

CAGE Case Study

Burnaby Art Gallery: Port City Connect II (2008-2009)

Summary

Port City Connect II was a project to link three classrooms in port cities across the continent; Burnaby, Halifax and New York. Burnaby Art Gallery developed this project out of a response to the ever more challenging task of attracting and engaging local secondary school classes with the art gallery in a meaningful and financially accessible way. Through an exchange of small scale artwork mailings students explored ideas about their cities, and the direct and indirect effects of the port community on their lives. Artwork focused on three themes related to living in a port city; HOME, COMMUNITY and LAND & WATER. A DVD catalogue and didactic panels were created for web based exhibition and physical display.

Project Partners:

[Burnaby Art Gallery](#) (BAG), the [Art Gallery of Nova Scotia](#) (AGNS), [Shambhala School](#) in Halifax, NS, [Burnaby Central Secondary](#) in Burnaby, BC, and [Columbia Preparatory School](#) in New York, NY, USA, [Port Metro Vancouver](#), [Halifax Port Authority](#), [Port Authority of New York/New Jersey](#).

Project Contact

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Gallery Profile

The mandate of the Burnaby Art Gallery is twofold: primarily to exhibit and interpret works on paper by Canadian artists with a secondary emphasis on the exhibition of a diverse spectrum of art including paintings, objects, and installations. The role of the Gallery within the arts community is to provide leadership and direction in the visual arts for the citizenry and visual arts related organizations within the region of Metro Vancouver. This is achieved in three ways – firstly, by presenting historical and contemporary visual art programs by local, national, and international artists; secondly by providing diverse art educational programming; and thirdly by acquiring culturally significant works on paper.

Project Rationale /Audience Targets /Learning Goals

Project Rationale:

- ◆ Foster a tangible means of art making and interaction between youth and the art gallery in a time when interactive projects are becoming increasingly digital.
- ◆ Create connections between the art gallery, youth, and an international community.
- ◆ Explore concepts around the global nature of industry, and the effects on community and environment, with the city port providing a focus.

Audience Targets:

- ◆ Local youth in secondary school classrooms, a difficult group to attract and involve in regular programming.
- ◆ Youth and teachers in distant national or international locations also became our audience, initially as a way to make connections and engage students in Burnaby.
- ◆ The exhibition portion of the project is targeting community members' awareness of a) youth accomplishments through the arts, and b) the institutions involved.

Learning Goals:

- ◆ To engage student interest in the arts at a personal and meaningful level, promoting continued youth involvement in the arts.
- ◆ To develop student awareness of their individual context within the local, national and international experience of living within a port city, by encouraging historical, personal, environmental and societal perspectives to influence their art making.

Outcomes and Evaluation / Statistics

Evaluation for this project has been subjective to date. The project met its primary goal of engaging our target audience of secondary school age youth in a meaningful way. Students became deeply involved in both the artistic and conceptual aspects of the project as well as the interpersonal connections between peers fostered over the 3 month working period. The sending and receiving of physical artworks in combination with field trips made a much stronger impact on students than had we simply used web based processes for sharing. Classroom discussion and direct feedback between students in each city strengthened ties and enhanced student learning through concept comparisons. A significant success for us were the local and cross continent connections between galleries and students, but also teachers with their peers and local port authorities.

We used technological tools (DVD production, Flash exhibition, email for logistical correspondence) where they seemed best suited without sacrificing the tangible elements of the exchange. A blog was created for students and teachers to connect virtually, but little use was made of this, as students preferred to write in the notebooks mailed back and forth. Using technology new to us at the BAG in creating the DVD and Flash components will assist our gallery in future as we expand our internet presence in order to engage wider audiences.

The documentation and development of a DVD / Flash virtual exhibition and didactic panels was slightly more labour intensive than expected. However, the end results did meet our goal from the previous year to be inclusive of all students, and will increase the Burnaby Art Gallery's online presence within our budget and staff time constraints.

Details:

- ◆ 105 Participants - students in grades 10 and 11
- ◆ 285 Artworks were created and exchanged between students
- ◆ 3 schools
- ◆ 7 teachers
- ◆ 3 Port tours - Each group of students had a tour at their respective Port Authorities, funded by the individual ports
- ◆ Artist's outreach visit and/or a tour of the city's gallery- BAG / NSAG
- ◆ 5 couriered exchanges between schools and/or Burnaby Art Gallery
- ◆ \$23.00 / student, not including in-kind support from all institutions

Recommendation:

Detailed advance planning, strong communication between parties and having one person keep on top of all logistical details made this project a success. Specifically, organizing teachers in each city in April (approx six months in advance of September start date) by establishing clear expectations and a detailed project outline allowed teachers to incorporate the project into their fall planning. This was essential to ensuring commitment from the teachers, without which the project could not have been done.

Project Dates

April – September 2008	Planning
September 2008 – December 2009	Artwork Exchanges
December 2008 - February 2009	Documentation, development of virtual exhibition.
March – May 2009	Exhibitions

Resources (Human / Financial/ Technological)

Human Resources:

Burnaby Art Gallery staff:
Theresa Carroll, Education Programmer
Sharon Kallis, Public Programmer
2 Education Assistant staff

Nova Scotia Art Gallery staff:
Dale Sheppard, Curator of Education and Public Programs

Teachers:
Dianne Carr and **Peter Fruhling**, Burnaby Central Secondary, Burnaby BC
Kate Katomski, **Lynn Schulte**, **Andrew Stole**, **Steve Estime**, Columbia Preparatory School, New York, NY
Mindy Moore, Shambhala School, Halifax, NS

Port Authority staff:
Carolyn Timmins, Community Relations Coordinator, Port Metro Vancouver, BC
Krista Dempsey, Vice President, Real Estate, Halifax Port Authority, NS
Lucy Ambrosino, Manager Outreach & Legislative Affairs, Port Authority of NY/NJ, NY

Financial Resources:

Grant Funding - \$2500.00

In-kind support was received from each Port Authority for a class tour with transportation and both art galleries for program organization and provision of an artist's visit or tour to the gallery.

This project used \$2,500.00 of the total 5,000.00 grant received from Port Metro Vancouver.

\$ 1000.00.....	Couriered Mailings
\$ 300.00.....	DVD Production
\$ 400.00.....	DVD Duplication
\$ 100.00.....	Flash Exhibit
\$ 200.00.....	Didactic Panels, Journals
<u>\$ 500.00.....</u>	Artist workshop fees, Program staff time for exhibit development
\$ 2500.00	

In-kind support also helped make this project possible:

- Contributions from BAG and AGNS for staff time, artist fees for workshops, documentation
- Contributions from Port Metro Vancouver, Halifax Port Authority, Port Authority of New York / New Jersey covering tour and transportation expenses
- Schools contributed materials and teacher time.

Technological Resources:

Computer access, software, photographic equipment was required for the documenting of all artwork created, development of portions of the DVD exhibit, correspondence, design of three didactic panels.

Outside DVD creation studios, DVD duplication studios and Courier services were employed.



Supporting Images:

HOME – Caroline M., Columbia Grammar and Preparatory School
COMMUNITY – Abby T, Shambhala School
LAND & WATER – Amy K., Burnaby Central

