

Community Excellence Awards

2018 Application Form

Please complete and return the application form by Friday, May 25, 2018. All questions are required to be answered by typing directly in this form. If you have any questions, contact awards@ubcm.ca or (250) 356-5193.

SECTION 1: Applicant Information	
Local Government: City of Richmond	Complete Mailing Address: 6911 No. 3 Road Richmond, B.C. V6Y 2C1
Contact Person: Jane Fernyhough	Position: Director, Arts, Culture and Heritage Services
Phone: 604 276 - 4288	E-mail: JFernyhough@richmond.ca

SECTION 2: Category
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Excellence in Governance. <i>Governance processes or policies that are outcomes-based and consensus oriented; support and encourage citizen participation in civic decision-making; are efficient, equitable and inclusive, open and transparent; and exemplify best practices in accountability, effectiveness, and long term thinking.</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Excellence in Service Delivery. <i>Projects/programs that provide effective services in a proactive manner, demonstrate benefit to the community, and utilize performance measures, benchmarks and standards to ensure sustainable service delivery.</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Excellence in Asset Management. <i>Projects/programs that demonstrate a comprehensive system of asset management policies and practices, meeting and/or exceeding accepted best practices.</i></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellence in Sustainability. <i>Projects/programs that incorporate a long-term sustainability lens by considering cultural, social, economic and environmental issues in planning, policy and practice.</i></p>

SECTION 3: Project/Program Details
<p>1. Name of the Project/Program:</p> <p>Pollinator Pasture/City of Richmond Public Art Program and Departments of Environmental Sustainability and Parks</p>

2. Project/Program Summary. Please provide a summary of your project/program in 150 words or less.

Pollinator Pasture is a large-scale landscape and community-engaged public art and sustainability project by the City of Richmond's Public Art Program, Environment Programs and Engineering and Sustainability in partnership with Border Free Bees. Border Free Bees is an ambitious, creative and successful long-term pollinator-focused public art initiative headed by Dr. Cameron Cartiere, Associate Professor at Emily Carr University of Art + Design (ECUAD). The 2.6 acre Pollinator Pasture is located at the Bridgeport Industrial Park and planted in the pattern of bee wings with native and naturalized seed beneficial to a broad range of pollinators. The Pollinator Pasture and a wide range of creative, supportive free programming raises awareness of the plight of wild pollinators, particularly bees, and empowers communities to actively engage in solutions for habitat loss. The initiative also transforms an underutilized urban site into an aesthetically pleasing and scientifically viable pollinator pasture.

3. Demonstrating Excellence. Please describe how your project/program demonstrates excellence in meeting the purposes of local government in BC and provides promising practices for others to follow.

The Pollinator Pasture exemplifies how harnessing the power of artistic practices with sustainability can inspire community action, engagement and stewardship of pollinators in British Columbia. It provides a model for how, through the arts, municipalities such as Richmond can involve large and diverse segments of the population in creating and preserving habitats for wild pollinators and foster understanding of the astonishing scope and diversity of pollination systems. Creating habitats and raising awareness of existing ones within the city becomes a creative as well as a conservation act. The wonder-inducing power of art is used to enhance the impact of scientific, indigenous and experiential knowledge.

4. Category Criteria.

A. Please describe how your project/program meets the objectives of the category you have applied under. Refer to S. 3 of the Program & Application Guide.

This project successfully incorporated four pillars of sustainability: cultural, social, economic and environmental as they pertain to planning, policy and practice.

One of Richmond's Council term goals is to continue advancement of the City's sustainability framework and initiatives to improve the short and long term livability of our City and to maintain Richmond's position as a leader in sustainable programs, practices and innovations.

The cross-departmental collaboration in the creation of the Pollinator Pasture has advanced the City's commitment to long-term sustainability through the enhancement of our ecological network and transformation of under-utilized industrial land into a home for bees to support the economic viability of Richmond's farmlands. The project promotes best practices in environmental stewardship through educational and socially engaged public art programming.

B. In many cases projects may meet the criteria of more than one category. If applicable, please describe how your project meets the criteria of one or more other categories.

SECTION 4: Program Criteria

5. Leadership. Describe the extent to which your local government acted as a local or regional leader in the development or implementation of the project/program.

The City of Richmond, in collaboration with Border Free Bees, created the Pollinator Pasture and revitalized a site from a neglected, under-used power line corridor in an industrial area into an active, engaged park site that has re-established ecological networks and aided pollinator conservation.

The pasture is more than a standard habitat and food for pollinators, it includes sculptural, functional native bee apiaries and related didactics for educating the visiting public. This pasture serves as a model for partner pastures in Kelowna and, in 2018, a second pollinator meadow was planted in Richmond at Terra Nova Rural Park.

Local citizens now take pride in the Pollinator Pasture by visiting the park, attending events and exhibitions, as well as creating art and gaining knowledge through pollinator education and volunteer engagement.

The impacts in Richmond are evident in its significant effect on the larger ecological network and economic projects in the City. As outlined in BC Hydro's Right of Way Management Booklet and as the result of the success of Richmond's pollinator pasture, BC Hydro has begun encouraging the transformation of their power line corridors using the pollinator pasture as an exemplary example.

6. Partnerships and collaboration. Describe the breadth and depth of community and/or regional partnerships that supported the project/program and the extent to which internal and/or external collaboration was evident.

The creation of the Pollinator Pasture is the result of a collaboration of the City of Richmond's Public Art Program working with the Departments of Environmental Sustainability and Parks, Richmond Art Gallery, Border Free Bees, Emily Carr University and BC Hydro. Additional support was provided through the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, BC Hydro, East Richmond Community Association and VanCity Savings Credit Union Community Partnership Program Grant. The project and associated programming has included no fewer than 16 City of Richmond departments, partnering organizations and business and community groups.

The City of Richmond has been a key partner to the success of Border Free Bees initiatives over the past three years. The partnership has included the Bridgeport Industrial Park Pollinator Pasture, an art exhibition "For All is For Yourself" held at the Richmond Art Gallery, a new pollinator meadow at Terra Nova Rural park as well as many on-site community events, programs and partnerships.

7. Innovation and promising practices. Describe the degree to which the project/program demonstrated creativity and innovation, and contributed to increased efficiency or effectiveness.

The coordination of the Pollinator Pasture has enhanced new interdepartmental partnerships within the City of Richmond in strategic and concentrated ways to support the City's Ecological Network Management Strategy. It has been such a success that the City is now working with Border Free Bees to create a new meadow pasture at Terra Nova Park that will also incorporate public art, community programming and environmental education

The Pollinator Pasture and related programs contribute to community social goals and quality of life through collective opportunities. Moreover, the Pollinator Pasture and community initiatives have contributed significantly to the conservation of pollinators in the community and quality of life. One of the most striking impacts has been a considerable increase in the number and type of pollinators, particularly wild bees, on the Bridgeport Industrial Park pasture site. Prior to the pasture's installation, a pollinator count took place and none were observed. At that time, the Park was a 70 ft. x 1,000 ft. space planted with grass and evergreens. In 2015, after seeding and growing swathes of nitrogen-fixing plants to prepare for the 2016 pasture, the bee count exploded, particularly with honeybees from a neighborhood hive. In 2017, with the addition of the wild pollinator apiaries and reseeded of the pasture with more varieties of plants, the number and diversity of pollinators has grown dramatically and is currently being tracked by citizen scientists using the Insight Pollinator App.

8. Public engagement and communications. Describe the extent to which public engagement was foundational to the success of the project/program, including the use of communication tools such as social media.

The multi-layered approach to Pollinator Pasture, associated programming and community engagement has reached many hundreds of individuals and community groups (from children to seniors and businesses to non-profits). Community members have been introduced to and entranced by the work of bees and encouraged to take action on an individual level.

Programs and events included the following:

"For All Is For Yourself": For this major gallery exhibition, Border Free Bees brought the Pollinator Pasture to the community with a community-created and installed exhibition at the Richmond Art Gallery from September 12, 2015 to January 3, 2016. Multiple events took place leading up to and during the exhibition, including papermaking workshops to create handmade paper imbedded with pollinator-friendly seed, out of which, 10,000 bee shapes were laser cut for the exhibition. During the papermaking sessions, 300+ community members were educated about the plight of wild pollinators and how they could help. The exhibition also included a wide range of public programming including specialist speakers, and wrapped-up with a well-attended symposium and seed paper bee giveaway event at the Richmond Art Gallery. A smaller exhibit of "For All Is For Yourself" has been on display at the Cambie Community Centre in Richmond to bring awareness of the nearby Pollinator Pasture in the Bridgeport Industrial Park.

Pollinator Pasture Picnic: The City of Richmond, Public Art Program, Parks Department,

Sustainability Department, BC Hydro, East Richmond Community Association and Border Free Bees held a free community picnic at the Bridgeport Industrial Park pasture for "Doors Open, Richmond" on June 4, 2016. Hundreds of community members had the opportunity to tour the pasture, visit the apiaries, test Border Free Bees' citizen science protocol, enjoy music, see pollinator-related artworks created by secondary student partners, and learn about pollinators at educational booths. The City of Richmond Public Art Program and Border Free Bees also created opportunities for professional artists to participate. Kelowna artist Samuel Roy-Bois reprised his interactive Small Worlds sculpture as part of Border Free Bees' artist exchange with the Kelowna pollinator pasture. Eco-artist Sharon Kallis also participated in the picnic as part of her Border Free Bees sponsored artist-in-residence in the Richmond pasture during summer 2016 working with natural materials to create a public art sculpture with the assistance of community members.

School Partnerships: Border Free Bees continues to partner with secondary students in Richmond on various projects related to the pasture. The Ecosaders at Cambie Secondary School planted 200 sunflowers in the Richmond Pollinator Pasture, participated in two papermaking workshops as part of For All is For Yourself, built and painted bumblebee houses, participated in Bee ID workshops and beta tested the paper and online versions of Insight, a citizen science app. In partnership with the Richmond Art Gallery and supported by utilizing a Richmond Community Foundation Impact Grant, Border Free Bees worked closely with art students at four secondary schools. This partnership resulted in several artworks related to pollinators displayed in the schools and at the Pollinator Picnic. For Earth Day 2017, Border Free Bees also supported youth in Richmond at the REaDY Summit, providing workshops and conducting outreach.

Border Free Bees Meets the David Suzuki Foundation Butterflyway: Border Free Bees expanded the Pollinator Pasture work in Richmond with a series of workshops designed to recruit and educate Bee and Butterfly Rangers. Partnering with the David Suzuki Foundation, Dr. Elizabeth Elle from SFU's Pollinator Ecology Lab, Cambie Community Centre, McNair Secondary, Richmond Parks Department and the Sharing Farm at Terra Nova, Border Free Bees provided participants with an introduction to the wide variety of native pollinators as well as training in the use of the Citizen Science Insight pollinator app.

Community Eco-Art Project, Blackberry/Butterfly Net: Artist Sharon Kallis led a series of workshops and events in the Pollinator Pasture to create a temporary public art installation. The artwork was comprised of blackberry fibre rope that was made by community members. The exhibition of the artwork and the event series was presented by Emily Carr University of Art + Design in partnership with the City of Richmond.

Culture Days 2015: The Richmond Cultural Centre hosted several free drop-in opportunities over the Culture Days weekend including a bee windsock workshop presented, in partnership with the Richmond Art Gallery, a banner design workshop in conjunction with the City's banner design contest and Resident Art Group showcase

with hands-on demos and activities in pottery, weaving, textiles, painting and photography. The Media Lab's Richmond Youth Media Program also hosted a "Be a Bee" open house event. The Richmond Public Library partnered with local community groups to host the Buzzworthy Community Fair with a focus on creating a healthier environment and celebration of bees. The public had the opportunity to try some fun hands-on activities and learn how to get involved with local organizations for a greener world. Local groups in attendance included the Richmond Food Security Society with their Richmond Seed Library, City of Richmond Environmental Sustainability Department, Earthwise Society and Richmond Green Ambassadors. The event featured Plants, Pollinators & Bath Slough Buzz where participants learned about the often pretty, but growing concern posed by invasive species in Richmond and how the City's first pollinator pasture is introducing more native plants to enhance local ecology in the Bath Slough area.

9. Transferability. Describe the degree to which the process or outcomes of the project, or other learnings, could be conveyed to other UBCM members.

A term goal of Richmond City Council is to continue development and utilization of collaborative approaches and partnerships with intergovernmental and other agencies to help meet the needs of the Richmond community.

It would be difficult to find a more vibrant, original and innovative approach to public art and pollinator issues than Border Free Bee's Pollinator Pasture in Richmond. Pollinator Pasture has brought together professionals from complementary fields and community members to collaborate in contributing to pollinator health, from the smallest kindergarten child learning about the difference between bees and wasps to editors of academic journals, from municipal policy-makers to local artists and from conservative business people to radical agriculturalists. The City of Richmond and Border Free Bees have utilized the interactivity, connectivity and inspiration of art-making to successfully forge full-fledged community responses to this most crucial sustainability issue of our era.

The methodologies and activities of this long-term public art project are highly transferable to other municipalities. The project's mission is to raise awareness of the plight of wild pollinators, empower communities to actively engage in solutions for habitat loss, and transform under-utilized urban sites into aesthetically pleasing and scientifically viable pollinator pastures. The Cities of Kelowna and Vancouver have embraced similar projects in collaboration with Border Free Bees.

Additional resources, press, videos, and photographs are available at:

www.borderfreebees.com

Citizen Science, Insight Pollinator App:

<https://insightcitizenscience.com/>

City of Richmond Pollinator Pasture Video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H1uhqosgCK4>

Richmond Art Gallery Pollinator Pasture Programming

www.richmondartgallery.org/learn-and-create/youth/youth-outreach-project-2015-16/

SECTION 5: Additional Information

10. Please share any other information you think may help support your submission.

List of Honours

Municipal: Border Free Bees was awarded a City of Richmond Arts Award in 2017 for the Pollinator Pasture

Provincial: The City of Richmond and Dr. Cameron Cartiere received the 2018 BCRPA Program Excellence Award for the Pollinator Pasture

National: Border Free Bees received the Pollinator Partnership's Pollinator Advocate Award for Canada, October 2017

International: Border Free Bees was also a recipient of the 2017 Pollinator Advocate Award from the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign (NAPPC) and the Pollinator Partnership (P2). The award recognizes organizations who have contributed significantly to pollinator species protection and conservation in Canada, the United States, and Mexico.

<http://pollinator.org/awards>

DR. Cameron Cartiere and Nancy Holmes of Border Free Bees recipients of NAPPC POLLINATOR ADVOCATE CANADA 2017

Dr. Cameron Cartiere and Nancy Holmes of Border Free Bees provide a model for how communities can come together to create and preserve pollinator habitat and understand the scope of pollination systems. For the last three years, this project has been influential in biodiversity conservation in the province of British Columbia, particularly in the municipalities of Richmond in the Vancouver area and Kelowna in the agricultural valley of the Okanagan. It has created more than 40 projects, events and educational experiences in these communities, ranging from major plantings and significant art exhibitions to smaller community gatherings and projects. Although Border Free Bees is in its final year, the projects will continue into 2018 including projects that are being developed in Idaho and Mexico.

SECTION 6: Signature

Applications are required to be signed by an authorized representative of the applicant.

Name: Jane Fernyhough

Title: Director of Arts, Cultural and Heritage Services

Signature: 

Date: May 25, 2018

All applicants are required to submit:

- Signed application form. Applications should be submitted as Word or PDF files.
- Five representative photos of the project. Photos should be submitted as JPEG files.

If you choose to submit your application by e-mail, hard copies do not need to follow.

Submit applications to Local Government Program Services, Union of BC Municipalities

E-mail: awards@ubcm.ca

Mail: 525 Government Street, Victoria, BC, V8V 0A8