

BC FIELD TRIPS

Connecting Museum Educators with Teachers

Inspired to support stronger connections between museums and schools, **BC Field Trips** has been bringing together museum educators and classroom teachers since 2003. In 2017 they hosted the 15th annual *Field Trip Fair for Teachers* with over 500 teachers joining 65 museums and community-based organizations to talk about learning in the community.

Project organizers saw a need in the community – to make it easier for museum educators to connect with classroom teachers – and made it happen. They do this in three main ways: hosting an annual fair, managing a website and giving away money to support field trips. The annual fair is usually attended by 400 to 500 practicing and pre-service teachers and up to 65 community organizations such as museums, science centres and parks. Held in different locations around the Lower Mainland each year, the fair also profiles

new or underappreciated field trip destinations.

The website, bcfieldtrips.ca, provides a portal for teachers to discover new opportunities for learning in museums. The site's search features enable teachers to find new experiences based on criteria such as curriculum, grade level and location. Their website lists over 100 organizations and is particularly valuable to smaller organizations with limited marketing support.

BC Field Trips strongly believes that field trips provide unique and significant learning and they invest substantial resources to support this. They give away cash field trip bursaries to teachers, both at the fair and throughout the school year, with approximately \$35,000 being distributed since 2006. In addition to the cash bursaries the annual fair provides free field trips for approximately 1,300 students and their

teachers, with approximately 20,000 students benefiting from this over the past 15 years.

BC Field Trips builds bridges between communities of educators and inspires educators to take learning on the road.

As a group of volunteers, they feel privileged to build bridges between these communities of educators and to inspire educators to take learning on the road. Although much of their work is focused in the Lower Mainland, their reach is provincial, with organizations from across the province listed on the website and teachers from the Lower Mainland, Vancouver Island and the North participating in field trip bursaries.





Project Organizers:

Lisa McIntosh has more than 25 years experience working in museums. When not working with the BC Field Trips gang she is Director of Learning at the HR MacMillan Space Centre and teaches in UBC's Master of Museum Education program.

Jamie Purves is a science outreach educator at the HR MacMillan Space Centre. He enjoys seeing the excitement and enthusiasm for the high tech toys he brings into schools and communities across BC. He has worked in the museum education field for almost 20 years.

Emily Ooi is the Educational Programs Coordinator of the Richmond Museum, with the City of Richmond. She has worked in museum education for nearly 10 years and is also Chair of the Lower Mainland Museum Educators.

Krista Tulloch and her elementary students with complex learning profiles were the impetus for 'taking learning on the road'; the community was their classroom and BC Field Trips their legacy. After over 20 years in the elementary classroom, Krista is now sharing her love of learning with Education Assistants in training.

Photo: BC Field Trips organisers Jamie Purves and Emily Ooi at the 8th Annual Field Trip Fair hosted by the Nikkei National Museum & Cultural Centre in 2010. Photo credit: BC Field Trips

Photo page 6: The 6th Annual Field Trip Fair hosted by Grouse Mountain in 2008. Photo credit: BC Field Trips