



## CULTURAL ROUNDTABLE AGENDA

OCTOBER 26, 2017

MICHAEL WRIGHT ART GALLERY, 5PM – 7PM  
Gathering Place #200 – 2253 Leigh Square, Port Coquitlam, BC

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**Attendees:** **Rodney Stehr** – Encompass Support Services Society, **Rory Erikson** – Recreation Programming Assistant Youth Services Port Coquitlam, **Zoey Taylor** – PoCo Youth Crew, **Deb Solberg** – Theatrix, **Ali Blythe** – Poet, Editor of Claremont Review, **Linda Dore** – HCWS, **Christine Malone** – Art Focus, **Thelka Wright** – CDMF, **Michael Wright** – CDMF, **Kathy Feller** – Tri-City Wordsmiths, **Anna Loster** – Terry Fox Library, **Pia Longstaffe** – Art Focus, **Roger Loubert** – Minnehada Park Association, **Lloyd McInnas**, **Brad Nickeson**, **George Lukach** – Wilson Centre Honeycombs, **Whitley Sheehan** – Kinsight, **Jacob McGill** – PoCo Youth Crew, **Corrie Archer** – SD43, **Tony Kosta** – Polonez Tri-City Polish Association, **Sherry Carroll**, **Kelly Brown** - Port Coquitlam Heritage and Culture, **Carrie Nimmo** – Cultural Development and Community Services Manager, **Sandy Battle** – Community and Civic Events Coordinator, **Nikki Hillman** – Recreation Program Assistant, Arts and Culture, **Rob Sullivan** – Adult Access Services, **Zach Lundrie** - Recreation Program Assistant, Arts & Culture, **Patrick McCarthy** – Tri-Cities Community TV.

**Note Taker:** Nikki Hillman

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

**Theme for this meeting:** Inclusion and Diversity in Arts, Culture and Heritage.

1. Welcome and sign in (5 min)
2. Readings by Ali Blythe (10 min)

**Carrie Nimmo** – During these roundtables, we've tried to bring in different artistic groups. Today we have poet Ali Blythe reading for us.

**Ali Blythe** – began the roundtable with two readings:

Aroog Khaliq's "My Diaspora Poem (Remix), or All I Know Is This"

Here is a link to the Claremont Review website page with Aroog's poem:

<https://www.theclaremontreview.ca/resources>

Here is her bio: Aroog Khaliq is a college freshman studying psychology and English. When she's not writing poetry or aspiring to be the next Noam Chomsky, she's taking naps and catching up on her favorite Asian drama serials.

Then: "Waking in the Preceding" by Ali Blythe

Here is Ali's bio: Ali Blythe is editor-in-chief of the Claremont Review, an international magazine for young writers. His first book, *Twoism*, was a finalist for the BC Book

Awards, and he received an honour of distinction from the Writers Trust of Canada for emerging LGBTQ writers.

### 3. Panel discussion with Ali Blythe, Whitley Sheehan and Robert Sullivan

**Carrie Nimmo** - Introduction of Panel Guests: Ali Blythe, Whitley Sheehan and Robert Sullivan.

We had invited Fred Hulbert and planned to have this meeting at the Kwikwitlem First Nations but this was a busy time for them.

**Ali Blythe:** How is everyone feeling about inclusion and diversity? This is a huge topic within the arts community right now. His work at The Claremont Review, an international magazine for young writers, has made him think more about how to be more inclusive of the youth and therefore reads widely.

**Whitley Sheehan:** Is a Community Support Worker who supports adults with disabilities. Most of her experience is working one-on-one with individuals who are generally independent, though she also has experience working with groups of individuals with higher support needs. A big advocate for finding ways for the people she works with to pursue typical human experiences (eg. romantic relationships, having a family, progressing in their career of choice, pursuing hobbies), even if that means re-thinking the 'how' and 'when' of getting them there. One of the individuals she supports is entering a program to start a technology business and be self-employed in the next year.

**Robert Sullivan:** Adult and Access Co-coordinator. Works toward making sure people feel safe and comfortable in an inclusive space. We have financial assistance for programming and a Leisure Buddy program for children who need extra support.

#### **Question to the group: What does inclusion mean to you?**

**Deb Solberg:** Their mandate has always been to include all children and ages. Use programming to promote anti-violence. They have ages 6-78 in Christmas show. Arts should be open and available to anyone. We support volunteers with disabilities.

**Christine Malone:** We accept artwork of all stages and artists at any stage of their career. All free demos are by professional artists. They feel it's important to include all people. Whitley's folks at the drop in are coming out of their shell.

**Patrick McCarthy:** feel a part of something, children teach us how to be inclusive.

**Corrie Archer:** They make sure there is lots of open communication. People are unsure of what/how people will react. Try to find inclusive spaces.

**Rodney Stehr:** make sure we are using language that is inclusive. And practice accountability when we make errors. We should also include deaf culture.

**Thelka Wright:** Mother was deaf but it wasn't really discussed but she persisted in the pursuit of inclusivity to educate folks re: the deaf culture.

**Rory Erickson:** Important to include those in the middle. Include and promote youth voice, LGBTQ+ - Are they heard?

### **What does diversity mean to you?**

**Rob Sullivan:** means including everyone.

**Pat McCarthy:** The result of inclusion gives you diversity.

**Christine Malone:** When you include all, more diversity brings more inclusion. The world is smaller now, people travel more, and the youth are more informed and open to these views.

**Deb Solberg:** setting the "stage" is important for Theatrix. For example, they developed different characters to suit their actors. Long "Joan" Silver.

### **How do you create or plan?**

**Rory Erikson:** intersecting identity, culture, age, music and art. Summer in the City programming could include new programming to invite pride, etc.

**Rob Sullivan:** facilities accessible, leisure buddies, partner to help include more people.

**Whitley Sheehan:** use our events to bring different people in and just be there together. Try to market different groups through shared love of music. Only one person has to be brave enough to include.

**Pia Longstaffe:** Would City consider using Dyslexic font on printed materials.

**Carrie Nimmo:** Council supports inclusion and has some funding available for a "Rainbow Project". We need to outreach and so she invites the community to bring forward any proposals they may have.

#### 4. Break: refresh and network (10 min)

## 5. Roundtable

### Roundtable Portion:

**Carrie Nimmo:** November 30, there is a surplus of funding for festivals, please submit an application.

**Zoey Taylor:** volunteers with Poco Youth Crew, 12-18 years old.

**Whitley Sheehan:** Support Worker, SFS – they have an art program starting to produce artwork, working on bringing out to community, perhaps an exhibition?

**Corrie Archer, SD43:** Looking for opportunities for youth in any capacity.

**Rodney Stehr, Encompass Support Services Society:** run drop in evenings, sexual health. Langley: youth run conference to build skills.

**Ali Blythe:** running contest for 10-12yr olds at Claremont Review. If finances are a barrier for youth, they will accept those submissions.

**Roger Loubert:** Minnehada Christmas Singalong, 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of December. November 4 – hosting a regional park system meeting. Looking for artists for Creative Café.

**Anna Loster, Terry Fox Library:** Sensory Story Time, Terrific Tues (Adults and kids with learning challenges), Mental Health meeting group. Hyde Creek book mobile on Fri. Ukulele drop in, all free.

**George, Honeycombers:** Honeycombs skits and singalongs at Hawthorne and Legion.

**Linda Dore, HCWS:** fish hatchery. Looking for members of all diversity to bring in fresh ideas. 18<sup>th</sup> Anniversary festival Nov 19<sup>th</sup> at Hyde Creek Hatchery. Free activities and crafts. Storm drain marking.

**Kelly Brown, Port Coquitlam Heritage:** Cases in City Hall filled with PoCo then/now. Looking for new exhibits. Terry Fox exhibit is free admission. Recruiting volunteers for collection help.

**Brad Nickasen:** art enthusiast

**Tony Kosta, Polonez Tri-City Polish Association:** Polish Festival. Christmas Concert no dates yet. Presenting a concert in Poland in the summer. Check out the website.

**Kathy Feller, Tri-City Wordsmiths:** The writers group accepts all genres of writers. Hold information seminars at Terry Fox Library once a month, next one is Dec 2. Please see Tri-City Wordsmiths website.

**Christine Malone, Art Focus:** Art Focus Art Show is Oct 28&29, opening rec. Oct 27. All variety of styles of artwork. Feb 2018 will be the 25<sup>th</sup> celebration with an exhibit in MWAG. All work will include silver.

**Nikki Hillman, Recreation Programming Assistant, Arts & Culture:** Oct 2 accepted the position and is very excited to be in the role. Currently working on the Winter Artisan market on Nov 24&25. Also working with Sandy and Events because we are combining the market with Christmas in LS.

**Thelka Wright, CDMF:** Coquitlam Music Festival features piano, vocal, musical theatre, drama. Some funding but donations, entry fees and volunteers keep us running. They have a new space at Trinity United Church. Thelka has been volunteering to help Chinese adults learn English.

**Pia Longstaffe, Art Focus/Heritage:** held a launch for the new children's history book at the Terry Fox Library. This was a successful collaboration between 11 artists and 5 writers.

**Michael Wright, CDMF:** Co-opted to the board of CDMF. Registration is open for youth, Dec 15. Go to the festival website for more info.

**Zach Lundrie, Recreation Programming Assistant Arts & Culture:** Make sure your email is legible and correct on sign in sheet. Interested in being relevant and representative of the community? Drop in and chat with us. We want to hear your ideas.

**Rory Erikson, Youth Services:** Working to establish a youth voice. Conversation about needs at the new Rec. Centre. What do they really want /need. Would like a safe space. Indicators re: inclusion, gender pronouns, building networks within the city. Connections through Art and music with youth.

**Sandy Battle, Events:** Remembrance Day, working with the Legion. The CP Holiday Train event is coming up. Also working with Winter Artisan Market and Light the Square. How can May Day be more inclusive of other cultures, etc? Any ideas for this are welcome. Festivals are a great way to include others too.

**Jacob McGill, Poco Youth Club:** Working on the Halloween Howl with a Haunted House. Trying to make it accessible to all.

**Adjourned – 7:03 pm**

**Next Cultural Roundtable Meeting: November 16, 2017**