

[RFP]



BRANSCOMBE HOUSE ARTIST RESIDENCY

Request for Proposals: Branscombe House Artist Residency

City of Richmond, Arts, Culture and Heritage Services

Deadline:	Monday, August 17, 2026 at 5:00pm PT
Location:	Branscombe House, 4900 Steveston Highway, Richmond, BC, Canada
Eligibility:	Professional artists in any discipline* <small>*Live/work space not suitable for artistic practices involving amplified music, loud equipment or fumes.</small>
Duration:	11 month live-in residency
Residency:	100% subsidized housing provided in exchange for minimum 22 hours/month (240 hours total) of artist-led community-engaged programming.
Budget:	Up to \$2,000 provided in hard cost reimbursement for materials and supplies
Application:	richmond.ca/BranscombeResidency .

Summary



The City of Richmond's Arts, Culture and Heritage Services invites professional artists in all disciplines (including visual artists, composers, musicians, performers, writers and other creative professionals) to submit proposals for an 11-month live-in residency located on Canada's west coast, in Richmond, BC, on the traditional lands of the hən̓q̓əmiñəḥ speaking First Peoples.

The Branscombe House Artist Residency will begin in mid-January 2027 and run through until mid-December 2027.

Branscombe House is a beautifully restored Edwardian-style house located in the residential area of historic Steveston in Richmond. The self-contained two-bedroom suite upstairs is offered as an artist residence/studio with rent 100% subsidized in exchange for contributing a minimum of 240 hours of community-engaged work on approved creative projects/programs developed in collaboration between staff, artist(s) and community groups/organizations.

The City is seeking applications from artists who are interested in developing new projects and programs that promote meaningful community engagement through artistic opportunities.

For information about the programs offered by the current Branscombe House artist-in-residence, visit: richmond.ca/BranscombeResidency.

Questions?

Community Cultural Development
culture@richmond.ca | 604-247-8323

CALL FOR ARTISTS

1. Eligibility

Open to professional artists with a community-engaged practice in any discipline, including writers, composers, visual artists, musicians, theatre artists, video artists, multi-disciplinary, social practice and performance artists. Artists from outside of Canada are welcome to apply however all Visa and Canadian-residency requirements are solely the responsibility of the artist.

The term *community-engaged practice*, while expansive and evolving, can be described as artistic collaborations involving both the artist and the participating community member(s), group(s) or public(s).

Artists with experience working with diverse communities are encouraged to apply. Applications are encouraged from artists of under-represented communities including Indigenous, Black, people of colour, 2SLGBTQI+, mixed abilities and other non-dominant groups. Artists are encouraged to self-identify in their application if they feel comfortable in doing so.

Please note the artist's suite is located on the second level of a heritage house and is not wheelchair accessible. The live/work space is not suitable for artistic practices involving amplified music, loud equipment or fumes.

2. Budget

The artist will receive 11 months of 100% subsidized rent of a self-contained, semi-furnished 2-bedroom suite in a restored heritage house in exchange for an average of ~22 hours per month (minimum 240 hours total) of hands-on community art engagement on approved programs, developed in collaboration between staff, artist(s) and community groups/organizations.

The artist is responsible for travel, insurance, moving, living expenses and production expenses for their own work. The artist will also pay a \$500 damage deposit, returned upon successful inspection of the house at the end of the residency. The City will provide in-kind marketing support and facility/production support associated with public programs (eg, access to free room rentals, basic workshop materials, performance spaces, tech support, etc.) as well as up to \$2,000 in hard costs as negotiated. The City will also assist visiting artists with establishing local relationships integral to their practice, finding in-kind suppliers, orienting them to the area, etc. as well as facilitating access to other City departments, community centres, heritage and cultural facilities, systems and services as appropriate.

3. Opportunity

The residency is an opportunity for artists with a community-engaged practice to create new work in exchange for live-in creation space. During the residency, the artist will establish a presence in the community as appropriate. This will include spending time developing a body of work and engaging the public with their programming which may include workshops, exhibitions, demonstrations and legacy projects on the Branscombe site, community centres, schools and events/festivals as negotiated.

Proposed activities with a clear focus that is tied to artistic practice should engage a diverse, multicultural audience and show strong interest, connection and relevance to the community beyond standard open studios and artist talks. The artist should have a strong interest in connecting members of the public to arts and culture programming and experiences.

The residency has the following objectives:

- create a unique opportunity for professional artists to engage with the community at-large in a meaningful, interactive setting;



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Branscombe House 2027 Artist Residency

Branscombe House
4900 Steveston Highway
Richmond, BC,
Canada

images: *The Gathering*, created by Rhonda Wepler, 2016 inaugural artist-in-residence, Chinese drummers

- offer free artist-generated programs, exhibitions and/or other activities to the community;
- over time, build a program of activities, exhibitions and collection of art and/or records of art activity inspired by Richmond’s distinct heritage, diverse community and/or natural setting;
- encourage and facilitate cooperative partnerships between artists, community organizations, businesses and other community members;
- create “cross-pollination” opportunities for local artists to meet with and be inspired by visiting artists;
- bring to life, and call attention to, an important and well-recognized heritage asset;
- showcase a range of artists and art forms over time, involving professional artists of a variety of disciplines, from diverse backgrounds and locations; and
- leave a lasting cultural impact upon Richmond residents.

The theme for the artist residency has not been predetermined. The artist’s proposal will include a theme that will be illuminated or articulated through the public programming (e.g., workshops, collaborative experiences and subsequent art). The goal is to contribute meaningful content to local residents’ personal connections and experience with the arts, foster self-expression and pride of place.

In the application, the artist will be asked to describe the proposed public programs and community engagement opportunities they will organize and facilitate for the public’s benefit. This may include workshops, lectures, special events, demonstrations, classes or any other public event that will contribute to the 240 hours requirement of the residency. If awarded the residency, the artist and City staff will negotiate the terms and the artist will complete a revised work plan with project specifics and milestones.

Note: the artist will be expected to provide some form of public programming during Doors Open Richmond and Culture Days which will be promoted throughout the region. There are also other festivals and events (Cherry Blossom Festival, Salmon Festival, Maritime Festival, etc.) that may offer additional public engagement opportunities.

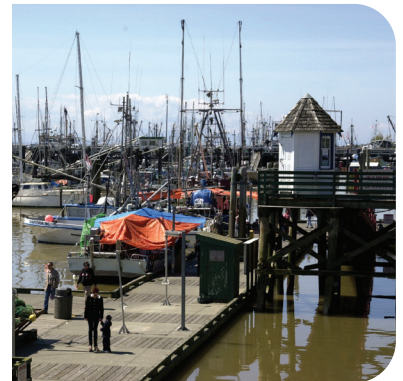
“I’m grateful to be the Branscombe House Artist-in-Residence. This is such an amazing opportunity to work on community art projects with Richmond residents and visitors. The collaboration has been a joy! Branscombe House offers me a dedicated space for creating art, allowing me to focus on exploring and experimenting with my ideas. Plus, there are opportunities to participate in City events and festivals. City staff have been incredibly supportive and being the artist-in-residence has been an awesome experience. I highly recommend it to any artists who are interested!”

~ Peisen Ding, 2024 Branscombe House Artist-in-Residence

4. Branscombe House

Branscombe House is a recently restored Edwardian-style structure located in the residential area of Steveston. One of the earliest settler homes built in the area, the house is significant for its historical association to the development of the area, both as a residential building and through its connection to the Branscombe family’s general store which was located in the young town of Steveston. It reflects the pattern of commercial and related residential development that occurred early in Steveston’s history.

Owned and operated by the City of Richmond, the heritage house has many design features that characterize Edwardian architecture. A 2014 restoration has resulted in two separate interior spaces. Downstairs is a meeting/reception space with



images: weaving loom, guest artist facilitator Atheana Picha leading a 2023 printmaking workshop, Branscombe House exterior

washroom and catering kitchen available for public and private events on a rental basis. Upstairs, there is a self-contained, semi-furnished two-bedroom suite with kitchen, living room and bathroom. Both spaces share laundry, wireless internet and a common foyer entrance. The artist resident and rental clients will both be expected to be respectful about sound levels. Artists are not permitted to play loud amplified music. Partners and children are permitted to reside with the artist. No pets are allowed.

The exterior of the house includes a veranda, picnic bench, rear shed, landscaping with fruit trees and small parking area with public washroom at the back. Parking for the artist is available onsite. The house is situated on a bus route and a multi-way path along a former railway corridor. Historic Steveston Village is approximately 1.5 km away, accessible via the bike path and transit line.

Note: Proposals may include temporary installations, exhibitions and events indoors or outdoors.

Additional photos of the property are available on the City's website: richmond.ca/culture/howartworks/branscombe-house/artistsuite.htm.

5. Richmond, BC

Located in the Metro Vancouver area with an estimated population of 227,000, Richmond is the fourth-most populous city in British Columbia. The city supports about 100,000 jobs in various areas including high technology, services, retail, tourism, light manufacturing, airport services and aviation, agriculture, fishing and government. Richmond is comprised of 17 separate islands located in the mouth of the Fraser River. While the city's physical landscape is shaped by its location in the river estuary, Richmond's cultural landscape continues to be shaped by its inhabitants.

The hən̓q̓əmi̓ñəm speaking First Peoples, including the Musqueam, Tsawwassen and Kwantlen Nations, established villages near the Fraser River estuary and fished, hunted, trapped and gathered throughout the islands for thousands of years. It is believed that at one time as many as 2,000 people lived in the area during the winter. However, when the fish came, the population swelled to as many as 20,000. The hən̓q̓əmi̓ñəm speaking peoples remain today and can be characterized by their unique cultural heritage and longtime stewardship of the South Coast's waters and lands.

Founded as a township in 1880, historically Richmond was home to large numbers of Japanese, Chinese, First Nations and European fishers and cannery workers. The fishery also supported a significant boatbuilding and shipbuilding industry as sailing ships from around the world visited to take on cargoes of canned salmon. Farming has also contributed to the settlement and prosperity of the area.

Today Richmond is home to an immigrant population of 60%, the highest in Canada, and more than half of its population is of Asian descent, many of whom immigrated in the late 1980s, mostly from Hong Kong, Taiwan and, more recently, Mainland China. Two of the largest Buddhist temples in North America reside in Richmond: the International Buddhist Temple and the Ling Yen Mountain Temple.

Richmond is also the location of Vancouver International Airport and was the site of speed skating events during the 2010 Winter Olympic Games at the Richmond Olympic Oval.

Steveston Village is an historic salmon canning centre at the mouth of the south arm of the Fraser River in Richmond. The village is home to several museums and heritage sites, as well as a working harbour for fishing boats, the largest fishing fleet in Canada. London Heritage Farm, the Gulf of Georgia Cannery, Steveston Museum, Japanese Benevolent Society Building and the Britannia Shipyard National Historic Site all contribute to Steveston's status as a favourite tourist destination. The neighbourhood is also a popular filming location and prosperous residential area.



images: Branscombe House, Introduction to Bioplastics workshop facilitated by artist Michelle-Marie Letelier

6. Residency Provisions

The City of Richmond agrees to:

1. Provide a live-in residence for 11 months, located at 4900 Steveston Hwy, Richmond BC, for the artist to use as a studio and home.
2. Connect the artist with community organizations, neighbourhood groups, schools and/or arts organizations for possible projects and partnerships as part of the artist's public programming.
3. Find space and opportunities for the artist's workshops and demonstrations if applicable.
4. Support the artist in developing the plans and market their project and/or programming as appropriate.
5. Share relevant grants and provide community stakeholder connections.
6. Provide up to \$2,000 to reimburse or cover hard costs for public programs.

The Artist agrees to:

1. Establish a presence in the community.
2. Interact with community members and City staff and develop the residency based on those interactions.
3. Provide a minimum of 240 hours towards agreed upon community projects/ programs.
4. Completely produce, present and exhibit (if applicable) the proposed project on schedule.
5. Engage in a regular reporting process with City staff.
6. Be flexible regarding any physical legacy of the residency. Submit, within three months following the completion of the residency, documentation and maintenance plan if there is a physical legacy and a final report.
7. Maintain adequate renters insurance and third-party liability insurance for public programs. The artist is also responsible for all travel and moving expenses.
8. Pay a damage deposit of \$500 for the duration of the residency and complete an inspection of the house with City staff at the beginning and end of the residency. The deposit will be returned upon successful inspection of the house at the end of the term.

7. Timeline

Contingent on the City's project schedule and may change at any time:

August 17, 2026	Application deadline August 17, 2026, 5:00pm PT
September, 2026	Short-listed artists notified
October, 2026	Selected artist notified
Mid-January 2027	Start of residency
June 5 & 6, 2027	Doors Open weekend
September 17, 2027	Culture Days Launch Event
Mid-December 2027	End of residency

8. Online Application

Artists may apply for this opportunity via an online application at richmond.ca/BranscombeResidency.



images: view from No. 3 Road, cranberry harvesting, Terra Nova Rural Park slough