuring performances and readings from local emerging artists. The event and installation, both entitled *Papag*, consisted of a custom-built *papag* or Filipino bamboo daybed, accompanied by a sound work by Yu Su.

## Ongoing Public Programs 🖐️💬

**I**n addition to the many exhibition-based programs offered, year-round RAGA presents opportunities to appreciate and learn about art with a diverse range of entry points into the exhibitions depending on the visitor's comfort level and learning style. These programs include:

### FAMILY SUNDAY

Once per exhibition, the Family Sunday program offers free drop-in art making activities. As one of the most popular programs for local families, these events averaged 150 participants per session. The program not only provides free art education and hands-on learning for participants of all ages, it provides training and job skills to a team of youth volunteers (RAG Youth Collective) who assist in the coordination of the program.

### RAG YOUTH COLLECTIVE

Thanks to support from the BC Arts Council Youth Engagement Program, the Gallery was able to develop a weekly program for youth that includes art workshops by guest artists as well as volunteer opportunities to learn valuable skills in the planning, preparation and facilitating of the Family Sunday program.



Collage Night at Richmond Art Gallery

## ECUAD YOUTH ART + CULTURE LAB

In 2018, in partnership with Emily Carr University of Art and Design (ECUAD), RAG co-hosted a new course for youth aged 10–14 years. Students met with exhibiting and other local artists to learn more about their practices. Working with artists and an art facilitator, they developed their own projects in response to gallery exhibitions. This year was the pilot project and involved ten young artists.

Thank you for hosting this RAG. I appreciate it so much and provided a much-needed self-reflection and sharing with others. I learned a LOT in a very short time!

— *Art at Work* participant

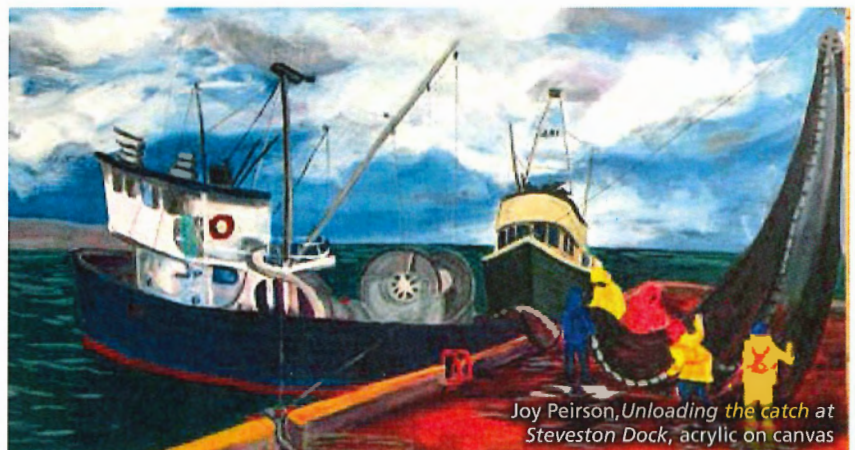
## ART AT WORK SERIES

RAG partnered with the Community Cultural Development office, BC branch of Canadian Artists' Representation/Le Front des Artistes Canadiens (CARFAC—a non-profit corporation that serves as the national voice of Canada's professional visual artists) and Richmond Public Art Program to present a full-day professional development symposium for visual artists. Guest speakers shared their experiences, providing tips and encouragement to local artists on how to build community and develop their own opportunities. In the spring, Art at Work's free professional development workshops for artists included one led by RAG curator Nan Capogna on preparing exhibition proposals. (See page 32 for further details)

## CITY HALL GALLERIA EXHIBITIONS

In 2018, the Richmond Art Gallery organized the following exhibitions by local artists for display at Richmond City Hall:

- January 9–March 5 *Marcia Pitch: About Face*
- March 6–April 23 *tabularASA photo club: separatum imaginibus*
- April 24–June 11 *Dorthe Eisenhardt: Losing Home, Finding Place*
- June 12–August 27 *Joy Peirson: Iconic Scenes of Richmond*
- August 28–October 1 *WOW (Weaving Our Way)* by Keiko Honda and Vancouver Arts Colloquium Society
- October 2–November 6 *Artworks from the Avenues Art Program* by the Richmond Society for Community Living Group



Joy Peirson, *Unloading the catch at Steveston Dock*, acrylic on canvas





### WEAVING OUR WAY WITH MUSQUEAM ARTIST DEBORAH SPARROW

On September 22, RAG hosted a workshop, film screenings and a tour of the City Hall Galleria exhibition *Weaving Our Way (WOW)*, highlighting cultural exchange and Musqueam artist Debra Sparrow's work to maintain Coast Salish weaving and cultural practices. Workshop participants learned about Musqueam weaving traditions and were invited to try their hand at it as the exhibition organizers discussed their creative and curatorial practices.

## 2018 SCHOOL ART PROGRAM BY THE NUMBERS

- 129 school tours and workshops
- 2 teacher Professional Development Day workshops
- 2,817 students visited

"This program provides exposure and appreciation for an art gallery that MANY students in my catchment may never receive due to the financial and home situation that they may be in. The art program also provides exposure to artistic techniques and projects that I simply do not have time nor the resources to provide in the classroom. The connections between the Art installations and curricular competencies and direct learning objectives are amazing and students walk away with a deeper appreciation for the connections between art and learning in their lives."

– Leanne Hers, Tait Elementary

## School Art Program

The RAGA 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.

The School Art Program is one of the most respected in the region for offering high quality educational programming as well as introducing students to concepts and unique art-making experiences they would not otherwise experience. Because of this, the program has grown beyond Richmond to now serve Delta, Ladner, Surrey, Tsawwassen, New Westminster and Vancouver area schools. In 2018, 129 tours and workshops were provided to 2,817 students aged 3–18.

Volunteer positions in the program offer mentorship opportunities for youth, and ways for new residents to connect with their community. In 2018, the School Art Program continued its partnership with the UBC Faculty of Education in their Community-Based Field Experience program. This mentorship program pairs students from the Teacher Education program with community organizations to allow teacher candidates to gain practicum experience teaching in non-school contexts.

New in 2018 was an additional partnership with UBC, this time with the Arts Undergraduate Internship Program. From January to May, the School Art Program provided two internship positions to work in the classroom with students, gaining valuable skills training and experience.

RAGA continued its partnership with International Stage Lines who donate free bus travel to Richmond schools to take field trips to the gallery, providing one free trip per exhibition. The single greatest barrier for area schools to participate in field trips is transportation costs and this partnership allowed four schools to visit the gallery who normally would not otherwise have been able to do so.



## RICHMOND ART GALLERY ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Mila Kostic, President
- Kyla Ellwyn, Director
- Kristal Hamakawa, Treasurer
- Gina Holliday Jones, Vice-President
- Jade Hsi-Jung Wang, Director
- Jas Lally, Director
- Jenny Ho, Director
- Marcus Prasad, Secretary
- Lei Tian, Director
- Simranpreet Anand, Director
- Council Liaison: Councillor Carol Day

## Funding

The Gallery benefits from financial and in-kind support of many organizations via the Richmond Art Gallery Association. In 2018, RAGA received cash and in-kind assistance from three levels of government, businesses, private foundations and individuals.

### RICHMOND ART GALLERY ASSOCIATION

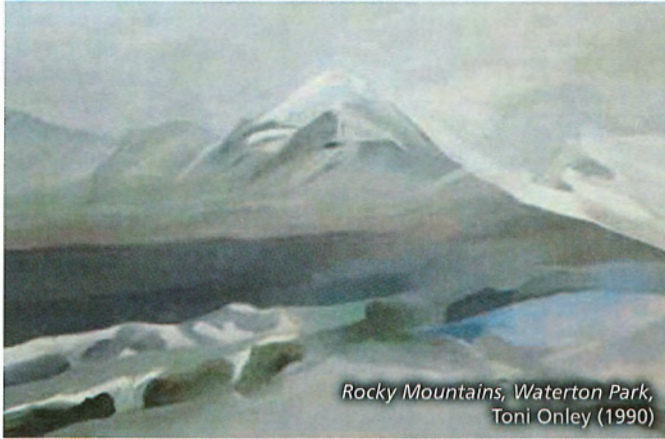
Richmond Art Gallery Association (RAGA) is an independent, non-profit society formed to support the Richmond Art Gallery through fundraising, membership and advocacy. In 1987, RAGA was registered as a non-profit society to enable the Gallery to receive donations and issue tax receipts as a charitable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

In 2018, RAGA hosted *Savour: High Tea and Auction*. The event was a joyous success with more than \$13,000 in funds raised. RAGA thanks auction artists and sponsors for their support.







*Rocky Mountains, Waterton Park,  
Toni Onley (1990)*



*Evening - Keremeos, B.C.,  
William Percy Weston (1960)*

Photos: Lance Blomgren

### RAG PERMANENT COLLECTION

The Richmond Art Gallery holds a diverse collection of more than 380 artworks collected since 1986. For the most part, the works have been donated to the gallery and represent works by local and regional artists. The Collection offers a material record of artistic practice in Richmond and across British Columbia with works by prominent artists such as Bratsa Bonifacho, Greg Girard, Tony Onley, Leslie Poole, Jack Shadbolt, W.P. Weston, Anna Wong and Alan Wood among others. In 2018, an appraisal of the collection was completed by Beth Noble Fine Art Appraisals. The collection was digitized in 2018 and will be publicly accessible for viewing online in 2019.

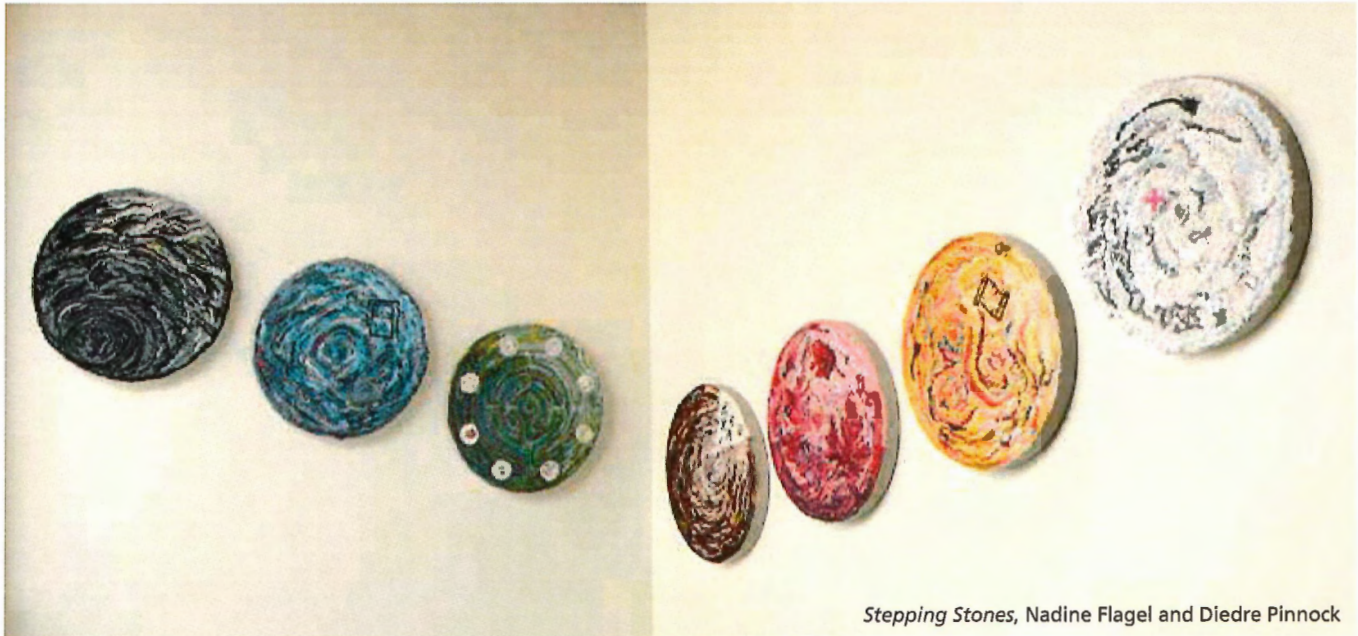
### Partnerships

The Richmond Art Gallery has developed and continues to consolidate relationships with numerous community partners such as the Canadian Artists Representation / Les Front des Artistes Canadiens (CARFAC) BC, Richmond School District, Richmond Public Library, Richmond Museum Society, Richmond Public Art Program, Richmond Arts Centre, Richmond Media Lab, SUCCESS, Richmond Delta Youth Orchestra, City of Richmond Seniors Services, UBC Faculty of Education, Cinevolution Media Arts and Vancouver Asian Heritage Month Society.

New partnerships in 2018 included those with Art! Vancouver International Art Fair, Capture Photography Festival, Centre A (Vancouver International Centre for Contemporary Asian Art), Richmond Women's Resource Centre Grandma's Group, BC Art Teachers Association, Thrive Art Studios, Vancouver Mycological Society, UBC AHVA, Surrey Art Gallery, Emily Carr University of Art + Design and Origo Club.

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.





*Stepping Stones, Nadine Flagel and Diedre Pinnock*

## RICHMOND PUBLIC ART PROGRAM TO-DATE:

- 244** Total number of artworks
- 165** Permanent artwork installations
- 79** Temporary installations (58 no longer on display)
- 34** New works of art installed in 2018 (including 16 temporary and 18 permanent artworks)
- 174** Total number of permanent and temporary artworks currently on display

## 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 🖐️💬

**I**n 2018, public art was commissioned by the City and installed at community centres, parks, civic buildings and along city sidewalks.

#### STEPPING STONES

by Nadine Flagel and Deirdre Pinnock

City Centre Community Centre, 5900 Minoru Boulevard

The colours and forms of the seven circular pieces of fibre art that make up *Stepping Stones* are said to represent qualities such as compassion, joy and historical awareness. Techniques and materials also speak to diversity and sustainability, in that the hooked rugs are community-informed and made of repurposed materials: community members donated fabric, helped with the construction and contributed some symbols within the artwork, including the heart, raven, dim sum table, snowflake, music, scroll, blueberry and cranberry harvests, footprints, window, power cable and cenotaph. This work was funded through the City's Civic Public Art Program as part of City Centre Community Centre capital project.



## Awards and Recognition

### BRITISH COLUMBIA RECREATION AND PARKS ASSOCIATION PROGRAM OF EXCELLENCE

#### Pollinator Pasture

The BCRPA Award of Program Excellence. This award recognizes creative, successful, and innovative programs which may serve as models for other recreation and parks agencies to enhance their services.

*Pollinator Pasture* is a community-engaged cross-departmental public art project created in partnership with Border Free Bees. The 2.6 acre Pasture, itself, is located at the Bridgeport Industrial Park, and planted in the pattern of a bee's wings with native and naturalized seed beneficial to a broad range of pollinators. The *Pollinator Pasture* and supportive free programming raises awareness of the plight of wild pollinators, particularly bees and empower communities to actively engage in solutions for habitat loss.

### CREATIVE CITY SUMMIT—YEAR IN REVIEW

#### Richmond Canada 150 Public Art Program

The Creative City Network of Canada selected Richmond's Canada 150 Public Art Program for its list of notable public art accomplishments. *Fraser Giant* by Henry Lau and David Geary; *Meander* by Becki Chan and Milos Begovic; *Arrival of the S.V. Titania* by John M. Horton and mural by Dean and Christina Lauzé; sewer access covers by James Harry, Corina Hansen and Yuting (Christine) Wei; and the temporary installation, *Fluvial Fan* by Nicole Alden, Patrick Beech, Genevieve Depelteau, John Musil and Allison Tweedie.

### PUBLIC WORKS ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA—PROJECT OF THE YEAR AWARD

#### No. 2 Road North Pump Station

The City's Engineering team worked with Public Art staff to integrate public art into the station in order to enhance the pedestrian experience and understanding of the station sited along the Middle Arm Dyke Trail. Artist Germaine Koh conceived the No. 2 Road North Pump Station as an interactive work of art and engineering.



*Richmond's Firefighter,*  
Nathan Scott

### RICHMOND'S FIREFIGHTER

by Nathan Scott

Fire Hall No. 1, 6960 Gilbert Road

This bronze sculpture of a firefighter, created by Victoria-based artist, Nathan Scott, honours the contributions and history of the Richmond Fire-Rescue Department, established in 1897. *Richmond's Firefighter* was funded through the City's Civic Public Art Program as part of the Firehall No. 1 capital project.



Public Art has truly validated me as an artist. After years of depression, I now feel so strong and proud of me and my work. I have a new confidence and in 2018, I courageously pursued exposure of myself as an artist and my artwork in publications, a symposium and a gallery showing in the United States. I never thought that words of encouragement and inclusion from a fellow artist and the City of Richmond would ever lead to so many accolades. I feel so unstoppable as an artist!

— Diedre Pinnock, artist

## WHAT ARE YOU DOING, RICHMOND?

by Sylvia Grace Borda

Minoru Centre for Active Living, 7191 Granville Avenue

The Minoru Centre for Active Living inaugural Artist-In-Residency project, *What Are You Doing, Richmond?* consisted of a series of staged group portraits created in collaboration with Minoru Precinct user groups. A series of legacy artworks will be exhibited in the new Minoru Centre for Active Living, on the centre's website and as a selection of action portraits on Google Street View. This work was funded through the City's Civic Public Art Program as part of Minoru Precinct capital project. As of March 20, 2019, 31,000 people have visited the work through Google Street View.

## NO. 2 ROAD PUMP STATION

by Ted Feenstra, Randy Sharp and Germaine Koh

6451 River Road

This award-winning structure is conceived as an interactive work of art and engineering and reveals the different ways water is treated on site: drained from storm sewers, pumped as potable water and collected as rainwater from the large wing-like roof that echoes the airplanes flying overhead and landing on the river. These functions, along with the electrical and communications services needed to support them, are housed within a line of colourful sculptural bollards and inside the building. The artistic contribution to this structure was funded through the City's Civic Public Art Program as part of the No. 2 Road Pump Station capital project.

## TAKE ROOT

by Laara Cerman

City Centre Community Centre, 5900 Minoru Boulevard

*Take Root* is a digitally printed wall mural located in the Fitness Centre at the City Centre Community Centre. The project was created through a series of five hands-on art activity workshops and educational walks, working with community members of all ages who painted abstract textures. Each leaf serves as a metaphor for the diversity of people: how everyone is unique, and every individual is part of a complex, interconnected organism. This work was funded through the City's Civic Public Art Program as part of City Centre Community Centre capital project.

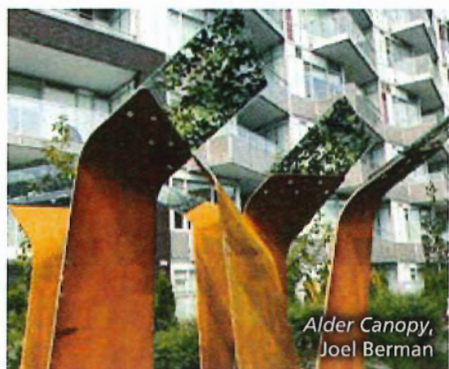


No. 2 Road Pump Station

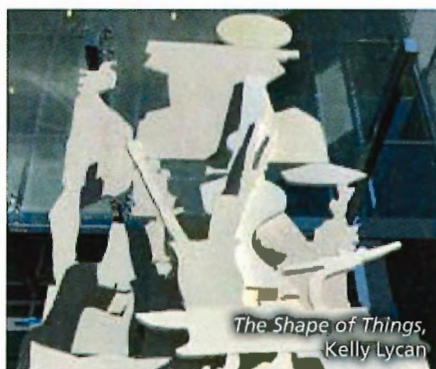


What are you doing, Richmond? Sylvia Grace Borda





*Alders Canopy,*  
Joel Berman



*The Shape of Things,*  
Kelly Lycan



*We Three,*  
Dan Bergeron

## Private Development Public Art Program

**T**hrough the development applications process, private developers continued to provide high quality public art to enrich the public realm. In 2018, the following projects were completed:

### ALDER CANOPY

by Joel Berman

12733 Steveston Highway and 10780 No. 5 Road

*Alders Canopy* is a group of six tall, weathered steel limbs located at The Gardens development in the Ironwood area. The stylized tree form closely resembles first growth Pacific Northwest fir trees and blends elements of other indigenous local trees.

### THE SHAPE OF THINGS

by Kelly Lycan

5580 No. 3 Road

*The Shape of Things* references a specific place of display found in people's homes: the mantelpiece. For decades, the fireplace mantel has been a common place for the display of personal objects and images often having sentimental value. These objects represent both family history and the mass production of goods. For this artwork, objects found in private homes were photographed and translated into shapes, the surrogate cut-outs arranged in a new configuration and painted in a range of 'whites' selected from a designer house paint collection.

### WE THREE

by Dan Bergeron

3411 and 3391 Sexsmith Road

*We Three* is an interactive sculpture comprised of three wave-shaped forms that invite users to climb, slide and play within the space it carves out. The forms connect the user to the landscape of the ocean and low water table that Richmond sits upon. The piece was created for the new Capstan Neighbourhood Park.



## 2018 PUBLIC ART FUN FACTS

**190** artist submissions were received for **11** Public Art Calls

**6** Richmond artists contracted for Public Art commissions

**27** Community Groups engaged to inform and create public art projects

More than **1,270** volunteer hours served in 2018 for the Public Art program

More than **2,500** participants attended Public Art events and programming

**10,000 hours** of community participation to-date in the Artists Engaging Community Program

## Strategic Direction

### CAPSTAN VILLAGE PUBLIC ART PLAN

The Capstan Village Public Art Plan was officially endorsed by Council on March 12, 2018. Guided by the theme "A Waterfront Arts District: Geography, History and Culture", the Plan reflects Capstan Village's physical, historical and cultural place in Richmond and its connection to adjacent City Centre Villages and neighbouring communities. Artworks in a variety of scales, on complementary themes, will help to achieve a connected community.

The Capstan Village Plan is the most recent Public Art Plan, joining the following Council-endorsed plans: Minoru Civic Precinct Public Art Plan, Alexandra Neighbourhood Public Art Plan, City Centre Public Art Plan and Richmond Olympic Oval Public Art Plan.

## Community Public Art Programs

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

### PIANOS ON THE STREET 2018

by Catherine Adamson, Richmond Youth Media Lab Program, Richmond Society for Community Living and community members

- Britannia Shipyards National Historic Site, 5180 Westwater Drive
- Terra Nova Rural Park, 2631 Westminster Highway
- Richmond Cultural Centre Plaza, 7700 Minoru Gate
- King George Park/ Cambie Community Park, 4100 No. 5 Road
- Richmond Nature Park, 11851 Westminster Highway

The fifth annual Richmond Pianos on the Street program provided five open-air publicly accessible pianos. One of the pianos was decorated by a student with disabilities from Cambie Community Centre and another by clients of the Richmond Society for Community Living. Two of the pianos were artfully reimagined at a community event on Richmond Cultural Centre Plaza, *Pianopalooza*, led by artist Catherine Adamson and members of the Youth Media Lab Program who invited 50 people of all ages to participate. The fifth piano was installed at Terra Nova Community Garden and was decorated by local community members.

### CAPTURE PHOTOGRAPHY FESTIVAL ON CANADA LINE

by Marisa Kriangwiwat, Karilynn Ming Ho, David Semeniuk and Ho Tam at Bridgeport, Aberdeen, Lansdowne, Brighthouse and Waterfront Canada Line Stations

In partnership with Richmond Art Gallery, several photo-based installations at five Canada Line stations were installed as part of the Capture Photography Festival. Integrating the context of No.3 Road as a transit hub and main shopping thoroughfare, each artist produced site specific-installations.



### NO. 3 ROAD ART COLUMN EXHIBITION 12: MIGRATION

by Renée Van Halm, Evan Lee, Patrick Wong, Russna Kaur, Chad Wong and Crystal Ho

No.3 Road Art Columns at Aberdeen and Lansdowne Canada Line Stations

Two professional artists, Evan Lee and Renée Van Halm, worked with four emerging Richmond-based visual artists: Patrick Wong, Russna Kaur, Chad Wong and Crystal Ho. Over a series of five work sessions, the artists considered the theme of migration as it relates to human settlement, displacement, cultural iconography, language and food.

### 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 through the City. In 2018, art by Desiree Pattersen, April Lacheur and Tasli Shaw was applied to more than 30 recycling units at Garry Point Park.

Public Art also partnered with the Richmond Arts Centre to add vibrancy and branding to the Richmond Arts Centre Art Truck. Local artist Emily Shepperd designed the dynamic artwork to raise the profile of the vehicle and the Arts Centre outreach programming.



*Untitled (Salmon),  
Desiree Pattersen*



*Perimeter,  
David Semeniuk*



*Pattern Migration,  
Renee Van Halm*



Meander,  
Becki Chan and Milos Begovic



Access cover,  
Corinna Hanson

## Canada 150 Legacy Works

These works, initiated in 2017 as part of Richmond's Canada 150 celebrations, were completed in 2018. Both were funded through the voluntary contributions of private developers to the City's Public Art Reserve fund.

### MEANDER

by Becki Chan and Milos Begovic

The Fraser River provided the inspiration for this work that references both the winding paths of the Fraser Delta and a typical dispersion graph of water waves in its design. These 21 modular benches are installed throughout the City in plazas and parks, as well as at festivals and events, during summer months.

### SEWER ACCESS COVERS

by James Harry, Corina Hanson and Yuting "Christine" Wei  
Various locations throughout Richmond

Incorporating art into functional objects and as part of the public realm is an affordable, high-impact method of integrating the arts into everyday life. In response to the Artist Call issued in 2017, nearly 100 designs were received, exploring the themes of Richmond's History, Ecology and Agricultural Sustainability.

## Engaging Artists in Community Public Art Program 🏠👋💬

On January 9, 2017, Council endorsed the following projects for the 2018 Engaging Artists in the Community program, which is funded through the voluntary contributions of private developers to the City's Public Art Reserve Fund

### FANFARE

by Faith Moosang  
Minoru Arenas, 7551 Minoru Gate

*FANFARE* is an artwork comprised of 24 concrete pillars that are wrapped with archival photographs. The work documents a historical timeline of Minoru Arenas and the larger Minoru Park, beginning with the Brighthouse horse racing track that was built and opened in 1909 and ending with a nod to the Heineken House, hosted in the arena during the 2010 Winter Olympic Games. The project was commissioned in partnership with the Richmond Arenas Community Association



### GREAT BLUE HERON

by Donald Gunn and Bryn Finer  
Hamilton McLean Park, 22500 McLean Avenue

This blue powder-coated steel sculpture of a stylized heron was developed through a series of artist-led and hands-on art workshops with school children at the Hamilton Community Centre and Hamilton Elementary School. The sculpture will be installed in 2019 along the pedestrian path in McLean Neighbourhood Park and will offer a place of respite and seating. The project was commissioned in partnership with Hamilton Community Association.

"This project meant a lot to me. It is something to show the community that we care. Also, it tells my family THIS person "existed" for my next generation. Even though we are OLD we all can still GIVE back to society. This project helped us all. WELL DONE."  
- Participant, Minoru Seniors Legacy Stories

### MINORU SENIORS LEGACY STORIES: LOOKING BACK, LOOKING FORWARD

by Catrina Megumi Longmuir  
Minoru Place Activity Centre, 7660 Minoru Gate

This project celebrates the history of Minoru Seniors Society, from its humble beginnings at Murdoch Centre to the opening of the new Seniors Centre within the Minoru Centre for Active Living. The artist engaged seniors at Minoru Place Activity Centre to share their stories, conducting digital storytelling workshops and compiling stories into films, a booklet and website. The project can be viewed at [www.minorulegacystories.wordpress.com](http://www.minorulegacystories.wordpress.com). The project was commissioned in partnership with Minoru Seniors Society.

### TIDE WATER TALES

by Artist's Rendering Tales Collective Inc. (ARTCi)  
Britannia Shipyards National Historic Site, 5180 Westwater Drive

*Tide Water Tales* was an artist residency project by ARTCi. From January to October 2018, the artists researched, documented, performed and created art with the community at the Britannia Shipyards National Historic Site in Steveston. The project sought to engage, capture and share some of the little-known tales of Britannia while celebrating the community's connection to and the impact of the Fraser River on local heritage. The project was commissioned in partnership with Britannia Heritage Shipyard Society.



Great Blue Heron,  
Donald Gunn and Bryn Finer



Fanfare,  
Faith Moosang



Minoru Stories,  
Catrina Megumi Longmuir



## Public Art Education and Engagement Program

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

### 2018 ART AT WORK SYMPOSIUM: IGNITING CONNECTIONS Richmond Cultural Centre, 7700 Minoru Gate

Presented in partnership with the Richmond Art Gallery Association and the Canadian Artists' Representation/Le Front des artistes canadiens (CARFAC) British Columbia, Richmond's fifth arts symposium, Art At Work, provided professional development opportunities for local artists and others working in the cultural sector. The goals of the symposium are to:

- learn about and share ways artists and other creative professionals are engaging community as part of their practice;
- 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.

The symposium had 30 registered attendees, 20 special guests and 14 representatives of cultural organizations who led, participated in and attended a full day of panel discussions, break-out sessions and networking. The symposium attracted artists and arts professionals both locally and regionally.



Art at Work Symposium



Pop Up Radio, Culture Days



Bus Tour

### ART AT WORK WORKSHOP SERIES

This series of three professional development workshops is a joint collaboration with the Richmond Art Gallery. The workshops and events are designed to provide artists with the knowledge and skills required for pursuing a professional arts practice in the fields of public, visual and community arts. In 2018, the following free workshops were presented by Public Art:

- **Taxes for Artists:** led by Jessica Somers, CPA, CGA. Attendance 30.
- **How to Apply to Public Art Calls:** Guidance and Tips: led by Elisa Yon, Public Art Project Coordinator. Attendance: 15.



## CHILDREN'S ARTS FESTIVAL: SOO-GEE-GHET ART ACTIVITY

by Sharon Brass

Richmond Cultural Centre Plaza, 7700 Minoru Gate

Sharon Brass is the wife of the late Tsimshian artist, Victor Reece (1946–2010) who designed *Soo-Gee-Ghet*, the totem pole located in the Richmond Cultural Centre Plaza. Sharon created paper cardboard templates of salmon and whale shapes and invited children to colour and create mobiles with string. Indigenous stories were shared during the activities.



## PUBLIC ART BUS TOURS

Participants of all ages joined staff, guest artists and curators for these free fully-subscribed bus tours.

- **National Indigenous Day, June 23, 2018:** In collaboration with the and led by Gulf of Georgia Cannery and Pathways Aboriginal Youth Program participants visited public artworks by Indigenous artists including Susan Point, Thomas Cannell, Rebecca Belmore and Raymond Boisjoly. Attendance: 15.
- **Doors Open in Steveston, June 2, 2018:** Eric Fiss, Public Art Planner, led an engaging tour and participants were introduced to new public artworks in Steveston Village and the Waterfront Neighbourhood. Attendance: 20.
- **Culture Days, September 29, 2018:** Musquem Elder, Jim Kew, and Public Art Planner, Biliiana Velkova, led a tour of artworks by contemporary indigenous artists including Susan Point, Thomas Cannel, Rebecca Belmore and Raymond Boisjoly. Attendance: 36.

## 2018 RPAAC MEMBERS:

Jennifer Heine, Chair

Mackenzie Biggar, Vice Chair

Glen Andersen

Samantha Kim Herrera

Rebecca Lin

Vicki Lingle

Shawne MacIntyre

Hall Owens

Sheng Zhao

Council Liaison: Councillor Linda McPhail

## 2018 CULTURE DAYS: ON BEAT POP-UP RADIO STATION

by Richmond Youth Media Lab Program

Richmond Cultural Centre Plaza, 7700 Minoru Gate

On Beat FM was a pop-up radio station produced in collaboration with the Richmond Youth Media Lab Program to animate the Minoru Plaza during Culture Days. Special guest radio hosts broadcasted live from the plaza to play music selected by local Richmond youth and conduct interviews with artists, locals and cultural groups. They also promoted other Culture Days events happening throughout Richmond. Community members and visitors were invited to tune in to a shortwave radio signal at 107.9 FM.

## 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.









Arts Centre children's visual art class

## Richmond Arts Centre

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

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

The Richmond Arts Centre is also home to the Children's Arts Festival and hosts the Bamboo Theatre and Cinevolution Media Arts components of the Richmond World Festival.

### Arts Education Programs

The Richmond Arts Centre continues to develop and diversify its arts education offerings to meet the growing community demand for high quality arts instruction. The programs developed and offered in 2018 ensured the community had affordable access to a strong base of introductory and beginner arts education programs as well as an increased number of higher-level learning opportunities.

In 2018, the Arts Centre embarked on a significant review of its service delivery models including the immensely popular dance programs. By responding to feedback from participant and instructor surveys, discussions and staff reviews, the Arts Centre can better ensure activities meet the highest quality of standards and practices.

In addition to classes in ballet, tap, jazz and musical theatre, the Arts Centre is

### ARTS EDUCATION PROGRAMS BY THE NUMBERS:

- 400+** courses
- 7,232** registered students
- 1,184** waitlisted
- 30+** professional instructors
- 75,082+** visits

home to two dance companies: the Richmond Youth Dance Company and the Richmond Adult Dance Company.

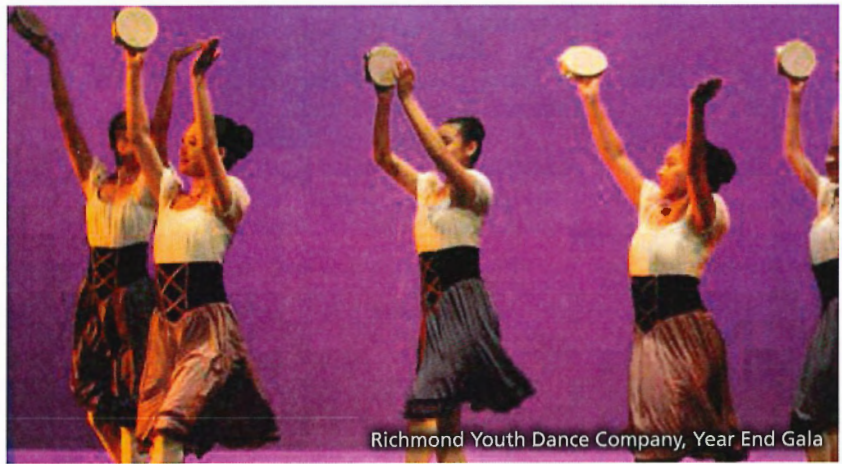
The Richmond Arts Centre's School-Year Dance Program began work on a strategic planning initiative with a survey sent to more than 400 parents and students to solicit feedback and opinions as a key component of the planning process. 164 complete responses were received. From these responses:

- 90% said instructors are a combination of knowledgeable, friendly and professional
- 100% said that they feel the program enhances a combination of academic achievement, mental and physical health, communication and leadership skills, and being a team player.

In June 2018, the Richmond Arts Centre facilitated 32 dancers to participate in the internationally recognized Cecchetti Examinations. This is a key contributor to the Arts Centre's recognition in the professional dance world.



Richmond Potters Club demonstration



Richmond Youth Dance Company, Year End Gala

## Public Presentations

As in past years, there were several public presentations to showcase the talents of Arts Centre students:

### SCHOOL YEAR DANCE RECITAL

In June, 500 dancers presented *Nana's Attic*, works in ballet, tap, jazz and musical theatre to an audience of nearly 1,000 over two performances at Gateway Theatre.

### SCHOOL YEAR DANCE GALA

The third of its kind, the Richmond Adult Dance Company and the Richmond Youth Dance Company performed *What's Inside*, to almost 400 audience members.

### RICHMOND YOUTH DANCE COMPANY SHOWCASE

In March, 140 people enjoyed *Choices* a showcase of performances choreographed by senior instructor Miyouki Jego. The company of 24 youth dancers also performed work reflecting on choices youth are faced with as they enter adulthood.



## MUSIC RECITALS

Filling the Performance Hall in June and December with beautiful music, piano, voice and ukulele students performed for over 300 audience members and 40 participants to celebrate their achievements.

## RICHMOND ARTS AWARDS

The Richmond Youth Dance Company performed on the City Hall Plaza stage for arriving guests and dignitaries at the tenth annual ceremony at Richmond City Hall.

## STUDENT ART SHOWCASE

This visual arts showcase curated by the Visual Arts and Ceramic Technician, exhibited the talents of students enrolled in the Spring and Fall 2018 term, from pre-school to adult.

## Community Outreach



### ART AND MENTAL HEALTH

In 2018, the Arts Centre partnered with Pathways Clubhouse by hiring an arts technician assistant who helped with setting up classes and maintaining the art supplies of Visual Arts programs.

### COMMUNITY ART EXHIBITIONS

The Richmond Arts Centre leads the selection of local artist exhibitions at the Richmond Cultural Centre, Gateway Theatre and Thompson Community Centre. In 2018, City Centre Community Centre and South Arm Community Centre were added to the exhibition circuit.

This program facilitated exhibitions by the following groups and individual artists:

- New Primary Colours School of Art and Design
- Riverside Art Circle
- Richmond Photo Cub
- Black History Month
- Richmond Artists Guild
- Richmond Photo Club
- Art About Finn Slough
- Cathay Photo Club
- Cathy Kluthe and Choices Arts School
- Jared Washam
- Jenja Macintyre
- Richmond Chinese Artist Club
- Richmond Potters Club
- Steveston London Secondary School students
- Richmond Arts Centre students.



"I can spend time with my friends. Art Truck is the only time when all my worries go away. It's one of the best things ever."  
 — Brighthouse Participant



Art Truck Program Participants, Brighthouse Elementary

### ART TRUCK SCHOOL YEAR COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAM

From four elementary schools in 2017, to six in 2018 (Cook, Tomsett, Grauer, General Currie, Blundell, and Brighthouse), the growth of the Art Truck program allowed more students facing barriers to access high quality after-school arts education. More than 340 participants at these schools participated in a variety of classes including Cartooning, Musical Theatre and Media Arts, all led by instructors from the Richmond Arts Centre

The support of the Arts Centre, Community Centres, SD38 and Vancouver Coastal Health enabled the Art Truck Outreach Program to achieve the following goals:

#### Goals

- Increase participation in physical activity during after school hours in children age 8-12 years who may have barriers to participate in regular community programming
- Increase the number of positive adult connections/interactions to help foster school connectedness
- Increase self-expression, and build skills, confidence and the ability to think creatively
- Increase art education, art literacy, art appreciation and public art awareness in the youth population





Richmond Chinese Artists Club

## RESIDENT ART GROUPS

The Richmond Arts Centre is home to some of the city's most established community arts organizations. Throughout the year, these groups provide workshops, exhibitions and demonstrations for their members as well as participate in community events such as Culture Days. Signature group events for the public include the Resident Art Group Showcase, Potters Club winter and spring sales as well as the Richmond Gem and Mineral Society art markets.

As a new feature, framed information posters at the Richmond Arts Centre entrance in highlight the groups and help them attract members.

Resident Art Groups at the Richmond Arts Centre:

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

## Special Events

### ART ABOUT FINN SLOUGH

From April 11–15, the 18th annual art exhibition in the Performance Hall featured a record 75 artists and 173 pieces representing photography, writing, painting and ceramics. The show was viewed by more than 400 visitors. Children were also invited to create works for display.

Keynote speaker Dr. Lenore Newman, Canada Research Chair in Food Security and Environment at the University of the Fraser Valley, spoke about her own Finnish fishing roots and the relationship of land to food, water to food, and land to water, both globally and locally. Musicians Kevin Craig and Simon Casey accompanied the talk.

This year, *Art about Finn Slough* also displayed work in the Upper Rotunda Gallery from April 3–20 in a parallel exhibition, *Birds and Boats*.

## 2018 CHILDREN'S ARTS FESTIVAL FUN FACTS

- 200+ Artists
- 9,000+ Attendees
- 21 Schools
- 40+ Artists
- 76 Volunteers



Children's Arts Festival



Children's Arts Festival

### CHILDREN'S ARTS FESTIVAL

The 10th annual Children's Arts Festival was held on February 12–18, at the Richmond Library/Cultural Centre, Minoru Place Activity Centre and Minoru Plaza.

The event celebrated its 10th anniversary with a fun-filled public day of creativity and entertainment on Family Day, February 12. Attendees of all ages wandered through multiple zones, enjoyed performances and participated in hands-on arts and crafts 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.

In celebration of the 10th anniversary, local children were invited to participate by creating old fashioned arcade games out of recycled materials and by participating in the feature Circus West production. A first for this year was the inclusion of a school with financial barriers to attend the Festival under full subsidy. Thanks to support from Kin's Farm Market, these students enjoyed one of the school days free of charge. This was also the final year working with founding Artistic Director, Debbie Tobin.

### GRAND Plié

In recognition of International Dance Day on April 27, the Arts Centre hosted the third annual *Grand Plié* event. With 25 participants in attendance, dancers were led through a free mini barre class by senior dance instructor Miyouki Jego in the Dance Studio. The event provided an opportunity for participants to learn some of the many benefits of dance in an accessible and enjoyable environment.

### Community Partners

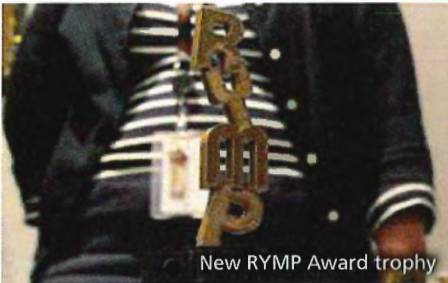
In 2018, the Arts Centre partnered with the following community organizations and city departments to increase the community's access to arts program opportunities: City Centre Community Centre, Richmond West Community Centre, Thompson Community Centre, Gateway Theatre, South Arm Community Centre, Cambie Community Centre, eleven Resident Art Groups of the Richmond Arts Centre, Vancouver Cantonese Opera Society, City of Richmond Parks Department, Richmond Public Library, Richmond Delta Youth Orchestra, Pathways Clubhouse, Richmond Public Health, School District #38, Richmond Museum, Richmond Art Gallery, Minoru Place Activity Centre, Lansdowne Mall, Cowell Auto Group, IKEA, Kins Farm Market, New Primary Colour School of Arts and Design, Made In BC, Lifecycles Non Profit Institute and Finn Slough Artists.





**RICHMOND MEDIA LAB  
BY THE NUMBERS:**

- 30** Richmond Youth Media Lab (RYMP) members
- 2,641** hours RYMP members spent at Media Lab
- 58** Media Lab courses
- 284** registrations for Media Lab courses
- 25** waitlisted for Media Lab courses



The award designer said, "Wow, this is the first time I've ever printed one of my designs!" and program members unanimously adored the results.

## 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 eighth year as a signature offering of the Richmond Media Lab. RYMP members gain skills in media arts and built connections in the community, with a focus on asset development. In 2018, a total of 30 program members, 120 guests and 21 adults (including youth workers and professional artists) spent 2,641 hours in the Media Lab and at community outreach events.

The Media Lab, together with Richmond Addictions Services Society, secured a \$5,000 Vancouver Coastal Health grant to fund a new 'Artepreneurship' project to help RYMP members create a business model and website to offer their services in media arts to the general public. From January to March, youth made important budgeting decisions for purchasing new software for the Media Lab and designed a website and a pamphlet advertising their media arts services. After the program, an adult facilitator worked with them to help complete the grant report and reflect on the venture. The program can now sustain itself moving forward.

At the RYMP end-of-year party, the progression of program members is noted, and celebrated. This year, three program members advanced from "Analog" to "Digital" member status (completing 500 hours in the program) and two program members reached the final "Quantum" membership level. The most



## AWARD-WINNING RYMP MEMBERS

### 2018 RICHMOND ARTS AWARDS

RYMP member Emily May won the Youth Arts Award and her fellow RYMP member Shawn Chang was a finalist in the same category.

### WHAT ARE YOU DOING RICHMOND? PHOTO CHALLENGE

RYMP member Botao Chen won first prize for his photo submission to the Culture Days photography contest, hosted by Minoru Place Activity Centre Artist-In-Residence, Sylvia Grace Borda.

exciting aspect of the 2018 RYMP Awards was the introduction of a new trophy design by a RYMP member, 3D printed with assistance from Richmond Public Library Launchpad staff.

RYMP members participated in guided field trips to EA Games and the CBC Newsroom, completed short video public service announcements and participated in a variety of community events and initiatives, including the following:

### SMART FUND 20-YEAR CELEBRATION

Two RYMP members took part in the 20-year anniversary of the Vancouver Coastal Health SMART Fund, the primary funding source for RYMP, by preparing and presenting a video to explain the benefits that youth receive from participating in the program. The video was well received, and the youth were also invited to document the event through digital photography and video.

### RICHMOND REMEMBERS

On Sunday, November 11, five RYMP youth volunteered to be the film crew for the Richmond Remembers Remembrance Day ceremony at City Hall.

### MODULAR HOUSING PSA

In partnership with Richmond's Poverty Response Committee, RYMP members produced a video to support a proposed modular housing project in Richmond.

### DOORS OPEN: DROP-IN

The Media Lab participated in Doors Open with a GIF Creation workshop open to the public. Two RYMP members volunteered to help facilitate this drop-in activity for 55 members of the public.

### YOUTH ART MART

Back by popular demand, the fifth Youth Art Mart was held on December 8 in the Richmond Cultural Centre Atrium. RYMP members created a variety of poster designs to recruit vendors and advertise the event, provided DJ services during the Art Mart, and additional promotion by sharing photos and information through social media. A total of 10 youth vendors signed up to share their work.



RYMP Awards

"I don't really fit in at other clubs ... But I feel good here."  
- RYMP member





Careers in Media Arts



Filmmaking



Painting Culture Centre steps for Pride Week

## Programs & Activities

### MEDIA ARTS EDUCATION COURSES

Throughout 2018, more than 250 students took classes in a range of topics, including Digital Photography, Graphic Design, Cinematography, Filmmaking, Animation, Digital Illustration, Coding and Video Game Design.

### YOUTH WEEK: CAREERS IN MEDIA ARTS

This year's annual event allowed youth to participate in a free speaker series with professionals working in graphic design, webcomic creation and publishing, and voice acting with well-known voice actor Richard Newman. The event attracted 29 attendees.

### PRIDE WEEK

The Media Lab and RYMP youth, for the second year, painted both entrance stairways of the Library/Cultural Centre building with the Pride rainbow colours. Youth also co-hosted a Pride-themed button making event with the Richmond Public Library.



Pop-up Radio Station

### CULTURE DAYS: ONBEAT INTERACTIVE DROP-IN & ONBEAT FM POP-UP RADIO STATION

The Media Lab hosted a drop-in digital beat sequencing tutorial open to the public while simultaneously delivering radio programming for Richmond's Culture Station in partnership with RYMP, Richmond Cultural Centre, Richmond Museum and Richmond Public Art Program.



RYMP drop-in



Media Lab during Culture Days

### SMOKING CESSATION PSA

The Media Lab partnered with Richmond Addictions Services Society and Vancouver Coastal Health to deliver PSA Creation Workshops to youth participating in the Smoking Cessation PSA Contest.

### MEDIA CREATION SERVICES

Media Lab staff, often with the participation of RYMP members, provided media creation services for a range of clients including City programs and community partners in 2018. The Media Lab also offers video equipment as well as the lab computers and editing software. Here is a list of projects completed:

- Richmond Youth Dance Company Recital video and event photography for
- Physical Literacy Street Team video
- 2018 Richmond Election Campaign animation
- 2018 Arts & Culture Update video
- 2018 Museums & Heritage Update video
- Firehall No. 1 video
- Art Truck Program video
- 2018 Richmond Arts Awards Ceremony slide show animation
- *Hope Beyond Homelessness* video (Richmond Poverty Response Committee)

### Partners and Funders

In 2018, the Media Lab confirmed the ongoing support of presenting sponsor Viva Pharmaceuticals Ltd. and Vancouver Coastal Health's SMART Fund grant which was secured through a partnership with Richmond Addictions Services Society. Ook Enterprises Ltd. provided dedicated wifi, an internal storage network and technical support to the Media Lab.

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





Lunar New Year Celebration, City Centre Community Centre

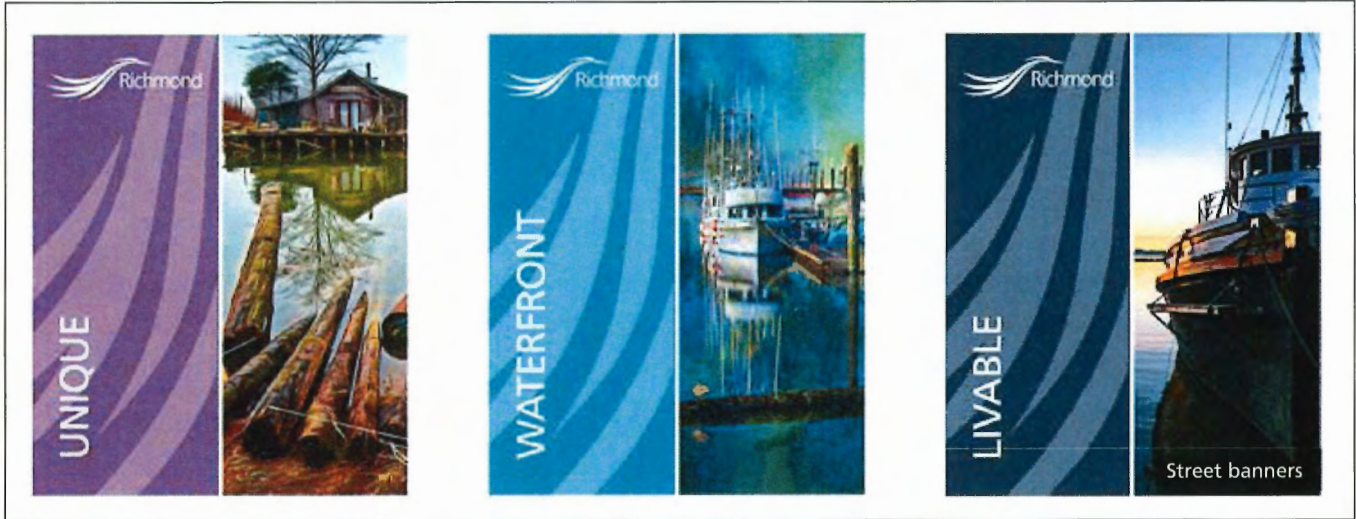
## Beyond Arts Services

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 Programs, Community Social Development and Community Recreation.

### 2018 Street Banner Contest 🏠👤💬

The 2018 street banner contest, organized and coordinated by Richmond's Parks Department, was launched on August 31, 2017 and concluded with the banner unveiling ceremony on January 30, 2018. The contest attracted more than 200 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 Beth Belcourt, Vladimir Cheinman, Ron Coutts, Crystal Chan, Eugene Hernandez, Bebe Zhang and Victor Jacinto.



## Community Associations 🤝💬

Richmond’s Community Centres and Minoru Place Activity Centre, jointly operated by the City and Community Associations, play a vital role in the continuum of arts programming in the City. In 2018, over 840 visual arts, dance and music courses attracted over 7758 participants. As well, arts activities are embedded into childcare programs offered by community centres.

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.

## City Centre Community Centre ❤️🏠🤝💬

City Centre Community Centre is featured as an illustrative example of arts programming in community centres. Richmond’s first truly urban community centre is the site of several colourful community-based public art works (pages 24 and 26), as well as a leader in community arts programming. Here are a few highlights from 2018:

### THE HARVEST FULL MOON PROJECT

Artist-led workshops in lantern making, harvest flower arranging, vegetable lantern carving and moon cake making were well-received and filled with members of the community of all ages. At an evening Celebration on September 22, visitors enjoyed live music, refreshments and a range of activities including paper lantern craft and button making. The event culminated in a community lantern procession around the Minoru Park lakes led by the Lion Dancers with drums, stilt walker and other unique Harvest Full Moon characters. An estimated 300 community members participated in the event which was supported by 30 volunteers. This was the third annual event which began as a Public Art Engaging Artists in the Community project.



Harvest Full Moon Celebration



### INSTRUMENT MINI PETTING ZOO

One week before winter music programs began, approximately 300 children and families visited City Centre to play, touch and feel a variety of instruments for children’s music classes, as well as enjoy short performances by the music instructors. Music program registration saw a significant increase.

### HOLIDAYS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Free all-ages events included a classical music concert on BC Family Day, Lunar New Year Celebrations, Father’s Day “Daddy and Me” Ballet class and Culture Days dance workshop.

### ART CAFÉ

Open to all aged 16+, this free, weekly open art studio activity includes free coffee and tea, music and art supplies (including sewing machines). Participants include amateur and professional artists, urban professionals looking for a relaxing outlet, young adults on dates and friends looking for after-dinner fun. Turning Point OARS programs, Richmond Society for Community Living and other social agencies also refer their clients to this free “therapeutic” activity.

### INDIGENOUS DAY CELEBRATION

On Saturday, June 23, City Centre hosted its second annual Indigenous Celebration which started with a traditional welcome by Terry Point, Cultural Educator from the Musqueam First Nation and blessings from Elder Roberta Price. Other artistic offerings included Jonina Kirton, Metis/Icelandic poet; Marissa Nahanee with The Chinook Song Catchers, performing Squamish and Nisga’a dances and art work of Pacific Northwest animals inspired by Christine Mackenzie, Richmond born Coast Salish community visual artist.

### FOOTPRINTS

This youth arts group at City Centre organized a visual arts pop-up gallery to exhibit their photography, animation, embroidery and paint work and the Andante Café during Youth Week to highlight youth artists in the performance arts. The Café attracted approximately 80 people from all generations.



Indigenous Day Celebration

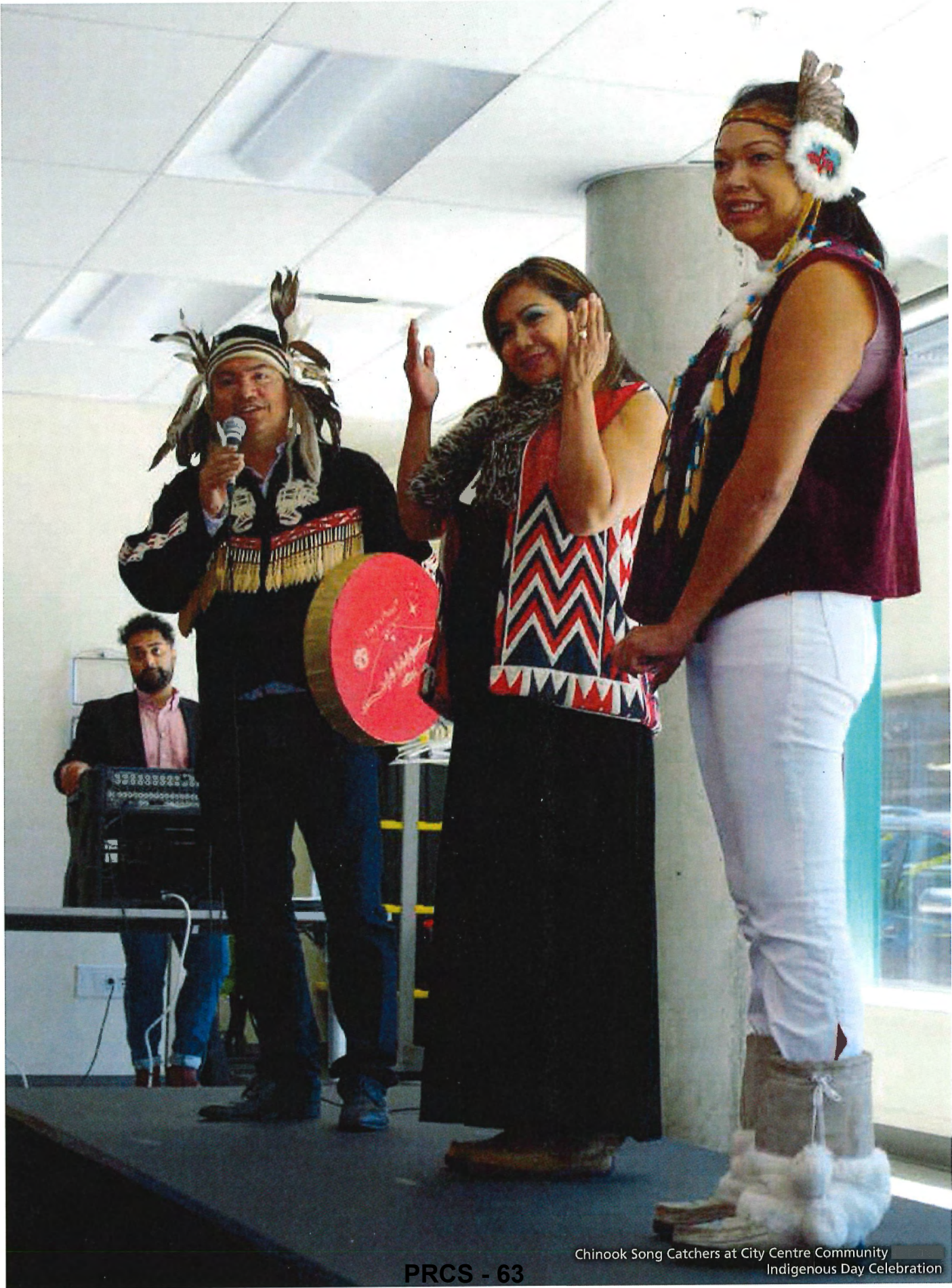


Instrument Mini Petting Zoo



Harvest Full Moon Celebration









*Salt-Water Moon. Joseph Michael Photography*

## 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 and an important local rental venue, home to many recitals, events and performances produced by community and professional organisations. In 2018, the facility drew audiences in excess of 33,000 to more than 152 performances.

The cornerstone of activity is the performing arts company's Signature Series, a six-play season of professional theatre plus a play development program. In addition, the society offers theatre education programs including classes for children and youth in the Gateway Academy.

## Live Professional Theatre

### SIGNATURE SERIES

The Gateway Theatre's 2018 Signature Series productions featured comedy, drama and music and welcomed some of the most talented artists from the Lower Mainland and across Canada.

### SALT-WATER MOON

MainStage, February 15–24, 2018

Gateway proudly presented this acclaimed production from Whynot Theatre and Factory Theatre in Toronto. *Salt-Water Moon* tells the story of two teen lovers on a moonlit night in Coley's Point, Newfoundland in 1924. Jacob has returned home from Toronto and must win back the affections of his former love, Mary, who is now engaged to another man. Written in 1985, *Salt-Water Moon* is one of the most popular plays in the Canadian canon. In this bold minimalist rendering, the play was presented with only the barest of set and costume elements.

### I LOST MY HUSBAND

Studio B, March 15–24, 2018

“Fresh and imaginative”  
- Audience Member

The world premiere of the English translation of *J'ai perdu mon mari* by Catherine Léger was a highlight of 2018, and prior to opening night, Gateway sold out every seat in the house. In *I Lost My Husband*, Gateway favourite Meghan Gardiner played Evelyn, a small business owner who loses her

husband to an attractive young bartender in a karaoke bar bet. Afterwards, she's not sure she wants him back. Diane Brown, Artistic Director of Ruby Slippers Theatre, directed a stellar cast in this hilarious and subversive feminist comedy.

### NINE DRAGONS

MainStage, April 12–21, 2018

Gateway closed the 2017–2018 Season with the world premiere production of Giovanni Sy's *Nine Dragons*, a stylish mystery set in 1920's colonial Hong Kong. *Nine Dragons* tells the story of Tommy Lam, a brilliant detective who is called to catch a serial killer terrorizing Kowloon. He finds himself in peril when the prime suspect turns out to be the son of one of Hong Kong's wealthiest families. *Nine Dragons* was part of a successful three-city tour to Calgary, Winnipeg and Richmond. The production won a Jessie Richardson Award for Outstanding New Play.



*I Lost My Husband.*  
Photo by David Cooper



*Nine Dragons.*  
Photo by Tim Nguyen



*Les Belles-soeurs.*  
Photo by David Cooper

### LES BELLES-SOEURS

MainStage, September 27–October 6, 2018

“...moments of terrific  
theatricality and a cast to die for”  
- The Georgia Straight

Gateway launched its 2018–2019 Season with the BC professional premiere of Michel Tremblay's iconic comedy-drama *Les Belles-soeurs*. When this play premiered 50 years ago, it caused a sensation for the way that it realistically portrayed Montreal working class people, and Tremblay revolutionized Quebec drama with this masterpiece. In this

stunning production directed by Diane Brown, fifteen of the Lower Mainland's finest actresses graced the stage in raucous fashion.





*It's a Wonderful Life.* Photo by David Cooper

### EMPIRE OF THE SON

Studio B, November 8–17, 2018

"We thought this was one of your best shows ever"

- Audience Member

Fresh from multiple Canadian and international tours, *Empire of the Son* opened the Studio Season with a sold-out run. This multimedia monologue tells the deeply personal story of playwright/performer Tetsuro Shigematsu's relationship with his late father Akira.

### IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE

MainStage, December 6–31, 2018

Director Peter Jorgensen presented a fresh, new adaptation of *It's a Wonderful Life* featuring music from the 1920s, '30s, and '40s. A ten-piece orchestra played beloved standards from George and Ira Gershwin, Kurt Weill, Maxwell Anderson and Ivor Novello. *It's a Wonderful Life* tells the story of everyman George Bailey who, on one despair-filled Christmas Eve, meets his guardian angel. George is given the gift of seeing how many lives he has touched and how much richer the world is for him having been part of it.

“My favourite part about camp is that we are co-operative and we get taught things and learn new stuff very fast. I also like how we can add our own ideas into *Blast Off!* to make it camp a lot more fun.”

– Musical Theatre Camp student

## Theatre Education

### GATEWAY ACADEMY

Gateway Academy offered process-focussed theatre arts classes for students ages 6–13 in Musical Theatre, Acting, Speech and Singing. The season concluded in April with year-end presentations in Studio B.

As in previous years, Gateway ran camps over the summer, one resulting in a two-night production of a new, specially-commissioned musical *Blast Off!* on the MainStage.

### SECONDARY SCHOOL OUTREACH

The focus of this program is on theatre arts career opportunities, as well as developing an awareness of what is involved in producing/presenting a professional theatre production. In February, April, September and December, secondary school theatre students were invited to join the Gateway for two days: first for a behind-the-scenes tour prior to the opening of a Mainstage show accompanied by Q&A with the theatre’s Artistic Director and staff, and a curriculum-linked workshop; and second, for a matinee performance of the show, followed by an exclusive post-show talkback.

### CONSERVATORY

From February to April, Gateway’s Conservatory program provided nine participants (ages 16–24) with six workshops taught by professional artists. Workshop topics ranged from Directing to Personal Branding. A new Conservatory cohort of eight participants began taking workshops in September and will explore Text and Movement and Solo Autobiographical Playwriting among other themes.



Gateway Academy students in MainStage Musical Theatre Camp. Photo by Victor Wang



## 2018 RENTAL CLIENTS

- BC Chinese Music Association
- Canada-China Cultural Devel. Assoc.
- Canadian Forum of Russian-speaking Jewry
- Children's Choir of Richmond
- Circle Bright Productions
- City of Richmond—UROC Awards
- City of Richmond Engineering
- Dance Co
- Defy Gravity Dance Company
- Department of Canadian Heritage
- Grand Hale Marine
- Music Encore Concert Society
- Music of Deal Productions
- Mustard Seed Children Theatre
- Natural Physique & Athletics Association
- Pacific International Youth Music Society
- Philippine Cultural Society of BC
- Ping Academy of Dance
- Playwrights Theatre Centre
- Pythagoras Academy
- Rice and Beans Theatre
- RichCity Idol
- Richmond Academy of Dance
- Richmond Arts Centre
- Richmond School District
- Richmond Youth Concert Band
- Sun Commercial Real Estate
- The Arts Connection
- TMD Martial Arts
- Vancouver Academy of Dance
- Vancouver Tagore Society
- Vancouver Youth Pianist Club

## MENTORING OPPORTUNITIES

Gateway offered five apprenticeship opportunities for students and emerging artists during the production of *It's A Wonderful Life*. Working theatre professionals provided mentorship in technical direction, production assistance, stage management and acting as well as led two workshops: Production and Personal Branding.

Gateway Academy also hired emerging designers to develop their skills on a full production in July. Six creative team members worked alongside faculty to create the show with the students. In addition, eight senior students volunteered as class assistants during the year, taking on new responsibilities under the guidance of Academy faculty.

## Community Rental Events

The Gateway Theatre continues to play a pivotal role in hosting a wide variety of events for community and professional organizations throughout the year. In 2018, close to 40 organizations presented shows and events at the Gateway and collectively attracted audiences of approximately 15,000, involving every age group. Some of the most popular events included *Aladdin* by Children's Theatre of Richmond, TMD Martial Arts Black Belt Ceremony and recitals to celebrate the achievements of young artists organized by the Richmond School District, The Arts Connection, Richmond Academy of Dance, Richmond Arts Centre, Pacific International Youth Music Society and RichCity Idol.



Photo by Yunxuan Pan

# APPENDIX 1

## 2018 Arts and Culture Grant Program

The following 17 organizations received \$112,059 in financial support:

### OPERATING ASSISTANCE

Canadian YC Chinese Orchestra Association .....	\$6,450
Cinevolution Media Arts Society.....	\$9,875
Community Arts Council of Richmond .....	\$9,300
Richmond Arts Coalition .....	\$9,400
Richmond Community Orchestra and Chorus Association .....	\$9,200
Richmond Delta Youth Orchestra .....	\$9,875
Richmond Music School Society .....	\$9,200
Richmond Potters' Club .....	\$6,000
Richmond Singers .....	\$7,450
Richmond Youth Choral Society .....	\$9,659
Textile Arts Guild of Richmond .....	\$2,750

### PROJECT ASSISTANCE

Philippine Cultural Arts Society of BC .....	\$3,700
Richmond Art Gallery Association .....	\$3,900
Steveston Historical Society .....	\$2,900
Tickle Me Pickle Theatre Sports Improv Society.....	\$4,600
Vancouver Cantonese Opera.....	\$3,900
Vancouver Tagore Society.....	\$3,900



## APPENDIX 2

### How Art Works

The following five themes comprise the How Art Works campaign:

#### ART'S IMPACT ON STUDENTS

Research has proven that the arts have a tremendous impact on our kids. Children who participate in the arts, particularly music, have been shown to be more likely to stay in school, and get better grades in math and science. They're also far more likely to be elected to student boards and be recognized for academic achievement.

That link between arts and academic achievement continues for life. Top scientists are twice as likely as the general public to have an artistic hobby, and Nobel Prize winners are almost three times as likely to participate in the arts.

You might think practical education is the path to success, but keep in mind that creativity is the number one skill that employers are looking for. The arts help people think creatively and solve problems in unexpected ways.

#### HEALTHY LIVING THROUGH ART

One of the most surprising things about art's impact is how it helps not only our happiness, but also our health. Experiencing art can alleviate stress, reduce the likelihood of depression and even boost your immune system by lowering chemicals that cause inflammation that can trigger diabetes, heart attacks and other illnesses.

The arts also have a powerful therapeutic effect. Music has been widely researched in the field of pain management for cancer patients who have reported additional benefits including an increased sense of control, immunity and relaxation. There is also evidence that use of art and music reduces hospital stays.

Music therapy is even being used to rehabilitate people with serious head injuries as it is proven to help them regain the ability to speak.

#### ART STRENGTHENS COMMUNITIES

When we take in culture – a play, book, concert, etc. – that focuses on a social issue or comes from a perspective that differs from our own, we gain a better understanding of humanity and the groups we live amongst. Art helps to break down boundaries by growing our awareness, tolerance and compassion.

This helps us to be more civic and socially minded. In fact, people who engage in the arts are more likely to volunteer. A recent study of youth found that drama in schools significantly increased students' capacities to communicate, relate to each other and to respect minorities.

Cultural festivals promote celebration and pride as well as awareness of cultural differences. Because dance, music, photography and other visual arts transcend language, they can bridge barriers between cultural, racial and ethnic groups.

Moreover, the arts are one of the primary means of public dialogue. Communities talk about and express difficult issues, emotions and the otherwise inexpressible via the arts.

### A STRONGER ECONOMY THROUGH ART

Arts and culture play an important role in promoting economic goals through local regeneration, developing talent, creating jobs, spurring innovation and attracting tourists.

Statistics Canada estimates that cultural industries (including broadcasting, film and video, interactive media, design, newspapers and crafts) contribute an estimated \$53.2 billion in direct contribution to Canada's GDP and more than 700,000 jobs. That's ten times larger than the estimated economic impact of sports (\$4.5 billion), and well over the impact of utilities (\$35 billion), and the combined impact of agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting (\$23 billion).

Cultural industries can actually turn ordinary cities into "destination cities" giving them a competitive advantage for cultural tourism. And tourists who come for the arts stay longer and spend more money than the average tourist.

### ART IMPROVES QUALITY OF LIFE

The mental and physiological ways that the arts contribute to positive health and well-being for older adults are only now beginning to be understood. Learning new skills when creating a work of art (be it visual or performing) not only provides a greater sense of confidence and control, it can even help our immune systems fight infections. Among the elderly, those that take part in creative pursuits are less likely to experience mild cognitive impairment. These activities are thought to maintain neuronal function, stimulate neural growth and recruit neural pathways to maintain cognitive function. This is particularly true of those that actively create works of art. Music appears to be especially beneficial when complemented with standard therapies in treating everything from depression to cancer to Parkinson's. Moreover, the arts can provide opportunities to meet others, create together and share experiences, all of which can improve perceived health status, chronic pain and sense of community.



## APPENDIX 3

### 2018 Richmond Public Art commissioned in 2018 scheduled for completion in 2019–20

#### CIVIC PUBLIC ART PROJECTS:

- *Typhas*, Charlotte Wall and Puya Khalili
- Clement Track and Field Integrated Art Fence by Janet Wang
- *Nikkei Memorial Project*, Hapa Collaborative
- *Wind Flowers*, Alyssa Schwann and Michael Seymour
- *Wake*, Tait Waterfront Park, Aaron and Christian Zenga
- *Pergola Garden*, Polymetis

#### PRIVATE PUBLIC ART PROJECTS:

- *Let's Roll*, Charlotte Wall and Marie Khouri
- *Water off a Duck's Back*, Douglas Coupland
- *Volo*, Michael Nichol Yahgulanuus
- *Lily Tree*, Devon Knowles
- *The Capstan*, Veronica and Edwin Dam de Nogales





“WHEN CREATIVITY  
MELDS TOGETHER  
WITH GLOBAL  
ISSUES, I BELIEVE  
YOU CAN BRING THE  
WORLD TOGETHER”

– Virgil Abloh,  
fashion designer



City of Richmond

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**PRCS - 74**



# City of Richmond

## Report to Committee

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

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

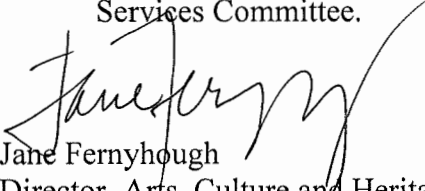
**Re:** Draft Richmond Arts Strategy 2019-2024

**Date:** April 2, 2019

**File:** 11-7000-01/2019-Vol 01

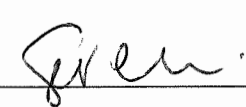


### Staff Recommendations

1. That the Draft Richmond Arts Strategy 2019-2024, included as Attachment 1 of the staff report titled "Draft Richmond Arts Strategy 2019-2024," dated April 2, 2019, from the Director, Arts, Culture and Heritage Services, be adopted for the purpose of seeking stakeholder and public feedback on the strategy.
2. That the Final Richmond Arts Strategy 2019-2024, including the results of the stakeholder and public feedback, be reported back to the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee.



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

Att. 1

REPORT CONCURRENCE		
ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER
Communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Community Social Development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Recreation Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Development Applications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Policy Planning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Economic Development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Parks	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
REVIEWED BY STAFF REPORT / AGENDA REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE	INITIALS: 	APPROVED BY SAO 



## Staff Report

### Origin

In July of 2004, the first Richmond Arts Strategy was endorsed by Council to guide actions and development to make Richmond a city with a thriving cultural life, where the opportunities for participation in the arts at all levels are accessible, where artists feel they have a place and are seen as contributing to the community, where cultural industries are welcomed and where cultural activity is visible and supported.

The updated Richmond Arts Strategy 2012-2017 was endorsed by Council in August of 2012; the strategy was developed with the participation of a community stakeholder Steering Committee to facilitate the growth of the arts in Richmond by creating an environment and culture in the City that ensures the arts play a strong role in placemaking, community building, tourism and economic development.

As the Richmond Arts Strategy 2012-2017 reached the end of its intended life; Council approved a one-time additional level for funding to develop a new Strategy. In January 2018, the Richmond Arts Strategy Task Group (comprised of arts stakeholders, City staff and community members representing a wide range of sectors, generations and cultural backgrounds) was assembled to provide support and direction in the planning process, and throughout the spring and summer, a wide-ranging community engagement process was implemented to gather feedback from the general public and stakeholders. The draft Richmond Arts Strategy 2019-2024 has been prepared with a high degree of community participation, taking a collaborative and holistic approach to advance the arts in Richmond.

On July 23, 2018, a Report to Council was submitted to provide a progress update and describe the Guiding Principles for the Draft Richmond Arts Strategy 2019-2024; the report provided details regarding the extensive community engagement which took place as part of the project process.

The purpose of this report is to present the Draft Richmond Arts Strategy 2019-2024 (Attachment 1), as well as the next steps for the project. Pending Council's adoption of the Draft Strategy, City staff will seek further feedback from the public and stakeholders and will report back to Council at a later date.

### Analysis

#### Background

Following adoption of the Guiding Principles for the Richmond Arts Strategy 2019-2024 by Council on July 23, 2018, City staff and partners developed the Vision, Strategic Directions, Objectives and Supporting Actions for the Draft Strategy that are being presented within this report. (Attachment 1).

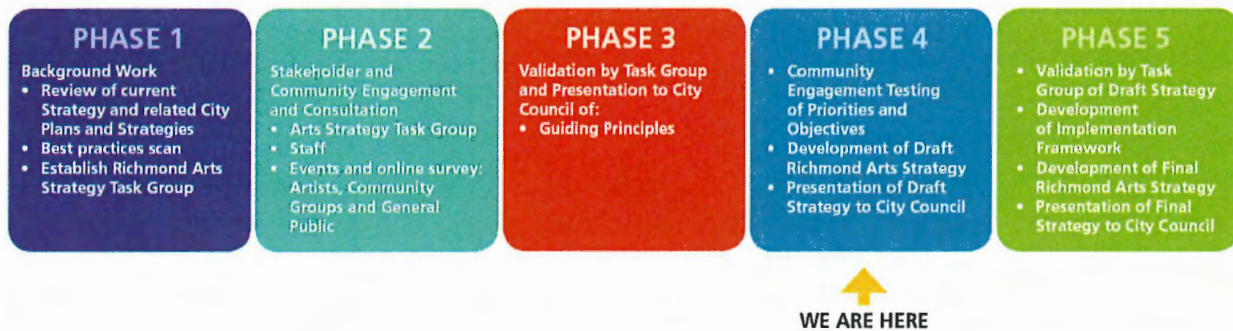
Building on the learnings and success of the Richmond Arts Strategy 2012-2017, this strategy aims to align with current and projected community needs. The purpose of the Arts Strategy is to:

- understand the current state of the arts in Richmond;
- provide a blueprint for the City over the next five years with key principles and criteria for decision-making to enable the broadest possible access to, and awareness of, the City’s diverse arts opportunities to enrich quality of life through engagement with the arts;
- provide strategies to integrate the arts into the broader community with a collaborative plan that strengthens arts groups to meet community needs; and
- through engagement, access the wisdom of the broader community to champion the provision of arts activities, facilities and opportunities as integral and essential to a healthy society.

Development Process and Community Engagement Results

The diagram below provides a summary of the Richmond Arts Strategy 2019-2024 development process. City staff are currently in Phase 4, which includes development of the Draft Richmond Arts Strategy 2019-2024 and presentation of the Draft Strategy to Council for adoption.

This following diagram is a summary of the Richmond Arts Strategy 2019-2024 development process:



An extensive community engagement process that consisted of several Richmond Arts Strategy Task Group meetings, internal and external stakeholder interviews and workshops, as well as consultation and engagement with the general public (via an online survey and more than 30 pop-up kiosks, sounding boards and activities) provided data and feedback which was utilized to develop the vision, guiding principles and five strategic directions for the Draft Richmond Arts Strategy 2019-2024.

Similar to the previous Richmond Arts Strategy, the community engagement revealed that a focus on improving and increasing arts and cultural facilities and expanding public awareness and understanding of the arts are still important factors when it comes to the arts for Richmond residents. The recent community engagement has also uncovered that residents consider Richmond’s multicultural profile to be a point of pride and would like to see the arts reflect that diversity with an emphasis on increasing accessibility to arts experiences, particularly festivals.



The Richmond Arts Strategy 2019-2024 identifies the challenges and clarifies the needs, both within the arts community and in the general community, to facilitate the growth of the arts in Richmond by creating an environment and culture in the city that ensures the arts play a strong role in placemaking, community building, tourism and more. Moreover, the arts are understood as vital both to individual well-being and as a way to transcend language in working towards intercultural harmony.

The strategy calls upon the City to continue to play a number of roles to develop and foster a community-wide approach to developing the arts: supporter, presenter, communicator, investor, and facility provider/operator in advancing the arts. Five strategic directions guide the City and its stakeholders' involvement in supporting Richmond's 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.

Under each of these strategic directions, a series of supporting actions are outlined, which have been vetted and supported by the Richmond Arts Strategy Task Group. Opportunities will be sought to integrate the strategic directions and actions with other City policies, strategies, programs and initiatives to advance the arts in Richmond and help make the arts a primary engine for further enhancing Richmond's growth into one of the best places to live, work and play.

An implementation framework for 2019-2024, which will be a living document to be updated annually, is currently being developed. It will serve as a guide for identifying actions, partners and further opportunities as well as monitoring progress and assessing the effectiveness of strategic directions, to ensure that progress is made towards achieving objectives.

### **Funding Considerations**

While many of the initiatives and actions will be achieved through annual work plans and working in collaboration with internal and external partners, some actions will require additional funding. Additional funding required will be obtained through various sources including sponsorships, partnering with Development applications, grants and funding from other levels of government.

Efforts will also be made to leverage civic investment to attract the investment of additional resources, financial and non-financial, in support of the arts sector.

Any capital projects or increases in operating budgets will come forward for Council approval within the Council approved budget process.

### **Financial Impact**

None.

### **Next Steps**

Upon adoption of the Draft Strategy by Council, City staff will seek further feedback from stakeholders and general public through May, 2019:

- Additional input will be sought from Richmond Arts Strategy Task Group which represents stakeholders and public.
- Through targeted emails, news release, board display in Richmond Cultural Centre, posters, etc., the stakeholders and public will be invited to provide feedback on the Draft Richmond Arts Strategy which will be posted online at [howartworks.ca](http://howartworks.ca).

### **Conclusion**

This draft Richmond Arts Strategy 2019-2024, with enthusiastic input from the community, equips Richmond to be an arts destination with a thriving arts community and a rich offering of festivals and events. The Strategy outlines five strategic directions which act as a roadmap to guide actions and work plans.

Upon adoption of the Draft Strategy by Council, City staff will seek further validation from stakeholders and general public. Any feedback received during the validation process will be assessed and used to develop the Final Richmond Arts Strategy 2019-2024, which will be presented to Council at a later date.



Liesl G. Jauk  
Manager Arts Services  
(604-204-8672)

Att. 1: Draft Richmond Arts Strategy 2019-2014









Demonstration by Musqueam artist and knowledge keeper, Debra Sparrow, presented by the Richmond Art Gallery and the Vancouver Arts Colloquium Society's as part of the *Weaving our Way* exhibition.

Photo by Noriko Nasu-Tribball, 2018.

The City of Richmond recognizes the *hənq̓míṇəḥ* speaking peoples on whose traditional lands we live, work and play.

Through our shared commitment to land and place, the City of Richmond's Arts Services seeks to honour the Indigenous legacy of the region and to work together to create opportunities for local Indigenous artists.



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## THE VISION

RICHMOND'S THRIVING ARTS SCENE  
ANIMATES OUR CITY EVERYDAY;  
OFFERS RICH ARTS EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCES,  
FESTIVALS AND EVENTS;  
FOSTERS SOCIAL CONNECTIONS AND WELLNESS;  
BUILDS ARTS AND CULTURE LEADERSHIP; and  
PROVIDES CREATIVE SPACES.

# HIGHLIGHTS

## 1

### **Locally made for today's Richmond.**

The following Richmond Arts Strategy 2019–2024 is rooted in local context. It integrates and acknowledges the opportunities and challenges arising from the rapid growth and changes in Richmond's community profile.

It positions the arts as a means to achieve community goals in economic development, health and well-being, infrastructure and tourism. It builds upon the many riches of Richmond, including its diversity, newcomer population and many natural assets.

## 2

### **Built on a strong foundation and growing, rapidly.**

Richmond's arts and cultural development has seen many accomplishments over the past fourteen years since the first Richmond Arts Strategy in 2004, and from this strong foundation, is now experiencing growth, with a demand for:

- Increasing arts and cultural infrastructure and programming;
- Expanding public awareness and understanding of the value of the arts;
- Positioning Richmond as an arts destination;
- Further reflecting diversity, accessibility and inclusion in arts offerings and spaces; and
- Leveraging the arts and integrating the arts to reach community objectives.

## 3

### **Based on broad community input.**

The findings are evidence-based through broad community-wide participation beyond arts stakeholders, and are supported by the dedication and thoughtful contribution of the 25-member Task Group representing various aspects of community life in Richmond.

Throughout 2018, feedback and ideas were gathered through an online survey, a series of community dialogue events and more than 30 pop-up kiosks and sounding boards across the City. More than 600 individuals provided input through the survey and 500 additional pieces of feedback were gathered through various engagement activities.

Thank you to everyone who shared their views.

## 4

### **Five Major Strategic Directions to lead arts and cultural development over the next five years.**

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



## 5

### **Calls for leadership.**

The City wears many hats in developing arts and culture in Richmond, acting as a supporter, presenter, communicator, investor, and facility operator.

Going forward, advancing on the opportunities and addressing the needs presented in the Strategic Directions depends upon championing the arts, bolstering cultural leadership at grassroots community levels and through continued strong local government commitment.

## 6

### **A Roadmap for Implementation.**

With support of City staff and community partners from across Community Services and other Divisions and from a cross-section of industries. This document prescribes a phased-implementation of the Arts Strategy. All activities will be supported by communications and ongoing engagement to ensure the success of the Strategy.

## 7

### **Indigenous voices and stories will be reflected.**

Richmond's arts and cultural development upholds the Calls to Action of Truth and Reconciliation.

We will work in collaboration with Indigenous peoples to advance this process through the implementation of this Arts Strategy which seeks to honour, celebrate and support the cultural practices of indigenous peoples living in Richmond.

## 8

The following principles will guide the strategic directions:

- **Excellence**
- **Sustainability**
- **Creativity**
- **Accessibility**
- **Inclusivity**
- **Community-building**
- **Celebration**

*Dream Home* created by community members with 2018 Branscombe Artist-in-Residence, Keely O'Brien.







Gateway Theatre is the home of Richmond's only live professional theatre company, staging six annual productions each year.

Photo by David Cooper, 2015; Bridget Esler in *Wizard of Oz*.

# INTRODUCTION



**The City of Richmond recognizes that the arts are integral to vibrant communities.**

Home to an immense cultural mosaic, Richmond is characterized by growth, changing demographics and a diverse arts landscape. The Richmond Arts Strategy represents this diversity and seizes this momentum by identifying the challenges and needs of both the arts community and Richmond as a whole.

Creativity and imagination inspire innovation, which contributes to quality of life and the ability to generate social and economic growth. The arts not only give depth and meaning to our lives — they are cornerstones of social and economic prosperity.

Participation in the arts helps us to get to know each other, celebrate our differences, and impacts our health, economy, and overall well-being in remarkable ways.

The arts make us happier, healthier, better students and better scientists; they help us recover from injury, help us enjoy our later years, and so much more.



The annual Richmond World Festival is a high-energy international showcase of music, food, sport and arts that takes place on the Labour Day weekend.

## WHAT DO WE MEAN BY THE "ARTS" ?

If it feels creative, odds are it counts!

For the purpose of this strategy, "arts" refers to the broad subdivision of culture, composed of many expressive and creative disciplines.

The term commonly encompasses, but is not limited to:

- Visual and applied arts (e.g. painting, print-making, installations; drawing, sculpture, crafts, pottery and ceramics, photography, film and video);
- Performing arts (e.g. theatre, music, song, spoken word, and dance);
- Culinary arts;
- Environmental and land art;
- Interdisciplinary practices;
- Literary
- Media arts; as well as
- community-engaged arts practices.

## OUR PURPOSE

### Why carry out an Arts Strategy?

The Richmond Arts Strategy acts as a guide for residents, the City and its stakeholders to develop stronger connections in order to advance the policies, programs and services needed for the arts to thrive in Richmond.

**The purpose of the Richmond Arts Strategy is to:**

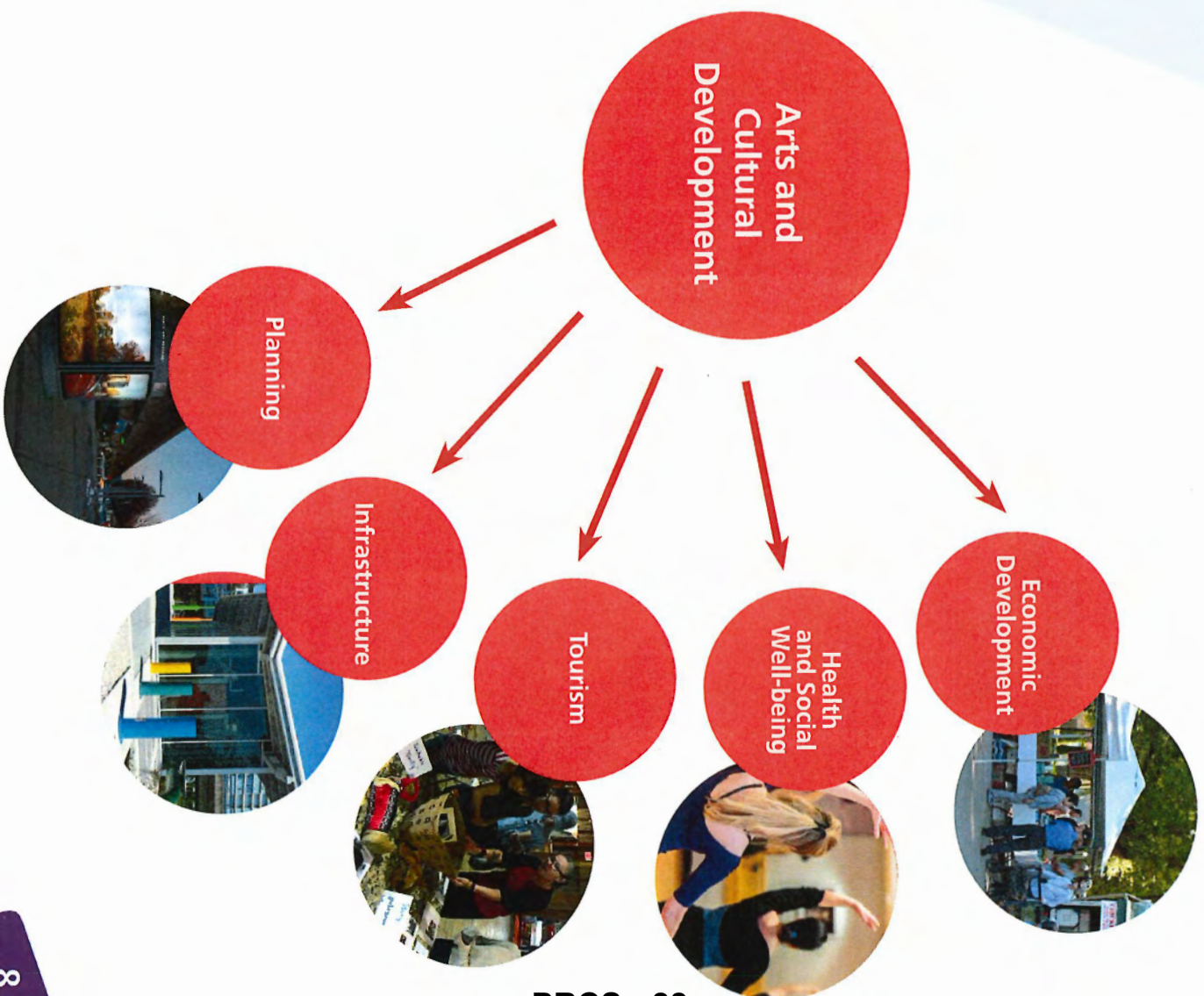
- Understand the current state of the arts in Richmond;
- Provide a blueprint for the City over the next five years with key principles and criteria for decision-making to enable the broadest possible access to, and awareness of, the City's diverse arts opportunities to enrich quality of life through engagement with the arts;
- Provide strategies to integrate the arts into the broader community with a collaborative plan that strengthens arts groups to meet community needs; and
- Reflect the input of the broader community to champion the provision of arts activities, facilities, and opportunities as integral and essential to a healthy society.



## Arts and cultural development help to achieve goals in other areas of City planning

The arts can play a strong role in placemaking, community building, tourism and economic development, providing a new or different lens in finding ways to:

- combat social exclusion in the community,
- enhance quality of life by encouraging healthy lifestyles and lifelong learning,
- celebrate diversity and improve awareness of cultural differences,
- develop pride of place through art and design,
- increase community vitality,
- improve the ability to attract skilled workers,
- gain a competitive advantage as a tourism destination,
- and much more.





Japanese calligraphy demonstrations are among the many cultural experiences offered annually at the Richmond Cherry Blossom Festival.

# OUR PLANNING CONTEXT

## Richmond Today\*

Since being designated as a city in 1990, Richmond has seen a rapid growth in population and has evolved into a vibrant, ethnically diverse municipality with a mix of residential, commercial and industrial areas, as well as parks, waterways and open spaces.

Richmond is home to a rich array of amenities and facilities, engaged citizens and community organizations in a vibrant natural setting that includes 1,950 acres of park land, 73 kms of trails and 60 kms of cycling paths. The unique 17-island city is situated at the mouth of the Fraser River, providing an estuary for fish and migrating birds lined by walking trails. Agriculture is also an important part of Richmond's past and present economy – 39% of the city's 129.19 km<sup>2</sup> land base remains within the Agricultural Land Reserve.

These natural assets compliment the City's active lifestyle, which is supported by strong policies, plans and programs related to sport and recreation. As a legacy of Richmond's role in the 2010 Olympic Winter Games, Richmond was certified as a Global Active City in 2018 and, with nine other cities around the world, are now leading a movement to improve the lives of their citizens through the promotion of physical activity, sport, healthy lifestyles, social connections, supportive built and natural environments, and well-being for all.



The fourth largest city in the Metro Vancouver area, Richmond currently represents 8.3% of the population in this region. Richmond's population continues to grow with a high influx of new residents born outside of Canada.

**Known for its rich ethnic diversity, the majority of Richmond residents identify as non-Caucasian.** This is the highest proportion of any municipality in B.C., and the second highest in Canada. This diversity is reflected in Richmond's linguistic landscape. In the 2014/15 school year, 27.8% of Richmond School District students were English Language learners. A great variety of languages are spoken in Richmond overall. Richmond's population is also highly mobile. Almost half of City residents (43%) have moved within the past five years, with half having moved within Richmond.

**The sense of social connectedness is lower in Richmond than in other regions, particularly for those who are new immigrants.** Many residents report not knowing their neighbours.

**Richmond is also marked by a changing age distribution.** In Richmond, seniors 65+ years (17%) outnumber children aged 14 years and younger (14%). Seniors represent 32% of the total population in Richmond with 63,630 people aged 55+ years. The City's 2015-2020 Seniors Service Plan suggests that the aging population will have many impacts on the delivery of City programs and services.

\* Source: [Richmond Community Wellness Strategy 2018—2023](#)





## Community Profile By The Numbers\*

**60%** 

of Richmond residents were born outside of Canada, representing 140 different ethnicities.



**\$78,080**

= median household income

**22.4%** 

of households are classified as low-income



Chinese is the first language in **45%** of homes



Richmond's Chinese population has grown from

**40% to 54%**

between 2001 and 2016

**69%**

of residents feel they have amenities within walking or cycling distance.



**54%** reported having earned their High School diploma or equivalent, or College, CEGEP or other non-University education.



**74.3%**

of residents own a home



**33%**

of residents aged 25 – 64 reported having a University certificate, diploma or degree at a bachelor level or higher as their highest level of completed education.



Richmond residents are generally healthy, live longer, feel less stressed, have healthier weights, less chronic disease, smoke and drink less than other comparison communities in B.C. but need improvement in the areas of active living, mental and physical wellness, and a sense of belonging.

\* Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census



# Where we are now: State of the Arts in Richmond

In 2004, the City adopted its first Arts Strategy with the aim to make Richmond a city with a thriving cultural life where opportunities for participation in the arts at all levels are accessible, artists feel they have a place and are seen as contributing to the community, cultural industries are welcomed, and cultural activity is visible and supported.

Since then, there has been significant civic investment to increase the capacity of artists and arts organizations, offer high-quality arts festivals and programs, and showcase Richmond's artistic talent. During the 2010 Winter Olympic Games, especially as part of Richmond's O Zone, local artists were integral to instilling community pride, identity and spirit, and enjoyed unprecedented profile to local and international audiences.

The 2004 Arts Strategy was updated in 2012 with the majority of its goals addressed by 2017. In reviewing community dialogue for the 2012–2017 Strategy, many of the same themes and directions have emerged in this new plan:

- Improving and increasing arts and cultural infrastructure
  - Expanding public awareness and understanding of the arts
  - Positioning Richmond as an arts destination
  - Reflecting diversity, and increasing accessibility and inclusion
  - Leveraging the impacts of the arts to address social, economic and other goals
- Addressing these will depend on building leadership at grassroots community levels and a continued strong civic commitment.





Richmond's arts development has a critical and increasingly strategic role in the City's aspiration to be the most appealing, livable and well-managed community in Canada.

<p><b>2002</b> Richmond Youth Choral Society incorporated</p> <p><b>2003</b> First Lulu Series: Art in the City event</p> <p><b>2004</b> First Richmond Arts Strategy</p> <p><b>2005</b> RAG celebrates 25th anniversary Richmond Arts Coalition incorporated</p> <p><b>2006</b> Olympic Oval Public Art Plan First Art About Finn Slough exhibition</p> <p>First of three Winter Celebrations of the Arts 2007–2012 Major Events Plan endorsed Cinevolution Media Arts Society incorporated</p>	<p><b>2010</b> First Culture Days Richmond O Zone/2010 Winter Olympic Games Richmond Public Art Policy revised Minoru Chapel Opera Series launched Canadian YC Chinese Orchestra incorporated</p> <p><b>2011</b> Cultural Centre Rooftop Garden opens City Centre Public Art Plan Media Lab &amp; Richmond Youth Media Program established Arts &amp; Culture Grants program established (\$100K) PWABC Project of the Year Award – No. 4 Rd. Pump Station <i>Salmon Row</i> at Britannia Shipyards (renounced 2013) Richmond Maritime Festival reimaged with arts Vancouver Tagore Society incorporated</p> <p><b>2012</b> Richmond Arts Strategy 2012–2017 Richmond Youth Dance Company created Renovated Performance Hall opens Writer-in-Residence program established Richmond Potters' Club incorporated</p> <p><b>2014</b> Minoru Precinct Public Art Plan</p>	<p><b>2016</b> First Branscombe House Artist Residency Richmond Chinese Artist Club established Richmond World Festival wins national award</p> <p><b>2017</b> Engaging Artists in the Community Public Art program established Capstan Village Public Art Plan Richmond celebrates Canada 150 with public art, special events and festivals Concord Gardens ARTS units open Richmond Cherry Blossom Festival launched First Art Café at City Centre Community Centre</p>
<p>2010 Arts &amp; Culture Plan Community Cultural Development Manager position created First Doors Open Richmond Richmond Arts &amp; Culture Community Scan Economic Impact Study estimates Richmond arts &amp; culture sector supports 1,488 direct jobs &amp; \$33M in wages <b>2008</b></p> <p>First Richmond Arts Awards First Children's Arts Festival Participation in Vancouver Biennale 2009–2011 No. 3 Road Art Columns program launched Department of Arts, Culture &amp; Heritage established Public Art collection reaches 50 art works <b>2009</b></p>	<p>Alexandra Neighbourhood Public Art Plan Culture Days National Award Tickle Me Pickle Theatre Improv Society incorporated Richmond Arts Centre registration hits 6,000 registrants <b>2013</b></p> <p>Opening of City Centre Community Centre First ArtRich Exhibition at RAG Inaugural Richmond World Festival How ART Works campaign and website launched <b>2015</b></p>	<p>BCRPA Program Excellence Award – Pollinator Pasture PWABC Project of the Year Award – No. 2 Rd. Pump Station Public Art Community Mural program endorsed Public Art collection reaches 244 art works Minoru Place Activity Centre approved to be repurposed for arts use <b>2018</b></p> <p>Pinnacle Sorrento ARTS units open Arts and Culture eNewsletter hits 450 subscribers Richmond Arts Strategy 2019–2024 <b>2019</b></p>



# How Richmond currently supports and invests in arts and culture\*

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

\* 2018 statistics, unless otherwise noted

## Supporter



**COMMUNITY ART EXHIBITIONS**  
>50 artists exhibited in 6 locations including Richmond City Hall



**RICHMOND ARTS AWARDS**  
86 nominations  
6 awards presented annually



**CULTURE DAYS**  
77 registered activities\* by 59 local arts groups and individuals in 28 locations  
\*Top 4 for medium-sized cities in Canada; Top 8 overall



**RICHMOND ARTS CENTRE**  
provided 11 arts groups 4,137 hours of room rentals at a subsidy of \$79,310

## Facility Operator



**RICHMOND CULTURAL CENTRE**  
>735 hours room rentals by cultural organizations at subsidized rates



**RICHMOND ARTS CENTRE**  
476 courses  
35 professional instructors  
4068 students registered



**RICHMOND ART GALLERY**  
18 exhibitions involving 30 artists  
>20 community artists in biannual Artrich exhibition  
129 school tours and workshops  
22,500 visitors



**RICHMOND MEDIA LAB**  
58 courses  
8 professional instructors  
Plus: Libraries, Museums and Heritage sites which partner with Arts Services

## Facilitator



**LAST YEAR, THE FILM OFFICE** helped open a 125,000 square foot purpose-built filming studio.

**\$20 million** in wages are earned by Richmond residents employed in film sector each year.



**ART TRUCK**  
340 students from 6 schools participated in 35 sessions

## Communicator



**ARTS & CULTURE E-BLASTS**  
39 e-newsletters throughout the year



**LULU SERIES: ART IN THE CITY**  
3 acclaimed guest speakers  
3 performing artists

## Investor



**ARTS & CULTURE GRANTS PROGRAM, 2018**  
distributed \$114,524 to 16 organizations



**PUBLIC ART PROGRAM**  
244 artworks to date  
114 artists contracted for civic art projects, to date  
27 community groups engaged in 2018 projects  
10,000 hours of community participation in the Engaging Artists in the Community projects



## What's Ahead: Sector Trends and Impacts

In the broader context of planning, important trends in Canada's \$53.4 billion cultural industry will continue to have a significant influence on arts management and programming over the next five years. Key considerations:

- Festivals and events lead as Canadians' top form of participation in arts and culture
- Shifting from passive consumption of arts and culture to more participatory arts experiences
- Upholding Calls to Action of Truth and Reconciliation
- Lifecycle of arts organizations: many arts organizations in BC are having difficulty moving to an established phase and/or shifting into a turnaround mode after a period of gradual decline
- Creating safe and inclusive spaces for community dialogue through the arts (e.g. social-change arts practices)
- Generational shifts in arts audiences
- Digital strategies and technological innovation
- New operating models that are more entrepreneurial in nature
- Venues and programming that offer arts experiences for families
- Disability arts where artforms are produced with accessibility in mind
- Creative placemaking and co-activations of spaces
- With further capacity-building within community groups, a shift in the City's role to be more of a facilitator and convener than a direct-supplier of services

### Presenter



#### FESTIVALS

**8** major events showcasing **200** local artists and arts groups  
**300** performances  
**200,000** people attended



#### ARTISTS-IN-RESIDENCE

**2-month** Writer-in-Residence  
**11-month** Branscombe House Artist-in-Residence  
**4** projects and **>1,200** participants in Engaging Artists in the Community projects



#### GATEWAY THEATRE\*\*

**152** performances  
**110** professional artists  
**11** community performers  
**178** hours of studio time donated to other performing arts organizations  
**33,361** people attended

\*\* operated by Richmond Gateway Theatre Society with support of City of Richmond



## The Impacts and Benefits of Arts and Cultural Development

Thriving communities understand that building pride of place, through engaging arts and cultural programs, strengthens both community participation and economic development.

Participation in the arts is proven to:

- Build interpersonal ties and social networks
- Promote volunteering
- Reduce delinquency in high-risk youth
- Relieve stress
- Improve residents' sense of belonging
- Increase inclusion and celebrate diversity
- Foster a creative milieu that spurs economic growth in creative industries
- Further regional interest from tourism, business, new residents, and investors

The 2017 *How Art Works* campaign was a source of inspiration for the title of Richmond's Arts Strategy 2019–2024. The following five themes, described on the website, capture the impacts of the arts.

### Arts' Impact on Students

While practical education may seem like an obvious path to success, creativity is the number one skill that employers are looking for. Children and youth who participate in the arts, particularly music, are more likely to stay in school, excel in math and science and achieve life-long academic distinctions. Compared to the general public, top scientists are twice as likely to have an artistic hobby.

### Healthy Living Through Art

The arts' ability to inspire happiness can also improve health. Doctors in the U.K. and Canada are now prescribing arts activities as a health-related therapy, as research has shown that the arts can alleviate stress and reduce the likelihood of depression. Arts engagement can even improve immune function by lowering chemicals that cause the inflammation which triggers diabetes, heart attacks and other illnesses. Music, when complemented with standard therapies, can support many treatments including pain management, speech therapy and treatments for Parkinson's Disease.



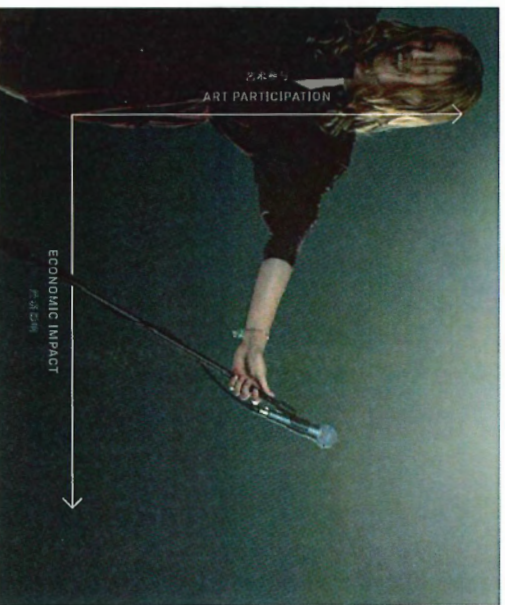


### Art Strengthens Communities

When we experience culture — a theatre piece, book, concert, etc. — that addresses a social issue or conveys a new perspective, we gain a better understanding of humanity and the diverse groups we live amongst. Dance, music, photography and other visual arts transcend language and offer a public dialogue that bridges differences between cultural, racial and ethnic groups. Cultural festivals promote celebration and pride and provide an opportunity for individuals to engage with new perspectives and traditions.

### Art Improves Quality of Life

Learning new skills when creating a work of art can improve self-control and confidence in one's abilities. These activities maintain neurological function, stimulate growth, and recruit pathways crucial to cognitive function. Moreover, the arts can provide opportunities to network, bond over new projects and share experiences which further a sense of community.



### A Stronger Economy Through Art

Arts and culture play an important role in promoting economic goals through local regeneration, developing talent, creating jobs, spurring innovation and attracting tourists. Statistics Canada estimates that cultural industries (including broadcasting, film and video, interactive media, design, journalism and crafts) contribute an estimated \$53.4 billion in direct contribution to Canada's GDP and more than 700,000 jobs.

### Bringing people together

92% of Canadians believe arts experiences are a valuable way of bringing together people from different languages and acknowledging cultural traditions.

—Phoenix Strategic Perspectives, Community Foundations of Canada, 2017





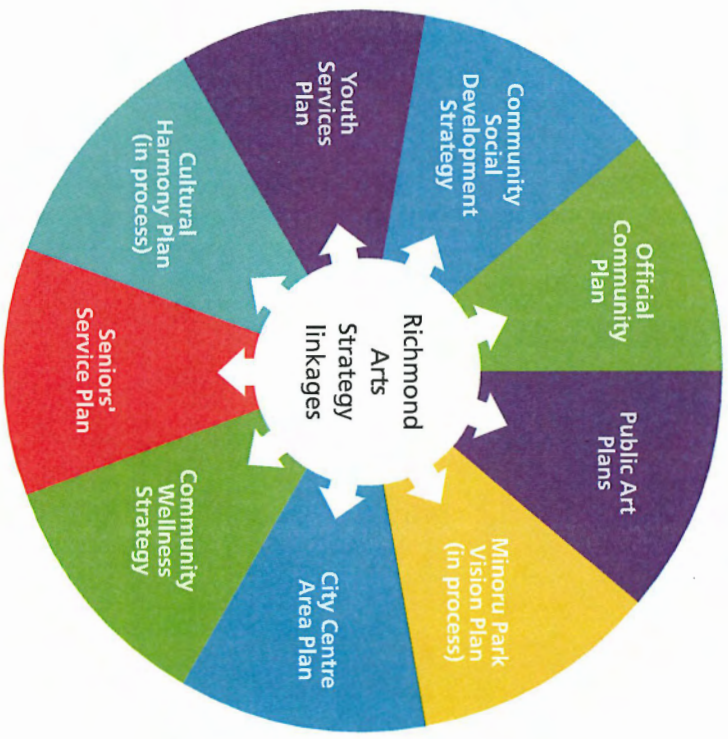
# ARTS STRATEGY: SCOPE AND PROCESS

The development of the Richmond Arts Strategy 2019–2024 took into consideration the goals and vision for Richmond as outlined in the Official Community Plan (OCP) and each related City Plans and Strategies.

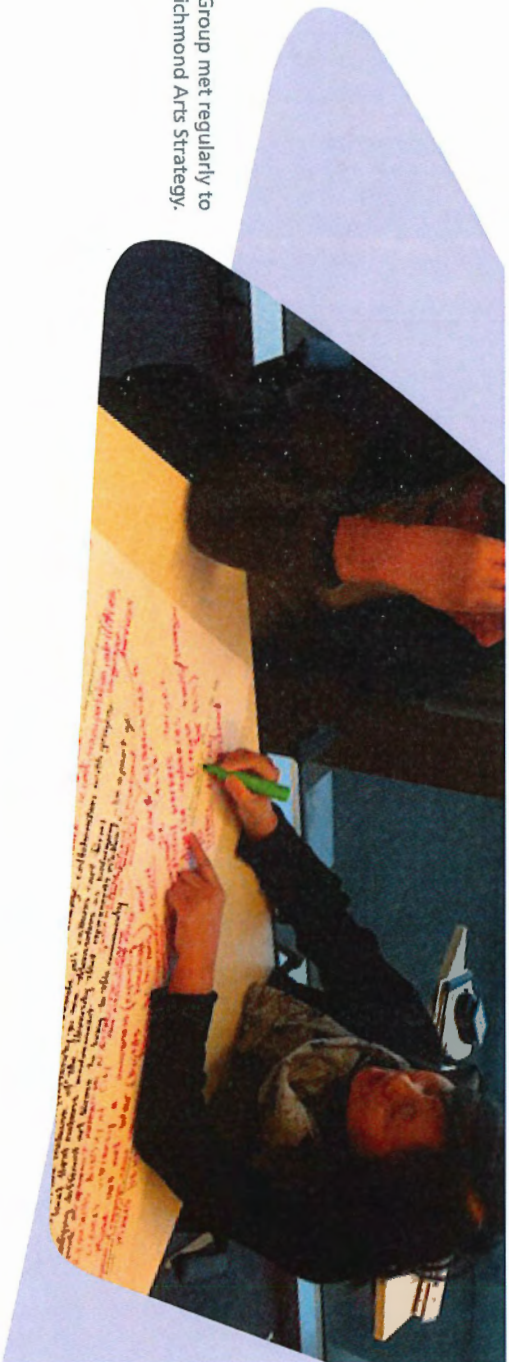
Richmond's OCP is founded on a long-term community planning vision for a sustainable, engaged and welcoming community that is connected, accessible, adaptable and valued for its sense of place.

The Richmond Arts Strategy 2019–2024 builds on the City's existing work towards this vision, and identifies linkages among the OCP and other City plans including Local Area Plans, Neighbourhood Plans and various strategies, such as the Community Wellness Strategy, 2018–2023, specific arts strategies, and other initiatives listed on this page.

These linkages form a nested relationship of overlapping goals and outcomes for the City of Richmond that, together, contribute to the development of excellent and accessible programs and spaces that represent the unique needs and opportunities of the City.







Members of the Task Group met regularly to inform the new Richmond Arts Strategy.

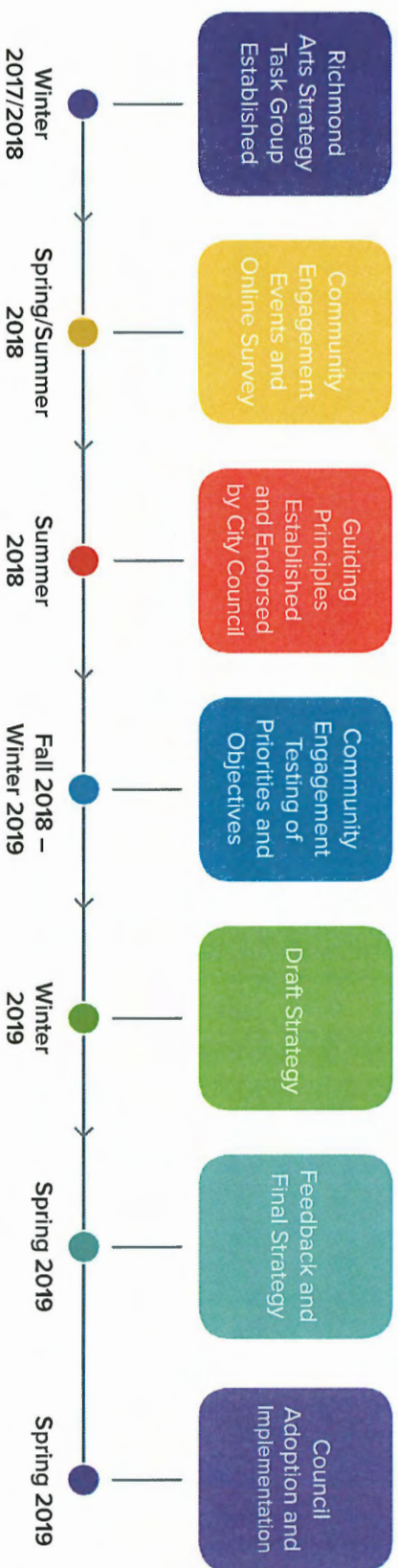
## Process and Timeline

The Richmond Arts Strategy 2019–2024 is the culmination of an extensive process of community engagement and input.

The 25-member multi-generational and multicultural Task Group—mirroring various aspects of life in Richmond, including representatives from local arts and cultural organizations, businesses and independent artists—was essential to ensuring the final document appropriately reflects community input.

Feedback from the community at large was also integral to each stage of the Strategy's development, and has been collected from hundreds of Richmond residents and community stakeholders who responded, contributed and gave feedback, along the way.

The project leadership team consisted of three consultants and staff from the City's Arts Services section.





# WHAT WE HEARD



ArtWorks community engagement was everywhere, including the 10th annual Richmond Arts Awards.



# ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

ArtWorks, the extensive community engagement campaign that informed the development of this Strategy took place in Spring and Summer of 2018.

A full summary of these findings can be found online at [howartworks.ca](http://howartworks.ca)

Throughout the engagement period, the project team gathered feedback and ideas from the community via an online survey, a series of community dialogue events and more than 30 pop-up kiosks and sounding boards across the City. In addition to receiving more than 470 completed surveys, in both English and Chinese, approximately 500 additional pieces of feedback were collected through our various activities.

**"It's just the spark at the beginning of Richmond's arts movement. This is a very special and creative time where the sky is the limit."**

– Community Engagement Survey Respondent

The numerous wide-ranging opportunities to engage in the development of this strategy included facilitated consultation events, pop-up kiosks, stakeholder meetings and presentations, one-on-one interviews with key informants and arts stakeholders and surveys.

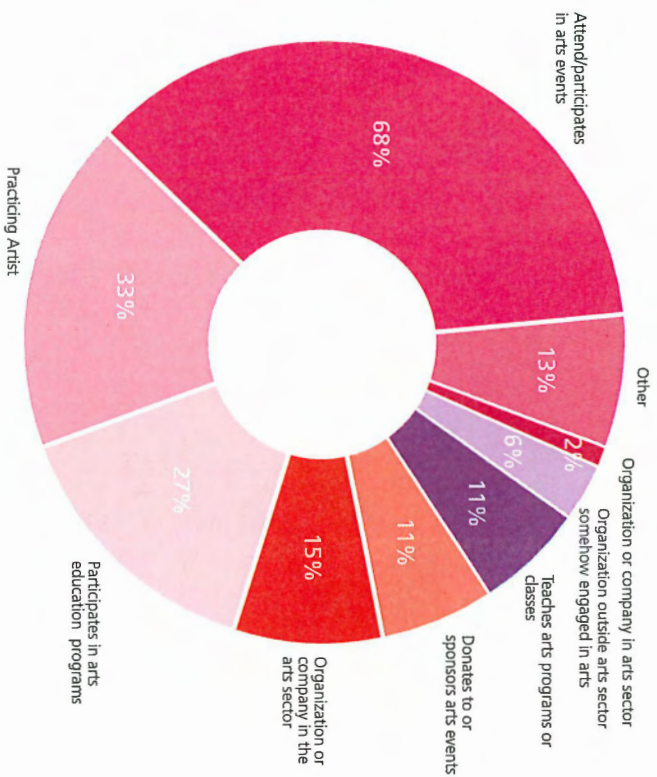
Pop-up kiosks and facilitated conversations took place throughout Richmond at the following locations and events:

- Aberdeen Centre
- Art About Finn Slough Exhibition
- Branscombe House
- Cherry Blossom Festival
- Children's Arts Festival
- Cultural Cafes for artists and public
- Cultural Centre Lobby
- Culture Days
- Gateway Theatre
- Kwantlen Farmers Market
- Kwantlen Polytechnic University Design Week
- Lansdowne Centre
- National Indigenous Day at Musqueam
- Performance Hall
- Richmond Arts Awards
- Richmond Arts Centre
- Richmond Art Gallery Youth Collective
- Richmond Chinese Arts and Culture Festival
- Richmond Delta Youth Orchestra Concerts
- Richmond Gem and Mineral Society Annual Show
- Richmond Media Lab
- Richmond Potters Club Spring Sale
- Richmond Youth Dance Company
- Rocini Café
- Two Community Dialogue Sessions at City Centre Community Centre and KPU
- Vancouver Lipont Centre
- Various community centres via Youth Services Coordinators

# Online Survey: Snapshot

## Respondent Profile

- 53% of survey respondents were under 50; the mean average was 48
- 68% of the survey respondents indicated that they attend and/or participate in cultural events and programs in Richmond
- 70% identified as Female
- 76% live in Richmond with an even split between City Centre and Steveston as most common neighbourhood of residence at 27% each
- For new residents, 41% cited China as their country of origin
- 56% of respondents identified as being Caucasian while 33% identified as being Chinese
- 64% cited household incomes >\$50,000
- 56% self-identified as artists
- The vast majority of Richmond arts organizations are volunteer-run
- 38% of organizations reported being primarily creators or producers, while nearly 25% were organizations involved in the dissemination of art
- Of the respondents who indicated that they were practicing artists or responding on behalf of an organization, the majority (53%) reported that their primary activity occurs in visual and applied art



## Survey Respondents Identified as ...



## Beyond the Survey: The City's Role in the Arts Ecosystem

When looking at leveraging the arts in a strategic way, stakeholders noted that the City can bring together priorities from various City Plans (e.g., Community Wellness Strategy, Community Social Development Strategy) and ensure that the arts are at the intersection of those plans.

During internal engagement, City staff across departments and divisions recognized that they play an important role in the arts ecosystem. Staff saw the importance of arts and culture in building community, the need for better communication, marketing and promotion, as well as more collaboration and support for arts and culture within the City.

Staff also identified the need for more/alternative spaces and funding to improve the delivery of arts and cultural programming and events; for more diverse, inclusive and accessible programming, and for new, integrated strategies to support their efforts.

73% of organizations indicated that they have formed partnerships with other organizations active in the arts, mostly with the City of Richmond, other Richmond-based arts groups and/or other cities.

Encouraging partnerships and collaboration between arts organizations, artists, businesses and creative entrepreneurs was also identified during broader community engagement as an essential element of developing Richmond's arts ecosystem.

## Richmond's Cultural Scene: Points of Pride

### Public Art

Richmond's Public Art was described throughout the open-ended survey portion of the engagement process as a point of pride in the arts ecosystem with the vast majority of survey respondents having noted various types of Public Art in Richmond including sculptures (84%); utility box wraps (58%); murals (56%); art integrated with building elements (52%); community engaged art programs (38%); and functional artwork (24%).

**"I really appreciate the First Nations' art around the city."**

– Community Engagement Survey Respondent

Using public art as a means of "achieving a more sustainable community" and "encouraging public dialogue and increasing public awareness" were highly ranked goals for public art among survey respondents. "Sparking community participation" and complementing and/or developing the character of Richmond's diverse neighbourhoods" were also important to survey respondents.

Sewer access cover design by  
local artist, James Harry.



## Diversity... in many forms

Richmond's multicultural and diverse arts ecosystem was another point of pride for many. It was also often noted that the community was generally successful at building on multiculturalism to increase creative expression around the city.

**"We have such a rich multicultural base for our art to grow from."**

– Community Engagement Survey Respondent

One respondent noted that the City's diversity also creates unique educational opportunities in Richmond. "Richmond is richly multicultural... I am excited to be educated about other cultures each time I visit an arts performance or exhibit that features non-dominant cultures."

On the other hand, some respondents pointed out room for improvement: "We have high-level artists from Asia and Canada here. What is needed is a way to connect and showcase them."

Richmond residents indicated a desire to expand inclusive and diverse arts programming. Many survey respondents cited the city's diversity and existing children's and youth programming as strong points in Richmond with 73% of arts organizations reporting they engaged with youth as part of their ongoing activities and programs. However, stakeholders noted this as an area that could still be expanded.

## Natural Beauty

The natural beauty and cultural heritage of Steveston was most often mentioned as a favourite feature of Richmond. Specifically, historic sites such as the Britannia Shipyards National Historic Site, Gulf of Georgia Cannery and London Heritage Farm were noted as being exemplary reflections of the City's rich maritime, farming and fishing history. Other respondents referenced Richmond's natural heritage, such as its abundance of birds.

Richmond's unique history and natural setting as a maritime hub were key points of pride for many participants.

**"[Proud to] explore heritage buildings and sites ... Salmon Festival for sure! Maybe [we] could have art in the park festival. The sports field is fabulous and the flowers on the streets look great. Steveston heritage area is lovely to walk around and paint."**

– Community Engagement Survey Respondent

## Did you know?

Almost nine in ten Canadians say that governments should place at least moderate importance on supporting the arts and culture sector.

- Arts and Heritage Access and Availability Survey 2016-2017, Environics Research





"Richmond is welcoming to so many new Canadians to its neighbourhoods. I think its arts scene really addresses the thirst of these newcomers for the cultural and entertainment stimulation that Richmond's arts organizations present."

- Community Engagement Survey Respondent



# PRIORITIES: KEY FOCUS AREAS

Overall, community engagement suggested that the City should prioritize the following key focus areas in the Arts Strategy:

- 1. Free public events
- 2. New and improved spaces
- 3. Increased awareness

The sections that immediately follow identify highlights of what was heard during the engagement phase. Specific directions and actions to be taken to address these priorities are presented within the Strategic Directions section of this Strategy (pages 29-42).



**Did you know?**  
62% of Canadians "strongly agree" that arts and culture makes communities a better place to live and is a valuable way of bringing people together.  
-Arts and Heritage Access and Availability Survey 2016-2017, Environics Research, 2017

## WHAT WE HEARD Engagement Summary

Richmond is a national leader in Culture Days, an annual 3-day festival that includes free, hands-on activities and workshops, as well as, "behind the scenes" creative experiences.

### Priority 1: Free Festivals and Events

Of the many means of engaging with the arts, free festivals was the top priority for Richmond residents. This is consistent with national data indicating that festivals and events are the most common form of Canadians' participation in the arts. The quality and variety of festivals offered around the City were widely cited as points of pride. Festivals are seen as an effective means to celebrate, capture and inspire Richmond's artistic vibrancy. Respondents noted that festivals foster inclusion as well as encourage intercultural understanding.

**"Festivals are inclusive of celebrating one another's heritages, ethnicities and cultures."**

– Community Engagement Survey Respondent

Stakeholders indicated a desire and need for free public events, and affordable art programs and workshops that engage all age groups within the community, especially youth.

The Richmond World Festival was singled out for celebrating the diverse cultural backgrounds of Richmond. Other festivals that instilled a sense of civic pride were Culture Days, the Maritime Festival, Salmon Festival, Harvest Festival, Chinese New Year's celebrations and the Grand Prix of Art.



### Where We Engage with the Arts

Survey respondents were asked to select events or venues that they had attended in the past 12 months.

#### Venues

Richmond Art Gallery	50%
Richmond Museum	27%
Gateway Theatre	26%

#### Events

Culture Days	46%
Doors Open Richmond	39%
Maritime Festival	37%
Richmond World Festival	30%
Children's Arts Festival	22%



## Priority 2: New and/or Improved Spaces

Following free festivals and events, new and/or improved spaces was the most widely cited priority with the majority of types of engagement feedback indicating that both exhibition/gallery space and creation/studio space should be prioritized by the City. Lack of small venues, non-traditional spaces and leveraging existing spaces in the built-environment were also key points raised by the community.

### New Spaces

As a rapidly growing and developing urban centre, community members commented on the need to work with developers to create space for the arts. There were four specific types of spaces that engagement with the community revealed as key gaps:

- Spaces to exhibit art;
- Performing arts and gathering spaces, particularly medium-sized spaces for 150–300 people; and
- Organizational/administrative space.

### Existing Spaces

Artists reported low satisfaction with performance spaces, reflecting wider demand for smaller, more affordable spaces to rehearse and/or perform. Across all types of facilities, the most common concern regarded availability with many artists noting that desirable facilities are often full or booked far in advance.

Broad community feedback noted that the Cultural Centre delivers high quality programming but most agreed it needs larger exhibition space. It was also noted that the one approach to meet the demand for spaces could be through distribution of exhibition and programming space throughout the City by utilizing existing space.

In terms of adapting or re-purposing existing spaces, the most common suggestion was animating spaces in shopping malls. Optimizing empty storefronts, industrial warehouses, churches, school gyms and post-secondary facilities — spaces that lend themselves to being transformed into space for the arts — was also identified. Outdoor spaces such as London Heritage Farm, parks and walking trails were also considered as potential spaces for artistic activity.

Artists and organizations both widely expressed that they would like to more space to exhibit art in Richmond. This was further emphasized by residents expressing that the City should prioritize exhibition space.

### Priority 3:

#### Increased Awareness

The need for increased awareness and promotion of arts programming around the City was a repeated theme throughout the survey and broader engagement feedback. Respondents noted that information was often coming from a variety of places and was at times 'spotty'.

**"Not everyone in Richmond is aware of all the programs, events and activities going on. We'll have to do more advertising."**

– Community Engagement Survey Respondent

#### Preferred Communications Channels

Respondents were largely in support of more social media-based advertising (53%) and more stories in the local newspaper (44%) as a means for improving awareness.

Other recommendations included:

- Create reader boards or post notices at community centres, libraries or art venues;
- Direct outreach to community groups;
- Advertise in public places such as Canada Line stations or malls;
- Advertise widely in both Chinese and English; and
- Develop a regularly updated centralized website for programming and events info.

#### HowArtWorks.ca

The HowArtWorks.ca website offers information about how the arts benefits communities and individuals. The site also lists the key arts and culture venues and programs offered by the City and includes links to the impacts of the arts in social and economic well-being.

79% of respondents indicated they would use it (or continue to use it) as a tool to access information to promote the importance of the arts in the community. Further community feedback noted that HowArtWorks.ca could be leveraged as a central portal or online hub for all-things-arts in Richmond.

**"It would be great if the Arts Centre info [at HowArtWorks.ca] had more detail and links to group websites and encouraged the groups to add the site to their pages."**

– Community Engagement Survey Respondent



### Programs for Artists

While funding was noted as a key focus area by arts stakeholders, survey results and broader community feedback suggest this may be more of an awareness issue than lack of available funding. The survey revealed that a large number of artists and cultural group representatives were previously unaware of key support offerings by the City.



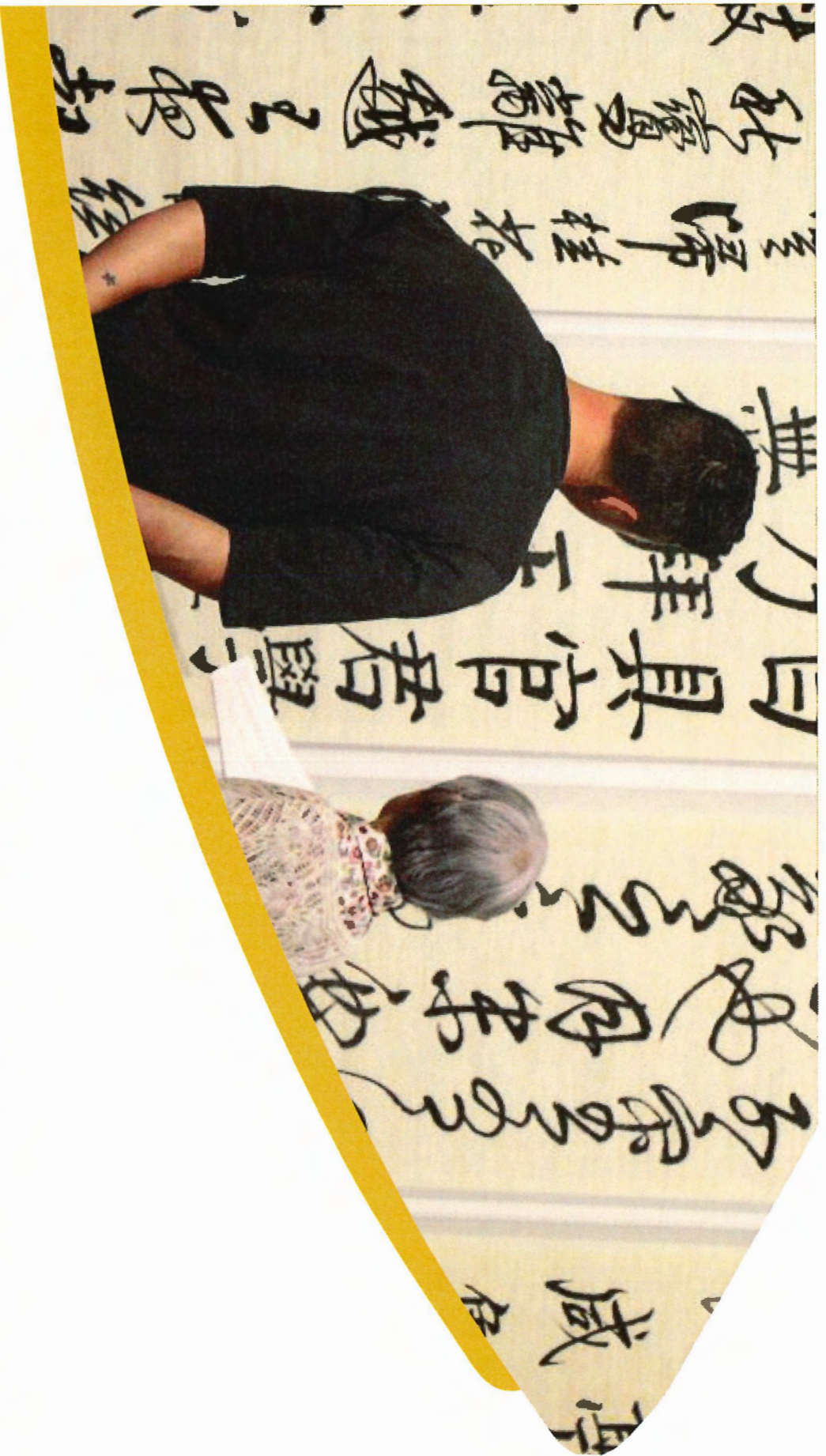
### Did you know?

More than 450 artists and cultural organizations receive e-newsletters from the City's Cultural Development office to learn about Artist Calls, funding deadlines, promotional opportunities, professional development workshops and more.



The Arts Centre is Richmond's arts education and creation hub for courses, events, organizations and artists. It's aim is to make the arts accessible and is also home to a number of local Resident Art Groups.





The Richmond Art Gallery seeks to enhance everyone's understanding and enjoyment of contemporary art through exhibitions, programming and education.

# RICHMOND ARTS STRATEGY

VISION | GUIDING PRINCIPLES

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS | OBJECTIVES

KEY ACTIONS



## THE VISION

Richmond’s thriving arts scene:

- Animates our city everyday;
- Offers rich arts education and experiences, festivals and events;
- Fosters social connections and wellness;
- Builds arts and culture leadership; and
- Provides creative spaces.

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Working with the 25-member Richmond Arts Strategy Task Group, community feedback played a vital role in the development of the Strategy’s Guiding Principles which were officially endorsed by City Council on July 23, 2018.

These Principles will guide the strategic priorities, actions and decisions of the City of Richmond in arts development over the next five years:

- 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.



# STRATEGIC DIRECTION 1

## ENSURE AFFORDABLE AND ACCESSIBLE ARTS FOR ALL



### Objective 1.1

*Continue to support a diverse range of free and affordable arts programming.*

#### SUPPORTING ACTIONS:

1. Review the City's offerings of free and low-cost arts programming and events, and assess required City resources to keep cost barriers low.
2. Develop or expand opportunities to directly support individual artists, cultural organizations and venues that provide low and no cost public program delivery.
3. Work with the City's Accessibility Coordinator to promote the Recreation Fee Subsidy Program (RFSP) for arts programs.
4. Support and encourage low-cost to no-cost neighbourhood and community-based cultural activities and events.

### Objective 1.2

*Support access to creative tools and resources, especially for youth.*

#### SUPPORTING ACTIONS:

1. Expand, maintain and promote howartworks.ca to be an online hub to find an inventory of cultural groups, spaces, opportunities, events, and online repositories of tools and other resources, including collections of galleries, libraries, archives and museums.
2. Develop and/or increase the use of creative tool libraries, musical instrument libraries and/or other creative resource lending programs.
3. Continue to work across Community Services and associations to connect youth to creative opportunities and resources.
4. Continue to work with the School District 38 to link arts education resources to teachers.
5. Continue to offer free access to media arts training and equipment through the Richmond Youth Media Program.



### Did you know?

The City of Richmond offers a Recreation Fee Subsidy Program that includes cultural programs for residents of all ages who are experiencing financial hardship. Details at [richmond.ca/subsidy](http://richmond.ca/subsidy).



## Objective 1.3

*Engage the imaginations of all generations through creative education and outreach.*

### SUPPORTING ACTIONS:

1. Support the retention and development of high-calibre arts experiences and education in community centres, city-operated facilities and public spaces.
2. Support and promote programs across Community Services and other City partners that communicate the value of the arts to social and emotional well-being.
3. Work with arts and cultural professionals to demonstrate and communicate the possibilities of a career in the creative industries and arts sector, especially to youth.
4. Increase the scope of arts education programs and services available to all age ranges and levels from entry to pre-professional.
5. Increase the use and extend programming of the Richmond Arts Centre Art Truck.

## Objective 1.4

*Identify and address accessibility barriers to creative participation.*

### SUPPORTING ACTIONS:

1. Encourage and promote arts and culture opportunities at locations close to transit, and identify opportunities to reduce transportation barriers.
2. Offer and encourage arts engagement opportunities in spaces beyond the walls of traditional venues including unconventional spaces.
3. Incorporate creative wayfinding elements to improve navigability and visibility to cultural events and venues.
4. Work with the City's Accessibility Coordinator to identify and address physical accessibility challenges to attending festivals, visiting cultural venues and exploring public art.
5. Identify ways to ensure cultural venues and other spaces providing arts experiences are appealing and welcoming to newcomers, people living with disabilities, LGBTQ2S residents and other typically under-represented groups.



## STRATEGIC DIRECTION 2 PROMOTE INCLUSIVITY AND DIVERSITY IN THE ARTS



### Objective 2.1

Celebrate Richmond's diversity, history, growth and change as a community.

#### SUPPORTING ACTIONS:

1. Highlight Richmond's cultural diversity in arts and culture marketing and communication.
2. Acknowledge First Nations territory at cultural events.
3. Encourage and increase programming that involves work by Musqueam and other Indigenous artists.
4. Review current programming to ensure that under-represented cultural and LGBTQ2 activities are part of festival and arts event programming.
5. Develop new arts experiences in the context of other events and programs across City departments.
6. Connect with the diverse cultural communities of Richmond (including faith-based communities) to encourage sharing of art, food and music.
7. Continue to grow and deepen the programming of the Richmond World Festival as a showcase of Richmond's cultural and ethnic diversity.
8. Encourage collaborations among under-represented community groups, such as youth, Chinese-speaking, Indigenous and LGBTQ2S people.
9. Invite diverse groups, including those typically under-represented, to participate in the telling of their story in the Richmond context, through creative engagement.



## Art brings us together

Cultural engagement improves understanding and empathy towards others

— Arts Council England, 2017



## Objective 2.2

Cultivate a sense of belonging through creative engagement.

### SUPPORTING ACTIONS:

1. Facilitate intercultural communication with creative environments and arts-based programs.
2. Continue to provide and support community-engaged arts opportunities and practices.
3. Provide a range of participatory programming for all age groups and inter-age groups at the community or neighbourhood scale.
4. Integrate creative and cultural experiences into City services for newcomers and other cross-cultural programs and services.
5. Increase multilingual arts experiences.

## Objective 2.3

Broaden understanding of what artistic expression can be through education and experimentation.

### SUPPORTING ACTIONS:

1. Build on existing services in libraries, community centres and other spaces that include creative programming to reach new audiences.
2. Expand and increase the *How Art Works* public education campaign that communicates the benefits of creativity and the value of the arts.
3. Encourage thoughtful conversations about creative expression and the arts through public programming such as panel discussions, Lulu Series, Art Café, etc.
4. Support and program art-making demonstrations in the public realm.
5. Ensure City funding opportunities and arts-related programs are in-keeping with changes to current working models in the arts and art forms.
6. Invite the public “behind the scenes” and to create things themselves, through programming including events like Doors Open Richmond, Instrument Petting Zoo, Culture Days and Children’s Arts Festival.



## Objective 2.4

Leverage Richmond's diversity to develop representative programming and events that attract audiences from within and beyond the City.

### SUPPORTING ACTIONS:

1. Link the Richmond Arts Strategy 2019–2024 strategic directions to tourism initiatives that bolster Richmond as a cultural destination.
2. Collaborate with Indigenous Peoples and community groups to identify thematic tourism niches through culinary arts, natural and cultural heritage.
3. Promote, encourage and develop initiatives and festivals that encourage cultural cross-pollination.

## Objective 2.5

Enable partnerships, connections and collaboration among diverse organizations, venues and creative partners.

### SUPPORTING ACTIONS:

1. Encourage collaboration among and across creative sectors and cultural industries.
2. Encourage collaboration of visual, literary and performing arts with libraries, museums and archives regarding programming and resources.
3. Include non-traditional creative activities and industries (e.g. video game design) in the development of events, creative programming and educational offerings.
4. Continue to foster collaboration and partnerships with other City departments and non-arts organizations such as Vancouver Coastal Health and Richmond Addiction Services.
5. Establish and/or strengthen connections with community centres, School District 38 and community organizations to increase arts opportunities and experiences.



# STRATEGIC DIRECTION 3 INVEST IN THE ARTS



## Objective 3.1

Build creative capacity through planning and development.

### SUPPORTING ACTIONS:

1. Ensure alignment of the Richmond Arts Strategy 2019–2024 with related City Plans, Strategies and Policies including the Richmond Wellness Strategy 2018–2023 (see plan linkages on page 17).
2. Among online tools added to howartworks.ca, include link to online event approvals applications system for community event organizers to obtain approvals from Richmond Event Approval Coordination Team (REACT).
3. Encourage arts incubator spaces for emerging artists and organizations.
4. Continue to position and promote Community Cultural Development staff as a go-to resource for the arts community.
5. Identify priority cultural amenity opportunities through development.
6. Monitor and review the Arts and Culture grant program to ensure it supports and responds to the needs of the arts community.
7. Continue to support and encourage organizations to leverage City investment to attract additional funding from other levels of government and other sources.
8. Encourage and develop cross-departmental collaboration to create new arts experiences with a variety of participants.
9. Establish a Cultural Leaders Roundtable for ongoing dialogue and engagement.

### Objective 3.2

Connect creative producers to the tools, training and supports that are vital to their work.

#### SUPPORTING ACTIONS:

1. Expand professional development, mentorship and skill-building opportunities for artists and cultural organizations.
2. Continue to invest in and provide mentoring support to cultural organizations through the Arts and Culture grants program.
3. Provide links on [howartworks.ca](http://howartworks.ca) to existing online resources for the creative community (e.g. Spacefinder, Arts BC, audition opportunities, artist directory, funding opportunities, calls for submission)
4. Continue to promote opportunities for artists via online tools and social media including the Richmond Artists Directory e-newsletter.

### Objective 3.3

Broaden the economic potential and contribution of the arts.

#### SUPPORTING ACTIONS:

1. Streamline or demystify the process to encourage creative industries to locate in Richmond.
2. Ensure the arts are considered in Richmond's Economic Development Strategy and that they play a role in the economic sustainability of the city.
3. Continue to create favourable conditions for the filming industry in Richmond.
4. Raise awareness of the ways that the arts and creative industries contribute to the economic health of the community.
5. Nurture relationships between arts organizations and key business organizations (e.g. Tourism Richmond, Chamber of Commerce).
6. Foster opportunities for business to invest in and partner with the arts (e.g. through sponsorship, provision of space.)



### Objective 3.4

Attract and engage high-profile leaders to advocate and invest in arts and culture.

#### SUPPORTING ACTIONS:

1. Foster relationship building with private donors and encourage legacy-based initiatives and philanthropy.
2. Work with the arts community to develop a foundation to facilitate and direct donations from corporate donors to support arts development.
3. Expand partnerships with local area post-secondary institutions.
4. Advocate at all levels of government for increased funding and support for arts and culture.

### Objective 3.5

Integrate the arts at a strategic level in community, economic, tourism, environmental and wellness planning.

#### SUPPORTING ACTIONS:

1. Identify policies, processes and bylaws that impede arts and cultural development and modify to reduce barriers.
2. Link the Arts Strategy to other City planning initiatives.
3. Raise the awareness among City Departments of the benefits of arts and culture in building a strong community.
4. Continue to work with other City departments to provide arts opportunities including art in the public realm.
5. Conduct a deeper analysis of the data collected through the community engagement process and connect, where applicable, to relevant data from other sources.

### Did you know?

One-half of Canadians 15 years of age or older make or perform art, with the most common arts practices being crafts (18%) and music (15%).

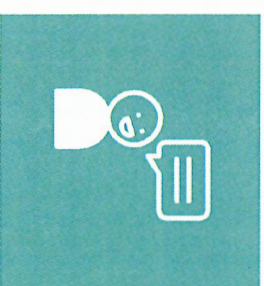
— Hill Strategies, *Canadians' Arts, Culture and Heritage Participation*, 2018





# STRATEGIC DIRECTION 4

## INCREASE AWARENESS AND PARTICIPATION IN THE ARTS



### Objective 4.1

Cultivate arts and cultural leadership.

#### SUPPORTING ACTIONS:

1. Partner with arts advocates in the community to achieve common outcomes.
2. Support participatory creative programming and education for health and well-being.
3. Continue to showcase achievements in the arts with the annual report to Council and circulate widely.
4. Encourage activities that support dialogue regarding arts and cultural development.
5. Continue to encourage the Richmond Arts Coalition to be a vital voice for artists in the community.

### Objective 4.2

Connect the Richmond community to creative events, news and resources.

#### SUPPORTING ACTIONS:

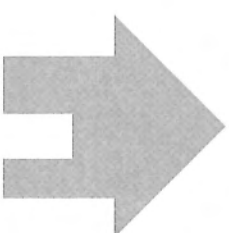
1. Promote howartworks.ca as the main Richmond arts portal to connect the community and creators to event listings, spaces, arts information, opportunities and resources.
2. Develop and execute an Arts Communications Strategy.
3. Dedicate resources for arts-related marketing and communications, with particular attention to expanding social media presence.



**Art cultivates a sense of belonging**

• People who rate arts, culture and leisure being excellent in their community are 2.8 times more likely to have a strong sense of belonging to their city

– Angus Reid, 2015



**Objective 4.3**

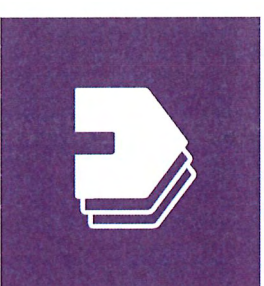
**Engage the Richmond community with creative experiences and artistic encounters in their daily life.**

**SUPPORTING ACTIONS:**

1. Continue to provide and promote events such as Culture Days and Doors Open Richmond to showcase Richmond Artists.
2. Continue to provide community grants and funding for arts experiences at neighbourhood levels.
3. Encourage and continue to offer an array of lecture series, seminars, panels and community dialogues on arts, culture and heritage issues.
4. Encourage neighbourhood-based cultural activity (e.g. creative neighbourhood actions, gardening, walking tours, food tourism, etc.).
5. Continue to foster a built environment where one has spontaneous encounters with art through the Public Art program.
6. Expand programs such as the Public Art “Engaging Artists in the Community” program and Branscombe House Artist-in-Residence program which support community-engaged arts practices.
7. Increase visual and performing arts opportunities in public spaces to showcase Richmond artists.



# STRATEGIC DIRECTION 5 ACTIVATE PUBLIC SPACES THROUGH (AND FOR!) THE ARTS



## Objective 5.1

Work towards meeting the demand for creative spaces and cultural facilities.

### SUPPORTING ACTIONS:

1. Continue to identify and make creative use of the built environment and civic facilities.
2. Pursue changes to existing civic, particularly cultural facilities in response to changing community demand for cultural programming.
3. Encourage the use of existing spaces within public institutions (such as schools and libraries) for other creative uses.
4. Conduct Richmond real-estate inventory for under-utilized commercial spaces, for potential creative, cultural and heritage use.
5. Use Public Art and cultural programming to reimagine public spaces with an eye to creative placemaking.
6. Complete a Cultural Facilities Needs Assessment and conduct feasibility studies as may arise from it.
7. Review bylaws that interfere with public performance and space activation (eg. busking).
8. Continue to offer subsidized creation space to Resident Art Groups at the Arts Centre and subsidized performance space at the Gateway Theatre to qualifying non-profit organizations.
9. Ensure that City-operated arts spaces have technological resources and flexibility to accommodate emerging forms of presentation and exhibition.
10. Convert the Minoru Place Activity Centre into the Cultural Centre Annex to address growing demand for arts programs and provide new, informal spaces for performance and exhibition.
11. Plan for future arts facilities to address the demand for Arts Education and Program space.

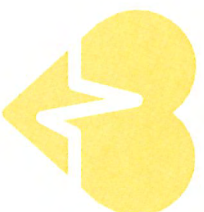


## Objective 5.2

Generate creative spaces and cultural amenities in new developments.

### SUPPORTING ACTIONS:

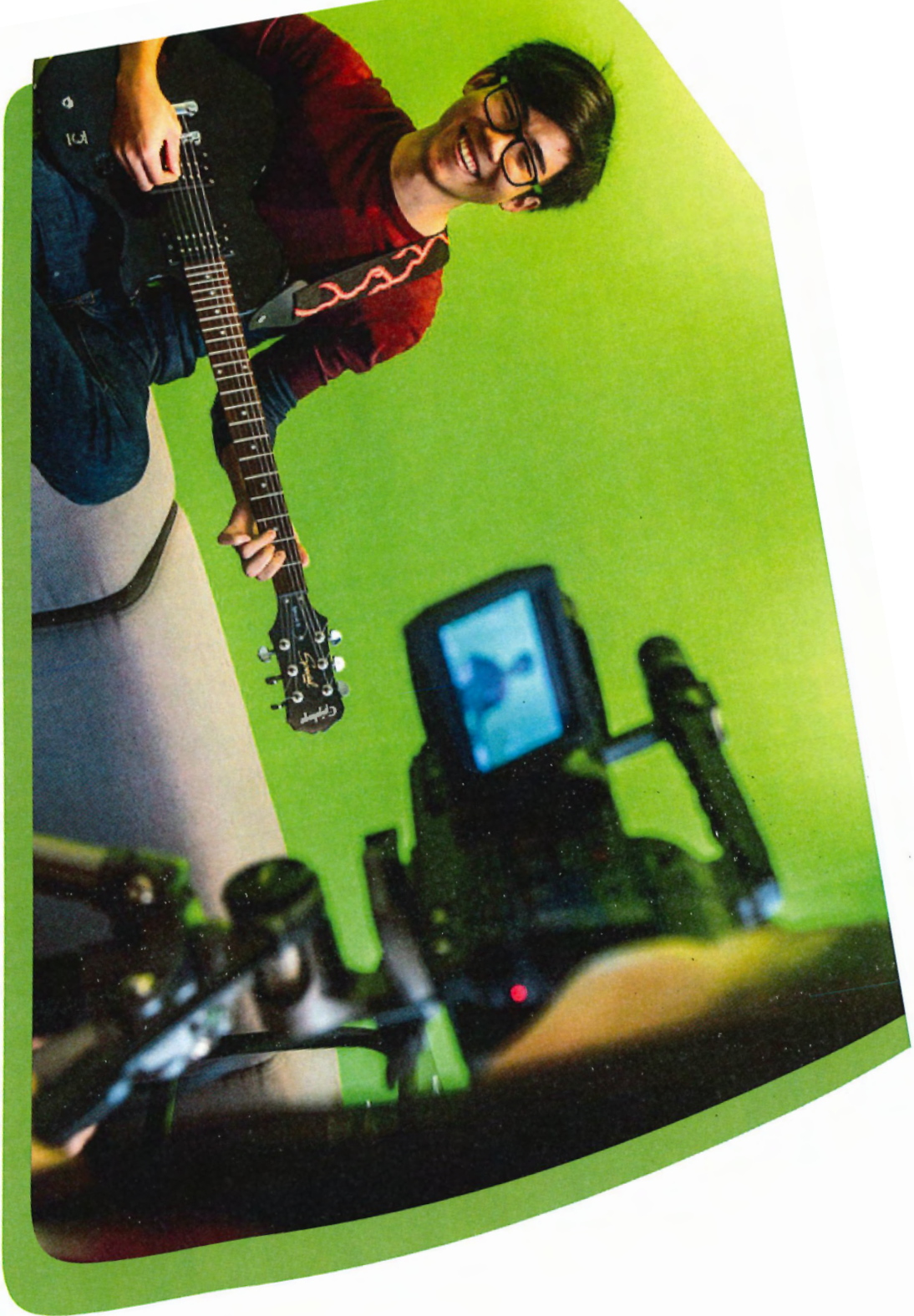
1. Continue to develop distinct arts districts and cultural hubs as identified in the City Centre Area Plan, with the provision of affordable creation, administrative, live/work and presentation space.
2. Establish parameters and guidelines for cultural amenity opportunities from development.
3. Construct more all-weather public gathering spaces for creative activity, festivals, congregation and networking.
4. Continue to support dedicated affordable artist housing and studios, such as through the ARTS units in Capstan Village and Artist-in-Residence programs.



**Art makes you happy!**

Cultural and creative participation is associated with a high sense of life satisfaction and higher rates of good mental health.

—Hill Strategies on Arts Indicators/Well-Being, 2017



Richmond Media Lab increases young people's technology literacy, accessibility and creativity by teaching them computer and media skills and techniques.

# MOVING FORWARD



## IMPLEMENTING, EVALUATING AND COMMUNICATING THE ARTS STRATEGY

The Richmond Arts Strategy 2019–2024 encompasses a broad range of creative and cultural assets and resources that, much like the role of creativity, are integrated into many aspects of everyday life in Richmond including business, tourism, gastronomy, public spaces, well-being and more, all part of a sustainable and healthy creative ecosystem\*.

Identifying leading and supporting partners will contribute to the implementation of the Strategy, while continued community participation will ensure the Strategy may be assessed, adapted and revised in response to changing needs.

This Strategy is a "living document", and will be supported by an updated annual implementation schedule and budget indicating:

- Actions categorized into recommended phases;
- Lead and Partner Roles, and opportunities for further collaboration; and
- Expected Outcomes and Benefits with success indicators as a means to monitor progress.

This Implementation Framework will be developed with the Arts Strategy Task Group to provide a guide for more detailed, tactical actions, and pave the way forward for the City's decision-making in arts activities and investment over the next five years.

Sharing the Strategy is essential to building wider awareness, excitement and momentum. Communications opportunities include, but are not limited to:

- A multilingual communications strategy to local media and the Richmond community, including the use of social media platforms for the City, partner groups and stakeholders;
- A widely advertised launch event(s) with community members, City representatives and partners to raise awareness and excitement around the strategy and its directions;
- Release of Strategy updates through howartworks.ca, City e-newsletter and other distribution networks; and
- Linking the directions of the Strategy with community events throughout the calendar year to carry out engagement activities and active plan linkages.

**\*CREATIVE ECOSYSTEM** The interconnection of cultural resources in a community. Facilities, spaces, festivals, makers, artists, designers, arts organizations, tourism and business are all connected to one another and in turn, support the health and vitality of a vibrant, creative city.

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The creation of the 2019–2024 Richmond Arts Strategy was a collaborative, community-wide endeavour involving many knowledgeable participants. A sincere thanks to all community members who contributed to the engagement process and the making of this Strategy, including the leadership of City Council and Staff and the Richmond Arts Strategy Task Group.

## RICHMOND CITY COUNCIL

**Malcolm Brodie**, Mayor  
**Chak Au**, City Councillor  
**Carol Day**, City Councillor  
**Kelly Greene**, City Councillor  
**Alexa Loo**, City Councillor  
**Bill McNulty**, City Councillor  
**Linda McPhail**, City Councillor  
**Harold Steves**, City Councillor  
**Michael Wolfe**, City Councillor

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**Kelly Stauffer**, Design

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**Camilla Tibbs**, Executive Director, Gateway Theatre  
**Carol Day**, City Councillor  
**Crystal Chan**, Richmond Resident  
**George Duncan**, Chief Administrative Officer, City of Richmond  
**Jane Ferryhough**, Director, Arts, Culture and Heritage Services  
**Linda Barnes**, Chair of Richmond Arts Coalition  
**Mark Glavina**, Founder, Phoenix Art Workshop  
**Wayne Craig**, Director, Development

## CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS:

Arts Services, Communications, Community Social Development, Corporate Business Service Solutions, Corporate Partnerships, Economic Development, Engineering and Public Works, Finance, Heritage Services, Major Events, Parks, Planning and Development, Policy Planning, Project Management, Public Art, Recreation and Sport, Richmond Public Library, Seniors and Sustainability

## CITY OF RICHMOND STAFF

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**Liesl Jauk**, Manager, Arts Services  
**Katie Varney**, Manager, Community Cultural Development  
**Camyar Chaichian**, Coordinator, Arts Centre  
**Samir Modhwadia**, Administrator, Arts, Culture and Heritage



## RICHMOND ARTS STRATEGY TASK GROUP

- Glen Andersen**, Multidisciplinary Artist, Environmental Activist
- Sid Akselrod**, Artist, Photographer, Art Teacher, Steveston-London Secondary
- Linda Barnes**, Chair of Richmond Arts Coalition, Steveston Historical Society and Steveston 20/20 Group
- Suzanne Carter-Huffman**, Senior Planner, City of Richmond
- Ceri Chong**, Industry Development Manager, Tourism Richmond
- Kirsten Close**, Coordinator, Community Services, Major Projects
- Sandra Ciccozzi**, Richmond Potters' Club
- Gabby Cometa**, Richmond Youth Media Program
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- Rob Fillo**, Multidisciplinary Artist, Vancouver Media Services Inc.
- Chris Ho**, VP of Development, Polygon Homes
- Dorothy Jo**, Acting Inclusion Coordinator, City of Richmond
- Donna Lee**, Inclusion Coordinator, City of Richmond
- Neonila Lilova**, Economic Development Manager, City of Richmond
- Sudnya Mulje**, Founder and Artistic Director of Sudnya Dance Academy
- Jay Nunns**, Artistic and Community Engagement Director, CircusWest Performing Arts
- Andrea Paterson**, Photographer, Writer, Fibre Artist
- Terry Point**, Musqueam Knowledge Keeper, Richmond School District 38
- Angelica Poversky**, Artist, Spoken Word Poet, Artistic Programmer
- Carolyn Robertson**, Dean of the Wilson School of Design, Kwantlen Polytechnic University
- Quelemia Sparrow**, Actor, Director, Writer, Musqueam Nation
- Jovanni Sy**, Playwright, Director, Actor, Former Artistic Director of Gateway Theatre
- Minghui Yu**, Richmond Resident, IT Professional
- Thomas Yu**, Board Member, Richmond Chinese Community Society
- Toni Zhang McAfee**, Arts Administrator, Museum Professional, Community Arts Programmer



## INDIGENOUS ADVISOR, MUSQUEAM FIRST NATION

### Special thanks to Terry Point

Terry's guidance is informed by his experience as an Aboriginal Education Teacher in Richmond schools, his work for the Musqueam Indian Band and his role with the University of British Columbia Museum of Anthropology over the past 10 years. He holds a Bachelor of Arts from UBC in First Nations Studies.



**"Richmond: a fusion of Asian art  
with local Indigenous influence  
and a touch of European flair!"**

– Community Engagement Survey Respondent

Photo by Tim Nguyen. Daniel Chen in *Nine Dragons*, 2017.





# City of Richmond

## Report to Committee

**To:** Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee      **Date:** April 5, 2019

**From:** Todd Gross, Director, Parks Services      **File:** 06-2345-20-TNOV4/Vol 01

**Re:** **Proposed Tidally Influenced Terra Nova Slough Update**

### Staff Recommendation

1. That Option 1: Enhance the Existing Freshwater Pond, as outlined in the staff report titled "Proposed Tidally Influenced Terra Nova Slough Update" dated April 5, 2019 for the Director, Parks Services, be endorsed; and
2. The funding of \$225,000 for the proposed habitat enhancement and management plans be considered in the 2020 Budget process.

Todd Gross  
 Director, Park Services  
 (604-247-4942)

Att. 6

REPORT CONCURRENCE		
ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER
Engineering	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Finance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Sustainability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
REVIEWED BY STAFF REPORT / AGENDA REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE	INITIALS: 	APPROVED BY CAO 

## Staff Report

### Origin

At the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee meeting on April 24, 2018, staff received the following referral:

*That the staff report titled "Proposed Tidally Influenced Terra Nova Slough Update" dated April 16, 2018, from the General Manager, Community Services, be referred back to staff.*

Staff presented information regarding the functional requirements which would see the existing freshwater pond habitat converted into a tidally influenced habitat supporting migrating Fraser River salmonids. In the ensuing discussion, staff were directed to consider converting the slough back to agricultural land, should modifying the existing slough be found to be unfeasible.

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the ongoing efforts by staff to address the referral.

### Background

In 2004, the Terra Nova Rural Park Plan called for development of a functional estuary slough with an outlet to the Middle Arm of the Fraser River to support salmonids within the park. The first phase of the project was implemented in 2007 with the construction of the slough channel.

The second phase entailed engineering design and costing for a flood control gate and connecting pipe to link the slough to the Fraser River (Attachment 1). Costs to breach the dike and install an outlet structure were assessed in 2009; at that time, cost estimates exceeded the City's expectations and budget, and the project was put on hold. The slough has been functioning as a freshwater pond since 2007.

A review of the project was conducted in 2018. In the intervening years since the original work was completed, there have been updates to the City's Dike Master Plan, alterations to the pond and updated engineering standards.

The project review included:

- Reviewing the design drawings to connect the pond to the estuary completed in 2009;
- Reviewing the ecological value and function of the existing freshwater pond compared to the potential value and function of a tidally influenced slough;
- Updating the risk assessment for placing an opening in the dike at this location in the context of the City's Dike Master Plan;
- Providing an updated project cost estimate; and
- Consideration of daylighting or enhancing other sloughs.



## Analysis

Converting the existing approximately 7,000 m<sup>2</sup> of freshwater aquatic and riparian habitat (pond) into an estuarine marsh habitat (slough) would involve:

- Construction of a dike box culvert connecting the pond to the Fraser River;
- Installation of a tide gate to regulate the flow of water;
- Modifications to the dike and a portion of River Road; and
- Modifications to the existing pond to create a tidally influenced slough.

This proposed project would impact portions of the existing park and alter the ecological function of the existing pond. There are a number of habitat and engineering benefits as well as challenges with this potential project.

### Proposed Terra Nova Tidal Slough

The original design proposes one entry and exit point at the Fraser River to the existing pond. The proposed tide gate structure would regulate the slough's water level, changing with the daily natural tide cycle. The tide gate structure would be designed to protect the slough during King Tide and storms.

The purpose of the tidally influenced slough is to provide habitat for juvenile salmonids and other fish species that utilize estuarine habitats. Salmonid species would not use this habitat for spawning purposes (Attachment 2). The salmonid habitat value would be limited by the single entry and exit point. This single opening will limit tidal flushing and will also likely result in sediment accumulation, requiring ongoing maintenance. In addition, the presence of fish would likely be limited in the warmer months, as increased inland water temperatures have the potential to exceed acceptable levels.

There are three primary considerations in the review of the potential project in Terra Nova Park:

1. Flood Risk Assessment;
2. Habitat Value Assessment; and
3. Conversion to Agricultural Land.

#### 1. Flood Risk Assessment

If the pond is connected to the Fraser River by breaching the dike at this location, the flood risk would increase. The flood risk could be mitigated with the construction of a secondary dike to isolate the pond. Two possible dike options are:

- a) A dike around the slough's perimeter (Attachment 3).

The current mean elevation of the park area surrounding the pond is approximately 0.7 m; the proposed crest of dike grade is an elevation of 4.7 m, with the targeted future elevation at 5.5 m. The length of the proposed dike to be built around the slough's perimeter will be approximately 700 m long. The approximate 4 m elevation gain and inclusion of the standard dike crest design would result in an approximate dike foot print of 1.96 hectares (ha) (4.8 acres). The estimated cost for this dike option is approximately \$5,200,000 (+/-40%).

- b) A dike running through a portion of Terra Nova Park, as conceptually planned in the City's Dike Master Plan (Attachment 4).

The dike as envisioned in the City's Dike Master Plan is approximately 510 m long with an approximate dike foot print of 1.43 ha (3.5 acres). To install the envisioned dike, the estimated cost for this option is approximately \$3,800,000 (+/-40%). This option would potentially result in the western third of the park being occasionally flooded.

Existing park features impacted by both proposed dike options include walking paths, bridges and boardwalks, plantings (including mature trees), the Terra Nova Play Experience, and areas of high habitat value, such as old-field foraging areas for resident barn owls.

## 2. Habitat Value Assessment

To improve the tidal flushing action of the proposed tidal slough, channelization of the slough through the creation of a secondary entry and exit point should be considered; the slough would thus be connected to tidally influenced water sources at each end. Creation of a secondary access point would require additional study with respect to potential size, alignment, grading, cost and impact on the park. The recently restored Grauer Lands is an example of a connected intertidal channel; a 127 acre area of enhanced salmon rearing habitat was created in 2013 (Attachment 5), just south of Terra Nova Park. The area is flushed with each tide cycle, providing protected habitat to rearing juvenile Chinook and Chum salmon.

The existing pond is currently a freshwater body; however, it was originally designed to function as a tidally influenced slough. It is currently fed only by ground and surface fresh water, and flows, for the most part, are isolated from the surrounding inland drainage system.

Current management practices include mowing some of the riparian areas around the pond in order to manage invasive plant and animal species and facilitate public access. If these current management practices were enhanced, the overall ecological function and interpretive value of the pond are expected to increase.

In 2018, the existing pond was reviewed by a certified biologist. The pond and surrounding riparian zone are a functioning habitat for various species of amphibians, birds, freshwater fish and wildlife. A number of observations and recommendations were provided for both the existing pond and the proposed tidally influenced slough (Attachment 6).

The following proposed habitat enhancements and management measures would improve the fresh water pond and associated riparian habitat values:

- Creation of ephemeral wetlands to provide breeding habitat for native birds;
- Fencing around the trunks of significant trees and shrubs to prevent damage caused by beavers;
- Develop and implement a pond specific Invasive Species Management Plan for the riparian and aquatic habitat;
- Habitat enhancements such as planting and other measures to improve bird and bat habitats; and
- Introduce a water flow system to address the pond's low oxygen levels.



Staff estimate an approximate cost of \$75,000 to fully assess the current function of the pond, develop a habitat management strategy, and provide a planting plan. The combined cost to implement the above list of recommended improvements in addition to the assessment and plan is approximately \$150,000.

### 3. Conversion to Agricultural Land

At the April 2018, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee meeting discussion, there was a suggestion to fill in the existing freshwater pond to create farm land to address food security needs in the City.

Fill for the pond could come from the mound located in the southwestern section of the Terra Nova Adventure Play Environment or material could be imported. The mound, created in 2007 with the material excavated from the pond, currently supports a slide and path leading up to view point. Removal of the mound would require a redesign and repurposing of the Play Environment in that area. Overall, the project would require the removal of existing plant material, foot bridges and paths, as well as relocating aquatic and amphibian species from the pond.

This proposal would need to follow all applicable senior and local government environmental regulations. The estimated volume of fill required is 8,700 m<sup>3</sup> (+/- 20%), and the estimated project design and management costs would be approximately \$75,000 with the overall construction costs estimated at approximately \$300,000 (+/- 50%). If soil were imported to fill the pond, overall project expenses could be offset however to what extent cannot be determined at this time.

Should the City need to further expand its farming and food production capabilities, 39.3 ha of open space in Terra Nova could be converted into agricultural land with relatively little effort. The Richmond Sharing Farm Society actively farms 3.6 ha in the Terra Nova Rural Park. Otherwise, the remaining areas in both Terra Nova Rural Park and Natural Area are predominantly managed by the City as old-field, hedgerow and natural forest habitat. Should these areas become farmland, the impact on these habitat areas would be significant. In the Natural Area, the area is managed as compensatory habitat for Vancouver International Airport (YVR); should it be converted to farmland, other areas of equal habitat value would need to be identified elsewhere in Richmond.

On a City-wide level, the City owns and manages 242 ha of land within the Agriculture Land Reserve (ALR), including the 55 ha at the Garden City Lands and approximately 24 ha at the South Dike Agricultural Lands (along the South Arm of the Fraser River, between Gilbert and No.3 Road). By implementing the Garden City Lands' Park Development Plan and farming the South Dike Agricultural Lands site more intensively, these areas provide a cost-efficient opportunity to increase food production on City-owned land. Activation of these areas could be potentially achieved through the existing partnerships the City has with Kwantlen Polytechnic University (KPU) and Richmond Food Security Society.

Options For Consideration

Staff reviewed the proposed project at Terra Nova on the basis of:

- Flood risk management;
- Costing of the proposed design;
- Review of the original design;
- Habitat value factors of both the existing pond and the proposed slough;
- The impact on the Terra Nova’s open space if the existing pond were removed; and
- Current inventory of agriculture land owned by the City of Richmond.

As a result of this evaluation, the following options are proposed for Council’s consideration:

**Option 1: Enhance the Existing Freshwater Pond (Recommended)**

*Estimated total cost: \$225,000.*

Enhance the current freshwater habitat and introduce enhanced management strategies to increase its ecological value.

Table 1: Pros and Cons of Enhancing the Existing Freshwater Pond

<b>Pros:</b>	<b>Cons:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Existing ecological function could be enhanced to provide a richer park visitor experience, increasing nature interpretation and education opportunities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional study to provide a specific plan would be required to be developed prior to implementation.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Modest investment of resources would result in an enhanced freshwater habitat.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No salmonid rearing habitat will be created.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A high level of flood protection would be maintained without having to construct a secondary dike.</li> </ul>	

**Option 2: Create a Tidally Influenced Terra Nova Slough**

*Estimated total cost: \$6,090,000 to \$7,490,000 (depending on which dike routing option is chosen).*

Update and implement flood box plans to open the pond to the tidal influence from the Fraser River Estuary and initiate the design process to construct a secondary dike in Terra Nova Park.

Table 2: Pros and Cons of Creating a Tidally Influenced Terra Nova Slough

<b>Pros:</b>	<b>Cons:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Achieve the original plan for the pond to be a tidally influenced slough.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased risk of flooding due to breaching the dike to create this feature. Mitigation measures (i.e., secondary dike) will be required to maintain a high level of flood protection.</li> </ul>



Pros:	Cons:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide habitat opportunities for a number of fish species.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The estimated flood gate structure construction cost with design updates and modifications would be approximately \$2,290,000 (+/- 50%), representing a prorated increase of approximately \$480,000 over the original design.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create a unique natural feature, providing opportunities for nature interpretation and education.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The cost of building the associated dike structures range from \$3,800,000 (+/- 40%) to \$5,200,000 (+/- 40%).</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adverse impacts to the existing freshwater aquatic and terrestrial species by displacing them from the area. Potential benefits to salmonid and estuarine fish species are unknown at this time.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional maintenance costs due to the current slough configuration which restrict flushing action and allowing for the accumulation of debris and sediment.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Existing park features will be impacted by the installation of a secondary dike.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The original design requires updating to reflect the City’s target 4.7m dike elevation.</li> </ul>

**Option 3: Converting the Existing Freshwater Pond to Agriculturally Productive Farm Land.**

*Estimated total cost: \$375,000 (subject to confirmation).*

Fill the existing freshwater pond to establish agriculturally productive farm land.

Table 3: Pros and Cons of Converting the Existing Freshwater Pond to Agriculturally Productive Farm Land.

Pros:	Cons:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decommissioning the pond would reduce the maintenance and management costs associated with it.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Removing the pond would negatively impact a currently viable and thriving freshwater habitat including the removal of several significant trees and the displacement of various resident animals.</li> </ul>

Pros:	Cons:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approximately 1.25 ha of new farm land would be created.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Other (larger) areas in Terra Nova Rural Park could be converted to farm production for a fraction of the cost and through a much less complex process.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Creation of new farm land would increase the City's food security.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Food security could be effectively addressed at number of currently underutilized, City-owned sites, including the Garden City Lands.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Removal of the existing pond would reduce the natural interpretation and recreation values that Park visitors currently experience.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The estimated cost of construction would be approximately \$375,000 (+/- 50%) and would entail moving or importing approximately 8,700 m<sup>3</sup> (+/- 20%) of fill.</li> </ul>

**Financial Impact**

Funding for Option 1 will be considered in the 2020 Budget process.

**Conclusion**

Staff have reviewed the original Terra Nova design, and updated the flood risk and habitat value assessment for the proposed conversion of the existing pond to a tidally influenced slough. The necessity for and cost of a secondary dike was not considered in the original project.

The estimated total project cost for Option 2: Create a Tidally Influenced Terra Nova Slough is between \$6,090,000 and \$7,490,000. The impact on Terra Nova Rural Park to convert the existing pond to a tidally influenced slough would be high, creating flood risks and displacing park amenities. In addition, implementing a suggested additional channel to connect a secondary entry and exit point would add additional cost and scope to the project. If implemented, a rearing habitat for a broad range of fish species may be created that could include a number of migrating salmonid species. It is recommended that efforts be focused on taking advantage of opportunities to partner with other key stakeholders to enhance fish rearing habitat in the Fraser River Estuary, outside of the City's dike system.

Converting the existing freshwater pond to farm land would minimally address Richmond's food security issues and cost an estimated \$375,000 to complete. It would also remove a functioning freshwater habitat area. The City's local food security concerns could be better addressed through the more intensive utilization of land owned by the City which is currently used for agriculture.



April 5, 2019

- 9 -

Therefore, staff recommend the adoption of Option 1: Enhance the Existing Freshwater Pond. This option would result in a modest investment of time and resources to increase the habitat value of the existing freshwater pond, above its present day function.

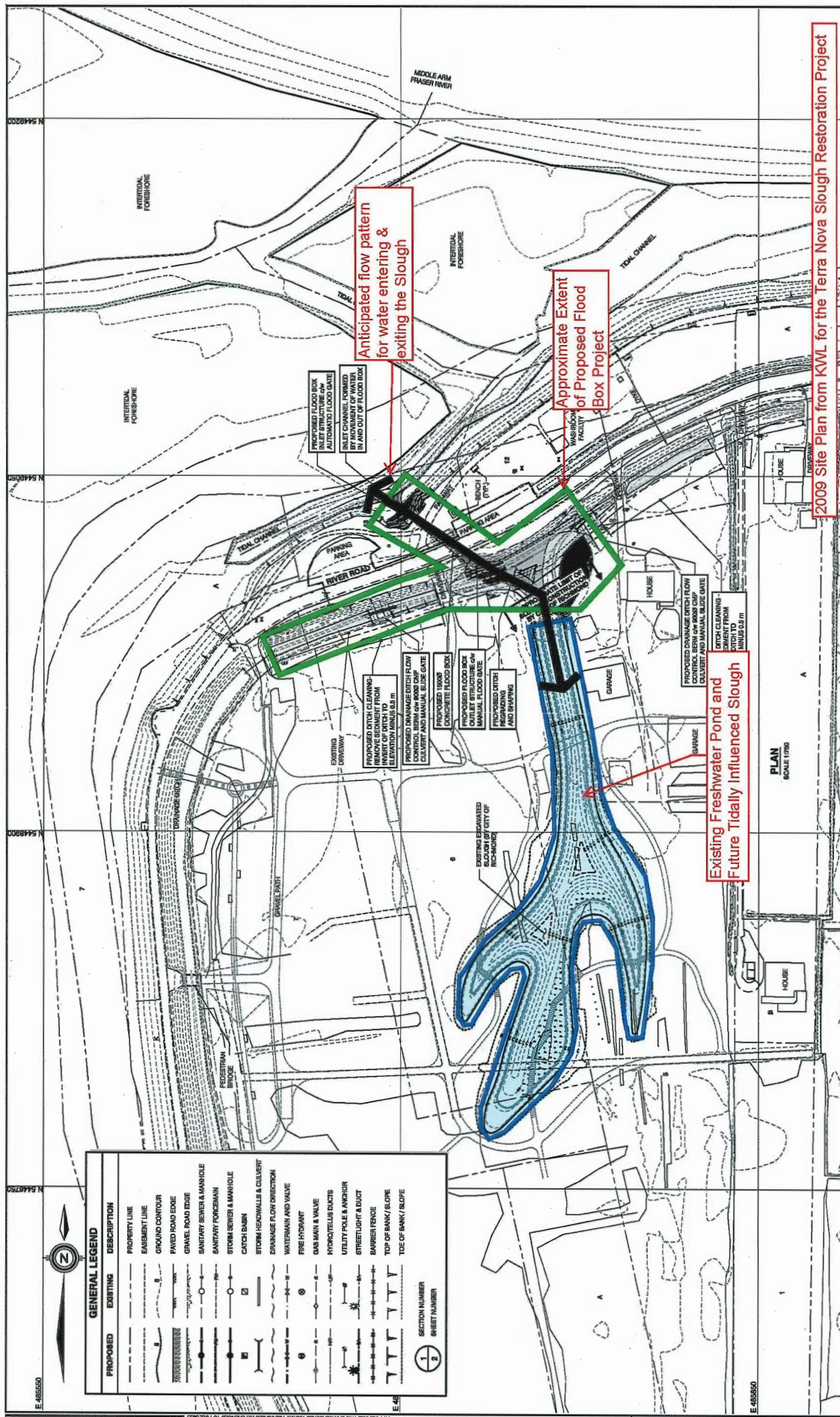


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Manager, Parks Planning, Design  
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(604-233-3341)

- Att. 1: 2009 KWL Terra Nova Slough Restoration Project Site Plan
- 2: Terra Nova Chum Salmon Slough Update- November 23, 2017
- 3: Conceptual Dike Design Around Proposed Slough
- 4: Page 24, Figure 8: Secondary Dike Alignment through Terra Nova- Lulu Island Dike Master Plan Phase 2- Draft Report
- 5: Grauer Lands Map
- 6: PGL Feasibility Review Report: Tidally Influenced Slough at Terra Nova Park (total 16 pages, not including Appendix 1)



2009 Site Plan from KWL for the Terra Nova Slough Restoration Project

GENERAL LEGEND	
PROPOSED	EXISTING
PROPERTY LINE	PROPERTY LINE
ESSENTIAL LINE	ESSENTIAL LINE
GROUND CONTOUR	GROUND CONTOUR
PAVED ROAD EDGE	PAVED ROAD EDGE
GRAVEL ROAD EDGE	GRAVEL ROAD EDGE
SANITARY SEWER & MANHOLE	SANITARY SEWER & MANHOLE
SANITARY FOREMAN	SANITARY FOREMAN
STORM SEWER & MANHOLE	STORM SEWER & MANHOLE
CATCH BASIN	CATCH BASIN
STORM HEADWALLS & CULVERT	STORM HEADWALLS & CULVERT
DRAINAGE FLOW DIRECTION	DRAINAGE FLOW DIRECTION
WATERMAIN AND VALVE	WATERMAIN AND VALVE
FIRE HYDRANT	FIRE HYDRANT
GAS MAIN & VALVE	GAS MAIN & VALVE
HYDROTELAS DUCTS	HYDROTELAS DUCTS
UTILITY POLE & ANCHOR	UTILITY POLE & ANCHOR
STREETLIGHT & CULVERT	STREETLIGHT & CULVERT
IMPERVIOUS	IMPERVIOUS
TOP OF BANK / SLOPE	TOP OF BANK / SLOPE
TOE OF BANK / SLIDE	TOE OF BANK / SLIDE

REVISION INFORMATION				
Issue	Date	Issued By	Checked	Description of Revision
AT	FAL/2009	KAF	AU	ISSUED FOR APPROVAL
TR	MAY/2010	KAF	AG	DESIGN AND LEGEND UPDATE

Rev. No.	Date	Designed	Checked	Description of Revision
1	06/11/07	KAF	AU	ISSUED FOR APPROVAL
2	MAY/2010	KAF	AG	DESIGN AND LEGEND UPDATE

CITY OF RICHMOND	
TERRA NOVA SLOUGH RESTORATION OVERALL SITE PLAN	
KWL Project No. 651.0449	Scale AS BROWN
Sheet 2 of 9	Rev. No. 2

KERRWOOD LEIDAL CONSULTING ENGINEERS	
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**City of  
Richmond**

**Memorandum**  
Community Services Division  
Parks Planning and Design

---

**To:** Mayor and Councillors **Date:** November 23, 2017  
**From:** Alexander Kurnicki **File:** 06-2345-20-TNOV4/Vol 01  
 Research Planner 2  
**Re:** **Terra Nova Chum Salmon Slough Update**

---

At the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee meeting on the March 24, 2015, staff received the following referral:

- (1) That staff explore the establishing of a salmon spawning slough at Terra Nova and stocking it with Chum Salmon fry as planned, and further, consider what other sloughs have the potential for day lighting and stocking with Chum Salmon; and*
- (2) That the information and videos provided by Metro Vancouver on how the Still Creek salmon run was established be referred to staff.*

The purpose of this memo is to provide an update on the ongoing efforts by staff to address the above referral.

In 2009, staff went through a design process and issued a tender for the floodgate construction for breaching the dike and creating a fish habitat in the Terra Nova Slough. The costs of this project exceeded the City's expectations by a considerable amount and the project was put on hold.

Since time has passed, a review of the project is being conducted. The review is focusing on the following tasks:

- Review of the design drawings completed in 2009;
- Review the ecological value and function of the existing slough compared to the value and function of a salt water and tidally influenced slough;
- Updating the risk assessment for placing an opening in the dike at this location in the context of the City's Dike Master Plan-Phase 2; and
- Providing an updated project cost estimate.

A review of the project by staff would be required with respect to the City's Dike Master Plan and the overall flood protection strategy for this portion of the dike system. An initial review by staff indicates that connecting the slough to the Fraser River by breaching the dike creates an inherent and significant flood risk at this location. A possible strategy to mitigate this risk and maintain flood protection would be to build a secondary dike around the slough. The potential

impacts of a secondary dike and other contemplated flood mitigation measures may have on the park, the project's scope and expense will be provided in a forthcoming report to Council.

The slough is currently a fresh water body supporting associated aquatic and riparian flora, and fauna. A review of the potential habitat benefits of an altered slough will be conducted in the current context of existing salmonid habitat in the area. Preliminary research indicates there is historical data suggesting the areas around Sturgeon Banks and the North Arm of the Fraser River have provided juvenile rearing habitat for chinook, chum, coho salmon, migratory habitat for adult salmon, and resident habitat for and various forage fish species. An altered slough would not function as a spawning habitat, which commonly occurs in the upper reaches of the Fraser River. Assessment of the value of an altered slough as a rearing habitat will be summarized in a forthcoming report to Council.

The expected completion date for the feasibility study is early 2018. Staff will provide a further project update at that time.

If you require additional information on this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at 604-276-4099.

Alexander Kurnicki  
Research Planner 2

pc: SMT  
Serena Lusk, Interim Director, Parks and Recreation  
Jamie Esko, Manager, Parks Planning, Design and Construction



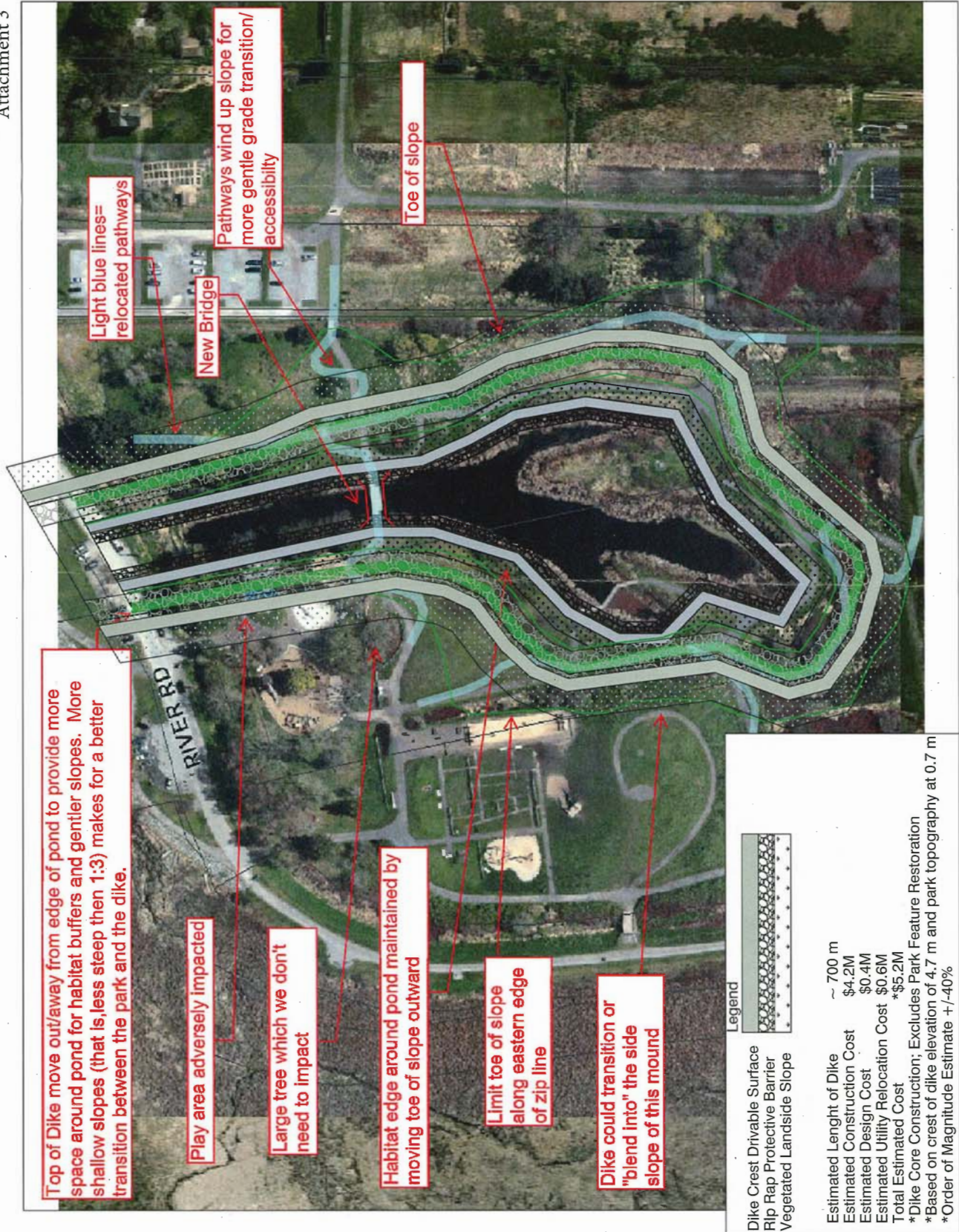




Figure 8: Secondary Dike Alignment through Terra Nova



## 4.2 AREA SPECIFIC ADAPTATIONS

For the purposes of the master plan, an area specific adaptation is a structural adaptation that can achieve the target 4.7 m crest height, with consideration for a future increase to 5.5 m. This section outlines the preferred area specific adaptation measures for each of the thirteen design areas.

The recommended approaches to area specific adaptations includes: widen footprint to land or water side; raise in place / constrained dike; permanent floodwall; demountable floodwall.

### *Widen Footprint to Land or Water Side*

Dikes are the most common form of structural flood protection. Lulu Island is currently protected by a perimeter ring dike, with floodwalls or alternative protections at some sites. In the Study Area, improvements to the existing dike should be pursued wherever possible.



Grauer Property Monitoring Report – 2016



Figure 1. Location and boundary of the Grauer property in Richmond, BC.



Terra Nova Park  
Richmond, BC

# Feasibility Review: Tidally Influenced Slough at Terra Nova Park



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PGL File: 831-01.05

February 2018



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### LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix 1	Terra Nova Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Strategy, PGL 2014	- Not referenced within
Appendix 2	Site Photographs	body of Attachment 6



## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

PGL Environmental Consultants (PGL) is pleased to provide you with a feasibility assessment of plans to breach the Terra Nova dyke to create a tidally influenced slough to support juvenile salmonid species.

## 2.0 BACKGROUND

In 2004, the City of Richmond (the City) developed a master plan for the Terra Nova Rural Park, which is roughly defined by the north half of the Terra Nova Park area. This plan included creating a functional estuarine slough with an outlet to the Middle Arm of the Fraser River. The primary objective of the slough feature was to maximize biodiversity and offer opportunities to support fish and amphibians, including salmonids where feasible. It was intended that the City would also pursue educational interpretation as a secondary objective.

The City retained PWL Partnership Landscape Architects Inc. (PWL) to develop a concept plan to upgrade the overall park. Kerr Wood Leidal Associates (KWL) was subcontracted to prepare the engineering drawings for the slough and design the dyke breach flood structure. PGL was also retained as a subconsultant to provide input on environmental aspects of the design and implementation and to explore regulatory expectations and approval requirements.

The City constructed the slough channel in 2007. However, for several reasons, the installation of the outlet structure and subsequent dyke breach was never implemented. As such, the slough has functioned as a freshwater habitat ecosystem for the ten years since its construction.

### 2.1 Wildlife Enhancement/Management Strategy

In 2010, The City retained PGL to prepare a wildlife habitat enhancement/management strategy for the Terra Nova Rural Park and Terra Nova Natural Area, collectively referred to as the Park. This project involved a thorough review of historical data and designs, a review of current conditions, and field surveys to fill data gaps.

Based on the work completed, PGL identified a water feature which it labelled and referred to as "Aquatic Habitat Management Unit 01" (AHMU-01). The study concluded that there was moderate to good ecological diversity associated with AHMU-01: a variety of plants and bird species were observed in and around the feature and healthy populations of Threespine Stickleback (*Gasterosteus aculeatus*) and several amphibian species had established themselves in AHMU-01.

It was noted at the time, that portions of the riparian habitat were at risk from invasive plant populations and PGL recommended and prepared a restoration plan to avoid destabilization of the slough ecosystem by invasive species. A final copy of the strategy report was submitted to the City in 2014 and is attached to this report as Appendix 1. PGL is unaware if any parts of the restoration plan were implemented.



### 3.0 CURRENT SCOPE OF WORK

City staff have been directed by Council to review the ecological value and function of the freshwater slough (AHMU-01) as-is, relative to the value and function of a salt-water and tidally influenced slough.

PGL has been retained to assist staff in developing a report. The scope of PGL's report included a site visit to assess current habitat function, followed by provision of an opinion on the feasibility or rationale of creating a tidally influenced slough and potential salmon rearing habitat vs. enhancing existing habitats at nearby locations. This report represents that opinion.

### 4.0 SITE VISIT

PGL conducted a site visit with KWL and City representatives on February 7, 2018. In attendance were: Alex Kurnicki (City of Richmond); Andrew Szojka (KWL Calgary); Kimberly Armour (City of Richmond); Kevin Fraser (City of Richmond); and Bruce Nidle (PGL).

#### 4.1 Site Conditions and Observations

During the site visit, PGL senior fisheries biologist, Bruce Nidle, made the following observations:

- The slough water level was up to the level of the boardwalk and had flooded some grassy areas (Photograph 1);
- A beaver lodge was present in the middle of the slough (Photograph 2). Beavers had felled most small trees adjacent to the slough;
- A variety of waterfowl species were in and adjacent to the slough;
- Eagles and hawks were perching in trees adjacent to the slough;
- Vegetation around the perimeter of the slough consisted of common cattail (*Typha latifolia*) and the non-native reed canarygrass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) (Photograph 3);
- Riparian vegetation consisted of invasive, non-native Himalayan blackberry (*Rubus armeniacus*) and an assortment of native shrubs and small trees including hardhack (*Spirea douglasii*), red-osier dogwood (*Cornus stolonifera*) and paper birch (*Betula papyrifera*) (Photograph 4);
- The grass areas had been mown to create lawns in many locations; and
- Suggestions from the previous PGL 2014 report—notably invasive species management protocols—had not been incorporated into the park.

It should be noted that fish and water quality sampling have not been undertaken since the PGL 2014 report.

### 5.0 DISCUSSION

The Terra Nova Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Strategy (PGL 2014) described Aquatic Habitat Management Units (AHMUs) for the aquatic features at the Site. Recapping that report, a water feature identified as AHMU-01 is present in the north half of the park. It is not connected to any of the perimeter ditches on the site.

It is this feature that was considered in 2007 for connection to the Fraser River via a flood-control box to create a brackish, tidally refreshed slough, but the connection was not established. As a result, AHMU-01 has been isolated from both brackish tidal flow and other freshwater sources. Hydrologically speaking, therefore, it has been functioning as a freshwater "pond" rather than a "slough" for the past decade.

It is this pond that is again under consideration for connection to the estuary.

### 5.1 Present Pond Conditions

AHMU-01 provides habitat for several amphibian species (unidentified) and for Threespine stickleback, a small coarse freshwater fish species.

Vegetation surrounding AHMU-01 includes common cattail, hardhack, non-native reed canarygrass, invasive non-native Himalayan blackberry, and other shrubs and trees. Manicured lawns are also present. The riparian habitat values currently are low. Non-native and invasive species are pervasive, limiting diversity and wildlife habitat functionality. The upland habitat is further impacted by frequent mowing and use by the public.

The existing habitat at AHMU-01 is suitable for some wildlife, but fish habitat is limited due to the isolated nature of the watercourse. Waterfowl use of AHMU-01 has been observed, and the bench of land between the middle- and east-fingers of the pond has been identified as a potential Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*) nesting location. A small Great Blue Heron colony at the park (PGL 2007) may also use this pond as a source of food.

American beaver (*Castor canadensis*) activity at the AHMU-01 pond has resulted in lost trees and the development of a beaver lodge within the pond.

Amphibian presence has been noted; however, species have not been confirmed. Literature suggests that native amphibians that may use the pond include Northwestern salamander (*Ambystoma gracile*), Pacific chorus frog (*Pseudacris regilla*), western toad (*Anaxyrus boreas*), and northern red-legged frog (*Rana aurora*) are not likely to be associated with AHMU-01 as there is a lack of forested upland habitat in close proximity to the pond.

Given the presence of invasive American bullfrog (*Lithobates catesbeianus*) in the south half of the park at AHMU-02 and the lack of upland forest vegetation around the AHMU-01 pond, it is possible that American bullfrog are present in AHMU-01. This species is a voracious predator of native amphibians (BC MoELP 2018a). Non-native green frogs (*Lithobates clamitans*) may also be present in the pond because they, like American bullfrogs, also require permanent waterbodies for tadpole development. While green frogs are not as aggressive as American bullfrogs, they are competitors for resources with our native amphibians (BC MOELP 2018b) and the presence of either species may be compromising the health and survival of native amphibians in the pond.



## 5.2 Potential Project Benefits

Breaching the dyke would result in the conversion of approximately 7,000m<sup>2</sup> of freshwater aquatic habitat and riparian habitat to estuarine marsh habitat (PGL 2007).

At present, there is no access for fish in or out of the pond. Tidally influenced sloughs may provide habitat for a greater number of fish species than are currently residing in the pond. A tidal connection to the estuary would allow fish species such as out-migrating juvenile Pink Salmon (*Oncorhynchus gorbuscha*), juvenile Chinook Salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), and juvenile Coho Salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*) to find shelter on their way out to the ocean. Other fish species including Starry Flounder (*Platichthys stellatus*), Prickly Sculpin (*Cottus asper*), Staghorn Sculpin (*Leptocottus armatus*), Peamouth Chub (*Mylocheilus caurinus*), Northern Pikeminnow (*Ptychocheilus oregonensis*), Redside Shiner (*Richardsonius balteatus*), and Largescale Sucker (*Catostomus macrocheilus*) might also use a tidally influenced slough.

The resident Threespine Stickleback can withstand brackish conditions and would, therefore, not be displaced.

Conversion to an estuarine slough could provide a small but productive habitat for a variety of species, but it would require that significant additional and ongoing work, such as clearing and managing invasive plants, planting appropriate marsh vegetation, and conversion of the bench between the middle- and east-fingers of the pond/slough for Killdeer nesting habitat be required.

Habitat values might be further increased with the addition of a second tidal entrance/exit point. While the technical details of this approach are unclear, a connection to channels currently existing to the south, such as the Grauer tidal wetland channels, would allow increased opportunities for fish access and species diversity, potential benefits for water quality with increased flushing, and a more estuarine habitat.

## 5.3 Project Challenges

Several drawbacks or difficulties are associated with converting the pond to a tidally influenced estuarine habitat.

- With only one entrance and one exit point for the slough, complete flushing of the waterbody is extremely unlikely. While this isn't necessarily a concern for fish, it does mean that any debris or contaminants washed into the slough may not flush back out. This may also lead to sediment deposition, requiring regular – likely annual – maintenance in the form of dredging to keep water depths in the slough adequate for fish habitat.
- During low water periods of the tidal cycle, decreased water volume in the converted pond may be prone to solar warming, particularly if the conversion is not coupled with riparian plantings that provide adequate overwater shading. High water temperatures can be lethal to fish, particularly salmonids and, while current water temperature regimes in the pond are unknown, it is quite possible that the shallow depth and low volume would result in temperatures dangerous to salmonids.
- Developing estuarine habitat would eliminate amphibian habitat. Amphibians require freshwater for egg laying and tadpole/larvae development. This would prevent future development of the habitat for native amphibians.

- Salt water conditions can make beavers ill but they will tolerate it. They will not, however, tolerate fluctuating water levels associated with the conversion to a tidally influenced system. They can be expected to work to block the flow of water, potentially constructing dams in front of the tide gate(s). While trapping of the beaver(s) and relocating them to another habitat prior to flood gate operation can be considered, it will not prevent them from returning or new beavers from entering the area and attempting to dam the system into a permanent water feature.

The flow-through design option (connecting the slough to the tidal wetland channels to the south to create one point of entry and one point of exit) presents its own set of challenges:

- If the south end of the channel is open on incoming tides, potential for an increased saline environment exists. Fluctuating salinity levels will influence the species that inhabit the slough. Some species may not tolerate a high salinity environment, limiting the use of the slough as year-round or rearing habitat;
- Increased flow may increase sediment inflow and deposition and/or deposition of log debris and detritus. This may result in the potential for debris and detritus to block either or both tidal gates. The former will require regular clearing and dredging to maintain suitable water depths, the latter will require regular tidal gate inspection to prevent blockages that could either starve the slough of water (if located at the inlet) or lead to internal flooding (if the blockage is located at the outlet); and
- Significant modelling and engineering challenges in developing a tidally influenced slough also exist that are beyond the scope of this report.
  - To create a flow-through design where water flows in one end, and exits the other, the north entrance point would have to open on an incoming tide, while the south exit would open on the outgoing tide. Significant hydrological modelling would be required to determine the best approach to allow water to flow through the Site rather than stagnate or move convergently on the centre of the channel.

#### 5.4 Project Permitting Requirements and Environmental Considerations

Breaching of the dike and installation of a flood control structure would require significant time and effort to be spent to secure permits under the following pieces of legislation:

- **The federal *Fisheries Act*:** While it is anticipated the project could result in a net benefit to fish, the project will nevertheless require that a Request for Review be made pursuant to the legislation. The application cannot be made without detailed (engineered) design drawings, hydrological modelling to prove the concept, a calculus of habitat types lost and gained, detailed planting plans, a construction management plan, and a plan for ongoing performance monitoring. Once submitted to Fisheries and Oceans Canada, a request for review may take up to six months;
- **The provincial *Water Sustainability Act*:** This piece of legislation requires a Notification or Change Approval for any changes to surface or subsurface water resources and includes temporary dewatering for construction and any types of work that affect water flows. While the application process is relatively straightforward, it may take between five to eight months to secure provincial approval; and



- **The provincial *Dyke Maintenance Act*:** Any alteration to the provincial dyke system must receive approval from the provincial Inspector of Dykes. Given increasing concerns regarding increased flooding resulting from climate change, the Inspector will require that breaching the dyke be coupled with increasing dyke freeboard or providing other protection mechanisms to prevent flooding within the new slough feature from affecting infrastructure.

Richmond may also require its own works be subject to a Phase 1 Environmental Site Investigation to ensure that works will not remobilize historical contaminants present within the park; it will also need so ensure design compliance with its own *Ecological Network Management Strategy*.

## 6.0 OPINION

It is our opinion that the loss of freshwater habitat coupled with the uncertainty of a successful conversion to a brackish slough suggests that retention of the existing habitat features is a more ecologically appropriate option for the slough. It is our further opinion that significant improvements to the function of the freshwater system can be achieved at a fraction of the cost of the conversion to a tidally influenced slough.

## 7.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

In light of our opinion in Section 6.0, we would recommend that the City consider the following projects to enhance the freshwater system present at Terra Nova Park.

### 7.1 Collecting Information to Guide Enhancement Efforts

- **Water sampling:** Water quality sampling should be undertaken during each season to determine the ecological conditions in the pond. Baseline water quality information can help guide planning processes for future habitat enhancement work.
- **Amphibian surveys:** Understanding the species present can inform future remediation work to improve habitat. Invasive species control may be necessary to promote healthy native amphibian populations.

### 7.2 Enhancement Works

- **Building vernal features:** Native amphibian species would benefit from the creation of a vernal feature at the Park. Vernal features essentially create areas without sufficient year-round standing water needed by the invasive American Bullfrog and Green Frog to breed, yet would create suitable breeding habitat for native amphibians such as Pacific Chorus Frog, Northern Red-Legged Frog and Western Toad. This vernal habitat should be situated adjacent upland forest habitat to provide ideal year-round conditions for all life stages. *A Guide to Creating Vernal Ponds* (Bieblghauser 2002) is a valuable resource for vernal pond construction.
- **Fencing to protect trees:** Wire fencing around the base of trees will limit the damage caused by beavers and will preserve the mature trees around the pond. Conifer species are also less desirable for beavers to harvest, and may be planted to replace the damaged trees if ecologically appropriate for the location.
- **Managing invasive species:** Developing and implementing an Invasive Plant Management Plan to remove and maintain invasive plants coupled with replanting of native plant species will stabilize the system, exclude recolonization by non-native species, and allow for the continued development of a robust native ecosystem. Suitable marsh species such as sedges and rushes should be planted in shallow marsh zones.

- Installing bird nesting boxes and perching poles: Boxes for a variety of species, including swallows, Wood Ducks (*Aix sponsa*), and owls will increase species diversity in the area. Coordination with qualified biologists to develop a nest box plan with appropriate box design and installation locations is recommended. Perching poles for raptors along the perimeter of Old Field habitat is also recommended.
- Encouraging the redevelopment of Old Field habitat: The PGL 2014 report recommends that regular mowing in a number of locations (referred to as Old Field Habitat Management units in the 2014 report) be replaced with a five-year mowing/plowing rotation, with re-seeding using the appropriate seed mix. Old Field habitat is important for the production of small mammals such as voles, mice and shrews that are hunted by raptors, including diurnal owls and Great Blue Herons.
- Installing bat boxes: Inclusion of bat habitat will increase the ecological diversity of the Site and help control insect populations.
- Enforcing dog leash and cleanup bylaws: Education and enforcement will help reduce wildlife disturbance and fecal contamination.
- Establishing a Killdeer nesting beach: Recommendations and details are available in the PGL 2014 report.

## 8.0 LIMITATIONS

PGL prepared this report for our client and its agents exclusively. PGL accepts no responsibility for any damages that may be suffered by third parties as a result of decisions or actions based on this report.

The findings and conclusions are site-specific and were developed in a manner consistent with that level of care and skill normally exercised by environmental professionals currently practicing under similar conditions in the area. Changing assessment techniques, regulations, and site conditions means that environmental investigations and their conclusions can quickly become dated, so this report is for use now. The report should not be used after that without PGL review/approval.

The project has been conducted according to our instructions and work program. Additional conditions, and limitations on our liability are set forth in our work program/contract. No warranty, expressed or implied, is made.

## 9.0 CLOSURE

We trust that this meets your needs. If you have any questions or require clarification, please contact Katharine Scotton or Bruce Nidle at 604-235-8021 and 604-895-7609, respectively.



## 10.0 REFERENCES

BC Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks. 2018a. BC Frogwatch Factsheet 7: Bullfrog *Rana catesbeiana*. Available at: <http://a100.gov.bc.ca/pub/eirs/finishDownloadDocument.do?subdocumentId=667>. Accessed February 2018.

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Pottinger Gaherty Environmental Consultants Ltd. 2007. Environmental Review Committee Application: Terra Nova Slough Construction and Dyke Breach, Richmond, BC. 6pp + Appendices.

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Respectfully submitted,

**PGL ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS**

Per:



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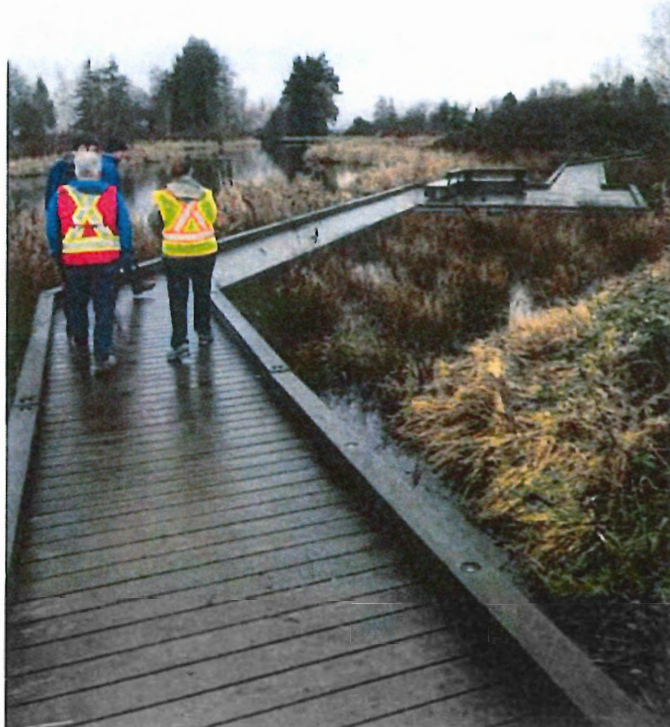
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**Appendix 2**  
**Site Photographs**





**Photograph 1:**

**Looking north from south end  
of slough, with high water  
levels evident, February 7,  
2018**





**Photograph 2:**

**Beaver lodge in the middle of  
the slough, February 7, 2018**



**Photograph 3:**

**Looking south from dike  
toward slough, with reed  
canarygrass prominent,  
February 7, 2018**





**Photograph 4:**

**Typical riparian vegetation  
around the perimeter of the  
slough, February 7, 2018**



# City of Richmond

## Report to Committee

**To:** Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee      **Date:** April 5, 2019

**From:** Elizabeth Ayers, Director, Recreation and Sport Services      **File:** 11-7000-01/2019-Vol 01

**Re:** **Update on Community Recreation Programs and Services 2018**

### Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled "Update on Community Recreation Programs and Services 2018," dated April 5, 2019, from the Director, Recreation and Sport Services be received for information.

Elizabeth Ayers  
 Director, Recreation and Sport Services  
 (604-247-4669)

<b>REPORT CONCURRENCE</b>	
<b>CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER</b>	
<b>REVIEWED BY STAFF REPORT / AGENDA REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE</b>	<b>INITIALS:</b>
<b>APPROVED BY CAO</b>	



## Staff Report

### Origin

This report provides Council with an update on Community Recreation programs and services and how staff and community partners are responding to the trends and needs in the community. It also illustrates the impact of programs and services through participants' testimonials. Community Recreation programs and services align with a number of strategies and service plans adopted by Council, including:

- Community Wellness Strategy 2018-2023;
- Recreation and Sport Strategy 2019-2024;
- Youth Service Plan: Where Youth Thrive 2015-2020; and
- Volunteer Management Strategy 2018-2021.

The benefits and outcomes of participation – a healthier, vibrant and connected community, are reflected daily by the residents using these programs and services. In particular, these outcomes support the visions of the following strategies:

The Recreation and Sport Strategy 2019-2024 vision:

*Richmond is a leader in the planning and delivery of recreation and sport opportunities, inspiring individuals and communities to be active, connected and healthy for a lifetime.*

The Community Wellness Strategy 2018-2023 vision:

*Richmond...active, caring, connected, healthy and thriving.*

Ultimately, the delivery of community recreation programs and services support the City's vision to be:

*The most appealing, liveable, and well-managed community in Canada.*

### Trends and Community Needs

Community Recreation offers residents, of all ages and abilities, access to recreation and sport programs and services, and special events through community facilities, outdoor spaces, parks and schools. The Department works to eliminate barriers and provide opportunities for people with disabilities, individuals and families in financial need, and Richmond's diverse cultural groups. Both indoor and outdoor opportunities are available to increase physical activity and overall wellness.

While a diverse range of program and services are offered to encourage residents to enjoy the benefits of being active and connected to their community, staff are particularly mindful of addressing the following needs and opportunities:

- Changing demographics, including a growing population and increasing number of older adults;
- Physical inactivity across all age categories;
- Nature deficit;
- Healthy eating; and
- Community Connectedness.

In order to provide quality programs and services, staff are also investing in the recruitment, development and retention of both volunteers and program staff to ensure that the resources are in place to meet community demands.

### Facility Use

In 2018, Community Recreation Services, in conjunction with the respective associations and societies (“the Associations”), offered programs throughout Richmond.

Programs were offered in 73 facilities including:

- Community centres;
- Community halls such as East Richmond Community Hall;
- City park sites;
- Housing complexes;
- Schools and their adjacent park sites; and
- Specialized facilities such as the Steveston Martial Arts Centre.

Day camps and other programs also used City facilities and parks, such as Watermania or the West Richmond Pitch and Putt, for out trips during their weekly programming.

### Registered Programs

Registered programs are typically in one of the following categories:

- Programs running once a week for a series of weeks;
- Licensed preschool and out of school care programs which run daily after school and all day during school breaks;
- Day camps running during the summer and school break periods; and
- One day workshops and out trips.

The tables on the following page show the number of people registered in 2017 and 2018, categorized by age, at the 73 facilities outlined above.



Table 1: 2018 Registration Numbers by Age Groups

	Preschool Age	Children	Youth	Adult	Senior	Total
<b>Cambie</b>	2,386	3,930	133	654	1,968	9,071
<b>City Centre</b>	3,367	2,944	497	983	2,058	9,849
<b>Hamilton</b>	829	3,139	28	89	246	4,331
<b>Sea Island</b>	397	594	79	96	12	1,178
<b>South Arm</b>	2,244	6,106	601	1,573	2,172	12,696
<b>Steveston</b>	5,135	3,942	335	1,485	1,899	12,796
<b>Thompson</b>	3,243	4,525	434	1,320	984	10,506
<b>West Richmond</b>	2,727	5,278	757	834	1,024	10,620
<b>Total</b>	20,328	30,458	2,864	7,034	10,363	71,047

Table 2: 2017 Registration Numbers by Age Groups

	Preschool Age	Children	Youth	Adult	Senior	Total
<b>Cambie</b>	2,497	3,853	133	527	1,641	8,651
<b>City Centre</b>	3,072	3,212	382	1,266	2,217	10,149
<b>Hamilton</b>	984	3,147	21	99	250	4,501
<b>Sea Island</b>	401	588	3	99	5	1,096
<b>South Arm</b>	2,584	5,367	595	1,003	1,196	10,745
<b>Steveston</b>	4,865	3,922	388	1,665	1,720	12,560
<b>Thompson</b>	3,442	4,383	431	1,285	1,087	10,628
<b>West Richmond</b>	2,817	5,062	653	887	730	10,149
<b>Total</b>	20,662	29,534	2,606	6,831	8,846	68,479

Program participation grew by nearly four per cent overall in 2018. Across most age groups, participation values varied slightly from 2017 to 2018, with the exception of the seniors population, where participation grew by 17 per cent. This result is consistent with the growing population and particularly in the seniors age cohort.

Some of the innovative ways that staff are responding to the trends and needs in terms of registered program delivery include:

- Increased number of seniors programs offered, including offering programs in the evening for working seniors;
- Increased focus by preschools on nature and outdoor programming;

- Programs that addressed physical inactivity for children in unique ways such as programs that assist children with homework, but also included a significant physical activity component;
- Opportunities for parents and caregivers to make connections are provided while they wait for children in programs; and
- Healthy eating options in programs that include food offerings (such as snacks at Out of School Care programs and youth events).

### Pass and Drop-in Attendance

In 2018, participants of all ages had the opportunity to purchase passes that allowed them to drop-in to a variety of sports, fitness, open gym activities and youth activities at a reasonable cost. These opportunities encourage residents to participate regularly in physical activity to meet the recommended daily activity levels.

Table 3 shows the pass attendance at each Community Centre for 2017 and 2018.

Table 3: 2017 and 2018 Richmond Community Centres' Pass Attendance

Community Centres	Individual Pass Holders		Pass Attendance	
	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
Cambie	1,444	1,279	36,380	34,942
City Centre	3,493	2,935	86,684	75,691
Hamilton	720	708	23,948	22,488
Sea Island	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
South Arm	4,327	3,517	143,600	110,047
Steveston	2,155	1,968	58,770	58,837
Thompson	4,068	4,218	147,619	152,718
West Richmond	1,696	1,673	49,398	44,788
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,903</b>	<b>16,298</b>	<b>545,399</b>	<b>499,511</b>

Similarly, Table 4 on the following page shows the drop-in attendance at each community centre in 2017 and 2018.



Table 4: 2017 and 2018 Richmond Community Centres' Drop-in Attendance

<b>Community Centres</b>	<b>Drop-in Attendance 2018</b>	<b>Drop-in Attendance 2017</b>
Cambie	12,363	12,159
City Centre	16,767	18,197
Hamilton	4,075	3,946
Sea Island	N/A	N/A
South Arm	29,037	19,486
Steveston	15,911	16,961
Thompson	18,414	19,814
West Richmond	8,296	9,253
<b>Total</b>	<b>104,863</b>	<b>99,816</b>

In total, there were over 650,000 individual visits to recreation activities in 2018 which is an increase of 8.5 per cent. The growth in participation was particularly evident in City Centre where the majority of the City's population growth is occurring, as well as in South Arm where the fitness area was recently expanded and upgraded. This indicates that residents are attracted to new, state of the art facilities and that continued investment in infrastructure helps increase participation.

Volunteers

There are over 150 board and committee members who volunteered and contributed to management and operation of the eight Associations. Volunteers made a substantial contribution to the success of programs and services in community centres, and they played a large role in the success of recreation opportunities. "Program volunteers" assisted with instructional programs, special events and day camps. Many of these volunteers gained valuable experience in preparation for future education or careers, while others shared skills learned over a lifetime. The table below and on the following page shows the number of volunteer hours and volunteers categorized by community centres. It is noted that volunteers may have contributed more hours and numbers than reported in Table 5; this information is compiled from the volunteer management system.

Table 5: 2017 and 2018 Volunteers and Volunteer Hours in Community Centres

<b>Community Centres</b>	<b>Number of Volunteers</b>		<b>Number of Volunteers Hours</b>	
	<b><u>2018</u></b>	<b><u>2017</u></b>	<b><u>2018</u></b>	<b><u>2017</u></b>
Cambie	105	132	3,489	5,409
City Centre	415	393	9,606	10,612
Hamilton	33	17	1,156	1,711
Sea Island	5	47	26	47

Table 5: 2017 and 2018 Volunteers and Volunteer Hours in Community Centres (continued)

Community Centres	Number of Volunteers		Number of Volunteers Hours	
	2018	2017	2018	2017
South Arm	76	109	5,943	6,658
Steveston	214	220	2,230	2,594
Thompson	142	174	5,109	5,697
West Richmond	124	186	2,008	3,005
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,114</b>	<b>1,278</b>	<b>29,568</b>	<b>35,733</b>

Not only are volunteers an integral to the success of community recreation programs and services, but they also assist in keeping these programs and services affordable. As noted in the Volunteer Management Strategy, recruiting and maintaining qualified volunteers requires constant attention. The decrease in number of volunteers and volunteer hours is consistent with trends in volunteering where people have less time to give. As a result, staff are working to create meaningful opportunities to ensure volunteers are benefitting from their time. Staff are also working closely with School District 38 to align volunteer opportunities with educational requirements.

**Association Staff**

Associations provided a wide range of employment opportunities in 2018. The opportunities ranged from full-time positions (such as Fitness or Seniors Co-ordinators), to Seasonal positions (such as program instructors teaching a set of classes for a few hours a week), to day camp and childcare staff. Program staff are supervised by the respective City staff at each location.

To ensure the best quality instruction, the nationally recognized “High 5” training program was instituted in Richmond in 2018. This program is specifically designed to assist program instructors in leading children’s programs.

The number of staff employed in 2018 is shown in Table 6 below and on the following page.

Table 6: 2018 Employment of Association Staff

Community Centres	Number of Employed Association Staff
Cambie	115
City Centre	174
Hamilton	77
Sea Island	15
South Arm	242



Table 6: 2018 Employment of Association Staff (continued)

<b>Community Centres</b>	<b>Number of Employed Association Staff</b>
Steveston	158
Thompson	190
West Richmond	162
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,133</b>

### Community Connectedness

While all Community Recreation programs and services play a significant role in building community connectedness, a number of specific programs, initiatives and events were implemented in 2018 with this outcome in mind. These included:

- Programs that provided safe spaces for LGBTQ2S youth;
- Integration of children and youth with special needs into recreation and childcare programs;
- Places for residents (including persons experiencing homelessness) to meet their neighbours;
- Outreach programs in selected multi-family residential housing locations that reached children and youth who might otherwise not participate in recreation programs;
- Activities recognizing Aboriginal Day including First Nations cultural demonstrations and education regarding Aboriginal history;
- The Resilient Streets project which provided opportunities for neighbours to meet each other and organize their own events right on their streets and in their housing complexes;
- Special events offered by community centres, ranging from regional events such as Steveston Salmon Festival, to neighbourhood events such as the South Arm Community Block Party; and
- Children's programs offered in neighbourhood parks during the summer, which provided opportunities for adults and children to connect with neighbours before and after the programs were offered.

### Program Impact–Participant Stories

Participants and volunteers often share how participation positively benefits themselves and their community:

- From a community member after an evening musical event organized by a community centre:

*“I wanted to send you both a big thank you for planning such a great community event. It truly was a night I will never forget, [it] provided such a great community gathering where I connected with new and old friends.”*

- From an individual who participated in a number of South Arm Community Association programs over a number of years and became a volunteer and staff member:

*“I am part of the South Arm Family and they are part of mine!”*

- From a youth who has taken part in activities at a community centre:

*“[The Centre] has had [a] really big impact on my life. The people that work here have helped me achieve some really amazing goals, and I do not know where I would be without them.”*

- From a resident, who volunteers with his wife and daughter:

*“This event brings the neighborhood together with different nationalities and generations. We enjoy this event so much from participating in different workshops like willow lantern making, weaving technique, basket platter making, moon cake making to learning about the legends of the full moon. The feature procession has over a hundred participants with lion dancing performance along Minoru Blvd and No. 3 Road. This year the procession moved to Minoru Park with the best atmosphere and safe environment for everyone. We will look forward to joining this event every year.”*

### 2019 Outlook

Staff will continue to look for innovative and creative ways to meet the needs of Richmond’s growing and diverse community. Specific initiatives for 2019 to address identified needs include:

- Program development in the Bridgeport area to increase community connectedness;
- Continued integration of physical literacy into programs and special events;
- Training for staff in inclusion strategies for identified populations such as LGBT2S and indigenous persons;
- Refinement of fitness opportunities to keep pace with industry trends;



- Development of a recruitment and retention strategy (with the Associations) to ensure a supply of qualified staff to deliver programs; and
- Taking advantage of grant opportunities to expand the reach of services without increasing expenditures.

**Financial Impact**

None

**Conclusion**

In 2018, Community Recreation Services, in collaboration with the Associations, served thousands of Richmond residents through the provision of quality Community Recreation programs and services. Participation in these programs is helping to build healthy, active, and connected individuals and communities. This work directly supports Richmond's vision to be the most appealing, livable and well managed community in Canada.



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