

# Bio And Resume Information for Nominees

– New Directors to Arts Council

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## **Erin Jeffery**

Erin is the Special Events Manager at the River Market at Westminster Quay. In that capacity, she is responsible for the Day Vendor program at the market, which includes organizing, promoting and working with the artisans and vendors partaking in the Curious Flea, the Artisans Fairs and the Artisans Shop. She works with hundreds of artisans throughout the year.

Prior to her work at River Market, Erin worked in Communications, Public Relations and Advertising. In addition to work in those fields, she served as the Executive Director for the Canadian Deaf Blind and Rubella Association of British Columbia and the Volunteer Coordinator for the Canadian Mental Health Association. Both jobs gave her the opportunity to work within the field of not for profit and earn a greater understanding of working within that community and with a Board of Directors.

Erin obtained her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre; concentration Acting, from the University of British Columbia in 1990. Since that time, she has worked steadily in theatre and film in the Lower Mainland and on Vancouver Island. In addition to her performing career, Erin has served on the board of the Tara Cheyenne Performance, a Vancouver based dance and performing arts company, and Bantleman Court Housing Society.

She is passionate about the arts and the City of New Westminster, and serving on the New Westminster Arts Council would give her the incredible opportunity to help strengthen both.

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## **Trevor Hargreaves**

Trevor Hargreaves is the Director of Communications for the BC Dairy Association. He is an advocate for the dairy industry with all levels of government, media, special interest groups, environmentalists, and other industry associations. He is also the strategic lead for a variety of industry programs ranging from innovation, research, industry education, and public outreach.

Prior to his career in corporate communications, Trevor worked as a music journalist for many years and also as a graphic designer.

He is also active in the arts scene as both an actor and musician. Trevor has been featured in several commercials and short films in recent years. He is also a longstanding fixture on the local music scene having played in numerous local bands since the early 90's.

Trevor verges completion of a Masters Degree in Communications (within a matter of days) from Royal Roads University, and holds Bachelor and Associate Arts degrees in Anthropology from Simon Fraser University and Douglas College respectively. He has also previously attended art school at the University of the Fraser Valley, and graphic design training at the BC Institute of Technology.

Trevor currently serves as a board member of the Douglas College Alumnus Association, and serves as Secretary of the BC Farm Writers Association.

Trevor is passionate about the arts and a long-time resident of New Westminster.

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## **Pamela Findling**

Pamela has lived in New Westminster for five years and can often be spotted at community events such as the farmers' market, Pecha Kucha, and NEXT New West. She's a regular fixture on social media networks and can frequently be found tweeting with #newwest.

After spending several years in the IT field, Pamela returned to school and graduated from the Print Futures: Professional Writing program at Douglas College. She started her writing and communications career as the communications coordinator at Science World where she wrote and edited news releases, web content, marketing materials, newsletters and grant proposals. In 2009, Pamela received the TELUS Innovator of the Year Award for her work with the science organization.

After leaving Science World, Pamela spent two years as a freelance writer, often working out of the Network Hub in River Market. As a freelancer, Pamela wrote and edited for *Today's Parent, up!, alive,* FortisBC, the University of British Columbia and many New Westminster businesses and non-profit organizations. Pamela also taught workshops to small business owners and entrepreneurs looking to use Twitter as a business tool and presented at the Editors' Association of Canada on the importance of using words to build a brand.

In 2012, Pamela joined TransLink as an Employee Communications Coordinator. She's held several positions within the organization, including being the Senior Communications Advisor for the Compass Project. In June 2014, Pamela accepted a job with Coast Mountain Bus Company as the Manager of Employee Communications, a role she enjoys because it gives her a chance to share stories about people throughout the organization. Pamela is known as a strategic thinker who brings creative ideas to communications at work.

Beyond work, Pamela is active in the community. She's served as Marketing Chair at her son's school, Urban Academy—an arts-infused, independent non-profit school in New Westminster. Her and her husband also spearheaded an initiative to build a rooftop community garden in their condo building that now hosts over 20 plots thriving with produce and flowers. Pamela regularly volunteers at her son's school and helps out on his soccer team. In 2013, Pamela was honoured for her professional and volunteer work with a NewsLeader NEXT Up award.

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## **Janice Bannister**

### **Work overview:**

Sales Rep/National Sales Manager/Workshop Facilitator (Educational Sales)

Lottery Gaming Manager (PNE Prize Home);

Owner of Laughter Zone 101 (#1 stand-up comedy school in Vancouver) Includes Laughter Wellness Presentations for schools, hospitals, parents groups and others)

### **Awards/Recognition/Media/Productions:**

Entrepreneur of the Year (Douglas College Self Employed) Finalist 2005

Funniest Comic with a Day Job & Funniest Female 2003

Performer-Vancouver International Comic Festival, and other US and Canadian Festivals

CBC-Morningside Promo event for Seniors' Comedy Program (2013)

Vancouver Sun (2014)-The Business of Comedy-feature page in the Business Section

Royal City Record (2014)-Reinventing Yourself –Baby Boomers

Gala for Stand-Up for Mental Health-produced 2 events with guests Vickie Gabereau & Larry Campbell

Developed and Instruct the Comedy Kid's Camp for Capilano University (4 years)

Producer—over 100 comedy, variety, comedy contests & fundraising events

Producer/Director/Writer-Aunt Martha's Funeral-Interactive Play (2014) to support Shiloh Church, Aunt Biddy's Wake (2015) Interactive Play

**Not-For-Profit/Volunteer projects:**

Board of Directors-Big Brothers (2 year term)

Share Society-Volunteer Coordinator for the NW Christmas Festival (1 year event)

New Westminster Heritage Society-Volunteer Coordinator (3 years)

LitFest (New West)-Volunteer (2013)

Royal City Literary Arts Society-member

Vancouver International Marathon-Shuttle Driver for VIPs and Elite runners (5 years)

Vancouver International Jazz Festival-office & VIP reception greeter & evaluations (9 years)

Stand-up for Mental Health-produced 2 gala events & coordinated volunteers & development

Weekend to End Breast Cancer/Underwear Affair-Assistant to Event Manager (2 years)

YWCA-Mentor Program-Connect to Success

Lions Society-Emcee for 24 Hour Relay, Drop Zone-Participant

LEADS-Learning Educating & Developing Seniors-workshops for groups

Age Exchangers-One day Youth/Senior Symposium (Advisory Council)

Heart to Art-Youth/Senior Horizon Program-Advisory Council,and the Artist Co-ordinator for the Variety Program

Canadian Breast Cancer Society-Board Director, Bust a Move (2015)-celebrity chair.

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## **Stefanie Swinnard**

### **Certified Early Childhood Music & Movement Educator/Director**

Stefanie hails from the arts embracing city of Chilliwack. She started performing at the tender age of 3 and hasn't stopped since. She first fell in love with musical theatre at age 10 and is veteran of the Chilliwack Musical Theatre Company, having performed such roles as Anna (The King and I), Anita (West Side Story) and Eliza Doolittle (My Fair Lady); to name a few; and she studied with the Chilliwack Academy of Music for over a decade. Stefanie has had the chance to hone her skills as a musical theatre performer working with directors such as David Walsh, Caroline Harder, Paula Quick, Andy Toth, Scott Knight & Erica Northcott. She is a classically trained singer of nearly 16 years and has received many regional and provincial awards including Best Musical Theatre Voice and Senior Classical Voice Runner-Up at the BC Provincial Festival of the Arts. Stefanie is an honours graduate of both the University of the Fraser Valley Theatre Program and the Douglas College Musicianship Program. She was seen most recently

in the role of Alice Beane in Theatre Under the Stars' production of *Titanic: A New Musical* in Stanley Park.

Stefanie has enjoyed numerous offstage roles including stage management & hair and makeup design for the University of the Fraser Valley, costume and wardrobe management for *Suor Angelica* and *Seven Deadly Sins* for the University of Minnesota and even as a "Munchkin Wrangler" for TMA New York's touring production of *The Wizard of Oz*.

Wanting to stay active in her hometown arts community Stefanie has been the Junior Program Director for the Chilliwack School of Performing Arts for nine seasons having directed *The Jungle Book*, *Thumbelina*, *Alice in Wonderland*, *Wizard of Oz*, *The Aristocats*, *Cinderella*, and coming June 2013, *The Musical Adventures of Flat Stanley*.

Continuing to share her love of music and the arts with children she became an Early Childhood Music and Movement Educator and has spent 10 years providing the highest quality music and drama programming to preschools, elementary schools, community centres and dance schools throughout Vancouver, Burnaby, Coquitlam, Richmond & New Westminster. She has an extensive background in early childhood education and development and is a frequent attendee of national and international conferences, workshops and seminars.

Stefanie truly believes that everyone benefits from music, movement, and drama education not only from a social standpoint, but more importantly from a developmental side. The Performing Arts are a perfect vehicle for encouraging whole child, or whole person, development and it is with this in mind that all curriculum provided at The Stage is carefully planned and evaluated so that not only do our students become great performers, they become great people.

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