

City of Richmond

ARTS UPDATE 2015

Arts, Culture and
Heritage Services

Knit-In, Richmond Maritime Festival



WOULD WE EVER
KNOW EACH OTHER
IN THE SLIGHTEST
WITHOUT THE ARTS?
– Gabrielle Roy, author



Wild Moccasins, Richmond World Festival

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Introduction

In 2015, year-round, Richmond residents of all ages had access to affordable, professional arts instruction in visual, media and performing arts. They attended colourful, energetic outdoor cultural festivals as well as meaningful, informative presentations by nationally and internationally recognized cultural leaders. They encountered contemporary, thought-provoking and relevant artworks in the gallery and in the public realm. And they were entertained, inspired and moved by musical and theatrical performances.

Local visual and performing artists and artisans play a vital role in the city's cultural identity and Richmond continued to invest in and support their development with grants, awards, affordable studio space, marketing campaigns such as Culture Days, professional development workshops and opportunities to participate in Artist Calls and to be showcased at public events.

Diversity, passion, self-expression, beauty, aspiration, transformation and prosperity are by-products of cultural vitality.

–Silver Donald Cameron, author

A healthy arts scene that offers a wide range of opportunities to participate in and experience the arts is essential to Richmond's aspiration to be the most appealing, livable and well-managed community in Canada.






Vibrant arts, culture and heritage opportunities are also integral to the 2014–2018 Council Term Goal of *A Vibrant, Active and Connected City*, along with strong neighbourhoods, effective social service networks and outstanding places, programs and services that support active living, wellness and a sense of belonging.

This 2015 Arts Update summarizes the progress made towards achieving the goals of the Richmond Arts Strategy 2012–2017. Throughout the document, you will see coloured icons to show how the year's activities help to advance the five strategic directions.



Grand Plié, April 29, 2015

Richmond Arts Strategic Directions

-  1. Strengthen and support the arts community
-  2. Increase the number of art spaces and more effectively use existing ones
-  3. Broaden the diversity of arts experiences and opportunities
-  4. Expand public awareness and understanding of the arts
-  5. Broaden the economic potential and contribution of the arts



Hetux, Connie Watts, YVR Airport

Community Cultural Development

Lulu Series: Art in the City

The 2015 Lulu Series of guest speakers presented three free-to-the-public events about Art in the City and its importance to creating connections between citizens and their communities:

March 19: Artist, curator and designer, **Connie Watts**, presented an overview of her experiences working with Aboriginal artists across Canada as well as creating her own art work for public spaces in cities. Ms. Watts’ most celebrated work, *Hetux*, is a large Thunderbird sculpture that hangs at Vancouver International Airport’s international arrivals terminal. The talk was preceded by a short performance by local country music artists Damian Marshall and Shanna Lynn performing as Georgia Rain. Attendance: 93

April 23: **Norman Armour**, artistic and executive director of Vancouver’s PuSh International Performing Arts Festival discussed how the arts, particularly festivals, can be a central player in expressing and shaping a city’s evolving sense of itself. The PuSh Festival has, for more than ten years, presented contemporary works for the stage and public spaces that explore and reflect upon civic history and identity. A short performance by celebrated performing musical artist, Veda Hille, opened this talk. Attendance: 60

May 14: Founding partner of Winnipeg’s multiple award-winning **5468796 Architecture**, Johanna Hurme, talked about how architects and clients can think beyond the ordinary when designing for the public realm. The difference between good and bad design, according to Ms. Hurme, is long-term vision, intelligence and care—not the price tag. Her talk was preceded by a performance by flamenco guitarist, Baraa Safaa. Attendance: 70

2015 RICHMOND ARTS AWARDS WINNERS

Arts Education: Miyouki Jego

Artistic Innovation: Glen Andersen

Business and the Arts: Michael Audain (Polygon Homes)

Volunteerism: Geok Bin Phua

Youth Arts: Angelica Poversky

Cultural Leadership: Sara Holt

Richmond Arts Awards

Created in partnership with the Richmond Arts Coalition in 2009, the seventh annual Richmond Arts Awards recognized artistic achievements and contributions to the cultural community by 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.

This year, 91 nominations were reviewed and finalists were promoted with website announcements, emails to the arts community and a series of ads in the *Richmond News*. The winners in six categories were announced at the Richmond Arts Awards ceremony in Council Chambers on May 12.

Mayor Brodie presided over the ceremony which was attended by approximately 100 people. Special guests included Professor of Professional Practice, SFU School for Contemporary Arts, Howard Jang; Richmond Arts Coalition President, Marina Szijarto; Solaris String Trio; Lulu Island Strummers; the Richmond Youth Dance Company and two members of the Richmond Youth Media Program, Steven Yau (aka DJ Zazz) and Alex Seleniov.

Arts and Culture Grant Program

The grant has given our performers the financial support to continue performing and additional funding has even allowed the group to take on performances it would not otherwise be able to.

– Tickle Me Pickle Theatre Sports Improv Society

The City’s Arts and Culture Grants Program was implemented in 2011 to strengthen the infrastructure of arts and culture organizations, increase the investment in arts opportunities, show support for the careers of local artists and support a wide range of artistic and cultural activity. The program offers two types of grants: Project Assistance and Operating Assistance to registered non-profit arts and culture organizations.

On February 2, Council approved the distribution of \$105,080. A total of \$62,190 in Operating Assistance was distributed to nine recipients and \$42,890 in Project Assistance went to eleven adjudicated programs and projects. (See **Appendix 1**) Over the summer, each of the grant recipients met individually with staff to discuss the progress of their programs and share feedback about the grant application process.

Minoru Chapel Opera

In 2015, the Minoru Chapel Opera series offered a spring season of three concerts (each with a matinee and evening performance) in the historic Minoru Chapel. On March 4, **Opera Mariposa** made their Minoru Chapel debut with “From Wolfgang to Wagner: Great Moments in Opera” to more than 100 attendees; on April 1, **City Opera Vancouver** presented “Classics of the Musical Stage,” featuring favourites by Gershwin, Porter and Kern, to 110 guests; and on May 6, **Burnaby Lyric Opera** performed highlights from Verdi’s *La Traviata* to 70 opera fans. Due to restoration work being undertaken at Minoru Chapel later in the year, the Fall Minoru Chapel Opera series was not scheduled.



Latin Dance Workshop, Culture Days



Musical Instrument Petting Zoo, Culture Days

CULTURE DAYS BY THE NUMBERS

- 48 participating artists and cultural organizations
- 106 free, interactive public activities
- 6,000 estimated attendees
- 33% of Metro Vancouver activities in Richmond
- 95% of surveyed activity organizers positive about the experience

Culture Days

The seventh annual Culture Days (September 25, 26 & 27, 2015) was another highlight of the year with Richmond continuing to be recognized as a leader in this Canada-wide movement to raise awareness, accessibility, participation and engagement in the arts with free, hands-on and interactive activities. Among the offerings were behind-the-scenes tours of the Gulf of Georgia Cannery and Gateway Theatre; hands-on activities in printmaking, papermaking, Latin dance and digital photography; and a wide range of demos, exhibits and activities with a bee theme to raise awareness and inspire action to improve bee habitats.

In terms of numbers, in 2015, Richmond played host to 48 individual artists and cultural organizations who collectively presented 106 free, interactive public activities over the three-day weekend. This total is raised to 139 if multiple-day activities are accounted for – a 286% increase since Richmond’s first year of participation in 2010. Combined attendance is estimated to be 6,000. Richmond’s involvement represents 33% of the total 323 activities in the Metro Vancouver area, and 17% of the 614 registered activities across the province.

In the national Culture Days “Top Ten” lists, the City of Richmond topped the list of cities with population 50,000-499,999 for largest number of activities, and remains in the top five overall. Richmond was also honoured this year to host the official Culture Days Provincial Launch event at Britannia Shipyards National Historic Site on September 24.

Culture Days provides beneficial professional development opportunities for local artists beyond the experience of organizing a public activity. The national website offers a wide range of how-to’s and peer learnings and the third Culture Days National Congress, held in Edmonton in May, was an occasion for the City to host a free “lunch and learn” for local artists to attend a live webcast of keynote speaker Jean Grand-Maitre, artistic director of Alberta Ballet, and a panel discussion on measuring cultural engagement in the arts. This fully subscribed event was extremely well-received.

Artists and organizations that participate in Culture Days are provided with packages of promotional materials (some provided by the national Culture Days office) including posters, programs, balloons, buttons, tattoos, bookmarks and more.

Feedback from artists and event organizers continues to be excellent; almost all (95%) that responded to the follow-up survey found the event to be a positive experience and would both participate next year and recommend others to join in.

A great way to showcase and promote positive socialization and healthy activity. A 92-year-old man tried Zumba for the first time and he did the high energy workout for half an hour and he enjoyed it so much that he is considering joining the class.

—Minoru Place Activity Centre

Writer-in-Residence

In Fall 2015, Richmond hosted its fourth Writer-in-Residence program at the Richmond Public Library, Richmond Arts Centre and Minoru Place Activity Centre. Playwright, Sally Stubbs, led a series of events in October and November that gave Richmond residents the opportunity to engage with a professional author.

Ms. Stubbs is a celebrated playwright and arts educator, who also directs and loves to clown. Her plays have been produced, presented and studied in Canada as well as South Africa, Sweden and India, in theatres, festivals, secondary and post-secondary classrooms and at international conferences.

The Writer-in-Residence program opened with a public reading, Q&A and launch event on September 25 (as part of Culture Days) where her “Writing Our Dreams” series of free programs for seniors, adults with young children and youth was introduced. During her residency, Sally also offered manuscript consultations for local aspiring authors to have samples of their writing evaluated and discussed one-on-one with her.

The residency concluded with a multi-generational finale performance on November 21 where 26 participants shared writing developed at workshops in the previous weeks to an audience of 53.

One youth rehearsed and read for an older adult who had written her monologue from the perspective of her 17-year-old self ... This same older adult then rehearsed and read another older adult’s monologue because the second woman felt uncomfortable about reading due to her relatively weak English skills. Both were thrilled.

—Sally Stubbs



Main Stage, Richmond Maritime Festival



Cannery Mermaids, Richmond Maritime Festival

Richmond Maritime Festival

The 12th annual Richmond Maritime Festival (and fifth as a multi-faceted, large-scale arts, culture and heritage celebration) at Britannia Shipyards National Historic Site attracted an estimated 40,000 visitors on August 6 & 7. The heritage site was transformed by delightful maritime-themed art installations, roving costumed characters, staged performances featuring local talents and many exhibits and interactive creative activities involving artists and artisan guilds including the Richmond Carvers Society, Steveston Maritime Modelers, Richmond Pottery Club and Richmond Gem and Mineral Society among many other organizations. Local artist, David Axelrod, was selected to create the illustration for the annual promotional campaign. The festival was programmed in partnership with the Richmond Arts Coalition and Britannia Heritage Shipyard Society.



Poet Tasha Receno



Karen Flamenco Dance Co.,
Richmond World Festival



Roco Shichi Taiko,
Richmond World Festival

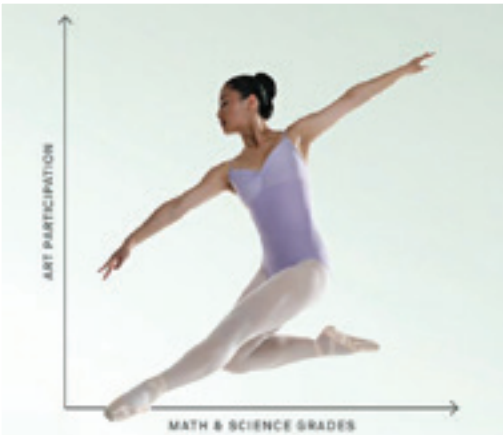
Richmond World Festival 🏠👤📈

The inaugural Richmond World Festival, on September 5 at Minoru Park, was a high-energy international showcase of music, performance, food, sports and arts. Among the plethora of cultural offerings, visitors (an estimated 25,000) enjoyed witty word play at the World of Poetry organized by local poet and 2015 Youth Arts Award-winner, Angelica Poversky; exciting technological media installations at the Your Kontinent Digital Carnival presented by Cinevolution Media Arts Society; Chinese Opera costumes, make-up and performance by Vancouver Cantonese Opera (whose Richmond-based Multicultural Heritage Festival will be merging with the World Festival in 2016); and hands-on creative fun with artist Marina Szijarto, as part of her Harvest Full Moon Project, a four-month residency at City Centre Community Centre (see pages 21 and 25 for more about this project).

In March 2016, the event was named Most Outstanding Event in Canada by the Canadian Event Industry Awards.



Ballerina Iris Chen



How Art Works 💬

In Fall 2015, Arts Services launched a new promotional campaign, How Art Works, with postcards, posters and a website at www.howartworks.ca to raise public awareness about the importance of the arts to vibrant communities. Citing research from a range of sources, the campaign describes the often surprising ways that arts participation impacts health and wellness, quality of life for seniors, cultural empathy, economic impact and academic performance. (See Appendix 2)

The campaign also features photographs of three Richmond residents—ballerina, Iris Chen; singer, Ajaye Jardine and violinist, Shoyao Ma—who, under the direction of 123W creative director, Rob Sweetman (himself a Richmond resident), posed for a series of designs that mimic mathematical graphs.

In 2016, the campaign continues with (bilingual) transit shelter advertising, a fold-out cover for the Parks, Recreation and Culture Guide, a robust social media Instagram campaign and a public contest to create work for the No. 3 Road Canada Line art columns.



Rhonda Wepler



Branscombe House

Branscombe House Artist-in-Residence 🏠👤💬

In 2015, an inaugural Call for Artists was issued for an artist-in-residence to live at the recently restored Branscombe House. The Call attracted 24 proposals from artists hailing from seven countries. A selection of panelists representing the local arts community worked with staff to select celebrated artist, Rhonda Wepler (San Francisco, CA), as the successful applicant.

Throughout 2016, Ms. Wepler will present a range of free public activities, open studios, workshops and exhibitions in exchange for live/work studio space upstairs in this popular heritage building.

Richmond Artist Directory E-list ❤️📈

Since 2009, Arts Services has annually sent dozens of emails throughout the year to Richmond's arts community to keep them informed about City-led opportunities and programs for and of interest to them. The list currently has more than 350 recipients including individual artists and cultural organizations who receive occasional messages to alert them to Artist Calls, funding deadlines, promotional opportunities, professional development workshops and more.



Richmond Art Gallery

Richmond Art Gallery is a nationally recognized municipal gallery known for its diverse array of exhibitions on issues and ideas of importance to our community, featuring Canadian and international artists. Richmond Art Gallery exhibitions, educational programs and events contribute to the growth of a vibrant cultural community in Richmond.

2015 EXHIBITION ATTENDANCE

3,362	Close Listening
4,229	Greg Girard
1,629	ArtRich
5,129	Cameron Cartiere/jasna guy

Exhibitions

The Richmond Art Gallery presented five exhibitions (accompanied by educational programs that illuminated issues underlying the work) in 2015, representing emerging to senior artists from Canada and other countries to bring a range of contemporary issues and practices to this community.

CLOSE LISTENING: ELI BORNOWSKY, JEREMY HOF, MONIQUE MOUTON, JINNY YU January 30–March 29, 2015

Close Listening featured the work of four painters who are reconsidering the possibilities of abstraction with inventive approaches to their material. Collectively, these artists explore the medium of paint through non-traditional techniques while challenging the definition of the act of painting. This exhibition was organized and circulated by the Ottawa Art Gallery and curated by Ola Wlusek.

GREG GIRARD: RICHMOND/KOWLOON

April 18–June 28, 2015

Richmond/Kowloon presented Vancouver-based artist Greg Girard’s photographs documenting Kowloon Walled City (Hong Kong) as well as new photos of Richmond neighbourhoods and residents taken specifically for the exhibition at the invitation of the Gallery. RAG published a 44-page illustrated catalogue with essays by architect Rufina Wu and UBC English Professor Glenn Deer, as well as an interview with Greg Girard by Nan Capogna, who curated the exhibition.



ARTRICH 2015

July 18–August 15, 2015

ArtRich 2015 was a regional juried art exhibition presented in partnership with the Richmond Arts Coalition (RAC). The exhibition provided an opportunity to showcase the arts in our community on a regional level as well as assist artists to gain greater exposure. The more than 150 artworks submitted for consideration and 49 artworks selected included a variety of media from emerging and established artists that explored a broad range of concerns and interests.



CAMERON CARTIERE AND THE CHART COLLECTIVE: FOR ALL IS FOR YOURSELF

JASNA GUY: NOT BY CHANCE ALONE

September 12, 2015–January 3, 2016

Public Art Facilitator and exhibition curator, Cameron Cartiere, and the chART Collective’s *For All Is For Yourself* explored increasing sustainable habitats for bees to counter the alarming decrease in bee numbers. Cartiere’s social practice included working with various Richmond communities to produce handmade seed paper (from recycled office paper) that was then laser cut into

10,000 “bees” to create the Gallery installation. An exhibition brochure with an essay by Cameron Cartiere accompanied the exhibition.

North Vancouver based-artist, jasna guy, created this body of work over three years in response to news of collapsing bee colonies and the subsequent impact this has on a broad variety of ecosystems. Tens of thousands of individually printed images on hundreds of silk tissue sheets represented 30,000 individual honey bees in addition to other related components. At the opening reception, vocal ensemble musica intima performed a new arrangement of English beekeeper Charles Butler’s madrigal, “The Feminine Monarchy” (1609). An exhibition brochure with an essay by exhibition curator Nan Capogna accompanied the exhibition.

I have been bringing my elementary students to the Richmond Art Gallery for fifteen years. The quality of instruction and art materials are far superior to what I can provide in the classroom and I am always impressed by the workshops and instructors. The children learn to appreciate and value the work of contemporary artists, to think critically about exhibits, and also to make connections that go far beyond the “art” itself.

–Leanne Teixeira, Grade 5 Teacher



Jeremy Hof Painting Workshop



Curse of the Livable City panel



Paper-making workshop

Community Outreach and Programs

ARTIST INTERVIEWS ON VIDEO

For each exhibition, the Gallery produces video interviews of the artists talking about their work. In 2015, the Gallery produced four artist interviews:

- Ola Wlusek and Jeremy Hof for *Close Listening*
- Greg Girard for *Richmond/Kowloon*
- jasna guy for *not by chance alone*
- Cameron Cartiere for *For All is For Yourself*

EXHIBITION-RELATED PUBLIC PROGRAMS

During the *Close Listening* exhibition, exhibiting artist Jeremy Hof led a sold out art **workshop on Abstract Painting**. Mr. Hof taught art novices and experienced artists experimental painting techniques, having each participant create up to three abstract paintings in one afternoon. The gallery followed up a few weeks later with a **workshop on Colour** when instructor Melanie Devoy led participants through basic colour mixing exercises to introduce colour theory with hands-on painting techniques.

As part of the exhibition *Greg Girard: Richmond/Kowloon*, the Gallery hosted the **panel, Curse of the Livable City**, a discussion on the changing cityscape led by Facilitator Leslie Van Duzer, Professor and Director at the School of Architecture & Landscape Architecture, UBC. Panelists Greg Girard (photographer), Bing Thom (Principal, Bing Thom Architects), Glenn Deer (Assistant Professor of English and Associate Editor of Canadian Literature, Dept. of English, UBC), and Rufina Wu (architect, AIBC) had a conversation about Richmond as part of Metro Vancouver, and its ranking as one of North America’s most livable cities. A crowd of 65 participated in the discussion about the changing nature of cities, and how Richmond compares to what is happening in other cities around the world. The discussion was also live-tweeted via Bing Thom Associates and the Richmond Art Gallery, to enlarge the conversation to an online audience.

Another event during this exhibition was an **illustrated Artist Talk** by Greg Girard. Co-sponsored by the Contemporary Art Society of Vancouver, this talk introduced 44 art collectors, gallery owners, local photographers, and art lovers to Girard’s extensive photography career. Participants closed the program with questions, many curious about how Mr. Girard’s year spent exploring Richmond compared with his extensive travels to Asia.

During the *Doors Open Richmond* weekend, the Gallery provided **tours** of the *Greg Girard: Richmond/Kowloon* exhibition in English and Mandarin to 45 visitors, as well as a hands-on **paper-making workshop** for 50 visitors of all ages. The paper-making workshop was part of the upcoming fall exhibition, *Cameron Cartiere and the chART Collective: For All is For Yourself*. The seed paper sheets made by participants at the *Doors Open* workshop were die-cut into bee shapes, and made up a larger installation in the gallery of 10,000 bees.

Many programs were scheduled during the jasna guy and Cameron Cartiere exhibitions, including **artist’s talks** and many **workshops**. *Buzzworthy* was

a two-day event held over the Culture Days weekend during which various bee-themed activities were held throughout the Cultural Centre, including artist tours of the exhibition, a button-making workshop with artist jasna guy, pollen microscopy viewings with beekeeper Brian Campbell, a seed-paper making workshop with artists from the chART Collective, gardening workshops with artist Lori Weidenhammer, a bee embroidery demonstration and workshop with artist Heather Talbot, and many others. On December 10, the public was invited to a special event and take away seed paper bees to plant in their own gardens. A **panel discussion, Beeing Part of the Solution**, was moderated by Lesley Douglas, City of Richmond Manager of Environmental Sustainability, and included artists jasna guy and Cameron Cartiere, beekeeper Brian Campbell, scientist Dr. Elizabeth Elle and writer Nancy Holmes. The speakers talked about their bee-related projects and recommended actions we can all take to create a more sustainable environment for bees.

A new project, *For All is For Yourself–RAG Youth Outreach*, was funded by the Richmond Community Foundation. The project brings students and their teachers from three Richmond schools—JN Burnett, Cambie, and McRoberts Secondary Schools—together with professional artists, art facilitators and Gallery staff to share skills, interests and ideas about the collapsing of honeybee colonies. Gallery staff, Cameron Cartiere and the chART Collective shared their work with students and teachers on field trips and in the classroom to help plan an art project that reflects the values of cooperative labour, promotes discussion about wild pollinators and supports an educational model that provides training for community members to take an active role in habitat solutions for bees. In 2015, students participated in a tour of the exhibitions, a seed paper workshop and visited the Bath Slough Pollinator Field. This project will continue in 2016.



Sand Wan



Magical Carpet, Sorour Abdollahi

CITY HALL GALLERIA EXHIBITION 2015

The Richmond Art Gallery helps to organize exhibitions of quality artwork by local artists for display off-site at Richmond City Hall. In 2015, the Gallery presented the following exhibitions:

- Jan 13–Mar 9** Kathleen Gallagher, *Translations of Nature*
- Mar 9–Apr 21** Sorour Abdollahi, *Intersecting Landscapes*
- Apr 21–Jun 16** Sand Wan, *The Passing of Time*
- Jun 17–Oct 7** Focus on Creativity: Works by members of the Richmond Photo Club
- Oct 7–Nov 12** Richmond Society for Community Living

Ongoing Public Programs 🖐️💬

In addition to the many exhibition-based programs offered, the Gallery regularly presents a variety of opportunities for the public to appreciate and learn about art. These programs offer different “entry points” to the exhibitions depending on the visitors’ comfort level and learning style. These programs include:

DROP-IN DRAWING FOR ADULTS

In this on-going monthly program, local artist Tony Yin Tak Chu leads drawing demonstrations, encouraging participants to draw from the artworks in the gallery while learning new drawing techniques. This program is offered to all skill levels, attracting local art lovers looking for a space to socialize while they learn about art and how to draw.



FAMILY SUNDAY

The Family Sunday program remains a popular monthly program averaging 100–160 participants per month, many of whom are regular monthly visitors. *Family Sunday* also provides training and job skills to a team of youth volunteers, who assist in the coordination of the program. The program continues to be sponsored by the RBC Foundation to provide this program free of charge.

ART + TEA + TALK

This free program is a social event for adults and seniors, to come once per exhibition to learn about the current exhibition and discuss ideas about artists and contemporary art. The program encourages a casual discussion with gallery staff and participants, who learn from each other and share what the art means to them.

SCHOOL ART PROGRAM

The Richmond Art Gallery School Art Program introduces students from Preschool to Grade 7 to the world of contemporary art through interactive gallery tours and exhibition-based, hands-on art activities. The Gallery receives annual funding for the School Art Program from TD Bank Group.

In 2015, 124 school tours and workshops were conducted, serving 3,022 students from all over the Lower Mainland, including Richmond, Vancouver, Surrey and Delta. As well, 46 teachers participated in two Pro-Development workshops. Several adult ESL tours were also provided, along with presentations at the Richmond Teachers District Convention.

In 2015, the School Art Program continued its partnership with the UBC Faculty of Education in their Community-based Field Experience program. This program pairs students from the Teacher Education program with community organizations to allow teacher candidates to gain experience outside the traditional classroom. Susanne Chow, a secondary arts teacher candidate was assigned to this program, and gained experience working with children aged 3–12 in a gallery context.

2015 SCHOOL ART PROGRAM
BY THE NUMBERS

- 124 school tours and workshops
- 3,022 students
- 46 teachers at two Pro-D workshops

Partnerships 🏠🖐️💬📈

The Richmond Art Gallery has developed and continues to consolidate relationships with numerous community partners such as the Richmond Women’s Resource Centre (and their Chinese Grandmothers’ group), Richmond School District, City of Richmond Diversity Services, Contemporary Art Society of Vancouver, Richmond Public Library, Richmond Museum, Richmond Public Art Program, Richmond Arts Centre, Richmond Media Lab, Cinevolution Media Arts Society, SUCCESS, Richmond Delta Youth Orchestra, Monte Clark Gallery, Richmond Cares Richmond Gives, City of Richmond Seniors Services and UBC Faculty of Education.

The School Art Program delivers such rich and deep learning opportunities for students of all ages. The professional and very knowledgeable staff offer students the opportunity to explore the styles of a variety of artists in an authentic way. Students are engaged throughout the process from observing, discussing, learning, and exploring in the art gallery as well as in the painters lab. I enjoy attending this program and I think it is a wonderful extension to what is taught in the classroom.

–Karen Sato, Grade 2 Teacher

New partnerships in 2015 include those with Capture Photography Festival, Richmond Arts Coalition, Bing Thom Architects, UBC SALA, The Bee School, Richmond School District Green teams, COR Environmental Sustainability Department, Richmond Food Security Society, Earthwise Society, Feed the Bees, Lulu Island Honey, Tugwell Creek Honey Farm & Meadery, Richmond Green Ambassadors, Gallery Jones, Players Wanted Games & Collectibles and the West Vancouver Museum.

In 2015, the Richmond Art Gallery collaborated with Richmond Public Art and CARFAC BC on **Art at Work**, a series of professional development workshops for artists. The first of these workshops was held in October, and focused on providing artists with the necessary components of applying for public art projects. The series continues in 2016.

These partnerships allow the Gallery to create mutually beneficial opportunities for audience crossover, resource sharing and cooperative programming and help to extend the understanding of art’s significance in everyday life.

Funding 🏠🖐️📈

The Gallery benefits from financial and in-kind support of many organizations. In 2015, the Gallery received cash and in-kind assistance from three levels of government, large and small businesses, private foundations and individuals.



Plates for Local Palates, Ariel Kirk-Gushowaty, No. 3 Road Art Column

Richmond Public Art Program

RICHMOND PUBLIC ART PROGRAM TO-DATE:

- 154 Total number of artworks in collection
- 111 Permanent artwork installations
- 43 Temporary installations (39 no longer on display)
- 115 Total number of permanent and temporary artworks currently on display

The Richmond Public Art Program provides a means for including art in creating a culturally rich environment for a vibrant, healthy and sustainable city. Public art is incorporated into civic and private development projects to spark community participation and civic pride in the building of our public spaces. In addition to permanent and temporary artworks, the Public Art Program offers a stimulating program of educational and community engagement events to increase public awareness of the arts and encourage public dialogue about art and issues of interest and concern to Richmond residents.

Civic Public Art Program 🖐️💬

In 2015, public art was commissioned by the City and installed at community centres, parks, civic buildings and along city sidewalks. These included:



MOTIF OF ONE AND MANY

by Rebecca Bayers

City Centre Community Centre

Motif of One and Many explores the idea of community as a creation that is greater than the sum of its parts. A colourful grid of triangles covers the floor of this community centre's second floor lobby, representing individuals and groups who have come together to form new relationships. Research conducted at the Richmond Archives inspired the layout that echoes ancient motifs and acknowledges the city's cultural diversity. The word *motif* commonly refers to a repeated theme or pattern and is a term used in visual arts, textile arts and folklore. The origin of the word also refers to a *motive*, as in "that which inwardly moves a person."



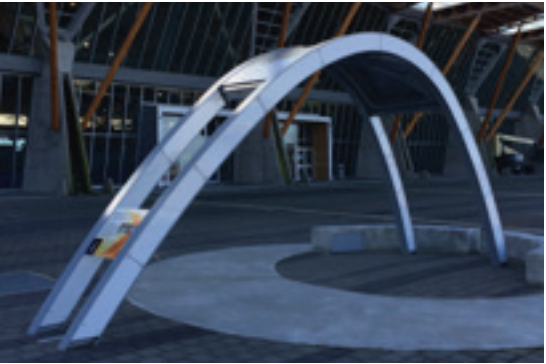
LULU SWEET: ISLAND

by Deanne Achong and Faith Moosang

Britannia Shipyards National Historic Site

Lulu Suite is a public art project that looks at the history of Richmond through a combination of historical and contemporary lenses. Artists, Deanne Achong and Faith Moosang, have created three narrative-based projects that explore questions of technology, public space and the means in which history is collected, archived and shared. The third work, *Lulu Sweet: Island*, which premiered at the 2014 Your Kontinent International Film Festival, was re-installed in the Murakami Boatworks at

Britannia Shipyards for Ships to Shore, June 28 – July 1, 2015. The imagery and sounds invite the audience to consider the beauty of the industrial presence rooted to the site by the hypnotic flow of the river. In 2016, the film will be permanently installed as part of the Seine Net Loft's new interactive exhibits.



STAR ARC

by Danna De Groot, W3 Design

Richmond Olympic Oval

The Richmond Olympic Experience Cauldron, *Star Arc*, marks the end of the exterior exhibit experience, "Torch Route Across the Nation," and symbolizes the intangible elements of the Olympic Games: the unifying, eternal light of the flame (represented in LED lighting) and the sense of "being a part of something bigger" that the Olympic Games evoke. *Star Arc* is a distinctly transformative point in what is designed to be a "journey of transformation" for the visitor.

LULU, A MEMORY GARDEN

by Jacqueline Metz and Nancy Chew

Paulik Gardens Neighbourhood Park

A centrepiece of large etched black stone paver slabs, placed in a radial pattern, incorporates the drawings of horticultural images created by Palmer Senior Secondary art students. The work represents a story about the park's past and about people's experiences of gardens.



CURRENT II

by Andrea Sirois

Alexandra District Energy Utility Building

Current II, completed in November 2015 to expand on the work of *Current* (2013), continues the theme of water as energy. Photographic images depict water flowing around the building's exterior, symbolizing the geothermal energy that is literally flowing below Richmond's first geothermal energy facility.

City Utility Cabinet Wrap Program

On March 23, 2015, Council endorsed the implementation program for integrating artwork on City of Richmond utility boxes. The Public Art Program, in partnership with Engineering and Public Works and the Transportation Department, installed eight new art wraps around Richmond in 2015. These included:



THE SOCKEYE SPECIAL - THE INTERURBAN TRAM

by David Pacholko

Van Horne Sanitary Lift Station

The artist researched the Vancouver and Lulu Island Railway, affectionately known as The Sockeye Special, which ran from 1902 to 1958. Combining images from Richmond Archives and a colourful BCER logo, he pays tribute to the industries that flourished during this time, and helped shape Richmond then and today.

DELTA TREES

by Ross Munro

Odlin West Sanitary Lift Station kiosk

This artwork depicts birch and shore pine trees, the typical dominant species of the original bog landscape of the Fraser River Delta. The mountains beyond the trees indicate we are looking to the north and provide an orientation point, just as they do for the people of Richmond.

ISLAND CITY

by Mir Agol

Richmond Centre Sanitary Lift Station kiosk

This wrap features retouched archival images of various modes of transportation that have served Richmond, from horse drawn carts to tall ships to air planes.



HOP ON THE TRAIN

CANNERY GIRLS

STEVESTON MEAT MARKET

DOCKSIDE

DOWNTOWN STEVESTON

by Andrew Briggs

Traffic control boxes at No. 1 Road and Moncton Street in Steveston Village and the No. 1 Road South Drainage Pump Station.

For these five works, the artist combined archival images of local architecture, streetscapes, landscapes, as well as abstract forms to create a juxtaposition of time and place.

In addition, several civic public art projects were commissioned in 2015, and are scheduled for installation in 2016–2017 (see **Appendix 3**).

Community Public Art Program

THE HARVEST FULL MOON PROJECT

For four months, community artist Marina Szijarto offered an exciting range of free workshops and open studio drop-in sessions at the new City Centre Community Centre. The arts and environment-based programs involving food, lantern-making and more, culminated in the Harvest Full Moon Procession and Celebration on September 26, 2015.



PIANOS ON THE STREET 2015

The second annual program built bridges and delighted passers-by throughout the community by bringing pianos to open-air locations in Minoru Plaza, Britannia Heritage Shipyards site and the Terra Nova Rural Park, from July through September 2015. Each piano was decorated by a local arts group to represent the flavour of the community where it was situated and the public was invited to play the instruments and upload media of themselves to a dedicated website, www.supportpiano.com. This project was sponsored by Pacey's Pianos.

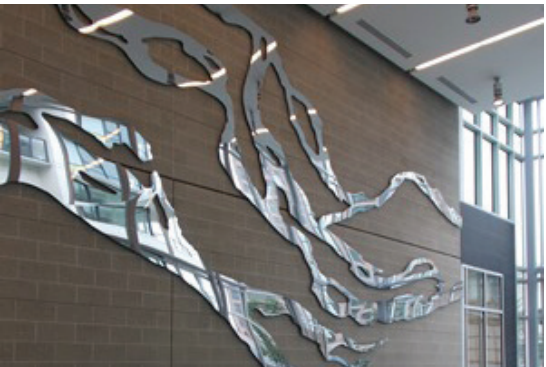


POLLINATOR PASTURE

This multi-faceted project coordinated by an Emily Carr University research team, creates environmental-based artworks to benefit a multitude of pollinators in the agricultural communities of Kelowna and Richmond. The Richmond component, located in Bath Slough and Bridgeport Industrial Park, is a collaborative effort with Environmental Sustainability, Parks and Public Art with the City and external partners BC Hydro, Westcoast Seeds and VanCity. The development of an enhanced demonstration pasture for pollinators within the park and Bath Slough will demonstrate how public art can be used as a catalyst for ecological change.

Private Development Public Art Program

Through the development applications process, private developers continued to provide high quality public art to enrich the public realm. In 2015, the following projects were completed:



EBB & FLOW

by Jacqueline Metz and Nancy Chew

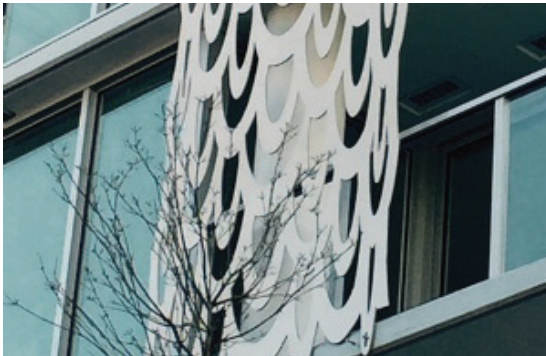
Carol Tong Centre

This work is inspired by the idea that every place is made up of various communities, intersecting in diverse ways like lines of energy and that each individual is similarly made up of varied histories, experiences, and interests: the strands of our identity. Located at the home of the new City Centre Community Centre, this artwork is a “snapshot”, or moment in time, of a braided river. Such rivers come together, separate, change form and pattern as a metaphor for shifting, overlapping, interweaving communities, and for the constant flux of society and culture. The work was commissioned by Canada Sunrise Development Corp.



TANGO
by Javier Campos and Elspeth Pratt
Kiwanis Towers

In contrast to the demands of habitation and construction logic of buildings that surround it, *tango* proposes deceptively simple sculptural gestures. With simple and elegant sculptural shapes, three forms of wood, steel and concrete stand locked in an intimate dance. Their forms allude to an individuality of material that resists their industrialization in the construction industry. This work was commissioned by Polygon Homes.



SEQUENCE
by Eliza Au and Nick Santillan
Harmony building

This work is a geometric pattern based on fish scales, carved by water-jet into aluminum screens and placed along the full height of the building. The repeated pattern and lustrous surface convey a sense of rhythm, movement, and flexibility, much like a fish moving in water. The overall design also alludes to the flow of water and the role streams and rivers play in connecting communities of people and distinct land regions. The work was commissioned by Townline Ventures.

Several private development public art projects were commissioned in 2015, and are scheduled for installation in 2016–2017 (see **Appendix 3**).

Unique Projects 🏠👉💬



NO.3 ROAD ART COLUMNS
Exhibition 9: Small Monuments to Food

Small Monuments to Food examines how Richmond’s diversity of cultures—including social, economic and political histories—have influenced the way we think, produce, consume, protect and build community and identity around food. The project was created in collaboration with the City’s Environmental Sustainability section and the Sharing Farm. Original artworks created for Part 1 of the project, on display through November 2015, included *Where do you think food comes from?* by artist Dawn Lo, *An Unfamiliar Place* by Patty Tseng and *Plates for Local Palates* by Ariel Kirk-Gushowaty. Part 2, installed in December 2015, features the work of three local artists, and includes *The Farm*, *The Market*, *The Table*, *The End* by Eric Button, *Seed Bank* by Catherine Chan and *When You Eat Today, Thank a Farmer* by Deborah Koenker.

CANADA LINE TERMINUS PLINTH PROJECT
Cluster by Carlyn Yandle remained on display throughout most of 2015. In November 2015, the brightly coloured metal artwork was removed for recycling to make way for the next temporary plinth project, *Skydam* by Nathan Lee, installed in early 2016.

Public Art Education and Engagement Program 📍👉💬



PECHAKUCHA NIGHT RICHMOND

Ten speakers from a variety of different professions and backgrounds presented their stories at each of the four free *PechaKucha Night Richmond* events in 2015. The presentations reflected on influential experiences and the changes that these have brought about in fields ranging from design and art to social inclusion, environmental activism and entrepreneurship. PechaKucha is a presentation format where speakers present 20 images and tell their stories as the photos automatically advance every 20 seconds.

- **Volume 9: Feed the Soul**
March 26, 2015, Melville Centre for Dialogue at KPU Richmond Campus
Hosted and produced by second year students in the Graphic Design for Marketing Program at Kwantlen Polytechnic University Richmond Campus, this event featured ten speakers on a wide range of subjects. Attendance: 125.
- **Volume 10: Wonders of Wood**
May 8, 2015, Chinese Bunkhouse, Britannia Heritage Shipyards
Ten creative and specialized practitioners in architecture, instrument-making, art and design and environment shared their creative process of envisioning wood in unique ways. Attendance: 60
- **Volume 11: Gateways: Culture in Translation**
August 5, 2015, Richmond Cultural Centre Performance Hall
Presented in partnership with Gateway Theatre, this event explored what happens when arts and culture are experienced in different languages. Attendance: 45
- **Volume 12: Word, Words, Words**
Oct 1, 2015, Richmond Public Library Brighthouse Branch Living Room
Presented in partnership with the Richmond Public Library, this event featured ten people who work with words including a poet, a novelist and a newspaper publisher. Attendance: 35

CULTURE DAYS PUBLIC ART BUS TOURS

Participants of all ages joined Public Art Planner Eric Fiss and special guest artists Deanne Achong and Faith Moosang for two fully subscribed bus tours exploring some of Richmond’s newest artworks.

ART AT WORK

Presented in partnership with the Canadian Artists Representation/Front des artistes canadiens (CARFAC) and the Richmond Art Gallery, this series of professional development workshops and events is designed to provide artists with the knowledge and skills required for pursuing a professional arts practice in the fields of public art, visual art and community arts. Workshops and events for the fall series were free, with additional programming planned for spring of 2016.



Richmond Maritime Festival



Cluster, Carlyn Yandle



Vancouver Cantonese Opera, Richmond World Festival



Richmond World Festival



Harvest Full Moon Project

It was the first time I really felt connected with the community. I met some people that seemed like we were friends for a long time but we had never met. It was so fun and inspiring. I felt what community meant, connected with people from all different age groups. I hope that there will be more opportunities like this. Thanks.

—Lina Zhuo (on the Harvest Full Moon Project)



Chinese Painting demo, Culture Days



Richmond Arts Awards



Harvest Full Moon Project

I can't tell you how useful your course has been in helping me toward public art projects. I currently have a temporary installation in the works in a Vancouver park that I'm crossing my fingers will get the go-ahead, but I would not even be in this position had I not learned the basics on pulling a proposal together.

—Carlyn Yandle, artist



Burnaby Lyric Opera, Minoru Chapel Opera

ALEXANDRA ROAD PUBLIC ART PLAN / PUBLIC ART COLLECTIVE VIDEO

Under the direction of Dr. Cameron Cartiere, Associate Professor at Emily Carr University of Art + Design (ECUAD) and Amit Sandhu, General Manager, Am-Pri Group, ECUAD students developed and presented the *Alexandra Road Public Art Plan* to City staff representing Planning, Environmental Sustainability, Parks, Public Art and Archives on April 1, 2015. The collaboration was documented in a film produced by Sharad Kharé with support from Am-Pri Developments, ECUAD, Stantec and the City of Richmond. The video, *The Public Art Collective*, is available for viewing online through Vimeo at vimeo.com/159390304. The Alexandra Road Public Art Plan was used to guide the artist selection process for the private development at 9580 Alexandra Road.

2015 RPAAC MEMBERS:

- Aderyn Davies, Chair
- Sandra Cohen, Vice Chair
- Chris Charlebois
- Simone Guo
- Valerie Jones
- Shawne Macilntyre
- Victoria Padilla
- Willa Walsh
- Xuedong Zhao
- Councillor Carol Day, Council Liaison

Richmond Public Art Advisory Committee 

The Richmond Public Art Advisory Committee (RPAAC) is a Council-appointed voluntary advisory committee that provides input on public art policy, planning, education and promotion. At monthly meetings, members received presentations on new civic, private development and community project proposals and provided feedback and recommendations. Updates on discussions on public art for upcoming development were provided by the Committee’s appointee to the Advisory Design Panel, Xuedong Zhao.

In 2015, the Committee held three facilitated workshops to review the Administrative Procedures Manual and recommended updates to improve clarity and administration of the Public Art Program.

AS A PROFESSIONAL ARTIST
MYSELF—PURSUING ALL
AVENUES TO MAKE A LIVING
FROM THAT ALONE—I ADMIRE
WHAT THE CITY OF RICHMOND IS
DOING TO SUPPORT INDIVIDUAL
ARTISTS IN PARTICULAR.
—Mary Lunne Jewell, artist



Children's Arts Festival

Richmond Arts Centre

The Richmond Arts Centre provides high calibre arts experiences that are accessible, relevant and professionally delivered.

The Arts Centre focusses on advancing arts education in the general public while supporting artists and arts organizations in creating products and providing a creative outlet for the community. In addition to hosting significant events such as the Children's Arts Festival, the Centre is home to ten Resident Art Groups who, collectively, occupied 4,000+ hours in the studios.

In order to ensure safe and professional spaces are available for the public, the Arts Centre has undergone several facility upgrades in the recent past including the pottery, painting and performing arts studios. In 2015, the process for a major upgrade of the lapidary studio was initiated and is slated for completion in 2016.

Arts Education Programs

The Richmond Arts Centre continues to develop and diversify its Arts Education offerings to meet the growing community demand for high quality arts education. The programs developed and offered in 2015 ensured the community continued to have access to a strong base of introductory or beginner arts education while increasing its access to higher-level learning opportunities. In 2015, the Arts Centre introduced beginner-level classes in sculpture, acting, improv and violin, as well as advanced programs in comics and cartooning, pottery, adult ballet and studio art for youth and adults.

The year-round dance program continues to be in high demand with 558 students in 2015 and another 124 waitlisted. In addition to classes in ballet, tap, jazz, hip hop and musical theatre, the Arts Centre hosts two audition-based dance groups: the 20-member Richmond Youth Dance Company and multi-generational Richmond Dance Company (for ages 19-70+ years).



Amy Duval, Summer Art Student



Youth Ballet Class

In 2015, there were several public presentations to showcase the talents of Arts Centre students:

“ATLANTIS: LIFE AFTER” SCHOOL YEAR DANCE RECITAL

On June 13, 2015, 600 dancers presented works in ballet, tap, jazz, hip hop and musical theatre to an audience of 1,398 over three performances at the Gateway Theatre.

“SEVEN” RICHMOND YOUTH DANCE COMPANY SHOWCASE

On Mar 6–8, 2015, approximately 220 people enjoyed performances choreographed by senior instructor Miyouki Jego and guest artist Troy McLaughlin. Live music was provided by the Richmond Delta Youth Orchestra with original compositions by Stephen Robb.

FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE

The Richmond Dance Company performed with the Richmond Youth Dance Company at the Minoru Place Activity Centre on November 27, 2015, performing works in ballet and contemporary dance, as well as inviting the audience to participate and try some ballet techniques.

PIANO RECITALS

Filling the Performance Hall in December and June with beautiful music, piano students performed for approximately 230 audience members and participants to celebrate their achievements.

STUDENT ART SHOWCASE

From June 2–15, work by visual artists filled the upper rotunda as well as the downstairs hallway of the Cultural Centre to much positive feedback from visitors.

ARTS EDUCATION PROGRAMS BY THE NUMBERS:

- 538 courses
- 4,654 registered students
- 653 waitlisted
- 30 professional instructors

10 RESIDENT ART GROUPS AT THE RICHMOND ARTS CENTRE

- Richmond Artists’ Guild
- Cathay Photographic Society
- Richmond Chinese Calligraphy and Painting Club
- Richmond Gem and Mineral Society
- Richmond Photo Club
- Richmond Potters’ Club
- Richmond Reelers Scottish Country Dancing
- Richmond Weavers and Spinners Society
- Riverside Arts Circle
- Textile Arts Guild of Richmond

Community Outreach

RESIDENT ART GROUPS

The Richmond Arts Centre is home to some of the city’s most established community arts organizations. Throughout the year, these groups provide workshops and demonstrations to their members as well as participate in community events such as Culture Days. Signature group events include the Resident Art Group Showcase, Potters Club Winter and Spring sales as well as the Richmond Gem and Mineral Society art markets.

ART TRUCK

In 2015, the Art Truck continued to serve the community through a range of programs. These included the after-school Intergenerational Art Program which, in partnership with Minoru Place Activity Centre and City Centre Community Centre, connected 90 students from Samuel Brighthouse, General Currie and William Cook elementary schools to work with 45 creative seniors.

The Summer Art Truck reaches community members with barriers to accessing regular Arts Centre programs. In 2015, the free programs continued through partnerships with the Richmond Centre for Disability, Richmond Public Library and School District #38.

The Art Truck also provided activities at community events such as Ships to Shore, City Centre Movie Night and Pianos on the Street.

COMMUNITY ART EXHIBITIONS

The Richmond Arts Centre leads the selection of local artist exhibitions at the Richmond Cultural Centre, Gateway Theatre and Thompson Community Centre. In 2015, there were exhibitions by the Riverside Arts Circle, Richmond Photo Club, Cathy Kluthe, Jian Jun An, Jean Garnett, Meredith Aitken, Vanessa Lam, Jeff Wilson and art students from London-Steveston Secondary School.

I DANCED AND LAUGHED WITH THE PEOPLE I KNOW. IT MADE ME FEEL LIKE PART OF SOMETHING.

—Student, General Currie Outreach program



Special Events

CULTURE DAYS

The Arts Centre hosted several free drop-in opportunities over the Culture Days weekend in 2015 including a bee windsock workshop presented in partnership with the Richmond Art Gallery, banner design workshop in conjunction with the City’s banner design contest and Resident Art Group showcase with hands-on demos and activities in pottery, weaving, textiles, painting and photography. The Media Lab’s Richmond Youth Media Program also hosted a “Be a Bee” open house event. The Cultural Centre also offers space free of charge to community artists and arts groups during Culture Days.

CHILDREN’S ARTS FESTIVAL

This popular event, presented in partnership with the Library and Minoru Place Activity Centre, was substantially expanded on Minoru Plaza with event tents and roving entertainers. On Family Day, February 9, an estimated 2,950 people visited. Through the following week, 2,554 school children took part in dozens of hands-on workshops led by professional artists. Another 1,000 were served through school outreach programs. Festival highlights included author/artist Barbara Reid and performances by the world renowned Beijing Shadow Play Art Troupe.

ART ABOUT FINN SLOUGH

From April 9–12, 2015, the 16th annual art exhibition featured work by 58 artists representing photography, painting, and ceramics. The show was viewed by more than 400 visitors including 100 people who attended a talk by Councillor Harold Steves at the opening night celebration.

GRAND PLIÉ

In celebration of International Dance Day, April 29, 2015, 50 community members of all ages joined a free mini ballet barre class led by senior dance instructor, Miyouki Jego, on Minoru Plaza. The event promoted the many benefits of dance.

TIBETAN SINGING BOWLS CONCERT

On May 14, 2015, 68 attended an intimate concert at the Performance Hall featuring the ancient sounds of Tibetan Singing Bowls under the direction of Megha Shakya, from Kathmandu, Nepal.

MULTICULTURAL HERITAGE FESTIVAL

An estimated audience of 2,000 enjoyed two days of performances on June 27 and 28 at the Richmond Cultural Centre. Presented in partnership with Vancouver Cantonese Opera, Minoru Plaza was animated with music and dance from Chinese, English, Scottish, Indian, Italian, Thai, Romani, Russian and Ukrainian cultures.

Community Partners ❤️👤📈

In 2015, the Arts Centre partnered with the following community organizations and city departments to increase the community's access to arts program opportunities: City Centre Community Centre, Thompson Community Centre, Gateway Theatre, nine Resident Art Groups of the Richmond Arts Centre, Vancouver Cantonese Opera Society, City of Richmond Parks Department, Richmond Centre for Disability, Richmond Public Library, Richmond Delta Youth Orchestra, Richmond Public Health, School District #38, Byte Camp Education Society, Richmond Art Gallery and Minoru Place Activity Centre





Media Lab/Cinevolution Media Society Seniors Week Participants

Richmond Media Lab

Located in the Richmond Cultural Centre and operated in conjunction with the Richmond Arts Centre, the Media Lab is designed to increase technology literacy, accessibility and creativity in our community, particularly among youth. Media Lab participants are taught skills and techniques for applying media and computer technology towards artistic activities and practical marketable skills.

The Media Lab is also home to partner professional company, Cinevolution Media Arts Society which uses the Lab as a hub for events such as the Your Kontinent festival and Media Café series.

Programs

MEDIA ARTS EDUCATION COURSES

In 2015, 128 students took classes in a range of topics from Acting on Camera to Build a Website.

This program shows me more information about my interest and future.

Richmond Youth Media Program (RYMP) member

RICHMOND YOUTH MEDIA PROGRAM (RYMP)

The Media Lab’s signature program continued to flourish with youth members learning marketable skills and receiving mentorship and volunteer opportunities. A total of 79 program members and volunteers spent over 3,000 hours in the Media Lab and at community outreach events in 2015. On May 5, three RYMP members won Outstanding Youth Awards at the U-ROC Awards. Members also worked with Youth Services staff to create an original banner design that was displayed in community centres throughout Richmond.

YOUTH “TEST DRIVE” PROGRAM

A new weekly drop-in for youth called “Test Drive” launched in the fall. With a strong focus on animation and digital design, this drop-in has been designed to complement animation and game design classes offered in the Media Lab.

SPECIAL SERIES: MARGARET DRAGU WORKSHOPS

Presented by Cinevolution, professional artist Margaret Dragu hosted a series of intergenerational writing workshops including members of the Richmond Youth Media Program. The focus was on the sharing of wisdom.

Community Outreach

THE KNOWLEDGE ZONE (RICHMOND COMMUNITY ACCESS INITIATIVE)

In partnership with Richmond Library and Richmond Drop-in Centre at St. Alban’s, the Media Lab offered a workshop series for new computer users designed to increase knowledge and confidence for eight adults.

RICHMOND RECOVERY DAY PROGRAM

In partnership with Richmond Addiction Services, the Media Lab provided skill development sessions to students participating in the new Richmond Recovery Day Program. This program is designed for youth/students who are entering into recovery or struggling to stay in recovery from substance use/misuse and mental illness. Participants spend one afternoon per week developing media arts skills relevant to their interests, as part of a personalized recovery program that includes counselling, support groups, and recreation.

HORIZONS BOYS GROUP

In partnership with Richmond School District 38, the Media Lab hosted a series of workshops in January and February 2015 for an after-school program from Horizons. Six youth and one school staff member learned animation skills and produced a short video.

Services

VIDEO CREATION

Media Lab staff produced a number of videos to highlight City programs and activities including pieces for the 2014 Arts Update, Japanese Hospital and Wellness Strategy. In collaboration with Richmond Youth Media Program members, the Media Lab also created a Public Service Announcement for the federal election and a video to encourage people to stand up against bullying in recognition of Pink Shirt Day. RYMP youth also produced, with a professional filmmaker, a live video simulcast of the *Richmond Remembers* Remembrance Day ceremony.

I voted today thanks to you... You really inspired me to want to care.

–RYMP member to Media Lab staff

YOUTH DJ PERFORMERS

In 2015, youth DJ performers from the Media Lab entertained audiences at the Kaleidoscope Skills Program Graduation Gala, City Centre Community Centre Launch, Thin Ice at Minoru Arenas, Youth Week at Watermania, U-Roc Awards and many other local events.



Mr. Jason Ko, Viva Pharmaceuticals, and Mayor Malcolm Brodie, 2015

Partners and Funders ❤️📈

In 2015, the Media Lab welcomed the support of new presenting sponsor Viva Pharmaceuticals Ltd. as well as the ongoing support of Vancouver Coastal Health’s SMART Fund grant and one-time funding from the TELUS Community Board through the Media Lab’s partnership with Richmond Addictions Services Society.

In addition to the programming partnerships listed above, the Richmond Media Lab continues to develop relationships with service agencies across the region. Members of the Richmond Youth Media Program have been referred to employment, volunteer and workshop opportunities through the Richmond Community Services Advisory Committee, Kaleidoscope Youth Skills Link Program, Richmond Youth Dance Company, BC Poverty Reduction Coalition, Urban Ink Productions, Frames Film Project, Alpha Education, YouthinBC.com, B.L.U.S.H. (Bold Learning for Understanding Sexual Health), and the Richmond Youth Service Agency.



Richmond Youth Media Program participant



The Wizard of Oz (photo: David Cooper)

Gateway Theatre

Gateway Theatre is Richmond’s only live professional theatre. The cornerstone of programming is the Signature Series, a six-play professionally produced theatre series on the MainStage and in Studio B. In 2015, the Gateway Theatre presented the second annual Pacific Festival featuring contemporary theatre in Cantonese and Mandarin. Gateway also houses a play development program and a year-long Academy for the Performing Arts with classes for ages six to 18. The operations support vibrant volunteer, rentals and community outreach programs.

Professional Theatre Programming

SIGNATURE SERIES

The Gateway Theatre 2015 Signature Series featured comedy, drama, and music and welcomed some of the most talented artists from the Lower Mainland and across Canada.

Valley Song

MainStage, February 5–21, 2015

Gateway launched the 2015 season with Artistic Director, Giovanni Sy, directing David Adams and Sereana Malani in *Valley Song*. This Athol Fugard play tells the touching tale of a young girl dreaming of becoming a singer in post-Apartheid South Africa.

Miss Caledonia

Studio B, March 5–14, 2015

Set in rural Ontario in the 1950s, the one-woman show, *Miss Caledonia*, tells the story of Peggy Douglas, a teenager desperately trying to escape her father’s farm by winning a series of local beauty pageants. Audiences were delighted by Melody Douglas’s performance which included playing dozens of characters and baton twirling.



Opening Night Reception, *Wizard of Oz* (photo: Grace Chin)



(From left) David Adams and Sereana Malani, *Valley Song* (photo: David Cooper)

Rodgers and Hammerstein: Out of a Dream

MainStage, April 9–25, 2015

Conceived and directed by Peter Jorgensen, *Out of a Dream* was a brand new revue of some of the best-loved (and the lesser known) songs written by the legendary team of Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II. The revue incorporated songs from *Oklahoma!*, *Carousel*, *The King and I*, *South Pacific* and *The Sound of Music* among others.

For the Pleasure of Seeing Her Again

Studio B, October 8–24, 2015

Full Circle: First Nations Performance staged *For the Pleasure of Seeing Her Again* by iconic Quebec playwright, Michel Tremblay. Margo Kane and Kevin Loring starred in this moving and funny autobiographical tribute to the playwright’s late mother.

...didn’t see that coming

Studio B, November 12–21, 2015

Beverley Elliott—a talented actress, singer, and one of the stars of ABC Television’s *Once Upon a Time*—performed her one-woman show ... *didn’t see that coming* based on her own life. Studio B was converted into a cabaret space to host this unique evening of music and storytelling.

Absolutely loved this production [of *The Wizard of Oz*]. One of the best musicals I’ve seen at the Gateway in the last 10+ years...A must see!

–Signature Series Audience Member

The Wizard of Oz

MainStage, December 10, 2015–January 3, 2016

Gateway’s final show of 2015 was the annual holiday musical: a magical version of *The Wizard of Oz*. Helmed by Barbara Tomasic (director of 2014’s hit musical *Crazy For You*), the show delighted audiences of all ages. A cast of 25 featured veteran actors, emerging artists and an ensemble of child performers (including many students from the Gateway Academy.)

PACIFIC FESTIVAL

In September 2015, Gateway proudly presented the 2nd Annual Pacific Festival. This edition featured more outstanding drama performed in Cantonese with English surtitles. Attendance in 2015 surpassed all projections; the final production sold out its entire three-show run.

The Will to Build

Studio B, September 3-4, 2015

The Festival opened with the return of Theatre du Pif, one of Hong Kong’s leading theatre companies performing their verbatim play, *The Will to Build*, which examined the relentless cycle of construction and destruction in Hong Kong real estate.

Nine Doesn’t Follow Eight

Studio B September 11–12, 2015

For the first time in the Festival series, Gateway welcomed a local company to perform: Hong Kong Exile, a Vancouver-based experimental theatre company, which held two open rehearsals of their play-in-progress, *Nine Doesn’t Follow Eight*.

Cook Your Life / MeChat

MainStage, September 17–19, 2015

This double bill of one-person shows provided unique perspectives on modern urban life. In *Cook Your Life*, writer/performer MayMay Chan literally cooked on stage in this play about relationships. In *MeChat*, writer/performer Eric Tang explored the loneliness and alienation of today’s digital world.

Tuesdays with Morrie

MainStage, September 24–26, 2015

This Cantonese translation of the play based on Mitch Albom’s novella featured the legendary Hong Kong actor Chung King Fai. Due in part to Dr. Chung’s massive popularity, *Tuesdays With Morrie* sold out its run. The production was very well-received; many of the patrons were moved to tears.



Opening Night for *The Pleasure of Seeing Her Again* (photo: Grace Chin)



Gateway Academy Playwriting Camp (photo: Natasha Zacher)



Gateway Academy Musical Theatre (photo: David Cooper)

Education Programs   

Gateway is a community. It’s a place where friends are made and kept. It’s a place of education and inspiration.

–Academy Student

GATEWAY ACADEMY FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

The Academy continued its after school classes and summer camps in musical theatre, acting, speech, singing and playwriting for youth aged 6–18. Annually, the program reaches maximum capacity with over 200 students enrolled in approximately 18 classes and camps.

In the spring and summer of 2015, the Academy presented three productions. In April, *Schoolhouse* by Richmond playwright Leanna Brodie, and *Legally Blonde Jr* by Laurence O’Keefe, Nell Benjamin, and Heather Hach, were performed by the C: Performance level students (ages 13–18) in Studio B. The

Musical Theatre Camp students (ages 8–13) performed *How to Eat like a Child* by Delia Ephron, John Forster and Judith Kahan in July 2015 on the MainStage. These productions were supported by six emerging and/or student artists making up the creative teams for these productions. Playwriting students (ages 10–13) wrote scripts that were performed by professional actors at the Academy’s SceneFirst Jr. in April. Four volunteer senior students supported summer camps as well.

The Academy Bursary Program subsidised the tuition of nine students from families experiencing temporary financial hardship. Five students who exemplified Academy core values of Courage, Creativity and Connection in the 2014/15 season, were provided with scholarships.

RBC OUTREACH PROGRAM

Four times a year, secondary school theatre students are invited for a day to study a play on the MainStage. On the day of technical dress rehearsal, students participate in presentations and discussions with Gateway’s creative team – participating in backstage tours with production and stage management teams, watching a portion of the technical dress rehearsal, speaking with administrative staff about their roles and responsibilities – and then return to see the show later in the run. The students report back about their experience.

Artistic Development ❤️

SCENEFIRST AND PLAY DEVELOPMENT

In March, Gateway hosted three public workshops as part of its SceneFirst reading series. Meghan Gardiner's *Gross Misconduct*, Sherry MacDonald's *The Sleep of Reason*, and Giovanni Sy's *Nine Dragon*. All received public readings and dramaturgical support.

In July, Gateway hosted a unique reading series called A Yee-kend at Gateway. On July 18, Toronto playwright, David Yee (the 2015 recipient of the Governor General's Literary Award) read excerpts from his impressive body of work. The next day, actors read New York playwright Lauren Yee's play, *King of the Yees*. Lauren also led playwriting workshops with Asian-Canadian writers.

PACIFIC FESTIVAL ARTISTS' PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

As part of the Pacific Festival in September, Gateway hosted a professional development workshop for Mandarin-speaking actors. The week-long workshop culminated in a reading of David Henry Hwang's play *Chinglish* performed in English and Mandarin (with English surtitles.)

MENTORSHIPS

Gateway's mentorship programs offers emerging artists unique learning opportunities and experiences. In *The Wizard of Oz*, 23 amateur actors were cast in ensemble roles to perform alongside two professional artists and ten professional musicians. These emerging artists were able to hone their skills while performing in a large-scale musical with full production values. The Academy also hires emerging designers to develop their skills on a full production. In 2015, six creative team members joined the program. As well, five senior students volunteered as class assistants, taking on new responsibilities under the guidance of Academy faculty.

ENGLISH IS MY FIRST
LANGUAGE AND I ENJOYED
THE PLAY JUST AS MUCH AS
THE CANTONESE AUDIENCE.

—Pacific Festival Audience Member

Community Engagement ❤️🏠👤💬📈

VENUE RENTALS

In 2015, 43 different groups used the Gateway for their performances, recitals, fundraisers and film shoots. Many of the community-based organisations relied on Gateway's staff expertise to guide them through the event planning and producing process.

CULTURE DAYS

During Culture Days, Gateway Theatre opened its doors to an estimated 50 people and offered free behind-the-scenes tours of Richmond's only live professional theatre. They also offered a unique display describing the history of professional theatre in British Columbia.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

In 2015, 120 volunteers of all ages dedicated approximately 10,000 hours of their time to Gateway.

FREE TICKET PROGRAM

Gateway supports community fundraisers and not-for-profit needs by donating tickets to community organizations.

INDUSTRY DISCOUNT TICKETING PROGRAM

Performing artists are given a discounted rate to encourage their engagement with Gateway.

APPENDIX 1

2015 Arts and Culture Grant Program

The following organizations received support:

Operating Assistance

Cinevolution Media Arts Society.....	\$9,530
Community Arts Council of Richmond	\$8,475
Richmond Arts Coalition	\$3,970
Richmond Community Band Society	\$2,860
Richmond Community Orchestra and Chorus Association	\$10,000
Richmond Music School Society	\$7,945
Richmond Potters’ Club	\$5,700
Richmond Youth Choral Society	\$10,000
Textile Arts Guild of Richmond	\$3,710

Project Assistance

Canadian YC Chinese Orchestra Association: Concert July 2015	\$4,550
Delta Symphony Society: Instrument Petting Zoo	\$5,000
Greater Vancouver Historical Performance Soc of BC: Go 4 Baroque	\$1,910
Philippine Cultural Arts Society of BC: Recuerdos	\$2,970
Richmond Art Gallery Association: Buzzworthy	\$5,000
Richmond Singers: The Richmond Singers Ensemble Spring 2015.....	\$4,240
Richmond Weavers’ and Spinners’ Guild Society: Common Threads - Community Engagement Through Spinning	\$2,650
Steveston Historical Society: Fisherman’s Park Mural.....	\$2,650
Tickle Me Pickle Theatre Sports Improv Society: Improv Season	\$5,000
Vancouver Cantonese Opera: Multicultural Heritage Festival	\$5,000
Vancouver Tagore Society: West Coast Tagore Festival 2015.....	\$3,920

APPENDIX 2

How Art Works

The following five themes comprise the How Art Works campaign:

ART’S IMPACT ON STUDENTS

Research has proven that the arts have a tremendous impact on our kids. Children who participate in the arts, particularly music, have been shown to be more likely to stay in school, and get better grades in math and science. They’re also far more likely to be elected to student boards and be recognized for academic achievement.

That link between arts and academic achievement continues for life. Top scientists are twice as likely as the general public to have an artistic hobby, and Nobel Prize winners are almost three times as likely to participate in the arts.

You might think practical education is the path to success, but keep in mind that creativity is the number one skill that employers are looking for. The arts help people think creatively and solve problems in unexpected ways.

HEALTHY LIVING THROUGH ART

One of the most surprising things about art’s impact is how it helps not only our happiness, but also our health. Experiencing art can alleviate stress, reduce the likelihood of depression and even boost your immune system by lowering chemicals that cause inflammation that can trigger diabetes, heart attacks and other illnesses.

The arts also have a powerful therapeutic effect. Music has been widely researched in the field of pain management for cancer patients who have reported additional benefits including an increased sense of control, immunity and relaxation. There is also evidence that use of art and music reduces hospital stays.

Music therapy is even being used to rehabilitate people with serious head injuries as it is proven to help them regain the ability to speak.

ART STRENGTHENS COMMUNITIES

When we take in culture – a play, book, concert, etc. – that focuses on a social issue or comes from a perspective that differs from our own, we gain a better understanding of humanity and the groups we live amongst. Art helps to break down boundaries by growing our awareness, tolerance and compassion.

This helps us to be more civic and socially minded. In fact, people who engage in the arts are more likely to volunteer. A recent study of youth found that drama in schools significantly increased students’ capacities to communicate, relate to each other and to respect minorities.

Cultural festivals promote celebration and pride as well as awareness of cultural differences. Because dance, music, photography and other visual arts transcend language, they can bridge barriers between cultural, racial and ethnic groups.

Moreover, the arts are one of the primary means of public dialogue. Communities talk about and express difficult issues, emotions and the otherwise inexpressible via the arts.

A STRONGER ECONOMY THROUGH ART

Arts and culture play an important role in promoting economic goals through local regeneration, developing talent, creating jobs, spurring innovation and attracting tourists.

Statistics Canada estimates that cultural industries (including broadcasting, film and video, interactive media, design, newspapers and crafts) contribute an estimated \$53.2 billion in direct contribution to Canada’s GDP and more than 700,000 jobs. That’s ten times larger than the estimated economic impact of sports (\$4.5 billion), and well over the impact of utilities (\$35 billion), and the combined impact of agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting (\$23 billion).

Cultural industries can actually turn ordinary cities into “destination cities” giving them a competitive advantage for cultural tourism. And tourists who come for the arts stay longer and spend more money than the average tourist.

ART IMPROVES QUALITY OF LIFE

The mental and physiological ways that the arts contribute to positive health and well-being for older adults are only now beginning to be understood. Learning new skills when creating a work of art (be it visual or performing) not only provides a greater sense of confidence and control, it can even help our immune systems fight infections.

Among the elderly, those that take part in creative pursuits are less likely to experience mild cognitive impairment. These activities are thought to maintain neuronal function, stimulate neural growth and recruit neural pathways to maintain cognitive function. This is particularly true of those that actively create works of art.

Music appears to be especially beneficial when complemented with standard therapies in treating everything from depression to cancer to Parkinson’s.

Moreover, the arts can provide opportunities to meet others, create together and share experiences, all of which can improve perceived health status, chronic pain and sense of community.

Further details at www.howartworks.ca.

APPENDIX 3

2015 Richmond Public Art commissioned in 2015 scheduled for completion in 2016–2017

Civic public art projects:

- *Storeys* by Richard Tetrault. Storeys housing project
- *to be distinct and to hold together* by Daniel Laskarin. Cambie Fire Hall No. 3
- *Untitled* bronze fire fighter by Nathan Scott. Brighthouse Fire Hall No. 1
- *Errant Rain Cloud* by Germaine Koh and Gordon Hicks. Minoru Complex, Aquatics
- *Street as Camvas* by Hapa Collaborative. Along Lansdowne Road from No. 3 Road to the Richmond Olympic Oval waterfront
- *Four Types of Water Revealed* by Germaine Koh. No. 2 Road North Drainage Pump Station

Private development public art projects:

- *Sight Unseen* by Mia Weinberg. Capstan Sanitary Pump Station Plaza, Pinnacle International
- *Kawaki* by Glen Andersen. The Pier at London Landing, Oris Development
- *Upriver* by Rebecca Belmore. Riva, Onni Development
- *Closer Than* by Bill Pechet. Mandarin, Fairborne Homes
- *Nest* by Atelier Anon. Jayden Mews, Polygon Homes
- *Signal Noise* by Mark Ashby. Oxford Lanes, Townline
- *Untitled Wall Mural* by Derek Root. Cadence, Cressey Development
- *Layers* by Christian Huizinga. Museo, Am-Pri Alexandra Road Development
- *Spirit of Steveston* by Cheryl Hamilton and Mike Vandermeer. Kingsley Estates, Polygon Homes
- *Gulf & Fraser Fishermen’s Credit Union Heritage Panels* by Leonhard Epp. 3471 Chatham Street, Steveston Flats Development.
- *Spinners* by Dan Corson. Avanti, Polygon Homes
- *Snow/Migration* by Mark Ashby. SmartCentres, First Richmond North Shopping Centres Ltd.
- *Layers* by Christian Huizenga, Museo, Am-Pri Alexandra Road Development
- *Artist call in progress for ARTS Units*. Concord Gardens, Concord Pacific Developments.



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