

call to artists

PUBLIC ART
RICHMOND



Ribbons, Express Yourself, Keely O'Brien in collaboration w/ Aspire Richmond Youth, 2024

The City of Richmond Public Art Program seeks artists with socially-oriented and civic-minded practices for three opportunities in 2026-2027. Professional artists are invited to imagine innovative ways in which art can act as a catalyst to foster individual creative expression, build community and address topics of relevance working with community partners.

- Opportunity A:** \$12,000 | Jessie Wowk Elementary School
Opportunity B: \$12,000 | S.U.C.C.E.S.S.
Opportunity C: \$12,000 | Terra Nova Nature School /
Thompson Community Association

Eligibility: Artists Residing in Metro Vancouver

Deadline: February 20, 2026

Duration: Spring/Fall 2026 – Spring/Fall 2027

Engaging Artists in Community Program

Request for Proposals (RFP)

January 2026

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BACKGROUND

The Engaging Artists in Community (EAC) Program supports artists with socially-engaged practices and encourages the development of a wide variety of collaborative practices. Community-based artworks can express a shared goal or theme and/or provoke dialogue on ideas related to cultural identity, social history or the environment. Artist projects can leave a physical or social legacy for the community and/or may include a community event to present the final work.

Projects will engage participants by providing them with a greater sense of self, identity, community and place through learning and experience of art-making experiences. When possible and appropriate, work must be accessible for people living with disabilities and appeal to a diverse and local audience. Artists will also demonstrate the capacity to undertake and complete their proposed work within an approved timeframe.

PREVIOUS EAC PROJECTS

Applicants are encouraged to view previously commissioned projects here:

richmond.ca/culture/howartworks/publicart/artist-calls

(Scroll down and click on the Engaging Artists in Community Program tab).

ARTIST ELIGIBILITY

Open to professional artists and artist teams residing in Metro Vancouver. Please refer to the Community Partner Profiles for additional eligibility criteria. City of Richmond employees, Richmond Public Art Advisory Committee members, and artists who are currently contracted by the Richmond Public Art Program are not eligible to apply.

SELECTION PROCESS

Selection panels consisting of a combination of artists, art professionals and community representatives will convene for each of the three opportunities. The selection panels will engage in a two-stage selection process to review all artist submissions. During the second stage, shortlisted artists or artist teams will be invited to an interview with the selection panel and will receive a \$250 honorarium. At the conclusion of the process, the panels will recommend one artist or artist team for each opportunity. Subject to approval by Council, each artist or artist team will be required to enter into a contract with the City of Richmond and community partner.

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ARTIST SELECTION CRITERIA

- Artistic merit and clarity of the artist's Statement of Intent in response to the Partner Profile goals and objectives. The proposal should demonstrate artistic quality, innovation and creativity.
- Demonstration of artistic quality, innovation and creativity in applicant's previous work and experience.
- Community impact of work to connect diverse and multi-generational audiences with artists in creative dialogue, participation and awareness.
- Artist's capacity to work with community members, other design professionals and project stakeholders.
- Appropriateness of the proposal to the Public Art Program Policy goals: [richmond.ca/ shared/assets/Public Art Program Policy 8703 32088.pdf](https://richmond.ca/shared/assets/Public%20Art%20Program%20Policy%208703%2032088.pdf)

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

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

Applicants will receive a confirmation email upon receipt of their application. If a confirmation email is not received within 72 hours, please contact staff: T. (604) 204-8671.

- **INFORMATION FORM:** Please complete the information form attached to the end of this document.
- **STATEMENT OF INTENT:** One page (300 words max.) describing proposed approach to the project, relevant experience and skillsets, and how the proposal responds to the specific aims of the artist opportunity.
- **ARTIST CV:** Two (2) page maximum. Teams should include one page for each member.
- **WORK SAMPLES:** Up to ten (10) examples of previous work. Please include artist name(s), title, year, location and medium information as captions on the bottom of each image page. If submitting digital video, please include link to YouTube, Vimeo or similar online platform. **Please do not submit digital video files.**
- **REFERENCES:** Three references who can speak to your abilities and accomplishments. Only provide contact name, title, phone number and email. References will only be contacted if applicant is shortlisted.

ACCESSIBILITY SUPPORT

The City of Richmond strives to create artist opportunities that are inclusive and accessible to individuals of all abilities. If you are living with a disability and require assistance in completing the written application, please contact PublicArt@richmond.ca or Tel: 604-204-8671.

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SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

1. All supporting documents must be complete and strictly adhere to these guidelines and submission requirements (above) or risk not being considered.
2. All submissions must be formatted to 8.5 x 11 inch pages. Support images and concept sketches are best formatted to landscape format.
3. Artist submission PDF file must be 5 MB or smaller.
4. If submitting as a team, the team should designate one representative to complete the entry form. Each team member must submit an individual resume/curriculum vitae.
5. All documents must be sent by email to: PublicArt@richmond.ca. Please include name and project when naming your file, e.g. Jane_Smith_EngagingArtistsCommunity_RFP

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1. The selected artist may be required to show proof of WCB coverage and up to \$2,000,000 general liability insurance.
2. Please be advised that all commissioned artists from this program will be required to complete Police Information Checks with the Richmond RCMP and Richmond School District No. 38, if applicable.
3. Please be advised that the City and the selection panel are not obligated to accept any of the submissions and may reject all submissions. The City reserves the right to reissue the Artist Call as required.
4. All submissions to this Artist Call become the property of the City. All information provided under the submission is subject to the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (BC) and shall only be withheld from release if an exemption from release is permitted by the Act. The artist shall retain copyright in the concept proposal. While every precaution will be taken to prevent the loss or damage of submissions, the City and its agents shall not be liable for any loss or damage, however caused.
5. Extensions to this deadline will not be granted under any circumstances. Submissions received after the deadline and those that are found to be incomplete will not be reviewed.

QUESTIONS

Please contact the Richmond Public Art Program:

Tel: 604-204-8671

Email: PublicArt@richmond.ca

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Figure 1. Jessie Wowk Elementary School.

COMMUNITY PARTNER

The Richmond School District's mission is to cultivate a safe, accepting and engaged community that inspires a passion for lifelong learning. The values that guide its work to achieve the mission are: collaboration, creativity, curiosity, resilience, respect and equity for all.

Arts education plays a key role in the development of social-emotional competencies that enable young people to interact productively with others, build and express a healthy sense of self and community, and work effectively toward their goals. Art is valuable because it allows young learners to process their world and engage in critical sensory input.

Jessie Wowk Elementary School opened in 1992 and is located at 5380 Woodward Road. The school has a student population of 216 students and a vibrant community of learners, staff and families striving to inspire curiosity, celebrate learning and promote social responsibility. Together they honour caring for, and connections to land, place, others, and self. It is within this climate of respect and understanding that our students are motivated to explore, follow their passions, and express their learning in a variety of ways.

COMMUNITY PARTNER PROFILE

**Jessie Wowk
Elementary
School**

**Artist
Opportunity**

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ARTIST OPPORTUNITY

Artists with community-engaged, multidisciplinary art practices in environmental and/or sustainable art are invited to apply for this artist opportunity. Experience teaching or working with young learners would be an asset.

The commissioned artist project will engage approximately 80 young learners in grades 3 & 4 (ages 8–9) and grades 5 & 6 (ages 10–11).

The following guiding question may be explored in the artist project:

How might art deepen our relationship with land and place, share gratitude for the natural world, and encourage actions for a sustainable future?

This project will offer the commissioned artist an opportunity to:

- Explore and share skills in artmaking practices using only sustainable and eco-friendly processes and materials (i.e., recycled, upcycled, natural, biodegradable, non-toxic).
- Lead a place-based art experience with culturally diverse young learners, emphasizing and nurturing kindness and respect.
- Encourage and offer opportunities for young learners to express their voice, feelings and emotions, in a safe and inclusive space for creative expression.
- Produce a legacy work that encapsulates the collaborative process of creating and learning between the commissioned artist and school community (students, teachers, parents/families).

The commissioned artist will have access to:

- Indoor and outdoor learning environments such as multipurpose classrooms, outdoor learning space, shared community park and the Railway Greenway.
- General office and art supplies including white board, flip chart paper, scissors, rulers, pencils, markers, pencil crayons, crayons, glue sticks, paint, paint brushes, oil pastels, chalk. Any additional project materials will be acquired by the artist as part of the commissioned artist budget.
- Space for temporary storage of artist materials and equipment.
- If required, a workspace within the school with access to WIFI.

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RAILWAY GREENWAY

The Railway Greenway is a unique five-kilometre north–south multi-use trail located a short walk from Wowk Elementary School. It connects the Middle Arm Dyke Trail with the South Dyke/Steveston waterfront, linking the neighbourhoods in between. Designed for walking, rolling and cycling, the Greenway provides an accessible route to local destinations, activities and Richmond’s waterfront.

In addition to its recreational role, the Railway Greenway functions as an important ecological corridor. Its trees and vegetation provide habitat for local birds and wildlife, while helping to connect natural areas along the Middle and South Arms of the Fraser River.

Select sections of the Greenway within walking distance of Wowk Elementary School may be available for artist-led project activation and/or stewardship initiatives through the [Partners for Beautification - City of Richmond, BC](#).

ARTIST SCOPE OF WORK

- The commissioned artist or artist team will complete a minimum of 250 hours. This will include research, administration, preparation work, public engagement, creation, production, final community celebratory event/presentation, and a legacy work to be installed and/or presented at the school.
- The commissioned project will engage approximately 80 young learners (three classes). The artist may work with each class individually or as one group depending on the preference of the commissioned artist. Students with diverse needs will be supported by staff and teaching assistants.
- The implementation, project schedule, format and structure of the engagement sessions with young learners will be coordinated with the participating project teachers at Wowk Elementary School.
- The expectation is for the commissioned artist or artist team to create and produce individual and collaborative creative expressions that will result in a legacy work and celebratory event/presentation to the larger school and community.
- The commissioned artist/artist team will also create and maintain a project website blog to document the project.

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LOCATION

The commissioned artist or artist team may work indoors and outdoors at Wowk Elementary, 5380 Woodward Rd. Off-site activation or fieldwork may also be possible.

Please refer to Figures 2 to 7 for additional photos of the school, activity spaces and off-site locations available to the artist for indoor/outdoor project activation.

BUDGET

The project budget for this opportunity is \$12,000 and is inclusive of all expenses, but not limited to: artist engagement work, art materials for engagement activities, equipment rental, administration, artist fees, photography documentation, artist insurance and applicable taxes, excluding GST.

Subject to the nature of the artist project and availability, there may be additional in-kind materials and resources provided by Wowk Elementary School / Richmond School District for implementation, installation or presentation of the project.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Richmond School District | sd38.bc.ca
- Jessie Wowk Elementary | wowk.sd38.bc.ca
- City of Richmond Parks Services | [Railway Greenway](https://richmond.ca/railway-greenway)
- City of Richmond | [Parks for Beautification Program](https://richmond.ca/parks-for-beautification-program)
- City of Richmond Public Art Program | richmond.ca/publicart

PROJECT TIMELINE

The selected artist must complete all work by June 2027.

Deadline to Apply:	February 20, 2026
Finalist Notifications:	March 2026
2nd Stage Interviews:	April 7, 2026, 5:00–7:00 p.m.*
Project Start:	September 2026
Completion:	June 2027

*Artists applying for this opportunity are kindly asked to ensure they will be available for the second stage interview dates/times.

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Figure 2 & 3. Jessie Wowk Elementary multipurpose gathering spaces. A new Outdoor Learning Space offers opportunities to explore and engage in a variety of materials to deepen understanding of, and relationship with, land and place.



Figure 4 & 5. Outdoor learning environments.

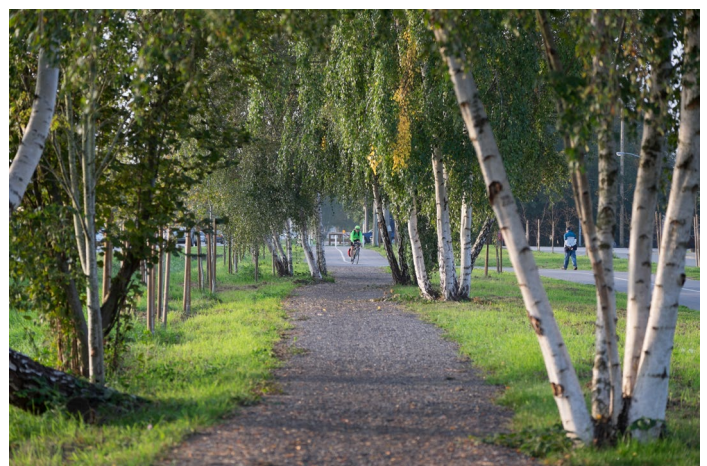


Figure 6 & 7. Railway Greenway.

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Figure 1. Richmond Caring Place / S.U.C.C.E.S.S.

COMMUNITY PARTNER PROFILE

S.U.C.C.E.S.S

Artist Opportunity

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

S.U.C.C.E.S.S. empowers people on their Canadian journey to achieve their goals through services and advocacy that promote belonging, wellness and independence. Since 1985, S.U.C.C.E.S.S. has been providing a wide range of services to the Richmond community, including immigrant settlement, English language training, employment and entrepreneurship, social and cultural connections, community engagement, affordable housing and seniors' care.

S.U.C.C.E.S.S. leads the Richmond Local Immigration Partnership (RLIP), in collaboration with Chimo Community Services. RLIP is a multi-sectoral coordination table that identifies community priorities and develops action plans to foster immigrant inclusion and integration in Richmond. Through RLIP, S.U.C.C.E.S.S. will collaborate with the City's Community Social Development (CSD) department, which develops social policies, action plans, programs and services to increase social equity in Richmond. CSD is grounded by a foundation of strategies that guides its work, including the 2019–2029 Cultural Harmony Plan, which guides the City and community's approach in enhancing cultural harmony among Richmond's diverse population.

This artist opportunity will support key actions in the Cultural Harmony Plan, including fostering awareness of the benefits of an inclusive community and recognizing the contributions of Richmond's long-time residents and newcomers through storytelling and creative expression.

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ARTIST ELIGIBILITY

Artist or artist teams who have lived immigrant experience and reside in Metro Vancouver are eligible to apply. Knowledge of or proficiency in other language(s) is an asset.

ARTIST OPPORTUNITY

Artists with socially-engaged interdisciplinary practices incorporating storytelling, photography, and/or video are encouraged to apply.

This project will engage up to 15–20 Richmond residents (ages 19+), representing diverse cultures, immigrant communities and genders.

This project will offer the commissioned artist an opportunity to:

- Encourage participants to examine, highlight and share their contributions with their respective communities and explore the benefits of an inclusive community.
- Invite participants to identify community champions who improve awareness and positive relations among long-time residents and newcomers of diverse cultures and backgrounds.
- Share their knowledge and skills in using digital photography and/or moving image as an artistic medium for storytelling and creative expression.
- Engage participants in skills-based and hands-on photography and storytelling workshops.
- Create opportunities to learn, connect and build relationships within a safe and inclusive environment.

The following guiding questions may be explored in the artist project:

- ***How can we raise awareness about the positive contributions of newcomers and long-time residents in Richmond?***
- ***How can art foster spaces of deeper inclusion, belonging and creative expression for newcomers and long-time residents in Richmond?***
- ***What does an inclusive community mean for immigrants and newcomers?***

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The commissioned artist will be supported by RLIP and City staff. Additional resources available to the artist include:

- Indoor/outdoor gathering spaces.
 - Temporary storage space for artist materials and equipment.
 - Basic office supplies, including photocopying and printing services.
- Additional project materials will be purchased by the artist as part of the commissioned artist budget.

BUDGET

The project budget for this opportunity is \$12,000 and is inclusive of, but not limited to: community engagement work, production/material expenses, equipment rentals, administration, artist fees, photography documentation, artist insurance and applicable taxes, excluding GST.

ARTIST SCOPE OF WORK

- The commissioned artist will complete a minimum of 250 hours. This will include research, administration, preparation work, public engagement, production and presentation of a final legacy work.
- The expectation is for the commissioned artist or artist team to create and produce individual and collaborative creative expressions that will result in a final legacy work and celebratory event/presentation to engage the larger community.
- The commissioned artist will present project work at the Diversity Symposium (October 2027) and Richmond Volunteer Fair (2027).
- The artist will create and maintain an artist project blog website to communicate and document the process and work created during the project.

LOCATION

The commissioned artist or artist team will be based out of indoor/outdoor spaces that may include:

- Richmond Caring Place, S.U.C.C.E.S.S. Offices, 7000 Minoru Blvd.
- Richmond City Hall, 6911 No.3 Road
- Richmond Cultural Centre Annex, 7660 Minoru Gate
- Richmond Public Library, Brighthouse Branch, 7700 Minoru Gate
- Other outdoor parks or facilities (upon City or Community Partner approval)

Please refer to Figures 2 to 6 for additional photos of activity spaces and off-site locations available to the artist for indoor/outdoor project activation.

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ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Richmond Intercultural Advisory Committee](#)
- [Richmond Local Immigration Partnership](#)
- [S.U.C.C.E.S.S.](#)
- [City of Richmond Public Art Program](#)
- [City of Richmond 2019-2029 Cultural Harmony Plan](#)

PROJECT TIMELINE

Deadline to Apply:	February 20, 2026
Finalist Notifications:	March 2026
2nd Stage Interviews:	April 8, 2026, 5:00–7:00 p.m.*
Project Start:	September 2026 (National Welcoming Week)
Completion:	October 2027

*Artists applying for this opportunity are kindly asked to ensure they will be available to attend the second stage interview date and time.

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Figure 2. and 3. Minoru Park



Figure 4. and 5. Richmond Caring Place Multi-Purpose Room and Richmond Cultural Centre Annex Butterfly Room



Figure 6. and 7. City Hall Plaza and City Hall Meeting Room

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Figure 1. Terra Nova Nature School, 2680 River Road

COMMUNITY PARTNER

Terra Nova Nature School (TNNS), operated by Thompson Community Association, is an outdoor school located in Terra Nova Rural Park. The school is in its 12th year of operation and has developed a beautiful community of learners over the years. The children are outside everyday, no matter the weather. Through direct and hands-on experiences with nature, children learn about the natural world and develop meaningful relationships with the land, plants, animals, and natural systems around them. A team of educators support learning in all areas of development, using the gifts of the land to explore different concepts. Land-based learning includes the Principles of Indigenous Ways of Knowing and place-based education.

The school's pedagogy is also guided by the foundation of a responsive and emergent curriculum whereby educators and children build and grow ideas together. TNNS is committed to social justice and equity, and works diligently to stand behind these principles. The daily activities include art explorations, science and nature investigations, literacy and storytelling and social-emotional development.

TNNS offers outdoor programming for children of all ages, from birth through the teen years. Programming operates out of the Edwardian Cottage at the north end of Terra Nova Rural Park, located at 2680 River Road, as well as the Red Barn at 2771 Westminster Highway.

COMMUNITY PARTNER PROFILE

**Terra Nova
Nature School /
Thompson
Community
Association**

Artist Opportunity

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ARTIST OPPORTUNITY

Artists or artist teams with socially-engaged, multidisciplinary and/or interdisciplinary art practices in environmental and sustainable art, including but not limited to: storytelling, digital mixed-media, tactile and sensory-based practices are invited to apply for this opportunity. Experience teaching or working with young learners would be an asset.

The following guiding question may be explored in the artist project:

- ***How can art explore the concept of reciprocity to illuminate the intricate relationships among animals, plants, and trees in Terra Nova Rural Park?***

The project will offer the commissioned artist an opportunity to:

- Engage culturally diverse young learners in a place-based art experience.
- Encourage young learners to express their voice, feelings and emotions, while creating a safe and inclusive space for creative expression.
- Create a legacy artwork that encapsulates the collaborative process of creating and learning between the commissioned artist, young learners, and the larger community.

Artists will be supported by City and Thompson Community Association teaching staff and volunteers, and have access to:

- Indoor and outdoor spaces for hands-on art making and community engagement work.
- An on-site secure storage area.
- General office supplies, including photocopying and printing equipment. Any additional project materials required will be purchased by the artist as part of the commissioned artist budget.
- Office meeting or preparation workspace, if required.

ARTIST SCOPE OF WORK

- The artist or artist team will complete a minimum of 250 hours. This will include research, administration, preparation work, public engagement, production and presentation work.
- The expectation is for the commissioned artist or artist team to create and produce individual and collaborative creative expressions that will result in a final legacy work and celebratory event/presentation to engage the larger community.

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- The commissioned project will engage two (2) classes comprising approximately 35 young learners in total (ages 3–5). The artist will work with each class individually. All students will be supported by the staff of Early Childhood Educators
- The commissioned artist will present the final legacy work as part of a school and/or community event in June 2027.
- The artist or artist team will also create and maintain a project artist blog to communicate and document the process and work created during the artist project.

LOCATION

The commissioned artist or artist team will be based at Terra Nova Nature School, 2680 River Road. Please refer to Figures 2 to 6 for additional images.

BUDGET

The project budget for this opportunity is \$12,000 and is inclusive of all expenses, including but not limited to: community engagement work, art materials for engagement activities, equipment rental, administration, artist fees, photography documentation, artist insurance and applicable taxes, excluding GST.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Terra Nova Nature School](#)
- [Thompson Community Association/Centre](#)
- [Terra Nova Rural Park](#)
- [Richmond Museum - Edwardian Cottage](#)
- [City of Richmond Public Art Program](#)

PROJECT TIMELINE

The selected artist must complete all work by June 2027

Deadline to Apply:	February 20, 2026;
Finalist Notifications:	March 2026
Stage 2 Interview:	April 9, 2026, 5:00—7:00 p.m.*
Project Start:	October 2026
Completion:	June 2027

*Artists applying for this opportunity are kindly asked to ensure they are available to attend the second stage interview date and time.

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Figure 2 and 3. Terra Nova Nature School



Figure 4. & 5 Terra Nova Rural Park



Figure 6 Terra Nova Rural Park

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

Please indicate which opportunity you are applying for:

☐ Wowk Elementary

☐ S.U.C.C.E.S.S.

☐ Terra Nova Nature School

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Postal Code: _____

Primary Phone: _____ Secondary Phone: _____

E-mail: _____ Website: _____
(One website or blog only)

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

Optional: Do you self-identify as a member of an equity-seeking and/or underrepresented community?

(examples: Indigenous, person of colour, 2SLGBTQIA+, mixed ability, newcomer, Deaf, hard of hearing, living with a disability, etc.) If so, please specify:

If applicable, please indicate additional members of your artist team:

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

Would you like to receive direct e-mails from the Richmond Public Art Program? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Additional Information

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

