

Artist in Residence Activity Summary:

October 2016 – October 2017

Luke's Biography:

Luke 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.

Ramsey co-founded the Islands Fold residency, exhibits internationally and works in public art, painting, and freelance illustration. His client list includes The New York Times, The Drake Hotel, Patagonia, The BC Children's Hospital and more. Ramsey's book *Intelligent Sentient?* is published by Drawn & Quarterly, and was nominated for a Doug Wright Award. Luke's work is inspired by a continuous line in time that draws from the inside, and paints over edge.

Residency Artist Statement:

I love to consider the public's perception of art, and make it balance between accessibility and abstraction. I intend to consider concepts that connect with public wellbeing. Explore possibilities that can convey sustainability, plant and urban life, transport, community and connectivity. I love to make things, but more importantly, I love to make things happen – I want to see movement, I want a public audience to see vibrancy and life in the art projects I am involved with. It's important for me to work on public art projects that have a connection to person and place. I appreciate art as an aesthetic, but I strive to create pieces that have a message.

As an illustrator, designer, muralist and sculpture, I love seeking practical solutions to problems. The artwork has to work. I'm interested with the inner workings of a city, and am ecstatic thinking about the possibilities of an artist's mind working with a city's projects. I want to open doors. I want to see how other people work, so I can learn different approaches in exchange for sharing my experience and insight as a visual artist.

Community Feedback:

"The citizens thank you for making Victoria more interesting and more beautiful. Your initiatives as Artist in Residence are an example of how this position can create honest value."

-Llyod Chesley, owner of Legends Comics

Artist in Residence

Artist in Residence Project Budget Summary:

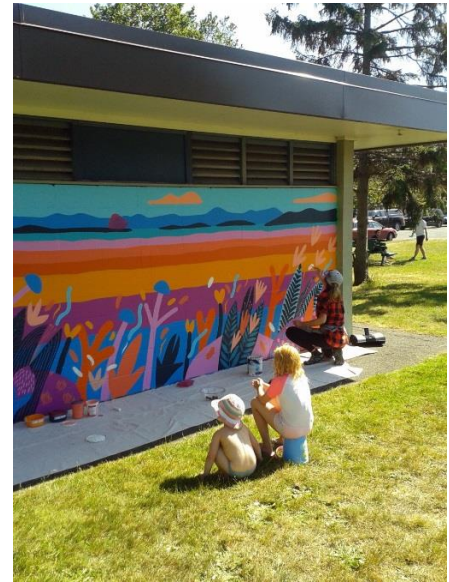
Project	Budget
Gonzales Park	\$1,850
Vic West Park	\$3,200
Hollywood Park	\$1,750
Mother Protector	\$8,500
North Park Mural	\$13,418
Virtual Reality Engagement	\$760
Total Expenses	\$29,538

City Projects that Utilized Luke's time:

Project	Engaged Department/Organization
Summer Banners	Reconciliation Task Force
First Night Projections	Arts, Culture and Events & Spirit Committee
Vic West Skate Park	Parks, Recreation and Facility
Recycling Receptacle Design	Waste Management and Cleaning Services
Create Victoria	Arts, Culture and Events & Engagement
Construction Hording	Citizen Engagement & Parks, Recreation and Facilities
Visual Victoria	Planning
Commercial Alley	Art in Public Places Committee
My Great Neighbourhoods Grant Review	Citizen Engagement, Neighbourhoods Team
Johnson Street Bridge	Planning

Artist in Residence

Gonzales Beach Mural – Collaboration with Meghan Hildebrand (Powell River)



Timeline: June 28th-29th 20 hours

Objective: To beautify ordinary walls, celebrate neighbourhood pride, deter graffiti hotspots and collaborate with local and out-of-town artists within Luke's residency program. Landscape mural of local flora and fauna, representing the Fairfield neighbourhood, with playful motifs, shapes of beach activity etc.

"Collaborating is challenging – I didn't know how it would unfold," said artist Meghan Hildebrand. "I love Luke's art and I enjoy collaborating with him (we've played in a band together, he's a great improviser) so I trusted that in two days we could create a huge painting that we could be proud of. The experience was great, especially sharing the process with locals, like the bus drivers who took breaks there and saw the mural being painting hour by hour. The response was so positive, thank you Victoria!"

Community Feedback:

- "Our family lives in Fairfield, close to Gonzales Beach and Hollywood Park. I just wanted to send you a quick note to let you know that we absolutely LOVE your work and the wonderful and inspiring impact it's having on the public spaces around us. Many thanks for what you're doing - hope to see much more of it around town!"
- Johan Bosman, local resident
- "Amazing to see this public art come to life in this important public space. Love the process too. And thanks to the neighbour who brought the artists strawberries!" - Lisa Helps, City of Victoria Mayor
- "So Awesome to see more public art like this popping up around Victoria"
– Natalie Brakeart, local resident
- "Wow, this is stunning!! Thank you for brining your creativity to Gonz Bay!"
– Michelle Heslop, local resident
- "This kind of vibrant, local, accessible art makes my family and I SO HAPPY! thank you!"
– Skye Ladell, local resident

Artist in Residence

Vic West Dog Park Mural – Collaboration with Jill Stanton (Edmonton)



Timeline: July 10-17th 40 hours

Objective: To beautify ordinary walls, celebrate neighbourhood pride, deter graffiti hotspots and collaborate with local and out-of-town artists within Luke's residency program. Landscape mural of dogs and people with playful shapes and plant life.

Community Feedback:

- "Luke and Jill were a joy to watch as their art slowly evolved and came to fruition by the Vic West Dog Park. Bala and I are so touched to see her on the wall." - Dione, local resident
- "Finally some decent new public art in the city! More than decent! Spectacular! Thanks you! -Pamela Bosman, local resident
- "So awesome for our community! Thank you!" -Michelle Heslop, local visual artist
- "I've been watching the transformation and it's lovely. Happy to be able to share kudos to you because it is quite lovely and fun and colourful. I walk by it every day and see something new." - Regina Irving, local resident
- "Amazing! It's so fun and colourful. Thank you to the artists for splashing your talent on this great neighbourhood." – Amy Bronee

Artist in Residence

Hollywood Park Mural – Collaboration with Andrew Dick (Victoria)



Timeline: July 24-27th 25 hours

Objective: To beautify ordinary walls, celebrate neighbourhood pride, deter graffiti hotspots and collaborate with local and out-of-town artists within Luke's residency program. Landscape mural of simple shapes of sports equipment mixed with abstract textures and shapes.

“Since I was a child I’ve always enjoyed seeing public art in this city,” said artist Andrew Dick. “I’m very excited to be involved with a public art project in Victoria. It’s a special honour for a chance to give back to a community I spent a lot of time growing up in. I’ve known Luke Ramsey for many years, in the past we have worked on several collaborative art projects. I’m thrilled to work on a new project with him at Hollywood park this summer.”

Community Feedback:

- “I saw this mural last weekend and wondered about it. It’s really beautiful. Great job!”
– Reslie Rutabaga
- “A big improvement! Thanks!” Wallace Bird
- “Oh man!! Best one yet!! So lucky it’s in my hood!! Nice work!! – Archi Pam, local resident

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Mother Protector: Hawk and Home



Timeline: Completed August 28 –September 16, 2017

Artists: Luke Ramsey with Jill Stanton and Kristofer Ray

Artist Statement: This location was once used as a turret for military protection. This hawk mural represents an all-seeing protector, a messenger for how things can be viewed differently. In creating this project I asked - can this pathway be more than a staircase with no colour, a wall with offensive graffiti tags? Can its structure be animated by art?

The hawk has one wing open for invitation, the other to embrace visitors. When it rains, water passes through its eyes like tears. This hawk is a mother whose child appeared the day of the mural unveiling. This child will be a hawk costume that transforms into a tent. It will walk around park, performers will join as it leads everyone to turret. The baby hawk will rest on top of the turret viewing circle, and transform into a tent. When participant enters the tent, they can wear a virtual reality headset to view a world relating to the mural.

Community Feedback:

- "This is incredible! great job man, I always thought that staircase deserved a good paint job" -Aaron Geeraert, visual artist
- "You are taking things to new levels. Really interesting and inspiring stuff" - Dru Vid
- "Wonderful collaboration, brings life to that space and I like the symbolism that I interpret from some of the shapes etc. Cool stuff." – Natalie Brake
- "AWESOME!! Paint this city beautiful you two!! Bala says hi from Vic West"
– Dionne, local resident

Artist in Residence

Cook and North Park / Collaborative Mural



Timeline: Completed October 1- 7, 2017

Artists: James Kirkpatrick, Tyler Keeton Robbins, Charlie Walker, Kristofer Ray, Ian George, Kay Gallivan, Jesse Campbell, Ali Khan, Sarah Jim, Luke Ramsey

Artist Statement: Most of my work derives from a line in time, and with this mural the line connects to a neighbourhood story. It hopes to set a tone/theme for future murals on neighbouring buildings organized with The North Park Community Association. This gestural line is like a tag across a wall, but not a tag that omits the work, but one that works with it. This line will travel through everyone's work, a nod to how other artists are an important part of my practice and projects. The line will be defined by the colour variation of an artist's work. Each artist will have their section to work in, cross-over collabs/blend where sections meet.

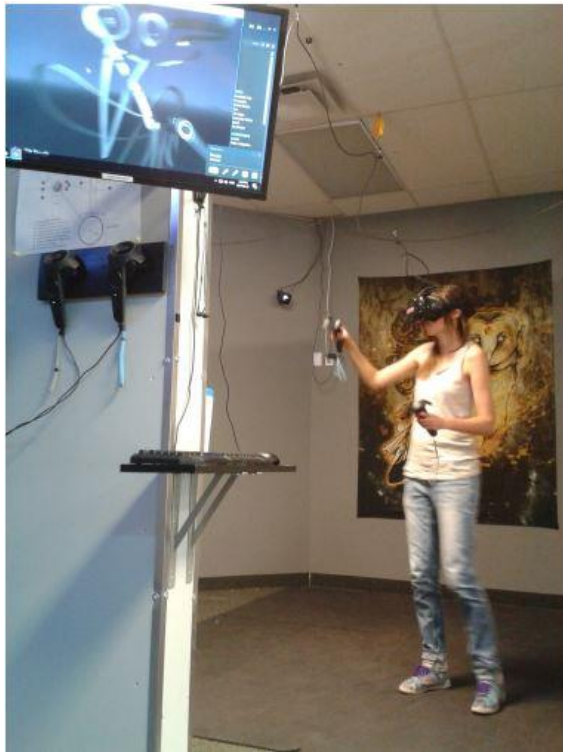
Project with The City of Victoria, The North Park Community Association, and the owners of WIN, Squash Club and Logan's.

Community Feedback:

- "So awesome, stoked to see these colabs!" – local resident
- "I love this, nice work!" – Charlotte Campbell
- "I was admiring this yesterday!! Nice one! – Vic Horvath
- "So awesome!" - Sarah Norrad

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Virtual Reality Public Engagement



Open to all artists in Victoria, especially youth who write graffiti tags in their sketchbooks, encouraging them to try drawing in a new medium like Virtual Reality. Participants can also collaborate with Luke. The VIC VR arcade will be booked 1-5 pm for two consecutive afternoons in October. Each day there will be 8x 30minute slots.

Each participant will get a 5 minute tutorial and 25 minutes with the Google Tilt Brush app. Interested artists can make reservations by email or phone.

Participants will also receive art supply gift certificates for contributing their art with Luke.

Artist in Residence

The following pages are six examples of City Projects that Utilized Luke's time during his residency. These projects did not utilize Luke's "Artist in Residence Project Budget"

1. First Night Projections



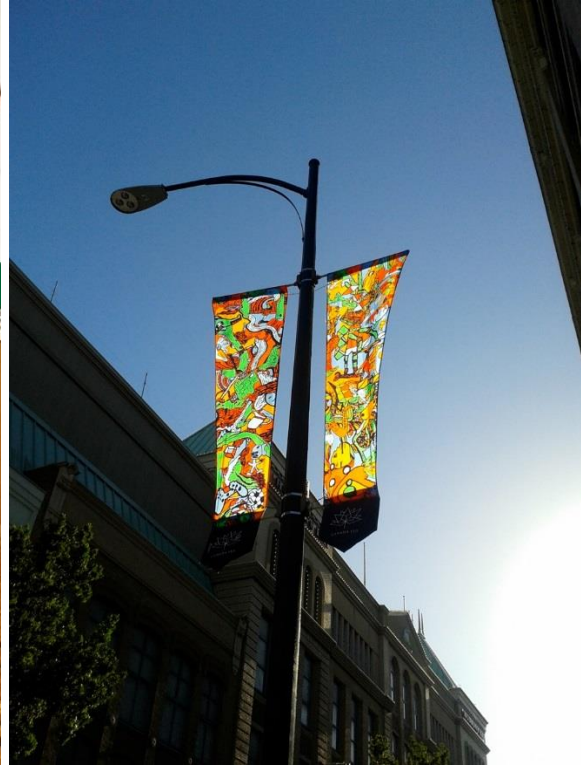
Community Feedback:

"Finally some decent new public art in the city! More than decent! Spectacular! Thanks you!"

-Pamela Bosman, local resident

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2. Summer Banners



Timeline: The banners will hang downtown over the summer seasons for 2017 and 2018.

Project Description: With the support of the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations, Grade 6 – 8 Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth from Ecole Shoreline Community Middle School students participated in two drawing workshops led by Luke Ramsey. The project provided an opportunity for the youth to explore their self-esteem and confidence through collaborative art making and contribute to the design of the banners. Both workshops were hosted by Education Liaison, Songhees Elder and Master Carver, Butch Dick afterschool at the Songhees Wellness Centre. The students were provided an original poster of their drawings designed by Ramsey as well as honorariums for their artistic contributions. In the first workshop, the youth used a natural object such as a rock, piece of wood or flower to find inspiration. Drawings were shared among the students as part of the collaborative process. In the second workshop, Ramsey displayed the students' drawings and led them in a group discussion about shape, composition and collaboration, which resulted in one overall art piece. For the final design, Ramsey used aspects of the students' artwork in combination with his own drawings to create an abstract collection of imagery which captures the whimsy and personality of the students. In describing the process, the youth expressed it was a positive experience. Some feedback included: "I loved meeting new people and friends", "I like being able to work together and come together to make something new," "I like art because it evokes emotions and it lets you achieve anything you want," "I wish we could do this more," and "What I liked most was being included."

Community Feedback:

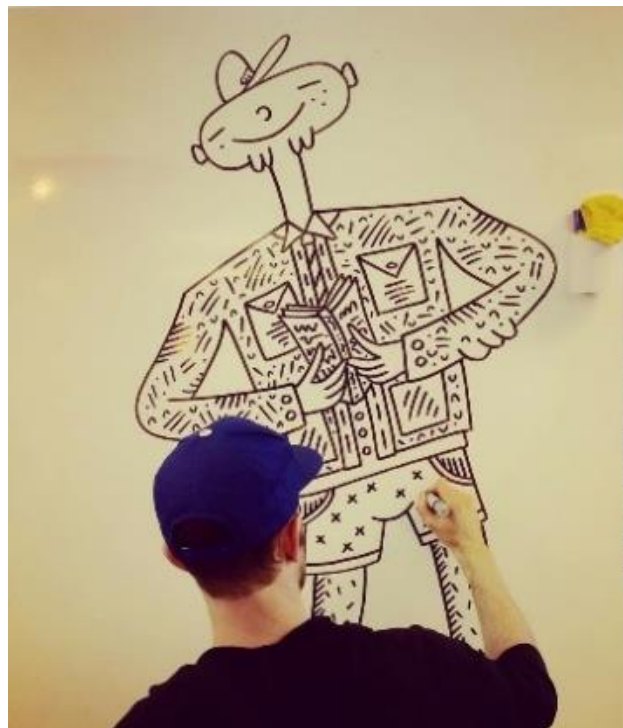
- "These are amazing! This project is fantastic – we need more like this" – Spacefinder BC
- "What a great project!!!" - Local artist, Monique Labusch
- "These flags are incredible! Fantastic job! – Local maker, Spirit Coast Creations

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3. Vic West Skate Park Signage

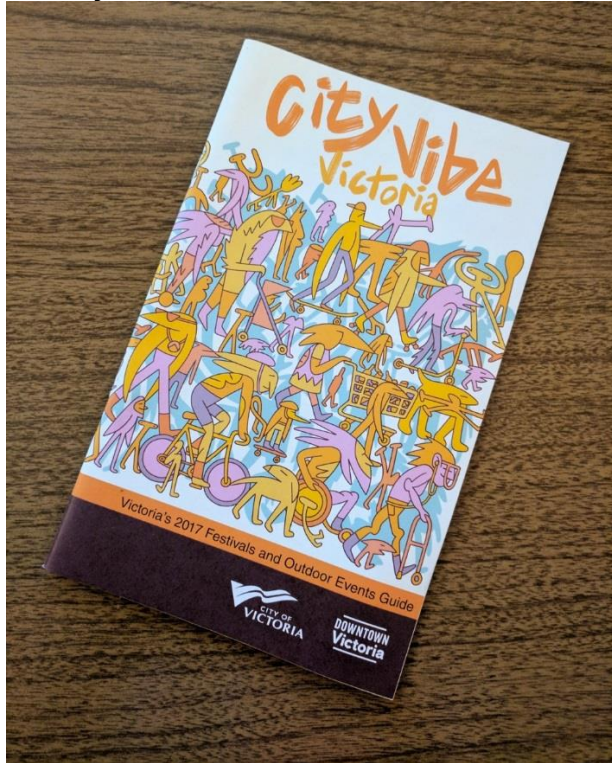


4. Create Victoria Design & Engagement Support



Artist in Residence

5. City Vibe Illustration



6. Construction Hoarding



Community Feedback:

"I sure hope your contract gets extended" Nicholas Robins, local resident