



CULTURAL ROUNDTABLE AGENDA

FEBRUARY 20, 2020

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** – Arts and Culture Coordinator, City of Port Coquitlam, **Melissa Wilson** – Community Services Coordinator, City of Port Coquitlam; **Linda MacBeth** – Art Focus Artists Association; **Councillor Nancy McCurrach** – City of Port Coquitlam; **Lauren Hillman** – Theatrix Youth Theatre; **Deb Solberg** – Theatrix Youth Theatre; **Patrick McCarthy** – PoCo Arts Council (formerly Friends of Leigh Square Society) & Tri-Cities Community TV; **Councillor Zoe Royer** - City of Port Moody; **George Lukach** – Wilson Centre Honeycombs; **Mike Forrest** – Former Councillor, City of Port Coquitlam; **Elvira Monteforte** – Artist; **Julie Schmidt** – President, Port Coquitlam Heritage Museum and Archives; **Chris Conroy** – Terry Fox Library; **Debra Halyk** – Art Focus Artists Association; **Randi Jahlli** – Sales Manager, What’s On PoCo Magazine; **Sherley Lopez**.

Cultural Roundtable Goals:

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

Theme: Telling Your Story: Storytelling for Artists & Cultural Organizations

Note Taker: Nikki Hillman

Agenda:

5:00 - 5:05 Welcome and review of agenda

5:05 - 5:10 Introductions

5:10 - 5:15 Sharing Your Stories with City Council – Port Moody

5:15 - 6:00 Telling your Story: Storytelling Workshop for Artists & Cultural Organizations

6:15 - 6:30 Cultural Plan Update

6:30 - 7:00 Roundtable

Carrie Nimmo – Introductions, greetings and a quick review of the group “what interests you about the topic this evening?”

Sharing Your Stories with City Council - Presented by City of Port Moody Councillor Zoe Royer

Each City of Port Moody regular council meeting begins with a featured art presentation from local performers and artists. They can request to showcase their art through the Art at Council program which is programmed by the Cultural Services Department of Port Moody. This gives artists an opportunity to share their work with the public and educates Council on the cultural projects taking place throughout our city. Previous presentations have included paintings, sculptures, photography, film, music, sketches, artifacts, dance, and a variety of other forms of artistic expression. It’s fascinating to hear the artists speak about their inspiration and it helps engage the audience. They may not always have an art piece, so it can be an artifact or piece of history and the artists do not have to be living in Port Moody. Councillor Royer worked on building the KaBoom! Festival. Artists exhibited in the lobby of Port Moody City Hall and this included broadcasted visual art on screens, pop up plays, dancers, poetry, and music. From this festival they created a directory of all the artists participating, including their bios. The lead up to KaBoom! was also a great way for artists to meet each other and connect with others.

Q. Port Moody is the City of the Arts, and so when you have Art At Council, how does it affect the councilors who are not artists?

A. We have 7 Councillors on Council and it helps to enhance their understanding of the arts. An interesting fact is that people no longer have the space or money for art, so artists are struggling. Port Moody council is looking at ways to support them through developers or subsidized spaces for art. It’s important that council understand this.

Q. How do you present to Council? Currently, anyone who would like to present to Port Coquitlam council has to fill out an application.

A. Port Moody’s Cultural Services Department programs the Art at Council, artists can reach out to the city and vice versa. The planning is two to three months ahead but council has a permanent placeholder at the beginning of each meeting for the Art at Council program.

Q. Is it true that the City of Port Moody buys one art piece at each art show?

A. This is true! Port Moody has an artist association of about 100 members. The City of Port Moody has many different departments and a person from a department will go to the art show and purchase one or two pieces for their department, with a value up to \$1,000. This is so important for local artists as they are very excited to see their art throughout the city.

Councillor Nancy McCurrach remarked: How do artists apply to present at council?

Councillor Royer replied: There is a place online where artists can apply to present their art at council. An online artist directory has recently been developed as well.

Telling Your Story: Storytelling for Artists & Cultural Organizations presented by Robi Smith

Resources

- **Arts Nonprofits: To Get Gifts, Tell Stories!** <https://dennisfischman.com/arts-nonprofits-tell-stories/>
- **Why Nonprofits Need to Be Storytellers**
<https://www.bridgespan.org/insights/library/leadership-development/why-nonprofits-need-to-be-storytellers>
- **Digital Storytelling: Understanding Social Media and Visual Storytelling Tools for Nonprofits**
<https://www.techsoupcanada.ca/en/community/blog/digital-storytelling-understanding-social-media-and-visual-storytelling-tools-for>
- **Infographic: A Non-Profit Storytelling How-to**
<https://www.classy.org/blog/infographic-nonprofit-storytelling/>
- **Guide to Non-Profit Storytelling**
http://cdn2.hubspot.net/hubfs/190333/Resource_Guides/2016-07_Storytelling/next-generation-storytelling.pdf?_hssc=176988154.2.1579038423896&_hstc=176988154.599d8d65933d5530ffe9ace84566e824.1579038423895.1579038423895.1579038423895.1&_hsfp=1761760650&hsCtaTracking=1b67fdcc-a31c-43c6-aea2-9747b5f4f39f%7C083f90cc-b730-46de-a234-62efa6d11839
- **Harnessing the Power of Stories - Discussion Guide**
<https://stanford.app.box.com/s/f8citezifga853e3fildhem492yklhdb>
- **The Storytelling Non-Profit** <https://www.thestorytellingnonprofit.com/>

Cultural Plan Update

Upcoming Grant Deadlines

- PoCo Foundation - Grant applications due March 15
- Self-Help Matching Grants – Applications due March 31
 - Info Session Feb 26, 6-7pm
- CCD Grants – Spring intake applications due April 30
<https://www.portcoquitlam.ca/recreation/administration/ccd-investment-program/>
 - There will also be an info session April 1, 6-7pm

Additional grant opportunities: <http://littledog.ca/grant-deadline-calendar/>

Cultural Plan Update Cont.

- February is Black History Month
- Our new Artist-in-Residence: Meghan Jackson
- Volunteer Award nominations are due March 2
- PoCo Heritage's latest Exhibition: Port Coquitlam's "F" Words

- Opening: Feb 22, 1-3pm
- Easter Arts Celebration: April 11 in Leigh Square
- May Days: May 1 – 9
- Art Focus Spring Show: May 1-3
 - Opening Reception May 1, 7-9pm
- Imaginings III: A Collection of Port Coquitlam Student Artwork
 - Opening: May 7, 6-8 pm
- Port Coquitlam Farmers Market starts May 21
- BC Polish Festival: May 24

Roundtable Portion

Deb Solberg – Celebrating Theatrix’ 30th anniversary at Lions Park August 7, 2021, and will be reaching out to the various art groups to invite them to participate. They are currently working on a marketing plan. There will be three celebrations, one in Coquitlam at Evergreen Cultural Centre for past alumni, one celebration in Port Moody creating a visual arts component with Tri-Cities Community TV, with the final mini-children’s festival in Lions Park. Theatrix would really like to involve the Terry Fox Library and Poco Heritage too.

Lauren Hillman – The anniversary celebration in Port Coquitlam at Lions Park is titled The Circus of Dreams. It’s a children’s festival celebrating the future of Theatrix. Theatrix is currently looking for theatrical circus themed activities. If you have any ideas, now is the time to bring them forward to us.

Cllr Nancy McCurrach report: Thrilled to have City of Port Moody Cllr Zoe Royer attend our meeting tonight as it has always been my desire to find ways to elevate the Arts more in our City that are cost effective. I had reported that I would be inviting Cllr Royer to attend one of our Arts Cultural Round Tables in the near future. She shared what Port Moody does at PoMo City Council meetings and more. It is my hope that the City of Port Coquitlam can have a discipline of the arts present three or four times a year at the beginning of a Council meeting, similar to what Port Moody does at every council meeting.

Christine – Art Focus Artist Association has their Spring Show coming up May 1-3 with their opening reception on May 1, 7-9pm.

George Lukach – has film and photographs of the Wilson Centre Honeycombs group. They are down to 5 members and are looking for someone to take over the group.

Melissa Wilson – If anyone has any questions about the self-help matching grants, please contact her.

Randi Jahlli – Excited to hear about all of the upcoming events and looking forward to enriching the magazine with more culture.

Julie Schmidt – This is currently Heritage week and their banner has been installed on the underpass. Last night was the Mellissa Park lodge discussion about how the lodge saved the heritage house and it became one of three heritage sites in Port Coquitlam. Tri-Cities

Community TV filmed it the meeting. Heritage's new exhibition, The "F" Word, is opening this Saturday, February 22. It tells the story of food, fire, flood, and financial fears which happened 100 years ago. It's told graphic novel style. There are scenes of a nurse and a patient on a cot. We have the Heritage Writers Group, Mondays at 10:30am ongoing every month. This begins with a poem or rhyme on a subject that day then they stop and write their stories and end with a sharing session. Heritage Detectives – this group reviews the history in Port Coquitlam, look at pictures and try to figure out what's happening in the photos.

Angela Anderson – The March and April issue is finished and will be available the week of Mar 1. The content deadline for the big May and June issue is due the week of March 23.

Elvira Monteforte – Is an artist looking for projects. She participated last year in some exciting projects and in 2016 she painted one salmon for the City of Coquitlam. She is participating in BIG IDEAS Education Program for the Vancouver Biennale. The Vancouver Biennale is committed to building a legacy of education, advocacy and social responsibility enabled through art. Teachers within BC can contact artists to connect and work with children in the classroom. She will be working with 7 classrooms in Richmond, working on a mural, and two installations with messages.

Chris Conroy – Terry Fox Library is gearing up for Spring Break, with lots of activities for young people, kids, and adults. They will have virtual reality, sock puppets and story-telling. On March 4, there's a new program titled Come Walk With Us featuring Sonya Richmond and Sean Morton who have been walking the Great Trail across Canada. (Please see info attached to the email).

Patrick McCarthy – Thank you, Angela Anderson, for promoting Poco Arts Council in the What's On Magazine. The last art opening was very successful and was a great way to socialize and hear from the artists.

Zoe Royer – The City of Port Coquitlam has some amazing staff, Lesley Perrie has an Emily Carr degree, Carrie Nimmo was a dancer, and Robi does amazing work with collage. The Arts and Culture team has accomplished many great things for Port Coquitlam.

Linda MacBeth – Art Focus holds free demos the last Wednesday of every month, 7-9pm in the Outlet Workroom. This month Michael King will be leading the demo with the theme "How to Make Decisions in Art Making". Art Focus is also working on a group mural for Poco Heritage Society's "The F Word" exhibition.

Debbie Halyk – Now has a new website www.DebbieHalyk.com featuring her art and her blog. She has an upcoming exhibition at Place Des Arts.

Adjourned: 7:00 pm

Next Cultural Roundtable: April 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