

City of Richmond

ARTS SERVICES YEAR IN REVIEW 2025

Arts, Culture and
Heritage Services

7700
MINORU GATE





The Vision

Richmond's thriving arts scene

- animates our city every day;
- offers rich arts education and experiences, festivals and events;
- fosters social connections and wellness;
- builds arts and culture leadership; and
- provides creative spaces



Richmond Art Gallery: *Restless by Nature: Mary Sui Yee Wong, 1990s to the present*. Photo: Jon Benjamin

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Introduction

In November 2025, Richmond City Council approved *ArtWorks: Richmond Arts Strategy 2026–2031*, providing an updated blueprint for the City to enrich quality of life through engagement with the arts.

While the activities presented in this report contribute to the previous strategy, throughout 2025, robust community and interest holder engagement sparked a renewed sense of momentum with an increased awareness of the demand for arts spaces and the need to invest in the capacities of artists and groups as we build arts and cultural leadership at both the community and civic level.

In 2025, this development work is evidenced by ongoing training and networking opportunities for artists and organizations as well as the Richmond Arts Coalition’s (RAC) productive use of CornerSpace in the Richmond Cultural Centre Annex (RCCA).

The RCCA is now established as a vibrant facility for both the creation and presentation of visual and performing arts. From The Annex Gallery to monthly Mic Drop events, RAC’s new art display cases to pottery sales, animation of the Lounge (lobby) blossomed this year while the studios here — and in the Cultural Centre — offered new and exciting programs ranging from Hip Hop Dance to Mending with Embroidery.

Meanwhile, the Richmond Art Gallery presented seven on-site exhibitions including Manuel Axel Strain’s magnificent long house, accompanied by extensive free public programming about Musqueam art practices and local history. Elsewhere, new public art popped up all over, including six new murals and a new “art plinth” piece at the end of the Canada Line.

The 2025 Arts Services Year in Review demonstrates how the City continues to foster unique and lively arts and cultural opportunities for engagement and connection, reflecting Richmond’s diverse population in cultural venues, schools, libraries, community centres, festivals and public realm.

For more about the arts in Richmond, visit [HowArtWorks.ca](https://www.howartworks.ca)



Chinese Artists Association of Richmond offering Chinese painting and calligraphy demonstration as part of Culture Days

ArtWorks: Richmond Arts Strategy 2019 – 2024*

Major Strategic Directions



1. Ensure affordable and accessible arts for all



2. Promote inclusivity and diversity in the arts



3. Invest in the arts



4. Increase awareness and participation in the arts



5. Activate public spaces through (and for) the arts

* The Arts Services Year in Review summarizes progress made towards achieving the goals of *ArtWorks: Richmond Arts Strategy 2019–2024*. Throughout the document, you will see coloured icons that show how the year's activities help to advance the Strategy's five strategic directions.

In November 2025, Council approved *ArtWorks: Richmond Arts Strategy 2026–2031* which takes effect in January 2026. For this reason, 2025 activities are understood to contribute to the previous Strategy.



Public Art 101: Creating Budgets for Public Art Projects facilitated by artist Sara Graham

Community Cultural Development

Community Cultural Development refers to a wide range of programs, activities and events that support local artists and/or cultural organizations through direct investment, public profile or recognition, professional development and other creative opportunities for collaboration and mentorship.

"Support from the City of Richmond is also helping us find additional funding opportunities.

In 2025 we successfully applied for a BC Gaming Grant, and we intend to do so again in 2026."

– Richmond Community Band Society

Arts and Culture Grant Program

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

On September 25, an information session led by staff provided an overview of City of Richmond funding opportunities and best practices for effective grant writing to twelve community members from various groups. Throughout summer and fall, grant recipients received individualized attention to review their programs and share feedback about the grant application process.

The 2025 Program provided grants to 19 non-profit arts organizations. Operating Assistance recipients included the Richmond Delta Youth Orchestra and Cinevolution Media Arts Society to cover costs including artists fees, supplies and venue rentals. Project Assistance recipients included Direct Theatre Collective to develop and perform a new play, and Canada Chinese Performing Arts Society to perform Han music at a Full Moon festival.

“Down-to-earth, common-sense information was excellent. They shared some of their experiences that were very wise. I know that I benefitted from attending this workshop.”

– Participant, Preparing for Art Markets

ART AT WORK BY THE NUMBERS:

- 8 free workshops
- 107 online participants
- 107 in-person participants
- 323 YouTube views



Richmond Arts Awards

2025 RICHMOND ARTS AWARDS RECIPIENTS:

Artistic Innovation and Excellence:
Peter Grant

Arts Education: Rita (Point) Kompst

Business and the Arts:
Tourism Richmond

Cultural Leadership: Thomas Yu

Volunteerism: Linda Shirley

Youth Arts: Isidora Hoi-Ching Chan

Art at Work Program

Throughout the year, Art at Work offers free professional development workshops to build essential knowledge and skills for pursuing a career in public art, performance, visual art and community arts.

In 2025, staff and guest facilitators presented the following:

- **Public Art 101: Creating Budgets for Public Art Projects** facilitated by artist Sara Graham.
- **Tax Basics for Artists** by Marianna Scott of Quantum Accounting Services.
- **Exploring Regional Public Art Programs** panel featuring Allison Collins (Burnaby), Quyen Hoang (New Westminster) and Lori Phillips (North Vancouver).
- **Making Public Art with Specialist Fabricators** facilitated by Sabina Sutherland, Art Conservator, featuring 3DS Fabrication, Jock Hildebrand Foundry, and Solid Rock Steel Fabricating.
- **Preparing for Art Markets** workshop facilitated by artist Ilena Cramer.
- **Introduction to SmartGrant.ca** online information session facilitated by Mary Ann S. Anderson of Little Dog Creative Consulting.
- **Richmond Arts and Culture Grant Program Information Session.**
- **Writing Proposals for Exhibitions** facilitated by Richmond Art Gallery.

Richmond Arts Awards

Created in partnership with the Richmond Arts Coalition, the Richmond Arts Awards recognize the artistic achievements and contributions to the arts community by local artists, cultural leaders, educators, volunteers and business leaders. The purpose of the awards program 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.

In 2025, nominations representing 77 individuals and organizations were reviewed by a selection committee comprised of community members and six recipients were selected and honoured.

Mayor Malcolm Brodie hosted the awards ceremony on May 7 at Richmond City Hall Council Chambers, an event that featured a traditional welcome by Musqueam representative Mary Point; a keynote speech by Morna Edmundson, founder and Artistic Director of Elektra Choir; and performances by the ShowStoppers, Elisa Thorn and Fangfei Music Academy Society.

Established in 2009, the Arts Awards are presented annually in partnership with the Richmond Arts Coalition and media sponsor *Richmond News*. The Awards have recognized 102 honourees over 17 years.



Cyanotype workshop with Cat Hart

Branscombe House Artist Residency

The Branscombe House Artist Residency takes place in a restored Edwardian-style house in the residential area of Steveston. Since its inaugural residency in 2016, the program has hosted nine visiting professional artists for 11-month community-engaged artist residencies. Branscombe House, built in 1908 and restored in 2014, is one of the earliest settler homes in the area.

In 2025, Artist-in-residence **Cat Hart**'s community-engaged project sought to express how the arts help connect us to place, the land and our communities. Through their research and material practice, the artist explored memory, place, migration, and biodiversity within sculpture, ceramics, alternative photography processes, natural materials and other media. Influenced by Indigenous teachings about good land relations, Cat's practice reflects their interest in local histories and a desire to be deeply connected to place.

While in residence, the artist offered 14 free art workshops at Branscombe House as well as through events such as Doors Open Richmond, Steveston Salmon Festival, Richmond Maritime Festival and Culture Days. The artist also joined a Steveston 20/20 Group meeting, shared an artist talk at the Richmond Art Gallery, presented at the Richmond Arts Awards, created a legacy Art Garden at Branscombe House, and organized a community art exhibition at the Upper Rotunda Gallery.

At the closing event for community participants on December 4, Mayor Brodie shared a welcome message and recognized Cat for their artistic activity and impact in the community. The evening included an informal artist talk, Q&A session and reception.



The Writer's Life panel discussion

Writer-in-Residence

Presented in collaboration with the Richmond Public Library, the annual Writer-in-Residence program fosters a greater appreciation for Canadian writers and creative writing through hands-on workshops, mentorship and public events.

In the program's 13th year, Surrey-based writer, editor and instructor **Taslim Jeffer** shared her expertise in creative nonfiction. Having spent her formative years in Richmond, she was excited to give back to the community that shaped her with a public program that focused on "Belonging in Canadian Literature" while creating a welcoming space for writers of all backgrounds to explore their own stories.

From April 5 to June 14, Taslim offered free workshops, discussions and events including:

- **The Writer's Life: From Process to Publishing**, a panel moderated by Taslim featuring local authors Kevin Chong, Kelly Duran and Shashi Bhat, sharing their varied writing experience including short-form and long-form fiction and non-fiction, anthologies, memoir and more
- **Celebration of Learning** where participants read their work to an audience of friends and family. Contributions included creative nonfiction, memoir and bilingual poetry, reflecting the themes of identity, culture and belonging.



Culture Days opening ceremony featuring freestyle skateboarding demo by Orson Merry



Hands-on demo with Richmond Weavers and Spinners Guild.
Photo: Rachel Topham Photography

Culture Days

In 2025, the 16th edition of Culture Days, September 19 to October 12, brought together a record-setting 9.5 million people across the country in a powerful demonstration of collective support and celebration of arts, culture and community. Culture Days was celebrated in Richmond with 100 free, interactive events and experiences across the city and online.

Richmond is consistently recognized as being among Culture Days' Top 10 most engaged cities in the country. In 2025, the national office congratulated Richmond as the **#1 top participating community in BC, placing fourth nationally among Mid-Size Cities, and ninth overall.**

Minoru Precinct and Steveston Village were official hubs and the Cultural Centre and Annex hosted the kick-off weekend featuring remarks from Mayor Brodie with special appearances by Kevin Harris, Canada's first professional skateboarder; a freestyle skateboarding demonstration by Orson Merry; and a performance by the Richmond Delta Youth Orchestra.

Weekend highlights included open studio experiences hosted by Resident Art Groups, and the Richmond Museum's opening of *The Maple Road Experience*, with tours led by Kevin Harris. The Richmond Art Gallery presented artist talks and activities in conjunction with its exhibition Manuel Axel Strain's *xʷəniwən ce:p kʷəθəθ nəwəyət* (((Remember your teachings))), featuring the artist and invited guests.

The day included Chinese folk and contemporary dance performances by the Vancouver We Dance Association of Canada, community art exhibitions, live music and other participatory activities.

Culture Days reserves September 30, the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, intentionally for public commemoration and Indigenous-related programs. The Indigenous Author Series, a storytelling event held in collaboration with the Richmond Public Library, featured a talk with best-selling author Richard Van Camp. In addition, screenings of three National Film Board of Canada films included *My Friend the Green Horse* (2024, Alanis Obomsawin), *Woodland Spirits* (2007, Dave Clement, Thunderstone Pictures Inc.) and *Now is the Time* (2019, Christopher Auchter). The screenings played continuously throughout the duration of Culture Days during the library's opening hours.

CULTURE DAYS BY THE NUMBERS:

- 2,000** attendees at kick-off weekend
- 100** free activities
- 51** event organizers
- 19** volunteers
- 280** volunteer hours

Social Media and Online Engagement



As per the Richmond Arts Strategy, the City continues to engage with the local arts community (and beyond) through its growing social media channels and online engagement strategy.

In 2025, on Instagram and Facebook, **93 posts** and more than **200 stories** were shared on How Art Works and Branscombe House accounts to promote programs and announce opportunities for artists to a combined social media audience of **4,615 followers**.

Two special editions of the Arts & Culture eBlast provided important news on the Richmond Arts Strategy update and the City's Arts and Culture Grants Program to more than **700 subscribers**.

Additionally, Richmond residents were invited to provide feedback to the draft Arts Strategy through a Let's Talk Richmond questionnaire, and participate in an online feedback survey for Culture Days attendees and community organizers.



Josée Drouin-Brisebois of National Gallery of Canada, presenting at KPU

The Lulu Series: Art in the City

Since 2003, The Lulu Series: Art in the City program has presented international, national and regional speakers including acclaimed artists, architects, urban planners and other cultural leaders. The following line-up of inspirational talks was presented free of charge in partnership with Wilson School of Design, KPU and Richmond Art Gallery:

March 13 – Josée Drouin-Brisebois, Director of National Engagement at the National Gallery of Canada, discussed recent projects the National Gallery has developed in public spaces across Canada. For many, art museums are places that are inaccessible, irrelevant and unconnected to their life experiences. Off-site projects support the Gallery's mandate to develop, maintain and make known their collections and to promote knowledge, understanding and appreciation of art.

April 10 – Artist Howie Tsui and Klara Manhal, Senior Public Art Planner at TransLink, shared insights into the five-year journey of bringing *The Breath Below* to life, a landmark public artwork at the new Capstan Canada Line Station in Richmond. From its conceptual origins to its realization, this first-of-its-kind commission for TransLink stands as the largest and most immersive piece in the transit authority's public art collection to date.

May 15 – Djaka Blais from the Hogan's Alley Society and Brian McBay of 221A discussed Cultural Land Trust movements as a model to preserve and grow cultural spaces in Canada. In recounting the challenges faced with their projects, they considered the role of ethnocultural communities in reinforcing land rights as well as reciprocity for Indigenous Nations.



Vancouver Cantonese Opera

THEATRE UNDER THE STAIRS BY THE NUMBERS:

178	City (and partner) events
370	hours of City programming
27	community-led events
3,540	attendees

Richmond Cultural Centre and Annex



The Richmond Cultural Centre, Annex and Plaza regularly provide low-cost and no-cost venue rentals to local arts and cultural organizations and play host to arts events and activities from pottery sales to musical performances.

THEATRE UNDER THE STAIRS

In 2025, The Theatre Under the Stairs (formerly known as the Performance Hall) featured the following events at the Richmond Cultural Centre:

- Richmond Improv Theatre Society monthly shows
- Connaught Skate Club Off-Ice Choreography weekly seasonal rehearsals
- Consulate General of Japan in Vancouver and JET Alumni: *Children of the Sea Kaijyuu no kodomo* (海獣の子供) film screening
- Richmond Youth Delta Orchestra rehearsal
- Society of Indo-Canadian Performing Arts BC: *Natyanjali, An Offering*
- Cambodian Cultural Centre: *Roots of Compassion Khmer Rouge* Anniversary film screening
- Community Neighborhood Grant Recipient: Estella & Lazarus Banez *Children's Nursery Rhymes* Concert
- Elena Steele Voice Studio annual recital concert
- Arisun Yue Cantonese Opera
- Angel Dance: K-Pop Showcase
- Hellena Yang Piano Studio: *A Winter Concert* recital
- Richmond Public Library: An Evening with Richard Van Camp, Islamic Arts of B.C. Experience, and O.W.L Talks
- Richmond Parks: International Geocaching film screening
- Richmond Museum: Kevin Harris film screening and panel

MINORU PARK PLAZA

In the Plaza, the annual **Kwantlen Farmers' Market** offered local vegetables and artisanal goods for an extended season from May to December every Tuesday, 11:00 am–4:00 pm. In September, the plaza hosted Richmond's first pop-up **Volunteer Fair** featuring 13 City facilities and partners. And on December 15, Bayit, Chabad of Richmond held their 37th annual **Menorah Lighting** in the plaza. The evening featured Chanukah family activities and family skating in nearby Minoru Arenas.

REEL CULTURE

Year-round, the Reel Culture screen, located in the RCCA Lounge, presents short films produced by City arts, culture and heritage programs. During Culture Days, it hosted Richmond-based artist **Ron Reed's TimePiece**, a one-hour movie mashup featuring 456 clips from 222 different films, spanning the entire history of film as it makes its way through the 24 hours of the day.



Kwantlen Farmers' Market at Minoru Plaza



In November, the screen was part of the **2025 Festival of Recorded Movement's** public screens program centring the voices of youth and emerging artists. This program was presented in partnership with F-O-R-M, Cinevolution Media Arts Society, grunt gallery, Gallery Gachet and Lipont Gallery.

BLUE COUCH PROJECT

Also in November, Reel Culture became the temporary home for The Blue Couch Project, a collaboration between the City and students at Langara College. Offering a comfortable place to watch, the refurbished couch – that repurposes discarded jeans into durable upholstery – symbolizes endless regeneration, the value of unexpected materials and is an example of partnerships that can drive economic and social benefits.



TOURISM CHALLENGE

Over the spring, two key locations within the Cultural Centre – Richmond Art Gallery and Richmond Museum, as well as heritage sites – participated in the Vancouver Attractions Group Tourism Challenge. This was the Cultural Centre's sixth year participating in this program that attracts thousands of tourism sector workers from across the region to visit and discover what is offered here over a period of six weeks.



CornerSpace: RAC

In year two of the City's pilot project with the Richmond Arts Coalition (RAC), CornerSpace, located near the reception of the RCCA, is now a hub of activity in service of RAC's mission to advocate on behalf of artists and arts organizations in the community, provide opportunities for artists to create and exhibit their work, and increase community access to arts activities. Having a physical space has increased RAC's presence and improved its ability to connect with artists and the local arts community.

RAC activities include the biannual *ArtRich* in collaboration with Richmond Art Gallery (see page 21); *Youth ArtRich*, produced in alternate years to *ArtRich*; Culture Days workshops in collaboration with School District No. 38; Maritime Festival arts component in conjunction with the Britannia National Historic Site Society; *Songs in the Snow* in collaboration with the Steveston Historical Society; and *Artist Showcase* on the RAC's YouTube channel presenting interviews with local artists. In 2025, these included sculpture and poet Shamsi Asht, dancer Matthew Mintsis, playwright Simon Johnston, musician Norine Braun, artist Scott Pleydell-Pearce and stained glass artist Sana Biden.



New this year, with the help of a grant from the Richmond Community Foundation, RAC installed display cases to showcase the work of local artists, with an emphasis on those who experience disabilities, Indigenous artists, youth, and senior artists. The first exhibition featured work by former *Artist Showcase* interviewees. The second exhibition was produced by students during the Culture Days project: *From Fray to Feather*. The third exhibition featured Richmond Senior Artists.

CornerSpace also features a large screen in the window highlighting artists, events and festivals.



ShowStoppers at Richmond Arts Awards ceremony



Steveston Salmon Festival Parade

Signature Events

Events enrich the lives of residents by providing the opportunity for the community to connect, learn and celebrate together. Events contribute to social and economic wellbeing, provide valuable volunteer opportunities, build a sense of community and enhance our quality of life. They can also contribute to placemaking, build community capacity, a sense of identity, and raise the profile of Richmond regionally and nationally.

In 2025, along with Doors Open, Richmond produced the following signature events, attracting thousands of participants:

Steveston Salmon Festival

The 78th annual Steveston Salmon Festival was successfully delivered in alignment with the vision theme: "It's about COMMUNITY". Visitors appreciated the expanded footprint and activation of some traditional Salmon Festival activities. The Festival on July 1 included:

- Steveston Salmon Festival Parade, Salmon Bake and Chow Mein Community Food Booth and market/trade show;
- Welcome ceremony including local, federal and provincial government and First Nations representatives;
- traditional Steveston Salmon Festival programming, including the Japanese Cultural show and demonstrations, Art Show, Marketplace, as well as street and artist performers;
- activities for youth and children at Sammy's Fun Zone and the new Salmon Run Youth Zone, including performances by emerging artists at the Salmon Run Zone stage, circus performances, the Richmond Sockeyes Junior Hockey Club, and button making;
- Catch of the Day stage showcasing local artists and entertainers; and
- a grand finale show by Ten Souljers in the Spirit of Steveston Zone.

"This year's event was very well organized, we loved the lay out of the music stages and food trucks. Well done to everyone involved!!"

– 2025 visitor survey response

SALMON FEST BY THE NUMBERS

80,000+	visitors
98,643	individuals reached via social media
275	volunteers
1,437	volunteer hours



Richmond Maritime Festival mainstage

Richmond Maritime Festival

The 22nd annual Richmond Maritime Festival animated the Britannia Shipyards National Historic Site from August 23–24. Produced in partnership with the Richmond Arts Coalition and the Britannia Shipyards National Historic Site Society, the event program included 14 wooden and working boats along the dock including local restored heritage boats, maritime-themed décor and installations throughout the site, live music on two stages, roving performers and musicians, popular hands-on activities, multicultural array of food vendors, and community booths.

Highlights included:

- more than 40,000 visitors to the site over the two-day event;
- social media content that reached 251,892 individuals;
- more than 100 artists, performers, and craftspeople that contributed to the festival programming; and
- 62 volunteers that contributed more than 560 hours to the event.



Richmond Cherry Blossom Festival

Richmond Cherry Blossom Festival

Celebrating the arrival of spring and the blooming of Garry Point Park's 255 Akebono cherry trees, this annual festival is produced in partnership with representatives from the BC Wakayama Kenjin Kai. Held on April 6, the 2025 event featured music and performances, food from a local restaurant and food trucks, Japanese cultural displays, and demonstrations. The Sister City Advisory Committee displayed chochin (paper) lanterns to commemorate Richmond's relationship with Wakayama. A new addition to the festival was a pair of selfie stations. The theme of the 2025 festival was 笑顔 Egao "smile" to celebrate the joy and connection that blossoms within our community during this special event.

Highlights included:

- more than 5,000 visitors,
- social media content that reached 161,361 individuals, and
- 24 volunteers that contributed 192 hours to the event.



Richmond Farm Fest cooking demo

Richmond Farm Fest

On September 7, Richmond Farm Fest, in partnership with the Kwantlen Polytechnic University, returned to Garden City Lands for a free, family-friendly celebration of farming, food and community.

The festival featured a farmers and artisans market, cooking demonstrations, food trucks, KPU's Brew Barn, a Little Farmers kids' zone, agricultural and garden displays, farm wagon tours and live local performances. Visitors immersed themselves in the agricultural heart of the city by exploring Richmond's agricultural story, enjoying a plant labyrinth and learning about sustainability. Participation highlights include:

- more than 2,500 visitors,
- 56 volunteers contributing 422 volunteer hours; and
- social media content that reached 88,075 unique users, garnering more than 1,000 likes and shares.



Children's Arts Festival (Family Day)

“Gratitude for providing this opportunity to both myself (the artist) and the students and teachers. It is so impactful for the students and teachers to experience the power of the arts.”

– performing arts instructor

CHILDREN'S ARTS FESTIVAL BY THE NUMBERS

- 7,000+** Family Day attendees
- 20** schools
- 1,578** students
- 81** artists (28 for school days)
- 110** volunteers

Children’s Arts Festival

The annual Children's Arts Festival (CAF) is the City's signature event for children, families, and educators. The festival includes two components: a public event on Family Day and a program of workshops for schools during the week. With the support of the Richmond Public Library, Family Day was celebrated with a series of hands-on workshops and performances that engaged families in arts activities. The school days component saw similar activities take place throughout Richmond at local community centres.

In 2025, the Family Day event on February 17 saw more than 7,000 people visit the Richmond Library/Cultural Centre and Cultural Centre Annex. For the school days component (February 18–21), 1,578 children representing 68 classes from 20 Richmond elementary schools attended programs at:

- Richmond Library/Cultural Centre and Cultural Centre Annex, and
- City Centre, Thompson, Sea Island, South Arm, and Steveston Community Centres.

Community Celebration Grants Program

This grant program allows Richmond-based non-profit groups, not-for-profit faith-based groups, parent advisory committees, community associations and student councils to receive funding for a creative Richmond-based event that builds community, is free-of-charge, and open to the public.

This year, 49 grant recipients produced community events including cultural celebrations, concerts and movies in the park.

Richmond Neighbourhood Block Party Program

The Richmond Neighbourhood Block Party Program invites Richmond residents to connect and create a sense of community in their neighbourhoods by offering block parties in a variety of spaces including local parks, streets and strata properties. In 2025, 32 events received funding.

Block parties took place in 11 neighbourhoods across Richmond, where funds were used to support event costs such as food, lawn game rentals, bouncy castles, barricade rentals, marketing materials and more. Activations included barbecues, international potlucks, children’s crafts, games, road hockey, and storytelling.



Children's Arts Festival (Family Day)



Dear Plastic. Photo: Michael Love

Richmond Art Gallery

Richmond Art Gallery (RAG) is a nationally recognized municipal gallery featuring Canadian and international artists. It is known for a diverse array of exhibitions, educational programs and events that address issues and ideas of importance to our community and contribute to the growth of a vibrant cultural scene in Richmond. Through 2025, RAG welcomed more than 22,000 visitors to the gallery and many more via public programs and across digital platforms including live digital talks and on-demand video content found on the gallery's website and YouTube.

2025 EXHIBITION ATTENDANCE

- 4,220** Dear Plastic and Persimmon Blackbridge
- 9,321** Restless by Nature
- 3,762** Qiu Anxiong and Howie Tsui
- 4,081** Manuel Axel Strain
- 1,185** ArtRich 2025

Exhibitions

RAG presented seven exhibitions in the Gallery and 12 off-site exhibitions at the City Hall Galleria, The Annex Gallery, Gateway Theatre and at three Canada Line stations. Exhibitions represented emerging to senior artists from Richmond, the Lower Mainland and beyond. They featured a range of contemporary artistic mediums including sculpture, installation, video, painting, performance and collage.

GALLERY

DEAR PLASTIC

Ari Bayuaji, Emily Hermant, Caroline Monnet, Alex Tedlie-Stursberg, Cheryl Wong

January 18–March 23, 2025

The artists of *Dear Plastic* straddled the divide between what is considered artificial versus natural in their engagement with plastic, taking delight in the potential of plastic as an artistic material that they reused, repurposed, or reimagined to fashion visually arresting works. The thought-provoking pieces in this exhibition avoided a straightforward environmentalist stance or

"The plastic exhibit brought up so much, and beautiful too! And the climate justice part was so powerful!"

– gallery visitor, *Dear Plastic*

"As a new immigrant here in Canada, this exhibition told me about the long and complicated history of the Asian, especially Chinese (Hong Kong) identities in Canadian society. I thought it was a fair and equal country, but it seems not, or not such an easy conclusion. It's a subject I may have to face in the coming years. This artwork makes me think deeper and wider. Thank you."

– gallery visitor, *Restless by Nature: Mary Sui Yee Wong, 1990s to the present*

nostalgia for untouched landscapes. Rather, displaying an acknowledgement of an existence shaped by plastic and an awareness of its positive and negative legacies, they captured its many paradoxes while inviting visitors to critically reflect on their irreversible enmeshment with the material.

SPEAK NO (EMERGENCY)

Persimmon Blackbridge

January 18–March 23, 2025

Guest curated by Sean Lee

Organized in partnership with Tangled Art + Disability, Toronto

In this stunning installation, *Speak No (emergency)*, artist Persimmon Blackbridge urgently responded to the devastation of, and despair around, climate change. Covering the Gallery's walls with dozens of hand-fashioned figures, she created a desolate, desperate army who have come together in the face of rampant forest fires, polluted oceans and climate denial. Blackbridge's raw, frenetic aesthetic integrates found wood, Barbie doll parts, bits of animal bone, scrap metal, and other reclaimed materials typically considered trash.

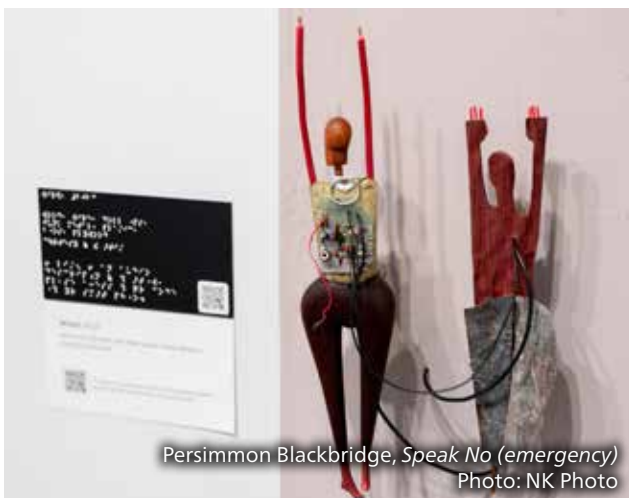
Both winter exhibitions above showcased title walls by *Dear Plastic's* featured artist Cheryl Wong.

RESTLESS BY NATURE: MARY SUI YEE WONG, 1990S TO THE PRESENT

April 12–June 8, 2025

This exhibition gave audiences the rare opportunity to discover the Montréal-based artist's practice, assembling a varied selection of works including sculpture, photographs, video, costume and more, and culminating with a new performance-based work. The exhibition featured rarely seen works that underscored Wong's engagement with personal memory, cultural history, familial legacy, Orientalism and anti-Asian sentiment within Canada. Archival materials including catalogues, magazines, and personal photographs offered insight into her underappreciated artistic practice and labour as mother, mentor and community advocate.

This exhibition was part of the 2025 Capture Photography Festival Selected Exhibition Program and was produced with support of a major project grant from the Canada Council for the Arts.



Persimmon Blackbridge, *Speak No (emergency)*
Photo: NK Photo



RAG curator Zoë Chan and Mary Sui Yee Wong at opening of *Restless by Nature: Mary Sui Yee Wong, 1990s to the present*. Photo: Luciana Photography



Howie Tsui, *Jumbo* in *The Roaming Peach Blossom Spring*; Photo: Ya-Wei Lin



Alvin Jang, *The Colony* in *Enigmas & Dreams*; Photo: Abbi Shi

An Accessible Experience

In January, RAG presented the exhibition *Speak No (emergency)*, by acclaimed disability artist Persimmon Blackbridge. Developed in partnership with Tangled Art + Disability, a disability-serving organization based in Toronto, the exhibition was designed with people of all abilities in mind and incorporated a range of accessible features.

This included artwork labels with QR codes linking to audio descriptions, Braille labels, a video introduction in American Sign Language (ASL), and a tactile art piece. The exhibition showcased how creativity and innovation can remove barriers and create meaningful experiences for the entire community. The result was a welcoming and inclusive environment that enriched the cultural experience for a broader audience.

THE ROAMING PEACH BLOSSOM SPRING

Qiu Anxiong + Howie Tsui

June 28–August 24, 2025

Guest curated by Rebecca Wang 王晨鈺

In a realm where ancient mythology collides with modern dilemmas, Shanghai-based artist Qiu Anxiong and Vancouver-based artist Howie Tsui invited us to step into their fantastical worlds, reimagining the mystique of the Song dynasty (960–1279). Through contemporary adaptations of classical literature and martial arts fiction (wuxia), their work brought to life mythical creatures, otherworldly spirits and shape-shifting swordsmen who navigate landscapes fraught with the tensions of resource extraction, war, urbanization and surveillance. This exhibition offered an immersive journey through animation films, video works, paintings and prints, where fragmented narratives of the past, present and speculative futures converged into one dynamic, ever-evolving dimension.

ENIGMAS & DREAMS: WORKS ON PAPER BY ALVIN JANG & ANNA WONG

June 28–August 24, 2025

Enigmas & Dreams: works on paper by Alvin Jang & Anna Wong presented a dynamic pairing of two under-recognized local Chinese Canadian artists. Alvin Jang's (b. 1950) sense of the surreal streams through his sci-fi-inspired series *The Colony*, depicting a colourful world overrun by a dense population of worms, and *Pillow Talk*, evoking a hallucinatory series of dreams, rendered in a hyper-realistic style. A selection of abstract drawings by artist Anna Wong (b. 1930–d. 2013) from the late 1960s brought to light the hybridity of her visual language, marrying the gestures of Chinese brush painting with the experimental mark-making of Abstract Expressionism.

Enigmas & Dreams also featured a specially commissioned title wall by Brother Jopa, a Vancouver-based lettering artist, designer and muralist, who specializes in hand-drawn typography and calligraphy.

"Strain's vivid imagery and abstract forms grab attention and spark wonder, yet beneath each work lies a deeper inquiry: an exploration of nature, science, technology, and humanity's interconnected, often tense, relationships."

– SAD Mag

xʷə́níwən ce:p kʷθəθ nə́weyət
 (((REMEMBER YOUR TEACHINGS)))

Manuel Axel Strain
September 13–November 9, 2025

Known for their passionate work rooted in personal experience, Manuel Axel Strain embraced and exalted the Coast Salish longhouse to confront the racist colonial context surrounding them. Titled *xʷə́níwən ce:p kʷθəθ nə́weyət (((Remember your teachings)))*, this major exhibition—including paintings, sculptures, family photographs, video and installation—transformed the Gallery with a dynamic mix of new and recent artworks. Of Musqueam, Simpcw, and Syilx descent, Strain celebrated the cedar longhouse not only as an enduring architectural form but as an important spiritual, philosophical and cultural framework profoundly embedded with the collectivist values of family members and communities—past, present and future.

"Excellent and varied exhibition, high quality."

– gallery visitor, *ArtRich 2025*

ARTRICH 2025
November 29, 2025–January 4, 2026

Richmond Arts Coalition (RAC), in partnership with RAG, presented the sixth edition of *ArtRich*. This lively biannual showcase offered a window into the artistic scene of Richmond, Lower Mainland, and surrounding areas. Featuring an eclectic mix of drawings, paintings, sculpture, textiles, photographs, and video, *ArtRich 2025* highlighted a diverse array of local talent working in an extensive range of styles and subject matter. *ArtRich 2025* was juried by Maria Filipina Palad, Curatorial Assistant; Zoë Chan, Curator; and Jas Lally, independent curator and Assistant Curator, Surrey Art Gallery.



Manuel Axel Strain, *(((Remember Your Teachings)))* Photo: Michael Love



ArtRich 2025 opening Photo: Jon Benjamin



Quinton Qiu, *Companionship and the Cosmos* in The Annex Gallery

OFF-SITE

THE ANNEX GALLERY

The Annex Gallery is an exhibition space located in the RCCA Lounge that is dedicated exclusively to Richmond-based artists who are selected through an annual open call. The 2025 exhibitions were as follows:

- Pierre Luigi Vassura: *Reimagining Myth and Symbol*, January 7–May 11
- Johnny Tai: *Zodiac Crossroads*, May 12–September 14
- Sofiya Mukhachova + Quinton Qiu: *Companionship and the Cosmos*, September 15, 2025–January 4, 2026



Permanent Collection

Containing nearly 400 works in a variety of media collected from 1982 to 2020, RAG's Permanent Collection is representative of the history of its exhibitions primarily in the 1980s and 1990s as well as a broader history of artistic production in BC.

Presented in the Art Lounge, the *Collection Close-up* series highlights collection artworks with a formal or thematic link to the featured exhibition(s). The following works were featured this year:

- Jane Wolsak's *Port San Juan* in tandem with *Speak No (emergency)*
- Anna Wong's *The Great Wall: #6* in tandem with *Restless by Nature*
- Pnina Granirer's *In Flight* in tandem with *Enigmas & Dreams*
- Susan Point's *Mystical Whorl No. 3* in tandem with *ḫ^wáñiwən ce:p k^wθəθ nəwəyət* (((Remember your teachings)))

In the fall, *Women Being, Women Seeing*, a selection of ten Collection works was exhibited in the Gateway Theatre second floor lobby for the enjoyment of audience members during intermissions of *Ms Holmes and Ms Watson*.



CAPTURE FESTIVAL ON THE CANADA LINE

In partnership with Richmond Public Art, Capture Photography Festival, and InTransit BC, RAG presented works by three artists at Aberdeen, Lansdowne and Brighthouse stations from April 2025–March 2026:

- **Khim Mata Hipol, *Eroplanong Papel at Bangkang Papel*** (Aberdeen Station) Evoking the childhood innocence of paper airplanes and boats, these photograms, prisms through an origami of light and shadow, abstractly suggested migration, where striking minimalism amplifies the vulnerability of new beginnings.
- **Mary Sui Yee Wong: *TREASURE II*** (Lansdowne Station) For this work, the artist revisits sky imagery depicted in her 1999 public artwork of the same name that was commissioned for a hospital in Montreal's Chinatown. This iteration features a vivid blue sky and billowing clouds, framing a black-and-white detail of the classical Chinese landscape painting Buddhist Temples amid Autumn Mountains.
- **Lauraine Mak: *Levels*** (Brighthouse Station) Part of an ongoing series of works about the concept of measurement as a means to justify and understand phenomena, these five photos capture an uncertain moment in time grounded by a tiny bubble of air at the center of a precision bubble level, a reminder that all things follow earthly physics in one way or another.

CITY HALL GALLERIA

Located on the ground floor of Richmond City Hall, City Hall Galleria is an exhibition space overseen by RAG. As part of its outreach to the local community, the Galleria primarily highlights artworks with a close connection to Richmond in terms of themes and subject matter. In 2025, the Galleria featured:

- Sam Kaplan + Marion Webber: *Vistas of Solitude*, January 9–March 3
- Juliana Silva: *Dance Forms in the Street*, March 4–May 5
- *Ephemeral Echoes*: Geoffrey Caofei Feng, Xiangmei Su, Lam Wong, Roger Xiao, Yiwen Xu, Roy Hoh & Wenli Yang, June Yun, May 6–July 7
- Jamie Girouard: *Wool Logic*, July 8–September 15
- Aspire Richmond: *Magnificent Kingdom*, September 16–November 10

Community Outreach and Programs



Through 2025, RAG stayed connected with Richmond's artists and art lovers through a combination of digital and in-person programming.



Rebecca Wang and Dr. Helena Wu introducing *The Swordsmen*

THE ROAMING PEACH BLOSSOM SPRING: PROGRAM SERIES

With support from the City's Community Celebration Grant Program, RAGA delivered a dynamic series of free public programs designed to deepen engagement with the exhibition. Led by guest curator Rebecca Wang, the series included talks, tours, hands-on activities, and a film screening.

Highlights included an online conversation with artists Howie Tsui (Vancouver) and Qiu Anxiong (Shanghai), connecting audiences worldwide to the exhibition's themes. Wang also hosted a discussion with UBC Asian Studies professor Dr. Helena Wu introducing the Cantonese film *The Swordsmen*, and collaborated with master calligrapher Jiangang Su for a Mandarin-language tour and calligraphy workshop.

Offered in both English and Chinese, these programs provided diverse audiences with meaningful insights into historical and contemporary art practices, fostering cross-cultural dialogue and broadening community access to the Gallery's work.



(((Remember Your Teachings))) program led by Manuel Axel Strain

(((REMEMBER YOUR TEACHINGS))) PROGRAM SERIES WITH MANUEL AXEL STRAIN

Made possible with investment from the City's Arts and Culture Grant Program, RAGA hosted a series of free and low-cost talks, tours, hands-on activities, and workshops led by artist Manuel Axel Strain. Strain invited local artists and cultural workers into a series of collaborative and reflective gatherings designed for families, youth, adults and seniors. This informal series blended thoughtful conversation, community insight and hands-on experiences, offering participants a chance to engage directly with the artworks and each other in a welcoming, interactive setting while learning about Musqueam art practices and local history.



(((Remember Your Teachings))) program led by Manuel Axel Strain

ARTIST AND CURATOR INTERVIEWS ON VIDEO

For each exhibition, RAG produces video interviews of the artists or curators talking about their work, that are presented in the Art Lounge during the exhibition periods and available to view online. In 2025, there were five exhibition videos produced:

- Artist Persimmon Blackbridge discusses her solo exhibition *Speak No (emergency)*
- Artist Mary Sui Yee Wong discusses her works in the retrospective exhibition *Restless by Nature: Mary Sui Yee Wong, 1990s to the present*
- Artist Howie Tsui discusses his works in the exhibition *The Roaming Peach Blossom Spring*
- Artist Alvin Jang discusses his works in the exhibition *Enigmas & Dreams: Works on paper by Alvin Jang & Anna Wong*
- Artist Manuel Axel Strain discusses their solo exhibition *x^wəhíwən ce:p k^wθəθ nəwéyəl (((Remember your teachings)))*



Artist Salon Series: Media Lab Open House



Collage Club participant. Photo: Jon Benjamin

“Like all the ones I’ve attended, it was so well organized, and both the host and the speaker are clear and forthcoming. Very informative. Plus it’s nice to know I’m not alone!”

– Artist Salon participant

ARTIST SALON SERIES

Artist Salon is an ongoing series of gatherings that connect emerging and established artists, particularly those in Richmond, with professional artists and arts workers to share experiences, skills and knowledge.

In 2025, Artist Salon continued to offer hybrid sessions throughout the year, delivered as monthly live-streams or in-person talks that included Q&A with participants. All online sessions were recorded and provide a video library of resources for artists, soon to be available on the RAG website and YouTube channel. The in-person sessions provided a more intimate setting where participants could connect directly with presenters for personalized discussions as well as participate in a networking opportunity; some of these sessions were also recorded for on-demand viewing.

2025 ARTIST SALON BY THE NUMBERS

- 8** sessions
- 8** artist speakers
- 170** livestream and in-person attendees

EXHIBITION TOURS

The gallery regularly offers in-person gallery tours led by gallery staff, exhibiting artists, or guest curators to provide a deeper understanding of the exhibitions and to offer visitors the opportunity to ask questions directly to the artist or curator. As well, for each exhibit, an in-person tour in Mandarin is offered, providing some Richmond residents the opportunity to learn about the local art scene in their first language.

COLLAGE CLUB: HANDS-ON ART FOR ADULTS

In 2025, the Gallery launched Collage Club, a monthly art social designed for adult participants. Each session began with an introduction to contemporary collage artists and techniques, followed by a creative prompt inspired by the theme of the current exhibition. Participants were provided with a wide range of collage materials and invited to create in a relaxed, social setting, accompanied by tea, conversation, and a curated musical playlist aligned with the monthly theme.

This program not only offered an accessible and enjoyable way to engage with art-making and learn about local artists, it fostered meaningful connections between RAG and its community. Through Collage Club, the Gallery developed strong relationships with participants, several of whom have since become volunteers and ongoing supporters of Gallery initiatives.

“Please don’t ever stop the Collage Club, I look forward to it every month as my happy place.”

– Collage Club participant



Youth Programming

SCHOOL ART PROGRAM

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

This year's workshops and tours covered diverse topics such as the histories and experiences of Chinese Canadians, disability rights, climate change and the environment. Video interviews with exhibition artists including Musqueam artist Manuel Axel Strain were created so that students could hear artists discussing their artwork and cultural backgrounds. In 2025, the gallery provided nine high school tours for 330 students, 87 school art workshops for 2,172 students, and 19 Classroom Art Kit rentals reaching 927 students.

The School Art Program was invited to present at the Richmond School District's mini conferences in Spring and Fall this year, presenting four teacher professional development workshops for a total of 112 teachers. The popular Art for Teachers Pro-D workshop focused on the theme of the Coast Salish longhouse and included lessons on architectural history and design for elementary schools.

CLASSROOM ART KITS

Classroom Art Kits, launched in 2021 in response to the pandemic, are now a programming staple: a successful rental program for schools across the Lower Mainland and beyond with kits being distributed to schools in many BC school districts, including remote communities. In 2025, the program grew again with the addition of a third copy of the most popular kit, *Indigenous Embroidery, Beading and Tufting*, that included a redesign of its components. There were 19 rentals in 2025, reaching 927 students.

ECUAD YOUTH ART + CULTURE LAB

Continuing the partnership started in 2018 with Emily Carr University of Art + Design (ECUAD), RAG co-hosted an art course for youth aged 12–14 years. Sessions are held on Sundays bi-weekly over seven months from October–March each year, with alternating visits at RAG and ECUAD. Students worked with instructors, a teaching assistant and visiting artists throughout the course to develop projects in response to RAG exhibitions and explore the practices of contemporary artists. The culmination of the program is an open-house student showcase at Emily Carr University in March 2025 and March 2026.

“The Chinese landscape watercolour kit was so well put-together and fun for students to learn a variety of new techniques using high quality materials they might not otherwise have access to at school.

The videos were interesting, relevant and highly instructive. I would strongly recommend this kit and we will definitely use other kits in the future!”

– Grade 7 Teacher, Richmond

2025 SCHOOL PROGRAMS BY THE NUMBERS

- 87** school art workshops
- 9** highschool tours
- 2,172** students
- 4** Teacher Pro-D Workshops for teachers
- 112** teachers
- 19** Classroom Art Kit rentals for students
- 927** students



An Autumn Evening in Richmond banquet

RAGA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2024–2025

- Kurt Aydin
- Lynn Chen
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Richmond Art Gallery Association

The Gallery benefits from financial and in-kind support of many organizations via Richmond Art Gallery Association (RAGA), an independent, non-profit society and registered charity formed to support the RAG through fundraising, membership and advocacy.

In 2025, RAGA received cash and in-kind assistance from other levels of government, businesses, private foundations and individuals, totalling \$195,000.

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

In 2025, RAGA focused on visioning, governance and growth. Highlights included the sold-out, *An Autumn Evening in Richmond* banquet at Red Star Restaurant, that raised over \$16,000. Additionally, RAGA board members collaborated with Gallery staff and consultant Britt Gallpen to develop a new 2026–2031 Strategic Plan, set for public launch in 2026.

Partnerships

The Richmond Art Gallery has developed and continues to consolidate relationships with numerous partners such as the Aspire Richmond, Capture Photography Festival, Cinevolution Media Arts Society, Emily Carr University Art + Design, Kwantlen Polytechnic University, Richmond Museum Society, Richmond Public Library, Richmond Public Art Program, Richmond School District, Sheraton Vancouver Airport Hotel, SUCCESS, Tourism Richmond, UBC Faculty of Education, Vancouver Asian Heritage Month Society and Walk Richmond.

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.



Amelia Wong Mersereau models outfit from Mary Sui Yee Wong's *Yellow Apparel* fashion show, Photo: Jon Benjamin

Luke Ramsay, *Welcome*

RICHMOND PUBLIC ART PROGRAM TO-DATE:

- 383** total number of permanent and temporary artworks
- 302** total number of permanent and temporary artworks currently on display
- 34** murals installed through the Community Mural Program

Richmond Public Art Program

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

Civic Public Art Program

In 2025, the following projects were commissioned by the City through the Civic Public Art Program:

WELCOME

Luke Ramsey

Bowling Green Community Activity Centre, Minoru Park

This artwork, integrated into the north plaza paving area, is inspired by welcome mats, living room rugs and cozy blankets to evoke a sense of warmth and welcome upon arrival to or departure from this new community amenity. The artist's design also acknowledges Pacific Northwest sea life with orcas and fish intertwined in a symmetrical composition, evoking stillness and motion, and the cycles of life. The artist worked in collaboration with the construction team to integrate the artwork design into the plaza using paving materials and colours consistent with the landscape design in Minoru Park.

Linfeng Zhou, *Tales in Current*

TALES IN CURRENT

Linfeng Zhou

Art Plinth Program, Brighthouse-Terminus Canada Line Station

This temporary artwork depicts three fish climbing a waterfall, in reference to an ancient story from East Asian folklore and symbolizing perseverance in the face of adversity. The work also acknowledges the Fraser River and the seasonal act of salmon spawning. The artwork will be on display for up to five years. *Tales in Current* is the fourth temporary artwork to be installed as part of the Art Plinth Program. The new artwork replaced *Skydam* by Nathan Lee, installed in 2016.

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 2025, the following projects were completed:

Inges Idee, *Richmond Skaters*

RICHMOND SKATERS

Inges Idee

Richmond Centre

Richmond Skaters is a trio of larger-than-life, highly stylized figures that make a playful reference to the long-lost Stardust Roller Rink, a nearby gathering place that was popular in the 1970s, 80s and 90s. Overhead light emanating from the headgear of each figure illuminates the public space while their implied synchronized movement brings dynamic energy to the surrounding environment. Humorous and colourful, and characterized by a contemporary, urban attitude toward life, they embody the vibrant energy of metropolitan life and the diversity of Richmond's community.

Rebecca Bayer, *Balance*

BALANCE

Rebecca Bayer

Richmond Centre

BALANCE invites viewers to stand between the Fraser River's North and South arms on Lulu Island—a place shaped by land and water. Using bathymetric data collected by SFU's River Dynamics Laboratory, underwater measurements were transformed into 268 vertical aluminum bands. Reflected upon themselves, these riverbed cross-sections create an abstract, symmetrical pattern that evokes ripples, sound waves, and movement—inviting consideration of our connection to the delicate, layered ecosystems quietly surrounding us.

Thomas Cannell and Kelly Cannell,
Mark of Our Ancestors

MARK OF OUR ANCESTORS

Thomas Cannell and Kelly Cannell

Richmond Centre

This group of artworks draws inspiration from ancient Salish markers—stone structures historically used for navigation, to indicate safe landing sites, mark territories and boundaries, or honor places of respect and memorial. These markers also often signified areas of spiritual significance and power. This installation consists of four large, intricately carved stone

groupings positioned at the entrances of the residential towers at Richmond Centre. Each grouping serves as a contemporary interpretation of these traditional markers, welcoming residents and visitors while paying homage to the cultural heritage of the land.

WOVEN THROUGH TIME

Kelly Cannell
Richmond Centre

This artwork is a tribute to the artist's ancestors who have lived along the Fraser River for countless generations, thoughtfully reflecting the deep history of the land and illustrating how Richmond has developed over time—as glacial till helped form the river delta—under the watchful eyes of her people. The woven basket pattern symbolizes the enduring presence and resilience of the Coast Salish peoples, for whom weaving was not only a vital tradition but also a form of cultural expression. Through this intricate design, Cannell weaves together Richmond's past with its continually evolving present, highlighting her culture that remains vibrant, living, and deeply rooted in place.



Kelly Cannell, *Woven Through Time*



Sandeep Johal, *Look on the Brightside*



Tangible Interaction, *Drift*

LOOK ON THE BRIGHTSIDE

Sandeep Johal
Richmond Centre

Independently of their Private Development Public Art contribution, CF Richmond Centre Development commissioned Sandeep Johal, a member of Richmond's mural roster, to design a large-scale artwork for temporary hoarding that was installed at the commercial level of the site, facing the central plaza. Comprising 19 panels of varying sizes, the artwork introduces an imagined sense of nature into the urban environment through bold, oversized forms and vibrant colour.

DRIFT

Tangible Interaction
5593 Number 3 Rd

Drift is a suspended sculptural light installation consisting of an array of milky white acrylic tubes of varying lengths, forming an overhead wave pattern. Each tube contains a controllable white LED light, programmed to create soft, flowing animations reminiscent of moving water. *Drift* draws on Richmond's deep and layered relationship with water: from the ancestral ties of the First Nations to the lifeblood of the fishing and boatbuilding industries. The Fraser River, always present, flows beneath the city's history and future alike.

David Camisa, *A Meeting of Parliament*

Community Mural Program

The City of Richmond's Community Mural Program provides opportunities to add vibrancy to highly visible public spaces, foster community dialogue and cross-cultural exchange, and engage diverse and multi-generational communities.

Annually, a Call for Walls is announced and facilities and businesses can apply to have a mural on their property that they will be required to maintain for a minimum of five years. If successful, they are matched with a pre-qualified artist to develop the design through a collaborative or community-engaged process. The program is funded by the voluntary contributions of private developers to the Public Art Program Reserve fund.

Aysha McConkey, *Bats of Richmond*

A MEETING OF PARLIAMENT

David Camisa

Trail Washroom at Terra Nova Adventure Play Environment

A Meeting of Parliament reimagines local flora and fauna, depicting barn owls as quiet guardians of the land. Symbolizing protection and wisdom, they watch over the environment and its inhabitants, anchoring the piece in a sense of calm stewardship.

BATS OF RICHMOND

Aysha McConkey

Trail Washroom at No. 7 Road Pier Park

The artist, a Fraser Valley bat ambassador, created this mural inspired by images of Richmond's natural habitat, parks and infrastructure. The artwork invites visitors to see the world through the eyes of a bat, sparking curiosity about their hidden habitats while raising awareness of the threats they face from habitat loss and White Nose Syndrome, with the hope of inspiring greater interest in bat conservation.

Carly Bouwman, *Thomas Kidd Park Washroom Mural*

THOMAS KIDD PARK WASHROOM MURAL

Carly Bouwman

Trail Washroom at Thomas Kidd Park

This mural is a visual love letter to the endangered beauty of Richmond's natural environment, centering on two local species at risk: the streambank lupine and the barn owl. Wrapping the exterior walls of the washroom at Thomas Kidd Park, the artwork invites passersby into a world where the ordinary becomes magical, and the familiar wild speaks directly to the heart.

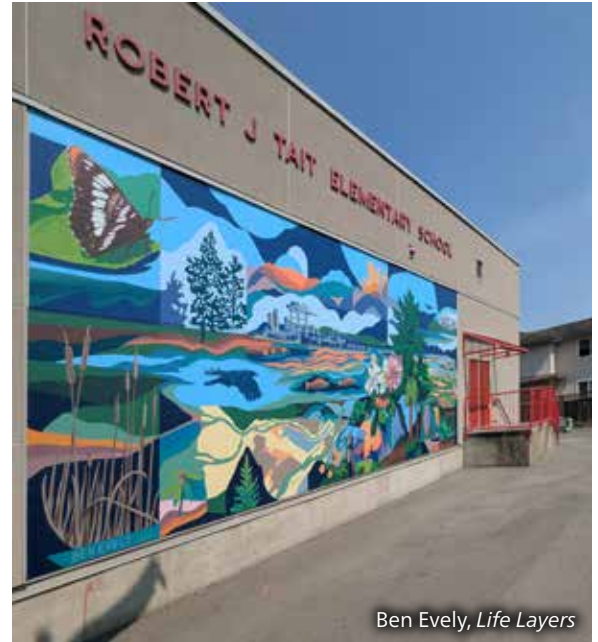
Ho Lay Hoon, *United in Play*

UNITED IN PLAY

Ho Lay Hoon

Tennis Practice Wall at Minoru Park

United in Play celebrates the vibrant, diverse communities of Richmond through the universal language of sport. Silhouettes of a tennis player, footballer, baseball player and cheerleader dissolve into each other like a living kaleidoscope: each holding its own rhythm, held together by moments of shared connection and collective pride. The mosaic-like style is also a metaphor for collaboration: every piece, like every player, contributes to a larger, more beautiful whole.

Amy Bao, *Home of the Ravens*Ben Evely, *Life Layers*

2025 PUBLIC ART BY THE NUMBERS

- 26** new works installed
- 218** submissions received for Public Art Calls
- 10** Public Art Calls
- 12** Richmond artists contracted for Public Art commissions
- 9** community groups and partners engaged to inform and create public art projects

HOME OF THE RAVENS

Amy Bao

A.R. MacNeill Secondary School

The concept for this mural arose from engagement sessions and workshops with A.R. MacNeill students and staff. The artist was inspired by their enthusiasm for the school and the project, the student-created collages, and the imagery of ravens embraced by all. As described by one of the teachers:

"This project gave students the chance to connect, build community, spark curiosity, and take on an artistic challenge that was truly invaluable. Through the mural, we hope students feel the strength of *Home of the Ravens*—a force that begins with their voices and creativity and flows outward into the community.

When you look up at the ravens, we invite you to see your own journey reflected in their wings—the stages, phases, and moments that shape who you are. Each raven symbolizes resilience, growth, and the deep connection between our lives and the natural world around us. May this inspire students—and the wider community—to recognize their shared power and the lasting impact they can create far beyond the school walls."

LIFE LAYERS

Ben Evely

R.J. Tait Elementary School

With imagery shaped directly by input from R.J. Tait Elementary students and staff, this mural highlights both the natural beauty surrounding the school and broader understanding of our connection to larger ecosystems. Its composition brings together the most prevalent ideas that emerged from creative collaboration, reflecting a shared vision of nature and community.

Keely O'Brien, *Things I Saw While Walking*Fanny Bok Yin Tang, *Celebration of Life*Andrew Talbot, *Follow Me*

Engaging Artists in Community Public Art Program



This annual developer-funded program connects artists with socially-oriented art practices with community organizations. These artworks can express a shared goal or theme and provoke dialogue on ideas including those related to youth belonging, active transportation, climate change, native flora and fauna and the environment. In 2025 the program schedule was adapted to align better with the school calendar, beginning in September and running through the following year. This timing will remain in place for future program years.

- **Cheryl Hamilton and lisa g.: *Queers in Space*** (East Richmond Community Association and Richmond Public Library) will engage 2SLGBTQIA+ youth and youth allies through digital story, animation, drawing, printmaking and zine making.
- **Andrea Hoff: *Our Storied Path*** (Tomsett Elementary School) will connect young learners' thoughts and feelings about the climate crisis with examples of how active transportation can foster climate solutions and empower their own actions.
- **Cara Guri: *Growing Together*** (Brighthouse Elementary School) will explore the interconnection of the natural world and the role that humans play in supporting a thriving and sustainable ecosystem.

Community Public Art Programs



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

URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE ART PROGRAM

The Urban Infrastructure Art Program transforms otherwise undistinguished elements of public infrastructure — such as utility boxes and construction hoarding — into welcome encounters with art in everyday life. Public Art matches opportunities to pre-qualified artists in the creation of art wraps that reflect and celebrate Richmond's natural heritage and vibrant communities.

In 2025, 17 traffic cabinets were wrapped:

- Fanny Bok Yin Tang: *Celebration of Life*, Hazelbridge Way and Capstan Way
- Andrew Talbot: *Follow Me | Rhythms of Change*, Minoru Blvd. and Granville Ave.
- Keely O'Brien: *Things I Saw While Walking*, No.5 Rd. and Cambie Rd.
- Bea Martin: *Cherry Blossoms | Rainbow Garden*, No.5 Rd. and Westminster Hwy.
- Jennifer Heine: *Flowering Dogwoods*, 4468 Moncton St.
- Nicole Jang: *The Soft Invasion*, Minoru Blvd. and Minoru Gate
- Susan Taylor: *Hummingbird Suite*, St. Edwards Rd. and Cambie Rd.
- Lisa Taniguchi, *A Collage of Words*, Garden City Rd. and Westminster Hwy.
- Janice Cheng: *Blackberries and Bunnies in Richmond*, Cooney Rd. and Park Rd.

D.F. Gray, *Richmond in Plein Air*

NO. 3 ROAD ARTS COLUMNS EXHIBITION 19, PART I AND II

This annual two-part exhibition takes place at Lansdowne and Aberdeen Centre Canada Line Stations, and showcases the work of Richmond artists. Part 1 was coordinated in partnership with the Grand Prix of Art Steveston, while Part 2 artists were selected via an open call to emerging and established artists who live in Richmond and whose works celebrate Richmond's local culture, history and natural heritage.

Part I (February–July)

- **Sichen Grace Chen, *Corners of Richmond***
These plein air paintings in watercolour, gouache and pencil crayon invite viewers to reflect and savour beautiful everyday landscapes.
- **D.F. Gray, *Richmond in Plein Air***
This work celebrates the artist's 50-year dedication to plein air soft pastel painting, highlighting Steveston and putting the "plane" in plein air at McArthurGlen Designer Outlet at YVR.
- **Scott Pleydell-Pearce, *Impressions of Scenic Richmond***
These impressionistic plein air paintings aim to evoke more sensations than is possible from a painting from a photograph and strive to capture the feeling of a place.

Part II (August–January, 2025)

- **Janice Cheng, *Boba Meowlk Tea, Chocolate Hedgehog, Danger Ramen Noodle, Terrier-Yaki***
These illustrations are a playful celebration of Richmond's vibrant food culture with puns, cute animals and beloved dishes to highlight our city's love of good food and drink.
- **Marina Szijarto, *Intertidal Stilt Dance***
Celebrating Richmond's historic Finn Slough, each handcrafted stilt house honours life shaped by tides, time and resourcefulness. Life on the rivers edge: a balancing act in a shifting world.
- **Monique Zhang, *Blue Cocoon***
This series captures early morning moments in Richmond with gentle scenes that celebrate love, care and connection in the quiet rhythm of daily life.

Janice Cheng, *Terrier-Yaki*Marina Szijarto, *Intertidal Stilt Dance*

Education and Outreach

ANNUAL EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

The following free public art-based activities and programs were offered at at signature festivals and other annual events.

- Children's Arts Festival: Self-guided Story-Themed Walk from Richmond Cultural Centre to Minoru Centre for Active Living
- Culture Days: *Nature Calls* Richmond Public Art and Parks Bike Tour
- Culture Days: Oval Village Public Art Walking Tour with curator Jeffrey Boone
- Culture Days: Botanical Impressions with Andrea Hoff. A family-friendly workshop using air dry clay and natural materials
- Public Works Open House: Public Art info booth with free art-making activity using artist-designed access covers
- Capital Projects Open House: Info poster highlighting public artworks commissioned through capital projects
- Seniors Week in June: Seniors Bus and Walking Tour in Steveston
- National Seniors Day: Bus tour for seniors led by Eric Fiss, former Richmond Public Art Planner, visiting Oval Village, Minoru Centre for Active Living and City Centre



Culture Days: *Nature Calls* public art bike tour



Capstan Village Walking Tour led by artist Jas Lally

CAPSTAN VILLAGE PUBLIC ART WALKING TOURS

From May to September, free monthly walking tours of Capstan Village were led by the following local arts professionals: Andrea Valentine-Lewis, Carmen Levy-Milne, Jas Lally, Rebecca Wang (Mandarin), and Yun-Jou Chang (Mandarin).

This pilot project was launched to engage residents and visitors while raising awareness of the growing number of (private development-funded) public art works in the City's Arts District. The tour leaders shared a diversity of professional expertise, lived experience, stories and community engagement approaches to their tours.

Public Art Maintenance

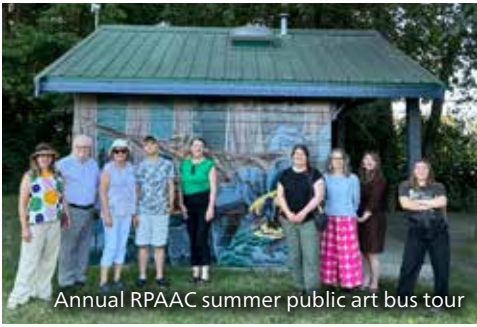
In 2025, the following civic artworks were identified for maintenance and were repaired:

- No. 3 Road Art Column at Aberdeen: new polycarbonate panels with anti-graffiti layer
- *Fish Trap Way* by Susan Point: cleaning and landscaping
- *Water off a Duck's Back* by Douglas Coupland: repainted
- *Hamilton Then and Now* by Mia Weinberg: light replacement
- *Richmond's home of Curl'ture & Curl'munity* mural by Mark Anderson: partial repainting



Arrival of the S.V. Titania by Dean Lauzé

In addition, *Arrival of the S.V. Titania* by Dean Lauzé, that replicates the painting by John M. Horton, was repainted on aluminum composite panel and reinstalled at the Steveston Hotel.



2025 RPAAC MEMBERS:

- Bronwyn Bailey, Chair
- Sabrina Bhojani
- Ceri Chong
- Paul Dufour
- Michelle Li, Vice-Chair
- Victoria Grigorenko
- Jose Larano
- Allison Liu
- Jerome Teo
- Council Liaison: Kash Heed

Selection Panelist Roster

The Selection Panelist roster is a list of artists, arts professionals and community members, based in Richmond and experienced mural artists who are pre-qualified to work with community groups, business or property owners, schools, and/or private developers to design and execute murals in public spaces.

The Selection Panelist roster was updated in December 2025 to ensure efficiency, transparency and diversity in the selection of artists for public art opportunities. Applications increased by 42% compared to 2024–2025.

This roster will be in use through December 2027.

Richmond Public Art Advisory Committee

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



Inges Idee, Richmond Skaters



Hip Hop Kids

ARTS EDUCATION PROGRAMS BY THE NUMBERS:

1,408	courses
8,213	registered students
593	students registered via fee subsidy program
59	professional instructors
105,000+	visits

Arts Programs at the Cultural Centre/Annex

Arts programs at the Cultural Centre and Annex (RCC/A) provide Richmond's diverse community with arts education, cultural experiences and creative spaces. High quality registered programs are available in a wide variety of disciplines including visual arts, dance and movement, music and theatre. The purpose-built studios in both locations are also home to eight local arts organizations known as the Resident Art Groups and provide affordable spaces to additional community arts groups.

As the hub of artistic participation within Richmond, these offerings activate and inspire artists and community members to connect through the arts. The creative contributions of Richmond residents — dance, theatre, music or visual arts — have a significant positive impact on community wellness and celebrate the vibrancy of Richmond as a diverse and dynamic city.

Arts Education Programs

The City continues to develop and diversify its arts education offerings to meet community demand for high calibre arts education delivered by professional artists. These programs ensure affordable access to a strong base of introductory and beginner programs as well as higher-level learning opportunities.

RCC/A instructors are not only highly qualified instructors, but also artists currently practicing in their artistic disciplines. Responding to community needs and current arts trends, educators are recruited from a diverse background of cultures and creative practices.



Ballroom Latin Dance

2025 New and Trending Programs

VISUAL ARTS

- Portraiture, Collage
- Colour Theory, Art History
- Introduction to Architecture (with Petit Architect)
- Comics
- Paper-making, Pencil-making, Bookbinding
- Mending, Sewing, Brazilian Embroidery
- Nature Illustration for Families
- Clay Foraging, Modern Kintsugi (Japanese-style pottery repair)

PERFORMING ARTS

- Ballet Body Conditioning, Ballet for 55+
- Jazz, Tap, Ballroom, Flamenco, Latin Funk Dance®
- Hip Hop, K-Pop, Voguing
- Filipino Folk Dance, Chinese Classical Dance, Women's Chinese Dance Tai Chi & Body Sculpting
- Musical Theatre, Youth Improv, Acting on Camera
- Piano, Guzheng (Chinese Instrument)

CULINARY ARTS

- Just Ferment It! Series
- Dumpling Making
- Wonton Making



Repair Cafe: Mend and Make it Your Own

Classes serve all ages and are offered seasonally as well as camps during Spring Break and Summer. Programming focus areas in 2025 included the following new programs:

ENVIRONMENT

In keeping with the Richmond's Circular City Strategy, these programs offered creative practices with sustainability in mind:

- **Pencil-Making with Invasive Plants Workshop** Artist Joshua Ralph taught participants how to identify and transform common invasive plants into pencils, creating charcoal from European Mountain Ash and shaping the pencil casing using Himalayan Blackberry canes.
- **Locally Foraged Clay Workshop** Artist Ilena Cramer led a presentation on regional clays and the history of brick manufacturing in BC. Participants learned tips on how to ethically source and work with local clays.
- **How to Use a Sewing Machine 101** Beginners learned the basics for garment making, mending and more.
- **Sew Your Own Garments** Participants learned how to create a garment using a pattern, building confidence to create their own clothing and think critically about fast fashion and consumption.
- **Repair Café: Circular Celebration** This event at the Cultural Centre on Oct 18 promoted the importance of reusing, repairing, recycling and conscious consumption with workshops, clothing swaps and repairs by appointment. Textile artists brought creativity to the event with a Learn to Use a Sewing Machine and Mend and Make It Your Own booths.

CULINARY ARTS

Over the summer, these popular food-based workshops for adults were held outdoors on the Rooftop Garden:

- **Just Ferment It! Workshop Series** Participants learned about the diverse culture and flavour of fermented food and drink while learning about food sustainability and the health benefits of fermentation.
- **It's a Chinese Dumpling Party! Workshop** Participants learned the art of making jiaozi dumplings by cooking, preparing and wrapping three delicious fillings and dipping sauces.





RECONCILIATION

Through creative engagement and dialogue that honours the spirit of Reconciliation, the Cultural Centre participated in the following activities:

- **SD38 Indigenous Success Program** Over four sessions, the studios welcomed youth to participate in leatherwork workshops led by knowledge keepers, Bruce Baptiste and Mae Postel.
- **National Day for Truth and Reconciliation** For four weeks, posters depicting artwork by ten prominent Indigenous, Inuit and Métis artists were displayed in the studios hallway. Each referenced the impacts of residential schools along with descriptions of the artwork and biography. Educational resources were featured in the Upper rotunda display case, including lesson plans by a West Coast Indigenous Teacher and a sample of sacred medicine from the Urban Native Youth Association.



CULTURAL HARMONY

In 2025, the Cultural Centre explored new partnerships with two Richmond performing arts organizations that share traditional cultural practices:

- **Magic of Guzheng** With Fangfei Music Academy, three seasonal programs focused on the Chinese classical instrument, guzheng, running at full capacity. Filling both a gap for group music lessons and introduction to non-Western instruments and musical conventions, weekly classes and intensives were provided for children and adults.
- **Filipino Folk Dancing With PhilCas of BC** Three "Try It!" sessions were offered during Culture Days, followed by a weekly registered program during the fall, where adults explored traditional and popular Philippines dances while gaining understanding of the heritage and cultural significance of folk dance from professional Filipino dancers.



FAMILIES

A new, weekly, two-hour program was offered to meet the high demands on Pottery Studio 2 (RCCA). Running at full capacity, **Family Clay Time** welcomed participants (one adult with a child) to create clay pieces, learning hand-building techniques to make personal objects that were glazed and fired.

COMMUNITY WELLNESS

Over the fall, in partnership with Richmond Mental Health, the Cultural Centre participated in the following programs:

- **Cross Cultural African Arts Society Dance and Drumming Workshops** Participants built confidence over several sessions leading up to a public performance during the Kwantlen Farmers' Market located in the Cultural Centre Plaza.
- **Crossmaneuver Improv Theatre Workshops** Led by local innovators in dance education, these sessions encouraged collaboration, trust and expression, through theatre games and improv techniques.
- **Printmaking Workshops** Led by Richmond-based artist, Mickey, participants produced multiple images and cards using monoprint and blockprint techniques. The popularity of these regular sessions boosted participants' social connection and artistic agency.



Upper Rotunda Gallery: Chinese Artists Association of Richmond

Richmond Improv Theatre Society
Photo: Aidan Wright

From a Class to a Troupe

What began as a Fundamentals of Improv class in 2022 has grown into a thriving partnership between the City and **Richmond Improv Theatre Society (RITS)**, now proud to offer seasonal Beginner, Intermediate and Youth programs on an annual basis.

In 2025, graduates from the adult Intermediate course even formed their own improv troupe: **Those Types**. They had their public debut as part of a RITS show in the Theatre Under the Stairs in June — an example of how accessible, high-quality community arts programming can lead to meaningful creative development and lasting artistic collaboration.

Community Programs and Outreach

ART TRUCK PROGRAM

The Art Truck program is designed to meet three community needs: 1) provide arts experiences for children who may not otherwise have access to them, 2) promote public awareness of art within the community, and 3) make arts education readily available to the public.

In the fall, Art Truck returned to provide off-site sport and art programming to Blair and Tomsett Elementary. Artists Kay Huang, Tarcila Neves and sports instructor Gavin Fung provided sport and art instruction for 32 elementary school students who were referred by school administrators. Students took part in a mixture of art, dance and sport activities in this low-cost, low-barrier after-school program over 10 weeks.

COMMUNITY ART EXHIBITIONS

The City coordinates community art exhibitions by local arts groups and non-profit arts organizations throughout the year at the Upper Rotunda Gallery. In 2025, the following exhibitions were presented:

- Chinese Artists Association of Richmond, January 3–January 30
- Tarcila Neves: *Roots of Resilience*, January 31–February 27
- Richmond Photo Clu: *Ann Reiner Memorial Exhibition*, February 28–March 27
- Sister City Program: *Local Public Gardens*, March 28–April 24
- Richmond Secondary School Students: *Explorations*, April 25–May 29
- Chinese Artists Association of Richmond, June 27–July 24
- Galatea Kefalas, Ilena Cramer and Mr. Tony: *Portals*, July 25–August 28
- School District No. 38 Staff: *Beyond the Bell*, August 29–September 25
- Chinese Ink and Brush Society, September 26–October 30
- Richmond Artists Guild: *Have A Look*, October 31–December 1
- Branscombe House Artist Residency Program: *Good Neighbours*, December 4, 2025–January 29, 2026



Accessibility



Diversity



Investment



Awareness/Participation



Public Spaces

8 RESIDENT ART GROUPS:

- Chinese Artists Association of Richmond
- Chinese Ink and Brush Society
- Richmond Artists Guild
- Richmond Gem and Mineral Society
- Richmond Photo Club
- Richmond Potters' Club
- Richmond Weavers and Spinners Society
- Textile Arts Guild of Richmond

Accessibility Initiatives



Now in its third year partnering with Vancouver Coastal Health's Richmond Adult Mental Health Team, the City provided free classes to clients who are diagnosed with mental health conditions.

This program has been successful in supporting clients by creating new social routines while supporting physical and creative activity—behaviours and tasks that are otherwise challenging to overcome due to social isolation and/or poor motivation/fatigue caused by medication.

The sampler of activities includes creative movement, drumming, clay hand building and printmaking. Participants receive assistance from occupational therapists in applying for the Recreation Subsidy Program. interest in the clay activity has sparked a new course: Relaxed Intermediate Pottery, a low stimulation, slower paced course with a shorter time commitment.

RESIDENT ART GROUPS

The arts studios are home to some of Richmond's longest running community arts organizations who receive reduced rates on regular room rentals for their activities. Throughout the year, the groups provide workshops, exhibitions and demonstrations for their members as well as participate in community events such as Culture Days.

2025 marked the 10-year anniversary of the Chinese Artists Association of Richmond. In addition to their participation in Culture Days and Richmond Public Library's Lunar New Year event, the group offered a calligraphy demonstration and workshop to the public in the RCCA Lounge over the summer, inviting the community to share in their celebration, commemoration and creativity.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH EXHIBITION

Black History Month (BHM) in Richmond takes shape as a month-long celebration that honours the legacy, stories, culture and heritage of the Black community in Canada. Initiated in 2016, Richmond's BHM exhibition is presented in February in partnership with Mary Wilson of Richmond Black History Month.

Roots of Resilience, featuring artist Tarcila Neves, was presented at the Upper Rotunda Gallery. In addition, the artist offered a public talk on digital tools for accessibility as part of the Richmond Art Gallery's Artist Salon program and led a hands-on workshop at the Children's Arts Festival.

This exhibition was part of nine BHM activities at the Cultural Centre, Richmond Art Gallery, Children's Arts Festival and Richmond Public Library.

PRIDE WEEK

Pride Week was celebrated in Richmond from July 28 to August 3 with variety of free, all-ages activities, including film screenings, fitness classes, Drag Queen Story Time, Drag Queen Karaoke and talks with 2SLGBTQI+ community leaders, presented in partnership with the City, community associations and the Richmond Public Library.

The Richmond Cultural Centre was dressed in rainbow colours for Pride season and the public was invited to take part in the ever-popular Pride Stairs activity and visit *Portals*, a group art exhibition at the Upper Rotunda Gallery featuring Arts Programs instructors of the 2SLGBTQI+ community.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

In 2025, the City partnered with the following community organizations to increase the community's access to arts opportunities through programs, events, exhibitions and more: Fangfei Music Academy, Gateway Theatre Society, Resident Art Groups, Vancouver Cantonese Opera Society, Richmond Public Library, Richmond School District No. 38, Vancouver Coastal Health, Richmond Museum Society, Richmond Art Gallery Association, Richmond Black History Month, Richmond Music School, Cambie, City Centre, Hamilton, South Arm, Sea Island, Steveston, Thompson and West Richmond Community Associations, Minoru Seniors Society, Kyril Dance, PhilCAS of BC and Lisa Gifford Latin Funk™.



Pride Stairs community activity



Richmond Youth Media Program Drop-in

RICHMOND MEDIA LAB BY THE NUMBERS:

- 83** RYMP Youth members who attended at least one drop-in session
- 4,700** hours RYMP members spent learning media arts skills and building community connections
- 500** hours RYMP members spent volunteering to provide photography, sound mixing and AV support for community events
- 72** Media Lab courses
- 329** course registrations

Richmond Media Lab

The Media Lab is designed to increase media literacy and provide access to technology and equipment to support and encourage the Richmond community to use these new tools in creative and meaningful ways. Whether it is for personal projects or to learn marketable skills for the future, the Media Lab offers a range of programs for all ages and abilities.

Richmond Youth Media Program

The Richmond Youth Media Program (RYMP), a free referral-based program for youth ages 13–24, has been running continuously for 14 years as a signature offering of the Richmond Media Lab. RYMP members gain valuable skills in media arts and build connections in the community, with a focus on asset development. This year saw a continuation of support from Vancouver Coastal Health, with ongoing grant support in partnership with Richmond Addiction Services Society (RASS).

The program has continued to see a significant increase in participation among referrals and drop-in engagement as a result of moving to the RCCA. The larger space with the latest software, hardware and machinery provides youth access to learning new skills, discovering new creative pursuits, and increasing curiosity to learn digital media.

In 2025, RYMP welcomed 83 active RYMP members, 725 youth drop-in visitors, and 30 adult mentors (including youth workers and professional media artists) contributing more than 4,700 hours spent at the Media Lab. Additionally, 44 new youth were referred to the program this year, a sign of steady and continual growth for the program.

RYMP members also participated in a variety of community events and initiatives, including those listed on the following pages:

“Today I wanted to do something I’ve never done before and I did exactly that with photography! Yay!”

– Youth drop-in visitor



Media Arts Career Fair

“I think that once again, the Youth Art Mart takes fantastic care of its vendors. I have never seen organizers talk so kindly or so empathetically to its first time sellers, and all the little touches (including this survey) make a difference.”

– RYMP Youth

YOUTH WEEK – CAREERS IN MEDIA ARTS (CIMA)

Careers in Media Arts is an annual event that introduces youth to professionals working in different areas of media arts. On May 3, CIMA featured filmmaker Lawrence Lam, game designer Sean Karemaker, content creator Uytae Lee, and singer-Songwriter Kylie V.

New for 2025 was the Media Arts Career Fair held in the RCCA Lounge where vendors showcased post-secondary digital arts programs at Vancouver Film School, Langara College, Capilano University, In Focus Film School, Kwantlen Polytechnic University ENTA program, BCIT, and more.

YOUTH ART MART

Since its inception in 2013, this youth-led craft market has featured local youth artists and their handmade prints, crafts and designs. This year, in addition to the three-day market in November, there was a summer market held outdoors in conjunction with a concert event, *Young and Loud*. This event supported more than 45 vendors and drew an estimated 400 visitors.

YOUTH GROUPS AND CAMPS AT THE MEDIA LAB

The larger classroom space of the Media Lab at the RCCA provides an opportunity for youth outreach workers to invite community partners to visit and learn about digital media skills. Youth groups from Richmond Addictions Service Society, SD38, Touchstone Family Association and community centre associations brought their youth camps and groups to the Media Lab, providing vital collaborations and community connections with caring adults in their community.

RYMP SKILL SESSIONS AND OUT-TRIPS

In addition to drop-in sessions, RYMP provides a space for professionals and youth experts to teach media literacy skills to participants and go on out-trips to art spaces and events in the region. RYMP hosted a variety of skill sessions led by youth and industry experts including a UX/UI workshop, RYMP Lit workshop, Small File Workshop, Improv, Collage Making, Cybersecurity, Graphic Design with a KPU grad, and more. Notable out-trips included DJ workshop at Yaletown Roundhouse Community Centre, and the Vancouver Art Book Fair.



The Mic Drop First Anniversary

The Mic Drop



The Mic Drop is a monthly open mic event for children and youth. In 2025, these events typically attracted ~35 performers and ~60 attendees to enjoy music and spoken word by performers under 25 years old.

The first anniversary in June was celebrated outdoors on the field next to the RCCA. This lively showcase of talent included more than 50 performers, ceramic art exhibition and sale by a member of the Youth Clay Club, clay painting activity, performances by students of the Guzheng music lessons and K-pop dance classes at the RCC/A and a veggie burger BBQ for the community.

Young and Loud is a new event that has emerged from the success of *The Mic Drop* as well as RYMP's *Jam Nights* and *Battle of the Bands*. On July 25, nine youth bands were paid to perform and 20 sold their artwork. Behind the scenes, two were paid as event staff with 11 youth volunteers.

The event attracted 450 attendees and was one of four "Mega Youth Hangout" events held over the summer.



Richmond Youth Media Program Drop-in

BATTLE OF THE BANDS

Over the summer, five Richmond-based youth bands were provided opportunities to work on song writing and recording with performance opportunities at community events. The bands performed at seven City facilities over the summer, culminating with a concert during Culture Days, with more than 70 in attendance. A total of 28 youth were engaged in planning, delivering and performing at these musical events in both paid and volunteer roles. This project is now an annual summer opportunity for youth in Richmond.

RICHMOND ADDICTIONS SERVICES SOCIETY (RASS) COLLABORATIONS

RASS's Schools Out group at Blundell Elementary visited the Media Lab where they created and screened their video "A Day in the Life of School's Out." They learned videography basics and were introduced to the RYMP program. RYMP also supported the fall RASS's Supporting Families program by providing space for their youth sessions at the Media Lab.

RICHMOND REMEMBERS LIVE VIDEO SIMULCAST

Under the direction of filmmaker Kryshan Randel, six RYMP members took part in providing live coverage of the 2025 Richmond Remembers ceremony at City Hall. Participants took part in a hands-on camera operations workshop, set up recording equipment including microphones and cameras, and provided great shots throughout the event.

VOLUNTEER, INCOME AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH

RYMP acts as a connector to relevant employment/experience opportunities. Some examples from 2025:

- volunteer sound mixing at community events has led to employment at a local theatre;
- supporting children's programs at the RCC/A and City Centre Community Centre has led to a volunteer position as a Junior Ceramics Tech;
- training as a lighting technician after the Battle of the Bands event has led to professional experiences with Richmond Improv Theatre Society; and
- four RYMP youth saw their artwork displayed at the Gateway Theatre lobby in connection with Theatre's 40th Anniversary.

“Thanks for always supporting us, I really appreciate the space that you guys provide and love coming by just to say hi.”

– RYMP Youth

“I’ve made many new friends and gained confidence in my music abilities”

– RYMP Youth

“RYMP has been a significant part of my school and personal life, helping me and my friends to learn and socialize with one another. I would like to thank the participants of this program, for they were encouraging and inspiring role models for us youths and we can hopefully learn more from them. It has been a fantastic year with RYMP!”

– RYMP Youth



Richmond Youth Media Program Drop-in

Programs & Activities

MEDIA ARTS EDUCATION COURSES

Throughout 2025, the Media Lab continued program staples like Digital Illustration, Digital Animation, 3D Printing, Wearable Electronics and Creative Photography. New courses included programs tailored for younger participants (ages 6–8) to offer Computer Crafts, Digital Art and Stop-motion Animation. The Media Lab also offered programs across disciplines during spring break and summer camps.

In October, the Media Lab launched an innovative new **Environmental Art** program that combines art, science, and the exploration of nature. Using techniques such as coding, GIS mapping, and sound recording, students learned about the environment and then translated these understandings into artworks.

ARTIST SALON

In June, the Media Lab hosted RAG’s monthly Artist Salon providing information about the resources the Media Lab has to offer local artists. The Media Lab also hosted one of the Gallery’s Collage Club sessions, providing a lesson on how to do digital collages with Procreate. The attendance for each session was 24 participants.

Two *Art After Dark* events invited youth to experience RAG exhibitions — *Restless by Nature* and *x^wəñiwən ce:p k^wθəθ nəwéyət* (((Remember your teachings))) — in a youth-focused evening celebration where they were invited to meet exhibition artist and make their own art. Media Lab provided equipment for the music, DJ and photo booth, planning, promotions, and more.



Makerspace

In response to community feedback from the Summer Open House, a new free monthly drop-in program for adults was set up on the model of a Makerspace, which is a communal workshop in which people with shared interests, especially in computing or technology, can gather to work on projects while sharing ideas, equipment and knowledge.

Sessions were held in August, October and November, with overall registration of 36 participants.

ANIMATING HISTORY

When the Richmond Museum lost their presenting partner for their “Animating History” school program, the Media Lab stepped in to ensure SD38 students could participate in a day-long animation workshop to create a short animated film about Richmond’s history. There are now plans to increase the program from three animation stations to six, as well as improve software and audio technology, in 2026.

Media Creation Services

Media Lab supports digital media production for community partners that highlight program achievements, event support, assist with training, provide documentation and/or offer technical support and advice. In 2025, the list of projects included:

- 2024 Arts Services Year in Review video
- Worksafe BC Video Contest 2025 video submission
- Activity Search Tool video
- Recreation and Sport Strategy video
- Art at Work – Public Art 101: Creating Budgets for Public Art Projects
- Art at Work – Exploring Regional Public Art Programs video
- Richmond Art Gallery–We Seekers Podcast video
- U-ROC Awards Ceremony Photography
- Youth in Richmond Campaign poster design
- Event A/V support for: Salmon Festival Salmon Run Youth Stage, UROC Awards Ceremony, West Richmond Community Centre’s Concert in the Park, Cambie Community Centre’s Drag Queen Karaoke, Sunset Snacks at KPU Farm, and South Arm Community Centre’s Youth Cookout.

Partners and Supporters

The Media Lab continues to develop relationships with service agencies across the region. RYMP members have been referred to employment, volunteer and workshop opportunities as part of the program benefits. RYMP youth have found volunteer experience and paid employment with the Richmond Art Gallery, Richmond Arts Coalition, Community Social Development, Minoru Seniors Society, Cambie Community Association, City Centre Community Association, Hamilton Community Association, Sea Island Community Association, Steveston Community Association, South Arm Community Association, Thompson Community Association, West Richmond Community Association, and McMath Secondary School.

The Media Lab was also the recipient of funding through the Province of British Columbia as well as the Federal government’s Building Safer Communities Program.





Music in the Lounge, Seniors Centre at Minoru Centre for Active Living

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION ARTS PROGRAMS BY THE NUMBERS:

- 3,413** arts courses offered
- 11,898** registered participants
- 10** participating community associations/societies

Beyond Arts Services

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

Community Associations and Societies

As part of our relationship-based approach, the City of Richmond works with community associations and societies who deliver a variety of programs and services at community centres. Program offerings and events include visual arts, dance, music and theatre opportunities which play a vital role in the continuum of arts programming in the City.

In 2025, more than 3,413 visual arts, dance and music courses attracted 11,898 participants. In addition to registered programs, arts activities are an important component of the child care programs offered by community centres. Throughout the year, arts programming also supports city-wide themes and special events, such as Pink Shirt Day and Pride Week.

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



Seniors Knitting, Cambie Community Centre



Watercolour Painting class, Seniors Centre at Minoru Centre for Active Living

Activities

ART PROGRAMS

Throughout 2025, associations and societies across Richmond delivered a wide range of arts, music, and dance opportunities for all ages. Program offerings included:

- Visual arts: drawing, sketching, 2D animation, acrylic and watercolour painting, Chinese brush painting, ceramics, knitting, crochet, needle felting, stitching, jewellery making, floral arranging, calligraphy, collage and journaling
- Dance: K-Pop, ballet, belly dancing, ballroom and line dancing
- Music: singing, guitar, violin, ukulele, taiko drumming, parent-and-child music and dance, seniors' music and dance socials and sing-alongs

In addition, in partnership with the Richmond Cultural Centre Annex, ceramic classes to create a cup and plate were offered as one-off workshops to provide seniors an opportunity to work on hand building clay.

These programs reflect the City's commitment to providing inclusive, engaging, and creative opportunities for all ages.

FACILITY PASS PROGRAMS

Associations and societies continued to offer a variety of singing and dancing programs through their Facility Passes for participants aged 55+. This includes programs such as:

- Dance: line dancing, Chinese traditional and Chinese Folk Dance, QiPao Dance, Scottish Country Dancing and ballroom dance
- Music: saxophone, ukulele and singing circles, and Peking Opera

These programs provide welcoming spaces for participants to stay active, express themselves creatively and build strong social connections.

In addition, arts groups from the Seniors Centre continued to thrive throughout 2025. The Platinum Players drama group met weekly to rehearse short skits, including a special Culture Days performance. The Minoru Photo Group and Glee singers also participated year-round, maintaining their creative engagement and close-knit community.

“Feeling stronger, lighter and more balanced each session.”
 – Ballet - Beginner participant

“I really enjoyed the art class. It was very nice that they do different projects each week.”
 – Art for Twos participant



Accessible Art



Over the fall, Thompson Community Centre featured *Zodiac Crossroads*, an exhibition of tactile artworks by Richmond-based artist Johnny Tai. Using raised etchings on aluminum, the exhibition reimagined the Chinese zodiac and Western astrology, inviting visitors to experience the artwork through touch as well as sight.

Johnny Tai is a blind and partially deaf artist whose work explores culture, identity, and accessibility. He has exhibited across Metro Vancouver and is dedicated to making art more inclusive through non-visual, tactile practices.

This exhibition was also presented at The Annex Gallery in 2025.



Youth Mega Hangout at South Arm Park

New and returning participants enriched the arts landscape further through Kingsland Calligraphy and Chinese Calligraphy programs, fostering cultural expression and connection across generations.

YOUTH MEGA HANGOUTS

In July and August, there were four Mega Youth Hangouts, one of which included South Arm's Youth Cookout Concert that saw 67 participants and engagement from community partners.

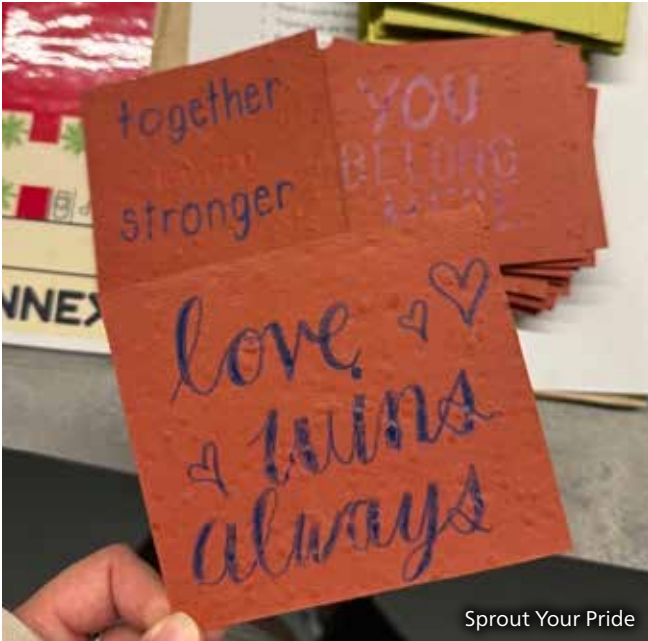
As a part of the Youth Mega Hangout series, South Arm offered a drop-in youth concert at the South Arm Park Lacrosse Box with performances by four youth bands. Young participants enjoyed sports pop-ups, craft activities, a hotdog barbecue, and connected with youth workers and community partners from Building Safer Communities.

Many parents and patrons were seen outside the lacrosse box enjoying the music and cheering on performers.

LOCAL ART EXHIBITION SPACE

City Centre, South Arm and Thompson Community Centres have wall space dedicated to exhibiting art by local artists, in an effort to promote the development of visual arts at all levels and provide exhibition space in Richmond.

Artists from all cultural and artistic backgrounds at any stage in their career are encouraged to submit applications on an ongoing basis. New artists are selected regularly, showcasing a variety of practices including painting, drawing, photography and textile arts.



Sprout Your Pride



Minoru Pop-Up Shop

“The City of Richmond invites everyone to recognize and celebrate 2SLGBTQI+ communities during this year’s Pride Week events. Our 2025 theme, *Pride Lives Here*, highlights Richmond’s commitment to inclusion and affirms that 2SLGBTQI+ communities are a vital part of our city”.

– Mayor Malcolm Brodie

Special Events

PRIDE WEEK

A variety of Pride Week activities were offered at community centres and libraries across the city.

As part of South Arm Community Centre’s Pride Week celebrations, several activities were offered to engage the community: *Sprout Your Pride* invited patrons to take home free vegetable seed card kits decorated with Pride-themed messages that promoted kindness, acceptance, and joy, while two free registered programs— *Pride Yoga* (all ages) and *Pride Paint Night* (Adult) — provided participants with safe and inclusive spaces to celebrate, reflect on gender identity, foster empowerment and build community. All activities were well-received, with many patrons expressing appreciation for having a welcoming space to celebrate Pride.

Thompson Community Centre celebrated Pride Week with an intimate indoor concert in the main lobby. The performance featured a talented vocalist and guitarist, both local members of the Richmond community.

West Richmond ran two creative workshops as part of Pride Week in 2025; a jewellery making session for children and a tie-dye session for adults. Both were very popular and received great feedback from the community.

MINORU POP-UP SHOP

On November 12, the Minoru Seniors Society hosted its annual Minoru Pop-Up Shop. The event featured knitted and crocheted items created through Seniors Facility Pass programs, and the Seniors Centre Cafeteria participated by offering baked goods and pastries. Over the three-hour event, sales exceeded \$2,400, generating valuable funds for the Minoru Seniors Society.



City Centre Community Association's Concerts in the Park



Intercultural Celebration in the Plaza

INTERCULTURAL CELEBRATION IN THE PLAZA

On August 6, the Minoru Seniors Society hosted the Intercultural Celebration in the Plaza, funded by the Richmond Community Celebration Grant, at the North Plaza. The event aimed to promote cultural diversity in Richmond. Four cultural groups— Japanese, Filipino, Austrian, and Scottish — were invited to showcase their signature and cultural performances through dance and music. More than 120 participants attended and enjoyed the wide range of cultural presentations.

CONCERTS IN THE PARK/PLAZA BY THE NUMBERS:

- 3** locations
- 16** events
- 16** performances
- 2,800+** attendees

CONCERTS IN THE PARK/PLAZA

City Centre Community Association's Concerts in the Park took place on July 16 and August 20 at Garden City Community Park with performances by local youth bands. In addition to live performances, there were popular activities including crafts, colouring and lawn games with giant inflatable bowling, beach balls and more. The two concerts combined attracted large crowds who enjoyed the amazing weather and talented musicians.

The Thompson Community Picnic, held on Thursday, June 19, welcomed over 1,000 attendees for an evening of music, food, and fun-filled activities. Guests enjoyed performances by the Midnight Cruiser Band, Pog Collectors, and Taiko drumming, along with interactive booths featuring face painting, yoga, bocce, and more. The lively atmosphere, enhanced by inflatable games and youth-led activities, created a memorable experience that showcased Thompson's community spirit.

From June to September 2025, free all-ages activities were offered at the Outdoor Plaza at the Minoru Centre for Active Living. Programming included ten concerts featuring local artists from across the Lower Mainland—ranging from 50s hits and rock 'n' roll to string quartet classics—and three workshops highlighting a variety of cultural dance and exercise movements. Across all concerts and activations, there were more than 1,800 attendees.



Now and Then – A Journey Through the Ages: Evolution of Music



South Arm Christmas Craft Fair



National Indigenous Peoples Day 🗝️ ❤️ 💬

June is National Indigenous History Month and June 21 is National Indigenous Peoples Day. As part of city-wide activities that recognize and celebrate the cultural heritage and vibrancy of Indigenous peoples of the region, the community was invited to participate in free activities to engage, learn and connect.

During the week of National Indigenous Peoples Day, many community centres hosted Moontide Reconciliation, a local Indigenous owned company, to facilitate cedar weaving or medicine pouch workshops. The community centre Community Development Coordinator team hopes to grow offerings in subsequent years to honour this important day.

NOW AND THEN – A JOURNEY THROUGH THE AGES

In 2023, the Minoru Seniors Society was the successful recipient of the New Horizons for Seniors Program Grant that provided \$25,000 to go towards intergenerational programs that occurred throughout 2024/2025. This program was divided into four streams of activities including: *Dining through the Decades*, *Technology through the Times*, *Evolution of Music* and *Art through the Eras*. These activities were geared towards pairing seniors up with youth and children as they learn new skills and participate in activities together. *Art through the Eras* included a monthly workshop that paired seniors and elementary school children from Brighthouse Elementary School together to work on projects including: drawing, painting and printmaking.

CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIRS

There were 125 vendors who participated in the Steveston Craft Fair in November, selling various handmade crafts to the public, including knitting, crochet, paintings, baked goods and other handmade goods.

There were 80 vendors who participated in the South Arm Craft Fair in November, selling various handmade crafts to the public, including knitting, crochet, paintings, baked goods and other handmade goods. The South Arm knitting group also participated by producing knitwear for the sale, with proceeds supporting seniors programs.

HOLIDAY EVENTS

West Richmond Community Centre hosted “Ukeing around the Christmas Tree” featuring 44 seniors playing the ukulele and singing along to classic holiday-themed songs. Light snacks and a social preceded the event, which proved to be a terrific seasonal activity for all involved.

Over the holiday break, including Christmas Day, South Arm offered several art and dance programs, such as ornament making, slime workshops, friendship bracelet making and more.



West Fest at West Richmond Community Centre



Invite the Night:
Meditative Labyrinth by Marina Szijarto

WEST FEST

West Fest 2025 at the West Richmond Community Centre offered a wide variety of arts activities from button making, to balloon twisting, sensory play stations, face painting and live music. The event also included inflatables, active games, food trucks and more. West Fest 2025 also featured an all-ages dance party along with performances from West's 55+ dance programs.

INVITE THE LIGHT: A WINTER SOLSTICE CELEBRATION

City Centre Community Centre celebrated the darkest day of the year with their third annual intercultural event, Invite the Light. Activities included a meditative labyrinth of light comprised of 500 lanterns brought to life by artist Marina Szijarto, education and stories about local nocturnal wildlife by the Richmond Nature Park, arts and crafts using the natural elements such as pinecones and compostable materials, Indigenous cedar weaving bracelets with Moon Tide Reconciliation and free refreshments and food including dumplings from Richmond restaurant Kung Fu Dumpling. Approximately 400 people were in attendance; the event received positive feedback with people coming from as far as downtown Vancouver.

2025 Street Banner Contest

The 2025 street banner contest was launched in August 2024 and concluded with the banner unveiling ceremony on Monday, March 10, 2025. The contest attracted more than 580 original submissions consisting of photographs, graphic art, collages and other art medium formats. A community judging panel reviewed the submissions and selected 20 designs as semi-finalists. The public was then invited to vote for their favourite designs through the City's Lets Talk Richmond website casting over 6,700 votes over the two-week voting period. The Top 10 designs with the most votes were chosen as the winners.

The winning artists were Lenard Madey, Hiahua Su, Po-wah Ng, Janice Cheng, Clare Scott, Lisa Toffolo, Vannice Yuet See Ho, Micah Groberman, Angela Yiu and Jessie Li.



Janice Cheng with winning street banner



Jess Amy Shead, June Fukumura, Shizuka Kai, and Randi Edmundson in *Otosan* (2024). Photo: Chelsey Styut

MISSION

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

Gateway Theatre

Gateway Theatre is managed and operated by Richmond Gateway Theatre Society, a registered charity and not-for-profit organization. Supported by the City, the theatre facility is Richmond's live performing arts hub, drawing audiences in excess of 28,000 to more than 110 performances.

As "A Stage for Richmond", Gateway provides entry points for audiences and performers in three key areas: Shows & Events, Education and Community Rentals.

Through its **Shows & Events**, Gateway produces a breadth of stories that tackle the ideas, values and issues that reflect the diverse people of this city. It brings people together through shared artistic experiences that encourage dialogue and exchange.

Gateway's **Education** programming connects youth to the performing arts through classes in acting, singing, dancing and production. Where it is most transformative is beyond the stage, building confidence, self-awareness, and a sense of belonging in young people.

And the **Community Rentals** program allows Richmond to celebrate its achievements, with thousands of people coming through the doors each year to participate in events presented by community organizations.

Shows & Events



Silk Road Music: Lunar New Year Celebration.
Photo: Elizabeth Nygren

SILK ROAD MUSIC: LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATION

Concert

February 1, 2025

A vibrant Lunar New Year concert by award-winning ensemble Silk Road Music filled the Gateway Theatre stage with a dynamic blend of Eastern and Western musical traditions. Featuring a blend of Chinese folk and classical music with jazz, blues, Brazilian, Celtic, Spanish, Arabic and Indigenous influences, the performance highlighted cultural exchange through music. Presented by five exceptional musicians, the event celebrated Richmond's cultural diversity while fostering cross-cultural connection and community engagement.

OTOSAN

Theatre for Young Audiences

February 17–22, 2025

Otosan was a visually stunning and emotionally resonant production for young audiences inspired by co-creator Shizuka Kai's real-life relationship with her father, a wildlife videographer. Young Shizu hides in her *Otosan*'s suitcase and secretly follows her father to the most dangerous destination: the remote North. Facing snowy owls, white wolves and grizzly bears, *Otosan* and Shizu must learn to tackle challenges together, eventually learning how to communicate their love. Using puppetry, real wildlife projections, and an original score, *Otosan* took audiences on an immersive journey.

"This was an extremely well-put together production that's full of heart. Really captivating and I was moved to tears (twice!)."

– *Otosan* audience member



The Flame: Anniversary Edition.
Photo: Elizabeth Nygren.

THE FLAME: ANNIVERSARY EDITION

Storytelling Event

March 8, 2025

True stories took the spotlight with *The Flame: Anniversary Edition*, a special presentation of Vancouver's popular live storytelling series, hosted by award-winning actor Deborah Williams. Celebrating Gateway Theatre's 40th anniversary, the event featured local storytellers sharing reflections on birthdays, milestones, and celebrations. With live music enhancing the experience, the evening created a welcoming space for diverse voices and fostered meaningful connection through shared human experiences.

Ruby Reflections: 40th Anniversary Gala

The **Ruby Reflections Gala** celebrated four decades of storytelling, artistic excellence, and community connection. The celebration began with the MainStage performance and was followed by a catered cocktail reception honouring the supporters, artists and audiences who have made Gateway Theatre a vital cultural institution.

The gala reflected on the past while looking ahead to a future filled with creativity and possibility.



Gregory Armstrong-Morris, Anita Wittenberg, and Melissa Oei in *Pride & Prejudice* (2025) | Set & Lighting Designer: Sophie Tang | Costume Designer: Alaia Hamer. Photo: David Cooper



Renee Fajardo in *To The Moon: Mid-Autumn Celebration* (2025) | Photo: Elizabeth Nygren

“Great show and the actors were wonderful in all the different characters. Lovely way to spend a couple of hours and good to support our local theatre.”

– *Pride & Prejudice* audience member

“Gateway Theatre has a variety of events for different members of the community. I like the inclusiveness and variety of events they offer.”

– Audience Member

PRIDE & PREJUDICE

MainStage Show
April 17–26, 2025

A fresh and fast-paced adaptation of Jane Austen’s classic novel delighted audiences with Kate Hamill’s *Pride & Prejudice*. This lively production followed the sharp-witted Elizabeth Bennet as she navigates societal expectations, romance, and her evolving relationship with the ubiquitous Mr. Darcy. With fast-paced staging, seamless character changes, and a contemporary sense of humour, the production delighted both devoted Austen fans and first-time audiences, offering a joyful and theatrical experience.

TRUE VOICES: PRIDE STORYTELLING & TEA

Storytelling Event
July 31, 2025

As part of Richmond Pride Week, Gateway Theatre presented *True Voices: Pride Storytelling & Tea*, a free community event celebrating local queer voices. LGBTQ2S+ storytellers shared personal and inspiring stories, followed by an intimate Q&A over tea. The event provided a welcoming and safe space for queer community members and allies.

TO THE MOON: MID-AUTUMN CELEBRATION

Family-friendly Event
October 5, 2025

Families came together to celebrate the Mid-Autumn Festival at *To the Moon: Mid-Autumn Celebration*, an afternoon of music, creativity, and cultural connection. The event began with a concert at Minoru Chapel featuring mezzo-soprano Renee Fajardo, who performed a joyful selection of Disney, Broadway, and film favourites. Following the performance, families gathered in Gateway Theatre’s lobby to create lanterns and share complimentary mooncakes, fostering intergenerational engagement and a warm sense of community celebration.

Community Rental Partners

Gateway had a successful rental season in 2025 with 30 clients and 50 performances throughout the year. Most long-standing rental clients returned to the theatre to celebrate the richness and diversity of the Richmond community.

2025 rental partners:

- AM Dance Education Inc.
- Boompop / Taoli World Dance Competition
- Brigham Young University
- Canada Y.C. Chinese Orchestra Association
- Canada Chain Commerce and Culture Association
- Childlike Faith Academy
- Earth Child Montessori
- Grand Hale Marine Products Co. Ltd.
- Ignite Dance Company
- Jacqueline Au Studio
- James & Jamesy
- Jokers Canada
- Metro Vancouver Overseas Taiwanese Society
- SD38–Music in Our Schools
- NPC Art School
- Pleasant Mountain Music
- Respon Wealth Management Corp.
- Richmond Academy of Dance
- Richmond Ballet CDTA
- Richmond Christian School
- Richmond Delta Youth Orchestra
- Richmond School District
- Richmond Youth Concert Band
- Sound the Alarm
- UROC Award
- Vancouver Academy of Dance
- Wailele Wai Wai Hoike

PLAYING FIELDS: A CULTURE DAYS EVENT

Community Event
September 20, 2025

For BC Culture Days, Gateway Theatre hosted *Playing Fields*, a youth-driven interactive performance that invited audiences onto the field and into the inner world of adolescence. Using provided headsets, participants listened to powerful stories from teenagers around the world, exploring themes of identity, belonging, hope and uncertainty. Designed for teens, families and curious audiences of all ages, the work blended theatre, movement, and community to create a deeply immersive and inclusive shared experience.

MS. HOLMES & MS. WATSON – APT. 2B

MainStage Show
October 16–25, 2025

A bold and comedic reimaging of a classic detective tale brought a contemporary twist to the stage. Set in a post-pandemic world, this feminist adaptation followed eccentric roommates Sherlock Holmes and Joan Watson as they navigated friendship, crime-solving, and chaos with sharp wit and irreverent humour. By re-centering iconic roles through a contemporary lens, the play challenged traditional narratives while offering an entertaining experience.

ANNIE

MainStage Show
December 11, 2025–January 3, 2026

Audiences of all ages were treated to the timeless musical *Annie*, a heartwarming story of optimism, resilience, and found family set in 1930s New York City. Following the determined young orphan Annie as she navigated hardship with courage and hope, the production celebrated perseverance and kindness. Featuring a cast of six talented kids, and a dog, this joyful, family-friendly musical brought generations together and added warmth and festive spirit to the season.

Gateway Academy

At Gateway Academy, students gain an understanding of themselves and others, grow confidence, and develop communication and problem-solving skills. All the while, they are also learning acting, singing, dancing, and speaking techniques taught by professional artists.

No matter what the future holds for Academy students—be it as performers, scientists, or technicians —they will make their communities better places by bringing the relational skills developed and learned in Gateway’s theatre classes.

In 2025, Gateway Academy delivered more than 600 hours of education to a total of 248 students aged 6–18. Each class culminated in a presentation and each session ended with an Open Studio where families get the opportunity to participate in the practices of the class. The classes were as follows:



Academy Students in class at Gateway Theatre

“Gateway Academy has been a wonderful experience for my child! For the past two years we have had experienced, professional instructors who were fun, passionate about the arts and enthusiastic about teaching kids.”

– Academy parent

Accessibility Initiatives



This year, Gateway continued to work to create greater access to its spaces and events, in the hopes of being a place where a growing community of artists, audiences, learners, and workers can feel welcomed and able to participate. For the first time, Gateway offered Relaxed Performance which have been well-received by the community. Gateway also continued to partner with VocalEye to offer described performances for blind and partially sighted individuals, as well as to provide Pay-What-You-Will preview nights, 2-for-1 ticket nights, Community Access Tickets program, and more.

- **Acting for Stage & Film Classes** (January–April, September–December) Acting students not only developed skills integral to all theatrical disciplines, but universal skills such as confidence, focus, listening and trust-building. Through developing skills for teamwork, the classes created learning experiences that fostered belonging and self-confidence through creative expression. Building on the success of last season’s program, *Acting for Stage and Film* classes were expanded with two age group levels. Students in this class built foundational skills in acting for both the stage and on screen.
- **Musical Theatre** (January–April, September–December) Musical Theatre students built confidence as they explored vocal techniques, choreography and expressing lyrics musically and dramatically. Through developing skills for teamwork, the classes created learning experiences that fostered belonging and self-confidence through creative expression.
- **Acting Summer Camp** (July) Through week-long intensives in July, *Acting* campers explored skills integral to all theatrical disciplines, and worked on building confidence, focus, listening and trust-building.
- **Musical Theatre Summer Camp** (July) Through week-long intensives in July, *Musical Theatre* campers explored vocal techniques, choreography and expressing lyrics musically and dramatically, finding ways to develop confidence, creativity and teamwork. *Musical Theatre* camps in 2025 saw the return of Gateway’s Performance program, where students work towards a semi-produced presentation with technical elements such as costumes and lights.

SCHOOL OUTREACH PROGRAM

Gateway’s Secondary School Outreach Program is a free program for secondary school students to broaden their horizons towards a career in the performing arts. From backstage technicians to arts marketers to sound and lighting designers, students discover an array of fulfilling professional opportunities. In this program, students meet performing artists, designers, and theatre staff to learn more about what they do, go on a behind-the-scenes venue tour of Gateway Theatre, and experience the show.

In 2025, Gateway Theatre provided the following outreach programs:

- **Otosan – Puppetry and Mime Workshop** A.R. MacNeill Secondary students made their own puppets and learned how to bring them to life with teaching artist Joylyn Secudar.
- **Pride & Prejudice – Period Acting Workshop** A different group of A.R. MacNeill Secondary students spent an afternoon in the world of Jane Austen and learned to perform the etiquette of the era with teaching artist Moya O’Connell.
- **Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson – APT. 2B – Stage Combat Workshop** Tech theatre students from Magee Secondary learned choreography and techniques to safely perform stage fighting with artist Delaney Gilmour.
- **Annie – Choreography Crash Course** J.N. Burnett Secondary students learned how to retain choreography and movement quickly and confidently with teaching artist Julia Kelleway.



Elle Hanson, Azaleah Korn, and Katie Bradshaw in *Annie* (2025) | Set & Props Designer: Ryan Cormack | Lighting Designer: Sophie Tang | Costume Designer: Donnie Tejani | Photo: David Cooper



Ballet class at the Richmond Cultural Centre Annex

How Richmond supports and invests in arts and culture*

The City wears many hats, acting as a supporter, presenter, facilitator, communicator, investor and facility operator

Supporter



COMMUNITY ART EXHIBITIONS

33 exhibitions in **8** locations including Richmond City Hall



RICHMOND ARTS AWARDS

77 nominations
102 award recipients recognized since 2009



CULTURE DAYS

100 registered activities¹ by **51** local arts groups and individuals

1: Ranked Number 1 in BC, Number 4 in Canada for mid-sized cities; in Top 10 overall



ARTS PROGRAMS AT RCC/A

provided **18** arts groups and **8** individual artists
6,032 hours of studio access

Facility Operator



RICHMOND CULTURAL CENTRE

310 hours room rentals by cultural organizations at subsidized rates



ARTS PROGRAMS IN THE RICHMOND CULTURAL CENTRE/ANNEX

1,408 arts courses
57 professional instructors
8,213 students registered



RICHMOND ART GALLERY

23 exhibitions in the gallery and off-site presenting **95** artists
2,172 school program participants
66 free public programs in-person and online with **3,158** participants
11,600 YouTube video views



COMMUNITY FACILITIES²

3,413 visual arts, dance & music courses
11,898 registered participants



THEATRE UNDER THE STAIRS

178 city/partner events
27 community events
3,440 attendees



RICHMOND MEDIA LAB

72 media arts courses
83 Richmond Youth Media Lab members spent **4,700** hours at the Media Lab

2: Delivered by community associations. There are also libraries, museums and heritage sites that partner with Arts Services

Communicator



ARTS & CULTURE EBLASTS

2 special edition eblasts
700+ subscribers

HOW ART WORKS INSTAGRAM

93 posts
4,615 followers

ART AT WORK PROGRAM

8 free professional development workshops for artists & organizations
447 participants in-person, online and via on-demand Youtube

Investor



PUBLIC ART PROGRAM

383 artworks to-date
26 new works
12 Richmond artists contracted for civic art commissions
9 community group partners



ARTS & CULTURE GRANTS PROGRAM

21 arts organizations funded

NEIGHBOURHOOD BLOCK PARTY PROGRAM

32 block parties funded

COMMUNITY CELEBRATION GRANTS PROGRAM

49 organizations funded

Presenter



FESTIVALS

6 signature events showcasing **300+** local artists and performers
120+ performances
155,000+ attendees



GATEWAY THEATRE³

60 performances
50 rental events
123 professional artists
28,187 audience members and participants
7,015+ hours of theatre education
248 students enrolled

3: Operated by Richmond Gateway Theatre Society with support of City of Richmond

Facilitator



FILM OFFICE

130+ unique filming inquiries
375+ Richmond businesses supported by the film industry
\$6 million+ spent on production-related goods and services such as catering, construction supplies, accommodations, transportation and more.



ARTISTS-IN-RESIDENCE

11-month Branscombe House

Artist-in-Residence

2-month Writer-in-Residence

3 Artists-in-Residence as part of Engaging Artists in the Community Program

*2025 statistics represented unless otherwise noted



"The purpose of art is ...
the gradual, lifelong
construction of a state of
wonder and serenity."

– Glenn Gould



City of Richmond

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Cover: Youth Summer Art Mart 2025,
Richmond Cultural Centre