



June 11, 2026

MEMO TO : Park Board Commissioners

FROM : Manager, Arts, Reconciliation & Culture Department, Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation

SUBJECT : **False Creek Community Centre Temporary Mural – Board Briefing Memo**

Dear Commissioners,

The purpose of this memo is to provide an overview of a temporary mural project, *False Creek: Community Connected by Water*, proposed by Atelier Aloera. The memo also outlines the project's installation timeline, which now requires expedited consideration following clarification of approval requirements in late May. The project was developed with authorization from Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), the lessor of the False Creek Community Centre, prior to confirmation that Vancouver Park Board approval would also be required. The False Creek Community Centre Association Board has since issued a letter of support.

The proposal seeks to install a temporary mural on an exterior wall of the facility to support public education, community engagement, and awareness of the ecological, social, and historical significance of False Creek. The project is fully funded and aligns with Park Board public art objectives. This memo is provided for information; staff will return to the Board if approvals are required.

Background

Atelier Aloera is a Vancouver-based interdisciplinary collective working at the intersection of art, science, and climate engagement. The proposed mural is part of a three-year initiative funded by the Canada Council for the Arts and the NSERC College and Community Social Innovation Fund. All project costs—including installation, maintenance, artist fees, and consultation—are fully supported through external funding secured until 2028. These costs align with Park Board expectations and require no financial contribution from the Park Board.

The mural explores relationships between human, environmental, and cultural systems in False Creek through artistic expression, environmental education, and community participation. Themes include biodiversity, habitat restoration, Pacific herring recovery, stewardship initiatives, and Indigenous and community knowledge. The project supports Park Board priorities related to community connection, environmental stewardship, Indigenous knowledge inclusion, and the activation of public spaces through arts and culture.

The applicant initially proposed installation between late June and mid-July 2026. Following clarification of approval requirements, staff have advised that installation will occur in late July 2026.

Project Development and Consultation

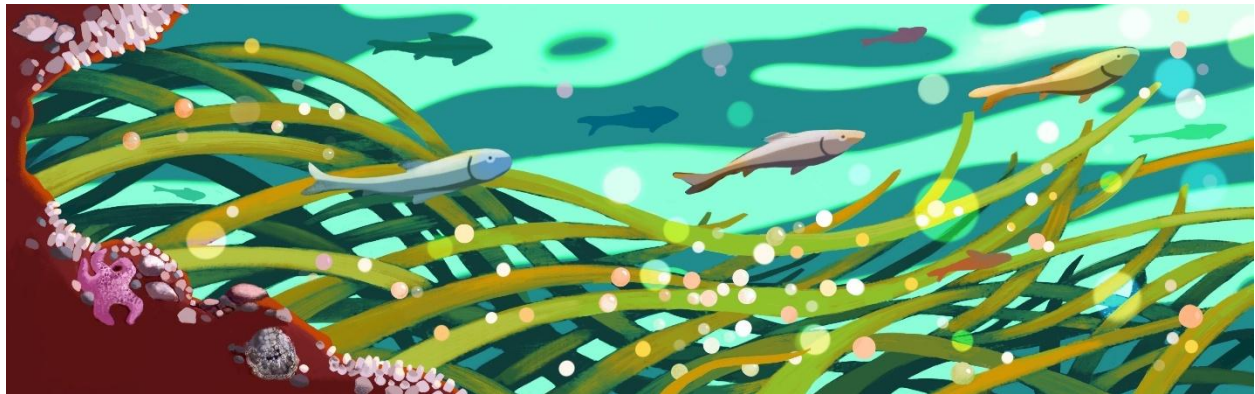
Project development has included research and consultation with educational and community partners, including the False Creek Friends Society, Hakai Institute, Langara College, and Squamish knowledge keeper Damara Jacobs-Petersen. Their feedback has informed cultural representation, material symbolism, and interpretive approaches.

Preliminary discussions with staff and stakeholders are ongoing to confirm an appropriate location. The originally proposed corrugated metal wall presents challenges related to surface condition and restoration; alternative locations are being assessed.

Installation and Maintenance

The mural is approximately 12.5 ft high by 40 ft wide and is proposed for an exterior wall of the False Creek Community Centre. Installation is expected to take approximately five weeks and will include surface preparation, priming, painting, protective coatings, and anti-graffiti treatments to support durability.

The mural is intended as a temporary installation with a minimum one-year term, extendable to two years or longer subject to review. The applicant has committed to restoring the site to its original condition at the end of the approved term.



Next Steps & Considerations

Staff continue to work with Atelier Aloera to finalize project details and confirm the installation timeline. Staff will proceed through required approval processes and update the Board as needed. Key considerations include site suitability, installation timing, and maintenance requirements, all of which are being managed by the proponent in coordination with staff.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rena Soutar".

Rena Soutar (*she/they*)
Manager, Arts, Reconciliation & Culture - Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation



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RECREATION

/EMM/LC/JH

Copy to: PB Senior Leadership Team
Rena Soutar, Manager of Arts, Reconciliation & Culture
Amit Ghanda, Director of Park Operations
Steve Kellock, Director of Recreation
Godfrey Tait, Director of Communications
False Creek Community Centre Association