What’s New in October!

Apply Now for 2015 Cultural Grants!

The City of Nanaimo recognizes the integral contribution generated by arts and cultural activities to the City's economic and social progress and the value of artistic and cultural expression and enjoyment by its citizens. To these ends, the City of Nanaimo affirms its ongoing commitment to encourage and support an active and successful arts and culture sector within the community.

We're currently accepting applications for Cultural Operating Grants and Arts & Cultural Festivals & Events Grants. Application forms and guidelines are available online at www.nanaimo.ca > Departments > Culture and Heritage > Culture & Heritage Grants or by contacting the Culture and Heritage Department. Submissions will be accepted until October 31, 2014.

Nominate Someone for a Culture / Heritage Award!

Do you know of an organization or individual that has achieved regional and/or national recognition in the field of arts and culture? An organization or someone that is dedicated and supportive of the development of the cultural fabric which identifies this city? Someone that has provided outstanding heritage service and dedication to the community?

Nominate them for a Culture or Heritage Award! This is your chance to pay recognition to people and groups you know that have made a significant contribution to Nanaimo's cultural and heritage sector.

Nomination forms and award details (including past recipients!) are available online at www.nanaimo.ca > Departments > Culture and Heritage > Culture and Heritage Awards, or by contacting the Culture and Heritage Department. Nominations will be accepted until October 31, 2014.

Award Categories

- **Excellence in Culture** This award is presented to an organization or individual that has achieved regional and/or national recognition in the field of arts and culture (visual, performing or literary arts).
- **Honour in Culture** This award is presented to an individual, group or corporation that is known for their dedication and support of the development of the cultural fabric of Nanaimo.
- **Emerging Cultural Leader** This award was established to recognize up-and-coming, Nanaimo-based cultural leaders. The award recognizes that a thriving Nanaimo cultural community includes leaders who choose to live and contribute to the cultural life of Nanaimo.
- **John Thomson Heritage Memorial** This award was created in 1994 to honour individuals who demonstrate outstanding heritage service and dedication to the community.
More What’s New...

Calling All Artists! We’re Seeking Proposals for Temporary Public Art for Display in City Parks.

Since 2010, the City of Nanaimo has been involved in a dynamic and evolving public art program that enhances and animates our City’s parks. Each year, outdoor artwork is installed on a temporary basis for the enjoyment of residents and visitors. Essentially, they become outdoor art galleries and showcase artworks for a limited period of time.

Artists are invited to submit their proposal for outdoor artwork. For details and submission requirements, please view the “Call for Artists for Temporary Outdoor Art No. 1560”, which is available online at www.nanaimo.ca > Business > Bid Opportunities, or by contacting the Culture and Heritage Department. Proposals will be accepted until November 18, 2014.

Invitation to Culture and Heritage Reconnect & Celebrate
Thursday, October 23 2014

The Culture and Heritage Department invites you to Reconnect & Celebrate on Thursday, October 23 from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm at the Nanaimo Museum (100 Museum Way). Mix and mingle while sharing and comparing Nanaimo’s culture and heritage sector successes! Everyone is welcome! If you have questions or require more information, please contact us at 250-755-4483 or cultureandheritage@nanaimo.ca.

Port Theatre’s Community Consultation Process for a Community Performing Arts Centre

Council received a summary of the community consultation process completed for the Community Performing Arts Centre initiative, and passed the following motion at its September 8, 2014 meeting:

1. Approved partnering with the Port Theatre Society by designating this project as the Sesquicentennial project for the City of Nanaimo; and designating this project for inclusion in a Build Canada Application.

2. Approved proceeding with building a City owned facility on the existing Port Theatre land with a project manager assigned;

3. Allocated a financial contribution of $4.6 million to the project and support a Line of Credit on behalf of the Port Theatre Society:
   - dependent and conditional on the Port Theatre Society securing the remaining funds; and
   - co-sign a $2 million dollar Line of Credit in order to proceed with design and engineering completion.

Based on this Council direction, the Port Theatre Society and City staff are now working to move the project forward by finalizing the project design and costing, and pursuing the various fund raising objectives.
More What’s New...

PARK(ing) Day held September 19, 2014

PARK(ing) Day is an annual open-source global event where citizens, artists and activists collaborate to temporarily transform parking spaces into “PARK(ing)’’ spaces: temporary public cultural places. The project now occurs annually in hundreds of cities in dozens of countries on every permanently-inhabited continent on earth. Nanaimo participated for the very first time this year by converting six parking spaces along Commercial Street at the heart of the downtown core and the Arts District!

Participating organizations included various City of Nanaimo departments, the Downtown Business Improvement Association, Vancouver Island University, Mid Island Metis Association, Coastal Community Credit Union and the Vancouver island Regional Library. These groups temporarily converted their spaces for 3 hours into temporary public spaces with a variety of engaging themes and activities. The event also provoked some thoughtful discussions around the uses and importance of public space.

Culture Days held September 26, 27, 28

Culture Days is a nationwide celebration of Culture that spans over three days. This year the Culture and Heritage Department collaborated with the Nanaimo Arts Council and the Vancouver Island Regional Library to develop Nanaimo’s only Culture “HUB” for the 2014 Culture Days Celebration.

The one-day Hub was one of the many venues throughout Nanaimo where various arts and culture groups hosted their own amazing activities. The Hub brought many of these groups and activities together in one location creating the opportunity for members of the community to sample a wide variety of activities including poetry, storytelling, mosaic building, dancing, DJ’ing, educational sessions and backstage tours of the Port Theatre and much, much more.

Nanaimo Youth Choir Takes 1st Place!

For the fifth year in a row at the Performing Arts of BC Provincial Festival, the Nanaimo Youth Choir takes home first place in the ‘Choral Groups’ category. Way to make Nanaimo proud!
**More What’s New...**

**Nanaimo’s Poet Laureate - Naomi Beth Wakan**

The purpose of a Poet Laureate for Nanaimo is to serve as a “people’s poet” and to raise awareness of poetry and the literary arts and the positive impact literature and poetry can have on community life. At the Nanaimo City Council meeting held October 2013, Council approved Naomi Beth Wakan as Nanaimo’s first Poet Laureate. Read about Naomi on [Island Women](#) or at [www.naomibethwakan.com](http://www.naomibethwakan.com).

**View Naomi’s full schedule** of upcoming events online at [www.nanaimo.ca > Departments > Culture and Heritage > Poet Laureate](#) or listen to Naomi’s Gabriola Co-op Radio Series: Poet and essayist Naomi Wakan on the joys and hazards of writing and a writer’s life online at [www.soundcloud.com/ckgi-gabriola-co-op-radio/sets/bookmobile-with-naomi-wakan](http://www.soundcloud.com/ckgi-gabriola-co-op-radio/sets/bookmobile-with-naomi-wakan). A special thanks to Frank Moher and Nathan Tinkham for recording and preparing these essays.

You are invited to join the celebration of Naomi Beth Wakan’s first year as Poet Laureate of Nanaimo! On November 15, 2014 from 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm at the Nanaimo Art Gallery Art Lab (Downtown - 150 Commercial Street). Naomi will be reading from her new chapbook "Naomi in Nanaimo", and special guests will be speaking. Everyone is welcome! Please RSVP to darbykm@gmail.com.

**Calling All Poets! Monthly Poetry Column**

September’s Poem of the Month (see right) has been selected, and here’s why. Written by Naomi Beth Wakan for the Nanaimo Daily News: I feel that this simple small poem for September is perfect for creating the scene of buskers at Diana Krall Square, and also reminding us that you don’t need to be a big star in order to contribute to the joy of music and poetry in the community. The selection committee commented on how this poem shines a spotlight on a scene we have all witnessed in Diana Krall Plaza, people milling around while a busker entertains and fills the street with music. We know the people by sight, and Gregory’s poem introduces us to them by name, making the familiar more personal. It evokes a memory and feeling we have all shared. Why not submit your poem about Nanaimo for consideration. Even if it is not selected as the poem of the month, it still might go into a future possible anthology. To submit your poem, visit [www.nanaimo.ca > Departments > Culture and Heritage > Poet Laureate](#) for guidelines, and send your poem to callingallpoets@nanaimo.ca.

**Vancouver Island Symphony’s Margot Holmes Honoured as Cultural Champion in Arts Leadership!**

Congratulations to Ms. Margot Holmes of the Vancouver Island Symphony, who has been recognized with a Cultural Champion Award in Arts Leadership! This award is awarded to an arts individual who has shown exceptional leadership by engaging the business community in support of arts and culture. The 2014 Canadian Business and Arts Partnership Awards are given to individuals who have shown outstanding commitment to the arts in Canada, and understand and appreciate the extraordinary impact that arts partnerships can make in communities across the country.
More What’s New...

Love Poetry? WordStorm Presents “The Living Room”
A free and open democratic reading where people read their own work and listen to others in a circle format. The Living Room is designed for new, emerging, and established poets to come together in a sense of poetic community to share their work. Each poet will have opportunities to read original work of a maximum of 3 minutes. Go around the circle without critique in the celebration of sharing. Each reading will have a host who will keep the group within these guidelines. Listeners are welcome. Held in the Nanaimo Harbourfront Library (upstairs in Room B) from 4:30 to 6:30 pm on the last Thursday of the month (October 30, November 27, January 29, February 26, March 26, April 30, May 28). For more information, visit www.wordstorm.ca.

Wordstorm at the Vault, October 28
The Vault Cafe (499 Wallace Street) at 7:00 pm. Performances by Yvonne Blomer and Barb Day. Open Mic. Bring a poem (3 minutes) or prose (5 minutes). Details at www.wordstorm.ca.

Free Tour of Morden Mine Historic Site, Saturday October 4
As part of the Nanaimo Art Gallery’s ‘Black Diamond Dust’ Exhibit (details at www.nanaimoartgallery.com/index.php/exhibitions/downtown-exhibitions) the Friends of Morden Mine Society are providing a free tour of the historic Morden Mine site, located in Morden Colliery Historic Provincial Park just south of Nanaimo. It is one of the most complete above-ground remains of a historic coal mine on Vancouver Island and the earliest of two such reinforced concrete structures in North America.
Tour will be held on Saturday, October 4 at beginning at 2:00 pm (meet in the parking lot). For maps and directions, please visit www.mordenmine.com/map.php. Learn more about the Morden Mine, and the Friends of Morden Mine Society at www.mordenmine.com.