



powell street festival society

パウエル祭協会

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Vancouver, BC (May 2021) - The Powell Street Festival Society is pleased to announce our community partnership with the Surrey Art Gallery.

The 45th Annual Powell Street Festival, taking place both online and in the historic Paueru Gai (Powell Street) neighborhood this summer, is partnering with the Surrey Art Gallery, also celebrating their 45th anniversary, to include two multimedia installations within its festival offerings: Cindy Mochizuki's *Autumn Strawberry* and Henry Tsang's *Hastings Park*.

Cindy Mochizuki's *Autumn Strawberry* uses hand-painted and digital animation to create an experience of life on Japanese Canadian farms before WWII. Emerging from her 2019 residency at the Surrey Art Gallery where she interviewed *Nisei* and *Sansei* (second and third generation) Japanese Canadians whose family worked on farms in the Fraser Valley, and explores farm life, as well as the "dream of riches" held by many *Issei* (first-generation) Japanese Canadians, deforestation, and the future. This installation features a 60-minute immersive hand-painted digital animation projected on the gallery wall and small-scale interactive sculptures scattered throughout.

(More information is available on the Surrey Art Gallery's website at the following link: <https://www.surrey.ca/arts-culture/surrey-art-gallery/exhibitions/cindy-mochizuki-autumn-strawberry>)

In *Hastings Park*, Henry Tsang makes invisible history concerning Japanese Canadians during WWII visible again using a thermal imaging camera. Presenting photographs and projections of four buildings in Vancouver's Hastings Park, where Japanese Canadians were detained before being sent to labour and internment camps, including the Livestock Building now associated with the Pacific National Exhibition. The thermal imaging technology used in this installation is typically used in the construction industry to reveal cracks or leaks in buildings through changes in temperature and light rays invisible to the human eye.

(More information on this exhibit is available on the Surrey Art Gallery's website at the following link: <https://www.surrey.ca/arts-culture/surrey-art-gallery/exhibitions/henry-tsang-hastings-park>)

Both exhibitions use camera and projection technologies in unexpected ways to illuminate forgotten images and histories. The artists will participate in a talk streamed on the Surrey Art Gallery's YouTube and Facebook pages on July 17th at 7:00 PM. Part of the Surrey Art Gallery's summer series, both exhibitions can be seen at the Gallery June 26th through August 28th. Admission is free. To find out more about gallery hours and to book a tour of the exhibitions visit <https://www.surrey.ca/artgallery>. The Surrey Art Gallery is located at 13750 88th Ave. Surrey, BC V3W 3L1.



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Tsang is also collaborating with the Powell Street Festival to present guided tours of the *360 Riot Walk*, tracing the route of the 1907 anti-Asian riots, and to curate the *Talking the Walk* online panel discussion series, using the tour as an entry point to explore the history of anti-Asian violence and white supremacy in Vancouver.

For further information, please contact Duston Baranow-Watts at media@powellstreetfestival.com

About Powell Street Festival Society

Powell Street Festival Society's (PSFS) mission is to cultivate Japanese Canadian (JC) arts and culture to connect communities. The main activity is producing Powell Street Festival (PSF), an annual celebration of Japanese Canadian arts, music and culture in Vancouver's historic Japanese Canadian neighbourhood, Paueru Gai. The PSFS's vision includes a society enriched and interconnected through Japanese Canadian arts and fostering the recognition of Japanese Canadians as a creative force within the broader community.

A grassroots organization with social justice at its core, PSFS is deeply connected to its geographic location in unceded Squamish, Musqueam, and Tsleil-Waututh territories. The Powell Street neighbourhood was once a bustling Japanese Canadian community and today is known as one of the most impoverished districts in North America, the Downtown Eastside (DTES). The festival envisions itself as a space where progressive and quality arts presentation is an empowered contribution to society at large, enabling conversations about diaspora, diverse histories, and contemporary issues.

Creative social engagement is combined with traditional and contemporary art practices, exploring Japanese Canadian diversity to its fullest. Festival programming supports a mix of traditional and contemporary art forms. Off-season events are spaces where both emerging and established artists can push their practices, challenging themselves along with the audience. PSFS connects artists across disciplines and builds communities across cultures and socio-economic divides, with a commitment to community engagement and development.

PSFS, a charitable non-profit arts organization, gratefully acknowledges the financial support of The Canada Council for the Arts, BC Arts Council, the City of Vancouver, and its donors, all of which make this program possible. Donations can be made via Canada Helps. www.powellstreetfestival.com