

White Rock Museum & Archives

Board of Directors

Society President

Colleen Kerr

Crime Reduction Strategy Manager, City of Surrey

Colleen Kerr has been on the White Rock Museum & Archives Board of Directors since December of 2006 and served as Vice President since May 2007.

Colleen completed her Master of Arts degree in Criminal Justice and is employed by the City of Surrey as the Crime Reduction Strategy Manager. This award winning strategy works to build collaboration and develop innovative solutions by addressing the root causes of crime. As such, its focus is to work collaboratively with multiple stakeholders within a community development and partnership building model. Colleen has also been a Sessional Professor at the University of the Fraser Valley in the Criminal Justice Department and currently serves as a Post Graduate Advisor/Instructor at Langara Community College in the Applied Planning Program.

Colleen also serves on the Board of Directors with Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers as well as the Semiahmoo Animal League Inc. (SALI's Farm), a South Surrey based farm that rescues abused or neglected farm animals & provides animal/human bond therapy to at-risk children.

Colleen was nominated as a YMCA Women of Distinction in 2016 in the Public Service category and has been awarded the Surrey RCMP Municipal Employee of the Year (2008) as the City of Surrey's Crime Prevention Coordinator with the RCMP. Colleen has also owned and managed her own consulting business specializing in community development, partnerships, and project management. Evidence of Colleen's dedication to the development of safe and healthy communities is also demonstrated by her previous roles including Provincial Program Manager of the BC Crime Prevention Association, Social Development Team Leader with Semiahmoo First Nations, Executive Director for the Youth Counter Attack & Road Sense Society, and as the City of White Rock's Community Development Coordinator.

As a resident and home owner in the White Rock and South Surrey area since 1990, Colleen is a key and active participant in 'life on the Peninsula'. She believes in a holistic approach to enhancing quality of life, community health, and happiness.

Vice President

Karin Bjerke-Lisle

Manager of Marketing Center Operations, Clubs Intrawest

Karin Bjerke-Lisle works in downtown Vancouver as Manager of Operations for Intrawest Resort Club Group. She has been with this company for 11 years and in her current position for nearly six years. Her many skills include staff management, public relations, and administration. She is extremely organized and resourceful.

Karin was born in Vancouver, but moved with her family across Canada and throughout Europe. Her father was an officer in the Royal Canadian Air Force, which gave her the opportunity to visit much of

North America, Europe and the Middle East as a young person. Later she attended the University of Ottawa where she obtained her Bachelor of Arts.

Karin has 4 children and owns a dog, a cat and assorted farm animals! She lives in South Surrey and loves the beauty and serenity of the West Coast. When not working, Karin enjoys spending time with her children, on the slope in the winter and near the water in the summer. Her interests also include reading, writing, cooking, entertaining, and gardening.

Karin has been a valuable member of the Museum Board of Directors since 2007. She is currently the Society Treasurer. Her long tenure on the Museum Board offers stability and a great understanding of the focus and the long term goals the Museum strives towards.

Society Secretary and Society Treasurer

Debbie Ward

WR Youth Ambassador Coordinator

Debbie has lived in South Surrey with her husband, son and daughter for 30 years. She has recently retired from a 38 year career as a flight attendant with Air Canada, Canadian, PWA, CP Air, Nordair and Transair (through mergers). Currently Debbie is working as a constituency assistant to MLA Scott Hamilton (Delta North).

Her strongest connection to the local community came through her involvement with the White Rock Youth Ambassador Program. This excellent program mentors area teens and equips them to be successful volunteers and ambassadors for their city and the greater community. Debbie has overseen this program with a partner for many years, and has given countless volunteer hours to the community as a result of the involvement.

Debbie is dedicated, fun-loving, has a great understanding of people, and has exceptional customer service skills. She is a great motivator and a team player. It is her goal to help develop and support the Volunteer Program at the Museum.

In her spare time, Debbie likes to tend to her honey bees and chickens. Debbie is also a new grandmother. She is an avid reader of historical biographies, loves skiing and enjoys spending time with her family.

Board Member

Joy Zhang

Chief Operating Officer, Renewable Energy Co

Joy Zhang brings with her years of volunteering and charitable experiences in the community. She was the Operations Manager for 2012 Surrey BC Summer Games, the Operations & Logistics Manager for the Spirit of the Sea Festival and the Infrastructure & Operations Director for the Community of Lights Events Society for 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2011, the Volunteers Coordinator and Fundraiser for the Vintage Affairs for 2008 and 2009, the Operations Manager, Fundraiser for the Christmas on the Peninsula Festival and the Director of Promotion, Volunteers and Friends of Christmas on the Peninsula Society for 2009, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015.

As well, Joy spends a lot of her spare time in event planning and fundraising for other organizations and worthy causes outside the Peninsula. She has been involved in several promotional initiatives in the fields of fine arts and performing arts in the States. She works at a renewable energy company as its Chief Operations Officer and serves on several boards in that sector.

In her spare time, Joy enjoys reading, traveling, opera, arts, golf and current affairs. Whether locally or while traveling, visiting museums and appreciating architectures are two of her main focal points of interest.

Although she spends most of the time in Vancouver now, she maintains a close tie with the community. She wishes that White Rock Museum and Archives, through her contribution, will remain, grow and thrive to be an inspiring place of preserving the past, showcasing the present, and connection to the future for the folks of White Rock.

Board Member

Rice Honeywell Jr.

Entrepreneur/Businessman/Media Consultant

Rice first visited White Rock in 1978 and became a permanent resident in 1980. Together with his wife Catherine they have raised four children in White Rock. His goal is to help support and develop a greater awareness of the White Rock Museum and Archives through ongoing community engagement, promotion and advocacy.

Rice has a background in performance, business and in media; having worked first as a professional musician for over 20 years, an actor in film and television for over a decade and then having later founded two successful businesses that supply creative and production to television and radio advertisers. As well, he opened and operated a family-run local Bistro-style restaurant at Five Corners that he operated for 5 years, proudly serving the community while supporting the arts through a regular live music program there.

Rice's many strengths include a sales and managerial background, strong customer service abilities and solid entrepreneurial experience in developing and implementing strategies for personal business success in multiple business categories.

He is keenly interested in using social media as a means of promoting the Museum and Archives and he has a strong knowledge of media, computers and technology.

Board Member

Peter Johnson

Retired librarian and archivist

Peter Johnson was born and grew up in Bristol, south-west England, where he attended the city grammar school. Outside school, he enjoyed riding horses and haunting the city's second hand bookshops on rainy Saturday afternoons. He also enjoyed acting both at school and in the Bristol Youth Theatre.

Peter trained as a secondary school teacher in Durham in northern England, taught for a couple of years, then returned to university (in Wales) where he graduated in English Literature and Library Science.

After graduate work in English at Leeds University, Peter joined Leeds University Library where he spent a very happy 14 years.

Meanwhile he'd married and had two children (Miranda and Francis) who themselves are both now married with four children between them. The original marriage failed, but several years later, while on a year's study leave from Leeds in Wales, Peter met Carol, also a librarian, from Calgary, who was doing a Ph.D. at the University of Wales.

They married and eventually returned to Canada, where Carol joined Surrey Public Library. Peter became a citizen, and re-trained as an Archivist at UBC.

He also joined the City of Surrey workforce – as an assistant archivist in 1998, City Records Archivist in 2000, City Archivist in 2001, and Archivist-Curator of Heritage Collections in 2005, from which position he retired in 2013.

Peter was briefly (part-time) Archivist at White Rock during 1999 only – a position he wished he could have retained, but the lure of benefits offered by Surrey was too powerful to ignore. However, since March 2013, he's been volunteering for Hugh Ellenwood in the White Rock Archives and relishing doing just what he was trained for without any of the distractions that paid employment requires.

For the last 10 months he has been coordinating a Syrian Refugee sponsorship group at the local Anglican Church which now awaits the arrival of its sponsored family.

Board Member

Leanne Furlani

Local Business Owner

Leanne was raised on a farm in South Surrey. She went to the one room school, Elgin, then onto Sunnyside elementary and Semiahmoo S3condary. After high school, she moved to Florence, Italy with her oldest sister for a year. There she visited her family and immersed herself in the amazing Italian culture. She came back to play professional beach volleyball, placing 6th in Canada in her first year on the circuit. After her beach career came to an end, she continued to stay involved with volleyball, coaching for local club teams and also going back to Semiahmoo Secondary to coach the grade 8 team.

She spent several years working for her sister's photography studio, and eventually began her own wedding photography business. After dealing with one too many bridezillas, she and her husband Evin opened up a graphic design studio, Invision Creative, in a garage that Leanne's father built for them behind their little house in White Rock. In 2006 they purchased an office space on Thrift and have run their creative agency in White Rock ever since.

Through her years working as a studio manager, Leanne became well versed in writing effective headlines and copy for their clients. After the birth of their son, Ewan, in 2009, she launched her own small business, CopyCrisp Copywriting. Her business afforded her the luxury of working from home, writing while her son was napping or at night/on weekends when Evin was able to be with Ewan. She has felt incredibly blessed to be a stay at home mom for her son, and continues to do copywriting and book-keeping for Invision.

In 2007, Evin and Leanne made the decision to purchase an acreage in South Langley where they live with their two dogs, two cats and 60 chickens! Their farm includes a 50-foot greenhouse filled with

close to 100 tomato plants each year, a large vegetable and herb garden and over 40 varieties of Dahlias! She has plans to open up a small farm-gate store to sell fresh eggs, produce, flowers and antiques. She has garnered a love of antiques from her mother, Maxine, who is a 25 year volunteer at the Superfluity in White Rock and with who she is incredibly close.

In 2015, Leanne was asked to be on her first committee, for the Sip and Savour event and helped to raise almost \$30,000 for the Peace Arch Hospital and a charity organization called Shine the Light. It was through her experience on this committee that she was then asked to sit on the Peace Arch Hospital Gala committee. Still in the early stages of planning, she's excited to contribute her fresh ideas, tap into her community connections and learn from the veteran committee members that she is lucky enough to sit alongside.

Although she now lives in Langley, her heart still feels the pull of her White Rock roots. Through volunteering for important causes in her hometown, Leanne is thrilled to keep one foot in the city she grew up in, all the while hoping that she can contribute to making a difference.

Board Member

Ritu Khanna

Independent Consultant

Ritu's professional background is in Marketing, having worked in the advertising, corporate and political arenas. Her roster of clients have included Ralph Lauren, The Canadian Olympic Association, Bridgestone-Firestone and The Hudson's Bay Company, to name just a few. She worked at RBC Royal Bank, developing strategy and national marketing campaigns for various products and services, including its new immigrant initiative, which was comprised of TV, radio and online ads in 7 different languages. Her work has received industry and company awards.

Her heart has always been in community service and the not-for-profit sector. Early in her career, she focused on environmental education and stewardship....and a United Nations international policy conference. In the local community, she is involved with various organizations, notably the Peace Arch Hospital Foundation and Options Community Services for their refugee program.

Her interests are in traveling to new and unique places, history, discovering the arts of different cultures, especially music and various forms of dance. She also tries to live an active lifestyle, which started early playing a vast array of sports, including a women's touch football for 4 years.

She especially enjoys walking along White Rock and Crescent beaches with her family, especially her young son...always ice cream in hand.

Board Member

Lawrence McCarthy

Artist/Retired furniture finisher

Lawrence has been involved with various arts communities since 1974. Beginning in Winnipeg he worked as a set builder and painter with Actors' Showcase – a children's theatre company, The Manitoba Theatre Centre, and The Warehouse Theatre.

Lawrence moved to Vancouver in 1975 after spending a summer at The Banff School of Fine Arts and worked for The Arts Club Theatre and the Playhouse Theatre before joining The Conservatory, a group of artists and actors who promoted alternate theatre for Vancouver audiences. For the Conservatory, as well as creating sets, he produced posters and theatre programs.

In 1979, Lawrence attended Langara College's Fine Arts program where he met and studied with Canadian artist Leslie Poole. Following art school, he began painting professionally, and continued working in theatre. As his painting developed he began showing his work in various galleries around Vancouver, as well as doing graphic work for other small theatre companies, and published cartoons in local magazines.

Around 1994, Lawrence got involved in the furniture business, first as a furniture mover specializing in helping the elderly transition from their residences to care facilities and homes, afterwards working as a finisher with Old Country Antiques in Vancouver, retiring from custom furniture finishing in 2014.

Lawrence now makes his home in Crescent Beach, where he continues to paint; some of his work can be seen in the art rentals program at the Semiahmoo Recreation and Arts Centre where he also volunteers.

Through his engagement with the White Rock Museum and Archives, Lawrence wishes to add his own energy to the vibrant creative White Rock and South Surrey community.

Representative: Semiahmoo First Nation

Kevin Cook

Councillor, Semiahmoo First Nation

Kevin Cook has sat on the Council with the Semiahmoo First Nation since December 2000. He was born and raised in White Rock. His passions are restoring old cars, his wife Betty, and travelling, not necessarily in that order. He has lived elsewhere but is proud to call Semiahmoo home.