

The Nutcracker returns to NPCC this December

Visions of sugar plums—along with dolls, mice and other magical beings—will dance across the stage when The Nutcracker returns to Fort St. John.

This classic story of a young girl and a magical nutcracker has become something of a tradition in Fort St. John, being performed every second year

during the holiday season.

The ballet is a collaboration between Studio2Stage, Northern Dance Theatre Society and Stage North. Studio2Stage has double-casted the leads in order to showcase the talented dancers in the community.

The show runs Dec. 15 to 17 at the North Peace Cultural Centre.

Celebrations offer plenty to learn about African culture, history

Bronwyn Scott
Staff Writer

FORT ST. JOHN — From headgear to fried plantains, the Fort St. John community got a taste of African culture at the library on Saturday as part of the Pan African Caribbean Association's Black History Month celebrations.

After watching a short video about Viola Desmond, who helped start the civil rights movement in Canada when she refused to leave a whites-only area of a Nova Scotia theatre in 1946, Fort St. John kids got to learn how to sing "Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes" in Swahili, try on traditional African attire, and eat cultural foods.

The library event was one of three Black History Month events offered throughout the day to celebrate diversity and learn about African culture.

"Every year we celebrate Black History Month, and we want to be part of the community and also make the community understand what Africans are all about: what their lifestyle and what their fashion is like, what their cuisine is. We want to contribute to the community so we look forward to doing this every year," said Panebi Oboh, president of the Pan African Caribbean Association.

"We hope we are able to reach out to the community, make them understand what we are about and what our culture is, and also integrate into the Canadian culture."

Oboh, originally from Nigeria, has been in Fort St. John for eight years, and says the African community in Fort St. John is growing.

"When I first came there were just a handful, but right now you see lots of Africans, blacks, Caribbeans around, and that's encouraging and that's good," she said.

The library events on Saturday were well attended, according to Morgan Churchill, program co-ordinator with the library.

"It's been very fun and we've had great participation and enthusiasm from the community. I think it's just something a little bit different and just really expresses the diversity in our community and in Canada, and in our history, and in our present," she said.

It's the first time the library has partnered with the association to host the three family-friendly events, the first of which, in the morning, was Mother Goose on the Loose for infants and toddlers. The second event of the day was a "crafternoon" where participants made giraffes, and the third was a time for trying on traditional garb, enjoying cultural foods, and making beaded projects.

"It's the first time we've done something like this and I think everyone here is having a great time," Churchill said. "It's something we would love to do again."

Black History Month events kicked off in the city Feb. 2 with a viewing of *Invictus*, a 2009 American-South African biographical sports drama, at the Lido Theatre Feb. 2.

An essay contest for middle and high school students on how Canada's cultural diversity enriches the country was another Black History Month initiative, as was a friendly Canada versus Africa youth soccer match, which took place Feb. 10. The outcome was a tie: 4-4.

Black History Month celebrations in Fort St. John wrap up with a traditional African dinner and show featuring Juno Award winning African artist Alpha Yaya Diallo on Feb. 27 at the Immaculata Hall.

peacereporter@ahnfsj.ca



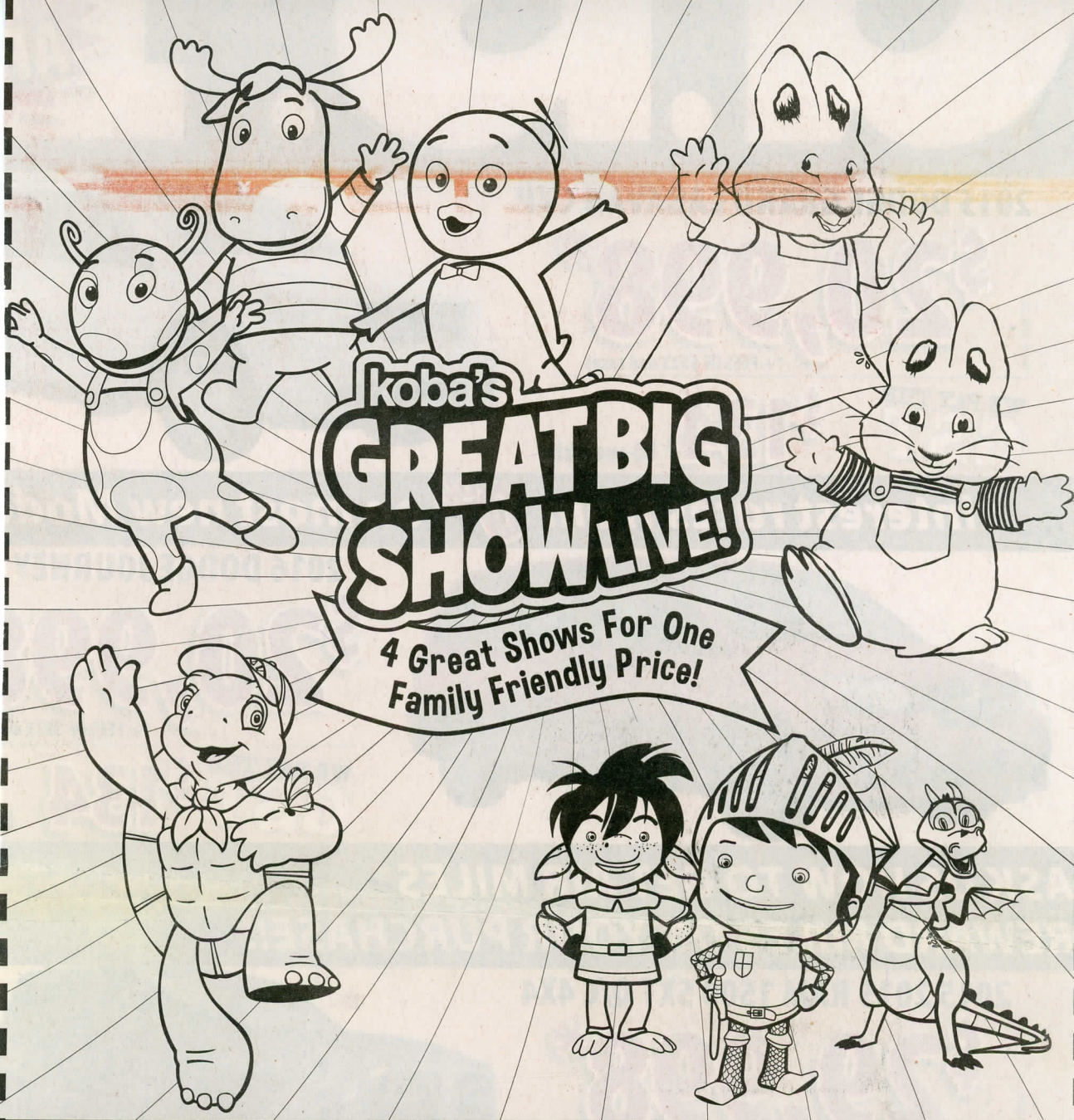
Morgan Churchill, program co-ordinator at the Fort St. John Public Library, gets some help from Deborah Sanni with traditional African clothing.

LOCAL NEWS



BRONWYN SCOTT PHOTOS

Aileen Chisholm, 7, had plenty of helping hands as she tried on traditional African headgear during Black History Month celebrations at the Fort St. John Public Library on Saturday.



STARRING:

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FEBRUARY 14, 2016

NORTH PEACE CULTURAL CENTRE

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www.GreatBigShowOnTour.com



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Drop off or mail your completed entry to Koba's Great Big Show Contest, c/o Alaska Highway News, 9916-98th Street, Fort St. John B.C., V1J 3T8. **Entry deadline is February 5, 2016.**

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DECK THE HALLS

DEC 1, 2016



ALEISHA HENDRY PHOTO

Trinity Truscott and Megan Mora dug out some wreaths to decorate the North Peace Cultural Centre for the holiday season.

Feb 15, 2016



BRONWYN SCOTT PHOTO

CHECKING OUT THE MERCH: Cindy Kitchen and her granddaughters Natalie Shipton, 6, Lauryn Campbell, 8, and Hillary Campbell, 5, check out the merch booth outside the Fred Penner concert at the North Peace Cultural Centre Saturday. Joy Morrison was manning the booth.

Arts & Culture

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Creativity is putting your imagination to work, and it's produced the most extraordinary results in human culture.
- Ken Robinson

Cultural centre continues to raise funds for dimmer rack

ALEISHA HENDRY

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The North Peace Cultural Centre is getting ever closer to paying for a new dimmer rack.

The equipment is essential to controlling the lights in the theatre, says operations manager at the NPCC, Oliver Hachmeister.

"It controls all the theatrical lighting for all the shows, so it's pretty important," he said.

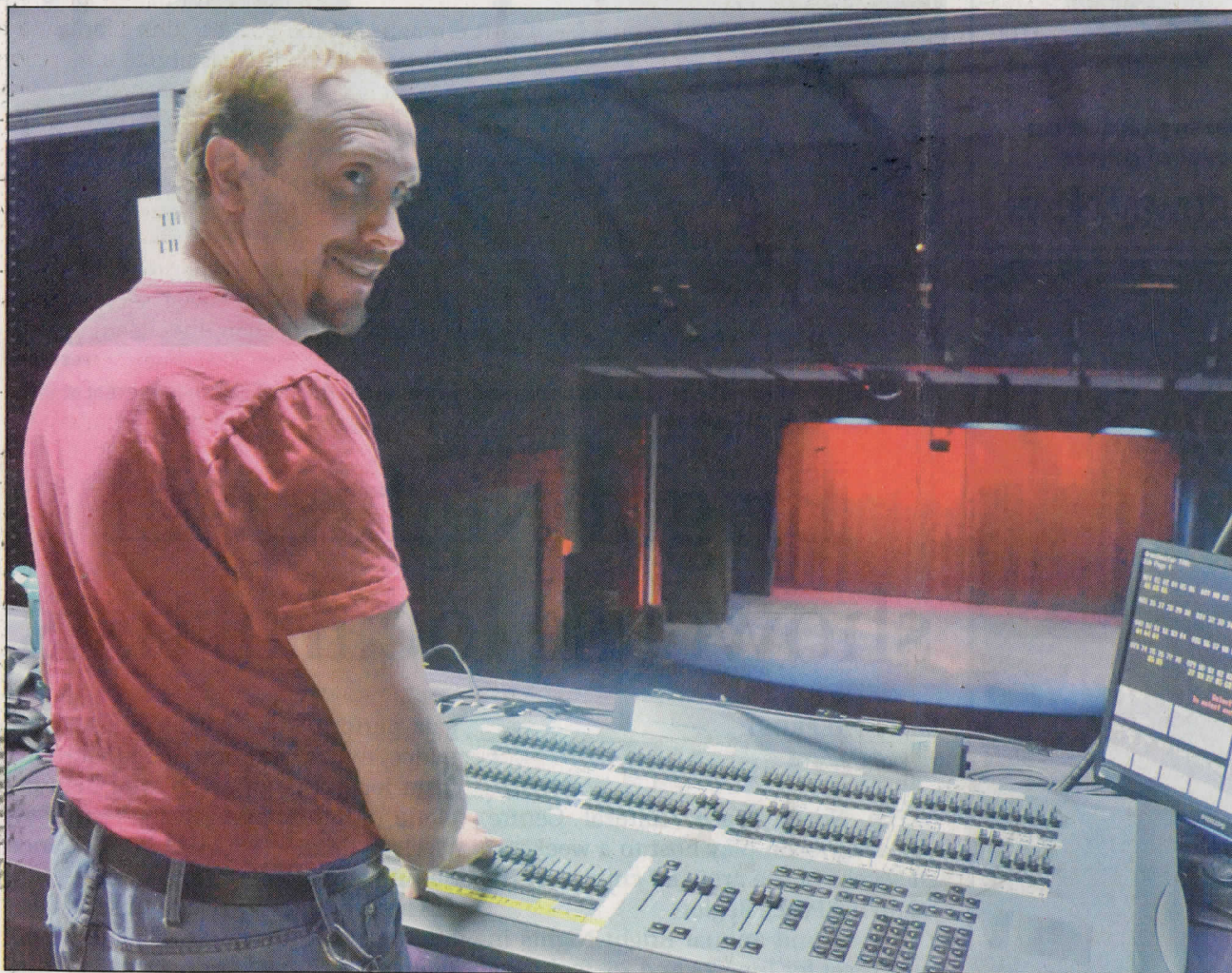
The original rack was installed in 1992. It's had some issues during shows, but during one particular performance it just shut down and the lights went out. Hachmeister said they had a backup plan and got the lights going again, but it showed the NPCC that it was definitely time to replace the aging equipment.

The dimmer rack costs around \$42,000 plus installation. So far, nearly \$38,000 has been raised through community donations and grants.

Hachmeister said the cultural centre is aiming to raise \$50,000 to cover the cost of the rack, as well as replace the aging lights in the theatre.

"We're looking at getting LED lights, which will help reduce our operating costs," he said.

The upcoming Bright Nights Gala, which takes place on June 24, will also help raise funds for the dimmer rack.



ALEISHA HENDRY PHOTO

North Peace Cultural Centre operations manager Oliver Hachmeister adjusts the lights on the stage in the theatre.

LIGHTING THE CULTURAL CENTRE STAGE



MATT PREPOST PHOTO

Oliver Hachmeister shows off one of 20 brand new LED lights that arrived at the North Peace Cultural Centre last week. The centre had been eagerly awaiting the delivery, funded through community sponsors and the Northern Development Initiative Trust, to replace aging equipment. Hachmeister says the new lights will be installed in time for Tom Cole and Friends, scheduled to perform Sept. 24.

Sept 15/2016



artspace

AT THE CULTURAL CENTRE



Spring 2016

Classes



Drama

Wed April 20th—May 25th

5:30pm—6:30pm

\$105, ages 6 & up

Instructor: Annie Peachey



Do you see yourself on stage or in the movies? This fun, dynamic course will get you started with games and activities to teach you basic acting skills and techniques. The small class size allows for individual attention and coaching. Look out Hollywood... here you come!

Knitting For Beginners

Mon April 18th—May 30th

6:00pm—7:00pm

\$90 + \$10 for materials

Ages 10 & up

Instructor: Karla King

Ever dreamt of knitting that perfect pair of mittens or scarf? If so, then come out and we'll show you basic techniques to get started and get you on your way to becoming a knitting pro!

Pastels & Watercolor Painting

Tues April 19th—May 24th

6:00pm—7:00pm

\$90, ages 10 & up

materials included

Instructor: Kerri Richards

Students will explore the partnership between pastels and watercolor painting in this 6 week course. The science, math and art of painting will be explored through a variety of step by step paintings, equipping the students with a variety of new techniques.

Zumba

Mondays April 18th—June 20th

Fridays April 22nd—June 24

7:00pm—8:00pm

\$67.50 Mondays (9 classes)

\$60 Fridays (8 classes)

ages 15 & up

Instructor: Stella Ndunda

Dance your way to fitness with music and choreography from various parts of Africa. If you are up for an adventure and ready for loads of FUN, sign up for this cultural experience class — you will not be disappointed!

Babysitting Training

Wed April 20th—May 11th

6:00pm—7:00pm

\$90, ages 12 & up,

materials included

Instructor: Suzanne Currie

The Canada Safety Council Babysitters Training Course is the oldest and most recognized course in Canada. Each child is presented with a wall certificate and wallet card upon completion. Aimed at young people turning 12 years of age within the calendar year or older, The Babysitters Training Course is loaded with special features such as:

Children with Special Needs

Rights and Responsibilities

Games and Play Activities

Safety and Basic First Aid

Handling Emergencies

Caring for a Sick Child

Nutrition



Intro to Preschool

For Ages 3-5

We're launching a brand-new, once a week class designed to introduce your child to preschool! Tuesday afternoons from April 19th to May 24th



\$110 for 6 weeks
Classes run from 1:30-3:30

Your child will learn typical preschool routines and rules. They will have a snack and do crafts with our qualified staff, and experience hands on learning through songs and play.

ArtSpace is also home to a fantastic preschool!

Our Fine Arts Preschool provides children ages 3-5 with ample opportunities to experience creative movement, language, literature, rhythm, cooking, dance, and the visual arts.

Hands on involvement in three to four art forms daily helps children find enjoyable ways to express themselves and grow through experience; nurturing the development of the whole child.

As well as in-class enrichment, once a month the children also enjoy field trips that provide them with educational experiences away from their regular school environment. PlayArts Preschool is excited to announce that starting in the fall of 2016 we will be offering Tuesday & Thursday afternoon classes in addition to our regular programming.

For more info contact our artSpace
coordinator at artspace@npcc.bc.ca



CHECK BACK SOON FOR MORE INFO ON SUMMER CAMPS!



For more info contact us at :
Web: npcc.bc.ca
Telephone: (250) 785-1992
Email: artspace@npcc.bc.ca
10015 100th Ave.
Fort St. John, BC V1J 1Y7

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to July 16

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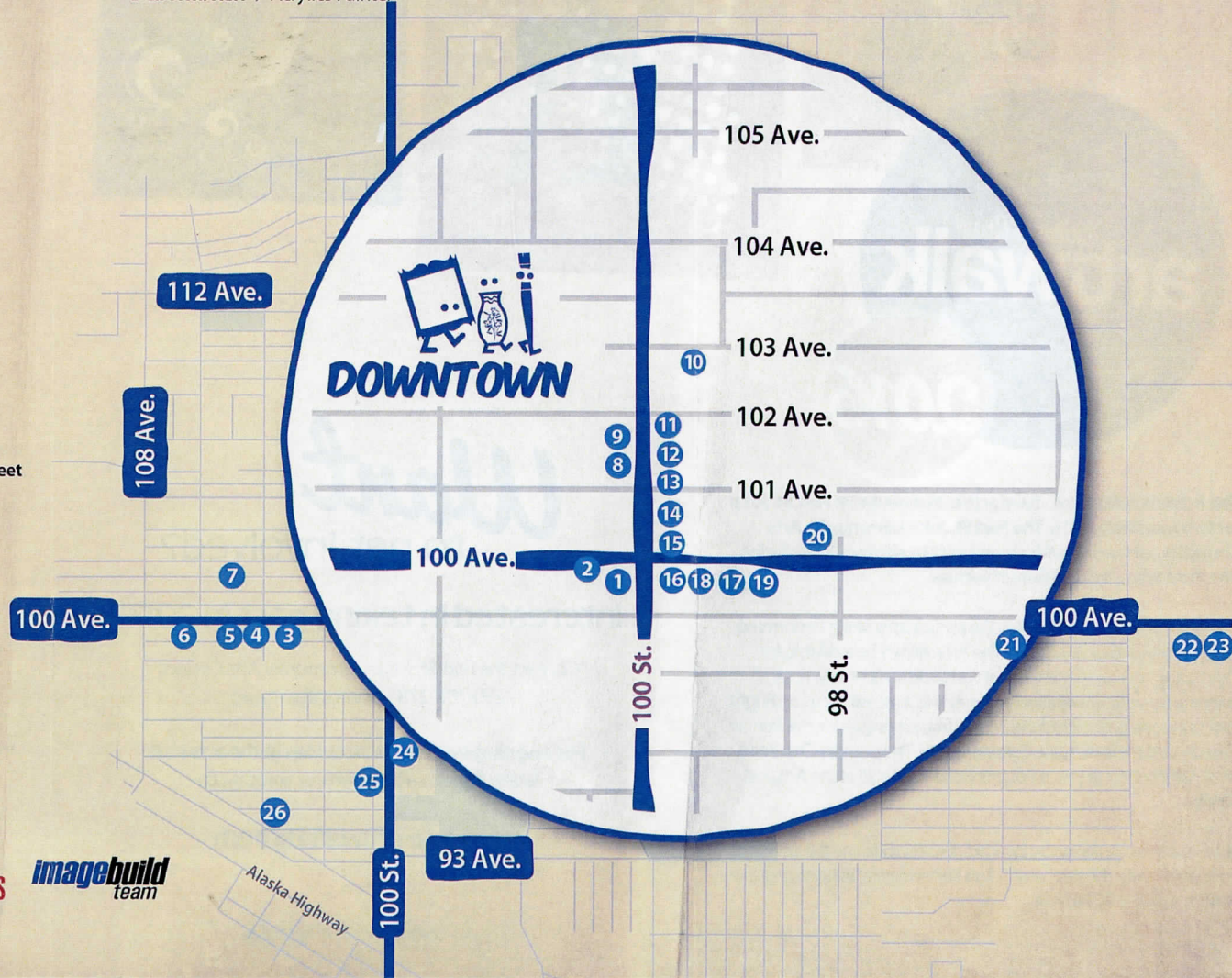
more info artwalkfsj.com



- 1- **Peace Gallery North in the North Peace Cultural Centre** 10015 - 100th Avenue
Featuring works by many local and regional artists.
- 2- **The Beam Coffee And Sandwich Bar** 10045 - 100th Street
Charity Langevin / Painter, Experimental Process
- 3- **Stephen MacAdams Law Corp.** 10343 - 100th Avenue
Ken Forest / Sculptor
- 4- **Mondo's Restaurant** 10403 - 100th Avenue
Carlos Saurez / Painter
- 5- **Baked Pastry & Bakeshop** 10423 - 100th Avenue
Deb Bowyer / Encaustic Artist, Zentangle® Inspired
- 6- **IdealOS Office Solutions** 10611 - 100th Avenue
Peace Country Spinners and Weavers / Misc.
- 7- **Kilnhouse Studio** 10510 - 101st Avenue
Shannon Buttler / Potter, Drop-in Saturdays
- 8- **This & That** 10112 - 100th Street
Megan Brooks / Designer, Painter
- 9- **Headspace** 10116 - 100th Street
Caroline Antonita / Illustrator
- 10- **Piece by Peace Quilts** 9919 - 103rd Avenue
Featuring a variety of quilts and designs
- 11- **Good 2 Go Shoes & Accessories** 10115 - 100th Street
Sherry Petryshyn / Potter, Painter
- 12- **Noodle Bowl** 10113 - 100th Street
Holly Ulrich / Visual Art
- 13- **Marcy's Bright Ideas** 10107 - 100th Street
Jean Gammage / Potter
- 14- **Northern Environmental Action Team** 10027 - 100th Street
Lorna Penner / Mixed Media, Painter
- 15- **Whole Wheat 'n' Honey** 10003 - 100th Street
Kim Ans / Painter
Pam Hagan / Potter

- 16- **CIBC** 9959 - 100th Avenue
Penny Boden / Multi-media
- 17- **Scoop Clothing** 9935 - 100th Avenue
Sandy Troudt / Painter, Printmaker
- 18- **Lilies and Lavender** 9911 - 100th Avenue
Linda Takahashi / Potter
Darby Forest / Watercolourist
- 19- **Computer Emporium** 9907 - 100th Avenue
Eliza Stanford / Painter
- 20- **Northern Grand Hotel** 9830 - 100th Avenue
Alison Newth / Painter
- 21- **Aurora Chiropractic Clinic** 9607 - 99th Avenue
Deborha Kerr / Acrylics Painter

- 22- **Investors Group** 9319 - 100th Avenue
Judy Templeton / Printmaker
- 23- **Canadian Grind Coffee & Tea** 9315 - 100th Avenue
Rosemarie Phillips / Potter
- 24- **Homesteader Health Foods** 9920 - 97th Avenue
Mike Kroecher / Landscape Artist
- 25- **Mama Panda's Restaurant** 9608 - 100th Street
Barb Daley / Visual Artist
Deb Martin / Photographer
- 26- **Artspost** 10320 - 94th Avenue
Teresa Martin / Spraypaint Artist
Donna Folk / Painter



Cultural Grand
artwalk proudly sponsored by





Cultural Crawl
artwalk

2016

The Artwalk celebrates visual artists in downtown Fort St. John for two months in 2016. The Fort St. John Community Arts Council is partnering with community businesses in featuring 28+ local artists in 26 different venues.

The Arts Community welcomes the participants of the Performing Arts BC Festival May 31- June 4. The Artwalk will be available for visitors and tourists in the heart of Fort St. John until July 16. A community-wide celebration of the Arts in June will focus on Bright Nights in June gala night June 24 and free art classes for children on June 25 at the North Peace Cultural Centre. The popular Chili Bowl Bash with the North Peace Potter's Guild is June 25 at the Artspost Studios.

Street banners designed by local artist Alan White line the streets of downtown with the theme of "High Performance" in honour of the Performing Arts BC Festival.

Want
to get involved?

Interested in taking part in 2017?

Contact the Fort St. John Community Arts Council
250-787-2781 or info@fsjarts.org

For ongoing events and activities in the arts visit
www.fsjarts.org and www.npcc.bc.ca

more info artwalkfsj.com

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