

From: **"Mochrie, Paul"**
To: **"Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"**
Date: 2024-04-04 9:30:23 AM
Subject: Upcoming News Release: Members of Vancouver's First Ever Special Event Advisory Task Force Announcement (April 4, 2024)

Dear Mayor and Council,

I am writing to inform you that the City will be issuing the below news release regarding the announcement of the selected members for the City's first ever Special Event Advisory Task Force. This release was originally scheduled for a March 22 release but was postponed.

Maria will reply to this email with the relevant Vancouver.ca link and social media links, once these are live.

Best,
Paul

Paul Mochrie (he/him)
City Manager
City of Vancouver



The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the xʷm̓ k̓ y̓ m̓ (Musqueam), Sḡwx̓w̓ʷá7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

City of Vancouver
News release
April 4, 2024

Members of Vancouver's first ever Special Event Advisory Task Force announced

Task force aims to make it easier to host festivals and events in Vancouver

In November 2023, the City of Vancouver issued a [call for applications](#) for a new Special Event Advisory Task Force. The Special Event Advisory Task Force will help identify key challenges and opportunities within the City's existing permitting processes, and work alongside City staff to make it easier to host festivals and events in Vancouver.

Today, we are pleased to announce the 14 community members who will sit on the task force and meet for the first time this spring.

"We're excited to introduce the members of Vancouver's first ever Special Event Advisory Task Force," said Mayor Ken Sim. "A thriving events industry is essential for our city's vibrancy and connectivity. This task force is made up of top-notch industry professionals, and I'm eager to hear their recommendations on how we can make it easier to host festivals and events in Vancouver."

The City received 155 applications for membership from a wide variety of people involved in Vancouver's events industry. Applications were reviewed by a third party evaluators who considered the type and complexity of events produced and the diversity of task members. The selection committee expresses its

appreciation to all applicants.

After careful consideration, the following 14 community members have been selected:

- Julie Ali, Axe Capoeira Productions
- Billi Jo Aasen, The Festival Company
- Eric Chene, RUNVAN
- David C Jones, DCJ Productions
- Ariel Martz-Oberlander, Kickstart Disability Arts and Culture
- Miriam Esquitín, Vancouver Mural Festival
- Dominic Lai, Canadian International Dragon Boat Festival Society/Dragon Boat BC
- Eduardo Ottoni, EventLAB Inc, Jazz Festival, VSO, Pride.
- Patrick Onukwulu, Festival African Heritage Music and Dance Society
- Yathu Radhakrishnan, West End Seniors Network
- Paul Runnals, BRANDLIVE Management Group
- Ayobami Suara, Black Block Association (Black Block Party)
- Winki Tam, Downtown Vancouver Business Improvement Association
- Elise Yurkowski, Gastown Business Improvement Society

The task force includes support and representation from the following City and Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation staff:

- Michelle Collens, Director, Tourism and Destination Events
- Saadi D'hoore, Social Planner I – ACT Music Planner
- Sarah Hicks, Chief Licence Inspector
- Jodie Shebib, Acting Branch Manager, Film and Special Events
- Octavio Silva, Manager of Business Development (Parks Board)

Special events, festivals, and cultural celebrations have a significant and positive impact on Vancouver. They bring vibrancy into Vancouver's many communities, help support our local economy, and play an integral role in enhancing quality of life.

Through the Special Event Advisory Task Force, the City remains committed to updating its processes and creating policies to enhance and support the success of the events industry.

Find out more about the Special Event Advisory Task Force [here](#).

Media contact:

Civic Engagement and Communications

media@vancouver.ca