

call to artists

PUBLIC ART
RICHMOND



Figure 1. Steveston Community Centre and Library Rendering

Steveston Community Centre and Library Interior Artwork City of Richmond

Request for Qualifications (RFQ)

December 2024

OPPORTUNITY

The Richmond Public Art Program is seeking an artist or artist team to propose an integrated mosaic tile artwork design for the new Steveston Community Centre and Library in Richmond, BC. The public artwork will be located in the lobby of the facility and will aim to create a sense of arrival and welcome to the facility. All information about the project is described below.

This is a two-stage, design-only open artist call. Following review of the submitted artists' statements of interest and their qualifications, up to five artists will be shortlisted by the selection panel. These artists will be invited to attend a project orientation in advance of preparing a concept proposal for presentation with an interview.

Budget: \$15,000 CAD

Eligibility Requirements: Open to professional artists and artist teams residing in British Columbia.

Deadline for Submissions: January 27, 2025

Installation 2026

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BACKGROUND

The Steveston Community Centre and Library is envisioned to be the heart of the Steveston community, where residents will come to recreate, learn, play and connect in a welcoming and accessible environment. With the goal to serve the community into the future, the new 60,350 square-foot three-storey facility will include two gymnasiums, a fitness centre, community “living room”, library and study areas, as well as several multipurpose rooms for community use. In addition to community centre and library programs, the facility will host local and regional tournaments and events.

STEVESTON VILLAGE

Steveston is a historic fishing village located in the southwest corner of Richmond, BC. Known for its rich ecology at the mouth of the Fraser River, it was a place where Indigenous Peoples fished and gathered food for generations. Settled in the second half of the 1800s, early Steveston supported robust canning, fishing, and boatbuilding industries. Fishing industries drew workers from near and far, especially Indigenous Peoples of coastal BC, Japan, China, and Europe. After many prosperous years, Steveston was challenged by a number of tragic events—a drastic decline in salmon stocks, a devastating fire in the village, the Great Depression, and the internment of its large Japanese population in 1942. Despite these challenges, Steveston continued to thrive as a fishing village throughout the 20th century and is still home to the largest fishing harbour in Canada. In recent decades, Steveston has undergone significant growth and development, but retains its small town feel, historic character and fishing traditions.

STEVESTON COMMUNITY CENTRE AND LIBRARY BUILDING

The 60,350 square-foot facility -- with a 36,000 square-foot footprint -- will be a three-storey building with one level of underground parking. The design will follow a balanced approach where program synergies are realized, impacts on green space and trees are minimized, and views and connections to the park are achieved from many of the program spaces.

The form and character of the building draws inspiration from various buildings and landmarks around the Steveston area, reflecting elements such as the docks at the Steveston waterfront, canopies and fascia trims from the Steveston Tram building, the traditional Japanese curved roof form of the Martial Arts Centre, as well as materiality and patterns from the surrounding industrial buildings. All these elements are cohesively incorporated to form a modern contemporary design.

ARTIST OPPORTUNITY

Shortlisted artists will be invited to propose a unique mosaic tile design to be integrated into the curved architectural element above the front desk reception area in the main lobby. The tiles will be square vitreous glass mosaic tiles. More information regarding the type, size and colour options for the mosaic

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tiles will be provided to shortlisted artists during the second stage of the artist selection process. A \$1,500 artist honorarium will be provided to all shortlisted artists.

The commissioned artist will create and submit a digital artwork file and work with City staff and City contractors to implement their unique design to integrate into the curved element.

THEMES

Artists are encouraged to explore any of the following themes for the Steveston Community Centre and Library while ensuring room for artistic expression, enjoyment, play, colour and interactivity. The artwork should appeal to all ages and engage the community.

Indigenous Culture

For generations, Indigenous Peoples were drawn to the area's rich natural resources and used the area to harvest its bounty including fish, shellfish, berries and crab apples.

Steveston Fishing Industry

Fishing has been the central driver of settlement in the Steveston area, which has served as a base for fishers to collect and process their harvest for hundreds of years. It is also inherent to the long traditions of Indigenous Peoples fishing the Fraser River and Salish Sea. The early fishing industry served as the foundation upon which the community was built and it remains true for the more than 500 commercial vessels in Steveston Harbour today.

Japanese Canadian History

Canadians of Japanese descent have been fundamental to the development and growth of Steveston. In the early 20th century, Steveston was home to a vibrant Japanese Canadian (Nikkei) culture, which included the Steveston Japanese School, Japanese Hospital, boatworks buildings, kendo club and a significant wooden boat fishing fleet.

Fraser River and Local Ecology

Steveston exists in its current state in large part because of its physical and natural environment at the mouth of the Fraser River. Significant natural heritage can be found in the ecology of the tidal marshes, sloughs and mud flats. While many of the original natural features have been lost, traces of native vegetation, shoreline wildlife, marshes and sloughs are still present.

LOCATION

The mosaic artwork will be integrated in the curved architectural element above the front desk reception area in the lobby. As a hub of visitor activity, this is a prominent location of high visibility from multiple directions. See Figure 4 in Appendix 1.

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MATERIALS

The commissioned artist will be required to work with a specialist mosaic fabricator, contracted by the City of Richmond. The installation of the mosaic artwork design will be carried out by City contracted professionals.

BUDGET

An artist fee of \$15,000 CAD, inclusive of all applicable taxes, excluding GST, is available for this project. The artist fee will include administration and coordination meetings with City staff and City contractors, submission of a digital artwork file, and documentation photography. The artist or artist team will not be responsible for fabrication and installation costs of the mosaic tile artwork.

ARTIST ELIGIBILITY

This opportunity is open to artists or artist teams residing in British Columbia, Canada. Qualified artists will have proven experience developing artworks, specifically for civic projects. City of Richmond staff and its Public Art Advisory Committee members, selection panel members, project personnel, and immediate family members of all of the above are not eligible. Richmond-based and local Indigenous artists are urged to consider this opportunity.

Artists that are currently under contract with the City in a public art project are ineligible for other projects until the current contract is deemed complete.

SELECTION PROCESS

A selection panel will recommend the artist or artist team to City Council at the conclusion of a two-stage open call process.

A selection panel comprised of two art or design professionals and three representatives from the Steveston Community Society and Richmond Public Library Board will review the applicants' submissions. City staff will serve as advisors to the panel. Based on the selection criteria listed below, the panel will select up to five finalists to develop their concept proposals and attend an interview. A fee of \$1,500 will be paid to each of the shortlisted artists or artist teams.

Stage 1

- Artists to submit a written Statement of Interest as outlined in the Submission Requirements below.
- Selection Panel to shortlist up to five artists or artist teams for Stage 2.

Stage 2

- Artists to be provided with detailed site information and responses to any questions about the project from City staff.
- Shortlisted artists enter into an agreement with the City to prepare a Detailed Concept Proposal based on their initial submission.

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- Shortlisted artists to attend an interview (in-person or virtual) with the selection panel to present a Detailed Concept Proposal.
- Selection panel to recommend one artist or artist team to Council for endorsement. Selection panel reserves the right to make no recommendations from the submitted applications and artist interviews.

ARTIST SELECTION CRITERIA

Stage One: Selection Criteria

- Artistic merit of artist statement of interest.
- Experience in producing work that reflects community identity and assists in building meaningful cultural places.
- Understanding of the relevance of the site and its histories.
- Potential for making engaging artwork, suitable for multiple audiences.
- Demonstrated capacity to complete work within established project schedules and timelines.
- Demonstrated ability to work with multiple project stakeholders.

Stage Two: Selection Criteria

- Artistic merit of conceptual response to one or more of the themes for the Steveston Community Centre and Library.
- Ability of the artist visualizations, digital renderings or sketches to communicate the concept and how it responds to the existing character of the site by taking into account scale, colour, material, texture, content and the physical characteristics and design parameters of the location.
- Artist response to any feedback and follow-up questions from Selection Panel regarding artistic merit of the concept proposal in response to project opportunity.
- Appropriateness of the proposal to the City of Richmond's [Public Art Program Goals](#).

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Email all documentation as one (1) PDF document, not to exceed a file size of 5 MB to publicart@richmond.ca.

Stage One

- INFORMATION FORM:** please complete the information form attached to this document.
- STATEMENT OF INTEREST:** (Max. 300 words)
 - describe artist or creative practice
 - highlight relevant experience and skillsets in mosaics or similar transferable practices

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- identify themes or topics of interest you would like to explore for this opportunity. Please consider and reference the Stage One Selection Criteria (above) in your Statement.
 - **Please do not include descriptions of a concept proposal.** This information will not be accepted and will be removed by staff prior to review with the Selection Panel.
- **ARTIST CV:** two-page maximum. If submitting as an artist team, please submit maximum one page per team member.
 - **WORK SAMPLES:** up to ten (10) supporting image examples of previous work. Include examples of past mosaic-type work or similar transferable skillsets using other mediums. One image per page. Please include artist name(s), title, year, location and medium information to be on each image page.
 - **REFERENCES:** three (3) references who can speak to your skills and experience. Please only provide the names, titles and Email and/or telephone contact information for each individual. Only references for shortlisted artists will be contacted.

Stage Two (shortlisted artists ONLY)

- **CONCEPT PROPOSAL:** no more than 500 words describing concept, rationale in response to the public art opportunity.
- **CONCEPT VISUALIZATION:** may include digital artist renderings, maquettes/models to fully communicate dimensions, scale, colour, viewer experience, materials and relationship to site features.

PRESENTATION/INTERVIEW: 15–20 minute artist presentation to the Selection Panel followed by a Q+A to present the concept proposal for consideration.

PROJECT TIMELINE

Submission Deadline:	January 27, 2025
Shortlisted Artist Orientation:	February 4, 2025*
Shortlisted Artist Interviews:	March 11, 2025*
Installation:	2026

*All applicants are asked to reserve this date on their calendars.

SOURCES FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

[Richmond Public Art Program](#)

[City of Richmond Archives](#)

[Museums and Heritage Sites](#)

[Steveston Village Conservation Program](#)

[Steveston Community Centre and Library Public Art Plan](#)

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SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

1. All supporting documents must be complete and strictly adhere to these guidelines and submission requirements (above) or risk not being considered.
2. All submissions must be formatted to 8.5 x 11 inch pages, portrait format.
3. Submission files must be 5 MB or smaller.
4. If submitting as a team, the team should designate one representative to complete the entry form. Each team member must submit an individual resume/curriculum vitae. (See Submission Requirements)
5. All documents must be sent by email to: PublicArt@Richmond.ca

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1. Please be advised that the City and the selection panel are not obliged to accept any of the submissions and may reject all submissions. The City reserves the right to reissue the Artist Call as required.
3. All submissions to this Artist Call become the property of the City. All information provided under the submission is subject to the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (BC) and shall only be withheld from release if an exemption from release is permitted by the Act. The artist shall retain copyright in the concept proposal. While every precaution will be taken to prevent the loss or damage of submissions, the City and its agents shall not be liable for any loss or damage, however caused.
4. Submissions must be received by January 27, 2025. Extensions to this deadline will not be granted under any circumstances. Submissions received after the deadline and those that are found to be incomplete will not be reviewed.
5. If an artist requires accessibility support, please contact the Richmond Public Art Program.

ACCESSIBILITY SUPPORT

The City of Richmond strives to create artist opportunities that are inclusive and accessible. If you require assistance in completing the written application for any reason, please contact: PublicArt@Richmond.ca or Tel: 604-247-4612

QUESTIONS

Please contact the Richmond Public Art Program:
PublicArt@Richmond.ca or Tel: 604-247-4612

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

January 27, 2025

SUBMISSION ADDRESS

PublicArt@Richmond.ca

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APPENDIX 1 STEVESTON COMMUNITY CENTRE AND LIBRARY LOCATION

Steveston has many significant human history and natural attractions that give the community a distinct sense of place, and the Steveston Community Centre and Library site is at the geographic centre of it all. The Gulf of Georgia Cannery, Garry Point Park, Imperial Landing Waterfront Park, and other major community amenities are within a short walking distance of Steveston Park. (Figure 2)



Figure 2. Steveston Context

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The Steveston Community Centre and Library is ideally located to be the epicentre of social life in Steveston. The site is within easy walking distance for most residents of Steveston. (Figure 3).

1. New Steveston Community Centre & Branch Library
2. Existing Steveston Community Centre & Branch Library (to be demolished)
3. 177 Surface Parking Stalls & Plaza
4. Steveston Martial Arts Centre
5. Net Shed Building
6. Steveston Outdoor Pool
7. Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre
8. Festival Storage
9. Caretaker Building
10. Community Police Station
11. Steveston Interurban Tram Building
12. Playground
13. Waterplay Area
14. Fast Pitch Diamond
15. Sherwood Forest
16. Off Leash Dog Area
17. Slow Pitch Diamond
18. Outdoor Tennis Courts
19. Lacrosse Box
20. Steveston Community Park Boundary Line



Figure 3. Steveston Community Centre and Library site plan

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The mosaic artwork will be integrated in the curved element above the front desk reception area. (Figure 4).

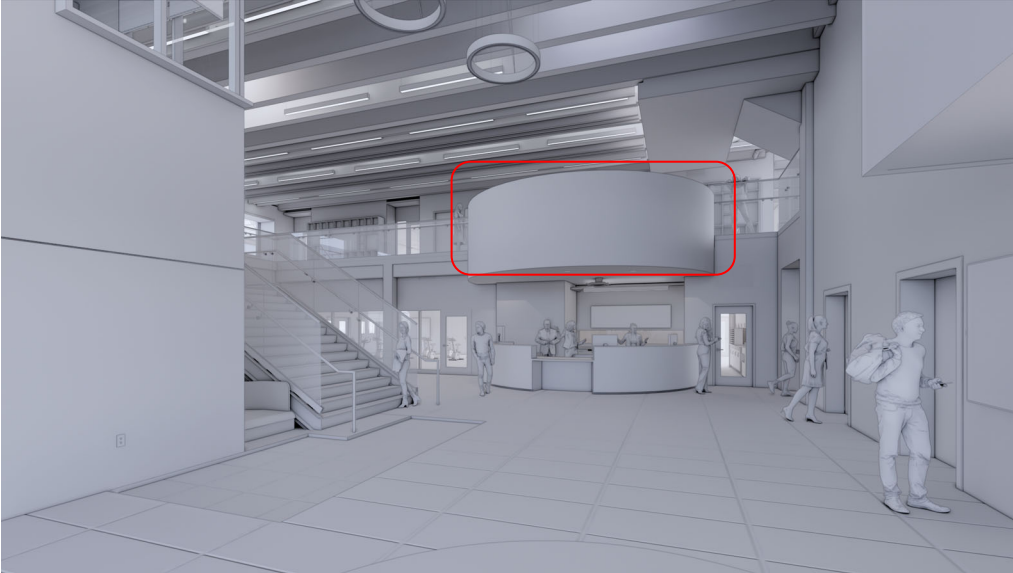


Figure 4. Steveston Community Centre and Library public artwork location

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RFQ: Steveston Community Centre and Library Interior Artwork

Attach one (1) copy of this form as the first page of the submission.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Postal Code: _____

Primary Phone: _____ Secondary Phone: _____

Email: _____ Website: _____
(One website or blog only)

Incomplete submissions will not be accepted. Emailed submissions over 5 MB will not be accepted. Information beyond what is listed in the Submission Requirements will not be reviewed.

Optional: Do you self-identify as a member of an equity-seeking and/or underrepresented community? (examples: Indigenous, person of colour, LGBTQ2S+, mixed ability, newcomer, Deaf, hard of hearing, living with a disability, etc.) If so, please specify:

If applicable, please indicate additional members of your artist team:

Would you like to receive direct emails from the Richmond Public Art Program? Yes No

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Submit applications by email to: PublicArt@Richmond.ca

Additional Information

Please be advised that the City and the selection panel are not obliged to accept any of the submissions and may reject all submissions. The City reserves the right to reissue the EOI/RFP, as required. All submissions to this EOI/RFP become the property of the City. All information provided under the submission is subject to the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (BC) and shall only be withheld from release if an exemption from release is permitted by the Act. The artist shall retain copyright of the submitted documents. While every precaution will be taken to prevent the loss or damage of submissions, the City and its agents shall not be liable for any loss or damage, however caused.