

Board

Candidate Summary

Information

(as of May 1, 2017)

CULTURAL INDUSTRIES

Adrian Halter

Adrian has been a board member with SaskCulture since 2013 and has become increasingly involved with the organization over that time. In 2015 and 2016, he was voted in as Vice President by his fellow board members and has enjoyed the added responsibility.

Adrian's work with SaskCulture has been his largest contribution to the cultural community in Saskatchewan but it has not been the only one. From 2015-2017, he volunteered as a judge at the Regina Regional Heritage Fair focusing on projects to be selected for the Young Citizens Program. Since 2014, he has put on a video workshop for children participating in the Young Citizens Program where they learn how to produce and edit their own videos. In 2016, he provided mentorship and expertise to high school students who participated in the 'Creating in the Qu'Appelle' program through Lumsden High School.

Over the last three years, Adrian has learned a great deal in terms of SaskCulture's mission, vision, governance, and its member organizations. He has sat on several committees including the Audit Committee, the Community Funding Committee, the GM Review Committee, and has chaired the Eligibility Committee. All of this has led Adrian to have a strong understanding of where this organization has been and where it is going in the future.

Outside of his work with SaskCulture, Adrian is a filmmaker and a business owner. Over the years he has worked with, and interviewed, a wide variety of people from across Canada for a number of video and documentary projects. Through his work, Adrian has been able to stay connected with Saskatchewan's arts community, as well as stay informed about current issues facing the province.

Adrian grew up in the small town of Luseland, SK and moved to Regina to attend University. In 2010, he graduated from the U of R with a BFA in Film and Video Production. Adrian currently lives in Regina with his wife Becky and their two sons, Holden and Hollis.

HERITAGE

Lauren Stead

Lauren is an archaeologist and traditional knowledge facilitator with Stantec Consulting Ltd. in Saskatoon. Since completing her Master of Arts in the Department of Archaeology and Anthropology at the University of Saskatchewan, she has worked on a variety of projects in archaeological impact assessment and mitigation in Saskatchewan and Manitoba; and traditional knowledge studies in Saskatchewan, Manitoba and northern British Columbia.

As an archaeologist, Lauren works to promote the preservation of archaeological sites and learn from the past in order to provide insight for our shared present and future. She is a member of the Canadian Archaeological Association, the Saskatchewan Association of Professional Archaeologists, the Saskatchewan Archaeological Society and Heritage Saskatchewan.

Through her work as a traditional knowledge facilitator, Lauren has had the opportunity work with First Nations and Métis communities towards the preservation of living cultural heritage. As a certified Public Participation specialist and member of IAP2 Canada, Lauren has also been involved in engagement with communities and First Nations.

Since she was a small child, Lauren has been fortunate to have had the opportunity to both live and travel abroad which has provided her with an appreciation of diversity and a sense of the importance of place.

Lauren was first elected to the SaskCulture Board in 2015 for a one-year term and again in 2016 for a one-year term.

MÉTIS NATION

K. James Rose

Through arts, heritage and culture, barriers are broken, ideas flourish, and communities become stronger, more united, and more desirable to live in. As original peoples, James believes Indigenous and Métis knowledge and culture not only offer rich foundations from which non-Indigenous Saskatchewanians can benefit, but believes that the full vibrancy of culture in Saskatchewan cannot be reached without an appreciation and understanding of the place and peoples who are indigenous to this land. Métis culture and appreciation for its writers, poets and customs help facilitate and shape every Saskatchewanian's understanding of history, identity and positionality. With an individual and collective understanding of space and place, people become more grounded, and thus confident to celebrate culture, promote culture and evolve a shared culture.

James joined the SaskCulture board in 2014 and has been impressed with the SaskCulture's focus on not only ensuring that cultural programming is available to the people of Saskatchewan, but ensuring that programming is inclusive to those who do not traditionally partake in such programming. On this front, more work needs to be done. James feels SaskCulture, as trustee of the culture section of the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust, has an obligation to ensure that funds are expended to the benefit and enfranchisement of all people of Saskatchewan. Where programming is not achieving this goal, such programming must evolve to ensure inclusivity, participation and engagement. As a director of SaskCulture, this has been and will be one of James' chief objectives, along with ensuring that SaskCulture does its part in heeding the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Report. Culture can be healing and cultural exchange, understanding and growth can help lead to reconciliation.

James is presently employed as a commercial litigator with MLT Aikins LLP in Regina. Beyond his law practice, James volunteers for various events with the United Way, is a mentor with Mother Theresa Middle School and chair of the Saskatchewan United World College selection committee. In his leisure time, he enjoys family, travelling, hunting and fishing, playing music, and attending some of the extensive programming and excellent events put on by SaskCulture and its membership.

James is pleased to once again put his name forward for the Métis position with SaskCulture. He is committed to SaskCulture and looks forward to contributing to and learning from all it and its member organizations have to offer.

MEMBER AT LARGE

Devon Coles

Art has been Devon's life for as long as he can remember. Raised in rural Saskatchewan, by a family of modest income, art was an affordable, accessible endeavour. Devon's parents both worked and their home was too far from town to participate in most town-based extracurricular activities. Paper and pencils were cheap and plentiful. This scenario laid out the foundation for the art addiction that he stubbornly clings to today.

Upon leaving the farm, Devon found himself pursuing and acquiring an Art and Design diploma from Red Deer College and a Bachelor of Fine Arts at the U of S. He served as an Artist in Residence for the Saskatchewan Arts Board, a two year position that was so successful it was extended to four years. In this position, Devon worked with approximately 15 schools and 6 Hutterite colonies. He assisted in curriculum implementation and brought professional art training to art and non-art classrooms in the Outlook and Kindersley areas. During the residency he was also a CARFAC member and participated in a mentorship program with Iris Hauser. The experience with Iris and CARFAC expanded his knowledge of art in our province and the structure of arts organizations.

Devon's residency in Kindersley was what led him to his current position as owner and manager of Devon Coles' Garden Gallery. He purchased the gallery in 2007 and since then has been showing Saskatchewan artist's work, hosting music events with performers from across Canada and showing and selling his own work. He also teaches pottery, painting, drawing and sculpture classes to approximately 20 children at any given time. Garden Gallery is (today!) receiving and mounting its first OSAC touring show in an attempt to reach out and bring in more diversity to Kindersley.

Since 2007, Devon has sat on several Saskatchewan Arts Board adjudication committees and has been active with the Kindersley and District Arts Council, as well as the Kindersley chapter of Creative Kids, where he sits as the adjudication lead.

Devon joined the SaskCulture board of directors in 2015. His purpose in applying for this position again is to take culture to people in communities across the province, as well as bring the experience back to his own area. He has become one of the "go-to" people in Kindersley for cultural enrichment in the arts and is regularly approached by the town office for input on matters of art and culture. He believes that a home town is what you make of it. His experience in west central Saskatchewan would offer a rural perspective to SaskCulture's board and mission.

Neeraj Gandhi

Neeraj Gandhi has gained significant leadership skills and experience working with a diverse group of people through his professional experiences as a project manager, as well as volunteer experiences in various non-profit organizations. He has led and managed many community cultural events, the most recent being a cultural festival of Diwali in November 2016 for a group of 400 attendees. His varied professional and cultural exposures from years of living in countries like Canada, UK, USA, and India has encouraged him to explore the cultures, values, and traditions of diverse people and see beyond his own cultural boundaries.

Neeraj is has been a board member of PMI Regina South Saskatchewan Chapter as VP of Volunteers since November 2015. The chapter is established to support, develop, and grow the profession of project management in Southern Saskatchewan. From January 2016 to February 2017 he held a board position with Gujarati Samaj of Regina, a cultural community organization established for the Gujarati speaking member of Regina and Saskatchewan. And he has been an active volunteer member of the India Canada Association (ICA) since 2015.

Neeraj lives in Regina with his wife and seven year old son. He is currently an IT Project Manager with SaskPower. He is a post graduate with a Bachelor and Masters in Commerce with majors in Business Administration from the University of Mumbai, India. He also holds a Diploma in Software Engineering. His family immigrated to Canada in 2011 as permanent residents and acquired their Canadian citizenships in March this year. Since their move they have made many conscious efforts to integrate with the local community by volunteering at several community events. One of their primary

commitments was to enrol their son in a francophone school, which gives them more understanding and opportunities to understand francophone culture and way of life in Canada.

Becoming a board member of SaskCulture will enable him to bring his own cultural diversity and perspective into the mix and will also further enhance his understanding and appreciation of the rich diversity in Saskatchewan.

Sheryl Kimbley

Sheryl Kimbley is a proud member of the Big River First Nation. Calling her home Prince Albert for most of her life, she promotes pride in where you live. Daughter of Lawrence & Priscilla Joseph, Sheryl surrounds herself with family and friends in the entertainment industry to help her do the projects she does.

Recipient of YWCA Women of distinction award in the arts for Prince Albert, CTV hometown hero, 1st annual FSIN Strength of a Woman awards in arts and entertainment, inducted into the Prince Albert Women's Hall of Fame, and most recently named as the 2016 Prince Albert Citizen of the year, it has become her focal point to ensure the youth she works with see her working for them and with them.

Producer of Voices of the North, music has always been her passion and connects her to Northern Saskatchewan. When her good friend Bernice Sayese became ill, she reminded Sheryl that more work needed to be done to reach our Northern Youth. As a result of those words Northern Spirits was developed and it will celebrate its 10th year this year in February. Music and organization of a stage/show has been the model for giving youth confidence and encouragement to move forward with whatever their passions are.

Working with the Prince Albert Grand Council (PAGC) has given Sheryl opportunities to network with community organizations and help each other get involved and learn more about each other. Sitting on several boards/councils, volunteering and working as a special events coordinator at PAGC keeps her plate very full, but not too full to enjoy her family, husband Grant and sons LJ, Kyle and Kolton...not to mention the beautiful youth she has grown to love across Northern Saskatchewan!