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**Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee**

**Council Chambers, City Hall  
6911 No. 3 Road**

**Tuesday, February 23, 2021  
4:00 p.m.**

Pg. #      ITEM

MINUTES

**PRCS-3**      *Motion to adopt the **minutes** of the meeting of the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee held on January 26, 2021.*



NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING DATE

March 23, 2021, (tentative date) at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION

1.      **2021 COMMUNITY MURAL PROGRAM PROJECTS**

(File Ref. No. 11-7000-09-01) (REDMS No. 6602983 v. 2)

**PRCS-8**

**See Page PRCS-8 for full report**

*Designated Speaker: Biliana Velkova*

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

*That the 2021 Community Mural Program projects as presented in the staff report titled “2021 Community Mural Program Projects” dated January 18, 2021, from the Director, Arts, Culture and Heritage Services, be approved and included in the Consolidated 5 Year Financial Plan (2021-2025).*



Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee Agenda  
Tuesday, February 23, 2021

Pg. #      ITEM

2.      **STEVESTON COMMUNITY PARK PLAYGROUND RENEWAL  
NEXT STEPS**

(File Ref. No. 06-2345-20-STEV2) (REDMS No. 65981954 v. 6)

PRCS-36

See Page PRCS-36 for full report

*Designated Speaker: Miriam Plishka*

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

*That the Steveston Community Park Playground Renewal Project proceed to detailed design and costing, as detailed in the staff report titled “Steveston Community Park Playground Renewal Next Steps,” dated January 20, 2021, from the Director, Parks Services, and that capital requests for implementation be submitted during the annual capital budget process.*

COUNCILLOR HAROLD STEVES

**ADDED**      2A.      **STEVESTON POST OFFICE**

(File Ref. No.)

PRCS-45

See Page PRCS-45 for materials

3.      **MANAGER’S REPORT**

ADJOURNMENT



## Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee

Date: Tuesday, January 26, 2021

Place: Council Chambers  
Richmond City Hall

Present: Councillor Harold Steves, Chair (by teleconference)  
Councillor Michael Wolfe (by teleconference)  
Councillor Chak Au  
Councillor Bill McNulty (by teleconference)  
Councillor Linda McPhail (by teleconference)

Also Present: Councillor Carol Day (by teleconference)

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 25, 2020, be adopted as circulated.*

**CARRIED**

### NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING DATE

February 23, 2021, (tentative date) at 4:00 p.m. in Council Chambers

**Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Committee**  
**Tuesday, January 26, 2021**

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**PRESENTATION**

**BRITANNIA SHIPYARDS**

Andy Hobbs, Chair, Britannia Shipyards National Historic Site Society, provided an update on activities at Britannia Shipyards and highlighted (i) gratitude for the continued support from Council, (ii) projects to which the Society has and will be making financial contributions in 2020, 2021 and 2022, and (iii) acknowledgement of City staff contributions.

Discussion ensued with regard to whether a request has been made to the City for financial contributions for site improvement projects, and whether a sailing ship yardarm be installed on the site.

**COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION**

**1. LONDON HERITAGE FARM MASTER PLAN**

(File Ref. No. 11-7141-01) (REDMS No. 6575350 v.2)

Discussion ensued with regard to (i) ensuring a representative of the London Heritage Farm Society be in attendance at the Council meeting when the Master Plan is considered, (ii) the potential to increase the number of visitors to the London Heritage Farm, (iii) the heritage-style open pole barn providing residents with the additional outdoor sheltered space that they have been requesting, and (iv) staff investigating moving an existing heritage barn to the site.

In reply to queries from Committee, staff advised that (i) interpretive signage for the water feature will be posted, (ii) it is generally more expensive to move an existing heritage barn to the site than to build a historic barn, (iii) the London Heritage Farm Society investigated online sales from the gift shop, (iv) City staff are exploring opportunities to collaborate with the sharing farm, and (v) plans to enhance the chicken coop in an interpretive manner.

It was moved and seconded

*That the London Heritage Farm Master Plan as outlined in the report "London Heritage Farm Master Plan," dated December 4, 2020, from the Director, Arts, Culture and Heritage Services, be endorsed to guide the future development and operation of London Heritage Farm Site.*

**CARRIED**

2.

**Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Committee**  
**Tuesday, January 26, 2021**

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2. **FIRST NATIONS BUNKHOUSE PROGRAM PLAN**

(File Ref. No. 11-7141-01) (REDMS No. 6540180)

Discussion ensued with regard to (i) inviting the Musqueam Indian Band to carve welcoming totems to be placed at the front of the building, (ii) allowing the structure to deteriorate to its existing state, (iii) the need to obtain information from both the Musqueam Indian Band and the Tsawwassen First Nation regarding their family members that occupied the original bunkhouse, and (iv) experience with the use of salvaged material in the restoration of the Murakami Boat Works building.

In reply to queries from Committee, staff advised that (i) some of the deteriorated materials can be preserved and utilized for heritage display purposes, (ii) new custom-made panels can be used to replicate the appearance of the heritage building to supplement the deteriorated material that can be salvaged, (iii) historical records are being reviewed to identify Musqueam Indian Band family members that occupied the original bunkhouse, and (iv) the siding from the Phoenix Net Loft is unusable as it contains lead however, other materials are being salvaged for reuse in the Phoenix Net Loft restoration project.

It was moved and seconded

*That the proposed program plan for the First Nations Bunkhouse as detailed in the staff report titled "First Nations Bunkhouse Program Plan," dated October 14, 2020 from the Director, Arts, Culture and Heritage Services be endorsed to guide future planning and a capital submission for the First Nations Bunkhouse.*

**CARRIED**

It was moved and seconded

*That staff be directed to investigate the inclusion of First Nations welcoming totems at the front of the building.*

**CARRIED**

3. **MANAGER'S REPORT**

*(i) Park Designation*

In reply to a query from the Committee, staff advised (i) the request to amend the Official Community Plan to remove the park designation from the property located on the southeast corner of No. 5 Road and Cambie Road will be brought forward to Council in the fourth quarter of 2021, (ii) efforts will be made to expedite the submission of the report to Council, and (iii) the property owners are permitted to make renovations on the home irrespective of the current park designation.

3.

**Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Committee**  
**Tuesday, January 26, 2021**

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***(ii) Sport Fields and Outdoor Amenities***

Staff updated the Committee on the public health orders in place with respect to the use of sport fields and outdoor amenities. Signage has been posted to provide information on the current usage rules and to facilitate enforcement.

In reply to queries from the Committee, staff advised (i) the status of the construction of the outdoor sheltered public space in London/Steveston Park, (ii) that there are no plans to incorporate outdoor sheltered public spaces in Tait Waterfront Park, and (iii) that there is a webpage available that lists all outdoor sheltered public spaces.

***(iii) Film Studios***

Staff reported that two new film studios opened in the City in 2020, bringing the total to six.

***(iv) Vandalism at East Nature Park***

Staff advised that a memorandum to the Committee was issued on January 11, 2021 outlining actions to deter future acts of vandalism at the East Nature Park.

In reply to queries from the Committee, staff advised (i) the tree canopy will be raised to increase visibility in the parking lot, and (ii) the clearing work will be done with the intention of preserving as much habitat as possible.

***(iv) Cultural Services***

Staff reported that (i) the 2021 Branscombe House Artist has been selected and will be introduced to the community shortly, (ii) the 2021 Children's Arts Festival will be conducted online to comply with COVID-19 restrictions, and (iii) the call for nominations for the Richmond Arts Awards will be issued in partnership with the Richmond Arts Coalition and award recipients will be announced in May 2021.

**ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved and seconded  
***That the meeting adjourn (5:09 p.m.).***

**CARRIED**

**Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Committee**  
**Tuesday, January 26, 2021**

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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, January 26, 2021.

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Councillor Harold Steves  
Chair

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Carol Lee  
Recording Secretary



# City of Richmond

## Report to Committee

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

**From:** Marie Fenwick  
Director, Arts, Culture and Heritage Services

**Re:** **2021 Community Mural Program Projects**

**Date:** January 18, 2021

**File:** 11-7000-09-01/2021-Vol 01

### Staff Recommendation

That the 2021 Community Mural Program projects as presented in the staff report titled “2021 Community Mural Program Projects” dated January 18, 2021, from the Director, Arts, Culture and Heritage Services, be approved and included in the Consolidated 5 Year Financial Plan (2021-2025).

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

Att. 3

REPORT CONCURRENCE		
ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER
Finance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Sevencu</i>
Facilities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Sustainability & District Energy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>SENIOR STAFF REPORT REVIEW</b>	INITIALS: <i>MF</i>	<b>APPROVED BY CAO</b> 



## Staff Report

### Origin

On February 13, 2018, Council endorsed the Public Art Community Mural Program (the Mural Program). The focus of the Mural Program is to install murals in highly visible locations in publicly accessible areas throughout Richmond.

This report brings forward, for consideration, six mural proposals for the 2021 Mural Program to be painted at Lehigh Hanson on Mitchell Island, McMath Secondary School, Thompson Elementary School, Tomekichi Homma Elementary School, Westwind Elementary School and Gateway Theatre.

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan 2018-2022 Strategy #3 One Community Together:

*Vibrant and diverse arts and cultural activities and opportunities for community engagement and connection.*

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan 2018-2022 Strategy #4 An Active and Thriving Richmond:

*An active and thriving community characterized by diverse social and wellness programs, services and spaces that foster health and well-being for all.*

### Analysis

#### Background

The City's Mural Program provides opportunities to add vibrancy to highly visible public spaces, foster community dialogue and cross-cultural exchange, and engage diverse and multi-generational communities. The Mural Program is funded by voluntary developer contributions to the Public Art Program Reserve Fund. The Mural Program is included in the City's 2021 Capital Budget and in the Consolidated 5 Year Financial Plan (2021-2025).

Since Council's endorsement of the Mural Program in 2018, three murals have been installed through this program at the Richmond Cultural Centre, West Richmond Community Centre and the Richmond Winter Club. A fourth mural, approved as part of the 2020 Program, at the Richmond Ice Centre, was delayed due to COVID-19 and will be completed in the Spring of 2021. The completed murals have been well-received by the public, users of the facilities and community stakeholders. All have also contributed to animating the public realm of the city.

#### Mural Program Selection Process

The Mural Program selection process is as follows:

- An annual Open Call for mural locations is issued for community groups and associations, schools, businesses and property owners to apply for a mural on their property. Private single family properties are not eligible for the Mural Program. Where the applicant is not the property owner, the property owner must indicate consent as part of the application.

- An Open Artist Call for the Mural Program Artist Roster is issued biannually to provide a list of pre-qualified, local artists to work with selected applicants to develop their mural. The roster includes artists with a range of art styles, media and approaches.
- In consultation with Public Art staff, selected applicants are matched with an artist from the Mural Artist Roster for each mural opportunity. Selected applicants are required to sign a Mural Art Agreement with the City, while each artist enters into a tri-party agreement for services with the City and the property owner or representative.
- The City manages and funds the projects. The property owner or representative provides permission and access to the wall for installation and agrees to keep and maintain the mural for a minimum of five years.

#### Open Call for Mural Locations

The Open Call for mural locations for the 2021 Mural Program was issued on October 21, 2020 with a deadline of November 16, 2020 (Attachment 1).

Staff received 11 applications. A three-person interdepartmental Mural Committee met on November 24, 2020 to review the applications. The committee included representatives from Parks, Planning and Transportation. All submissions were evaluated on the basis of location, public visibility, community impact and condition of wall surface, as well as budget. The following properties submitted an application to participate in the Mural Program:

- Gateway Theatre
- Gulf of Georgia Cannery
- Lock-Block
- Lafarge Canada
- Lehigh Hanson
- McMath Secondary School
- Steveston Harbour Authority
- Thompson Elementary School
- Tomekichi Homma Elementary School
- Westwind Elementary School
- William Cook Elementary School

Five projects were selected to participate in the 2021 Mural Program:

- Lehigh Hanson
- McMath Secondary School
- Thompson Elementary School
- Tomekichi Homma Elementary School
- Westwind Elementary School.

A sixth project, Gateway Theatre, was added after the completed selection process of the Mural Committee. The project had been rated highly but was not recommended due to anticipated costs that would exceed the program's budget. Shortly after learning of their application status, Gateway Theatre notified staff that they would be able to finance the project independently by reallocating funds due to a show cancellation related to COVID-19. Moreover, by incorporating public engagement activities to inform the design of the mural, they identified the project as an opportunity to engage the public and deepen Gateway Theatre's relationship with the community at-large.

Based on Gateway Theatre's high-profile location, the nature of the facility as a cultural destination and the robust public programming that is expected to be connected with this project, staff are recommending that an exception be made to the established selection process and that this project be added to the 2021 Mural Program.

#### Mural Program Artist Roster Call

The Open Artist Call for the Mural Program Artist Roster was issued on June 21, 2019 and closed on July 31, 2019. Staff received 25 artist applications, six of which were from Richmond-based artists. All artist submissions were evaluated on the basis of artist qualifications, appropriateness to the goals of the Program and previous mural experience (Attachment 2).

The Mural Program Artist Roster selection meeting took place on August 22, 2019. The selection panel included the following three members:

- Paul Dufour – Community Member
- Joey Mallet – Artist
- Chad Wong – Artist

Eighteen artists were selected to remain on the Community Mural Program Artist Roster for a period of two years.

#### Proposed Mural Projects

The following six proposed mural projects, matched with artists have been endorsed by the Richmond Public Art Advisory Committee (RPAAC) as per email correspondence on January 27, 2021.

#### **Lehigh Hanson**

The proposed mural location for Lehigh Hanson (manufacturer of construction aggregates on Mitchell Island) is on two entrance walls at Mitchell Road that measure approximately 1,050 square feet. The selected artist will work with the stakeholders from Lehigh Hanson and staff to consider the themes of local ecology and environmental sustainability on the Fraser River.

The artist selection meeting for the Lehigh Hanson mural opportunity took place on December 15, 2020. The selection panel included Environmental Manager Mat Kavanagh and Operations Manager Markus Tschopp.

Artists Karen Yurkovich and Tristesse Seeliger from the Mural Program Artist Roster were recommended for this mural opportunity. The artists are accomplished mural artists with a number of high profile murals in Metro Vancouver. (Attachment 3).

### **McMath Secondary School**

The proposed mural location for McMath Secondary School is on the south wall that faces a future playground. The location is highly visible and measures approximately 1,400 square feet. The mural will reflect the activities and local stories of the school.

The artist selection meeting took place on December 11, 2020. The selection panel included Principal Jane McFadyen, Teacher Kerri Zaine and Grade 11 Leadership Students.

Artists Dean and Christina Lauzé from the Mural Program Artist Roster were recommended for this mural opportunity. They have a professional mural practice with several murals in Metro Vancouver including *Arrival of the S.V. Titania* in Steveston (Attachment 3). The artists will work with students to inform the design of the mural and consider the themes of school spirit, recreation and local stories.

### **Thompson Elementary School**

The proposed mural location for Thompson Elementary School is on the west wall, adjacent to the entrance of the school. The location is publicly visible and measures approximately 500 square feet.

The artist selection meeting took place on December 10, 2020. The selection panel included Principal Bill Juhasz and teachers from Thompson Elementary School.

Richmond artist Fiona Tang from the Mural Program Artist Roster was recommended for the Thompson Elementary School mural opportunity. Ms. Tang is an artist with an emerging mural practice (Attachment 3). The artist will work with students to inform the design of the mural and consider the themes of school spirit and local stories.

### **Tomekichi Homma Elementary School**

The proposed mural locations for Tomekichi Homma Elementary School are along the two south walls that face Dyke Road and the Britannia Shipyards National Historic Site. Both walls are highly visible to foot and cycling traffic on Dyke Road and are publicly accessible from multiple access points. Each wall measures approx. 450 square feet.

The artist selection meeting took place on December 16, 2020. The selection panel included Principal Tanya Major and Teacher Kevin Vines.

Richmond artist Atheana Picha from the Mural Program Artist Roster was recommended for the Tomekichi Homma Elementary School mural opportunity. Ms. Picha is an Indigenous artist with an emerging mural practice (Attachment 3). The artist will work with the students to inform the design of the mural exploring the theme of local Indigenous stories.

### **Westwind Elementary School**

The proposed mural location for Westwind Elementary School is on the north wall that faces the sports field. The space measures approximately 350 square feet.

The artist selection meeting took place on December 14, 2020. The selection panel included school staff and students. Staff support the recommended proposal and artist recommendation.

Artists Dawn Lo and April de la Noche Milne from the Mural Program Artist Roster were recommended for this mural opportunity. Ms. Lo is a Richmond-based artist and Ms. Noche is Vancouver-based. Both artists have an emerging mural practice (Attachment 3). The artists will work with students to inform the design of the mural and consider the theme of play.

### **Gateway Theatre**

The proposed mural location at Gateway Theatre is on the east wall of the building, facing Gilbert Road and measures approximately 2,500 square feet. The mural will animate the area and reflect the artistic activities that take place in the facility. The artist will work with Gateway Theatre staff and the board to identify public engagement activities to inspire the design of the mural. The selected artist will consider the themes of theatre arts, community and diversity.

The artist selection meeting for the Gateway Theatre mural opportunity took place on January 20, 2020. The selection panel included Community Producer Jasmine Chen and Director of Artistic Programs Barbara Tomasic.

Artist Carmen Chan from the Mural Program Artist Roster was recommended for this mural opportunity. Carmen is a Vancouver-based artist with an active mural practice and playful illustration style of work. (Attachment 3).

### **Next Steps**

Pending Council endorsement of the mural proposals, staff will work with the artists and community partners to execute contracts and develop project implementation work plans. If approved, the projects will move into the development phase with murals to be completed by September, 2021.

### **Financial Impact**

The Mural Program budget is \$30,000 and it is funded by voluntary developer contributions to the Public Art Program Reserve Fund. The Program is included in the City's 2021 Proposed Capital Budget and in the Consolidated 5 Year Financial Plan (2021-2025).

The individual budget for each mural is as follows:

- Lehigh Hanson - \$12,000  
\$6,000 from the Mural Program; \$6,000 from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities grant to support the City's environmental stewardship work on Mitchell Island
- McMath Secondary School - \$17,000  
\$8,000 from the Mural Program; \$9,000 from McMath Secondary School
- Thompson Elementary School - \$6,200  
\$6,000 from the Mural Program; \$200 from Thompson Elementary School
- Tomekichi Homma Elementary School - \$10,000  
\$5,000 from the Mural Program; \$5,000 from Tomekichi Homma Elementary School
- Westwind Elementary School - \$5,000  
\$5,000 from the Mural Program
- Gateway Theatre - \$20,000  
\$20,000 from the Gateway Theatre

Richmond School District No. 38 will contribute in-kind preparation of the walls as well as anti-graffiti coating for all murals on School District property.

Any maintenance and repairs required for the artwork will be the responsibility of the community partners in partnership with staff.

Location of artwork at Gateway Theatre will also be coordinated with the City's Facilities Department. The coordination and costs associated with any building modifications to facilitate installation of the artwork and any maintenance and repairs that may be required after the artwork is installed will be the responsibility of the Gateway Theatre Society in partnership with staff.

### **Conclusion**

Murals add vibrancy to the community by energizing our public spaces, fostering community identity and civic pride, engaging youth and deterring graffiti. The creation of murals brings together local artists, students, community groups, residents and local businesses to transform the places where we live, work and play into welcoming and beautiful environments that invite interaction and appreciation of art and culture.

January 18, 2021

- 8 -



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

- Att. 1: Community Mural Program Property Owners Application
- 2: Community Mural Program Artist Roster Call
- 3: Lehigh Hanson on Mitchell Island Mural Proposal, McMath Secondary School Mural Proposal, Thompson Elementary School Mural Proposal, Tomekichi Homma Elementary School Mural Proposal, Westwind Elementary School Mural Proposal and Gateway Theatre Mural Proposal.



# City of Richmond

## Community Mural Application

Public Art Program

6911 No. 3 Road, Richmond, BC V6Y 2C1

[www.richmond.ca](http://www.richmond.ca)

Contact 604-204-8696

Please submit this completed form, and return to the Information counter located at City Hall or to [publicart@richmond.ca](mailto:publicart@richmond.ca). **All materials submitted to the City for a *Community Mural Application* become public property, and therefore, available for public inquiry.**

**Mural Site Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary Contact Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact person's address, if different:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact info:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Secondary Contact Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact info:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Property Owner (if different from above) Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Please print name

**Contact info:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

### For Office Use

Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_ Contribution: \_\_\_\_\_  
File No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Note: \_\_\_\_\_





The following items must be completed and submitted with your Community Mural Application.

1. Proposed Mural Wall: Area (square feet): \_\_\_\_\_
  - Attach photo or sketch with the wall's dimensions
  - Attach recent photograph of the wall (JPG or PDF not exceeding 2MB)
2. Do you have a preferred theme or style of art for the proposed wall?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Please provide evidence of support from the building tenant(s) (if different from the building owner), as well as neighborhood associations and/or adjacent neighbors (e.g., e-mail or letter of support).
4. Do you have additional funding for the project?
  - Yes (Estimated amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_)
  - No
5. Is your proposed wall on a heritage building?
  - Yes
  - No

**Note:** All murals on designated heritage resources, or within the Steveston Village Heritage Conservation Area (HCA), require approval by City Council and may require a Heritage Alteration Permit. Any murals on heritage buildings/structures or within the Steveston HCA will also be reviewed by the Richmond Heritage Commission.

## Maintenance

The Property Owner will agree to retain and maintain the mural for a period of five years (subject to mutual agreement to terminate the agreement at an earlier date due to change of ownership, building renovations, and/or condition of the mural).

## Agreement

Selected property owners will enter into a tri-party agreement for services with the City and the selected artist.

The City will manage the project and fund the work. The property owner may augment the project budget with additional funding if appropriate. The property owner will provide permission and access to the wall for installing the mural, as well as maintenance, if required.

## Selection Process

A five-person interdepartmental staff Mural Committee will convene to review applications from property owners. The applications will be ranked based on the following criteria:

- public visibility of the location;
- condition of the wall surface;
- potential impact on adjacent properties;

- community impact;
- provision of additional funding if appropriate;
- provision of murals throughout the City; and
- evidence of support from the building tenants (if different from the building owner), as well as neighborhood associations and/or adjacent neighbors (e.g., email or letter of support).

### **Additional Information (Optional)**

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### **Project Timeline**

**Submission Deadline:** Monday, November 16, 2020, 5:00 p.m.

**Property Owners Notification:** Monday, November 30, 2020, 5:00 p.m.

### **Questions**

Please contact the Richmond Public Art Program:

**Tel:** 604-247-4612

**Email:** [publicart@richmond.ca](mailto:publicart@richmond.ca)

# call to artists



Figure 1 – *Arrival of the S.S. Titania*, Dean and Christine Lauzé, 2017

2019\_2021 Community  
Mural Program

## Community Mural Program Artist Roster

Request for  
Qualifications  
(RFQ)

June 2019

### OPPORTUNITY

The Richmond Public Art Program invites artists residing in British Columbia to submit applications to be placed on the Community Mural Artist Roster for 2019\_2021.

The Community Mural Artist Roster will be updated biannually and will provide a list of pre-qualified artists to work with community groups, business or property owners, schools, and/or private developers proposing murals on their buildings. The Roster will include artists with a range of artistic styles, mediums and approaches.

Artists with demonstrated experience and skill sets working with multiple project stakeholders and with executing indoor and outdoor murals are encouraged to apply.

**Deadline:** Wednesday, July 31, 2019 by 5:00 p.m. PST.

**Roster Timeline:** 2019\_2021

# call to artists

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## BACKGROUND

The Richmond Public Art Mural Program was approved by City Council in 2018. The Program provides opportunities to add vibrancy to the community by energizing public spaces, fostering community identity and civic pride, engaging youth and deterring graffiti. The creation of murals may bring artists, students, community groups and local businesses together to transform the places where we live, work, learn and play, into welcoming environments that invite interaction and appreciation of art and culture.

## THEMES

Themes will be determined on an individual basis. For the Roster, we are looking for artists who can produce artwork that responds to the diverse historical, geographical and cultural heritage of different sites and communities in Richmond. Near natural areas, murals might also reflect Richmond's natural heritage and ecological networks.

## MURAL DEFINITIONS

A mural is defined as a painting on a wall surface, digitally produced image printed on a substrate, mosaic or bas relief that is applied directly to a wall and that is visible from the public right-of-way.

## ARTIST SCOPE OF WORK

This Artist Call is for inclusion to a pre-selected list, the Community Mural Artist Roster. Should an artist subsequently be selected to create a mural, they will be required to work on site and obtain all the necessary insurance and permitting to use lift equipment or scaffolding as necessary. An approved work plan will be developed in consultation with City staff and the property owner.

Depending on the project, artists may be required to outline a public engagement program to develop a design concept working with community members.

## BUDGET

Budget will be determined for each mural project individually and will be based on size, material, level of public engagement, community contribution, site and project requirements. Budget includes (but is not limited to) artist fees, leading community engagement sessions (if required), materials, supplies, paint, permitting as needed, labour, photography, insurance, travel, accommodation and all taxes, excluding GST.

## ARTIST ELIGIBILITY

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

# call to artists

## SELECTION PROCESS

NOTE: SELECTION FOR THE ROSTER DOES NOT GUARANTEE SELECTION FOR A PROJECT COMMISSION

Artists will be selected for the Community Mural Artist Roster through a onestage selection process. A five-person Selection Panel will convene to review all artist packages and recommend up to 30 artists for the Artist Roster. The Selection Panel will be composed of artists, community representatives, and art and design professionals. Once on the Roster, artists will be notified prior to being placed into consideration for specific mural projects. Artists will be considered based on the themes and rankings established by the Public Art Selection Panel, the goals of Public Art Area Plans, and neighbourhood identities.

Independently, property owners will be invited to propose a wall on their property for inclusion in the Mural Program. An interdepartmental staff Mural Committee will review the property owners' applications.

After the mural locations have been determined, Public Art staff, in consultation with the selected property owner, will identify artists from the Roster for each mural opportunity. The artists will be selected based on best fit for each project.

Note:

Commissioned artists will enter into a contract with the City of Richmond and property owner as appropriate.

Commissioned artists shall not promote goods and services of any businesses and shall not violate any federal, provincial or local laws. Additionally, the artwork shall not convey partisan politics, negative imagery, religious and/or sexual content.

## SELECTION CRITERIA

- Artist's demonstrated mural experience and proven capability in producing murals that reflect community identity and assist in building rich cultural places
- Artist's capacity to engage community stakeholders and work with other City contractors and staff professionals if required.
- Appropriateness of the proposal to the Public Art Program goals: [www.richmond.ca/culture/publicart/plans/policy](http://www.richmond.ca/culture/publicart/plans/policy).

## SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

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

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

# call to artists

PUBLIC ART  
RICHMOND

STATEMENT OF INTENT – 300 words or less, highlighting past experience and skillsets, conceptual approach to the work, and why the artist is interested in this opportunity.

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

WORK SAMPLES – Ten (10) supporting image examples of previous work. One image per page. Please include artist name(s), title, year, location and medium information to be on each image page.

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

## PROJECT TIMELINE

**Submission Deadline:** Wednesday, July 31, 2019, 5:00 p.m.

**Artists Notification:** Thursday, August 15, 2019, 5:00 p.m. **Roster**

**Timeline:** 2019–2021

## SOURCES FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- City Centre Public Art Plan, [www.richmond.ca/culture/publicart/plans/plans](http://www.richmond.ca/culture/publicart/plans/plans)
- Community Mural Program, [https://www.richmond.ca/shared/assets/4 - MuralProgram49396.pdf](https://www.richmond.ca/shared/assets/4-MuralProgram49396.pdf)
- Richmond Public Art Program, [www.richmond.ca/culture/publicart](http://www.richmond.ca/culture/publicart)
- Richmond Public Art Registry, [www.richmond.ca/culture/publicart/collection/catalog.aspx](http://www.richmond.ca/culture/publicart/collection/catalog.aspx)
- Richmond Archives, [www.richmond.ca/cityhall/archives/search-archives](http://www.richmond.ca/cityhall/archives/search-archives)

## SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

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

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1. Selected artists will be required to show proof of WCB coverage and appropriate general liability insurance.

# call to artists

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PUBLIC ART  
RICHMOND

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

## QUESTIONS

Please contact the Richmond Public Art Program:

Tel: 604-204-8696

Email: [publicart@richmond.ca](mailto:publicart@richmond.ca)

## **Karen Yurkovich and Tristesse Seeliger | Lehigh Hanson Mural**

*Artists Karen Yurkovich and Tristesse Seeliger will engage stakeholders from Lehigh Hanson and work with staff to explore the themes of environmental and sustainability practices on the Fraser River.*

Karen Yurkovich and Tristesse Seeliger are Vancouver-based artists who work in various mediums and who have collaborated on a number of community-based and interactive mural projects. The artists are interested in the themes of history, migration, immigration, territories, ecosystems and cultural perceptions.

### **Examples of Previous Projects:**

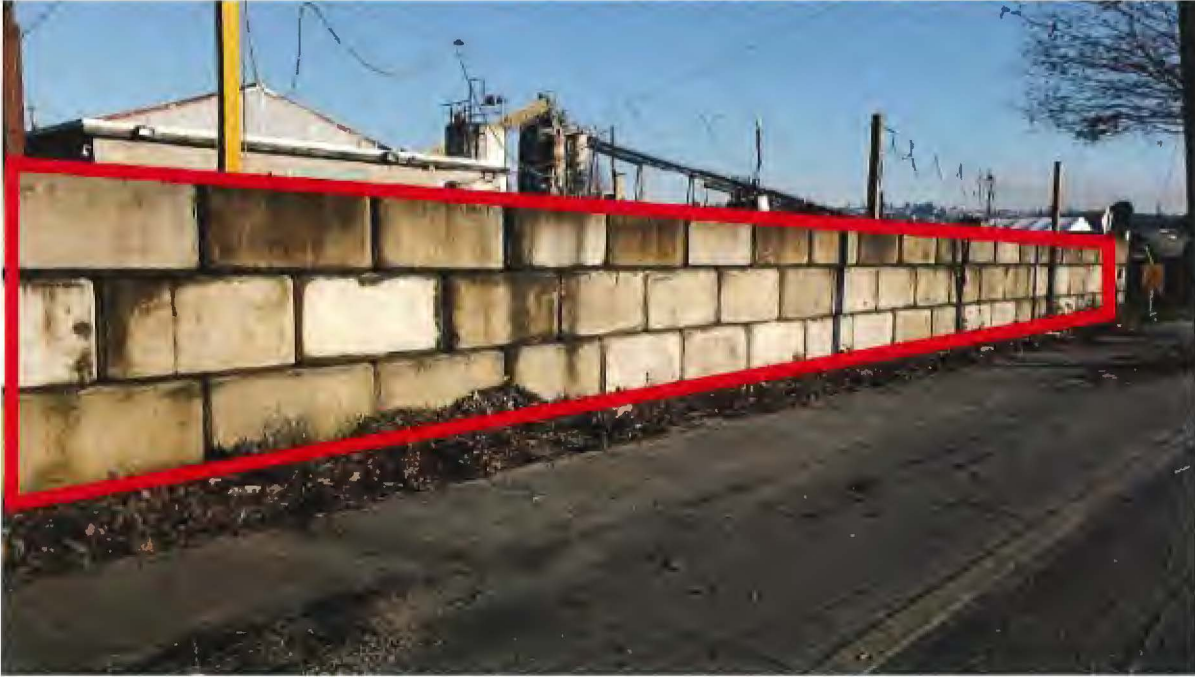


Tristesse Seeliger, Vancouver Mural Festival, *The Infinite Line*, 2017



Karen Yurkovich, *Roman Morning*, mixed media, 2013





Proposed mural walls at Lehigh Hanson (approx. 1,125 square feet combined)

## Dean and Christina Lauzé | McMath Secondary School Mural

*Dean and Christina Lauzé's process will include community engagement workshops with Grade 11 leadership students from McMath Secondary School to inspire the design of the mural, which will celebrate the activities taking place in the School while considering the themes of school spirit, recreation and local stories.*

Dean and Christina Lauzé are accomplished mural artists who have been working together for 25 years. They have completed murals for various municipalities, schools, private and corporate clients.

### Examples of Previous Projects:



Dean and Christina Lauzé, *Arrival of the S.V. Titania Mural*, Commissioned by the City of Richmond, 2017



Dean and Christina Lauzé, Mural, AJ McLellan Elementary School, 2018



Proposed mural wall at McMath Secondary School (approx. 1400 square feet)

## **Fiona Tang | Thompson Elementary School Mural**

*Fiona Tang will engage the students at Thompson Elementary School in a series of art workshops, and consider the themes of school spirit and local stories for her mural design.*

Fiona Tang is an emerging mural artist based in Richmond. Through her art, she creates a sense of community to tell stories. She is also passionate about depicting local wildlife such as the coyote, fox, white sturgeon and hawks.

### **Examples of Previous Projects:**



Fiona Tang, *Tiger Drawing*, Emily Carr University, 2014



Fiona Tang, *Northern White Rhino*, Charcoal on paper, 2015



Proposed mural wall at Thompson Elementary School (approx. 500 square feet)

## **Atheana Picha | Tomekichi Homma Elementary School Mural**

*Artist Atheana Picha will engage students from Tomekichi Homma Elementary School to explore local Indigenous stories, and themes of belonging and community.*

Atheana Picha is a Richmond-based Indigenous artist with an emerging mural practice. She is currently a Fine Art Diploma student at Langara College.

### **Examples of Previous Projects:**



Atheana Picha, *Hole in the Sky*, 2018, private residence, Vancouver



Atheana Picha, *Wolf*, 2019, gouache on paper



Proposed mural walls at Tomekichi Homma Elementary School (two identical walls at each end of the school, (approx. 450 square feet each)

## **Dawn Lo and April de la Noche Milne | Westwind Elementary School Mural**

*Artists Dawn Lo and April de la Noche Milne will create a series of engaging workshops with the students of Westwind Elementary School to inform the design of the mural and consider the themes of inclusiveness, play and being together.*

Dawn Lo is a Richmond-based artist and April de la Noche Milne is Vancouver-based. The artists work under the collective name Popo and Lola and have an emerging mural practice.

### **Examples of Previous Projects:**



Popo and Lola, *A mid-way point: the present is an infinite moment*, Thompson Community Centre, 2020





April de la Noche Milne, art vinyl wrap, commissioned by the City of Vancouver, 2017



Proposed mural wall at Westwind Elementary School (approx. 350 square feet)

## Carmen Chan | Gateway Theatre

*Artist Carmen Chan will engage stakeholders from Gateway Theatre and the local community to explore themes of belonging, community and the performing arts.*

Carmen Chan is an accomplished Vancouver-based artist. She brings her experience of watercolour work in the style of Chinese brush painting to her large-scale mural practice.

### Examples of Previous Projects:



Carmen Chan, *Saturday Kind of Love*, Vancouver Mural Festival, 2019



Carmen Chan, *No Rain, No Flowers*, Vancouver Mural Festival, 2018



Proposed mural wall at Gateway Theatre (approx. 2,500 square feet)



# City of Richmond

## Report to Committee

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

**Date:** January 20, 2021

**From:** Todd Gross  
Director, Parks Services

**File:** 06-2345-20-STEV2/Vol 01

**Re:** **Steveston Community Park Playground Renewal Next Steps**

### Staff Recommendation

That the Steveston Community Park Playground Renewal Project proceed to detailed design and costing, as detailed in the staff report titled “Steveston Community Park Playground Renewal Next Steps,” dated January 20, 2021, from the Director, Parks Services, and that capital requests for implementation be submitted during the annual capital budget process.

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

Att. 2

REPORT CONCURRENCE		
<b>ROUTED TO:</b>	<b>CONCURRENCE</b>	<b>CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER</b>
Community Recreation Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Project Development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Financial Planning and Analysis	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>SENIOR STAFF REPORT REVIEW</b>	<b>INITIALS:</b> 	<b>APPROVED BY CAO</b> 

## Staff Report

### Origin

At the June 12, 2017, Council meeting, the following resolution was adopted;

*“That the Steveston Community Park Playground Renewal Preferred Concept Plan as detailed in the staff report titled “Steveston Community Park Playground Renewal Preferred Concept Plan,” dated May 9, 2017, from the Senior Manager, Parks, be coordinated with the planning for the Steveston Community Facility Replacement Project and at the conclusion of that planning process, staff bring forward a report outlining the next steps for renewal of the playground.”*

The purpose of this report is to outline the next steps for the renewal of the Steveston Community Park playground.

This report supports Council’s Strategic Plan 2018-2022 Strategy #1 A Safe and Resilient City:

*Enhance and protect the safety and well-being of Richmond.*

*1.2 Future-proof and maintain city infrastructure to keep the community safe.*

This report supports Council’s Strategic Plan 2018-2022 Strategy #4 An Active and Thriving Richmond:

*An active and thriving community characterized by diverse social and wellness programs, services and spaces that foster health and well-being for all.*

*4.2 Ensure infrastructure meets changing community needs, current trends and best practices.*

*4.3 Encourage wellness and connection to nature through a network of open spaces.*

This report supports Council’s Strategic Plan 2018-2022 Strategy #8 An Engaged and Informed Community:

*Ensure that the citizenry of Richmond is well-informed and engaged about City business and decision-making.*

*8.2 Ensure citizens are well-informed with timely, accurate and easily accessible communication using a variety of methods and tools.*

### Analysis

#### Background

Steveston Community Park is a thirty-acre recreational, cultural and community-oriented site located in the Steveston area. It is designated as a Community Park, however, due to its prominent location within Steveston Village, and the multiple amenities it contains, it attracts

visitors and tourists from across Richmond and beyond. Steveston Community Park supports multiple functions including active sport use, informal community use, and hosts a variety of facilities, attractions, and events such as the Steveston Community Centre, Steveston Branch Library, Steveston Interurban Tram, Martial Arts Centre and Steveston Salmon Festival.

Due to the Steveston Community Park playground's highly accessible and visible location within Steveston Village near the intersection of No.1 Road and Moncton Street, it is very popular and functions as a destination playground.

#### Current Playground Condition

The most recent extensive upgrade to the Steveston Community Park playground took place in 2003 and included significant expansion of its footprint, creation of separate preschool and school-aged play areas and upgrades to existing structures, such as the iconic trawler.

The adjacent water park was built in 2006 and in 2014 the highly popular slide mound was reconstructed.

While all of the equipment and surfacing in the Steveston Community Park playground meet current safety standards as per the City's maintenance and inspection program, the majority of the playground areas are reaching the end of their life cycle and do not meet today's inclusive accessibility standards. Community users have also voiced a desire for upgraded playground equipment and surfacing.

#### Steveston Community Park Playground Renewal Process

Initiated by a letter received in November 2014 from the Steveston Community Society expressing an interest in making a contribution towards the renewal of the Steveston Community Park playground, staff led a stakeholder and public engagement process from February to September 2016.

The engagement process included two phases.

The first phase focused on learning about challenges and opportunities related to the existing playground. This phase included two design workshops with children attending spring break camps at the Steveston Community Centre, a public open house held near the playground, and online engagement via LetsTalkRichmond. Based on the results from the first phase, a set of design guidelines and playground concept options were developed.

The phase two engagement focused on gaining feedback on the design guidelines and playground concept options. This phase included a public open house held on July 1, 2016, near the existing playground as part of the Steveston Salmon Festival, and online engagement via LetsTalkRichmond. Based on the input received during the phase two engagement process, a Steveston Community Park Playground Renewal Preferred Concept Plan was developed.

The Steveston Community Society and the Rick Hansen Foundation were consulted throughout the engagement and playground concept plan development process.

Steveston Community Park Playground Renewal Preferred Concept Plan

The Steveston Community Park Playground Renewal Preferred Concept Plan (Attachment 1) includes the favoured elements from each of the concept plan options presented during the phase two engagement process, and addresses general comments and concerns received from the community. It features distinct adventure play areas for all age groups and provides enhanced seating and picnic areas for families and adults.

Each playground area draws inspiration from Steveston Village’s history. For example, a farm village, fisherman’s wharf and salmon run adventure themed play areas are included. The concept plan also has a focus on inclusive play for all children and includes elements that are wheelchair accessible. The concept plan will provide the basis for detailed design and costing.

The concept plan was presented to, and received support from the Steveston Community Society at their regularly scheduled board meeting on September 20, 2016.

The following table outlines the key dates and activities from the Steveston Community Park Playground Renewal Process to date.

Table 1: Key Dates and Activities from the Steveston Community Park Playground Renewal Process

Date	Activity
November 2014	Letter received by the Senior Manager, Parks, from the Steveston Community Society expressing an interest to make a contribution towards the renewal of the Steveston Community Park playground.
February 10, 2015	Council meeting at which the following resolution was adopted: <i>That staff commence a park planning process for the renewal of the playground located in Steveston Community Park as outlined in the staff report titled ‘Steveston Community Society Contribution to Steveston Community Park Playground Renewal,’ dated January 9, 2015, from the Senior Manager, Parks.</i>
February-September 2016	Public and stakeholder engagement and development of a Steveston Community Park Playground Renewal Preferred Concept Plan.
June 12, 2017	Council meeting at which the following resolution was adopted: <i>That the Steveston Community Park Playground Renewal Preferred Concept Plan as detailed in the staff report titled “Steveston Community Park Playground Renewal Preferred Concept Plan,” dated May 9, 2017, from the Senior Manager, Parks, be coordinated with the planning for the Steveston Community Facility Replacement Project and at the conclusion of that planning process, staff bring forward a report outlining the next steps for renewal of the playground.</i>
February 2020	Presentation to Council of the staff report titled “Steveston Community Park Playground Renewal Next Steps”, dated January 20, 2020, from the Director, Parks Services.

A detailed overview of the community engagement process and results, as well as the resulting Steveston Community Park Playground Renewal Preferred Concept Plan is included in the staff

report titled, “Steveston Community Park Playground Renewal Preferred Concept Plan,” dated May 9, 2017, from the Senior Manager, Parks.

Advancement of the Steveston Community Park playground renewal process was put on hold while options for the location of the future Steveston Community Centre and Branch Library were being analyzed to ensure co-ordination between the two projects.

#### Steveston Community Centre and Branch Library Replacement Project

The Steveston Community Centre and Branch Library Replacement project is now in the Concept Design stage since Council’s recent approval of the recommended site.

At the December 15, 2020 Council meeting, the following resolution was adopted:

*“That the Site 3 option as described on Page 6 in the staff report titled, “Steveston Community Centre and Branch Library Replacement – Site Selection,” dated November 30, 2020, from the Director, Facilities and Project Development and the Director, Recreation and Sport Services be approved.”*

Site 3 is located between the Martial Arts Centre and southeast baseball diamond, and encompasses the surface parking along Moncton Street. The supported site for the future Steveston Community Centre and Branch Library does not conflict with the location of the Steveston Community Park Playground Preferred Concept Plan, which is generally in the same area as the existing playground (refer to Attachment 2). It is worth noting that a new standalone washroom facility located near the playground will be required, as per Vancouver Coastal Health, to service the existing water spray park, before the existing community centre is decommissioned.

The Steveston Community Park playground renewal process can now advance to detailed design and costing without concern of impacts from the Steveston Community Centre and Branch Library Replacement Project. Design of the washroom facility will take place at the same time as the detailed design process for the playground.

Staff will continue to co-ordinate the Steveston Community Park playground and Steveston Community Centre and Branch Library projects to ensure that safe and direct pathway connections are provided between the future playground and community centre and branch library facility.

#### Next Steps

The next step in advancing the Steveston Community Park playground renewal process is detailed design and costing. Based on the preferred playground concept plan, staff will develop a request for proposals to engage a qualified team of professionals to provide detailed design and costing services.

Staff will oversee and guide the detailed design and costing process to ensure that the playground design meets current Canadian Standards Association’s guidelines for children’s playspaces and



equipment, and is reflective of community and stakeholder feedback. Staff will continue to involve and update the Steveston Community Society as the detailed design process progresses.

Once the detailed design and costing is complete, staff will submit capital requests for playground renewal implementation and commensurate operating budget impacts for Council consideration as part of the five-year capital planning process.

To minimize disruption to playground users, implementation of the playground will be scheduled outside of peak months for playground use (June to August) and/or phased so that portions of the playground will remain open and accessible to the public throughout construction. A communications strategy will be developed and employed during playground renewal implementation to keep the public informed and up-to-date on the construction process.

The following table outlines the overview of Steveston Community Park Playground Renewal next steps.

**Table 2: Overview of Next Steps**

Tentative Dates	Activity
Winter – Spring 2021	Procurement process for playground renewal detailed design and costing services.
Spring-Fall 2021	Development of detailed design and costing.
Fall 2021	Preparation of five-year capital requests for implementation of playground renewal for Council consideration.
Winter-Spring 2022	Procurement process for playground renewal implementation.
Spring 2022	Start of playground renewal construction.

### **Financial Impact**

Consultant services for detailed design and costing for Steveston Community Park playground renewal will be approximately \$80,000 to \$100,000. The Steveston Community Society has offered, as outlined in the staff report to Council titled “Steveston Community Society Contribution to Steveston Community Park Playground Renewal,” dated January 9, 2015, from the Senior Manager, Parks, to contribute 50 per cent of the detailed playground design costs up to \$40,000. The Society’s offer was reconfirmed at its meeting held on January 5, 2021. With the Steveston Community Society’s contribution, the City’s portion of funding for detailed design and costing services will be \$40,000 to \$60,000. Adequate funding is available in the Parks Advanced Planning and Design 2017 capital budget account, which was approved by Council as part of the Consolidated 5 Year Financial Plan (2017-2021).

## Conclusion

The Steveston Community Park playground renewal process to date has provided an opportunity for comprehensive community engagement towards development of an overall playground renewal concept plan. Now that a location has been confirmed for the future Steveston Community Centre and Branch Library that does not pose any conflicts with the Steveston Community Park Playground Preferred Concept Plan, the playground renewal process can advance to detailed design and costing. Staff will continue to co-ordinate the community centre and branch library facility and playground renewal projects to ensure that strong connections are provided between the two facilities. Staff will continue to involve key stakeholder groups and develop a communications strategy to keep the public informed with up-to-date information on the progression of the playground renewal process.



Miriam Plishka, BCSLA, CSLA  
Park Planner  
(604-233-3310)

- Att. 1: Steveston Community Park Playground Renewal Preferred Concept Plan
- Att. 2: Steveston Community Park Playground and Steveston Community Centre and Branch Library Context Plan

Steveston Community Park Playground Renewal Preferred Concept Plan



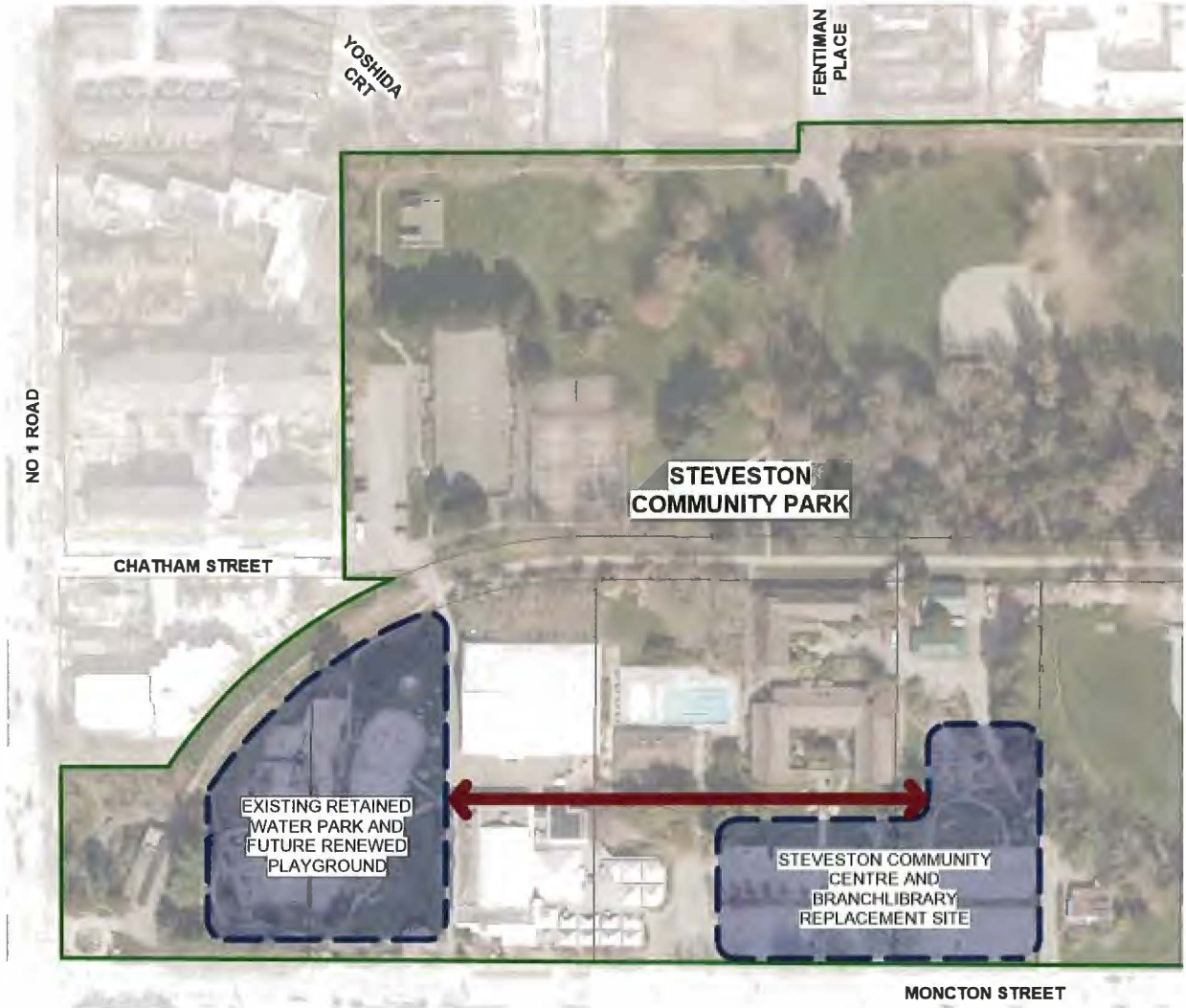
MONCTON STREET



**LEGEND**

- |  |  |   |                                  |
|--|--|---|----------------------------------|
| 01 SAND PLAY AREA WITH WATER TROUGH                          | 11 SAUCER SWING  | 29 WIDENED BOARDWALK                                | 39 PIER BALANCING LOGS           |
| 02 TRAIN STATION WITH SLIDE                                  | 12 RIVER HARBOUR PATTERN IN RUBBERIZED SURFACING - SLOPING DOWN TO ENGINEERED WOOD FIBRE SURFACING | 30 HANG OUT HAMMOCK                                 | 40 ACCESSIBLE RAMP               |
| 03 FARM VILLAGE WITH PLAY PANELS                             | 13 FISHING BOAT WITH CLIMBING NET  | 31 SLOPED BOARDWALK                                 | 31 BIG SWINGS                    |
| 04 RUBBERIZED SURFACE WITH HISTORIC RICHMOND FARM PATTERNING | 14 IN GROUND TRAMPOLINE  | 32 SHIP WRECK LOG CLIMBER WITH NETS AND MONKEY BARS | 32 ZIPLINE                       |
| 05 BRIDGE CROSSING   | 15 ROTATING RING   | 33 MOUND AND BIG TUBE SLIDE                         | 33 WIDENED ACCESSIBLE PATHWAY    |
| 06 TODDLER SWINGS  | 16 SPICA SPINNER   | 34 WIND SOCKS                                       | 34 ASPHALT PATHWAY               |
| 07 TEETER TOTTER   | 17 PLAY CIRCUIT  | 35 BRIDGE   | 35 SHRUB PLANTING                |
| 08 TRAIN   | 18 ENGINEERED WOOD FIBRE SURFACING   | 36 CROW'S NEST STRUCTURE                            | 36 TALL GRASS PLANTING           |
| 09 TRAIN TRACK PATTERN IN RUBBERIZED SURFACING               | 19 NET BASKET SPINNER  | 37 LOG RAFT ADVENTURE PLAY                          | 37 ADDITIONAL SHADE TREES        |
| 10 ACCESSIBLE BOARDWALK - FLUSH WITH ADJACENT SURFACING      |  | 38 SOCKEYE SALMON CLIMBERS / SEAT ELEMENTS          | 38 LAWN AREAS WITH PICNIC TABLES |

Steveston Community Park Playground and Steveston Community Centre and Branch Library Context Plan



To: Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Committee

Date: February 19, 2021

From: Councillor Harold Steves

Re: Steveston Post Office

The Steveston Post Office has been the heart of Steveston for 131 years. With Peggy's Cove Post Office closed, it is Canada's last remaining community Post Office. In Steveston the 7-Eleven Sub- post office has closed and the Super Grocer Sub-post office is inadequately staffed as people must search for someone to serve them. Historically, the Steveston Post Office is as important, even more important, as any historical building in Richmond. If the Post Office in the Northern Crown Bank building is closed, the Steveston Post Office, which dates back to when the community was founded in 1890, will no longer exist, and we will have lost a major part of the "Steveston Story"

#### History of the Steveston Post Office

The Steveston Post Office was established on May 1<sup>ST</sup>, 1890. W. H. Steves acquired the postal equipment and opened the Post Office in his seed store at the foot of Second Avenue at Steves Landing where mail steamers from New Westminster docked three times a week to deliver mail. Over the past 131 years it has moved to over 15 different locations, the latest in the Northern Crown Bank, being the longest at 43 years. Bill McNulty has written an excellent history of the Steveston Post Office in his book "Richmond's Postal History". (attached)

When the Japanese returned to Steveston after WWII, the Steveston Post Office became the hub of the community, where people of all ethnic groups came together as friends and neighbours to talk about the price of fish and plan a new community centre. In the 1960's Alice Windsor was postmaster and the assistant postmaster was Japanese, Saki Naruwa.

In 1972 Canada Post closed the Steveston Post Office to bring in door to door delivery and offered the postal franchise to private businesses. The Steveston Post Office was such a popular meeting place that half of the population signed a petition opposing the change. I circulated the petition. When the Post office closed, the Steveston Community Society had several hundred envelopes printed "Steveston BC, Salmon Capital of the World, Last Stamp, 1882-1972, recognising that mail was originally dropped off at English's Cannery built in 1882. Saki and I stamped all of the envelopes with the last postmark. On that last day I was given the postal stamp and all of the original equipment by the head postmaster in Vancouver. After 1972 the post office moved from store to store but the community spirit of Steveston never fully recovered. People wanted their post office back.

I was Richmond MLA and suggested that Richmond Council apply to the Barrett government for a "Neighbourhood Improvement Grant" that was being offered at the time. It was approved. As required, a committee of three was appointed to make a door to door survey to determine what people wanted for their community. Most people wanted a post office and some wanted a museum. We decided to do both. The former Royal Bank, built in 1906, and adjacent lot was for sale, and we founded the Steveston Historical Society in 1978 to apply for the Post Office franchise. As chair of the historical society I was

officially the postmaster and had to send in the accounts, but Nora Felker ran the post office along with a number of volunteers, at the service entrance of the Steveston Library, which at that time was at the north-east corner of Moncton Street and First Avenue. When the bank was acquired, the society was responsible for it, and, as architect and volunteer, Bud Sakamoto oversaw the restoration.

Restoration of the Northern Crown Bank/ RBC and Steveston Post Office.

In keeping with community wishes the bank building was restored with the Post Office as the main feature and a museum depicting the original bank as a secondary use. Using original photographs, the Post office wicket is the same as the original bank teller's wicket, but slightly further north to give more museum and public space in front. The Post Office furnishings are the original Post Office furnishings I acquired when the Post Office closed, some going back to 1890. Period furniture, some of it original, was found for the Bank Manager's office and the main room. The main room in front of the Post Office wicket was designed to have changing museum displays. Changed by volunteers, the public frequently saw something different whenever they came to the Post Office. On one occasion we showed our entire collection of Japanese ceremonial dolls. The public has not seen them since.

The entire upstairs was museum. It was furnished with period furniture, largely donated by Rev. Gordon Imai, in Bank Manager's bedroom, to show how the Northern Crown Bank Manager and his family lived 100 years ago and hands on artifacts from the Steves collection in the Children's Museum in the two remaining rooms. Once the restoration of the building was completed, the Post Office and museum was operated by volunteers and a postal clerk, paid within the level of the revenue coming in. People going upstairs and into the downstairs back room, which portrayed the Bank Manager's kitchen and living room were monitored by the postal clerk. Nora Felker operated both the post office and museum without difficulty for many years.

When the City took over, staff closed the upstairs because they deemed it inaccessible to seniors, and they converted it to staff office space.

When the Maples was to be built on the site of the Japanese Hospital, I was contacted by someone living in a house that had been moved to the SE corner of the property. With old photos it was determined that it was the office of the Japanese Fishermen's Benevolent Society who built and operated the Japanese Hospital and Japanese School. The building was added to the Post Office site. The City insisted that the two buildings should be joined with a causeway so the building could be monitored by the postal clerk. With a change in staff the City insisted later in having an auxiliary person in the Benevolent Society building. When Tourism Richmond was asked to help cover the cost of operation of the Post Office, they used the main front room of the Post Office museum that had been used for changeable museum displays and the entire museum mainly became a static display.

Steveston Post Office Today

The city pays auxiliary staff in the Benevolent Society building \$19.00 to \$20.00 per hour while postal workers are paid \$16.70 per hour. The present Living Wage is \$19.50 per hour.

After 41 years of operation by volunteers, the City of Richmond finally approved a working agreement with the Steveston Historical Society for the operation of the Steveston Post Office on November 12, 2019. The agreement states that:

"The Society will receive:

-"\$10,000 from the City of Richmond to offset expenses for the operation of the Post Office."

-"\$10,000 from Tourism Richmond .... to offset expenses for the operation of the Post Office."

"The Society will not be responsible for any losses related to the operation of the Post Office but will retain any surplus related to these operations."

"Should the annual surplus from revenue from the Post Office, plus \$10,000 from Tourism Richmond, plus the \$10,000 from the City of Richmond, less operating expenses from the Post Office be less than \$5,000, the City will provide the society up to \$5,000 to guarantee the society a minimum of \$5,000 as a fee for service for operating the Post Office if needed."

The agreement clearly states that, "The society will not be responsible for any losses related to the operation of the Post Office." With the decline of Tourism Richmond activities, the City is responsible for covering Tourism Richmond's \$10,000 contribution, for a total of \$20,000 plus an additional \$5,000 fee for service for operating the Post Office, if needed.

Surprisingly, on September 25, 2020, only 10 months after approving the Steveston Post Office working agreement, city staff had a consultants report prepared recommending closure of the Steveston Post Office as Option A. This report was never presented to Council for discussion before the recent public survey as recommended and it is out of date. Because of e-mail fewer people are using postal services but because of Covid 19 and online shopping more people are receiving parcels by mail and that is the future. It was presented as an addendum to a memo on December 3, 2020. On page 27 of the report it states, "Council will be consulted for their input and direction regarding the proposed options"

It Is Recommended That:

1. the words "The current Visitor Centre operations would be re-imagined and Post Office Service discontinued" be deleted and replaced with "The current Post Office service would be continued and the Visitor Centre operations would be discontinued." Both Option A and Option B would include the operation of the Steveston Post Office.
2. \$20,000 be paid annually to the society by the City if and when Tourism Richmond vacates the premises, plus the additional minimum of \$5,000 fee for service for operating the Post Office if needed, as approved in the working agreement November 12, 2019.
3. The postal workers be paid a Living Wage as auxiliary staff, with the added responsibility of monitoring activities in the museum and eliminating the need for additional museum staff.
4. The upper floor of the Post Office be reopened with the installation of a stair lift elevator for seniors and/or a video on the ground floor depicting the upper floor museum display for people unable to use a stair lift.

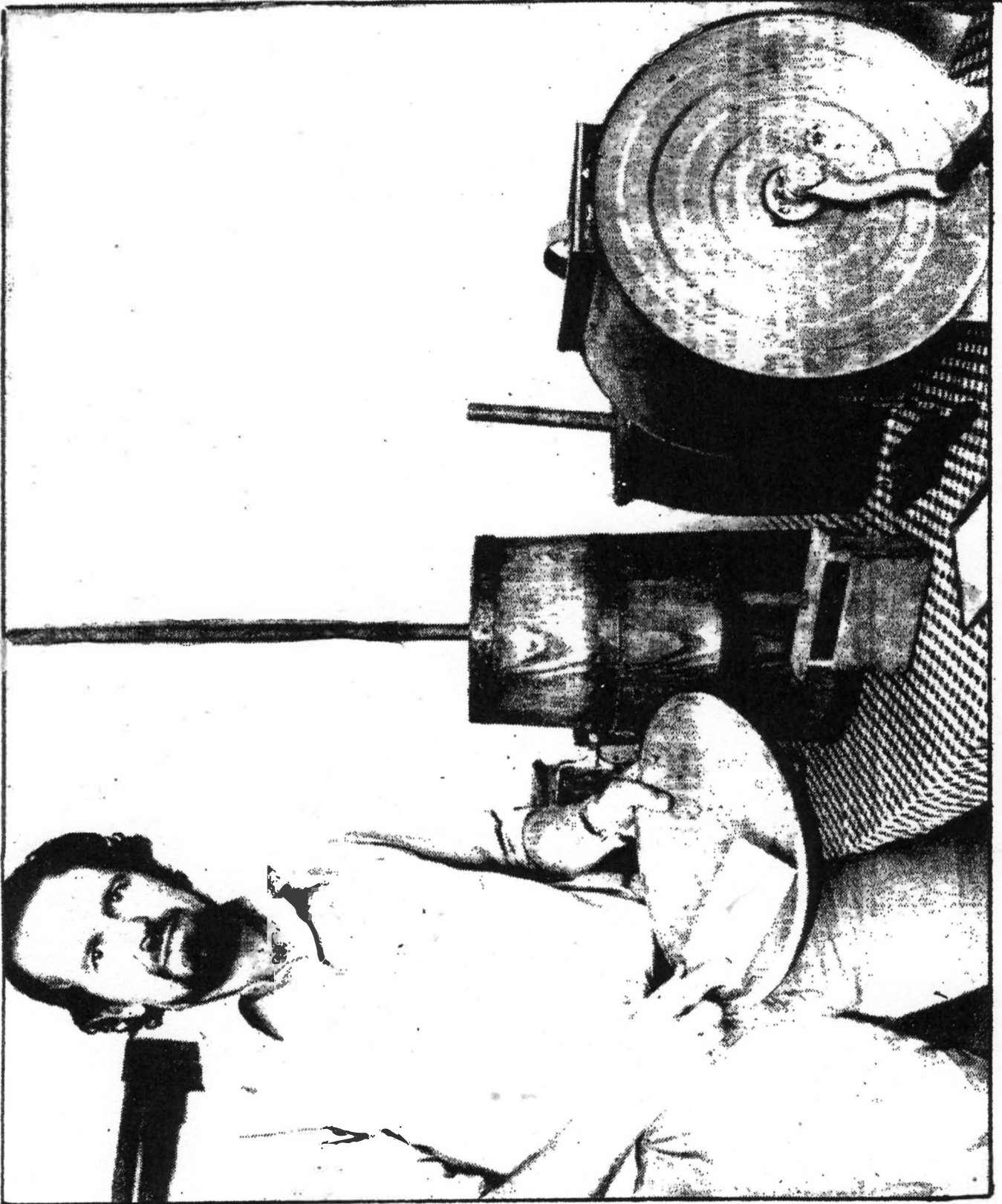


**During her walking tours in Steveston, guide Edith Turner shows off antique exhibits - including this old washing machine on display at the Steveston - to interested tourists and students.**

#### Childrens Museum

For the first 20 years, until it was closed by the City, the Children's Museum was one of the most popular attractions at the Steveston Post Office. There were two rooms of artifacts that could be demonstrated by volunteers or hands on by older students and children. There were hand operated washing machines, butter churns, butter molds, butter dishes, apple peeling machines, fruit canning jars, canning machines, farm and blacksmith tools and children's toys and a hand operated gramophone and records. The sloped ceilings were ideal for children and school classes viewing photographs and descriptions of Steveston history. Volunteers gave tours and even had a slide show on Steveston history for students. Thirty binders of recent newspaper articles on Steveston and fishing history, prepared and kept up to date by Steveston Historical Society board member Kathy Steves, were available for students and adults doing research.





HAROLD STEEVES, who has more than just a passing interest in the museum at Steveston, points out some of the interesting items that are on display. Parents should take their youngsters down to have a look and show them some of the objects and tools that were used here many years ago. The people at the museum take much delight in explaining all of them.

Dating back 50 to 100 years!

# These artifacts well worth seeing! ..the fabulous Steveston Museum...

The Harold Steves Historical Collection is currently on display at the Steveston Museum.

Dating back 50 to 100 years, the artifacts of Steveston's history include a wide assortment of blacksmith, wood work, shoe making, dairy and farming tools. Most of the individual articles lack adequate identification, but the display arrangements suggest enough so the imaginative visitor can fairly accurately guess the use and age of the tool.

Butter churns, hand apple peelers, corers, cherry pitters and the old fashioned ice cream freezer — not to mention the bread dough hand mixer — the Steveston Museum has it. And odd contraptions with cranks, bars and strange handles leave child visitors wide-eyed and wondering. And the washing machines of days gone by: metal tubs, washing boards and the wash-dry wringers of 50 years ago are enough to make any housewife with small children shudder.

On the first floor of the Post Office Museum, are modest displays of old photos and artifacts donated by community members: a child's hand-painted tea set, only five inches high, dated 1910, sits in the main display case and a china-head doll, with brisque arms, still in its original pink pleated cotton dress are only a few of the display items.

The museum itself is a relic of Steveston's history. Built by the B.C. Timber and Trading Company of New Westminster in 1905, the small two-storey box

building became Steveston's first bank, the Northern Bank. It was constructed in sections four feet wide on the company site, then transported along the Fraser River to Steveston where it was reassembled.

The building changed ownership from the Northern to the Crown Bank and later to the Royal Bank in 1918. In the 1960's it changed ownership once again and became a local doctor's office until December 1977, when it was sold to the Steveston community to be preserved as a historical site.

It took two years to renovate the structure with the help of Richmond's Planning Department and Steveston community members Andy Felkar and Bud Sakamoto. Because the original building foundations had rotted, the whole building had to be lifted up five feet with steel rods and hydraulic jacks in order to remove and rebuild the foundation.

Renovated with the funds of Neighbourhood Improvement Project grant, the building is now both a historic museum and modern Steveston Post Office. And according to Post Mistress Nora Felkar, the double use of the building has many benefits:

It would be difficult to keep the museum open all week solely with the help of volunteers, she says, and the historical society would

have difficulty paying for a full-time museum guide to care for the museum. But with the addition of the Post Office to the Museum, office staff can watch over the museum while working full-time in the Post Office.

The Post Office itself, Felkar says, is part of the museum. On one office wall is the tall, wide shelving of the original Post Office general delivery letter slots. The worn, wooden letter divider which dates back to the turn of the century, was carried up the street from the original office once located just a few blocks west.

"They help each other out," Felkar says. "When people come in to buy stamps they usually stop to browse over the assorted displays in the museum; and when people come to visit the museum, they usually stop to buy stamps. It's a good arrangement."

Felkar says there are no immediate plans to enlarge the museum displays. The current museum budget prohibits any large-scale purchasing at the moment. But, she adds, we are always glad to receive any historical artifacts from the community than can be donated.

# Richmond's Postal History

by  
Bill McNulty  
Friends of the Richmond Archives

## Steveston 1890

At the outset, the settlement of Steveston was planned by the Steves family to become a city. Manoah Steves ventured from Steveston to Victoria where the owners lived, to buy more than 300 acres on the southwest corner of Lulu Island. His son William Herbert Steves, also went to Victoria and purchased the Steveston town site extending it to the west to No. 1 Road and to the south of No. 9 Road, now Steveston Highway. The Steves believed that the site held promise for a booming port city.

Following the relocation of the Lulu Island Post Office to the Government dock at the end of No. 2 Road, William Herbert Steves saw the need for a new post office to serve the rapidly growing community. Steveston has a good landing area on the waterfront which he thought would facilitate mail delivery.

The Steveston town site was named after Manoah Steves and the new post office was named for the new town. Manoah Steves, father of the first postmaster William Herbert Steves, had been born in New Brunswick and came to Richmond in 1877 after having spent a short time in Maryland. He purchased land on Lulu Island and established a seed business and he was joined the next year by his family.

The Steveston Post Office was approved under authorization notice 162-13, dated March 1890, and was established on May 1, 1890 although the proof strike is dated "MY 2 90" indicating that the office did not open until mid day.<sup>16</sup> The post office was located in the Steves' Seed Store on the south end of Second Avenue between Bayview and Moncton Streets where there was a wharf at the south end of the Avenue. Mail was received tri-weekly by mail steamer from New Westminster. The Steveston Post Office operated from the Seed Store until February 18, 1894.

<sup>16</sup> The Post Office was opened May 1, 1890, but the postal strike showed May 2nd indicating that the Post Office did not open until after noon.

There were three stage lines and three livery stables in Steveston in the 1890s. Humphrey Trites ran a stable from the southeast corner of Chatham Street and Third Avenue. Mr. A.H. Westcott had a barn on the northwest corner of the same intersection. The sign outside it said, "Feed A.H. Westcott' Livery." These were the Sockeye Stables.

Walter H. (Billy) Steves operated the Palace Livery Stage and Stables, one of the original stage coach lines between Richmond and Vancouver. He would go around in the evening in Steveston to see if people wanted anything from Vancouver, then depart from Steveston early in the morning, have lunch in Vancouver and be home for supper.

Billy Steves had a contract to carry the mail between Steveston and Vancouver. His stage coach was a familiar sight loading up for the days' ride into the city with the Chinese residents restricted to the outside benches and whites under the privileged canopy. The stage coach arrangements indicated the social "arrangements" of the time with the front of the stage reserved for "whites." The "Chinese and Indians" had to take the back seats. Billy Steves took the mail from Steveston to Eburne Post Office for dispatch to Vancouver.



Ⓜ McNeill's Mail Stage at Steveston, circa 1900.

*City of Richmond Archives  
Photograph 1984 17 12.*

Mr. Steves met an unfortunate death in December of 1895 when, upon returning from Vancouver during a storm, a tree fell across the stage as it passed by, killing him instantly.

About 1900 the McNeill Stage carried mail to and from Steveston to Vancouver. The mail from Steveston was delivered by stage coach from Vancouver until the Vancouver and Lulu Island Railway (CPR) was completed from Eburne Station to Steveston on June 30, 1902 when the Canadian Pacific Railway took over the mail contract.



Ⓜ Hunt's General Store, the centre building in this photograph taken about 1899 from a cannery at the foot of No. 1 Road.

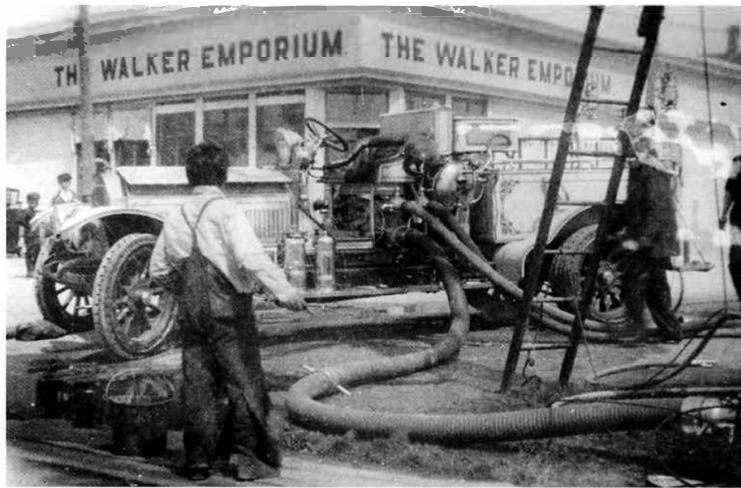
*City of Richmond Archives  
Photograph 1977 20 4.*

Herbert Steves tried to get the Richmond Council of the day (1890) to incorporate Steveston. However, the Council declined to endorse the application for incorporation for a city formed by the residents of the fishing community. If Herbert Steves wished to proceed with incorporation he would have to do so on his own initiative. In 1897 the population of Steveston was reported to be 350.

Herbert Steves remained as postmaster for four years. George Blake took over for one year.

The post office changed locations in 1894 and moved to Hunt's store at the northeast corner of Moncton Street and 2nd Avenue, which later moved to the Hepworth Building on the southeast corner of the same intersection.

Just after the turn of the last century, Mr. Walker bought Hunt's store and added on to it. He was known for not granting credit – he wanted cash for everything. Later, he moved the store and post office and renamed it,



⦿ Walker Emporium, 1918.  
City of Richmond Archives  
Photograph 1977 23 2.

“Walkers Emporium.” The building that housed Walkers Emporium was converted to a garage and in 2007 is the home of Marine Garage at 3611 Moncton Street.

In 1908 the Steveston Post Office was again moved to the Hepworth building at 50 Moncton Street; the post office was to the east (left) of the alcove at the entrance on the south east corner of Moncton Street and Second Avenue. Now it is numbered 3580 Moncton Street.

In 1917 and 1918, two fires threatened to raze all of Steveston. The first fire in 1917 destroyed seven buildings in the Chinatown

area south of Moncton Street. On May 14, a second fire started when a lantern overturned in a Star Cannery bunkhouse for Chinese workers. In addition to the destruction of the Star, Steveston, and Lighthouse canneries, more than fifty buildings went up in flames in Steveston. Fire fighting equipment was sent from all municipalities, but the most needed was a fire truck from the Vancouver Fire Department which never made it to Steveston because it broke down en route to the fire.

In 1918 another fire swept through the community of Steveston levelling most of the town. The 1918 post office building, the Hepworth Building was gutted by fire. The post office was moved and a temporary post office was set up in the dining room of the Sockeye Hotel (now Steveston Hotel)

on the northwest corner of Moncton Street and Third Avenue.



⦿ Sockeye Hotel, 1910.  
City of Richmond Archives  
Photograph 1977 19 25.

After repairs were made in 1918, the post office moved back to the Hepworth building. For many years this was the home of Steveston Drugs as well.

The Richmond Phone Book map of 1938-39 shows the Steveston post office at the southeast corner of Moncton Street and Second Avenue. The 1942 Fraser Valley Directory lists the Post Office address to be 50 Moncton Street. By 1947 the Richmond

phone book lists the post office as being at 262 Moncton Street.

William Herbert Steves was postmaster from 1890 to 1894. The Henderson Directory of 1891 describes him as postmaster, importer and grower of field, garden and flower seeds. He was the first seedsman in Western Canada and one of only two seedsmen in the Pacific Northwest, the other being in Oregon. In 1888 Herbert Steves and his family began to develop the town site. Mr. Steves seeded the town site of Steveston in oats. The area south of Chatham street had been subdivided and sold in town lots and by 1890 there had been considerable development. Several stores



were built and the name Steveston was established. Herbert Steves built the Richmond Hotel on Second Avenue and a dock at the foot of it called Steves Landing. He built an opera house that was used for everything from dances to church services. He also started the weekly newspaper called the "Enterprise" which was descriptive of him as an entrepreneur.

④ The devastation in the aftermath of the Steveston fire of 1918.

City of Richmond Archives  
Photograph 1984 17 15.

In 1891 George Blake worked as a clerk for Herbert Steves. In 1893 he worked for the Enterprise P. & P. Company office and ran and produced the Enterprise newspaper. He was Postmaster from 1894 to 1895.

Edward Hunt, Postmaster from 1895 to 1907, owned a general store and telephone office in Steveston in 1885. The 1897/98 Directory lists him as an agent for the British Columbia Land Company. The 1909 Directory records him as a general merchant at Second Avenue and Moncton Street.

James McLean, Postmaster from 1907 to 1908, was a bookkeeper at the Richmond Hotel.

Arthur Parker, one of the longest serving Postmasters in Richmond, from 1908 to 1940, was referred to in later years as an upright, studious gentleman. Mr. Parker lived at 658 Fourth Avenue in Steveston while he was postmaster. He also had worked as a bookkeeper for the Imperial Cannery and in 1911 he was the lighthouse keeper at Garry Point.

Donaldine Harris acted briefly as the Postmaster from June 26, 1940 to April 30, 1941.

Wilfred Horace Ebbutt, Postmaster from 1941 to 1962, came to Vancouver as a youth with his parents when they emigrated from Lancashire, England. He was a traveling fruit and vegetable salesman in the Vancouver area. His



④ Registered letter to Parksville from the Lulu Island Post Office after the office was moved to the London Store, No. 2 Road.

From the private collection of Bill Topping.

route encompassed the Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island. He married Constance Boyce of Winnipeg and had two sons Wilfred and Alvin. The family lived for a time at 1125 Sixth Avenue in Steveston. He died in 1982, and his son Alvin, who lived at 3240 Hunt Street passed away in 1999. Alvin recalled delivering the mail from the post office which was to the left (east) of the alcove entrance in the Hepworth Building to the Interurban Tram twice a day, at 8:00 am and 4:00 pm.<sup>17</sup>

Wilfred Ebbutt loved roses and was a true gardener. People would drive by his place in Steveston just to see his roses and hanging baskets. He was known for his elaborate floral arrangements and contributed to the decorating of the Anglican Church in Steveston during Christmas and other celebrations. Mr. Ebbutt was a fisherman and, according to a family story, he did not want his sons to go fishing so he burned all of their nets and gear. However both sons made their living from fishing in spite of him. He passed away in 1982 at 96 years of age.<sup>18</sup>

Alice Windsor was Postmaster between 1961 and her retirement in 1972. Her family came to Richmond in 1930 and settled on a five-acre farm at Lucas and Gilbert Roads. She was the second of five children in the Windsor family. Her father was a coal miner in Natal, British Columbia where she married Bill Windsor. Her husband's father Phil Windsor owned the Malcolm and Windsor Cannery which later became the Gulf of Georgia Cannery. She worked as a housemaid and then became an assistant to Postmaster Wilfred Ebbutt. She was the last official agent of the Steveston post office.



The British Columbia Directory of 1891 described Steveston: "Steveston has a daily mail service, excepting Sundays, and all boats running to New Westminster call there. Stages run twice a day to Vancouver, a distance of 12 miles. There are three salmon canneries, a first class hotel, four general stores, seed store, wagon shop, furniture factory, butcher shop, large opera house, two livery stables and music store besides private residences. A half-mile race track has been laid out, and the British Columbia

④ Illustrated return envelope prepared prior to the establishment of Steveston Post Office by the first Postmaster William Herbert Steves. Dated PARKSVILLE-MR 4 90 (Steveston opened about May 1, 1890)

From the private collection of Bill Topping.

*Jockey Club has arranged to take it over, as it is considered to be the best track on the Pacific Coast. A new wharf has just been completed, having 26 feet depth of water at low water, and is large enough to accommodate any vessel. There are a number of very fine farms in the vicinity. Messrs. M. Steves & Sons, farmers, make a speciality of raising and dealing in pedigrees stock, Holstein cattle, Suffolk Punch horses and Berkshire pigs being their favourites. Mr. W.H. Steves, the owner of the town site, is a prosperous farmer and seed merchant. From its situation and shipping facilities Steveston will develop into a town of some importance. At present*

17 Alice Ebbutt, daughter of W.H. Ebbutt, telephone interview with author, February 25, 2007

18 Alice Ebbutt.

*the water supply comes from the Fraser River; but the residence are negotiating with an Eastern firm to bore Artesian wells, as experts declare an abundance of water. A large number of lots have been bought there on building conditions, and even now, owing to its being the headquarters of the fishing operations, it is a very busy and thriving little place. Many of the fishermen, live in house boats, which they move from place to place, but as most of the fishing is done at the mouth of the river, this is the most convenient place for them to live. In the summer they fish for salmon, and in the winter for salt water fish, finding a ready market in New Westminster and Vancouver.*"<sup>19</sup>

The post office was moved to 346 Moncton Street where it remained until 1972. Today this address is the home of Dave's Fish and Chips.

## Steveston 1956 - Vancouver Sub 142

In March of 1956 a proposal was made to incorporate the Steveston Post Office into the Vancouver District postal system as Vancouver Sub Post Office Steveston. At the time the "local delivery" rate within the Vancouver Postal District was 4 cents and the "out of town" rate was 5 cents. Thus if the change was implemented the letter rate from Steveston to Vancouver would have changed from 5 cents to 4 cents. Before the change was implemented the 4 cent rate was dropped and thus the 5 cent rate would apply regardless of the change to Vancouver sub status. As a result of local pressure the Steveston name was retained until 1972.

The Steveston Post Office closed May 13, 1972 at which time it was located at 346 Moncton Street, in what is now Dave's Fish and Chips. After 1972 postal service continued under the name, Vancouver Sub 142, which is still in use. Remains of the original Steveston Post Office tellers' wickets and the wood post boxes can be still seen in 2007. The three tellers wickets are located at Dave's Fish and Chips while the post boxes are located at the Steveston Museum.

The post office moved to the laundromat across the street which housed Island Cleaners. The address was 365 Moncton; now the address is 3651 since the Municipality added an extra digit to all addresses in Richmond on January 1977. Gabe Martyniuk, was owner and operator of Island Cleaners as well as Postmaster. Mr. Martyniuk hired Ernie McDairmid, a retired man who had been a postmaster in Saskatchewan, to help part-time with the postal operations.

Gabe Martyniuk was part time postmaster in 1972 and 1973. His main business was dry cleaning. He maintained that he took over the post office because it was going to be closed by Canada Post and the community felt that it was too far for senior citizens to travel to Brighthouse in central Richmond for postal services.



Ⓢ Now one of Steveston's most popular fish and chips restaurants, Dave's was once the Post Office. The former wickets have been decorated to reflect Steveston's maritime heritage.

*City of Richmond Archives  
Photograph 2007 20 9.*

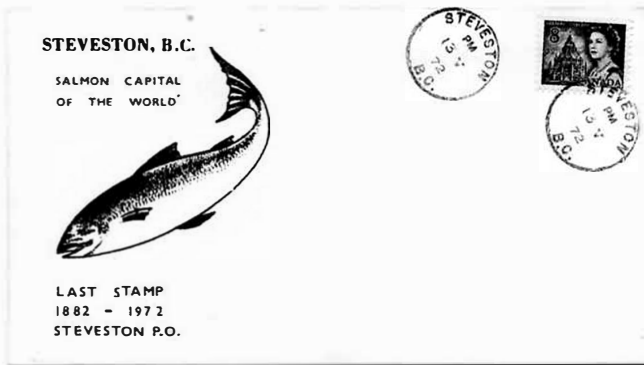
<sup>19</sup> "British Columbia Directory 1891", page 114.



Mr. Martyniuk was in the Navy before he went into the Laundromat and dry-cleaning business. His father Peter was the barber in Steveston. The only way he would agree to take on the post office was if Canada Post would assist him with help to operate the business. Having the post office brought increased numbers of residents into his business but Mr. Martyniuk was finding it too difficult to run two businesses in the same establishment by himself. In 1973 he offered the post office operations to Ernie McDairmid for a \$35 a month rental fee for space.<sup>20</sup> With this arrangement in effect, Mr. McDairmid stayed as postmaster from March 1974 to June 1977 offering 6 days per week service by hiring a person who had retired from Shellmont Post Office in 1973 to work Wednesdays for him.

In 1975 the post office moved to the home of another Steveston business, Bo Tree Florists at 396A (3960) Moncton Street. Robert Noble was the Postmaster in 1975 and 1976, and a florist. Today this is the address of the Steveston Barber shop. In 1976 the post office moved again to L&L Sales, 3851 Moncton Street, with Lionel Fisher as Postmaster until 1977.

In 1978 the Steveston Historical Society took over the Vancouver Sub Post Office 142. The Society moved it to a temporary location in the Steveston Library at 3831 Moncton Street while the bank building was being remodelled as a museum



① One of the last envelopes to clear the Steveston Post Office before it became Vancouver Sub 142.

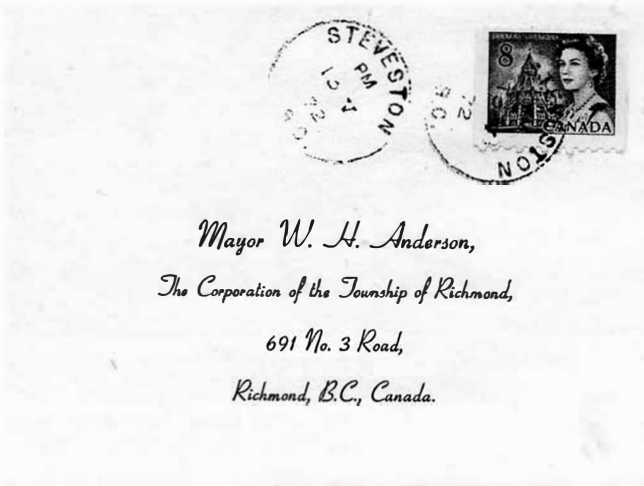
*From the collection of Bill McNulty.*

② Mayor Henry Anderson received official notification of the change by mail at his City Hall address.

*City of Richmond Archives, W.H. Henry Anderson family fonds.*

and post office. Nora Felker worked as the postal clerk from the rear of the Steveston Library which is where Budget Appliances is today, at the northeast corner of Moncton Street and First Avenue.

The Steveston Museum opened on December 16, 1979 in a 1905 building on Moncton Street, which had been a bank and then a doctor's office. The Steveston Post Office, known officially as Vancouver Sub 142 is presently operated by the Steveston Historical Society and is located in the Steveston Museum at 3811 Moncton Street. May 1, 1990 was the 100th Anniversary of having a Post Office in Steveston.



*Mayor W. H. Anderson,  
The Corporation of the Township of Richmond,  
691 No. 3 Road,  
Richmond, B.C., Canada.*

**Steveston Post Office:**

Opened May 1, 1890

Closed May 18, 1972

Opened as Vancouver Sub 142 May 18, 1972

**Steveston Postmasters:**

William Herbert Steves, 1890-1894

George Blake, 1894-1895

Edward Hunt, 1895-1907

James B. McLean, 1907-1908

Arthur A. Parker, 1908-1940

Miss Donaldine Harris, 1940

Wilfred Horace Ebbutt, 1941-1962

<sup>20</sup> Gabe Martyniuk, interview with author Feb. 25, 2007.

Mrs. Alice Windsor, 1961-1972  
Gabe Martyniuk, 1972  
Ernie McDairmid, 1973-1975  
Robert Noble, 1975-1976  
Lionel Fisher, 1976-1977  
Steveston Historical Society, 1978-2007<sup>21</sup>

**Locations of the Steveston Post Offices:**

1890..... South end of Second Avenue  
1894..... Hunts' Store, Moncton Street  
Date unknown ..... Hepworth Building, 50 Moncton Street  
Date unknown ..... Walkers' Emporium, Moncton Street  
1908..... Hepworth Building, 50 Moncton Street  
1918..... Sockeye Hotel, Third Avenue and Moncton Street,  
southwest corner  
1947..... 262 Moncton Street  
1972..... Dave's Fish and Chips, 346 Moncton Street  
1973 ..... Steveston Drug Store, Hepworth Building, 365  
Moncton Street  
1975..... Bo Tree Florist, 396A Moncton Street  
1976..... L & L Discount Store, 3851 Moncton Street  
1977..... Dry cleaners at 3831 Moncton Street  
1978 ..... Steveston Museum, 3811 Moncton Street

**Woodward's Landing**

April 1, 1904 a post office was opened at the Woodward's Landing wharf. William McKenzie was the postmaster. It was established under postal order F 7229 dated March 1, 1904. Woodward's Landing was located at the south end of No.5 Road on the South Arm of the Fraser River. The post office had three postmasters between 1904 and 1912: William McKenzie, 1904-1906; William Gay, 1906 to 1909; and William J. Graham, 1909 to 1912. The last postmaster, Mr. Graham, resigned in 1912 and largely because no one would take over from him, the post office was closed July 12, 1912

The post office was named for Nathan Woodward who arrived in Richmond in the fall of 1874 and pre-empted land at the south end of No. 9 Road. He was followed by other members of his family who pre-empted land on No. 4 Road.

**Woodwards Landing Post Office:**

Opened March 1, 1904  
Closed June 12, 1912

**Woodwards Landing Postmasters:**

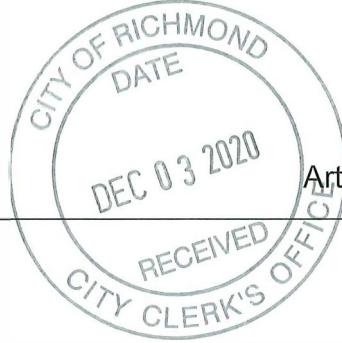
William McKenzie, 1904-1906  
William Gay, 1906-1909  
William J. Graham, 1909-1912

<sup>21</sup> Future of Steveston Post Office, located in the Steveston Museum, was under discussion at the time of publication, 2007.

**TO: MAYOR & EACH COUNCILLOR  
FROM: CITY CLERK'S OFFICE**



**City of Richmond**



**Memorandum**  
Community Services Division  
Arts, Culture and Heritage Services

**To:** Mayor and Councillors

**Date:** December 3, 2020

**From:** Rebecca Clarke  
Manager, Museum and Heritage Services

**File:** 11-7141-01/2020-Vol 01

**Re: Options for Improving Visitor Experience at the Steveston Museum**

The purpose of this memo is to inform Mayor and Council of a recent report on options for improving the visitor experience at the Steveston Museum and upcoming public consultation on these options.

Background

The City has worked collaboratively with the Steveston Historical Society (the Society) since 1979, to activate the Steveston Museum site at 3811 Moncton Street. Since opening, program activities have primarily taken place in the Bank building. While this space includes some heritage displays, the primary uses are a local post office outlet (operated by the Society) and a tourist Visitor's Centre (operated by Tourism Richmond).

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Steveston Museum was open daily throughout the year with no admission fees. Despite recent increased visitation from school groups and public programs, drop-in visitation has steadily declined over the past few years. The Visitors Centre saw a 48% decrease in visitation from 2015 to 2019 and the Post Office experienced a 21% decrease in transactions between 2016 and 2019.



PHOTOCOPIED  
DEC 03 2020  
AW  
& DISTRIBUTED

With the function of permanent visitor centres changing, and visitors increasingly obtaining destination information digitally, Tourism Richmond is looking into other means to support visitors to Steveston. Additionally, as the use of postal services continue to decline, the Society is interested in exploring alternatives to its postal operations. Rather than generating revenue as initially envisioned by the Society, the Post Office requires a subsidy in order to remain open. As a result of these changes in visitation over the past several years, both the Society and Tourism Richmond are interested in exploring alternatives to their existing operations.

Additionally, through the process of developing the Steveston Heritage Sites Interpretive Plan, the Steveston Museum was identified as site with significant opportunity for further interpretation of Steveston history and heritage. In particular, stakeholders favoured the idea of the Steveston Museum becoming an “interpretive hub” for the area, providing historical context for visitors to Steveston and serving as a driver for visitation to other local heritage sites.

#### Options for Visitor Experiences at the Steveston Museum

With these things in mind, staff undertook a process to explore what other visitor experience opportunities might be possible for the Steveston Museum site. Two options were developed in collaboration with the Society and Tourism Richmond.

Option A: Steveston Interpretive Hub (working title) - One facility that tells the story of Steveston

A single, museum-style experience with an updated identity that would link historical interpretation in the Northern Bank building with existing exhibits in the Japanese Fishermen’s Benevolent Society building. The Steveston Interpretive Hub would provide a unified experience and serve as an interpretive introduction to ‘the Steveston story at the centre of Steveston village. The museum would provide a focus for local pride in Steveston heritage and culture, and a stepping off point for visitors exploring the village. It would be a reference point for heritage throughout Steveston, and introduce a variety of stories not currently told. The current Post Office and Visitor Centre operations would be discontinued.

Option B: Two distinct facilities that offer postal service and Steveston Nikkei stories

- 1) Postal Heritage Centre (working title) - The current Post Office would continue operations within the heritage Northern Bank building, supported by displays celebrating postal history, and post office contributions to community development in Steveston and elsewhere. The multiple operations and messages previously provided in the building would be reduced and strengthened around this single theme. The Visitor Centre would no longer exist and support for visitor services at this location would be minimal.
- 2) Steveston Nikkei Museum (working title) - The existing exhibits and programs in the Japanese Fishermans’ Benevolent Society building would continue in their current or updated form, though with a distinct identity as Steveston’s Nikkei Museum, and a direct entry off of First Avenue. The Steveston Nikkei Museum would continue to operate as it has, with additional programming.

In Option B, visitor services and the history of the Steveston community, would be addressed at other locations throughout the Steveston Village and/or through online and digital media.

The report *Steveston Museum: A Vision for Improving the Visitor Experience* outlines these options and the benefits of each in detail (Attachment 1).

In Q1 2021, staff will present these two options for public consultation. Public consultation will be done in collaboration with the Steveston Historical Society and Tourism Richmond and through Let's Talk Richmond, as well as surveys and/or phone interviews with Society members, site users, community groups, and tourism representatives. As the public consultation process would be led by City staff, the cost for public consultation process can be accommodated within the existing Arts, Culture, and Heritage Services operating budget.

Staff will report back to Council in Q2 2021, on the outcomes of the consultation and a recommended future direction for the Steveston Museum. Working in collaboration with the Steveston Historical Society and Tourism Richmond, staff will recommend changes to the Steveston Museum which may align closely with one of the options presented, comprise a hybrid of the two, or represent the status quo.

Please contact me at [rclarke@richmond.ca](mailto:rclarke@richmond.ca) or 604-841-2608 if you have any questions.



Rebecca Clarke  
Manager, Museum and Heritage Services  
(604-841-2608)

Att. 1

pc: SMT  
Clay Adams, Director, Corporate Communications and Marketing



## Steveston Museum

### A Vision for Improving the Visitor Experience

September 25, 2020



doug munday design



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## 1. Introduction

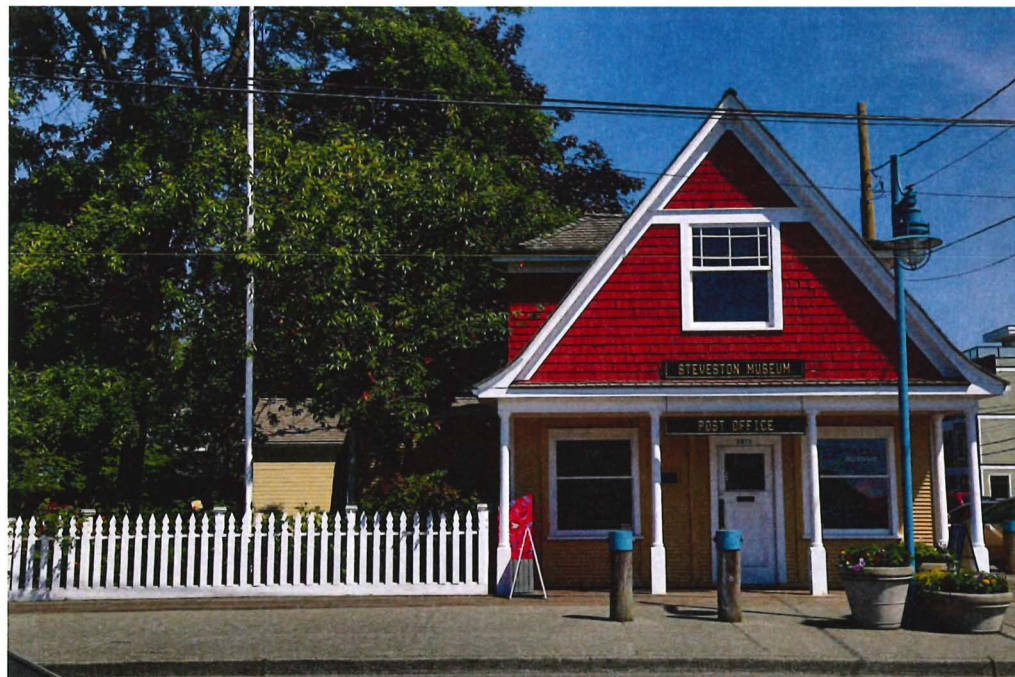
The operation of and services provided by the Steveston Museum and Visitor Centre have evolved significantly over the past five to ten years.

The Steveston Historical Society is reconsidering continued operation of the Post Office within the historic bank building, but remains strongly interested in the space, and in public heritage offerings there. Tourism Richmond's prior Visitor Centre operations are not likely to continue in the same form at this site.

While visitation to the facility has gradually declined, public program participation has increased substantially as the Society, with addition of an Executive Director, has increased program offerings and walking tours.

School programming increased with opening of the Japanese Fishermen's Benevolent Society (JFBS) building in 2015, and its *Nikkei Return* program.

Town Square Park use has increased since the park was redeveloped in 2016, with large numbers attending for Canada Day, Doors Open Richmond, other events.





Currently multiple functions take place within the limited space of the two buildings, and the resulting visitor experience is recognized to be fragmented. There is interest in creating a more cohesive experience at the site, presenting Steveston's brand and heritage in a clearer way.

This study outlines two options for improving the experience of the site – for both locals and visitors – and for reimagining these facility's services and role within Steveston's heritage community.

## 2. Purpose and Parameters

The Request for Quotations to develop this 'Vision for Improving the Steveston Museum Visitor Experience' identified the following purpose and background for this study.

**Project Purpose:** *to offer ideas for interpretation, amenities and/or wayfinding to improve the visitor experience and profile of the Steveston Museum site*

### **Background**

*The Steveston Museum at 3811 Moncton Street is one of six heritage sites owned by the City of Richmond in the area called Steveston. It is open daily, throughout the year with no admission fees. Visitation to the site in 2019 was over 30,000 people, including individuals making post office and visitor centre transactions.*

*Since opening in 1979, the Steveston Museum has mainly comprised the activities that take place in the Bank building. In addition to some interpretation, this includes a local post office (operated by the Steveston Historical Society) and the visitor's centre (operated by Tourism Richmond). The future of both of these activities is unclear and there is an opportunity at this time to identify other options for a use for these spaces.*

*In recent years, the site has expanded to include new buildings, spaces and activities. The three primary areas that comprise the Steveston Museum site are the Northern Bank building, the Japanese Fisherman's Benevolent Society (JFBS) building, and the Town Square Park.*

*There are a number of programs and events that are delivered at the site on a regular basis by both the City and the Steveston Historical Society. Many of these programs and events are new and often evolve or change over time.*

*The Museum and Heritage Services team have begun the development of a Steveston Heritage Sites Interpretive Plan to better coordinate the interpretation and operation of all the heritage sites owned by the City in Steveston. The Steveston Museum is an important part of this work and is envisioned to be a hub for heritage across Steveston.*

... through the interpretive planning process [the following] target audiences were identified for the Steveston Museum. The primary audience includes local and visiting adults and active seniors. Secondary audiences include families, children's groups, and newcomers to Canada.

GROUP	MOTIVATION	TRAVELLING PARTNERS	HOME LOCATION	FREQUENCY
<i>Primary</i>				
<i>Adults and Active Seniors</i>	<i>Experience a new place, learn about different cultures, learn about local history or personal history in the area</i>	<i>Spouse and/or friends</i>	<i>Richmond, Lower Mainland, other Canada, other countries</i>	<i>Annually-occasional</i>
<i>Secondary</i>				
<i>Families</i>	<i>Entertain/teach young person; Share memories with younger generation</i>	<i>Grandparents, parents, children</i>	<i>Richmond, Lower Mainland, other Canada, other countries</i>	<i>Annually-occasional</i>
<i>Groups of children under 12</i>	<i>Curriculum related learning</i>	<i>Teachers, classmates, group leaders</i>	<i>Lower Mainland – mainly Richmond</i>	<i>Annually</i>
<i>Newcomers to Canada</i>	<i>Learn about Canadian heritage; Enjoy unique heritage buildings</i>	<i>Family members, friends, classmates</i>	<i>Lower Mainland</i>	<i>Occasional</i>

***Building and site areas considered in this study***

Potential modifications to uses in the following public spaces have been considered:

- **Northern Bank building:** main floor only, including existing Post Office, Visitor Services, and exhibit areas, and historic bank vault. *Historic bank office walls, and existing restrooms and staff room to remain. Upper floor storage and office spaces were not considered as part of this project.*



- **JFBS building:** some reorientation may be considered of introductory exhibits in Room B, and change to current temporary exhibits in Room A. *Other existing public galleries to remain.*



- **Town Square Park**



### 3. Process

This study began with a site review of Museum and JFBS Buildings, other Steveston heritage sites, and a review of background materials provided by the City, which included:

- Steveston Museum and Visitor Centre, and JFBS building visitation data
- Tourism Richmond: Tourism Plan 2019-2022
- Steveston Village Conservation Program, Conservation Strategy, 2009
- JFBS Building Conservation Review, 2013
- Northern Bank Conservation Review, 2014
- Prior planning workshop notes:
  - Steveston Historical Society – Future of the Steveston Post Office Brainstorming Session, 2017
  - Steveston Heritage Sites Interpretive Planning Workshop, January 2020
- Steveston Museum and JFBS building drawings, exhibit planning documents
- Steveston Village Heritage Walking Map

Several videoconferences were held to gain stakeholder input on user groups, service and program offerings, and space use options for the facilities. Site plans with different configurations of space use were presented as basis for discussion. Participants included:

- Tourism Richmond staff
- City of Richmond heritage staff
- Steveston Historical Society board members

Several common themes emerged from these sessions:

- There was consensus that the Steveston Museum is an ideal place to serve as the interpretive hub for Steveston.
- It is important that this space offer something for both locals and visitors to create a unique mix of people.
- It is unlikely there will be a physical presence associated with tourism services in the future, but there are a number of other ways to work with Tourism Richmond to support tourists at the space.

Stakeholders then reconvened by videoconference to review three draft options for site use and visitor experience based on stakeholder feedback. Tourism Richmond confirmed their intent to re-evaluate having a physical presence in the building for visitor servicing.

Two options were prioritized:

- Option A: The Steveston and Nikkei Museum (a combined facility)
- Option B: Steveston Postal Heritage Centre / Steveston Nikkei Museum (two separate facilities)



# A THE STEVESTON & NIKKEI MUSEUM

Provide an interpretive introduction and overview of the Steveston story, and encourage visits and participation in other Steveston heritage sites.



### Opportunities:

- Most cohesive use of Bank building; ±640SF exhibition space throughout open, front area
- A focus for local pride in Steveston heritage and culture, and a stepping off point for visitors to explore the village
- Add stronger identity to JFBS entry on First Avenue; consider seasonal entry off First, and direct connections to Park, with own staffing
- Potential event and/or rental uses of Park, interior program spaces

### Operational considerations:

- Museum host provides both interpretive and visitor services
- Revenue opportunities through potential space rentals, for-fee interpretive programs

### An interpretive museum for the story of Steveston – a story of place, waterfront, and diverse communities – which will echo through other sites. (±640SF Bank bldg, plus ±475SF JFBS)

- Steveston Tram
- Gulf of Georgia Cannery NHS
- Britannia Shipyards NHS
- London Farm
- Garry Point / Scotch Pond
- and others

### Where to go to find more:

- Steveston Tram
- Gulf of Georgia Cannery NHS
- Britannia Shipyards NHS
- London Farm
- Garry Point / Scotch Pond
- and others

### Program spaces for locals:

school groups, tour starting point, temporary local group events/exhibits (few fixed exhibits)  
±1305F in Bank building  
±1555F in JFBS building

### Strong ties and invitation to visit the JFBS building next door; presented and branded as a joint destination and attraction.

strong ties and invitation to visit the JFBS building next door; presented and branded as a joint destination and attraction.

**Outdoor program/rental space**  
(seasonal, seasonal cover)

## 4. Options

### Option A: The Steveston and Nikkei Museum

A single brand identity and museum experience will link the current Bank and Japanese Fishermen's Benevolent Association (JFBS) buildings, to provide an interpretive introduction to 'the Steveston story', at the centre of the village. The museum provides a focus for local pride in Steveston heritage and culture, and a stepping off point for visitors exploring the village.

It will be a reference point for heritage throughout Steveston, and introduce a variety of stories not currently told.

The current Post Office and Visitor Centre operation will not be continued.

#### ***What's it about? Themes and stories:***

The Steveston and Nikkei Museum will provide an overview of Steveston's stories, such as:

- *special landscape and unique sense of place* – a magical shoreline at the meeting of Fraser River and Salish Sea, with rich agricultural lands and wildlife habitats
- *working waterfront* – bustling with fishing fleets, canneries, and shipyards
- *diverse communities* – First Nations' home for millennia; Japanese Canadians drawn to the fisheries; Chinese Canadians, coastal First Nations and others drawn to work in the canneries and shipyards; European settlers drawn to fishing and farming opportunities; and contemporary Steveston communities of fishers, boaters, artists and craftspeople.

The story of the 1906 Northern Bank building may be told in exhibits within the historic vault.

In the JFBS building, existing exhibits and programs tell the story of Steveston's Japanese Canadian experience, from "...the arrival of the first Nikkei... their many contributions to Steveston from fishing and farming to cultural arts... [and] the Japanese community's internment during World War II and the postwar return of some Nikkei to Steveston."

<http://historicsteveston.ca/japanese-fishermens-benevolent-society-building-exhibit/>

The Museum will provide a taste of each these stories, and guide locals and visitors to where they may find more:

- Steveston Tram
- Gulf of Georgia Cannery NHS
- Britannia Shipyards NHS
- London Heritage Farm

- Garry Point / Scotch Pond
- Steveston Harbour Authority  
and other sites

This thematic approach aligns well with Tourism Richmond's brand strategy, from their **2019–2022 Tourism Plan**, and thus help to strengthen a common message:

*Pacific. Authentic. Steveston Village*

Ours is a story crafted over generations. Built scene-by-scene, by hand, with a colourful cast of characters and a brilliant mix of cultures... Full of tall tales hauled in with the catch of the day, and small moments shared as the sun sets over the Pacific.

*Real:* from working waters to national historic sites Steveston is filled with genuine people, places, and activities...

*Connecting:* a gathering place where cultures, communities, and industries come together... a place where the past, present, and future are connected.

*Undiscovered:* Despite well-known historical sites and tourist-friendly attractions, there is much of Steveston still undiscovered... [by both locals and visitors]

Proposed themes and stories also echo the City's 2009 **Steveston Village Conservation Program**, which identified eight Core Themes "which together tell the broad story of the history of the Village":

- Aboriginal Use
- Agricultural Roots
- Cannery Legacy
- Fishing Legacy
- Small Frontier Town
- Transportational Hub
- Cultural Diversity
- Continuing Community: Joining Richmond, Economic Restructuring, and Tourism

As well, the proposed themes support recommendations in the City's **Cultural Harmony Plan 2019-2029**. Strategic Direction 1: Intercultural Connections states, "Showcasing Richmond's diversity allows residents to have a better understanding and respect for different cultures.

- "1. Continue to recognize and celebrate Richmond's diverse cultures and unique heritage through intercultural celebrations and events.
- "2. Support and pursue opportunities for community-based dialogues that facilitate positive intercultural exchange and understanding."

***Identification and branding of facilities:***

A strong identity will be provided on the south face of the bank building on Moncton Street:

**The Steveston and Nikkei Museum**

*(a working name; to be confirmed during conceptual and thematic development for museum exhibits and programs, and in consultation with other Japanese Canadian organizations in the Lower Mainland, such as Steveston's Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre, and the Nikkei National Museum in Burnaby)*



Additional identity of the joint facility will be provided at the entry to the JFBS building on First Avenue, directing visitors to the main entrance on Moncton Street.

Further graphic and landscape treatments of the JFBS building façade and entry landscape, discussed to date by City heritage staff, may include:

- replacement of grass (a maintenance concern) with gravel and Japanese garden elements, and
- potential thematic imagery on the outsides of window blinds (a conservation requirement), as cues to what's inside.

Additional graphics outside both entries, and at the gateway to Town Square Park, will convey the nature of stories and experiences available within: “an interpretive museum for the story of Steveston, a story of place, waterfront, and diverse communities”.

Prominent wayfinding elements outside the museum entry, at the corner of Moncton and First Streets, will further identify the museum, and indicate it as a stepping off point from which to explore other heritage sites throughout Steveston.

On entering the museum from Moncton Street, strong visuals will welcome locals and visitors to explore the diverse sites and communities of Steveston. A large central map table and graphics will orient visitors to the village and nearby heritage attractions, surrounded by the faces of historic and contemporary Steveston residents who will introduce their stories and encourage visits to their sites. Particular graphic and exhibit cues will encourage visitors to continue through the rear of the bank building to further explore the Japanese Canadian heritage of Steveston through exhibits in the JFBS building adjacent.

A museum host may be stationed in the historic bank manager’s office, just inside the entry, or roam throughout the exhibits to welcome visitors, expand on Steveston stories, and provide visitor service information. An additional host could be stationed in the JFBS building during high season.

***Program opportunities:***

Two small program spaces for locals and school groups are provided, one in each building. These flexible spaces may be used for small gatherings – temporary art, craft and traditional skills demonstrations and displays from local groups – or as a starting point for school groups and village tours. They will not be primarily used for fixed exhibits.

School programs may include the existing *Nikkei Return*, and new programs developed around the diversity of Steveston’s cultures and stories. School group meeting and orientation space may be primarily outside in the park, with smaller groups then dispersing through the museum.

***Uses of Town Square Park:***

Town Square Park may be further activated with public heritage events: art exhibitions and demonstrations, musical performances, writing and storytelling festivals, seasonal cultural festivals. The JFBS program room’s direct connection onto the Park allows participants to move between indoor exhibits and activities, and Japanese themed features outside. Similarly the western door in the glazed atrium between the Bank and JFBS buildings can provide direct connections between other museum program spaces and the Park.

Larger and smaller tent structures can provide temporary shade and weather protection when seasonally needed, and current bench seating may be retained or relocated within the park for greatest flexibility.

Existing landscape and interpretive features towards the north end of the park, from the Japanese styled gate to the *Suikinkutsu* water feature, may be enhanced with additional interpretive graphics, with more direct programming connections to exhibits within the JFBS building, and with enhanced landscape features and graphics at the First Avenue face of the building. These will expand on Japanese Canadians' experience in Steveston, and further interpret the relationship with Richmond's sister city, Wakayama, Japan.



As noted above, additional graphics at the Moncton Street gateway to the park will introduce the story of Steveston, and invite visits to other heritage sites nearby.

Any physical features must be planned and located to allow flexibility for event use.

**Primary audience appeal:**

An exhibition focused on historic and present day community and culture – with a guide to accessing other nearby sites – will appeal both to local residents keen to learn and share each others’ stories, and to visitors interested in exploring the community and gaining an insider’s view on the local scene.

Programs for local residents and school groups, and heritage events and walking tours for all, will serve diverse audiences.

Serving our target audiences:

<i>GROUP</i>	<i>MOTIVATION</i>	<i>HOME LOCATION</i>	<i>SERVICES</i>
<i>Primary:</i>			
<i>Adults and Active Seniors</i>	<i>Experience a new place, learn about different cultures, learn about local history or personal history in the area</i>	<i>Richmond, Lower Mainland</i>  <i>Other Canada, other countries</i>	<i>Get to better know our historic and present day community and neighbours...</i>  <i>...and explore other nearby sites</i>
<i>Secondary:</i>			
<i>Families</i>	<i>Entertain/teach young person; Share memories with younger generation</i>	<i>Richmond, Lower Mainland, other Canada, other countries</i>	<i>Public events: celebrate &amp; share our stories, music, art; seasonal cultural festivals</i>
<i>Groups of children under 12</i>	<i>Curriculum related learning</i>	<i>Lower Mainland – mainly Richmond</i>	<i>School programs</i>
<i>Newcomers to Canada</i>	<i>Learn about Canadian heritage; Enjoy unique heritage buildings</i>	<i>Lower Mainland</i>	<i>Get to better know our community and neighbours; celebrate &amp; share our stories</i>

**Operational considerations:**

Staffing:

- A Museum host provides both interpretive and visitor services
- Programming and event management: increased public and school programs – development, scheduling, delivery; part time event management required for space rentals
- Increased marketing of facilities to local and visiting audiences

Revenue opportunities through potential space rentals, for-fee interpretive programs

**Capital upgrades will include:**

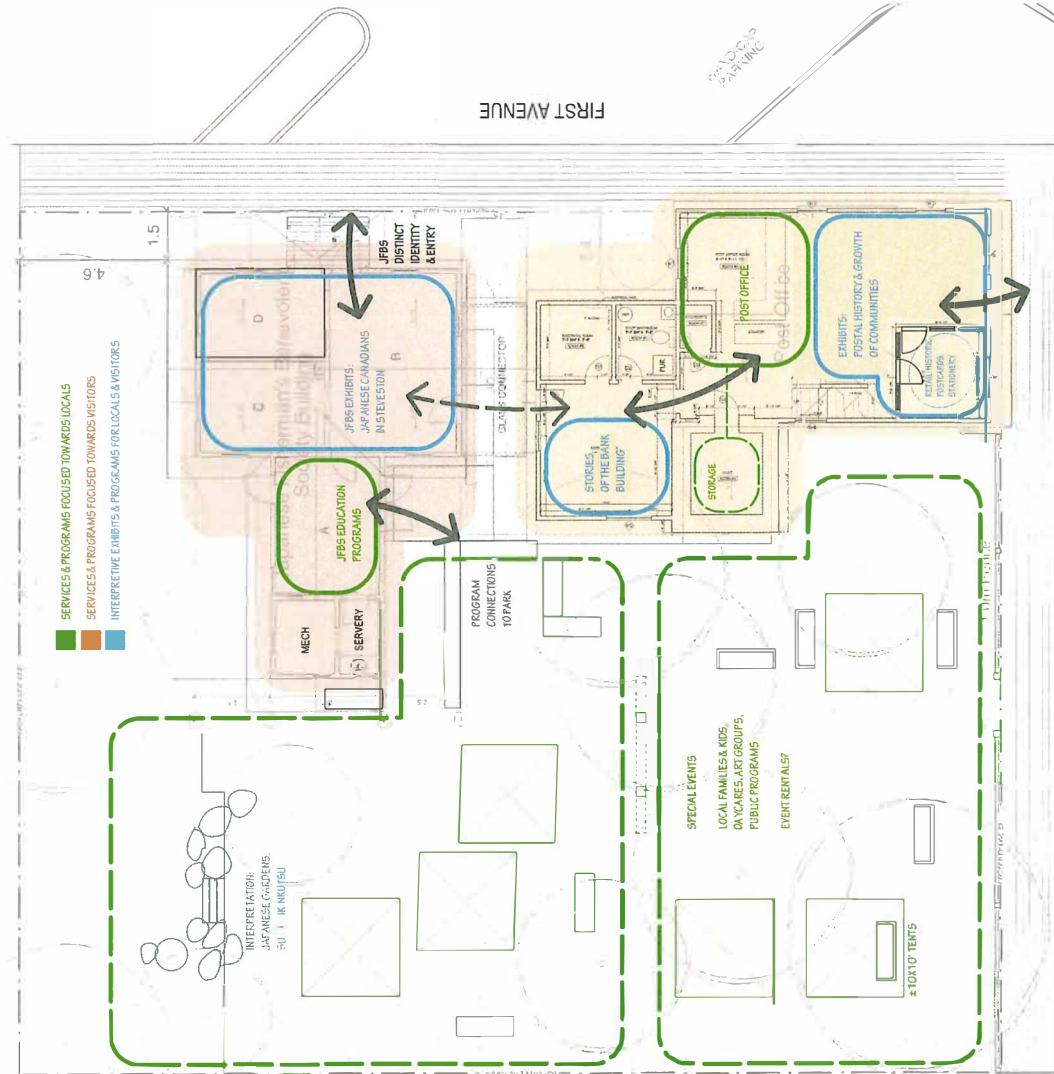
- Renovation of all main floor Bank building interior spaces; development of new exhibits; exterior branding, signage
- JFBS building: upgrades to First Avenue entry, signage; review HVAC performance when exterior doors occasionally opened
- Removal of JFBS temporary exhibit, and reconfiguration of permanent exhibits and program room





# B STEVESTON POSTAL HERITAGE CENTRE / STEVESTON NIKKEI MUSEUM

*A Post Office in a heritage building, with a museum of community postal history.*



**Opportunities:**

**A functioning Post Office, with a modest exhibition on related postal and community themes (±680SF)**

- Creation of Steveston Post Office in 1890, allowing creation of township.
- Connections to other communities and outside world, by post, tram, sea.
- Role of Post Office in growth of communities across Canada.
- Story of the Bank building and other community services in early Steveston development.

**Operational considerations:**

- Stronger brand presentation of Post Office history and function
- Possible souvenir retail: historic postcards, stationery
- Program space for locals: school groups, tour starting point, temporary local group events/exhibits (few fixed exhibits)
- ±1555F in JFBS building only
- Post Office host provides interpretive and visitor services, as well as managing postal and retail operations.
- The JFBS building has a distinct identity, brand and entry, and requires its own host for interpretive and security functions.
- Revenue opportunities through postal operations, retail sales, potential space rentals (largely outdoors), for-fee interpretive programs

**A separate Nikkei Museum** in the JFBS building next door

**Outdoor program space** (seasonal, seasonal cover)

## **Option B: Steveston Postal Heritage Centre / Steveston Nikkei Museum**

Two distinct facilities are envisioned:

- The current Post Office will continue operations within the heritage bank building, supported by exhibits celebrating postal history, and post office contributions to community development and cultural connections in Steveston and other communities. The multiple operations and messages previously provided in the building will be reduced and strengthened around this single theme.
- The current JFBS exhibits and programs will continue in their current or updated form, though with a distinct identity as Steveston's Nikkei Museum (name to be determined), and a direct entry off of First Avenue. The experience within the museum will be similar to that in option A.

The Postal Heritage Centre will maintain a current community service, with an additional niche offering of community postal heritage stories. The Nikkei Museum will continue to operate as it has, with additional programming.

Neither facility will act as an introduction to, or interpretive hub for other heritage sites throughout Steveston. This function, if desired, could be addressed through overview exhibits, media, or wayfinding elements at other locations.

### ***What's it about? Themes and stories:***

#### **Postal Heritage Centre**

Telling the postal history story of Steveston and Canada:

- Establishment of the Steveston Post Office in 1890, allowing creation of the township.
- 'Crossroads of Steveston' – Indigenous communities along the Fraser for millennia; then settler arrivals to Steveston, and their communications with home communities: Japanese Canadians, Chinese Canadians, British settlers, cannery workers from up and down the BC coast.
  - o Early telegraph, letter writing; communications between small communities
- Role of Post Office in growth of communities across Canada.
- Story of the Bank building, and other community services in early Steveston development.

We are not aware of other museums or exhibitions in the Lower Mainland currently focusing on postal and community history. See Appendices for information on other postal heritage exhibitions.

### **Steveston Nikkei Museum**

The existing exhibition, opened in 2015, "...features interpretation about the Japanese Canadian experience in Steveston from the time of their arrival in Steveston to the time of their internment during World War II. Their story is told in their own words, and uses their objects and archival images.

The exhibition begins with the arrival of the first Nikkei, or people of Japanese descent. Their many contributions to Steveston from fishing and farming to cultural arts, and from education to kendo and judo are explored. The exhibition also interprets the Japanese community's internment during World War II and the postwar return of some Nikkei to Steveston."

<http://historicsteveston.ca/japanese-fishermens-benevolent-society-building-exhibit/>

Current and expanded school programs (*The Nikkei Return*, Grades 4-6), and rotating changing exhibits on Japanese Canadian themes, may be planned for the western Room A, currently used for temporary exhibits.

### **Identification and branding of facilities:**

Strong identity will be provided on the south face of the bank building on Moncton Street:

### **Steveston Post Office & Postal Heritage Centre**



Brief graphics beside the entry will convey the services available within.

On entering the heritage centre from Moncton Street, clear Canada Post signage will be visible at the rear service counter, framed by foreground exhibits on the post office's contribution to the early development of the Steveston community.

A postal staff person at the counter will welcome locals and visitors, and provide postal, photocopy, fax and other related services.

A separate and distinct identity will be provided at the entry to the JFBS building on First Avenue:

### **The Steveston Nikkei Museum**



Exterior graphics and landscape treatments, similar to those described under option A, will be provided as thematic cues. Brief graphics beside the entry will convey the themes and stories within, and initial exhibits just inside the entry door may be reconfigured to provide an introductory overview.



Projecting and/or sidewalk signage should be considered, to increase visibility of the facility from the more commonly traveled Moncton Street.

A museum host will be stationed in the JFBS building, to welcome visitors to this facility.

**Program opportunities:**

The majority of public and school programming will take place in the JFBS building and in Town Square Park.

School groups and Nikkei-themed village walking tour groups can make use of the program room at the rear of the JFBS building.

In the existing *Nikkei Return* school program (grades 4-6), students learn about Japanese Canadian history through a walking tour of Steveston, then unpack suitcases of objects and stories at the Museum, revealing personal experiences of the internment and post-war years.

<https://www.richmond.ca/culture/sites/steveston-museum/school.htm?PageMode=HTML>

While there is little space for school programs in the Bank building, some small events or public programs around postal themes may take place there.



***Uses of Town Square Park:***

Other public programming will largely take place outside in Town Square Park, with public heritage events as in Option A. These may either be linked to Nikkei themes and seasonal festivals, or to more general Steveston heritage – particularly with letter-writing, storytelling, and communications themes – and make use of temporary seasonal cover as needed.



As in Option A, existing landscape and interpretive features towards the north end of the park may be enhanced with additional interpretive graphics, with more direct programming connections to exhibits within the JFBS building, and with enhanced landscape features and graphics at the First Avenue face of the building.

Any physical features must be planned and located to allow flexibility for event use.

**Primary audience appeal:**

The post office, as in the past, would be primarily used by Steveston residents. A postal heritage exhibit focused on local community history would appeal to locals, with some appeal to visitors with history and philatelic interests.

A Nikkei museum, with stronger identity and marketing than at present, would have a significant appeal to local and visiting Nikkei community members, and to general audiences.

Serving our target audiences:

<i>GROUP</i>	<i>MOTIVATION</i>	<i>HOME LOCATION</i>	<i>SERVICES</i>
<i>Primary:</i>			
<i>Adults and Active Seniors</i>	<i>Experience a new place, learn about different cultures, learn about local history or personal history in the area</i>  <i>Postal needs</i>	<i>Richmond, Lower Mainland</i>  <i>Other Canada, other countries</i>  <i>Steveston</i>	<i>Get to better know our historic community and neighbours:</i> <i>Steveston community development; Nikkei community stories</i>  <i>Postal services</i>
<i>Secondary:</i>			
<i>Families</i>	<i>Entertain/teach young person; share memories with younger generation</i>	<i>Richmond, Lower Mainland, other Canada, other countries</i>	<i>Public events: Nikkei themed events; heritage writing &amp; storytelling festivals</i>
<i>Groups of children under 12</i>	<i>Curriculum related learning</i>	<i>Lower Mainland – mainly Richmond</i>	<i>School programs (The Nikkei Return, and others)</i>
<i>Newcomers to Canada</i>	<i>Learn about Canadian heritage; enjoy unique heritage buildings</i>	<i>Lower Mainland</i>	<i>Get to better know our community and neighbours</i>

***Operational considerations:***

Staffing:

- Post Office staff primarily manage postal and retail operations, also welcome visitors to the Postal Heritage Centre.
- The Nikkei Museum has a distinct identity, brand and entry, and requires its own host for security, interpretive and visitor services.
- Programming and event management for both facilities: public and school programs – development, scheduling, delivery.
- Increased marketing of two attractions to local and visiting audiences.

Revenue opportunities through postal operations, expanded retail sales, for-fee interpretive programs.

***Capital upgrades will include:***

- Renovation of Bank building spaces; development of new exhibits; exterior branding, signage
- JFBS building: upgrades to First Avenue entry, signage; review HVAC performance with more frequent opening of exterior door
- Removal, reconfiguration of temporary exhibit and JFBS program room



## 5. Visitation expectations

Both Visitor Centre and Post Office have seen diminishing visitation since 2015. This is expected to continue, if Tourism Richmond's visitor information services in the building were discontinued.

Over the same period there has been an increase in school program use, and in general public programs and park event and festival use, programmed by the City and the Historical Society.

See the Appendices for a summary of Steveston Museum Visitor Statistics 2015–2019.

While we have not found comparable local facilities with directly applicable data on which to base reasonable visitation projections for either option, we believe the following expectations to be reasonable.

### Option A: Steveston and Nikkei Museum

- Loss of Post Office traffic
- Reduced Visitor Centre traffic
- Increased visitation due to:
  - Increased scale and focus of museum attraction, on broad cultural and community themes
  - Increased school and family programming offerings
  - Increased marketing of larger attraction, to locals and visitors
- Increased event rentals (larger outdoor events in Town Square Park, smaller corporate/group events in indoor spaces)
- Increased traffic driven to other Steveston heritage sites

### Option B: Steveston Postal Heritage Centre / Steveston Nikkei Museum

- Maintain Post Office traffic; potential modest increase in use with growing online shopping and parcel delivery requirements
- Loss of Visitor Centre traffic
- Postal Heritage Centre: modest specialty exhibit, on niche subject; opportunities for new public and children's programs with pen pals, postcard exchanges, stamp collecting and designing, community building; small themed retail (historic stationery & postcards, giftware)
- Nikkei Museum: increase visitation with distinct identity, greater visibility and marketing, increased school/public programming

## **6. Next steps**

- City staff need to consider the implications of the proposed options for the wider Steveston Interpretation Plan and Phoenix Net Loft planning currently underway.
- City Council will be consulted for their input and direction regarding the proposed options.
- Community consultation may be undertaken to determine local support for either of the proposed options.
- Development, capital and operational costing for the proposed options, or a preferred option, will need to be estimated.



## Appendices

### Summary of Steveston Museum Visitor Statistics 2015–2019

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Notes
People Counter in Bank Building	9,607					Stopped working in 2016
Post Office Transactions		15,107	14,912	12,775	11,913	2017 to 2019 stats are estimates
Tourism Richmond Visits	24,282	25,811	22,845	17,034	12,595	2013 to 2017 height of Once Upon a Time visitors
Japanese Fishermen's Benevolent Society building	6,774					Statistics kept for first 7 months of operation only
School Program Students	664	188	522	284	311	2015 was an outlier due to special program delivery for every class at Manoah Steves Elementary
Public Program and Event Participants (City & Society)	1,873	3,227	4,795	5,790	5,380	
<b>Total Site Visits</b>	<b>43,200</b>	<b>44,333</b>	<b>43,074</b>	<b>35,883</b>	<b>30,199</b>	

*Note: A 2016 TR Visitor Centre Observer recorded that about an additional 10% of visitors were going straight through to museum without stopping at Visitor Centre desk or Post Office.*

*Summary by R. Clarke, from Tourism Richmond and City of Richmond data.*

### Some existing postal heritage exhibitions:

The Museum of Vancouver's Wing Sang exhibit, in the 'Gateway to the Pacific' gallery, includes a partial reconstruction of the interior of the Wing Sang building, which in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century functioned as an informal 'post office' for Chinese Canadians needing to communicate with families and businesses in China. An interactive corner features reproductions of letters in a replica mail bag, which visitors may explore.



*"Lonely and homesick men would eagerly wait for mail from their loved ones across the Pacific. Staff at the regular post office, unable to read the 'chicken scratches,' would forward the bundles of mail to the Wing Sang Building. Given that many of Yip Sang's visitors to his storefront were illiterate in their native language, Yip Sang likely read and wrote letters for them at this de facto 'Chinatown Post Office.'*

<https://ccncourstories.wordpress.com/our-stories-features/yip-sang/>

Some larger national and international postal museums include:

Canadian Postal Museum (formerly within the Canadian Museum of Civilization, now the Canadian Museum of History; closed 2012)

*"...it presented the broader story of Canada's postal heritage, including the social and economic importance of postal communications throughout the country's history."*

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CanadianPostalMuseum>

The Postal Museum, London

<https://www.postalmuseum.org/>

Smithsonian National Postal Museum, Washington DC

<https://postalmuseum.si.edu/>