

2024
annual
heritage
conference

PRIORITIZING PEOPLE

May 1 - 3, 2024 | Nelson, BC

Conference Program Guide



About Heritage BC

Heritage BC supports all people of British Columbia who champion the preservation, conservation and stewardship of all forms of cultural heritage, developing awareness, appreciation and respect for BC's diverse built and intangible traditions.

We are a charitable not-for-profit organization supporting heritage conservation across British Columbia through education, training and skills development, capacity building in heritage planning and funding through the Heritage Legacy Fund.

As an organization of provincial scope, Heritage BC recognizes that its members, and the local history and heritage they seek to preserve, occupy the lands and territories of BC's Indigenous Peoples. We are grateful to be gathering on the unceded territories of the yaqan nukiy Ktunaxa and the Sinixt for this year's conference, and for the many opportunities that they have provided throughout these days to learn about their heritage and their history on this land. We ask you to reflect on the important role that Indigenous heritage and knowledge plays in telling the whole story of the places that we hold dear.

About the 2023 Conference

Join us in learning about the benefits of putting people first in our heritage work. Explore how collaboration can empower communities to add their stories to a historical narrative, how inclusive heritage conservation can centre the human experience, and how prioritizing the needs of community can ensure a more authentic and sustainable heritage legacy. Together, we'll explore how putting people at the forefront leads to shared ownership and increased support for heritage.

Host Partners



Nelson Museum, Archives & Gallery



Kootenay Lake Historical Society

Key Information

Registration & Information Desk

Located the Prestige Lakeside Resort

Wednesday, May 1, 2024

8:30 AM to 5:00 PM

Thursday, May 2, 2024

8:00 AM to 4:30 PM

Conference Hotel

Prestige Lakeside Resort

701 Lakeside Dr

Nelson, BC V1L 6G3

Unless otherwise noted in the program, conference activities will take place at the Prestige Lakeside Resort.

Meals and Evening Events

The following meals and events are included in your registration fee:

Wednesday, May 1, 2024

Opening Reception | Nelson & District Chamber Of Commerce

Thursday, May 2, 2024

Catered Breakfast

Catered Lunch

Awards Reception | Capitol Theatre

Friday, May 3, 2024

Catered Breakfast

Catered Lunch

Closing Reception | Nelson Museum, Gallery & Archive

Connectivity

Free Wifi is available for all conference attendees.

Network: Prestige Meetings

Password: M33ting@2024

Conference Feedback

We all know feedback is essential in improving programs. Please help us by submitting any feedback or comments about the conference to info@heritagebc.ca.

Name Tags

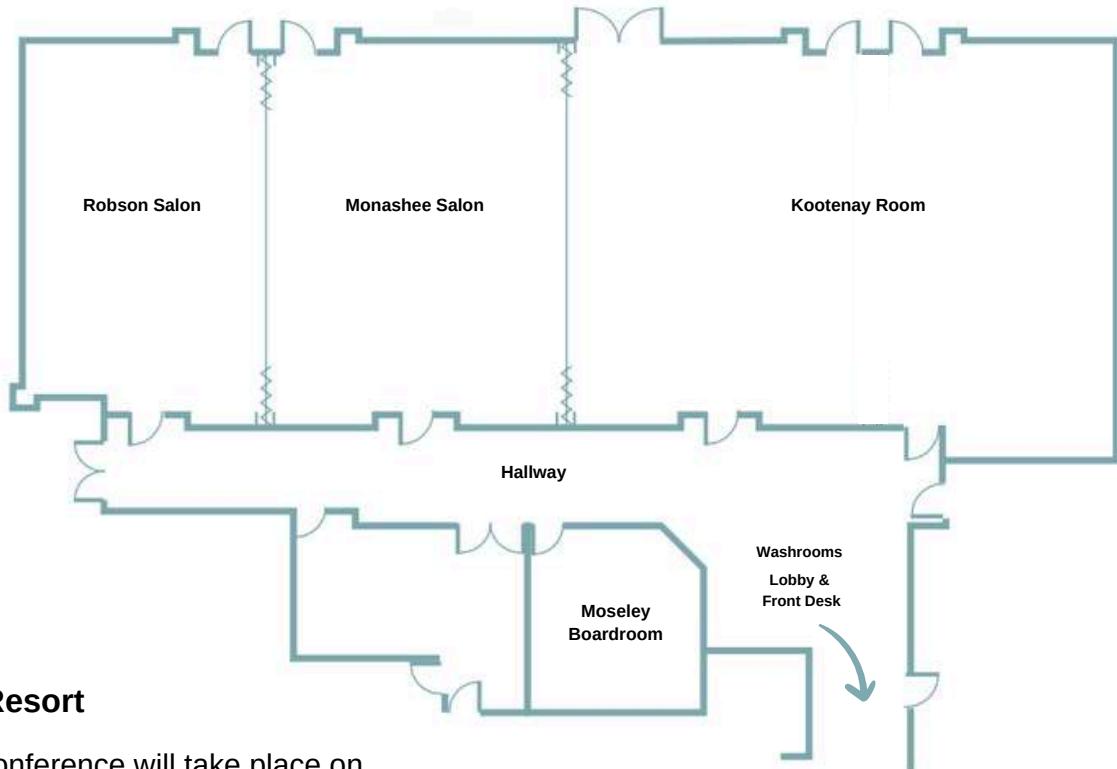
Please wear your name tag during all conference events to show you are a registered attendee and to assist with networking with your colleagues.

Professional Development Credit

Members of the Planning Institute of British Columbia can self-report credits (CPLs) for attending any of the conference sessions.



Key Information



Accessibility at the Prestige Lakeside Resort

All events during the conference will take place on the ground floor of the hotel. The registration table will be located outside the Kootenay Room.

Washroom Access

- There is a wheelchair-accessible washroom on the hotel's ground floor between the Hotel Front desk and the Grand Ballroom.
- The wheelchair-accessible washroom is also gender neutral

You can contact the venue with any questions at 250-352-7222.

Quiet & Wellness Space

The Moseley Boardroom is available as lactation/wellness space from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm on Thursday, May 2nd and Friday, May 3rd.

Additional Accessibility Information

Evening events during the conference are scheduled at different locations, including the Nelson & District Chamber Of Commerce, the Capitol Theatre, and the Nelson Museum, Archives and Gallery.

For information about accessibility at each of these venues, please visit our website by scanning the QR code.





Schedule at-a-Glance

Wednesday, May 1			
9:00 AM - 5:30 PM	Field Trip	Silvery Slocan Bus Tour	
1:00 PM - 6:00 PM	Field Trip	Columbia Waterways Bus Tour	
2:00 PM - 3:30 PM	Field Trip	Cottonwood Falls Garden Walking Tour	
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM	Event	Opening Reception	Nelson & District Chamber of Commerce
Thursday, May 2			
7:00 AM - 7:30 AM		Morning Prayer	
8:00 AM - 8:30 AM	Meal	Catered Breakfast	Hallway
8:30 AM - 9:00 AM		Opening Remarks & Ktunaxa Welcome	Kootenay Room
9:00 AM - 10:00 AM	Keynote	Training the Human Lens on Heritage	Kootenay Room
10:00 AM - 10:30 AM	Break		
10:30 AM - 12:00 PM	Concurrent Session 1	Heritage Conservation in a Housing Crisis: Adaptations and Opportunities for Neighbourhoods Place Names and the History of the Land Telling Our Own Stories	Kootenay Room Monashee Salon Robson Salon
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM	Meal	Catered Lunch	Hallway
1:00 PM - 2:30 PM	Concurrent Session 2	Tools for Heritage Recognition: Centering Community Values Craftsmanship: Building Heritage and Training the Next Generation Adaptive Re-Use for a Local Context Tour	Kootenay Room Monashee Salon Robson Salon
2:30 PM - 3:00 PM	Break		
3:00 PM - 4:30 PM	Concurrent Session 3	People First Archaeology: Truth Telling through the History of the Land Non-Profit Fund Development: Building Our Relationships for a New Way Forward Workshop	Kootenay Room Monashee Salon
7:00 PM - 10:00 PM	Event	Awards Ceremony	Capitol Theatre
Friday, May 3			
8:00 AM - 8:30 AM	Meal	Catered Breakfast	Hallway
8:30 AM		Opening Remarks & Sinixt Welcome	Kootenay Room
8:30 AM - 10:00 AM	Plenary Panel	Prioritizing Ourselves: Approaches to Mental Health When Working in Heritage	Kootenay Room
10:30 AM - 12:00 PM	Event	Networking Event: Roundtables	Kootenay Room
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM	Meal	Catered Lunch	Hallway
1:00 PM - 2:30 PM	Concurrent Session 4	For the Community: Transforming Heritage Buildings for People Uncovered And Undaunted: The Perils and Rewards of Integrating BC's Forgotten Heritage Heritage Approaches to Implementing the TRC Calls to Action in Your Municipality Workshop	Kootenay Room Monashee Salon Robson Salon
2:30 PM - 3:00 PM	Break		
3:00 PM - 4:30 PM	Concurrent Session 5	Language Revitalization and Technology: Tools for Empowering Communities Preparing for a Climate Emergency Tour Managing Heritage Sites: Getting Creative about Maintenance, Staffing, and More	Kootenay Room Monashee Salon Robson Salon
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM	Event	Closing Reception	Nelson Museum, Gallery & Archive

Thursday, May 2

Field Trips

Silvery Slocan Bus Tour

9:00AM - 5:30PM

On this full day field trip join local historian, Greg Nesteroff, on a tour of significant heritage sites around the Central Kootenays. Including interpretation provided by the Nikkei Internment Memorial Centre, the SS Moyie, and the Lower Kootenay Band at Kootenay Lake. Learn about the communities and heritage that makes this region unique.

Greg Nesteroff, Local Historian

Cottonwood Falls Garden Tour

2:00PM - 3:30PM

Take part in a tour of a significant park, in both Nelson's past and present. Follow a guide from the Nelson Izu-Shi Friendship Society, who support the stewardship of the park, and through your visit learn about the history of the many diverse communities who made Nelson the place that it is today.

Nelson Izu-Shi Friendship Society

Columbia Waterways Bus Tour: When Rivers Speak

1:00PM - 6:00PM

The trip will visit sites along the Columbia River. Join to learn about the history of dams in the various communities who call the land home. Through this tour, delegates will explore how facing difficult histories supports relationship building, and allows us to move forward with a clarity that comes from understanding the truths of our shared history. Stops include interpretation at Brilliant Dam, Slocan Pools and the Doukhobor Suspension Bridge.

Audrey Repin, *Indigenous & Community Relations Lead, Columbia Basin Trust*

Shelly Boyd, MEd, *Language & Culture Educator, Inchelium School District*

John J Verigin, *Executive Director, Union of the Spiritual Communities of Christ*

Sponsored by

**COLUMBIA
POWER**



Castlegar and the Columbia River.



Thursday, May 2

Evening Event

Opening Reception

Nelson & District Chamber Of Commerce

7:00PM - 9:00PM

We are hosting our opening reception with light food and drinks at the historic CPR Station in Nelson, lovingly restored by the Nelson & District Chamber of Commerce. Come along to catch up with friends and colleagues from across the province. Tours of the restored train station will be available for those who are interested in the project.

Sponsored by



SS Moyie Sternwheeler National Historic Site in Kaslo by Joy McAdams.

Thursday, May 2

Morning Prayer

Prestige Lakeside Resort Lobby

7:00AM - 7:30AM

Join your fellow conference attendees for morning prayer along the lakeside, led by Sinixt members. We'll meet in the lobby at 6:45AM before disembarking.



Downtown Nelson.

Breakfast & Opening Remarks

Catered Breakfast

Prestige Lakeside Resort Hallway

8:00AM - 8:30AM

Join your fellow conference attendees for delicious food and the chance to get to know one another.

Opening Remarks

Kootenay Room

8:30AM - 9:00AM

Please join us for opening remarks, a Ktunaxa welcome, and any necessary conference housekeeping items.

Kirstin Clausen, *Executive Director, Heritage BC*

Leslie Payne, *Councillor, City of Nelson*

Aimee Watson, *Area D Regional Director, Regional District of Central Kootenays*

Britney Dack, *Supervisor of Land Use Planning, City of New Westminster, Board Chair, Heritage BC*

Keynote

Training the Human Lens on Heritage

Kootenay Room

9:00AM - 10:00AM

If history is a collection of memories, then the memories that we share become the stories of our communities.



These stories shape our culture, identity and heritage. In our opening plenary, award-winning Nelson-based filmmaker Amy Bohigian invites you to consider who gets space in conversations about how we remember the past and envision our future, asking the question,

"How are our communities concerned with including the missing voices?". Through the lens of her work as a filmmaker, Amy explores why it is important to tell these untold stories, and shares how an inclusive and collaborative approach to storytelling works to reflect, enrich, and even rewrite the narrative of a community.

Amy Bohigian, MEd, *Director/Producer, Watershed Productions Inc.*

Thursday, May 2

Concurrent Sessions 1

10:30AM - 12:00PM

Heritage Conservation in a Housing Crisis:

Adaptations and Opportunities for
Neighbourhoods

Kootenay Room

As adequate housing supply and affordability continues to be one of the biggest challenges that communities across the province face, Heritage finds itself at a crossroads. Positioning Heritage as one of the players that offer a range of solutions in the housing crisis is an opportunity to demonstrate the sector's relevance in the face of society-wide challenges. But, how can we do this? Join our panelists for a conversation that asks you to imagine how Heritage can help contribute to our neighbourhoods' density, diversity, vitality and uniqueness, creating long term sustainability.

Moderator: Britney Dack, Supervisor of Land Use Planning, City of New Westminster, Board Chair, Heritage BC

Emily Guy, MA, Research & Policy Lead, TRACE architectures

Ivana Otasevic, Assistant Director, UNESCO Chair on the Diversity of Cultural Expressions

Elana Zyblat, CAHP, Heritage Consultant, Ance Building Services

Liberty Brears, RPP, MCIP, CAHP, Heritage Planner, Liberty & Co.

Place Names and the History of the Land

Monashee Salon

Recognizing Indigenous place names is one key way to implement the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). The session will highlight different initiatives across BC that are doing this work. Presentations will share how place name recognition fosters the understanding of the deep histories of the land and support the revitalization of Indigenous languages and cultures.

Trent Thomas, Provincial Toponymist, BC Geographical Names Office, Heritage Branch

Shelly Boyd, MEd, Language & Culture Educator, Inchetum School District

Cherie Luke, yaqan nukiy, Ktunaxa

Chris Luke Sr., yaqan nukiy, Ktunaxa

Caytlyn Luke, yaqan nukiy, Ktunaxa

Telling Our Own Stories

Robson Salon

Who is given the opportunity to tell their own stories in your communities? This panel brings together Dr. Melissa Lee from the Chinese Canadian Museum, Charlie Cook from the Museum of North Vancouver, and Shayna Jones, originator of the project, Black and Rural, to discuss how they are taking control of their own narratives to tell their stories. Learn about their projects, and see how taking control of the narrative can transform one's sense of community identity, for both the storytellers, but also for learners outside of those communities.

Dr. Melissa Karmen Lee, *Chief Executive Officer, Chinese Canadian Museum*

Charlie Cook, *Programs Assistant, MONOVA*

Shayna Jones, *Folklorist & Performance Storyteller*



Kootenay Lake in Nelson.

Lunch

Catered Lunch

Prestige Lakeside Resort Hallway

12:00PM - 1:00PM

Join your fellow conference attendees for delicious food and the chance to get to know one another.

Sponsored by



Thursday, May 2

Concurrent Sessions 2

1:00PM - 2:30PM

Tools for Heritage Recognition: Centering

Community Values

Kootenay Room

For decades, heritage processes in BC have centered on the development of lists or registers to recognize significant heritage places in our communities. While heritage values have evolved, registers remain one of the key tools available to communities interested in documenting heritage that matters to them. In this session, our presenters share their projects that activate and move beyond the listed Heritage Registry, showcasing the Provincial Heritage Branch's new public-facing Provincial Register and the Vancouver Heritage Foundation's Places That Matter Community History Resource website. The session will conclude with a discussion about your motivations for seeking heritage recognition, and brainstorming additional ways that your community can achieve your heritage recognition goals.

Jessica Quan, BA, BEd, *Community Engagement Manager*, Vancouver Heritage Foundation

Emerald Johnstone-Bedell, MA, *Provincial Registrar*, Heritage Branch

Dana Hawkins, MCIP, RPP, *Planner 2*, Regional District of Central

Kootenay

Berdine Jonker, MPA, *Director*, Heritage BC

Sponsored by



Heritage Branch

Craftsmanship: Building Heritage and Training the Next Generation

Monashee Salon

Craftspeople prove in their daily practice that tangible and intangible heritage are deeply connected. Without their knowledge, our tangible heritage would be lost for future generations. In this panel, join our skilled presenters to hear them share about their craft, the cultural importance of their work, and what steps they are taking to pass down this knowledge to future generations.

Shawn Brigman, PhD, Salishan Sturgeon Nose Canoes (est. 2013)
Gavin Chamberlain, Stonemason, GSC, CAHP, VHF Inspector, *Principal*, Heritage Masonry Ltd.

Eileen Kooznetsoff, *Chairperson*, USCC Cultural Interpretive Society
Liana Zwick, Cultural Interpretive Society, USCC Doukhobors

Adaptive Re-Use for a Local Context

Tour

Robson Salon

For this session participants will visit 444 Baker Street, a former hardware store. The tour will offer an in-depth look at how adaptive re-use was applied in this local context and discover how such projects align with community culture and values. This tour will meet in the Robson Salon before disembarking on an estimated 2km walk to and from the hotel.

Riya Garg, *Designer*, f2a architecture

Concurrent Sessions 3

3:00PM - 4:30PM

People First Archaeology: Truth Telling through the History of the Land

Kootenay Room

This session offers an example of how integrating multiple ways of knowing can help us understand the full truth of our histories. Join Sinixt speakers as they share how archaeology, oral history, ecology and more are being used together to re-write the narrative pushed by the Canadian Government in 1956, when they declared the Sinixt extinct.

Remey LaCombe, *Archaeologist*, Sinixt Confederacy

Robert Watt, *Elder*, Sinixt Confederacy

Shelly Boyd, MEd, *Language & Culture Educator*, Incheium School District

Non-Profit Fund Development: Building Our Relationships for a New Way Forward

Workshop

Monashee Salon

One of the most widely experienced struggles for heritage and cultural organizations is financial stability. Transactional relationships, repetitive processes, and navigating bureaucratic granting systems all pose challenges to meeting the goals of your organization leading to scarcity mindsets and staff burnout. This session will explore how heritage and cultural organizations can work together through centering relationships, leading with values, and remaining open to new ways to approach the work for greatest impact. The session will conclude with an activity that encourages you to think about your network through a mindset of abundance and with a call to action to take into your own work.

Emily Cabrera, *Lead, Partnership Development*, First Peoples' Cultural Foundation

Gordon Larin, *Executive Director*, First Peoples' Cultural Foundation

Kathleen Ayre, *Consultant & Funding Strategist*, Kootenay Connex



Thursday, May 2

Evening Event

Awards Reception and Ceremony

Capitol Theatre

7:00PM - 10:00PM

Join friends and colleagues to celebrate the 2024 Heritage BC award winners at the beautiful Capitol Theatre in downtown Nelson. Before the awards ceremony, mingle and catch-up with your peers, then come together in the restored theatre for the award announcements. There will be appetizers and a cash bar available. Thank you to our friends at The Capitol Theatre for generously hosting this event.

Sponsored by



Capitol Theatre in Nelson.

Friday, May 3

Breakfast & Opening Remarks

Catered Breakfast

Prestige Lakeside Resort Hallway

8:00AM - 8:30AM

Join your fellow conference attendees for delicious food and the chance to get to know one another.

Opening Remarks

Kootenay Room

8:30AM

Please join us for opening remarks and a Sinixt welcome.

Plenary Panel

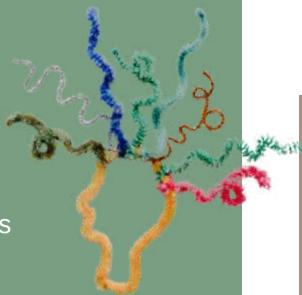
Prioritizing Ourselves: Approaches to Mental Health When Working in Heritage

Kootenay Room

8:30AM - 10:00AM

Across the province, heritage practitioners and advocates are experiencing a wide range of reactions to our efforts to be more truthful and inclusive in heritage interpretation and decision-making. In this panel, our speakers reflect on their experiences working in heritage as these ongoing changes take place in the sector.

They will answer the questions: How are shifting perspectives on reconciliation, inclusion, and telling the whole truth of our histories resulting in mental health pressures for those who are working in the sector? And how can we navigate this and protect ourselves while staying true to the values of this work?



Lesley Garlow, *Decolonization & Social Justice Lead*, Nelson Museum, Archive & Gallery

Margaret Teneese, *Archivist*, Ktunaxa Nation Council

Shelly Boyd, MEd, *Language & Culture Educator*, Inchelium School District

Genevieve Weber, *Manager*, Heritage Programs & Services, Heritage Branch

Networking Event

10:30AM - 12:00PM

Roundtables

Kootenay Room

Join your colleagues for a new take on Heritage BC's tradition of peer roundtables. Reflect and brainstorm with colleagues about how you approach heritage in your home community, and what prioritizing people could look like in practice.



Kalso River Trail by Jesse Schpakowski.

Lunch

Catered Lunch

Prestige Lakeside Resort Hallway

12:00PM - 1:00PM

Join your fellow conference attendees for delicious food and the chance to get to know one another.

Sponsored by



University
of Victoria

Cultural Resource Management Programs
Division of Continuing Studies

Friday, May 3

Concurrent Sessions 4

1:00PM - 2:30PM

For the Community: Transforming Heritage Buildings for People

Kootenay Room

Heritage advocates have long articulated the value that heritage buildings bring to our communities. Historic places like sites of worship or civic buildings help tell the history of what our communities valued historically. This session looks to the future, asking what are the new layers of history and heritage that we are adding to the older buildings in our community. Join our presenters to see how organizations in the Kootenays are taking older buildings with historic significance and connecting them with their present-day communities through creative transformations and updates that are outside the site's original use.

Ilona Spaar, PhD, *President, Swiss Edelweiss Village Foundation*
Patrick Steiner, *Co-Executive Director, Kaslo Community Services*
John Whitehead, BSc, PhD, *Treasurer, St. Andrews United Church, Kaslo*
Kalika Bowlby, *Education Coordinator, Nelson Museum, Archives & Gallery*
Stephanie Myers, BSc, *Public Program Coordinator, Nelson Museum, Archives & Gallery*

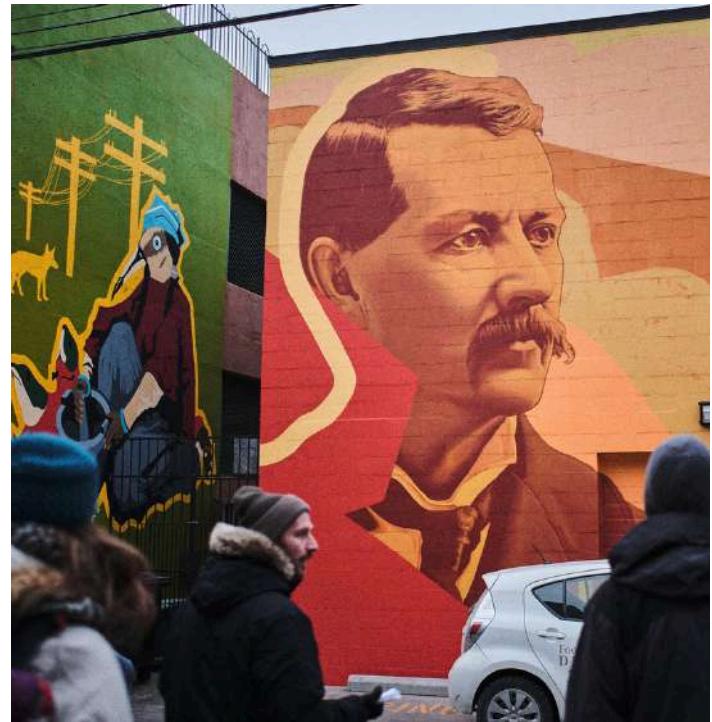
Uncovered and Undaunted: The Perils and Rewards of Integrating BC's Forgotten Heritage

Monashee Salon

What happens when an aspirational heritage touring route project challenges accepted norms and stirs controversy? As valleys behind the Treaty dams filled with water, surrounding communities and ecosystems struggled to adapt. Case study: the Columbia River Treaty Uncovery Tour panel will explore real-life challenges in conflicting values, agendas and interests. As the B.C. heritage community strives to embrace values of diversity and inclusion and to participate in cultural reconciliation with Indigenous cultures, how can planners and design teams navigate complex situations constructively?

Columbia River Treaty Uncovery Tour Design Team:

Denise Cook, BCAHP, BCSLA, *Heritage Planner, Denise Cook Design*
Jennifer Dunkerson, *Executive Director, Nelson Museum, Archives, & Gallery*
Eden DuPont, *Communications Consultant, Digital Content Strategist*
Stephanie Fischer, Diploma-Ingenieur (FH), Architektur (BArch) Consulting & Project Management
Eileen Delehanty Pearkes, MA, *Author & Cultural Historian*



Nelson Mural by Thomas Nowa.

Heritage Approaches to Implementing the TRC Calls to Action in Your Municipality

Workshop

Robson Salon

Nearly a decade after the Truth and Reconciliation Commission report was published, municipalities across the country are still encountering barriers and challenges to implementing the 94 Calls to Action. This workshop encourages delegates to approach the TRC Calls to Action from a heritage perspective. Based on the Women Transforming Cities Report, the workshop will address barriers, explore what local government leaders need in order to accelerate action, and empower you to make meaningful progress towards truth-telling and reconciliation.

Ash Peplow Ball, *Executive Director, Women Transforming Cities*



Friday, May 3

Concurrent Sessions 5

3:00PM - 4:30PM

Language Revitalization and Technology: Tools for Empowering Communities

Kootenay Room

With 2022-2032 declared as the Decade of Indigenous Languages, language is becoming internationally recognized for the pivotal role that it plays in cultural revitalization and heritage stewardship. At the same time, digital technology has become an emerging tool to connect with language learners across generations. Both a barrier to entry and a democratizing form of access, this session explores the impact of technology on this important work. Join Dr. Christopher Horsethief, Stevey Seymour, Justin Davis and Thomas Whitton for a dialogue about their experiences in leveraging technology for language revitalization in their communities.

Dr. Christopher Horsethief, Ktunaxa Nation

Thomas Whitton, *IT Manager, Cultural Heritage & Language Manager, Doig River First Nation*

Justin Davis, *Council Member, Doig River First Nation*

Stevey Seymour, *Executive Director, ncá?liwm nqelwcniltxw (ILCA), ShíCaýčkstx*

Preparing for a Climate Emergency

Tour

Monashee Salon

As climate emergencies grow more and more common across the province, owners and managers of heritage resources are making a wide array of decisions to protect them from harm. Presenters offer an overview of mitigation and risk management tools available to communities in BC. Then, bringing prevention to your own backyard, delegates will take a tour of a local neighbourhood to learn about the various environmental threats that heritage buildings can face. Learn about actions you can take to prevent the loss of valued places in your community. This tour will meet in the Monashee Salon before disembarking on an estimated 2.5km walk.

Rhianne Barber, MCIP, RPP, MPlan, PGDipGIS, *Senior Policy Analyst, Ministry of Emergency Management & Climate Readiness - Disaster Mitigation & Adaptation Branch*

Scott Jeffery, *Fire Captain and Heritage Enthusiast, City of Nelson*

Managing Heritage Sites: Getting Creative about Maintenance, Staffing, and More

Robson Salon

Three case studies explore how managers of heritage sites in BC are navigating the unique challenges of their role. From staffing to deferred maintenance to managing expectations from the public, each example offers creative solutions and ideas for delegates. A final discussion amongst presenters gives delegates a chance to troubleshoot challenges they face at their own places of work.

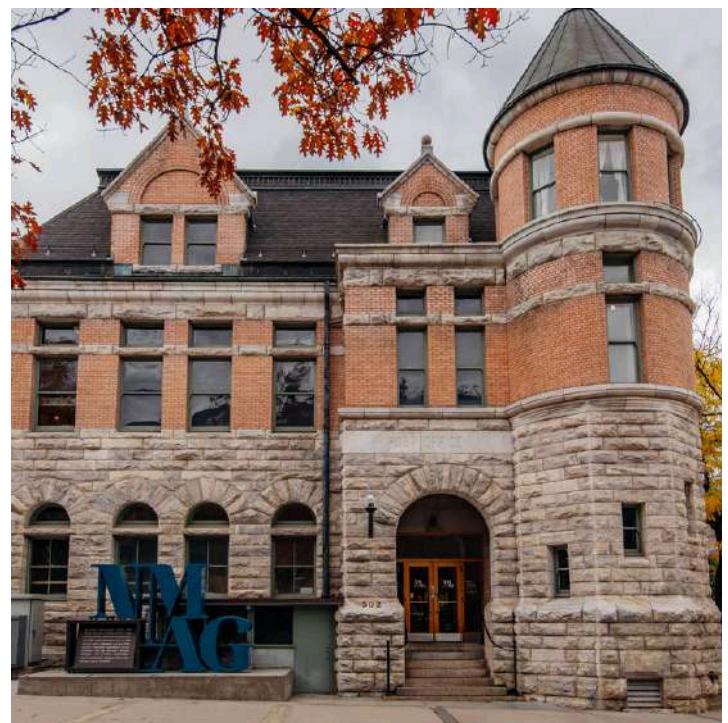
John Hughes, *Executive Director, Craigdarroch Castle*

Sarah Sinclair, *President, Kootenay Lake Historical Society, Kaslo*

Kit Ashenhurst, PLEng (retired), *Project Manager, SS Moyie Weather Envelope Restoration, Board Member, Kootenay Lake Historical Society*

Kate Cox, *Chief Executive Officer, Barkerville Heritage Trust*

Sponsored by



Nelson Museum, Archives & Gallery.



Friday, May 3

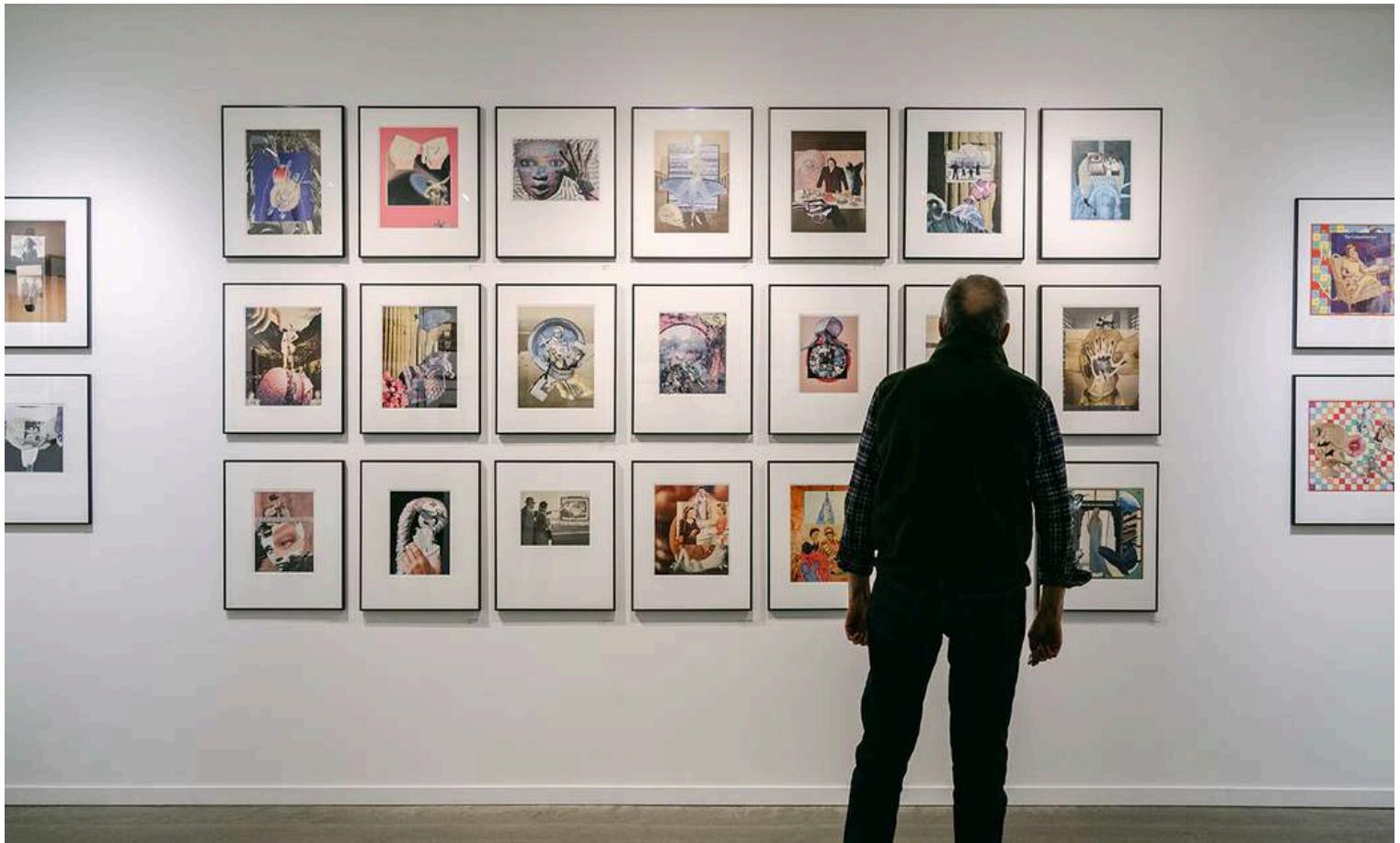
Evening Event

Closing Reception

Nelson Museum, Gallery & Archive

7:00PM - 9:00PM

Come together at the end of the conference in the Nelson Museum, Archives and Gallery for appetizers and drinks with your fellow delegates. The museum will be offering free tours of the Nelson Cold War Bunker, and delegates can tour their new exhibit, VisuAlchemy, the culmination of Nelson-based artist, Judy Wapp's prolific career.



Nelson Museum, Archives & Gallery.

Presenter Bios

Kit Ashenhurst

PLEng (retired), Project Manager, SS Moyie Weather Envelope Restoration, Board Member, Kootenay Lake Historical Society

Kit left school at 15, to become an auto mechanic. At 17, he obtained a trainee drafting position working at a nuclear power station under construction. When turning 20, he emigrated to Canada as a highly sought after draftsman. From engineering self-studies, he gained a position as Project Manager. After obtaining his Professional Licensee in Engineering, he formed his own engineering company. He went on to be a Manager of Engineering in a mid-size engineering company. He plays Irish Celtic flute for recreation.

Kathleen Ayre

Consultant & Funding Strategist, Kootenay Connex

Kathleen Ayre is the Principal and founder of Kootenay Connex. Kootenay Connex provides consulting services across the non-profit and granting spectrum from foundation to applicant, with expertise in collaborative sectoral approaches, narrative development, and strategic positioning, supporting social benefit organizations to realize their funding and sustainability goals. Kathleen brings creative funding solutions and partnership opportunities to social impact organizations with a clear mission to increasing our collective community wealth.

Rhiannon Barbour

MCIP, RPP, MPlan, PGDipGIS, Senior Policy Analyst, Ministry of Emergency Management & Climate Readiness - Disaster Mitigation & Adaptation Branch

With her background in planning, heritage, and disaster mitigation, Rhiannon is passionate about the protection of heritage from disasters and the impact of climate change. Formally a Planner with a special heritage interest working for the City of Nelson, Rhiannon now works for the provincial government on the incoming provincial and regional Disaster and Climate Risk and Resilience Assessments. In her spare time, she volunteers as a board member at the Nelson Museum Archives & Gallery and looks after her pre-1899 folk Victorian home.

Amy Bohigian

MEd, Director/Producer, Watershed Productions Inc.

Amy Bohigian is a Director/Producer and founder of Watershed Productions Inc. She has worked with Knowledge Network, Creative BC, NFB, CMF, CMPA, Canada Council for the Arts, Films Media Group and has been selected for WIDC, WIFTV, Banff World Media Spark Accelerator Fellow, Hot Docs Accelerator Fellow, Shaw Media Scholar, Pacific Screenwriting Institute Storyroom, DOXA, IDFA, DOC Impact Award, and Canada Council for the Arts. She has been a faculty member with Selkirk College since 2015. She earned a Master's in Education from Harvard University in 1999 and her Advanced Diploma in Filmmaking from Selkirk College in 2007.

Kalika Bowlby

Education Coordinator, Nelson Museum, Archives & Gallery

Kalika is an artist and educator residing in the current and traditional territory of the Sinixt and Ktunaxa. After studying art at Kootenay School of the Arts and Alberta University of the Arts, Kalika spent a year as an artist in residence at Red Star Studios in Kansas City, MO. Her work has been exhibited across North America and featured in numerous publications. In 2018, Kalika was named Maker of the Year by Western Living Magazine. In her work as an educator, Kalika emphasizes critical dialogue, social justice, ecological consciousness, and the transformative power of art and creativity. She is currently pursuing graduate studies in Environmental Education and Communication at Royal Roads University.

Shelly Boyd

MEd, Language & Culture Educator, Inchetum School District

Shelly is the former Territorial Land Advisor Coordinator for the Sinixt Confederacy/Colville Confederated Tribes. Growing up in a family with a fluent speaker and as a language teacher, Shelly presents a strong spiritual and cultural presence in her work. Shelly is a founding member of the Inchetum Language and Culture Association (ILCA), a non-profit with the mission of revitalizing Sinixt's language and culture within traditional Sinixt territory. Currently, she is a Language and Cultural Arts teacher at Inchetum Public School. Shelly holds a master's degree in education from Gonzaga University and a bachelor's degree from Eastern Washington University.

Liberty Brears

RPP, MCIP, CAHP, Heritage Planner, Liberty & Co.

Liberty is a Registered Professional Planner. She is a Member of the Canadian Institute of Planners and the Canadian Association of Heritage Professionals. As a Planner with the Cities of Vancouver and Regina, she worked on heritage policy and led complex heritage building projects through the regulatory approval process. Most recently, she worked on housing policy as a Senior Planning Analyst with the Government of British Columbia in the Ministry of Municipal Affairs. Now, as a consultant, she provides heritage and housing planning services and advises on heritage building projects for property owners, development teams and government.

Shawn Brigman

PhD, Salishan Sturgeon Nose Canoes (est. 2013)

Shawn Brigman is an enrolled member of the Spokane Tribe of Indians and descendant of the S'NĆĀYCKSTX (Sinixt), qlispe (Kalispe) and tk'emlups te secwepemc (Shuswap). All three of these Indigenous groups historically employed bard sturgeon-nose canoes. A traditional artist for 19 years, he practices project based ancestral recovery efforts in Washington, Idaho, Montana and British Columbia, celebrating the physical revival of northern Plateau art and architectural heritage. This involves connecting to sources of Indigenous knowledge, often taking participant learners to ancestral lands to gather natural material for Plateau frameworks like tule mat lodges, fish basket traps, and bark sturgeon-nose canoes.

Emily Cabrera

Lead, Partnership Development, First Peoples' Cultural Foundation

Emily Cabrera is an experienced fund development and philanthropy professional located on the lands of the Lək'ʷəŋən People, known today as the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations. She is of Ojibway/Mexica/european ancestry and is a member of Fort William First Nation. Throughout the past decade, Emily has been building meaningful relationships with funders, writing grants and proposals, securing major gifts and leading strategic and organizational planning whether it's been in small shops or large institutions. She believes in transparency and truth, and bring this to her work within the philanthropic sector.

Gavin Chamberlain

Stonemason, GSC, CAHP, VHF Inspector, *Principal*, Heritage Masonry Ltd

Gavin has 18 years of experience in traditional stonemasonry having started on his path repairing drystone walls around the farms and fells of Northern England. As the founder and co owner of Heritage Masonry, Gavin has created a hub for conservation and restoration of historic masonry structures in Victoria, bringing together like minded specialist tradespeople from far afield. Heritage Masonry has been awarded Heritage BC awards for previous projects at Morden Colliery and Tod House. Gavin is driven to bring more craftspeople into Heritage BC and working towards greater collaboration and oversight in his industry.

Charlie Cook

Programs Assistant, MONOVA

Charlie Cook (they/them) is the Programs Assistant at The Museum of North Vancouver (MONOVA). Charlie is passionate about creating fun, accessible learning opportunities for all ages and increasing opportunities for 2SLGBTQ+ representation in museums. In 2023, they were the Lead Programmer for Queer Histories, Queer Stories- a series of public events celebrating 2SLGBTQIA+ identities in North Vancouver past and present. As a drag performer and show producer, Charlie has participated in museum drag shows across the Lower Mainland including Old Towns New Queens at Britannia Mine Museum and Rocket and Roll at the HR McMillian Space Center.

Denise Cook

BCAHP, BCSLA, *Heritage Planner*, Denise Cook Design

Denise Cook is a heritage conservation planner with more than 20 years of experience in both the private and public sector environments. Denise has been involved in a variety of projects that have led to the identification, documentation, and protection of sites of local, regional and national heritage significance. Her projects include heritage reviews, cultural landscape assessments, the facilitation of heritage workshops; conservation, strategic and management plans; interpretive and exhibit plans; landscape planning and management projects; and wayfinding and sign design programs. Denise Cook Design has clients at all three levels of government in Canada and has produced heritage conservation studies used as models across B.C. Heritage conservation and design work is based on community character, values, natural heritage and integrity related to place. Denise is a past-president of the BC Association of Heritage Professionals, an associate member of the BC Society of Landscape Architects and a past member of the City of Vancouver Heritage Commission.

Kate Cox

Chief Executive Officer, Barkerville Heritage Trust

Kate Cox has managed Barkerville Historic Town and Park and Cottonwood House Historic Site under a Heritage Site Management Agreement with the Province of British Columbia since early 2020. Kate holds BFAs in Art History and Industrial Design from the University of Illinois and has almost three decades of combined heritage conservation and environmental permitting experience working in both the US and Canada. For the last decade, she has specialized in Heritage Tourism and rural development projects.

Justin Davis

Council Member, Doig River First Nation

Jennifer Dunkerson

Executive Director, Nelson Museum, Archives, & Gallery

Jennifer Neal Dunkerson has extensive experience in the arts and culture sector in Canada, including as the executive director of the Revelstoke Railway Museum, a management role with Columbia Basin Trust, and as a heritage planner with Heritage BC. She has also served on the board of directors at the Nelson Museum. Dedicated to supporting heritage interests in the region, Jennifer has worked with many organizations and individuals to increase accessibility to resources, to encourage best practices for a responsible approach to heritage conservation, and to help commemorate the uniqueness and diversity of the Columbia Basin Region.

Eden DuPont

Communications Consultant, Digital Content Strategist

Eden DuPont has worked as an independent communications consultant for the last decade helping several organizations overhaul and develop new content management systems by providing ongoing guidance and employee training. She is heavily involved in the regional arts and culture sector, assisting Nelson's Capitol Theatre with a feasibility study and multiple Indigenous Cultural Celebration events. She has volunteered in an advisory role to multiple grant applications and facilitated the Rossland Art Matters community engagement project. Her communications expertise includes digital content management, media relations, visual identity and brand development, and sponsor stewardship.

Stephanie Fischer

Diploma-Ingenieur (FH), Architektur (BArch) Consulting & Project Management

Stephanie Fischer received her architecture degree (B.Arch) in Berlin. She worked as project manager developing an award-winning Cultural Centre under the umbrella of the Bauhaus Dessau, a reclamation of a desolate building from the period of industrial expansion from 1871. She managed the development of the Nelson Museum, Archives and Galleries, a renovation of a four-level heritage building from 1902 and was involved with the coordination of the revitalization of the 1901 Nelson Canadian Pacific Railway Station for the Chamber of Commerce. She has worked on the City of Nelson Heritage Register Update project and other planning documents.

Riya Garg

Designer, f2a architecture

Riya is an architectural designer, currently part of f2a where she gets the chance to learn about building systems and retrofit (among many other things). Their home studio is located in a former cafe on Nelson's north shore, near Kokanee Creek Provincial Park. Riya has also conducted research on the value of heritage with the architectural conservancy of Ontario. She advocates for adaptive reuse as a first design principle.

Lesley Garlow

Decolonization & Social Justice Lead, Nelson Museum, Archives & Gallery

Lesley is a member of the Haudenosaunee Nation, Cayuga Tribe, Turtle Clan, from Osweken, Six Nations Brantford Reserve, ON through her mother Darlene Rose Garlow, and her grandmother Elenore Ellen Silversmith, and all her mothers before. She is of mixed ancestry as her father also gifts her with Mohawk Wolf Clan and Italian/Irish heritage. At the Museum, her work focuses on identifying and contextualizing nuanced elements in settler colonial narrative and broadening our understanding of place and connection to all our Relations. She also works with local youth at School District 20. Lesley is currently a mature student at UVIC, in the final year of her bachelor's degree in social work.

Emily Guy

MA, Research & Policy Lead, TRACE architectures

Emily has an extensive research and heritage conservation background. Originally from Montreal, she completed her undergraduate studies at McGill, then moved to Newfoundland and Labrador for her Masters (History). Firmly planted in St. John's for nearly a decade, she made the move back to the mainland in 2015 and has been working in the Heritage world ever since. Emily leads research and policy projects at TRACE, often with a focus on Heritage Designation and Conservation Districts. She also sits on the Board of Heritage Ottawa.

Dana Hawkins

MCIP, RPP, Planner 2, Regional District of Central Kootenay

Dana is a policy planner with the Regional District of Central Kootenay. She has over 10 years experience planning with local governments from Northern BC to the Island to the Kootenays. Working in a small organization has allowed her to be a jack of all trades focusing on housing, heritage, agriculture, environmental protection and growth management. She has enjoyed her foray into heritage planning and hearing the amazing stories and memories of the people of the Kootenays.

Dr. Christopher Horsethief

Ktunaxa Nation

Christopher Horsethief is an organizational theorist that leads language revitalization efforts by incorporating proven second language acquisition strategies into the perpetuation of ancient languages. His app development, governance consulting work, and leadership endeavors combine key constituents of his education. Together the economics of social capital, theories of learning and complex systems offer new strategies for old problems.

John Hughes

Executive Director, Craigdarroch Castle

John Hughes is the Executive Director of Craigdarroch Castle. A seasoned professional with over 30 years of extensive business management experience he is known for his leadership and strategic acumen. He has dedicated the last 16 years to the preservation and operational growth of one of British Columbia's important heritage sites. John is a student of workplace change and has been dedicated to finding new ways to support employee mental, physical, and financial health in a rapidly evolving employment landscape.

Scott Jeffery

Fire Captain & Heritage Enthusiast, City of Nelson

Emerald Johnstone-Bedell

MA, Provincial Registrar, Heritage Branch

Emerald Johnstone-Bedell has been with the Heritage Branch of BC since 2019 and is currently the Provincial Registrar of the BC Register of Historic Places. Her experience includes heritage resource management and curatorial and collections work at various museums, galleries, and heritage sites. Emerald earned a Master of Arts from Queen's University in 2015 with a focus on Canadian art history.

Shayna Jones

Folklorist & Performance Storyteller

Shayna Jones (she/her) is an award winning actor, a playwright, a folklorist, and a multi-disciplinary spoken word artist specializing in the traditional oral storytelling of African and Afro-Diasporic lore. As a professionally trained performer, vocalist, and fine mover, Shayna has crafted performances for countless audiences across Canada featuring Afro-centric Folk History, Folklore and Contemporary Experience. Learn more about Shayna and her work at: www.wearestoryfolk.com

Berdine Jonker

MPA, Director, Heritage BC

Berdine Jonker is a heritage conservation professional with over 20 years' experience working in British Columbia. Her work history includes both running a private consultation business and employment in the public service (Government of British Columbia). Berdine's strength in heritage conservation practice focuses on the advancement of values-based management of built and cultural heritage resources throughout B.C. As an expert in the facilitation of community-based consultation on heritage values and historic place significance, Berdine's work has influenced a spectrum of projects ranging from the development of a provincial heritage strategy to the physical conservation of National Historic Sites.

Eileen Kooznetsoff

Chairperson, USCC Cultural Interpretive Society

Eileen Kooznetsoff was born and raised in a small Doukhobor community on the banks of the Kootenay River. She is a retired Registered Nurse and Care Aide Instructor. She is active in the Union of Spiritual Communities of Christ organization by participating in traditional cultural events as well as volunteering in the local Glade/Tarrys/Thrums community. She is the chairperson of USCC Cultural Interpretive Society, and a member of the Doukhobor fibre arts group, which is committed to learning, to sharing, to teaching and to the preservation of various aspects of our rich fibre arts heritage. She enjoys gardening, Doukhobor cooking and baking but her special interest is cultural heritage handicrafts.

Remey Lacombe

Archaeologist, Sinixt Confederacy

Gordon Larin

Executive Director, First Peoples' Cultural Foundation

Gordon Larin is of European settler descent and lives in the Southern Gulf Islands on the traditional lands of the Hul'q'umi'num and SENĆOTEN speaking peoples. With 30 years of wealth management and estate planning experience, he is working to create a sustainable funding base for Indigenous cultural vitality alongside his colleagues at First Peoples' Cultural Foundation as Executive Director. As a progressive changemaker supporting transformation from within, Gordon has vast experience navigating sensitive issues, innovating with a big-picture perspective, and bringing people together for the common good. A thought leader, motivator, and inspiring public speaker, he approaches the heart of issues in a way that makes sense and activates listeners towards solutions and meaningful action.

Dr. Melissa Karmen Lee

Chief Executive Officer, Chinese Canadian Museum

Dr. Melissa Karmen Lee is an arts and culture leader with research interests in public art and social practice. She currently holds the appointment of Chief Executive Officer (CEO) at the Chinese Canadian Museum, in British Columbia, Vancouver which was successfully opened on July 1st, 2023, showcasing 3 inaugural exhibitions in a 27,000 square foot space in the heart of Vancouver Chinatown. From 2019-2022, she was the Director of Education and Public Programs at the Vancouver Art Gallery. From 2016-2019 she was on the founding team to open Tai Kwun Centre for Heritage and Art, Hong Kong serving as the Education and Public Programs Curator. From 2008-2015, she was on faculty as Senior Lecturer at the English Department of Chinese University of Hong Kong. She holds degrees from McGill, Canterbury and Lancaster Universities.

Stephanie Myers

BSc in Wildlife Biology. *Public Program Coordinator, Nelson Museum, Archives & Gallery*

Stephanie (she/her) began working in the arts and non-profits through her love of building community, celebrating creativity, and facilitating connections. She enjoys variety in her work, she holds the Fund Coordinator position with Nelson CARES Society as well as the ArtWalk Coordinator with Nelson & District Arts Council. She volunteers for the City of Nelson Heritage Working Group. In her position with NMAG she works closely with the team to activate the space in engaging and compelling ways.

Greg Nesteroff

Local Historian

Greg is a longtime local history buff, a member of the Nelson heritage working group, and a former board member of several local historical societies. He's also co-author of the book *Lost Kootenays: A History in Pictures* and blogs about Kootenay history at kutnereader.com



Ivana Otasevic

Assistant Director, UNESCO Chair on the Diversity of Cultural Expressions

Ivana Otasevic is the Assistant Director and Coordinator of the UNESCO Chair on the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. She holds a doctorate in international law and is lecturer at the Faculty of Law of Laval University. Since 2009, she has been interested in the relationship between the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2005) and trade agreements, the cultural dimension of sustainable development and the legal status of the concept of cultural diversity in international law. In recent years, her research and publications focus more specifically on the cultural rights of migrants and minority groups as well as the protection and promotion of their cultural expressions.

Eileen Delehanty Pearkes

MA, Author & Cultural Historian

Eileen Delehanty Pearkes explores landscape, history and the human imagination in various publications: The Geography of Memory (2nd edition 2022); A River Captured: the Columbia River Treaty and Catastrophic Change (2nd Edition, 2024) and The Heart of a River (new edition, 2024). Her 2015 exhibit on the Columbia River Treaty received the Canadian Museum Association's prize for excellence. Education at Stanford University (BA) and the University of British Columbia (MA), her perspective on landscape is uniques bi-national, and firmly grounded in place. Cultural Ambassador for the City of Nelson (2017), she has researched and travelled across the international river basin.

Ash Peplow Ball

Executive Director, Women Transforming Cities

Ash is a community organizer who loves to help people find their voice and power, and build the skills to participate in democratic processes. This passion has taken her to work in Uganda, Mexico, Nepal, and Cambodia; working for non-profits as a campaigner and as an Adviser to government Ministers. She now calls the Kootenays home, where she gets to bring together her passion for climate action, democratic participation, and movement building that's rooted in decolonization in her role as the Executive Director of Women Transforming Cities.

Jessica Quan

BA, BEd, Community Engagement Manager, Vancouver Heritage Foundation

Jessica Quan is an educator, community connector and engagement manager who has been with Vancouver Heritage Foundation for over 13 years. Most recently, Jessica presented at the 2023 Heritage BC Conference on a panel discussing heritage mapping, including VHF's Heritage Site Finder and Places That Matter digital projects. Jessica is passionate about connecting people with living heritage by preserving community storytelling, incorporating heritage stories into classroom resources, and engaging with Vancouver educators through heritage-focused professional development workshops.

Audrey Repin

Indigenous & Community Relations Lead, Columbia Basin Trust

Audrey is an experienced leader who has worked in the utilities industry for over 25 years. She has been the key point of contact during major hydropower project construction since the early 2000's, leading development and enhancement of Indigenous and Community Relations strategies and providing historical reference and local intelligence to support the operational business for Columbia Power and Columbia Basin Trust's Power Operations department. She served as a government liaison, provided strategic advice in issue management, lead negotiations and provided guidance and support to the Operational team. Her strong community and social connections are supported by a fellowship in Indigenous Leadership, Governance and Management Excellence from The Banff Centre.

Stevey Seymour

Executive Director, ncá?liwm nqəl̄wcn̄ilx̄ (ILCA), S̄íɿaȳčkstx

Stevey Seymour is the esteemed Executive Director of ncá?liwm nqəl̄wcn̄ilx̄ (ILCA), at the helm of revitalizing the Sinixt Language & Culture in the last surviving Sinixt community in the world. Under Seymour since 2015, the ncá?liwm nqəl̄wcn̄ilx̄ has emerged as a beacon of cultural resurgence for the Sinixt, striving against an extinction order in their homelands. Nsəlxcīn ranks as the third most endangered language in the world, with no living first language speakers in their community. ILCA aims for innovation with an online community and hybrid learning system including intensive immersion sessions to bridge past and present. These efforts ensure the Sinixt legacy and language endures, inviting us to celebrate Sinixt dedication to weaving Nsəlxcīn into our collective heritage in Sinixt homelands.

Sarah Sinclair

President, Kootenay Lake Historical Society, Kaslo

Born and raised in Kaslo, Sarah is an advocate for community-led economic development, heritage preservation, and rural living. With a background in marketing and business development, Sarah brings a passion for collaboration, innovation, and storytelling to her role. Outside of her duties with the Kootenay Lake Historical Society, Sarah is actively involved in rural economic development. Sarah's dedication to fostering sustainable growth and empowering local businesses and non-profits aligns seamlessly with her belief in preserving heritage. With a deep connection to rural life, Sarah understands the power volunteering and non-profit organizations add to any community.

Ilona Spaar

PhD, President, Swiss Edelweiss Village Foundation

Ilona Spaar, PhD, is the founding president of the Swiss Edelweiss Village Foundation. The organization's mission is to preserve and promote the historic Edelweiss Village outside of Golden, British Columbia in the Rocky Mountains. Ilona is the author and curator of books and traveling exhibitions about the Swiss mountain guides and their impact on Western Canadian Mountain Culture, commissioned in 2010 and 2013 by the Consulate General of Switzerland in Vancouver. The Canadian-Swiss historian has extensive experience in human rights and museum education, exhibition curation and community-engaging projects at the intersection of social justice, history, and art.



Patrick Steiner

Co-Executive Director, Kaslo Community Services

Patrick is the Executive Director for Food Security, Seniors, Community Engagement at Kaslo Community Services Society. He coordinates the Kaslo Food Hub, which is located in the basement of St. Andrew's Heritage Hall. That program is a crucial part of the community's food security and the space houses the North Kootenay Lake Food Cupboard, Harvest Share Food Recovery program, Culinary Tool Library, Taproot Community Seed Library and more. Patrick also serves as the Chair of the board of Central Kootenay Food Policy Council.

Margaret Teneese

Archivist, Ktunaxa Nation Council

Trent Thomas

Provincial Toponymist, BC Geographical Names Office, Heritage Branch

Trent is Lyackson and has Snuneymuxw, Songhees, Squamish and Icelandic ancestry. He grew up, lives, and works on the traditional territory of the *lək'ʷənən* people. He first joined the BC Geographical Names Office (BCGNO) in 2018 as an Indigenous Youth Intern and has been the Provincial Toponymist since May 2022. Trent has had the privilege of working with several First Nations throughout B.C. and learning about their respective cultures, languages, and oral histories through their place names.

John J Verigin

Executive Director, Union of the Spiritual Communities of Christ

John J Verigin is the Executive Director of the Union of Spiritual Communities of Christ, more commonly known as Community Doukhobors, the largest most active organization of Doukhobors in the world today. Under his stewardship the USCC continues to be dedicated to sustaining and further developing a unique heritage, and working together with people of other faith traditions, cultures, and creeds to build a better world. Their work for peace and justice, reconciliation and respect for the integrity of creation continue to be recognized by governments, by international organizations, and non governmental organizations in Canada and abroad.

Genevieve Weber

Manager, Heritage Programs and Services, Heritage Branch

Genevieve completed a Master of Archival Studies (MAS) degree at the University of British Columbia in 2008 with a concentration in First Nations recordkeeping and archives. Her career has focused on outreach, public programming, and Indigenous information sovereignty. Before joining the Heritage Branch, she spent 7 years at the BC Archives, part of the Royal BC Museum in Victoria, Canada, where she was dedicated to working with Indigenous researchers accessing Residential School records and implementing trauma-informed practice in the archives. Genevieve teaches in the Cultural Resource Management Program at the University of Victoria.

John Whitehead

BSc, PhD, Treasurer, St. Andrews United Church, Kaslo

John spent his formative years in Edinburgh, Scotland completing a Degree in Theoretical Physics at St. Andrews University and working briefly in the nuclear industry, before emigrating to Canada, completing a PhD at the University of Alberta and moving to St. John's NF as a faculty member at Memorial University. In the 90's John and his wife Catherine built a summer home in Kaslo, moving there permanently when John retired in 2014. John has always appreciated the value of architectural heritage and the need to preserve it in a way that it can continue to contribute to communities both large and small.

Thomas Whitton

IT Manager, Cultural Heritage and Language Manager, Doig River First Nation

Thomas is a dedicated individual who holds multiple significant roles within the Doig River First Nation community and the broader educational sector. In his roles with the Nation, Thomas oversees the implementation and management of information technology systems, ensuring they meet the community's needs. He also plays a vital role in preserving and promoting the cultural heritage and language, essential for maintaining the Nation's identity and traditions. A school board trustee with School District 60, Whitton advocates for quality education, representing the interests of his community and ensuring that the educational needs of all students are met. Through his various positions, he is committed to supporting and advancing the well-being of his community members and students alike.

Liana Zwick

Cultural Interpretive Society, USCC Doukhobors

Liana is a beginner to fibre arts. She is passionate about learning all facets of her Doukhobor culture of which heritage crafts is one. Her focus with the Cultural Interpretive Society group is a discovery of how best to transition this knowledge to younger generations.

Elana Zysblat

CAHP, Heritage Consultant, Ance Building Services

Elana Zysblat is an accomplished heritage consultant and educational program developer with expertise in heritage conservation, cultural tourism, and community engagement. Her firm's motto "Meaningfully Connecting People and Places" stems from her professional focus and interest first and foremost in people, and our connection to place. Formerly the Programming Director for the Vancouver Heritage Foundation, Elana's practice as an independent consultant since 2011 has reached all areas of British Columbia. Her firm, Ance Building Services, provides heritage conservation planning services as well as support, education, training and workshops for local governments, Indigenous communities and Heritage Commissions. Elana is the past President of the BC Association of Heritage Professionals, and a current director on the Canadian Association of Heritage Professionals national board.

A space for notes:

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