

## Special Thanks and Board News

### Thanks to Our Donors

(from July 1999)

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Paul Stanley  
Mrs. Aki Wakabayashi

Once again, the Powell Street Festival Board would like to thank all of you who participated in, volunteered for, donated to, attended and supported this year's Powell Street Festival. Also, **A VERY SPECIAL THANKS to Kim (Mahoo) Kobayashi** for doing a great job coordinating the 1999 Powell Street Festival! We would also like to acknowledge the generosity of Hiro Nakashima who donated his photographer's fee to the Festival in addition to taking tons of wonderful Festival shots. Thanks to all of the companies and individuals who donated money, lottery prizes and supplies. Many thanks also to all of you who have become members or renewed your membership in the past year. We really appreciate your support!

We would also like to thank Sook Kong for serving on the Board for the past 8 months. Sook is currently working on her Ph.D. dissertation and we wish her all the best. We are very sad to see her go as her previous Board and grant-writing experience will be sorely missed! We really appreciate the work she did on the Arts Partners in Organizational Development grant. The application was successful and we received \$2500 to work with a consultant who will help us implement the many required changes and improvements to the operation of the Society.

As always, we continue to look for core volunteers and Board members. We hope that we will soon be in the position to ask people for help on specific committees. First, the Volunteers Committee will be trying to find people to help on the Fundraising, Site and Programming Committees. If you are interested in helping with any of these areas, please let us know! If you have already given us your name, we will likely be contacting you in the near future.

As for the year ahead, we are currently planning a video screening evening (or two, depending upon the response) for sometime in May as part of Asian Heritage Month. If you know of any Asian Canadian video artists who might be interested in showing their work, please pass their name along to us at the office. As well, our AGM will be coming up in April.

Thanks again for your support.

### 2000 Powell Street Festival Board

President: Atsuko Yamashita  
Vice-President: Sayuri Katayama  
Secretary: Elizabeth Hyodo  
Treasurer: Kathy Shimizu  
Directors: Ian Miki, Alia Nakashima, KD Watanabe

Newsletter articles by Sayuri Katayama, Alia Nakashima, Ian Miki and Kathy Shimizu and Production by Kathy Shimizu.  
Photos by Hiro Nakashima and David Cooper.  
Crane graphic by Keith Arima.

## Job Posting

We are looking for a coordinator for the 2000 Powell Street Festival. The contract position will start on April 1st and continue until September 30th, 2000.

We are looking for a hard-working, enthusiastic individual with some knowledge and experience in the Japanese Canadian community. This individual should possess excellent inter-personal skills, computer skills and great organizational ability.

Please forward a resume and a cover letter to:  
Powell Street Festival Society  
1101 W. Broadway, Vancouver, BC, V6H 1G2 or fax: (604) 732-4417  
**Deadline for application is February 23, 2000.**



## What can you get for 5 bucks? A One Year Membership to the Powell Street Festival Society!

- You get two exciting issues of the PSFS Newsletter (Including a sneak preview of each year's Festival)!
- It's a great way to support the Festival and keep in touch.

Membership	\$5.00
Donations greatly appreciated!	_____
Amount enclosed	_____

Please make all cheques payable to: **Powell Street Festival Society**, 1101 West Broadway, Vancouver, BC V6H 1G2

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ Prov. \_\_\_\_\_ Postal code \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Membership is for 12 months from the date of registration; donations are gratefully accepted and a tax-deductible receipt will be issued for the amount over and above the membership cost.

# Powell Street Festival

January 2000 Volume 6 Number 1

## Changes for Powell Street Festival 2000

The Powell Street Festival (PSF) Board of Directors deeply and sincerely thanks all of the community groups and individuals who attended the Community Meeting on October 23rd, 1999. Your thoughts and discussions were greatly appreciated. We were, however, disappointed that many of the long-term festival participants were not represented. As you already know, the PSF Society is facing many challenges in terms of delivering future productions. It was hoped that our call for assistance would encourage and deliver much needed support. We received many good ideas, and some offers of help. However, after much deliberations and recognizing the extent of the challenges we face, the Board has decided to reduce the scale and modify the format of this coming year's festival. The reduced effort required to deliver this year's festival will give the Board needed time to concentrate on future site issues, to build a fresh pool of core volunteers, to begin efforts on fresh and creative programming, and to prepare for the 2001 Festival which also coincides with the 25th anniversary. We plan to be back in the park for that celebration and hope that this year will give all of our participants a chance to rejuvenate!

The biggest change in the Year 2000's Festival is that it will not include any events or festival booths on the Oppenheimer Park grounds and adjacent streets. Although the Board is still in the very early planning stage, we plan to hold a 2-day "indoor" event at the new facilities of the Vancouver Japanese Language School (475 Alexander Street, 1 block north of Oppenheimer Park) instead, which will accommodate a reduced number of performances, displays, food and crafts vendors. Details on this year's festival will be announced in our next newsletter. We are still committed to the Powell Street area but require more time, energy and money to fully address all of the site issues.

The Board will continue with fundraising activities and as always, is looking for volunteers and a Coordinator for this year's Festival (please

see job posting on back).

We appreciate that many of you will be disappointed with this announcement. However, we encourage you to continue to support the PSF and come to upcoming planning meetings if you want to have a say in the future of the Festival. If you have any questions please contact our office at 739-9388 (or fax: 732-4417).

Sincerely,  
Board of Directors  
Powell Street Festival Society

### アナウンス

この年、私たちは、 Powell Street Festival (PSF) Board of Directors が、 1999年10月23日のコミュニティミーティングに出席したすべてのコミュニティグループと個人に、 深く誠実に感謝いたします。 あなたの考えや議論は、 大変に感謝いたします。 しかし、 残念ながら、 多くの長年のフェスティバル参加者が、 代表されませんでした。 あなたがすでに知っているように、 Powell Street Festival Society は、 将来のフェスティバルの提供に、 多くの課題に直面しています。 我々が助けを求めたことが、 多くの良いアイデアや、 いくつかの助けの申し出を、 受けました。 しかし、 我々が直面している課題の範囲を認識し、 我々が直面している課題を減らし、 来年のフェスティバルの形式を変更することを決定しました。 今年度のフェスティバルの規模を減らすことは、 Board に必要な時間を、 将来のサイトの問題に集中し、 新しいコアボランティアを構築し、 新しいクリエイティブなプログラミングを開始し、 2001年のフェスティバル（25周年記念）に向けて準備することを可能にします。 我々が公園に再び戻ることを期待し、 今年がすべての参加者に、 新鮮な気持ちを与える機会となることを願っています。

最大の変更は、 2000年のフェスティバルが、 Oppenheimer Park の敷地や、 隣接する通りで、 どのイベントやフェスティバルブースも開催しないことです。 Board は、 まだ、 非常に早い段階で、 我々が新しい施設（475 Alexander Street、 Oppenheimer Park から1ブロック北）で開催される2日間の「屋内」イベントを開催する計画を立てています。 これは、 削減されたパフォーマンス、ディスプレイ、食べ物や工芸品のベンダーを収容できるでしょう。 今年度のフェスティバルの詳細は、 次回のニュースレターで発表されます。 我々は、 Powell Street のエリアにコミットメントを維持していますが、 サイトの問題を完全に解決するために、 さらに時間、エネルギー、そして金銭が必要です。

Board は、 引き続き、 fundraising 活動を行い、 常に、 今年度のフェスティバルのためのボランティアとコーディネーターを探しています（詳細は、 後述の求人広告をご覧ください）。

お問い合わせ先: 739-9388 (または 732-4417)

Please note that we will be moving in March 2000 but you can continue to reach us at this mailing address until our next newsletter. We will ensure that our mail is forwarded!

Powell Street Festival Society 1101 West Broadway Vancouver, BC V6H 1G2  
tel: (604) 739-9388 fax: (604) 732-4417  
web: <http://www.shinnova.com/powellfestival>



# Notes from the Community Meeting (October 23rd, 1999)

On October 23rd 1999, the Powell Street Festival Society held a community meeting at the JCCA Activity Centre to discuss a number of issues that the Festival has been facing for the last few years. An article in the October Bulletin and a newsletter mailed out by Powell Street Festival Society (PSFS) outlined the issues which are, in brief, a shortage of core volunteers, a shortage of funds and energy needed to further develop programming and an ongoing concern about safety in Oppenheimer Park. Over 50 people came to the meeting and contributed many very good ideas and asked some pertinent questions that the Society will consider when working on a strategic plan for the next five years. This year, we are altering the format of the festival in order to allow time to implement changes to the structure of future festivals.

Here are some of the ideas and thoughts from the meeting:

### The Board

- A sliding 2 or 3 year term for board members so older board members will overlap with newer ones in order to

### Powell Street Festival Society Mandate

(from the PSFS Constitution)

At the community meeting, many people who attended wanted to know the current mandate of the Festival. Is it still relevant? Do you think it needs to be changed? We are interested to know what people think.

The purposes of the Society are:

- (a) to organize, sponsor, stage and otherwise promote cultural events including festivals, theatre, video, live entertainment, film, demonstrations, exhibits, music and art involving Japanese Canadian and Asian Canadian artists, themes and interests;
- (b) to encourage the above through educational activities including cultural exchange and scholarships;
- (c) to foster community development through cultural events.

help maintain continuity in the festival's organization.

- A buddy system using alternates to assist board members so there are people who are learning while others are serving on the board.
- Hire a professional grant writer to help with all the grant writing throughout the year.
- Look for free office space so that a part-time coordinator could be hired to look after the office.
- Seek assistance from schools such as BCIT which have programs in business administration (eg. student practicums).
- Hire a summer part-time assistant through HR Canada (note - the Society has done this in the past).
- Approach PSF coordinator alumni and board alumni for ideas and assistance.
- Board members must identify their own roles and then work on creating a plan.

### Volunteers

- In order to get volunteers, it is important to stress that we have a need for them, that we want their help and we must make them feel welcome.
- Ask vendors to send one volunteer to help with Festival set-up.
- Ask vendors to set-up their own booths.
- Advertise specific tasks in the Bulletin.
- Seek volunteers from organizations such as Volunteer Vancouver.
- Appeal to youth groups — with specific volunteer tasks and committees and try to create fun activities to go along with the work.
- Appeal to different generations for help.

### Site Issues

- Powell Street Festival is Powell Street Festival because of where it is.
- We appropriate that space once a year. Emotionally, we

want to stay there.

- Keeping the Festival alive on Powell Street is important because of the history. The festival is unique and important for the Japanese Canadian community and the neighbourhood.
- Reclaim the neighbourhood by having more events in the Powell Street area so that people may become more comfortable with the area.
- Contribute something more to the neighbourhood — food booths and people who come to the festival might donate food items to the local food banks and soup kitchens.
- Increase media coverage through the Downtown Eastside issues.
- Work more closely with organizations in the neighbourhood.
- Work with Carnegie Centre — promote each other's events.
- Some would like to see the festival moved, possibly to the Nikkei Heritage Centre in Burnaby. Amongst other things, we would need to see how funding would be affected.
- Demographics are changing in the neighbourhood. The Issei population that once was there, isn't any more. While the venue has historical ties, we have to weigh this against safety concerns for seniors and other participants. Personal safety of all is the first priority.

### Funds

- Set up an adhoc committee — people who can ask their peers to donate.
- Need to have a clear mandate for fundraising. Have a fundraising package to leave with people which describes the history of the Festival and includes photos. List the benefits for the donors.
- Work toward paying performers so that we can access more government funds - possibly on a national level - bringing in Japanese Canadian groups from other cities.
- Do an infrastructure study - determine what each aspect



POWELL STREET FESTIVAL 1999

1999 was International Year of Older Persons — as declared by the U.N., and as such we collaborated with Tonari Gumi to host special events. Powell Street Festival, in a joint effort with Tonari Gumi and the Consulate General of Japan, hosted this commemorative photo event for seniors 80 years and over. Each senior received a copy of this photo which was taken by Hiro Nakashima, 1999 Festival photographer.

of the Festival costs, and see how PSF is covering costs — e.g. does food booth revenue cover the basic cost of putting up the food booths, etc.

### Programming

- Content has been influenced by each year's coordinator and it also is affected by different events going on at the time, such as the year the Sumo wrestlers came from Japan (as publicity for Sumo Canada Basho).
- The Board has input on programming, but usually works mostly on maintaining the Society - fundraising, grant writing, office upkeep, etc.
- Same things happen every year - so the PSFS should make an effort to find new attractions.
- Could approach artists in Japan who could get funding to participate in PSF through the Japan Foundation.
- Important to always have many things going on in the park during the Festival so that people will want to be there.
- 2001 is the 25th anniversary: a good year to generate more energy and funds.
- Look into NAJC funds related to 25th anniversary projects.
- Could make PSF a more national gathering, inviting Japanese Canadian performers and artists from other provinces.
- Social issues should be a part of programming.
- Need to appeal to youths more. Approach VJYG for help.

The majority who attended the meeting felt very strongly about the continued survival of the Powell Street Festival. They felt that the Festival is very important to the community and to the city, as well. The board is committed to progressing with a strategic plan for the PSFS with concrete steps for implementation. The community input will be an important part of this process. Please keep an ear open for upcoming meetings. Thank you to all who attended this meeting and to others who gave us input.

— summarized by Alia Nakashima, PSF Board Member

## ICAS Japanese TV Programs

Thanks again to the Intercultural Action Society (ICAS) for shooting video footage at the 1999 Powell Street Festival as they have in past years. We would also like to thank the for promoting the Festival during their Japanese community TV programs. The ICAS program schedule is below:

Sunday	9:00 - 10:00pm	Japanese Drama (English subtitled)
Monday	5:00 - 5:30pm	News from Japan
Tuesday	5:00 - 5:30pm	News from Japan
Wednesday	11:00 - 11:30am	Japan Video Topics (English)
	4:00 - 4:30pm	Japan Video Topics (rebroadcast)
	5:00 - 5:30pm	News from Japan
Thursday	10:00 - 10:30am	Local Topics
	5:00 - 5:30pm	News from Japan
Friday	5:00 - 5:30pm	News from Japan
Saturday	10:30 - 11:00am	Local Topics (rebroadcast)
	6:00 - 6:30pm	Japan This Week (English)
	11:00 - 11:30pm	Weekly News from Japan (Japanese)

"Japan Video Topics": Produced by Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Rogers Multicultural Channel:  
Rogers Cable 20/ North & West Vancouver, White Rock: Cable 57/ Delta: Cable 50

**Do you know any Asian Canadian video artists who might want to show their work at a Powell Street Festival hosted event for Asian Heritage Month? Please let us know!**

## Uzume Taiko in Concert



photo by David Cooper

### Friday February 18th at 8 pm Michael J. Fox Theatre

7373 MacPherson Avenue, Burnaby  
Tickets \$16, \$12 for students and seniors  
Ticketmaster: 280-4444

Uzume Taiko Ensemble introduces three new members in a seamless evening of theatre and music. Graham Ord (saxophones and flute), Stuart MacNeil (bagpipes and bass guitar) and Bernie Arai (taiko and percussion) bring a wealth of musical experience to new arrangements of Uzume favourites.