



News Release
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, October 4, 2019

Creative City Network of Canada Honours City of Maple Ridge with 2019 Award of Excellence in Cultural Planning

(Saskatoon, Sask): Announced on Tuesday at the third annual Creative City Summit was the Award of Excellence in Cultural Planning for the City of Maple Ridge's, *Walking Together* Cultural Plan. The Creative City Network of Canada Awards of Excellence celebrates the outstanding achievements of Canadian municipalities in Cultural Planning, Public Art, and Cultural Events.

The Creative City Network of Canada (CCNC) is a national-non profit organization made up of municipalities, arts organizations and individuals working to support cultural development in their communities. CCNC facilitates knowledge sharing professional development in the field of local cultural policy, planning and research.

The Award of Excellence in Cultural Planning recognizes a Canadian municipality that has developed, adopted, and implemented an exemplary Culture Plan with a process that demonstrates outstanding visionary leadership and best practices in cultural planning, or a Canadian municipality that has reviewed, revitalized and implemented a previously adopted a Culture Plan. Nominations are received from across Canada, and are reviewed by a peer review jury of cultural professionals.

Cultural planner and policy writer, Patricia Huntsman led the planning process and writing of *Walking Together*. Huntsman worked closely with the community's Task Group, which brought together local environmental, agriculture, business, education, heritage and arts leaders. The Katzie and Kwantlen People provided clear direction for the plan regarding ways to support language preservation, way finding and Indigenous intangible cultural heritage. Nordicity Global PLC implemented the cultural survey portion of the planning process.

"Each planning process is designed to reflect where the community is in its cultural development," Huntsman says. "I focus on creating an engaging, grassroots approach to consultation that involves a region's whole creative ecosystem, not simply arts groups. It's tourism, economic development, tech companies, farmers markets.... Each process is different and while I'm pleased with the body of work I've developed over the years, the most meaningful part is capturing a community's sense of place --- even if that is an evolving identity, as so many B.C. communities large and small are growing and often shifting from a resource-based economy to knowledge, cultural and creative-based-- and supporting that with effective cultural policy."

This is the first time the City of Maple Ridge has been honoured with the esteemed, national award and the second, consecutive win for Huntsman, whose work with the City of Victoria last year on their Arts and Culture Master plan: *Create Victoria*, also took home CCNC's top honour in Cultural Planning.

"I've travelled to many communities in B.C. and it has been fantastic to help further the dialogue on cultural development and meet so many people of diverse backgrounds," adds Huntsman. "That's British Columbia's asset: cultivating diversity and weaving that in to our celebration and recognition of place. Many arts and cultural organizations grew out of settler and colonial legacies but supporting diversity in communities is its strength and way forward."

Learn More:

For more information on Creative City Network of Canada and their Awards of Excellence, visit: creativecommons.ca

To read *Walking Together* – Maple Ridge Culture Plan, go to: <https://www.mapleridge.ca/1462/Culture>

To learn more about Patricia Huntsman, her work and consultancy, visit: patriciahuntsman.ca