

Zoë Royer –speaking about the Arts, Culture and Heritage

As a child, the arts helped me feel included at school and gave me confidence in my academic studies. I recognize the vibrancy and diversity the Arts, culture and heritage provide the community, capturing the hearts and minds of people in a way that welcomes everyone in. This vibe creates a magnet for tourism and our local economy.

I was elected to Council in Port Moody from 2011 – 2022, and chaired the city’s Arts & Culture committee, Heritage Commission, and served as library trustee for nearly a decade. Noting libraries are important in community building. For as long as I can remember, I’ve championed the arts, advocating for artists, programming, events, and creator spaces.

In 2014, I founded the Kaboom Art Explosion arts happening featuring hundreds of local artists across genres! In 2018, I co-founded the Shuffle, Port Moody’s Art Walk. Arts initiatives benefit from sustainable city support; funding, staff assistance, and red tape reduction.

From 2016 – 2020, I owned an art gallery featuring works of Westcoast artists, hosting over 40 events: art exhibitions, artist talks, multicultural events, Culture Days, and Amnesty International events in support of human rights and inclusive communities.

I value the preservation and revitalization of heritage assets, and support funding for programming, museums and archives, land use planning to include heritage incentives. Cities have a crucial role in acknowledging Indigenous history and advancing reconciliation with First Peoples. Throughout 2020, I worked in close collaboration with Cllr Lubik and Kwikwetlim Chief Hall. Our Council report adopted in 2021, proposed meaningful partnerships with First Nations, cultural sensitivity training for staff and Council, and UNDRIP as our framework for reconciliation.

As elected leaders, we dedicate considerable effort to financial planning, land use management, emergency preparedness and optimizing our essential services; all fundamentally important in local government. If we ensure the arts, culture, heritage and reconciliation have gravitas at the Council table, we will become a much more vibrant, resilient, inclusive and caring community.

