



Bowen Park Mural by Urban Design
Roster Artist Anaïs Lera

Culture & Events

CULTURE AWARDS

Tickets Now Available!

Our FREE annual Culture Awards gala event will take place at The Port Theatre on Wednesday, April 16, 2025. Celebrate cultural excellence and achievement with us as we recognize this year's recipients. Secure your tickets through the Port Theatre (in person or online).



PUBLIC ART SPOTLIGHT

Robert Turriff's *The ReWilders*

Located in Colliery Dam Park, tucked into the greenery where invasive ivy grows, the two dynamic sculptures symbolize 'rewilding,' the practice of restoring natural habitats. Depicted in the act of removing invasive species and planting native plants, they represent the importance of land stewardship.

The ReWilders are imaginative, sci-fi inspired creatures designed by youth from the Nanaimo community in a collaborative public engagement workshop led by artist, Robert Turriff, as part of the City's Temporary Public Art Program.

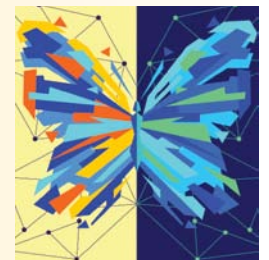


Additional information on the project can be found on the City's website.

2025 STREET BANNERS

The 2025 Street Banner Design Program sought proposals from artists focused on the theme 'Metamorphosis & Change' reflecting on positive instances of change and transformation. Nanaimo artist, Aiyem Samay-Sampson's, created a design representing patterns of transformation was selected. Aiyem's design reflects on processes and patterns of change. The organic, familiar shape of a butterfly is seen in abstract, fragmented form, embodying the duality of metamorphosis. Vibrant shapes come together in the artist's design symbolizing both the familiar and unfamiliar, the seamless and abrupt aspects of change that we experience in our communities, relationships and even within ourselves.

2025 street banners will be on display in early spring 2025. See our website to learn more.



Coming Soon

The Culture & Events team has many exciting projects and events coming this spring and summer, including ongoing cultural events, Concerts in the Park and the unveiling of more public art projects!



Follow us on [prc_nanaimo](#) on Instagram or subscribe to the “Love Arts Nanaimo” newsletter through our website at [nanaimo.ca](#)

NEW POET LAUREATE: Neil Surkan



Read, Reflect and Write with Neil Surkan

FREE | Drop-In | Harbourfront Library Meeting Room
Wednesdays, Mar 5, Apr 2, Jun 4 at 7 pm

An opportunity to develop skills as a poet and collaborate and learn from others.

Poetry in the Harbour with Neil & Guests

FREE | Drop-In | Vancouver Island Conference Centre,
Piper’s Lagoon Lobby

Wednesdays, Mar 12 & Jun 11 at 7 pm

Join Poet Laureate, Neil Surkan, and special guests for an evening of poetry!

WAKE by Poet Laureate, Neil Surkan

To stay with a body through
the night, the track — widening — grown
fainter; also, the motion
of meshworks ever after. We’ve cut
the outboard to drift
into our berth, having left
the island called Protection
shrinking beyond the stern light,
and so the rollers that diverged
to separate shores behind the prop —
warping the stars (no : planes
and smallsats) spangling the water
like burrs — seem to have lost
connection to our passage .
But even here in the harbour,
hulls squeak against the dock’s gumline;
the smooth surface is deeply
alive, the way hunches of hunches swell
in us before we

2025 CULTURE & EVENTS GRANTS

Did you know the City of Nanaimo supports over **40** arts and culture groups through our Grant program?

Culture & Events have three available grants:

- Culture Operating Grant
- Culture Project Grant
- Downtown Event Revitalization Fund

These grants are essential in supporting the activities of the professional and community-based arts and culture organizations who contribute to the cultural, social and economic vitality of Nanaimo.

To learn more about our Grants and to see the organizations, programming and events being supported by this program, please visit our Grants page on our website.



Act Theatre in Maffeo Sutton Park



[cityofnanaimo](#)



[prc_nanaimo](#) (#ilovemyparksandrec)

City of Nanaimo Culture Partners



These bones were from a small plant-eating dinosaur. It was a member of a group called the ornithomimid. It lived in the area of the present-day Fraser Valley during the Late Cretaceous period. It was about 100 million years old. It was about 1.5 metres long and weighed about 10 kilograms. It had a long neck and a small head. It had a long tail and a small tail fan. It had a long neck and a small head. It had a long tail and a small tail fan.



2025 SPRING & SUMMER

- Feb 1-28 | I-Spy: Hogs 'n' Hearts
- Feb 14-15 | Family Day Weekend
Vintage Valentines Craft
- Mar 15-29 | Spring Break:
Dumpling Buddies crafts & I-Spy
- Apr 1-Jun 6 | I-Spy: Secret Theme
- Jun 7-Sep 6 | Dinosaurs of BC
Feature Exhibit (From RBCM)
- June 27-Sep 1 | Summer Fun!
Walking tours, Bastion open, Kids'
Programs, Night Markets & more!



Contact us:
250-753-1821



Visit our website for info:
WWW.NANAIMOMUSEUM.CA

LEARN MORE



City of Nanaimo Culture Partners



**Nanaimo
Art Gallery**

Art Lab Sunday
Weekly, 1–4 pm

Drop-in for a fun hands-on art activity with family and friends.

Visit our website for more information on exhibitions, programs for kids & teenagers, adult workshops and special events.

NanaimoArtGallery.ca

Snuneymuxw Territory 150 Commercial Street, Nanaimo BC

City of Nanaimo Culture Partners



COMING UP AT THE PORT THEATRE

NEW ZEALAND THEATRE

YES YES YES

Tuesday, March 11th, 2025 @ 7:30PM

A theatre show created for young people that explores the knotty and necessary topics of healthy relationships, consent, and desire. Created with 14-22 year olds, this performance blends audience interaction with a captivating solo performance, and features in-depth interviews with teenagers from around Aotearoa-New Zealand.



PERSIAN LOVE STORY FEATURING 500 SHADOW PUPPETS

SONG OF THE NORTH

Wednesday, May 14th, 2025 @ 7:30PM

New York Times Critic's Pick, *Song of the North* is a mesmerizing large-scale, 80-minute cinematic performance combining shadow puppetry, projected animation, music, movement, and theatre! Based on a famous Persian love story (written over 1,000 years ago), *Song of the North* is a dynamic, family-friendly production involving over 500 handmade puppets!



VANCOUVER
ISLAND
EXCLUSIVE!



TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

spotlightSERIES

2024-2025 SEASON

GET YOUR TICKETS!

Check out **ALL** the shows!
porttheatre.com/spotlight
TICKET CENTRE
250-754-8550

SCAN ME



We're grateful for the opportunity to live, work, and celebrate the Arts on the traditional territory of the Snuneymuxw First Nation. hay ce:p q'a