

Newsletter / July 6, 2010

Communities self-mobilizing across the country

Recently, on June 22, 2010, some 25 people joined the [bi-weekly telephone information session](#) for a roundtable on community organizing. (Tip: Next telephone information session is today, Tuesday, July 6 at 1pm ET. Details [here](#).) Amazing reports were heard from communities across the country that have taken up the Culture Days vision and made it their own:

- Simone Georges from 4th Line Theatre was on the line representing the Peterborough Culture Days committee. They've received some funding from the Community Futures Development Corporation in Ontario to hire a part-time coordinator who will coordinate, archive and chronicle Culture Days activities in Peterborough until the end of September. How did this group start? [Read more on the Culture Days blog](#).
- The London Arts Council and the Ottawa Arts Council are spearheading the movement in their respective Ontario communities. Both organizations reported that it was a "no brainer" to get involved with the national movement. Read [their suggestions](#) for generating interest and organizing your community.
- Sheila McKinnon, from the City of Surrey, BC was happy to report that the Culture Days timing is just perfect for them. A decommissioned fire hall has been converted in a new cultural centre; it will be officially inaugurated during the Culture Days weekend with activities at the new centre covering the full 3-day period.
- Crystal Kolt, Cultural Coordinator with the Flin Flon Arts Council was on the line but with so many people on the call, unfortunately, Crystal didn't get a chance to make her report. Fortunately, you can read her [6 Tips for Community Organizers](#) on the Culture Days blog.
- The Franco-Manitoban community was quick to identify the value of Culture Days and several groups came together to obtain a federal grant that will support over 25 individual activities. Watch for a soon-to-be announced call to artists for a collective creation project to be carried out during Culture Days.
- Liesl Jauk, calling from the City of Richmond, BC, is running a local campaign to let people know about Culture Days, remind them of any deadlines, and to help promote activities in the area. The City will also produce its own programming for Culture Days. The Richmond Cultural Centre will be a hub where artists will be invited to join with city-operated activities. (Remember, if you have space to share with artists and other activity organizers, add your name to this [list of venue operators](#).)
- Also on the line were some people who are interested in seeing Culture Days take root in their community (but official plans or working groups have not been developed yet). Anna Rose from Stouffville (ON) reported that the idea is still in its early stages in her community, but following this telephone meeting, with all the templates and resources available, she thinks they'll hit the ground running now. Eliza Hemingway, from Chemainus (BC) described her ambitions for this first year of Culture Days as modest, but challenging for the context she is working in. "I would just like to try to get artists out of their studios, into one venue for year one. [...] We already have two restaurants on board, and a few people with outdoor spaces."

Read [part 2 of community updates](#) from this call, from the London Arts Council (ON), Council for the Arts in Ottawa (ON), Town of Kindersley (SK), City of Burnaby (BC).

Who can take ownership of Culture Days for a community?

Some of you have asked, who can take ownership of Culture Days for a community? The short answer: anyone. Culture Days works somewhat like Wikipedia: Anyone can contribute to Wikipedia (the online, opensource encyclopedia), and anyone, including you, can organize a community meeting and rally people together in support of Culture Days in their community. We do, however, recommend that local working groups try to involve a good range of expertise around the table, such as artists, diverse cultural groups, heritage, education, libraries, businesses, business improvement associations, tourism, marketing, economic development, the local arts council, and the municipality.

Leave a comment [on the blog](#) to let us know how you're championing Culture Days.




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