

## Summer City Street Donation



**Title:** *Summer City Streets*

**Artist:** Richard Tetrault

**Medium:** Acrylic collage on canvas

**Date of Artwork:** 1979

**Size of Artwork:** 6 ft H x 24ft L

**Location:** Carnegie Community Centre, 401 Main Street

**Sponsor:** Eastside Arts Society

**Acquisition Method:** Donation with charitable tax receipt

**Lifespan of Artwork:** The lifespan is 20 years. The artwork will be maintained for the duration of this lifespan unless insurmountable circumstances arise that qualify the Public Art for deaccessioning. At the end of its 20-year lifespan, the parties can negotiate whether to extend the lifespan of the artwork.

**Name of Donor:** Richard Tetrault

- **Home Address:** 884 E Georgia St, Vancouver, BC V6A 2A5
- **Telephone number:** 604-215-4492
- **E-mail address:** [tetraultr@gmail.com](mailto:tetraultr@gmail.com)

### Proposal

That the City of Vancouver accepts the donation of “*Summer City Street*” by artist Richard Tetrault, for permanent placement within the Carnegie Community Centre, subject to standard requirements for transfer of title and the donation agreement. As part of this proposal, the artist has agreed to do an initial in-kind cleaning and resealing of “*Summer City Street*” in-situ following the transfer of title and confirmation of donation by the City of Vancouver.

## Artwork Summary

An acrylic-collage mural reflecting the vibrant energy of the bustling city street in the heat of summer. This mural has been on loan to Carnegie Centre since 1980. This was the year that the Community Centre first re-opened its doors in Vancouver after renovation. The artist included the work in their first exhibition at Carnegie that year. He began the piece as a single canvas, inspired by a billboard advertising suntan lotion to the sweltering summer crowds on the street below. The fragmentation of the city's energy, chaotic but musical, along with the rhythm of improvised collage, led him from one canvas to another. Ultimately, it resolved in a piece that, at seven panels, is 6 ft high X 24 ft. long. As this piece evolved, it transformed from an artwork into a mural. In respect to the artist's practice, it is a pivotal piece that re-directed his focus to developing socially and community engaged murals primarily but not exclusively in the Downtown Eastside. Finally, *Summer City Street* appears on the book-cover for "Hastings and Main" (New Star Books, 1987).

## About the Artist

Richard Tetrault is a White Rock-born and Vancouver-based painter, printmaker and muralist. His studio work explores the shifting dynamics and transient nature of the urban landscape.

Undercurrents in his work are the impermanence of our constructed environment and the cultural diversity of his community. Tetrault has exhibited his woodcuts, mixed media prints and paintings in over seventy exhibitions across Canada as well as internationally, and he is represented in numerous public and private collections.

Tetrault's public projects bridge the gap between public and private forms of expression. His numerous murals and collaborations can be seen throughout Vancouver, across Canada, in Mexico, Argentina and Cuba. These large-scale projects, frequently collaborative in nature, engage community in innovative ways. Recent public projects include: Urban Weave #1 (2016) an etched aluminum mural for the City of Richmond, Atira's Gift (2018) a two-story mural for Bridge Housing for Women in Vancouver, Radius (2013) a cross-cultural collaboration for the Year of Reconciliation at the Firehall Arts Centre, Through the Eye of the Raven, (2010) a six-story mural for Vancouver Native Housing Society, and The Russian Hall (2009) a large-scale exterior mural wrapping around the building in East Vancouver. Other works include Summer City Street at Carnegie Centre (1979) and The Gathering Murals (2016,2022) displayed annually for Heart of the City Festival.

Tetrault is a recipient of The City of Vancouver Mayor's Arts Award (2008) and the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal (2010). He works in Strathcona, Vancouver with his partner, photo-based artist Esther Rausenberg. Together they formed Creative Cultural Collaborations Society with the aim of developing a cross- section of public projects. Big Print projects (2014,2016, 2022) is one example

of their community-engaged projects, printing 4' X 8' woodcuts on the street using a steamroller as a press.

## **Donation Rational**

*Summer City Street* by Richard Tetrault has been on loan to the Carnegie Community Centre since the centre's opening in 1980. To ensure its preservation and visibility, we propose permanent stewardship under the City of Vancouver's Public Art Collection. The mural is deeply tied to the history of Carnegie, the Downtown Eastside, and Strathcona; this donation helps to recognize the artistic contributions and living histories of these communities. Stewardship will secure the work in its cultural context, affirm Tetrault's contribution in shaping Vancouver's artistic identity, and embed a longstanding community landmark into the civic collection. Without this donation, and subsequent inclusion into the City's public collection, the mural risks of removal, disrupting its context and connection to Carnegie.

## **Location**

The mural will remain at Carnegie Community Centre (401 Hastings St) lounge area. Further relocation, if required, will occur within Carnegie to maintain accessibility and cultural context. This artwork will be upkeeped on site, and a separate maintenance plan and budget has been developed.

## **Stakeholders**

- Carnegie Community Centre (host and steward)
- City of Vancouver Cultural Services / Public Art Committee (review)
- Strathcona & Downtown Eastside communities (cultural stakeholders)

## **Alignment with City Priorities**

**Culture|Shift Plan:** Vancouver's Culture|Shift plan establishes reconciliation, equity, and cultural presence as foundational to civic cultural policy. The donation of *Summer City Street* supports multiple strategic directions:

### **D1. Arts & Culture at the Centre of City Building**

*Summer City Street* has already functioned as a cultural anchor at Carnegie for more than four decades. Its acceptance into the City's Public Art Collection formalizes that role, embedding the work permanently into a civic site central to the DTES community.

### **D3. Cultural Equity and Accessibility**

The mural's accessibility within a public community center (free and open to residents) exemplifies Culture|Shift's mandate to ensure that art is not confined to elite institutions but embedded in

community spaces. By ensuring the mural remains at Carnegie, the City protects representation for DTES, a community often excluded from cultural recognition.

**Gifts of Art Guidelines:** Vancouver's policy on accepting gifts of art requires all donations to meet specific criteria. *Summer City Street* aligns fully with these requirements:

### **Relevance and Compatibility**

The mural is inseparable from Carnegie and the DTES. Its themes of urban vibrancy and community life are directly relevant to the social and cultural identity of the site.

### **Artistic Excellence**

The work is a pivotal piece in the artist's career, marking a transition to socially engaged mural practice. Its inclusion on the cover of the book *Hastings and Main* demonstrates public recognition of its artistic value.

### **Durability**

The mural has been stable for over four decades in its Carnegie location. A maintenance and conservation plan with a nominal budget has been prepared, ensuring long-term care.

### **Public Safety**

This artwork has been at Carnegie for over four decades and does not have any known safety issues.

### **Authenticity**

The donor will transfer full ownership, title, and copyright, ensuring authenticity and legal compliance.

### **Viability**

Carnegie is a stable site with established infrastructure for long-term public display. The maintenance plan is minimal.

## **Conclusion**

Accepting *Summer City Street* secures the long-term care of an artwork that has been integral to the Carnegie and Downtown Eastside communities for over four decades. Its inclusion in the Public Art Collection directly protects a piece of Vancouver's artistic heritage. Upon acceptance of this proposal, the City would take on long-term maintenance and conservation of *Summer City Street*.

# **Maintenance Plan – Summer City Street**

## **Methods & Materials**

The artwork incorporates acrylic-stained papers, wallpaper, plaster, and cigarette packaging. The substrate consists of seven stretched canvases interconnected and mounted to the wall.

The surface has been sealed with an acrylic polymer medium, hand-brushed over the entire work. This protective layer helps resist moisture, moderates UV fading, and reduces the impact of environmental pollutants.

## **Material Aging Considerations**

Aging is expected primarily in the UV degradation of the wallpaper, which is not archival, though it represents a small portion of the composition. The acrylic elements are expected to retain their original colour. Cigarette packaging has already experienced some fading. Minor material changes over time are expected and consistent with the character of the work and should not be overcorrected.

## **Installation & Mounting**

The artwork consists of seven interconnected canvases mounted to the wall. Based on previous installation, the work is secured using screws into a surrounding wooden support frame.

Installation and removal are considered straightforward and do not require specialized equipment. The artist will confirm current mounting details following a site review at Carnegie prior to any future installation or deinstallation.

## **Areas Requiring Special Care**

Attention should be given to:

- Sections incorporating newspaper and wallpaper, which are more susceptible to UV degradation and material fragility
- Plaster elements, especially areas with higher surface relief, which may be more prone to chipping or abrasion

These areas should be handled with additional care during cleaning, inspection, and any movement of the artwork.

## **Routine Cleaning**

### **Initial Cleaning (In-Kind)**

The artist will provide a one-time, in-kind cleaning and resealing of *Summer City Street* following the transfer of ownership to the City of Vancouver.

**Estimated value (in-kind):** \$260

### **Ongoing Maintenance**

**Frequency:** Every 5 years

**Task:** Light surface cleaning using a damp cloth and gentle soap

#### **Cost Estimate (per cycle):**

- Professional art technician (2 hrs @ \$125/hr): \$250
- Materials (gentle soap, microfiber cloths, water): \$10

**Subtotal per cycle:** \$260

**20-year projection (4 cycles):** \$1,040

## **Monitoring & Inspections**

**Frequency:** Annual

**Task:** Visual inspection for environmental wear, flaking, or graffiti

#### **Cost Estimate:**

- Carnegie staff time (1 hr @ \$40/hr): \$40/year

**20-year projection:** \$800 (*provided in-kind by Carnegie Community Centre*)

## **Graffiti & Damage**

**Frequency:** As needed

**Task:** Graffiti removal, minor repairs such as water damage, or artist consultation

#### **Guidelines:**

- In the event of graffiti or damage that is visually obtrusive, treatment should aim to restore the artwork as closely as possible to its original appearance.
- Minor surface changes and aging are expected and should not be overcorrected.
- While significant damage is not anticipated, the artist should be consulted if major repair or replacement is required.

- The artwork has remained relatively stable over approximately 46 years, and no major conservation issues are anticipated under normal conditions.

**Cost Estimate:**

- Minor repair (2–3 hrs technician): \$250–\$375 per incident
- Major repair requiring artist consultation: \$1,500–\$2,000

**Recommended 20-year contingency reserve: \$3,000**

**Relocation Considerations**

If the artwork must be moved, the artist should be consulted. If the artist is unavailable, a qualified conservator should be engaged to support safe handling and reinstallation. Relocation should be done within Carnegie Community Centre.

**Cost Estimate (if required)**

- Art installers (2 people, 4 hrs): \$1280
- Protective materials: \$100–\$200
- Reinstallation: \$300–\$600
- Conservator consultation (1–2 hrs): \$125–\$250

**Estimated Total: \$1,805 – \$2,330 per move**

**Repair and Replacement Approach**

Significant damage or loss is not expected. However, if it occurs, the artist should be consulted regarding appropriate repair or replacement. Any interventions should aim to match the original materials and maintain the overall visual integrity of the work.

**Total 20-Year Maintenance Projection**

- Initial cleaning: \$260 (*in-kind*)
- Routine cleaning: \$1,040
- Annual inspections: \$800 (*in-kind*)
- Contingency reserve: \$3,000

**Total Budget (including in-kind contributions): \$5,100**

*Relocation costs are not included in the 20-year maintenance total and would be incurred only if the artwork is moved.*

# Public Artwork Condition Report

**Title of Artwork:** Summer City Streets

**Artist:** Richard Tetrault

**Measurements (HxWxD):** 6 ft H X 24 ft L

**Neighbourhood:** Downtown Eastside

**Site Address:** Carnegie Community Centre  
401 Main Street

**Location on Site:** Lounge area on main floor

**Lat/Long:** .

**Responsibility\*:** N/A – Donation Request

**Examiner:** Sahar Issapour

**Date of Inspection:** 2026-03-26

**Overall Condition** (Excellent/Satisfactory/Poor/Critical – see definitions Appendix A):  
Satisfactory

## Major Material and Component Conditions

**Site Conditions:** Paint peeling off surrounding wall.

**Condition Details** (see possible descriptions Appendix B):

**Artwork Structural Condition:** Sound

**Mechanical Condition:** N/A

**Lighting and Electrical Condition:** N/A

**Other Parts and Materials Condition:** N/A

**Base Structural Condition:**

**Surface Condition** (accretions, corrosion, organic growth, etc):

Minor cracks and loss in paint.

Minor stains on surface.

Instance of white accretion on surface.

**Missing or Loose Parts:** N/A

**Plaque/Signage Condition:** Artist signature at bottom centre of artwork

**Demarcation or Graffiti:** Graffiti on second panel from the right

**Suggested Repair/Replacement:** Addressing stains, accretion and graffiti.

**Other Recommendations:** Potential repainting of losses.

**Additional Notes:** This is condition assessment following a donation proposal.

# ***Public Artwork Condition Report***

See [Maintenance Plan – Donation Proposal – Part 2 document](#)

**\*Responsibility:** City (Public Art), City (Parks), Privately Owned, Partnership.

## **Appendix A**

Excellent – Artwork is clean, safe, fully functioning, and requires no action

Satisfactory – Artwork is safe and functioning but requires some cleaning and/or minor repairs that are consistent with the age and medium of the artwork.

Poor – Artwork is safe but requires a major cleaning and/or comprehensive repairs, and/or presents non-functioning elements that undermines the integrity of the artwork.

Critical – Artwork is severely compromised, potentially unsafe, non-functioning and requires immediate action.

## **Appendix B**

Abrasion; Accretion/Incrustation; Break; Chip/loss; Cleavage; Corrosion; Cracks; Delamination; Dent; Delicate Attachments; Dirt/Grime; Flaking; Lifting Paint; Fraying; Gouge/Hole; Insect activity/damage; Mold/Mildew; Powdering; Pitting; Scratches; Stain/Discoloration; Tarnish; Warping; Worn; Inherent Deficiency; Old Repairs.

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Documentation**

Please include any relevant photographs, drawings, conservator reports, technical specifications, or other reference material here: [Select Images Below](#)

## Public Artwork Condition Report

Image 1: graffiti



Image 2: cracks, stains and losses

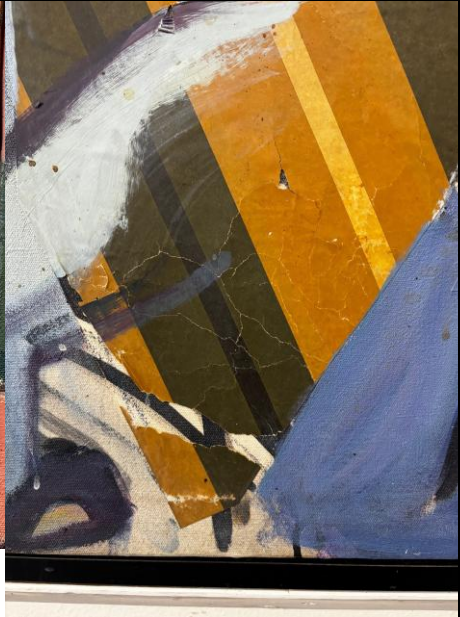


Image 3: accretion

