



City of Richmond

# ARTS UPDATE 2012

Arts, Culture and Heritage Services





# Introduction

In 2012, the City showcased its support and commitment to the arts and updated the Richmond Arts Strategy which will facilitate the growth of the arts in Richmond by creating an environment and culture in the city that ensures the arts play a strong role in placemaking, community building, tourism and economic development for the next five years.

Richmond continued to be recognized as a leader across the country in Culture Days, a national movement to raise awareness, accessibility and participation and engagement in the arts with free, hands-on and interactive activities. Local artists and arts organizations also took advantage of the opportunity to raise their profile by participating in Culture Days as well as other events such as the Richmond Maritime Festival and Resident Art Group Showcase.

To help support the infrastructure of arts and culture organizations, showcase the support for the careers of local artists and support a wide range of artistic and cultural activity, the City continued its Arts and Culture Grant Program offering two types of grants: Project Assistance and Operating Assistance to registered non-profit arts and culture organizations.

Richmond's cultural hub, the Richmond Library/ Cultural Centre advanced on its path of renovating spaces in the building to better serve the community and grow the arts by transforming the Performance Hall into an 80–100 seat mini black box theatre and the Atrium into well-equipped

programming and meeting space. The Richmond Art Gallery also went through renovations to improve its existing spaces. These facility improvements support one of the Arts Strategy's focus areas: to increase the number of arts spaces and more effectively use existing ones.

The Richmond Art Gallery exhibitions and public educational events contributed to the growth of a vibrant cultural community by offering a regular program of exhibitions by BC, national and international artists. *Fantasy Gardens*, an exhibition comprising two separate bodies of artwork which were years apart, drew considerable interest from the community. In 2012, the Richmond Arts Centre further expanded the diversity and quality of its programming and events with the growth of the Children's Arts Festival, Richmond Youth Dance Company, and Imaginary Enclave.

The Richmond Public Art Program saw its public art collection grow and rapidly approaching 100 artworks. New artworks included *The Coat of Arms*, *Circa*, *Perpetual Sunset* and *Authentic Aboriginal* to name a few. While Gateway Theatre continued to provide professional theatre experiences to Richmond audiences, training experiences for young aspiring performers, and outreach and mentorship programs to new emerging artists, students and the general public.

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Culture Days, Richmond Cultural Centre

## Community Cultural Development

### Richmond Arts Strategy

City Council endorsed the Richmond Arts Strategy 2012–2017 in October 2012. The purpose of the Arts Strategy is to help facilitate the growth of the arts in Richmond by creating an environment and culture in the city that ensures the arts play a strong role in place making, community building, tourism and economic development. Five strategic directions guide the City and its stakeholders' involvement in supporting Richmond's arts sector and ensuring a thriving and visible arts scene in Richmond:

1. Strengthen and support the arts community.
2. Increase the number of arts 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.

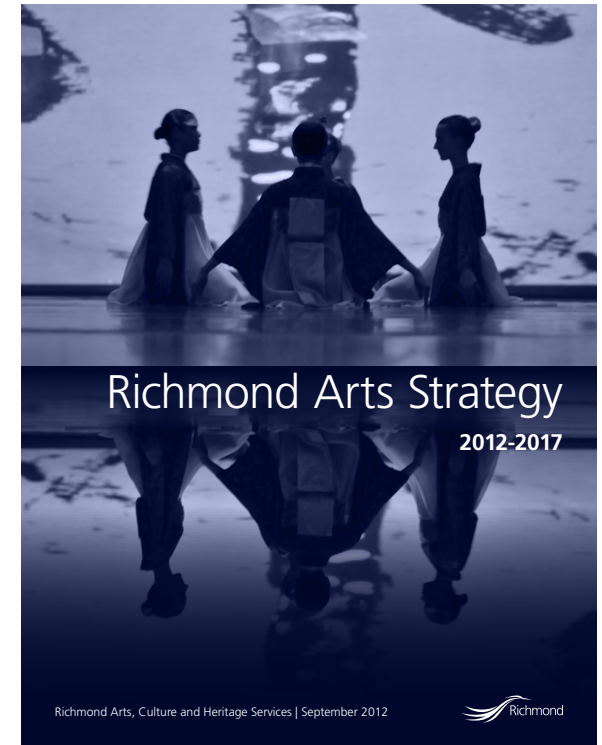
Considerable input, through a Steering Committee, public meetings, open houses and a public survey, was sought from the community throughout the 18-month process of updating the strategy. The new Arts Strategy addresses current opportunities and challenges and equips Richmond to be an arts destination with a thriving arts community and a rich offering of festivals and events.

### Culture Days—September 28–30, 2012

The third annual Culture Days, from September 28 to 30, was an astounding success with Richmond continuing to be recognized as a leader in this national movement to raise awareness, accessibility, participation and engagement in the arts with free, hands-on and interactive activities. Richmond remains in the Top Ten Cities in Canada for the number of activities on offer, and in the Top Five among Regional/Belt Cities. With 66 events (double the amount in 2011), residents were invited to learn about and experience the world of textile arts, culinary arts, theatre, photography and more. Attendance over the three days was estimated at 11,000.

Participating artists and cultural organizations reported satisfaction with the program which provided free promotional materials and advertising support. 91% of those surveyed said they would do it again next year and 100% said it was a “positive experience” and “appreciated by attendees”.

Promotion for Culture Days has also shown impressive growth over its three years, from its original event listings card in 2011 to, this year, a large format fold-out guide complete with city map and transit routes to 14 locations. The Richmond Review continued their media sponsorship with a wrap supplement, as well as the third annual Fall Arts & Culture Preview issue. Richmond enjoyed regional profile in the media and Canada-wide profile through a nationally run campaign with The Globe & Mail.





## Renovation of Existing Art Spaces

Richmond's cultural hub, the Richmond Library/ Cultural Centre continued on its path of renovating spaces in the building to better serve the community and the advancement of the arts. In 2012, the Art Gallery and Museum went through a series of improvements to their facilities and the Performance Hall and Atrium spaces in the Cultural Centre saw a complete overhaul. The Performance Hall, recently transformed into an 80–100 seat mini black box theatre provides the community with a new dedicated rehearsal and performing arts space which can also be used as a large meeting space. Improvements to the Atrium have increased its functionality and provided a better equipped programming and meeting space. These facility improvements follow two successful additions to arts spaces: the Media Lab and Rooftop Garden.

## Minoru Chapel Opera

This series featuring classic opera music performed in the historic Minoru Chapel presented a spring and fall season this year, with both matinee and evening performances, some of which sold out. In March, April and May, audiences enjoyed opera hits performed by Vancouver Opera, Burnaby Lyric Opera and DragonDiva Operatic Theatre. The fall season was the most exciting and ambitious to date, with the addition of a fourth concert. In October, November, December and January, the chapel hosted concerts by Vancouver Cantonese Opera, who performed excerpts from *The Legend of the Purple Hairpin*; City Opera Vancouver, who presented a concert devoted to the works of Giuseppe Verdi; Opera Pro Cantanti for their

second annual holiday-themed program and Vancouver Concert Opera Society, who performed *Die Fledermaus*.

## 2012 Lulu Series: Art in the City

The 2012 Lulu Series of guest speakers presented the following free-to-the-public events about Art in the City and its importance to creating connections between citizens and their communities:

On March 15, 57 attendees heard from Winnipeg-based artist and structural engineer, Mark West,

discussing his innovative work with concrete. His talk was preceded by a performance by Thomas Jones performing an excerpt from *Woody Sed*, a play about the life and music of Woody Guthrie. On April 12, yarn-bombing expert, Leanne Prain attracted 52 guests. In a successful departure from the usual format of having a performing artist open the evening, the attendees worked on their own yarn-based project. On May 10, artist Jinhan Ko, from the Vancouver and Toronto-based Instant Coffee Artist Collective discussed public art, including No. 3 Road's *Perpetual Sunset*. The presentation was preceded by a performance by Richmond's pipa virtuoso, Guilian Liu.



*Nothing Happens in Good Weather* (2011–2013), Instant Coffee

### 2012 Richmond Arts Awards

Created in partnership with the Richmond Arts Coalition in 2009, the fourth annual Richmond Arts Awards recognized artistic achievements and contributions to the cultural community by City residents, artists, educators, organizations and business leaders. The purpose is to:

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

In its fourth year, 102 nominations were reviewed by the selection committee.

The winners were announced at the Richmond Arts Awards ceremony in Council Chambers on May 8, as follows:

- Arts Education: Jon Lee-Son
- Artistic Innovation: Cinevolution Media Arts Society
- Business and the Arts: Appia Group of Companies
- Volunteerism: Willa Walsh
- Youth Arts: Tiffany Cheng
- Cultural Leadership: Chelle Jardine

Mayor Brodie presided over the ceremony. Special guests included Governor General's Award winning artist, Margaret Dragu; singer-songwriter, Jasmine Bharucha and the Steveston Seniors Drumming Circle. Approximately 120 people attended the ceremony.

### Arts and Culture Grant Program

In 2011, the City's 2012 Interim Arts and Culture Grants Program was established 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. In its inaugural year, on March 26, Council approved the distribution of \$82,300: \$50,900 in Operating Assistance to eight recipients and \$31,400 in Project Assistance to twelve recipients. Following a review process, the 2013 Arts and Culture Grant Program was announced in late summer.

### Writer-in-Residence

With support from the Canada Council for the Arts, Richmond hosted its first Writer-in-Residence program at the Richmond Public Library, Richmond Arts Centre and Minoru Place Activity Centre. Award-winning author Caroline Adderson led a series of events in February and March that gave Richmond residents the opportunity to engage with a professional author. The program opened with a public reading and launch event on February 2 where three activities were described: Workshops for ESL Writers (which culminated in a public event and a published chapbook), Parent–Preschooler Writing Groups whereby children age 4–6 created their own illustrated book working with a parent or caregiver, and Manuscript Consultations for local aspiring authors to have samples of their writing evaluated and discussed one-on-one with Caroline. When she was not conducting public programs, Caroline worked on her own writing in an office space provided by the Minoru Place Activity Centre.



## ART AT WORK: Spring Series of Workshops

Created in partnership with the Richmond Arts Coalition, Richmond's annual Arts Symposium, *Art At Work*, was re-configured as a series of stand-alone workshops for local artists and others working in the cultural sector. Its purpose is to:

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

The following workshops were offered in April and May:

- Establishing a Non-Profit Society
- Tax Preparation Made Painless
- The Co-operative Gallery Experience
- Grant Writing
- Understanding Customers and Approaching Galleries
- Harnessing the Web

Response from participants was very positive, and the two free events (Establishing a Non-Profit Society and Grant Writing) designed to augment the new Arts and Culture Grants program were well-attended. Due to low registration numbers for the other workshops, only one other ran (Understanding Customers and Approaching Galleries).

Future artist workshop programming has been proposed by both the Richmond Art Gallery and Richmond Arts Centre.

## Terracotta Warrior Project

In 2012, the City partnered with Tourism Richmond in the BC Lions Society Public Art Project, a limited edition of 7-foot custom formed fibreglass Terracotta Warriors to be sponsored by individuals and organizations and painted by local artists. The City's Terracotta Warrior was painted by local artist and Arts Centre Instructor, Tiana Kaczor and installed in Minoru Plaza outside the Library/Cultural Centre. The statue was one of ten on display in prominent locations throughout Richmond from April to October 2012.



Terracotta Warrior, Minoru Plaza

## 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Maritime Festival

In its ninth incarnation and second year as a multi-faceted large-scale cultural event, the Maritime Festival at Britannia Heritage Shipyard delighted an estimated 35,000 attendees from August 10–12. The heritage site was transformed with inventive art installations, roving performers, staged events and many creative interactive activities involving local artists and guilds. The festival also attracted sponsorship of over \$90,000 in cash and over \$20,000 in-kind support.



Roving Performers, Richmond Maritime Festival

## Richmond Art Gallery

Richmond Art Gallery exhibitions and public educational events contribute to the growth of a vibrant cultural community in Richmond. The Gallery offers a regular program of exhibitions by BC, national and international artists on issues and ideas of importance to our community.

### Exhibitions

The Richmond Art Gallery presented five exhibitions (accompanied by educational events that help to illuminate some of the issues underlying the work) in 2012, representing emerging to senior artists, locally and across Canada, to bring a multiplicity of contemporary issues and practices to this community.

### *Fantasy Gardens*

**January 27–April 1, 2012**

Artists Stuart McCall and Neil Wedman collaborated for this community-oriented exhibition comprised of two separate bodies of work—one of drawings (Wedman) and the other, photographs (McCall). The artworks were made years apart but are linked by an indelible local history in the subject of Bill Vander Zalm's Fantasy Gardens. McCall and Wedman have been exhibiting their work for over 25 years. This exhibition touched on community issues related to land development and local history, and included a very popular timeline of the Fantasy Gardens site land ownership. Due to resonance within the local community, attendance reached a remarkable 6,211.

### *My Big Family*

**April 20–June 10, 2012**

Based on a personally situated photography and video project, artist Hua Jin's exhibition included numerous photographs (with short descriptors in English and Chinese) of Jin's extended family taken on return trips to China. Her photography explores various aspects of her family members' lives as they relate to changes in China's policy toward population control, sustainability and familial responsibility. An interactive component invited the community to bring in family photographs/

portraits which resulted in a salon-style hanging of the photographs in Gallery 3, one of whom won the opportunity to have a new family portrait taken by the artist. The exhibition also attracted special media attention from various sources including *Where Magazine*, *Galleries West Magazine*, and on-air interviews with *Omni TV*, *CBC Early Edition* with Rick Cluff, *North by Northwest* with Sheryl MacKay. Hua Jin also won the Canon Photography Award at Emily Carr University of Art and Design, and a 2012 Mayor's Arts Award (Vancouver) for Emerging Artists.

Attendance: 4,722.



Hua Jin, *Grandmother Xiangyun* (2010), Richmond Art Gallery, *My Big Family*



## close your eyes

**June 29–August 26, 2012**

The Gallery's summer exhibition covered a span of four years and consisted of three bodies of work by Montreal artist Sophie Jodoin: *Small Dramas & Little Nothings*, *Charred* and *Vigils*. Jodoin's work has the capacity to draw the viewer into its intimate dramas through the sensitive and proficient handling of her work. Equally conceptual and representational, her drawn series of works can take up to two years to realize. *close your eyes* is conceived as a long continuous thread echoing the course of one's life—a collection of narratives and struggles encountered by simply living. This exhibition offered the public a rare opportunity to view her work on the west coast and coincided with the Fourth Annual Vancouver *DRAWN Festival*, an event that promotes drawing as an important visual medium. The exhibition was supported by the Sheraton Vancouver Airport Hotel and drew many high profile art figures to Richmond to see the work. Press coverage ranged from web reviews and art magazines; Kolaj, Decoy, lab, Canadian Art, Galleries West, and Preview to print reviews in the Vancouver Sun, Georgia Straight and Richmond Review.

Attendance: 3,514.

## Open Conversations: The Art Practice of Carole Condé + Karl Beveridge

**September 15–November 10, 2012**

The Gallery was privileged to present the first solo exhibition by Toronto artists Carole Condé and Karl Beveridge in Western Canada. The exhibition,

guest curated by Scott Marsden, explored their unique collaborative art process. For the past 30 years Carole and Karl have defined their photo-based art practice around working with diverse communities and networks, exploring the concept of dialogue as a form of socially engaged art practice that allows their subjects to become participants in the work. The exhibition featured a wide range of photo based art works from the 1980–1990 and 1991–2011 periods, including a selection of notes, drawings, storyboards, photo shoots, stage-props and other material used by the artists. Over the course of their creative collaboration the artists have had over 50 solo

exhibitions nationally and internationally in public spaces, art galleries and museums, and non-art sites. Providing background information in various formats (artist interviews; the documentary film, *Portrait of Resistance*; extended labels; exhibition panels; and an essay translated into Chinese) was critical to the understanding of their work. Public programming for this exhibition included a presentation by UBC PhD candidate, Katherine Jackson about artists and projects that bring people together in Socially Engaged Art Practices. The exhibition and residency project was supported by the Vancouver Foundation.

Attendance: 3,766



Carole Condé and Karl Beveridge, *The Plague* (2009), Richmond Art Gallery, *Open Conversations: The Art Practice of Carole Condé and Karl Beveridge*

### Temporary Assignment

#### November 19–30, 2012

The Gallery ended 2012 with a “short” two-week long exhibition before closing for renovations. Ten artists Penny Leong Browne, Lucie Chan, Willa Downing, Christy Frisken, Jason Froese, Mark Haney, My Name Is Scot, Nathan McNinch, Janet Wang, Ming Yeung were invited to participate in this unique show and work directly on the gallery walls before they were removed. An entertaining Closing Party was held on Friday, November 30.

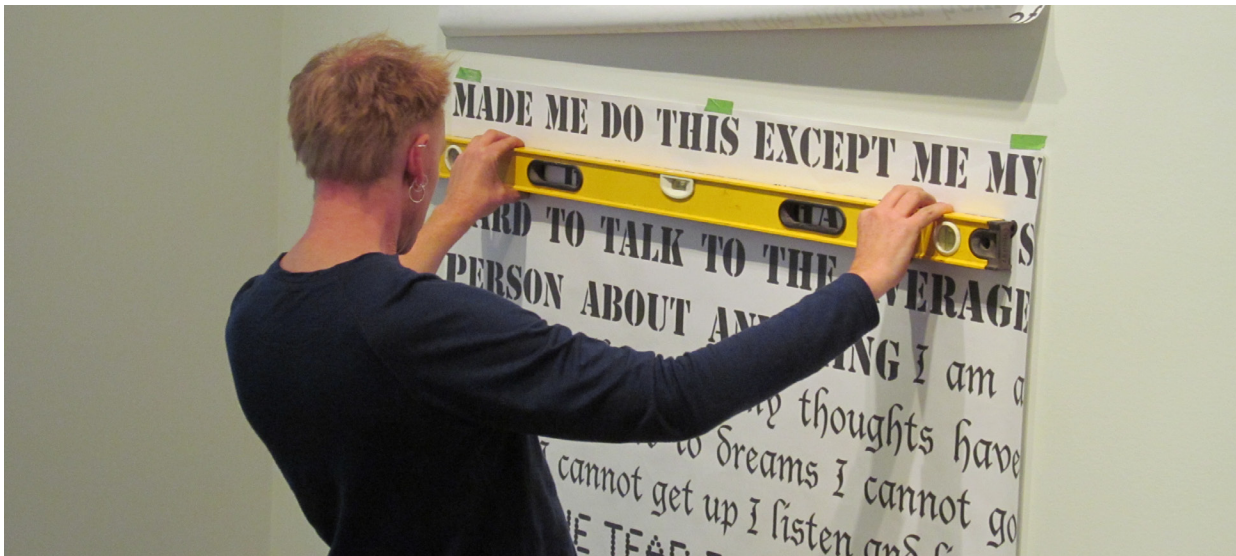
Attendance: 250

### Outreach (City Hall Exhibitions)

As part of its community outreach program the Richmond Art Gallery helps to organize exhibitions of quality art work by local artists, for display off-site at Richmond City Hall. In 2012 the Gallery mounted work by:

- Zahra Hosseinkhan (January 9 to March 12), whose paintings reflect the richness and “beauty of life” through their floral imagery and use of colour;
- Xioa Ping Meng (March 12 to May 11) combines Chinese ink drawing and painting to create drawings of nature;

- William Watt, *Drawings and Paintings* (May 14 to July 25) expresses a straight forward visual language in his paintings, shortcutting to an emotional response. This is an ongoing process building on the usual experimentation of substrates, colour, texture, composition and subject matter to strike that understanding we all see and respond to;
- Jeanette Jarville, *Reflections of Richmond* (July 31 to September 30) captures the lighting, colours and ambience of the natural habitats of Richmond in a contemporary, stylized way. By mounting the work in heritage window frames she not only references the history of these now protected areas but puts the viewer in the position of looking out towards them; and
- Richmond Society for Community Living, which celebrates Community Living Month (October), collaborated with the Gallery to offer its annual exhibit (October 1 to November 9) featuring works of art produced by individuals at Avenues art program. This exhibit highlights the artists’ creative expression and allows visitors to City Hall Galleria to see beyond disability to ability.



My Name Is Scot installing artwork, Richmond Art Gallery, *Temporary Assignment*



## Artist Interviews on Video

In conjunction with the exhibitions the Gallery produces artist interview videos that accompany the exhibitions. This year the Gallery produced four interviews: Stuart McCall and Neil Wedman for *Fantasy Gardens*, Hua Jin for *My Big Family*, and Sophie Jodoin, for *close your eyes*. In September an interview completed by guest curator Scott Marsden with the artists Condé and Beveridge in their home and studio in Toronto was played throughout the exhibition. Screening throughout the day in the Hope-Smith Art Lounge, these short videos are popular with gallery visitors who want to know more about the artists who exhibit in the Gallery and provide further insight on the artists' ideas and processes. This significant initiative is made available to the wider public via YouTube and it contributes to the cumulative history of Canadian art as a lasting record.

## Artist Talks

The Gallery regularly organizes artist talks with exhibiting artists, who speak of their artistic development and the current work. In 2012 Neil Wedman and Stuart McCall led a gallery tour and visual presentation on their exhibition *Fantasy Gardens*. This well-attended Saturday afternoon talk attracted 40 community members interested in the history of the Fantasy Gardens site, art collectors and members of the local Lower Mainland arts community. Hua Jin presented images from her *My Big Family* series (not included in the show) to 24 community members. Guest Curator Scott Marsden and Artist Carole Conde gave a joint talk and tour at the opening reception. It was a rare and generous opportunity for the public to speak directly to the artist. Approximately 50 guests attended.

## Panel Discussions and Presentations

*Developing Richmond*: In connection to the exhibition *Fantasy Gardens*, members of the Richmond community spoke on the Fantasy Gardens site history, urban planning developments in the City, and the impacts of the changes taking place in Richmond and the Lower Mainland. This lively discussion was attended by 45 community members and featured presenters Terry Crowe (Manager, Policy Planning, City of Richmond); Kent Mullinix, PhD. (Director, Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security, Kwantlen University); Harold Steves (City of Richmond Councillor); and De Whalen (Chair, Richmond Poverty Resource Committee). During the Sophie Jodoin exhibition, DRAWN Festival co-organizer and Emily Carr University of Art and Design instructor, Dr. Lynn Ruscheinsky gave a visual presentation on contemporary drawing practices to a group of 30 visitors.

## Art Workshops for Adults

In addition to the Gallery's highly successful children's art programming, there is a focus on offering more workshops for adults. The expressed desire for such artistic development resulted in the presentation of three media-specific series. In connection to Hua Jin's *My Big Family* photography exhibition, the Art Gallery offered a series of three workshops on basic digital photography and video techniques: *Introduction to Digital Cameras*, *Lighting for Portraits*, and *Video—Introduction to Digital Video Cameras*. The Sophie Jodoin exhibition was accompanied by a series of three drawing workshops, led by professional artists: *Ink Drawing* with Cindy Mochizuki, *Classical Realism*

with Mandy Boursicot and *Mixed Media* with Christian Nicolay. During the summer the Gallery also presented a free drop-in series, *Pick Up a Pencil*, with local artist Tony Yin Tak Chu. These very popular drop-in open drawing sessions were held in the Cultural Centre plaza on Thursday afternoons throughout July and August and involved participants of all ages.

## Ongoing Public Programs

In addition to the many programs offered in conjunction with our exhibitions, the Gallery presents a variety of opportunities for the public to appreciate and learn about art. Our programs are developed to offer different entry points, depending on the visitor's comfort level and learning style. Thirty-one children participated in two successful weeks of spring art camps, which provided an art-packed week of seeing, thinking and art making. Thirty-four children, aged 6–12 years, took part in the three weeks of summer classes exploring drawing with a wide variety of materials and subjects. The courses were a great introduction to the world of drawing and the expressive possibilities of form, shading, colour, line and texture. At the end of each week the children were excited to present an exhibition of their work to their families.

### Family Sundays

Family Sunday is a free drop-in art program on the fourth Sunday of the month from January to November that offers families the opportunity to explore art making together. This popular program provides skill-building opportunities for ten to twelve creative and highly motivated volunteer Richmond high school students who run the program, and three to four young adults who mentor the teens and gain experience in developing art education programming. This very community program is sponsored by RBC Foundation.

Attendance: 124 parents and children per session.

### Let's Make Stuff!

On the second Sunday of every month the Gallery hosts an open studio time for artists, crafters, hobbyists, entrepreneurs and people who just like to make "stuff". In June, the *Richmond Printmakers* group began to use the Gallery art room each Sunday, and merged with the *Let's Make Stuff* program. Gallery members who regularly participate in the *Let's Make Stuff* Program are now also members of the *Richmond Printmakers* and have free access to the *Richmond Printmakers* tool kit rental and any events or workshops they may offer.

### School Art Program

The Richmond Art Gallery School Art Program provides hands-on art experiences for young artists. The program introduces students from Preschool to Grade 7 to the exciting world of contemporary art through interactive gallery tours and exhibition-based, hands-on art activities. A concerted effort is being made to engage more of the Secondary School Audience, and through the assistance of a BC Arts Council Co-op Placement grant and funding from Canadian Western Bank, the Gallery hired an intern to develop a needs assessment and online resource guides for



Family Sunday, Richmond Art Gallery



Secondary School Teachers. The online guides are directly linked to the BC curriculum standards and will directly benefit teachers and students by providing easy to access information about the issues and practices in contemporary art, helping to develop visual and cultural literacy. In 2012, tours with public school groups declined but concerted marketing to Independent, Preschool and Home School groups resulted in greater participation from those groups. From January to June, 67 tours and workshops were conducted, representing 1,357 students. The Gallery receives annual funding for the School Art Program from TD Bank Group.

## 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), Your Kontinent Asian Film Festival, vtape Productions, Richmond District School Board, Youth Education, Employment and Empowerment Services (YES), Richmond Multicultural Community Services, Immigration Settlement Services BC, Richmond Chinese Community Society, Richmond Society

for Community Living, Finn Slough Heritage and Wetlands Society, City of Richmond Diversity Services, Richmond Youth Media Program, Richmond Cultural Centre, Richmond Public Library, Richmond Museum, SFU, UBC, Kwantlen University and Emily Carr University of Art and Design. These partnerships allow the Gallery to create mutually beneficial opportunities for audience cross-over, resource sharing and cooperative programming, and help to extend the understanding of art's significance in everyday life.

## About Finn Slough Exhibition March 7 to 11, 2012

This annual exhibition of art in various media on the subject of life in Finn Slough is organized by the Finn Slough Heritage and Wetlands Society. 2012 marked the 12<sup>th</sup> year for the show and was considered to be the best ever. Over 77 artists participated; their work included many inspiring photographs, pen and ink drawings, prints, paintings in both oil and watercolour, and also several wonderful textile works. For the first time, wood carvings were on display and several drawings on wood created by wood burning.

Attendance: 590

## Funding

A number of organizations continue to support the Gallery's operations and programming. In 2012, the Gallery received assistance from the following supporters:

- BC Arts Council, Annual Arts Operating Assistance: \$20,750;
- BC Arts Council, Project Grant: \$12,450 to support the Chinese Community Outreach position/project;
- BC Gaming Grant: \$47,000 to assist with operating;
- Young Canada Works (Federal): \$2,885 towards a Summer Art Camp instructor position;
- Business for the Arts (artsVest): \$8,800—provided with matching funds for new corporate sponsorships;
- Vancouver Foundation: \$10,000 towards the Carole Condé + Karl Beveridge Artist Residency Project;
- City of Richmond Arts and Culture Grant: \$5,000 to support the Chinese Community Outreach position/project;
- TD Bank: \$10,000 to sponsor the School Art Program; and
- RBC: \$11,000 to support the Family Sundays Program.



Richmond Media Lab





Richmond Youth Dance Company



Josette Jorge and John Ng in Simon Johnston's *Sisters*, Gateway Theatre. Photo: David Cooper Photography





Stuart McCall, *Fantasy Gardens* (2010), Richmond Art Gallery.





*Perpetual Sunset* (2012), Instant Coffee. Location: Camino, 8680 Westminster Highway



## Richmond Arts Centre

The Richmond Arts Centre continues to diversify and improve programs in order to provide the community with professional and accessible courses for all ages. The Centre also strives to improve the quality of public events, and works with individual artists and arts groups in various capacities such as event production and organizational capacity building.

### Arts Education Programs

The Arts Centre expanded its core dance, drama, visual arts and music programming with more diverse offerings such as robotics, watercolour painting, circus camp, creative voices, a speech arts program designed for preschoolers, Shakespeare in Action for youth and Ballet for New Moms. In another new initiative, the Richmond Arts Centre partnered with the Richmond Mental Health Team to provide a series of clay hand building classes for adults. A total of 7794 registrants participated in Arts Centre classes in 2012.

### Rooftop Garden

Richmond's rooftop garden, the urban cousin of Terra Nova, provides a new outdoor venue for the arts and a unique gathering space for the community. In 2012, 18 workshops and programs were offered to the public including *Edible Gardening*, *Balcony Farming*, *Paint, Pot and Plant* and *Art in the Garden*. In addition to an event hosted by the Richmond International Film and Media Arts Festival, two rooftop events

were enjoyed in September: a concert featuring the Cuban musical group, Havana, hosted in conjunction with the opening of the Art Gallery's fall exhibit, and a reading of poetry by author Alan Hill as part of Culture Days celebration. To further expose the community to the space, weekly garden tours led by volunteers ran throughout the summer months, providing individuals of all ages an opportunity to view the garden.

Presenting sponsor, Canadian Western Bank provided \$31,000 in sponsorship to support the Garden's activities in 2012. Attendance through programs in this unique space: 405 adults and children.



Richmond Cultural Centre Rooftop Garden

### Richmond Youth Dance Company

For the second year in a row, the Richmond Youth Dance Company impressed audiences with their new mainstage production, *Through The Clouds* attended by 150 people. The company also made special appearances at Doors Open, the Minoru Activity Centre, the UROC awards, the year-end recital at Gateway Theatre and the Steveston branch opening for G & F Financial Group. In December, the group performed in partnership with the Delta Youth Orchestra at Landsowne Mall and the Genesis Theatre in Ladner. Their five performances garnered an audience of 850 people. The twenty dancers, aged 9–17 years exemplify a positive example of youth contributing to the City's vibrant atmosphere.



Pottery Class, Richmond Arts Centre

### ARTS Truck

The ARTS Truck has evolved from providing simple arts and craft activities at birthdays and summer camps to a unique mobile arts classroom that offers arts outreach programs within the community. The primary aim of the program is to provide arts opportunities for children and youth who may not be able to enrol in paid programs. Over the course of the summer, 34 workshops incorporated traditional and digital media arts, and 191 children and youth ages 3–20 years enjoyed the benefits of the ARTS Truck at no cost to their families. Community partners included the Richmond Centre for Disability, Richmond Family Place, New Step Consultation Services, and the Richmond Youth Media Program. ARTS Truck programming continued to expand its activities in 2012 which included: art classes for 300 children through summer programs; a unique kite building workshop during Culture Days weekend; and a workshop at the Halloween Fireworks Display in Minoru Park (200 children attended).

### Resident Art Group Winter Showcase

For the second year in a row, a group of Resident Art Groups demonstrated a wide variety of local artist creations including creative jewels, gems, photos, pottery, fabrics and textiles. The single day event at the Richmond Cultural Centre saw 125 members of the public attend. The Arts Centre continues to work with these valued groups who maintain their crafts while representing the history and foundation of arts and culture in Richmond.

### Gateway and Cultural Centre Upper Rotunda Art Exhibit

The Gateway and Cultural Centre exhibits provide an opportunity to share the impressive number of local visual artists with the general public. In 2012, the upper rotunda featured a variety of artists from the Richmond Photo Club, Richmond Artist Guild, and Textile Arts Guild of Richmond as well as adult students from the Richmond Arts Centre. Jeanne Krabbendam and Kwok Leung Wong, a 101 year old Chinese Calligraphy master were also exhibited. The Gateway, curated in partnership with the theatre company, included local artists Tony Yin Tak Chu and Jeanne Garnett.

### Japanglish

The Richmond arts scene was enhanced by the inclusion of a professional production that has toured the country. In February, the Richmond Arts Centre, together with the City's Diversity Services and the Richmond Museum brought Richmond a special production of *Japanglish*, the funny and touching story of a Canadian born woman living with immigrated Japanese parents. The semi-autobiographical, one-woman show from local theatre artist Yumi Ogawa was presented in conjunction with the Museum's exhibit Edo: Arts of Japan's Last Shogun Age. The one performance sold out to a standing room only audience of 110 people.



Resident Art Group Showcase, Richmond Weavers and Spinners



### Culture Club

The City partnered with Richmond Multicultural Community Services to host a portion of their *Culture Club: Diversity Talent Show* at the Richmond Cultural Centre. As part of an initiative to engage youth to express diversity, harmony and inclusion through dance, drama or music, 28 youth auditioned at the Cultural Centre. Local judges chose 11 acts, 6 from the Cultural Centre audition to perform at the Grand Finale at Gateway Theatre.

### Tickle Me Pickle

Richmond-based improvisational comedy troupe Tickle Me Pickle experienced increasing audiences to the Cultural Centre in 2012. On February 2, over 40 attendees (ages six to sixties) including a number of “at risk” youth from an alternative school program attended the show. On March 15, over 60 attendees enjoyed Tickle Me Pickle’s young company (Make Me Laugh Purple Giraffe) while on December 13, a growing crowd of 80 participants took in the event.

### Spinning You Home—Tightrope Theatre

In February and March, the Richmond Arts Centre engaged in a partnership with Tightrope Theatre, providing rehearsal space for a new play by award-winning writer Sally Stubbs, and presenting a free public viewing in the Performance Hall before the show moved to its performance venue. This partnership provided an excellent trial run for how the Arts Centre and the Cultural Centre can foster developing works.

### Annual School Year Dance Recital

Held at the Gateway Theatre on May 20, three public performances showcased the talents of children and youth in the Arts Centre’s Dance Program. This longstanding and highly anticipated tradition has evolved into a new production format which includes artwork from Arts Centre

students as scenic backdrops while students from the Musical Theatre program performed and sang alongside the dancers. 1126 audience members enjoyed over 400 performers, aged 3–17 years, in *Let’s Go To The Movies*, which took the viewers on a nostalgic tour of film history.



Drama Class, Richmond Arts Centre

### Richmond International Film and Media Arts Festival

In partnership with Cinevolution Media, the festival's second incarnation featured Governor General Award winner and local artist, Margaret Dragu who created a special live performance and media installation in the Cultural Centre. Vancouver Theatre's Theatre Conspiracy also presented Richmond with a sneak peak at their Rio Tinto Alcan award winning production of *Extraction*, a live docu-drama that examines cultural and economic interactions between China and Canada. The festival continued to offer its crowd favourites such as the Dim Sum movie and outdoor Cultural Centre Plaza screening in addition to other film and media arts presentations. An audience of 2400 attended this unique summer festival from July 19–22.

### Imaginary Enclave

The Imaginary Enclave is a unique Arts event created in partnership with the Richmond Museum, the Richmond Art Gallery and the City's Diversity Services Division in honour of the opening of Doors Open and Asian Heritage Month. In its second year, the Cultural Centre was transformed into a multi-venue performance space. In 2012, based on the theme of world music, 250 audience members enjoyed live music performances from various Asian cultures in the Museum, Gallery and Rotunda while the Media Lab hosted a broadcast of classical Indian dancer and local resident Sudhya Mulye performing on Richmond streets.

### Children's Arts Festival

The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Children's Arts Festival, presented in partnership with the BC Art and Literacy Centre, continues to grow both in attendance and quality. Taking place throughout the Library/Cultural Centre from February 14–18, a total audience of 4000 children, parents and educators participated in interactive arts programs lead by professional artists. In addition to the pre-booked school days, two public days were added in 2012 so that families could experience one of the most unique events in the Lower Mainland. The Richmond Foundation came on board as a sponsor and collaboration with the Richmond Public Library, Minoru Arenas and Minoru Aquatic Centre are becoming important components of the festival.

### Richmond Media Lab

The Media Lab has quickly become an invaluable asset to the City through creative programs using the latest technology while providing a positive creation space for local youth. Paid programs in the summer saw 132 students from ages 6–60 years learning a variety of multimedia skills. The Media Arts Leader also provided support to City initiatives such as the Richmond Multicultural Community Services/Public Art Community Dialogue project led by artist Zoe Kreye, the Podplay Production project with the Richmond Library/Cultural Centre and Newworld Theatre, Children's Arts Festival, U-ROC Awards, Richmond Earth Day Youth (REaDY) Summit, Richmond Maritime Festival, and Hockey Day in Richmond.



Children's Arts Festival, Richmond Cultural Centre



### Richmond Youth Media Program (RYMP)

The Richmond Youth Media Program, which is a partnership between the City of Richmond and the Richmond Collaborative Committee for Children and Youth (RCCCCY) continues to thrive by increasing youth participation as well as new partnerships. One such example was *The X-Press Youth Video Contest*, supported by an RCMP civil forfeiture grant (\$25,000) and cooperatively presented by the RCMP, RYMP and Richmond Addictions Services. The project connected with 500 youth and 34 youth-produced videos were created.

During spring and summer 2012, there were 30 new youth members and one new adult volunteer recruited into the program. The youth engaged in a number of skill development activities such as music production, bookmaking, and designing their own business cards. They were also given several community engagement opportunities such as a creative writing program in partnership with the library and providing music performance for the opening of the Oval's new climbing wall.

Overall (in 2012):

- Youth attended more than 4000 hours of RYMP programming;

- 52 new members (17 referrals from community members, school counsellors, and youth workers); and
- RYMP connected youth with 39 work and volunteer opportunities.

This program is made possible through a \$96,000 grant over three years from the Vancouver Coastal Health SMART fund. Sponsorship from Richmond Steel Recycling Ltd. for three years in the amount of \$36,000 helps support staffing and equipment.



Richmond Youth Media Program, Richmond Media Lab

## Richmond Public Art Program

Public art contributes to creating a sense of place and in a highly competitive world helps a city distinguish itself above the rest. With over ninety permanent and temporary works in the City public art inventory, the number of artworks in the program is rapidly approaching the 100 mark. Public art installed throughout Richmond in 2012 include:

- *The Coat of Arms*, by artist Glen Andersen, (Civic Program) at the new Richmond Community Safety Building, re-works the concept and formal elements of the Richmond Coat of Arms.
- *The Bee*, Mini Dealership, 10700 Cambie Road (Private Development Program) is an innovative use of an environmental green wall to incorporate a playful design.
- *Circa*, Broadmoor Shopping Centre, 7820 Williams Road (Private Development Program) by artist Blake Williams, is a 14 foot by 32 foot mural composed of photographic imagery, painting, and text applied to porcelain tile, installed at the second story elevation of the building.
- *Volleyball Player*, by artist Cory Fuhr, was donated to the Public Art Program by the Family of Narinder Mander. Located on the public mezzanine overlooking the field of play inside the Richmond Olympic Oval, the Volleyball Player challenges the athlete and spectator to "Rise Above".

- *Perpetual Sunset*, Camino, 8060 Westminster Highway (Private Development Program). Instant Coffee's shimmering mural fills the west-facing wall of the Camino Development Project. Spanning over 80 feet wide and 40 feet high, the mural, made of nearly 40,000 individual reflective coloured sequins, is designed to catch the natural light, most directly echoing the setting sun. The immense scale of the artwork creates a mirroring effect that extends the sun's rays and sustains this daily occurrence in its refraction
- *Saffron Drift*, Saffron, 8600 Park Road (Private Development Program) by artist Muse Atelier features eight super-scaled lotus flowers floating in a multi-tiered fountain along Park Road in front of the recently completed Saffron development by Ledingham McAllister.



*Saffron Drift*, Muse Atelier. Location: Saffron, 8600 Park Road

- *Human Nature II*, by artist Paul Slipper, is a series of five (5) large carved granite sculptures representing ferns and humans. It was installed in December 2011 at Garden City Community Park, 9120 Alberta Road. The organic theme speaks to how, as a community grows and rises, the people of the community become ever more rooted. This installation extends into the park the first series installed along the public walkways of the Garden City Residences on Cook Road.
- *Ribbon*, by artists Toby Colquhoun and Khalil Jamal was installed at the public pedestrian entry for the Parkside townhome development at 9651 Alberta Road. The bright red powder coated aluminum sculpture was sponsored by Centro Parkside Development Ltd. The stylized metal ribbons draw on the crisp, serpentine forms of Georgian architecture, expressed in a whimsical contemporary form.
- *Authentic Aboriginal*, by artist Sonny Assu, created through the VANOC Aboriginal Art Program for the 2010 Winter Games, was installed in its permanent home in a community meeting room at the Richmond Olympic Oval. *Authentic Aboriginal* is conceptually and aesthetically designed to challenge the authenticity of Aboriginal art.



## Conservation and Appraisal Reports

The services of Beth Nobel and Nadine Power were retained to prepare Appraisal and Conservator reports, respectively for the Program's collection. With a significant number of works reaching ten years in age, a certified appraisal and comprehensive conditions report on the entire collection was required, and subsequently, a strategy was developed for maintaining the current collection as well as all future works. The reports were completed late in 2012 and will serve as a basis for setting priorities for the conservation of works in need of repair, and in scheduling annual maintenance of all works. While the Public Art Program will be responsible for maintenance of City-owned works, this information will be provided to property managers responsible for the care and maintenance of privately-owned artworks.

## Community Public Art Program

Council endorsed two innovative community public art projects in March 2012. Working in collaboration with the Transitions Vancouver Coastal Health program, artist Tiana Kaczor developed a concept proposal for a participatory public art project. Using photography, the project allowed clients of the Transitions Addiction and Mental Health Program to use creative art-making to help in their recovery program, increase self esteem and gain self-awareness. Completed photographs are on display at Transitions, 8100 Granville Avenue, and the Anne Vogel Clinic, 8160 Cook Road.

Artist Zoe Kreye was selected to work with the Richmond Multicultural Community Services Society on a community outreach art project entitled *EAT.TALK.CONNECT*. For the Diversity Dialogue Conference in March 2012, Zoe and students of social practice art facilitated dialogue in a performance workshop. For the second of three events, a power lunch was held at City Hall on May 14, 2012. Twenty new Canadians prepared homemade lunches for two. City Councillors, senior officials and staff then sat down with the new Canadians for an intimate lunch and to share in a conversation about resettlement, local customs and experiences of building a more inclusive community. A short video of the event will be uploaded to the City YouTube web page.

## Public Art included in Public Works Award

The No. 4 Road Drainage Pump Station won the Public Works Association of BC (PWABC) 2011 Project of the Year award. This pump station features a public artwork installed on its control building—*Working River* by artist, Sylvia Grace Borda. It was installed in May 2011 and features archival photos of working life on the Fraser River. The site at the north end of No. 4 Road provides a beautiful venue for the artwork.



*Minoru Horse*, Sergei Traschenko. Location: Minoru Park

### Discovering Art on No. 3 Road

The No. 3 Road Art Columns are part of a unique collaboration of 10 municipalities in Metro Vancouver called *The Necklace Project*. The works illuminate the unique culture and life of each host municipality. The fourth exhibit on the No. 3 Road Art Columns was on display from December 2011 through June 2012. Based on the theme of "Live/Work/Play in Richmond" are new visual artworks by local artists, Terry Wong, *Gems of Night*, Michael Tickner, *A Growing Landscape*, Karen Kazmer and Todd Davis, *4Cs: Postcards from Richmond*.

Two Art Columns were recently relocated to the north side of the Lansdowne Canada Line Station. As part of the City's participation in the *DRAWN Festival*, a Metro Vancouver celebration of the art of drawing, these columns were used to display the works of eight art students from the University of British Columbia and Emily Carr University of Art and Design. The drawings were selected by their professors, Barbara Zeigler, UBC, and Nick Conbere, ECUAD.

### Richmond PechaKucha Night

The first Richmond PechaKucha Night was presented during Culture Days 2012 in the Cultural Centre Performance Hall. PechaKucha Nights are informal and fun gatherings where creative people get together and share their ideas, works, and thoughts in a simple presentation format where each presenter shows 20 images, each for 20 seconds and talks about their work. Nine local and regional artists shared their experiences in creating public art and engaged in lively discussions with a 40 person audience.

### Richmond Public Art Program 2011 Annual Report

The Richmond Public Art Program 2011 Annual Report and the Public Art Advisory Committee 2012 Work Plan demonstrate a high level of professionalism, volunteerism and commitment to quality public art in Richmond. The Annual Report highlights the key activities and achievements of the City's public art program through the civic, community and private development programs. The Committee's Work Plan outlines the proposed work tasks for the volunteer committee for 2012. The Richmond Public Art Advisory Committee, as a Council appointed Committee, advises on all aspects of public art policy, planning, education and promotion, including the allocation of funds from the City's designated Public Art Reserve.

### Terra Nova Art Benches

The *Terra Nova Art Benches* at Terra Nova Rural Park, 2431 Westminster Highway, installed in 2011, were featured during Doors Open May 5, 2012. The artists involved in the project are Norm Williams, *Farmer's Bench*, Peter Pierobon, *Cascade*, Thomas Cannell, *Ravens*, Mark Ashby, *Perigeal Raft*, ideale concepts, I. This project represents a wonderful opportunity to investigate land-based design in a public environment. Themes for the benches include the Coast Salish relationship to the site, agricultural history, and the coastal ecology of the Fraser River delta. Artists were on hand to discuss their art benches, and a *Trivia Hunt* was distributed to children to increase their interest in the stories behind the benches.



*The Bee* (2012), Mini Dealership. Location: 10700 Cambie Road



## Gateway Theatre

Gateway Theatre is Richmond's only professional theatre and Metro Vancouver's second largest theatre company. In addition to six annual productions, the Theatre runs the Gateway Academy for the Performing Arts, and invites community and professional companies and individuals to create their own live performing arts events. In 2012, the facility was used 764 times by 52,112 people in the community.

### Professional Theatre Programming

Gateway Theatre produces four Main Stage productions and two Studio Series productions each season. In February, Gateway hosted a production from Newfoundland called *Tempting Providence* by Robert Chafe. The production tells the story of the London-born nurse Myra Bennet who immigrated to the harsh climate of Newfoundland. *Tempting Providence* is an intriguingly-staged story of courage and strength based on the remarkable life of this outport nurse who became known as "the Florence Nightingale of the North". The grandson of Myra Bennet (the play's subject) attended a performance with a broad and proud smile and the community embraced this special show with its unique set.

In March, Gateway hosted *Kismet* by Emelia Symington Fedy, Daryl King, Anita Tochon and Hazel Venzon as part of the Studio Series. In this piece of verbatim theatre, the cast travels across Canada speaking with 100 people aged one to one hundred asking them to comment on the idea of kismet—fate and destiny. The intimate and fascinating production was assembled by Chop Theatre in Vancouver.

Ending Gateway's 2011–2012 season in April was *All Shook Up* by Joe DiPietro in association with the Chemainus Theatre Festival. Various Elvis Presley songs such as Jail House Rock, Are You Lonesome Tonight and Blue Suede Shoes were three of twenty hit parade songs in the show. The story is freely adapted from Shakespeare's Twelfth Night that is believed to be the quintessential girl meets boy, girl loses boy, girl gets boy paradigm of timeless unrequited romance. Hidden in this simple story is an important theme about extricating yourself from the shackles of the class system where the rich and influential hold power over those less financially fortunate. With its cast of 14 directed by outgoing Artistic and Executive Director, Simon Johnston, *All Shook Up* was a fun-filled, dancing in the aisles musical that resonated with the audience.

In October, Gateway's 2012–2013 season was launched with *Sylvia* by A.R. Gurney. A romantic comedy with a twist, this story is about empty nesters that experience marital tensions because Greg, the husband, brings home a stray Labradoodle and Kate, his wife, wants nothing to do with her. Sylvia is a street-smart pooch who becomes the 'other woman' in the relationship.

*Winners & Losers* by Marcus Youssef and James Long was in the studio in November. A compelling, frank and challenging discussion between two friends about winners and losers as they define it their minds starts harmless enough and builds until they turn the debate on each other.

In December *Fiddler on the Roof* by Joseph Stein, Jerry Bock and Sheldon Harnick played on the main stage to critical and financial success. Playing the head of the household was David Adams who commanded the role of Tevye. This celebration of the Jewish tradition is a radiant, tender and humorous masterpiece which audiences adored. Mentored by the leads on stage were community members studying and practicing the art of theatre, including students from the Gateway Academy for the Performing Arts.

### Academy for the Performing Arts

The Academy, a year-long after school and summer program which teaches the art of theatre through musical theatre, acting, voice, singing and improvisational classes for youth 6–18 years was fully subscribed in 2012 with over 300 students in 22 classes. Students from the program are often seen on professional stages throughout the Lower Mainland and in professional training

institutions as they train for their professional career. In addition to classes, the Academy hosts three annual productions. The spring shows held in April were *Our Town* by Thornton Wilder and *Into the Woods* by Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine featuring senior level students (13–18 years) in both acting and musical theatre. The summer production held in July 2012 was *Lost and Found* by Barbara Tomasic featuring students 8–13 years from the Musical Theatre Summer Camp.

To help advance the performing arts, the Gateway Academy provides scholarships to four deserving students who exemplify the core values of the program: courage, creativity and company (ensemble work). The 2012 winners in each age category were Jordan McKenzie (6–8 years), Meghan Houston (8–10 years), Aaron Moy-Peche (10–13 years) and Allegra Calabrigo-Smith (13–18 years). The program also provides bursaries to families in need by application with 15 families receiving support in 2012.



Pippa MacKie played the role of *Sylvia*, a dog her owner Mike Stack found in the park, Gateway Theatre. Photo: David Cooper Photography

### Community Clients

Each year approximately 40 clients use the Gateway Theatre for their own productions. In addition to renting the space, the client receives support in box office services, production services, front of house and concession services and artistic mentorship if requested. Productions included theatre, music, dance, talent and variety shows, memorials and business gatherings.



## Mentorship and Community Outreach

Gateway's outreach and mentorship programs introduce new emerging artists, students, and the general public to Gateway who may not participate on their own without certain incentives. Programs include:

- *Secondary School Program*: Four times a year, secondary school theatre students are invited to the Gateway Theatre for a day to study a play on the main stage. Prior to opening (tech/dress), students participate in presentations and discussions with Gateway's creative team; participate in backstage tours with production and stage management teams; watch a portion of the tech/dress rehearsal; dialogue with administrative staff; and then return to see the show live and report on their overall experience.
- *Free Ticket Program*: For not-for-profit and community organizations
- *Industry discount ticketing program*
- *Pay-What-You-Can Program*: Tickets available to the dress rehearsal.
- *Volunteer Program*: 125 volunteers of all ages consistently participate.
- *Interns and Co-op Students*: In 2012, four students worked in the Gateway office over 16 weeks and three students worked in backstage production over the season. This program assists students in achieving their practicum requirements.
- *Winter Musical: Fiddler on the Roof* (2012) included community actors who participated with a professional creative team, professional leads and professional musicians. The purpose was to create permanent connections and to provide mentorship opportunities to the community at large.

- *Studio and Academy Productions*: Offers emerging artists opportunities to direct, design, and create in a safe, mentored environment. In 2012, four new creative team members joined the program.
- *Post-Secondary Student Educational relationships*: Students are invited to participate as assistant directors, apprentice designers and stage managers, or use their course of study to analyze and/or contribute to the Gateway Theatre. In 2012, students from Studio 58

(Langara College) participated as assistant directors, actors and apprentice designers; students from Douglas College and Capilano College participated as backstage production team and actors; and students from Kwantlen Polytechnic University studied not-for-profit financial and management structures.



*Fiddler on the Roof*. Cast, crew, creative team and orchestra pose, Gateway Theatre. Photo: David Cooper Photography

### Additional Services

- *Field Trip in Your Classroom:* Professional instructors from the Academy program head into the classroom delivering the elementary school drama curriculum throughout the Lower Mainland.
- *Professional Services:* Independent companies are supported with artistic and administrative mentorship, audition, rehearsal space and performance space, office assistance, front of house and box office services, and funding assistance for the development of their work. Gateway also focuses on building relationships and capacity of co-producers and presenters through mentoring (e.g. contracts, payroll and budget management).

### Community Outreach during Culture Days

Culture Days created an opportunity for the community to join the Gateway Theatre and learn more about the facility and programs. Participants enjoyed the following diversity of activities:

- *Audition Master Class on the main stage:* Barb Tomasic (Director, Actor, Singer, and Teacher) taught two Capilano College students how to nail their musical numbers;

- *Costume and Set Design Interactive Booth:* Taylor Tuson (costumes) and Lauchlin Johnston (set) designers encouraged participants to play with all the elements: colour a costume sketch, play with fabric, and arrange miniature set pieces on a stage;
- *Play Readings:* Lucia Frangione and Artistic Director Emeritus, Simon Johnston, read excerpt from their past successes and their works-in-progress. Sponsored by Canada Council for the Arts and Playwrights Guild of Canada;
- *Set Design Presentation:* Designer, Lauchlin Johnston described the set model for our upcoming production of *Sylvia* and taught participants about what it is like being a set designer.
- *Costume Design Presentation:* Taylor Tuson offered her expertise on costume design and provided a sneak peek at the costumes she was building for *Sylvia* and *Harvest*.
- *Backstage Tours (3 tours, each 40 minutes):* These oversubscribed tours allowed the community to experience the stage from the performer's point of view. Gateway's Technical and Production Manager, Brian Heath, led the groups through the theatre's nooks and crannies—from the dressing rooms to the scene shop.

- *Rehearsals at Gateway Theatre:* Artistic Associate, Amy Lynn Strilchuk spoke about how the rehearsal fits into the world of theatre production and what it takes to run a successful rehearsal. Participants were invited into the rehearsal hall for an exclusive look at the space prior to opening night on stage.
- *BC Chinese Music Association—Information and Demonstration:* Gateway Theatre invited client, BCCMA to help spread information and present a small concert with their students.







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