

City of Richmond

ART SERVICES YEAR IN REVIEW 2018

Arts, Culture and
Heritage Services



Richmond Arts Centre



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

– Yoko Ono



Meander, Becki Chan and Milos Begovic

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 6** Community Cultural Development
- 14** Richmond Art Gallery
- 24** Richmond Public Art Program
- 36** Richmond Arts Centre
- 42** Richmond Media Lab
- 46** Beyond Arts Services
- 50** Gateway Theatre
- 55** Appendix 1
- 56** Appendix 2
- 58** Appendix 3

Introduction

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Take Root, Laara Cerman (City Centre Community Centre)

Richmond Arts Strategic Directions



1. Strengthen and support the arts community



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



3. Broaden the diversity of arts experiences and opportunities



4. Expand public awareness and understanding of the arts



5. Broaden the economic potential and contribution of the arts

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



Richmond Youth Dance Company at the Richmond Arts Awards

2018 RICHMOND ARTS AWARDS WINNERS

Arts Education: Ted Hesketh

Artistic Innovation: Kerri-Jo Stewart

Business and the Arts: Ampri Real Estate Development Group

Volunteerism: Dale Bailey

Youth Arts: Emily May

Cultural Leadership: Marina Szijarto

Community Cultural Development

Richmond Arts Awards ❤️💬

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

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

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

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



Emily May, Recipient of the 2018 Youth Arts Award

Arts and Culture Grant Program

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

– Richmond Singers

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

In February, Council approved the distribution of \$112,059. A total of \$89,159 in Operating Assistance was distributed to eleven recipients and \$22,900 in Project Assistance went to six

adjudicated programs and projects. (See Appendix 1). Over the summer, each of the grant recipients met individually with staff to discuss the progress of their programs and share feedback about the grant application process.

Lulu Series: Art in the City

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

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

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

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



Darren O'Donnell's Haircuts by Children



Amarjeet Singh



Culture Days in
Cultural Centre Plaza



The Star Band at Culture Days



Culture Days at the
Concord Pacific ARTS Units

CULTURE DAYS BY THE NUMBERS

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

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

Culture Days

The tenth annual Culture Days (September 28 to 30, 2018) was another highlight of the year with Richmond continuing to be recognized as a national leader in this Canada-wide movement to raise awareness, accessibility, participation and engagement in the arts with free, hands-on and interactive activities.

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

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

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

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

– Catherine Adamson

Writer-in-Residence ❤️👋💬

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

– participant

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

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

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



Pop-up Kiosk at Lansdowne Centre

Arts Strategy Community Engagement ❤️🏠👋💬📈

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



Richmond Maritime Festival



Richmond World Festival



Richmond Cherry Blossom Festival

Richmond Maritime Festival ❤️🏠👤📈

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

"Our family loves all of it. The variety of different music, interactive activities, wandering performers is excellent."

– Maritime Festival visitor

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

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

Richmond World Festival ❤️🏠👤📈

"I loved every thing about this festival."

– World Festival visitor

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

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

Richmond Cherry Blossom Festival 🇨🇦 🏠 🤝 📈

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

Richmond Canada Day in Steveston 🇨🇦 🏠 🤝 📈

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



Magic! Performing at Richmond World Festival

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

– Workshop Participant

Branscombe House Artist-in-Residence 🏠👐💬

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

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

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

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

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



Branscombe House Artist Residency activity

Richmond Artist Directory E-Blasts ❤️📈

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

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

Richmond Cultural Centre ❤️🏠👤💬📈

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

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

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





Ho Tam: Cover to Cover opening reception

Richmond Art Gallery

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

2018 EXHIBITION ATTENDANCE

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

Exhibitions

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

GALLERY

TRANSFERENCE

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

January 13–March 18

Guest Curator: Hannamari Jalovaara

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

FOR THE LEFT HAND ALONE

Karilynn Ming Ho

April 6–May 27

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

I was quite moved by your video. Powerful and sensitive, inspiring.

– visitor (*For The Left Hand Alone* exhibition)

COVER TO COVER

Ho Tam

April 6–May 27

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



Fabric Faces,
Saskia Jetten (2012) from *Transference*



For the Left Hand Alone,
Karilynn Ming Ho



Home Made Home: Lululiving,
Germaine Koh

HOME MADE HOME

Germaine Koh

June 17–August 26

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

Thank you for sharing this as art and bringing the issue to the masses.

– visitor (*Home Made Home* exhibition)

TO MY UNBORN CHILD

Wen-Li Chen

September 15–November 10

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

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

IN SUSPENDED SILENCE

Xiaojing Yan

September 15–November 10

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

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

– visitor (Pierre Vassura exhibition)

PIERRE VASSURA: NEW WORK 1983–2018

November 24, 2018–January 20, 2019

Curators: Jonathon Middleton and Eli Boronowsky

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

OFF-SITE

CAPTURE FESTIVAL ON THE CANADA LINE

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

April 1–September 1

In partnership with Richmond Public Art and Capture Festival

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



Pierre Vassura:
New Work installation



Farooq Rai,
Peace and Harmony opening reception



Barbershops, Ho Tam,
Lansdowne Canada Line Station

PEACE AND HARMONY

Farooq M. Rai

August 31–September 4

Richmond Cultural Centre Upper Rotunda

Presented by Richmond Art Gallery and Richmond World Festival

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

DIFFERENT WAYS

Terrance Houle and Lisa Birke

August 31–September 1

In partnership with Cinevolution Media Arts Society

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

ARTIST INTERVIEWS ON VIDEO

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

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



ARTIST SALON SERIES

Artist Salon is an ongoing program for visual artists supported through the City of Richmond's Arts and Culture Project Assistance grant program. The series connects local emerging and established artists, particularly those who live or work in Richmond, with professional artists and arts workers to provide information, feedback and discussion on career development opportunities. The program also offers a space for local artists to connect and network, building a stronger artist community in Richmond.

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

– Artist Salon regular, Naomi H.

Community Outreach and Programs 🏠👤💬

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ongoing Public Programs 🖐️💬

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

FAMILY SUNDAY

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

RAG YOUTH COLLECTIVE

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



ECUAD YOUTH ART + CULTURE LAB

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

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

— *Art at Work* participant

ART AT WORK SERIES

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

Work's free professional development workshops for artists included one led by RAG curator Nan Capogna on preparing exhibition proposals. (See page 32 for further details)

CITY HALL GALLERIA EXHIBITIONS

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

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



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



Weaving Our Way workshop

WEAVING OUR WAY WITH MUSQUEAM ARTIST DEBORAH SPARROW

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

2018 SCHOOL ART PROGRAM BY THE NUMBERS

129 school tours and workshops

2 teacher Professional Development Day workshops

2,817 students visited

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

– Leanne Hers, Tait Elementary

School Art Program

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

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

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

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

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



Support



Art Spaces



Diversity



Public Awareness



Economic Potential

RICHMOND ART GALLERY ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mila Kostic, President

Kyla Ellwyn, Director

Kristal Hamakawa, Treasurer

Gina Holliday Jones, Vice-President

Jade Hsi-Jung Wang, Director

Jas Lally, Director

Jenny Ho, Director

Marcus Prasad, Secretary

Lei Tian, Director

Simranpreet Anand, Director

Council Liaison: Councillor Carol Day

Funding

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

RICHMOND ART GALLERY ASSOCIATION

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

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

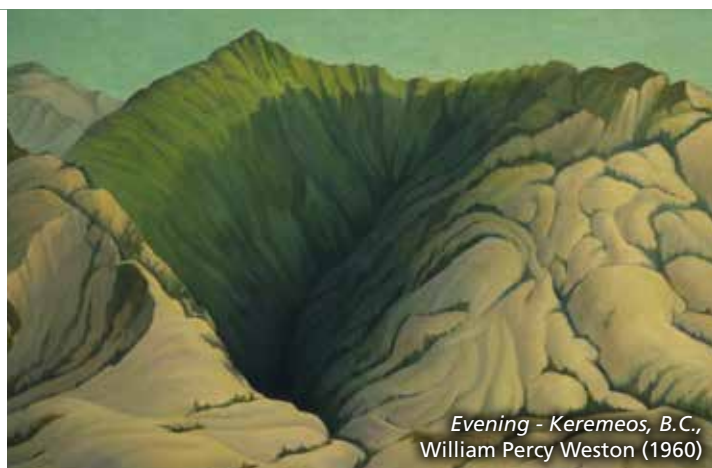
In 2018, RAGA hosted *Savour: High Tea and Auction*. The event was a joyous success with more than \$13,000 in funds raised. RAGA thanks auction artists and sponsors for their support.



Savour: RAGA's High Tea and Art Auction



Rocky Mountains, Waterton Park,
Toni Onley (1990)



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

Photos: Lance Blomgren

RAG PERMANENT COLLECTION

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

Partnerships 🏠👤💬📈

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

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

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



Stepping Stones, Nadine Flagel and Diedre Pinnock

RICHMOND PUBLIC ART PROGRAM TO-DATE:

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

Richmond Public Art Program

The Richmond Public Art Program provides a means for including art in the creation of a vibrant, healthy and sustainable city. In addition to permanent and temporary artworks, the Public Art Program offers a stimulating program of educational and community engagement activities to increase public awareness of the arts and encourage public dialogue about art and issues of interest and concern to Richmond residents.

Civic Public Art Program 🖐️💬

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

STEPPING STONES

by Nadine Flagel and Deirdre Pinnock

City Centre Community Centre, 5900 Minoru Boulevard

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

Awards and Recognition

BRITISH COLUMBIA RECREATION AND PARKS ASSOCIATION PROGRAM OF EXCELLENCE

Pollinator Pasture

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

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

CREATIVE CITY SUMMIT—YEAR IN REVIEW

Richmond Canada 150 Public Art Program

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

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

No. 2 Road North Pump Station

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



Richmond's Firefighter,
Nathan Scott

RICHMOND'S FIREFIGHTER

by Nathan Scott

Fire Hall No. 1, 6960 Gilbert Road

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

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

— Diedre Pinnock, artist

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, RICHMOND?

by Sylvia Grace Borda

Minoru Centre for Active Living, 7191 Granville Avenue

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

NO. 2 ROAD PUMP STATION

by Ted Feenstra, Randy Sharp and Germaine Koh

6451 River Road

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

TAKE ROOT

by Laara Cerman

City Centre Community Centre, 5900 Minoru Boulevard

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



No. 2 Road Pump Station



What are you doing, Richmond? Sylvia Grace Borda



Alder Canopy,
Joel Berman



The Shape of Things,
Kelly Lycan



We Three,
Dan Bergeron

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 2018, the following projects were completed:

ALDER CANOPY

by Joel Berman

12733 Steveston Highway and 10780 No. 5 Road

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

THE SHAPE OF THINGS

by Kelly Lycan

5580 No. 3 Road

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

WE THREE

by Dan Bergeron

3411 and 3391 Sexsmith Road

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



2018 PUBLIC ART FUN FACTS

190 artist submissions were received for
11 Public Art Calls

6 Richmond artists contracted for Public
Art commissions

27 Community Groups engaged to
inform and create public art projects

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

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

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

Strategic Direction

CAPSTAN VILLAGE PUBLIC ART PLAN

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

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

Community Public Art Programs

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

PIANOS ON THE STREET 2018

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

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

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

CAPTURE PHOTOGRAPHY FESTIVAL ON CANADA LINE

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

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

NO. 3 ROAD ART COLUMN EXHIBITION 12: MIGRATION

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

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

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

ART WRAPS

The Public Art Program partners with Engineering and Public Works, Parks, Transportation, Environmental Programs and Heritage Services to beautify new and existing utility boxes through the City. In 2018, art by Desiree Pattersen, April Lacheur and Tasli Shaw was applied to more than 30 recycling units at Garry Point Park.

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



*Untitled (Salmon),
Desiree Pattersen*



*Perimeter,
David Semeniuk*



*Pattern Migration,
Renee Van Halm*



Canada 150 Legacy Works

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

MEANDER

by Becki Chan and Milos Begovic

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



SEWER ACCESS COVERS

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

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

Engaging Artists in Community Public Art Program 🏠👤💬

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

FANFARE

by Faith Moosang

Minoru Arenas, 7551 Minoru Gate

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

GREAT BLUE HERON

by Donald Gunn and Bryn Finer

Hamilton McLean Park, 22500 McLean Avenue

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

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

– Participant, Minoru Seniors Legacy Stories

MINORU SENIORS LEGACY STORIES: LOOKING BACK, LOOKING FORWARD

by Catrina Megumi Longmuir

Minoru Place Activity Centre, 7660 Minoru Gate

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

The project was commissioned in partnership with Minoru Seniors Society.

TIDE WATER TALES

by Artist's Rendering Tales Collective Inc. (ARTCi)

Britannia Shipyards National Historic Site, 5180 Westwater Drive

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



Great Blue Heron,
Donald Gunn and Bryn Finer



Fanfare,
Faith Moosang



Minoru Stories,
Catrina Megumi Longmuir

Public Art Education and Engagement Program ❤️👋💬

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

2018 ART AT WORK SYMPOSIUM: IGNITING CONNECTIONS

Richmond Cultural Centre, 7700 Minoru Gate

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

- learn about and share ways artists and other creative professionals are engaging community as part of their practice;
- support the growth and development of the arts and cultural sector;
- provide artists and cultural workers with practical, inspiring and career-enhancing programming; and
- encourage networking and sharing within the arts and culture community.

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



Art at Work Symposium



Pop Up Radio, Culture Days



Bus Tour

ART AT WORK WORKSHOP SERIES

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

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

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

by Sharon Brass

Richmond Cultural Centre Plaza, 7700 Minoru Gate

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



PUBLIC ART BUS TOURS

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

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

2018 RPAAC MEMBERS:

Jennifer Heine, Chair

Mackenzie Biggar, Vice Chair

Glen Andersen

Samantha Kim Herrera

Rebecca Lin

Vicki Lingle

Shawne MacIntyre

Hall Owens

Sheng Zhao

Council Liaison: Councillor Linda McPhail

2018 CULTURE DAYS: ON BEAT POP-UP RADIO STATION

by Richmond Youth Media Lab Program

Richmond Cultural Centre Plaza, 7700 Minoru Gate

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

Richmond Public Art Advisory Committee

The Richmond Public Art Advisory Committee (RPAAC) is a Council-appointed voluntary advisory committee that provides input on public art policy, planning, education and promotion. At monthly Committee meetings, members receive presentations on new civic, private development and community project proposals and provide feedback and recommendations.





Arts Centre children's visual art class

Richmond Arts Centre

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

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

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

ARTS EDUCATION PROGRAMS BY THE NUMBERS:

400+	courses
7,232	registered students
1,184	waitlisted
30+	professional instructors
75,082+	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 instruction. The programs developed and offered in 2018 ensured the community had affordable access to a strong base of introductory and beginner arts education programs as well as an increased number of higher-level learning opportunities.

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

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

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

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

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

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



Richmond Potters Club demonstration



Richmond Youth Dance Company, Year End Gala

Public Presentations

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

SCHOOL YEAR DANCE RECITAL

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

SCHOOL YEAR DANCE GALA

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

RICHMOND YOUTH DANCE COMPANY SHOWCASE

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

MUSIC RECITALS

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

RICHMOND ARTS AWARDS

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

STUDENT ART SHOWCASE

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

Community Outreach



Black History Month exhibition

ART AND MENTAL HEALTH

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

COMMUNITY ART EXHIBITIONS

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

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

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



Art Truck Program Participants,
Brighthouse Elementary



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

– Brighthouse Participant



ART TRUCK SCHOOL YEAR COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAM

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

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

Goals

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



Richmond Chinese Artists Club

RESIDENT ART GROUPS

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

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

Resident Art Groups at the Richmond Arts Centre:

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

Special Events

ART ABOUT FINN SLOUGH

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

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

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

2018 CHILDREN'S ARTS FESTIVAL FUN FACTS

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



Children's Arts Festival



Children's Arts Festival

CHILDREN'S ARTS FESTIVAL

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

The event celebrated its 10th anniversary with a fun-filled public day of creativity and entertainment on Family Day, February 12. Attendees of all ages wandered through multiple zones, enjoyed performances and participated in hands-on arts and crafts activities. For the rest of the week, school children and their teachers experienced a tailor-made version of the Festival. For many of the schools, this event has become an annual tradition.

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

GRAND PLIÉ

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

Community Partners ❤️👤📈

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



Remembrance Day ceremony live simulcast

RICHMOND MEDIA LAB BY THE NUMBERS:

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



New RYMP Award trophy

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

Richmond Media Lab

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

Richmond Youth Media Program (RYMP) ❤️👤📈

The Richmond Youth Media Program (RYMP), a free referral-based program for youth ages 13–24, completed its eighth year as a signature offering of the Richmond Media Lab. RYMP members gain skills in media arts and built connections in the community, with a focus on asset development. In 2018, a total of 30 program members, 120 guests and 21 adults (including youth workers and professional artists) spent 2,641 hours in the Media Lab and at community outreach events.

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

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

AWARD-WINNING RYMP MEMBERS

2018 RICHMOND ARTS AWARDS

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

WHAT ARE YOU DOING RICHMOND? PHOTO CHALLENGE

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

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

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

SMART FUND 20-YEAR CELEBRATION

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

RICHMOND REMEMBERS

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

MODULAR HOUSING PSA

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

DOORS OPEN: DROP-IN

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

YOUTH ART MART

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



RYMP Awards

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



Support



Art Spaces



Diversity



Public Awareness



Economic Potential



Careers in Media Arts



Filmmaking



Painting Culture Centre steps for Pride Week

Programs & Activities 🖐️ ↗️

MEDIA ARTS EDUCATION COURSES

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

YOUTH WEEK: CAREERS IN MEDIA ARTS

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

PRIDE WEEK

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



Pop-up Radio Station

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

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



RYMP drop-in



Media Lab during Culture Days

SMOKING CESSATION PSA

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

MEDIA CREATION SERVICES

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

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

Partners and Funders

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

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



Lunar New Year Celebration, City Centre Community Centre

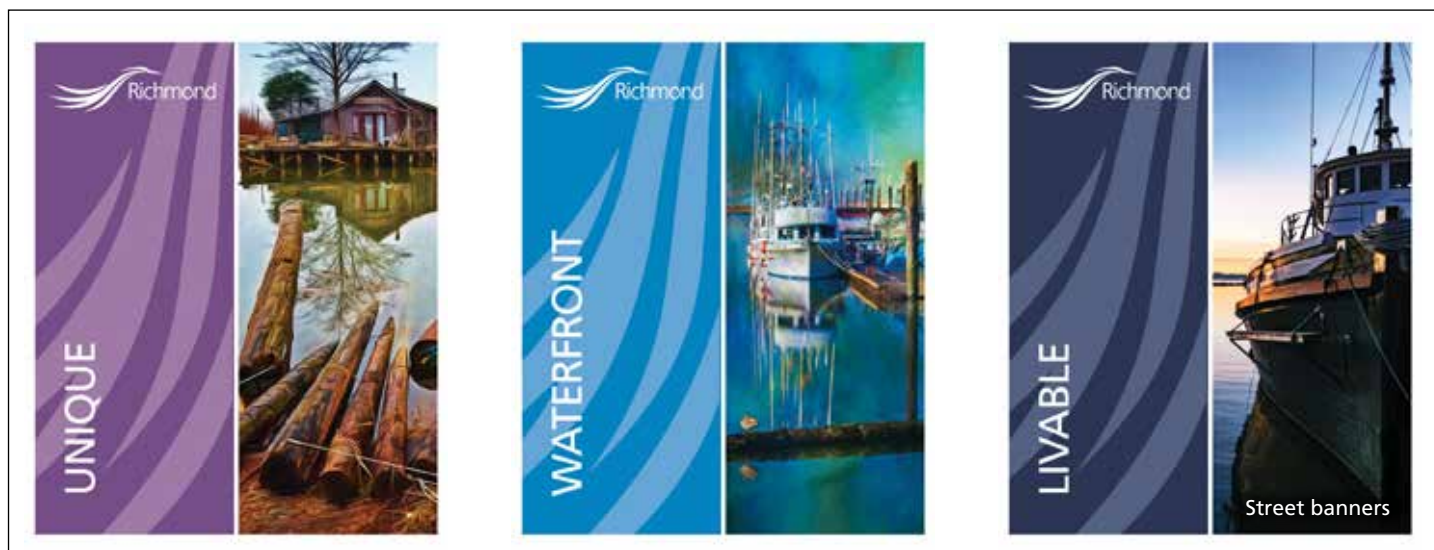
Beyond Arts Services

While much of Richmond's arts programs, exhibitions, events and experiences are offered through the Department of Arts, Culture & Heritage, the arts play a vital role in the activities of other areas in the Community Services Division, including Parks Programs, Community Social Development and Community Recreation.

2018 Street Banner Contest 🏠👤💬

The 2018 street banner contest, organized and coordinated by Richmond's Parks Department, was launched on August 31, 2017 and concluded with the banner unveiling ceremony on January 30, 2018. The contest attracted more than 200 original submissions consisting of photographs, graphic art, collages and other art medium formats. A community judging panel reviewed the submissions and selected 20 designs as semi-finalists. The public was then invited to vote for their favourite designs on the City's Facebook page. The Top 10 designs with the most 'Likes' were chosen as the winners.

The winning artists were Beth Belcourt, Vladimir Cheinman, Ron Coutts, Crystal Chan, Eugene Hernandez, Bebe Zhang and Victor Jacinto.



Community Associations 🤝💬

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

Participating associations include City Centre Community Association, East Richmond Community Association, Hamilton Community Association, Sea Island Community Association, South Arm Community Association, Steveston Community Society, Thompson Community Association, West Richmond Community Association and Minoru Seniors Society.

City Centre Community Centre ❤️🏠🤝💬

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

THE HARVEST FULL MOON PROJECT

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



Harvest Full Moon Celebration

INSTRUMENT MINI PETTING ZOO

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

HOLIDAYS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

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

ART CAFÉ

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

INDIGENOUS DAY CELEBRATION

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

FOOTPRINTS

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



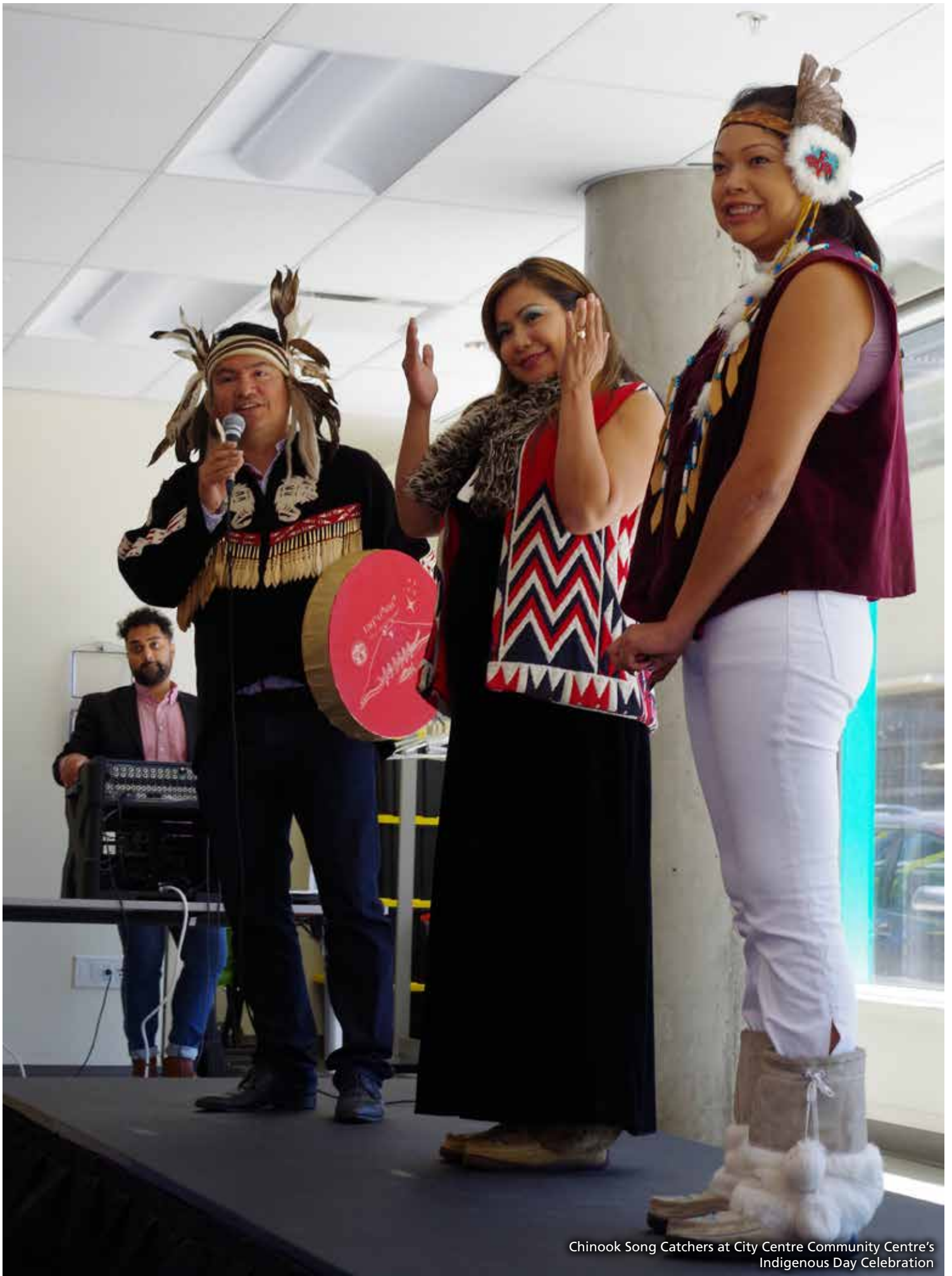
Indigenous Day Celebration



Instrument Mini Petting Zoo



Harvest Full Moon Celebration



Chinook Song Catchers at City Centre Community Centre's Indigenous Day Celebration



Salt-Water Moon. Joseph Michael Photography

MISSION

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

Gateway Theatre

Gateway Theatre is managed and operated by Richmond Gateway Theatre Society, a registered charity and not-for-profit organization. Supported by the City, the theatre facility is Richmond's live performing arts hub and an important local rental venue, home to many recitals, events and performances produced by community and professional organisations. In 2018, the facility drew audiences in excess of 33,000 to more than 152 performances.

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

Live Professional Theatre

SIGNATURE SERIES

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

SALT-WATER MOON

MainStage, February 15–24, 2018

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

I LOST MY HUSBAND

Studio B, March 15–24, 2018

“Fresh and imaginative”

- Audience Member

The world premiere of the English translation of *J'ai perdu mon mari* by Catherine Léger was a highlight of 2018, and prior to opening night, Gateway sold out every seat in the house. In *I Lost My Husband*, Gateway favourite Meghan Gardiner played Evelyn, a small business owner who loses her husband to an attractive young bartender in a karaoke bar bet. Afterwards, she's not sure she wants him back. Diane Brown, Artistic Director of Ruby Slippers Theatre, directed a stellar cast in this hilarious and subversive feminist comedy.

NINE DRAGONS

MainStage, April 12–21, 2018

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



LES BELLES-SOEURS

MainStage, September 27–October 6, 2018

“...moments of terrific
theatricality and a cast to die for”

- The Georgia Straight

Gateway launched its 2018–2019 Season with the BC professional premiere of Michel Tremblay's iconic comedy-drama *Les Belles-soeurs*. When this play premiered 50 years ago, it caused a sensation for the way that it realistically portrayed Montreal working class people, and Tremblay revolutionized Quebec drama with this masterpiece. In this stunning production directed by Diane Brown, fifteen of the Lower Mainland's finest actresses graced the stage in raucous fashion.



It's a Wonderful Life. Photo by David Cooper

EMPIRE OF THE SON

Studio B, November 8–17, 2018

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

- Audience Member

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

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE

MainStage, December 6–31, 2018

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

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

– Musical Theatre Camp student

Theatre Education ❤️👋💬

GATEWAY ACADEMY

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

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

SECONDARY SCHOOL OUTREACH

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

CONSERVATORY

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



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

2018 RENTAL CLIENTS

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

MENTORING OPPORTUNITIES

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

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

Community Rental Events

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



Photo by Yunxuan Pan

APPENDIX 1

2018 Arts and Culture Grant Program

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

OPERATING ASSISTANCE

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

PROJECT ASSISTANCE

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

APPENDIX 2

How Art Works

The following five themes comprise the How Art Works campaign:

ART'S IMPACT ON STUDENTS

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

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

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

HEALTHY LIVING THROUGH ART

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

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

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

ART STRENGTHENS COMMUNITIES

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

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

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

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

A STRONGER ECONOMY THROUGH ART

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

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

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

ART IMPROVES QUALITY OF LIFE

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

APPENDIX 3

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

CIVIC PUBLIC ART PROJECTS:

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

PRIVATE PUBLIC ART PROJECTS:

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



Weaving Our Way workshop, Debra Sparrow

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

– Virgil Abloh,
fashion designer



City of Richmond

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

Telephone: 604-276-4000

www.richmond.ca