



## Musical Railing to Make Parkade Stairwell Come to Life

Date: Monday, July 25, 2016

For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC – Bastion Square Parkade now provides an unexpected interactive musical experience for those coming and going, or looking for fun downtown. Local artists Scott Amos and David Parfit were selected in the City's *Art on Parkades* competition to create an interactive musical railing to enhance the parking facility.

To create a playful musical experience for visitors, the parkade's back stairwell has been turned into a five-storey musical instrument by installing sensors that create different sound and light effects on each of the landings. When hands touch the railing sensors, sounds play through speakers on each level and LED lights illuminate, creating a unique experience for those who take the stairs. Lighting effects are more visible at night.

The media is invited to a demonstration of the musical railing tomorrow morning. The artist team, Councillor Pamela Madoff and Doug Jarvis, Chair of the City's Art in Public Places Committee, will be available for interviews.

**WHAT:** Musical Railing at Bastion Square Parkade  
**WHEN:** Tuesday, July 26, 2016 from 10 a.m. - 11 a.m.  
**WHERE:** Bastion Square Parkade, 575 Yates Street (back stairwell off Bastion Square)

Award-winning filmmaker and media artist Scott Amos and composer, sound designer and software engineer David Parfit have worked together at Monkey C Interactive to create nearly a dozen interactive installations. These projects include The Amazing Philli-phone beer bottle organ (for Phillips Brewery); ThinkCubes, the 20-foot tall interactive light sculpture currently at Dockside Green in Vic West; and The Registroid, a modified antique cash register that plays music and has been featured at festivals all over the Pacific Northwest. Their work has been displayed at the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria, Limbic Media, TEDx Victoria, as well as Rifflandia, Thinklandia, Bass Coast, What the Festival, and the Victoria Film Festival.

Currently, the railings have sounds created by local artists Jules Uno and David Parfit, and France-based artist CloZee. Over time, the programmed sounds will be changed to create different sonic experiences and there is the potential to invite local musicians or poets to create sounds for each flight of stairs.

Enhancing City parkades to make them more welcoming was identified during public consultation in 2014 as a way to improve the parking experience downtown. The City's *Art on Parkades* initiative includes the musical railing at Bastion Square Parkade, the Centennial Square Parkade mural series, and the upcoming *Woven Together* contemporary First Nations artwork for the exterior of the Johnson Street Parkade.

The local art competition was juried by a selection panel comprised of a visual art instructor, an urban design professional, a local artist/curator, a member of the Art in Public Places Committee, and a member of the Victoria Youth Council. The budget for the project was \$10,000, which was funded by the Public Art Reserve Fund.

For more information: [www.victoria.ca/publicart](http://www.victoria.ca/publicart)

- 30 -

**For More Information:**

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