



CULTURAL ROUNDTABLE AGENDA

NOVEMBER 21, 2019

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

Attendees: **Carrie Nimmo** – Manager Cultural Development and Community Services, City of Port Coquitlam, **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, **Robi Smith** – Coordinator, City of Port Coquitlam Arts and Culture, **Melissa Maltais** – Executive Director, Haney Farmer’s Market, **Linda MacBeth** – Art Focus Artists Association; **Councillor Nancy McCurrach** – City of Port Coquitlam, **Linda Sliworsky** – President, Port Coquitlam Heritage Museum and Archives, **Lauren Hillman** – Theatrix Youth Theatre, **Patrick McCarthy** – PoCo Arts Council (formerly Friends of Leigh Square Society); **Sherry Carroll** – Artist; **Laura Lei**; **Tony Kostka** – Polonez Tri-City Polish Association of BC.

Cultural Roundtable Goals:

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

Presentation: Cultural Traditions

Note Taker: Nikki Hillman

Agenda:

5:00 - 5:05 Welcome and Sign In
5:05 - 5:50 Cultural Traditions Conversation & Making
5:50 - 6:00 Refreshments Networking
6:00 - 6:10 Cultural Plan Update
6:30 - 7:00 Roundtable

Robi Smith – Part of the cultural plan is about meeting and getting to know each other and what better way than to make something together. What cultural traditions are special to your family? Or are you like mine: making them as we go?

Lesley Perrie – We will be making traditional Christmas hearts, which are crafted from cut paper. Lesley’s partner moved to Canada from Denmark and so they celebrate his holiday traditions. The tradition of paper heart making began in Scandinavia during the

1500s. A live tree would be carried to the town square and then everyone would decorate the tree with red hearts cut from paper.

Robi Smith – also inherited a tradition from her spouse. They observe the winter solstice on December 21 (the longest day of the year) with a celebration of light.

Tony Kostka – Polish Christmas or Wigilia begins with the appearance of the first star on Christmas Eve, around 5pm. There is an empty place setting at the table for the Lord or for a lost wanderer. Supper begins with the breaking of the Christmas wafer or "opłatek". The meals are meatless with twelve different dishes, symbolizing the twelve months of the year. They talk, pray and then each takes a piece of thin bread amongst them. Then, everyone shares stories and their wishes for the next year.

Lesley and Robi demonstrated how to make the heart decorations and a decorated jar lantern. Meeting participants then joined in to make their own while talking about their own holiday traditions.

Arts and Culture events coming up:

CCD grants have been reviewed and recipients will be announced during the next city council meeting.

Jessica Anne Nelson, our current Artist in Residence, continues to work on her residency project about Womxn. She is also working on the first draft of her play, and is interested in presenting it to the community once it's completed. We will update everyone when we have the date and information.

City staff provided an update on upcoming holiday events and workshops, Nov 22-Dec 12 (Christmas in Leigh Square, Winter Artisan Market, Christmas Movie Night, Wreath-making and Centrepiece workshops, Cookie Decorating and Ornament Making workshops).

Tues, Dec. 17, 7–7:45pm – CP Holiday Train rolls into Port Coquitlam's West Coast Express Station marking the end of the train's cross-country journey. Enjoy a performance by Terri Clark. More detailed information here: [CP Holiday Train](#)
Donations for the SHARE food bank will be accepted at all activities and events, in all of our City facilities.

Sat, Nov. 23-Jan. 4, 2020 - Port Coquitlam Heritage Museum and Archives: Join us in celebrating the holiday season with our city-wide 7th Annual Christmas Tree Festival! Vote for your favourite Christmas tree on our website and help them win one of the coveted Christmas Tree Trophies! You can also participate in our Christmas tree scavenger hunt for a chance to win a prize! For another chance at a prize, participate in our selfie contest! Take a photograph of yourself with your favourite Christmas tree and post it to social media (Facebook, Instagram or Twitter) using #PoCoTreeFest.

Roundtable Portion

Tony Kostka – Polonez Tri-City Polish Association. You are invited to join us on Saturday November 30 for the Polish Dinner and Dance at the Poco Inn and Suites. Dinner begins at 5:30pm and includes dancing until 12:30am. \$55 includes dinner. This event is a thank you to our volunteers and they attend for free but the event is open to anyone. We will have a painting exhibition for adults at the end of March and the first week of April 2020. There will be traditional artists and a city hall performance with music groups. Please check the website <http://www.poloneztri-city.org/> for more information. This year, the Polish Foundation was recognized by Poland for their contribution to the arts.

Carrie Nimmo – Manager Cultural Development and Community Services, City of Port Coquitlam. Recently saw the Memorial Tree at the Port Coquitlam Heritage Museum and she began thinking about cultural traditions and what we bring to our art practice. It also reminded her of her own Scandinavian background. Regarding the CCD Grants, there will be a session in 2020 focused on how to use the report templates to tell your story. Also, the city recently hired a Community Services Coordinator, Melissa Wilson.

Cllr Nancy McCurrach reported - She would like to have Local Artists showcase their work prior to council meetings as they do in Port Moody City Council. She would like to propose perhaps 4 times a year and will bring it up at the Committee of Council under Councillor update. Port Moody currently captures what exactly she is hoping for (not every meeting as they do in PoMo) but 4 times a year would be a great start. Local performers and artists can request to showcase their art through the Art at Council program. This gives artists an opportunity to share their work with the public and educates council on the cultural projects taking place throughout our city. Presentations can include paintings, sculptures, photography, film, music, sketches, artifacts, dance, and a variety of other forms of artistic expression. "Local performers and artists can request to showcase their art through the Art at Council program. This gives artists an opportunity to share their work with the public and educates **Council** on the cultural projects taking place throughout our city. Presentations can include paintings, sculptures, photography, film, music, sketches, artifacts, dance, and a variety of other forms of artistic expression." – City of Port Moody web site

- She also concurred with Sherry Carroll that the Cultural Roundtable should invite the Hyde Creek Hatchery folks to a meeting as they have some great paintings and quilt work on display on the 2nd floor of the Hatchery.

- She suggested the use of the Canada Flag large painting by Art Focus in the Outlet somewhere to showcase it at Canada Day Celebrations.

- She mentioned how she wants to continue to work with all the talented Artists in the community at the Cultural Roundtable and look for ways to lift Art exposure in the City anyway possible.

Sherry Carroll – Arts Connect is celebrating their 50th Anniversary and is looking for 3-4 new board members. Their AGM is Monday, Dec 16, 1-3pm at the Coquitlam City Centre Library. Some of their projects include: scholarships awarded to local youths moving on to art school. Arts Connect would also like to find out what past scholarship recipients have been doing since

they received their award. Artists should remember to record their work too! Take pictures, make scrap books or reach out to Tri-City Community TV! They are really great interviewing artists and making short videos for their websites, etc. Arts Connect needs to update their website and are looking for someone to help with this work.

Angela Anderson – What's On Port Coquitlam Magazine's deadline for the January/February issue is next week so please submit your information by next Wednesday for event listings. The deadline for content is Monday/Tuesday. If you are speaking to businesses, let them know about the magazine and please tell them that advertising in the magazine works!

Patrick McCarthy – Poco Arts Council (formerly Friends of Leigh Square Society). The council is working with Art Focus and Heritage and may be offering a shared membership. Tri-City Community TV invited Theatrix to their last studio session. Theatrix brought 5 children with them and they learned how to operate the film equipment, etc. Tri-City Community TV also interviewed some artists, a Dungeons and Dragons master, and Angela Anderson from What's On Port Coquitlam Magazine. They usually have 6 interview spots available and if you know of an artist or group in PoCo that may like to be interviewed, please connect with us so we can offer to do an interview on camera.

Melissa Maltais – Haney Farmers Market. The market is currently on hiatus but the 2020 budget was approved with a new focus on programming for kids; try new foods, cook and prepare food. We are also performing more outreach, and will offer movies and workshops to the community, which will include people attending the market as well.

Lauren Hillman – Theatrix Youth Theatre. The annual fall production, Narnia the Musical, is completed and touring. There are 22 kids and they all worked together to write the script for the show. It's currently touring elementary schools with two special performances at Dogwood Pavilion, Dec 14 at 3:00 and 7:00pm; entrance is by donation. In the New Year we have some new programs beginning, 3 will be in Poco in Leigh Square. We are offering Readers Theatre where children read stories and then act them out and Storytelling which, during some weeks, children will tell a story, and then other weeks, the children will read a story. The other program we are offering is Create Your Own TV Show. The program is all about kids creating a show, writing a script, setting up a shot, etc. This gives them the opportunity to actually live out their ideas as opposed to someone else's. Theatrix also met with Tri City Community TV. They interviewed Lauren and will also collaborate during the Create Your Own TV Show program.

Christine Malone – Art Focus Artist Association. Art Focus installed a Christmas tree in the PoCo Heritage Christmas Tree Festival, so please go and see the trees. Art Focus' last demo of 2019 is next Wed, Nov 27, 7-9pm in the Outlet Verna brown. The group will start back up in January 2020.

Laura Lei – A community member who saw this interesting event about sharing cultures and decided to attend.

Adjourned: 7:00 pm

Next Cultural Roundtable: January 16, 2020

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