



Ribbon

Ruth Beer and Charlotte Wall



South Surrey Recreation & Arts Centre, 14601 - 20 Avenue

Ribbon celebrates art and athletics, inviting the community to participate in recreational and cultural pursuits. Animating the entrance plaza of the newly expanded facility, the artwork captures the energy and playfulness of the ribbons used in rhythmic gymnastics and the dances of various cultures. *Ribbon* also symbolizes the winding path of the historic Semiahmoo Trail in South Surrey.

The artists say: "Our sculpture is imbued with a ribbon's qualities of joyous movement and the potential to form beautiful shapes. Whether by the



flick of a wrist or randomly caught in the wind, it can be appreciated by people of all ages and cultures." Unveiled 2014.

About the Artists

Ruth Beer and Charlotte Wall are BC-based artists who have collaborated on numerous public art projects.

Artwork Details

Finished dimensions are 12 m in length and 4 m in height made of a steel band 33 cm wide and 2.5 cm thick. The overall unrolled length of 29 m and weighs approximately 2268 kg (5000 lbs)



Ribbon

Ruth Beer and Charlotte Wall



Fabrication of artwork using a 3D foam pattern to assist welder to form the complex curves.



Paint was applied one colour at a time in four separate applications.

Artwork Fabrication

The artwork started with drawings and a model by the artists which evolved into a detailed design involving a team of players.

The artwork's details and engineered foundation design were integrated into the new entry plaza construction plans and involved working closely with the architects Taylor Kurtz Architecture+ Design Inc. (TKA+D) and the general contractor Heatherbrae Builders Co. Ltd. Chris Doray Studio Inc. was the architectural advisor for the artists and produced drawings including a Rhino3D model for the fabricator to use.

The fabricator was requested by Glotman Simpson Consulting Engineers to make a 1/2 scale mock-up to test the stiffness and deflection of the full scale artwork under an oscillating load. A weakness was identified at the base. To minimize deflection, two steel plates facing the same direction were made perpendicular to each other by adding a twist. This increased the complexity for fabrication.

The 2.5 cm thick band steel was rolled in sections and welded together by Aggressive Tube Bending Inc. to create one continuous ribbon made up of complex looping 3-dimensional curves. Because of the complexity of the form, Aggressive plotted the curve of each of the sections and created a pattern to assist the welder achieve the correct curvature.

The painting of the artwork involved a five step process by Park Derochie (Seaside) Coatings Inc. The artwork was sandblasted, primed with a zinc coat and then spray painted with four different colours. Each colour application took about 2-4 days including curing time and masking to achieve a clear line between adjacent colours. A top coat and anti-graffiti coat were the final coats.

