

Participant Biographies for Virtual Town Hall on Anti-Black Racism

FACILITATOR - Vanessa Richards, CEO of Creative Together

Vanessa Richards is an artist with a foundation in music, performance, writing, and socially-engaged practices. Vanessa also works as an arts-based community engagement professional, developing partnerships and projects that cultivate participatory processes, collaboration and the civic imagination. She is interested in the role of the arts and artists (professional and amateur) in place-making and social sustainability.

At Cardiff University she earned an MPhil in Creative Writing with poetry and critical anthologized in the UK, Holland, United States and Canada. She is the founder and choir leader of Van Van Song Society (formerly Woodward's Community Singers, established in 2009) and director of Creative Together, song based facilitation. As a performer she has been nominated for a Jesse Richardson Theatre Award.

While living in London, UK during the 1990's she began devising and delivering arts-based engagement, public celebrations, carnival arts, education and programming through collaboration with community programmes, universities, unions, cultural organizations, health care providers, and projects that serve the imaginations of young people and elders. Since returning home to Vancouver in 2004, she has devised and delivered social arts projects with The Portland Hotel Society (PHS), Simon Fraser University, Vancouver Coastal Health, Public Dreams Society, The Arts Club Theatre Company, Vancouver International Children's Festival, Emily Carr University of Art + Design, Capilano University, and Vancouver Park Board, among others.

Committed to the unique history and futurity of people of African descent in British Columbia, Richards has been an active member of the City of Vancouver's Black History Month Citizen's Advisory Group. As a past volunteer board member of the Hogan's Alley Society, they have been participating in the development of the Northeast False Creek Plan which formally acknowledges and redresses the erasure and resurgence of Vancouver's African diasporic culture in its original Strathcona neighbourhood displaced by the Georgia Viaduct.

She is on the advisory committee for the RADIUS Fellowship at Beedie School of Business SFU and a producer/facilitator for the Social Venture Institute with Hollyhock Leadership Institute. She is currently a volunteer mentor for two youth co-operatives, Ethos Lab and Solid State. At 312 Main in the DTES, she was for two years the Director of Community Engagement helping to transform the former headquarters of the Vancouver Police into a new co-working centre for social and economic innovation. In 2018, she received the City of Vancouver's Mayor's Achievement Award for her work in the realm of civic imagination.



HOST - Sadhu Aufochs Johnston, City Manager, City of Vancouver

Sadhu is responsible for management of the City, supports Council in making Vancouver a vibrant and sustainable community, and oversees the City's annual budget and more than 7,000 employees.

In this role, Sadhu has helped to solve a long-standing challenge with the purchase of the Arbutus Greenway. He has worked on the Women's Equity Strategy, Housing Vancouver Strategy and SkyTrain development along the Broadway Corridor, among others.

Prior to serving in this role, Sadhu served for seven years as the Deputy City Manager, where he helped to oversee the development and implementation of Vancouver's Greenest City Action Plan, which builds off of Vancouver's successes in building a green city. Sadhu is a founder and was co-chair (2009-2015) of the Urban Sustainability Directors Network (USDN), a network of over 120 municipal staff focused on greening their cities, representing over 50 million urban dwellers in North America.

Prior to moving to Vancouver, Sadhu served as Mayor Richard M. Daley's Chief Environmental Officer where he was responsible for the oversight of City of Chicago environmental initiatives. Sadhu served Mayor Daley in the development and implementation of the Chicago Climate Action Plan. Under Mayor Daley's leadership, Sadhu was involved in the design and implementation of the City's blue cart recycling system increasing recycling rates, while making it easier for Chicago residents to recycle.

HOST - Sandra Singh, General Manager of Arts, Culture and Community Services

Sandra joined the City of Vancouver as General Manager, Arts, Culture, and Community Services in April 2018. In this role, Sandra oversees the delivery of affordable housing and homelessness programs, the delivery of the City's support for creative arts and culture, and the implementation of social policy funding and initiatives.

Prior to this, Sandra served as the Chief Librarian of Vancouver Public Library. During her seven-year tenure as Chief Librarian, the Library launched innovative new services such as the Inspiration Lab, the Sun Life Financial Musical Instrument Lending Library, the Inspiration Pass, and extensive digital collections, as well as opened the City's first indigenous named facility, the n̓c̓aʔmat ct Strathcona Branch Library. While at VPL as a Senior Director, Sandra served as the National Director of the HRSDC-funded national demonstration project Working Together, which sought to evolve new ways of working with socially-excluded community members, led the VPL website redesign process, and initiated and ran the province-wide Beyond Words program which captured the social impacts of public library service in BC.



Sandra joined VPL after serving as the Director of the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre at the University of British Columbia where she led the Centre's work on both rural and remote community engagement and as an interdisciplinary centre for learning on campus.

Sandra has also served as Port Moody Public Library's Manager of Library Services, as a Cybrarian at a Vancouver-based online learning community Suite101.com, and as librarian in both Texas and Alberta.

Sandra is currently appointed to the CBC/Radio-Canada Board of Directors. Most recently, she served as a Commissioner on Canada Council for the Arts' Public Lending Right Commission, as Chair of Library and Archives Canada's National Heritage Digitization Strategy Steering Committee, and as President of the Canadian Library Association. She also led the establishment of and was a founding Board member of the national not-for-profit Centre for Equitable Library Access which seeks to ensure people with print disabilities have access to published content.

Paul Mochrie, Deputy City Manager

Paul Mochrie provides oversight for a portfolio of direct service and corporate support departments, including Vancouver Fire and Rescue Services; Development, Buildings, and Licensing; Arts, Culture, and Community Services; Technology Services; and Human Resources.

Paul joined the City in May 2011 as the General Manager, Human Resource Services, and assumed the role of Deputy City Manager in October 2015.

Paul brings to the City broad public sector experience, including time working with the provincial government, regional health authorities, and employers' associations. Prior to joining the City, he worked with the BC Ministry of Health and led the development and management of commercial relationships between the PharmaCare program and pharmaceutical companies, retail pharmacies, and pharmacy wholesalers.

Gil Kelley, General Manager of Planning, Urban Design, and Sustainability

Gil Kelley, FAICP, has served as chief planner for several West Coast cities and as an independent advisor to cities and governments across the globe. As General Manager of Planning, Urban Design, and Sustainability, Gil has worked on the Broadway Plan, Moderate Income Rental Pilot Program and the Planning Vancouver Together strategy, an engagement process seeking feedback from the public to result in a long-term, strategic vision and actionable Vancouver Plan.

In the past, Gil has served as the director of Citywide Planning for the City of San Francisco, CA, the Director of Planning for the City of Portland, OR, and Director of Planning and Development for the City of Berkeley, CA. He has also maintained an



independent planning consultancy and continues to advise cities and governments on a range of urban development strategies, including economic development, neighborhood and downtown revitalization, waterfront development, urban design, and sustainability.

Gil has continuously promoted civic engagement and innovative thinking in his public and private work. He served as practitioner-in-residence at the School of Urban Studies and Planning at Portland State University and has taught planning and negotiation master classes at the University of Amsterdam (NL). He is a member of the College of Fellows of the American Institute of Certified Planners. Gil did his graduate studies at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and was awarded the Loeb Fellowship at Harvard University's Graduate School of Design.

Lon LaClaire, General Manager of Engineering Services

Lon LaClaire is the General Manager of Engineering Services and has worked at the City for 23 years. With annual budgets totaling over \$500 million and 2,200 staff, he is responsible for the design, construction, operation and maintenance of this City's public works infrastructure. Engineering Services is also mandated with a variety of planning and regulatory functions and plays a central role in the day-to-day functioning of the city. As the largest city department, Engineering delivers a complex array of essential public services while implementing an ambitious policy agenda to become the greenest City in the world by 2020

Prior to becoming General Manager, Lon held the position of Director of Transportation for five years. As Director, Lon oversaw all aspects of transportation, including transportation planning, transportation design, community engagement, and traffic and parking management.

Lon started his career at the City of Vancouver in transportation design in 1997. Major projects where he was a key contributor include, the City's newest rapid transit lines - the Millennium and Canada SkyTrain Lines and the award-winning, long range transportation plans - the Downtown Transportation Plan and the Transportation 2040 plan.

Lon completed his undergraduate degree in Engineering at Concordia University in Montreal in 1993 and completed his Masters in Transportation Engineering and Structures at the University of Calgary in 1996.

Francie Connell, Director of Legal Services

Frances has practiced law since graduating with distinction from the University of British Columbia (UBC) faculty of Law in 1979. She has served as the chief legal advisor for the mayor of Vancouver, council, the city manager and senior city staff for 21 years. Francie is also the chief legal advisor to City-related agencies, such as the



Vancouver Police Board, the Vancouver Economic Commission and the Vancouver Affordable Housing Agency. Francie's work as a lawyer and leader has contributed to improvements in environmental and community sustainability in Vancouver

Andrew Naklicki, Chief Human Resources Manager

Andrew Naklicki joined the City in 1999. Prior to his current role, he was the deputy General Manager of Human Resources for eight years. In his tenure with the City, Andrew has overseen and led numerous functional areas within Human Resources.

Andrew has extensive knowledge in labour relations, employee health and safety, policy and compensation which have come from his 30 years of experience in the human resources field in unionized environments, including Telus, Loblaw's, and Canada Post
