



powell street festival society

パウエル祭協会

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (Vancouver, April 1 2022) - Powell Street Festival Society in association with DKAM and the Chinese Canadian Historical Society of British Columbia proudly present *Road Work: Street Photography from the 70s and 80s*, a slideshow and talk with photographer Greg Soone. Sunday May 29 at 2:00 PM (Doors 1:30) at the Cinematheque.

Based on the self-published photography book of the same name, Soone takes us through New York City, the San Francisco Bay Area, Vancouver, and Paris in the 1970s and 1980s, with particular emphasis on the Chinese immigrant community and African Americans to reveal alternate interpretations of seemingly innocuous symbols. At their core, these pictures reflect the compassion and social consciousness of an artist transformed by the tumult of the 1970s.

Greg Soone is a Chinese American photographer resident in Vancouver, whose powerful images can be seen through the lens of race, class, and culture. Introduced to photography by the Third World movement of ethnic identity as a student in the late sixties, Soone traces his influences from civil rights photographer Bruce Davidson to the grainy street photography of Robert Frank. Finding his artistic footing in New York City in 1974, Soone captures themes of race, politics, and class on his 35mm Leica Rangefinder camera, joining a movement of artists and photographers committed to making a difference in their communities.

Don't miss this unique opportunity to see these poignant photos on the big screen, with context and reflections from the photographer. See <https://powellstreetfestival.com/greg-soone-road-work> for more details.

For interviews or media inquiries, contact Duston Baranow-Watts at media@powellstreetfestival.com or phone (604) 343-0269.

About Powell Street Festival Society

Powell Street Festival Society's (PSFS) mission is to cultivate Japanese Canadian art and culture to connect communities. The main activity is producing Powell Street Festival (PSF), an annual celebration of Japanese Canadian art, 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.



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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, Canadian Heritage, the Government of BC, and its donors, all of which make this program possible. Donations can be made via Canada Helps. www.powellstreetfestival.com