

City of Richmond

2010 Richmond Arts Award Winners Honoured

30 April 2010

Visionary, tireless, stimulating and inspiring. These words are used repeatedly to describe the six winners of the second annual Richmond Arts Awards, announced at a ceremony in Council Chambers on Thursday, April 29.

Established to recognize and celebrate the achievements and contributions to the arts by Richmond residents, artists, educators, organizers and business leaders, the Richmond Arts Awards are presented by the City of Richmond in partnership with the Richmond Arts Coalition and are sponsored by the *Richmond News*.

The 2010 award recipients are:

The Cultural Leadership Award, which recognizes an arts professional or organization as a leader in their arts discipline, as well as their organization stewardship and their contribution to Richmond's cultural development was awarded to the **Richmond Art Gallery**. A community gallery formed in 1980, it supports contemporary artists whose work is innovative, intellectually stimulating and sometimes controversial. Recently, the RAG was identified as one of the best small galleries in Canada in a survey of Canadian museum and gallery professionals.

Sid Akselrod for the Arts Education Award, which recognizes an individual or organization whose achievements and contributions to arts education have been significant and far reaching. As the leader of the Art department at Steveston-London Secondary School, Sid has taught, mentored and inspired the artistic endeavours of students for the past decade.

Morri-Lynn Buchanen for the Artistic Innovation Award, which recognizes an individual artist or organization producing visionary, creative work, exhibiting innovation within their arts discipline or bringing a new cultural experience to Richmond. A Richmond resident for 23 years with more than 35 years of teaching experience, last year, Morri-Lynn choreographed *Missing Pieces* about people with Autism. Her group was invited to perform the work in Montreal at the Dance World Cup where it received a standing ovation.

Mark Glavina, owner of Phoenix Art Workshop received the Business and Arts Award. This award recognizes a business that has made a significant contribution to the arts in Richmond by supporting a Richmond-based artist or arts organization through sponsorship or volunteer service. Since establishing this Steveston business in 1997, Mark has operated an art retail store and provided art workshops to all ages, sharing his knowledge, leading art groups in local and international destinations, speaking at teacher conferences and sitting on panels for the City's public art program.

Eva Baker received the Volunteerism Award, which recognizes an individual who has made a significant contribution to the arts in Richmond by supporting a Richmond-based artist or arts organization through volunteer service. From the early days of the Richmond Orchestra and Chorus Association (ROCA), Eva was a visionary and nurturing mentor, not only performing with the choir but making it possible for bursaries to be offered yearly in her name thanks to her own fundraising efforts and personal donations.

Kenneth Lee for the Youth Award, which recognizes a performing, literary or visual artist, 24 years of age or younger, who has demonstrated outstanding promise and commitment to the Richmond arts community. Kenneth began piano lessons when he was four and at the age of nine debuted as a soloist with the Richmond Orchestra and Chorus. In 2006, he was diagnosed with a brain tumour that caused double vision; two months after surgery, he was playing concerts. His health problems have prompted him to raise money for BC Children's Hospital.

In its second year, 67 nominations from the public were reviewed by the selection panel which was comprised of the 2009 winner for Artistic Innovation, artist Margaret Dragu; Richmond Arts Coalition board member and last year's winner for Volunteerism, Janice Froese; Richmond Chamber of Commerce board member Lisa Wong; and Teresa Takeuchi, artist and programmer for the City of Richmond.