

# Cultural mapping project underway in White Rock

**Amy Reid**  
Source Contributor

The City of White Rock has chosen a consultant for a mapping project of the arts and cultural community of the city.

This project is thanks to a \$10,000 grant from 2010 Legacies Now and the province of British Columbia, under the Creative Communities program.

With a budget of \$15,000 the city has hired B.C. Healthy Communities as the consultant to complete the project.

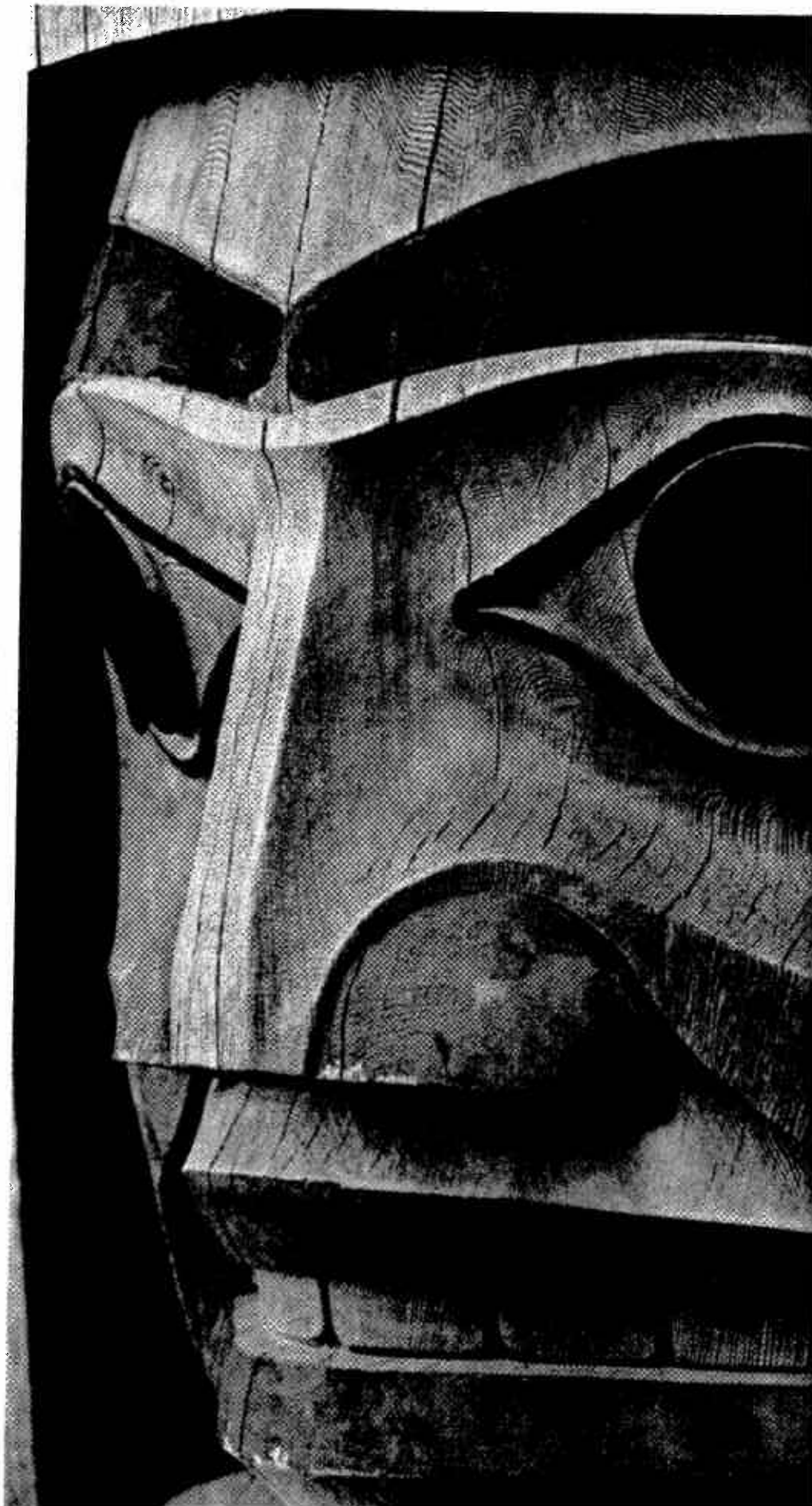
Semiahmoo Arts (formerly known as the Community Arts Council of White Rock & District) will be part of the project, as outlined on the city's grant application.

The project will develop inventory of public and private sector cultural assets, services and facilities in White Rock. It will identify gaps and needs in the area.

It will include a detailed assessment of current cultural facility assets and their usage and capacity.

Data will be gathered from a variety of community arts and cultural organizations and will look at current and future needs, working relationships and networks and capacity-building opportunities within the cultural and business community. It will also make recommendations to better develop the cultural economy.

The city has provided relevant documents to be reviewed, including the 2010 Con-



## Community

# Project will make actual cultural map and database

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Community Public Art Policy.

And the team will facilitate political, cultural stakeholder and community consultation meetings and sessions. Community consultation will begin in December and January.

All the findings will be put into a database and a physical cultural map will be created.

Ultimately, through this process, the team will develop strategies, models and plans to address key objectives.

Dianne Sawicki, community recreation co-ordinator for White Rock Leisure Services and city liaison for the consultant, said the team will begin to identify the key stakeholders in the community over the next couple of months. They will also develop questions for focus groups.

"This grant is really for a development of a cultural map. It's the first step in the whole cultural planning process for the City of White Rock," said Sawicki.

While a physical map will be produced, the consultants will also look at how to increase the community's knowledge and

appreciation of it, gaps in service and how the community at large views arts and culture, she said.

"They're going to look at our population demographic, so the diversity of age and culture, and how we can better evaluate the cultural needs of White Rock."

Sawicki said it's good timing because the City of Surrey is doing a similar project at the same time. The team intends to have ongoing communication with the City of Surrey and its cultural planning process.

"We've got a real active and vibrant arts and culture community and it's perfect timing now to begin to take a look at how we can bring all those services, programs and business that provide arts and culture in the community together."

She said developing the cultural map will hopefully lead to the next step – creating a cultural plan for the city.

"There's so much knowledge that exists in this whole area of arts and culture so it's very cool to begin to bring it together and get people really thinking about what we could do to develop the community," said Sawicki.

The project is set to wrap up in April and will be completed with a report to council.

# Ever

## THEATRE/STAGE

■ *Robinson Crusoe*: White Rock Players' production of panto directed by Katherine Bethell, Nov. 26 to Dec. 26 at Coast Capital Playhouse, 1532 Johnston Rd., White Rock. Tickets \$15-17. Info: Call 604-536-7535 or visit [www.whiterockplayers.ca](http://www.whiterockplayers.ca).

■ The Dramatics Group will be presenting two performances at Kent Street Activity Centre (White Rock) on Saturday, Nov. 27 (2:30 p.m.) and Tuesday, Nov. 30 (7:30 p.m.), featuring six scenes and running time of one hour, 15 minutes, at 1475 Kent St. Admission by donation.

■ *Madeline's Christmas*: Musical based on story by Ludwig Bemelmans performed by Young Peoples' Theatre Company of Surrey from Dec. 17-19 at Surrey Arts Centre studio theatre, with special Christmas tea party following matinee show on Dec. Tickets \$17.70/\$12.70, 6 501-5566, [www.arts.surr](http://www.arts.surr)

## MOVIE THEATRES

■ Caprice 4, 2381 King Blvd., South Surrey. SI line: 604-531-7456.

■ Rialto Twin Criterion 152nd St., South Surrey. SI line: 604-541-9527.

## FILM EVENTS

■ Friday Night Film features documentary themes of social justice monthly event starts at First Unit 15385 Semiahm Rock. Admission: Info: [whiterocksfestival.ca](http://whiterocksfestival.ca) Nov. 21: *the World*.

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