

City of Richmond

ARTS UPDATE 2017

Arts, Culture and
Heritage Services



Canada 150



“IT’S NOT WHAT YOU
LOOK AT THAT MATTERS,
IT’S WHAT YOU SEE.”

– Henry David Thoreau



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Introduction

In 2017, Canadians were called on to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Confederation by coming together and celebrating what it means to be Canadian, and the arts played a major role in this national reflection.

The arts are particularly fitted to this task — to activate joy and camaraderie, evoke memories and nostalgia, and offer depth and introspection. Additionally, through the arts, we can articulate intangible and difficult to articulate feelings of what it means to be Canadian. The Canadian Arts Coalition reports that 87% of Canadians believe that the arts and culture help us express and define what it means to be Canadian while a 2017 Hill Strategies study found that 95% of their survey respondents believe “Arts experiences are a valuable way of bringing together people from different languages and cultural traditions.”

Richmond embraced Canada 150 celebrations through a multitude and variety of activities and events. The 2017 Arts Update captures this spirit in addition to recording the many ways the City continues to foster a healthy arts scene that contributes to achieving the 2014–2018 Council Term Goal of *A Vibrant, Active and Connected City*, along with strong neighbourhoods, effective social service networks and outstanding places, programs and services that support active living, wellness and a sense of belonging.

As this report was prepared in early 2018, the Department of Arts, Culture and Heritage launched ArtWorks: Richmond Arts Strategy 2018–2022, a public consultation and engagement process that will guide and contribute to a new Richmond Arts Strategy. Our hearts, minds and bodies are varied and variable. Our community is similarly diverse, with a wide range of needs, interests and personal tastes. A commitment to provide a wide range of opportunities to participate in and experience the arts is essential to Richmond’s aspiration to be the most appealing, livable and well-managed community in Canada.

Throughout the document, you will see coloured icons to show how the year’s activities help to advance the five strategic directions of the Richmond Arts Strategy 2012–2017. Events enhanced by or presented in honour of Richmond Canada 150 are also identified.



Richmond Arts Strategic Directions



1. Strengthen and support the arts community



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



3. Broaden the diversity of arts experiences and opportunities



4. Expand public awareness and understanding of the arts



5. Broaden the economic potential and contribution of the arts



Indicates events or programs presented as part of Richmond Canada 150



Community Cultural Development

2017 RICHMOND ARTS AWARDS WINNERS

Arts Education: Mr. Tony

Artistic Innovation: Border Free Bees

Business and the Arts:
Lansdowne Centre

Volunteerism: Nan Baardsen

Youth Arts: Anna Toth

Cultural Leadership: Community Arts Council of Richmond

Richmond Arts Awards ❤️💬

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

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

This year, 81 nominations were reviewed and finalists were promoted with website announcements, emails to the arts community and a series of ads in the *Richmond News*. The winners in six categories were announced at the Richmond Arts Awards ceremony in Council Chambers on May 16.

Mayor Malcolm Brodie presided over the ceremony which was attended by approximately 110 people. Special guests included guest speaker Christopher Gaze, founding artistic director of Bard on the Beach, and performances by Rob Fillo, Richmond Delta Youth Orchestra and the Canadian YC Chinese Orchestra.

Lulu Series: Art in the City

The 2017 Lulu Series of guest speakers presented three free-to-the-public events about Art in the City and its importance to creating connections between citizens and their communities:

March 9: **David Vertesi**, founding Executive Director of the Vancouver Mural Festival discussed how collaboration is connected to innovation. He outlined how in its inaugural year, the Vancouver Mural Festival brought together thousands of onlookers and successfully mobilized more than 150 businesses, organizations and artists to work cooperatively to create a unique public celebration. His talk was preceded by a short performance by local beatboxer, Shamik. Attendance: 103

April 6: Renowned architect, **John Patkau** of Patkau Architects offered insights into how galleries and museums are becoming dynamic sites of expression where the boundaries between disciplines and cultural product, production and consumption, are being redefined, broken and even eliminated. Richmond-based tar and sitar player Ali Razmi took the stage preceding this talk. Attendance: 110

May 4: Award-winning interdisciplinary visual artists, facilitators and community organizers, **Eric Moschopedia & Mia Ruston** used their collaborative practice as a case study to illustrate the different ways in which community can be created through performance. Their talk was preceded by a short performance by spoken word poet, Dia Davina. Attendance: 57

Arts and Culture Grant Program

The grant helped us sustain our programming and attend world class professional events to expand our knowledge and network. By helping Cinevolution to bring experimental media art to public spaces, the grant also created valuable opportunities for artists to interact with new audiences, many of whom are encountering this art form for the first time.

– Cinevolution Media Arts Society

The City's Arts and Culture Grants Program was implemented in 2011 to strengthen the infrastructure of arts and culture organizations, increase the investment in arts opportunities, show support for the careers of local artists and support a wide range of artistic and cultural activity. The program offers two types of grants: Project Assistance and Operating Assistance to registered non-profit arts and culture organizations.

On February 6, Council approved the distribution of \$109,754. A total of \$89,454 in Operating Assistance was distributed to twelve recipients and \$20,300 in Project Assistance went to six adjudicated programs and projects. (See **Appendix 1**). Over the summer, each of the grant recipients met individually with staff to discuss the progress of their programs and share feedback about the grant application process.

On November 9, the City hosted a professional development workshop for these grant recipients. The workshop introduced the Non-Profit Lifecycles Model to 45 participants and was designed to help organizations identify individual organizational development challenges and opportunities. The workshop was followed by a networking reception.

Minoru Chapel Opera 🏠👤💬

In 2017, the Minoru Chapel Opera series offered a spring season of three concerts (each with a matinee and evening performance) in the historic Minoru Chapel. On October 4, East Van Opera performed *Alma: Arias and Duets in Concert*; on November 1, Burnaby Lyric Opera presented *Highlights from the Grande Opera*; and on December 6, City Opera Vancouver regaled concert-goers with a holiday-inspired performance, *Come Sing With Us!*



Richmond Museum at Culture Days

Culture Days ❤️🏠💬📈🇨🇦

The ninth annual Culture Days (September 29 to October 1, 2017) was another highlight of the year with Richmond continuing to be recognized as a leader in this Canada-wide movement to raise awareness, accessibility, participation and engagement in the arts with free, hands-on and interactive activities.

Among the offerings were costumed walking tours around Steveston and a behind-the-scenes peek at many of Richmond's cultural spaces, including the Gulf of Georgia Cannery. There were also free hands-on activities in calligraphy, watercolour painting, Filipino dance and drumming; and a wide range of demos, exhibits and activities in 28 different locations across Richmond. The Richmond Cultural Centre was, once again, a hub of arts and cultural activities, including pottery demonstrations, interactive workshops and creative performances. The Cultural Centre's outdoor Plaza was animated throughout the weekend with drumming workshops, a pop-up musical stage, live painting demonstrations and food trucks.

In terms of numbers, Richmond played host to 79 individual activities by 55 different artists and cultural organizations in 28 locations over the three-day weekend. This total is raised to 116 if multiple-day activities are accounted for and the combined attendance for these activities is estimated to be 6,000.

In the national Culture Days "Top Ten" lists, the City of Richmond ranked number three on the list of cities with population 50,000-499,999 for largest number of activities and was in the Top Five cities across Canada.

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

CULTURE DAYS BY THE NUMBERS

- 55** participating artists and cultural organizations
- 79** free, interactive public activities
- 6,000** estimated attendees
- 28** event locations across Richmond
- 100%** of surveyed activity organizers felt positive about their experience

Our event was great! Lots of enthusiasm from the participants which is what it's all about. We were amazed at the talent of some very young artists.

– Community Arts Council of Richmond



Minoru Chapel Opera



Residence Finale Event



Nilofar Shidmehr

Writer-in-Residence

In Fall 2017, Richmond hosted its sixth Writer-in-Residence program at the Richmond Public Library, Richmond Arts Centre and Minoru Place Activity Centre. Poet and novelist Nilofar Shidmehr led a series of events in October and November that gave Richmond residents the opportunity to engage with a professional writer.

Shidmehr is a BC Book Prize-nominated writer with four books of poetry in English and Farsi. During her residency, she provided innovative workshops, public readings and one-on-one manuscript consultations. The focus of this year's residency was multicultural storytelling and, as an immigrant to Canada herself, Nilofar provided invaluable professional and personal insight to students from diverse backgrounds on how to write from a multicultural perspective.

I appreciated her confidence in our ability to write a short story. She made it possible for us to collaborate with others and made it fun and interesting. I now feel more inspired to write more and join a writing group.

– *Write Yourself into a Fictional Character* workshop participant

Through her residency, Shidmehr illustrated her commitment to encouraging people from different cultural backgrounds to explore storytelling through writing. Her workshops included a short story postcard project for youth and a workshop that encouraged newcomers to Canada to share their immigration stories. Other workshops encouraged seniors to become a character in their own story and transform their personal experiences into fiction.

The Writer-in-Residence program opened with a public reading, Q&A and launch event on September 30 as part of Culture Days at Brighthouse Library where her series of free programs was introduced. During her residency, Nilofar also offered consultations for local aspiring authors to have samples of their writing evaluated and discussed one-on-one with her.

The residency concluded with a multi-generational performance on November 25 where program participants from three different workshops shared writing developed at workshops in the previous weeks to an audience of 41 people.



Richmond Maritime Festival



Richmond Maritime Festival



Richmond Maritime Festival

Richmond Maritime Festival ❤️🏠👉📈🇨🇦

The 14th annual Richmond Maritime Festival at Britannia Shipyards National Historic Site attracted an estimated 40,000 visitors on August 12 and 13. A major theme at this year’s event was wooden boats and the festival included a variety of wooden boat programming and displays. The heritage site was transformed by delightful maritime-themed art installations, roving costumed characters, staged performances featuring local talents and many exhibits and interactive creative activities involving artists and artisan guilds including the Richmond Carvers Society, Steveston Maritime Modellers, Richmond Pottery Club, Richmond Weavers and Spinners Guild, Richmond Delta Youth Orchestra and Richmond Gem and Mineral Society among many other organizations. Richmond-based artist, Atheana Picha, was selected to create the illustration for the annual promotional campaign. The festival was programmed in partnership with the Richmond Arts Coalition and the Britannia Heritage Shipyard Society.



Richmond World Festival



Richmond World Festival



Richmond World Festival

Richmond World Festival ❤️🏠👉📈🇨🇦

The third annual Richmond World Festival expanded to a two-day event over the Labour Day long weekend. The festival was a high-energy international showcase of music, food, sport and arts. Among the plethora of cultural offerings, visitors (an estimated 45,000) enjoyed exciting technological media installations at the Your Kontinent Digital Carnival presented by Cinevolution Media Arts Society, a Chinese opera program at the Bamboo Theatre presented by the Vancouver Cantonese Opera Society, spoken word performances by many of the region’s top poets and numerous performances by the city’s best dance groups and musicians. The festival’s headline artists included Tokyo Police Club, Dragonette and Korean hip-hop star, Verbal Jint.

Branscombe House Artist-in-Residence



Barbara Meneley

As the second annual Branscombe House artist-in-residence, professional visual artist Barbara Meneley presented a range of free public programs in exchange for live/work studio space upstairs in this treasured heritage building, one of the earliest homes built in the Steveston area.

During her year-long tenure in Steveston, Meneley offered workshops that introduced local residents to a variety of creative techniques including paper folding, painting and felting. Her events attracted more than 600 participants to historic Branscombe House. The artist also participated in City-operated events including Doors Open, Richmond Delta Heritage Fair, Richmond Maritime Festival and Culture Days, and presented a talk at the Richmond Art Gallery.

The call to select the third annual artist-in-residence attracted 30 proposals from artists around the world. A panel representing the local arts community worked with staff to select theatre artist, Keely O'Brien, as the successful applicant. O'Brien is a Vancouver-based interdisciplinary artist who incorporates intricately handmade objects into innovative theatre productions. During her 2018 residency, she plans to explore the experience of making and losing a home. The webpage at richmond.ca/branscomberesidency is updated regularly to keep the public informed about upcoming free public programs.



**BRANSCOMBE
HOUSE** ARTIST
RESIDENCY



I recently had the privilege of participating in one of the art workshops offered by Barbara Meneley through the Artist-in-Residence Program at Branscombe House. It was such an amazing three weeks creating art and meeting other members of the Richmond community.

– Andrea Paterson, residency workshop participant

CONCORD GARDENS ARTS UNITS

In 2013, through the development and rezoning process, the City secured the provision of 20 affordable Artist Residential Tenancy Studios (ARTS) units to be part of the Concord Gardens Development at 8833 Hazelbridge Way. Owned and managed by Concord Pacific, these specially designed street level townhouse units are rented under the same terms as typical affordable housing units with the added criteria that tenants must meet the definition of “professional artist” as described by the Canada Council for the Arts.

In 2017, the Concord Gardens ARTS units were rented to 20 artists who met the income and career criteria for this innovative housing program. These artists pursue a range of professional artistic practices including visual art, music, acting, writing and media arts. This new “village” of artists marks a significant step in the realization of the Arts District envisioned in the Official Community Plan for City Centre.

Richmond Artist Directory E-list

Since 2009, the Community Cultural Development office has annually sent dozens of emails throughout the year to Richmond’s arts community to keep them informed about City-led opportunities and programs for and of interest to them. The list currently has more than 415 recipients including individual artists and cultural organizations who receive occasional messages to alert them to Artist Calls, funding deadlines, promotional opportunities, professional development workshops and more.

In 2017, 30 emails were circulated which included graphically inviting and vivid images and links to our social media accounts.



Community Arts Council of Richmond lunchtime music series

Community Partnerships

In 2017, the Community Cultural Development office provided support to various community-driven cultural initiatives to help bring them to fruition. The office partnered with DOXA to bring a screening of a documentary on Maya Angelou to the Richmond Cultural Centre, co-presented a lunchtime music series with the Community Arts Council of Richmond and worked with the Richmond School District to present a musical jazz performance by high school summer school students in City Hall Plaza.

Arts Services also provided support to the Steveston Grand Prix of Art (with Heritage Services and Major Events) and exhibited a portion of a 252-metre long, hand-painted Chinese scroll in City Hall as part of the Richmond Canada 150 celebration.



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Concord Gardens ARTS units



Richmond Art Gallery

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

2017 EXHIBITION ATTENDANCE

- 4,921** Meryl McMaster: Confluence
- 4,334** Mark Haney & Seth: Omnis
Temporalis/Michael Bednar:
The Fraser Living River
- 1,981** Beyond the Horizon
- 2,547** Eternal Return
- 1,300** ArtRich2017

Exhibitions

The Richmond Art Gallery presented six exhibitions in the Gallery in 2017, representing emerging to senior artists from Canada and beyond, highlighting a range of contemporary artistic mediums.

CONFLUENCE

Meryl McMaster

January 15–March 19, 2017

Curated by Heather Anderson

Confluence presented photographer Meryl McMaster's colour photographs exploring the fluid domain of identity. Placing her body centrally in front of the camera, the artist transformed her appearance with elaborate costumes and props she created and inhabited as alter egos. An artist of Plains Cree and Euro-Canadian heritage, McMaster explores the dimensions of her own sense of identity, and the complex history of the photographic representation of Indigenous peoples.

Confluence was organized by the Carleton University Art Gallery and was accompanied by an award-winning publication with essays by Gabrielle Moser and cheyanne turions, as well as an interview with McMaster by CUAG curator Heather Anderson. The exhibition was supported by the Canada Council for the Arts.

OMNIS TEMPORALIS

Mark Haney and Seth

April 9–June 25, 2017

Omnis Temporalis was a collaborative project that combined artistic genres drawing together the work of renowned Canadian cartoonist Seth with original music and performance by Vancouver-based composer Mark Haney. Inspired by Seth's picture novella, *George Sprott: 1894-1975*, Haney's original musical work, written over four years, explores the mutability of identity in the context of Seth's fictional city of Dominion. Notably, "Omnis Temporalis" is also the written motto beneath Dominion's Coat of Arms, foreshadowing the inevitability of change. Through various portrayals of the eponymous protagonist of the novella, George Sprott, and other Dominion characters, Seth's narrative comic explored themes of identity, time, change, loss and memory. Ten live performances of *Omnis Temporalis* were held in the cardboard radio station set designed by Seth. The exhibition was supported by the Canada Council for the Arts and the BC Arts Council.



Meryl McMaster: *Confluence*



Mark Haney and Seth: *Omnis Temporalis*



Michael Bednar: *The Fraser Living River*

THE FRASER LIVING RIVER

Michael Bednar

April 9–June 25, 2017

The Fraser Living River was a photographic installation developed in partnership with Richmond Public Art and Capture Photography Festival. In this depiction of the Fraser River's integral role within Richmond, Bednar documented industry and activity found in our local river delta. This installation is part of a larger project in which the artist is attempting to photograph the entire river from the headwaters at the Continental Divide to its terminus at the Pacific Ocean, examining the ecologically and culturally diverse river that flows through 11 of BC's 14 biogeoclimatic zones.

Meryl McMaster, a very powerful way of showing her emotions and culture through art. She touched my soul in a very emotional way.

— Gallery visitor, Richmond

BEYOND THE HORIZON

Selected Landscapes from the Collection

July 8–August 20, 2017

Curated by Dr. Hilary Letwin

Absolutely stunning and profound work! Such a pleasure to see this collection

— Gallery visitor, North Vancouver, BC

With pieces dating from 1932 to 1994, the works in *Beyond the Horizon* celebrated the natural beauty of Canada while depicting how landscape painting in Canada has changed over the course of 60 years. These Collection works were presented alongside artworks by local youth ages 14-18 years, who were part of the Gallery's 10-month Youth Mentorship Program. These young artists worked weekly with Gallery staff and professional artists to develop their practice and to create new artworks in response to the Collection works in this exhibition as well as to the overall theme of the Canadian landscape.

ETERNAL RETURN 

Alanna Ho, Barb Choit, Kevin Day, Lucien Durey and Anchi Lin

September 10–November 19, 2017

Curated by Sunshine Frère

Eternal Return involved five artists who developed new art works in response to artefacts they selected from the Richmond Museum's Migration Collection. Each developed their work through an investigation of Richmond's material history offering new perspectives with which to engage in our sense of place and time. Thematically, the exhibition broadly expanded on the notion of the "eternal return," a concept that appears in philosophy, ancient and contemporary cultures, metaphysics and science-fiction that purports that the universe and all existence and energy has been recurring, and will continue to recur, in a self-similar form an infinite number of times across infinite time or space.



ArtRich 2017



ArtRich 2017



ArtRich 2017

ARTRICH 2017 

Organized by Richmond Arts Coalition

December 1–31, 2017

The Gallery was pleased to host the Richmond Arts Coalition's biannual juried exhibition, *ArtRich 2017*. The exhibition featured artworks by 42 local and regional visual artists from the Lower Mainland and provided an opportunity for emerging and established artists from Richmond and nearby communities to exhibit together and celebrate local talent.

ARTIST SALON SERIES

Artist Salon Series, is a free monthly professional development and community-building program for visual artists supported through the City of Richmond's Arts and Culture Project Assistance grant program. The series connects local emerging and established artists, particularly those who live or work in Richmond, with professional artists and arts workers to provide information, feedback and discussion on career development opportunities. The program also offered a space for local artists to connect and network, learn from each other through critique and discussion sessions, and to develop a stronger artist community in Richmond.

"Since its inception, the program has been an outstanding opportunity for me. It provided me with a platform to learn skills I need to navigate the local art industry. Its unique format covers a wide range of topics that aren't traditionally taught in art schools, and I truly appreciate opportunities to learn from presenters representing different areas of art industry."

— Artist Salon participant, Daina K.

"A one-of-a-kind program that must continue, not only for the benefit to local artists, but to RAG and the City of Richmond. It has certainly put the City of Richmond and RAG at the top of artist support in the Lower Mainland."

— Artist Salon participant, Savina P.

Community Outreach and Programs

ARTIST INTERVIEWS ON VIDEO

For each exhibition, the Gallery produces video interviews of the artists or curators talking about their work. In 2017, the Gallery produced four videos:

- Meryl McMaster for *Confluence*
- Mark Haney & Seth for *Omnis Temporalis*
- Guest Curator Dr. Hilary Letwin and the 10 student artists for *Beyond the Horizon*
- Guest Curator Sunshine Frère and the artists Alanna Ho, Barb Choit, Kevin Day, Lucien Durey, Anchi Lin for *Eternal Return*



Youth Mentorship Program Workshop

YOUTH MENTORSHIP PROGRAM:

Beyond the Horizon

The Gallery received a BC Arts Council Youth Engagement grant to develop a 10-month mentorship program from November 2016-August 2017 for youth ages 14–18 culminating in an exhibition presenting their work alongside landscapes from the Richmond Art Gallery Permanent Collection. Ten young artists from across the Lower Mainland participated, meeting weekly working with Melanie Devoy, Program Facilitator; Kathy Tycholis, Education and Public Programs Coordinator; Dr. Hilary Letwin, guest curator; and guest artists Diyan Achjadi, Keith Langergraber and Tsema Igharas to create new artworks and learn about the curatorial process. Each student created an artwork that was presented in *Beyond the Horizon*, and wrote an artist statement that was included in the gallery exhibition publication.

ART AFTER DARK REMIX

Sponsored by the Hamber Foundation as a one-year pilot project, the gallery partnered with the Richmond Youth Media Program to host free monthly drop-in sessions for youth and young adults to explore and experiment with hands-on art and music activities. A guest DJ, visual artist, performance artist, or new media artist was invited each month to lead a hands-on art activity and/or perform for visitors. Activity themes or selected artists were programmed to connect to the gallery's current exhibitions and over the course of the year, participants had the opportunity to try their hand at printmaking, textile arts, collage, drawing and painting, as well as experiment with new media including DJ equipment, digital projections and various computer-aided audio programs. Guest artists for the year were DJ Ostwelve, DJ Beaubien, DJ Zsaz, Marina Szijarto, Mark Haney, Sean Karemaker, Co.Crea. Tive Collective, DJ Whiz, Amy Heustis, Lucien Durey and Alanna Ho.

Exhibition-related Public Programs

During the *Confluence* exhibition, Meryl McMaster led a tour of her exhibition prior to the Opening Reception. A few weeks later, this talk was followed up with an informal discussion with invited guest panelists Tarah Hogue, Curator/Communications Director with grunt gallery; Michelle Jacques, the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria Chief Curator; and Jordan Wilson, co-curator of the 2015 exhibit *ċ ə snə? ə m, the city before the city* at the Museum of Anthropology. This afternoon session was moderated by Richmond Art Gallery Director, Shaun Dacey. Throughout the exhibition, many free group tours were provided to local high school groups and the gallery also hosted a bus tour from members of the Surrey Art Gallery Association.

During *Omnis Temporalis*, the gallery hosted 10 free performances of *Omnis Temporalis* by Mark Haney and his group of actors and classical musicians who re-enacted the comic novella *George Sprott: 1894-1975* by Seth. They performed for a wide range of audiences including preschool and elementary school children, families, seniors, high school music students and young adults. Performances were also held as part of larger events including Doors Open Richmond, Richmond Regional Heritage Fair, and the Gallery's Family Sunday program. Overall, more than 400 people viewed the *Omnis Temporalis'* performances. The performances were complemented by



Artist Talk

workshops and events based on the art of the comic book, which included local comic book artist Sean Karemaker leading several drawing workshops for children, teens and adults; a large “Drink and Draw” event for comic book artists and animators; and a film screening of a documentary on the life of comic artist Seth.

For *Beyond the Horizon*, the gallery hosted a tour with all of the students involved in the Youth Mentorship Program. Each student spoke about their work in the exhibition. Later in July, the gallery hosted a talk led by guest curator Dr. Hilary Letwin with two of the exhibiting collection artists, Susan Gransby and Lesley Poole. The artists shared stories of their work created in the 1990s, and the art scene in the Lower Mainland at that time.

During the Richmond World Festival, the gallery offered a “sneak peek” of the exhibition *Eternal Return* before it opened to the general public. In addition to viewing some of the works, visitors were invited to create their own hand-drawn buttons to wear throughout that festival weekend. The Gallery hosted an exhibition tour led by guest curator Sunshine Frère, who also moderated a panel discussion with the artists Barb Choit, Kevin Day and Anchi Lin to further introduce their work and art practices to a broader audience. Throughout the exhibition, artists Lucien Durey and Alanna Ho performed short musical compositions at various Gallery programs including Family Sunday, Art After Dark Remix and Culture Days weekend. The Gallery also offered exhibition tours in English and Mandarin during the Culture Days weekend.

Ongoing Public Programs

In addition to the many exhibition-based programs offered, year-round the Gallery presents a variety of opportunities for the public to appreciate and learn about art. These programs offer diverse entry points into the exhibitions depending on the visitor’s comfort level and learning style. These programs include:

FAMILY SUNDAY

The Family Sunday program remains a popular monthly program for Richmond families. This program averages 100 participants per month, many of whom are regular monthly visitors, who engage with exhibition-related art activities for all ages. Family Sunday also provides training and job skills to a team of youth volunteers who assist in the coordination of the program.

SCHOOL ART PROGRAM

The Richmond Art Gallery School Art Program introduces students from Preschool to Grade 12 to the world of contemporary art through interactive gallery tours and exhibition-based, hands-on art activities. The program also provides professional development opportunities for teachers with workshops and resources online to help incorporate contemporary art practices and content on local, regional and national Canadian art and artists into their lessons.

2017 SCHOOL ART PROGRAM BY THE NUMBERS

126 school tours and workshops

3,002 students

The Richmond Art Gallery School Art Program is one of the most respected in the region for offering high quality educational programming as well as introducing students to concepts and unique art-making experiences they would not otherwise experience. Because of this, the program has grown beyond Richmond to now serve Delta, Ladner, Surrey, Tsawwassen, New Westminster and Vancouver area schools. In 2017, 126 tours and workshops were provided to 3,002 students aged 3–18.



“I look forward to taking my class to the Richmond Art Gallery School Program each year. Once again, the exhibition had a direct link to the curriculum we were studying in class, and the students were abuzz with connections. Thank you for making wonderful art accessible to us in our own community!”

– Andrea Dosen-Argao, Richmond Teacher

Volunteer positions in the program offer mentorship opportunities for youth, and ways for new residents to connect with their community. In 2017, the School Art Program continued its partnership with the UBC Faculty of Education in their Community-Based Field Experience program. This mentorship program pairs students from the Teacher Education program with community organizations to allow teacher candidates to gain experience teaching in non-school contexts. Kim Mui, a secondary English teacher candidate from Richmond, and Emily Perkins, an elementary-years candidate, did three-week practicums with the School Art Program’s Coordinator Melanie Devoy. The program is sponsored by TD Bank Group.

ART CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS FOR CHILDREN

In February, more than 215 children attended art workshops held at the Gallery during the Children’s Art Festival and 748 children and adults participated in the free drop-in art activities held during Family Day. During Spring Break, 30 children ages 6–12 participated in a Spring Break Art Intensive focusing on drawing, painting, mixed media and printmaking projects that related to the Meryl McMaster exhibition. Over the summer, 27 children participated in the Summer Studio Art Classes for ages 4–8. During these week-long courses, the young students created daily art projects based on their responses to the *Beyond the Horizon* exhibition. Youth volunteers assisted the instructors and students for all these classes and workshops, providing more than 30 youth with job experience working in the classroom.

ART AT WORK: WRITING INTENSIVE SERIES

I love you RAG, this was fabulous! Love all the artist Pro-D you provide; it is so helpful, and practical. And that you offer this all for free, I cannot tell you enough that I love the RAG.

– Sonja H., Participant of Art At Work workshops

This spring, the Gallery partnered with the BC branch of Canadian Artists' Representation/Le Front des Artistes Canadiens (CARFAC), a non-profit corporation that serves as the national voice of Canada's professional visual artists, to present a series of professional development workshops for artists. Through a grant received by CARFAC BC, the Gallery was able to hire professional arts instructors to provide intensive writing workshops for artists to develop quality materials required for use in grant applications, exhibition proposals and residency applications. The sessions were limited in size, to ensure that each participant received one-on-one feedback from the instructor, as well as peer feedback on their written materials.

CITY HALL GALLERIA EXHIBITION 2017

The Richmond Art Gallery organizes exhibitions by local artists for display at Richmond City Hall. In 2017, the Gallery presented the following exhibitions:

- *Visual Conversations: Blurring the Lines* by Paul Clarke, March 7–April 24
- *Inside, Looking Out* by Glen Anderson, Leanne Currie, David Dorrington, Marina Szijarto, Liane Varnam and Tom Wren (co-produced by Nadeane Trowse), April 25–June 12.
- *The Flower Statement Series* by Wu Yang, June 13–August 28
- *Poppy Fields and Forests* by Ginny Wilkie, August 29–October 2
- *Endless Possibilities* by Richmond Society for Community Living, October 3–November 10



IN 2017, THE RICHMOND ART GALLERY WAS AWARDED A COMMUNITY LIVING AWARD FROM THE RICHMOND SOCIETY FOR COMMUNITY LIVING. EACH YEAR, OPUS ART SUPPLIES DONATES 14 CANVASES FOR RSCL PARTICIPANTS TO PRODUCE NEW WORK FOR THEIR CITY HALL GALLERIA EXHIBITION.

RICHMOND ART GALLERY ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mila Kostic, President

Kyla Ellwyn, Director

Kristal Hamakawa, Director

Gina Holliday Jones, Director

Jade Hsi-Jung Wang, Director

Akeena Legall, Director

Marcus Prasad, Director

Lei Tian, Director

Council Liaison: Councillor Carol Day

Funding

The Gallery benefits from financial and in-kind support of many organizations. In 2017, the Gallery received cash and in-kind assistance from three levels of government, businesses, private foundations and individuals.

RICHMOND ART GALLERY ASSOCIATION

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

By supporting educational and public programming, RAGA provides the community with opportunities to learn about contemporary art and participate in art-making activities. Proceeds from RAGA's fundraising efforts contribute to the Gallery's active program of artist and curator talks, panel discussions, tours, workshops and video interviews as well as brochures and catalogues that serve as interpretive texts accompanying exhibitions.

In 2017, in celebration of its 30th anniversary, RAGA hosted *Light Up The Night*, a 1980's themed fundraising gala and art auction. The event was a joyous success with more than \$10,000 in funds raised.

Partnerships

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

New partnerships in 2017 include those with Richmond Youth Media Program, Richmond Arts Coalition, Vancouver Comic Arts Festival, Vancouver Craft Beer MeetUp, Vancouver Comic Jam, Co.Crea.Tive Collective, grunt gallery and Richmond Museum.

These partnerships allow the Gallery to create mutually beneficial opportunities for audience crossover, resource sharing and cooperative programming and help to extend the understanding of art's significance in everyday life.



“IT’S ALWAYS IMPORTANT FOR STUDENTS TO SEE HOW ART CONNECTS ALL OF US ON AN INDIVIDUAL, COMMUNITY, AND WORLDWIDE LEVEL. PROGRAMS SUCH AS THESE WILL HELP TO INSPIRE KIDS TO EXPRESS THEMSELVES THROUGH ART AND LEARN THAT WE ARE ALL CONNECTED EMOTIONALLY AND THROUGH THIS MEDIUM.”

– Sean Yesaki, Richmond Teacher



Underwater, Andrea Sirois

RICHMOND PUBLIC ART PROGRAM TO-DATE:

- 210** Total number of artworks to date
- 147** Permanent artwork installations
- 58** Temporary installations (46 no longer on display)
- 25** New works of art installed in 2017 (including 10 temporary and 15 permanent artworks)
- 152** Total number of permanent and temporary artworks currently on display

Richmond Public Art Program

The Richmond Public Art Program provides a means for including art in the creation of a culturally rich environment for a vibrant, healthy and sustainable city. Public art is incorporated into civic and private development projects to spark community participation and civic pride in the building of our public spaces. In addition to permanent and temporary artworks, the Public Art Program offers a stimulating program of educational and community engagement events to increase public awareness of the arts and encourage public dialogue about art and issues of interest and concern to Richmond residents.

Civic Public Art Program

In 2017, public art was commissioned by the City and installed at community centres, parks, civic buildings and along city sidewalks. As per the Canada 150 Celebrations Public Art Plan endorsed by Council on November 28, 2016, this year saw a great deal of public art opportunities in support of Canada 150 celebrations and major event programming.

ARRIVAL OF S.V. TITANIA

by John M. Horton
City Hall

Installed April 15, 2017 outside the Council Chambers in Richmond City Hall, *Arrival of the S.V. Titania*, by noted maritime painter and long-time Richmond resident John M. Horton, depicts the ship sailing vessel *Titania* and its first visit to Steveston harbour in September 1889, where it received the first direct shipment of canned salmon at Britannia Wharf.

ARRIVAL OF S.V. TITANIA MURAL IN STEVESTON 

by Dean Lauzé and Christina Lauzé
 Steveston Hotel, 12111 Third Avenue

Professional muralist Dean Lauzé was commissioned through an open artist call to reproduce John Horton's painting, *Arrival of S.V. Titania* on an outdoor wall belonging to the Steveston Hotel. Work was completed on the site with social media and news updates during the painting, inviting the public to observe and visit the artists during their working hours on site.



Arrival of S.V. Titania, John M. Horton



Arrival of S.V. Titania Mural, Dean Lauzé



Fluvial Fan

"As an active community member in Richmond, I enjoyed various activities of Canada 150 through the year, such as Children's Festival and Our Home & Native Bloom at City Hall. I captured some interesting moments at the events and created videos to celebrate Canada 150 and summer outdoors. All is to show a great experience about community events in Richmond."

"You did a great job for us Richmond residents. It's so thoughtful of you to sell the flowers at lower prices so that we can build a more beautiful Richmond together."

FLUVIAL FAN 

by Nicole Alden, Patrick Beech, Genevieve Depelteau, John Musil, Allison Tweedie
 Richmond City Hall Plaza

Fluvial Fan was a pop-up garden installation composed of more than 4,700 plants and 14 species native to British Columbia. The garden was designed by landscape architecture students from the University of British Columbia. The floral design depicts a "Fluvial Fan" with floral "islands" that symbolically represent Richmond's 17 islands and the landforms that have been shaped over time by the Fraser River. The installation was part of *Our Home and Native Bloom*, an interdepartmental project in collaboration with Public Art, Engineering Sustainability, Parks Services and Major Events. The project incorporated weekly educational artist talks, workshops and Music in the Plaza programming from June 7 to July 8. A Musqueam welcome was presented by Terry Point to launch *Our Home and Native Bloom*, on June 7 and the exhibition ended with a public plant sale on July 9 to 10.

- **June 7:** TALK + TOUR: Native Edible and Medicinal Plants with First Nations Métis Herbalist Lori Snyder.
- **June 14:** TALK: Fluvial Fan and Native Species with installation designers Nicole Alden, Genevieve Depelteau and John Musil and park planner Miriam Plishka.
- **June 21 TALK:** Our Home and Native Bumblebees with artist Lori Weidenhammer.
- **June 28:** WORKSHOP: The Art of Ikebana with Judie Glick of the Vancouver Ikebana Association. Participants created their own small arrangement to take home at the end of the workshop.
- **July 7:** WORKSHOP: The Weaving Wagon with environmental artist Sharon Kallis. Participants learned rope making using invasive materials.

FRASER GIANT

by Henry Lau and David Geary
Richmond City Hall Plaza

Fraser Giant was the artwork selected through a national open artist call competition to solicit proposals for a Canada 150 legacy public artwork to be located at Richmond City Hall. The 20 ft. long stainless steel sculpture metaphorically represents a 150 year-old white river sturgeon as a symbol of resilience, endurance and strength. Native to the Fraser River, sturgeon have survived through millennia in challenging environments and thrive under harsh conditions.

SEWER ACCESS COVERS FOR RICHMOND CANADA 150

A national competition was launched in fall 2017 to solicit design proposals for new sanitary and storm sewer access covers.

GROWING AND RISING, EXHIBITION

No. 3 Road Art Column Program, Aberdeen and Lansdowne Canada Line Stations

In collaboration with the 2017 Capture Photography Festival, Art Column Exhibit 11: *Growing and Rising*, highlighted the ongoing relationship between the natural landscapes of Richmond and the City's rapidly growing built environment through the photographic images of artists Michael Love, Paulo Majano, Annie Briard, Jeff Downer, Christina Dixon and Woojae Kim and Patryk Stasieczek.



Fraser Giant, Henry Lau and David Geary



Apiary Almanac, Hapa Collaborative



A Question of Balance, Michelle Love



Urban Weave, Richard Tetrault

APIARY ALMANAC

by Hapa Collaborative

Lansdowne Road between Cedarbridge Way and Minoru Boulevard

Apiary Almanac, a temporary painted art installation to help demarcate the route from Lansdowne Canada Line Station to the Richmond Olympic Oval, references the honey bee and the fruits of their labour. Honey is created from the distinct elements of a neighbourhood (via nectar), which is collected, distilled, and mixed together to produce a uniquely sweet expression of time and place. This installation interprets an aspirational blooming calendar, drawing colour from a palate of foraging material hoped to eventually be on site. The form and geometry subtly reference the honeycomb, creating a playful and vibrant installation.

URBAN WEAVE

by Richard Tetrault

Storeys Development, 8111 Granville Avenue

Urban Weave is a public artwork placed on the south balcony façade of the Storeys Development. Projected as a script-like drawing, the sequence of routed, powder coated aluminum panels incorporates imagery that reflects the building's purpose and geographic context.

UNDERWATER

by Andrea Sirois

7080 River Parkway

This artwork completely wraps the geothermal energy facility that is operated by Corix Utilities Inc. *Underwater* tells a visual story that echoes the theme of water as energy. Its photographic images depict water flowing around the building's exterior, symbolizing the energy that is literally flowing below.

THE GATHERING

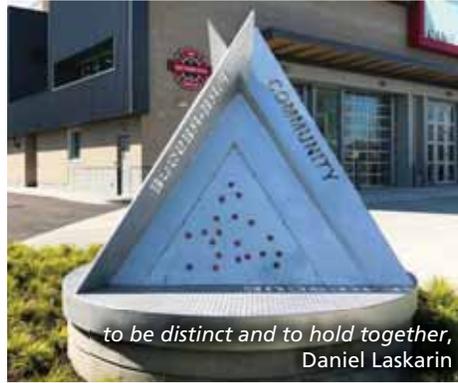
by Rhonda Wepler

Branscombe House, 4900 Steveston Highway

A donated piece, *The Gathering*, by artist Rhonda Wepler, was unveiled at a public picnic on May 13, 2017. The artwork is in the form of a life-sized picnic basket that is overflowing with 60 life-sized sculptures of small food items. The work was cast in bronze directly from sculptures created by Richmond residents that attended free art-based activity workshops during the 2016 Branscombe House Artist-in-Residence program.



The Gathering, Rhonda Weppler



to be distinct and to hold together,
Daniel Laskarin



Magnolias, Anita Lee

TO BE DISTINCT AND TO HOLD TOGETHER

by Daniel Laskarin

Fire Hall No.3, 9660 Cambie Rd

To be distinct and to hold together was installed in April 2017 at the new Cambie Fire Hall No. 3. Resembling the “Fire Tetrahedron” the work reflects the purposes of the Cambie Fire Hall and Ambulance Station and its relationship to the community it serves. The work stands near the sidewalk, providing easy public access and inviting an interactive engagement as the ability to push the work is slowly discovered by those who use the area.

2017 FUN FACTS

308 artist submissions were received for
11 Public Art Calls in 2017

More than **1,550** volunteer hours served
in 2017 for the Public Art program

More than **2,800** participants attended
Public Art events and programming

4,700 plants placed in *Fluvial Fan* for Our
Home and Native Bloom Canada 150
Project

5 community-painted pianos for Pianos
on the Street

1 piano bought by a Community member
for another participant

City Utility Cabinet Wrap Program 🏠👤💬

The Public Art Program partners with Engineering and Public Works, Parks, Transportation, Environmental Programs and Heritage Services to beautify new and existing utility boxes through the City. In 2017, 30 artists were selected for the 2017–2019 Art Wrap Artist Roster in order to commission selected artists for wrapping utility boxes as the boxes are identified. In 2017, three utility boxes were wrapped:

MAGNOLIAS AND BAMBOO

by Anita Lee

Steveston Museum and Town Square Park, 3811 Moncton Street

Anita Lee describes her approach to her art as a contemporary blend of guóhuà, the ancient traditional Chinese painting on scrolls, and Western art which captures her interpretation of raw unadulterated natural beauty.

In addition, several civic public art projects were commissioned in 2017, and are scheduled for installation in 2018–2019 (see [Appendix 3](#))

Community Public Art Program 🏠👐💬

ENGAGING COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC ART: PILOT PROGRAM

On January 9, 2017, Council endorsed the 2017 Engaging Community and Public Art Pilot Program. This program supports artists working in communities and enhances the public's engagement with the arts. The community public art projects approved and commissioned for 2017 were:



Sp'Art, Pierre Leichner

SP'ART, BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER THROUGH SPORT AND ART

by Pierre Leichner

Thompson Community Centre, 5151 Granville Ave

This one-year artist-in-residency project encouraged community participation in sports and active living through art. The artist engaged children, youth, adults and seniors as part of the regular programming at the community centre, presenting and leading workshops such as "Abstract Bocce Ball" on Family Day, "Tree Weaving" with pre-school children and turning used ping pong rackets into self-portraits with seniors. The artist has documented the projects at www.leichner.ca/SpART.

MINORU SENIORS LEGACY STORIES: LOOKING BACK, LOOKING FORWARD

by Catrina Megumi Longmuir

Minoru Place Activity Centre, 7660 Minoru Gate

This one-year artist-in-residency project celebrated the history of the Minoru Seniors Society, from its humble beginnings at the Murdoch Centre to the anticipated opening of the new Minoru Centre for Active Living. The artist presented talks, conducted interviews and led workshops in digital storytelling working with members of the Minoru Seniors Society. A final artist talk and film screening will be presented to coincide with the opening of the new Centre in 2018. The artist has documented the project at www.minorulegacystories.wordpress.com.

After the success of the Engaging Community and Public Art Pilot Program, the Public Art program identified five additional community engagement opportunities with City recreational and cultural facilities and has partnered with Hamilton Community Centre, Minoru Arenas, Britannia Shipyards National Historic Site and City Centre Community Centre. In 2017, Council approved these artist-led community projects which are expected to be completed in 2018.



*Minoru Seniors Legacy Stories,
Catrina Megumi Longmuir*



*Minoru Seniors Legacy Stories,
Catrina Megumi Longmuir*



Pianos on the Street

PIANOS ON THE STREET 2017

The fourth annual Richmond Pianos on the Street program saw five open-air publicly accessible pianos painted by high school students at Steveston-London and Cambie High Schools, a community group and a community-engaged professional artist. The pianos were installed in outdoor locations at Britannia Shipyards National Historic Site, Terra Nova Rural Park, Richmond Cultural Centre, Cambie Community Centre, King George Park and the Nature Park. The Pianos on the Street Program is co-sponsored by Pacey's Pianos and provides free public access to pianos in unexpected open air locations across the city.

Private Development

Public Art Program 🏠👤💬📈

Through the development applications process, private developers continued to provide high quality public art to enrich the public realm. In 2017, the following projects were completed:

SAIL WALL

by Derek Root

Cressey Cadence, 7468 Lansdowne Road

Researching within the City of Richmond Archives, the artist found early 20th century photographs of sailing dinghies that were used to transport fish from larger boats along the waterways to Lulu Island. The triangular shape of the dinghy sail was adapted, elongated and arranged as a repeated motif. The bright colour and rhythmical composition signal a spirit of optimism and happiness.



Untitled [Relief], Leonhard Epp



A Distance Transformed, Raymond Boisjoly

UNTITLED [RELIEF]

by Leonhard Epp

Steveston Flats Development Corp.

In 1978, the former building at this site, Gulf & Fraser Credit Union, was built with concrete relief panels by artist Leonhard Epp, who sculpted images portraying the commercial fishery history of Steveston Village. The Steveston Flats Development Corporation carefully restored and incorporated the Leonhard Epp reliefs into the new building design.

A DISTANCE TRANSFORMED

by Raymond Boisjoly

Concord Gardens, Phase I

Located in front of the new ARTS units (affordable housing for artists) at Concord Gardens, Phase I, *A Distance Transformed* is a text-based series of artworks, intentionally presented in a format that can be interpreted as unclear or pixelated. The text communicates the complexity of "site" in relation to ongoing changes to the urban environment as well as to the wider world.



Sail Wall, Derek Root

Public Art Education and Engagement Program

“Very informative and thoughtful, thank you for doing these workshops.”

— Art at Work participant



Inspiring and informative Professional development

Opportunities for artists

Learn here from those in the know!

art at work

FREE WORKSHOP

How to Apply to Public Art Commissions
Sunday, January 29, 2017 | 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Richmond Cultural Centre Performance Hall | 7700 Minoru Gate

Join Richmond's Public Art Project Coordinator, Elisa Yon, for a hands-on workshop on how to prepare strong applications for public art commissions. By focusing on examples from past artist calls, session participants can expect to learn practical strategies and receive advice that will help them prepare professional applications for future public art Requests for Proposals (RFPs) and Requests for Qualifications (RFQs).

Open to artists interested in pursuing opportunities in public art.

Free. Reserve your seat by emailing publicart@richmond.ca by January 25, 2017. (Max. 20 participants)

richmond.ca/artists

ART AT WORK

This series of professional development workshops is a joint collaboration with the Richmond Art Gallery. The workshops and events are designed to provide artists with the knowledge and skills required for pursuing a professional arts practice in the fields of public art, visual art and community arts. In 2017, the following free workshops were presented:

- Tax Basics for Artists: Jessica Somers, CPA, CGA from Cordova Street Consulting. (20 participants)
- How to Apply to Public Art Calls: Guidance and Tips: Elisa Yon, Public Art Project Coordinator. (15 participants)

CHILDREN'S ARTS FESTIVAL: DO-IT-YOURSELF ART BANNER CONTAINER WORKSHOP

The City of Richmond's Public Art Program was pleased to support the 2017 Children's Arts Festival with a Do-it-Yourself Art Banner Container workshop utilizing previously exhibited vinyl artist panels from the No.3 Road Art Column exhibitions. The workshop was designed and led by artist and facilitator Jen Hiebert and involved approximately 300 participants.

CULTURE DAYS: PUBLIC ART BUS TOURS

Participants of all ages joined Public Art Planner Eric Fiss for two fully-subscribed bus tours exploring some of Richmond's newest artworks on September 30 and October 1.

CULTURE DAYS: THREE PIECE BAND

This participatory sculpture composed of a piano bench, drummer's throne and musician's chair invited buskers and other performing artists to use as an open stage. The installation was originally commissioned by the City of Vancouver and VIVA Vancouver Program and was on temporary loan for the Culture Days weekend.

BROCHURE: GUIDANCE FOR ARTISTS APPLYING TO PUBLIC ART CALLS

This document to assist artists in applying for public art opportunities was created as a downloadable brochure available from the Richmond Public Art Call to Artists webpage. The brochure explains the common types of artist calls and reviews the public art program, processes and requirements of artists. Printed copies are also available upon request.



Three Piece Band, Elisa Yon and Elia Kirby

PROMOTION OF THE PUBLIC ART REGISTRY

Richmond's Public Art registry can be browsed online at www.richmond.ca/publicart where visitors can also download an interactive map for smartphones and a series of 10-minute self-guided walking tours. In 2017, a collaboration with Walk Richmond resulted in interpretative walking tours incorporating information about the public artworks as part of the walks.

2017 RPAAC MEMBERS:

Jennifer Heine, Chair

Mackenzie Biggar, Vice Chair

Samantha Kim Herrera

Rebecca Lin

Vicki Lingle

Shawne MacIntyre

Hall Owens

Sheng Zhao

Council Liaison: Councillor Linda McPhail

Richmond Public Art Advisory Committee

The Richmond Public Art Advisory Committee (RPAAC) is a Council-appointed voluntary advisory committee that provides input on public art policy, planning, education and promotion. At monthly Committee meetings, members received presentations on new civic, private development and community project proposals and provided feedback and recommendations. Updates on discussions on public art for upcoming development were provided by the Committee's appointee to the Advisory Design Panel, Sheng Zhao.

In 2017, new members joined the Committee, including Mackenzie Biggar, Rebecca Lin, Samantha Kim Herrera, Vicki Lingle.



Adult Art Class

Richmond Arts Centre

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

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

Annually, the Richmond Arts Centre hosts the Children's Arts Festival as well as the Bamboo Theatre and Cinevolution Media Arts components of Richmond World Festival.

ARTS EDUCATION PROGRAMS BY THE NUMBERS:

188	courses
7,200	registered students
1,060	waitlisted
30+	professional instructors
70,000+	visits

Arts Education Programs

The Richmond Arts Centre continues to develop and diversify its Arts Education offerings to meet the growing community demand for high quality arts education. The programs developed and offered in 2017 ensured that Richmond residents had affordable access to a strong base of introductory and beginner arts education programs as well as an increased number of higher-level learning opportunities.

The Arts Centre's Arts Line-Up programming guide, launched in 2016, has received extremely positive feedback from patrons. Comments regarding the user-friendliness nature of the publication have solidified the need for this guide, and have reduced the Centre's reliance on external marketing sources.

The Visual and Applied Arts curriculum was introduced to Arts Centre instructors in Fall 2016, with full implementation beginning in Winter 2017.

With the addition of a Visual Arts/Ceramics Technician, the quality and safety of these programs has gone from strength to strength.

The year-round Dance and Musical Theatre program continues to be in high demand with 573 students registered and 128 waitlisted. In addition to classes in ballet, tap, jazz and musical theatre, the Arts Centre is home to two dance companies: the Richmond Youth Dance Company and the Richmond Adult Dance Company. The head dance instructor position has been expanded to include Artistic Direction for these companies, ensuring a continued focus on excellence.

In June 2017, the Richmond Arts Centre facilitated 21 dancers to participate in the internationally recognized Cecchetti Examinations. This is a key contributor to the Arts Centre's recognition in the professional dance world.



Children's Performing Arts Class



Adult Painting Class



Grand Plié

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

IN A SURVEY SENT TO MORE THAN 400 PARENTS AND STUDENTS OF THE DANCE PROGRAM, A TOTAL OF 164 COMPLETE RESPONSES WERE RECEIVED. FROM THESE RESPONSES,

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY CANADA SCHOOL YEAR DANCE RECITAL 🍁

In June, 400 dancers presented works in ballet, tap, jazz and musical theatre to an audience of nearly 1,000 over two performances at Gateway Theatre.

ANNE OF GREEN GABLES SCHOOL YEAR DANCE GALA 🍁

The second of its kind and the first step towards producing a full ballet in Richmond, the Richmond Adult Dance Company and the Richmond Youth Dance Company performed an *Anne of Green Gables* adaptation, in honour of Canada 150, to almost 400 audience members.

MOSAICO RICHMOND YOUTH DANCE COMPANY SHOWCASE

In March, 185 people enjoyed performances choreographed by senior instructor Miyouki Jego. The company of 24 youth dancers also performed some self-choreographed work reflecting their individual expression and professional development.

RESIDENT ART GROUPS

The Richmond Arts Centre is home to some of the city's most established community arts organizations.

Throughout the year, these groups provide workshops, exhibitions and demonstrations for their members as well as participate in community events such as Culture Days. Signature group events for the public include the Resident Art Group Showcase, Potters Club winter and spring sales as well as the Richmond Gem and Mineral Society art markets.

11 Resident Art Groups at the Richmond Arts Centre:

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

PIANO RECITALS

Filling the Performance Hall in June with beautiful music, piano students performed for approximately 75 audience members and participants to celebrate their achievements.

CELEBRATE MUSICAL THEATRE SHOWCASE

In December, friends and family were invited to enjoy an original show with performances choreographed by the Arts Centre's Musical Theatre instructors.

COMMUNITY DANCE PERFORMANCES

The Richmond Youth Dance Company celebrated the holidays by performing at three community venues in December 2017. These young dancers performed at Rosewood Manor and were joined by dancers in the Richmond Adult Dance Company for performances at Maple Residences and Minoru Place Activity Centre.

RICHMOND ARTS AWARDS

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

STUDENT ART SHOWCASE

This visual arts showcase curated by the Visual Arts and Ceramic Technician, exhibited the talents of students enrolled in the Spring 2017 term, from pre-school to adult ages.

Community Outreach

ART AND MENTAL HEALTH

In 2017, there were two fruitful collaborations with Pathways Clubhouse. The first was the hiring of an arts technician assistant who assisted the visual arts programs with setting up classes and maintaining the art supplies. The Arts Centre also hosted a pilot program consisting of an adult Visual Arts Course that focused on arts therapy using Cognitive Behavioural Theory therapy techniques made available to 10 adults who would otherwise have barriers to such therapy.

ART TRUCK COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAM

Additional Outreach programming at four Richmond elementary schools (Cook, Currie, Grauer and Brighthouse) has allowed for more students facing barriers to participate in high quality arts education opportunities. Students at these three schools participated in a variety of classes including Circus, Cartooning, Media Arts, Visual Arts and Musical Theatre, all led by contract instructors from the Richmond Arts Centre. In the fall, a partnership was developed with City Centre, West Richmond, Cambie and Thompson Community Centres to enhance the programming.

"A fun, playful, creative place to connect with friends."

— General Currie participant

The Richmond Arts Centre's Art Truck program provides art outreach to students after school, taking place for two hours on a monthly basis. Art education in traditional and unconventional media, such as performing arts and visual arts, are led by a professionally trained arts instructor.

The support of the Arts Centre, Community Centres, SD38 and Vancouver Coastal Health enabled the Outreach Program to offer these programs to elementary school children and to address the following goals and objectives:

Goals

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

Objectives

1. Provide outreach to Richmond community members who may not otherwise have the access/means to participate in paid programs.
2. Promote public awareness of art and physical literacy within the community.
3. Make art and physical literacy education readily available to the public.



Art Truck Projects



Art Truck Projects

MITCHELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CANADA 150 PROJECT

This project was created with the Richmond Arts Centre's Visual Arts/Ceramic Technician: a series of three ceramic installations comprised of faces made by students is displayed at the school as a legacy project.

JAMES MCKINNEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

One of the Richmond Arts Centre's Performing Arts Instructors led a workshop for teachers to introduce Drama in the classroom both as a means of creative expression and as an opportunity to practice self-regulation and conflict resolution. The instructor also provided classroom visits and guided each class through a short lesson, giving the teachers an opportunity to see first-hand how the drama exercises are explored.

ARTS PROGRAMMER ROUNDTABLE

Initiated by the Richmond Art Centre, the third Inter-municipal Arts Programmer Roundtable, was held at the Surrey Arts Centre in September, and attracted 17 programmers representing 11 municipalities. The meeting focused on identifying successes and challenges, supportive and creative problem solving, and sharing best practices.



Richmond Weavers and Spinners

COMMUNITY ART EXHIBITIONS

The Richmond Arts Centre leads the selection of local artist exhibitions at the Richmond Cultural Centre, Gateway Theatre and Thompson Community Centre. In 2016, City Centre Community Centre and South Arm Community Centre were added to the exhibition circuit. A new partnership with the Richmond Art Gallery and New Primary Colour School of Arts and Design presented works by local arts students at both the Richmond Cultural Centre and City Hall Galleria.

In 2017, this program facilitated exhibitions by Riverside Art Circle, Richmond Artists Guild, Richmond Photo Club, Art About Finn Slough, Richmond Chinese Artist Club, New Primary Colours School of Arts, The Richmond Potters Club, Steveston London Secondary School students, Richmond Arts Centre students and instructors and individual artists, Paul Clarke and Joselito Macapagal.

ELAINE QUEHL, A DESIGN JOURNEY

The Richmond Arts Centre supported the Textile Arts Guild of Richmond's presentation of renowned quilt artist, teacher and designer, Elaine Quehl. More than 50 people came to the Performance Hall for this informative presentation by the 2015 Canadian Quilter's Association Teacher of the Year.

LIFECYCLE NON-PROFIT INSTITUTE

In 2017, staff training took place for an internationally recognized model of capacity development that assists community groups with increasing and improving their organizational and program capacity.



Children's Arts Festival 2017. Photo: Jon Pesochin



Children's Arts Festival 2017. Photo: Jon Pesochin

Special Events

2017 CHILDREN'S ARTS FESTIVAL FUN FACTS

Estimated **6,300** school-aged participants
Tuesday to Friday

45 seconds for school programs to sell out

7 participating Metro School districts:
Richmond, Vancouver, Delta, New
Westminster, Cloverdale and Maple Ridge

120 volunteers

2,700 estimated attendance on Family Day

CHILDREN'S ARTS FESTIVAL

With a focus on Canada 150, the ninth incarnation of this popular event — presented in partnership with the Richmond Public Library and Minoru Place Activity Centre — returned with interactive arts programs, theatre and music performances, and roving entertainers for thousands on Family Day and arts programming for school out trips over the following four days. In all, more than 9,000 mostly young people took part in dozens of hands-on workshops led by professional artists. The festival was presented with the support of returning sponsors Lansdowne Mall and Cowell Auto Group, as well as new partners, IKEA and Kins Farm Market.

ART ABOUT FINN SLOUGH

In April, this 17th annual art exhibition featured artists representing photography, painting and ceramics. The show was viewed by more than 400 visitors and included an exhibition in the upper rotunda of the Cultural Centre.

GRAND Plié

In recognition of International Dance Day on April 29, the Arts Centre hosted their third Grand Plié event. With 22 participants in attendance, dancers were led through a free mini barre class by senior dance instructor Miyouki Jego in the Dance Studio. The event provides an opportunity for participants to learn some of the many benefits of dance in an accessible and enjoyable environment.

VITRINE SYMPOSIUM (OF FRANCOPHONE DANCE ARTISTS AND ADMINISTRATORS)

Performances were presented in the Richmond Cultural Centre and on Minoru Plaza in June, through a partnership with Made in BC, le Conseil culturel et artistique francophone de la Colombie-Britannique (CCAFCB), Richmond Arts Centre, and Minoru Seniors Society.

Community Partners

In 2017, the Arts Centre partnered with the following community organizations and city departments to increase the community's access to arts program opportunities: City Centre Community Centre, West Richmond Community Centre, Thompson Community Centre, Gateway Theatre, South Arm Community Centre, Cambie Community Centre, eleven Resident Art Groups of the Richmond Arts Centre, Vancouver Cantonese Opera Society, City of Richmond Parks Department, Richmond Public Library, Richmond Delta Youth Orchestra, Pathways Clubhouse, Richmond Public Health, School District #38, Richmond Museum, Richmond Art Gallery and Minoru Place Activity Centre, Lansdowne Mall, Cowell Auto Group, IKEA, Kins Farm Market, New Primary Colour School of Arts and Design, Made In BC, Lifecycles Non Profit Institute and Finn Slough Artists.



Textile Artist Guild of Richmond (TAGOR)



Children's Art Class with Mr. Tony



Youth Media Class

RICHMOND MEDIA LAB BY THE NUMBERS:

40 Richmond Youth Media Lab members

4,218 hours RYMP members spent at Media Lab

77% increase in course revenue over 2016

Richmond Media Lab

Located in the Richmond Cultural Centre and operated in conjunction with the Richmond Arts Centre, the Media Lab is designed to increase technology literacy, accessibility and creativity in our community, particularly among youth. Media Lab participants are taught skills and techniques for applying media and computer technology towards artistic activities and practical marketable skills.

Programs

MEDIA ARTS EDUCATION COURSES

In 2017, students took classes in a range of topics, including Acting on Camera, Build a Website, GIF Creation, Filmmaking, Animation, Coding and Video Game Design. Revenue growth increased 77% over 2016.

RICHMOND YOUTH MEDIA PROGRAM

"I find RYMP really useful for anybody going into the media arts."

– youth member

The Media Lab's signature program continued to flourish with youth members learning marketable skills and receiving mentorship and volunteer opportunities. A total of 40 program members, 208 guests and 19 adults (including practicum students, youth workers and professional artists) spent a total of 4,218 hours in the Media Lab and at community outreach events in 2017.

ARTREPEUNERSHIP PROJECT

The Media Lab, together with Richmond Addictions Services Society, secured a \$5,000 Vancouver Coastal Health grant to fund a new 'Artepreneurship' project to help RYMP members create a business model and website to offer their services in Media Arts to the general public. This program will be implemented in 2018.

Community Outreach

SCHOOL'S OUT PROGRAM AT BLUNDELL ELEMENTARY

"I didn't know my brother had such an amazing place to come to!"

– youth member's sibling

In partnership with Richmond Addiction Services Society (RASS), the Richmond Youth Media Program provided skills development sessions for elementary students at an after-school program. A RYMP member designed the sessions for groups of younger children and older children, and helped deliver them at the school. In two sessions with grades four to six, students filmed a short movie and edited it with special effects. Students in grades one to three learned how to make a gif online.

ERASE BULLYING

In partnership with Richmond Addiction Services Society (RASS), the Richmond Youth Media Program provided skills development sessions for elementary students at an after-school program.



Erase Bullying Event



Pride Week/RYMP Youth

SELMA FILM PRESENTATION

The Richmond Public Library in collaboration with the Richmond Youth Media Program showcased *Selma*, a movie highlighting one of the most powerful and deeply moving marches in history during the American Civil Rights Movement led by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The film screening had 25+ attendees and resulted in a vibrant discussion among teachers, allies, professionals and youth.

OUR CANADIAN BOOKCASE VIDEO

The Textile Artists Guild of Richmond (TAGOR) and Gabby Cometa of the Richmond Youth Media Program worked with RYMP staff to film footage and audio for TAGOR's newest quilt project, *Our Canadian Bookcase*. One RYMP member edited the footage into a three to five-minute video highlighting the project. The quilt features 150 Canadian authors for Canada 150 and travelled to various libraries for display.

DOORS OPEN: DROP-IN

The Media Lab participated in Doors Open with a Vector Portrait Skill Challenge event. The Media Lab had 44 guests and 13 RYMP youth stop in to participate.

CULTURE DAYS: DROP-IN

The Media Lab participated in Culture Days with a video game sprite-making event. Children made their own moving characters for a Richmond-themed video game and played them on a projected screen. A total of 37 people stopped by the Media Lab to participate.

CAREERS IN MEDIA ARTS SPEAKER (CIMA) SERIES

In May, professional video game designers, graphic designers and animators from ESPN, iistudio, Red stamp agency, Eastside Games, City of Richmond marketing department and Phoenix Labs participated in CIMA to provide a full day of exploration in media arts with discussion and workshops from professionals working in graphic design, animation and video game production. The event attracted 36 attendees and many media arts professionals offered to return as volunteers and mentors for the youth.



Richmond Youth Media Program

RICHMOND REMEMBERS

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

PATHWAYS

In November, youth participated in a skills-building session with Pathways youth. RYMP invited counterparts from Pathways Aboriginal Centre to the Media Lab to try out equipment and learn Photoshop skills in a session developed and presented by RYMP youth members.

VIVEK SHRAYA: TALK

In December, celebrated Canadian artist, Vivek Shraya, gave a talk about succeeding in the arts in Canada, trying out new art forms and perseverance. She also encouraged youth to apply for her youth mentorship program. Members and youth new to the Media Lab attended.

INSTAGRAM OUTREACH

In December, the City's Youth Outreach Workers were invited to the Media Lab for conversations with RYMP members about best practices for reaching youth via Instagram.

Services

VIDEO CREATION

Media Lab staff partnered with Corporate Compliance to create a customer service focused video for the new Corporate Organizational Development program. The Media Lab also supported Recreation Services in the creation of a Physical Literacy video.

Partners and Funders

In 2017, the Media Lab confirmed the ongoing support of presenting sponsor Viva Pharmaceuticals Ltd. and ongoing program support from Vancouver Coastal Health's SMART Fund grant secured through the Media Lab's partnership with Richmond Addictions Services Society. Neish Networks came on as a new Community Partner in October. They will be providing dedicated wifi and technical support to the Media Lab.

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

Other partners included Pathways and Blundell Elementary.

Richmond Community Centres and Minoru Place Activity Centre

Richmond's Community Centres and Minoru Place Activity Centre, jointly operated by the City and Community Associations, play a vital role in the continuum of arts programming in the City. In 2017, over 1,500 visual arts, dance and music courses attracted over 8,000 participants. As well, arts activities are embedded into childcare programs offered by community centres.

Participating associations include:

- City Centre Community Association
- East Richmond Community Association
- Hamilton Community Association
- Sea Island Community Association
- South Arm Community Association
- Steveston Community Association
- Thompson Community Association
- West Richmond Community Association
- Minoru Seniors Society



South Arm Community Centre Ballet

“THIS PLACE
MAKES ME HAPPY”

– youth member



Summer Musical Theatre Academy. Photo: Victor Wang

MISSION

To enrich the quality of life in Richmond and surrounding communities by creating outstanding professional theatre and a dynamic hub for the performing arts.

Gateway Theatre

Gateway Theatre is Richmond's live performing arts hub, annually drawing audiences in excess of 40,000 to more than 165 performances.

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

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

Live Professional Theatre

SIGNATURE SERIES

The Gateway Theatre's 2017 Signature Series productions featured comedy, drama, and music and welcomed some of the most talented artists from the Lower Mainland and across Canada.

You Will Remember Me

MainStage, February 2–11, 2017

This play told the story of an aging intellectual beset with dementia, whose family splinters in their efforts to support him. Peppered with bittersweet humour, this was a deeply personal and moving play by François Archambault, one of Quebec's most compelling writers. It was directed by Diane Brown and featured actors Kevin McNulty, Patti Allan, Marci T. House, Kevin Loring, and Sereana Malani.

The Pipeline Project

Studio B, March 9–18, 2017

"Under Chelsea Haberlin's excellent direction, *The Pipeline Project* is a textural feast."

— Colin Thomas, theatre critic

Immersive theatre company ITSAZOO and aboriginal performance company Savage Society brought to life a vibrant and personal account of the ongoing political battles over pipelines. Peak oil, First Nations land claims and climate changes were all explored with humour and empathy in this timely, meta-theatrical event. *The Pipeline Project* was created and performed by Sebastien Archibald, Kevin Loring and Quelema Sparrow, and directed by Chelsea Haberlin. Each performance included a second half 'talk forward' in which community speakers were invited to engage with the audience.

The Watershed

MainStage, April 6–15, 2017

Celebrated documentary theatre artist Annabel Soutar led her family on a cross-Canada journey, probing the forces that are shaping the future of our dwindling natural resources. By innovatively dramatizing an eclectic and insightful set of interviews with scientists, government officials, activists and business leaders, *The Watershed* deftly documented a nation struggling to find the balance between environment and industry.

A Little Night Music

MainStage, October 12–21, 2017

Set at the turn of the last century in Sweden, *A Little Night Music* interwove a tangled web of former and current lovers and was full of witty and moving moments of adoration, regret and desire. Patrick Street Productions previously produced *Rodgers and Hammerstein: Out of a Dream* which was on Gateway's MainStage for the 2014-2015 season.



A Little Night Music. Photo: Emily Cooper



The Watershed. Photo: Guntar Kravis



Sink or Swim. Photo: Tony Chamberlist

Sink or Swim

Studio B, November 16–25, 2017

In *Sink or Swim*, Beverley Elliott vividly revealed all the fears and foibles of five-year-old "Smelly Elliott." Renowned musician Bill Costin returned to accompany Elliott on piano. In the hands of these performers, *Sink or Swim* was an evening of hilarious and heartbreaking storytelling.

A Christmas Carol

MainStage, December 7–24, 2017



Emerging Artists in *A Christmas Carol*.
Photo: Emily Cooper

Michael Shamata's adaptation of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* was directed by Rachel Peake and included a unique partnership with Langara College's Studio 58 acting program. Student actors in their final semester at Studio 58 shared the stage with veteran performers Russell Roberts, Allan Morgan and Linda Quibell. The multitalented and diverse cast presented a colourful production that put everyone in the holiday spirit.

Play Development

Gateway Theatre hosted developmental workshops of *Nine Dragons* by Jovanni Sy. *Nine Dragons* premiered in Calgary and Manitoba in the fall of 2017, and will be presented at Gateway in April of 2018. Gateway also hosted rehearsals and workshops for *King of the Yees*, which was invited to the prestigious National Arts Centre in Ottawa in October 2017.

In addition, Gateway donated more than 150 hours of studio time to other local theatre companies to develop their own plays.

PACIFIC FESTIVAL

In September 2017, Gateway welcomed local producer SkyHigh who presented two plays from Hong Kong in association with the Pacific Festival, both in Cantonese with English surtitles.

Tuesdays with Morrie

Mainstage, August 31 & September 2, 2017

Tuesdays with Morrie returned to the Pacific Festival. The play chronicles an accomplished journalist who reunites with an old college professor battling Lou Gehrig's disease. Celebrated actor Ko Tin Lung played the title role.

“ENTERTAINING AND THOUGHT-
PROVOKING THEATRICAL
DOCUMENTARY. GO SEE IT.”

– Audience Member

Travel with Mum

Mainstage, September 15–16, 2017

Utilizing masks and folk music, *Travel with Mum* tells the true story of a man, aged 74, who embarked on a 30,000 kilometre bicycle journey towing his mother, aged 99, to Tibet. A spin on the classic road trip story, *Travel with Mum* is a heart-warming tale of family and devotion.

Theatre Education ❤️ 🤝 💬**GATEWAY ACADEMY FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS**

“My favourite thing we did at my Acting Workshop was meeting new people and being together and helping each other out as an ensemble.”

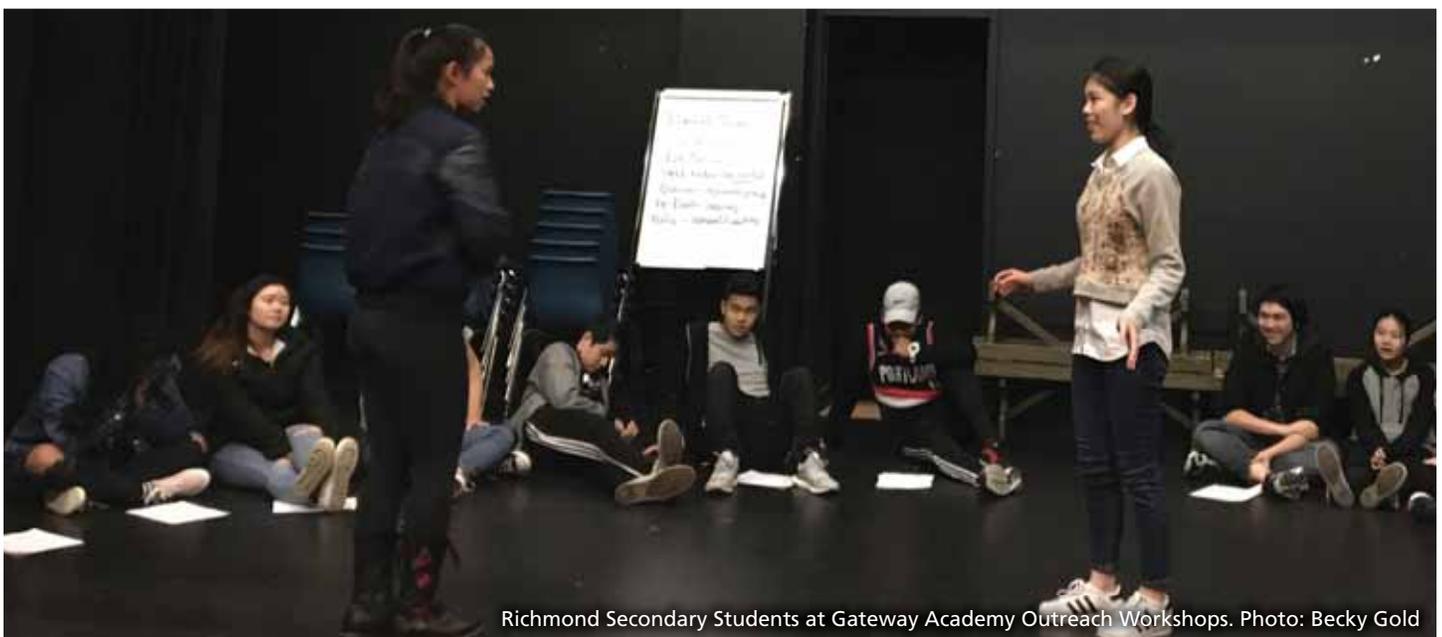
— Acting Workshop student

The Academy spring classes concluded in April with year-end presentations in classes for students 6-13 in Musical Theatre, Acting, Speech and Singing. The Acting and Musical Theatre classes for students 13-18 resulted in two productions: a commissioned play *The Time Machine*, and *Seussical Jr*, playing in rep to a paying audience.

As in previous years, Gateway ran camps and workshops over the summer, one resulting in a three-night production of a new, specially-commissioned musical *Mission Possible* on our MainStage.

SECONDARY SCHOOL OUTREACH

Four times a year, secondary school theatre students are invited for a day to study a play on the MainStage. On the day of technical dress rehearsal, students participate in presentations and discussions with Gateway's creative team — participating in backstage tours with production and stage management teams, watching a portion of the technical dress rehearsal, speaking with administrative staff about their roles and responsibilities — and then return to see the show later in the run. The students report back about their experience.



Richmond Secondary Students at Gateway Academy Outreach Workshops. Photo: Becky Gold

2017 RENTAL CLIENTS

- The Arts Connection
- Canada YC Chinese Orchestra
- Canada Youth Arts Development Foundation
- City of Richmond—Engineering and Public Works
- City of Richmond—U-ROC Awards
- Dance Co
- Defy Gravity Dance Company
- Edmonton Beijing Opera
- Elena Steele Voice Studio
- Felix Mar
- Gabriela's Movement Studio
- HT Liang's Chinese Folk Music and Opera Academy Ltd
- Jacmusic Studio
- Jaguar Music Group
- Minoru Chapel
- Minoru Place Activity Centre
- Mustard Seed Children's Society
- Natural Physique & Athletics Association
- Pacific International Youth Music Society
- Ping Academy of Dance
- Pythagoras Academy
- RichCity Idol
- Richmond Academy of Dance
- Richmond Arts Centre
- Richmond Chamber of Commerce
- Richmond Christian School
- Richmond Community Band Society
- Richmond Hospital Physician Society
- Richmond School District – Jazz Nite
- Richmond School District – Music in Our Schools
- Richmond Youth Concert Band
- Rotary Club of Richmond
- Stage One Academy
- TMD Martial Arts
- Vancouver Academy of Dance
- Vancouver Tagore Society

CONSERVATORY

During the Gateway Conservatory program, 12 participants (ages 16-24) partook in seven workshops which ended in April. These workshops are taught by professional artists contracted in the Signature Series; workshops ranged in focus from making a prop to creating verbatim theatre.

EMERGING ARTISTS PROGRAM

Gateway offered Studio 58 students and other emerging artists cast in A Christmas Carol two workshops: Personal Branding and The Purpose-Driven Artist: keys to a long and happy life in the arts. Discussions and exercises offered participants practical tools to market themselves effectively, as well as practical strategies in pursuit of career goals and self-care. The Academy also hires emerging designers to develop their skills on a full production. In 2017, eight creative team members joined the program. As well, three senior students volunteered as class assistants, taking on new responsibilities under the guidance of Academy faculty.

Community Rental Events

Gateway Theatre played host to a wide variety of community and professional organizations presenting their events throughout the year. During 2017, close to 40 different organizations produced shows and events at the Gateway; drawing in audiences of all ages totalling approximately 15,000. Some of the most popular entertainment events included *Beauty and the Beast* by Pythagoras Academy and *Buddy Holly and his Million Dollar Friends* by Jaguar Music Group. The achievements of young artists were celebrated in recitals and events by organisations such as the Arts Connection, Richmond Academy of Dance, Richmond Arts Centre, Pacific International Youth Music Society and RichCity Idol.



Gateway Theatre

APPENDIX 1

2017 Arts and Culture Grant Program

The following organizations received support:

OPERATING ASSISTANCE

Richmond Music School Society	\$9,000
Richmond Community Orchestra and Chorus Association	\$9,200
Richmond Singers	\$7,000
Richmond Delta Youth Orchestra	\$9,500
Canadian YC Chinese Orchestra Association	\$6,000
Richmond Potters' Club	\$5,900
Cinevolution Media Arts Society.....	\$9,500
Richmond Arts Coalition	\$9,200
Richmond Community Band Society.....	\$2,704
Community Arts Council of Richmond	\$9,200
Richmond Youth Choral Society	\$9,500
Textile Arts Guild of Richmond	\$2,750

PROJECT ASSISTANCE

Vancouver Cantonese Opera.....	\$3,800
Philippine Cultural Arts Society of BC	\$2,100
Richmond Art Gallery Association	\$3,800
Tickle Me Pickle Theatre Sports Improv Society	\$4,500
Vancouver Tagore Society.....	\$3,800
Richmond Gateway Theatre Society	\$2,300

APPENDIX 2

How Art Works

The following five themes comprise the How Art Works campaign:

ART'S IMPACT ON STUDENTS

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

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

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

HEALTHY LIVING THROUGH ART

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

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

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

ART STRENGTHENS COMMUNITIES

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

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

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

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

A STRONGER ECONOMY THROUGH ART

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

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

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

ART IMPROVES QUALITY OF LIFE

The mental and physiological ways that the arts contribute to positive health and well-being for older adults are only now beginning to be understood. Learning new skills when creating a work of art (be it visual or performing) not only provides a greater sense of confidence and control, it can even help our immune systems fight infections.

Among the elderly, those that take part in creative pursuits are less likely to experience mild cognitive impairment. These activities are thought to maintain neuronal function, stimulate neural growth and recruit neural pathways to maintain cognitive function. This is particularly true of those that actively create works of art.

Music appears to be especially beneficial when complemented with standard therapies in treating everything from depression to cancer to Parkinson's.

Moreover, the arts can provide opportunities to meet others, create together and share experiences, all of which can improve perceived health status, chronic pain and sense of community.

APPENDIX 3

2017 Richmond Public Art commissioned in 2017 scheduled for completion in 2018-19

CIVIC PUBLIC ART PROJECTS:

- *Errant Rain Cloud* by Gordon Hicks and Germaine Koh. Minoru Centre for Active Living
- *Four Types of Water Revealed* by Germaine Koh. No. 2 Road Pump Station
- No.3 Road Art Columns Exhibition 12, Mentoring Opportunity for Richmond-based Artists
- Richmond Canada 150 Sewer Access Covers
- *Richmond Fire Fighter* by Nathan Scott. Fire Hall No. 1
- *Meander* by Becki Chan and Milos Begovic (modular, portable seating)
- *Together* by David Jacob Harder, Minoru Centre for Active Living

PRIVATE PUBLIC ART PROJECTS:

- *Spinners* by Dan Corson. Avanti, Polygon Homes
- *Pergola Garden* by Nicolas Croft and Michaela MacLeod

COMMUNITY PUBLIC ART PROJECTS:

- Community Public Art Program in partnership with Britannia, Hamilton and Minoru Arena



“CREATIVITY IS
CONTAGIOUS,
PASS IT ON”
– Albert Einstein



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