



CULTURAL ROUNDTABLE AGENDA

MAY 16, 2019

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

Attendees: **Carrie Nimmo** – Cultural Development and Community Services Manager, **Patrick McCarthy** – Friends of Leigh Square Society; **Christine Malone** - Art Focus, **Thelka Wright** – CDMF, **Michael Wright** – CDMF, **Sandy LeMonnier** – Rivers and Trails Festival, **Glenn Mitzel** - Area Recreation Manager, Parks and Recreation, **Angela Anderson** – What’s on PoCo Magazine, **Mahdis Araujo** - Program Ambassador, Engineering and Public Works, **Alex Bickers** – Event Producer – Community and Civic Events, **Melissa Maltais** - Executive Director, Haney Farmers Market Society, **Nikki Hillman** - Recreation Program Assistant, Arts & Culture, **Lesley Perrie** – Recreation Program Assistant, Arts & Culture, **Emily Neumann** – Production Assistant, Community and Civic Events, **Councillor Nancy McCurrach** – City of Port Coquitlam.

Cultural Roundtable Goals:

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

Presentation: Festivals and Events: Engaging the Community and Creating Relevant Festivals and Events

Note Taker: Nikki Hillman

Agenda:

5:00 - 5:05 Welcome and Sign-in
5:05 - 5:40 Presentations
5:40 - 5:50 Refreshments and Networking
6:10 - 6:15 Cultural Plan Update
6:15 - 6:54 Roundtable

Carrie Nimmo, Manager of Cultural Development and Community Services: Welcome and agenda. 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. Introducing Alex Bickers (Event Producer – Community and Civic Events), and Emily Neumann (Production Assistant – Community and Civic Events). One of our mandates is to build capacity in the city and having a production assistant will help us with this. Mahdis Araujo was hired in Events and Arts and Culture. Glenn

Mitzel will be speaking about Grand Prix. We have a larger team than usual in attendance this evening, but we really wanted you to meet our staff, and get to know you, so we can support you. In 2018, 68,388 people attended City-produced festivals and events, including May Days, Canada Day, Rivers and Trails, Christmas in Leigh Square, Music in the Park, Cinema Under the Stars, PoCo Grand Prix and Port Coquitlam Farmers Market. Our partnered festivals and events are the Terry Fox Hometown Run and the CP Holiday Train. Other community festivals include Sizdah Bedar – Nature Festival, BC Polish Festival, Downtown Poco Car Show, Hyde Creek Salmon Festival, CDMF Performing Arts Festival, Up the Creek and Creek Classic Triathlon, and the Golden Ears Gravel Fondo. We received valuable feedback from community festival organizing groups, which helped us to provide the following:

1. Organizational and skill development - CCD grants, City staff, workshops including grant writing, volunteer development and Survivor 101
2. Access to venues and public spaces - provided parks and facilities
3. Funding and in-kind support – updated applications to include festivals and events and increased funding
4. Streamlined event permit application process – developing online form and toolkit

We were able to offer workshops on social media, grant writing, how to recruit and keep volunteers and we held one of the Not-for-Profits Lifecycles 101series workshops, here at the Outlet. We are working on updating our applications. Last year we added \$20,000 to the CCD Grant. We've also streamlined the application so if, for example, you need a liquor license and you click on that option it will take you straight to the Liquor Distribution Board where you will fill out the liquor license form.

Presentations:

Mahdis Arajous – Mahdis is the event lead on the Shaughnessy Pop-Up Park. The park was created on an undeveloped lot on Shaughnessy and is a collaboration between Public Works, Parks and Arts and Culture. It is not a City lot, but it is leased to us. The space is open and available to be booked by community groups for events. It has an open deck, which is perfect for performances, picnic tables, umbrellas, plants and trees. People can also use the space to have lunch or dinner! In 2018, we hosted the Shaughnessy Pop-up Park Opening with mural artist Laura Bifano, local band Sister Says; plein air artists (supplied by the Friends of Leigh Square) and refreshments (supplied by City of Port Coquitlam). Active Pass, a classic rock band, performed during the Downtown Poco Car Show and once again on a beautiful Saturday afternoon.

The City also hosted the Winter Celebration at Pop-up Park, in collaboration with PoCo BIA (hot cocoa and cookies), Daniel's Chocolate (delicious chocolate samples), Arts & Culture team (ornament craft making and ginger bread cookie decorating), and Girl Guides of Canada (decorated the Christmas trees). Brad Lovell and Mark Friebe from the Giggle Dam Emceed the event and the 3-piece band "Christmas Swing" played festive Holiday tunes. We also had free prizes to give away from The Giggle-Dam, PoCo Heritage Society and the City of Port Coquitlam. You can use the space; however we ask that the events not involve marketing or fundraising events. There is no access to power and the weather may play a part in your event. You can request a squeegee from Parks to remove water from the artificial turf. Volume is a factor and there are no restrooms on site; however, we can supply generators and tents.

Recently, on May 14, the Poco BIA introduced their new Executive Director at a pop up event. The Pop up park will be promoted in the Summer in the City brochure.

Q. Can the City ever use it? A. Yes.

Q. Could there be a once a week activity during the summer for children? Such as paper hats out of newspaper? A. Of course, that's something we can look into.

B.C. Polish Festival (not able to attend, please see poster below)



Alex Bickers – Event Producer, Community and Civic Events. We are currently planning for Canada Day, Sunday July 1. From 8-11 am in Lions Park we will have the fishing derby and a pancake breakfast. From noon-dusk in Castle Park, there will be food trucks, a kid's zone, the salmon BBQ and the Artisans zone. There will also be free shuttles from Poco Station to Castle Park. From 5-10:15 pm we have our headline acts. The fireworks begin at 10:15 pm.

Lesley Perrie – Arts and Culture, Recreation Program Assistant. We are getting ready for our Summer in the City programming, occurring June, July and August, beginning with the Farmers Market in June. Opening day is June 6, 3-7 pm in Leigh Square. In July, we will have our Music in the Park series which will be held in Lions Park, 1-4 pm every Saturday. The first hour will be an emerging performer, followed by a professional performer. Our Cinema Under the Stars event begins in July with a showing of *Mary Poppins* at Gates Park, *How to Train Your Dragon* in Sun Valley, *Ralph Breaks the Internet* at Gates Park and our final show *The Avengers* at Sun Valley Park. The events are all free for you and your family. Check our website if there is inclement weather. We do have sponsorship opportunities available. Our last events of the summer are some free, Pride Public Art workshops, which you need to register for. They are Friday, July 26 from 5-7:30 pm (#37381), Sunday, July 28 from 12-4 pm (#37382), and Tuesday, July 30 from 5-7:30 pm (#37383). On Friday, August 2, in Leigh Square, we will hold our unveiling of the public art with artist Steve Baylis.

Glenn Mitzel – Area Recreation Manager, Parks and Recreation. (Presenting on PoCo Grand Prix.) This is the 4th year of the Grand Prix, which is an incredible event. The Lead group comes by at about 60km. It's an incredible feeling. We've created a festival and a bike race program right in the downtown core. This year's race is the only, and first, race in Canada occurring at night. The local business owners would like to be open during the day and so this is the reason we are beginning the races at 4:00 pm. We listened to the community and condensed the program down. The event is July 12, beginning at 4:30 pm. If you are here at 5:00 pm please watch the kid's races. The men's and women's races occur between 7:15-9 pm. The coordination of this event is immense; it's actually a moving piece of art. If you'd like to register a child in the Kids race, registration is June 1. We are looking for volunteers to work this event as we need at least 200 volunteers. We are also looking for sponsors.

Kayla Steele – Port Coquitlam Events. (Not able to attend, please see poster below) Downtown Poco Car show, Sunday, August 18, 10-6pm.



Sandy LeMonnier – Rivers and Trails Festival. The very first festival was held in 1980 and was called the Rivers Festival. We decided in the 90s to add "Trails" as well. We are promoting and creating stewardships for our rivers and streams. This year, we are going to include Art Focus, along with music and some environmental groups. We encourage each participant to have an activity, and each child will have a passport which will be stamped at each table. The Maple Creek Streamkeepers donate prizes for the children who have their passports stamped. If anyone interested in participating, please connect with us. The event is Sept 22, 2019 from 12-4 pm at Lions Park. There will also be a salmon release, with smolts provided by the Poco Rod and Gun Club. Last year the City of Port Coquitlam worked with the Rivers and Trails committee to round out the event and included Poco Heritage, the Poco Hunting and Fishing club, tree walks with Poco Heritage Trees Society, live light mural painting with artist Aurelia Bizouard and aerialists performing in the trees.

Jean Peachman – Hyde Creek Salmon Festival. This year is the 20th Annual Hyde Creek Salmon Festival on Sunday, November 17, 11 am - 3 pm. It will be hosted at the Hatchery and there will be programming in the surrounding trails.

Thelka Wright - CDMF Performing Arts Festival. Thelka has been involved with the CDMF for about 25 years, which is a non-profit organization running for 67 years. CDMF offers students

opportunities to perform. They are Port Coquitlam-based and a member of Performing Arts BC. This year the annual competition will be held in Chilliwack. During the festival, serious students receive constructive critiques from professional adjudicators. We have a 9 member working board with 20 volunteers. The cost is high to run but is funded by fees. The Festival received a direct access grant from the government. The fees cover travel, food, accommodation for the adjudicators and the rental cost of Trinity United Church. Bursaries also round out the funding. Scholarships are provided by Gotta Sing, Gotta Dance with \$7,000 awarded last year. The festival provides opportunities for students to perform and receive feedback. This festival brings people out to the City of Port Coquitlam; they eat in restaurants, fill up at gas stations, and many are first time visitors to the area. Many students have moved forward and become professional actors and performers. Anyone is welcome to attend the free performances and competitions. Please visit CDMFFestival.ca where you can see the syllabus for the year. We rely on our volunteers and the support of Trinity United Church. The one thing we do not have is a strong advertising and marketing campaign but we are working on this as we would love to see more people attend.

Q. How do you get your performers? **A.** We have good relationships with teachers throughout the Lower Mainland. We inform them of the upcoming deadlines and they access registration and can apply online. We usually get close to 600 entries.

Melissa Maltais – Acting Executive Director, Haney Farmers Market Society. The opening day of the market is June 6. We have a new market manager, Ellen Fowler. We have a great line up of vendors and food trucks and we are looking forward to partnering with other groups.

Alex Bickers - Event Application Process:

(Review of online application). The new events application form leads you through the application. It asks for the date of event, name of the event, what your outcomes are, what your guests will experience. It walks you through an intuitive guide. For instance, if you want to serve alcohol, it will prompt you to fill out the permit on the BCLDB website. This process will create efficiencies within the Events department so they have most of the information and can better assist you. Also, bookings will be better equipped to book what you need. This process also gives us a broader scope of what community members would like to participate in.

Carrie Nimmo - We are currently completing this online event application and trying it out with certain groups to make sure we cover everything. Once it's finished, it will be live online. We are also developing a tool kit with resources, grants etc. We are working to have approvals coordinated with Parks and Events so it's all coordinated in house, so if it's not all covered, only one person will need to contact you. We are beginning to promote festivals and events with the Summer in the City guide now including all of the summer events occurring during the summer. We are creating a focus group to help us improve the process, based on what the feedback was that the community needed. This will help us plan a few workshops to offer information and resources. If you are interested in participating in the focus group, please contact Carrie or Alex. If you need some assistance with the application process, we will meet with you in a smaller setting to review the application.

Review of Agenda: 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: We are pleased to have a new arts and culture coordinator joining our team. Robi Smith begins Wednesday and she brings 20 years of experience in the arts as a project manager and artist, as well as a communications professional. She holds a Masters of Education in Arts for Social Change and most recently she has been the Artist-in-Residence for the City of Maple Ridge and Board Member of the Eastside Culture Crawl. We've also hired three new summer Arts and Culture Recreation Leaders to help out during events and summer camps, they are Mahdis Araujo, Sarah Ronald, and Sarah Leigh.

Roundtable Portion

Carrie Nimmo – Happy to say that this roundtable has produced many collaborations within the community.

Melissa Maltais – Please join us for the opening of the Poco Farmers Market, June 6 at 3pm.

Sandy LeMonnier – Join us for the Rivers and Trails Festival. The Poco Heritage Tree group will be there as well, leading tours. We have received our first grant from BC Hydro.

Christine Malone – Art Focus just finished their Spring Art Show. Art Focus will be participating in the Farmers Market again this year. They will also be at Canada Day; last year the group had 175 kids painting. Art Focus meetings will up again in September. Next Wednesday there is a free artist demo in the Outlet with Patrick Wood, 7-9pm.

Councillor Nancy McCurrach – I am committed to growing the arts and culture in Port Coquitlam and would like to bring the arts and sports community together. I really enjoyed May Day and the artist's tour of the banner program. I would like to see an activity programmed in the pop up park during the summer, something for the children to create. I would love to see more performing arts at the Terry Fox theatre. We have a few spots during the year maybe we can help people use these resources. Would love to see perhaps Drag Queens participate or perform during the Pride Public Art celebration on Aug 2.

Patrick McCarthy – Friends of Leigh Square are holding their AGM this evening. I really enjoyed May Day and the Art Zone. FLSS is trying to promote art zones at other events such as Grand Prix and the Poco Car Show. I was impressed by the attendance at the opening reception for the SD43 Student Art Show, Imaginings II, in the Michael Wright Art Gallery. Wish folks would use a microphone during opening so we can hear them clearly. It would be great to have an Art Wall of Fame. On June 1, the society will begin strategic planning and they are looking for board members. The society is also accepting donations to help support events such as the Pride Public Art event. FLSS is currently working on developing a free art drop-in program for youth. Angela Anderson, of What's On Poco Magazine, has donated \$500 to this initiative and if you donate, Angela will publish a small free ad in the magazine for you.

Angela Anderson – We have a new hire to announce for the magazine. Jennifer Pownall, former Artist in Residence for Port Coquitlam is joining the team as a contributing writer and editor. If your organization needs an article to be written, the deadline is May 31 for publication in our July/Aug edition. We also have a new Sales and Marketing manager, her name is Cecilia Johnson.

Mahdis Arajous – I have two upcoming events to announce. We have Public Works day on May 26 and it just gets bigger and bigger every year. This event showcases the Public Works department, which does all kinds of work around solid waste, streets, electrical and parks. There will be booths with environmental groups, Metro Vancouver, Maple Creek Streamkeepers, Heritage Tree Society and lots of other groups involved. Please bring your family, including children. There will be a BBQ fundraiser for Share Society and a hay ride and ATV ride. This is happening in the Public Works area at 1737 Broadway from 10-2 pm. The second event I'd like to mention is the Port Coquitlam Repair Café. We have had some support from the Eagle Ridge Repair Café as they have a very successful model. The Repair Café will be on June 1, from 10-2 pm. There will be space for folks to bring their broken household items, furniture or bikes. We will have tools and volunteers on hand to help folks with repairs.

Emily Neumann – I am also involved with the rEvolver Festival in Vancouver, an annual festival for emerging and professional artists. I'm an emerging playwright and would like to invite you all to the debut of my play on May 23 at 6:30 at the Cultch (1895 Venables) titled *Bitter, Jaded and only 24*. This is a free/pay-what-you-like performance. If you do come, please wear plaid. At the end of the performance there will be a talk back session.

Alex Bickers – Please come to Canada Day!

Lesley Perrie – We are currently preparing for the Farmers Market opening on June 6. Our Summer camps are open for registration and the newest exhibition, *Imaginations II*, is now up with student artwork from SD43 high schools CABE, Riverside Senior Secondary and Terry Fox Senior Secondary. Our second artist-in-residence of the year is Osvaldo Ramirez Castillo and he will be beginning the first week of June. He will be in the Artist in Residence room 25-30 hours per week and holding free art workshops in August. We will have some free workshops for you to join in to participate in painting the Pride Public art installation, which you need to register for. The workshops are on Friday, July 26 from 5-7:30 pm (#37381), Sunday, July 28 from 12-4 pm (#37382), and Tuesday, July 30 from 5-7:30 pm (#37383). On Friday, August 2, in Leigh Square, we will hold our unveiling of the public art.

Carrie Nimmo – Please visit the current art exhibition by the students of SD43 here in the Michael Wright Art Gallery and the gallery space in the Outlet. It's so exciting to see the enthusiastic youth fill this space with their energy and their families. Please come back and spend some time looking at the artwork.

Nikki Hillman – I'm sure you've all noticed that the banners for 2019 are up! Artist Evann Siebens designed the banners this year and the project is titled *W-e-l-c-o-m-e to Poco*. They are installed along Shaughnessy Street and within Leigh Square and each banner has an image of a community member, with a letter of the word welcome printed alongside them. Each participant is also signing one letter from the word welcome and their first language is also printed on the banner. This project was installed as a puzzle; Welcome is spelled out along Shaughnessy in the full suite of images and the Leigh Square are banners installed in more of a puzzle layout where participants look for the letters to spell out welcome.

Adjourned: 6:54pm

Next Cultural Roundtable: June 20, 2019

For more information on arts, culture and heritage programs offered at Leigh Square, call 604-927-8441 or visit portcoquitlam.ca/leigh_square