What’s New in January

2017 Street Banner Design Contest

The City of Nanaimo invites all amateur and professional artists to submit their designs to the Street Banner Design Contest. Everyone is welcome to participate!

The banners will be installed on major streets throughout the City of Nanaimo in the summer of 2017 and 2018. Submissions must be received by 3:00 p.m., January 27, 2017.

This year’s theme for proposed banner designs is to creatively reflect and/or inspire Nanaimo’s role in celebrating Canada’s Sesquicentennial (150 years). This can be captured by “Looking Back”, capturing Nanaimo in 1967; “Exploring Our Country”, a snapshot of Canada; and/or “Celebrating Canada’s 150th”, what it means to be a Canadian in Nanaimo today.

The banner program has been brightening our city streets and corridors for close to 30 years. “Street banners grace many streetlight poles during the spring and summer seasons creating a fun and festive atmosphere. The City’s street banner program aids in the promotion of cultural arts and adds colour and excitement to Nanaimo.” - Chris Barfoot, Culture & Heritage Coordinator.

The City of Nanaimo thanks all participants for their submissions. The successful proposal will be announced in early February 2017 via the Bid Opportunities page on the City’s website.

For details of this year’s theme, plus full design specifications and submission requirements, see Competition #1856 on the Bid Opportunities page on the City of Nanaimo’s website: www.nanaimo.ca >Business > Bid Opportunities

Last year’s successful banner design, created by local artist, Patrick Belanger, pays tribute to Nanaimo’s unique ecosystem and heritage.
Farewell Party for Naomi Beth Wakan

Over 100 people attended an event at the Port Theatre to recognize Naomi Beth Wakan for her amazing accomplishments during her three years as Nanaimo’s Inaugural Poet Laureate. Naomi and many others read poetry that had been inspired through projects initiated by the Poet Laureate. Some of these projects include “Poetry in Transit”, Nanaimo’s Poetry Map, the monthly Poetry Column in the local newspaper, and a high school Poetry Competition.

It has been an amazing three years with Naomi representing Nanaimo in her role, raising the profile of the literary arts and Poetry in Nanaimo.

*An excerpt from a poem written by the inaugural poet laureate, Naomi Beth Wakan, has been set in a concrete slab that will be placed in front of the Port Theatre in the spring. This will be the beginning of a Poetry Walk where the creative works of future poet laureates will be incorporated into the sidewalk as a permanent celebration of culture and the literary arts.*

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Three New “Seagull Eye” Aerial View Videos of Heritage Buildings Released in December

On November 4, 2016, the City of Nanaimo began releasing a series of ten short videos through its website, YouTube channel and Facebook page featuring a “Seagull Eye” aerial view of Nanaimo’s heritage buildings.

Produced by Arrowsmith Aerial Photography for the City of Nanaimo, the 60-second videos are intended to promote awareness of Nanaimo’s built heritage with each building being featured from a unique aerial perspective. A new video in the series will be released every two weeks up until March 10, 2017. In December, the Nanaimo Court House, E&N Railway Station, and Earl Block were featured.

Check out all the “Seagull Eye” videos at https://www.youtube.com/user/CityOfNanaimo.

Coming up in January....

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nanaimo City Hall (455 Wallace St.)</td>
<td>Jan. 13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ashlar Lodge Masonic Temple (101 Commercial St.)</td>
<td>Jan. 27</td>
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Esquimalt & Nanaimo Railway Station, 321 Selby Street
More What’s New...

Nanaimo Art Gallery exhibits:

“Landfall and Departure: Prologue”
January 27 to March 25, 2017

Ports and docks facilitate both thinking and being elsewhere: a place of departures and arrivals where shipping news and salty stories are shared. Set in Nanaimo, artworks in Landfall and Departure: Prologue also look to the traffic in resources, stories, luxuries, and the lives of workers in harbours around the world. The sculptures, photographs, paintings, drawings, videos, and textiles in the exhibition respond to sites in Canada, China, The United States, the Netherlands, the Persian Gulf, Japan, and harbours of the imagination.

NEW ACQUISITION!

“Ten Thousand Dollar Portrait”
Photographic artwork by Krista Belle Stewart

Nanaimo Art Gallery is proud to announce the acquisition of Krista Belle Stewart’s photographic artwork Ten Thousand Dollar Portrait for its permanent collection.

Krista Belle Stewart is a member of the Upper Nicola Band of the Okanagan Nation, and is based in Vancouver and Brooklyn. While attending Camp Tintype, a workshop on historical photographic processes, Stewart was asked by the instructor to pose in regalia unrelated to her ancestry. As a participant of this immersive 19th century environment with period costumes, log cabins, and tepees, Stewart agreed to sit for the tintype photograph. After the image was exposed, the photographer claimed it could sell for $10 000 as, featuring a “real Native American,” it appeared authentic. While the photograph was being processed, Stewart herself was processing what was for her an uncomfortable experience. Upon seeing the image in a developing tray outdoors, she took ownership by re-photographing it on her own colour film. Stewart’s reclaimed photograph Ten Thousand Dollar Portrait (2008) gives grounds to ponder truth and representation in relation to individual and cultural agency.

Love Arts Nanaimo

If you’re curious, if you’re looking for inspiration, if you want to find connection and participate, join Love Arts Nanaimo to explore the world of art, dance, music, history & theatre… discover something you will love.

Love Arts Nanaimo is a collaborative initiative of professional arts and culture organizations. Its goal is to build community by sharing stories, passion and creativity with you.

Check out loveartsnanaimo.ca for more information

Visit http://nanaimogallery.ca for more information on these and all events at the Nanaimo Art Gallery.
More What’s New...

Nanaimo Contemporary Ballet presents:

“Endeavour: A Collection of Interpretive Works Inspired by Those Overcoming the Crisis in Syria”
Saturday, January 21, 2017 - 2:00 pm and 7:30 pm at VIU Malaspina Theatre
Special Guests: Ballet Victoria, Convergence Contemporary Ballet, and Matthew Cluff of Les Grands Ballet Canadiens.

Nanaimo Contemporary Ballet is a localized youth company that has participants from all over the island gather each week to create works based on local and global issues. “Endeavour” is based on the Syrian Refugee Crisis: pre-war Syria, the war itself, the feelings of isolation when arriving in a new country, as well as other more interpretive themes. The shows will act as fundraisers for local Syrian newcomers in hopes the funds will aid in their transitions into the community. Donations will be made to the Immigrant Wellness Centre.

Visit http://www.ncballet.ca for ticket information.

Crimson Coast Dance Society presents:

“The Mars Hotel” by Ziyian Kwan, dumb instrument Dance
Sunday, January 29, 2016 - 7:00 p.m. at the Port Theatre
Featuring live music by Handmade Blade: Peggy Lee, JP Carter and Aram Bajakian

Five elite performers from Vancouver’s contemporary dance and music scenes bring to the stage a bold exploration of relationship that engages and delights through humour, whimsy and poignancy. The Mars Hotel is a series of vignettes that unravel the word “love”, transfiguring it through kinetic imagery and sonic landscapes.

See http://crimsoncoastdance.com/shows for complete details.

Western Edge Theatre presents:

“Switzerland” directed by Coralee Draginda
January 20, 21, 27, 28 at 7:30 p.m. and January 29 at 2:00 p.m.
Harbour City Theatre, 25 Victoria Road

Nanaimo’s Western Edge Theatre begins 2017 on a suspenseful note with “Switzerland,” a psychological thriller and theatrical cat-and-mouse game by Joanna Murray-Smith. The story centers on real-life author Patricia Highsmith, known for her own celebrated thrillers. In “Switzerland,” she finds herself in a situation as intricate and mysterious as any she ever created when she’s visited in her isolated Swiss villa by a representative of her publisher. At least, that’s who he says he is, but as “Switzerland” unfolds, the author realizes she may have met her match when it comes to cunning and menace.

For ticket info visit http://westernedge.org.
More What’s New...

TheatreOne Presents:

“Flotsam and Jetsam: Life on the West Coast”
An Other Guys Theatre Company production at
VIU’s Malaspina Theatre
Show times: February 1-4 at 7:30 p.m.
Matinee: Sat., February 4 at 2:00 p.m.
*Preview: Tues, Jan. 31 at 7:30 p.m.

This multi-media revue created by Ross Desprez and Tobin Stokes features original music and is presented against a backdrop of both archival and contemporary images of life in BC’s coastal communities. “The words flotsam and jetsam refer to debris that washes up on our beaches. Flotsam is wreckage and jetsam refers to material that is thrown overboard. Theatrically, and musically, we’re sharing historical flotsam and jetsam — stories that may have been lost or discarded in the ocean of history”. - Director, Ross Desprez.

“Operation Avalanche”
January 29 & 30 at Avalon Cinema, Woodgrove Centre
Writer-director Matt Johnson follows his hit debut The Dirties with this mock-doc comedy thriller about two CIA agents who find themselves enlisted in a massive hoax when they infiltrate NASA on the eve of the Apollo 11 moon launch.

“Captain Fantastic”
January 15 & 16 at Avalon Cinema, Woodgrove Centre
Captain Fantastic is a hilarious and heart-warming comedy-drama about Ben, a free-thinking father of six (Viggo Mortensen), raising his kids in the woods of Washington state. When a family emergency forces them to leave their self-created paradise home and embark on a road trip across the country, Ben finds his unconventional ideas about parenting challenged by the real world.

This saucy new script by Nanaimo playwright, Roneen Marcoux, is being presented as the first of three original plays in TheatreOne’s Emerging Voices dramatic readings series. Audiences get to give feedback to the playwright after the professional actors bring this play to life.

Annie has just started working as a cocktail server in a country western bar. She has no experience hustling drinks and is worried that her boss is going to fire her if she doesn’t pick up the pace. Luckily, she is being trained by Maggie – a twenty year veteran of the drink pushing business. Maggie takes the new girl under her wing; but what Annie learns about working in a bar is more than she bargained for.
More What’s New...

The Port Theatre Spotlight Series presents:

“Les 7 Doigts: Cuisine & Confessions”
January 31 & February 1 at 7:30 p.m. at the Port Theatre

This remarkable interactive familial piece is an exciting mélange of acrobatics, avant-garde dance, spoken word, theatre, comedy and cooking show. Accompanying the eye-popping acrobatic choreography and pulsating music are the other three senses — the touch of hands in batter, the smell of cookies baking, the taste of roasted oregano — leading us through times and around the world, while the iconic kitchen serves as our common meeting point. This spectacular performance blurs the lines between contemporary dance and acrobatics, between theatre and athleticism, between interactive multi-media and immersive experience.

For complete details, visit http://www.porttheatre.com/events/jan-2017/les-7-doigts-de-la-main-cuisine-confessions.

Vancouver Island Symphony presents:

“Classical Spirit”
Saturday, January 21 at 7:30 p.m. at the Port Theatre
Featured Artist: Andrew Clark, French Horn

Classical giants are reunited for this celebration of beauty, grace and harmony! Two eternal symphonies by Vienna’s Wunderkinder -- Mozart and Schubert--share the stage with music from Beethoven’s lone, youthful ballet. Plus, the premiere of the final work in the five-year VIS Legacy Project, from the pen of one of Canada’s most esteemed composers, Stephen Chatman.

See http://vancouverislandsymphony.com for more information.

Shakespeare for Kids:

“A Mid Summer Night’s Dream”
Presented by TheatreOne / Produced by Monster Theatre.
Saturday, January 28 at 1:00 p.m. at VIU’s Malaspina Theatre

The kids are invited to be a part of this creative and dynamic production about Shakespeare writing a new play for the Duke’s wedding! He doesn’t have any ideas and he needs your help! With the arrival of some kooky actors, puppets, and magic, his play comes together right before Nanaimo’s eyes. Love, fairies, and friendship abound in this silly, dreamy musical comedy that’s fun for the whole family.

Check out http://theatreone.org for full details.
More What’s New...

Countdown to Canada’s 150th Birthday

The Canada 150 Countdown begins on February 2, 2017! The 150th day after this date will be July 1, 2017 - Canada’s 150th “Sesquicentennial” anniversary. To learn more, check out http://www.visionrally.ca/data/files/canada150innanaimoapril2016.pdf.

Nanaimo Historical Society

The Nanaimo Historical Society will host a circle meeting on January 12 at 7:30 p.m. at the Bowen Park Complex. The public is invited to join in this lively and interactive gathering where members present and tell the provenance of their collectibles or collections. The group’s calendar of FREE events for 2017 is now available. Email NanaimoHistoricalSociety@shaw.ca for more details.

WordStorm presents:

WordStorm
Tuesday, January 31 - Open Mic Starts at 7:00 p.m.
Tandoori Junction, 489 Wallace Street.
Featured Performers: Nasreen Pejvack and Richard Osler
Bring a poem (3 minutes) or prose (5 minutes) or sing an original song of your own. Full details at www.wordstorm.ca.

Poetry Retreat with Richard Osler
Wednesday, February 1: 9am to 12pm, and 1pm to 3pm.
Nanoose Place: 2925 Northwest Bay Road.
Come and be fished by poetry during this day-long generative poetry writing retreat. Be inspired by poems especially chosen to help you bring your own poems, perhaps even your own sharks and blue whales, to the surface from far down in the depths inside you. Then listen as each of you release those creatures, your poems, from your creative dark into the silence of the writing circle. Email ascentaspirations@shaw.ca for further information.

Follow us on Instagram!

Stay updated on culture and heritage happenings, programs and events: www.instagram.com/cultureandheritage

Connect With Us

Our office is open Monday to Friday, from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. If you have questions or would like more information, please contact us:

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