



▲ *Myléts – Water's Edge*, 2024, James Harry

# CITY OF NEW WESTMINSTER PUBLIC ART PLAN

Δ Δ RTPL Δ CE + **CMCK Public Art Ltd.**

ACEDAC PRESENTATION | JUNE 12 2025

Public art engages history  
and place and has the  
capacity to create dialogue  
and inspire social progress.

City of New Westminster, Public Art Policy, 2022

# PROJECT INFORMATION

## PROJECT DETAILS

### Client

CITY OF NEW WESTMINSTER  
Community Services  
Anvil Centre, 777 Columbia Street,  
New Westminster, BC V3M 1B6

### Main Contact

QUYEN HOANG  
Public Art Program Lead  
T: 604 315 5732 | 604 636 3553  
qhoang@newwestcity.ca

## PROJECT ART CONSULTING TEAM

### Public Art Consultant

Aartplace and CMCK Public Art Ltd.  
ANABELLA ALFONZO | Aartplace  
Principal | Co-Lead Art Consultant  
T: +1 604 729 2891  
anabella@aart.place

CIARA MCKEOWN | CMCK Public Art Ltd.  
Principal | Co-Lead Art Consultant  
T: +1 403 604 9088  
cmckpublicart@gmail.com

### Supporting Team Members

MIRET RODRIGUEZ | Research Assistant  
CAMILLA COATES | Graphics & Research Coordinator  
SAHAR ISSAPOUR | Graphics & Research Assistant

### Indigenous Consultant

RYAN RICE  
Engagement and Indigenous  
Relations Advisor  
T: 416 515 6034  
ryrice@gmail.com



## CREATING AN ART PLAN FOR NEW WESTMINSTER

The objective of the Public Art Plan is to provide a clear vision for the City of New Westminster and set a direction for the Public Art Program for the next ten years. ►



▲ Welcome to the Zoo, 2021, Nathan Lee

## CREATING AN ART PLAN FOR NEW WESTMINSTER



*Children's Art Banners, 2025, Community Art ▲*

The PAP will inform the development of new projects, define clear goals and outcomes and guide future decision-making and resource allocation for Public Art. ►



# CREATING AN ART PLAN FOR NEW WESTMINSTER

## ARTS STRATEGY

The current **Art Strategy** 2019–2024 goal is to “translate the needs and requirements of the arts into a tool for implementing objectives and actions”<sup>1</sup>

Driven by vision and values, provides high-level planning strategies for arts development, and tactics to achieve them. It is used to inform public policy development, priority setting and the distribution of resources.

<sup>1</sup> New Westminster Arts Strategy, p.3

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## PUBLIC ART POLICY

The City of New Westminster adopted its first **Public Art Policy** in 2012. In 2022 a review of the policy ensured its alignment with key City policies and priorities, aiming to set the foundation for developing a critical and engaging Public Art Program.

“The primary purpose of the Public Art Policy is to provide a structure through which the City of New Westminster acquires and integrates public art. The Policy guides staff in the development, management and stewardship of public art throughout the city”<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> New Westminster Public Art Policy, p.1

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## PUBLIC ART PROGRAM

“The **Public Art Program** is administered by the City’s Art Services staff, reporting to the Director of Community Services. Art Services staff provide leadership in the planning, coordination and implementation of public art for the City in alignment with the Public Art Policy.”<sup>3</sup>

<sup>3</sup> New Westminster Public Art Policy, p.3

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## PUBLIC ART PLAN

**The Public Art Plan will provide a clear vision and set a direction for the Public Art Program for the next ten years.**

It will inform the development and prioritization of new projects, define goals and outcomes, and guide future decision-making and resource allocation. The Plan will support opportunities to share the city’s history, diversity and its journey towards reconciliation while supporting the interests and practices of artists engaged in public art.

## VISION STATEMENT

Public art in New Westminster creates opportunities for artists and communities to experience and engage with the city in new and dynamic ways.

## PRINCIPLES THAT SHAPE PUBLIC ART IN NEW WESTMINSTER

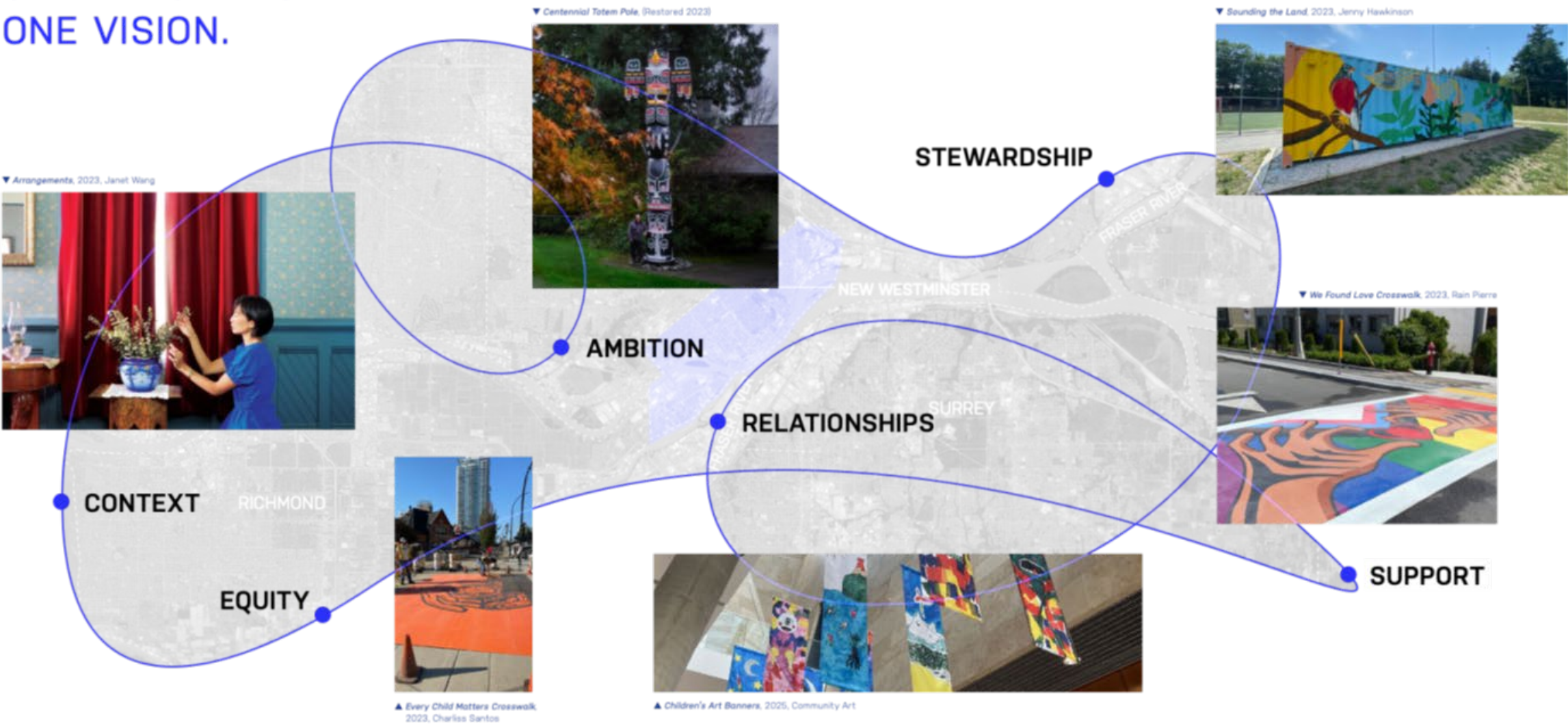
The Public Art Plan Principles build upon the Guiding Principles in the City's Public Art Policy to address public art past and present, to support City priorities, and to guide the future direction of public art in New West. ►



▲ Salmon Run, 2023, Randal Bear Barnettson



SIX PRINCIPLES.  
ONE VISION.



## GOALS



World's Largest Coast Salish Welcome Figure, 2025, Brandon Gabriel ▲

The following Goals are for public art in New Westminster over the next ten years. Alongside the Principles, these goals form the foundation that will guide all aspects of public art commissioning and programming. ►

GOALS

BUILD EDUCATION AND AWARENESS	+
SUPPORT ARTISTS	+
ENSURE MEANINGFUL INVOLVEMENT	+
CREATE IMPACT	+



GOALS

BUILD EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

- Increase staff knowledge to build awareness of the breadth and diversity of public art and associated policy and processes.
- Increase community awareness and interest in public art through a communications plan and educational programming to expand knowledge of artistic practices.
- Facilitate workshops and mentorship opportunities for artists at all career levels.

SUPPORT ARTISTS

ENSURE MEANINGFUL INVOLVEMENT

CREATE IMPACT

GOALS

BUILD EDUCATION AND AWARENESS +

SUPPORT ARTISTS —

- Intentionally and strategically commission underrepresented art and artistic practices to broaden access to public art and extend the reach of the public art program in New Westminster.
- Continue supporting artists from the region while bringing in new artists from further afield to broaden the impact of the program, and demonstrate the benefits of public art.
- Create a range of opportunities directed for local and urban Indigenous artists. Artists will be supported and empowered to create meaningful and culturally relevant artwork.
- Develop a social procurement approach to public art that supports a flexible, decolonized process and removes systemic barriers.
- Compile lists of local and regional businesses and experts connected to public art — including fabricators, engineers, and others.

ENSURE MEANINGFUL INVOLVEMENT +

CREATE IMPACT +

GOALS

BUILD EDUCATION AND AWARENESS +

SUPPORT ARTISTS +

ENSURE MEANINGFUL INVOLVEMENT —

- Work with local nations and urban Indigenous stakeholders to develop meaningful involvement throughout the commissioning process for Indigenous and non-Indigenous public art opportunities.
- Develop consultative processes and/or protocols for knowledge-sharing, site evaluations and considerations, to understand the concerns and expectations of local nations for public art.
- Engage with communities in reciprocal ways that deepen the relationship and understanding of place, and support engagement throughout the public art commissioning process.
- Integrate artists into City processes across City departments to encourage longer and earlier artists' involvement and to embed artistic thinking into civic work.

CREATE IMPACT +



GOALS

BUILD EDUCATION AND AWARENESS +

SUPPORT ARTISTS +

ENSURE MEANINGFUL INVOLVEMENT +

CREATE IMPACT —

- Commission art that will enliven civic spaces and be experiential, to contribute to a dynamic urban realm: rotate programming; artworks of short durations; use existing platforms etc..
- Initiate and support partnership with communities, to enrich civic dialogues and engender a reciprocal, collaborative environment for public art.
- Increase public programming, develop discourses related to histories and artwork concepts to support projects

## ENGAGEMENT

**We engage to** understand the current state.

**We engage to** inform the plan's direction.

**We engage to** increase activities promoting education and awareness.

# WHO AND HOW WE ENGAGE

A multi-phase engagement process, starting in 2024, has been allowing us to gather insights from key groups:

Indigenous Artists & Cultural Professionals	City Staff	Arts Sector Professionals	General Public	Advisory Groups
Focus group roundtable	One-on-one interviews	Information session	Online survey, social campaign	Direct consultation



PUBLIC ART PROGRAM CONTEXT

HERE'S



WWI Memorial, 1922, George William Patterson ▲

HOW



Simon Fraser, 1998, Louis-Philippe Hébert ▲



Puddle Jumper, 2008, Richard Finday Landscape Architect Inc. and Holly Young ▲

PUBLIC ART

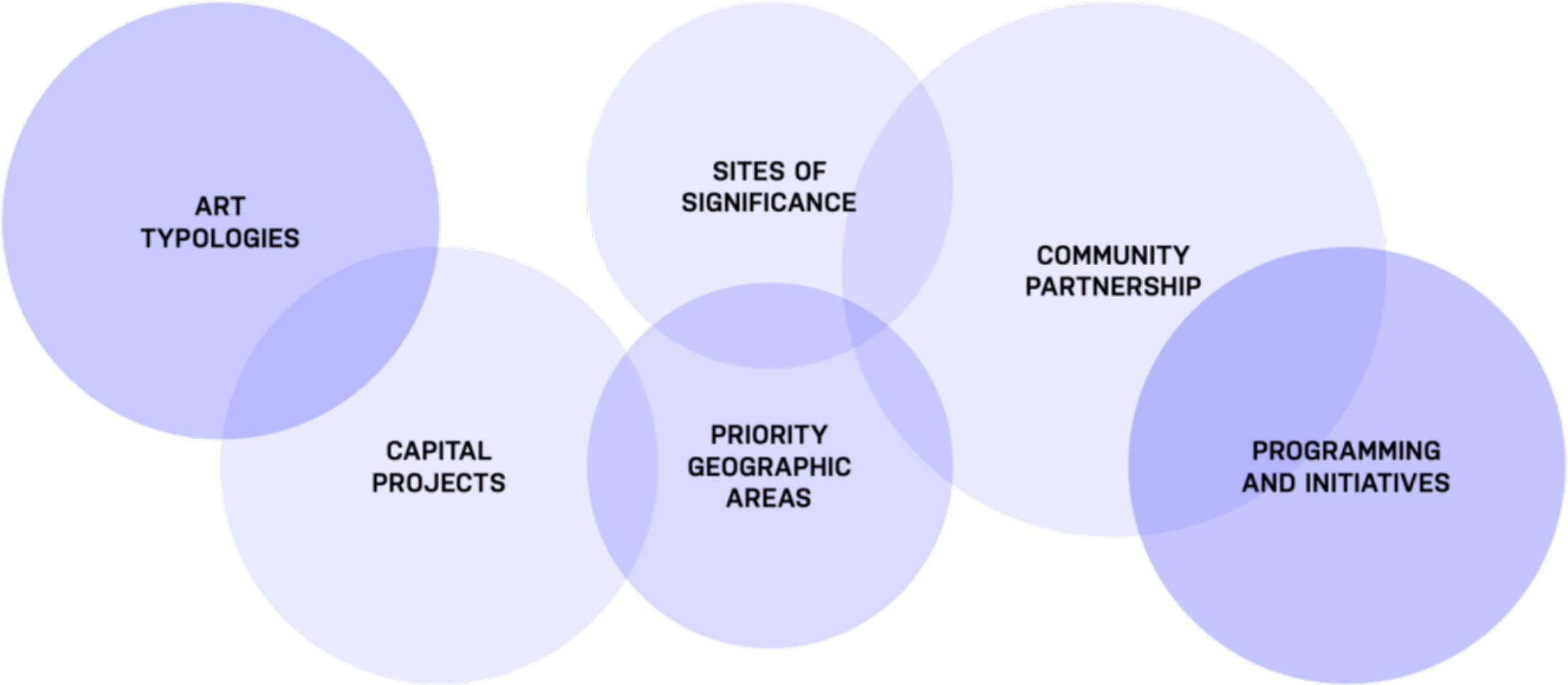
HAS CHANGED



Worker, 2025, Janet Wang ▲



# OPPORTUNITIES – A BALANCED DIRECTION





## OPPORTUNITIES – A BALANCED DIRECTION

All opportunities will reflect the City's reconciliation efforts and the vision, goals, and principles of this plan.



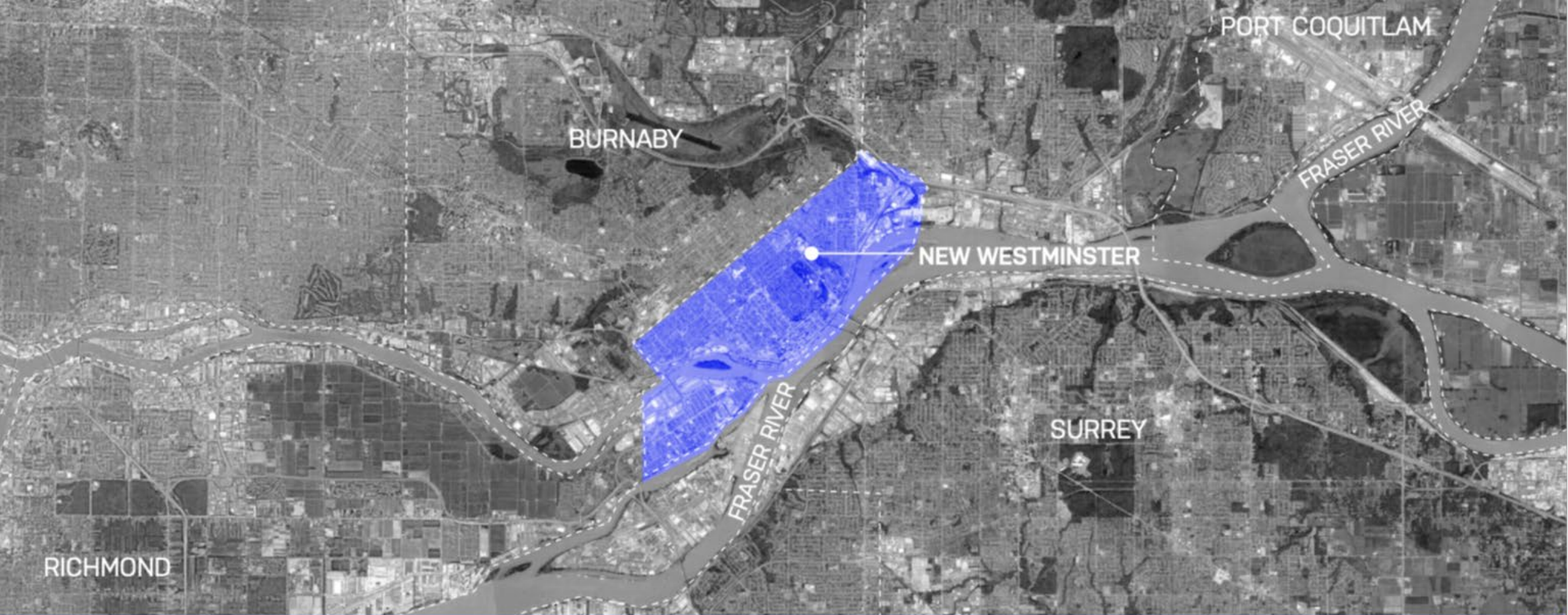
*Myléts – Water's Edge*, 2024, James Harry ▲



*Guardians of the Pump*, 2024, Hanna Benihoud ▲



*Curl Mapped*, 2023, Rebecca Bair ▲



# Thank You!

ΔARTPLACE + CMCK Public Art Ltd.