

# GRANVILLE ISLAND NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 2  
FEBRUARY 2023



Artist of Seagull Mural: Priscilla Yu (@priscillayuart)  
Commissioned by: MAKE Vancouver for ArtSmash 2018 (@makevancouver)

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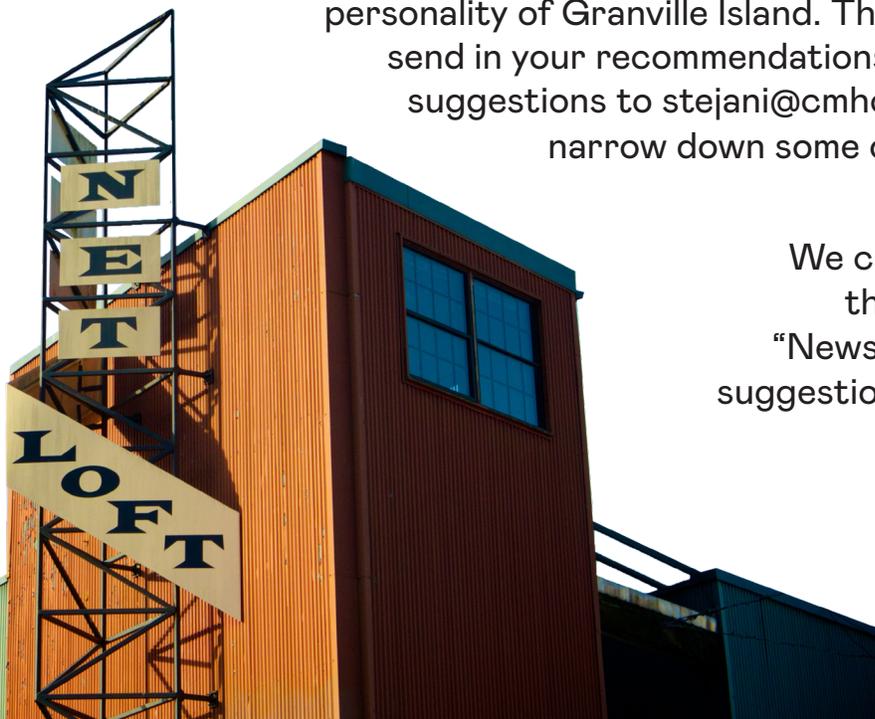
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## Help Name the Granville Island Newsletter!

*What's in a name ? We could ask Shakespeare, but we're asking you instead!*

We're looking for a name that reflects the quirky, fun, and creative personality of Granville Island. That's why we're asking you to send in your recommendations for a new name! Send your suggestions to [stejani@cmhc.ca](mailto:stejani@cmhc.ca) by March 17th and we'll narrow down some options for you to vote on in the next newsletter!

We can't wait to hear your ideas, though we humbly request no "Newsletter McNewsletter-Face" suggestions (we have a reputation to uphold, after all).



# 2022 - A YEAR IN REVIEW

Everyone knows Granville Island has a lot to offer residents and visitors alike, but 2022 put us on **the map**.

## EVENTS

We don't need to remind you why 2020 and 2021 were so quiet on Granville Island. But we've put that behind us, because 2022 saw an exciting return to full-scale cultural events across the Island. CMHC-Granville Island supported over 75 cultural projects throughout the year, including:

- Reopening of, and a return to, full-scale programming of four Granville Island theatre companies;
- 19 festivals and public events;
- 3 new Island murals; and
- Numerous gallery exhibitions

*That's not all!*

The Granville Island Theatre District (GITD) reopened its doors and welcomed evening visitors back to the Island. Meanwhile, our 'After Dark' programming featured a number of new indoor and outdoor evening activations through the summer into the fall.



Granville Island is the place to be for celebrity sightings? Stephen Colbert (of The Late Show) even filmed an episode of the Colbert Report here for the 2010 Winter Olympics!

**DID  
YOU  
KNOW**



Source: Scott Jacobs Music

## VOLUNTEERS

This year, we welcomed 25 new volunteers to Granville Island! Let's take a moment to recap their incredible contributions in 2022:

- 77 volunteers contributed over 3,280 hours of their time, energy, and expertise this year;
- This is compared to 60 volunteers who contributed 2,135 hours in 2021; a clear indicator of growth in activity and buzz around the Island 'post'-pandemic.
- Volunteers hosted visitors at the information table in the Public Market, kept map huts stocked year-round, distributed invitations to the Winter Reception, surveyed tenants about gift card offerings, helped collect data on bike rack usage, and counted vehicle occupants for our traffic surveys.
- Volunteers also contributed their time at different events around the Island, including Latincover, the Children's Festival, Fringe Festival, Writer's Fest, and Arts Umbrella.

If you see our volunteers supporting LunarFest at Ocean Artworks this month, be sure to stop by, say hello, and share your thanks for their contributions to an amazing 2022!

## BUSKERS

*Only on Granville Island can you be serenaded by a multitude of incredibly talented buskers while you stuff your face with donuts!*

A big thank you to the 29 buskers that performed for our many visitors and tenants throughout 2022. They livened up 8 different outdoor and 3 indoor locations across the island for a total of 800 (yes, you read that correctly) performances this past year!

Does your voice dazzle the likes of every karaoke bar you attend? Can you drop the jaws of passersby with your unique skills? Well, we're accepting applications for prospective buskers until February 28th! In-person auditions will be held in March. If you miss your chance, we'll have another application intake closer to September! But act quickly, 200 prospective buskers have already applied!

## COMMUNITY FESTIVITIES

While Granville Island is home to the coolest events around the city on a regular basis, it's also home to those special events held near and dear to our community's hearts. Our visitors host birthday parties, anniversaries, weddings and more in our beautiful outdoor spaces. Public bookings for the Picnic Pavilion, Ron Basford Park, and the Public Market Courtyard open February 1st on Granville Island's administrative website (admin.granvilleisland.com/). We also saw the return of our first youth musical group – The Calgary Youth Singers – to the Public Market Courtyard for the first time since the pandemic. Stay tuned as we're gearing we gear up for more youth performing arts groups this upcoming year!

## GRANVILLE ISLAND HOLIDAY LIGHTS

It was pretty hard not to be dazzled by Granville Island's holiday lights this winter season! Lit from November 12th to January 3rd, below are some of our very favourite light displays around the Island. What were yours? Send your photos to [stejani@cmhc.ca](mailto:stejani@cmhc.ca) and we'll include a few in our next Winter Issue!



## AUTUMN MADNESS.

*Whoever said Vancouver was a “No Fun City” has clearly never been to Granville Island on a warm autumn day.*

Unseasonably warm and sunny October days saw the triumphant return of the Granville Island Turkey Trot, Latin American Heritage Month, and the 35th Annual Writers Festival. These three events alone brought a staggering 45,000 visitors to the Island in October.

As temperatures cooled and scarves returned, many more visitors, staff, and tenants shifted indoors to enjoy belly-aching laughs at The Improv Center and at Talkin’ Turkey at Arts Club Granville Island Stage. Granville Island Theatre District also saw no shortage of incredible events throughout the fall, including Carousel Theatre’s nīkwatin sīpiy (Frozen River), and the finale event for Vancouver Indigenous Fashion Week: The Supernatural Kiki Ball, presented in partnership with Van Vogue Jam.

Crushing their fourth year, All Aboard returned to provide a fun place to skateboard in the winter months, while the Secret Lantern Society celebrated their 29th anniversary of The Winter Solstice celebrations (and are already gearing up for the 30th anniversary next December!)



Source: Vancity Roots & Culture Experience Festival

Culture Days



Source: Latincouver

Latin American



Source: Vancity Roots & Culture Experience Festival



Source: New Works - Culture Days

Heritage Month



Source: Latincouver

# 2023 WINTER EVENTS

Let's be honest - January and February need a little sparkle and where better to get that, than here on Granville Island?

We hope you were able to shake off those winter blues with the PuSh Festival from January 19 - February 5th and Dine Out Vancouver from January 20 - February 5th. What else do we have planned? LunarFest & Lantern City is still on from January 20 - February 20th and for everyone that's already given up on their New Year's resolutions, you still have time to enjoy the tail end of the Vancouver Hot Chocolate Festival from January 14th - February 14th!

If festivals aren't your jam, be sure to catch one of the many theatre shows or gallery exhibits coming up across the Island. Head over to our website ([granvilleisland.com/upcoming-events](http://granvilleisland.com/upcoming-events)) for more information. Stay tuned for a full season of public events, festivals, and animated public spaces this year. If 2022 was any measure, 2023 will be one for the record books!



Source: Alimodopit



Source: Sandbar



Source: The Keg



@tinnbits



Source: Dockside



Source: Tap&Barrel Bridges



Source: Van Fish Co



@b3rb3rr

Source: PuSh Festival



**PuSh**  
INTERNATIONAL PERFORMING ARTS FESTIVAL  
Jan 19 - Feb 5, 2023

# LATEST & GREATEST

## Updates & Noteworthy News

### CHAIN & FORGE REDEVELOPMENT UPDATE

*The hoarding is up, the drywall is down, time to build something new for everyone in town!*

Work is underway on the redevelopment of the Chain & Forge building, with the building shell scheduled for completion this Spring 2023! A big thank you to everyone who came out to celebrate the murals in the Chain & Forge one last time. The next time you see the Chain & Forge, it'll be a brand new building with 7 new food and beverage retail and restaurant uses! Interested in one of the new spaces in the building? Marcus & Millichap, our commercial real estate brokers, will open leasing applications this February! A tenant memo containing the details and their contact information will be released in the coming weeks.



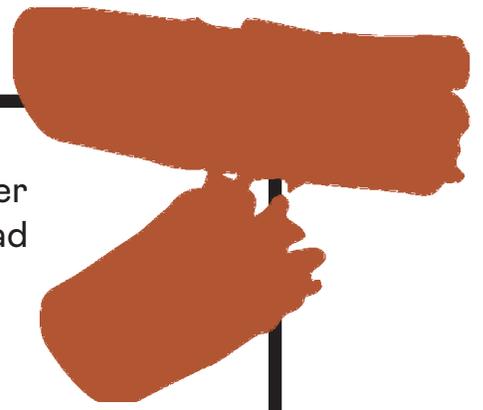
### PUBLIC MARKET KIOSKS

*In not so BREAKING NEWS: the Public Market is the place to be!*

We've received a lot of interest from various food businesses to lease the two new turn-key retail kiosks in the food hall area of the Public Market. The CMHC-Granville Island Leasing Department is currently conducting interviews with the shortlisted businesses. We'll announce those businesses once selected and hope that you'll join us in welcoming them to the Public Market and the Granville Island tenant community in Spring 2023!

## DID YOU KNOW

There is a glass cobblestone on the sidewalk outside of Vancouver Studio Glass? Never seen it? Head toward Railspur Alley and take a look-see!



## FREE GRANVILLE ISLAND WIFI

*That's right - You can finally post Instagram stories and TikToks using Granville Island's very own WiFi!*

After years of working tirelessly to install free public WiFi, we're happy to announce the #VANWIFI will be ready for you to use this summer (or sooner!) This awesome new perk is for public use and cannot be used by individual businesses or for point-of-sale transactions. So what can you expect? Well, the system won't ask you to sign in or join a provider - though you will need to 'agree' to the terms and conditions. More importantly, it won't be collecting any IP addresses or private information like your name, address, or location. Why? Because the privacy of our visitors, guests, and staff was a key factor in the long-term set up of this service.

***Tell me more! Where can I get coverage?***

**Granville Island Public Market** indoor/outdoor coverage - 1689 Johnston Street (includes Island Plaza, Triangle Square and outdoor surrounds of the Net Loft)

**Waterpark** outdoor coverage - 1398 Cartwright Street

**Kids Market** outdoor coverage - 1496 Cartwright Street

**Net Loft** indoor coverage - 1650 Johnston Street

**Railspur Alley/Artisan District** outdoor coverage - 1325 Cartwright Street and 1400 Johnston Street

**Chain & Forge** indoor/outdoor coverage - 1596 Johnston Street

The COV has a similar service, further details can be found at [vancouver.ca/your-government/vanwifi.aspx](http://vancouver.ca/your-government/vanwifi.aspx)

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## MOBI BIKE SHARE

*Wanting to reduce your carbon footprint while upgrading your commute to the seawall or Vancouver's many bike lanes? Join the club!*

All Granville Island employees are eligible for discounted Mobi Bike Share memberships. We have two options available:

365 Day Corporate Standard Pass for unlimited 30-minute rides for \$99/year (discounted from \$129); or

365 Day Corporate Plus Pass for unlimited 60-minute rides for \$119/year (discounted from \$159)

Contact our Administrative Office and provide your employer's information for the code! Luckily for you, we have a Mobi docking station right here on Granville Island! Find them at the Old Bridge and Cartwright intersection, or at Anderson and West 2nd Avenue. If you have a dreadful uphill commute, Mobi has also introduced e-bikes around the city. Use the Mobi app to filter for e-bikes at nearby docking stations, or look for bikes with the lightning bolt on the frame!

# LANTERN CITY & LUNARFEST



Source: Lantern City

The Asian Canadian Special Events Association (ACSEA) is back for this year's Lunar New Year celebrations, bringing Lantern City to Granville Island. In its fourth year of this city-wide project, the ACSEA has curated six unique large-scale lanterns that are installed in the outdoor courtyard of the Ocean Art Works Pavilion from January 20th-February 20th, illuminated from 4pm onward. Granville Island's lanterns feature three youth artists from our very own Arts Umbrella, designed under the theme of 'Forever Young' with aims to inspire imagination and creativity. Find out more about each artist and their pieces on the Lantern City website ([thelanterncity.ca/granville-island-lanterns](http://thelanterncity.ca/granville-island-lanterns)) or visit the lanterns in person any time of the day during the activation.

Why stop there? For the first time, ACSEA will also welcome LunarFest to Granville Island. These cultural activities will take place at Ocean Artworks, through the Lunar New Year period and will extend to the Family Day weekend in February. In addition to workshops, a public art installation will be installed in Ocean Artworks, featuring artist Chen Ching-Lin from Taiwan. His chosen medium is natural dye made from plants, flowers, fruits, and persimmons. The project is supported by the national Taiwan Craft Research and Development Institute.

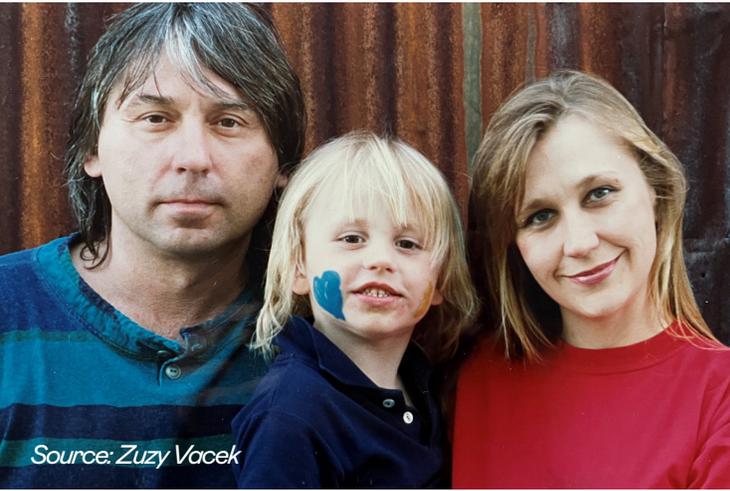
*Why, oh why, work with natural dye?*

"Persimmons grow well in subtropical climates. One town in Taiwan grows them in abundance, so they dry the fruits to preserve them. Only recently did they discover that the fruits leave pretty stains and colour, prompting them to research and develop persimmon dye, amongst other natural dyes.

LunarFest wants to share this story and the story of Chen Ching-Lin, because the curiosity of the world around them led them to explore with natural materials and create beautiful art. We hope to inspire people to look around them with curious eyes like energetic rabbits and imagine what they can make with their own hands."

– The Lantern City

# GOODBYE, MATERNA CERAMICS



Source: Zuzy Vacek

*And just like that, Materna has left the Island*

After 36 illustrious years on Granville Island, it's time to say goodbye to Materna Ceramics. Daniel Materna & Zuzy Vacek were both born in the Czech Republic (former Czechoslovakia) and have always centred their lives around the arts. Daniel is a graduate of the Ceramics College of Arts in Bechyne, Czech Republic and moved to Austria then Canada in 1968, where he owned four studios across the city before moving his practice to Granville Island. Zuzy by contrast, left the Czech

Republic in response to political turmoil, only to return and graduate with an honours degree in painting, weaving, and bobbin lace-making from the Institute of Textile Arts in Prague. She went on to study painting and drawing in Bonn, Germany before moving to Canada in 1982.

The pair began working together in 1982 in a gallery on 4th Avenue and Maple Street. Their son Phillip, born a few years later, quickly became part of the Granville Island community, spending many days alongside his parents in the studio. He went on to study at Emily Carr University of Art & Design on Granville Island and graduated with a bachelor's in fine arts. Phillip now spends his time working for a designer in the United Kingdom.

Since 1987, Materna Ceramics has been the love child of Daniel & Zuzy's respective talents. Daniel's ceramics quickly became the canvas for Zuzy's whimsical drawings. They gained worldwide recognition for their famous 'cow' sculptures in the 90s after being published in *Western Living*, and have had celebrity customers like Bill Clinton, himself. Anyone who has ever walked into their studio is greeted with whimsy, bursts of colour, and a whole lot of personality. After many years of dedication to their practice, Zuzy and Daniel are retiring to enjoy some much-needed rest and time with family. Zuzy will continue working on documentation of Clays and Quilts and will continue to be a regular visitor of Granville Island.

We know we're not alone in saying how much Materna Ceramics' presence will be missed on the Island and we hope you'll join us in wishing them a very happy and well-deserved retirement!



Source: Materna Ceramics



Source: Materna Ceramics

# SEA2CITY DESIGN CHALLENGE

*We can't say Bob Dylan didn't warn us... "high water risin', risin' night and day".*

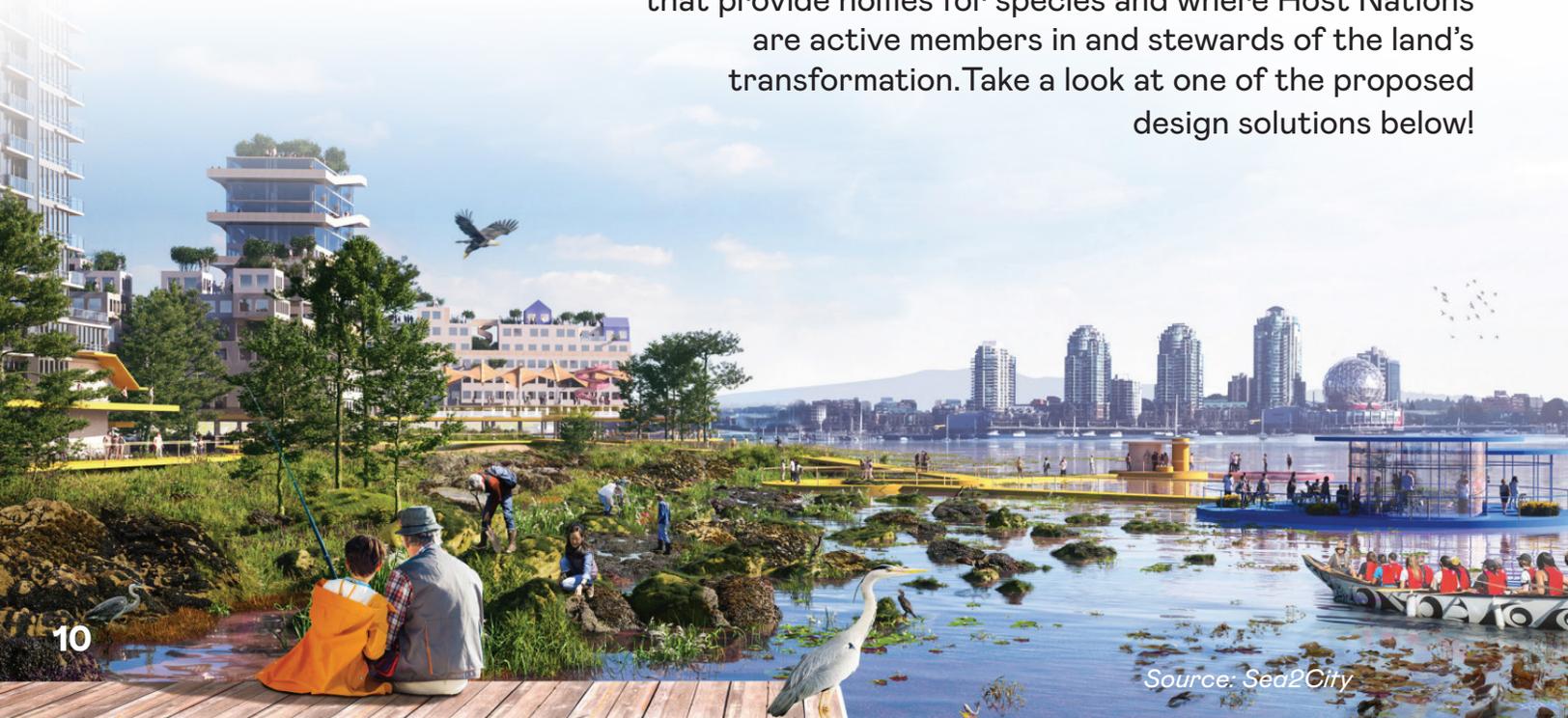
In 2022, the City of Vancouver generously provided financial support for CMHC-Granville Island to participate in their Sea2CityDesign Challenge as a key stakeholder. The Sea2City challenge is a multi-year project led by the City to raise awareness about sea level rise and inform a vision that could guide the future of urban development and ecological revitalization in the False Creek floodplain. A key outcome of this work is to formulate coastal adaptation approaches beyond 1 metre that could respond to the social equity, economic, and ecological challenges posed by sea level rise and coastal flooding. It will also seek to expand the City (and Granville Island's) toolbox of coastal adaptation approaches.

The Sea2City Design Challenge included advisory sessions, workshops, and public learning events. CMHC-GI's involvement included participation and attendance at 3 stakeholder workshops, hosting a Vulnerability Assessment Workshop, and a presentation by Sea2City consultants to Granville Island Council (twice!).

## **What's Next?**

*What does the future of Granville Island really look like then?  
Are we hoisting the whole thing on stilts?*

While Granville Island wasn't selected as a challenge site, there are plenty of learnings for us to draw on. Over the next year (and more!) we'll be working to develop our own coastal adaptation solutions. Based on the kinds of recommendations stemming from Sea2City, we can tell you it's a lot less 'stilts' and a lot more naturalized, decolonized shorelines that provide an opportunity for people to connect with the water. It envisions resilient habitats that provide homes for species and where Host Nations are active members in and stewards of the land's transformation. Take a look at one of the proposed design solutions below!



# INTRODUCTION TO GIBCA

The Granville Island Business and Community Association (GIBCA) was founded in 1995 to represent the Granville Island community. Unlike a BIA, GIBCA is a non-profit society governed by a volunteer Board of Directors. Membership is voluntary, but strongly encouraged, as the association strives to represent the best interests of Island businesses and the surrounding community on Granville Island.

GIBCA's mandate is to promote general wellbeing for all who work and/or visit Granville Island. It brings together like-minded people to work together on specific projects that enhance and promote a positive experience for Island visitors and businesses alike.

## Interested in joining? Here are the details!

Executive Committee meetings are on the first Wednesday of each month; with members elected each year at GIBCA's Annual General Meeting. Interested instead in general membership? The 41 members of GIBCA meet once a month for Townhall Meetings. You can contact GIBCA about membership at: [GIBCA@wildapricot.org](mailto:GIBCA@wildapricot.org)

## Meet GIBCA's current Executive Committee!



### Lynn Falconer – President

Lynn Falconer is a figurative sculptor in her Studio/Gallery at 1350 Railspur Alley on Granville Island. Lynn also teaches a monthly evening class on the side – 'Preschool for Grown Ups'. Her sculptures can be seen both in private collections and galleries locally and internationally.

### Peter Braune - Vice President

Peter Braune is the owner/operator of New Leaf Editions, a collaborative printmaking workshop established in 1985. His studio is located at 3-1244 Cartwright Street on Granville Island.



### Lou Ann Mendoza – Secretary/Acting Treasurer/ Membership Coordinator

Lou Ann Mendoza is the Manager of Database and Ticketing System at Arts Club Theatre Company. GIBCA members receive \$10 off the first week of any GI show. Contact GIBCA directly to obtain the promo code.



### Pernilla Ahrnstedt – Member-At-Large

Pernilla Ahrnstedt is one of three goldsmiths at Aurum-Argentum Goldsmiths located at 1351 Railspur Alley. Having been here for 22 years, they continue to make jewellery for both local and international clients.



### Steve Edge – Member-At-Large

Steve Edge is the co-founder and Executive Director of Rogue Folk Club and a founding member of the Folk Alliance International. Steve is also the winner of the Spirit of Folk Award, the Canadian Folk Music Awards 'Unsung Heroes', and an inductee into the BC Entertainment Hall of Fame.



# GI COUNCIL: REFLECTING ON 2022

The last year has been one of transition for our GI community. While we started to see business return, it also reminded us of the opportunities ahead and the work still to be done. Council would like to congratulate and thank everyone for continuing to make Granville Island a special place, despite the many circumstances faced by our local and global community.

COVID-19 brought a unique set of challenges and much of the time was focused on providing supports for our community – results that we are generally pleased with. Despite these challenges, Council continued to work and build towards our 2040 strategic plan:

- ➔ Council has provided input into the Broadway Plan consultation, even attempting to get the Broadway/Granville subway station's name to include Granville Island (a long shot but worth the try).
- ➔ We have made efforts to reconsider federal electoral boundaries – the initial plan splitting Granville Island between two Federal Members of Parliament;
- ➔ We added sea-level rise and potential adaptation efforts to our agenda and have made some progress on this, including requesting funding for a more comprehensive study of mitigation and adaptation tools to employ;
- ➔ Council has continued to work on improving communication with the GI community and hope that these efforts are being noticed. We will continue to do all we can we to exceed your expectations in this regard;
- ➔ We onboarded our new General Manager who hit the ground running. Among other major priorities, we also worked to orient a new Minister in Ottawa; and
- ➔ Our Leasing team has worked hard to bring new exciting enterprises to add to our community's unique mix: BalletBC, Urbanarium, UEL, and Preservatory Provisions, just to name a few.

*You can find a list of 2040 strategies at [granvilleisland2040.ca](http://granvilleisland2040.ca).*

Not to be daunted, we focused on developing clear strategic goals based on your input and continued to keep the future viability of Granville Island top of mind in all our work. We've worked on these changes and improvements to position Granville Island for the future and hope that these efforts have prepared the next Council to take the reigns. Throughout our term, there were comings and goings on Council: Branislav Henselmann joined us as the City of Vancouver representative and Johanna Lauyanto went on maternity leave in the Fall. Alas, all good things must come to an end: it pains us to say that the current GI Council is in the last year of its mandate and despite major unforeseen global events - what a term it's been!

Council recognizes the tough times we've all been through, but the future looks bright. In 2023, we will continue efforts to expand and enliven Granville Island: redevelopment of the Emily Carr North building, expansion of the food precinct, opening of BalletBC, and the continued provision of a diversity of offerings will all continue to position Granville Island

# MESSAGE FROM THE GM

It is not possible to thank the Granville Island community enough for this past year. We weathered the first four months of 2022 without knowing what was around the corner; worried about the continued havoc that COVID-19 was bringing to us. We pushed through yet another lockdown in the late spring, hoping against hope that things would take a turn for the better. And then, immunizations spread far and wide and resistance to the virus grew. With summer looming, the community of visitors, tenants, festival producers, and staff held our collective breath and Granville Island started to come alive again. The Pandemic restrictions hurt our beloved and amazing Island, and emerging out of those difficult times has been like a rebirth.

This feat is a result of our collective efforts to keep our Island thriving, and now here we sit with one of the most event-laden summer/fall seasons Granville Island has ever seen. Visitor numbers are almost back to normal, sales are rising, new tenants are adding to our already vibrant mix, festivals and events put on by countless tenants and cultural partners liven our indoor and outdoor spaces, welcoming the world back. And with a series of exciting new developments on the horizon, we are more than bouncing back, we are poised on the edge of an amazing new era.

My heartfelt thanks go to CMHC-Granville Island staff for their unwavering dedication and contributions to making the Island incredible. Thank you also to the volunteers on the Granville Island Council! Your insights and leadership have had such positive impact – thank you for donating your time, energy, and passion for this place. To the Island tenants and staff; none of this would be possible without you. And that brings us back to what I started with; our amazing and supportive Granville Island community.

We hope you are enjoying the new Newsletter McNewsletter Face (please help us with name suggestions). Please send us your requests for ideas and for photo/written content – tell us about the stories you want to share, or that you want to hear more about. And of course, please share with your friends, family, and neighbours.

All the best to you all of you for an incredible, safe, and healthy 2023.

Tom



*That's a wrap!*

*Thanks for stopping by!*

Feedback? Ideas for Issue 3?  
Email [info@granvilleisland.com](mailto:info@granvilleisland.com)!