

CELEBRATING PORT HARDY THROUGH COMMUNITY ARTS

Tuesday, February 1, 2011

Wednesday, February 2, 2011

Port Hardy, BC

Judith Marcuse

International Centre of Art for Social Change (ICASC)

Summary Report



Submitted to: Public Health Agency of Canada, BC/Yukon Regional Office
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Workshop Partners

- **SPARC BC**
- **Learning Initiatives in Rural and Northern British Columbia (LIRN BC)**
- **International Centre of Art for Social Change (ICASC)**
- **District of Port Hardy**
- **Mount Waddington Family Literacy Society**
- **Public Health Agency of Canada (Funding support)**

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1.0 Introduction

Port Hardy and area boasts a vibrant history and a rich array of cultures. Yet the community's history, culture and strength are in danger of being forgotten in the face of a number of immediate challenges.

This report provides a summary of a community workshop and follow-up meeting intended to provide an overview of community arts practices and how they could be utilized to address issues in Port Hardy.

1.1 Workshop Background

Community arts involve a range of practices (including theatre, visual art, dance, singing, crafts) intended to empower communities to explore issues and create change based on insight, social cohesion, and engagement. An evening workshop held Tuesday, February 1, 2011, was intended to provide an introduction to this field and explore potential community arts projects in Port Hardy and area.

The workshop was facilitated by Judith Marcuse, a founder and co-director of the International Centre of Art for Social Change (ICASC), a global centre for networking, training, professional development, research and community outreach in the burgeoning field of art for social change. It involved exercises aimed at building trust and at providing examples of how community arts could be used in the context of Port Hardy.

A follow-up meeting was also held Wednesday, February 2nd and a smaller group of participants discussed moving forward with community arts in Port Hardy. In addition, a resource list, *Getting Started with Community Arts in British Columbia*, was produced for this event.

A generous contribution from the Public Health Agency of Canada made this event possible.

1.2 Event Organizing Committee

The event organizing committee including representatives from partner organizations including Mt. Waddington Family Literacy Society, Literacy Now, Town of Port Hardy, Learning Initiatives in Rural and Northern Communities (LIRN), SPARC BC, and the International Centre of Art for Social Change. Committee members were:

Shari Ogren	Mount Waddington Family Literacy Society
Bev Parnham	Mayor, District of Port Hardy
Niki Shaw	Councillor, District of Port Hardy
Jamaine Campbell	Actor / Musician
Jessie Hemphill	Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw Nations
Jane Hutton	Port Hardy Museum
Harold Nelson	School District 85
Jim Sands	SPARC BC / LIRN BC
Judith Marcuse	International Centre of Art for Social Change (ICASC)

2.0 Getting to know each other

The February 1st evening workshop featured a number of exercises intended to stimulate conversation and illustrate the questions that participants had brought into the room.

2.1 Part 1: Strengths and wants

Participants were asked to (1) identify strengths and gifts they brought to the workshop and the (2) identify what they wanted to leave the workshop with. These were each written on a piece of paper and placed with-in two circles as introductions proceeded around the circle.

WHAT ARE THE STRENGTHS AND GIFTS YOU BRING TO THIS WORKSHOP?	WHAT DO YOU WANT TO LEAVE THIS WORKSHOP WITH?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dance • Enthusiasm • Music (X2) • Family Story time • Theatre • Art • Ability to hear what others are saying • Capacity for programming (College) • I bring intense energy • I give good hugs • Creative / critical thinking • Creativity • Encouraging • Laughter • Like to play music • Know history of Port Hardy • Organize • Encouraging people to express themselves through writing • Great imagination • Good organizer – work hard to make things happen • Participation / energy • Willingness to ask (for sponsors / donations) • Ears and a heart • Good listener 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arts for Youth • Artist Co-op w/ lessons for potential artists • Ideas, plans • Concrete ideas to use for our 77th upcoming Arts Festival • Youth art, Street art, beginnings • Understanding each others' dreams, ideas • I would love to see Port Hardy become a creative dynamo in Canada – The world. Respectful of First Nations roots and the environment. • Good ideas for Port Hardy • Develop Art Venue • Connections • A program for our community regarding dramas, plays, music, coffee houses • "Talents" • I think it would be good to have closer knit community • New vision • Take ideas and information from tonight that I can take to my work and use there. • More opportunities for art / music in Port Hardy • Connections with others • Inspiration through community connection • Go home with new ideas to use! • Information and sense of community desires • More resources to take back to my work • Establish reliable arts community • Meet more interesting people and ideas • Network, partner, build strength bridges

2.2 Part 2: Building trust and community

Participants engaged in a number of activities and exercises intended to develop trust and to spur conversation about strengths and challenges in Port Hardy.¹ Exercises included:

- **Balancing** – two people push against each other
- **Pulling** – two or more people work together to sit down and stand up
- **Walking in pairs** – two or more people walk together arm in arm silently contemplating issues of leadership, control and cooperation
- **Hypnosis** – one partner guides the other using just their hand
- **Lead the blind** – one partner guides the other using a vocal sound
- **Gesture** – learning how to use body shapes to tell a story
- **Complete the image** - using multiple gestures to build a complex body sculpture that tells a story
- **Copy the rhythm** – A rhythmic phrase involving a hand slap, clap, knee slap and hand slap is passed around the circle
- **Ball pass** – An imaginary ball (or balls) is passed between participants in a circle

3.0 Discussing possibilities

Once participants had come to know each other the discussion turned to models, resources and potential projects.

3.1 Models

Some examples of models to consider include:

- Storefront Art - Art City, Winnipeg MB (www.artcityinc.com)
- Laundromat Project, Bronx NY (www.laundromatproject.org/home.htm)
- Art Barge – New York City (www.theartbarge.com)
- Elder College Model (www.nic.bc.ca/eldercollege)
- Houston, BC Outdoor amphitheatre (used for weddings, jam sessions, movies, concerts)
- Upper Skeena Learning Shop (www.upperskeena.ca/lrnxact.html)
- Revelstoke Cultural Strategy (www.cityofrevelstoke.com/pdf/D1030Revelstoke070606.pdf)
- Culture, Creativity and the Arts: Achieving Community Resilience and Sustainability through the Arts in Sault Ste. Marie (Arts Council of Sault Ste. Marie and District) www.usaskstudies.coop/socialeconomy/files/LLL_Final_Reports/Report_CL5_01_NO.pdf
- Fort Langley (www.city.langley.bc.ca/sites/langley2/uploads/1263243846817.pdf)
- Dawson City, Yukon - takes an integrated approach to arts and culture that includes a variety of activities (film festivals, visual arts, heritage buildings) on a year-round basis. dawsonarts.com

¹ Some of these activities are adapted from Diamond, David (2007). *Theatre for Living: The Art and Science of Community-Based Dialogue*. Bloomington, IN: Trafford Publishing. See the book for full description of these activities.

Some project models to consider include:

- **Inter-generation Cross Cultural** – Recruit youth to interview seniors from another culture
- **Banner Projects** – Create symbols based on themes. Encourage various groups to participate (e.g. elementary schools, High Schools, RCMP, Community Groups)
- **Tile Projects** – What do people want to celebrate?
- **Photography Projects** - Collect portraits and pictures of families
- **Boats** – There are many boats in and around Port Hardy – suggested a project to honour the role of boats (e.g. paint boats, boat light show, Port Hardy Art Barge)
- **Murals** – Mural projects can provide an opportunity for participants from a variety of backgrounds to work together to create a visual representation of the community
- **Participatory Projects** – Create art projects based around gatherings that give participants a chance to talk while creating (e.g. quilting, crafts, etc.)

3.2 Potential spaces

- Active spaces in Port Hardy and area
 - o Coal Harbour Activity Centre
 - o Café Guido
 - o Robert Scott Centre
- Potential spaces
 - o Space in Malls (Upper and Lower Malls)
 - o Campus (North Island College) can provide space for local art
 - o Old Church – would make a great theatre

3.3 Potential projects

- Needs identified
 - o No centre to city – no gathering place for everybody
 - o A place for film
 - o Gather existing plans / proposals which have been developed but not implemented (i.e. pull all the recommendations into one place)
 - o Need to recognize the value of cyber space
- Possible projects
 - o Develop Arts and Culture District (e.g. spaces along the waterfront) – refer to Official Community Plan
 - o Multi-use centre – culture and other activities (e.g. yoga, karate, open art space, drumming, children’s art, counseling employment)
- Council
 - o Working on update of Official Community Plan
 - o Council has a social / cultural / education focus
 - o It would be wise to get action while the interest is there

3.4 Next meeting

- Wednesday, Mar. 9 (re-scheduled on day #2) @ NI College (rides will be offered)

3.4 Other topics for discussion

- Artists Cooperatives (bcics.uvic.ca/galleria/bc.php?group=12&tourtype=2)
- Antigonish Movement (en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antigonish_Movement)
- Community mapping (www.mapping.uvic.ca)

4.0 Session #2: Where to from here?

On Wednesday morning (Feb. 2, 2011) a follow-up session was held attended by about ten participants. The group discussed the follow up meeting scheduled for March, 2011. It was decided to move the date of the meeting to March 9 to avoid conflict with a Port Hardy Museum board meeting. The purpose of the meeting would be to share information about current initiatives, continue to build a network of individuals, and continue to discuss possibilities and options.

If this meeting was seen as necessary and worthwhile, it would be possible to continue on a monthly basis as long as people felt the need to meet.

A suggested agenda for the meeting included the following items:

- **Introductions and check-in** – an opportunity to identify what gifts and wants being brought into the meeting.
- **Sharing practice** – an opportunity to experience an arts practice that a participant is involved with (e.g. theatre, drumming, etc.)
- **Sharing information** – participants can volunteer to summarize information on specific topics of interest to the group. (research on specific topics e.g. Cooperatives, Antigonish Movement)
- **Discussion about possibilities** – An opportunity to continue the discussion about possibilities for working together and advancing community arts and cultural activities in Port Hardy. Note that it may not be one project or partnership that emerges from these discussions. It may be that several initiatives involving a variety of actors emerge from the conversations.

4.1 Partnership Development / Circles of Influence

Some common phases that groups and communities progress through as they start working together was outlined. Phases in developing partnerships and collaboration:

- Networking
 - Building relationships and trust.
 - Information sharing
 - Simple time limited projects
- Partnership
 - Developing a longer term commitments
 - Working together on activities that benefit all
 - Ongoing sharing through established partnership
- Collaboration across sectors
 - Developing the ability to dialogue and incorporate other viewpoints into the process.
 - Maintaining contact and working to include those on the “outer ring”

In considering how to move forward it is sometimes helpful to think about the circles of influence involved with the initiative. These categories are not cast in stone – in fact, one of the hallmarks of a healthy initiative is there is ongoing communication and development of links between the various layers of participation. Nobody should be “stuck” where they don’t want to be.

1. **First layer (Decision Makers)** – who has the time, resources and interest to be involved in making decisions to move activities forward?
2. **Second layer (Stake holders)** - Who may not be able to actively participate but who wants to be informed about discussions and upcoming decisions on important issues?
3. **Third Layer (Constituency / Potential Partners)** - Who needs to know what is happening, but may not be involved in decision making?

There needs to be ongoing efforts to reach out to those in the outside circle and bring them into the decision making process.

4.2 Next Steps

- Event organizing committee will stay in contact to organize follow-up discussions and meetings.
- Follow-up meeting scheduled for March 9 at North Island College
- Event report circulated to interested parties (District of Port Hardy, Official Community Plan Process)
- Follow-up discussion with SPARC BC to debrief and discuss next steps (March 18)
- SPARC BC to update *Getting Started with Community Arts in BC* resource list for inclusion website.

Appendix A - Participant List

Jeanne Alley	Coal Harbour Activity Centre
Jan Armburst	
Lyn Barton	North Island College / North Vancouver Island Arts
Janice Chmurzynski	North Island Stepping Stones
Audrey Dalton	Family Place
Betty-Jean Dziekan	Kwakiutl Band Daycare
Caitlin Hartnett	North Island College
Karsten Henriksen	North Island College
Ann Hory	Coastal Health Care Committee
Muffy Jones	Mount Waddington Family Literacy Society
Cori Nelson	Mount Waddington Family Literacy Society
Kevin Ogren	Vancouver Island North Teachers Association
Clayton Shaw	School student
Mary C. Sherlock	North Island Community Services
Anik Spencer	School student
Tiff Spencer	
Marne Svennes	North Island Employment
Sheila Walsh	North Island Crisis and Counselling Centre Society – Support Child Development Program
Rob Yaschuk	
Steering Committee	
Jamaine Campbell	Actor/Musician
Jessie Hemphill	Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw Comprehensive Community Planning
Jane Hutton	Port Hardy Museum
Harold Nelson	School District 85
Shari Ogren	Mount Waddington Family Literacy Society
Bev Parnham	District of Port Hardy (Mayor)
Nikki Shaw	District of Port Hardy (Councillor)

Appendix B - Event Summary

Celebrating Port Hardy through Community Arts

An Evening with Judith Marcuse

International Centre of Art for Social Change (ICASC)

Tuesday, February 1, 2011

7:00 pm – 9:30 pm (Registration at 6:30 pm)

Port Hardy Civic Centre

Port Hardy and area boasts a vibrant history and a rich array of cultures. Yet the community's history, culture and strength are in danger of being forgotten in the face of a number of immediate challenges.

Join us for an evening of discussion, participation and reflection focused on the question: ***How can we celebrate Port Hardy?***

The evening workshop will be facilitated by Judith Marcuse, a founder and co-director of the International Centre of Art for Social Change (ICASC), a global centre for networking, training, professional development, research and community outreach in the burgeoning field of art for social change.

Community arts involve a range of practices (including theatre, visual art, dance, singing, crafts) intended to empower communities to explore issues and create change based on insight, social cohesion, and engagement. The evening workshop will provide an introduction to this field and explore community arts projects intended to support change in Port Hardy and area.

The event is free, but pre-registration is required. For more information and to pre-register please contact: Shari Ogren at 250 949-9204 or email: shari@cablerocket.com. Also note that there will be a smaller meeting on the morning of February 2nd to discuss next steps and follow up to the evening workshop.

Organizers wish to acknowledge a generous contribution from the Public Health Agency of Canada which has made this event possible. Other sponsors include Mt. Waddington Family Literacy Society, Literacy Now, Town of Port Hardy, Learning Initiatives in Rural and Northern Communities (LIRN), SPARC BC, and the International Centre of Art for Social Change.

Appendix C – Planning Group Brainstorm List

Issues in Port Hardy Brainstorm List

- Nothing to do or there are events/activities, but do not know about them. Where are the neat little things to do in Port Hardy?
- Drugs and alcohol
- No hub for all youth, but there is Providence Place
- Homelessness - progressing to remove this barrier with resources and support
- Lack of optimism and hope
- Economic collapse of resources. Who is setting the direction of economic dev't?
- Economic transition - redefine it
- Without fishing, logging and mining, what defines you?
- Collaboration of First Nation government and local government is very positive
- Stereotypical tendency that we are an isolated (hick town) community; there is a sense that we are not part of what is going on in the real world
- Little places/towns that are very creative take advantage of what a small town has to offer: authentic identity, geography, and quiet
- Lack of distraction here, which is good; allows for time to focus
- Physical design of Port Hardy does not facilitate community. All these separated stores, malls with huge parking lots. Nothing ties them together to create community. No common theme, design element. However, there are two murals painted in Port Hardy.
- Poverty and lack of education: the last census, only 25% of Port Hardy residents aged 25 or over have a high school diploma.

*****Inspire and Redefine Port Hardy*****

APPENDIX D: Evaluation Results

SESSION #1: Tuesday, February 1, 2011

1. Please indicate the type of group/organization that you represent²

First Nation government or Aboriginal organization	
Social development nonprofit organization	1
Economic development nonprofit organization	
Environmental preservation nonprofit organization	
Arts and culture nonprofit organization	7
Government (municipal, regional, provincial, or federal)	
Business	
Health (health authority, hospital, hospice, etc.)	1
Education (school, college, university, etc.)	6
Engaged citizen	5
Religious organization	
Other: Sup Child Care	1
Other: Literacy Non-Profit	1

2. Was this learning event relevant for your community?

1 (not at all)	2	3	4	5 (very relevant)	Average
			1	5	4.9

3. Did this event help you connect with people in your community and/or people from a different community?

1 (not at all)	2	3	4	5 (very helpful)	Average
			2	14	4.9

4. Did this event help you participate in meaningful dialogue about topics that matter to you?

1 (not at all)	2	3	4	5 (very helpful)	Average
			2	14	4.9

Comments:

- I wish I could attend the next day

² Some participants indicated multiple affiliations

5. Did this event increase your interest in exploring new ways to work with people in your community and/or people in a different community?

1 (not at all)	2	3	4	5 (a great deal)	Average
			2	14	4.9

Comments:

- I had a narrow vision - just my area just community. Now, I see the strength in numbers and unity

6. Did this event increase your understanding about Community Art and the ways in which Community Art projects could benefit Port Hardy?

1 (not at all)	2	3	4	5 (a great deal)	Average
			6	10	4.6

Comments:

- I had no idea there was so much interest out there

7. How would you rate the event facilitator(s)?

1 (poor)	2	3	4	5 (excellent)	Average
			2	14	4.9

Comments:

- They did an awesome job of keeping the workshop moving smoothly and providing knowledge

8. What could have made this event better?

- If I could have attended the rest of the session
- Not much!!
- More time!
- More time to strategize
- First Nations Rep
- More variety of people
- Maybe some small group discussion but I do understand that is for the next day
- More time to chat
- ?

- Nothing - it was fantastic
- More time
- Spend more time here

9. Based on your experiences today, what would you like to know more about?

- How to be part of the working group - grants, funding, proposals
- Everything
- Funding
- Find out with time and more meetings
- Not sure yet
- Establishing long-lasting arts facilities
- How to have a very vibrant community with art and culture

10. How will you act on what you learned today?

- I will continue to seek out new and exciting ways to increase the arts and culture of this area
- Get involved
- Be part of the working group
- I will keep in touch with other participants
- Meetings and organize / partner with other groups
- I'll be even more involved
- Report at school
- Take part in the next meeting
- Attend the meetings / Check out Robert Scott Gym
- Begin meetings in Port Hardy (I'm in a nearby community) Join forces. Not maintain a rigid vision, but be strong enough to bend - wider vision and flexibility will build a stronger foundation, then fan out to individual goals
- Meet more

SESSION #2: Wednesday, February 2, 2011

Please indicate the type of group/organization that you represent³

First Nation government or Aboriginal organization	
Social development nonprofit organization	1
Economic development nonprofit organization	
Environmental preservation nonprofit organization	
Arts and culture nonprofit organization	3
Government (municipal, regional, provincial, or federal)	1
Business	
Health (health authority, hospital, hospice, etc.)	
Education (school, college, university, etc.)	2
Engaged citizen	1
Religious organization	
Other: Artist / Mother	1
Other: Literacy Non-Profit	2

2. Was this learning event relevant for your community?

1 (not at all)	2	3	4	5 (very relevant)	Average
			1	7	4.9

3. Did this event help you connect with people in your community and/or people from a different community?

1 (not at all)	2	3	4	5 (very helpful)	Average
			1	7	4.9

4. Did this event help you participate in meaningful dialogue about topics that matter to you?

1 (not at all)	2	3	4	5 (very helpful)	Average
			1	7	4.9

Comments:

- Thank you so much!!
- We needed more time!

³ Some participants indicated multiple affiliations.

5. Did this event increase your interest in exploring new ways to work with people in your community and/or people in a different community?

1 (not at all)	2	3	4	5 ((a great deal))	Average
			2	7	4.8

6. Did this event increase your understanding about Community Art and the ways in which Community Art projects could benefit Port Hardy?

1 (not at all)	2	3	4	5 ((a great deal))	Average
			4	5	4.6

7. How would you rate the event facilitator(s)?

1 (poor)	2	3	4	5 (excellent)	Average
			2	7	4.8

Comments:

- Very knowledgeable and this is just the tip of the iceberg

8. What could have made this event better?

- Perfect
- Spend more time
- More!
- More time with facilitator
- More time
- Have a longer workshop

9. Based on your experiences today, what would you like to know more about?

- Time to let it sink in and start moving - that was a lot of good info
- Forming a co-op -- finding a barge
- Local Language
- Facilitation
- Moving forward and ways of doing this

10. How will you act on what you learned today?

- Research my one thing - tell people about the group - look up mapping
- Form a group and have a facilitator
- Share
- Active involvement
- Meet more
- Make a phone call to set up a future meeting and get information from BC Arts Council.
Thank you!