

## CRD Arts Development Service Arts Advisory Council Members

The Capital Regional District (CRD) Board established the Arts Advisory Council (AAC), an arms-length third party to adjudicate arts grants requests and recommend organizational grant awards to the Arts Commission. The AAC also advises the Commission on policy for support programs and facility development for the arts within the region, as well as municipal arts policies that serve as a catalyst in the enlargement and enrichment of the cultural life of the community.

### **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 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.

## **EMMY HUMBER**

Emmy Humber has lived in Victoria for over 25 years and is a career provincial government public servant. Her work currently focuses on establishing collaborative processes with First Nations to ensure their communities have a role in environmental stewardship in their asserted territories. Previous work experience includes progressive and extensive experience as a policy and research analyst for a number of provincial ministries in the areas of economic development, health, and natural resource development. Emmy has a Masters of Arts in Dispute Resolution and a Bachelor of Arts in linguistics with a specialization in aboriginal language revitalization from the University of Victoria. She has a particular interest in music and with music events in the region.

## **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**

Bronwyn 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.

## **IAN PIEARS**

Ian Pears moved to Canada six years ago from the UK following a 10 year career in the performing arts as a dancer and choreographer. He is currently the Cultural Outreach Manager for the Downtown Victoria Business Association. Prior to this he worked for the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria and the Victoria Symphony. Ian has a Bachelor of Performing Arts from the Northern School of Contemporary Dance, Leeds, UK. He has worked professionally as a choreographer and dancer for the National Dance Company of Wales, Malmö Opera in Sweden, Welsh Independent Dance, Bristol Dance, London Studio Centre, as well as his own company Pears Dance. He was artist in residence at The Dance House, Cardiff and at The Northern School of Contemporary Dance. Prior to relocating to Canada Ian was a puppeteer in the West End production of War Horse for the National Theatre of Great Britain, working with award-winning directors Marianne Elliott & Tom Morris and Handspring Puppet Company from South Africa.

## **PATTI SULLIVAN**

Ms. Sullivan is a management consultant with senior management and governance experience in health and human services; business development and the arts. As COO of Assiniboine Park Enterprise in Winnipeg, she led a major development initiative resulting in \$150M reinvestment in the Park's amenities (zoo, conservatory, restaurants, art gallery, green spaces). Patti also enthusiastically supported the inclusion of public art within the park. She gained insight into the process and challenges of art making through experience as art gallery docent; school art educator and President of the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra. She has an active visual arts practice with a passion for New Music, literature and art history. She is a recipient of a YWCA Woman of Distinction award in the Business and Professional category. Her governance experience includes service as Board Chair of the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority; Chair of the Law Society of Manitoba's Complaints Investigations Committee and as a provincial representative on the Health Council of Canada. Patti served on the Fisherman's Wharf Park Advisory Committee and on the board of Volunteer Victoria. She is the current Funding Chair of the CRD Arts Advisory Council.

## **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. As the Community Arts Specialist for the District of Saanich she wrote the Arts and Culture Strategy for the municipality. She retired from Saanich in 2012.

## **LARA TOMASZEWSKA**

Ms. Tomaszewska is an art historian and art advisor with expertise in modern and contemporary art. She holds a PhD in art history from the University of British Columbia and specializes in 19th and 20th century modernism with a focus on art and cultural practices on the West Coast of North America, including painting, film, and photography in British Columbia. Lara has taught at the University of British Columbia and in the Department of Gender Studies at the University of Victoria. In 2013, Lara founded Openwork Art Advisory, a boutique art management firm that specialises in provenance and exhibition research, valuations, and private sales. Between 2015 and 2017, Lara resided in London, England where she led collections management projects for both private and public organisations in the UK and Europe. Her research led her to work with the Henri Matisse Archives in Paris and the Barber Institute of Fine Arts at the University of Birmingham. Based in Victoria since August 2017, Lara is an independent consultant for private collections, specializing in valuations and private art placement. She is a member of the International Society of Appraisers and the Association of Art Historians.

## **JOANNA VERANO**

Joanna 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.