

# CURATED COMMUNITY

BC'S GUIDE TO ARTS & CULTURE

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## LETTER *from the publisher*

Greetings from BC's Guide to Arts + Culture. We are gearing up for a new year of cultural experiences, events, and travels. Already there's a lot on our to-do list!

While we can't wait to get out and experience the best BC has to offer in 2018, there is a lot of work to be done. The work of creating content and curating communities is tireless, but it is incredibly rewarding. Being a Cultural Entrepreneur, it has always been my intention to be an agent of change, to create opportunities for economic growth for creative producers, and to constantly work to improve the networking within the arts and cultural sector.

Our vision for 2018 is to see the establishment of a real sense of community and partnership among the cultural entities and creative producers in destinations all across the province.

I believe in the arts and I have spent my career engaging with BC's artists and cultural advocates. One thing I have learned above all else is that in order for the arts to survive and thrive, we need to be in this together.

How can you start? Look around your community, find out where your favourite places to

visit are located, and discover all the artists living and working there. Be a visionary - create a cultural crawl or start an event. Find a way to connect the creative people in your community and make your local experience a must-see destination that visitors will want to visit again and again.

This month's newsletter features the creative community of Prince George. We love the focus on "local" within this Northern BC town. With a healthy arts community and a long standing heritage stemming from a century of settlement, this unique area is a cultural hub and memorable destination worth the visit. Read on for more!



Prince George is coined by locals as the urban centre of Northern BC, and it is home to a diverse assortment of arts and cultural experiences.

Art in Prince George takes shape in the form of festivals, musical events, theatrical productions, gallery exhibitions, studios tours, and notable historical sites. Located in an architecturally distinctive building, the **Two Rivers Gallery** is the center of visual arts in the area. In addition to hosting a variety of exhibitions throughout the year, the gallery features the MakerLab, a space to create with various tools and mediums, allowing visitors to produce their own masterpieces.



While in Prince George, be sure to watch out for upcoming festivals and events. This winter, check out the annual *Celebrate Prince George* - happening throughout the months of January and February. You'll see snow, ice sculptures, entertainment, and hopefully you will have wonderful winter experiences in places around the city like at the much loved ice slide.





Prince George has a lively performance arts scene from the locally produced music festivals *Coldsnap* (happening now), and *Heatwave* (coming summer 2018) organized by the Prince George Folk Society. From regular performances by the *Prince George Symphony Orchestra* to witnessing riveting performances at **Theatre NorthWest**, the extensive calendar of events at one the foremost playhouse's in the Northern half of the province, is worth a look.



Experience the industrial history that made Prince George the great city of Northern BC at the Railway and Forestry Museum with exhibitions and events happening throughout the year.



Indulge your cultural curiosity and explore the many historical sites surrounding Prince George. Visit *Huble Homestead* for a taste of settlement in the Pacific North West. Set up your stay in town and venture out for a days drive to the famous gold rush town of *Barkerville*, or the Hudson's Bay outpost at *Fort St. James National Historic Site*.



In addition to a dynamic settlement history, Prince George has a deep connection to the Aboriginal community. The traditions and culture of the Lheidli T'enneh people of the Carrier Nation are deeply influential. Aboriginal culture in the area draws attention to the unique experience of living at the junction of the Fraser and Nechako Rivers.



Plan your trip and experience the rich arts, cultural and historical significance of Prince George and discover the meaning of urban wilderness.

Kahla Yzerman, Contributing Editor  
BC's Guide to Arts and Culture, Curated Community Newsletter

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## PRINCE GEORGE LOCAL EXPERIENCE

### AN INTERVIEW WITH ANNIE DORAN OF PRINCE GEORGE TOURISM



**VDA: Prince George is a Northern city with a long history of settlement. What draws people here?**

*AD: The lifestyle, cost of living, a big city with all the amenities. Including excellent theatre and a vibrant arts and cultural community. It's all here, but a slower pace of living than you'd find in the valley.*

**VDA: What is your best memory of a uniquely PG experience?**

*AD: There are so many! I enjoy the proximity of outdoor recreation activities, we have a ski hill within City limits, a world class cross-country ski facility and the only inland rainforest in the world just 113km east of town*

*which features an accessible boardwalk. So many places to make memories.*

**VDA: What do you love about your community?**

*AD: The people - we're known for great northern hospitality and a large volunteer base.*

**VDA: Introduce us to a local artist.**

*AD: Jennifer Pighin. She's a local artist who designed the medals for the 2015 Canada Winter Games, she's a member of the Khstan drummers, she paints, draws, sculpts, photographs, is a local tattoo artist and creative writer.*

**VDA: Prince George is a multi-season destination. Tell us about what we can expect to experience in different seasons.**

*AD: May to September is our tourist season when most of our attractions are open. Winter lends itself to excellent outdoor activities including skating, skiing (4 ski hills), cross country, snowshoeing, hiking, the Iceman (annual winter event that includes skiing, running, skating and swimming), Winterfest (family event downtown), and the Coldsnap Music Festival (annual multi-day event that includes all types of music)*



Jennifer Pighin  
Dancing BearWolf Drum 2012

**VDA: What is your number one recommendation for a must-do or must-see experience in Prince George?**

*AD: The 4 Golden Raven Attractions located in Prince George: Huble Homestead Historic Site, The Exploration Place, the Two Rivers Art Gallery and the Central British Columbia Railway and Forestry Museum.*





**VDA: Take us on a cultural walk through a PG neighbourhood (think local stops, must see public art pieces, artist studios, galleries, etc.)**

*AD: I love to tour the public art around the city, walking through neighbourhoods with our Public Art Brochure and spending the day taking it all in.*

*It's also great to take a guided tour. The Public Library runs public tours in the summer to take visitors around the downtown core talking about the history of the buildings and the characters that inhabited them.*

**VDA: Each community has a unique cultural footprint. What is the essence of what makes Prince George a distinctive cultural destination?**

*Our community was built on the railway and pioneering, but we also have a strong First Nation history and a deep connection to the rivers and their transportation corridors. It is fascinating to spend time reading about the area's History.*



**BC's Guide to Arts + Culture has a passion for curating cultural experiences across the province. We want to partner with you and make your community a cultural destination.**

We know that the people who create, curate, advocate and generate cultural experiences are passionate. Passion is what gets us started and helps us to persevere. We also know that marketing for creatives can be daunting - getting people through the door of your gallery, or engaging an audience to buy tickets to your performance can be the greatest hurdle to the sustained success of any creative endeavour.

That's why we emphasize strategic alliances - we connect with cultural stakeholders in the province, like tourism and industry leaders, and curate content in communities to ensure that each community is featured as a cultural destination.

When you partner with us, we connect you to other cultural producers, artists and key stakeholders in your community creating a cohesive and unique picture of your Creative Community. Through these partnerships you are not only accessing an augmented audience, you are curating a community centred cultural experience.

**Don't see your community on [Art-BC.com](http://Art-BC.com)?**

We want to ensure that guide users have access to the best of the Creative Communities in our province. If you are a cultural producer and know of other must-see or must-do arts and cultural experiences in your area, [contact us](#) and begin the process of curating your community.

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Over the past two years, the BC Cultural Crawl has been transitioning to accommodate the shift from an annual event each August to becoming a scaffold for conceptualizing cultural development in communities across BC.

We are so proud of what this initiative has been able to accomplish in past 15 years. What began as an event featuring a couple of communities in different regions of the province has transformed into an avenue for communities to begin to take the reins on curating a unique cultural scene, incorporating festivals and events as well as galleries, studios, tours, heritage sites and every kind of creative experience.

Join us in celebrating BC's Creative Communities and continuing discover the unique arts and cultural experiences throughout the province. Don't forget to check out our weekly **BLOG** features on creative communities all throughout BC, and follow us on social media! <http://www.art-bc.com/blogs/>



**BC's Guide to Arts & Culture is the definitive guide to local, authentic experiences in the province.**

Founded in 1999, Inspired by a supercultural province, back-dropped by unmatched beauty, BC's Guide to Arts and Culture exists to promote the rich cultural uniqueness of British Columbia.



Through vibrant partnerships with over 1,000 community-based arts and cultural destinations, we aim to maximize the economic impact of cultural tourism throughout British Columbia by inspiring residents and drawing tourists from around the world.

To Participate or for more information please call  
**1.888.981.9886** or email [publisher@art-bc.com](mailto:publisher@art-bc.com)

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If so, please forward this email to a friend and suggest they sign up for monthly dose! As always, please let us know your requests and suggestions on Twitter. Which bullet above is your favourite? What do you want more or less of? Let us know!

**Send a tweet to @Art\_BC.**

**Want to be featured?** Send your stories, photos, events and creative projects to [christina@art-bc.com](mailto:christina@art-bc.com).

**We want to hear about them!**

Thanks for reading and have an inspiring week.

**Join over 35K cultural enthusiasts and follow**



# #SuperCulturalBC

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