



## CULTURAL ROUNDTABLE AGENDA

FEBRUARY 16, 2017

MICHAEL WRIGHT ART GALLERY, 4:30PM – 6:30PM

Gathering Place #200 – 2253 Leigh Square, Port Coquitlam, BC

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**Attendance:** *Carrie Nimmo - Manager of Cultural Development and Community Services for City of Port Coquitlam, Aynsley Meldrum - Port Coquitlam Farmer's Market, Susanna Walden - Executive Director of the Downtown Port Coquitlam Business Improvement Association (BIA), Roger Loubert – President of Arts Connect and Vice President of TriCity Community Television, Meredith Seaton - BIA Liaison, Planning Department, Rob Sullivan - Adult and Access Service Coordinator, and Arts and Culture Coordinator for City of Port Coquitlam, Deborah Solberg – Artistic Director Theatrix, Linda Dore – Port Coquitlam Watershed Society, Sharmain – Local Community Member, Pia Longstaffe – Friends of Leigh Square Member, George – Wilson Center 55+, Alexine Law – President of Art Focus, Brad Nickerson – Local Commercial Artist, Joann Sleiman – Acting Library Manager, Terry Fox Library, Sandy Battle – Events Coordinator for City of Port Coquitlam, Zach Lundrie – Arts and Culture Program Assistant for City of Port Coquitlam, Nikki Hillman – Friends of Leigh Square, Christine Malone - Art Focus, Fritz Radandt –Arts Promoter*

**Goal of Cultural Roundtable:** share information and resources and work together to develop new cultural initiatives.

1. Welcome and sign in (5 min)
2. Downtown Action Plan, Presented by Cushing Terrell (20 min)
  - a. Attendees very interested in Kieron's presentation. In particular, there was interest in:
    - i. Animating vacant space – with events and maybe a community garden / art garden. Questions re who would pay for this –landowner tax incentive?
    - ii. A strong design 'theme' downtown
    - iii. More density near the West Coast Express

- iv. Completing the cultural precinct by City purchasing Elks Hall (or some redeveloped facility on that land) – need a black box with 100-200 seats for events
- v. Keeping the Gathering Place open on Sundays
- vi. Ramping up placemaking initiatives on streets – e.g. parklets and more
- vii. *Wayfinding* – on the highway, pointing to cultural precinct, museum, Leigh Square... and also in the downtown. Feeling that people don't know where Leigh Square is. Lots of questions around how to get budget for this. Kieron got the message.
- viii. Branding Leigh Square more clearly
- ix. Buskers / street performers
- x. Mural upgrades (in Arts & Culture budget)

3. Roundtable (40 minutes): 1 minutes/person to provide update on what is coming up

- Sandy Battle: Preparing for May Day and Canada Day
- George: March 16<sup>th</sup> Wilson Center St. Patrick's Day. Trying to expand areas of performance. How do they get in contact with Shaw Cable?
- Joann Sleiman: Terry Fox Library has the popular Ukulele Jam every month, the library has ukuleles available to loan out.
- Aynsley Meldrum: Poco Farmer's Market is coming up in June 2017. Anyone is welcome to join the advisory board, who meet once a month in the Vancity branch.
- Fritz Radandt: Poco. Today Promote your events and activities!
- Alexine Law: Art Focus Spring Show May 5<sup>th</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>
- Zach Lundrie: Preparing for Easter Arts Carnival at Leigh Square on Saturday April 15

- Lesley Perrie: Sunday March 19<sup>th</sup> is our last Sunday Coffee Concert with a performance by John Welsh! Come by Terry Fox Theatre and enjoy the show between 2-4pm

4. Break: refresh and network (5 minutes)

5. Review of previous meeting notes (5 min)

6. Cultural Plan Update (5 minutes): Activating Community Spaces

a. Environmental Scan:

- i. Cultural Plan Research: 1700 sources of community input indicated strong interest in festivals in events
- ii. Downtown Action Plan Consumer Survey shows 39% reported desire for events, festivals and entertainment

b. Cultural Plan Goals include

- i. Animating Community Spaces
- ii. Integrating Culture into Community Life
- iii. Building Capacity Together

c. Expected positive outcome: when public spaces are animated, people have a positive experience, stay longer and spend more

d. Festival Development Action Plan

i. Goals:

1. Attract and develop high quality festivals
2. Increase the number of events and cultural programs in Leigh Square

e. *Port Coquitlam Canada 150: Celebrating Our Journeys*

- i. Event date: proposing celebration for August 26, 2017
- ii. Celebrate the history, rivers and trails of Port Coquitlam through stories, art and performances. Leading up to the event PoCo Heritage encourages you to tell your story in *PoCo Stories: Journeys and Connections*. Be part of the big picture by painting your square with Art Focus on our ***Canada 150 Mosaic***

or come out to a *River Walk*, learn to carve or dance to live music. There is something for everyone as our city celebrates the people, culture and environment that have shaped our City.

- f. Pianos in the Street – create musical playgrounds by installing piano in front of City Hall, additional piano in Lion’s Park and possibly 2 more
- g. Other opportunities to animate community spaces include transforming empty lots into programmed space i.e. Art Gardens

## 7. Work Group (30 minutes)

- a. Activating Downtown Spaces with Arts, Culture & Heritage
  - i. How can you animate the streets?
    - City Eats, Street Eats & Beats
    - Musicians on the Streets (Buskers)
    - Pop-up Shops, One Day Openings
    - Vacant Lot Given to Artist in Residence
    - Chemainus Murals - Destination/Getaway Location
    - Murals on the ground (3D)
    - Refresh old murals around town
    - Mural walking tours throughout Summer
    - Public Art on City Mobile App
  - ii. What initiatives interest you and benefit you most?
    - i. What is Happening Today – Simple Steps to Post on City Community Calendar **(0)**
    - ii. Planning our Cultural Symposium **(0)**
    - iii. PoCo Festival Strategy & Action Plan **(4)**
    - iv. Cultural Mapping **(0)**
    - v. Wayfinding and Signage **(4)**
    - vi. Marketing Initiatives, for example, Google Group for Cultural Roundtable participants **(1)**

- c. What information session topics interest you and would benefit you the most?
- i. PoCo Festival Strategy & Action Plan **(4)**
  - ii. Volunteer Development **(1)**
  - iii. Branding Cultural Districts **(5)**
  - iv. Marketing and Communication Opportunities at the City of PoCo **(1)**
  - v. Successful Cultural Roundtables **(0)**
  - vi. Animating Natural Spaces **(4)**

8. Next Meeting: April 6 (TBC), 4:30-6:30pm