

## CityClerk

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**From:** CityClerk  
**Subject:** Richmond Arts Coalition presentation

Richmond Arts Coalition

The Richmond Arts Coalition (RAC), on behalf of its members and the Arts Community in Richmond, is requesting City Council to repurpose the existing Seniors Centre as arts space. Members have strongly indicated the need for more and different spaces for the Arts. The present Seniors Centre, with its proximity to the Cultural Centre, would be ideal to begin to address this need. This proximity makes economic sense for a repurposed Arts Centre being housed there, ensuring staffing and facility requirements are kept to a minimal increase. Some of the needs RAC has identified are for performing arts - the Seniors Centre has a gym with stage - work space for artists - some of the smaller rooms could be refitted and then available for booking for both short and longer periods; exhibition space for Richmond Artists; additional programmable space to reduce wait lists such as those experienced by the Children's Arts Festival and dance classes. These are simply small suggestions and RAC would assist the city in canvassing the Arts community to ensure the retrofitted facility would meet the City's needs of a growing population.

Richmond Arts Coalition respectfully requests that Council direct staff to work with RAC and others to bring options for repurposing the "old" existing Seniors Centre as Arts focused space forward for Council consideration.

Respectfully

Linda Barnes  
Chairperson  
Richmond Arts Coalition

Cheers  
Linda Barnes



**Richmond Arts Coalition  
Facilities Wish List Responses November 2014**

Thank you for taking the time to collect everyone's "wish lists" for facilities needed in Richmond. Our Wish List: A new smaller theatre venue that would seat between 250-350 people, with sprung floors, modern lighting and sound equipment, along with dressing rooms. Thank you! Warm Regards,  
Heather Joosten-Fair, THE RICHMOND ACADEMY OF DANCE

Here is what Richmond Artists Guild would like considered-

Physical Improvements to current Cultural centre

1. better ventilation/heat control
2. easier access from parking area for adults carrying equipment, drop the 3hr. parking limit, or give passes to allow for longer parking in the lower lot area.

Improvements to current Cultural Centre Management

1. 3 weekend workshops per year allocated for each user group
2. More weekday allotment time
3. Room booking to be done once a year in October. Additional bookings can be done ad hoc
4. Equal priority between user groups and city groups for room allocation.

Physical Improvements to any future Cultural centre Painting Studio:

1. A larger studio capable of holding 25 artists with easels
2. North lighting coming from Opera windows
3. More electrical outlets.
4. Adjustable risers

Lorraine Wellman

Richmond needs a non-IATSE/union performance space, to meet smaller-scale needs not currently filled by Gateway. There are a few reasons why upstart theatre companies avoid Richmond like the plague, focusing instead in Vancouver, Burnaby, and even New Westminster, and the lack of an affordable (and therefore non-union) performance space is a big one. When the choices are either an expensive rental at Gateway or performing in a mall...there is no choice. So shows won't get produced here without a new performance space.  
Andrew Wade

I'd really like to see more spaces to display art in Richmond! Aside from a scattering of local shows there is no place to display paintings during the year. Need more -  
Betsy Randel, Artist member of RAG and RAC

Studio and gallery/display space for visual arts is needed. Also a somewhat larger space for workshops would be very nice. Having the option of offering sales and/or rentals in the gallery/display space would be grand.

Thanks for asking,

*Robin White, Administrative Assistant, Gateway Theatre 604-247-4986*

For many years, I have been putting my 2 cents in to the mayor and his council that Richmond needs a performance hall to have concerts in. Not just for orchestras and classical music, a venue that will host a variety of local and international artists in many diverse genres. A venue that will be affordable to host events in. A venue like the gateway, with multiple rooms to host small and large music concerts. A venue that is fully loaded, with video capability, full lighting system, internet capabilities for live streaming, digital recording board in a fully loaded control room, video cameras, full projection screens. We were promised that money from the Olympics was supposed to go into the arts. I really haven't witnessed that. That is my wish. Kind regards.  
Cherelle Jardine

Please add to the wish list: The need for rooms for organizations such as photography clubs to use to meet on a regular basis, such rooms to have adequate and secure storage facilities, black out blinds, projection screens. For many non profit art clubs or organizations, as group membership increases the need for larger meeting rooms becomes crucial. Very few of the currently available meeting rooms large enough to hold 50 people have adequate secure storage facilities or the capacity to block light adequately for projection of

images. Space that is available and is affordable is often shared space with other art groups and is not appointed to accommodate the needs of groups such as photography clubs.

Gerry Boretta, Past President, Richmond Photo Club

The Richmond Schools Music Teacher's Association would like to add to your "wish list" by suggesting the addition of a new theatre venue for music presentations and performances because we only have very limited access to the Gateway Theatre for school performances, and even professional touring group performances have difficulty finding spaces to present themselves.

We appreciate this valuable opportunity to help shape the future of our arts communities here in Richmond.

Thanks very much,

Laura Elliott, Band Teacher McKay, Blundell, and Lee Elementary Schools.

My name is Sudnya Mulye. I am the Artistic Director of Sudnya Dance Academy based in Richmond since 1998. Dancers at the academy are trained in Bharata Natyam – Classical dance style of India. Academy and myself have performed at various multicultural events in the City of Richmond and have been supported by the city in organizing the fundraising event for Red Cross "Kala Utsav" an evening of Indian classical dance and music. As an individual performing artist and not non-profit organization I have faced various challenges working with my artistic skills in presenting and promoting the art form in Richmond.

Here are some of the suggestions in response to the email sent from RAC.

1. Affordable practice studio space.
2. Affordable performing theatre/hall
3. Performing arts residency programs- where professional artist/s work to choreograph and collaborate.
4. Individual artist grants to choreograph for community dancers.
5. A directory/website of artists of Richmond
6. Offering workshops to guide in grant writing and helping the new artist to build bridges between the work ethics.

Some of the points mentioned above are being offered for the artists from different art forms but I haven't seen much offered for the dance art. Thanks for giving this opportunity. I hope to hear from you. Regards, Sudnya Mulye, Artistic Director, Sudnya Dance Academy, 604 303 6564

Gateway Theatre sent their 26 page Facilities Review. Here is one paragraph from the Executive Summary: In order to realize the artistic vision, maintain the Academy, and continue to provide rental space for community productions, the Gateway Theatre will need additional space. Current facilities consist of a 540-seat theatre, a 100 seat Studio (Studio B), a rehearsal room (Studio A), and administration offices. Gateway 2028 is divided into three phases and for Phase One, the Theatre can accommodate planned productions within its current facilities supplemented by creative community and corporate partnerships. Beyond Phase One the demand for space increases considerably. General descriptions of space requirements and expected utilization rates for the existing facilities can be found in Section 5.6 (Phase one), Section 6.6 (Phase two), and Section 7.7 (Phase three).

**Richmond Writes Out Loud!** We need a place to hold about 15-20 people for our monthly meetings for our creative writers who share their creative mind out loud. *Currently*, thanks to Ironwood branch of Richmond Public Library, we are using their main lobby open space, which is quite noisy and with all that people around us talking and coming and going, it becomes quite disruptive to our audience to concentrate and to our members who need to read their writing out loud.

The senior center has a very nice piano, however, is in a location with a sign not to be played. Also, the center will not have art classes for seniors unless the minimum number of students is met. Why not let the seniors have the ability to have both? The senior center needs a room dedicated to music, and another to art. The piano in the card playing area is not placed for use. The room used for art classes is usually used for meetings, with nothing to do with art. Let the seniors drop in to paint whenever they wish. Let the seniors who can play the piano, play it. What is the senior center for if not for seniors to spend time doing what they like. I have felt that the senior center is not for me, as I am always waiting for an art class to fill, or for something there for me.

Seems to me that the staff are the only ones who are enjoying doing what they want. If you don't like what they want, then stay away, and that's what I do!

Dennis