A painting of a salmon in a river. The salmon is in the foreground, facing left, with a red net draped over it. The background shows a river with green reeds and a grey sky. The painting is on a glass surface, with a vertical seam visible on the right side.

City of Richmond

Public Art Program 2016 Annual Report

Arts, Culture and Heritage Services

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Danny Chen, 2016, Dyke Road at Gilbert Road Art
Wrap

Richmond Public Art Program 2016 Annual Report

RICHMOND PUBLIC ART PROGRAM TO-DATE:

- 185** Total number of artworks in collection
- 132** Permanent artwork installations
- 48** Temporary installations (*40 no longer on display*)
- 137** Total number of permanent and temporary artworks currently on display

Introduction

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 activities to increase public awareness of the arts and encourage public dialogue about art and issues of interest and concern to Richmond residents.

For 2016, projects featured the integration of new works of art into public spaces including local artist-designed utility cabinet wraps and manhole covers, a community-created set of banners to surround the Minoru Complex construction site, 11 high quality works on new private developments and the public art program's first large outdoor community mural at St. Alban's Parish.

At the Creative City Network of Canada 2017 Summit, held in Surrey, the City Centre Community Centre Public Art Plan was recognized as one of seven outstanding public art projects from across Canada in the Public Art Year in Review. The City Centre Community Centre Public Art Plan featured projects completed in 2015 under the Private Development Program, *ebb & flow*, the Civic Program, *Motif of One and Many*, and the Community Public Art Program, *Harvest Full Moon Project*.

2016 Public Art Projects

Civic Public Art Program

In 2016, public art was commissioned by the City and installed at community centres, parks, civic buildings and along city sidewalks. These included:

Britannia Shipyards National Historic Site

Island by Deanne Achong and Faith Moosang

This public art project looks at the history of Richmond through a combination of historical and contemporary lenses. For the *Lulu Suite* public art project at the Richmond Olympic Oval, artists Deanne Achong and Faith Moosang have created three narrative-based projects that explore questions of technology, public space and the means in which history is collected, archived and shared. In 2016, the third work, *Island*, was permanently installed as part of the Seine Net Loft's new interactive exhibits. 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.



Island, Deanne Achong and Faith Moosang

Cover Stories

Manhole covers throughout Richmond by Greg Allen, Caroline Dyck, Susan Pearson and Jeff Porter

In April of 2016, the first of 200 artist-designed storm and sanitary manhole covers were installed enhancing the community's street experience. The four selected artists took common, previously unremarkable pieces of our civic infrastructure and transformed them into pieces of art that celebrate Richmond's cultural heritage. The fabrication company, Westview Sales Limited, sponsored the project, producing the manhole covers at no additional cost. They help establish a sense of place, remembrance and pride.



Crane, Carolyn Dyck



Boat Building, Greg Allen

Protection Society

12071 No. 5 Road

Colouring My Life by Hilda Yuet Yi Fung

As the Richmond Animal Protection Society (RAPS) outgrew its Richmond Animal Shelter facilities, a new trailer was added as an extension to the operation. RAPS, Parks and Public Art coordinated the enhancement of the trailer with an artist-designed wrap representing the themes and values of the Richmond Animal Protection Society. The artwork draws on the current trend of graphic colouring book design depicting animals housed at the shelter and local fauna.



Colouring My Life, Hilda Yuet Yi Fung



Sunset at Steveston, Danny Chen

Gilbert Pump Station

Returning Home - Sockeye Salmon

by Danny Chen

This wrap builds on this location adjacent to the Fraser River to reference Steveston's rich fishing heritage.



Returning Home - Sockeye Salmon, Danny Chen

City Utility Cabinet Wrap Program

The Public Art Program, in partnership with Engineering and Public Works and the Transportation Department, installed four new art wraps around Richmond in 2016. These included:

No. 5 Rd. Pump Station

Sunset at Steveston by Danny Chen

The artwork depicted at this pump station utility kiosk is a watercolour representation of Steveston Harbour at sunset.

Phoenix Pump Station

Homage to Bubbles by Bruce Walther

This artwork is a photographic homage to the Community Mosaic Project done by youth and adults at the Steveston Community Centre in 2007. The mosaic represents Steveston's canning, farming and fishing heritage and the meeting of the Fraser River and the Strait of Georgia.



Homage to Bubbles, Bruce Walther

6411 Lynas Lane Utility box

Into the Trails by Joanne Hastie

This artwork depicts the natural rain forest in which we live and our accessibility to a maintained trail system. Inspired by nature, *Into the Trails* reminds us to revisit our trails and thank all the people who make them accessible.



Into the Trails, Joanne Hastie

In addition, several civic public art projects were commissioned in 2016, and are scheduled for installation in 2017–2018 (see Appendix 1).

Community Public Art Program

The Sharing Farm

Black Earth Rusted Stories by Blake Williams

This work celebrates the history of Richmond's agricultural heritage and the farmers who have worked the rich, alluvial soils of the Fraser River delta. The assemblage of worn, rusted tools, reminiscent of those used by generations of families who worked this land, provides insight into the daily life, ingenuity and perseverance which lies at the heart of sustainable agriculture. The artwork is located on the north wall of the newly opened Mary's Barn, named in honour of Mary Gazetas, the founding member of the Richmond Fruit Tree Sharing Project now known as the Sharing Farm.



Black Earth Rusted Stories, Blake Williams

St. Alban's Parish

The Richmond Peace Labyrinth Mural

by Joey Mallet

The Public Art Program supported a community proposal from The Richmond Peace Labyrinth Committee to assist in the creation of the Public Art Program's first large outdoor community mural. The Richmond Peace Labyrinth is based on ancient worldwide designs of meditative labyrinths, and is a replica of the labyrinth at Chartres Cathedral in France. The mural completes the site in creating an experience

which builds on the beauty of the labyrinth, references motifs of Chartres Cathedral, and extolls the values of peace, beauty and inclusivity. Richmond Peace Labyrinth and the mural are a contemplative public space for all people, regardless of religion and culture



The Richmond Peace Labyrinth Mural, Joey Mallet

Pianos on the Street 2016

The third annual program built bridges and delighted passers-by throughout the community by bringing pianos to open-air locations in Minoru Plaza, Britannia Shipyards site and the Terra Nova Rural Park, from July through September 2016. Each piano was decorated either by a local arts group or school arts program 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. This project was sponsored by Pacey’s Pianos.



Britannia Piano, Pianos on the Street

Minoru Park

Minoru Complex Community Banners by Caroline Elise Dyck and Rhonda Wepler

As part of the Minoru Civic Precinct Public Art Plan, members of the community were encouraged to participate in the creation of colourful construction hoarding designs on the Minoru Complex Development site. The artists brought the “past” and “future” of the new facility to life with poetry and sculptures by visitors of all ages who took part in workshops over several weeks. The artworks were unveiled during Culture Days and were so successful that a second set of banners was printed to adorn the Granville Avenue side of the construction site.



Minoru Complex Community Banner, Caroline Elise Dyck,



Minoru Complex Community Banner, Rhonda Wepler

Bridgeport Industrial Park *Pollinator Pasture Picnic*

The Pollinator Pasture hosted a picnic as part of this year's Doors Open celebration. The picnic invited project partners to host a tent and celebrate the first bloom of the Pollinator Pasture with community members. Tent partners included BC Hydro, VanCity, West Coast Seeds and the Richmond Art Gallery. Artist workshops by Sharon Kallis and a participatory sculpture by Samuel Roy Bois engaged visitors as did tours of the pollinator pasture by staff and project leads. Art activation of the park continued through summer 2016 with the making of butterfly net sculptures, by artist Sharon Kallis who led community members in a series of rope-making circles. The butterfly net sculptures were installed in early August with a final gathering and celebration. The Pasture itself is a collaborative effort with Sustainability, Parks and Public Art with private partners, all coordinated by an Emily Carr University Research Team, directed by Dr. Cameron Cartiere.



Participatory sculpture, Samuel Roy Bois

Private Development Public Art Program

Through the development applications process, private developers continued to provide high quality public art to enrich the public realm. In 2016, the following projects were completed:

Museo

9580 Alexandra Road

Sponsor: Am-Pri Developments

Layers by Christian Huizenga

This work is the outcome of an innovative partnership between Emily Carr University of Art + Design (ECUAD), Am-Pri Group and the City of Richmond. ECUAD students developed the Alexandra Road Public Art Plan in 2015. The Plan was then used to guide the artist selection process for the private development. Artists applying for the opportunity were required to attend a series of three professional development workshops as part of the Art at Work Professional Development Program for artists. Recent graduate, Christian Huizenga, was selected through an arms-length selection process. A reflection of soil, *Layers* is a continuous garden, railing and bench, inspired by the rich aggregation of sediment layers upon which Richmond is built. By defining the greenway, the piece draws emphasis to the continued preservation of green spaces within densifying cities.



Layers, Christian Huizenga,

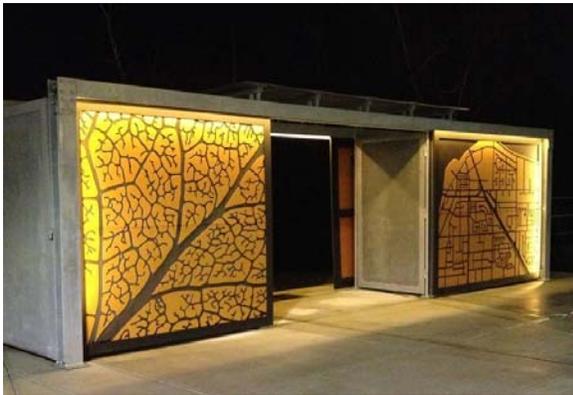
Sorrento

8633 Capstan Way

Sponsor: Pinnacle

Site Unseen by Mia Weinberg

These four sliding doors feature two images of leaf veins and two maps of Richmond: one large scale and one detailed scale of each. Serving a practical function, the work surrounds a sanitary pump station, hence the title, *Site Unseen*, is a whimsical reference to the mechanical networks and conduits that lie hidden beneath our streets. Just as leaf veins are networks for transporting the lifeblood of a plant, one can imagine streets, power, water, and drainage systems as networks transporting the lifeblood of a city.



Site Unseen, Mia Weinberg,

The Pier at London Landing

13160 No 2 Road

Sponsor: Oris Development Group

Dream of the River by Glen Andersen

Designed and built to resemble an archaic relic, *Dream of the River* is a surrealist folly wherein a full-size fishing boat “skeleton” is visually married to a salmon backbone. The sculpture is perched on a grass berm overlooking the Fraser River contained within a platform that extends out from a pedestrian walkway.



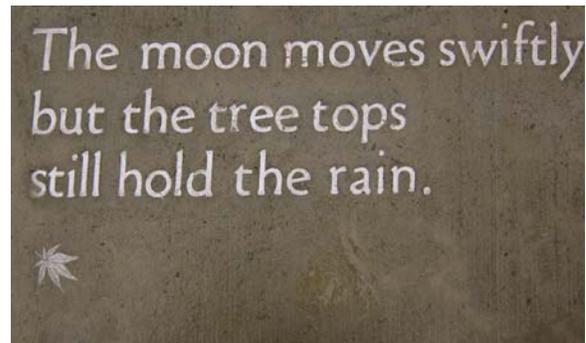
Dream of the River, Glen Andersen

5460 to 5560 Moncton Street

Sponsor: Am-Pri Developments

Poet's Promenade by Jeanette G. Lee

Paying homage to Richmond's deep Japanese roots, this portion of sidewalk along Moncton Street is imprinted with images of leaves and embedded with stainless steel text of haiku poems by Batsuo Basho (translated by Keiko Parker). Poems representing the four seasons bring pedestrians on this trail symbolically through the many “seasons” of life.



Poet's Promenade, Jeanette G. Lee

Oxford Lane

4588 Dubbert Street

Sponsor: Townline

Signal, Noise by Mark Ashby

The work consists of nine unique entry gates to mark the entry points off the south-facing access on Oxford Lane. Digitally fabricated from steel bars, each gate presents a unique three-dimensional surface. The gates also cast interesting and variable shadows on the front walk and gardens of the townhouses.



Signal Noise, Mark Ashby

Mandarin

6188 No. 3 Road

Sponsor: Fairborne Homes

Closer Than by Bill Pechet

This installation consists of an offset grid of 300 identical convex safety mirrors mounted in six rows of 50 mirrors each. Sited along the wall of a new mixed-use housing project facing the Brighthouse Canada Line Station platform, the mirrors produce a shimmering visual plane which presents the station itself as its subject. The transience of people, space and light produce an evolving and shifting portrait of the station and commuters where, just like in car mirrors, we are closer than we appear.



Closer Than, Bill Pechet

Central at Garden City

4751 McLelland Road

Sponsor: SmartREIT

Snow/Migration by Mark Ashby

This sculptural work is inspired by the migratory passage of Snow Geese. Five lamp standards with broad folded metal reflectors and high-power white LEDs are programmed to provide an ambient light show. Local sound sensors located on the lamp standards override the ambient program with an interactive experience allowing the artwork to respond to the sound of low-flying aircraft, the cadence of a voice or to be “played” like a musical instrument.



Snow / Migration, Mark Ashby

Kingsley Estates

10440 No. 2 Road

Sponsor: Polygon Homes

Spirit of Steveston by Cheryl Hamilton and Mike Vandermeer

Located on the former site of Steveston Secondary School, this work pays homage to both the golden era of Steveston’s marine industry and the site’s previous institutional use. The boat and gulls are crafted from stainless steel, polished to a mirror finish, and detailed with cast elements and etched surface treatments. Into the sky, the artists have launched a scene that would be familiar to many of Steveston’s previous generations.



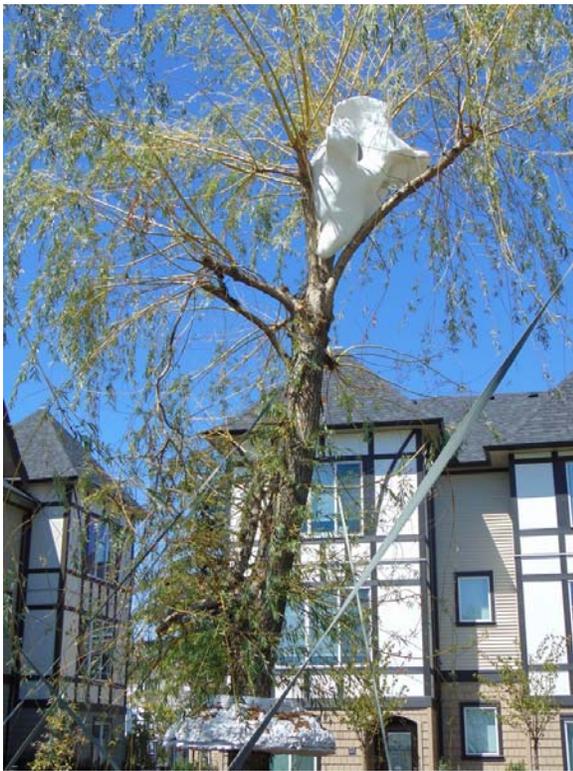
Spirit of Steveston, Cheryl Hamilton and Mike Vandermeer

Jayden Mews

9700 Alexandra Road
Sponsor Polygon Homes

Untitled [Nest for Owls] by Alyssa Schwann and Michael Seymour

This public art project was created in response to the need for habitat for owls as well as their food sources. To house the nest, a pollarded willow tree was used for its fast-growing characteristics, suitability for the site and historic agricultural presence. The nest itself is a ceramic vessel modeled on an existing tree nest, making it the ideal dimensions for a safe and habitable nesting site.



Untitled [Nest for Owls], Alyssa Schwann and Michael Seymour,

One River Park Place

5233 Gilbert Road
Sponsor: Intracorp

Three Ginseng Roots by Evan Foon Lee

Balancing modern materials and processes with natural forms and colours, these three glass panels are installed within the water feature to give the sense that the roots are floating. In addition to being a medicinal plant used by many cultures, and especially in traditional Chinese medicine, ginseng is grown throughout Canada, including on farms along the Fraser

River. The artwork promotes good health, well-being and a connection with nature.



Three Ginseng Roots, Evan Foon Lee

Riva Development

5311 Cedarbridge Way

Sponsor: Onni

Upriver by Rebecca Belmore

This sculptural installation is inspired by the nearby Fraser River and the spawning migration of millions of Pacific salmon and the form references the ingenious construction of the bentwood box made by the Northwest Coastal peoples for centuries. Cast in bronze, with a copper-like patina, *Upriver* is rendered to look like it is made out of cedar logs and planks at various levels of processing, referencing the more recent history of the Fraser River as a transportation conduit for the forest industry. The transition from cedar planks to salmon in this piece suggests the inseparable ecological dependency between the migrating salmon and the coastal rainforest.



Upriver, Rebecca Belmore

Several private development public art projects were commissioned in 2015, and are scheduled for installation in 2017–2018 (see Appendix 1).

Unique Projects

No.3 Road Art Columns

Exhibition 9: **Small Monuments to Food (Part 2)**

This series of artworks (installed December 2015) examined how Richmond's diversity of cultures—including our social, economic and political histories—have influenced the way we think, produce, consume, protect and build community and identity around food. Participating local artists were Eric Button, Catherine Chan and Deborah Koenker.



Small Monuments to Food (Part 2), No. 3 Road Art Columns

Exhibition 10: How Art Works

The art columns played host to a contest launched in early 2016 in support of the *How Art Works* campaign (originally created by communication design consultants, 123w). The contest invited creative people to submit an artistic graph to communicate how the arts impact their health and well-being and/or that of the community. Nine artists were selected through an arms-length selection process. People's Choice and Honorable Mentions were also selected via online polling.



How Art Works (Collage), No. 3 Road Art Columns

Canada Line Terminus Art Plinth *Skydam* by Nathan Lee,

The second of two artworks commissioned for the Brighouse Canada Line Station Art Plinth Exhibition was completed in February 2016. The artwork is comprised of a white steel plated beaver dam with a family of fibreglass red beavers. The work references the colours of the Canadian flag and acknowledges the cultural and economic importance of the North American beaver. The artwork will remain on display through 2017.



Sky Dam Canada Line Terminus Plinth Project, Nathan Lee

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 three free PechaKucha Night Richmond events in 2016. 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 13: For the Love of Nature February 11, 2016, Richmond Nature Park

Presented in partnership with the Richmond Nature Park, this event featured presentations from a naturalist, conservationist, landscape architect, artist, educator, agriculturalist, parks planner, sustainability advocate and a marine biologist. Attendance: 50

Volume 14: Brain Space March 31, 2016, Kwantlen Polytechnic University, 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: 200



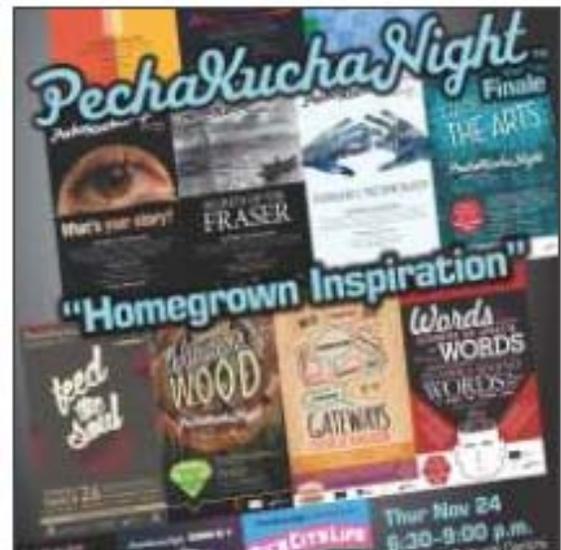
Volume 16, PechaKucha Night Richmond

Volume 15: Rich City Life May 5, 2016, Steveston Community Centre

Produced in partnership with Youth Services, this event was presented from the perspective of Richmond youth, igniting passion and creative thinking about the urban youth experience in Richmond. Attendance: 34

Volume 16: Finale: Homegrown Inspiration November 24, 2016, Richmond Cultural Centre Performance Hall

Homegrown Inspiration celebrated the last four years of the PechaKucha Night program. It showcased local artists and featured inspiring presenters who inspire others, enrich Richmond and enhance the vibrancy of their communities. Attendance: 30



PKN Richmond Volume 16, Homegrown Inspiration,

2016 Culture Days

Public Art Bus Tours

Participants of all ages joined Public Art Planner Eric Fiss for two fully subscribed bus tours exploring some of Richmond's newest artworks. Artworks in South Richmond and Steveston were featured in the bus tours, from the new RAPS Trailer wrap to the newly installed manhole covers in Steveston.

Leave Your Mark FM Pop-Up Radio Station

In collaboration with the Richmond Media Lab, Richmond Museum and Richmond Art Gallery, Leave Your Mark FM animated the Cultural Centre Plaza during Culture Days. Special guest hosts broadcast live from the plaza and played music selected by local Richmond youth, intriguing interviews with artists and locals and readings of historical letters from the Richmond Museum. The pop-up radio station also promoted other Culture Days events happening throughout the city.



Leave Your Mark FM

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 was 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 winter and spring series were free.



Art at Work

Promotion of the Public Art Collection

Richmond's Public Art collection can be browsed online at www.richmond.ca/publicart where visitors can also download an interactive map for smartphones and a series of 10-minute self-guided walking tours. In 2016, two illustrated public art walking tour brochures (*City Centre/Richmond Olympic Oval* and *Steveston Waterfront Neighbourhood*) were updated for distribution online and as hard copies.



City Centre/Richmond Olympic Oval Public Art Brochure and Steveston Waterfront Neighbourhood Public Art Brochure

Public Art Advisory Committee

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

In 2016, 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, support art spaces, diversity, public awareness and economic potential.

2016 RPAAC Members:

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

Council Liaison: Councillor Carol Day

Public Art Program Staff

Cathryn Volkering Carlile, General Manager,
Community Services
Jane Fernyhough, Director, Arts, Culture and
Heritage Services
Liesl Jauk, Manager, Arts Services
Eric Fiss, Public Art Planner
Elisa Yon, Public Art Project Coordinator
Anna Whelan, Public Art Assistant
Christine Corris-Wingfield, Public Art Assistant

Appendix 1

Richmond Public Artwork Scheduled for Completion in 2017–18

Civic public art projects:

- **Fire Fighter Bronze Sculpture** by Nathan Scott. Cambie Fire Hall No. 1
- **Errant Rain Cloud** by Gordon Hicks and Germaine Koh. Minoru Complex
- **Four Types of Water Revealed** by Germaine Koh. No. 2 Road Pump Station
- **Storeys Mural** by Richard Tetrault. Storeys housing project
- **Street as Canvas** by Hapa Collaborative. Lansdowne Road Temporary Art Project

Private public art projects:

- **ARTS Unit Gates** by Raymond Boisjoly, Concord Gardens Phase 1
- **Happy Sail Wall** by Derek Root, Cadence, Cressey Development
- **Relief** by Leonhard Epp, Steveston Flats Development Corp.
- **Spinners**, by Dan Corson. Avanti, Polygon Homes.
- **Volo** by Michael Nicoll Yahgulanaas, Park Residences at Minoru
- **Wall Screen** by Metz & Chew, Alfa, 8151 Anderson Road
- **Glass Gardens Phase 3** by Joel Berman, The Gardens, Townline