



Luke Ramsey to be Victoria's Artist in Residence

Date: Friday, October 28, 2016

For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC — Victoria-based artist Luke Ramsey has been selected as the City's Artist in Residence. The new Artist in Residence program aims to 'keep art in mind', providing the opportunity for a local artist to work collaboratively with City staff and the community to identify and develop a creative artwork for one or more capital projects over a one-year term.

"On behalf of Council, I would like to congratulate Luke Ramsey," said Mayor Lisa Helps. "We look forward to working with him and to the artistic insights he will bring to help enhance public space in Victoria."

Ramsey's submission was one of 40 the City received in response to a Request for Expressions of Interest, which was open to artists and artist teams who are residents of the Capital Region and included the Gulf Islands. Ramsey was one of five artist/groups shortlisted, based on his artistic merit, professional experience and understanding of the new program.

"We are excited for this opportunity to have an artist collaborate with city departments and to activate different sites with their shared vision and imagination," said Doug Jarvis, Chair of the City's Art in Public Places committee.

The Art in Public Places selection panel was impressed with Ramsey's work in the realm of public art, his aesthetic approach, and his experience leading workshops and community-based projects.

Ramsey is an illustrator, designer, muralist and painter. In 2010, he completed a giant, collaborative outdoor mural with artist Josh Holinaty on the John Howard Society building in Edmonton, Alberta. The mural won an Award of Excellence from the City of Edmonton in 2011, and a 2012 National Urban Design Medal from the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada.

"I am so happy and honoured," said Luke Ramsey. "The timing with my career and aspirations really connects to this position. I'm grateful the committee selected me and I look forward to proudly representing the arts community, and engaging with new opportunities."

Although the new program will be artist-driven, there will be a significant emphasis on collaboration. Over the one-year term, Ramsey will attend interdepartmental team meetings and engage the community to produce a creative proposal to develop and complete a minimum of one permanent artwork to augment a capital project in Victoria. In addition to creating public art, Ramsey aims to connect with staff and the community to develop workshops and partnerships "that transform the City of Victoria."

Ramsey will work as an independent contractor, receiving \$42,000 over the one-year term. The Artist in Residence program is funded by the City's Art in Public Places Reserve Fund. Artwork materials, fabrication and installation may be funded by a capital project's budget, with up to \$30,000 from the Art in Public Places Reserve Fund.

A capital project involves the construction, expansion, renovation, or replacement of City infrastructure. Some possible projects could include a City park/playground or street and sidewalk upgrade, or opportunities to enhance public spaces in Victoria neighbourhoods.

The Artist in Residence program embeds an artist in the City's planning process, providing a unique creative and collaborative approach to enhance the value and aesthetic appeal of upcoming capital projects in Victoria, while broadening the community's involvement in the arts.

For more information, visit: www.victoria.ca/publicart

— 30 —

For More Information:

Nichola Reddington
Senior Cultural Planner
Arts, Culture and Events Office
250.361.0363

Doug Jarvis
Chair
Art in Public Places Committee
250.858.3079

Luke Ramsey
City of Victoria Artist in Residence
778.922.3643