

Mission: Our mission is to create a platform for local community members to strengthen intercultural connections through innovative programming promoting literary and other arts.

- To build awareness, interest and participation of people from all cultures in literary arts and other arts whilst increasing community cohesion
- To offer opportunities for individuals from diverse backgrounds to develop their skills and interest in language and literary arts.
- To play a prominent role in offering innovative programs related to language, literacy and literary arts among local communities in BC



2017 Year: Overview

This is the first year for Culture Chats BC Association as an incorporated not-for-profit society in BC. We were incorporated in January 2017. We were an informal community group operating since about two years before incorporating. We were running two book clubs and we had organized activities such as writing workshop, author talks and a cultural dialogue. This has been part of our vision to be a collaborative hub for local community members from all cultures to engage with, experience and enjoy literary and other arts in new and innovative ways. This year we expanded the scale of our events by planning a community festival spanning over three days and managed to secure small amount of funds for the event.

Total revenues amounted to \$2,033 and our total expenses for the year amounted to \$ 2008.26 as of mid-November 2017. The balance after deducting additional bank charges and service charges for the rest of the year amounts to \$24.74. Our AGM was held on December 14, 2017 and the Financial Report was shared during the AGM.

We rely on volunteers for supporting our work. This year over 276 hours of volunteering support helped for our event. We aim to secure more funding and expand our volunteer base for next year. We are very grateful for the support of our partners and sponsors.

Culture Chats Team

A heartfelt thank you to all the members and friends of the Culture Chats BC Association who have volunteered their time and supported our efforts in many different ways. We would like to thank April Goodman, Carole Cameron, Zahida Rahemtulla, Peggy Lynds, Shirley Cohn, Shauna Fowler, Rachel Stenberg, Rachel Spence, Zorica Milovanovic, Louise Thorburn, Sangeeta Bhonsale, Navdeep Sandher, Gyda Chudd, Zarmina Ali, Kathleen Burke, Melek Ortabasi, Christine Baron and all the community members who worked with us over the year.

We would like to sincerely thank our sponsors and partners for supporting us:

- Burnaby Public Library (Tommy Douglas Branch and Main Branch at Willingdon Avenue)
- Burnaby Neighbourhood House
- City of Burnaby
- Burnaby Intercultural Planning Table
- Vancity
- Burnaby Community & Continuing Education

Directors:

Asmita Lawrence

Fiona Stevenson

Lawrence Francois

2017 Programs

Intercultural Community Reading Festival:

We organized a three day Community Reading Festival in October 2017 at the Tommy Douglas Library in Burnaby. Details are available in the 'Past Events' section on our Events Page.



Events included readings from an anthology of stories of immigrant women in Canada, presentation of the 'Elder Stories' project, readings from a book based in Shanghai by a Culture Chats member, an intercultural story time event for children and parents as well as a word games session to mark Canada at 150. An introductory workshop session on erasure poetry based on local literature was also very well received. Over a 100 people from the community participated in the festival in various ways including adults, children, immigrants, refugees, seniors and long term residents.



Culture Chats Book Club:

This is a group created to share and explore different cultures. It promotes literary activities and language based cultural explorations. Our Book Club has been meeting once every month to read and discuss fictional stories from around the world and explore different cultures through books.



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