



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services
Committee

Date: March 7, 2018

From: Jane Fernyhough
Director, Arts, Culture and Heritage Services

File: 11-7000-09-20-100/Vol
01

Re: **Richmond Canada 150 Storm and Sanitary Sewer Access Cover Design Concepts**

Staff Recommendation

That the four artwork concepts for storm and sanitary sewer access covers as detailed in the staff report titled "Richmond Canada 150 Storm and Sanitary Sewer Access Cover Design Concepts," dated March 7, 2018, from the Director, Arts, Culture and Heritage Services, be endorsed.

Jane Fernyhough
Director, Arts, Culture and Heritage Services
(604-276-4288)

Att.1

REPORT CONCURRENCE		
ROUTED TO: Engineering	CONCURRENCE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER
REVIEWED BY STAFF REPORT / AGENDA REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE	INITIALS: 	APPROVED BY CAO

Staff Report

Origin

On April 28, 2014, Council endorsed the public art program for integrating artwork on sanitary sewer and storm drainage access chamber covers. The Cover Stories Artist Call was then issued to solicit submissions for creative designs for the City's cast-iron sewer covers.

On March 9, 2015, Council endorsed the implementation of the public art program for integrating artwork on sanitary sewer and storm drainage manhole covers and approval of the first four recommended concept designs by Caroline Dyck, Greg Allen, Jeff Porter and Susan Pearson.

On November 28, 2016 Council endorsed the Canada 150 Celebrations Public Art Plan as the guiding plan for public art opportunities in support of Canada 150 celebrations and major event programming in 2017. On April 4, 2017, the Richmond Canada 150 Steering Committee supported the Richmond Canada 150 artist designed sewer covers as an addition to the projects presented in the Plan.

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with information regarding the Richmond Canada 150 Storm and Sanitary Sewer Access Cover Design Call to Artists, the results of the selection process to identify artist designs for integration with sanitary and storm sewer covers, and recommendations for incorporating the designs into fabrication of new sewer covers.

This report supports Council's 2014-2018 Term Goal #2 A Vibrant, Active and Connected City:

Continue the development and implementation of an excellent and accessible system of programs, services, and public spaces that reflect Richmond's demographics, rich heritage, diverse needs, and unique opportunities, and that facilitate active, caring, and connected communities.

2.3. *Outstanding places, programs and services that support active living, wellness and a sense of belonging.*

2.4. *Vibrant arts, culture and heritage opportunities.*

This report supports Council's 2014-2018 Term Goal #4 Leadership in Sustainability:

Continue advancement of the City's sustainability framework and initiatives to improve the short and long term livability of our City, and that maintain Richmond's position as a leader in sustainable programs, practices and innovations.

4.2. *Innovative projects and initiatives to advance sustainability.*

Background

The City of Richmond is committed to healthy watercourses, and protecting the water in our sloughs, ditches and the Fraser River. A key element of watercourse protection is proper management of storm and sanitary water, each of which has a separate sewer system.

Sanitary sewers direct waste water from sinks and toilets to a treatment plant. At the treatment plant, many different organic and chemical processes are used to make the water safe for discharge to the Fraser River and the Salish Sea. The City owns, maintains and operates much of the sanitary sewer infrastructure; however, it is integrated into a region-wide system that connects to several Waste Water Treatment Facilities which are owned, maintained and operated by Metro Vancouver.

Storm sewers prevent flooding by directing the rainwater falling on streets, sidewalks and outdoor spaces into drainage systems that flow directly to the Fraser River. As storm water is not treated, it is important that only clean rain water enter storm drainage network. Harmful chemicals found in soapy water from car washing and pesticides from lawns can harm the ecosystems connected to the storm drainage system.

In 2016, 200 cast-iron sewer covers were ordered featuring the four winning designs (50 of each). To date, approximately 60 covers have been installed throughout the City on sidewalks with high pedestrian visibility in the City Centre and Steveston—including one on a boardwalk at Britannia Shipyards National Historic Site. Additional covers are to be installed as replacements for worn covers and as new streets are constructed along with new development.



Cover Stories, Susan Pearson, Richmond, 2016

Analysis

Richmond Canada 150 Storm and Sanitary Sewer Access Cover Design Call to Artists

On November 7, 2017, the Public Art Terms of Reference for the Richmond Canada 150 Storm and Sanitary Sewer Access Cover Design Call to Artists was posted on the City website and distributed widely through the Richmond Arts and Culture eBlast, the City Facebook page and direct emails to artists on the Richmond Public Art Program database; and through local arts organizations including the BC Alliance for the Arts, instant coffee and the Richmond Arts Coalition.

The three themes established for the Richmond Canada 150 Celebrations were used to inform the artist call for the sewer access covers, as follows:

- **History, Culture, Diversity**
Artwork to reflect Richmond's rich tapestry of cultures, recognizing the original First Nations residents, early European settlers and the immigrants from a multiplicity of cultures that have since made their homes here.

- **Fraser River, Working River**
Artwork to explore Richmond's vital relationship to the Fraser River and reflect on the development of Lulu Island with the key industries of fisheries, agriculture, shipping and other fields.
- **Agricultural Sustainability**
Artwork to celebrate Richmond's relationship to the land, from the first inhabitants, to farmers who recognized and nurtured the bounty of the region's rich delta soils, to recent food security initiatives and innovation in urban agriculture.

The call attracted 93 submissions from 66 artists by the closing date of December 7, 2017. These included 58 BC artists, four Alberta artists and four artists from other Canadian provinces. Two Richmond artists submitted designs for this opportunity.

Artist Selection Process

Following the administrative procedures for artist selection for civic public art projects, a five person selection panel met on February 22, 2018 to review the artist submissions. The panel was comprised of:

- Amy Poon, Richmond community representative;
- Cody Lecoy, Vancouver artist;
- Jeff Porter, art professional and previous sewer cover artist;
- Susan Pearson, artist and previous sewer cover artist; and
- Ron Hyde, Richmond resident, historian and writer.

Trevor Brien and Sean Brien, representatives from the sewer cover supplier, Westview Sales, served as technical advisors. City staff from the Public Art Program and the Sewerage and Drainage Department were available to answer questions from the panel.

Proposals were evaluated on artistic merit, appropriateness to the goals of the artist call and feasibility to translate into a cast-iron sewer cover. The panel was asked to review the 93 artist submissions and recommend artists or artist teams to be considered for the Canada 150 Storm and Sanitary Sewer Access Cover Design artist opportunity.

Following a thorough review and discussion of the merits of all the artist submissions, the panel unanimously recommended two finalists and two runner-ups for each of the two types of sewer cover commissions. Subject to staff review, the selection panel recommended that all four be selected for the sewer cover commissions. The recommended artists are:

- Derek Michael Besant, Calgary
- James Harry, Richmond
- Corina Hanson, Vancouver
- Yuting (Christine)Wei, Vancouver

The recommended artist designs for the Richmond Canada 150 Storm and Sanitary Sewer Access Cover Design Call to Artists are shown in Attachment 1.

Recommendations for Implementation

Based on the recommendations from the selection panel, and to provide representation of a wide diversity of themes, including culture, environment, sustainability and industry, staff are recommending that sewer access covers be created from all four of the designs. This will provide two sets of covers (two storm and two sanitary covers) for placement on streets and sidewalks throughout the city.

Staff will work with the selected artists and the current fabricator and supplier of the sanitary and storm water access covers, Westview Sales Limited, to refine and translate the four recommended artist designs into production molds for fabrication.

Financial Impact

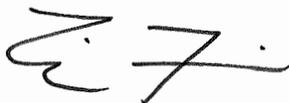
Westview Sales Limited will sponsor the additional costs for creating the unique molds, coordination and labour. There will be no additional costs for the decorative manhole covers above the existing purchasing programs. The total public art budget for artist fees is \$10,000 funded out of approved Public Art Program capital budgets.

Conclusion

The Canada 150 Storm and Sanitary Sewer Access Cover Design competition represents an opportunity to engage a large cross section of artists of various backgrounds and creative practices. Incorporating art into functional objects and as part of the public realm is an affordable, high-impact method of integrating the arts into everyday life.

The sewer access cover project builds on other programs for successfully integrating art with civic infrastructure, such as utility box wraps, drainage pumps stations and the district energy utility, at a low cost.

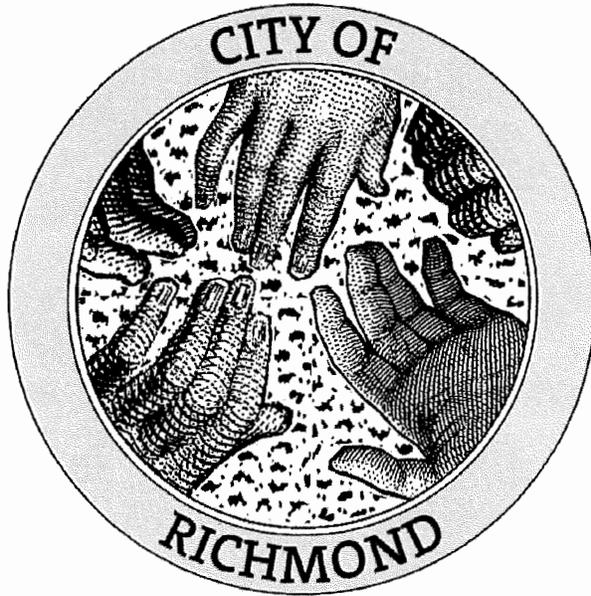
Integration of public art with sewer access covers is consistent with the vision and strategic direction of the Richmond Arts Strategy, to broaden the diversity of arts experiences and opportunities, and supports the Council Term Goal to build culturally rich public spaces across Richmond through a commitment to strong urban design, investment in public art and place making.



Eric Fiss
Public Art Planner
(604-247-4612)

Recommended Richmond Canada 150 Sewer Access Cover Designs

Sanitary



Reaching Out, Derek Michael Besant



Fraser River, Working River, Yuting (Christine) Wei

Storm



The Pollinator, Corina Hanson



Seven Generations, James Harry