

# 2015 Richmond Public Art Program Annual Report Highlights

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

## Civic Public Art Program

In 2015, public art was commissioned by the City and installed at community centres, parks and civic buildings along city sidewalks. These included:

- *Motif of One and Many* by artist Rebecca Bayers. A colourful grid of triangles covers the floor of the newly opened City Centre Community Centre's second floor lobby. The pattern represents individuals and groups who have come together to form new relationships.
- *Lulu Sweet: Island* by artists Deanne Achong and Faith Moosang. The video, which premiered at the 2014 Your Kontinent International Film Festival, was re-installed in the Murakami Boatworks at Britannia Shipyards for Ships to Shore, June 28–July 1, 2015. The imagery and sounds invite the audience to consider the beauty of the industrial presence rooted to the site by the hypnotic flow of the river. In 2016, the film will be permanently installed as part of the Seine Net Loft's new interactive exhibits.
- *Star Arc*, Richmond Olympic Experience cauldron designed by Danna De Groot of W3 Design. This work marks the end of the exterior exhibit experience, "Torch Route Across the Nation", and symbolizes the intangible elements of the Olympic Games: the unifying, eternal light of the flame (represented in LED lighting) and the sense of "being a part of something bigger" that the Olympic Games evoke.
- *Lulu, a Memory Garden* by Jacqueline Metz and Nancy Chew, Paulik Gardens Neighbourhood Park. A centre piece of large etched black stone paver slabs, placed in a radial pattern, incorporates the drawings of horticultural images created by Palmer Senior Secondary art students.
- *Current II*, by Andrea Sirois. Located on the exterior facade of the Alexandra District Energy Utility Building expansion, this artwork expands on the work of *Current*, installed in 2013, and continues the theme of water as energy. Photographic images depict water flowing around the building's exterior, symbolizing the geothermal energy that is literally flowing below Richmond's first geothermal energy facility.
- **City Utility Cabinet Wrap Program.** On March 23, 2015, Council endorsed the implementation program for integrating artwork on City of Richmond utility boxes. The Public Art Program, in partnership with Engineering and Public Works and the Transportation Department, installed eight new art wraps around Richmond in 2015. These included:
  - *The Sockeye Special - The InterUrban Tram* by David Pacholko at the Van Horne Sanitary Lift Station kiosk;
  - *Delta Trees* by Ross Munro at the Odlin West Sanitary Lift Station kiosk;
  - *Island City* by Mir Agol at the Richmond Centre Sanitary Lift Station kiosk; and
  - *Hop on the Train, Cannery Girls, Steveston Meat Market, Dockside and Downtown Steveston* by Andrew Briggs, on traffic control boxes at No. 1 Road and Moncton Street in Steveston Village and the No. 1 Road South Drainage Pump Station.

Civic Projects underway in 2015 and scheduled for completion in 2016-2017 include:

- [Cover Stories: Manhole Cover Installations](#). On March 9, 2015, Council approved the implementation of the manhole cover art program and designs by four local artists were recommended for incorporation into two sets of manholes (two storm covers and two sanitary covers). The selected artists—Caroline Dyck, Greg Allen, Jeff Porter and Susan Pearson—worked with City staff and the fabricator to translate their designs into full-scale forms for the covers. Production and installation is scheduled for Spring 2016.
- *Skydam* by Nathan Lee, the second installation in the Canada Line Terminus Plinth Project, was installed in early 2016. The first installation on display through 2015, *Cluster* by Carlyn Yandle, was removed and recycled.
- Storeys housing project. Richard Tetrault has been selected as the artist for the City-initiated Storeys innovative housing project serving a non-profit consortium consisting of six organizations.
- Cambie Fire Hall No. 3. The selected artwork, tentatively titled *to be distinct and to hold together*, by artist Daniel Laskarin, will be comprised of three interlocked triangular panels standing on a raised circular platform. The three panels will be perforated with water-jet cut text: “FIRE-RESCUE,” “AMBULANCE” and “COMMUNITY”. The project is scheduled for completion in 2016.
- Brighthouse Fire Hall No. 1. Artist Nathan Scott has been commissioned to create a life-sized bronze sculpture of a firefighter in action. The sculpture represents “strength, bravery, resolve, commitment and capturing the moment of pride, strength, and awareness of the firefighter’s contributions to our society and community: past, present and future.” Scheduled for unveiling in 2016, the sculpture will be placed at the corner of Granville Avenue and Gilbert Road.
- Minoru Complex, Aquatics. *Errant Rain Cloud*, by Germaine Koh and Gordon Hicks, is in the form of a suspended sculptural rain cloud. Every few hours a brief, gentle rain shower will fall from the cloud into the pool. The rain cloud mimics the natural sun-powered water cycle of the atmosphere, at a very local scale and creates a sense of occasion. The artwork is scheduled for installation in 2017.
- No. 2 Road North Drainage Pump Station. Germaine Koh has been selected as the artist consultant to work with the civil engineering-led design consortium, including landscape and architect consultants. The team has developed a collaborative artwork, *Four Types of Water Revealed*, for the new pump station and engage the public in its processes. This work is scheduled for completion in 2016.

## Community Public Art Program

The 2015 Community Public Art Program provided the following opportunities for artists to engage with the public on temporary artworks:

- *The Harvest Full Moon Project* by Marina Szijarto. For 4 months, at the new City Centre Community Centre, this artist offered an exciting range of free workshops and open studio drop-in sessions, leading up to the Harvest Full Moon Procession and Celebration on September 26, 2015.
- *Pianos in the Street 2015*. The second annual program built bridges and delighted passers-by throughout the community by bringing pianos to open-air locations in Minoru Plaza, Britannia Heritage Shipyards site and the Terra Nova Rural Park, from July through September 2015. Each piano was decorated by a local arts group to represent the flavour of the community where it was situated and the public was invited to play the instruments and upload media of themselves to a dedicated website, [www.supportpiano.com](http://www.supportpiano.com). This project was sponsored by Pacey's Pianos.
- *Pollinator Pasture*. This multi-faceted project coordinated by an Emily Carr University research team, creates environmental-based artworks to benefit a multitude of pollinators in the agricultural communities of Kelowna and Richmond. The Richmond component, located in Bath Slough and Bridgeport Industrial Park, is a collaborative effort with Environmental Sustainability, Parks and Public Art with the City and external partners BC Hydro, Westcoast Seeds and VanCity. The development of an enhanced demonstration pasture for pollinators within the park and Bath Slough demonstrates how public art can be used as a catalyst for ecological change.

## Private Development Public Art Program

Through the development applications process, private developers continued to provide high quality public art to enrich the public realm. For 2015, the following projects were completed:

- *ebb and flow* by Jacqueline Metz and Nancy Chew. Located at the entrance foyer of the Carol Tong Centre, home of the new City Centre Community Centre, this artwork is a “snapshot”, or moment in time, of a braided river. Such rivers come together, separate, change form and pattern like a metaphor for shifting, overlapping, interweaving communities, and for the constant flux of society and culture. The work was commissioned by Canada Sunrise Development Corp.
- *tango* by Javier Campos and Elspeth Pratt. With simple and elegant sculptural gestures, standing among the Kiwanis towers lining Minoru Boulevard, three forms of wood, steel and concrete stand locked in an intimate dance. This work was commissioned by Polygon Homes.
- *Sequence* by Eliza Au and Nick Santillan. This work is a geometric pattern based on fish scales, carved by water-jet into aluminum screens and placed along the full height of the Harmony building at 8288 Granville Avenue. The repeated pattern and lustrous surface convey a sense of rhythm, movement, and flexibility, much like a fish moving in water. The work was commissioned by Townline Ventures.

Several private development public art projects were commissioned in 2015, and are scheduled for installation in 2016–2017. These include:

- *Sight Unseen* by Mia Weinberg at Capstan Sanitary Pump Station Plaza, Pinnacle International
- *Kawaki*, by Glen Andersen at The Pier at London Landing, Oris Development
- *Upriver* by Rebecca Belmore. Riva, Onni Development
- *Closer Than* by Bill Pechet. Mandarin, Fairborne Homes
- *Nest* by Atelier Anon. Jayden Mews, Polygon Homes
- *Signal Noise* by Mark Ashby. Oxford Lanes, Townline
- *Untitled Wall Mural* by Derek Root. Cadence, Cressey Development
- *Layers* by Christian Huizinga. Museo, Am-Pri Alexandra Road Development
- *Spirit of Steveston* by Cheryl Hamilton and Mike Vandermeer. Kingsley Estates, Polygon Homes
- *Gulf & Fraser Fishermen’s Credit Union Heritage Panels* by Leonhard Epp. 3471 Chatham Street, Steveston Flats Development.
- *Spinners* by Dan Corson. Avanti, Polygon Homes
- *Snow/Migration* by Mark Ashby. SmartCentres, First Richmond North Shopping Centres Ltd.
- *Layers* by Christian Huizenga, Museo, Am-Pri Alexandra Road Development
- *Artist call in progress for ARTS Units*. Concord Gardens, Concord Pacific Developments.

## Unique Projects

- **No.3 Road Art Columns Exhibition 9**  
*Small Monuments to Food* examines how Richmond's diversity of cultures—including social, economic and political histories—have influenced the way we think, produce, consume, protect and build community and identity around food. The project was created in collaboration with the City's Environmental Sustainability section and the Sharing Farm. Original artworks created for *Part 1* of the project, on display through November 2015, included *Where do you think food comes from?* by artist Dawn Lo, *An Unfamiliar Place* by Patty Tseng and *Plates for Local Palates* by Ariel Kirk-Gushowaty. *Part 2*, installed in December 2015, features the work of three local artists, and includes *The Farm*, *The Market*, *The Table*, *The End* by Eric Button, *Seed Bank* by Catherine Chan and *When You Eat Today, Thank a Farmer* by Deborah Koenker.

## Public Art Education and Engagement Program

- [PechaKucha Night Richmond](#)

Ten speakers from a variety of different professions and backgrounds presented their stories at each of the four free *PechaKucha Night Richmond* events in 2015. 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.

- Volume 9 – Feed the Soul (March 26, 2015, Melville Centre for Dialogue at KPU Richmond Campus)  
Hosted and produced by second year students in the Graphic Design for Marketing Program at Kwantlen Polytechnic University Richmond Campus, this event featured ten speakers on a wide range of subjects. Attendance: 125.
- Volume 10 – Wonders of Wood (May 8, 2015, Chinese Bunkhouse, Britannia Heritage Shipyards)  
Ten creative and specialized practitioners in architecture, instrument-making, art and design and environment shared their creative process of envisioning wood in unique ways. Attendance: 60
- Volume 11 – Gateways: Culture in Translation (August 5, 2015, Richmond Cultural Centre Performance Hall)  
Presented in partnership with Gateway Theatre, this event explored what happens when arts and culture are experienced in different languages. Attendance: 45
- Volume 12 – Word, Words, Words (Oct 1, 2015, Richmond Public Library Brighthouse Branch Living Room)  
Presented in partnership with the Richmond Public Library, this event featured ten people who work with words including a poet, novelist and newspaper publisher. Attendance: 35

- [Culture Days Public Art Bus Tours \(September 26 and 27, 2015\)](#)

Participants of all ages joined Public Art Planner Eric Fiss and special guest artists Deanne Achong and Faith Moosang for two fully subscribed bus tours exploring some of Richmond's newest artworks.

- [Art at Work](#)

Presented in partnership with the Canadian Artists Representation/Front des artistes canadiens (CARFAC) and the Richmond Art Gallery, this series of professional development workshops and events is designed to provide artists with the knowledge and skills required for pursuing a professional arts practice in the fields of public art, visual art and community arts. Workshops and events for the fall series were free, with additional programming planned for spring of 2016.

- [Alexandra Road Public Art Plan and the Public Art Collective Video](#)

Under the direction Dr. Cameron Cartiere, Associate Professor at Emily Carr University of Art + Design (ECUAD) and Amit Sandhu, General Manager, Am-Pri Group, ECUAD students developed and presented the Alexandra Road Public Art Plan to City staff representing Planning, Environmental Sustainability, Parks, Public Art and Archives on April 1, 2015. The presentation was documented in a film documenting this collaboration, produced by Sharad Kharé with support from Am-Pri Developments, ECUAD, Stantec and the City of Richmond. The video, *The Public Art Collective*, is available for viewing online through Vimeo. The Alexandra Road Public Art Plan was used to guide the artist selection process for the private development at 9580 Alexandra Road.

## Public Art Advisory Committee

The Richmond Public Art Advisory Committee is a Council-appointed voluntary advisory committee that provides input on public art policy, planning, education and promotion.

- **2015 members:**  
Aderyn Davies, Chair  
Sandra Cohen, Vice Chair  
Chris Charlebois  
Simone Guo  
Valerie Jones  
Shawne MacIntyre  
Victoria Padilla  
Willa Walsh  
Xuedong Zhao

Councillor Carol Day, Council Liaison.

- **Monthly Meetings**  
At the monthly Committee meetings, members received presentations on new civic, private development and community project proposals and provide feedback and recommendations. Updates on discussions on public art for upcoming development were provided by the Committee's appointee to the Advisory Design Panel, Xuedong Zhao.
- **Workshops**  
In 2015, the Committee held three facilitated workshops to review the Administrative Procedures Manual and recommended updates to improve clarity and administration of the Public Art Program.
- **Bus Tour**  
The annual Public Art Advisory Committee bus tour took place on June 16 and focused on artworks installed during the previous year. Stops included new artworks in the Alexandra Neighbourhood, City Centre, Oval Village and Terra Nova. Committee members visited both civic and private development projects, ranging in size from a small utility kiosk art wrap to water jet cut metal panels spanning the full height of a 14-storey residential tower.

Report prepared by:

Eric Fiss, Public Art Planner  
Richmond Public Art Advisory Committee Liaison