



DECOLONIZATION, ARTS AND CULTURE

Evolving Urgent Work

Regular Board Meeting
Monday, June 21, 2021



- The purpose of this presentation is to:
 - provide an overview of the new department of Decolonization, Arts and Culture
 - provide a re-positioning of the Reconciliation and Decolonization work in a broader social context



RECONCILIATION MISSION, VISION & VALUES

MISSION

Decolonize the Vancouver Park Board

The Park Board recognizes the institution's colonial history and upholds the Board's commitment to the 11 Reconciliation Strategies.

VISION

An evolvable organization in which every employee and Commissioner recognizes the humanity in themselves by recognizing and respecting the humanity of First Peoples; and an organization that sets a worldwide example in treating Reconciliation as a decolonization process.

VALUES

These values are your compass to help guide the way you work, interact with colleagues, external partners and the public.



PATIENCE

Colonialism didn't happen overnight. Untangling it takes time. We will pace ourselves for the marathon, not the sprint. We will adjust deadlines to ensure things are done well and respectfully.



CLARITY

We will focus on how colonialism functions to exclude, not on how to include.



PRAGMATISM

All staff are inheriting a system not of our making. The Park Board Reconciliation Team (PBRT) is here to assist colleagues with examining the ways colonialism continues to damage others. Blame is unproductive.



LEADERSHIP

We will nurture and sustain each other, demonstrating Indigenous principles in the way we function as a team.



LEARNING

We consent to learn in public. We will make mistakes. We will sit with those mistakes, be transparent about them, and use them both to learn and to teach. Our mistakes will be diagnostic tools.



Arts and Culture Planning

Arts and Culture Planning



- Supports the implementation of the Vancouver Park Board Arts Policy (2003)
 - “The Park Board holds a vision of a city where the arts are an integral part of everyday life”
- Public art, monuments and memorials program
- Applies a cultural planning lens to park planning and development

- The Park Board's approach to public art is informed by:
 - The Vancouver Park Board Arts Policy (2003)
 - Park Board 11 Reconciliation Strategies (2016)
 - The Park Board Reconciliation Mission Vision & Values (2018)

- Decolonizing Arts and Culture
 - Prioritizing place-based and land-based approaches to arts and culture
- A place-based approach to public art is grounded in the heritage, cultures, landscapes and experiences of a particular locality. The artwork may be in dialogue with or a reflection of a place. A land-based approach to public art addresses the relationship with the land (natural, spiritual, etc.)



Arts, Culture and Engagement (ACE)

What ACE Programmers Do



- Support professional arts and culture-makers who engage in social practice, community-engaged arts and interventionist work
- Broadens beyond the notion of art as a presentation of work by artists to passive audiences
- Supports decolonizing practice by working with Indigenous cultural leaders
- Supports non-Indigenous artists in positioning their work in the context of unceded territory



Reconciliation Team



- Leads or collaborates on Reconciliation Initiatives
 - Colonial Audit
 - Decolonization Strategy
 - Stanley Park Intergovernmental Working Group
 - Indigenous naming
- Supports Park Board Organization-wide on implementing Reconciliation principles



Decolonization, Arts and Culture Organizational Context



DAC Organizational Context



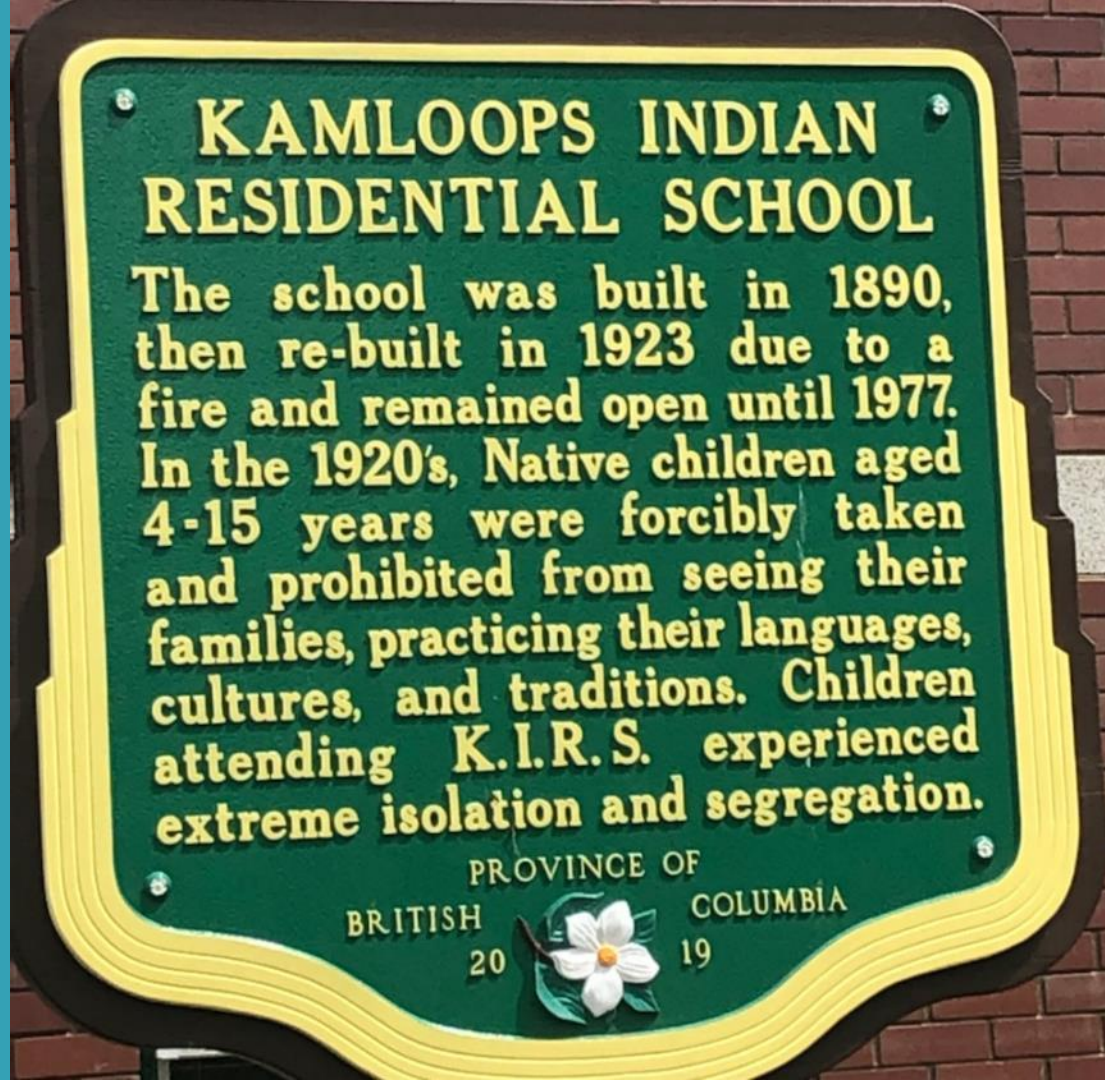
- Arts & Culture Planning, ACE and Reconciliation already existed
- Bringing them together:
 - Allows for reciprocal learning between on the ground practice, physical projects, and policy needs all through a decolonizing lens
 - Opens a pathway for Park Board learn and demonstrate a new, decolonized relationship with cultural expression
 - As part of the suite of wellness services Park Board provides
 - Demonstrate a decolonized relationship with land, community, and cultural practice

Decolonization Right Now



The country
mourns

Indigenous
people relive the
trauma





KAMLOOPO
INDIAN RESIDENTIAL
SCHOOL 1887

VISITOR ALERT
Be aware of the surroundings
at all times.
STOP
When you see a red sign

Phyllis Webstad,
not wearing her
orange shirt

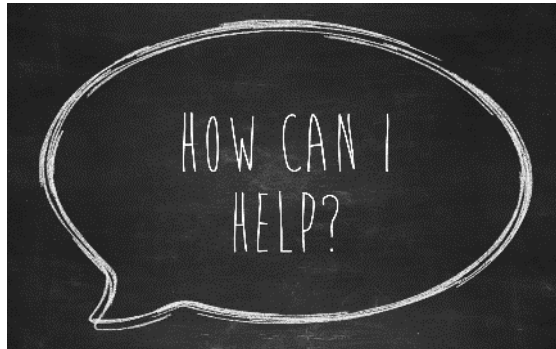






What do we do about it?

How Can I Help?



WHAT
CAN  **DO?**

Decolonizing Purposefully



Reciprocity:
A process with
no conclusion.

And a
presentation to
be continued...



