



## CULTURAL ROUNDTABLE AGENDA

APRIL 18, 2019

MICHAEL WRIGHT ART GALLERY, 7PM – 9PM  
Gathering Place #200 – 2253 Leigh Square, Port Coquitlam, BC

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**Attendees:** **Carrie Nimmo** – Cultural Development and Community Services Manager, **Rhea Rose** – Friends of Leigh Square, **Rob Clayton** – Friends of Leigh Square; **Patrick McCarthy** – Friends of Leigh Square; **Christine Malone** - Art Focus, **Tor Erickson**, **Diane Erickson**, **David Erickson** – SD43, **Rodney Stehr**, **Nikita Markelov** – FWD Engineering, **Kayla Burgess** – Spirit of the Children Society, **Mikhaila Barnsdale** – Spirit of the Children Society, **Elvira DS** – Artist, **Nikki Hillman** - Recreation Program Assistant, Arts & Culture, **Lesley Perrie** – Recreation Program Assistant, Arts & Culture, **Rory Erickson** – Recreation Program Assistant, Youth Services, **Councillor Steve Darling** – City of Port Coquitlam, **Councillor Laura Dupont** – City of Port Coquitlam.

### Cultural Roundtable Goals:

1. Share information and resources
2. Work together to develop new cultural initiatives

**Presentation:** Steve Baylis – Pride Public Art Project

**Note Taker:** Nikki Hillman

### Agenda:

**7:00 - 7:05 Welcome and Sign-in**  
**7:05 - 7:20 Pride Public Art – Design – Steve Baylis**  
**7:20 - 7:25 Outreach, Engagement and Youth, Rory Erickson – Youth Services**  
**7:25 - 7:40 How to Get Involved**  
**7:40 - 7:50 Refreshments and Networking**  
**7:50 - 8:00 Cultural Plan update**  
**8:00 - 8:30 Roundtable**

**Carrie Nimmo, Manager of Cultural Development and Community Services:** Introduction of Arts & Culture staff, Rory Erickson, and Steve Baylis. This meeting welcomes everyone interested in arts, culture and heritage. Research has proven that inclusive environments are important for building healthy and creative communities so everyone is welcome to attend. We also support the use of gender pronouns – feel free to introduce yourself with your preferred pronoun. Please include your email when you sign in so we can invite you to any future workshops. The focus of this meeting is on Pride Public Art, and artist-led, community-engaged project that recognizes and celebrates Port Coquitlam's community. The goal of this project is to bring people together to create a space where reflection, contemplation and dialogue can take

place, fostering a sense of belonging and community pride. Staff engaged the community to determine the type of project that would best recognize and celebrate Port Coquitlam's community. Of the seven submissions, the Evaluation Committee recommended to Council the project proposed by Steve Baylis, an artist and graphic designer, born and raised in Port Coquitlam. Council approved this project in March and we are super excited to be introducing the design and sharing ways that you can get involved through painting and celebrating.

Baylis is an internationally recognized visual artist whose work has been exhibited in many local and international galleries and has been featured in notable international art publications. He studied Art and Design at Kwantlen University and continued his training at Capilano University, where he mentored under artist Kiff Holland. Baylis combines a range of unique influences with his own driven spiritual inquiry to create art that connects people. Painting is not an endpoint for Baylis or the viewer, but the doorway to a relationship between both – and so the emotive radiance in Baylis' work transcends its material makeup.

***For Steve Baylis' presentation, please see document attached to this email.***

**Introduction of Rory Erickson**, Rory has a Bachelor of Arts from the University of British Columbia with a focus in aesthetics and the philosophy of art. He has worked for the City since 2009 in Children Services, Aquatics, Arts and Culture and Youth Services and has a passion for community engagement, social justice, and advocacy for the community, music, and social change through the arts. Our mission in the City is to provide inclusive recreation and cultural experiences to support a healthy community. One of our five core values in recreation and culture is inclusion – Rory takes this to heart and has been an important staff person outreaching to the community.

**Rory Erickson** - Thank you for attending this evening. I currently manage the youth at both of the Cities Youth Centres: Hyde Creek and the Port Coquitlam Recreation Complex. This is where I ensure the voices of marginalized people are recognized. For this project, I gathered feedback from Queer youth and determined there is a significant need for spaces for people. Spaces for reflection and opportunity for dialogue in the city of Poco. I worked with these young people to create a drop in program for them and attended last year's pride parade and this helped me set an intention to champion change. This has allowed me to speak freely and live openly queer. By creating a space for them, we then foster safer spaces to acknowledge the community.

#### **Questions for Rory Erickson and Steve Baylis**

**Q.** How is the public engagement part going to happen?

**A.** There will be four workshops separated out with only a handful of people at a time. We will make sure to section off an area for the folks who are participating. Steve has worked in many of these situations and will be able to manage it, and will also ensure to respect the environment, etc.

**Q.** How do you manage the painting?

**A.** Anyone can learn how to do anything. It's all a process and Steve will create step by step instructions for people to follow. There may also be dictated colours for people to work with. Every one of all abilities will have an opportunity to participate.

**Q.** Is the section under the bench going to be included in the design?

**A.** Steve will be painting the aluminum which will be installed under the bench area. The aluminum will end at the curve of the bench and community members will only be painting the tiles because painting the aluminum is difficult.

**Q.** How resilient will the surface of the tiles be?

**A.** Layers and layers of paint will create a natural resilience. The tiles will also be protected with varnish and once it's cured, it will set.

**Q.** How long will this take?

**A.** A few days and it will harden over time.

**Q.** What was your (the artist's) process when you saw the opportunity?

**A.** When Steve presented the proposal, he kept in mind the scope of the project and the connection and community engagement. He also kept in mind that the project should be something that would last. Once the pieces were figured out, he then worked on a motif that was accessible and understandable.

**Q.** Why not paint the benches?

**A.** People will sit on them and this will wear the paint off quicker. The underside of the benches is more isolated and will avoid more damage. The artist also wanted to create a space which has a bigger impact.

**Q.** Could you explain the reasoning behind the chosen colours?

**A.** Steve engaged with friends within the community and then with Rory Erickson, to ensure the colours were relevant. It was important for the Trans community to be included and so that's why he considered the two flags.

**Q.** For the plaque to commemorate the work, the wording can be complicated. How will you approach this?

**A.** Steve will work with the City staff and the community to ensure to define what the plaque needs to say. There hasn't been too much time spent on the plaque for now but we will work on this.

**Q.** Is the focus of the workshops specific to the community and youth?

**A.** No we want everyone to be involved.

**Q.** How will the art work be maintained?

**A.** Steve will provide how to care for and manage the art work.

### **Review of Agenda by Carrie Nimmo:**

The goals of the Cultural Roundtable are to share information and resources and to work together to implement the Cultural Plan initiatives.

### **Cultural Plan Update:**

#### **Community Cultural Development Grants:**

Three categories for Arts, Culture and Heritage:

##### **1. Development Category**

1. Professional Development – individuals (up to \$1,000)

2. Community Initiatives – groups, collectives and individuals without not-for-profit status (up to \$2,500)
  3. Capacity Building – organizations (up to \$5,000)
2. **Project Category** – Organizations (up to \$5,000)
  3. **Operating Category** – Organizations (up to \$20,000)

Deadline: **April 30**

May Days – On behalf of Councillor Dupont and Poco Heritage Trees, I would like to pass along the invitation to join Poco Heritage Trees in the May Day parade, with a theatrical nature based display on May 11. Feel free to dress up, check out their website at [pocoheritagetrees.org](http://pocoheritagetrees.org) for more information.

### **2019 STREET BANNER LAUNCH OF *W-E-L-C-O-M-E to POCO***

Join us for the official launch of the 2019 Street Banner Project titled *W-E-L-C-O-M-E to POCO!* On May 11<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. at the Outdoor Performance Stage in Leigh Square during May Days. Winners of the online gallery photo exhibit contest will also be announced, with prizes awarded to the top three images chosen by the public. At 3:15pm meet artist Evann Siebens' in the Leigh Square Sculpture Yard for an artist talk and tour of the *W-E-L-C-O-M-E to POCO!* banner project. The project reflects and highlights the community of Port Coquitlam by featuring stylized images of local residents of diverse ages and cultural backgrounds in front of iconic sites and landmarks. The designs feature the word "welcome" in English and other languages, and the residents in each banner gesture one letter of the word in American Sign Language. The street banners fit together like a puzzle, spelling out the word WELCOME as people travel down the street.

The project was selected for its creative approach in how it highlighted and engaged the community and its people. It is part of the 2019 Capture Photography Festival, a festival devoted to presenting the most compelling lens-based art from local and international artists throughout Metro Vancouver.

Siebens has exhibited her projects at galleries such as Eyebeam in New York and Centre Pompidou in Paris while her documentaries have been screened at the Museum of Modern Art and on PBS. A former dancer with the National Ballet of Canada and the Bonn Ballet in Germany, she studied film and graduated from New York University. Now based in Vancouver, she has participated in residencies at the Banff Centre, UNIT/PITT, Frankfurt Ballet and at ACME, London with artist Keith Doyle. She projected a large scale film onto the exterior of the Vancouver Art Gallery in 2018.

Port Coquitlam's street banner project features the community of Port Coquitlam: its people, natural beauty, defining features, and contexts.

For more information on arts, culture, and heritage programs offered at Leigh Square, call 604-927-8441 or visit [portcoquitlam.ca/leighsquare](http://portcoquitlam.ca/leighsquare)

## **Roundtable Portion**

**Lesley Perrie – Recreation Program Assistant, Port Coquitlam:** We have our Easter Arts Carnival coming up this Saturday, April 20 from 1-3pm. This is a registered event and you can register online at [experienceit.ca](http://experienceit.ca). There will be a scavenger hunt, art projects, cookie decorating, a performance by Music with Marnie and a special visit from the Easter Bunny.

**Christine Malone – Art Focus:** The club has a demonstration evening coming up next Wednesday April 24 with artist Tiffany Hastie. Our Spring show is May 3-5, with our opening reception on Friday, May 3, 7-9pm.

**Rodney Stehr –** Currently working on a mental health forum for LGBTQ. Please contact him for information.

**Rory Erickson – Recreation Program Assistant, Youth Services –** currently involved with the May Day event to encourage youth to get involved. Youth services have begun to offer Yoga programs and art drop-ins for youth. There will be an upcoming workshop with Elvira DS to create work together with the youth as well. I'm looking forward to the Pride Public Art event.

**Kayla Burgess – Spirit of the Children Society:** Based Port Coquitlam and in New Westminster as well.

**Elvira – Artist:** Elvira will be participating in the Interactive Art Zone on May Day. She will offer a simple activity creating flowers and using the official colours of the May Day celebrations. She invites everyone to participate and create a flower which will be installed on the sculpture yard gates in Leigh Square. She has also been working in collaboration with Rory Erickson in Youth Services and the youth in some workshops to help them express their own personality through art.

**Steve Baylis –** please see document attached to this email for information regarding his presentation.

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**Next Cultural Roundtable Meeting: May 16, 5-7pm**