



Making a difference...together

CRD Arts & Culture Support Service Arts Advisory Council Members

EMMY BEATON

Emmy brings 13 years' experience that has encompassed a variety of roles across the public sector, including working within the Crown Corporation and the federal and provincial governments. Her area of expertise is building trust and productive relationships between governments and First Nations by developing and leading both strategic and operational initiatives. Her focus is building partnerships with various levels of government, industry, and First Nations communities on collaborative governance; and creating mechanisms that support First Nations' communities to incorporate their cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and laws into natural resource management. She holds an undergraduate degree in linguistics with a focus on Aboriginal language revitalization; and a Masters of Arts in dispute resolution from the University of Victoria which provides the theory, tools and tactics necessary to analyze conflict and facilitate the development of shared interests in multi-party negotiations in cross-cultural settings. As a mixed-heritage woman with settler and non-affiliated Cree ancestry, Emmy is grateful to be living on the unceded territory of the Lekwungen-speaking Coast Salish peoples.

TARYN CRAIG

A recent addition to Victoria, Taryn moved in 2017 from Calgary where her arts career began after completing a diploma in Theatre Arts Performance from Mt. Royal University. Since graduating in 2010, she has worked with a variety of arts organizations. Her experience spans from working in Spoken Word poetry to working in development and fundraising for top opera companies such as Calgary Opera. Most recently Taryn was the volunteer coordinator for the 2018 Victoria Symphony Splash. Along the way she has been a part of small theatre companies helping produce site-specific works and theatre for emerging artists. The past few years she's been focused on completing a BA in Sociology and Public Administration at the University of Victoria. One day she hopes to combine her passion for performing arts with her love of socially engaged research. While not in school Taryn enjoys playing her piano, rock climbing, and volunteering for local environmental projects.

BILL CROOK

Mr. Crook has a wealth of experience leading national and provincial organizations in the arts, amateur/professional sport, recreation and disability sectors. He has served as General Manager for Presentation House Theatre in North Vancouver, General Manager of Manitoba Theatre for Young People, Executive Director of the Prince Edward Island Arts Council, and Associate Director and Executive Director with the Rick Hansen Foundation. In addition, Bill has held senior positions within the



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amateur sports field, including General Manager for two Western Canada Summer Games (1990, Winnipeg & 1995, Abbotsford) and Director Sport for the Province of Manitoba. As a volunteer, he served on the board of the East Coast Music Association, Manitoba Theatre for Young People, the Mission Folk Festival, and the Prince Edward Island Storytelling Festival. He currently volunteers with the Sidney Lawn Bowling Club. Bill maintains a keen interest in music, theatre for young people, year-round outdoor swimming and long-distance walking. While he has lived in many provinces across Canada, as well as in the UK, for the past 13 years he has been proud to call Vancouver Island home.

DEBORAH ETSTEN

Ms. Etsten's career has spanned teaching high school art in Montreal, returning to university for an MA in journalism and then working in corporate communications—mostly for not-for-profits—for nearly 25 years. Her annual reports and publications earned Canadian and international awards. Deborah then switched gears and became the Executive Director of the Beach BIA (business improvement area) and finally part-time communications advisor to more than 75 BIAs in Toronto. BIAs exist to promote and improve their areas or “main streets.” Deborah and her husband moved to Victoria in 2013, where she volunteered for various organizations and joined the Newcomers' Club of Greater Victoria, becoming its president from 2014-16. In addition to being a passionate supporter of the arts in Victoria, Deborah is active with SSKA, (South Island Sea Kayak Association), French conversation meet-ups, hiking, book club and mosaic-making, for starters.

CAROLYN HEIMAN

Ms. Heiman is an independent communications specialist who worked for several decades in the media industry. In her capacity as a journalist and editor at daily newspaper she had roles that focused on the arts and entertainment sector. She has served as a communications director for several provincial government ministries. In addition to ongoing communications work she is a regular freelance contributor to a several lifestyle magazines and a business publication.

MICHELLE HEINZ

Ms. Heinz has lived in Victoria for 12 years and has been the Manager of Surface Infrastructure for the City of Victoria for the last two. She oversees five trade groups in the Engineering and Public Works department that constructs and maintains street furniture, public art and culturally significant structures. Originally from Vancouver, she has worked in manufacturing and construction for 15 years, specializing in the design, fabrication and installation of custom architectural metalwork. She received her B.A. (Anthropology and Sociology) from UBC, her B.Ed. (Multicultural and First Nations Students) from



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Lakehead University, and her MBA from the University of Victoria. Her current research focus is change management and implementing technology into the trades. In her world travels, she views cities through the lens of a public art enthusiast, specifically interested in how communities chose to express culture in its various forms. She trains for endurance sports when in the City (running, swimming), but escapes on surf trips with her family to enjoy the wild beauty of Vancouver Island's west coast.

ARI HERSHBERG

Ari Hershberg is currently a Senior Program Analyst with the province of BC, in addition to having worked as an arts and theatre and food and fashion writer for Monday Magazine, and The Mountain Park Visitor Guide, Alberta. He was the producer of Victoria's Health, Wellness and Sustainability Festival and created the Harvest Dinner, a charity dinner that raised money to educate children on healthy food choices. He was also instrumental in doubling the attendance of TedxVictoria as its media relations coordinator and lead speaker trainer. Ari's passion for the arts combines his collaboration and communication skills with a focus on community development.

SUZANNE IVES

Ms. Ives has a long history of work in community development with not-for-profit organizations. She received both her MA in the Interdisciplinary Program (English Lit. and Fine Art) and her BA (Fine Art) from York University. Her early employment was in visual art, theatre and arts administration and her background includes policy and program development, needs assessments and program evaluation. Her later work includes initiating, managing and facilitating programs and essential community services in the education and career development fields. Her passion for working with individuals and organizations to achieve personal or operational objectives is at the core of all of her work, and she is a long-time supporter of the arts.

BRONWYN MCLEAN

Ms. McLean returns to Canada following two years in Edinburgh, Scotland working for BOP Consulting, specializing in research, strategy and business planning for creative and cultural organizations. She grew up in Victoria and following a Masters in Urban and Regional Planning worked at the Town of Sidney as a planning technician prior to moving to Scotland. From 2008-2011 she was co-director of Modern Fuel Artist Run Centre, a not-for-profit presenter and producer of contemporary visual, time-based and interdisciplinary arts in Kingston Ontario. In Kingston, Bronwyn was a founding board member for the Tett Centre for Learning and Creativity an arts hub in a re-purposed heritage building on the Kingston waterfront, a member of the Kingston Arts Advisory Council, and was a regular volunteer supporting small-scale concerts in all-ages venues.



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PATTI SULLIVAN

Ms. Sullivan is a management consultant with extensive management and governance experience in diverse sectors including business development, the arts and human services. As COO of Assiniboine Park Enterprise in Winnipeg, she led a major governance and development initiative resulting in \$150M+ reinvestment in the park's amenities (zoo, conservatory, restaurants, art gallery, green spaces). She has served as an art gallery docent; school art educator and President of the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra. Patti has an active visual arts practice and is a YWCA Woman of Distinction. She is past Funding Chair of the CRD Arts Advisory Council and has served as its Chair since 2018.

DIANE THORPE

Ms. Thorpe's professional experience includes arts and heritage programming for galleries and museums in B.C. Her significant experience working with municipal government and the community emphasized optimizing the use of resources that support arts and cultural participation. Prior to moving to Victoria, Diane worked at the Surrey Art Gallery, the New Westminster Museum & Archives, and the Langley Centennial Museum. She sat on the Britannia Community Services Centre Board of Management in East Vancouver for over six years and served two years as President. Subsequently in Victoria she became the Community Arts Specialist for the District of Saanich (2005-2012) where she was responsible for the Arts and Culture Strategy for the municipality. Recently, in collaboration with an Advisory Committee and the Board of Directors, Diane worked for Creative City Network of Canada to develop and implement an Awards of Excellence program.

JOANNA VERANO

Ms. Verano is currently the Director of Fund Development & Communications for Habitat for Humanity Victoria. She has 18 years of experience working for non-profit organizations in both Canada and the United States and has served on numerous volunteer boards. In Victoria, she had previously worked as a fundraising professional with the Victoria Women's Transition House Society, Pacific Opera Victoria, and Royal BC Museum. Prior to moving to Victoria she worked in both marketing and fundraising for the Canadian Stage Company, Toronto Botanical Garden, The Philadelphia Orchestra, Free Library of Philadelphia, Boston Lyric Opera, Jazz Institute of Chicago and Ballet Chicago. Originally from the Philippines, she earned a BA in Art Studies from the University of the Philippines and an MA in Arts Administration from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Joanna is passionate about arts education and community engagement by making diverse arts and cultural programs accessible to the public.