



City of Richmond

ARTS UPDATE 2014

Arts, Culture and Heritage Services

The arts and culture are powerful tools with which to engage communities in various levels of change. They are a means to public dialogue, contribute to the development of a community's creative learning, create healthy communities capable of action, provide a powerful tool for community mobilization and activism, and help build community capacity and leadership.

Creative City Network of Canada, 2005

Introduction

In 2014, Richmond continued its journey to advance the arts and received national recognition as one of the top three cities in Canada in Culture Days, a nation-wide movement to raise awareness, accessibility, participation and engagement in the arts with free, hands-on and interactive activities.

Many factors contribute to making Richmond an appealing and livable city, and the arts play an important role in everyday life by instilling meaning and a sense of place for citizens. An investment in the arts is an investment in our community's quality of life. The Richmond Arts Strategy 2012–2017 was developed to help guide the City's actions to make Richmond a city with a thriving cultural life where opportunities for participation in the arts are accessible, artists feel they have a place and are seen as contributing to the community, cultural industries are welcomed and cultural activity is visible and supported.

To help strengthen the infrastructure of arts and culture organizations and show support for careers of local artists and a wide range of artistic and cultural activity, the City continued its Arts and Culture Grant program by distributing over \$100,000 in Operating and Project Assistance grants to recipients.

In 2014, the Richmond Art Gallery's exhibition and public educational events contributed to the growth of a vibrant cultural community by offering a diverse line of professional artists. One of the year's highlights was the exhibition, *City as Site: Public Art in Richmond* which was presented in collaboration with the City's Public Art Program and showcased public art in Richmond. The Public Art Program now boasts a collection of 125 artworks and continues to expand its Public Art Education and Engagement Program.

The Library/Cultural Centre lived up to its reputation as Richmond's cultural hub by hosting numerous well-attended events such as the Children's Arts Festival, Multicultural Festival, Your Kontinent: Richmond International and Media Arts Festival and the theatrical production, *Ga Ting*. A growing number of local artists also had the opportunity to exhibit their artwork in the Cultural Centre, Gateway Theatre and Thompson Community Centre.

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In 2014, the Richmond Arts Centre further developed its array of arts education programming and introduced the Adult Dance Company to meet community demand. Children and youth classes were popular and continued to support the overall wellness of the community through the combination of creative thinking and skill building. And, the Media Lab increased its popularity as a community resource with increasing volunteer hours and outreach connections.

The 2014 Arts Update summarizes the progress made towards achieving the goals of the Arts Strategy. Throughout the document you will see coloured circles representing each of the five strategic directions listed below. These circles show how the year's highlights help to advance the strategic directions.

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**

Community Cultural Development

2014 Lulu Series: Art in the City 4 5

The 2014 Lulu Series of guest speakers presented the following free-to-the-public events about Art in the City and its importance to creating connections between citizens and their communities:

- March 13: 68 attendees heard Cath Brunner discuss her work as the Public Art Program Director of 4Culture, the cultural services agency for King County, Washington. As a specialist in managing large-scale integrated public art projects, Cath showcased several innovative examples of art that transforms public utilities and infrastructure into attractive and tangible community assets that positively impact the public realm and civic dialogue. The talk was preceded by a short performance by champion slam poet, Johnny MacRae.
- April 10: 62 guests enjoyed a presentation by artist Richard Tetrault, who described his experience creating large-scale murals in Vancouver's downtown eastside. His often epic-in-size public artworks typically involve youth mentorship, community activism, extensive planning and outreach among local residents. A short performance by Killer Apps—a group that plays original music on iPads, iPods and iPhones—opened this talk.
- May 15: 97 people attended a presentation by the award-winning journalist Charles Montgomery, author of *Happy City: Transforming our Lives through Urban Design*. Drawing on brain science, psychology and personal stories, Charles explained how the design of cities—from commute times to green spaces—influences how we feel, behave and treat each other in ways we may never realize. His talk was preceded by a performance by M'Girl, an ensemble of indigenous women whose percussive-based hand drum songs blend harmonies into a contemporary gospel style.

2014 Richmond Arts Awards 1 4

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

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

87 nominations were reviewed and finalists were promoted with website announcements, emails to the arts community and a series of half-page ads in the *Richmond News*, each highlighting two of the six categories. The winners were announced at the Richmond Arts Awards ceremony in Council Chambers on May 6, as follows:

- Arts Education: The Arts Connection;
- Artistic Innovation: Richmond in 3D;
- Business and the Arts: Accent Inns;
- Volunteerism: Loraine Wellman;
- Youth Arts: Andrew Cohen; and
- Cultural Leadership: RichCity Idol.

Mayor Brodie presided over the ceremony which was attended by approximately 100 people. Special guests included Provost and Vice President Academic, Kwantlen Polytechnic University, Dr. Sal Ferreras; Richmond Arts Coalition President, Marina Szijarto; Latin/Flamenco performers, Sangre Morena; father and daughter guitar duo, Roland and Emma Nipp; and two members of the Richmond Youth Media Program, Steven Yau (aka DJ Zazz) and Iggy Chan (aka DJ Varete).

Arts and Culture Grant Program 1 5

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

In Fall 2013, following a lengthy technical development process, all City grant applications including those for the Arts and Culture Grants Program were made available online in an effort to streamline the process for both applicants and administrators.

On February 11, Council approved the distribution of \$104,040. A total of \$62,170 in Operating Assistance was distributed to nine recipients and \$41,870 in Project Assistance went to twelve adjudicated programs and projects. 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.

Culture Days, September 26–28 1 3 4 5

The fifth annual Culture Days was a resounding success with Richmond continuing to be recognized as a leader in this Canada-wide movement to raise awareness, accessibility, participation and engagement in the arts with free, hands-on and interactive activities. In May, the City of Richmond was honoured to receive the inaugural national Culture Days Marketing Award, presented at the second annual Culture Days National Congress in Ottawa.

With a record 93 activities registered at culturedays.ca (placing Richmond in the Top Three cities in Canada and representing 30% of Culture Days activities in the Metro Vancouver area), residents were invited to learn about and experience the world of textile arts, culinary arts, theatre, photography, music, dance, sculpture and more. Attendance over the three days was estimated at 5,000.

Participating artists and cultural organizations reported satisfaction with the program that provided free promotional materials and advertising support. 97% of those surveyed said they would do it again next year and recommend that others participate, and 100% felt that it was a "positive experience."

Promotion for Culture Days matched that of 2013, with a 16-page illustrated guide with activity descriptions, city maps and transit routes to more than 30 locations. Street banners were seen in the Minoru precinct as well as Steveston Village. In addition, the *Richmond Review* continued their media sponsorship with an ad campaign that peaked with an eight-page pull-out guide inside the fifth annual Fall Arts & Culture issue.



2014 Richmond Arts Awards



Minoru Chapel Opera

Writer-in-Residence 1 3 4

In Fall 2014, with support from the Canada Council for the Arts, Richmond hosted its third Writer-in-Residence program at the Richmond Public Library, Richmond Media Lab and Minoru Place Activity Centre. Stephen Leacock medal-winning journalist, playwright and author Mark Leiren-Young led a series of events in October and November that gave Richmond residents the opportunity to engage with a professional author.

The program opened with a public reading, Q&A and launch event on September 26 (as part of Culture Days) where six free upcoming programs were introduced: Telling Your Story–ESL Writers, Telling Your Story–Older Adults, Words Online–Adults, Words Online–Youth, Writing as a Career–Youth and Manuscript Consultations for eight local aspiring authors to have samples of their writing evaluated and discussed one-on-one with Mark.

As with previous residencies, the participants of the ESL writing program had samples of writing published in a chapbook and did a public reading at the library. The residency culminated at a public event at the Cultural Centre Performance Hall that featured youth in the Words Online program who had collaborated with participants of the Older Adults program to create a video presentation. The residency was featured on the front page of the *Richmond Review's* Fall Arts & Culture issue on September 24.

Richmond Maritime Festival 2 3 4 5

In its eleventh incarnation and fourth year as a multi-faceted large-scale cultural event, the Richmond Maritime Festival at Britannia Shipyards National Historic Site delighted an estimated 40,000 attendees from August 8–10. The heritage site was transformed with inventive art installations, roving performers, unusual characters, staged events and many creative interactive activities involving local artists and guilds. The festival launched a new annual tradition of commissioning the poster illustration from a Richmond artist and a new mascot puppet “Rikki The Rat” was introduced.

Minoru Chapel Opera 2 3 4

In 2014, the Minoru Chapel Opera series offered a spring season of three concerts (each with a matinee and evening performance) in the historic Minoru Chapel. On March 5, Burnaby Lyric Opera performed music from Puccini’s *La Bohème* to 113 attendees; on April 2, Vancouver Opera presented “Scenes Rarely Seen,” a showcase of rare works, to 74 guests; and on May 7, Opera di Concertisti performed a Mozart and Strauss-themed concert to 80 opera fans. Due to restoration work being undertaken at Minoru Chapel in the Fall of 2014, the Fall Minoru Chapel Opera series was not scheduled.

Richmond Art Gallery

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

Exhibitions 3 4

The Richmond Art Gallery presented six exhibitions (accompanied by educational events that illuminated issues underlying the work) in 2014, representing emerging to senior artists based locally and across Canada, to bring a range of contemporary issues and practices to this community.

Memory: International Mail Art Exhibition & Swap

Recognized as one of the largest Mail Art Exhibitions in Canada, the exhibition closed on January 12. Mail Art is a long-standing tradition where artists exchange artworks via the postal system. 700 artists participated to exhibit over 1,200 artworks from 46 different countries. After the exhibit, each artwork was traded so that participating artists received a “swap” in the mail. In early spring, this exhibition was mounted online, so that visitors from all over the world can view the exhibition in its entirety.

Keith Langergraber: *Theatre of the Exploding Sun* February 8 to April 6, 2014

Theatre of the Exploding Sun was a multi-faceted project by Vancouver-based artist Keith Langergraber, produced by the Kelowna Art Gallery in partnership with the Southern Alberta Art Gallery in Lethbridge.

The exhibition focused on a three-part film, *Time Traveller Trilogy*, and included seven sculptures and two suites of drawings reflecting the artist’s interest in sci-fi culture.

Accompanying the exhibition was a 104-page, full-colour exhibition catalogue with essays by Liz Wylie (KAG curator), Ryan Doherty, Charlotte Townsend-Gault, Peter Morin and Eton Corrasable, as well as reproductions of works of art.

Attendance: 2,846.

Evan Lee: *Elders and Roots* April 26 to June 15, 2014

Elders and Roots, guest curated by Bill Jeffries, included images from Vancouver-based artist Evan Lee’s series of *Ginseng Root Studies*, as well as a series of pencil drawings of elderly Chinese women (*Old Women*, 2008) and the video *Manual Labour* showing a man working on the site of a new house under construction in East Vancouver. The exhibition referenced topics such as migration, globalization, odd similarities in appearance, the resilience of the elderly and surveillance. An illustrated brochure with text by Bill Jeffries was published to accompany the exhibition.

Attendance: 2,569.



Theatre of the Exploding Sun, Keith Langergraber.

Lucie Chan and Marigold Santos: *Attachments* **June 27 to August 17, 2014**

This exhibition of artwork by Lucie Chan (Vancouver) and Marigold Santos (Montreal) explored identity and notions of attachment and separation to “self”, “others” and “home”. These artists construct surreal worlds derived from biographical details, anecdotes and imaginative wanderings. Santos frequently draws from her immigrant experience and Filipino folklore for inspiration in creating her large-scale drawings and paintings. Guyanese-born Chan frequently brings the stories of others into her intimate drawings, sharing what she calls a “cultural lesson.”

Attendance: 2,556.

City as Site: Public Art in Richmond **September 6 to October 26, 2014**

Organized in partnership with the City of Richmond Public Art Program, *City as Site* was the first exhibition to highlight Richmond’s Public Art Program. The exhibition featured several public art projects by Glen Andersen, Nicole Dextras, Janet Echelman, Jacqueline Metz & Nancy Chew, and Carlyn Yandle that represented the different ways public art is funded in Richmond—through civic funding, private development, community projects and the program’s newer series of temporary projects and socially engaged artist performances. In addition to models, drawings, videos, large-scale photographs and related information about the artists and their work, the exhibition included a presentation of all public artworks in the City.

Attendance: 2,228.

Interweavings

November 15, 2014 to January 11, 2015

Organized in partnership with the YVR Art Foundation, and with funding support from the Vancouver Airport Authority, this exhibition highlighted the significance of mentoring relationships in First Nations culture and explored how tradition informs artists’ works in contemporary and traditional contexts. The exhibition featured paintings, woodcarving, weaving and jewelry by selected emerging First Nations artists from British Columbia—Morgan Green, James Harry, Cody Lecoy, Latham Mack, Ariane Medley, Tamara Skubovius and Marika Swan—all of whom received scholarships from the Foundation. Also included were works by their mentors Rick Adkins, Dempsey Bob, Joe David, Isabel Rorick, Grace Williams, Xwalacktun (Rick Harry) and Lawrence Paul Yuxweluptun. An illustrated exhibition catalogue was produced.

Attendance: 2,506.



Attachments, Lucie Chan and Marigold Santos

Outreach Exhibitions

City Hall Galleria

As part of its community outreach program, the Richmond Art Gallery helps to organize exhibitions of quality artwork by local artists for display off-site at Richmond City Hall. In 2014 the Gallery mounted work by:

- Xiao Ming Xu, paintings, January 14 to March 4, 2014;
- Joyce Hu, photographs, March 4 to April 28, 2014;
- Ximeng Guo, paintings, April 28 to June 17, 2014;
- Tony Chu, mixed media, June 17 to Aug 26;
- Wayne Worden, photography Aug 26 to Sept 30; and
- Richmond Society for Community Living, Sept 30 to Nov 10.

Artist Interviews on Video

For each exhibition the Gallery produces video interviews of the artists talking about their work. In 2014, the Gallery produced five artist interviews:

- Keith Langergraber for *Keith Langergraber: Theatre of the Exploding Sun*;
- Evan Lee for *Evan Lee: Elders and Roots*;
- Lucie Chan and Marigold Santos for *Lucie Chan & Marigold Santos: Attachments*;
- Glen Andersen, Nicole Dextras, Jacqueline Metz & Nancy Chew, and Carlyn Yandle for *City as Site: Public Art in Richmond*; and
- Morgan Green, James Harry and Xwalacktun (Rick Harry) for *Interweavings*.

Meet the Artist Videos

The Richmond Art Gallery launched a new program called *Meet the Artist*, thanks to grants from Metro Vancouver and the City of Richmond. This program expands the existing Artist Interview videos to include videos that introduce children and youth to local and regional artists. This year, five *Meet the Artist* videos were produced, for Keith Langergraber, Evan Lee, Lucie Chan, Nicole Dextras and Morgan Green. Students visiting the gallery or watching the videos in their classrooms have been able to listen to artists talk about their career paths, where they get their ideas, and what life is like as an artist. The project was undertaken to provide role models for aspiring young artists. Parts of the videos are screened during the School Art Program Workshops to participating classes, presenting the artists who exhibit in the Gallery. This significant initiative is also made available to the public via YouTube and contributes to the cumulative history of Canadian art.

Artist Talks

In addition to the videos, the Gallery regularly organizes artist talks with exhibiting artists, who speak of their artistic development and their current work, through tours of the exhibitions and short talks about the artists' work.

Panel Discussions and Presentations

During the Evan Lee exhibition, the Gallery hosted the panel, *A Conversation about Collecting Contemporary Art*, co-sponsored by the Contemporary Art Society of Vancouver. Wil Aballe, dealer and owner of Wil Aballe Art Projects; Kate Bellringer, Director of Canadian and Contemporary Art Auctions at Maynards Fine Art & Antiques; and Donna Partridge, private collector and Manager of Art Rental & Sales at the Vancouver Art Gallery, shared their tips on collecting, and responded to questions. In another program related to the Evan Lee exhibition, historian Hayne Wai presented an illustrated talk on Vancouver's Historic Chinatown. During *Doors Open* in June, the Gallery provided tours of the Evan Lee exhibition in English and Mandarin to many visitors.

During the Your Kontinent Film & Media Arts Festival in July, the Gallery presented a Drawing Booth at the *Theatre Under the Sky* event at Lansdowne Centre. Gallery staff were on hand to provide drawing demonstrations and give visitors the opportunity to practice their drawing skills before the Drive-in Movie started.

During the *City as Site* exhibition, the Gallery offered many different opportunities for audiences to learn more about Public Art in Richmond. The Gallery held a sold-out workshop for artists on *How to Apply for Public Art Calls* led by the City of Richmond's Public Art Project Coordinator. The Gallery also hosted two illustrated talks on Public Art in October. The first talk was held in the Gallery with the City of Richmond's Public Art Planner, who discussed the role of Public Art in Richmond and gave a tour of the Gallery exhibition. A second talk featured Jack Becker, a leading authority on public art in America who is the founder and director of the Twin Cities non-profit organization, *Forecast Public Art* and founding publisher of *Public Art Review*. As part of Culture Days weekend, exhibiting artist Nicole Dextras performed an interactive public piece in the Gallery called *Extra D'Extras Make Overs*. The artist gave participants of all ages free "make-overs" by adding natural elements of flowers, leaves and berries to their hair and garments, making this an extremely popular and busy afternoon in the Gallery.

During the *Interweavings* exhibition, the Gallery hosted a panel discussion on *Challenging Traditions in Contemporary First Nations Art*. Brenda Crabtree, Aboriginal Program Manager at Emily Carr University of Art + Design, facilitated a lively discussion with exhibiting artists Xwalacktun (Rick Harry) and Cody Lecoy, guest curator Connie Watts and Museum of Anthropology curator emeritus Bill McLennan on mentorship in First Nations culture and artists working in traditional and contemporary art practices.

Collaboration with Gateway Theatre: *What is the Value of Art?*

In February, the Richmond Art Gallery teamed up with Gateway Theatre to tackle the thorny topic of how to place a value on art, particularly contemporary art. This question took centre stage in Gateway Theatre's production of *Art*, a play about three men whose friendship fractures after one of them spends 200,000 francs on a contemporary painting. Artistic Director Giovanni Sy hosted a lively, intimate conversation with *Art* director Stephen Drover and Richmond Art Gallery Director Rachel Rosenfield Lafo.

Collaboration with Cinevolution Media Arts Society – Film Screenings

In February, the Gallery partnered with Cinevolution Media Arts Society to host a free film screening of the classic Russian science-fiction film *Solaris*. Exhibiting artist Keith Langergraber introduced the film, discussing how it inspired his own films and artworks in the Gallery exhibition *Theatre of the Exploding Sun*. During the Your Kontinent International Film & Media Arts Festival, the Gallery co-hosted a film screening of *Sign Painters* at the Festival. The documentary film takes a close look at the past, present and future of American artists who practice the tradition of handmade painted signs. The film provided a good tie-in to the Gallery's exhibition by Lucie Chan and Marigold Santos, whose paintings and drawings incorporate text and story as well as evidence of the "handmade".

Bus Tours

The Gallery offered two very popular bus tours in 2014. During Culture Days weekend in September, the Gallery partnered with the Public Art Program for a free bus tour throughout Richmond. Public art specialist, Dr. Cameron Cartiere and special guest artist Andrea Sirois took participants on an engaging bus tour of some of Richmond's newest artworks. In November, the Gallery partnered with the YVR Art Foundation for a tour of the YVR Art collection. The event began in the Art Gallery for a tour of the *Interweavings* exhibition lead by guest curator Connie Watts. The group then toured a selection of pieces in the Vancouver Airport Authority Art Collection with YVR Art Program Manager, Rita Beiks.

Ongoing Public Programs

In addition to the many programs offered in conjunction with exhibitions, the Gallery presents a variety of opportunities for the public to appreciate and learn about art. The Gallery's programs are developed to offer different entry points, depending on the visitor's comfort level and learning style. These programs include:

Drop-in Drawing for Adults

In this ongoing program held eight times a year local artist Tony Yin Tak Chu leads drawing demonstrations, encouraging participants to draw from the artworks in the gallery while learning new drawing techniques. This program is offered in both English and Mandarin, engaging new immigrant participants looking for a space to socialize while they learn about art.

RAG Youth Podcast Program

This June marked the end of the year-long RAG Youth Podcast Program, for which youth create audio podcasts in response to Art Gallery exhibitions. In partnership with the Richmond Media Lab, and sponsored by the Richmond Community Foundation, the Podcast Program provides a small group of youth the skills and training to create, edit and produce their own podcasts. Youth interview each exhibiting artist and create a script based on their own responses to the artist and their works. The podcast team created four unique podcasts this year, and all are available online via the Gallery's website or iTunes page.



Family Sunday

Family Sunday

The Family Sunday program remains a popular monthly program for Richmond families. This program averages 100–150 participants per month, many of whom are regular visitors, who engage with exhibition-related art activities for all ages. Family Sunday also provides excellent training and job skills to our team of youth volunteers, who assist in the coordination of the program. This program continues to be sponsored by the RBC Foundation, to ensure we can provide this program free-of-charge to the public.

“Thank you for organizing such a fun event. Family Sunday is awesome for the entire family!” – Ray Wong and Family (Family Sunday participant)

ART + TEA + TALK

The Gallery renamed its *Morning Tea with the Curator* program to ART + TEA + Talk. This free program is a social event for adults and seniors and has started to gain momentum, as more people come once per exhibition to learn about the current exhibition and discuss ideas about artists and contemporary art.

School Art Program 1 3 4

The Richmond Art Gallery School Art Program provides hands-on art experiences for young artists. The program introduces students from Preschool to Grade 7 to the exciting world of contemporary art through interactive gallery tours and exhibition-based, hands-on art activities. The Gallery receives annual funding for the School Art Program from TD Bank Group.

This year, 102 school tours and workshops were conducted, representing 2,319 students from all over the Lower Mainland, including Richmond, Vancouver, Surrey and Delta. Several adult ESL tours were also provided, along with three Teacher Pro-D Workshops and a workshop/presentation at the Richmond Teachers District Convention.

“The Richmond Art Gallery is an exciting place to visit at any grade level. There is no better way to enhance and complement classroom learning than a trip to the Richmond Art Gallery.” – Teacher Participant of the School Art Program

In 2014, the School Art Program again partnered with the UBC Faculty of Education in their Community-Based Field Experience program. This program pairs students from the Teacher Education program with community organizations to allow teacher candidates to gain experience in teaching environments outside the traditional classroom. The first intern, Joel Garner, was a Secondary Drama Teacher Candidate. He gained experience working with kids aged 3–12, and experience teaching art concepts. The second intern, Haley Cheng, was an Elementary Years Teacher Candidate, and she is a specialist on K–3 or Early Years education. She created a resource for teachers to use story books in their classroom to teach basic art concepts.

Partnerships 1 3 4 5

The Richmond Art Gallery has developed and continues to consolidate relationships with numerous community partners such as the Richmond Women's Resource Centre (and their Chinese Grandmothers' group), Chinese Canadian Historical Society of BC, Cinevolution Film & Media Arts Society, Richmond School District, City of Richmond Diversity Services, Contemporary Art Society of Vancouver, Richmond Youth Media Program, Richmond Public Library, Richmond Museum, Richmond Public Art Program, Monte Clark Gallery, Vancouver Asian Heritage Month Society (ExplorAsian), Volunteer Richmond, YVR Art Foundation, City of Richmond Seniors Services and UBC Faculty of Education. 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.

Funding 1 3 5

The Gallery benefits from the support of many organizations. In 2014, the Gallery received assistance from:

- BC Arts Council, Annual Arts Operating Assistance: \$22,000;
- BC Arts Council, grant for website development and marketing and social media consultant (to be used in 2015): \$18,000;
- BC Community Gaming Grant: \$47,000;
- Vancouver Foundation support for the Greg Girard exhibition: \$10,000;
- RBC Foundation support of Family Sunday program: \$11,000;
- TD Bank support of School Art Program: \$12,000;
- Metro Vancouver for the Greg Girard exhibition: \$5000;
- City of Richmond for Meet the Artist videos: \$4,680;
- G&F Financial: \$1,000;
- YVR Airport Authority for *Interweavings* exhibition: \$10,000;
- Hamber Foundation for *Interweavings* programming: \$1000;
- Sheraton Vancouver Hotel: in-kind donation of hotel rooms for visiting artists;
- Peller Estates: donation of wine for receptions; and
- PriceSmart Foods, Richmond: donation of gift cards.



Interweavings, Cody Lecoy

Richmond Arts Centre

Service Delivery

Programs continued to grow and diversify in 2014 and several Richmond Arts Centre studios were upgraded in order to maintain a professional and safe environment for the community.

Seasonal Programs 1 2 3 4

2014 saw 6,540 participants registered for Arts Centre programs. Children and youth dance classes were extremely popular and supported the overall wellness of the community through the combination of creative thinking, skills building and physical activity. Adult programming continued to show steady growth, especially in movement classes. The Richmond Adult Dance Company was established in fall of 2014 to meet community demand. This company fosters an environment where adults of varied ages and abilities are supported in the creative and technical development process.

The acquisition of a grand piano has made it possible to host recitals more often. June's music recitals were well received, with 150 people attending the recitals featuring Arts Centre piano, guitar and voice students. Additional performance opportunities further the level of instruction being offered at the Arts Centre, and are continuing to be developed.

School Year Programs 1 3 4

The school year program continues to grow in numbers as well as technical levels achieved. The program has grown to 593 registrants in 2014 as well as two performing dance companies: the Richmond Youth Dance Company and Richmond Adult Dance Company.

Annual Year End Recital

Call of the Wild, the School Year Program's end-of-year recital, featured 450 dancers and was enjoyed by more than 1,200 audience members over three performances at the Gateway Theatre on June 15. These recitals featured ballet, musical theatre, hip hop and jazz students as well as the new addition of school-year hip hop and tap classes and a guest performance by the intermediate adult ballet class.

Outreach and Community Support 3 4

The Arts Centre participated in Senior's Week by offering a sold-out eco-friendly felting class on the Rooftop Garden for seniors that turned old wool sweaters into unique handmade flower-design brooches.

Through the Arts Centre's Arts Truck, a pilot program was created in partnership between General Currie Elementary School and the Richmond Health Department, with 27 students participating in ongoing visual arts, drama and hip hop classes in four after-school programs between January and June. In a survey conducted by the public health nurse, students reported that the sessions made them feel *"happy, confident, energetic, talented/ creative, calm and connected."*

The Arts Truck offered extensive outreach programming during the summer of 2014. Through partnerships with the Richmond Public Library, City Centre Community Association and Richmond Centre for Disability, 700 children aged 5–12 participated in Arts Centre art programs and drop-in activities throughout the summer.



Drawing and Painting

Rooftop Garden 2 3 4

The Rooftop Garden was used throughout the spring as a regular facility for the City Centre pre-school program as well as visits for the Wellness Centre. As of April, the garden was open daily to the general public and often used for meetings and events. Vegetables harvested from the garden were donated to the Minoru Place Activity Centre's cafeteria.

Culture Days 1 3 4 5

During Culture Days, the Richmond Arts Centre offered seven drop-in clay classes for children and youth aged 4–17, as well as a Design-a-Street Banner workshop held in the Rooftop Garden. In addition, students and instructors from the private piano, guitar and voice classes offered insight into the music programs at the RAC through performances and informal chats. One of the Arts Centre programmers acted as the MC, offering interesting trivia and facts about the importance of music and the arts. These offerings, coupled with the Resident Arts Group showcase, illustrated the relevance of the arts within Richmond, and highlighted some of the many opportunities offered through the Arts Centre.

Richmond Youth Dance Company 2 3 4

The accomplishments and popularity of the RYDC continued to grow. In addition to developing skills as dancers and improving physical health, the youth in this program learned to work as a team and succeed in setting challenging goals that lead to rewarding outcomes, all of which are transferable to numerous areas of their lives. This year, there were three levels in the company: Elementary, Intermediate and Advanced, with the highest level focusing on mastery of advanced ballet techniques and the pre-professional skills required by performance based dance companies.

RYDC Feature Presentation

The dance show *Becoming* was performed on March 7, 8 and 9 in the Cultural Centre's Performance Hall in front of sold out audiences (a total of 240 attendees). The show featured choreography from three professional artists and live piano accompaniment.

Community Performances

The RYDC performed in support of the Arts Centre's contribution to City events: the Richmond Arts Awards ceremony on May 6 and Move for Health on May 10. The company also performed with the Richmond Dance Company and Richmond Delta Youth Orchestra at the Winter Showcase held at the Minoru Place Activity Centre on December 17. The performance was attended by families of the dancers as well as seniors and staff members. Feedback received by staff was overwhelmingly positive.



Richmond Youth Dance Company

Intergenerational Project

The Richmond Arts Centre collaborated with the Minoru Place Activity Centre to host their intergenerational project, *"Life's Little Things, Past and Present."* The project has paired senior volunteers with a class from three local schools: Brighthouse Elementary for nine sessions (year-long project) and Anderson and Cook Elementary Schools for three sessions each (term based). Each session allows students and seniors to explore common bonds and discuss differences while creating pieces that reflect these new relationships. The project is being documented through photographs and will contribute legacy pieces to Minoru Place Activity Centre and the Richmond Public Library's digital collection. Altogether, there are 24 seniors and 54 students taking part in the year-long project at the Richmond Arts Centre.

Events and Exhibitions 1 2 3 4 5

Children's Arts Festival 2014

The Children's Arts Festival returned for a sixth year with over 10,000 children, their families and school teachers attending the festival from February 10–14. Family Day featured an expanded site that included the Minoru Place Activity Centre as a drop-in art activity zone. As well, 50 families from the Boys and Girls Club of Vancouver attended Family Day as part of the festival's Outreach program. Activities included the new mediums of fused glass, felting and aboriginal masks. Author Lee Edward Födi led interactive drawing workshops and Circus West performed *Circus Wonderland*. Sponsors included Lansdowne Mall, Port Metro Vancouver and CTV, which increased its support of the festival and profiled CAF in prime time promotion spots as well as *The Best of BC* segment. The extremely popular school day program was sold out as of September 2013 and 20 schools attended from Richmond, Delta and Vancouver school districts. Four Out-of-School Care programs from Richmond Community Centres also attended the festival.

Multicultural Heritage Festival

Presented in partnership with Vancouver Cantonese Opera, the festival took place on the City Stage at Minoru Plaza on June 28 and 29, and welcomed approximately 1,500 attendees. After the success of its Richmond debut in 2013, the event moved outdoors and included a second day of music, dance and martial arts celebrating diversity through an impressive representation of cultures. Canadian artists from China, Great Britain, India, Japan, Russia, Thailand and Ukraine shared the stage, bringing colour and vibrancy to this free event. Vancouver Cantonese Opera received a City of Richmond grant in addition to grants from the Department of Canadian Heritage and Citizenship and Immigration to help support the project.



Children's Arts Festival



Ga Ting, Alannah Ong and BC Lee. Credit: Raymond Shum

Your Kontinent: Richmond International Film and Media Arts Festival

Co-presented with Cinevolution Media Arts Society, the festival ran from July 17–26, with 3,500 people attending the activities over the week-long event. Featured artist Vjeko Sager created a tower in Minoru Plaza where he transmitted live media art creations and interacted with community members throughout the event. The festival's popular *Theatre Under the Sky* program returned in the form of a drive-in movie at Lansdowne Centre. In addition to the Dim Sum Movie at Shiang Garden, the Gulf of Georgia Cannery became a unique venue in which the audience had a "dining while film viewing" experience. Films from across the globe completed the line-up; specifically, a collection of films from the best in Taiwanese and French filmmaking were presented with the support of the French Consulate and Taiwanese Economic and Cultural Office.

Ga Ting

Ga Ting, a professional play that deals with contemporary issues involving family, was co-presented with Vancouver Asian Canadian Theatre, and targeted a diverse audience with the use of surtitles (in English and Cantonese). 839 people attended the show over 12 performances. A talkback session hosted by Richmond Multicultural Concerns Society (the community partner for the performance) focused on the themes and challenges of cultural and sexual diversity. The production received support from the Canada Council for the Arts, BC Arts Council, Hamber Foundation, Metro Vancouver and the BC Rainbow Alliance for the Arts. In addition, one of the actors was nominated for a Jessie Richardson Award for professional theatre.

"Ga Ting is a necessary—and welcome—play" – Colin Thomas, *Georgia Straight*

The Village

On May 24, the Cultural Centre's versatile Performance Hall once again transformed into a theatre for a new production called *The Village*. The theme of the play was rooted in an artistic expression of living with mental health challenges. Tina Milo, the original creator of the piece (and accomplished theatre, film/TV actor and musician from Vancouver) reunited with renowned Serbian artist Dijana Milošević for this multimedia collaboration. The sold-out show was attended by 100 people and will be included in the upcoming Firehall Arts Centre season in Vancouver as a result of its success in Richmond.

Taste of Empire

Presented by the City of Richmond in collaboration with Boca Del Lupo Theatre, Gateway Theatre's Artistic Director Jovanni Sy brought his critically acclaimed culinary exploration of global food politics to the Cultural Centre's Rooftop Garden. While cooking a traditional Filipino dish in real time, writer/performer Sy took the audience on an entertaining and thought-provoking trip through history. The production was co-presented with the award winning Boca Del Lupo and had support from the Canada Council for the Arts and the BC Arts Council. The Rooftop Garden, with only 35 seats per night, provided a perfect venue for the show which was designed for smaller audiences, and saw 70 people attend the two shows on May 31 and June 1.

Tickle Me Pickle

This vibrant young group continued to bring laughter to its audiences with four performances throughout the year. Approximately 500 adults and children attended Richmond's take on sketch comedy. As a recipient of a City of Richmond grant, the group also mentored its young company, Make Me Laugh Purple Giraffe, and donated a performance to the Richmond Women's Resource Centre.

Resident Art Group Showcase

The Richmond Arts Centre hosted the annual Resident Art Group Showcase as part of the 2014 Culture Days events. New in 2014, the showcase extended beyond the Cultural Centre to include the Minoru Plaza. Throughout the Saturday showcase, hundreds of community members enjoyed demonstrations in painting, weaving and spinning, quilt making, lapidary work, pottery and photography.



Resident Art Group Showcase, Culture Days 2014

Richmond Chinese YC Orchestra Concert

This Resident Art Group of the Richmond Arts Centre performed an afternoon concert to a sold out audience of 80, and included over 40 musicians who performed from a repertoire anchored by themes of *ocean* and *hometown*. Performers and audience members represented a diverse group from children to seniors.

Art about Finn Slough Exhibition

The 14th edition of this annual exhibition returned to the Cultural Centre from March 12–15. 56 artists participated in the four-day event that saw a total of 315 visitors. A new component of the exhibition included a music performance composed specifically for the exhibition.

Exhibitions for Local Artists 1 2 3 4

Exhibition spaces at the Richmond Cultural Centre upper rotunda, Gateway Theatre lobby and Thompson Community Centre foyer continue to showcase a vibrant selection from local artists. 2014 included 14 local artists and 10 local arts groups. In 2014, a new 3D exhibit case was added to the Cultural Centre venue to expand the opportunity for local artists to display their work.

The following local artists and art groups were featured in exhibitions in 2014 with some receiving exposure in more than one location:

Gateway Theatre and Thompson Community Centre:

- Barbara Arnold, and
- Ximeng (Simone) Guu.

Gateway Theatre and Richmond Cultural Centre

- Richard Reiner.

Richmond Cultural Centre and Thompson Community Centre:

- Maria Voronova,
- Richmond Photo Club, and
- Richmond Printmakers

Richmond Cultural Centre:

- Jean Garnett,
- Chu Yintak (Tony),
- Hyland Sheung,
- Jennifer Po,
- Joselito Macapagal,
- Joyce Tsai,
- Lily Cheung Wai Han,
- Tara Nakano,
- Creative Jewellers Guild of BC,
- London Steveston High School,
- Richmond Artist Guild,
- Richmond Arts Centre adult students,
- Richmond Carvers,
- Richmond Gem & Mineral Society, and
- Richmond Seniors Chinese Calligraphy.

Thompson Community Centre:

- Westcoast Calligraphy Society, and
- Caroline Scagel.



Richmond Media Lab 2014

The Richmond Media Lab continued to grow in popularity and exposure. In 2014, SHAW Television's *GO! Vancouver* program profiled several aspects of the arts in Richmond, including a three-minute story about the Media Lab and Richmond Youth Media Program (RYMP).

Programs 3 4

Classes in Animation, Acting on Camera and the Media Lab "Test Drive" for preteens continue to be the most popular classes and a new class that teaches how to "Build A Website" has also proven popular in the Media Lab. Additionally, the Animation classes, which were previously presented in partnership with Cinevolution were presented in-house by the Media Lab.

Richmond Youth Media Program (RYMP)

A total of 59 active program members and five volunteers spent a combined total of 3,745 hours in the Media Lab and at community outreach events in 2014.

- **Richmond Community Action Team (CAT) / Stop Sexual Exploitation of Children and Youth Week Partnership:** Members of Richmond's Community Action Team (CAT) asked RYMP youth artists to help create a poster series and event banner for their information booth, set up in Richmond Centre for "Stop Sexual Exploitation of Children and Youth Week." Event organizers were thrilled with the results. The youth were also pleased to be involved and quoted:

"I really enjoyed having creative freedom. To interpret a fact and communicate it through photography for a project that is actually being displayed in public, is a really honouring feeling for me."

- **RYMP/RCSAC Youth Website Development:** A RYMP member and Richmond Secondary student approached the Media Lab to offer web design services, as part of her studies in information design. Through a partnership with Richmond Community Services Advisory Council, the for-youth by-youth website *What's Up Richmond?* has been created. The site is currently being populated with relevant information for youth and is set to launch publicly in 2015.

Activities and Events 3 4

The Media Lab contributed to a number of community activities and events that benefited the Youth Service Plan Update, Thompson Community Centre, Children's Arts Festival, Richmond Youth Foundation, Richmond Museum, Ships to Shore, Pecha Kucha Nights, Richmond Community Services Advisory Council, Youth Week, Seniors Week, Richmond Arts Awards, National Aboriginal Day, Minoru Sports Pavilion Celebration, Culture Days and Kaleidoscope. Three featured highlights include:

TELUS Community Cheque Presentation

The Richmond Youth Media Program (RYMP) received one-year funding in the amount of \$20,000 from the Telus Community Grant. The Media Lab hosted a small gathering where Diane Clement, Telus Community Board member (and previous Richmond resident), presented a cheque to the Richmond Addiction Services Society, who administers funds for the RYMP program. Members of City Council, RASS board members, City staff and RYMP members were in attendance.

Richmond Remembers video simulcast and web broadcast

For the second year in a row, RYMP produced a live video simulcast for *Richmond Remembers*, the Remembrance Day ceremony presented by the City of Richmond. A team of six youth were led by two professional filmmakers and created a live feed of the event for an audience of 40 people in Council Chambers. For the first time, this video was also streamed online. Reports show that 142 people watched the online stream (108 from Richmond, 26 elsewhere in Lower Mainland, 9 from the rest of North America).

Writer-In-Residence

The Media Lab, in partnership with the Richmond Arts Centre, Minoru Place Activity Centre and Richmond Public Library presented the Writer-In-Residence program in 2014. In addition to traditional programs like "Writing As A Career", the Media Lab facilitated a multimedia, intergenerational "Words Online" program which resulted in a youth-produced video that screened at the Writer-In-Residence wrap up event at the Cultural Centre Performance Hall on November 26.



Richmond Youth Media Program (RYMP), Richmond Media Lab



Nicole Dextras Performance, Richmond Art Gallery



Piano Lesson, Richmond Arts Centre



Art L-R Michael Kopsa, Hiro Kanagawa, Haig Sutherland, Gateway Theatre
Credit: David Cooper

Richmond Public Art Program

Total number of artwork in collections: 125
Permanent artwork installations: 100
Temporary installations: 25 (21 no longer on display)
Total number of permanent and temporary artworks currently on display: 104

Civic Public Art Program 3 4

Cranberry Critters

Cranberry Critters by Michael Fugeta and Ron Hart was installed at the Hamilton Child Care Centre. This artwork is a selection of colourful steel vertical pickets topped with animal figures, interspersed with the wooden pickets of the playground fence. The new pieces, each with a unique character, match the vertical pickets in width and height. The figures help to populate the playground, offering a variety of forms and shadows promoting imagination and learning (i.e. play) among children and adults alike. Children are able to identify with certain wildlife figures, embracing their uniqueness and celebrating their individual qualities.

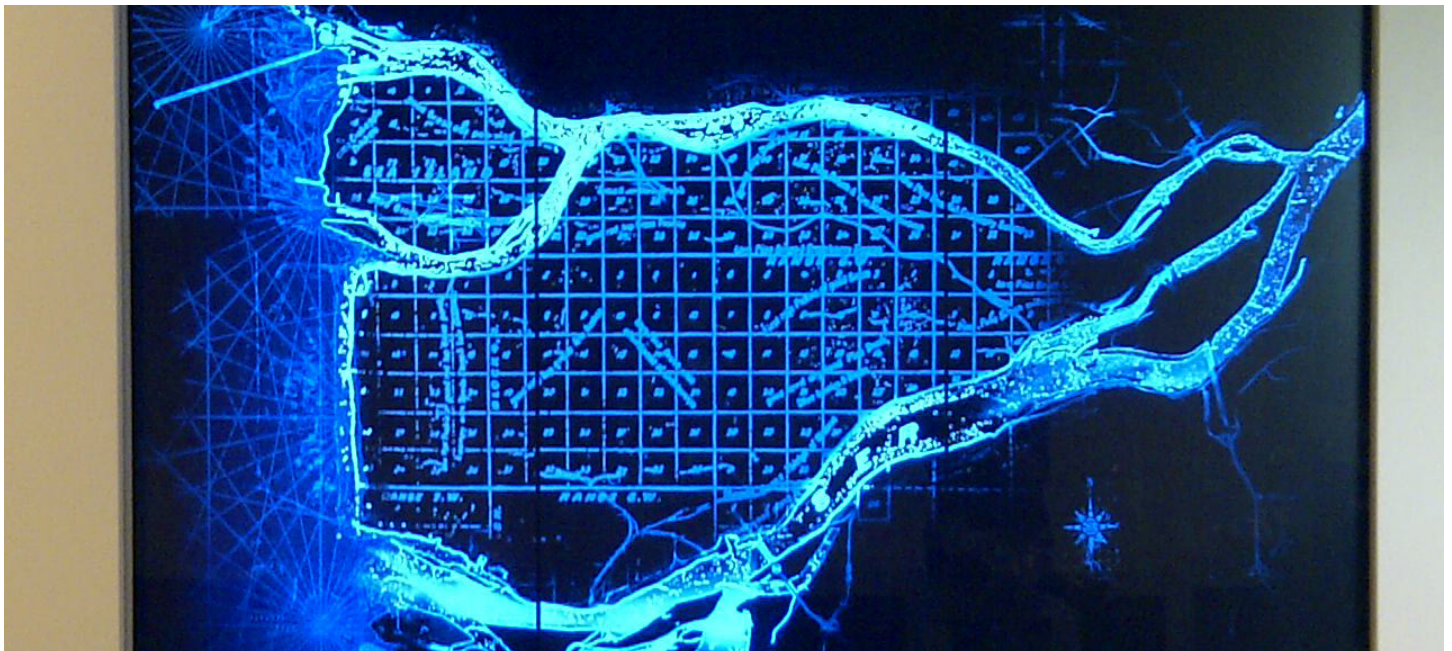
Water Words

Water Words was a creative collaboration between artist Joanne Arnott, City Engineering staff and grade four students from Spul'u'kwuks Elementary School. The piece is a collection of text panels on painted aluminum panels embedded into the concrete facade of the No. 1 Road North Drainage Pump Station, with words responding to the natural environment and impressions of water.

Lulu Suite: Telling the Stories of Richmond

Lulu Suite is a public art project that looks at the history of Richmond through a combination of historical and contemporary lenses. Artists Deanne Achong and Faith Moosang created three narrative-based projects that explore questions of technology, public space and the means in which history is collected, archived and shared. The first phase, *17 Films for 17 Islands*, installed in 2013 and located at the Richmond Olympic Oval is a video wall installation created by reworking 20th century archival films and footage that pertain to Richmond. For 2014, two subsequent phases were launched:

- *Lulu Sweet: A Gold Rush Tale in 8 Acts (2014)* is a walking tour situated along the Fraser River on the Middle Arm Trail adjacent to the Richmond Olympic Oval. Launched during Culture Days, the account re-imagines the life of Gold Rush actress Lulu Sweet, purported namesake for Lulu Island. Participants may use re-programmed iPhones (available for free rental from the Public Art Program) or simply download the free tour on their own iPhones through the Apple App Store.
- *Island (2014)* is a projected video work created from footage shot during a day-long boat trip the artists took around Lulu Island. Initially presented inside a shipping container, the imagery and sound invite the audience to consider the beauty of the industrial rooted to the site by the hypnotic flow of the river. This work was premiered at the 2014 Your Kontinent International Film Festival.



Lulu Suite, Deanne Achong and Faith Moosany

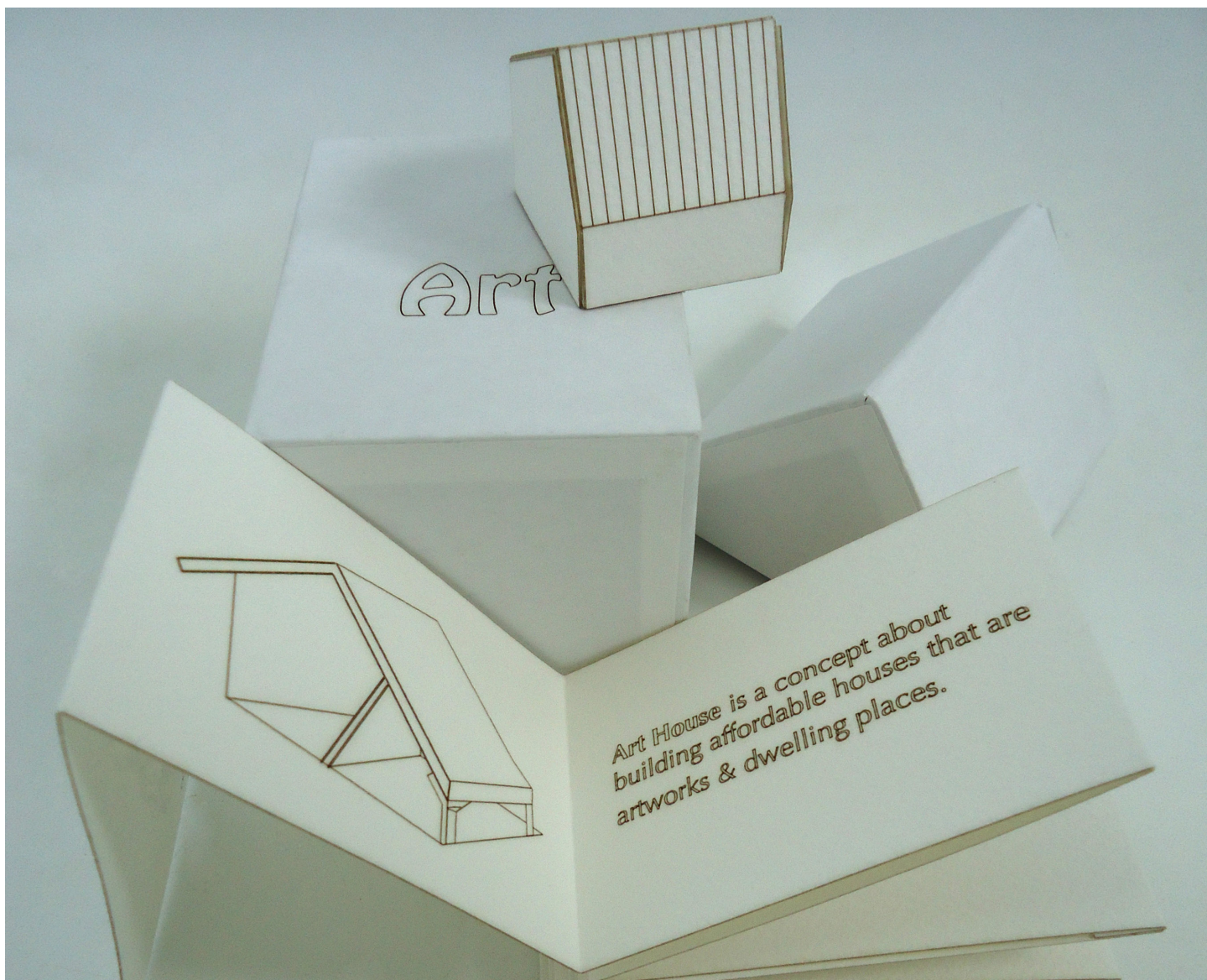
Cover Stories: Manhole Cover Art Contest

The Public Art Program in collaboration with the Engineering Department launched the Manhole Cover Art Contest to turn ordinary manhole covers around the city into works of art. Artists of all ages were invited to put their imagination to the test and create a design that reflects Richmond's cultural heritage. Over 170 designs were received, with over 120 from artists and 50 from Kindergarten to Grade 7 students. In addition to the two winning designs and three Honourable Mentions, awards were given to the People's Choice, Student's People's Choice and two Student Honourable Mentions.

Community Public Art Program 2 3 4

Art House Artist's Book

Art House Artist's Book is part of the Public Art Program's *Art in Unexpected Places* initiative where artists are invited to suggest projects emphasizing unusual or unconventional locations throughout Richmond. This artist book and model by artist Sylvia Grace Borda have been created through laser etching and scorching. Each book is a "house" in a box and the box base and lid have been hand-crafted in the form of a house. The artist book is also accompanied by a "model" house. The project guidance and research was undertaken with support provided by architect Alan Hawthorne, the Lighthouse: Scotland's Centre for Design and Architecture, and the Scottish Civic Trust.



Art House Artist's Book, Sylvia Grace Borda

RISING

RISING speaks to the anticipation and energy involved in the ritual of climbing stairs and strives to enhance this daily experience. The community-based public art project by Vancouver-based artist, Jeanette G. Lee was created in collaboration with the West Richmond Community Centre staff, preschoolers, Out-of-School Care children, the Youth in Action team, older adults and the preschool teachers. Through a series of workshops, the artist engaged participants in hands-on exercises to create the artwork. *RISING* is installed in West Richmond Community Centre.

Pianos on the Street

Pianos on the Street is an initiative to build bridges throughout the community by bringing pianos to select open-air locations in Metro Vancouver. In Richmond, pianos were placed in Minoru Plaza, Britannia Shipyards National Historic Site and the Richmond Olympic Oval Plaza, from August through September 2014. Each piano was decorated by a local arts group to represent the flavour of the community where it was situated. The public was invited and encouraged to play the instruments and to upload media of themselves to a dedicated website, www.supportpiano.com. Uploaded media included six videos filmed at the Cultural Centre and four videos at Britannia. The winning video for the 5–9 year-old category from all Metro Vancouver entries was shot on the Cultural Centre piano and received 464 votes. The project was sponsored by Pacey's Pianos.

Private Development Public Art Program

Fish Trap Way

Fish Trap Way is a public artwork that was installed in July 2014 on the East West promenade of River Green, 5111 Oval Way and the dike trail, to the east of the No. 2 Road Bridge. Artists Susan A. Point and Thomas Cannell created a sculptural form that harmonizes the salmon theme with a contemporary aluminum Fish Trap. Fish silhouettes are cut out from one-inch aluminum and make a positive design element recalling roots of the great western red cedar. Motifs of plants and a suggested heron's wing are symbolic of the local wetlands while the entire design symbolizes fish caught in a trap. The piece was sponsored by ASPAC River Green Development.



Rock, Water, Reeds, Illarion Gallant

Rock, Water, Reeds

Rock Water Reeds by Victoria-artist Illarion Gallant located at Bravo, 6180 Cooney Road, is a sculptural statement on evolutionary changes in a community's physical and cultural landscape. This sculpture is a gesture to the natural landscape which predated Richmond's notable rural landscape and has since evolved into a mid-density urban centre. The reeds set in the pond give testament to the high water table within Richmond's geographic delta topography. The work was sponsored by ATI Investments Ltd.

Glass Garden

Artist Joel Berman created a three-dimensional *Glass Garden* for the mixed use development at 10880 No. 5 Road that is completely clear in order to showcase the beauty of glass and its relationship with light. The public art consists of three groups of abstract stainless steel, 14–18 feet tall trees at the entrance to the development. Trees are an obvious inspiration here in our rainforest city as well as a tribute to Richmond's fertile soil and to the history of the site itself. The work was sponsored by Townline Homes.

Orbit

Orbit, by Vancouver-based artists Ruth Beer and Charlotte Wall, located at Omega, 9388 Odlin Road, is a permanent public sculpture intended to enliven and enhance this pedestrian greenway in the Alexandra neighbourhood. The sculpture contributes to the tranquility of the space and the surrounding gardens where their reflective colours and placement animate the sculpture. Viewed from four directions, it serves as a point of convergence, drawing attention to its circular and orbital nature. The work was sponsored by Concord Pacific Developments Inc.

Float

Float is a creative collaboration by Mark Ashby and Kim Cooper created for the Centro Terra West mixed use development at 6011 No. 1 Road. Envisioned as an agent in the urban realm, *Float* acts in dialogue with the street trees and lamp standards and provides infrastructure for ad hoc children's games, a leaning post or a secure bicycle rack for the adjacent businesses. The sculptural arrangement of hollow balls supported on solid posts of welded, heavy-gauge chain give this piece the illusion of buoyancy as the balls appear to float. This piece was sponsored by Centro Properties Group.



Orbit, Ruth Beer and Charlotte Wall

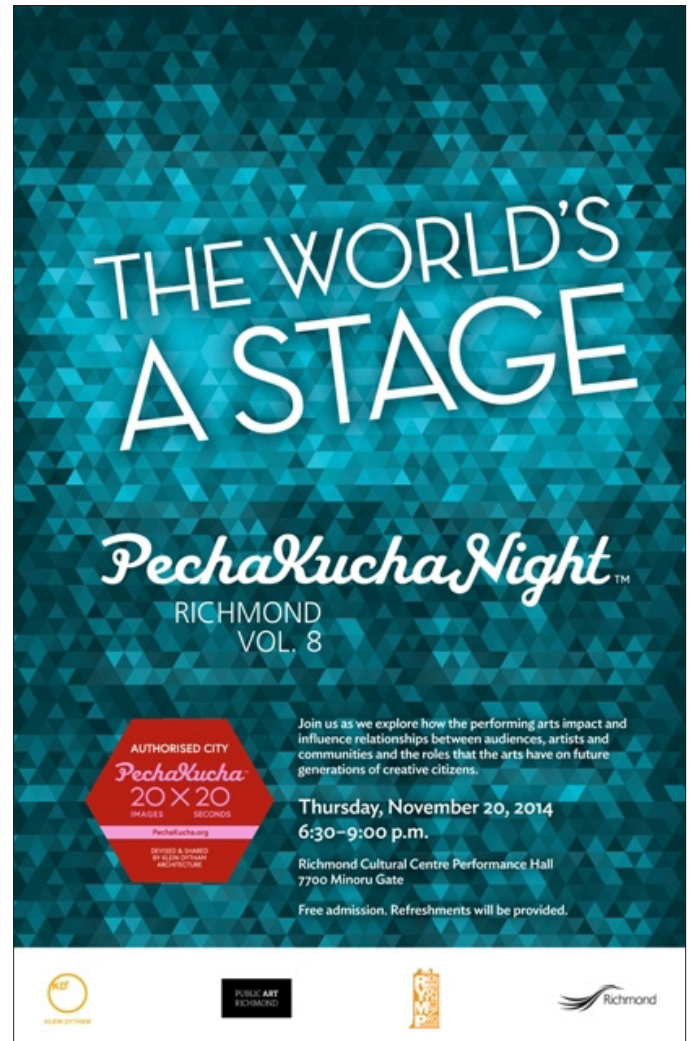
Public Art Education and Engagement Program

3 4

PechaKucha Night Richmond

Ten speakers from a variety of different professions and backgrounds presented their stories at four *PechaKucha Night Richmond* in 2014. The presentations reflected on influential experiences and the changes that these have brought about in fields ranging from design and art to social inclusion, environmental activism and entrepreneurship. PechaKucha is a presentation format where speakers present 20 images and tell their stories as the photos automatically advance every 20 seconds. *PechaKucha Night Richmond* events are free, accessible and suitable for all ages.

- **Volume 5: What's Your Story?** Presented on February 20 at the Melville Centre for Dialogue at Kwantlen Polytechnic University's Richmond campus in partnership with the Kwantlen Polytechnic University Chip and Shannon Wilson School of Design, this full-house audience experienced the stories and crucial moments that have influenced the way local change-makers see and shape the world.
- **Volume 6: Secrets of the Fraser:** Over eighty people filled the Chinese Bunkhouse at Britannia Shipyards National Historic Site on May 2 to enjoy an evening of inspired creativity and thought-provoking presentations. Speakers, including an archaeologist, archivist, artist, biologist and fisherman presented on the theme "Secrets of the Fraser."
- **Volume 7: Human X Technology:** *Human X Technology* was presented on July 16 at the Cultural Centre by the Public Art Program in partnership with Cinevolution Media Society, with special support from the Richmond Youth Media Program. Ten presenters turned their gaze on the dynamics of the mobile and malleable body and explored how technology and the human body are in constant dialogue and shape one another.
- **Volume 8: The World's A Stage:** Partnering with the Gateway Theatre and held on November 20 at the Cultural Centre, *The World's a Stage* explored the theme of how performing arts impact and influence relationships between audiences, artists and communities and the role that the arts have on future generations of creative citizens. Presenters included an actor, arts administrator, dancer, musician, performance artist and puppeteer.



PechaKucha Night Poster

Unique Projects 3 4

No. 3 Road Art Columns

- **Exhibition 8 – Locally Examined:** *Locally Examined* considers West Coast textures and the fragile natural landscapes in Richmond. In the creation of these original artworks, artists Amanda Arcuri, Grayson Richards and Adam Stenhouse visited and researched important natural heritage sites in Richmond. The work plays on the ideas of natural geometry, collage, environmental awareness, ephemeral interventions and site-specificity. The artwork was displayed at the Aberdeen and Lansdowne Station Art Columns from July 2014 through March 2015. Curated by Avalon Mott, Emily Carr University of Art + Design.

Art Plinth at Brighthouse Station

The City of Richmond Public Art Program, in cooperation with InTransit BC and TransLink, initiated a series of temporary artwork projects to be placed on top of the terminus column of the Canada Line guideway at Brighthouse Station.

- **Cluster:** Artist, Carlyn Yandle was selected for the first artwork, installed in September 2014 and to remain on view for up to one year. *Cluster* is a circular arrangement of twenty-five 355 mm-diameter painted aluminum cylinders of varied lengths spot-welded into two identical round faceplates and attached to an existing steel base. This site-specific design creates the appearance of objects extruding from the last guideway segment of the Canada Line.

Minoru Precinct Public Art Plan

The Minoru Civic Precinct Public Art Plan was officially endorsed by City Council on October 14, 2014, as a guide for public art for the new Minoru Complex and the replacement of Fire Hall No. 1. The public art opportunities identified in the Public Art Plan aim to provide occasions to experience artistic expression in the most public locations and to reflect and enhance the unique services and programs offered in the facilities, including Minoru Complex and the larger Civic Precinct.

City as Site: Public Art Exhibition

September 6 to October 26, 2014

The exhibition in partnership with the Richmond Art Gallery, featured several public art projects by featured artists Glen Andersen, Nicole Dextras, Janet Echelman, Jacqueline Metz & Nancy Chew, and Carlyn Yandle that represented the different ways public art is provided in Richmond—through civic funding, private development, community projects, and the program's newer series of temporary projects and socially engaged artist performances under the Community Program. Special programming was held during the exhibition to engage both artists and the art loving public:

Did you know its Public Art? Public Art Bus Tour

September 27, 2014

Public art specialist, Dr. Cameron Cartiere, Emily Carr University of Art + Design, and guest artist, Andrea Sirois led participants on an engaging bus tour of some of Richmond's newest artworks. This fully subscribed and popular bus tour will be repeated in 2015.

Extra D'Extras Make Overs

September 27, 2014

Artist Nicole Dextras performed an interactive public art piece. Viewers were pampered with ephemeral panache and adorned with the natural beauty of flowers and leaves. Madame Nicole was on hand to beautify participants with her *Extra D'Extras Make Overs*. The well-attended event was suitable for all ages.

Public Art 101: The Art of Making Places Public

October 4, 2014

The Public Art Program presented an illustrated talk on the role of Public Art in creating a vibrant city. A walking tour of the exhibit and discussion provided insight into the history of public art in Richmond and what goes on behind the scenes of building a public art collection.

Public Art Today

October 17, 2014

Jack Becker, a leading authority on public art worldwide presented an illustrated talk about trends and critical issues in the field during a special evening presentation. The event was attended by local residents as well as visiting public art administrators from Oregon, Washington and Idaho, in Richmond for a symposium organized by the Richmond Public Art Program.

Artist Workshop: How to Apply for Public Art Calls

October 25, 2014

The Richmond Public Art Program presented this hands-on exercise for artists wishing to develop a public art practice, demystifying the Public Art commissioning process and best practices in applying for public art opportunities.



Cluster, Carlyn Yandle

Gateway Theatre

Gateway Theatre is Richmond's only live professional theatre. The cornerstone of programming is the Signature Series, a six-play professionally produced theatre series on the Main Stage and in Studio B. Celebrating its 30th anniversary in 2014, the Gateway Theatre launched the Gateway Pacific Theatre Festival. Gateway also houses a play development program and a year-long Academy for the Performing Arts with classes for ages six to adult. The operations support vibrant volunteer, rentals and community outreach programs.

Gateway 2028

In 2013-2014, Gateway Theatre proudly launched Gateway 2028, a dynamic fifteen-year artistic vision. Gateway 2028 is divided into three, five-year phases. Each phase sees the addition of a subscription series with each new series reflecting a facet of the Richmond community.

Phase 1 celebrates Richmond's diversity and sees the addition of a contemporary Chinese-language theatre series called the Gateway Pacific Series. Phase 2 celebrates Richmond as a family-oriented city and sees the addition of a theatre series for children and youth called the Gateway Junior Series. Phase 3 celebrates Richmond as an innovative city and sees the addition of an experimental theatre series called the Gateway Greenhouse Series.

This new programming is in addition to the existing professional subscription series which was rebranded the Gateway Signature Series. Gateway 2028 is an ambitious vision that will safeguard Gateway's sustainability, augment Richmond's profile nationally and internationally, and connect our community.

Professional Theatre Programming



Gateway Theatre's Signature Series launched the new year with a Tony award-winning production, *Art* by Yasmina Reza. This hilarious comedy of manners is about friendships. If friendship is based on common likes and values, what happens when someone does something outrageous? Serge spends 200,000 francs on an all-white painting his friends just don't understand. *Art* was directed by Stephen Drover and featured the stellar cast of Hiro Kanagawa, Michael Kopsa and Haig Sutherland. Drew Facey won a Jessie Award for Outstanding Set Design and John Webber was nominated for Outstanding Lighting Design.

In March, Gateway presented leading playwright; Toronto-based Tara Beagan. She wrote and directed *Dreary and Izzy*, a comedy-drama about two sisters—one First Nations and one Caucasian. When the Monaghan sisters lose their parents, Deirdre must care for her beloved mentally-challenged sister. She struggles to manage until twin rays of hope appear in the form of a gorgeous vacuum cleaner salesman and a family friend whose helpful impulses will have startling consequences. This humorous and moving play marked the first production by an aboriginal playwright in Gateway's history.

Closing the 2013-2014 season was a heart-warming production of John Lazarus' *The Grandkid*. Abby and Julius are as close as a granddaughter and grandfather can be. But when Abby starts university and moves in with Julius, they must learn to negotiate a new and difficult relationship: roommates! Director Natasha Nadir and performers Pippa Mackie and Richard Newman did a brilliant job of bringing this intergenerational comedy to life. In addition, the playwright visited from Ontario during the run of the show.

Gateway Pacific Theatre Festival

Launching Gateway Theatre's 30th anniversary season in August 2014, was the first building block of Gateway 2028: a summer theatre festival called the Gateway Pacific Theatre Festival. The Gateway Pacific Theatre Festival is a showcase of world-class contemporary theatre from Hong Kong and Canada. Over ten days in August, Gateway Theatre presented three plays from Hong Kong with English subtitles. Theatre lovers got a glimpse of what's new and exciting from Hong Kong's stages. The Lower Mainland boasts hundreds of thousands of Cantonese speakers who are proud to see their language and culture front and centre in one of the province's foremost venues. For those who do not speak Cantonese, the Gateway Pacific Theatre Festival was a window to another world. Gateway Theatre is the only professional theatre in Canada to showcase such high-calibre work from across the Pacific.

- **Detention:** The first production, *Detention* produced by Tang Shu-wing Theatre Studio launched the festival on the Main Stage with a non-verbal physical comedy for all ages. The piece is an acrobatic comedy combining clowning, martial arts and percussion. Performed by a group of talented comedians, drummers, tap dancers, xiqu (Chinese Opera) performers and even a Kung Fu master, the story is set during an after-school detention session where three naughty boys are joined by a gorgeous classmate. They end up turning "detention" into a talent competition for her affection. When their

short-tempered yet "extraordinary" teacher suddenly checks in on them, a series of crazy classroom scenarios play out in a comical and farcical manner. This fast-moving cartoon-style comedy, all done with guttural sounds, grunts and sighs, is full of frenzied action, mayhem and high-octane larking.

- **The Isle:** The second production playing in Studio B was *The Isle*, written by leading Hong Kong playwright Paul Poon, and produced by Theatre Du Pif. The story depicts one couple's encounter on a remote island where their past and present overlap. As they ask the question "do we stay or leave?" a battle of wills unfolds that leads to a surprising and dramatic finale.
- **The Fire of Desire:** The final production, *The Fire of Desire* was produced by Perry Chiu Experimental Theatre and played on the Main Stage. Based on the classic 1900 play *Reigen* by Arthur Schnitzler (better known by its French title *La Ronde*), *The Fire Of Desire* updates the setting to present day Hong Kong, where five men and five women (all played by the same two actors) explore their frustrations and perspectives on love, marriage and sex in ten different scenes, each taking place in a room with a different man and woman. The acclaimed Hong Kong production subsequently inspired English playwright David Hare's adaptation *The Blue Room* which starred Nicole Kidman on Broadway.



Crazy for You Company Photo.
Credit: David Cooper

2014–2015 Signature Series

In October, Gateway Theatre's 2014–2015 Signature Series launched with *Conversations with My Mother* by Stacey Kaser and Alison Kelly, directed by Katrina Dunn. After keeling over in her garden, family matriarch Hyacinth still roams the earth despite the fact that she is very much dead. And while Hyacinth tries to give up her ghost, her grown daughters struggle with their own midlife crises: Lily wants to go back to college despite being thrown a curveball, while workaholic Heather tries to schedule time for baby adoption. Amid the comedy and chaos lurks a distant relative from the Other Side, pushing their buttons and nudging them to make peace with their lives. This production is a product of Scene First, Gateway Theatre's play development program.

Studio B hosted *How to Disappear Completely* by Itai Erdal in November. Gregarious raconteur and lighting designer, Itai Erdal (known as "the storyteller" among his friends) returned to Israel in 2000 after his mother was diagnosed with terminal lung cancer. A film student at the time, Itai packed up his gear and put full focus on his mom. Performing alongside the video footage he filmed during her last days, Itai delivered a candid account of her life lessons and an illuminating experience in the theatre.

Gateway's annual holiday musical, Gershwin's *Crazy For You*, took place in December 2014. Set in 1930s New York, this high-octane, tap dancing musical swings to life. Bachelor Bobby Child begrudgingly works at the family bank while he plugs away at his theatre career. After he's forced to foreclose on a property in the middle of nowhere, Bobby finds that his love of theatre and the love of his life are waiting for him in the most unlikely of places. In order to get both, he'll have to pull a few tricks (and fake moustaches) from his theatrical back pocket. Between the hijinx and hilarity, audiences were left humming along to famous songs like *I Got Rhythm* and *Nice Work if You Can Get It*. This production was nominated for 18 Ovation Musical Theatre Awards for Outstanding Professional Production (winner), Direction (winner), Music Direction, Choreography (winner), Set Design (winner), Costume Design, Female and Male Lead Performance, Male Supporting Performance, Male and Female Chorus (winners), Male Newcomer (winner) and a special award for Outstanding tap performance by the tap ensemble (winner).

Academy for the Performing Arts

The Academy is a year-long after school and summer program that teaches musical theatre, acting, speech, singing and playwriting classes to youth 6–18 years as well as adults. The Academy was fully subscribed in 2014, with over 250 students in 19 classes. Students from the program are often seen on professional stages throughout the Lower Mainland and in training institutions as they prepare for their professional career. In addition to classes, the Academy hosts three annual productions. The spring shows held in April were *Village of Idiots* by John Lazarus and *Guys and Dolls Jr.* by Frank Loesser Jo Swerling and Abe Burrows, featuring senior level students (13–18 years) in both acting and musical theatre. The summer production held in July 2013 was *Friends To The End* by Barbara Tomasic, featuring students 8–13 years from the Musical Theatre Summer Camp.

To help advance the performing arts, the Gateway Academy provides scholarships to five deserving students who exemplify the core values of the program: courage, creativity and connection (ensemble work). In 2014, these students were Samaya Pankanea (6–8 years), Karsten Lee (8–10 years), Anna Russell (10–13 years), Colette Richardson and Ashleigh Nazareth (13–18 years). The program also provides bursaries to families in need, with ten families receiving support in 2014.

Mentorship and Outreach

Gateway's outreach and mentorship programs introduce new emerging artists, students and the general public to Gateway, people who may not participate without certain incentives. Programs include:

- **Secondary School Program:** Four times a year, secondary school theatre students are invited for a day to study a play on the Main Stage. On the day of technical dress rehearsal, students participate in presentations and discussions with Gateway's creative team—participating in backstage tours with production and stage management teams, watching a portion of the technical dress rehearsal, speaking with administrative staff about their roles and responsibilities—and then return to see the show later in the run. Afterwards, the students report back about their experience.
- **Free Ticket Program:** Gateway supports community fundraisers and not-for-profit needs by donating tickets to community organizations.
- **Industry Discount Ticketing Program:** Performing artists are given a discounted rate to encourage their engagement with Gateway.

- **Discounted Dress Rehearsal:** A limited number of \$20 tickets are available to the dress rehearsal at this discounted rate.
- **Volunteer Program:** 122 volunteers of all ages dedicate their time to Gateway.
- **Interns:** In 2014, five students worked in the Gateway office for 16 weeks in the summer, assisting and learning from the Development, Communications, Artistic, Production and Academy departments.
- **Holiday Musical Mentorship:** *Crazy For You* cast 17 amateur actors in ensemble roles to perform alongside five professional artists and 11 professional musicians. This partnership created mentorship opportunities for amateur artists to develop their skills while performing in a large-scale musical with full production values.
- **Academy Artistic Mentorship:** The Academy hires emerging designers to develop their skills on a full production. In 2014, seven creative team members joined the program. Five senior students also volunteered as class assistants, taking on new responsibilities under the guidance of Academy faculty.
- **Professional Services:** Independent companies are supported with artistic and administrative mentorship, audition support, rehearsal and performance space, office assistance, front of house and box office services, and funding assistance for the development of their work. Gateway also focuses on building relationships and increasing the capacity of co-producers and presenters through mentoring.

Community Outreach during Culture Days 3 4

During Culture Days, Gateway Theatre opened its doors and offered free public events that engaged the community in new ways. Three educational events were offered, each opening up artistic projects and processes so the public could deepen their relationship with the creative process:

- **Backstage Tours:** Visitors were invited to take an exclusive behind the scenes tour of Richmond's only live professional theatre and Metro Vancouver's second largest theatre company. They walked the backstage halls of Gateway Theatre and stood on the same stage where the Lower Mainland's best artists perform.
- **Tap Dancing:** Inspired by *Crazy For You*, guests could tap along with choreographer Dawn Ewen and learn a beginner tap routine and let out their inner Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers.
- **Classical Musicals Sing-along:** For those unable to get enough of the classic Gershwin and Rodgers and Hammerstein musicals, this sing-along brought Gateway Academy instructor and musical director Spencer Bach to be a personal accompanist for those wishing to sing along to their favourite show tunes.



Conversations with my Mother (L to R Alison Kelly, Patti Allan and Deborah Williams), October 2014.
Credit: David Cooper

Appendix 1

2014 Arts and Culture Grant Program

The following organizations received support:

Operating Assistance

- BC Children's Arts and Literacy Centre
- Cinevolution Media Arts Society
- The Community Arts Council of Richmond
- Richmond Community Band Society
- Richmond Community Orchestra and Chorus Association
- Richmond Music School Society
- Richmond Potters' Club
- Richmond Youth Choral Society
- Textile Arts Guild of Richmond Society'

Project Assistance

- Vancouver Cantonese Opera: Multicultural Heritage Festival
- Writers International Network Canada Society: Third WIN Literary Festival
- Richmond Arts Coalition Outreach program
- Cinevolution Media Arts Society: LADY JUSTICE: at the Library
- Phillipine Cultural Arts Society of BC: Showcasing Phillipine Dance & Music
- The Richmond Singers Spring 2014 Concert Program
- The Greater Vancouver Historical Performance Society of BC: The Compleat Courtier Richmond
- Delta Symphony Society: Outreach Concert and Instrument Petting Zoo
- Richmond Weavers' and Spinners' Guild Society: Weaving with Natural Abundance
- Canada YC Chinese Orchestra Summer Concert 2014
- Richmond Art Gallery Association: Meet the Artists Videos
- Tickle Me Pickle Theatre Sports Improv Society: Improv Season
- Vancouver Tagore Society: West Coast Tagore Festival 2014
- Vancouver Tagore Society: An Afternoon of Bengali Poetry



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