



Surrey Muse Arts Society Annual Report 2023



*Yanli Tang, Kyle Hawke, Michele Adams, Brand New banner, Catherine Lewis
Surrey Muse gathering, June 2023*

**Surrey Muse Gatherings
Surrey Muse Art & Literature Awards 2023
Campaign to Revive Surrey's Poet Laureate Program
Emergency Fundraising Campaign**

**All organized and presented by
Mariam Zohra D, Saif Khalid, Samantha Krilow, Tiesa Leudy
Carol Neuman, Fauzia Rafique, Michael Stark & Ann Wilson
with support from
Joanne Arnott, Sana Janjua & Randeep**

**Gratitude to
The 2023 Judges
Ying-Yueh Chuang, Raoul Fernandez, Elee Kraljii Gardiner
Darcie Friesen Hossack & Tariq Hussain
The Jury Members
Cory Dingle, Mariam Zohra D, Alanna Edwards, Samantha Krilow
Carol Neuman, Fauzia Rafique, Cynthia Sharp, Yanli Tang
Deborah Vieyra & Ann Wilson**

**Made possible by
Cultural Grants, the City of Surrey
The Estate of Norval Morrisseau
Small Neighbourhood Grants, Vancouver Foundation
and community members
Anonymous 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5, Alanna Edwards, Enna de Guzman
Roger Hume, Tim D Hume, Uzma Aziz Irfan, Iffat Janjua, M. Janjua
Fiona Tinwei Lam, Anne Murphy, Raghavendra Rao K.V., Super Raptor
Angela Rebrec, Malcolm Roulette, Cynthia Sharp, Roger Sinha
Sher Zaman Talib, Cathleen With
&
Susan Crean, Elee Kraljii Gardiner, Oath Oracle**

Gatherings

From January to November 2023, Surrey Muse Arts Society organized 10 Surrey Muse gatherings of three hours each and sponsored an Awards Ceremony in collaboration with Surrey Muse Art & Literature Awards. The 10 Surrey Muse Gatherings featured 10 authors, 10 poets, 10 artist/performers, 20 emerging and 40 new writers/artists. The events were curated by five writers/artists as hosts, and the 10 event posters featured the artworks of 10 established and emerging visual artists while the posters were designed by a new artist. In addition to Q&A with featured artists and discussions around craft, content, creative rituals, artistic excellence, skills sharing and networking, the events featured a Book Table, refreshments, Open Mic, keen and supportive participants, a warm atmosphere, and a central and accessible location. Events were free, donations welcome.

<https://surreymuse.wordpress.com/>

Awards

From June to November 2023, the Society carried out its second annual Surrey Muse Art & Literature Awards program inviting submissions from writers, musicians and visual artists from across Canada. The five awards in fiction, music, nonfiction, poetry and visual arts received 203 submissions from 95 cities. The anonymous submissions were independently viewed by five established artists as judges and ten emerging and mid-level artists as jury members. The winners were announced, and an awards ceremony was held in November. The selections included a number of local writers, poets and artists providing opportunities for some of the many talented artists who reside or work in Surrey to participate and interact with peers in a national literary arts program.

<https://surreymuseawards.wordpress.com/>

Fundraising

The year 2023 came out to be the scariest and the most exhilarating experience for us as two of our grant applications to fund the Awards program were declined and we needed to raise over \$7000 within a couple of months. That in itself was a big challenge not to mention that we had already done our regular annual fundraising. By using GoFundMe and direct emailing, we were able to raise the required amount and meet our financial commitments. We were deeply moved that in

response to our urgent request for donations a few judges, jury members and featured artists donated back their full honorariums. View the fundraising video created by Mariam Zohra D:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a991Kht0X4>

Community Development

The Society began a campaign to restart Surrey's Poet laureate program, a gain for art and literature made earlier for the benefit of all Surrey poets and poetry lovers that was later abruptly discontinued. An online petition was introduced, and within no time, over 273 signatures were collected from the concerned Surrey residents and the petition was duly presented to the Mayor of Surrey via email. The Society has created a website as a base for continuing communication, information and activity to lobby for the revival of this program.

<https://surreypoetlaureate.wordpress.com/>

IMPACT

Through Gatherings and Awards, community development and fundraising activities, we came in direct contact with almost 4000 people, featured or recognized over 180 professional artists, and strengthened our ties with sister organizations.

2023 was the first year we began presenting in-person events after nearly three years of COVID-related restrictions. There was a celebratory atmosphere to be able to get together, view and listen to literature, and appreciate art. Our attendance went from seven to 45, we were able to improve our presentation by adding an amplifier and get the use of a projector to view presentations by the out of town artists via Zoom.

We are elated and humbled by the support given to us by fellow artists and supporters who enabled us to carry out our commitments. Our communities honored us by making our fundraising campaign and the Awards project successful.

We have strengthened existing ties with sister organizations by finding specific ways to support each other's events, campaigns and projects. These organizations

include the Federation of BC Writers, Delta Literary Arts Society, Rungh Cultural Society, the Estate of Norval Morrisseau, and Royal City Literary Arts Society.

CHANGES

We were unable to implement any of the organizational development plans such as acquiring a professional database and paid domain/hosting because of the lack of funds. However, the delay may benefit us as we see some grant programs to digitize/automate all workings of the Society not just the database function. We hope to look into such programs this year.

As well, we could not maintain the online aspect of Surrey Muse Gatherings that we had created on YouTube during the COVID years because Livestreaming did not deliver quality for us as it impacted on the quality of discussions, and with all the pauses that may occur in an in-person event, it proved cumbersome to edit three-hour footage into a 1.5-hour video. This year, we will be finding more time-efficient and suited-to-our-needs methods to revive our online video presence.

We experienced steep changes between our ‘projected’ and ‘actual’ budget due to strategies to cope with the lack of funding. This also had an impact on volunteer hours as all administrative honoraria was suspended, and both project management positions were converted to volunteer positions.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2022-2023 - Surrey Muse Arts Society

December 1, 2022 – November 30, 2023 (Cash Only)

Assets

Carried from the previous year 1096

Society's Bank Account (TD) & PayPal 4486

Liabilities 3390

REVENUE

Donations 6702

Entry fees & Door money 2508

City of Surrey (2022 Cultural Grants) 1200

City of Surrey (2022 Cultural Grants) 4960

The Estate of Norval Morrisseau 2000

Society's contribution 2500

Vancouver Foundation 500

Total Revenue **20370**

EXPENDITURE

Artist Fees, Arts Awards 10850

Judges, Jury Members 3750

Production, Venue & Outreach honoraria 3938

Administrative Wages 0

Annual Report Filing, Bank/PayPal Fees 315

Software rental, sound, advertising, printing 1551

Total Expenditure **20404**

BALANCE -34

Michael Stark, Treasurer February 2, 2024

Surrey Muse Posters & Links

January-November 2023

January 28, 2023



Event information: <https://surreymuse.wordpress.com/2023/01/09/surrey-muse-gathering-saturday-january-28-2023/>

February 25, 2023



Event information: <https://surreymuse.wordpress.com/2023/02/08/surrey-muse-gathering-saturday-february-25-2023/>

March 25, 2023



Event information: <https://surreymuse.wordpress.com/2023/03/07/surrey-muse-gathering-saturday-march-25-2023/>

April 22, 2023



Event information: <https://surreymuse.wordpress.com/2023/04/04/surrey-muse-gathering-saturday-april-22-2023/>

May 27, 2023



Event information: <https://surreymuse.wordpress.com/2023/05/05/surrey-muse-gathering-saturday-may-27-2023/>

June 24, 2023



Event information: <https://surreymuse.wordpress.com/2023/06/10/surrey-muse-gathering-saturday-june-24-2023/>

July 22, 2023



Event information: <https://surreymuse.wordpress.com/2023/07/05/surrey-muse-gathering-saturday-july-22-2023/>

August 26, 2023



Event information: <https://surreymuse.wordpress.com/2023/08/09/surrey-muse-gathering-saturday-august-26-2023/>

September 23, 2023



Event information: <https://surreymuse.wordpress.com/2023/09/08/surrey-muse-gathering-saturday-september-23-2023/>

October 28, 2023



Event Information: <https://surreymuse.wordpress.com/2023/10/09/surrey-muse-gathering-saturday-october-28-2023/>

November 25, 2023



Event Information: <https://surreymuse.wordpress.com/2023/11/15/surrey-muse-art-literature-awards-ceremony-saturday-november-25-2023/>

Surrey Muse Program Announcements

<https://surreymuse.wordpress.com/2023/05/24/surrey-muse-program-june-november-2023/>

<https://surreymuse.wordpress.com/2022/12/19/surrey-muse-program-january-may-2023/>

Community Development

<https://surreymuse.wordpress.com/2023/06/26/add-your-name-to-revive-surreys-poet-laureate-program/>

<https://surreymuse.wordpress.com/2023/11/10/winners-announced-surrey-muse-art-literature-awards-2023/>

<https://surreymuse.wordpress.com/2023/06/01/submissions-open-surrey-muse-art-literature-awards-2023/>

Winners of Surrey Muse Art & Literature Awards 2023

Surrey Muse Arts Society congratulates the 2023 winners of the five Surrey Muse Art & Literature Awards, and wishes each a resounding success in achieving next levels of creativity and recognition.

<https://surreymuseawards.wordpress.com/2023/11/10/winners-surrey-muse-art-literature-awards-2023/>



Joy Kogawa Award for Fiction 2023

1st Place Winner

'Rastegan' by Maria Saba, Ottawa ON

2nd Place Winner

'Words like Frost' by Damini Kane, Vancouver BC

3rd Place Winner

'Perfect Stranger' by Jann Everard, Sidney BC

Honorable Mentions

'Arrivals' by Zilla Jones, Winnipeg MB

'Prologue for the Song of the Northern Spirit' by Mala, Yellowknife NT

'Olives, Questions, Kisses, Hips' by Preeti Dhaliwal, Vancouver BC

For the Joy Kogawa Award for Fiction, we are grateful to Judge Darcie Friesen Hossack, Jury Members Cynthis Sharp and Samantha Krilow for carrying out a robust judging process, and, to Author Joy Kogawa for giving us permission to dedicate this award to her.



Faith Nolan Award for Music 2023

1st Place Winner

'Karma' by Andrew Balboa, New Westminster BC

2nd Place Winner

'I Still Prevail' by Malcolm Roulette, Whitedog ON

3rd Place Winner

'Black Crow' by Sandy Scofield, Richmond BC

Honorable Mentions

'Find It For Yourself' by DJ Digger Jonez, Brandon MB

'Free' by Chloe Hataley, Oakville ON

'Resistance' by Kaelin Sheridan, Hamilton ON

For the Faith Nolan Award for Music, we are grateful to Judge Tariq Hussain, Jury Members Cory Dingle and Mariam Zohra D for their deliberations, and, to Singer/Songwriter Faith Nolan for allowing us to dedicate the music award to her.



Susan Crean Award for Nonfiction 2023

1st Place Winner

'Failures in Online Dating' by Janice Vis, Hamilton ON

2nd Place Winner

'Potluck' by Steve Oetting, Winnipeg MB

3rd Place Winner

'Talking to My Dead Son' by Jane Harris-Zsovan, Lethbridge AB

Honorable Mentions

'Weaving Memoryways' by Christine Anoneuvo, South Hazelton BC

'Girl Crush or Crush Crush' by Catherine Lewis, Vancouver BC

'The Train' by Murgatroyd Monaghan, — ON

For the Susan Crean Award for Nonfiction, we are grateful to Judge Elee Kraljii Gardiner, Jury Members Ann Wilson and Fauzia Rafique for their time and considerations, and, to Author Susan Crean for giving us permission to dedicate the nonfiction award to her.



Vera Manuel Award for Poetry 2023

1st Place Winner

'Ocean's Gate' by Nnadi Samuel, Quebec City QC

2nd Place Winner

'Fenestrate' by Kyle McKillop, Langley BC

3rd Place Winner

'Afremov's Melody of the Night' by Leah Levy, Thornhill ON

Honorable Mentions

'War is Bad for Children' by Sabyasachi Nag, Mississauga ON

'HEAT WAVE' by Grace Kwan, White Rock BC

'Cement' by Ivan Drury, Surrey BC

For the Vera Manuel Award for Poetry, we are grateful to Judge Raoul Fernandes, Jury Members Deborah Vieyra and Carol Neuman for viewing the most submissions- 70 of almost 10 pages each, and, to the family of Vera Manuel for allowing us to dedicate this award to her.



Norval Morrisseau Award for Visual Arts 2023

1st Place Winner

'Origin Story' by Keerat Kaur, Vancouver BC

2nd Place Winner

'Irene's Souvenir Shop' by Emilie Fantuz, Vancouver BC

3rd Place Winner

'Silence' by Karissa Narukami, Richmond BC

Honorable Mentions

'Amanita Moss' by Louise Renée, Winnipeg MB

'First Painting' by Harem Tahir, Burnaby BC

'Citrus Sky' by Alini Garcia, Vancouver BC

For the Norval Morrisseau Award for Visual Arts, we are grateful to Judge Ying-Yueh Chuan, Jury Members Alanna Edwards and Yanli Tang for their evaluations, and, to the Estate of Norval Morrisseau for allowing us to dedicate the visual arts award to him, and for sponsoring this award.

Gratitude

Surrey Muse Arts Society expresses our deep gratitude to the following people for their contributions to support the programs offered by the Society in 2023.

Anonymous 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5

Alanna Edwards

Enna de Guzman

Roger Hume

Tim D Hume

Uzma Aziz Irfan

Iffat Janjua

M. Janjua

Fiona Tinwei Lam

Anne Murphy

Carol Neuman

Raghavendra Rao K.V.

Super Raptor

Angela Rebrec

Malcolm Roulette

Cynthia Sharp

Roger Sinha

Sher Zaman Talib

Cathleen With

Board Members (2023)

Mariam Durrani

Saif Khalid

Fauzia Rafique

Michael Stark

Patrons (2023)

(\$500 & Above)

Susan Crean

Elee Kraljii Gardiner

Oath Oracle

<https://surreymuse.wordpress.com/donors/>

*Surrey Muse Arts Society appreciates
the support provided by*

Cultural Grants, the City of Surrey



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The Estate of Norval Morrisseau

officialmorriseau.com

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NSG, Vancouver Foundation



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Surrey Libraries



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Contact us

Surrey Muse Arts Society (SMAS)

JOIN group on Facebook

[Surrey Muse Arts Society \(SMAS\)](#)

LIKE us on Facebook

facebook.com/pages/Surrey-Muse

FOLLOW on Twitter

[@SurreyMuse](#)

FOLLOW on InstaGram

surreymuse.arts

Support other SMAS Projects

[Surrey Muse](#)

[Surrey Muse At Large \(SMAL\)](#)

[Surrey Muse Writers](#)

[Women Who Named the Unnamed](#)

Contact

surrey.muse@gmail.com

*Surrey Muse Arts Society operates from
the unceded Coast Salish territories of
the Semiahmoo, Katzie, Kwikwetlem, Kwantlen
Qayqayt, Tsawwassen, Musqueam
Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations.*

