

From: **"Mochrie, Paul" <Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca>**  
To: **"Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"**  
Date: 7/23/2021 1:17:58 PM  
Subject: Upcoming news release: Artist Initiated Commissions (July 23, 2021)

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Dear Mayor and Council,

I am writing to inform you that this afternoon, the City will be issuing an a news release announcing that six new public art projects are coming to Vancouver as part of a 2019 call for Artist Initiated Commissions.

These projects were selected by a panel of artists, curators, and members of the x<sup>w</sup>məθk<sup>w</sup>əyəm (Musqueam), Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations and Urban Indigenous community. The new public art projects are anticipated to be completed by the end of 2023. As part of the social media push, we will use some visuals from iconic projects that came out of the 2017 call, such as [T'uy't'tanat Cease Wyss and Anne Riley's A Constellation of Remediation](#) and [Ken Lum's Monument for East Vancouver](#).

Best,  
Paul

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The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the x<sup>w</sup>məθk<sup>w</sup>əyəm (Musqueam), Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

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**City of Vancouver**  
**News release**  
**July 23, 2021**

## **More public art coming your way with newly announced City projects**

Six new public art projects, created by emerging and established artists, are coming to Vancouver as part of a City initiative.

The City's call for Artist-Initiated Projects asked artists to submit their ideas for public art projects in any scale, scope, and medium.

"With these projects, artists are invited to expand their art practice into the public realm with new artworks that reflect complexities of place and publics, engage cultural practices, and provoke critical dialogue," said Eric Fredericksen, Head of Public Art with the City of Vancouver. "These opportunities provide chances to create public art across the city, without the limitations of a predetermined site, theme, or medium. This has allowed artists to realize an extraordinary range of projects and to expand on ideas of what public art can be."

The six artists whose work will be exhibited on Vancouver's streets include:

- **Zachary George**

The artist Zachary George will create a səliiwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Welcome Pole for ʂxʷł'ənəq Xwtl'e7énk, the plaza of the Queen Elizabeth Theatre. The artwork will reflect the rich history of land use in the Robson Street Corridor by the local Nations for the hunting and harvesting of food, and will honour the legacy of the artist's grandfather the late Chief Dan George

- **Paige Gratland**

*The Queers' Vernacular* is a public art project that will bring together a series of artist talks by LGBTQ/2S artists to Gender and Sexuality support groups across Vancouver for the purpose of creating a multilingual and intergenerational "dictionary" of LGBTQ/2S slang. The title of this project references Bruce Rodgers' book *The Queers' Vernacular* (1972), which compiled 12,000 entries of pre-Stonewall lingo that had faded out of use as gay culture became assimilated into the mainstream.

- **Paul de Guzman**

Paul de Guzman's series of performances titled *archipelago: laro na tayo* are based on the childhood game "sipa" (kick) played throughout the Philippines. A precursor to hacky sack, the game also predates the Spanish colonization of the Philippines in the 16th century, and is played with a shuttlecock-like object made from a "tingga" (metal washer) wrapped in straw and/or cloth. Guzman's nomadic and temporary performances will explore the Filipino-Canadian experience, and the complexities of migration, colonization, and multiculturalism.

- **Judy Radul**

The renowned performance and media artist Judy Radul will develop an interactive video installation offering a live feed to the large murder of Northwestern crows who use the Vancouver greenways and parks to travel daily back to their roost in Still Creek, Burnaby. The installation's visuals and sound will be activated by the movement of the crows, who act as a sonic timepiece, "going live" according to their own daily migration across the city based on the time of year

- **Howie Tsui**

Howie Tsui is developing a structure that activates the sonic potential of rainwater through a hexagonal pavilion that concentrates rain onto a seven-foot scholar's rock. Based on the *Pagoda of the Gathering Stars* (聚星樓), the only surviving ancient pagoda in Hong Kong, this installation examines the architecture vernacular of Chinatowns and the practice of grafting Chinese aesthetic tropes onto urban spaces in order to project an "Imaginary East."

- **Jon Sasaki**

Artist Jon Sasaki is developing an "anti-monument" that will reflect on the forcible mass confinement and expulsion of Japanese Canadians from Vancouver during the Second World War, and the history of his own family's internment. Through community consultation and research into the use of the Pacific National Exhibition buildings and stables at Hastings Park as a detainment site in 1942, Sasaki's work will reflect the impact of internment on the Japanese

Canadian community both during and after the war.

This Artist Initiated Projects call was issued in 2019, and these projects were selected by a panel of artists, curators, and members of the xʷməθkʷəy̅əm (Musqueam), Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations and Urban Indigenous community.

The City of Vancouver's public art program has been producing Artist-Initiated Projects since 2009. These projects have included temporary and permanent works such as **Tuytitanat Cease Wyss and Anne Riley's A Constellation of Remediation** (2018- ), **Paul Wong's Occupying Chinatown** (2018-19), **Hannah Jickling and Helen Reed's QA CHEW'S BUBBLE TROUBLE** (2018) Sabine Bitter and Helmut Weber's *A Sign for the City* (2011-12), Geoffrey Farmer's *Every Letter in the Alphabet* (2009-10), and **Ken Lum's Monument for East Vancouver** (2010).

The new public art projects are anticipated to be completed by the end of 2023, however timelines are subject to change.

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