

The background of the entire page is a complex, multi-layered abstract artwork. It features a dense arrangement of colors, including deep purples, vibrant pinks, rich blues, and fiery oranges, all interwoven with black ink splatters and fine white lines. A prominent feature in the center-right is a white, starburst-like pattern composed of many thin, radiating lines. Other elements include swirling, organic shapes and small, detailed motifs that suggest a sense of movement and depth. The overall effect is one of a rich, textured tapestry of artistic expression.

City of Richmond

ARTS UPDATE 2011

Arts, Culture and Heritage Services

In these times of increasing economic pressures and social change, the arts provide a source of growth and well-being. The work of volunteers in support of the arts, the sense of fulfillment that people get from participation and appreciation of the arts, and the pleasure and pride gained from facilities, programs and events that enliven the environment, all contribute a sense of vitality and confidence to a community.

Union of British Columbia Municipalities

Introduction

In 2011, the City's modest investment of \$1.95 million in the arts helped to consolidate and build upon the previous Olympic-year successes with confidence and enthusiasm.

Local artists enjoyed opportunities to raise their profile by way of highly publicized programs like the Winter Festival of the Arts, third annual Richmond Arts Awards and second annual Culture Days, of which Richmond is now a recognized leader.

Heritage treasures were often key arts venues this year. Britannia Heritage Shipyard became the site of two of the summer's most popular artist-driven events: a completely re-imagined 8th annual Richmond Maritime Festival and *Salmon Row*, a sold-out theatrical spectacle. The Minoru Chapel Opera series, launched as a pilot project last year, is now an established must-see event for classical music fans.

The Richmond Art Gallery augmented its highly regarded exhibitions with innovative and interactive new public offerings like "Pick up a Pencil!" and "Let's Make Stuff!" Meanwhile, the Richmond Cultural Centre experienced a year of unprecedented expansion and growth with the opening of the Media Lab and Rooftop Garden. As well, the Richmond Arts Centre launched new programs like the Richmond Youth Dance Company and revamped the Art Truck.

Richmond's Public Art program took a significant leap forward with the City Centre Area Public Art Plan, a strategic framework that will inform the

commissioning and placement of artwork in both the short- and long-term. Several new artworks were unveiled at key locations throughout the city and *Water #10*, part of the Vancouver Biennale exhibition, was purchased by a private developer, meaning it will remain in Richmond.

The Gateway Theatre continued to provide professional theatre experiences to Richmond audiences and training opportunities for young aspiring performers. In 2011, Artistic Executive Director, Simon Johnston, announced that he will be leaving Gateway in 2012; we look forward to seeing what the future holds for this signature theatre company.

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Site Art, Richmond Maritime Festival

Community Cultural Development

Culture Days

The second annual Culture Days, from September 30 to October 2, was another solid success with Richmond a recognized leader in this national movement to raise awareness, accessibility, participation and engagement in the arts with free, hands-on and interactive activities. With 33 events (many of them for more than one day, creating 52 opportunities), residents were invited

to learn about and experience the world of textile arts, culinary arts, theatre, photography and much more. Attendance over the three days, including the newly created Lantern Festival, was estimated at over 16,000. *Richmond Review* repeated their promotional sponsorship of 2010 with a wrap supplement, as well as the now second annual Fall Arts & Culture Preview issue, helmed by the winner of an Editor for a Day contest. Richmond also enjoyed regional and Canada-wide profile

through a nationally run media campaign with *The Globe & Mail*.

Minoru Chapel Opera

This series featuring classic opera music performed in the historic Minoru Chapel presented a spring and fall season this year, with matinee and evening performances, many of which sold out. In March, April and May, audiences flocked to hear Vancouver Opera, DragonDiva Operatic Theatre and Astrolabe Musik Theatre. In October, November and December, they enjoyed concerts by Vancouver Concert Opera Co-Operative, City Opera Vancouver and Opera Pro Cantanti. Another spring series will be announced in January 2012.

2011 Lulu Series: Art in the City

The 2011 Lulu Series of guest speakers presented the following free-to-the-public events about Art in the City and its importance creating connections between citizens and their communities:

- March 10: Dean of Graduate Studies at Emily Carr University of Art & Design and public art expert, Cameron Cartière (with Ivan Dimitrov, guitarist)
- April 7: New Zealand-based eco-installation artist, Konstantin Dimopoulos (with Heather Pawsey, soprano)
- May 5: renowned architect/urban planner Bing Thom (with Sheri-D Wilson, poet)



Culture Days, Richmond Library/Cultural Centre

The first event on March 10 attracted approximately 80 attendees. Dr. Cartiere also presented the keynote speech at the Richmond Arts Awards ceremony. The April 7 event, which attracted 60 guests, was presented in partnership with the Vancouver Biennale as the artist was in town to create *The Blue Trees* project at Garden City Park. The May 5 event had 85 attendees.

2011 Richmond Arts Awards

Created in partnership with the Richmond Arts Coalition in 2009, as recommended in the Richmond Arts Strategy (2004) and the 2010 Arts & Culture Plan (2008), the third annual Richmond Arts Awards recognized artistic achievements and contributions to the cultural community by City residents, artists, educators, organizations and business leaders. The purpose is to:

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

In its third year, 81 nominations were reviewed by the selection committee. Finalists were announced on April 9 with website announcements, emails to the arts community, media attention and a series of three half-page ads in the *Richmond News*, each highlighting two of the six categories.

The winners were announced at the Richmond Arts Awards ceremony in Council Chambers with Mayor Brodie presiding:

- Leonard Kay, Arts Education
- Jeanette Jarville, Artistic Innovation
- Coast Capital Savings, Business and Arts
- Nadeane Trowse, Volunteerism
- Natalie Lo, Youth Arts
- Simon Johnston, Cultural Leadership

Special guests included Dr. Cameron Cartière, Emily Carr University of Art & Design Dean of Graduate Studies; Liel Amdour, a young award-winning classical guitarist; and internationally acclaimed pipa player, Guilian Liu. Approximately 100 people attended.

ART AT WORK: Arts Symposium

Created in partnership with the Richmond Arts Coalition as recommended in the 2010 Arts & Culture Plan (2008), Richmond's third annual Arts Symposium, Art At Work, provided professional development opportunities for local artists and others working in the cultural sector. Its purpose is to:

- support the growth and development of the arts and cultural sector;
- provide artists and cultural workers with practical, inspiring and career-enhancing programming; and
- encourage networking and sharing within the arts and culture community.

On April 2, 29 registered artists and representatives from cultural organizations networked and attended their choice of the following programs:

- *Harmony from the Inside Out: Eliminating Your Limiting Beliefs* workshop presented by Jan Carley, Creative Coaching Group
- *Submitting Work to a Gallery* presentation by Mila Kostic, artist and director of the Federation Gallery, Granville Island
- *Pricing and Sales Strategies for Visual Artists* workshop by Chris Tyrell
- *The Art of Creative Business* workshop by Chris Tyrell

Response from participants was very positive, as evidenced in the feedback survey results; for example, 90% of respondents indicated they would attend again next year.

8th Annual Maritime Festival

Marketing of this re-imagined festival at Britannia Heritage Shipyard, August 5 to 7, included the creation and maintenance of a new website (www.richmondmaritimefestival.ca), providing content for Facebook posts, and coordination of all printed materials including print ads, posters, transit shelters, street banners, site signage and brochures. In addition, many local artists were involved with the event. The Richmond Potters Club, Richmond Painters Guild and Richmond Carvers Society all had a booth displaying work and featured artists working on site. Several painters created art in locations throughout the site, painting en plein air. There were also local performers animating the site and local artist Marina Szijarto designed and coordinated site art throughout Britannia Heritage Shipyard. Attendance: 35,000



Coastal Wolf Pack Dancers, Richmond Maritime Festival

2011 Winter Festival of the Arts

The third annual six-week festival, as described in the 2010 Arts & Culture Plan (2008), offered a multidisciplinary, multicultural and multi-locational showcase of Richmond's arts and culture scene from February 1 through March 15. The 2011 Winter Festival of the Arts provided valuable promotional support to 42 events and programs presented by various arts and cultural organizations. Through the shOP ART initiative, six visual artists created and installed original work for empty storefronts at Lansdowne Centre under the mentorship of professional artist Marina Szijarto. In its second year, 60% of post-event survey respondents said that the Winter Festival of the Arts was beneficial to them.

The website, www.richmondwinterfestival.ca, was also the online promotional site for the 2011 Winterfest Weekend at the Richmond Olympic Oval, Feb 12 to 13. Local artists and cultural groups were featured at this event both as performers on stage and as the presenters of unique, interactive and hands-on exhibits that offered demonstrations of woodworking, painting, pottery and more. An estimated 12,000 people attended the weekend.

Salmon Row

From August 18 to 28, Vancouver-based Mortal Coil Performance Society presented a sold-out site-specific performance telling 150 years of history at Britannia Heritage Shipyard. The show included local performers and over the course of the summer, included members of the community through free workshops to learn about lantern making, stilt-walking, masks and drumming. Attendance: 1,500

Richmond Cultural Centre Temporary Exhibits

In an effort to support the local arts community, the Richmond Arts Centre organized exhibitions of quality artwork by local artists, for display in the Cultural Centre. Artwork included paintings, drawings, photographs, quilts and other textile pieces and items that can be displayed on paper, canvas or in frames. In 2011, a variety of exhibitions were displayed each month.

Richmond Art Gallery

In 2011, the Gallery concluded two exhibitions carried over from 2010 (*More Often Than Always/ Less Often Than Never* and *The 5th Annual Artists Trading Cards Exhibition*) and presented six new exhibitions by regional, national and international artists: AES+F, *Last Riot*; Brenda Joy Lem, *Homage to the Heart; Fibred Optics*; Landon Mackenzie, *Crossing Over; Why Cloud the Whites*; Richard Ibghy and Marilou Lemmens, *The lights constellating one's internal sky*; and *The International Mail Art Exhibition*.

Exhibitions

More Often Than Always/ Less Often Than Never

November 26, 2010 – January 23, 2011

Organized by Noxious Sector Project (Ted Hiebert and Doug Jarvis), this exhibition took its inspiration from Alfred Jarry's invention of 'pataphysics' (the science of imaginary solutions). Artists from around the world were invited to engage with notions of impossibility, uncertainty and the imaginary, which challenge standardized formulations of the allowable, acceptable, logical or feasible. Artists hannah_g, Julie Gendron & Emma Hendrix, Tetsushi Higashino, Gordon Lebrecht, Chikako Maria Mori & Boris Nieslony, François Mathieu, Arjuna Neuman and Anne-Marie Proulx answered a call for imaginary solutions to real questions, and were selected by the curators in a séance with Alfred Jarry.

concurrently with the Artist Trading Card Exhibition

5th Annual Artist Trading Card Exhibition

The ATC Exhibition is a display of Artist Trading Cards from local, national and international participants. Artist Trading Cards are miniature works of original art measuring 2 ½" x 3 ½" that are made to trade. This international art movement is intended to be a non-commercial, non-hierarchical, non-judgemental avenue for artistic exchange. All entries received are exhibited, and then traded at the Closing Celebration.

The Artists Trading Card Exhibition and its newest incarnation, the International Mail Art Exhibition, are open call shows that allow both professional and non-professional artists to participate in these art movements.

In 2011, the open call for entries attracted over 400 participants from all over the world and over 150 people attended the Closing Party Trading Session. Combined attendance: 4,141

Last Riot, AES+F

February 3 – April 3, 2011

In collaboration with the Vancouver Biennale, the Richmond Art Gallery presented the North American premiere video installation, video stills and didactic displays relating to the issues in the work, *Last Riot*. The most celebrated presentation at the 2007 Venice Biennale, *Last Riot* is a three-channel video work based on the aesthetic of computer gaming, where violence is stylized and glamorized, and presented in a digital landscape.

Formed in 1987, AES+F (a collective of Russian artists, Tatiana Arzamasova, Lev Evzovitch, Evgeny Svyatsky, and Vladimir Fridkes) work collectively in media ranging from photography, sculpture and drawing to video, performance and computer-based media. Exploring the aesthetics of technology, cinema, advertising and fashion, AES+F expose the surreal, fantasy visualizations of pop culture, "constructing a futuristic mythological metaphor for the present through their glamorous, seductive yet alarming, artificially hyper-realistic imageries... The heroes of the new epoch have only one identity, that of participants in the last riot. Each fights both self and the other, there's no longer any difference between victim and aggressor, male and female. This world celebrates the end of ideology, history and ethics."

The exhibition received significant media attention, including a full-page interview with the artists in the *National Post* and the spotlight section of the *Canadian Art Magazine*. Attendance: 4,637

Homage to the Heart, Brenda Joy Lem

April 14 – June 12, 2011

Brenda Joy Lem's exhibition addresses themes of memory, oral history, spirituality and "the enduring heart," as the artist explores her family history and the threads that connect generations. Lem recounts fragments from the history of her family's immigration from China and the hand-laundry business they operated in the 1930s, layered over family and archival images. As with all early Chinese immigrants, Lem's grandparents came through the Victoria/Vancouver port when they arrived in Canada more than 100 years ago, and that history creates a basic context for the installation at the Gallery.

Attendance: 4,332

Fibred Optics

(Andrea Fatona, Guest Curator)

June 23 – August 28, 2011

The artists' work (Frances Dorsey, Jérôme Havre, Ed Pien and Michèle Provost) incorporates natural and synthetic fibres, old and new technologies, as well as ideas and methods from the world of craft and contemporary art. Each artist uses fibre to produce and transmit individual and collective narratives that are at once coherent and fragmented, visible and invisible. Frances Dorsey's large-scale, landscape-like works weave together personal memories and marginalized histories; Ed Pien's installation transforms spectators into participants as they journey through its network; Jérôme Harvre's toy-like, soft nylon mythical sculptures, reminiscent of aliens, reflect on ideas of synthesis and hybridity; and Michèle Provost's

stitched works humorously convert writing from art magazines and curatorial texts into visual art. Attendance: 4,216

Crossing Over, Why Cloud the Whites, Landon Mackenzie

September 8 – October 30, 2011

The exhibition brings together several large-format canvases by Landon Mackenzie from two recent series called *Neurocity* and *The Structures*. Mackenzie's paintings over the past decade involve

her interests in the intersecting territories of cities, maps, waterways and dark space as nervous systems and the ongoing possibilities of using conventions of both landscape and abstraction to achieve her goals. Large and complex pieces, they are charged for effectiveness as optical and corporal experiences. Signals and wiring, neurons, cells, balloons, circles and squares, electric tower scaffolding, lily pads, ladders, railway tracking and filmstrips are recognizable but all disconnected from regular function.

Attendance: 5,335



International Mail Art Exhibition

The lights constellating one's internal sky, Richard Ibghy and Marilou Lemmens

November 17, 2011 – January 15, 2012

In this collaborative multi-media project, Richard Ibghy and Marilou Lemmens examine linguistic and pictorial representations commonly associated with economic discourse and question what is at stake in the very forms and methods used to think through and communicate socio-economic policies. In light of the current state of global economics, *The lights constellating one's internal sky*, provokes further dialogue.

concurrently with

International Mail Art Exhibition & Swap

November 17, 2011 – January 8, 2012

Artists from all over the world were invited to contribute their work for the Richmond Art Gallery's *Mail Art Exhibition and Swap*. This exhibition is intended to be a cultural exchange, where artists exhibit their works and receive new works as part of a swap. This shared enterprise is free from the rules of the art market, and yet we ask artists to respond to the theme of "economy" in all its forms. The exhibition will be online for a period of one year.

Combined attendance: 1,136 (to date)

Artist Interviews on Video

In conjunction with the exhibitions, the Gallery produces videos that feature an interview with the exhibiting artist. Screening throughout the day, the short videos provide further insight on the artists' ideas and process. Located in the Hope-Smith Art Lounge, the artist interviews

are popular with gallery visitors who want to know more about the artists who exhibit in the Gallery. This significant initiative contributes to the cumulative history of Canadian art.

City Hall Exhibitions

As part of its community outreach program, the Richmond Art Gallery helps to organize exhibitions of quality artwork by local artists, for display off-site at Richmond City Hall. Five artists presented their work in 2011:

Jan 11–Feb 22: Daryl Spencer

Feb 22–April 5: Jan Corkan

April 6–May 16: Tony Chu, *The Joy of Drawing*, (Omni Television, interview with Tony Chu at City Hall)

May 17–July 5: Angela Gooliaf, *Mis-under-stand-ings*

July 6–September 12: Jessica Bell, *Assembling Place(s)*

September 13–November 15: Richmond Society for Community Living (not Gallery organized)

Spring and Summer Art Camps

Twenty-four children, aged 8–12 years participated in two successful weeks of spring art camps. International art hopping at Richmond's only gallery-based art camp provided a week of seeing, thinking and making inspired art from around the world and through the ages.

Forty-seven children, aged 6–12 years, participated in four weeks of summer art camps. Using the works in the exhibition *Fibred Optics* as inspiration for artworks, the camps provided an art-packed week of seeing, thinking and art-making. Students also went on a fieldtrip, to participate in a Public Art Tour in Yaletown and an artist's outdoor art garden project at the Olympic Village.

Family Sundays

Fourth Sunday of the month

This free drop-in art program sponsored by RBC offers families the opportunity to explore art making together while providing skill-building opportunities for ten to twelve creative and highly motivated Richmond high school students who volunteer to run the program. Family Sunday averages 120 parents and children a month. This year, in addition to the exhibition-related art activities offered, the Richmond Public Library offered families a theme-related story during the program.



Family Sundays

School Art Program

The Richmond Art Gallery's School Art Program introduces students from Preschool to Grade 7 to the exciting world of contemporary art through interactive gallery tours and exhibition-based hands-on art activities. Art workshops help develop visual literacy and critical thinking skills, while providing a fun art experience for students. In 2011, 97 tours and workshops were conducted, representing 2,335 students. The Gallery receives annual funding from TD Bank Group for this initiative.

Pick Up a Pencil!

Pick Up a Pencil! is a new drop-in program for youth and adults offered at the Richmond Art Gallery. On the first Wednesday of every month an artist leads a free open drawing session in the Gallery to encourage the art of seeing, drawing, metaphoric thinking and social engagement.

Let's Make Stuff!

On the second Sunday of every month, artists, crafters, hobbyists, entrepreneurs, people who just like to make stuff and people who want to try a new art technique, share space to create and share ideas at the Richmond Art Gallery. Let's Make Stuff! offers a relaxed, social approach to learning and improving one's artistic technique or kick starting projects they've been thinking about.

Youth Podcast Program

In April, the Gallery started up a new program in collaboration with the Richmond Media Lab and Richmond Public Art Program. Six teenaged volunteers work with the Gallery's Education Coordinator and Media Lab Specialist to develop, record and edit short audio podcasts of teens' opinions and interpretations of Gallery exhibitions and public art pieces. Podcasts also include excerpts from artist interviews, visuals of the exhibition or recording session, and musical scores created by the youth. As of December, the group has developed podcasts for Gallery exhibitions by Brenda Joy Lem and Landon Mackenzie, and of public artworks *Blue Trees* by Konstantin Dimopoulos, and *Roots of our Future* by Blake Williams. All podcasts are posted on the RAG's website and are available for download on iTunes.



Instructor Tony Chu drawing during *Pick Up a Pencil!*

Jim Wong-Chu, Storyteller

The Gallery was busy with large crowds throughout the *Doors Open* weekend in May, featuring tours offered by Mandarin-speaking volunteers, an interactive art activity in the Hope-Smith Art Lounge, and historical tales by local author, Jim Wong-Chu. On the evening of May 7, the Gallery participated in the first *Imaginary Enclave*, which featured performances throughout the Cultural Centre. For this event, author and poet Jim Wong-Chu related local Chinese-Canadian history to smaller crowds throughout the evening for several intimate performances.

Arts for Life Conference

April 28, 2011 marked the 18th year for the Richmond School Board's *Arts for Life Conference*. 120 secondary students and 10 secondary teachers attended the conference, which is hosted by the Gallery and organized in partnership with the Richmond School District. This conference gives students the opportunity to meet practicing artists and learn about their creative process and career development paths. Students are able to choose from a variety of artist-led sessions, on topics as diverse as performance art, painting, cinematography and graffiti art. The program was supported, in part, by a grant from the Richmond Youth Foundation.

Funding

The following organizations generously supported the Gallery's programming and operations in 2011:

- BC Arts Council, Annual Operating Assistance: \$20,750 was provided in recognition of the Gallery's artistic and operational excellence, based on annual peer adjudication.
- BC Arts Council, Co-op Placement grant. \$8,900 was received to hire a Co-op Student who developed an education resource package on contemporary art for Secondary School Teachers and as an educational tool for Gallery programming for adults and seniors.
- Richmond Youth Foundation: \$800, to pay speakers' fees for the 18th annual Arts For Life Conference organized in partnership with Richmond School District 38.
- City Community Grant: \$2,030, to assist in providing translation of didactic materials in Chinese. This ongoing initiative was one of the items that received commendation from the BC Arts Council jury.
- Young Canada Works funding was provided in the amount of \$4,074 to hire a summer Art Camp instructor.
- RBC provided \$11,000 in sponsorship for Family Sundays and TD provided \$10,000 x 2 years in sponsorship for the School Art Program.
- Investors Group contributed \$800 towards the Gallery's membership drive prize.
- British Columbia Community Gaming Grant was received: \$22,500.
- Canadian Western Bank provided \$3,000 in sponsorship for the Online Teachers' Resource Guide.



RAG volunteers podcast. Background Painting: Landon Mackenzie, *Neurocity (Aqua Blue)*, detail, 2008-2009



Richmond Arts Centre Dance Recital. Photograph by Felix Law



Your Kontinent, Cinevolution Media. Photograph by Lewis Liao



Blue Trees by Konstantin Dimopoulos



Jérôme Havre, Artist Talk, *Fibred Optics* exhibition



Salmon Row, Britannia Heritage Shipyard. Photograph by Tim Matheson

Richmond Arts Centre

The tag line for the Arts Centre is: *Work With Creativity, Play With Knowledge, Live With Imagination*. With this spirit, the community receives a wide variety of arts experiences, including education programs taught by accomplished arts instructors that are accessible to people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds. The Centre also hosts several events and is home to a number of Resident Art Groups. The seasonal, school-year and camp programs which include a diverse array of arts such as dance, music, circus, yoga, painting, drawing, cartooning, acting and media, provided the opportunity for more than 5,000 people in 2011 to be introduced to, or enhance, their knowledge of the arts.

Richmond Youth Dance Company

As part of the City of Richmond's ongoing efforts to provide positive outlets for youth engagement as well as promote arts events as an integral part of a healthy community, the Richmond Youth Dance Company was created. Twenty-one dancers aged 9–17 years auditioned to be part of this new dance group. Performances in 2011 included the premier production, *First Wings*, in January followed by special appearances at the *Children's Arts Festival* in February, *Doors Open* in May, and a special performance at the Minoru Place Activity Centre in December. An estimated 700 people enjoyed the presentations, which included both ballet and modern dance and the company received a feature article in the *Richmond Review*.

Rooftop Garden

Richmond's Rooftop Garden, the "urban cousin of Terra Nova" which opened in September, provides a new outdoor venue for the arts and a unique gathering space for the community. Presenting sponsor Canadian Western Bank generously provided \$25,000 in sponsorship to help support the Garden's activities. New programs

will combine the arts with environmental sustainability, and later expand to include culinary arts, in addition to gardening and environmental programs. The garden was profiled in feature articles in both the *Richmond Review* and the *Richmond News*.



Richmond Library/Cultural Centre Rooftop Garden

Annual School Year Dance Recital

Held at the Gateway Theatre on May 21 and 22, three public performances showcased the talents of children and youth in the Arts Centre's Dance Program. Aimed at enhancing the programming to be more inclusive and artistically diverse, the format was changed this year to include artwork from Arts Centre students as scenic backdrops while students from the Musical Theatre program performed and sang alongside the dancers. A total of 1095 audience members enjoyed the 400 performers, aged 3 to 17 years, in *Around The World*, which took the viewers on a tour of different countries.



Richmond Arts Centre Dance Recital. Photograph by Felix Law

Children's Arts Festival

The Third Annual Children's Arts Festival, presented in partnership with the BC Children's Art and Literacy Centre, took place throughout the Library/Cultural Centre from February 17 to 19. The Festival is a unique opportunity for children to participate in hands-on workshops led by professional performers and artists. A unique and interactive arts experience, activities include filmmaking, animation, drama, circus, storytelling, creative dance and drumming. In addition to school field trips, a public day was added. Attendance: 2200.

Richmond International Film and Media Arts Festival

In partnership with Cinevolution Media, the former New Asia Film Festival expanded from an Asia-focused film event (New Asia Film Festival) into a community celebration of international film and media arts. From July 21 to 24, audiences were able to experience film and media arts presentations in unique formats such as the "Dim Sum Movie" and "Cinema Café". Other festival highlights included an outdoor film screening that was preceded by live music and an arts fair; and celebrated artist, Paul Wong's special media installation that transformed the Cultural Centre rotunda. Wong's work was also featured on the Canada Line television screens as part of the festival. Both the *Georgia Straight* and the *Richmond Review* came on as media sponsors. Attendance: 2,200.

Resident Art Group Winter Showcase

The Richmond Arts Centre provides access to studio space and administrative support to 16 local Resident Art Groups and community partners throughout the year. As part of the Winter Festival of the Arts, 10 Resident Art Groups opened their doors to the public demonstrating a wide variety of local artist creations including creative jewels, paintings, calligraphy, gems, photos, pottery, Scottish dancing and textiles. Over 200 people participated in the event, which took place at the Richmond Cultural Centre.

Gateway Art Exhibits

In a continued partnership with Gateway Theatre, the Richmond Arts Centre provided opportunities for local artists by curating and exhibiting artwork in the Gateway Theatre lobby. In 2011, the artwork of local artists Lorraine Wellman, Jeanne Krabbendam, Joseph Chan, Robin White and Joselito Macapagal were displayed and accessible to Gateway's audiences and the organizations that rented studio space.

Imaginary Enclave

The *Imaginary Enclave* was a unique arts event created in partnership with the Richmond Museum, the Richmond Art Gallery and Diversity Services in honour of the opening of *Doors Open* and Asian Heritage Month. The Cultural Centre was transformed into a multi-venue performance space within which 375 audience members enjoyed short creations ranging from storytelling, theatre and media arts to live performance.

Encore Music Society Concert Series

Under the tutelage of acclaimed pianist Eugene Skovorodnikov, the Music Encore Concert Society brought a top-tier line-up of classical music to Richmond. The series created affordable and accessible concerts to 188 individuals of all backgrounds and ages. Featured performers included Massimo Folliero, Eugene Skovorodnikov and Tanya Stambuk.

Guitar In The Plaza

In an example of art animating our public spaces while providing opportunities for local artists, a series of Friday summer performances in the Minoru Plaza allowed Richmond Arts Centre instructor, Ivan Dimitrov, and a selection of his students, to serenade the public.

ART Truck

The ART Truck is a mobile arts classroom that offers arts outreach programs within the community. Partnering with Richmond Public Art Program and Diversity Services, the primary aim of the program is to provide arts opportunities for children and youth who may not be able to enrol in paid programs. Over the course of the year, 20 workshops incorporated traditional and digital media arts, and 627 children enjoyed the benefits of the Art Truck at no cost to their families. Community partners included the Richmond Centre for Disability, Childfirst Childcare Day Care, Richmond International Film and Media Arts Festival, Richmond Family Place, S.U.C.C.E.S.S. and Richmond Mental Health Services.

Media Lab

The Media Lab, located in the Richmond Cultural Centre, opened in March 2011 with the goal to increase technology literacy, accessibility and creativity. Presented by sponsor Richmond Steel and Recycling Ltd., the Media Lab provides Richmond residents, particularly youth, the opportunity to access and develop media and computer skills, which can be applied towards artistic activities and marketable job-related skills.

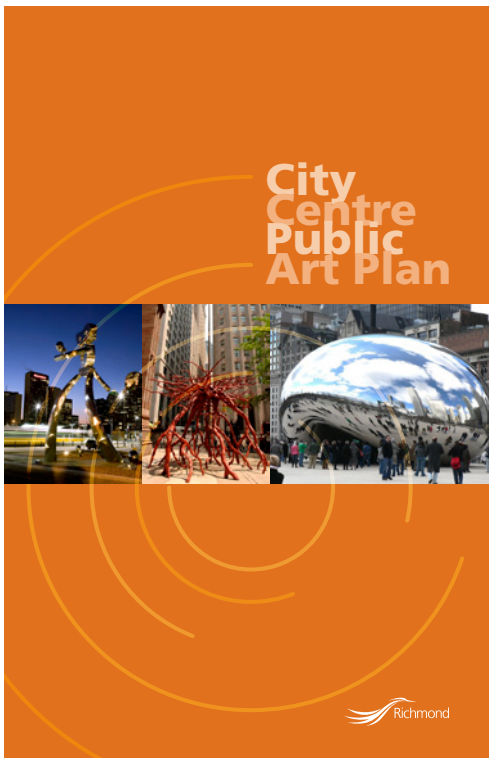
In addition to regular paid programming, an important component of the Media Lab is the Richmond Youth Media Program, which is a partnership between the City of Richmond and the Richmond Collaborative Committee for Children and Youth (RCCCY). Programming includes drop-in sessions during which supervised youth work independently and in a variety of structured classes. Participants learn media literacy skills that are relevant to their interests in a supportive environment where they can engage with positive role models. This program is made possible through a three year grant from the Vancouver Coastal Health SMART fund, while a three year sponsorship from Richmond Steel Recycling Ltd helps support staffing and equipment.

The Media Lab has been involved in many events including the Art at Work Arts Symposium, Culture Days, Steveston Salmon Festival, Richmond International Film and Media Arts Festival and the Maritime Festival, and hosts the *Richmond Review* for their regular youth editorial meetings. Other users include Youth Services, the Richmond Art Gallery, Richmond Museum, Richmond Public Library, Cinevolution Media, Cambie Community Centre, City Centre Community Centre, West Richmond Community Centre and Pathways. The Media Lab has been profiled in numerous articles both in the *Richmond News* and the *Richmond Review*.

Richmond Public Art Program

City Centre Area Public Art Plan

On October 11, Council endorsed the City Centre Area Public Art Plan as a guide for the placement of public art in the City Centre. The plan provides a framework to enrich Richmond's urban identity by incorporating inspirational and meaningful art in the public realm. This will enable Richmond's Public Art Program to be more strategic in commissioning and locating a complement of permanent and temporary small and large-scale public artworks in the City Centre.



Vancouver International Sculpture Biennale

The final Biennale project, *Blue Trees*, by artist Konstantin Dimopoulos, was installed in Garden City Community Park, in the spring of 2011. Dimopoulos' public installations focus on social and environmental themes and the *Blue Trees* project highlights the importance of trees to the planet's survival and raises awareness about the benefits of forests to current and future generations.

In February, a two-question survey was made available to the public to obtain the public's opinion on which, if any, Vancouver International Sculpture Biennale 2009–2011 public artworks should be purchased for the City's permanent public art collection. Results concluded that there was not support for the City to purchase of any of the Biennale artworks.

Water #10 by Jun Ren, featured at the Cambie Pump Station, will remain permanently in Richmond. Purchased by the developers of Parc Riviera, plans are to relocate it to the Fraser River site along River Drive in 2013.

Historic Steveston Contest

In late 2010, the Historic Steveston Contest was launched to find a pavement-top art design for the intersection upgrade at the new signalized scramble crosswalk at No. 1 Road and Moncton Street. There were 70 designs submitted by people who live, work or go to school in Richmond. The winners, selected by an independent judging panel, were Carlyn Yandle for pedestrian scramble design and Hapa Collaborative, for traditional crosswalk design. Honourable Mentions went to Carolyn Fisk, Keith Lau and Oliver B. Malana. Contest entries were on display from June 17 to 30 at Steveston Community Centre.

Hamilton Community Centre

Hamilton Then and Now, by artist Mia Weinberg, was unveiled at the official opening of the expanded Hamilton Community Centre on May 28. The public art project engages the community through maps and references historical figures who are remembered in the road names of Hamilton today. Weinberg was able to work with innovative materials consistent with the beautifully designed community centre. Source material included several historical photographs, a blueprint of the Veterans' Land Act subdivision and two maps, the first from 1938 and the second from 2010.

No. 4 Road Pump Station

Working River, by artist Sylvia Grace Borda, is a building sized photomontage, which incorporates archival photos depicting river life from the early 20th century within the context of a colourful reproduction of a 1950's aerial map of the Middle Arm of the Fraser. The work, installed in May, covers two walls of the Control Room Building at the new No. 4 Road Pump Station. The photo mural powerfully connects the site's history with the ongoing work activities on the Fraser River.

Richmond Community Safety Building

The Coat of Arms by artist Glen Andersen is a three-part artwork representing elements from the City of Richmond Coat of Arms for the new Richmond Community Safety Building at No. 5 Road and Steveston Highway. It includes a large mosaic depiction of a cornucopia on the entrance plaza, the phrase *Child of the Fraser* on metal panels on the corners of the building, and a metal sculpture combining images of river grasses and three salmon. The mosaic component of the artwork was unveiled in November at the official opening of the building.

Steveston Fire Hall Public Art Project

The artwork, *Roots of Our Future* by Blake Williams, was unveiled in October at the opening of the new Steveston Fire Hall at the prominent intersection of No. 2 Road and Steveston. Using photo-imagery and text applied to 3,800 glass tiles, the undulating waveform honours the history and current activities of the Richmond Fire Department while also representing the community of Steveston.

Terra Nova Rural Park Art Benches

The Richmond Public Art Program, in collaboration with Parks & Recreation, invited accomplished artists, designers and craftspersons to submit original concept proposals to design, fabricate and install one of six unique benches or seating opportunities for Terra Nova Rural Park. Artists were encouraged to consider creative designs

as they interpreted the themes of environment and/or agriculture. Four of the six benches were installed in November, including *Bench Ideal* by Ideal Team, *Ravens* by Thomas Cannell, *Perigeal Raft* by Mark Ashby and *Cascade* by Peter Pierbon. The two remaining benches by Khalil Jamal and Toby Colquhoun, and Norm Williams, are due to be installed in the near future.



Cascade by Peter Pierbon

Dog Party

Dog Party, by artist Michael Swayne, is a series of twelve painted metal steel dog sculptures that range in size, pose and colour. They were originally installed in 2003 at the off-leash dog park at the south end of No. 3 Road. In 2011, they were refurbished and installed in two new groupings around a new seating area within the park.



Dog Party by Michael Swayne

Community in Motion

In February, *Community in Motion* by artist Corinna Hanson, was installed on the north and west exterior walls of South Arm Community Centre. The artwork, created with children participating in the community centre art programs, consists of a series of 25 mosaic panels depicting flowers, leaves, birds and insects. The goal of this project was to express the diverse range of activities and experiences that reflect the issues and ideas relevant to the people who live in the area.

Green Symphony

Green Symphony by artist Jeanette G. Lee consists of seven unique metal sculptures ranging from four feet to twelve feet high, and working in harmony to represent life in the park. The opportunity for a community-driven public artwork was discovered when the Richmond Nature Park needed a new sign. The result was a new electronic sign embellished with metalwork by the artist, and a new public artwork. Lee worked with children from nearby DeBeck and Mitchell elementary schools to develop the theme: the interconnectivity of organic life within the park and how it reflects to the interconnectivity of individuals in a community. The sculptures were unveiled in July at an evening ceremony in the park.

shOP ART 2011

As part of the 2011 Richmond Winter Festival of the Arts, February through March 15, 2011, the City of Richmond presented *shOP ART 2011*, an innovative and exciting new professional development program for visual artists. Over a period of three weeks, five participating artists, working under the mentorship of professional visual artist Marina Szijarto, created their own site-specific work in select empty storefronts in Lansdowne Centre. This unique professional development program was offered free to participating artists eager to experiment—or develop their existing practice—with Installation Art.

Discovering Art on No 3 Rd

The second series of artworks by local artists went on display on Art Columns at Canada Line Stations in December 2010 and featured *You Are Here* by Mia Wienberg at Brighthouse Station, *The Glory of the Wood* by Andrea Sirois at Lansdowne Station, and *Metro Dykes – North, South and Middle Arms of the Fraser River* by Barbara Zeigler at Aberdeen Station. The theme of the third exhibit in 2011 was *Layering Life and Culture* and went on display in June. The exhibit featured the following three artworks: *Here is There is Here* by Diyan Achjadi at Aberdeen, *Richmond's Evening Hues* by Carolyn Sullivan at Lansdowne and *The Good Life* by Wilfrido Limvalencia at Brighthouse.

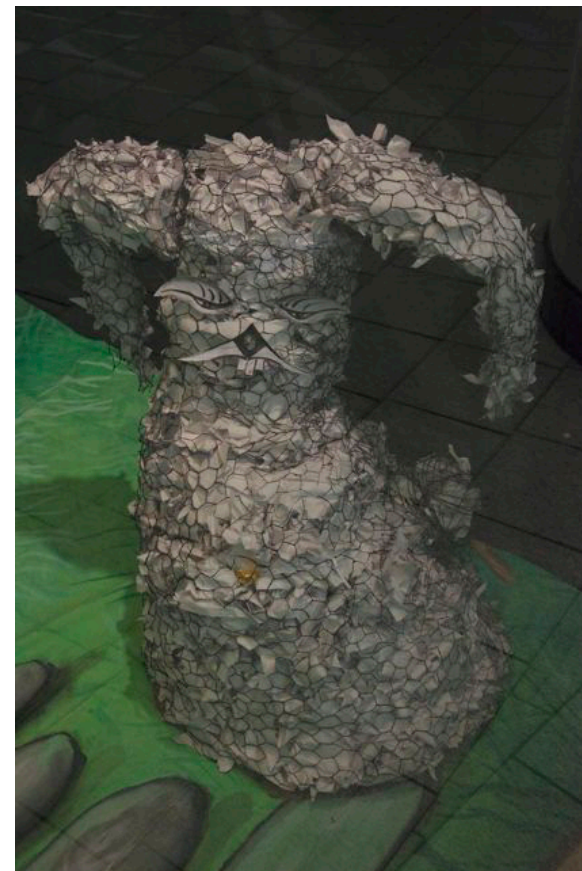
Public Art Tours

Public Art Program staff provided several briefings and tours of the City's Public Art Collection in 2011. These included one for fine art students from Kwantlen Polytechnic University currently taking a course on Public Art—Theory and Practice, a tour for a continuing education class from Emily Carr University of Art and Design, a tour for McRoberts School students who are preparing for their public art project in 2012, and a field trip to the Oval Precinct with two classes from General Currie Elementary School. A tour for youth participating in the Media Lab Program resulted in the production of a podcast featuring interpretations of the *Blue Trees* installation at Garden City Park, and the Public Art Program accompanied Walk Richmond on two walks which promoted healthy lifestyles and awareness of public art.

Panelist Pool

In June, the Richmond Public Art Program offered an exciting opportunity for individuals to participate in the public art process and contribute to the life and cultural vibrancy of the city. By offering to serve on the Panelist Pool, art professionals and other interested persons can participate in the selection process of future public art projects.

In Richmond, public art is selected through an arms-length process incorporating professional advice and community input. This ensures the quality of art and its relevance to the community. Applications were open to all individuals who live in Metro Vancouver.



shOP ART 2011, window display, Lansdowne Centre

Gateway Theatre

The Gateway Theatre accommodated over 1,000 community and professional user groups throughout the year, and demand for its space continues to grow. To date, the 2011–12 season is shaping up to be a stellar year for the Gateway Theatre. Attendance is anticipated to be well over 51,000 patrons with the talents of 150 volunteers giving over 11,000 hours during the season.

Gateway Academy for the Performing Arts

The Academy went into its 19th year with after-school and weekend classes in musical theatre and acting taught by a faculty of professionals. 280 students enrolled in fourteen year-long classes in addition to five camps this past summer.

Four arts scholarships, sponsored by McDonald's Restaurants were awarded to students who contributed to creativity, company and showed courage in their classes the prior year.

- Ironwood Plaza McDonald's Young Performer Award (6–8 years): Katarina Stojavljevic
- Steveston McDonald's Young Performer Award (8–10 years): Nina Trochtchanovitch
- Alderbridge Way McDonald's Young Performer Award (10–13 years): Ilan Field
- Blundell Centre McDonald's Outstanding Achievement Award (13–18 years): Zachary Protz

Over three nights, the Summer Musical Theatre Camp performed a newly commissioned piece, *Imagine* by Barbara Tomasic. In April 2012, the Acting-C: Performance class will perform Thornton Wilder's *Our Town*, while the Musical Theatre-C: Performance class will perform *Into the Woods, Jr.* by Stephen Soundheim and James Lapine.

Gateway's 2011–12 Season

The MainStage season opened this October with the dramatic comedy, *Steel Magnolias*, by Robert Harling, the story of southern belles with backbones of steel. This was one of two joint productions this season with the Gateway's new partners at the Chemainus Theatre Festival. The second show is Joe DiPietro's hilarious musical comedy based on the songs of Elvis Presley, *All Shook Up* which will bring the MainStage season to a close in April 2012. Sandwiched between, are *The Sound of Music* in December 2011, and Robert Chafe's *Tempting Providence* in February 2012. *Tempting Providence* is renowned for the inventive staging used to tell the story of the travails and triumphs of Canada's first outpost nurse, "The Florence Nightingale of the North".

For the Studio Series, in time for Remembrance Day, was the sold-out *Mary's Wedding* by Canadian playwright Stephen Massicotte, a story of love and the human cost of war. In March, Gateway presents the home-grown *KISMET one to one hundred* by local writers Emelia Symington Fedy, Daryl King, Anita Rochon and Hazel Venzon. The troupe travelled across Canada to interview 100 Canadians, aged 1 to 100, about their beliefs around kismet – fate and destiny.



Sound of Music, Gateway Theatre. Photograph by David Cooper



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