

Capstan Village Public Art Plan



Acknowledgements

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The Richmond Public Art Program graciously acknowledges the public art contributions provided by private developers involved in the building of the new Capstan Village neighbourhood:

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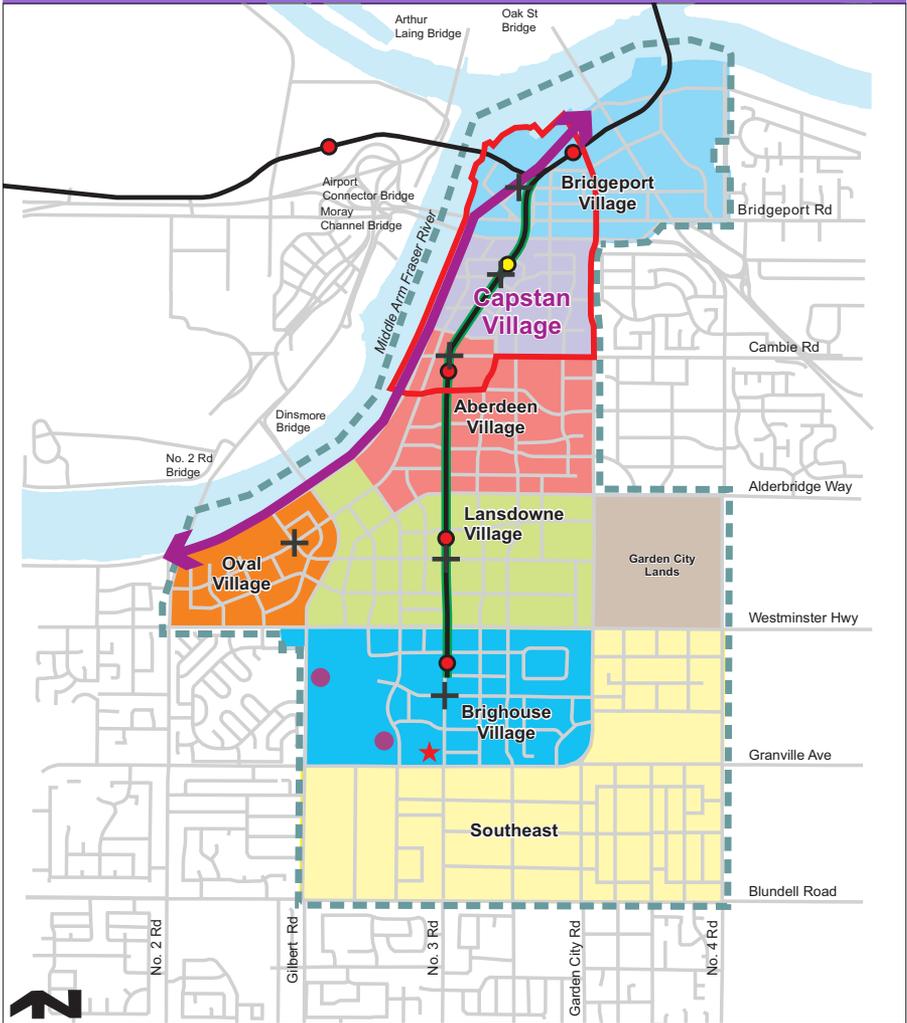
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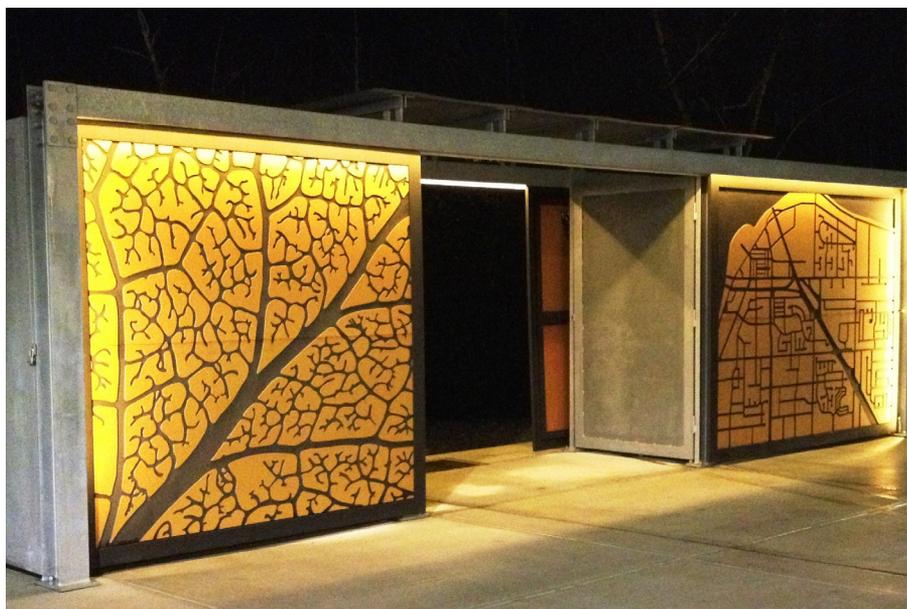
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Richmond Arts District (RAD) Map



- City Centre Boundary
- Richmond Arts District
- Existing Cultural Facilities
- Canada Line Station
- No 3 Road/Canada Line
- ★ City Hall
- Proposed Canada Line Station
- Waterfront Art Walk
- + Village Centre
- Garden City Lands

Area	RAD Sub-Areas	Role
	Bridgeport Village	A 24/7 entertainment and arts precinct.
	Capstan Village	A mixed-use, waterfront arts community.
	Aberdeen Village	Richmond's cultural and festival hub set at the heart of its Central Business District (CBD).



INTRODUCTION

Capstan Village is a growing and developing residential waterfront community, with the capacity to be transformed into a vibrant and active mixed-use Arts District for the City of Richmond. It is located within the traditional territory historically occupied by the Coast Salish peoples, whose ancestors have lived in the Fraser River estuary for thousands of years.

While agriculture dominated the early land uses by settlers in the area, industrial uses gradually became more prevalent in the 1950s, including fishing, canning and boat building, resulting in the mix of uses and remnant agricultural, residential and industrial landscapes seen today. Capstan Village is in transition from these industrial and auto-oriented commercial uses to a pedestrian and transit-oriented residential neighbourhood, including arts facilities and artist live/work studios.

The *Capstan Village Public Art Plan* offers a long-term guide for development partners, public art consultants, design consultants, artists and community members to realize engaging public art that is well-integrated in a meaningful way. Included are recommendations for temporary and permanent artworks for building and open space development.



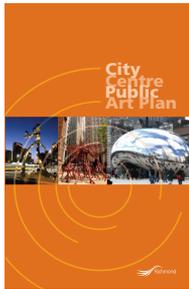
CIVIC PUBLIC ART PLANS

The *Capstan Village Public Art Plan* supplements Richmond's *City Centre Public Art Plan* and should be read as a companion document. The *City Centre Public Art Plan* identifies a wide range of opportunities for the City Centre over the coming years. "Richmond: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow" has been identified as the overarching public art theme for the six City Centre urban villages, within which artists will design their work. This framework offers context to create continuity and synergy, while allowing room for artistic expression and diverse projects.

The Richmond City Centre Area Plan identifies arts, culture and heritage as core values, integral to quality of life, health and wellbeing, social cohesion and economic development. The Public Art Program plays a key role in supporting and encouraging these City Centre objectives with public art works that shape, animate and enrich the public realm and contribute to the artistic foundation and cultural landscape of the City.

The Public Art Program Policy, adopted by Council on July 27, 2010, sets a goal for public art to complement and develop the character of Richmond's diverse neighbourhoods to create distinctive public spaces, which enhance the sense of community, place and civic pride.

Supplementing the city-wide policies of the Public Art Program, area-specific public art plans provide additional direction concerning the themes and opportunities unique to each individual community. The *Capstan Village Public Art Plan* is the latest addition to Richmond's family area specific of Richmond Public Art Plans, which include *City Centre Public Art Plan: Honouring Yesterday, Celebrating Today and Building Tomorrow*; *Richmond Oval Art Plan: Flow, Flight, Fusion*; *Alexandra Neighbourhood Public Art Plan: Connecting Ecology, Infrastructure and History* and the *Minoru Precinct Public Art Plan*.







THEMATIC FRAMEWORK

A Waterfront Arts District: Geography, History and Culture

To the north of Capstan Village, the Richmond Arts District includes portions of Bridgeport Village envisioned as a non-residential, 24/7 entertainment and arts precinct. South of Capstan Village is the Arts District portion of Aberdeen Village, a commercial district known as the “Golden Village” for its high concentration of shopping centres and restaurants.

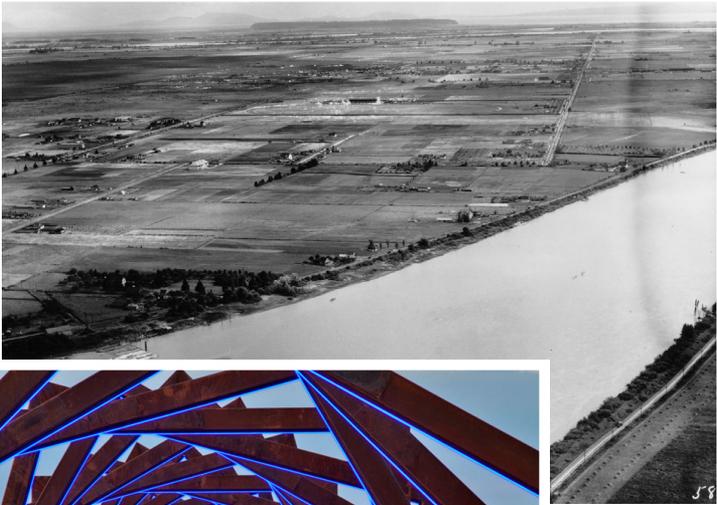
The Capstan area is designated as a zone for medium to high-density mixed residential and commercial use, housing artist live/work studios and gallery spaces. In keeping with the City Centre Area Plan’s vision for Capstan Village and the Richmond Arts District, the thematic framework celebrates the area’s unique location as a waterfront community, building on the themes of the City Centre Public Art Plan: “Honouring Yesterday, Celebrating Today and Building Tomorrow.”

The theme of “A Waterfront Arts District: Geography, History and Culture” is a way of exploring, through art, Capstan Village’s physical, historical and cultural place in Richmond and its connection to adjacent City Centre Villages and neighbouring communities. Artists will be encouraged to develop works within this broad thematic framework, which allow for diverse artistic expression and practice.

Arts and Geography

Over geological eras, the Capstan Village Waterfront Arts District has been transformed from flood plain to marsh, mud and silt over thousands of years after the retreat of the last glaciers. Humans also contributed to the alteration of the land: river diking and drainage, necessary for the advancement of agriculture and industry, created distinct boundaries between estuary and upland areas and significantly altered the natural landscape, as well as the overall ecology and geography of the area. Linear land patterns, ditches and fence lines are still evident today.

Care for the natural environment, including ecological restoration and preservation of the Fraser River, are important city-wide initiatives and concerns. Through the Ecological Network Management Strategy, the City seeks to connect, protect and restore natural and semi-natural areas. Public art can promote and foster environmental stewardship and awareness in consideration of the unique geography and ecology of the Capstan area.





Arts and History

Ancestors of the Coast Salish peoples occupied the Fraser River estuary for thousands of years. Identifying as a fishing people, the Coast Salish remain closely aligned with the Fraser River today. Early pioneer settlement began in the 1860s with the development of dairy and vegetable farms in the area surrounding the intersection of Cambie and River Roads.

The establishment of the Provincial Cannery in 1896 was the start of early industrial activity along the Fraser. The riverfront provided essential transportation access for people as well as goods and services to larger markets making way for the development of thriving canning, lumber, milling and agricultural related industries. The establishment of the Canadian Pacific Railway, running along the edge of the river, further contributed to this increase of industrial and commercial activity. By the 1960s, the Capstan area boasted a wide range of industry and light manufacturing plants.

Public art that responds to the agricultural and industrial heritage of the Capstan area can contribute to a sense of place and foster civic pride with artworks that will facilitate dialogue and interest among residents and visitors. Permanent and temporary works including festivals, programs and events centred on Capstan's history can also strengthen the role of community foundations, foster connections and contribute to an active arts district.

Arts and Culture

Art can interpret the unique heritage and culture of Capstan Village for future generations. Early human occupation of the Fraser River Delta dates back thousands of years, when a complex society of Coast Salish peoples used the area for fishing, seasonal food gathering and temporary settlements. Central to Coast Salish culture is the interrelationship between the physical and spiritual realms, as expressed in their languages, oral histories and art forms. Coast Salish art and culture is also expressed through sacred ceremonies, dance and weavings. The Fraser River plays an integral role in local culture and everyday life that continues to this day.

The first Europeans to settle in the Capstan area were attracted to the rich fertile soils for farming. Chinese settlers also leased farmland and by the 1920s there were a substantial number of Chinese market farmers. These landowners first appeared on Richmond's voters lists in 1949. People of Chinese, Japanese and Indigenous descent worked in sawmills, canneries and other industrial enterprises located along the Fraser.

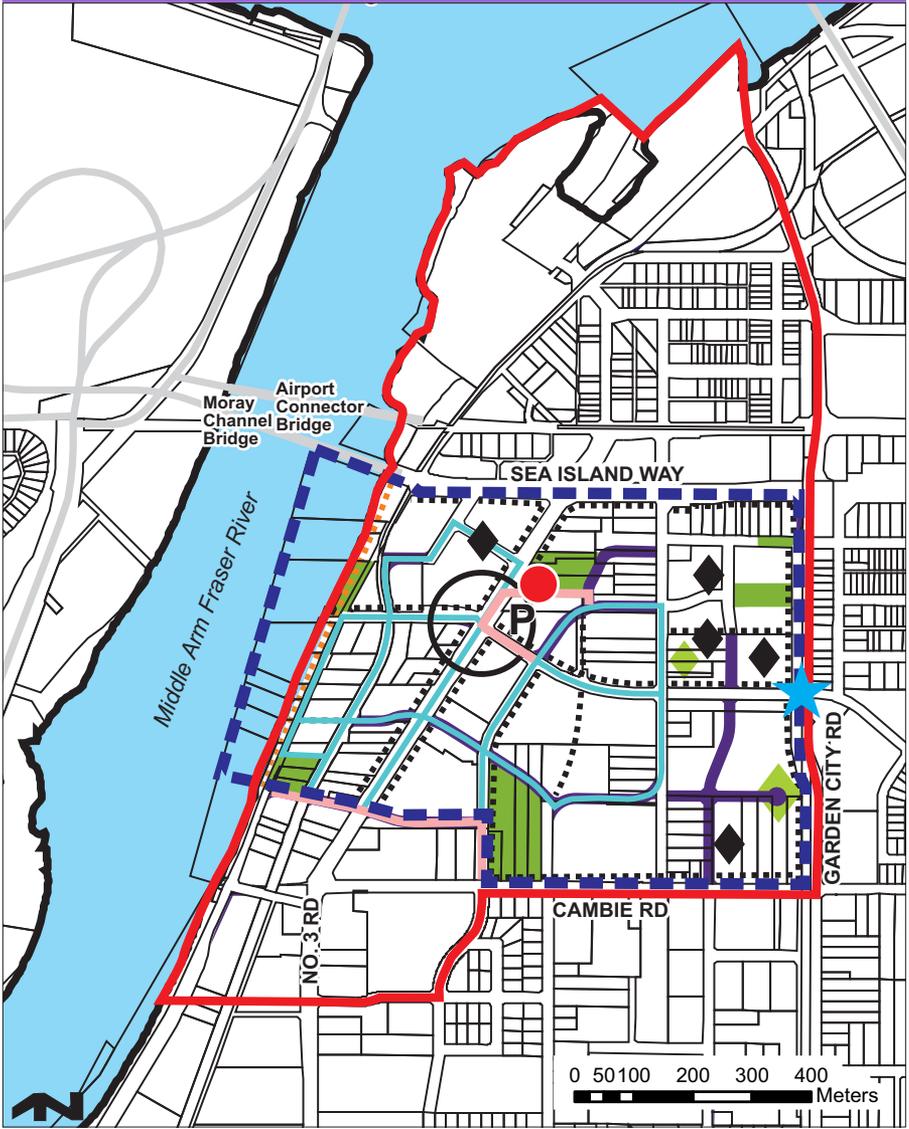
Today, Capstan Village is characterized by an ethnically diverse and growing population contributing to the cultural fabric of this growing city.

The City of Richmond is committed to improving the quality of life for all its citizens, and Capstan's cultural heritage invites expression in the development of public art. Public art in a variety of forms including performances, events and festivals will inspire participation and dialogue, as well as enrich broad community connectivity essential for a healthy City.





Capstan Village Map (2031)



- | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|--|--|
| | Park | | Pedestrian Linkages | | Proposed Streets |
| | Park-Configuration & location to be determined | | Waterfront Dyke Trail | | Pedestrian-Oriented Retail Precincts-High Street & Linkages |
| | Village Centre: No. 3 Road & Capstan Way Intersection | | Enhanced Pedestrian & Cyclist Crossing | | Pedestrian-Oriented Retail Precincts-Secondary Retail Streets & Linkages |
| | Institution | | Proposed Canada Line Station | | Richmond Arts District |
| | | | Transit Plaza | | Capstan Village |



OPPORTUNITIES

Achieving a Waterfront Arts District

Capstan Village is undergoing tremendous urban growth and renewal with many mixed-used developments. The area is poised to become the Arts District for the City of Richmond, offering a mix of townhouses and apartments along with commercial development and community facilities. The area will also include a wide range of work-from-home options suitable for artists and other creative professionals. The growth of the creative economy augmented by an active and dynamic arts community is expected to strengthen the community's economic development attracting visitors, business and investment.

Through the interconnection of open spaces, neighbourhood parks and pedestrian pathways, the waterfront greenway and the village centre provide many opportunities for public art that encourages and inspires creativity, community connectivity and healthy living.

While it is typical for public art to be integrated with a specific building project owned and maintained by the building owner, the network of public open space in Capstan Village presents an opportunity to situate public art throughout the public realm. Flexibility should be exercised to support the integration of public art with a new development where it supports the overall vision of engaging the whole community and encouraging tourism and points of interest.

Some of the public art may not be permanent. Artwork may include temporary installations as well as performances and programming with community activities, events and festivals.

Capstan Village Transportation Hub

Capstan Village is envisioned as an accessible and transit-oriented community in close proximity to community amenities. The interconnected transportation network features the Canada Line rapid transit system, No. 3 Road multi-modal corridor, Sea Island Way and Bridgeport Road connectors to the Vancouver International Airport, numerous pedestrian and cycle pathways and the Middle Arm of the Fraser River. The Village is also connected to Highway 99 providing easy access to the regional transportation network. Capstan Village will foster an enriching public realm experience for residents, commuters, workers and visitors.

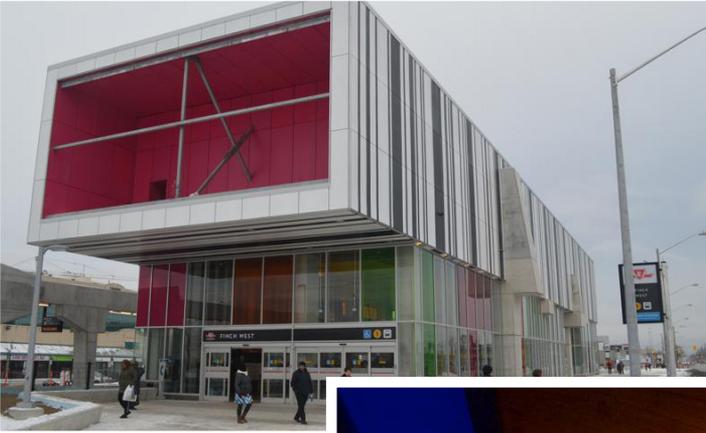
The future Canada Line station at Capstan Village will offer opportunities for artworks to support way-finding and to establish an identity for this important transportation hub. Further, the acquisition of a signature work for the Village Plaza will support a seamless integration between the future Canada Line station and the public realm. Projects that engage the Canada Line station will require consultation with TransLink and their affiliated partners.

The perimeter edges of Capstan provide opportunities for landmark public artworks that speak to the spirit and character of Capstan Village and its significance as the arts and cultural precinct for the City. Gateway artworks help to direct visitors to the arts district and waterfront amenities and contribute to civic pride.

Pedestrian-scaled and functional artworks encourage discovery and exploration, generating interest and an active, engaged community. Public art integrated with the transportation network will include street furnishings, bus shelters, urban realm lighting, street medians, boulevards, utility kiosks and sidewalk and road surface treatments to promote principles of sustainable and accessible transportation.

Artwork sited along the pedestrian, cyclist and vehicular routes will enhance the overall street experience for the public and further encourage the development of local economies and tourism.

Budget Estimate: \$30,000 for smaller works to \$100,000–\$500,000 per large-scale artworks





Parks and Trails

Richmond is committed to preserving and sustaining the city-wide system of natural areas and ecosystems on public and private lands. These areas support habitat for birds and wildlife, including migratory shorebirds and waterfowl. The lower Fraser River Estuary provides both migratory and rearing habitat for salmon. The protection and enhancement of these areas enriches the health and livability of our communities and provides access to nature within our increasingly urban neighbourhoods.

Public art situated and integrated with neighbourhood parks, greenways and pedestrian pathways can support and foster an interesting, lively and interconnected public realm. The scale and types of artworks that are to be considered for the parks and trails include large scale place-making works and smaller works to be discovered along the trails. Temporary works, artists-in-residencies and annual sculptural exhibitions may also be considered. Consideration should be given to supporting projects by interdisciplinary teams of artists, landscape architects and biologists to promote an understanding of the ecology of the area.

Budget Estimate: \$30,000 for smaller works to \$200,000 per larger artworks



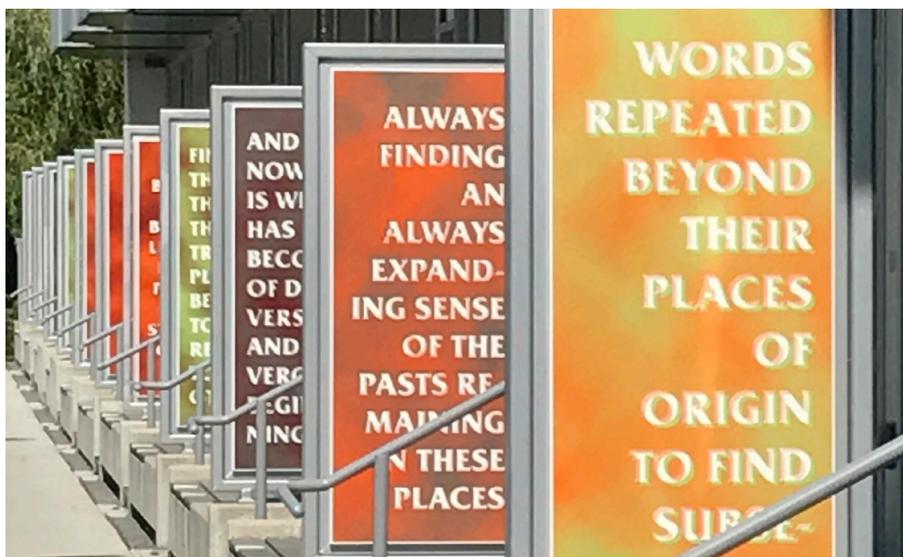
Waterfront

Systems of ecology, commerce and tourism will continue to define and strengthen Richmond's relationship to the Fraser River. Public art can activate these three narratives to engage and shape one another as a means for exploring meanings, histories and innovative uses of the waterfront.

Artworks situated along the waterfront will make connections between ecology and history, revealing and contributing to identity, conservation and place-making. Some will become landmarks, while others will be dedicated to engaging the public in the continuing development of the waterfront dyke trail and park system.

Artists working closely with community stakeholders and with key design team consultants for new development will contribute to creating a working relationship that supports art and culture. Together, important goals and aspirations will be identified to ensure that public art is successfully integrated into the waterfront as it is redeveloped.

Budget Estimate: \$100,000–\$200,000 per artwork



Village Centre

The Capstan Village Centre has public art opportunities for permanent and temporary works as well as festivals that showcase diverse art practices. Artwork that grows out of an artist-led consultation and collaboration process with community partners, City staff and private partners can offer a unique and compelling portrait of a place and its people.

In a newly developed area inhabited by new residents and, often, recent immigrants, artist residency opportunities that work with and within institutions, parks or organizations can serve as effective platforms for artists to be community facilitators, connectors and educators that foster greater appreciation for the arts and artists and help to build social cohesion. By providing hands-on opportunities for self-expression by local residents, community-based artists can engage with the public, building relationships over weeks or months. Visual, literary and performing arts all lend themselves to this form of practice.

Further opportunities exist to engage the public include artist talks, open house artist studio tours and temporary performance-based artworks.

Budget Estimate: \$10,000–\$30,000 for community engagement artworks to \$100,000–\$300,000 per larger artwork

IMPLEMENTATION

Development partners, public art consultants, design consultants, artists and other community stakeholders are encouraged to explore a range of approaches in creating public artworks that will contribute to shaping, animating and enriching the public realm and community identity. Opportunities for public art may include large-scale permanent sculptures, integrated design team collaborations, temporary art installations, socially engaged arts practices and a wide diversity of form and media. It will be important to assess the vision and intent of each public art opportunity to develop goals and objectives with specific selection criteria before engaging an artist.

Public art funding is received from voluntary public art contributions through the development application process. These contributions support public art projects integrated with specific developments in the Capstan area. A portion of the funds contributed will be held in the City's Public Art Reserve for artworks to be integrated with community facilities and institutions and with public land within Capstan Village, including the waterfront, Village Centre and neighbourhood parks, pedestrian sidewalks, bikeways and streets as identified in this Plan, under the direction of the City.

The City Centre Public Art Plan provides additional details on budgets for the range of public art opportunities.



CONCLUSION

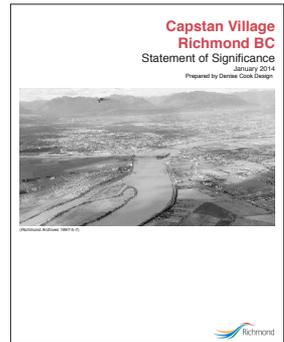
The *Capstan Village Public Art Plan* provides a framework for the consideration of compelling and engaging public art that will contribute meaning and vibrancy to this area.

The Capstan Village's history and cultural heritage provide a foundation for innovative public art that speaks to the area's diverse and multi-cultural audience. "A Waterfront Arts District: Geography, History and Culture" offers a thematic framework to be explored by artists in the creation of public art that includes permanent and temporary installations, events and artist residencies.

Public art will play a vital role in the well-being of residents and support the growth and development of a dynamic and sustainable urban community. Activating and transforming public space, public art will provide a welcoming context for creativity and community participation, creating memorable places and instilling civic pride.

RESOURCES

City Centre Public Art Plan
City Centre Area Plan
Richmond Arts Strategy 2012-2017
Capstan Village Statement of Significance,
January 2015
Ecological Network Management
Strategy, 2015



CONTACTS

Visit our website

richmond.ca/publicart

More information

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PHOTO CREDITS

- Cover **Left** Lawrence Paul Yuxweluptun, *Ovoidism*, Vancouver, 2016, photo: unaccredited, The Ubyssy
- Cover **Middle** Ren Jun, *Water #10 Vertical*, Richmond, 2010, photo: D. Fairchild
- Cover **Right** Yayoi Kusama, *Ascension of Polka Dots on Trees*, Marseille, France, 2013, photo: Yayoi Kasuma
- P. iii Juame Plensa, *Wonderland*, Calgary, 2012, photo: Kevin Schafer / Alamy Stock Photo
- P. 1 Mia Weinberg, *Site Unseen*, Richmond, 2016
- P. 2 **Top** Douglas Coupland, *Digital Orca*, Vancouver, 2009, photo: Douglas Coupland
- P. 2 **Middle** Liz Magor, *LightShed*, Vancouver, 2004, photo: Jimmy Jeony
- P. 2 **Bottom** John Gerrard, *Solar Reserve (Tonapah, Nevada)*, New York City, 2014, photo: Iñaki Vinaixa, Courtesy of Lincoln Center and Public Art Fund, NY
- P. 4 **Top Left** Donna Dodson and Andy Moelein (Myth Makers), *The Sentinel*, Audubon Centre, Maine, 2013, photo: June LaCombe
- P. 4 **Top Right** Art in Public Spaces, *Dandelions*, Istanbul, Turkey, 2016, photo: Art in Public Spaces
- P. 4 **Bottom** Fish on Parade, Galway Arts Festival, Galway, UK, 2007, photo: Peter Clarke
- P. 5 Antony Gormley, *Exposure*, Lelystad, Netherlands, 2010, photo: Hennie Bothberger
- P. 6 **Figure 1** Middle arm of Fraser River [ca. 1926], photo: George Allen Aerial Photographs, City of Richmond Archives, photograph #1985 166 1
- P. 6 **Bottom** Art Studio, *From Here to There*, High Trestle Bridge, Madrid, Iowa, USA, 2011, photo: Art Studio
- P. 7 Marianne Nicholson, *This Land is a Person*, North Vancouver, 2012, photo: unaccredited, City of North Vancouver
- P. 8 Susan Point, *A Timeless Circle*, Whistler, 2016, photo: Mike Crane
- P. 9 **Top** Trans Am Totem, Marcus Bowcott, Vancouver, 2015, photo: Janet McDonald
- P. 9 **Bottom** Ai Wei Wei, *Forever Bicycles*, Austin, Texas, 2014, photo: City of Richmond
- P. 11 Derek Root, *Sail Wall*, Richmond, 2016, photo: City of Richmond
- P. 13 **Top** The Spadina Group Associates and Bruce McLean, Finch West Station, Toronto, 2017, photo: Chris Bateman
- P. 13 **Middle** Warren Langley, *Aspire*, Sydney, Australia, 2010, photo: Richard Glover
- P. 13 **Bottom** David Pearl, Highway 407 Station, Toronto, 2017, photo: Chris Bateman
- P. 14 Orly Genger, *Red, Yellow and Blue*, New York City, 2013, photo: unaccredited, Madison Square Park Conservancy
- P. 15 **Left** Rob Mulholland, *One Flock*, Paradise Creek, Nature Park, Portsmouth, Virginia, 2016, photo: Rob Mulholland
- P. 15 **Right** Turenscape Design Institute, *Link the City to Nature*, Tianjin, China, 2010, photo: Turenscape Design Institute
- P. 16 Raymond Boisjoly, *A Distance Transformed*, Richmond, 2017, photo: City of Richmond
- P. 17 *Prismatica for Luminothérapie*, Roland Rom Colthoff, 2014, photo: unaccredited, Canadian Interiors

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