

NEWS RELEASE

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Celebrating the 2021 Culture & Heritage Award Recipients

Mayor brings greetings & congrats as honorees recognized for achievement

Summary

Every year since 1998, the City of Nanaimo has celebrated local excellence in arts and culture through the Culture & Heritage Awards. The annual awards program is an opportunity to honour extraordinary achievement while generating awareness and pride for the calibre of arts and culture activity in Nanaimo, as well as the dynamic impact of the sector on our community's economic, social and cultural well-being.

The 2021 Culture & Heritage Award recipients are:

- ELIOT WHITE-HILL, Emerging Cultural Leader: (www.nanaimo.ca/goto/emerging-cultural-leader)
- AY LELUM, Excellence in Culture: (www.nanaimo.ca/goto/excellence-in-culture)
- MARIANNE TURLEY, Honour in Culture: (www.nanaimo.ca/goto/honour-in-culture)
- CHRISTINE WHITELAW, Honour in Culture: (www.nanaimo.ca/goto/honour-in-culture)

Traditionally, recipients are honoured as part of a lively, public celebration at the Port Theatre. This year, because of measures to protect our community from COVID-19, the gathering will not take place as usual. Instead, on behalf of Council, Mayor Leonard Krog personally delivered greetings and a special gift to local award recipients and their families, while practicing physical distancing. At the same time, the City has released special video profiles online that highlight the achievements of each honoree and share the inspiring story of their impact in the community.

As part of a commitment to supporting local artists, this year potter Bronwyn Arundel was commissioned to design and produce an artwork to gift to recipients of the Culture & Heritage Awards. Arundel is well-known locally for her work in ceramic.

To learn more about the work of the 2021 Culture & Heritage honorees, view the City's website using the links above and follow Culture & Events on Instagram at [@Culture_Nanaimo](https://www.instagram.com/Culture_Nanaimo).

Strategic Link: The 2021 Culture & Heritage Awards aligns with the goals of the City of Nanaimo's Strategic Plan and the Cultural Plan for a Creative Nanaimo by: creating a vibrant culture of innovation, stewardship and partnership to encourage a diverse and healthy economy now and into the future; supporting arts and culture as an integral part of everyday life; and strengthening the creative sector by investing in organizations and people who animate our cultural spaces.

Key Points

- Each year, the City of Nanaimo recognizes outstanding contributions to the culture and vibrancy of our community with the Culture & Heritage Awards.
- 2021 recipients include: Excellence in Culture Award to Ay Lelum – The Good House of Design, Emerging Cultural Leader Award to Eliot White-Hill, Honour in Culture Award to Marianne Turley, Honour in Culture Award to Christine Whitelaw.
- On behalf of Council, Mayor Leonard Krog delivered congratulations and a special gift to to recognize each award recipient, while practicing physical distancing. At the same time, the City has released special video profiles that celebrate the achievements of the honorees and share the inspiring story of their work.

Quotes

"On behalf of City Council, I offer my heartiest congratulations and sincere thanks for the contributions of these outstanding individuals to the culture of Nanaimo. I know that many across our City will join me in celebrating Eliot, Ay Lelum, Marianne and Christine, and be inspired by their stories. Their work has contributed to our collective quality of life, and I commend the service, the generosity of spirit, and the talent that these award recipients exemplify."

Leonard Krog
Mayor
City of Nanaimo

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