



City of Richmond

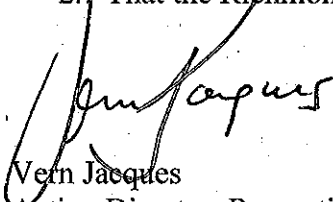
Report to Committee

To: Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee
From: Vern Jacques
 Acting Director, Recreation and Cultural Services
Re: **Richmond Public Art Commission 2006 and 2007 Annual Report and 2008 Public Art Work Plan**

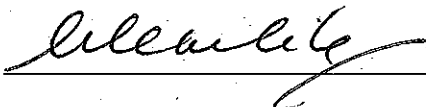



Date: July 15, 2008
File: 01-0100-20-RPAR1-01/2008-Vol 01

Staff Recommendation

1. That the Richmond Public Art Commission 2006 and 2007 Annual Report be received for information; and
2. That the Richmond Public Art Commission 2008 Public Art Work Plan be approved.


 Vern Jacques
 Acting Director, Recreation and Cultural Services

Att. 2

FOR ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT USE ONLY		
CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER		
		
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REVIEWED BY CAO	ACTING YES	NO
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Staff Report

Origin

The Richmond Public Art Commission (RPAC) was established as an integral part of the Richmond Public Art Program, endorsed by Council on June 23, 1997.

This report presents the Richmond Public Art Commission 2006 and 2007 Annual Report to Council, and the proposed 2008 Public Art Work Plan, for approval.

Findings Of Fact

Program Purpose and Context

The purpose of the Richmond Public Art Program is to enhance people's quality of life and enjoyment of their community through the integration of art into the public realm, including parks, streets, and public spaces in both public and private developments. The Richmond Public Art Program supports City initiatives in achieving Richmond's vision "to be the most appealing, liveable and well-managed community in Canada."

The Richmond Public Art Commission, as a Council appointed advisory Committee, advises on all aspects of public art policy, planning, education and promotion, including the allocation of funds from City designated resources.

Public Art Program Implementation

There are several ways in which public art is funded and created in Richmond:

1. City public art projects, which are funded from City and private contributions;
2. Private sector public art projects, which are voluntarily funded from private contributions; and
3. Community public art projects, which are funded from City, community, private, and non-profit contributions.

2006 and 2007 Annual Report & 2008 Work Plan

The Richmond Public Art Commission 2006 and 2007 Annual Report (**Attachment 1**) and 2008 Public Art Work Plan (**Attachment 2**) highlight the key activities undertaken in 2006 and 2007 and proposed work tasks for 2008, respectively.

Due to transitions in staffing, the RPAC Annual Report was not submitted for 2006, and has been combined with the 2007 Annual Report. The RPAC 2008 Annual Report and the 2009 Public Art Work Plan will be brought forward to Council in early 2009.

Significant among these projects are the City initiated public art projects within the Richmond Oval Precinct, completed or currently underway, including:

- *Concrete Buttress Runnels*, by artist Susan Point, completed in 2007;
- *Skate Blades at Hollybridge Way Canal Bridge*, designed by artist Buster Simpson, completion in Summer 2008;
- *Water Sky Garden*, by artist Janet Echelman, completion in Fall 2008;

- *Front Lobby Artwork*, currently in the artist selection phase, conceptual design scheduled to be presented to Council in Fall 2008;
- *Telling the Stories of Richmond*, currently in the artist selection phase, conceptual design scheduled to be presented to Council in Fall 2008; and
- *Site Furnishings*, currently developing the terms of reference for the Artist Call.

Analysis

The Richmond Public Art Commission 2006 and 2007 Annual Report and proposed 2008 Work Plan demonstrate a high level of volunteerism, professionalism and commitment to quality public art in Richmond.

Financial Impact

Developer funding for public art works on private lands and City lands, completed in 2006 and 2007, totalled \$374,000. The City has provided funds of \$218,000 for Community Public Art Projects completed in 2006 and 2007, and approved \$1,776,250 for Oval Precinct Public Art Projects currently completed or underway (*Buttress/Runnels* and *Water/Sky/Garden*).

Developer contributions committed to date for works scheduled for completion in 2008 and 2009 total \$1,094,000.

Council has approved additional funding of \$1,771,650 for Oval Precinct Public Art Projects to start in 2008 and to be completed in 2009 (*Front Entry*, *Stories of Richmond*, and *Site Furnishings*).

No additional funding is required.

Conclusion

The RPAC provides valuable guidance and stewardship for the City's growing public art collection throughout the City. Ongoing implementation of the Public Art Policy is required to support and enhance the public realm and cultural vitality of the community.

The Public Art Commission 2006 and 2007 Annual Report is presented for information and the 2008 Public Art Work Plan is recommended for approval.

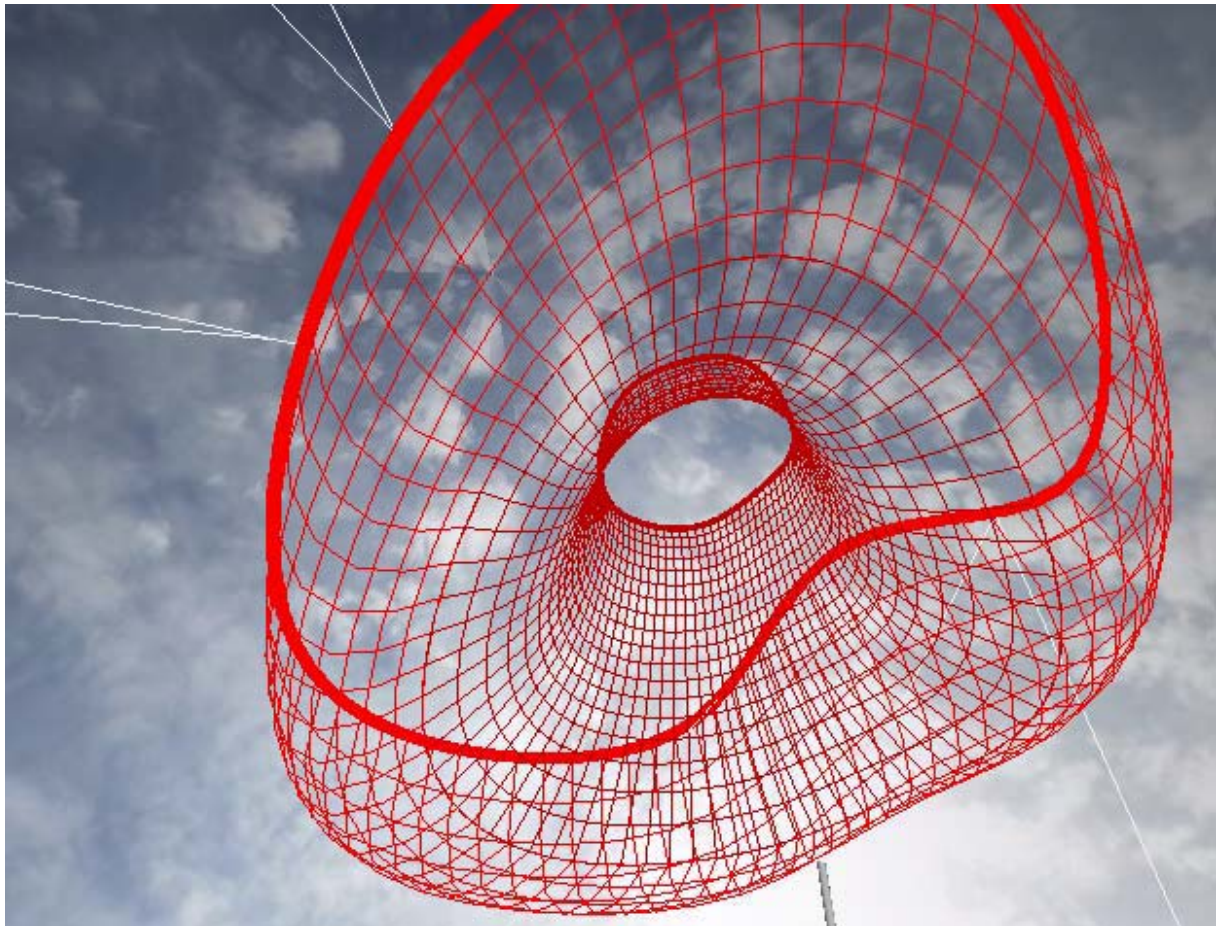


Eric Fiss
Public Art Planner

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2006-2007 Annual Report

Richmond Public Art Commission (RPAC)



City of Richmond
July 15, 2008

2006-2007 Annual Report Richmond Public Art Commission (RPAC)

2006 Public Art Commission

Diana (Willa) Walsh, Chair
Leo Mol, Vice Chair
Dan Campbell
Alison Cormack
Colleen Dixon
Valerie Jones
James Kew (replaced Judy Ronnenberg in June 2006)
Judy Ronnenberg
Alex Schick

Council Liaison: Sue Halsey-Brandt

City Staff: Kari Huhtala (retired March 2006), Suzanne Greening, Terry Brunette

2007 Public Art Commission

Diana (Willa) Walsh, *Chair*
Leo Mol, *Vice Chair*
Alison Cormack
Tamaka Fisher
Valerie Jones
James Kew
Alex Schick
Xuedong Zhao

Council Liaison: Sue Halsey-Brandt

City Staff: Suzanne Greening (2006-7), Darryl Zoerb (to June 2007), Eric Fiss (effective December 2007)

Richmond Arts Strategy

On August 30, 2004, City Council endorsed the ***Richmond Arts Strategy*** that provides a vision and direction for the arts in Richmond. It identifies needs and gaps within the community, areas of focus for the City and opportunities for expanding the economic contribution of the cultural sector.

The arts in Richmond encompass a vast array: visual arts, performing arts, literary arts, professional and amateur arts, arts festivals, cultural industries, artists, participants and patrons, and public and community art projects.

Vision for the Arts in Richmond

Richmond believes that a diversity of arts experiences and the arts and artists who express them are integral to an enriched quality of life.

Richmond's vision for the arts is: *Richmond is a welcoming and inclusive community where culture and arts activities are celebrated and supported.*

State of the Public Art Program

The past two years have witnessed a dramatic growth in both the number of public art projects in Richmond and the quality of these projects. Due to the high level of new construction in Richmond numerous developers are taking the opportunity to include public art to enhance their buildings. They are contributing significantly higher amounts than in the past. This has resulted in an average of between \$60,000 to \$120,000 for many projects, with several projects far exceeding these budgets, and the resultant interest of accomplished public art artists from across North America. The program now merits a full-time public art planner. The City and the Councillors have enthusiastically supported this recommendation.

New also, is the building of the Canada Line and the Olympic Oval. Both are extraordinary projects requiring a high level of public art integration. Public art consultants (4Culture) were hired to provide public art plans for both of these projects. The Musqueam First Nations have been involved in both of these initiatives. As well, the lecture series, *"The Lulu Series: Art and the City"*, has seen enormous popularity in 2006-2007. Council chambers are now at standing room only capacity for most of these events.

At this point the Public Art Program has achieved the following:

For Council:

- Leadership in working towards the City's vision of being "the most appealing, livable and well-managed community in Canada".
- Recognition of Council's leadership and support which is acknowledged and appreciated.

For developers:

- Continuation of the voluntary contribution to projects and funding to achieve the City's vision, identity and image.
- Support for the arts.

For the artists:

- The opportunity to be creative and help make Richmond appealing.
- Recognition of the contribution of visual artists to economic growth.

For the community:

- Many public art projects completed through the participation and sponsorships of individuals and groups.
- Community identity achieved through experiences in public art.
- Community belonging through participation in meaningful projects, which showcase Richmond's rich heritage and creativity.
- A sense of beauty and well-being through creating public places for people.

Overall

There have been over 30 successful public art projects to date. Richmond is considered a municipal leader in public art development in B.C. and Canada. Public art is accepted as an integral part of Richmond's vision of creating a liveable and vibrant city.

There is now a Citywide expectation of looking forward to the next public art project. Public art is one of many indications that Richmond is becoming a cosmopolitan city.

2006-2007 Public Art Project Developments

Public Art Projects

These 2006 and 2007 initiatives have increased public awareness and participation in the public art process.

- **“Celebration: Seasons of Life/Belonging” (2006)** by artist David Fushtey. It is located at “Seasons”, at 5088 Kwantlen Street, developed and funded by Polygon. This stone sculpture fuses traditional values with contemporary forms and speaks to the importance of strong families as the foundation of a sense of community.
- **“Katsura Gate” (2006)** is by artists Claudia Cuesta and Bill Baker and is located in the Katsura Neighbourhood Park, McLennan North. Cressey Developments funded the artwork. It is a large, gate artwork structure, which integrates the community to the site, to nature and to myth and ritual. It uses universal symbols, which are recognized by all cultures. The images in the art glass panels are derived from the history of the site, vegetation, landscape and light playing across surfaces.



“Katsura Gate”

- **“Light Ring” (2006)** by artists David MacWilliam and Marko Simcic is located at the Terra Nova Shopping Centre at Westminster Highway and No 1 Road. This is a replacement artwork for the original piece titled “Terra Nova” that was destroyed as a result of a motor vehicle accident. “Light Ring” lifts the dimensions of the plaza’s existing circular fountain, stands it on end and illuminates it with slowly changing sequences of pre-programmed colours using LED lights which subtly and slowly shift from one colour to the next. This slow cadence of change transforms the plaza for each repeated commute or visit to the shopping centre.
- **“Turning Earth” (2005)** is by artist David Robinson. It is located at Barrington Walk on Heather Street and was funded by Polygon Developments. The Twin Draft Horse – a traditional beast of

burden made redundant by technological progress is no less burdened as a symbol of human technology. Relieved of its manual work, this ancient icon yet remains everywhere employed in its role as a symbol of status, wealth, and power. With reference to the City's agricultural heritage and aesthetic mandate, the image here is fitting as a specific reference to local history, while serving also as a reference to contemporary themes. The notion of "breaking ground" is the language of both agrarian and urban growth.



"Turning Earth"

- **"Breaking Ground" (2006)** is by artist David Robinson. It is located at Westbury Lane on Keefer Street and was funded by Polygon Developments. This sculpture refers to Richmond's agricultural past. A labouring male figure appears to be both emerging from, and merging with, the ground with which he toils. The work concerns humankind's bond with the land as well as growth and development in the surrounding city.
- **"Habitat" (2006)** by artist Monique Genton. Located on light standards near the intersection of Keefer Avenue and Ash Street. Composed of three steel sculptures and Interpretive panels mounted on lamp posts, this work Invites the public to consider swallows as an integral part of the local neighbourhood as well as a large ecosystem Involving migration. The artwork draws attention to how the environment can be enhanced for songbirds.
- **"SCRIPT Inside Outside" (2007)**, by artists Karen Kazmer and Todd Davis, is located on the south wall of Gateway Theatre's fly tower. An evening landmark is created by "painting" the fly tower at Gateway Theatre with colourful LED light displays. This changing work references the creativity of artists and theatre producers in general, and at times, the current stage production.

- **“Spotty the Dog” (2007)** is by artist Doug Taylor and is located at Hamilton Fire Hall. This large wind machine (whirligig) sits atop a 20 foot high pole. “Spotty the Dog” symbolizes the fire station Dalmatian, one of the most recognized symbols of the fire service. The artwork includes the a large firefighter’s helmet which depicts the image of the Maltese Cross that all firefighters wear, a symbol of protection and the badge of honour.



“Spotty the Dog”

- **“Flow” (2008)** by artists Cheryl Hamilton and Michael Vandermeer is located at the sidewalk plaza the southeast corner of Gilbert Road and Lansdowne Road, in the recent Ocean Walk development by Ocean Walk/Century Group. Shimmering ribbons of dichroic glass are set atop three polished stainless steel poles, which are set in front of three churning waterfalls. Nature serves as an inspiration for this sculpture. By invoking the imagery of a gentle and playful wind, Flow balances the elements of wind and water.
- **“Dream Grow Inspire” (2007)** by artist Tini Meyer is located at Miora, at 9751 Ferndale Road, and was funded by Am-Pri Development. Three large concrete vases are painted in an abstract style to reflect Am-Pri’s slogan for the new McLennan North townhouse development: Dream.Grow.Inspire.
- **“Concrete Buttress Runnels: Contemporary Housepost Designs” (2007)** by artist Susan Point are located at the Richmond Oval. Susan Point’s First nations-inspired designs are embedded in the large concrete buttresses on the north side of the Oval. Featuring designs incorporating fish, cranes and the Fraser River that celebrate the Musqueam culture and the site’s natural heritage, Point’s artwork is cast into the Oval’s fifteen exterior concrete buttresses, which help collect storm water from the Oval’s massive roof, making it a unique combination of culture, functionality and sustainability. Because of their form and function, the buttresses can be viewed as a contemporary interpretation of house post forms, an important element in Coast Salish aboriginal culture.

Public Art Projects Underway

Developer Funded Projects Located on Private Land:

- **“Versante”** by artist Krzysztof Zukowski. Funded by Toyu Lansdowne Development with a budget of \$109,000.
- **“Flo”** by artist Jill Anholt. Funded by Onni Developments with a budget of \$175,000.
- **“London Station”** Funded by Dana Westermark with a budget of \$100,000.
- **“Lotus”** by artist Gwen Boyle. Funded by Cressey Development with a budget of \$175,000.
- Appia Development Public Art (pending) with a budget of \$200,000.
- **“Centro”** Rize Alliance Development (pending) with a budget of \$60,000.
- Minoru Blvd. Project/Wing Ting Leung, Architect (pending) with a budget of approximately \$275,000.

Developer Funded Projects Located on City and/or Private Land:

- **“Human Nature”** by artist Paul Slipper. Funded by Chandler Developments with a budget of \$140,000. It will consist of a series of 12-15 large carved stone sculptures representing ferns and humans and will be located on private and City land, at 9188 Cook Road and Garden City Park. Scheduled for completion Fall 2008.
- **“Minoru Horse Project”** by artist Sergei Traschenko. Funded by Milan Illich and will be located in Minoru Park (exact location to be determined) with a budget of approximately \$150,000.

With all these new projects appearing in the city’s core in the next few months/year our city will be brighter, more interesting and residents will enjoy the visual arts in all their engaging forms.

Community Public Art Projects

In **2006** this community public art project was completed:

- The **“Cambie Community Gathering Place” (2006)** by the **Pomegranate Center** working with the Parks department and the East Richmond Community is located in King George Park. The **“Gathering Place”** brought together people in the East Richmond area to focus on constructing a unique gathering place in King George Park at the centre of this neighbourhood. The amphitheatre provides seating for many events and the directional art decorated gateways lead the community into the park from all directions. This is already a popular gathering place.

Media Coverage of Richmond’s Public Art

Public art in Richmond has received unprecedented media coverage in the local papers (both the **Richmond Review** and the **Richmond News**) as well as articles in the **Vancouver Sun**, the **Georgia Straight** and the **Globe and Mail**. Staff writer for the **Review**, Mathew Hoekstra, covers the arts scene in the City regularly and includes many articles on public art. All of the community art projects received great

coverage with full-page articles and photos. (“Making the Case for Public Art” Jan. 21/06, “Olympic Oval – Bridge Adorned with Art” Feb 23/07, “A Horse with a Name – Building Minoru” Dec 6/07)

“The Lulu Series: Art and the City” was extensively covered in local papers. It was posted on all relevant websites and the lectures were recorded for the first time this year. This resulted in crowds packing the Council Chambers (over 180 people per session) including many architects, city planners, students, artists, the Musqueam First Nations people, Richmond residents as well as the general public at large. People came from all over the Pacific Northwest to listen to international authorities on creating People Places in the city and how the visual arts improve communities. (*Richmond Review* Jan. 21/06, March 4/06 and April 15/06) (*Richmond News*, April 14/06). Speakers and topics were:

- January 2006—Cath Brunner and Barbara Luecke, 4Culture, Seattle, WA, *“The Art of Making Places Public”*
Artistic Performance: Chelle Jardine, contemporary singer, Richmond, BC
- February 2006—Fred Kent, Project for Public Spaces, New York, NY, *“What if We Build Our Cities Around Places”*
Artistic Performance: Kenny and Winnie Wong, violin and keyboard, Richmond, BC
- March 2006—William Cleveland, Center for the Study of Art and Community, WA, *“Griot Stories and Shaman Dreams: The Arts and Community in the 21st Century”*
Artistic Performance: Willy Dan, et al, Musqueam story tellers, drummers and singers, Vancouver, BC
- April 2006—Bill Pechet and Stephanie Robb, Vancouver, BC, *“SweaterLodge and Other Projects”*
Artistic Performance: Babak Hazrapi and Andy Helmi, flamenco guitar, Vancouver, BC
- February 2007—Tim Jones, Artscape, Toronto, ONT, *“Creative City from Theory to Practice”*
- March 2007—Buster Simpson, Artist, Seattle, WA, *“Working the Public Space”*
- April 2007—Chris Rogers, Olympic Sculpture Park, Seattle Art Museum, Seattle, WA, *“Where Art and Nature Meet: The Making of Seattle’s Olympic Sculpture Park”*

City’s Website (*Public Art Section*)

The City’s website includes comprehensive information about public art in Richmond. It includes guidelines and annual reports on the program, competitions and project updates. The website received thousands of visits to view, read or print information about Richmond’s Public Art Program. In the future, the website will include the complete Public Art Archives and the Artists’ Directory presently being worked on by the Commission. This will broaden an understanding of how public art is selected and made, and assist developers who wish to choose an artist for a project.

Summary

2006-2007 were the busiest years ever for the Richmond Public Art Program. There were many issues to address – a workshop to define the priorities of the Commission in terms of actions, responsibilities and required resources, major civic projects being chosen for the Richmond Oval, and may developer funded projects within the City’s emerging City Centre. Input into the Oval Art Plan required numerous meetings from many stakeholders.

The **Richmond Arts Strategy** document presented a wonderful vision of the arts and culture scene for Richmond, giving us a blueprint for the future. Many goals specifically outlined were for public art.

Neighbourhoods were intensely involved with the public art process and this emphasized the participation aspect of public art. East and West Richmond communities became engaged in public art initiatives and many alliances were reinforced. This has all had a great impact on the creative energy of our city.

The City is wise to support an innovative public art program for Richmond. Cities with vibrant arts and culture attract the creative thinkers who produce economic wealth and cultural health. Who knows, Richmond may yet make it to the North American Creative City list!

Willa Walsh,
Chair, Richmond Public Art Commission

2008 Public Art Program Work Plan Richmond Public Art Commission (RPAC)

The year 2008 work plan focuses on the following:

1. Develop Annual Work Plan & Goals for 2009
2. Review existing Public Art Policies and Guidelines and recommend changes, including:
 - Review and bring forward the De-accession Guidelines for Council approval
 - Expand Public Art Program acceptance with commercial development
 - Review Public Art Website and make effective use of the Internet
 - Explore potential for mapping and cataloguing the collection on City's GIS system (for both internal and public users)
 - Review existing archive form and content
 - Review existing maintenance guidelines, available funds and relationship to City-wide systems (Hansen Asset Management System)
 - Review existing funding and devise strategy for fund maintenance and growth
3. Strengthen relationships with, and understanding of, Richmond arts and culture groups:
 - Meet with the Richmond Arts Coalition
 - Learn about other arts groups –especially those related to the Asian community
4. Continue to expand and manage public and private development participation in the creation of public art. Public art projects are presently being organized for the following locations:
 - City/Park Community Art Projects, including Terra Nova North West Quadrant
 - City Centre Private Development Projects
 - No. 3 Road Streetscape/Canada Line Stations Projects
 - Richmond Speed Skating Oval Public Art Plan – a multi-year public art project initiative
5. Expand public awareness by a concentrated “branding” approach through:
 - Transit shelter ads
 - Ensure opportunities for public art along the Canada Line are fully explored
 - Install Public Art Identification Plaques
 - Plan Opening Celebration(s) for Public Art and determine how best to address ‘backlog’ of works which have not yet had an official opening (e.g., should one event be held to celebrate works from over the past 2 years?)
 - Prepare an information brochure featuring public art, postcards, and banners all having a similar, arresting design featuring public art images alongside the City's logo
 - New major artworks will be covered by the press and other media
 - **The Lulu Series** will continue to provide a forum about art in the city
6. Continue the work begun on a comprehensive Artists' Directory and City Public Art Archives
7. Implement some of the public art goals of the City Action Plan in the **Richmond Arts Strategy**.