

From: "Johnston, Sadhu" <Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>

To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"

CC: "City Manager's Correspondence Group - DL"
"Singh, Sandra" <Sandra.Singh@vancouver.ca>

Date: 10/24/2019 5:56:39 PM

Subject: Memo - A Night for All Souls at Mountain View Cemetery

Attachments: ACCS - GM - Memo (Council) - A Night for All Souls at Mountain View Ceme....pdf

Dear Mayor and Council,

The attached memo from Sandra Singh, General Manager of Arts, Culture, and Community Services provides an overview of upcoming events at Mountain View Cemetery as part of the 15th annual *Night for All Souls* from October 26 to November 1. This week of events honours the dead in a quiet, contemplative atmosphere and we invite all to attend and participate in this moving week of events:

- Mountain View Cemetery is Vancouver's only cemetery, owned and operated by the City of Vancouver since 1886.
- For many cultures around the world, the days at the end of October and beginning of November are an important time for honouring the dead.
- In its 15th year, *All Souls* will welcome thousands of visitors to Mountain View Cemetery as the space comes alive with music, poetry, candles, and shrines.
- This year, two events are highlighted for Council: *An evening dedicated to Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and their families* and *An evening dedicated to remembering victims of hate* in partnership with the Vancouver Jewish Choir.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Sandra Singh at 604.871.6858 / Sandra.Singh@vancouver.ca.

Best,
Sadhu

Sadhu Aufochs Johnston | City Manager
Office of the City Manager | City of Vancouver
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Pronouns: he, him, his



The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh peoples.

MEMORANDUM

October 24, 2019

TO: Mayor and Council

CC: Sadhu Johnston, City Manager
Paul Mochrie, Deputy City Manager
Lynda Graves, Administration Services Manager, City Manager's Office
Rena Kendall-Craden, Civic Engagement and Communications Director
Katrina Leckovic, City Clerk
Neil Monckton, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office
Alvin Singh, Communications Director, Mayor's Office
Anita Zaenker, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office
Susie Saunders, Managing Director, Non Market Housing and Social Operations
Glen Hodges, Manager Mountain View Cemetery
Branislav Henselmann, Managing Director, Cultural Services
Mary Clare Zak, Managing Director, Social Policy and Projects

FROM: Sandra Singh, General Manager, Arts, Culture and Community Services

SUBJECT: *A Night for All Souls at Mountain View Cemetery*

PURPOSE

This memo is to provide an overview of upcoming events at Mountain View Cemetery as part of the 15th annual *Night for All Souls* from October 26 to November 1. This week of events honours the dead in a quiet, contemplative atmosphere and we invite all to attend and participate in this moving week of events

BACKGROUND

Mountain View Cemetery is Vancouver's only cemetery, owned and operated by the City of Vancouver since 1886. Making up 106 acres of land west of Fraser St, between 31st Ave and 43rd Ave, Mountain View Cemetery plays a vital role as a sacred space within Vancouver where people lay their loved ones to rest and honour the memory of their ancestors.

DISCUSSION

In its 15th year, *All Souls* will welcome thousands of visitors to Mountain View Cemetery as the space comes alive with music, poetry, candles, and shrines. Curated by the Cemetery's artists in residence, Paula Jardine and Marina Szijarto, the events reflect that for many cultures around the world, the days at the end of October and beginning of November are an important time for honouring the dead.

The opening night of *All Souls* (Saturday, October 26 from 6:30 to 10 pm) presents music, warming fires, fragrant teas and the chance to make personal memorials. The cemetery registry will be accessible on opening night to anyone wishing to look up information on specific people buried at Mountain View.

All Souls programming continues through November 1:

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| Oct 27 - Nov 1, 7-9 pm | Celebration Hall at Mountain View open nightly for tea and the creation of personal memorials. |
| Oct 27, 7-9 pm | An evening dedicated to Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, with songs and ceremony for healing and commemoration. All welcome. |
| Oct 29, 7:30-8:30 pm | An evening dedicated to remembering victims of hate, with music by the Vancouver Jewish Folk Choir. |
| Oct 30, 7:30 pm | Mourners' Tea: a community conversation about death and grieving through personal experience. |
| Oct 31, 7:30-9 pm | An evening of beautiful music with harpist Janelle Nadeau offers a quiet refuge from the chaos of Halloween. All ages welcome. |
| Nov 1, 7:30-8:30 pm | Closing night procession to the shrines throughout the cemetery. |

Staff would like to highlight and provide further information on two particular events:

An evening dedicated to Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and their families

A gentle evening for the broader community to acknowledge their shared grief for the ongoing tragedy of Indigenous women and girls who have been killed, or who have disappeared. The evening will include the Indigenous women's drumming group, Moonstone, and a performance by Butterflies in Spirit. Bannock, local Squamish made berry jam, and tea will be available to everyone who attends.

An evening dedicated to remembering victims of hate

The Vancouver Jewish Choir will be singing a program of songs about death, survival and hope. Performance material will focus on the strength of a community of Jewish and non-Jewish people working together against hate. All works will honour the dead and urge the community towards resilience and hope

FINAL REMARKS

Mountain View Cemetery can be read as a text of the history of our city and its various cultures. It is rich with the textures of life, death, remembrance, and rebirth and these significant events offer residents the opportunity for personal reflection and community engagement through culture, art, and history. We hope you will join us in commemoration at this sacred civic place.

More information can be found at www.nightforallsouls.com. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me directly at Sandra.singh@vancouver.ca

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sandra Singh". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sandra Singh
General Manager, Arts Culture and Community Services
Tel. 604-871- 6858
sandra.singh@vancouver.ca

SS/sjp