



CULTURAL ROUNDTABLE AGENDA

JUNE 20, 2019

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

Attendees: Kim Dinh – Moon Festival, Peter Laight, Deb Solberg – Theatrix, Lauren Hillman – Theatrix, Tina Balachandran – Theatrix, Jean Peachman – Hyde Creek Watershed Society, Medi Tavassoli – Tri-City Iranian Festival, Manijeh Maleky – Tri-City Iranian Festival, Zohreh Hamraz, Karla Kehler, Jennifer Pownall, Aani Nurani – Hyde Creek Watershed Society, Kelly Brown – PoCo Heritage Society, Chris Conroy – Terry Fox Library, Susan Robinson – Artist, Christine Malone – Art Focus, Patrick McCarthy – Friends of Leigh Square Society/Poco Arts, Brad Nickeson, Carrie Nimmo – Cultural Development and Community Services Manager, Robi Smith – Arts and Culture Coordinator, Alex Bickers – Event Producer – Community and Civic Events, Nikki Hillman - Recreation Program Assistant, Arts & Culture, Lesley Perrie – Recreation Program Assistant, Arts & Culture, 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 – Part 2

Note Taker: Nikki Hillman

Agenda:

5:00 - 5:05pm Welcome and Sign-in
5:05 - 5:40pm Festivals and Events Presentations
5:40 - 5:50pm Refreshments and Networking
5:50 - 6:00pm Cultural Plan Update
6:00 - 7:00pm Roundtable

Carrie Nimmo, Manager of Cultural Development and Community Services: Welcome to the Cultural Roundtable. This is an inclusive meeting and we welcome everyone who is interested in arts, culture and heritage. We support the use of gender pronouns so feel free to introduce yourself with your preferred pronoun. Please welcome Robi Smith to the position of Arts and Culture Coordinator. Robi brings 20 years of experience in the arts as a project manager and artist, as well as a communications professional. She has 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 added some new

Recreation Leaders to our Arts and Culture team; they are Mahdis Araujo, Sarah Ronald, Sarah Leigh, Marnie Maule and Ana Mendez. We also have Alex Bickers, our Events Producer, who was recently awarded the Canadian Events Producer of the Year. We have Lesley and Nikki our Recreation Program Assistants in Arts and Culture. Today we are continuing with the Festivals and Events theme and how we can better support our community groups. We have Farmers Market every Thursday from June-October, here in Leigh Square, and we have Canada Day coming up so we are looking for volunteers. The schedule for the Canada Day event is similar to previous years. At Lions Park, there will be a pancake breakfast and fishing derby, then beginning at noon at Castle Park we have community programming on the main stage. At 5pm, we have several local bands performing before our headliners Destineak and the Darby Mills Project. This year's fireworks display is a pyro-musical featuring the music of all female Canadian artists. July is also busy with the beginning of our summer programming. Come see Mary Poppins Returns at Cinema Under the Stars on July 5. July 6, 1-4pm, we have Music in the Park, with both emerging and professional musicians performing on Saturdays. This year, due to feedback from the community, we have moved the Music in the Park performance series back to Lions Park. Poco Grand Prix is coming up July 12 and during pride week our Poco Pride Public Art Celebration is happening August 2, with the unveiling of the art work in Leigh Square around the reflection pond. You may have noticed that the colors have been painted on some of the tiles in the square. The workshops to complete these tiles with design artist Steve Baylis are now full. Next will be the Poco Car Show and Poco's first ever beer festival hosted by Poco Heritage. Kelly has the following information regarding this event.

Presentations:

Kelly Brown, Poco Heritage – Poco Heritage has been working with Patina Brewing Co., NorthPaw Brew Co., Taylight, West Coast Cider Co., and Tinhouse Brewing Co. The event will be September 7, 3-7pm. Tickets will be online for purchase soon. The festival will be in Leigh Square and at the Bandshell. We are hoping this will be an annual event as it's a fundraiser for Heritage. The funds will help us update our storage and take better care of the collections. Our current exhibit, Naturally Poco, is open at the Museum. This is a photography exhibit of photographs taken by local photographers. We will also have Creating Art with Nature workshops, an Evening at the Museum speaker series in association with our exhibits. They will talk about their photography and what they love to photograph. We also have our regular programs such as the Rhymes of Times, Heritage Writers Group, and Heritage Detectives.

Kim Dinh and Peter Laight – Autumn Moon Festival on September 14 in Leigh Square. In the past we have been putting on this festival in small towns and so this is our first time in a big city. Kim used to work as a travel guide in Vietnam, showing Western tourists the Vietnamese culture. Now, she's in Canada introducing Canadians to Vietnamese culture. When she first moved to Canada to the Yukon, no one in the Vietnamese community wanted to be visible, so she decided to dress up in Vietnamese fashion and engaged with people. A local museum invited her to present two talks about the Moon Festival for children and families. During these talks she handed out moon cakes. Eventually, Kim started going into the local schools and then moved on to teaching how to build lanterns. This became very popular and Kim learned how to plan the event and get people to attend. Another feature of the event is being able to tell a story. Eventually, local Vietnamese people got on board and the event then featured traditional dancing. As an immigrant, all we can give to Canada is our culture and to make Canada a richer place.

Terry Fox Hometown Run - Alex Bickers will be working with the Terry Fox Foundation. The Terry Fox Hometown Run is September 15.

Rivers and Trails Festival – September 23, 12-4pm at Lion's Park. We would like to encourage more arts groups to get involved with the Rivers and Trails Festival. Please speak with Alex Bickers if you would like to be involved.

Culture Days 2019 – Arts and Culture will have a Lumen Photoprint Workshop with exhibiting artist Phyllis Shwartz, here in the Michael Wright Art Gallery. You do need to register for this event but it is free to attend. Jessica Anne Nelson, our Artist in Residence September-December 2019 will hold a workshop where she will be collecting stories of Womxn. More information will be posted on Culture Days website, please check there. We are working with, and promoting, events at Poco Heritage and the Terry Fox library. The main point of this event is doors open where everything is free. Poco Heritage will offer free, kid friendly crafts and with the inclusion of the Terry Fox Library, we are trying to become a Cultural Hub within the Tri-Cities. The Culture Days events will be on Friday and Saturday, September 27 & 28.

20th Annual Hyde Creek Salmon Festival – Jean Peachman. November 17 at Hyde Creek Community Centre, 11am-3pm. We are always looking for help and volunteers. We have found that the expenses of running a festival are very high, close to \$1000 and our expenses are so top heavy, we can't find an underwriter who understands how to navigate the liability insurance. Does anyone have a company they work with to help us find one? Alex Bickers shares: Front Row Insurance is now offering single per event certificates. Sport BC has also been providing insurance for events.

7th Annual Xmas Tree Festival – Poco Heritage. November 23-January 4, 2021. The Heritage Tree Festival is our largest fundraiser of the year. The event occurs alongside the Christmas in Leigh Square events. We encourage all community groups and individuals to participate. A regular priced tree for businesses is \$150, the early bird special is \$125 and community groups and not-for-profits are free. The community is invited to see the trees which are set up in Poco Heritage Museum, City Hall, and the Michael Wright Art Gallery and they are encouraged to vote on their favorite tree design. In January, Poco Heritage holds an event and awards prizes for the top trees chosen. Heritage also hosts Santa photos during the Christmas in Leigh Square/Winter Artisan Market. Last year, we brought back the bake sale. This year the Christmas in Leigh Square event will be Saturday, November 23.

CDMF Performing Arts Festival – Thelka Wright spoke about this festival at the last Cultural Roundtable Meeting. Please see May 16, 2019 minutes.

6th Annual Iranian Festival, Sizdah Be-Dar (Nature Day/Picnic Day) April 5, 2020 at Gates Park – Medi Tavassoli has been organizing this event and 2019 was successful. It's a celebration occurring on the solar calendar of the Persian New Year, the first day of spring. The purpose is to celebrate this Iranian traditional cultural event with our children, families, neighbors and friends. We want to teach our children about their culture and invite others to come and enjoy a day in nature with us. It's also a way to create opportunities for local clubs, organizations and businesses to connect with people. It also promotes a healthy lifestyle through fun activities for all families during the event. The event is free and open to the public, is very exciting for all ages—kids to grandparents—from all different communities.

Shaughnessy Pop-Up Park – Take a break or enjoy your lunch in our downtown oasis this summer. It's a free space but you do have to apply. Mahdis Araujo can assist you if you would like to book the space.

Feedback from Community Festival Organizing Groups:

1. Organizational and skill development – offered workshops including grant writing, how to get your message out, volunteer development and Survivor 101 workshops.
2. Funding and in-kind support – updated applications to include festivals and events and increased funding so more festivals were able to apply and develop.
3. Access to venues and public spaces – improved the booking process to outline all of the amenities.
4. Streamlined the event permit application so you can submit your application online. This may be online in the fall and Alex Bickers can assist you with this for now.

If you would like to be a part of the focus group for this, please contact Carrie Nimmo.

Community organizations asked for more support with marketing and promotion. Our Summer in the City brochure includes all of our Festivals, Arts and Entertainment events in the City during the summer. We are working towards a brochure for the fall.

6:07 Break – Refreshments and Networking

Cultural Plan Update - Carrie Nimmo – We would like to share some developments regarding the Public Art in the Port Coquitlam Recreation Centre. Some of you were involved, or know someone who was, in the creation of the large wood mural installed in the lobby area of the Recreation Complex. As the Rec Complex is scheduled to be demolished soon, we are working on removing and deaccessing the art because it is difficult to remove without damaging it. Robi Smith has been working to ensure we follow best practices for removing the piece and being respectful both to the art work and artist. The value of the art piece is also in its community roots as the artist worked with community members to create the piece, which was built on-site. Richard Tetrault (the artist) feels there are some pieces that can be removed and may be repurposed into smaller art pieces. We are looking for community members who may have participated in creating this mural. Everyone who was involved in the design and creation of the original mural in the Rec Centre will be invited to come and see it prior to its disassembly on July 31. We have hired a professional photographer to photodocument the artwork and its disassembly, as well as any community members who were involved in its creation. On July 31, artist Richard Tetrault will be on site to remove the sections of the mural that can be safely removed and potentially reworked into new art pieces. You are welcome to drop by and to say hi and witness the dismantling, which will also be photo documented. Please share this invitation with your networks, as we are looking to connect with all original community participants! Please direct any questions to Robi Smith, Arts and Culture Coordinator, at smithr@portcoquitlam.ca or 604-927-8443.

Terry Fox Sculpture at Terry Fox Library – Robi Smith is working with professional fine art movers to temporarily move the Terry Fox sculpture until it can be installed in a new space at the new community centre. The statue will be carefully lifted out of its current location by crane, after which it will be carefully wrapped, crated and saved in a new location. We are looking at the possibility of installing the statue in Veterans Park and then moving it to a permanent location. There are lots of factors involved in moving and saving the artwork but Robi has contacted the artist who was able to share important information on how it was installed.

May Pole - We've discovered that the May Pole in Leigh Square is not structurally safe. The piece was not approved by engineering as safe for children to play on. It's been deemed a risk for safety as people are climbing on it. We are looking at several options to preserve some

components. We are looking at perhaps hiring an architectural and design firm to help dismantle the pole and save the dancing child figures and wind chime. We are looking at perhaps reinstalling these pieces in parks, community gardens or along walkways. We are trying to contact the original artist, Richard Thompson, to inform him about what is happening. **Q.** Is there something planned for that space? **A.** We are going through the process to determine how best to use the space. Some people would like to be able to sit and gather there. We are also looking at options for public art for the entrance into new Port Coquitlam Community Centre, to tie into the Sport Hall of Fame to inspire people of all walks as they visit the PCCC. Port Coquitlam's sports heritage wasn't documented so worked with Poco Heritage and Poco Sport Alliance to develop the yearly awards and Hall of Famers. MDS Creative came up with a digital platform that people of all ages could interact with. This is installed in the lobby of the Hyde Creek Community Centre. **Q.** If there's a Sports Hall of Fame, could there be an Arts Hall of Fame? **A.** It would take fundraising, about \$100,000. The digital platform, research, and public art portion adds up to about \$100,000. The City of Port Coquitlam put in 20%, a grant paid \$75,000, and then the City put in the remaining.

Roundtable Portion:

Carrie Nimmo - Summer Day Camps and Art Camps in Leigh Square are starting in July. Lauren Hillman from Theatrix is leading four weeks of musical theatre camps. If you know kids who would like to sign up please let them know. Artist in Residence Osvaldo Ramirez-Castillo is now in residency, and our next exhibition is coming up August 8. Please speak to Lesley, Nikki or Robi for more information. Pianos on the Street will be launched July 4, during the Farmers Market "Art at the Market" day, in Veteran's Park, 4-5pm. We will have our second piano out during Farmers Market and the community is invited to help paint the piano. One piano will be installed in Veterans Park; the second piano will be installed in Lions Park.

Zohreh Hamraz – Tricity Iranian Cultural Society presents the Tirgan on July 14, 2019, 4:00-9:00pm at the Coquitlam Town Centre Park. It's a free, summer festival with dance, live music, food, art and a children's playground. For more information, visit tcics.com.

Lauren Hillman – Theatrix. We are working with Arts and Culture again this year, running summer camps in Leigh Square beginning with Musical Theatre. We have one week which is an Acting – Triple Threat Performers camp. Our upcoming season is beginning soon and this will be Lauren's first full year as Artistic Director. The performances will be based on the classic children's books The Lion, Witch and the Wardrobe, As You Wish and the Princess Bride. We are holding auditions for these performances. We've hired some new staff. We are also excited to offer a new program titled Readers Theatre. This will be a program tailored for ESL students and so will cater to a wider range of children. We are currently looking for space within Poco to hold these programs.

Patrick McCarthy – Friends of Leigh Square/Poco Arts. The group is currently working on designing an arts directory which will be a map of all Poco artists, venues, cultural events and businesses. Brad Nickason has begun designing this and our hope is this map will be available for people to use when they come to visit Poco.

Christine Malone – Art Focus is on a break right now for the summer but we are still participating in events such as Canada Day and the Rivers and Trails festival. Art Focus' new season of workshops and demos will begin the first week of September 2019.

Councillor Nancy McCurrach – There is a festival/picnic in the park at Aggie Park on the August long weekend and the organizers are looking for participants. There will be a beer

garden, kid's zone and an arts zone with space for local arts groups to show to participate. They are also looking for interactive art to engage the community. This is a great opportunity to promote your own group. If you are interested, please reach out to Councillor Nancy McCurrach or Patrick McCarthy.

Karla Kehler – Recently completed a children's book titled *Maya Papaya: Rhymes with Reason*. It's a book of nursery rhymes for kids with lessons in them. There is a book signing on August 10 at Chapters Pinetree Village and on October 5 at Chapters Langley. The book is also available at Amazon online in the United States and Chapters online.

Jennifer Pownall – Former Artist in Residence from January-May 2019 and then took a two-three week break. Have just begun working with What's on Poco writing articles and editing.

Brad Nickeson – Poco arts or FLSS.

Chris Conroy – Terry Fox Library. The Summer Reading Club offers something for everyone. Sign up at the Terry Fox Library and *Imagine the Possibilities!* Stories, magic, puppets, dance and virtual reality are happening throughout July and August at the Leigh Square Bandshell. Visit Gates Park and Sun Valley Park for *Stories Galore and More*. A Pop-up library will bridge the transition into the new Port Coquitlam Community Centre. Visit www.fvrl.ca for times and locations. Join the Terry Fox Library staff and patrons Thursday, June 27, 1-4pm to say farewell to the current Terry Fox Library building.

We are breaking for the summer and will be back in September.

Adjourned: 7:04pm

Next Cultural Roundtable: September 19, 2019

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