

**MINUTES**

**Seniors, Elders & Advocates Committee (SEA)**

Wednesday January 18, 2023

3:30pm In-Person at Britannia 55+ Centre and online via Zoom

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| Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85794432058>Mtg ID: 857 9443 2058Dial In: 778 907 2071 |

**Present:** Myra, Maureen, Maria, Alice M, Pat, Amelia, Liz, Jenny, Haruko, George & Bella, Cylia, Annie P, Todd, Randy, Farren, Annie D, Suzette, Peter, Cynthia, Kya

**WOCT Programming Update**

Email memo sent out to SEA & CC committees**.** Monday Crafts, Drum Circle and Wednesday Weaving switching to a bi-weekly format.

This change was budgetary. Past funding provided by federal grant UPIP and was a 3 years grant cycle that ended in March 2022. Extra funds were provided because of COVID-19 response. Funds were spent extra at the beginning of the year to accommodate programs during COVID-19 shutdowns.

**Suggestions;**

* Website testimonials offered with pictures. Especially if grants would accept testimonials. A call out can be provided by 55+ staff then be sent to communications assistant.
* Social Media Boost – connecting to the broader community to build resources in finding funding when needed.

Request by committee to ensure staff are on top of grant reporting and finding renewal/replacement funding before a gap takes place.

**New Britannia Position - Suzette Amaya**

Manager of Operational Change. A position created to help systemic changes through decolonizing and reconciliation. Roles entail looking at how Britannia hosts our programs and seeing what systems can be different by breaking down barriers, helping programs be more sustainable, organize staff and volunteers etc. This includes recreation, housing, generational roles, accessing resources and funding.

**Suzette Amaya** – Suzette is Kwakwak wakw, Cree, Nisga, Coast Salish, and was raised in East Vancouver. She has a long history with this community and many ties to the Britannia site through the schools and centre. Has resources with DTES working with various shelters and organizations. She is on the Urban Indigenous Advisory Committee, and is a Radio Producer/Host on ThinkNDN Radio. Suzette brings this wide knowledge and much more to connect the Britannia community with and help build new relationships with the centre. Suzette acknowledged good work already being done and wants to see programs thriving. Credit given to staff and community members on cultural engagement and protocols taking place.

**Discussion;**

* Working with people with disabilities, accessibility issues needs to include those with neuro diversities. Especially in talks about the Britannia Renewal.
* With talks of decolonizing, reconciliation and this new role created, what are the discussions with renaming Britannia;
	+ Soft survey sent out with mixed feedback. Connecting with Nations to build awareness is currently in process. Encouraging community to participate and get involved in these processes is also a priority.

**Programs and Updates**

General 55+ Centre programs running per usual with high registration.

Income Tax Clinics are returning at the Britannia Library this spring. Appointment booking available in late February with the Info Centre – 604-718-5800 ext. 1

Quirke (Queer Imaging & Riting Kollective for Elders) has chosen a project for the coming year, to create a website that will be a repository for all of their work including books, zines, video and audio recordings, artwork, a history of past projects, and ongoing work. Updates on the processes to come. Meetings held weekly with the first of the month hybrid through Zoom at Britannia 55+ Centre.

Britannia VPL held a Drum Making workshop with Sabian Rawcliffe Friday December 16 in the Library meeting room. This workshop was very successful with 10 drums created with indigenous 55+ community members. Updates to come on future collaborations with VPL and 55+ Centre. VPL program Kith & Kin ongoing with the spring 2023 sessions to be in person again. VPL is offering one-on-one Tech Workshops. These workshops include laptop, cellphone and tablet usage. Register with the Britannia VPL front desk. Workshops ongoing.

**Events**

Postponed Christmas lunch is now a New Year’s lunch. Everyone who had already registered was contacted and offered to keep or refund their seat. Currently this event is at max capacity. The meal will be catered by Better Meals, with volunteers and extra staff confirmed. For more information, contact 55+ Centre Staff 604-718-5837

musica intima is wanting to reprise NAGAMO at Britannia during the last week of March 2023.

**Decisions;**

* SEA supports the performance returning. Event planning and logistics will be over seen by 55+ Centre staff with updates and promo material to come.

**Art Gallery Exhibition – June 2023**

The 55+ Centre has been invited by the Britannia Art Gallery to present an exhibition of the crafts created by members. “Celebrating Elder's Artworks” is the working title. This will be overseen by Danais Year Guerra who is the new interim curator at the gallery with support from the Arts Programmer, Amanda Lye.

Please contact Kya Prince if interested in participating and contributing to this exhibition; kya.prince@vancouver.ca

**Questions;**

* Will there be an opening? Can there be an honorarium offered to 55+ member to host an opening with a prayer and land acknowledgement?
	+ Yes there will be an opening, and 55+ Staff will talk with Art Gallery and Arts staff about opening logistics and inclusion of an Elder speaker.

**Discussion;**

* Info and Pool centres display cases are available to community members to display various culturally related projects. Honoraria and staff assistance available to display artworks in both cases. Contact Cynthia Low for more info; Cynthia.low@vanocuver.ca

**Breakfast with Elders and Santa**

A REACH partnership and highly successful event with over 300 in attendance. There was a Santa and toy room in the 55+ Cetnre for family to bring home presents. Food was provided for everyone and great community engagement. If anyone knows of community organizations who would like to co-host another event, contact Cynthia Low. This was a great way for promoting cultural sharing within communities.

Acknowledgement to Amelia Gubana for volunteer support and leadership!

**Additions:**

**Elders Gathering**

The 47th Annual Elders Gathering is on August 15 & 16 2023 at the Vancouver Convention Centre. Registration is open now until July 10. The cost is $550 per person. Britannia Community Centre is looking to create a way to donate to group registration or find resources.

**Fundraising Questions and Suggestions;**

* Can there be a market held with table sales? Should/can there be a Craft Collective donate button added to the fronts desk till? Or a specific “Help Send Elders to the Annual Elders Gathering” donate button?
* Possible to create seniors and elders recipe, poetry, or indigenous knowledge books for future fundraising

**Request;**

* Craft Collective call out to boost participation. Same people working on fundraisers, table sales and markets. Call for more people to help if they are also wanting to utilize the Craft Collective funds and provide input.
	+ 55+ Centre staff to create a call out poster to encourage participation for the Craft Collective.

**Homecare of Family Caregivers Committees;**

Britannia does not host at this time a committee of this nature. Resources can be looked for and provided on request by Britannia Centre Staff. Currently committees are for services that Britannia Community Services Centres provides, i.e. Finance, Pool and Fitness, Arts and Culture, Anti-Racism and Anti-Oppression, Britannia Renewal, Youth, and 55+.

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, February 15th 2023