

take a good look

the new view

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BLAC Art Gallery

Written by Leanna Villar

The Black Arts Centre (BLAC) is a Black-youth-owned and operated gallery and community site. The space is conveniently located at Surrey Central Station.

BLAC is Black-youth owned and operated gallery and performance space scheduled to open in Surrey, BC, in mid-2022. This space will host exhibitions, performances, shows and events + conduct classes and professional development workshops + build mentor relationships between established and emerging artists during the day, and be open to all members as a studio, gathering and workspace. The project and space will centre around young Black artists and events, but will be open to featuring BIMPOC (Black, Indigenous, Middle Eastern, People of Colour) artists of all ages and will be open to all attendees.

BLAC was founded by Becky Bair and Kevin Kapenda in 2020. Since then, Arshi Chadha, Hafiz Akinlusi, and Moroti Soji-George have joined the collective. BLAC will be located in the heart of Surrey, at 10305 City Pkwy, steps away from Surrey Central SkyTrain Station and Surrey Civic Plaza. BLAC is humbled to serve as Western Canada's only Black-owned and operated arts space.

Directors:

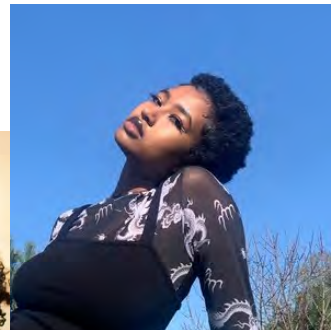
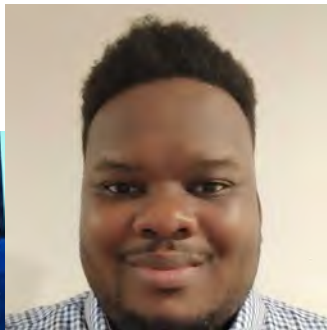
Arshi Chadha is a video and performance artist with ties to the community, having grown up and attending high school in Surrey. Arshi's purpose at BLAC and in everything she does is to help create an inclusive environment for black artists and create accessibility to art for the community.

Rebecca Bair is an interdisciplinary artist based in Vancouver - the traditional and ancestral territories of the Coast Salish peoples - and a 2020 graduate from the Masters of Fine Arts program at Emily Carr University of Art and Design. Bair's artistic, professional and educational goals revolve around common themes of celebrating Black plurality, Black possibility, as well as enabling interpersonal and intercultural care.

Kevin is a multidisciplinary urbanist with a background in print journalism and urban planning. He is also interested in anti-racism policy, cultural planning, and public engagement.

Hafiz Akinlusi is a recent SFU grad with a deep interest in sustainability, technology and solving problems. Hafiz holds a Bachelors in Economics from Simon Fraser University, and when he isn't busy working or working on a side project, he spends his time with friends or daydreaming about his retirement farm in Lagos.

Olumoroti (Moroti) Soji-George is a fourth year visual arts studies and history major at Simon Fraser University. His research involves finding the links between the works of Black contemporary artists to African culture, history and mythology. His vision is to build a platform for Black artists across the diaspora to present their work to a broad audience and build a network for support and collaboration between Black artists from all across the diaspora. At BLAC, Olumoroti aims to curate thought provoking and visually pleasing pieces that appropriately reflect the diverse and captivating Surrey community. Additionally, Moroti aims to use his past experience to mentor and support young artists and performers in Surrey in their artistic endeavours.



DOWNTOWN



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SURREY BIA

On Saturday, July 23rd, and Sunday, July 24th, celebrate Surrey's diversity at the largest multicultural festival in Western Canada. Following two years of virtual programming, Fusion Fest returns to Holland Park for the festival's 15th year. Come out and experience the world — again!

This year's theme, CommUNITY, celebrates the opportunity to bring the community together once again and will provide attendees with the chance to learn about the traditions and history of how people gather and unite in countries from all over the world. Fusion fest provides us with a fantastic opportunity to build bridges between cultures and celebrate the diversity that exists in our own community.

More than 40 cultural pavilions, 8 stages, and over 200 performers will allow attendees to experience a wide range of food, music, and culture. The numerous cultural pavilions offer insights into each country's heritage, provide an opportunity to purchase craft goods, and the chance to enjoy some incredible authentic food from around the globe.

Each pavilion menu provides a myriad of choices so that everyone can be sure to find something that suits their taste buds. Passing from pavilion to pavilion may make you feel like you're a world traveller, but rest assured knowing that you can leave your passport at home and skip the line-ups to renew it at the passport office.

This year Fusion Fest is introducing a Cultural Cooking Area for the first time. On Saturday, the area will be home to the Youth Cooking Showdown — a full day of head-to-head youth cooking competitions. On Sunday, the area will be the site of cooking demonstrations by local professional chefs, who will be showcasing traditional and contemporary cultural dishes that inspire unity.

Come ready to eat — you'll be sure to leave happy!

After fusion fest, be sure to stay tuned for the DSBIA's 2022 Restaurant Guide so you can continue enjoying delicious food from the community. Not only does the Restaurant Guide provide contact info and websites for ordering, but it also provides readers with Featured Menu Items so you'll always have a recommendation to build your orders from.

Get Ready for Fusion Fest

Written by Jiven Lal





Ruex Café and Bar opened on Mother's Day this year for guests and has been brunching away since! Executive Chef Greg Baja's imaginative brunch menu is delighting guests from all over the lower mainland.

Ruex has been designed by Karin Bohn of House of Bohn and Netflix's Restaurants on the Edge. The decor is inspired by Australian design, and you can see small homages paid to the beautiful country of Australia throughout the design. The space was constructed by Surrey's own Willow Spring Construction.

Ruex is open from 9:00 am to 11:00 pm daily. Ruex serves brunch from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm and has happy hour from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm. From 3:00 pm to close, you can enjoy shareables/tapas with carefully curated cocktails, wines, and beers. There is a DJ playing every Friday night, Saturday all day, and Sunday brunch. 95% of the menu is made in-house. The only thing brought in is bread as Ruex is not equipped to bake bread in the restaurant. Every single sauce is made in-house including the infamous hot sauce – which has been selling like fire.

Guest brunch favourites have been:

- **Pork Belly Eggs Benedict** - roasted red pepper hollandaise and pork belly that has been sous vide for 8 hours
- **Biscoff French Toast** - Chef Greg's absolutely unique take on the traditional French toast features melted cookie butter stuffed in a bun, rolled in cornflakes, and deep fried. The dish is finished with cinnamon infused mascarpone and caramelized bananas. Biscoff butter is brought in directly from the manufacturer.
- **Avocado Toast** - unique avocado toast that incorporates edamame puree and halloumi cheese

Guest Shareable/evening menu favourites have been:

- **Garlic Cheese Bread** - taking social media by storm
- **Jerk Chicken Bites** - nice kick to it
- **Potato Croquettes and Trio Sauces** - Delicious potato and cheese balls with a trio of housemade sauces (Korean BBQ sauce, Beetroot Raita, Miso Maple)

Don't forget to stop by at Ruex located at 13615 Fraser Hwy Unit #120 at King George Hub!

NEW Ruex Cafe & Grill

Written by Leanna Villar



Sushi Street has recently opened its café-themed sushi restaurant at King George Hub. Jennifer, the owner of Nordel Sushi has 18 years of experience in the Japanese food industry and has expanded to opening Sushi Street as her love of sushi continues to grow in Downtown Surrey.

From a simplistic neutral themed sushi joint, brick walls, hanging lightbulbs, floral aesthetics and greenery, to Japanese murals, the Sushi Street interior is heavily inspired by the love of Gen Z and cafés. As many sushi restaurants are dine in, Sushi Street allows guests to dine in or order on the go. Sushi Street's primary mission is to bring quick, convenient, and delicious sushi to Downtown Surrey.

Birthday occasion? Party? Games night? Sushi Street has your group covered! If you are unsure on what to order, one of Sushi Street's most popular items is the "Street Special Box", a fusion-style box incorporating sushi, chicken wings, and veggie sticks, with various sauces served in a pizza box good for a party of 3-4. Stopping by for a snack? Sushi Street serves freshly hand-crafted tofu pockets, also known as inari! Tofu pockets are made with rice, and protein, with a seasoned deep-fried tofu called aburaage with mirin, soy sauce, and sugar. Vegetarian options are also available. Sushi Street offers a wide variety of appetizers, special rolls, bento, salad, tempura, sashimi, nigiri, hand rolls, rice bowls, noodles, and drinks at an affordable price.

Don't forget to follow and tag Sushi Street for a chance to win some tasty prizes! 13660 George Jct Unit 170 at King George Hub or place an order at <https://www.sushistreet.ca/>, Uber Eats, or SkipTheDishes.

Catering for an event? Call [604-496-4813](tel:604-496-4813) or email info@sushistreet.ca for more inquiries.



@sushistreet_surrey



sushistreetsurrey



<https://www.sushistreet.ca/>

NEW Sushi Street

Written by Leanna Villar





At Di Reggae Cafe, you can find some of the city's best authentic Caribbean and Jamaican cuisine. Opened in 2011, the owner, Richie Husset, leads by example for his staff creating a wonderful atmosphere that is warm and humbling. A second home you can call outside of your own, the restaurant gives off an environment that is friendly and welcoming to all that walk through their door.

From thatched umbrellas, paintings, photos, quotes, and flags, to even a Caribbean mapped long table, the interior within Di Reggae Cafe emanates a vibe that Caribbean and non-Caribbean people alike will enjoy. Whether you are dining in or ordering to go, it is a comfortable experience that encourages a return visit. Di Reggae Cafe serves a variety of home-style cooked Jamaican dishes that add to the environment.

Some of the restaurant's popular menu items include the Jamaican patties that sit in the display case on the front counter. These Jamaican patties are golden coloured savoury pastries filled with the choices of beef, chicken, or veggies. For main dishes, popular choices include oxtail, curry goat, jerk chicken, and the ackee and saltfish. The oxtail and curry goat are both simmered to a tender perfection while the jerk chicken is jerked and baked with spices, coming out juicy and tender. Being freshly made to order, these dishes are usually served with rice, macaroni, vegetables, and a side of plantains.

Di Reggae Cafe also offers live entertainment with an occasional reggae band on Saturday nights and an in-house DJ every Friday night. Welcoming to all those who come from different backgrounds, the restaurant offers the full Jamaican and Caribbean experience. Needless to say, Di Reggae Cafe is a staple within the neighbourhood and a hidden gem to visit when you are in the area.

Di Reggae Cafe

Written by Travis Nguyen



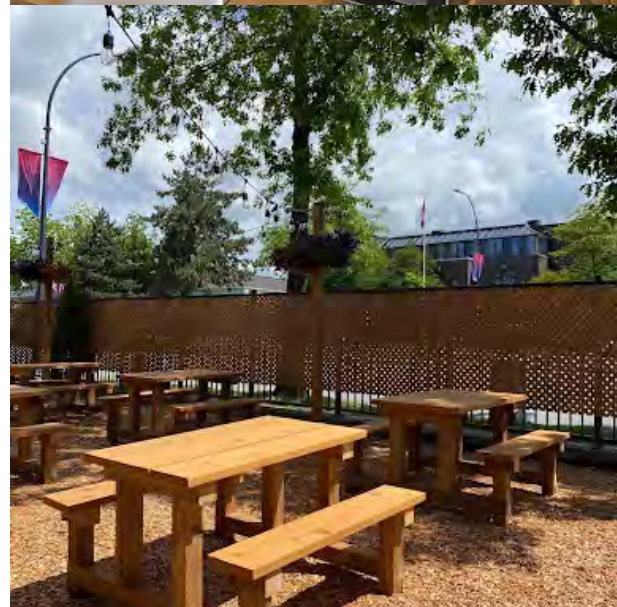
Visit them at 13593 King George Boulevard and online at www.direggaecafe.com or even give them a call at (778) 996-2887 to order!

This authentic family-owned Mexican restaurant is located near the heart of Downtown Surrey. Guacamole Mexican Grill operates from 11:30 am to 8:00 pm, Sunday to Thursday, and remains open an hour later on Friday and Saturday. The owners, Rosa and Marvin, are passionate about bringing authentic Mexican cuisine to the community. The staff members are friendly and very knowledgeable about Mexican culture. They hired two staff and the rest are family members that help out with the restaurant. The restaurant serves classics such as tacos, enchiladas and stew. The Mary Y Tierra steak and Deep Fried Tilapia are dishes that cannot be missed when eating at Guacamole Mexican Grill. Don't forget to order desserts like their special tres leches or grab a drink to complete your meal.

The restaurant first opened three blocks away from its current location, but now has found its new home at 10671A King George Blvd in Surrey, BC. There is a newly renovated patio space with picnic benches and a swing that would be perfect for the summer weather. The restaurant is beautifully decorated with artwork and murals. It is a bright and spacious place to enjoy your meal. Celebrating birthdays at Guacamole Mexican Grill means you get a free dessert and have a chance to have your polaroid photo taken while wearing a sombrero to be displayed on the birthday wall. Every Friday to Sunday there will be live music and karaoke nights for people who just want to have their singing voices heard. Find out more information about this tasty restaurant on their website or follow any of their social media platforms.

Guacamole Grill

Written by Flora Xu



@guacmexgrill



<https://www.guacmexgrill.ca/>



When visiting restaurants, sometimes it only takes seconds to know that you're in for a treat.

Nahm Thai is without question one of those places. With incredible smells, spacious seating areas, and a steady stream of regular customers, you quickly know that you've made the right choice.

Centrally located in Downtown Surrey on the corner of Whalley Boulevard and 102 Ave, Nahm Thai treats patrons to authentic Thai cuisine from 11:00 am — 2:30 pm and 4:00 pm — 9:00 pm on weekdays, and from 11:30 am to 9:00 pm on Saturdays.

The bright interior is beautifully decorated with cultural artwork, headlined by a tranquil wall length mural. The dining area provides a range of seating options to best suit you and your group. A bar complete with sports on TV for a quick lunch, booths and tables for a more traditional group experience, and enough room to fit large lunch and dinner parties with custom table configurations (just please let them know in advance so they can prepare).

Service is fast, friendly, and incredibly helpful. The knowledgeable staff are great resources to ask for recommendations and fan favourite dishes — which are both especially helpful when everything on the menu at Nahm Thai sounds so good!

Of course, we can't forget to talk about the food itself. Nahm Thai's dishes are fresh and full of flavour. A wide range of curries, noodles, and fried rice give guests many options and the opportunity to try something new every time. Starting at \$15, the lunch specials come with rice, spring rolls, a salad, and enough food to be full and still fill a takeaway box.

If you love Thai food, or just want to try something new, you won't want to miss out on this fantastic hidden gem.



Nahm Thai

Written by Jiven Lal



Walking into Taste of Africa, the first thing that welcomes you is the delicious and warm smells of perfectly seasoned food cooking from the kitchen. With fresh ingredients and homecooked recipes that have stood the test of time, Taste of Africa is the perfect example of quality done right. For over ten years, the owners, Becky and her husband Isaac, have welcomed those who walk through their doors with fresh and authentic African cuisine in this small, elegant, family-owned restaurant.

The story of Taste of Africa began when the couple noticed that Surrey sorely lacked African cuisine in its restaurant scene. As someone who worked in hospital care for many years, Becky took her experience in cooking for hospitals to King George Boulevard, where they opened one of the first African restaurants in the city. Balancing the perfect fusion between Western and African influences, Surrey locals hailing from cultures all over the world come back time and time again for a taste of Africa.

Delivering food so good that people travel from cities across the lower mainland just to experience the authentic and delicious meals; despite the pandemic halting their dine-in services, they continue to serve the community fresh food that everyone can enjoy through their take-out services. Their most popular dishes are the perfectly spiced jollof rice with honey jerk chicken, delicious fufu served alongside a warm bowl of egushi soup, or authentic pounded yam and okra soup.

If you are ever searching for a local restaurant with well-made food packed with flavour and staff welcoming you to their lovely restaurant with open arms, look no further than 10663 King George Boulevard or a quick call to (604)-582-4803. Taste of Africa will be open Tuesdays to Saturdays from 11:00 am to 8:30pm and on Sunday from 1:00pm to 7pm.



Taste of Africa

Written by Kaylee Chan



Come on down to Taste of Punjab, a block away from King George Skytrain station, where they've been serving delicious North-Indian dishes for almost two decades.

They have a vast menu, assorted appetizers, mains, drinks, desserts, and Indian street food classics. Whether you're vegetarian or non-vegetarian you're sure to find something you'll love at Taste of Punjab. A few of their most popular items on the menu include Paneer Pakoras, Vegetable Samosas, Butter Chicken, and Chicken Tikka Masala. Taste of Punjab takes its menu a step forward by incorporating fusion food, creating traditional Indian dishes with inspiration from Chinese cuisine, creating dishes like Vegetable and Chicken Manchurian, as well as Honey Garlic Chicken. They have an array of refreshing drinks including mango lassi, or check out their fully stocked and licensed bar for various of alcoholic or non-alcoholic beverages.

Taste of Punjab has a comfortable, home-like setting. The walls of the restaurant depict cultural Punjabi artworks, representing the origin of the meals they serve and the dim lights of the restaurant create a calm atmosphere. Not only can you dine-in, take-out, or opt for no-contact delivery at Taste of Punjab, but they also offer catering for your next large event as well! Taste of Punjab is open from 11:00 am to 10:00 pm on weekdays and 12:00 pm to 10:00 pm on the weekends. Their menu is also available on DoorDash and SkiptheDishes for delivery options. Next time you're in the mood to try classic North Indian recipes with authentic flavour, make your way to Taste of Punjab!



Taste of Punjab

Written by Gracy Gandhi





**SURREY
FUSION
FESTIVAL**
FOOD • MUSIC • CULTURE

Fusion Fest

Written by Flora Xu

Surrey Fusion Festival is finally returning for its 15th year after a two-year break due to the pandemic. This is a 2-day community event filled with food, live entertainment, and many fun games and activities for all ages! It will be happening on July 23rd and 24th at Holland Park (13428 Old Yale Road). Surrey Fusion Festival is delighted to be able to work with community groups that will be representing different ethnicities and cultures from around the world, nationally and internationally.

There will be fantastic ethnic food from around the world located at the cultural pavilions. Fusion Festival is a perfect opportunity to try tasty, authentic food and learn more about other cultures at over 40 different pavilions. The cultural pavilions will showcase different countries from Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Europe, Oceania and South and North America. Surrey Fusion Festival's Indigenous Village has expanded this year. You can learn more about Indigenous cultures through education, workshops, cultural sharing, and contemporary performances.

Kids will have a blast experiencing fun, interactive performances, games workshops and crafts. The kid's zone will include kids world, kid's stage, Storyville, toddler town, family fun zone and a sports zone.

There is also a jam-packed list of live entertainment, that includes performances from Manila Grey, Shad, Sharry Mann, and many more. Six stages will keep the site lively at all times. In addition to food and live performances, there will be market vendors and community organizations' information booths. Don't miss out on many experiences such as global beer and wine tasting, cultural cooking arena, kid's zone, and live performances. This is a celebration of food, music, dance, and culture!

july

Community Calender

FOLLOW WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE COMMUNITY

Music on the Plaza | July 5 to Sep 6 6:30 - 8:00 pm | Civic Plaza (City Hall) - Every Tuesday

Plaza Days | July 7 to Sep 1 12:00 - 2:00 pm | Civic Plaza - family activities every Thursday

Babytime | Wednesdays 10:00 - 10:30 am | City Centre Branch - This program is for babies 0-1 and their caregiver. Join us for songs, stories, rhymes and bounces to help your baby develop speech and language skills. After a 30 minute storytime, there will be a social time for babies and their caregivers. 604.598.7427 or surreylibraries.ca

Family Storytime | Fridays 10:00 - 10:30 am | City Centre Branch - This program is for children of all ages and their caregivers. Join us for fun stories and songs for the whole family! Help imaginations grow and build a love of reading.

Mini Meat Draws and 50/50 Draws Every Saturday and Sunday tickets on sale at 3pm at Whalley Legion 10767 King George Blvd.

JULY 02 10AM - 3PM Surrey Urban Framers Market at Royal Kwantlen Park

Free entertainment! Shop local. 13035 104 Ave, Surrey

JULY 08 12 - 1:30PM Surrey Voices at Civic Plaza. Free.

JULY 08 FVDED in the Park at Holland Park. (Ticketed)

JULY 09 FVDED in the Park at Holland Park. (Ticketed)

JULY 09 10AM - 3PM Surrey Urban Framers Market at Royal Kwantlen Park

Free entertainment! Shop local. 13035 104 Ave, Surrey

JULY 09 10AM - 2PM Shredathon at Civic Plaza. Shred your papers by donation.

JULY 13 9AM - 5PM Music Marathon at Civic Plaza.

JULY 16 Surrey Latin Festival at Civic Plaza (behind City Hall)

JULY 16 10AM - 3PM Surrey Urban Framers Market at Royal Kwantlen Park

Free entertainment! Shop local. 13035 104 Ave, Surrey

JULY 17 11AM - 5PM. Surrey Latin Festival. Civic Plaza (city hall).

JULY 22 Community Conversation - Sugar and Sugar Cravings (virtual event)

JULY 22 Surrey Voices at Civic Plaza. 12-1:30pm. Free.

JULY 23 10AM - 3PM Surrey Urban Framers Market at Royal Kwantlen Park

Free entertainment! Shop local. 13035 104 Ave, Surrey

JULY 23 11AM - 10PM Fusion Fest at Holland Park

150 Cultural/Food pavilions, 5 stages of entertainment.

JULY 24 11AM - 10PM Fusion Fest at Holland Park

150 Cultural/Food pavilions, 5 stages of entertainment.

JULY 29 Surrey Voices at Civic Plaza. Free.

JULY 30 Festival of South Asian Culture at Holland Park

JULY 30 10AM - 3PM Surrey Urban Framers Market at Royal Kwantlen Park

Free entertainment! Shop local. 13035 104 Ave, Surrey

JULY 31 Jamaican Day at Holland Park



august

Community Calender

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AUG 06 10AM - 3PM Surrey Urban Framers Market at Royal Kwantlen Park

Free entertainment! Shop local. 13035 104 Ave, Surrey

AUG 06 Movies Under the Stars at Holland Park.

Fun & entertainment starts at 6pm, movie starts at dusk. Movie: Sing 2

AUG 10 9AM - 5PM Music Marathon at Civic Plaza

AUG 13 10AM - 3PM Surrey Urban Framers Market at Royal Kwantlen Park

Free entertainment! Shop local. 13035 104 Ave, Surrey

AUG 13 Movies Under the Stars at Holland Park.

Fun & entertainment starts at 6pm, movie starts at dusk. Movie: Encanto

AUG 13 11:30AM - 8PM Afro-Caribbean Festival at Civic Plaza

AUG 14 Pakistan Festival at Civic Plaza (behind City Hall)

AUG 20 10AM - 3PM Surrey Urban Framers Market at Royal Kwantlen Park

Free entertainment! Shop local. 13035 104 Ave, Surrey

AUG 20 Movies Under the Stars at Holland Park.

Fun & entertainment starts at 6pm, movie starts at dusk. Movie: Sonic

AUG 20 Battle of the Brews at Civic Plaza from 1-5pm. Beer and Music.

AUG 27 10AM - 3PM Surrey Urban Framers Market at Royal Kwantlen Park

Free entertainment! Shop local. 13035 104 Ave, Surrey



Surrey CIVIC Plaza 13450 104 Av Surrey. BC

Surrey Latin Festival

Written by Leanna Villar

Surrey Latin Festival strives to be recognised as the best event of the year in the city of Surrey. The festival aims to fulfill the highest number of inclusion to art to transform society, multiculturalism, and social fabric.

As the biggest Latin festival in British Columbia, Surrey Latin Festival recreates the atmosphere of a vibrant city plaza in Latin America. The arts showcased during this event include live musical artists, artisans, food trucks and more, as well as arts and crafts traditional from different countries.

Surrey Latin Festival creates the space of expression to achieve art therapy through social fabric, inclusion, and, cultural cohesion, generating multiculturalism, artistic expression, tourism, and employment resources.

Come and enjoy the best days of the summer at Surrey Latin Festival! It is a free event for the whole family. This year's event includes a tribute to Frida Kahlo, live music, Mexican and Latin food, activities for children, salsa classes, and much more.

The date of the event is Saturday July 16 and Sunday July 17.

Saturday 16 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM

Sunday 17 11:00 AM – 8:00 PM

The place of the event is at the Surrey Civic Plaza 13450 104 Ave Surrey. BC



Community Conversations

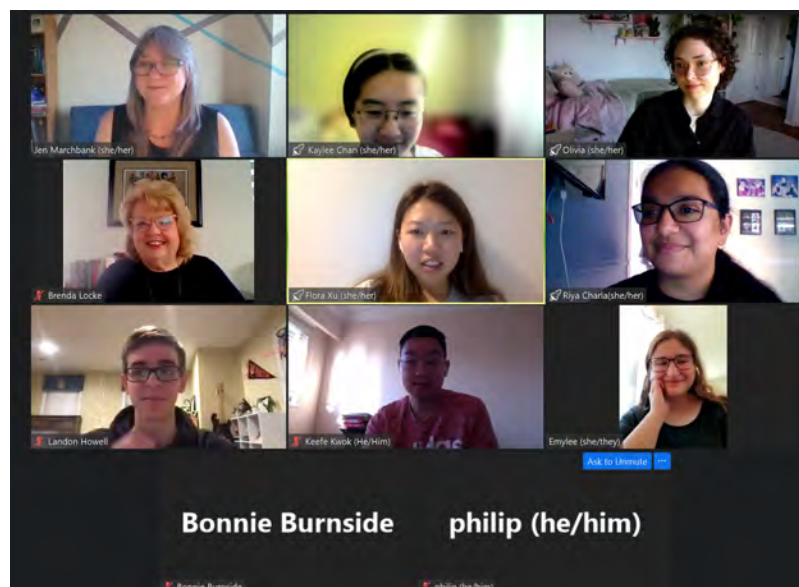
Written by Riya Charla

This summer, the Downtown Surrey Business Improvement Association presents Community Conversations, a series of events virtual conversations taking place throughout the summer. Community Conversations aims to bring the people together to engage in purposeful and meaningful conversation about the future of our community. The goal of this discussion is not to foster debate but to provide a space for interested citizens to respectfully build dialogue and listen to one another. This summer, community conversations will feature the following topics: supporting LGBTQ+ youth in Surrey, Surrey Redevelopment Updates, Sugar and Sugar Cravings, and Food Insecurity & Waste Management.

We had our first Community Conversations on June 16. This decision centred on supporting LGBTQ2SIA+ youth in Surrey, and featured guest speaker Jen Marchbank, Dr. Marchbank of Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies at the Simon Fraser University. During the event, Jen spoke about the barriers faced by LGBTQ2SIA+ youth and what can be done to support them better.

After a Q&A, the audience moved to breakout rooms to discuss ways to support LGBTQ2SIA+ youth and the obstacles one might face in trying to support them. We had several members from organizations such as Qmunity and Phoenix Society, as well as Councillor Brenda Locke, join us and show their support for LGBTQ+ youth in our community. Different worldviews, backgrounds and experiences contributed to the success of the event.

We have SFU Professor Diana Bedoya leading a discussion about sugar and sugar cravings on July 21, DSBIA CEO Elizabeth Model will speak about Surrey Redevelopment Updates on August 4, and SFU professor Tammara Soma will speak about Food Insecurity & Waste Management on August 11. Details and more information can be found on our social media pages. We look forward to hosting the speakers and community members at these events!



Community Conversations: How to support LGBTQ+ youth

Placemaking Plans for Summer

Written by Alexandra Wiens

Placemaking is a way to reimagine and reinvent public spaces so that community members see these spaces as the community's core. Examples of placemaking can include a wide variety that can include, but are not limited to, festivals, markets, and art installations. The BIA focuses on effectively using public spaces to develop or enhance linkages between people and helps the community further its sense of place while increasing public safety. Some of the activities planned for this summer work to draw more foot traffic to the area, which naturally reduces crime as it puts "more eyes on the street," a phrase coined by famous Jane Jacobs. These steps to placemaking into our cities ultimately improve the quality of life for those in the community. This summer, several events are in the process of being planned that will activate a variety of sites within the Downtown Surrey area.

Outdoor Workout Classes and Live Music at King George Hub

The DSBIA is collaborating with the management team at the King George Hub to create a few different activities for the plaza. The first is to offer free weekly outdoor Zumba Classes taught by local Zumba instructors. Stay tuned for more information.

The DSBIA will also bring live music from local musicians into the plaza. We want to create a space that people can enjoy while soaking up the sun (or shade). Stay tuned for an artist schedule coming soon!

Music Marathon

Music Marathon is back! This year we will be hosting it over two days! The first marathon day will be held on July 13 at Civic Plaza. Join us as local musicians perform from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm with a 1-hour Zumba (kid-friendly) break at 12:00 pm.

A second music marathon is scheduled for August 10th. Stay tuned for details!





Click on Surrey

Written by Cara Cheng

The Click on Surrey Team offers marketing services to small businesses in the Downtown Surrey area. Our services include social media marketing (Instagram, Facebook, TikTok), videography and photography services to produce professional quality photographs for advertising, graphic design for customizable ads and logos, and website design for a personalized webpage.

This summer, we plan to work with at least six businesses returning to the program and eight new businesses. After a month of visiting and emailing businesses in our area, we are now working with seven returning businesses and three new businesses. The returning businesses include Hot Pan Pizza, Mou Jam Beauty Salon, TochTech Technologies, Coal Prints, Surrey Digital Academy, StartUp Surrey, and Oxus Machine Works. The new businesses include Fresh Healthy Café in King George Hub, Baseline Clothing, and Angel Kisses in Central City shopping centre.

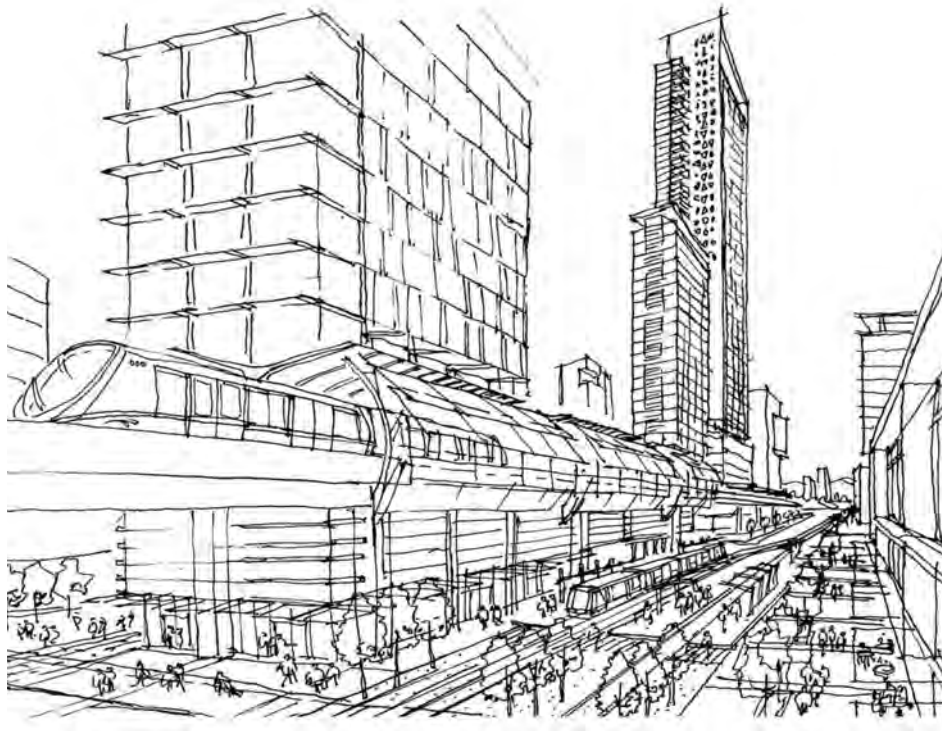
Mou Jam Beauty Salon, a Jamaican-owned hair salon, wants us to focus heavily on updating its online store as most of the product photos are missing. It took us five days to finish all the photoshoots. We also conducted stylist headshots for their website. In terms of graphic design, a new simple logo was made for all the online content. We also designed receptionists and barber hiring advertisements, which were planned to be promoted through social media, its storefront, and job posting sites. We are also working on creating an academy page for the launch of their upcoming online academy.

Other than Mou Jam Beauty Salon, our team conducted a food photoshoot for Hot Pan Pizza. We will be posting on social media three times per week to attract attention. The owner also expressed interest in online ordering through a website, but the logistics of this need to be further discussed. We also do weekly postings for TochTech Technology, a senior care technology company. Their products help to eliminate the risk and sense of disconnect for seniors, which can create a safer living environment for elders.

Alongside posting on social media, we regularly publish newsletters about the company's products using Zoho, a mass email campaign, to access a wider audience. More photoshoots will be scheduled for product-oriented businesses such as Fresh Healthy Café, which is newly opened, and Angel Kisses, which is a children's clothing store, currently missing a website. Our team will also continue exploring more new businesses that need our help so we can accomplish our goal of helping them accomplish theirs.

Storefront Project

Written by Alexandra Wiens



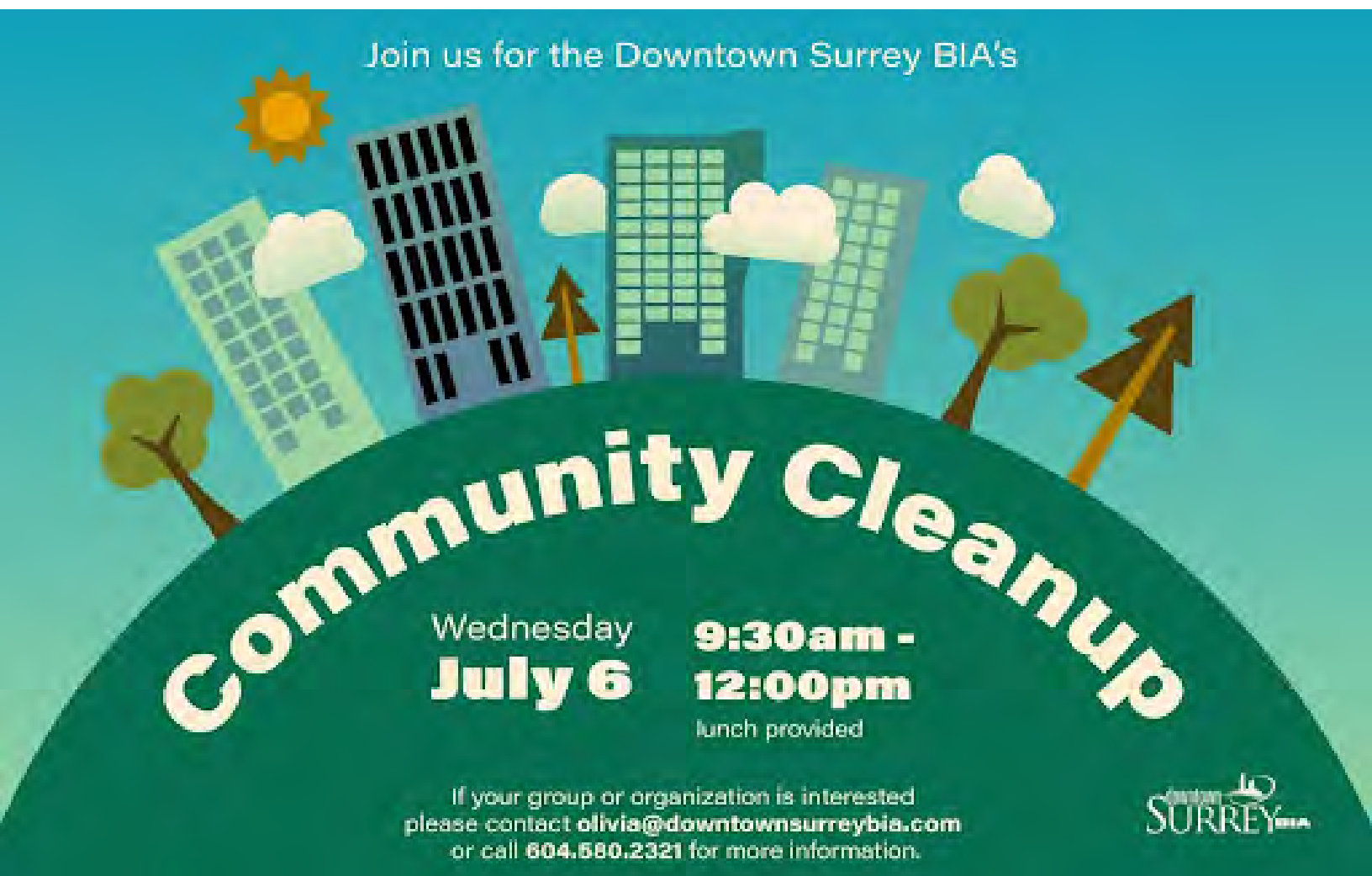
With development booming in the Downtown Surrey area, one way to establish and maintain vibrant communities is through the success of local businesses. Downtown Surrey is fortunate to have a wide variety of local, community member-run businesses that range from restaurants to retail stores to various health care services. The DSBIA works with businesses, commercial property owners, and developers to promote economic growth through marketing, beautification, safety, and advocacy initiatives. Small businesses are vital to the local economy as they create jobs, circulate money and tax dollars locally, build community identity, and diversify the local marketplace.

The DSBIA is initiating a project to work directly with businesses to refresh their storefronts to increase their business success while improving the surrounding area by adding lighting. The DSBIA interns will work directly with business owners to implement small changes such as updated signage, increased lighting, and an overall facelift to these storefronts. By refreshing storefronts, businesses can diversify their client base, increase the value of the building, promote the marketability of their business, and build civic pride. Creating spaces that are not only accessible to everyone but increase safety ultimately contributes to a vibrant pedestrian experience that reflects positively on the business. The business also benefits from making changes to the exterior of the building because these changes do not require the business to close during exterior renovations.

Depending on the renovations they choose to undergo, some business owners may also see an improvement in their utility bills. While renovations may be costly, there are many incentives and rebate programs through the City of Surrey, BC Hydro, the DSBIA, and provincial and Federal Government programs that make the cost of renovating more affordable.

Community Clean-up

Written by Olivia Steed



Magnets and Keychains

Written by Oliver Wyszomirski

The Downtown Surrey BIA is always looking for ways to help businesses in the area. In 2014, one of our summer interns came up with the idea to distribute keychains with RCMP contact numbers if the businesses and staff require help.

This year, the DSBIA will issue keychains again and will also be introducing a new magnet that will include phone numbers that businesses usually call the office to request: Bike Patrol, Graffiti Removal, Rig Dig Program (to remove discarded needles), Bylaws, Engineering, and the RCMP non-emergency line.

This information can be kept by each business' telephone so that staff members can report issues if problems arise.

Did you know

Written by Jonathan Ling

In May, the BIABC conference took place in Coquitlam's Executive Hotel. Over 60 BIABC members representing Business Improvement Associations from all across the province. The conference lasted for four days and BIA representatives from across BC attended presentations and workshops to better advocate for its members. Here are some of the workshops and presentations we attended to better serve and advocate for you in the Downtown Surrey Community.

Government Advocacy Strategies

Steve Vander Wal, Vice-President of Hill+Knowlton Strategies presented about how BIAs can advocate for change by looking at election cycles. According to Stephen, BIAs must create an effective plan before starting to advocate and meet with the government. To do this, an issue must be focused, the topic must be relevant, it should be clear, and the message should be targeted to a correct municipal level. Using these strategies will give us an advantage when meeting with government officials to advocate for you.

Taxation advocacy

The presentation discussed the issue of taxes assessed at the "Highest and Best Use" valuation and municipal tax burdens on businesses compared to residential properties. Instead of paying a tax based on your current property value, the province via BC Assessments is taxing businesses at their potential use. This means that a small business in a one-story building will pay taxes at a rate equal to a residential tower development if the building can be developed on that parcel of land. Second, businesses pay a large majority of total property taxes compared to the share of residential properties despite comprising of only 7% of total properties in the City of Vancouver. To solve these problems, the presenter believes that the burden of taxes should shift from commercial to residential and classify the development potential of a parcel of land differently to ease the tax burden on businesses. To advocate, BIAs should spread awareness of this issue through the media and meet with government officials to advocate for solutions.

After attending the BIABC conference, we have learned effective methods of advocacy to better serve you.



Safety dispose of any confidential documents at the DSBIA Shred-a-thon event. Each person that brings any documents to the Shred-a-thon will be entered into a raffle for a prize! Shred your papers by donation to Surrey Food Bank.

SHRED-A-THON

July 9 2022 10am-2pm

civic plaza (city hall)
-13450 104 Ave