

## NEWS RELEASE

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### City Celebrates Public Art Week, May 12-16

#### Summary

The City of Nanaimo is celebrating Public Art Week from May 12 to 16. Over the course of the week, residents are encouraged to explore and celebrate the collection of public art found throughout our city.

Public art is created by artists for public sites. It can increase the sense of place for individual neighbourhoods and the city as a whole. Some art pieces can be permanent such as "Pacific Sails" on the Harbourfront Walkway, while others are temporary such as the Downtown Festival of Banners. Public art energizes public spaces, promotes thinking and debate, and transforms the places we live, work and play into a more welcoming and beautiful setting.

How will you celebrate Public Art Week?

*Strategic Link:* Public Art Week furthers the goals of the Cultural Vitality (Creativity, Diversity, Heritage and Innovation) pillar of the City's Strategic Plan by promoting ongoing investment in public art.

#### Key Points

- Join us on May 12 for the unveiling of Robert Naish's "Satellite City", at 5:00 pm in the Ballroom Lobby of the Vancouver Island Conference Centre (VICC).
- Check out the two new temporary art pieces to be installed downtown by May 16 (Giant Pacific Octopus by Dan Richey & Ts'awalk by Laura Timmermans).
- Take a stroll through the China Steps to check out the newly installed mural and interpretive sign.

#### Quotes

"Public art enhances community and place, celebrating our past, present and future."

John Ruttan  
Mayor  
City of Nanaimo

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