



ALLIANCE FOR ARTS AND CULTURE

2011 Civic Candidates Arts & Culture Survey City of North Vancouver

Mayoral Candidates

Darrell Mussatto
George Pringle

City Council Candidates

Juliana Buitenhuis
Michael Charrois
Rod Clark
Bob Fearnley
Joe Heilman
Guy Heywood
John Hutchinson
Craig Keating
Glen Miller
Amanda Nichol

*Please note that only candidates who participated in our online survey are listed.

1. How do local governments, with increasing demands on their core service budgets, maintain or grow the cultural programs in their communities?

Mayoral Candidates

Mussatto: By working with the cultural groups to ensure that funding to their organizations is maintained and increased along with the cost of living. As well continue to support these programs through working together as a partnership.

Pringle: By taking a close look at what is being spent as we cannot afford any more tax hikes right now.

City Council Candidates

Buitenhuis: A vibrant arts & culture scene is a sign of a healthy and thriving community. New developments should finance infrastructure such a public art, gallery space, and artist residences. The arts are A CORE service.

Charrois: Along with fire and police services, investment in the arts IS a Core Service Area and the City needs to keep investing in public art, artists and cultural infrastructure.

Clark: Through partnerships with cultural groups/agencies & the business community. We have to look at investment in cultural facilities as part of economic development.

Fearnley: Municipalities already support sports groups as part of their core budget and arts groups deserve similar treatment. Also arts facilities need their fair share of the municipal capital budget too.

Heilman: Partner with Arts groups

Heywood: Local governments can and must do all of the easy things - give the arts as much publicity and attention as they can. They can spend their budgeted amount on arts in an effective way if they engage the art's community in the decision making and they can try to make their funding, which is often 'core' as consistent as possible.

Hutchinson: By getting in touch with people who are interested in sponsoring cultural programs.

Keating: It is only by having the political commitment to arts and culture and by making the (very valid) case to the public that the dollars invested in the arts both go really far and provide tremendous economic spin offs that these budgets can be protected.

Miller: I believe they do more of what they have done for Presentation House, working on using funding from Density transfers to get grants from developers. Also I believe they can help promote cultural programs in ways that may not be expensive to the municipality. Helping get bigger audiences for cultural events helps those groups as much as grant. Perhaps holding more festivals that encompass a variety of different groups

Nichol: Establish and maintain partnerships. Give any support possible to local groups that represent these areas and are experts in their field. Assist and direct applications for special funding and programs that may be available through various levels of government and via other nonprofit groups.

2. Presentation House and Gallery are exploring future options that may include remaining where they are or relocating. What would you like to see done with Presentation House, and where should the current organizations be located?

Mayoral Candidates

Mussatto: PHG should move to the former "Cates Tugs" building, the Museum should be relocated a portion of Site 5 or the area where the National Maritime Museum was proposed and the Theatre should be in a new facility at its present location at 3 and Chesterfield. This is in accordance with the Cultural Facilities report done last year by the City and Procimium planning.

Pringle: All aspects of Presentation House should be located near the Quay. The Site 8 where Millennium was trying to put a 433 ft tower in, would be a good place for the theater and an artists center like the Tarragon in Toronto within the current zoning.

The old site can be traded for the land and used for a small housing project. The other parts should be close by.

City Council Candidates

Buitenhuis: I believe the gallery should move to the Pier, and there needs to be studio space as well. The PH Gallery has a world class reputation and deserves a world class space. As a child I was in countless productions at Presentation House, and I see the space as an iconic NV landmark, and I believe it needs to be preserved, although public consultation is needed to see in what capacity. I see the Kay Meak Theatre as an amazing model of how to incorporate a state of the art performing arts space with school. This brings the community into the theater on almost a daily basis.

Charrois: The City has a pretty good track record of getting cultural amenities from development projects- I think this approach should be continued. I would like to see Presentation House Gallery move to a relocated space along Lonsdale and I would love to see the professional theatre move to a rent-free location in the Waterfront district, I think the City also needs to look at ways for Facility Operating costs to derive from these development deals- having a state of the art facility is good but only if the user groups can afford to turn on the lights.

Clark: I am in favor of a theater/gallery/museum on Lot 5 at the Shipyards. I believe shared space will serve these groups well & be cost efficient for the taxpayer.

Fearnley: I'd like the gallery to move to the waterfront in the Cates building next to the Lonsdale Quay. I also want to see a purpose built museum and theatre complex considered for the shipyards site.

Heilman: Both built into the waterfront development

Heywood: I would like to see both the Gallery and the Theatre closer to the waterfront (not that 3rd isn't close) if not on it as part of an overall plan which saw the waterfront reach its highest potential as a draw for the whole community.

Hutchinson: I think presentation house should remain where it is. central locations are best

Keating: I would like to see the Gallery re-located to Lower Lonsdale (preferably the Cates Tug site currently owned by Seaspans); I think the museum should be re-located to the City owned site at the former Versatile Shipyards; I think the theatre should remain at the current site in a renovated building.

Miller: Well I am Chair of the Heritage Advisory Commission, and that was one of my main reasons for running. I want to see the building preserved certainly. But if the theatre and Gallery can move to the Shipyards or foot of Lonsdale I think that would be great for the visibility of the organizations - I would just like to see the original building preserved.

Nichol: I am willing and interested to see what options there are for moving these to a more suitable location in the City. I would like to see them housed in a location that is multi-use to expose more of our community to it.

3. Do you agree with Lower Lonsdale being designated a cultural precinct, and what would you like to see there?

Mayoral Candidates

Mussatto: It should be part of a very public and active area in lower lonsdale. The activities listed above as well as other attractions and uses conducive to public use.

Pringle: A concentration in the Waterfront area but not all of Lower Lonsdale.

City Council Candidates

Buitenhuis: Yes I do believe that LL should be designated as a cultural precinct, but it still has a ways to go. As I said before, I would like to see both a new Presentation House Gallery with studio space at the Pier, as well as some designated artist residences nearby. To be deemed a cultural precinct I believe there need to be some sort of educational institution as well; this could perhaps take the form of the arts department of Capilano U in the Lower Lonsdale Area.

Charrois: Yes. Bravo to the Waterfront office for making Shipbuilder's Square a vibrant, urban gathering place. More programming throughout the year; more markets, more entertainment, more community. The Maritime Museum site must be utilized for public purposes- we must double our efforts to work with other levels of government to return the museum to that site. If no renewed agreement can be reached a multi-use community and arts space should be built. As a professional actor and in my wildest vision I would love to see an 800 seat proscenium soft-seat road house stage with a fly gallery to replace Centennial Theatre, freeing the land on 23rd and Lonsdale for the Community Centre. I would also love to see a 200 seat flexible black box space, home to Presentation House, a fully professional Equity/PACT house, City-owned with rent of a dollar a year. Gallery, meeting and Cap U outreach teaching space should also be included. Until something is built on that site, the fence should come down, sod should be laid and a (temporary)green space opened so children can play on the grass, festivals with street performers can fire juggle and actors can perform the Tempest in Shipbuilder's Square.

Clark: As above ... a small performance theater, a gallery and a museum. We need to foster other private cultural amenities as well.

Fearnley: Yes, I do think that is a good idea and I want to see more cultural and entertainment uses in the area. However, we need a plan and some policy to facilitate this in a responsible way.

Heilman: Yes, would like to see a museum there

Heywood: Yes I do. I think that it should have arts and education if possible. I still hold out some hope for getting a senior level of government interested in some kind of nationally or provincially significant attraction - which would therefore draw on their long term support.

Hutchinson: Yes and no. What they have presently down there.

Keating: I like the idea of a precinct in Lower Lonsdale but I think we need to have a strategy in place to promote private artistic endeavours as the core of this precinct. We need places for artists to work and programs in place to support their work.

Miller: Yes. I would like to see an arts hub at the Shipyards site. Something similar to what SFU does at the Woodwards building. Can it be an education centre and performance space?

Nichol: I think that is a wonderful thing to do in the area. The Lower Lonsdale area is where I live and it is becoming better and better with each passing year. I am excited to see the possibilities of the development of that space.

4. The City has had a successful Public Art Program for more than ten years, resulting in one of the most impressive inventories among similar sized Canadian cities. How would you like to see the program evolve over the next ten years?

Mayoral Candidates

Mussatto: As a member of council who championed this program, I would like to see it grow for sure.

Pringle: No opinion

City Council Candidates

Buitenhuis: "To become truly immortal, a work of art must escape all human limits: logic and common sense will only interfere. But once these barriers are broken, it will enter the realms of childhood visions and dreams" (Giorgio de Chirico). Check out my website for my statement on Public Art, and visit the Venice Biennale before you die. www.iheartnorthvan.com

Charrois: More public art- I love turning a corner and being surprised and delighted by the work of the artists in our community. Some of my favorite pieces include: the horse, the bear and the bus stop on Lonsdale and the hidden delights in the park outside my house on West 1st at Lonsdale. I think it's very important that local, North Van artists receive City commissions for the creation of public art. These artists live in the community, they pay taxes here and the dollars stay in the community.

Clark: Further refinement of the contribution requirements of developers as well as fostering local artisans.

Fearnley: I would like to see fewer but more significant pieces added in the future. For instance I would like to see a major piece of stone sculpture added in Lower Lonsdale, maybe from Michael Binkley.

Heilman: Would like to see more artists being featured in the community

Heywood: I would like to see the program continue and hopefully with a higher level of concurrent private funding so that the public money can go farther.

Hutchinson: if it is succesful the way it is ,then carry on in the same manner.

Keating: I think the important challenge of the future will be not only to sustain the addition of new public art projects, but also to ensure that the funds necessary to maintain our current inventory are kept in place.

Miller: I do not have any specific ideas other than I would like to preserve it and continue to see Public Art continue to be a component of new development.

Nichol: There is so much talent, skill, and knowledge of the Arts in our City. This is a valuable asset to the development of any of our Arts programs and I look forward to developing and working with these groups to establish programs that work within the City's means and help to add even more value to the Arts, Culture & Heritage community in North Vancouver.

5. Will you commit to maintain or increase the current arts funding in your community?

Mayoral Candidates

Mussatto: Increase. I have publicly committed to providing over 2 million dollars towards a new PHG facility and will support other facility improvements.

Pringle: Maintain. It's tough times and not the time for increases in anything. I support a three year freeze in the tax rate.

City Council Candidates

Buitenhuis: Increase. I was born and raised in a family where arts & culture was paramount, many of my relatives are artists, and I continue to be very active in the Vancouver Contemporary Art scene. Art shapes our understanding of history, creates context for the present, and sets the tone for the future.

Charrois: Increase. We are not funding arts, we are investing in arts. Forget the crass economic fact that every dollar invested in the arts returns \$1.30 in tax revenue (try to get that kind of return on investment in the stock market), but rather look at the intangible returns to that public investment that come to the community: decrease in isolation and loneliness among seniors, a more curious and engaged citizenry, discussion of important ideas, making friends and having fun.

Clark: Maintain. I believe through partnerships we can leverage our investment in the arts.

Fearnley: Increase. I have long supported the arts and I think the Arts Community currently get the short end of municipal funding.

Heilman: Maintain.

Heywood: Maintain. At this point in time I don't want to commit to increasing the funding since that is the same as increasing taxes.

Hutchinson: Maintain. It might be hard to increase funding, when affordable housing is considered more important.

Keating: Maintain. In my 12 years on Council I have supported increases to arts program funding on a number of occasions. In the last three years I have supported a variety of requests to aid local arts organizations as they struggled to adapt to Provincial cuts that have neither fully been restored and which threatened the very existence of many of our programs.

Miller: Increase. The Arts are just as important to the social fabric of a community as sports and recreation. The Arts is also a big employer. Just look at Lions Gates Studios. And that certainly falls under the category of the Arts

Nichol: Other. I am reluctant to make any promises with regard to funding at this point in time. My understanding is that there are current budget constraints that may prevent any increases but I am definitely open to doing a more detailed analysis to see where there are funding opportunities that could be utilized specifically for the arts.

6. Will you take an active role on behalf of your community in lobbying senior levels of government to maintain or increase levels of funding for the arts, culture and heritage?

Mayoral Candidates

Mussatto: Increase. My support for arts and culture has been well documented and will continue to be so.

Pringle: Maintain. Same as above, it is essential that the deficit is eliminated.

City Council Candidates

Buitenhuis: Increase. As the Provincial Government has slashed funding for the Arts, municipalities must support and advocate for culture.

Charrois: Increase. As a professional artist it seems to me that our livelihood and way of life is constantly threatened by senior levels of government. The federal, and particularly the provincial, government are not only disregarding artists, they seem to be driven to ideologically attack artists. I have to stand up and speak out about the importance of the arts to our community and the knowledge economy. By speaking up I put the arts on the agenda and all levels of government are made aware of the importance and value of our work as artists.

Clark: Increase. They have virtually vacated the field. They should look at these funding opportunities as investments.

Fearnley: Increase. This is a good thing to do but I wouldn't hold your breath.

Heilman: Maintain.

Heywood: Increase. I think this is one area where we have not been as successful as we might have been. The mindset of our senior levels of government is that we must have a private sector partner involved to access their support. Our City has been relatively passive and unwilling to actively engage private partners for its projects. That can change. Thank you.

Hutchinson: Maintain. Again it is more about what are the most important issues facing communities.

Keating: Increase. The Province and the Federal government have repeatedly shown that they neither care particularly for the arts and culture sector nor understand the important role arts and culture can play as generators of economic activity. Cuts to arts funding that fall out of these attitudes have often meant the downloading of costs to local governments that face their own serious fiscal challenges. It is about time senior government restored cuts and took their obligations to arts and culture seriously.

Miller: Increase. As above (question #5).

Nichol: Other. I am by no means an expert in this field. My feelings are that for a diverse community, arts, culture and heritage are of importance and I look forward to working with our local committee and those that are knowledgeable in the field to ensure that we are capitalizing on all opportunities for increased funding to arts, culture and heritage.

7. Culture is an easy target when hard budget decisions must be made. How would you defend your support of funding for the arts in the face of further cutbacks?

Mayoral Candidates

Mussatto: I would refer to my record of no cuts and in fact increases to arts and culture during times of economic hardship. I will stand on that record.

Pringle: Everyone has to be treated equally and our finances stabilized considering that health care will cost a lot more funds over the next 20 years.

City Council Candidates

Buitenhuis: Art gains value, and cultural wealth is priceless.

Charrois: As I mentioned, there are two compelling arguments to defend public investment in the arts; the first is the crude and greedy economic argument that shows the 30% return on investment; the second is an appeal to the social values we share (community, tolerance, inclusivity, fairness and curiosity, etc) that are enhanced when a City has a vibrant cultural scene.

Clark: Again, by justifying it as an investment.

Fearnley: Arts and culture is like food for the brain. Arts and culture not only entertains and delights us but it makes us think about things, helps keep our minds alive.

Heilman: It's important to the community

Heywood: Consistency of a funding is important to arts organizations and I would do the best that I can to protect their funding during tough times. The City's financial

situation is such that we are more able than most to be consistent than most to be consistent.

Hutchinson: I would say it is a necessary part of everyday life in the community.

Keating: As noted above, quite apart from the important role arts and culture play in the life of a community we need to remind people about just how far dollar spent on the arts goes and about how effective arts and culture spending is in generating economic spin offs.

Miller: My history as a two term Commissioner of the North Vancouver Arts & Culture Commission speaks to my commitment to the arts. I am also President of Theatre BC, an organization that is committed to support community theatre across the province. I am passionate about arts, and will not support any cuts to municipal support of the arts.

Nichol: It is of the utmost importance to continue supporting culture and arts within a community such as ours. The ongoing education of our community via our Museum & Archives Commission is invaluable. They keep our community's history alive. They celebrate the diversity of our community and how it contributes to our history. They educate our community on the unique environment that we live in and how it has affected changes in our community over time.

8. It has been said that many points in the available arts and culture platforms are "objective driven" (specific projects) and don't really speak to an overall vision of the role of culture in a civil society. In 300 words or less, outline your own vision of culture's role in our communities and how, as an elected representative, you will support that vision.

Mayoral Candidates

Mussatto: I will continue to be a strong support of arts and culture in our City. My record of support both personally and as a community leader will speak to my vision of a stronger arts and cultural supporter as we move into the next term.

Pringle: Art is many things to many people and often the "old" art predominates newer expressions. I'm not sure art can be put into a box of an overall vision. I would like to see parks, open space and art be included in the waterfront area where a NMC was planned rather than a concentration of another soul destroying sea of high-rises. A place where artists can decide and create. Places like the Open Space Gallery in Victoria.

City Council Candidates

Buitenhuis: Arts and Culture should not be an afterthought, but a forethought. Cultural institutions transform communities, and are low barrier centres that access the left brain; and are a catalyst for creativity, contemplation and possibility. As density increases culture will foster communication between diverse populations and generations. Art creates a shared identity. Creating a rich artistic community is more than disconnected pieces and projects, but rather the tone that defines a

geographical space. Culture should be infused into every aspect of a municipality, from urban screens to public spaces, and most importantly - a pillar of our educational system. With our wealth of artist on the North Shore, we need an adequate space where they can showcase their work. We also need to look at the overall aesthetic of our little city as we build new spaces, including architecture, landscaping, walkways, and public art. Why not put a water-park at the Pier that is not only functional, but beautiful? We are already rich in creativity, but unfortunately are a little underprivileged in our arts facilities. As a community we need to shape our cultural identity, and dialog about to the landscape we are creating. Know that if you support me on November 19th, I will expect you to hold me accountable to my vision for the city of North Vancouver, and I will need your help to actualize our arts community. I will be a champion for cultural capital on North Vancouver City Council. "Without culture, and the relative freedom it implies, society, even when perfect, is but a jungle. This is why any authentic creation is a gift to the future" ~Albert Camus.

Charrois: Language makes a difference. Municipalities do not fund the arts, throwing money around willy-nilly. Municipalities INVEST in a cultural sector that provides a 30% financial return on investment of public funds. Municipalities also invest because of the less tangible benefits of a cohesive Community, literate, curious, happy and healthy. If elected I will work very hard to ensure that public investment in arts, culture and heritage is respected, protected and enhanced, with opportunity for every citizen to enjoy art and every artist to enjoy a decent living.

Clark: Surely, culture is a reflection of the best in mankind & civil society. Municipal government is closest to the people & as such must reflect this good on a local level. Yes, the plumbing, electrical, police, fire and the OCP are very important but it is our cultural expressions that will live on to the greatest degree.

Fearnley: Arts and Culture has a significant role in making our community an interesting and stimulating place to live. My vision is to have a community that has live music, live theatre, public art, galleries, and museums. 1. We need to replace old dilapidated facilities such as the Presentation House Theatre and Gallery. We have significant amounts of money set aside to build publicly supported cultural facilities from land sales in Lower Lonsdale. We promised the community these facilities, now we need to deliver on those promises and we can do this without debt or new taxes! 2. We need to do some policy work on cultural and entertainment venues in Lower Lonsdale. For example, in the past there have been conflicts between entertainment venues and condo owners over loud music and intoxicated patrons. We need to talk about putting live music into spaces in ways that don't create conflict. We don't want to have a "no fun City"! 3. We also need to get serious about saving our heritage buildings! How many times in the past term of Council, have we watched heritage buildings destroyed because of Council indifference?

Heilman: Arts and Culture are important to the community.

Heywood: CityShaping is the name of the process we are using to engage citizens in the Official Community Planning process. I think that the arts do much to 'shape' one's experience of living in an urban setting. We are growing out of our roots as a blue collar shipbuilding community, moving past a role as dormitory for Vancouver and are hopefully arriving as a community in our own right. This means that we need to invest in arts and cultural infrastructure as much as we need roads, water and sewers. I will enthusiastically support the infrastructure for the arts (new public buildings and community spaces) especially when we can negotiate them as

community amenities from development projects. I will very carefully and in a limited way support the operating costs of the arts because local government is supported by a property tax, not a consumption tax or income tax, which are the more appropriate sources of ongoing support for operating costs of arts organizations.

Hutchinson: short and sweet, because it enhances enjoyment of daily life.

Keating: Arts and culture provide us with important insights both into what unites us as a community (local, regional, national and global) and into what divides us. In this way culture acts as a kind of barometer for our community. When given prominence, this role of culture can be an important impetus for change and for creating a healthier and more vibrant society. The role of the elected representative is to create the broader possible opportunity for culture so conceived both to flourish and to be consumed by the general public. As an elected representative I will continue, as I have in the past, to support arts on the north shore and the venues, festivals, and occasional events that bring arts to the people.

Miller: I would like to see more cultural events during the summer months that span a variety of different categories of the arts. I would like to see the Shipyards become more of a people place. The night market with the entertainment is a great start, but we need more. More education in the arts for young people that ends with public performances.

Nichol: The Museum and Archives Commission in the City of North Vancouver has a very clear mission, vision, values and specific means to achieving these. Their values address history, ongoing education, sustainability, environmental, and connection to the community of North Vancouver I fully support all of these, as I feel that there is an enormous connection between arts and culture and a healthy community. I will make every effort to support the arts and culture in the City of North Vancouver through these and I will gladly engage in discussions and plans for celebrating and promoting our own local talent whenever possible as I feel they are an invaluable resource for our community.

9. Please provide links to coverage and information of events and initiatives where you have been involved in arts, culture and heritage.

Mayoral Candidates

Mussatto: Links? I have been on many boards, committees, and task forces that involve supporting arts and culture. One example is my Chairing the Centennial Theatre's expansion committee and my personal support of PHG. My support is long and I am proud of my record.

Pringle: I was a Creative Writing major at UVic a long while back as a playwright but graduated a political science / history major as that is where my passion led me.

City Council Candidates

Buitenhuis:

<http://www.vancouver.sun.com/news/North+Vancouver+candidate+aims+empower+women/5572187/story.html> <http://www.iheartnorthvan.com/index.php/vision>

Charrois: www.charrois.com imdb.com (International Movie Data Base)
www.Castingworkbook.com

Fearnley: • Former board member of the Presentation House Theatre • Former board member of the Presentation House Gallery • Former board member of the North Vancouver Art Council • Former board member of the North Vancouver Museum and Archives Commission • Proud father of a professional musician • Photographer (Photographed most of the North Vancouver Arts Councils, Rental Art Collection)

Hutchinson: I have not been involved in any.

Miller: I am Chair of the Heritage Advisory Commission, on my second term. I was 1st Vice-Chair of the North Vancouver Arts and Culture Commission.