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RICHMOND ART GALLERY School Art Program



Teacher Welcome Package

Welcome

Thank you for choosing to bring your class to the Richmond Art Gallery! We aim to provide a rich learning experience for your students and the opportunity for them to integrate their learning in original artworks.

This guide contains all the information you will need to organize your trip to the gallery, and includes helpful information to share with parents, guardians and chaperones. A teacher guide with information specifically about the exhibition and artists will be sent to you closer to the date of your visit.

Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns about your visit to the Richmond Art Gallery. We look forward to seeing you and your students!

Preparing for Your Visit

Please be sure to go over gallery etiquette with your class prior to your visit. We want to ensure everyone feels welcome and at ease in the gallery, but we need everyone's help to keep the art looking its best so future generations can enjoy it.

Gallery Etiquette

- **Don't pet the art! Please no touching.** Even clean hands have natural oils and acids that leave residue on works of art and can damage them.
- **Give the art some room, stand back.** It's easy to trip, or even sneeze unexpectedly, so we ask that visitors keep a safe distance of at least one arm's length between you and the artwork, whether it is on the wall or a sculptural artwork on the floor.
- **Walk, don't run to the art.** Please be respectful of the gallery space and careful around the artworks. Most artworks are very fragile.
- **Please use inside voices.** The gallery is a public space, so please keep voices low so other visitors can enjoy the art.
- **Don't feed the art! No food or drink** is permitted in the Gallery.

In the Classroom

A **Teacher Guide** will be emailed to you a few weeks before your gallery field trip which includes information about the exhibition, the artists, and relevant art vocabulary for you to share with your students.

Optional pre and post visit classroom activities are included in the guide, which are a great way to get the most from your gallery experience both before and after the visit.

The teacher guide also contains links to additional video, book, and web resources that can be used prior to your visit or to extend the topics covered in the exhibitions.

On the day of the workshop

Please arrive 5-10 minutes before your session to make your payment at the Cultural Centre front desk. Payment can be made with credit, debit, cash, or cheque. The instructor will meet you outside the Gallery doors at the start time of your scheduled workshop.

Nametags are encouraged so gallery educators can address students by name.

Additional adult chaperones are not required as the Richmond Art Gallery is a small gallery, however parents or guardians are welcome to accompany students on the gallery tour. Due to limited space, we recommend a maximum of 5 additional adults joining the teacher and students in the workshop.

Student discipline during your visit is the responsibility of the teacher and adult chaperones. Adults are to remain with the students at all times.

Washrooms are located in the Cultural Centre down the hallway to the right of the information desk, and there is a single stall washroom located in the art studio.

Free 3 hour parking is available at the Cultural Centre parkade and Arenas parking lots, which can be accessed from Granville Ave. or Minoru Blvd. Please check signage as some parking is limited to 30 minutes. **Free all day parking** is available on the upper level of the parkade.

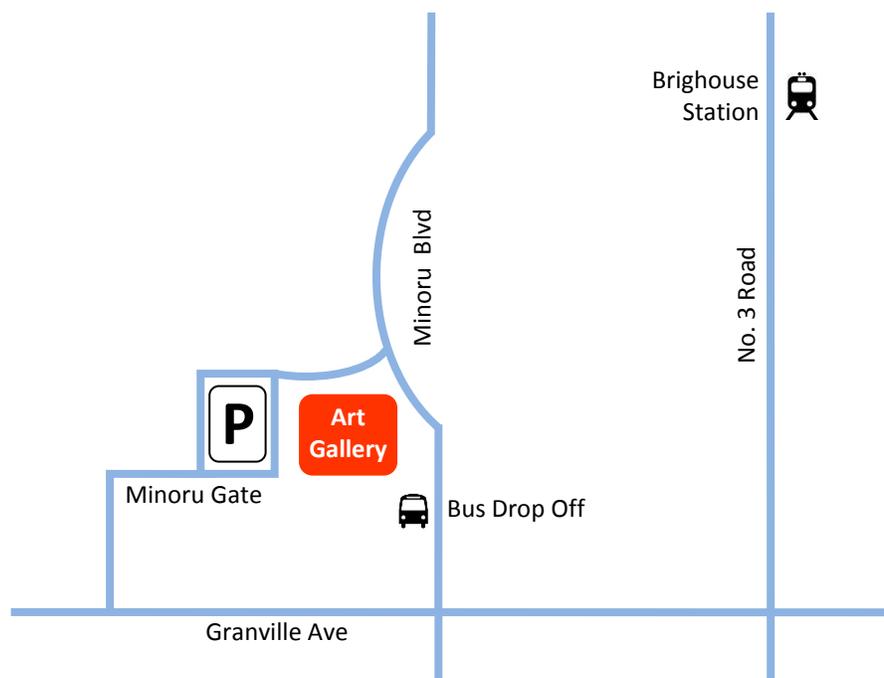
Coats and bags can be stored inside the gallery beside the art studio on our student coat hooks.

There are no lunchroom facilities inside the Cultural Centre, but snacks can be eaten outside at the picnic tables in the park, weather permitting. There is a water fountain located in the Cultural Centre down the hallway to the right of the information desk.

Photography is allowed in the art classroom and in the gallery during certain exhibitions. Please check with the gallery educator on the day of your visit before photographing the artwork.

Getting Here

The gallery is located inside the Richmond Cultural Centre, at 7700 Minoru Gate, and is a ten-minute walk from the Brighthouse Canada Line station. School buses can pull into the bus drop off on Minoru Boulevard. Parking can be accessed from Granville Avenue or Minoru Boulevard.



After your visit

Picking Up Student Artworks

Many artworks take time to dry, especially paintings and prints. Artworks will be ready for pick up the day after the workshop, and can be picked up anytime during our open hours (M-F 10am-6pm, Th 10am-9pm, Sa-Sun 10am – 5pm). The artwork will be packed up in a paper bag with your name on it. Speak to the gallery attendant on duty, and they will retrieve your artwork. You may also arrange with a parent or volunteer to pick up the artwork for you.

Extensions in the Classroom

After the workshop, choose an activity from the teacher guide, or try one of these activities:

- Writing exercise – each student creates an **artist statement** about their work which consists of a title and a few descriptive sentences.
- Classroom Gallery Walk – set out all the completed works for students to walk around and view, students choose one to talk about and they share observations and responses to the work with the class
- Art Exhibition in the school

Information for Parents & Guardians

Please pass on the following tips for parents and guardians to prepare their children for their gallery field trip.

- **Prepare for the day.** Ask your child what they are going to see and do at the Richmond Art Gallery, and talk about appropriate behavior in an art gallery.
- **Eat a hearty breakfast or lunch.** There is no food or drink allowed in the gallery, and most programs are between 1-2 hours in length so make sure your child has had a good meal before their field trip.
- **Dress for mess.** Making art can be a messy business so please dress your child appropriately. We have discovered that even “washable” art materials frequently leave stains.
- **Follow up at the end of the day.** Students are very proud of their artwork. Ask them to describe what they created and what they saw and did at the gallery.

Please print off and give the **Guidelines for Adult chaperones** to any parents and guardians who will be accompanying the field trip.



Guidelines for Adult Chaperones

Be a role model. Please model good gallery etiquette by keeping a safe distance from the artworks, not eating or drinking in the gallery, not leaning on gallery walls, and quietly listening during the tour and studio instruction. Modeling good behaviour by listening to and following the gallery rules encourages students to do the same.

Please respect photography guidelines. Artwork is copyrighted by the artist, and for certain exhibitions may not be photographed. Please check with the gallery instructor prior to taking photographs in the gallery. Photography is permitted in the art studio.

Please leave younger siblings at home. We ask that chaperones do not bring other children, including younger siblings or babies, along on the tour or workshop as it can disrupt the students' attention and focus on the learning tasks they are undertaking.

Please turn off or mute your cell phone to avoid interrupting the gallery educators and distracting the students or other gallery visitors.

Your help may be requested. Please be willing to lend a hand with the studio activities, and assist with supervising student behavior in the gallery.

Artist at work – please do not disturb. Art is a learning process, with no 'right' or 'wrong' way to create. The hands-on workshop is designed to encourage exploration of new ideas, materials, and techniques. Please allow this process to flourish by allowing students to make their own discoveries.

Free parking is available at the Cultural Centre and Arenas parking lot, which can be accessed from Granville Ave. or Minoru Blvd. Please check signage as some parking is limited to 30 minutes. Free all day parking is available on the upper level of the parkade.

Be early. Please aim to arrive at the Richmond Art Gallery at least 5-10 minutes before the start of the scheduled tour. The Cultural Centre and Minoru Sports Complex are busy areas and parking can sometimes take time to find so please take this into account.

Thank you for volunteering to make the Richmond Art Gallery visit a fun and memorable experience for everyone!

Frequently Asked Questions

For many students (and adults), visiting an art gallery is a new experience. The questions below are some of the most common asked of gallery staff. Please go over these questions with your students.

WHAT KIND OF GALLERY IS THIS?

The Richmond Art Gallery is a **non-profit organization**, which means we are not in the business of selling art. We are the City of Richmond's public art gallery whose mandate is to exhibit **local, national and international contemporary art** for visitor's enjoyment as well as educating the public about contemporary cultural practices.

WHAT IS CONTEMPORARY ART?

Contemporary art is a term used to describe **art of the present era**. Contemporary means "of the times", so the artwork often comments on **current issues and ideas** or is made with **new and innovative materials or techniques**.

WHY IS THAT CONSIDERED ART?

Some contemporary artists use materials and techniques in ways we do not normally consider as "art". However, today's artists respond to the world they live in, just like the artists 500 years ago responded to their world through paintings or sculpture. This is also what makes contemporary art so exciting, it reflects upon what is happening right now to reveal new images or new ways of thinking.

WHAT IS THAT?

Sometimes we cannot immediately understand what the artist is trying to communicate because we have not explored the subject in that way before. The best way to enjoy the art is to slow down, relax and be open to ideas. (*Isn't this what we ask children to do when confronted with something new?*) Ask questions like "what do I see?" or "why are these materials being used?" while looking at an artwork. Don't worry that you do not "get it", take your time to explore and uncover clues at your own pace.

IS THAT ARTIST STILL ALIVE?

Children often ask this question, as most of the artists they study are from history. The Richmond Art Gallery only **shows works from living artists** who are currently active in their professional practice.

WHY DO I HAVE TO BE SO CAREFUL IN AN ART GALLERY?

Touching artworks often damages it, as fingers will leave oils and dirt on the artwork that eats away at it over time. By walking too close to artworks on the walls or floor, we may accidentally knock the work or cause it to fall. Please help us preserve the art!

If students have any further questions about art galleries, have them bring the questions for us to discuss during their visit.