

# COMMUNITY *News*

SPRING 2022



“These recently installed Public Art are works from local and national artists that interpret and reflect the public space in relationship through its history and the communities of Saskatoon.”

– New Public Art Pieces, p. 4-5



## Saskatchewan Lotteries Community Grant Funds Youth Empowerment Program

The Saskatoon Open Door Society (SODS) received a \$5,000 Saskatchewan Lotteries Community Grant to support their 2021-2022 Youth Empowerment Workshops. These workshops take place after school, helping build practical and artistic skills in newcomer youth along with support as they integrate into a new community.

In October 2021, SODS partnered with Right to Skate to offer a series of skateboarding workshops as part of this program. Four groups of youth met at Optimist Park throughout the month before moving into the gym at Cosmo Civic Centre during November and December. Right to Skate secured sponsorships to provide participants their own skateboards to take home.

The skateboarding workshops were so popular they were continued into the New Year. Over 65 youth participated in the program.

Youth program facilitator Dana Durell reports: *"Many of the students are refugees from Afghanistan, and the skate night is a very welcome social activity for them to get to see each other outside of school while working on a new skill. Some students*

*are starting from scratch while others have had experience working with other skateboard-based organizations like Skateistan, which teaches children how to skateboard in Afghanistan with a priority given to making sure half of their students are girls. It is encouraging to be able to report that over half of the students in our skateboarding program are newcomer girls as well. I feel confident saying that the skateboarding program is possibly one of the most well received programs we have run in my time at SODS. Parents have told me that their children are eager to skateboard with us, and it is a great experience to watch their skill level improve each week. Right to Skate has received support to build some portable obstacles so youth can improve their skills, and it is our hope that we can continue this program in the summer using one of Saskatoon's outdoor skate parks and improve their skills even more."*

– Kathy Allen, Arts & Grants Consultant



## Smudge On

Smudge On provides a free opportunity for people in the community to experience Indigenous culture in a welcoming, safe environment. Smudge On is available every Saturday from 1-5 p.m. and takes place near an open fire in an outdoor setting, currently located at 22nd Street and Avenue K South.

Smudge On is operated through the Pleasant Hill Community Association (PHCA) and was established to create cultural opportunities for community members who have been deprived of their culture through the '60 scoop' era, along with youth aging out of the child welfare system.

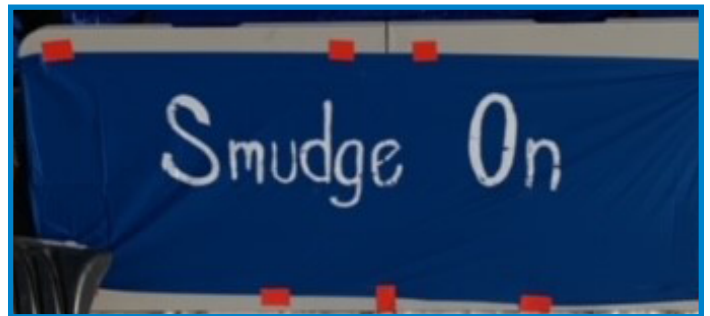
David Fineday, a First Nation and board member of the PHCA provides this excellent opportunity to align with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, Call to Action #14:

*We call upon the federal government to enact an Aboriginal Languages Act that incorporates the following principles:*

*v. The preservation, revitalization, and strengthening of Aboriginal languages and cultures are best managed by Aboriginal people and communities.*

When accessible, food is given to participants at the end of Smudge On as a token of gratitude and appreciation.

– Alicia Worm, Community Consultant



## Connect • Be Active • Volunteer • Learn COMMUNITY ASSOCIATIONS



 City of  
Saskatoon



## New Public Art Pieces

These recently installed Public Art pieces are works from local and national artists that interpret and reflect the public space in relationship through its history and the communities of Saskatoon. The work was inspired by local stories. The colourful art is playful but also creates a sense of nostalgia where all citizens can relate and connect.

### Resurgence

Artists: Ruth Cuthand & Henry Lau (painted by Steven Paul)

Location: Ave B South and 20th Street

Permanent Public Art Collection



Resurgence

*"They starved us into submission – opening the West resulted in the killing of the Buffalo and Indigenous people being held on reserves. Buffalo bones were piled in this area for shipment to England to be ground up and put into bone china teacups."*

The location of the buffalo cow and calf sculpture represents the role Saskatoon played in the sad demise of the buffalo. Settlers wanted to open the west but there were buffalo and Indigenous people populating the land. If the buffalo were slaughtered it was easier to move the starving Indigenous people onto reserves. Saskatoon was a railroad depot for shipping out the bones and skins of the buffalo. The skeleton

cut out of the buffalo represent the elimination of Buffalo from the prairies. There was a market for the bones and skins of the buffalo as England needed sturdy leather to run the equipment that fueled the industrial revolution, and the strong buffalo hides were well suited for the purpose. The red colour of the buffalo cow represents the violent slaughter of the buffalo. The bright yellow colour on the buffalo calf represents new hope and the regeneration of new life. The plants painted on the base of the sculpture represent the richness of the land and rivers, which we must conserve for future generations. The ever-changing shadows of the sculpture represent the past, present and future. The intimate gesture of the buffalo cow and the calf represent the relationship between the Indigenous people and buffalo. The bright colours of the sculpture represent hope and optimism between the Indigenous nations and Canada in the future.

### Carousel

Artist: Karen Ho Fatt Lee

Location: 10th Street East and Broadway Avenue

Placemaker Temporary Public Art Program



Carousel

*"Carousel-type horses depict the people who frequent and carouse Broadway – youthful, playful, colourful and vibrant. The horses with birds metaphorically symbolize the free*

*Continued on page 5*

*spiritedness of the people. They also reference the history of the street where teams of two or more horses could do u-turns on the street. Carousal is a play on words, a merry-go-round of fun and boisterous merrymaking."*

The inspiration for this sculpture is derived from the history of the name of the street. Broadway Avenue was so named because of its width as teams of more than two horses could do u-turns without having to go around the block. Broadway as described by merchants is youthful, abstract, fun, colourful, vibrant, a place where people young and old, individuals, couples and families carouse, eating, drinking, socializing at establishments and at street fairs. The horse is used as the source imagery as it metaphorically symbolizes the free spirit, travel and journeys. The people who frequent Broadway are indeed street travelers of sorts and are indeed "youthful, abstract, fun, colourful, vibrant." To capture these ideas visually, I have used a depiction of a carousel type horse; a nostalgic image for all ages.

### **Make a Wish**

**Artist:** Kyle Thornley

**Location:** 23rd Street and 2nd Avenue

*Permanent Public Art*

*"Make a Wish is an invitation to consider our stories, our learnings past, present and future and our inspirations for renewal and possibility."*

Make a Wish captures the essence of resilience, growth and optimism expressed through a mature dandelion stalk and seeds, held by vibrant, colourful fingers. Some of the feathery seeds have blown off the stalk, dispersing in a whimsical pattern through the air. The rich history of both the Downtown and Riversdale neighbourhoods has included many waves of challenge and evolution, unfortunately even this current pandemic. A clear constant throughout this history as well as the current significant growth especially in the young, Indigenous, and immigrant populations, is the strong human spirit, the core of which is captured by the steady hand of the sculpture, compelling in its symbolism of both tenacity and vision. The hand is also suggestive of human connection, such a key ingredient for the creation of 'neighbourhood' and the sense of belonging and inclusion. The multi-coloured plates of metal on the hand bring a vitality and joy to the piece and celebrate the diversity of the community. This sculpture richly communicates the Saskatoon public art goals to enhance public space, engage citizens, and build on and celebrate the city's character and



history. Finally, in the spirit of respect and reconciliation, this project, and my process as a settler, acknowledges the Treaty Six First Nations and the Métis as the traditional guardians of the land and asserts my commitment and honour to protect and preserve the land and all living things.

*- Alejandro Romero, Arts & Culture Consultant*



**To learn more about the City's Public Art programs and to browse the collection, visit [saskatoon.ca/publicart](https://saskatoon.ca/publicart).**

## Welcome New Staff



### Lindsay Cockrum

My name is Lindsay Cockrum. I grew up in a small town in southwest Saskatchewan where I kept busy participating in many recreation and programming activities. Upon graduating high school, I continued my schooling at the University of Alberta and later transferred to the University of Regina where I completed my Bachelor of

Kinesiology degree. Through my time in Regina, I worked at the Saskatchewan Science Centre (SSC) where I developed my love of programming and program delivery. I delivered daily programs and youth camps at the SSC, and had the opportunity to travel throughout the province during the summer delivering a travelling program to a variety of communities. I later worked as the Summer Program Director at the T-Rex Discovery Centre where I developed and delivered summer camps for youth.

My husband and I moved to Saskatoon in 2008, at which time I began working for the City at the various Leisure Centres. For the last six years I have worked in the Open Space Programming and Development section where I oversaw the park programming portfolio including outdoor special events, sport fields, and other city-wide park programming.

Throughout the years I have also enjoyed volunteering as a coach, assisting and leading many children's programs and volunteering with special events.

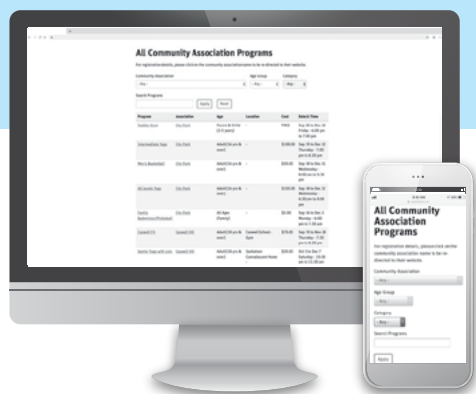
As a Community Consultant I look forward to working with the Area 2 Community Associations including Holiday Park, Fairhaven, Meadowgreen Community & Recreation group, Montgomery Place and Parkridge.

### Patrick Thunderchild

The City of Saskatoon has hired a new Indigenous Inclusion Consultant. Patrick Thunderchild is a Nehiyaw Anishinaabe (Cree/Ojibwe) from Treaty 6 territory and was raised in Saskatoon. He has lived across Canada and has returned home to Saskatoon to raise his two children. Patrick has spent his career working with Indigenous communities and non-profit organizations in policy development and engagement and inclusion initiatives. With his knowledge and experience, Patrick hopes to continue with the City of Saskatoon's continued support of its' Indigenous community.

### Kathleen Stone

Kathleen Stone (also known as Kat) is the new Indigenous Recreation Technician. Kathleen is from Red Pheasant Cree Nation and is mother to two beautiful children. She's lived in the Saskatoon for over 10 years. Kat enjoys travelling and attending traditional pow wows throughout the summer, and is a big hockey fan during the winter. She's excited to be a part of a new team and being able to offer amazing programs throughout the city.



## New! Search Online for Community Association Programs Across Saskatoon

Check out the City of Saskatoon's new search tool at [saskatoon.ca/communityassociations](https://saskatoon.ca/communityassociations) to find the best neighbourhood programs for your interests, age and location.





## Greystone Community Association Hosts 'Trunk or Treat'

On October 31st, Greystone Community Association (GCA) held their second annual 'Trunk or Treat' in the 8th Street Co-op Home Centre parking lot. The event hosted 98 costumed children. While spooky tunes filled the air, children collected candy, popcorn from the Co-op and books from READ Saskatoon. The Transformers from BN Steel & Metals Inc. made an appearance and many families took advantage of the great photo opportunity! Participants expressed gratitude for a safe and fun way to celebrate Halloween together.

Families were encouraged to bring donations for the Saskatoon Food Bank and Learning Centre and 144 pounds of food was collected as well as \$20 in cash donations.

Many thanks to: Shari Richard from the Co-op for the use of the parking lot and donation of 100 bags of popcorn; Joe and Mark Riffel from BN Steel for bringing the Transformers; Garry Koop for coordinating the Food Bank donations; the many neighbours who generously donated candy; and to Community Association Board Members — Tracy, Trevor, Jessica and Lori in Saskatoon, and Sam in Houston!

— Lori Weiler-Thiessen, Greystone Heights Community Association



# Inclusion Starts by Knowing Yourself

On November 30, 25 volunteers participated in the training session “Inclusion Starts by Knowing Yourself.” The session was facilitated by Jeny Mathews-Thusoo, Program Lead, Inclusive Futures, with the City of Calgary.

The group was made aware of unconscious biases in this interactive workshop filled with anecdotes, activities and discussion. The groups discussed how these biases can be recognized to help create environments that are more inclusive and welcoming to people of underrepresented groups. This session was the second instalment of the “Become a Community Champion” series. Upcoming sessions in this series will provide more resources for volunteers to continue fostering a welcoming environment.

This session was not recorded. To obtain a copy of the PowerPoint presentation contact [heidi.estrada@saskatoon.ca](mailto:heidi.estrada@saskatoon.ca).

With the transition to more in-person interactions, the Neighbourhood Services Section plans to provide more training opportunities. Watch for these opportunities in the fall!

– Heidi Estrada, Community Consultant



**For more information on upcoming training, or if you have ideas for possible training opportunities, please contact your Community Consultant.**

# Community Association Awareness Campaign

In 2021, the City’s Neighbourhood Services Section teamed up with the Communications Division to develop an awareness campaign for Community Associations.

As we begin to move out of the pandemic, members of the community will be eager to reconnect with their neighbours and become involved in their community. The intent of this campaign was to bring awareness to Community Associations: who they are, what do they do and where to find more information. The campaign included transit bus shelter, radio and social media ads along with an article in the Saskatoon StarPhoenix. These ads helped people understand that Community Associations consist of groups of dedicated volunteers providing services, programs and events to the people in their communities. People were directed to the City’s website at [saskatoon.ca/communityassociations](https://saskatoon.ca/communityassociations) for information about outdoor rinks, recreation programming and special events offered. The website also directed residents to their Community Association to learn more.

**What’s Next?** As Community Associations begin to offer more programs and special events, this awareness campaign will continue to help residents become engaged in their community by registering in programs, attending events and even volunteering to help or join their Community Association board.



## What can Community Associations do to help?

- Ask new volunteers how they found out about the Community Association.
- Include a spot on their program registration form asking how people found out about the program.
- When hosting events, ensure it is clear that the event is provided by the Community Association.
- Include information about how to volunteer and become involved with the Community Association in newsletters.
- Engage with the City of Saskatoon social media channels and share information, especially the ones featuring Community Associations.

– Heidi Estrada, Community Consultant



# Who's Who in Community Development

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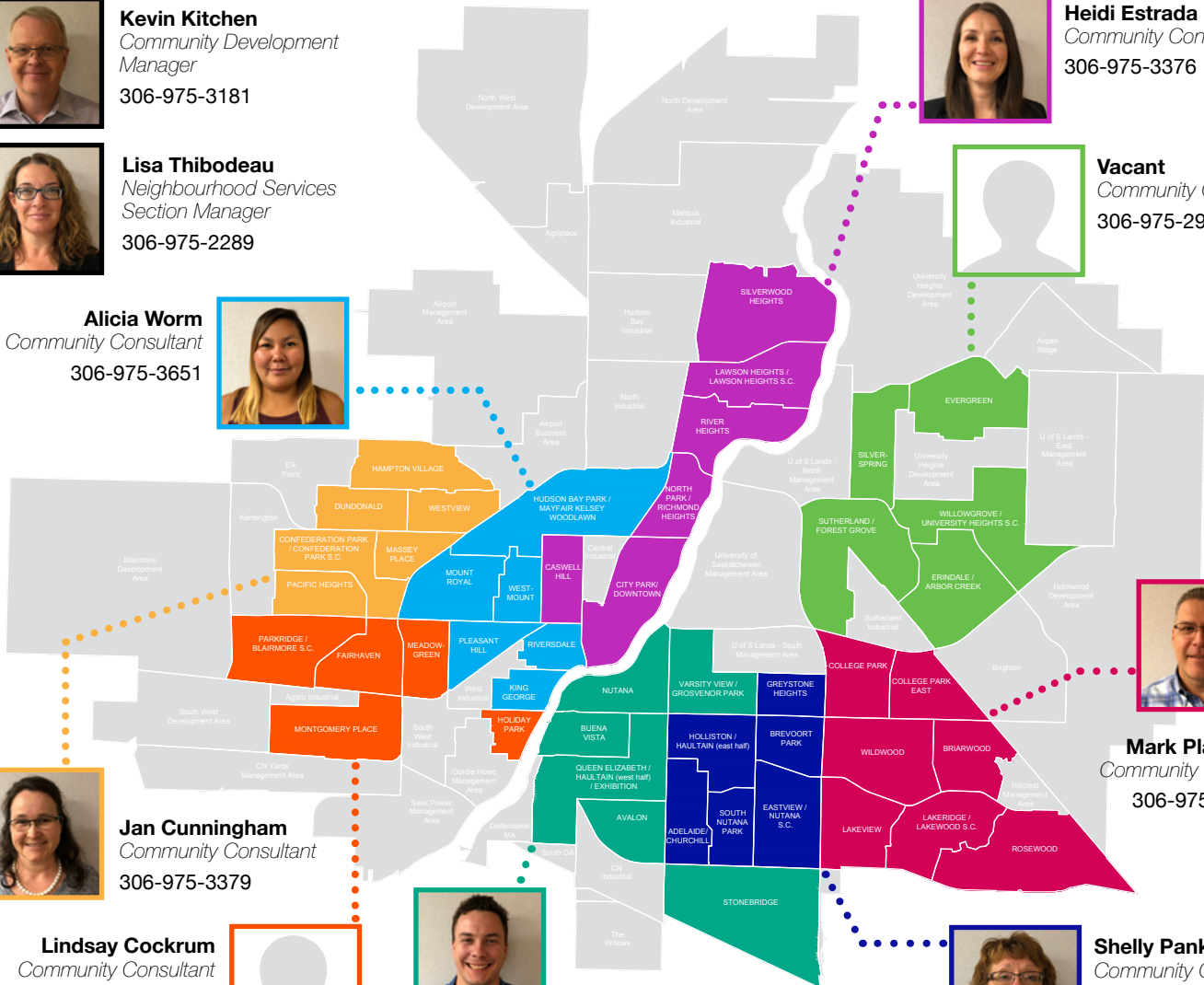
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