



VANCOUVER BIENNALE  
**BIG IDEAS**  
ANYWHERE

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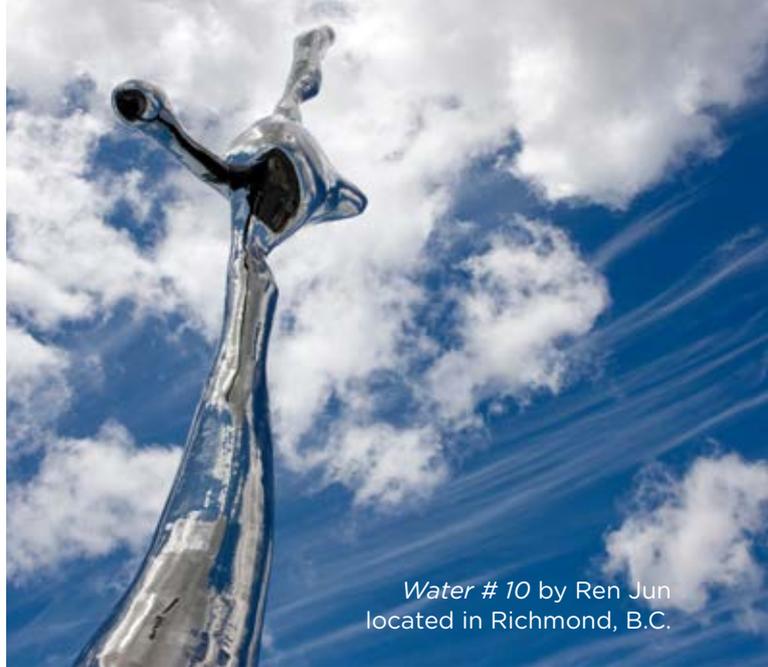
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## ABOUT US

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The VANCOUVER BIENNALE is a non-profit charitable organization that celebrates art in public space by building community and transforming neighborhoods into an accessible OPEN AIR MUSEUM, where art is the catalyst for engagement and social action. Our goal is to transform the urban landscape, creating globally inspired cultural experiences where people live, play, work and transit.

BIG IDEAS is an award winning education platform that brings together local artists-in-residence and an inquiry based interdisciplinary curriculum that supports creative expression and transformative thinking for grades K-12.



*Water # 10* by Ren Jun  
located in Richmond, B.C.





*The Blue Trees* by Konstantin Dimopoulos  
Located in 5 cities across B.C.

# VANCOUVER BIENNALE



## THE VISION

To make Vancouver an international destination for the Arts in North America



## OUR MISSION

To make Art accessible, engaging and a catalyst in creating vibrant and inspired communities

# BIG IDEAS SCHOOL PROGRAM

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In **6** years  
we have reached

from **120** schools



## **BIG IDEAS Participants**

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Burnaby, Cariboo, Coquitlam, Delta, New Westminster, North Vancouver, Richmond, Squamish, Surrey, Vancouver and West Vancouver.

**8,600** Kindergarten  
to Grade 12 students

in **11** school districts  
across Province of  
British Columbia  
(Canada)

# OUR OBJECTIVES

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The education system is in the midst of intense challenge and rapid change. While schools struggle with how best to educate students for the future, they face serious financial pressures. A growing body of research confirms that the arts helps learners develop vital higher level skills which are essential to success in the workplace. These high-level skills include creativity, problem-solving, effective communication, self-discipline and critical thinking.

## Excellent Track Record

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Launched in 2010, BIG IDEAS has already benefited over 8,600 students from diverse socio-economic demographics in Burnaby, Cariboo, Coquitlam, Delta, New Westminster, North Vancouver, Richmond, Squamish, Surrey, Vancouver and West Vancouver.

## Learning through the Arts

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BIG IDEAS is a project-based learning program that integrates the Vancouver Biennale, current and legacy exhibitions, and the curriculum of the Province of British Columbia's Ministry of Education.



*Lord Selkirk Elementary Grade 4/5 at Public Furniture | Urban Trees, Vancouver*

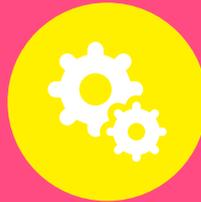
# BIG IDEAS IN ACTION

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Developing leaders, creative thinkers,  
social innovators, and lifelong learners for 21st Century



**COMMUNICATION  
COMPETENCY**



**THINKING  
COMPETENCY**



**PERSONAL AND  
SOCIAL COMPETENCY**

# BIG IDEAS ANYWHERE

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BIG IDEAS Anywhere is our global outreach initiative enabling educators and learners from anywhere in the world to experience Vancouver Biennale public art as a catalyst in cross-curricular inquiry that meets British Columbia learning standards. Use the online toolkit for inspirational ideas to kick start and design your own cross-curricular project-based learning.



*Lord Selkirk Elementary Grade 4/5 at  
Public Furniture | Urban Trees, Vancouver*





*Infinite Reprss  
by Jacky Nagai,  
King George School  
Grade 12 student, 2011*

# BIG IDEAS ANYWHERE

## About Artist and Artwork Guide

Introduce the Vancouver Biennale artist and their background along with information about the artwork and the context and inspiration behind it.

## Guided Art-Tour Video

A virtual field trip to the Vancouver Biennale art installation to experience the site, context and surroundings, with a view of the artwork from multiple perspectives, focusing on the materials used to make the artwork.

## Curriculum Unit Plan

Frame learning topics in guiding questions, offer sample inquiry challenges, creating, taking action, reflection, and ideas for cross-curricular access. Explore these learning resources for project ideas on a diverse range of curriculum based learning topics covering the environment, cultural diversity, mathematical applications and emotional wellness.

## Learning Case

Provides exemplary instructional samples from past BIG IDEAS projects which describe the what, how, and when details. Project reflections from teachers, artists and learners are documented as evidence on the process of how to create the unit of study, open inquiry or create cross-curricular learning opportunity.

## Art Inquiry Workshop

Facilitated by a Vancouver Biennale educator through Skype, to engage students in an interactive session focused on individual “empowerment” and inspiring them to express their voice through artistic expression.

*Trans Am Totem* by Marcus Bowcott  
located near Science World, Vancouver, B.C.



## ONLINE RESOURCES



17

Virtual-guided art-tour videos



50+

Curriculum Unit Plans



60+

Past Project Learning Cases



12

Past Project Documentary Videos

+ many more student-created  
BIG IDEAS videos

# SAMPLE ONLINE TOOLKIT

Giants by OSGEMEOS (Gustavo and Otavio Pandolfo, Brazil)

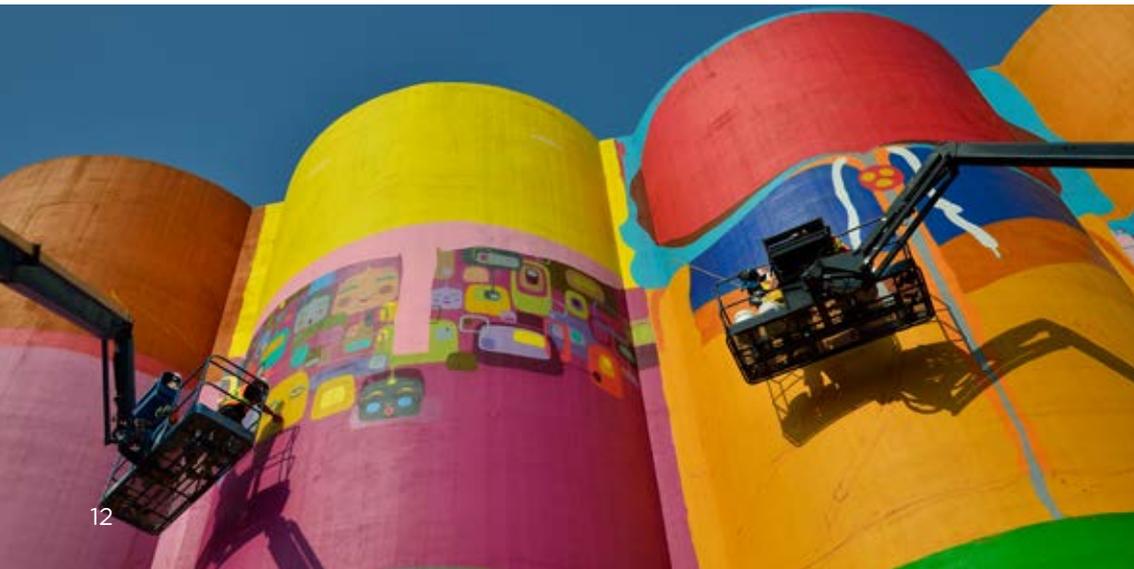


## 1. Get Introduced to OSGEMEOS & Giants

The About Artist and Artwork Guide covers:

- What was the inspiration for this art installation?
- How does this piece of art connect to the artists' previous work?
- Thoughts on graffiti and street art
- How was this art installation made/installed?







*Giants* by OSGEMEOS  
located on Granville Island, Vancouver, B.C.

## 2. Pay a Virtual-Guided Visit to Giants

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Watch the Virtual-Guided Art-Tour video:

- Experience the art installation site and surroundings
- View the art installation from multiple perspectives
- Close-up look at the materials that are used in the artwork

## 3. Create Your Own BIG IDEAS PROJECT

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Use the Curriculum Unit Plan as a launchpad for ideas and content:

- Enduring Understanding
- Guiding Questions
- Resources for Project Launch
- Cross-Curricular Inquiry Challenges
- Creation/Take Action
- Reflection

## 4. More Inspirations for Your BIG IDEAS Projects

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Cypress Park Grade 3 students learned about who they are and deepened their understanding of their own distinct uniqueness. They inquired into the nature of self beliefs and values; personal, physical, mental, social and spiritual health; human relationships; different cultures; rights and responsibilities; and what it means to be human. They also inquired into how they can use their strengths and abilities in their families, relationships, and communities.

Kerrisdale Grade 6/7 students explored the relationship amongst art, audience, location and politics. Taking the approach of art criticism and researching the roles of government and citizenry in creating cities and public spaces, the students were challenged to create a multimedia presentation reflecting and communicating the changes they want to see in the world.

*"We were amazed at how students engaged with their subject matter through a social justice lens. The project gave them a powerful voice to stand up for something that was important to them."*

*Jane Spencer, Grade 6/7 Teacher*





## 5. Launch Your BIG IDEAS PROJECT



Interactive Art Inquiry Skype workshop, facilitated by a Biennale educator, on these elements:

- First impression of the artwork
- Relationship to the site
- Perspective
- Design/materials/media
- Title/theme
- Connecting to the project BIG IDEA



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