



ALLIANCE FOR ARTS AND CULTURE

## 2011 Civic Candidates Arts & Culture Survey City of New Westminster

### **Mayoral Candidates**

François Nantel

### **City Council Candidates**

John E. Ashdown

Jonathan Cote

Calvin Donnelly

Vladimir Krasnogor

Jaimie McEvoy

Betty McIntosh

Paul Mulangu

Dr. David Noshad

Chuck Puchmayr

Susan Wandell

Lorrie William

\*Please note that only candidates who completed 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**

**François Nantel:** I would have to find out the present situation, and comment after. However, we should at least maintain the present level.

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#### **City Council Candidates**

**John E. Ashdown:** Devoted volunteers and lobbying. Electing a good rep on City Council. In New West that would be Susan Wandell, a Voice Candidate for change.

**Jonathan Cote:** Local governments need to recognize the important role cultural programs play in a community. Cities need to be open to partnerships with different organizations to maximize the use of facilities and resources.

**Calvin Donnelly:** by setting aside certain amounts and ensuring continued community involvement such as the Arts Council and other community interest groups

**Vladimir Krasnogor:** Change spending priorities based on community needs

**Jaimie McEvoy:** Renewing and supporting culture is an important part of the success and liveability of any city. In New Westminster, for example, I called for and am chairing a committee to build a new Massey Theatre. The city is working on an arts and culture marketing strategy. Our new civic centre under construction will add an additional theatre to the city and have space for the arts and a new civic art gallery. We have a healthy arts commission for the city, and community grants to support the arts. For me, it's a high priority, and a wonderful thing about living here.

**Betty McIntosh:** We have developed grant programs groups can apply annually for funding. We lease City properties at a nominal amount to support not for profit programs.

**Paul Mulangu:** By increasing funding contacting the Gaming and Canadian Heritage

**Dr. David Noshad:** Social and cultural well-being of a community is one of the most important components of a prosperous society. It has a very high priority in my platform. I believe local governments should allocate a part of their budgets to maintain or grow cultural programs.

**Chuck Puchmayr:** We currently benefit from a unique, tourist related infrastructure grant from our destination casino.

**Susan Wandell:** Rather than hiring new staff, support the existing groups through fees for service and offer grants for new ideas

**Lorrie William:** By engaging the citizens and making sure the arts get their share.

## **2. New Westminster has many community arts and festival events throughout the year. Would you support the use of existing City promotional and advertising opportunities to include the marketing of community arts and cultural events?**

### Mayoral Candidates

**François Nantel:** Yes.

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### City Council Candidates

**John E. Ashdown:** Arts and Festivals play a huge role in New West. yet most events are planned outside the city Administration, even though there is a fully employed manager of culture and arts. Grants are available and local media is very cooperative

**Jonathan Cote:** The City is already doing this, but if there are opportunities for greater partnerships to assist in marketing the arts I would be supportive.

**Calvin Donnelly:** yes

**Vladimir Krasnogor:** Definetly

**Jaimie McEvoy:** Absolutely, in fact, I called for that this year, and in my campaign call for an increase in the city's advertising and communications budget specifically to support the arts and community events.

**Betty McIntosh:** We are already doing many initiatives with our community groups. Grants annually to not for profits groups such as Hyack Festival Assoc., Arts Council etc.

**Paul Mulangu:** yes

**Dr. David Noshad:** Yes, I will support it.

**Chuck Puchmayr:** We already do.

**Susan Wandell:** yes

**Lorrie William:** Yes

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

#### Mayoral Candidates

**François Nantel:** Maintain. I need to assess how the funding works before concluding that an increase can be justify. Every one want more funding, yet only 1 tax payers

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#### City Council Candidates

**John E. Ashdown:** Maintain. Businesses are very supportive of the Arts, I would continue along that route.

**Jonathan Cote:** Increase. A large portion of the new civic centre currently under construction in New Westminster has been dedicated to arts use. The City will need to provide funding to ensure that the arts components are successful and meeting the needs of the community.

**Calvin Donnelly:** Increase. good opportunity to showcase community and local talent through arts and culture

**Vladimir Krasnogor:** Increase. At the moment, arts in our city are underfunded

**Jaimie McEvoy:** Increase. I would like to see our grants program renewed with additional funds, increased communications and advertising on the part of the city for the arts and community groups, and a financial commitment to a new Massey Theatre.

**Betty McIntosh:** Increase. We are planning & building a Multi Use Civic Centre (\$35 million) with components for the Arts (Gallery, studio spaces, & nonprocineum theatre) Operational expenses will increase.

**Paul Mulangu:** Increase. Example the celebrating funding is \$1000 in new west I am going to work for inceasing that

**Dr. David Noshad:** Increase. It will help the general social well-being of our citizens and even can help our economy.

**Chuck Puchmayr:** Other. We are currently spending 38million for museums art galleries and the Canadian Lacrosse Hall of Fame.

**Susan Wandell:** Maintain. I would like to committ to increase funding but fear the existing counsel has tied the future council's hands with existing committments. I would like to create a new commission or task force for economic development including city staff, BIAs, tourism and arts.

**Lorrie William:** Increase. As the new civic centre gets built, I see a nee for more funding for what the community will need

#### **4. 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

**François Nantel:** Maintain. Yes, I would lobby other level of government, and ask them why aren't the infrastructure being build are not financed by the Bank of Canada. That would free up resources for other purpose such as art and culture.

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##### City Council Candidates

**John E. Ashdown:** Increase. The majority of funds driving the Arts should come from Provincial Funding BC is the place to be,,, Show us with generosity.

**Jonathan Cote:** Increase. It is unfortunate that higher levels of government have been making cuts to the art. I think the arts community needs to partner with municipalities to show the provincial and federal governments that the arts do matter.

**Calvin Donnelly:** Increase. we need federal/provincial partnerships to maintain and increase viability

**Vladimir Krasnogor:** Increase. Arts shall take priority over several currently funded programs

**Jaimie McEvoy:** Increase. I've already put forward motions, supported by council, that went to the Union of BC Municipalities, and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. Happy to do more.

**Betty McIntosh:** Increase. One example of requests to Federal government was the ask for \$\$\$ Canada Day celebrations.

**Paul Mulangu:** Increase. It is what I am running

**Dr. David Noshad:** Increase. I have a good experience in negotiation because of my previous job. I will do my best to increase funding for arts, culture and heritage in my community.

**Chuck Puchmayr:** Other. I am currently working with both levels of senior governments for funding.

**Susan Wandell:** Increase. Having travelled to other cities in Canada, I see that there is a great deal more support for the arts and heritage than we have in BC. Arts funding needs to be fair across the board.

**Lorrie William:** Increase; the other orders of government are not as generous as they should be.

## **5. 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

**François Nantel:** I need more detail on the cutbacks you are referring to.

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### City Council Candidates

**John E. Ashdown:** New Westminster is "the City of Festivals" We have very little else to drive tourism as much as we like to think otherwise. I would definitely commit to accelerating the promotion of arts and Festivals to drive tourism in our City

**Jonathan Cote:** It is important to show the community benefits for supporting the arts.

**Calvin Donnelly:** I believe it is an investment in the community to support arts and culture

**Vladimir Krasnogor:** Life would be so boring without arts

**Jaimie McEvoy:** Absolutely and without hesitation.

**Betty McIntosh:** All part of economic stimulus in our city. We have many job opportunities in the Arts. Participation in the Arts works toward a healthy community.

**Paul Mulangu:** Through gaming

**Dr. David Noshad:** As I mentioned before, social- and cultural well-being of a community is essential in having a prosperous community. It is essential!

**Chuck Puchmayr:** We will continue to lobby governments to fulfill previous commitments

**Susan Wandell:** Arts are an economic driver. Also an educator and can also be beneficial in providing help and hope to disenfranchised members of our society. The Arts are what make a city livable. Imagine a community quilt. Each neighbourhood is a square and the arts are the thread that holds them together.

**Lorrie William:** We need to feed the soul as well as the body. Arts are vital for mental and emotional health.

**6. 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

**François Nantel:** Arts and culture are the life blood of a community. For an overall vision to emerge, all stake holders should meet regularly to develop a strategy to make New Westminster more vibrant community. As the mayor, I would facilitate such meeting.

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#### City Council Candidates

**John E. Ashdown:** I would support this Vision as I stated in previous question. Promote, promote, promote.. to the rest of the world that we are open for business for the Arts. We have already established participation with the Arts Council, New West Artists, Art Gallery, yet to be completed Civic Center which MUST contain the arts.

**Jonathan Cote:** Arts and Culture play a significant role in our communities. Cities that support the arts are generally more attractive places to live and visit. Understanding the benefits of having a thriving arts community is very important. Although I support the programming for arts, I think it needs to go much deeper than that. The arts need to be considered in all arenas of local government.

**Calvin Donnelly:** As a recipient of the Bernie Legge Cultural Award, I believe it is an investment in the community to support arts and culture. I will work hard to obtain provincial/federal partnerships and keep it on the front burner in budget discussions as much as possible.

**Vladimir Krasnogor:** New Westminster is in good position of converting a building into art studios and renting them to aspiring artists at reasonable cost. The area near Commercial Street in Vancouver shall serve us as example.

**Jaimie McEvoy:** I support an arts program that inspires and motivates. A program that celebrates the community, calls citizens to be part of that community, and

provokes and encourages us to face problems and respond. I support an arts program that reaches all levels of society, all ages, all cultural groups. I support an inclusive and broad view of the arts. Painting and poetry. Sculpture and the spoken word. Music and dance. The written word. I support an arts program that is inclusive of the citizenry, providing opportunities to participate, learn, show and perform for all people. I support an arts program that goes beyond civic boosterism and challenges us - that looks squarely at the city and issues like homelessness and the environment, that reveals and shows new ways to see and interpret what is around us every day. I support a community driven arts program, one in which the city seeks what it desires, but does not impose what it might want to limit. An arts program that shares the democratic values of freedom of expression and diversity of opinion. I support the role of the city as a leading patron of the arts. And yes, I support the necessary theatres, arts centres, housing, committees and funding that will take us there. There will always be art even without formal space, but this is New Westminster, it's November, and it's cold and wet out there.

**Betty McIntosh:** There are many different types of activities within the arts & culture realm. With the variety of personal likes and dislikes there will be activities for everyone. I will personally work to assure funding is available for the multi facets of arts & culture. The community will be strong & healthy now and into the future as the art community flourishes.

**Paul Mulangu:** The city who out finne it is no city

**Dr. David Noshad:** Simply put, cultural programs are essential in a sustainable city. It is closely related to social-well being of a society. It is essential to support all good cultural programs to have a prosperous society. it can help to maintain or grow other aspects of life in New Westminster.

**Chuck Puchmayr:** Arts are an important education tool in any civil society. They need to be supported from cradle to grave, and not just for specific projects, but full intergration.

**Susan Wandell:** Public art to me is an easy way to increase support. Incorporating art into city works projects. Even manhole covers can be useful and beautiful. Arts Councils (for example) could be paid a fee for service to work with city staff (social planners) and be effective in providing services to groups (perhaps such as men's & women's shelters).

**Lorrie William:** My vision for the arts revolves around our existing groups who have been struggling. I am the president of the New Westminster Symphony and I fear for its survival. I know we will probably have to get the corporate sector and the general public engaged in funding.

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

### Mayoral Candidates

**François Nantel:** I don't have links per se. Few years ago I was chosen to head our slo-pitch league in New Westminster.

## City Council Candidates

**John E. Ashdown:** 12th Street Music Festival.

**Calvin Donnelly:** In the music business, Cal's karaoke (Email: calvindonnely election), Have sung and participated in numerous city events such as Remembrance Day, May Day, Canada Day, etc.

**Vladimir Krasnogor:** I am member of City of New Westminster Heritage Grant Committee. I volunteer with New Westminster Heritage preservation Society.

**Jaimie McEvoy:**

<http://www.royalcityrecord.com/news/Will+city+take+over+Massey/2870728/story.html> <http://harbourpublishing.com/title/TheLifeandDestructionofSaintMarysHospital>  
<http://www.bclocalnews.com/news/133168788.html>  
<http://www.royalcityrecord.com/news/Fest+features+Royal+City+authors/4548160/story.html>

**Betty McIntosh:** Hyack Festival Association  
[www.bettymcintosh.ca](http://www.bettymcintosh.ca)

**Paul Mulangu:** Black history month celebration , Afrofest

**Dr. David Noshad:** I participated in the following events/places;  
-Artists on the River  
-A Very Victorian Christmas  
12th Street Music Festival

**Chuck Puchmayr:** Former NW heritage commissioner.

**Susan Wandell:** [www.artscouncilnewwest.org](http://www.artscouncilnewwest.org)  
-Save the Burr

**Lorrie William:** Symphony  
-Queensborough Mural Project.