Libraries as Cultural Centres:
Connecting with Communities through the Arts

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“A LIBRARY IN THE MIDDLE OF A COMMUNITY IS A CROSS BETWEEN AN EMERGENCY EXIT, A LIFE RAFT, AND A FESTIVAL. THEY ARE CATHEDRALS OF THE MIND; HOSPITALS OF THE SOUL; THEME PARKS OF THE IMAGINATION.”

CAITLIN MORAN
Cultural Centres

Fredericton’s diverse community cultural centres give residents and visitors many ways to experience and enjoy the unique culture of the city.

Public Libraries

More than books, Fredericton’s libraries offer a variety of family activities, including story time, Babes’n Books, book clubs, lectures, and noon hour talks.

The City of Fredericton offers three public library branches:

- Fredericton Public Library
- Nashwaaksis Public Library
- Bibliothèque Dre-Marguerite-Michaud

For more information, visit the New Brunswick Public Libraries website.

Sandra Singh Named Vancouver’s New GM of Arts, Culture and Community Services

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Sandra Singh has been named the City of Vancouver’s new general manager of arts, culture, and community services, the City announced in a release December 18. She takes up the role from Kathleen Llewellyn-Thomas, who is moving to Ontario. Under Singh, the department, previously called “Community Services,” will be expanded to include arts and culture.

Singh is currently the Vancouver Public Library’s chief librarian, a role she will resign when she assumes her new position with the City in April. She also sits on the Canada Council for the Arts’s Public Lending Right Commission and chairs the federal government’s National Heritage Digitization Strategy.
Lisa Anne Ross

Solo Chicken Productions
A TRUE COMMUNITY PROJECT, EACH MOMENT ON THE WALKING TIMELINE WAS INTERROGATED, EXPLORED AND CELEBRATED BY A DIFFERENT GROUP/ARTIST THROUGH THEIR OWN MEDIUM, BE IT MUSIC, FILM, DANCE, THEATRE, VISUAL ART, PERFORMANCE ART OR POETRY.

SOLO CHICKEN PRODUCTIONS, LISA ANNE ROSS, PLAYWRIGHT RYAN GRIFFITH AND WOLASTOQIYIK ARTIST NATALIE SAPPIER, ACTING AS THE KEY ARTISTIC TEAM, WORKED COLLABORATIVELY IDENTIFYING KEY MOMENTS IN TIME THAT WERE EXPRESSED THROUGH THE ARTS;

THE STORIES OF THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLE OF THIS TERRITORY, ENGLISH, FRENCH AND NEW BRUNSWICK’S RICH CULTURE OF PEOPLE.

THE BRIDGE PROJECT IS NOT JUST A CELEBRATION AND RECOUNTING OF HISTORICAL FACTS, BUT AN EXPLORATION AND INTERROGATION OF THAT PAST FROM MULTIPLE AND DIVERSE PERSPECTIVES.

A WALK MEANT TO HELP US SEE WHERE WE HAVE COME FROM AND WHERE WE CAN GO.
Welcome! Welcome to Canada, your new home! Machaba!
Nancy Morin

Occupational Therapist/Ergothérapeute
Adult Services/Services pour adultes
Addictions and Mental Health Services Fredericton Area/Traitement des dépendances et santé mentale de la région de Fredericton
Chantale Bellemare

City Librarian at the Moncton Public Library
Natalie Sappier

Executive Director, Mawi’art: Wabanaki Artist Collective | NB College of Craft & Design.

Wolastoqiyik Indigenous multidisciplinary artist from Tobique First Nation.
Marc Bragdon

Liaison Librarian for the University of New Brunswick Faculty of Education, the Mi'kmaq-Wolastoqey Centre, the Department of Culture and Media Studies (Faculty of Arts), and online learning programmes | UNB Libraries
Do you see Libraries as institutions that are able to help local citizens engage in their communities?
The Social Impact of the Arts Project at the University of Pennsylvania has found that there are many positive outcomes as a result of cultural programming in local communities studied, such as test scores going up, crime and obesity going down. What are some success stories that you have heard?
What role do events within the library and archives world (GLAM), and in Canada (TRC, Asian Heritage Month, for ex.), play in terms of cultural programming decisions?
Do you agree that partnerships among a museum, a library, an organization, and a community can facilitate creative expression to foster community engagement? How?
What are some things that you have learned from working with each other?
What other forms of cultural expression do you see taking place in libraries? Think outside the box.
Questions?