

2020 BCMA AWARDS

The BC Museums Association announced its [Awards for Outstanding Achievement](#) on Thursday, October 8, during its [49th annual Awards Showcase](#). These awards recognize institutions and individuals who exemplify excellence in the province's museum, gallery, and heritage community.

Please join us in congratulating this year's nominees and recipients and in thanking the BCMA Awards Working Group, especially Chair Tammy Bradford!

THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

This award recognizes an individual who has made a unique and outstanding contribution on a regional, provincial, or national basis to the museum, gallery, archives, or heritage field over an extended period of time.

*Photo credit:
Barbara Bell.*

*Photo credit:
Julie Fowler.*

Barbara Bell

Head Archivist

The Greater Vernon Museum and Archives, Vernon, B.C.

I have very much enjoyed, and am still enjoying, my work at the Greater Vernon Museum and Archives, from Education Co-ordinator to Archivist, over time. I was surprised and really honoured with the recent nomination and awarding of the BCMA Distinguished Service Award. I feel that I have been most fortunate to have the opportunity of working in the museum world. It is such interesting, creative, varied and rewarding work, and I have been fortunate as well in working with the museum family that I have been a part of over the years.



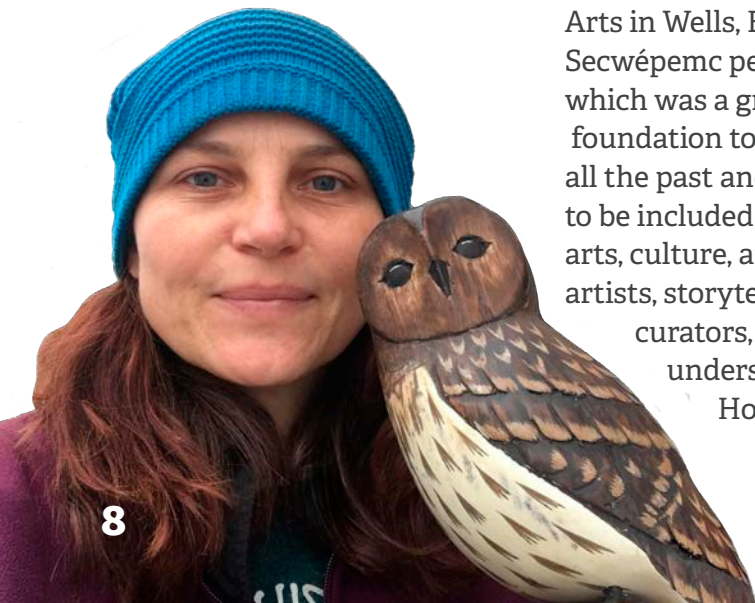
Julie Fowler

Executive and Artistic Director

Island Mountain Arts, Wells, B.C.

What a huge honour to receive a Distinguished Service Award from the BCMA for my 17 years of service running Island Mountain Arts in Wells, B.C. on the shared ancestral lands of the Dakelh and Secwépemc peoples. From 2008-2012, I served on the BCMA Council, which was a great learning experience for me and helped build a foundation to move forward and lead strongly. Congratulations to all the past and present recipients of this award; it is truly an honour to be included! I also express my gratitude to all the people in the arts, culture, and heritage sector who work tirelessly to support our artists, storytellers, historians, scientists, thinkers, doers, sages, and curators, helping us to navigate, celebrate, and better understand the complex and beautiful world around us.

Hoot Hoot!





EXCELLENCE IN COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

This award recognizes a recent outstanding success in community engagement, as demonstrated by ongoing participation of new audiences, new partnerships with community organizations, and supporting needs of the community through innovative programming. Programming may be exhibit-based, school-oriented, stand-alone, or focused on volunteer engagement; it may be delivered on-site, off-site, or both.

Photo credits:
Museum of Surrey.

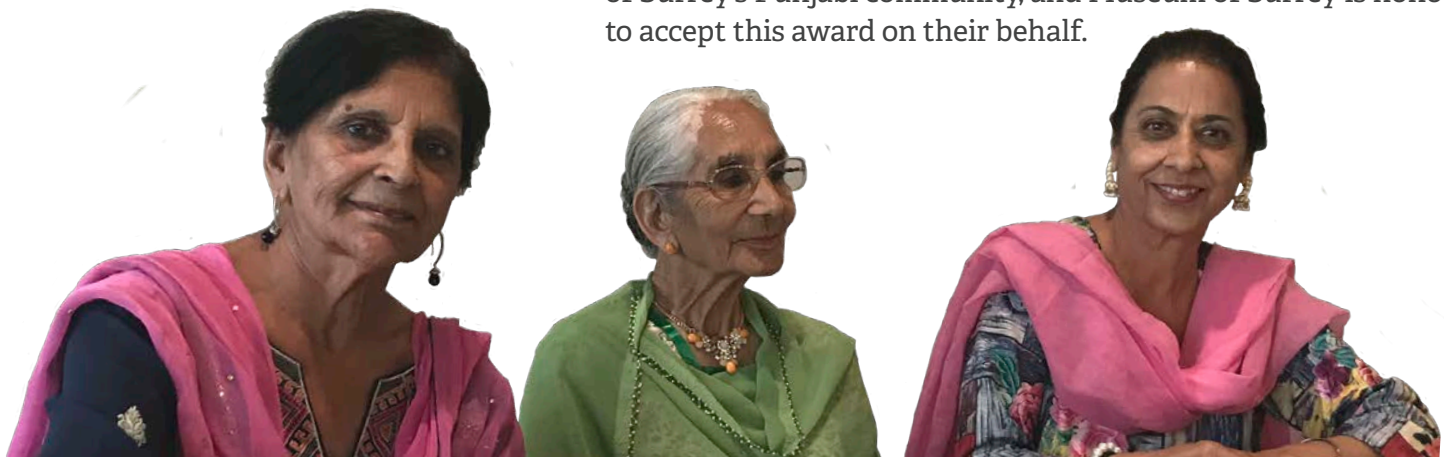
Museum of Surrey [↗](#)

Being Punjabi: Unfolding the Surrey Story **Surrey, B.C.**

Museum of Surrey was delighted to receive the BCMA Excellence in Community Engagement Award at the 2020 BCMA Virtual Conference. *Being Punjabi: Unfolding the Surrey Story*, is more than an exhibition – it is the beginning of deep engagement with Surrey’s diverse and innovative Punjabi community.

With the formation of the Punjabi Advisory Committee, which includes Balbir Gurm, Ranbir Johal, Raj Lally, Moninder Lalli, Steven Purewal, and Sharanjit Kaur Sandhra, plus other key contributors and sponsors, the exhibition theme, content, and design were all provided by Punjabi community members. This project, lasting three years, included conversations with hundreds of Punjabis, including six public engagement events throughout Surrey, and has resulted in special events, artist talks, additions to the collection, and education programs.

Although this engagement began with a community-based exhibition, this is only a first step in a process to integrate the identities and stories into Museum of Surrey galleries and programs. This award is testament of the hard work, creativity, and dedication of Surrey’s Punjabi community, and Museum of Surrey is honoured to accept this award on their behalf.



EXCELLENCE IN EXHIBITIONS

This award recognizes a recent outstanding, innovative, and/or creative achievement in any and all aspects of exhibition development and design, including content and curatorial choices; presentation, organization, and format; interpretation (including exhibit-based signage, publications, live interpretation/performance, web-based interpretation); and community relevance; etc. Exhibitions may be permanent or temporary, on-site, off-site, or online.

Photo credit:
Rose M. Spahan.



Two Rivers Gallery and Independent Indigenous Curator Rose M. Spahan

Redress: Sacred Obligation - Indigenous Voices on Reconciliation, Prince George, B.C.

Redress: Sacred Obligation - Indigenous Voices on Reconciliation was inspired after hearing a talk by Senator Murray Sinclair, Chief Commissioner of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. He asserted that “Canada’s story telling has not been inclusive” and challenged the museum community to address Reconciliation. The result was a collaboration with independent Indigenous curator Rose Spahan and this extraordinary collection of work by 22 Indigenous artists.

Artwork by Mike Alexander (Anishinaabe); Kristy Auger (nêhiyaw [Plains Cree]); Crystal Behn-Dettieh (Dene/Carrier); Margaret Briere (Coast Salish); Liz Carter (Kwakwaka’wakw); Lee Claremont (Mohawk, Six Nations); Joane Cardinal-Schubert (Blackfoot, Kainai); Waabi Makooohns, James Darin Corbiere (Anishinaabe); Emily Dundas Oke (Cree/Métis/Scottish); TEMOSEN, Charles Elliot (T’sartlip); Karen Erickson (Métis/Cree); Pat Gauthier (Secwépemc [Shuswap]); Monique Hurteau (Muskowekwan/Cree/Ojibway/Métis); Carla Joseph (Métis/Cree); Keith Kerrigan (Haida); lessLIE (Coast Salish); Lou-ann Neel (Kwakwaka’wakw); Carey Newman (Kwakwaka’wakw/Coast Salish/English/Irish/Scottish); Jennifer Annais Pighin (Lheidli T’enneh/Wet’suwet’en/French Canadian/Italian); Lenard Paquette (Cree/Métis); Patricia June Vickers (Ts’msyen); and Lawrence Paul Yuxweluptun (Coast Salish/Okanagan) embodied recollections, assertions of strength, defiance, and empowerment. The artists offered powerful windows onto our history. Encountering these experiences, visitors responded with a broad range of emotions. At the crux of many responses was a recognition of how important it was for these experiences to be shared and heard so that we might take a step towards understanding a shameful part of Canada’s past, and most importantly, towards healing.

Members of the Lheidli T’enneh First Nation smudged the gallery at the beginning of the exhibition and throughout its run. Community members offered counselling to those who needed it. Local Indigenous performers participated in the opening event, while others offered guidance and support at different stages during the exhibition’s development. We are grateful to the artists who opened their hearts to the sharing of their stories and experiences and to those who visited the gallery with open hearts and a readiness to truly hear them, to learn, and to take a step towards positive change.



Lheidli T'enneh drums group performing at Redress opening, 2019.
Photo credit: Two Rivers Gallery.



Redress opening visitors drumming and singing, 2019.
Photo credit: Two Rivers Gallery.



Photo credits: Louis Bockner.

HONOURABLE MENTION FOR IMPACT AND ENGAGEMENT

This honourable mention recognizes exhibits, programming, and other projects that foreground relevance, engagement, and collaboration with community and stakeholders.



Touchstones Nelson: Museum of Art and History [↗](#)

A Mountain Biking Retrospective: 25 Years of Tales, Trails and Bails, Nelson, B.C.

A Mountain Biking Retrospective was envisioned, researched, and developed by the mountain bike community of Nelson and area, and curated by Astrid Heyerdahl, Executive Director of Touchstones Nelson: Museum of Art and History. It was a phenomenal show, which brought together mountain bikers of all generations, and showcased the history and living cultural significance of the sport. Touchstones was thrilled to receive the award from the BCMA for this exhibition, and we would like to pass on the praise and the thanks to the people who brought this project to life.

Thank you to: Darren Davidson, Deb MacKillop, Nelson Cycling Club, Mark Holt, Pink Bike, Derek Westerlund, Freeride Entertainment, Bryan Ralph, Mike Seniuk, NRG Enterprises, John Gibson, Robbie Bourdon, Denis Bourdon, Ross McNamara, Gericks Cycle and Ski, Christian Begin, Mark Crowe, Fred Rosenberg, Frank Baranyai, Ian Hylands, Doug Le Page, Travis Hauck, Darcy Hennessey Turenne, Speedpro Signs, Hall Printing.

We would also like to thank our exhibition sponsors: Columbia Basin Trust, Heritage BC, Nelson & District Credit Union, Kootenay Mountain Culture Magazine, and the BC Arts Council.