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THE POWELL STREET FESTIVAL WILL RETURN TO OPPENHEIMER PARK ON AUGUST 1ST AND 2ND, 2015

Diverse Lineup of Performances to include Taiko Collaboration “Against The Current,” Pianist Niho Takase, and Author/Environmentalist David Suzuki

Vancouver, B.C. (June 18, 2015) – The Powell Street Festival, Metro Vancouver’s longest running community arts festival and largest event of its kind in Canada, has revealed its locations and program of artists and activities for the 39th Annual festival running August 1st and 2nd, 2015 from 11:30am – 7:00pm daily.

After holding a successful street festival in 2014, the festival plans to return to its usual main location at **Oppenheimer Park** (400 Block of Powell Street) "We were extremely pleased with the overwhelming support and positive feedback from last year's street festival. This year, we're excited to hold the festival at its traditional site and community hub of Oppenheimer Park," remarked Powell Street Festival Society President **Colin Chan**. "We have also incorporated some street festivities with our Jackson Street Block Party, as well as having community food booths on Dunlevy Avenue. However, our audience continues to grow and we would love to add to future festival grounds to include more streets around the park," added Chan.

Other participating venues will include the **Firehall Arts Centre** (280 East Cordova Street), **Vancouver Japanese Language School / Japanese Hall** (475 Alexander Street), **Vancouver Buddhist Temple** (220 Jackson Avenue) and **Centre A Gallery** (229 East Georgia Street).

This year’s robust lineup of contemporary and traditional Japanese Canadian artists range from dancers and musicians to a comedy troupe and one of the world’s most influential environmentalists. Cuban inspired pianist **Niho Takase**, monster jazz drummer **Bernie Arai**, avant-garde muse **Rachel Kiyo Iwaasa**, movement artist **Mark Ikeda**, Bhutto-inspired sensation **Kokoro Dance** and comedians **Assaulted Fish** will all appear at the Firehall Arts Centre while **Katari Taiko**, **Sawagi Taiko**, **Sansho Daiko**, and **Chibi Taiko** will combine forces in the park for a mega-taiko drumming event, “*Against The Current.*” Author, broadcaster and activist **David Suzuki** will make a special appearance and speaking engagement in support of his newly released book *Letters to my Grandchildren*.

This year’s returning demonstrations and activities include martial arts, ikebana, animé, walking tours, a sumo tournament and children’s games, along with the new ‘Asahi Pitch Challenge’ inspired by the legendary Vancouver Asahi baseball team of the early 1900’s.

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Guests can also enjoy a large variety of delicious Japanese food from 17 vendors and browse over 20 craft booths, community booths, displays and visual arts.

All events at The Powell Street Festival are free. More information is available at www.powellstreetfestival.com and on facebook and twitter.

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About the Powell Street Festival Society:

The Powell Street Festival Society's (PSFS) mission is to cultivate Japanese Canadian arts and culture to connect communities. Its main activity is producing the Powell Street Festival (PSF) in Vancouver's historic Japanese Canadian neighbourhood, located on unceded Squamish, Musqueam, and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations territories. In addition, PSFS engages in co-presentations with arts organizations and produces an annual season of cultural and artistic programming including 'Spatial Poetics' on July 9, 2015.

PSFS gratefully acknowledges the support of Canadian Heritage, Canada Council for the Arts, Province of British Columbia, City of Vancouver, British Columbia Arts Council, Bing Thom Architects and Sunrise Foods.

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