



CULTURAL ROUNDTABLE AGENDA

OCTOBER 17, 2019

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

Attendees: **Christine Malone** - Art Focus Artists Association; **Angela Anderson** – What’s on PoCo Magazine, **Nikki Hillman** - Recreation Program Assistant, Port Coquitlam Arts & Culture, **Lesley Perrie** – Recreation Program Assistant, Port Coquitlam Arts & Culture, **Councillor Nancy McCurrach** – City of Port Coquitlam, **Linda Sliworsky** – President: Port Coquitlam Heritage Museum and Archives, **Julie Schmidt** – Former President: Port Coquitlam Heritage Museum and Archives; **Kanchan Lal** – Events and Programming Coordinator: Port Coquitlam Heritage Museum and Archives, **Deb Solberg** – Theatrix Youththeatre, **Patrick McCarthy** – PoCo Arts Council (formerly Friends of Leigh Square Society); **Robi Smith** – Coordinator, City of Port Coquitlam Arts and Culture, **Christine Conroy** – Terry Fox Library, **Linda MacBeth** – Art Focus Artists Association, **Kanchan Lal** – Events Coordinator: Port Coquitlam Heritage Museum and Archives.

Cultural Roundtable Goals:

1. Share information and resources
2. Work together to implement our Cultural Plan

Presentation: City of Port Coquitlam Artist in Residence Program

Note Taker: Nikki Hillman

Agenda:

5:00 - 5:10 Welcome and Introductions – Who’s in the Room

5:10 - 5:25 Presentation: Artist in Residence Program – Robi Smith

5:25 - 5:50 Presentation: Jessica Anne Nelson, Artist in Residence

5:50 - 6:10 Refreshments Networking

6:10 - 6:20 Cultural Plan Update

6:20 - 6:55 Roundtable

6:55 - 7:00 Sharing ideas for the future roundtables

Presentation: City of Port Coquitlam Artist in Residence Program. Presented by Robi Smith.

The Artist in Residence call **submission deadline is November 6, 2019**. The Artist in Residence program was revised this year to include three, five month residencies in the Outlet for the following terms: February 3 – June 26, 2020; July 22 – November 19, 2020; February 1 – June 25, 2021. We’ve added one Eco-arts residency in Lions Park April 6 – October 5, 2020 to

produce and share work with the community. The old washroom building at Lion's Park has been cleaned out and converted into a Field House for this residency.

Q. Is this honorarium out of the Arts and Culture budget, or Council mandated funding? And is this in line with other AiR?

A. Yes, it is funded through the Arts & Culture budget. Our program is different from other cities. For instance the City of Vancouver has a residency program through their Community Centres with a 300hr/year commitment for artists. Artists are paid \$10,000 for the residency per year, plus \$2,000 for materials. Our residencies are project-based and hours are negotiated based on what the artist proposes to do during their residency.

Q. If the amount was increased would the program be more robust?

A. Yes, but we don't have the space to dedicate fully to the artists and storage is a challenge. We tend to work with artists who either have other sources of income, whether another job or outside support such as grants, etc.

Q. What if I want to be here 30 hours a week is this possible?

A. Of course, Arts and Culture works with the Artists on a schedule.

Q. Can we leverage the AiR program and make it more noticeable to City Council? Perhaps a presentation to council would make the program more visible to the community and Council. Port Moody begins each council meeting with some form of art presentation; we could brainstorm something like this and build on it. Perhaps the application could include that the artist present something to council.

A. Anyone can go online and request a presentation to council.

Q. Is there some way to add some signage to the building at the Lions Park?

A. Yes, we likely will have the opportunity to do this in the future.

Presentation: Artist in Residence Program – Featuring Jessica Anne Nelson

(Attach slides here)

Womxn: An Exploration of How Womxn Find Their Way in Society. Jessica's focus is on writing and assembling a script about what it means to be a womxn and how they find their way.

Womxn is an alternate spelling of woman. It is used especially in intersectional feminism, to avoid the suggestion of sexism perceived in the sequences m-a-n and m-e-n, and to be inclusive of trans and nonbinary women.

Part of Jessica's outreach is to offer the following workshops to the community.

Introduction to Stage Acting (Activity #37488) Saturday, November 16 from 10am-5pm

Have you always wanted to step onto the stage and into the spotlight? In this introductory class, participants will be shown breathing and body movement exercises, how to break down a scene or monologue, how to warm up, and how to present a story on stage.

Introduction to Physical Theatre using VIEWPOINTS (Activity #37486) Saturday, November 30 and Sunday, December 1 from 11am-4pm

This workshop is open to anyone interested in learning more about how theatre can be created using our bodies rather than just our works. Participants will explore each of the 9

VIEWPOINTS, and have the opportunity to create a short theatre scene or performance sequence together.

These workshops are focused on an opportunity to use your body because some people are nervous about beginning or are unsure of how to get started.

Jessica attended UBC and received a BA Honors Degree. She wasn't sure what she wanted to study. She knew she wanted to create theatre but really enjoyed acting, creating props and stage sets; she just loves all theatre. She loves the Port Coquitlam community because they are so supportive of all aspects of the arts and so she chose the residency as it fit with her current work. During her MFA, she had a project to work on and had an idea to focus on her relationship with her mother and maternal grandmother. She learned about the relationships they had with their grandmothers, aunts, etc. Once she finished school, she became interested in exploring this information further. Also during her time at UBC, she became very interested in the theme of how gender is really about learning to perform; how do we decide what's masculine or feminine?

The challenging part of the engagement aspect during her residency has been the engagement with the community and trying to get people into the building. Considering that open studio hours are during the day, this may not fit with the general public's schedule. However, some people do come in such as families and seniors but this isn't necessarily the demographic she would like. Arts and Culture recently gave her a list of people to reach out to within the community and the City and she's excited to share that she will be going to a school in the SD43 to connect with them.

As a theatre artist, her community is very large and so she uses social media quite a lot. She's currently working on a pod cast but she's not quite ready to share. She participated during Culture Days and has attended two Farmers Markets this season. At the final farmers market, she really engaged with people she'd seen in the community before, but had never had the chance to engage with them.

Having the dedicated space in the Artist in Residence is great because if you are at home, you can easily be pulled away from your work. This opportunity gives you the dedicated space to focus on your work and the honorarium is great at supporting your residency. Jessica's specific challenges have been that some people do not want to talk about gender and what it means. The space is also set up more for a visual artist and it might be nice to have sound and light equipment.

Q. What will you do with the stories you collect, will you write a script?

A. I've recently been accepted to the Block A program. This program is for anyone who's an aspiring playwright, etc. You apply and they choose someone to work with a local playwright. Jessica will take what she's worked on here and work through it with a professional playwright.

Update on the City's Cultural Plan

Robi Smith - Arts and Culture Coordinator. In addition to the AiR call we've extended our exhibition call to Oct 28. Also, if you know of any performers who would like to perform at any of our City events, we will be sending out that call at the end of November. On November 7, 6-8pm we have three exhibition openings:

- In the Michael Wright Art Gallery: David Jacob Harder, who works with natural and industrial materials
- At the Outlet Gallery: Jacob Gillis and Enda Bardell.

During the opening, each of the artists will be giving a talk about their work. We will also show a short film of David Jacob Harder's work.

Q. Will the artist opening be sent out so we can share to our groups?

A. Yes, we will send out a PSA.

Q. Why do you think you are getting this great influx of diverse artists?

A. Artists are beginning to be more connected to social media and they are finding more opportunities that way and we do pay our exhibiting artists as well. Word of mouth helps a lot too.

Q. Is there going to be info provided for performers to submit?

A. Yes

Roundtable Portion

Angela Anderson – What's On Port Coquitlam Magazine has added 16 pages to the current issue, the magazine was 32 pages and is now 48 pages long. November is the deadline for the January/February 2020 issue. What's On Magazine is looking for content and we are keen to promote all not for profit organizations and artists within the community. If you have a feature article, we are interested. What's On Magazine was recently nominated for a Poco Biz award.

Julie Schmidt – Poco Heritage Museum and Archives. On Mondays at 10:30am, the Heritage Writers Group meets in the museum and we have around ten participants at a time. We start with a poem on the subject, next meetings them is Halloween Past. We usually pose a few questions to the group but we don't always have time to go through them. We also try to think about what you would like your family to know.

A. Could one of these be stories be about your grandmother? It could be.

Q. Is this group every Monday?

A. Once a month, our next meeting is November 17, 2019. What's On Magazine also publishes our event information.

Linda Sliworsky – Poco Heritage Museum and Archives. We are currently working on our second fundraiser, the 7th Annual Tree Festival. We have registration forms and are looking for sponsors for prizes for the Heritage Tree Awards Celebration in January 2020. I will be stepping down as President at the end of this year and the board has appointed someone for the interim until the AGM in April 2020.

Kanchan Lal - Poco Heritage Museum and Archives. We have two upcoming programs for families, Saturday, November 17 and Saturday, December 7, 2019. These are our Creating Art with Nature programs and they run from 1-3pm. They are for families but everyone is invited to participate. On October 24th, we have our Evening at the Museum event where we will read spooky stories.

Jessica Nelson – Will be working at Block A and will be directing and coproducing a show titled *Consensual* on Granville Island. She also recently worked for Place Des Arts and directed their show titled *Wind Singer* and she's been asked back to produce their 2020 show.

Christine Malone – Art Focus Artist Association is having their annual Fall Show October 24, 25 & 26 during which they offer a scholarship to the local high school students to support them as they move toward an arts career. During the opening, Jamie Bach will perform.

Patrick McCarthy – Poco Arts Council (formerly Friends of Leigh Square Society). The Council is supporting the Words in the Burbs reading series which takes place at Western Sky Books. The council also supports the Artist Open Studio for artists at the Outlet in Leigh Square, Tuesdays 10am-3pm and the Writers Drop in on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month at the Gathering Place. We also support the Youth Open Mic Night once a month on Fridays in the Gathering Place. We are currently looking for participants. We recently attended the Vancouver Film Festival and spoke with organizer who was interested in outreach to our community.

Chris Conroy – Terry Fox Library. On November 6, we have Canada Reads selected author Lindsay Wong presenting on her book titled *The Woo Woo*. This event takes place in the Terry Fox Library and runs 7-8:30pm. You do need to register though. Visit FVRL.ca for more information.

Linda MacBeth – Art Focus Artist's Association. Art Focus invited her to inform everyone about their upcoming Fall Art Show on October 25, 26 & 27. The opening is Friday October 25 7-9pm with food and music, Saturday October 26 and Sunday October 27 the show runs 11am-5pm. We have a fundraiser during the show to support the scholarship fund. Linda is an artist and writer and is involved in theatre and community projects. She's recently joined the Art Focus Artist Association.

Adjourned: 7:00 pm

Next Cultural Roundtable: November 21, 2019

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