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SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY  
CONTINUING STUDIES



# HEART OF A CITIZEN

A PUBLIC DIALOGUE SERIES ON CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

2009

> Dialogue Programs

April-June

# HEART OF A CITIZEN

## A PUBLIC DIALOGUE SERIES ON CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

There is a great untapped potential of citizens in our communities who wish to contribute to the betterment of their neighbourhood, city, province, nation and globe. They have skills and abilities. They have a desire to contribute. They have means. And they are seeking ways to become effective and engaged citizens.

Regenerating civic vitality involves inviting citizens to invest their time and expertise into understanding and solving problems that impact them directly or indirectly.

Public dialogue is ideal for creatively exploring; for example, how the beautification of public spaces connects with making neighbourhoods safer and how cultural festivals animate community spirit and public learning.

Dialogue is also a means by which our government representatives — from local regional, provincial and national governments, park boards, and public agencies — meet and talk with its citizens about ways to animate caring and capable people and together build resilience into communities through quotidian acts of citizenship.

— Joanna Ashworth, Director  
Dialogue Programs,  
Simon Fraser University

*Heart of a Citizen* is a public dialogue series presented by Dialogue Programs at Simon Fraser University's Morris J Wosk Centre for Dialogue. This series explores the diverse and provocative ways ordinary citizens become extraordinary participants in democratic life.

*Heart of a Citizen* features some of our most creative and dynamic Metro Vancouver citizens and invited guests who are having a positive impact locally, nationally and globally through creating and managing innovative programs and citizen movements. Their transformative stories of engagement invite comment and discussion for the diverse participants who attend each event.

Each dialogue focuses on a specific theme of interest to citizens and invites dialogue on pro-active ways we can be involved in shaping civic life. This series of public dialogues explores a range of possibilities and impacts of civic engagement in an age that has been primarily dominated by bureaucracy, experts and specialists.

### Location/Time

All dialogues are held at Simon Fraser University's Morris J Wosk Centre for Dialogue, Asia Pacific Hall, 580 West Hastings Street, Vancouver.

6:30–8:30 PM

### Sponsors

Dialogue Programs, Continuing Studies, Simon Fraser University

**This series has been made possible by funding in part from the TING Foundation and the ICBC Endowment for Community Engagement.**

### How to Register

Each of these sessions is free, but seating is limited. Please register by visiting these web links:

*Working for Change in Tough Times*—[websurvey.sfu.ca/survey/30437851](https://websurvey.sfu.ca/survey/30437851)

*Gardening as a Catalyst for Civic Engagement*—[websurvey.sfu.ca/survey/32180225](https://websurvey.sfu.ca/survey/32180225)

*Celebrating Citizen Engagement*—[websurvey.sfu.ca/survey/32209956](https://websurvey.sfu.ca/survey/32209956)

For more information please contact 778-782-7925



Register online:

<http://websurvey.sfu.ca/survey/30437851>

# WORKING FOR CHANGE IN TOUGH TIMES

Wednesday April 8, 6:30–8:30 pm

“The voices Loeb finds demonstrate that courage can be another name for love.”

—Alice Walker

“Paul Loeb brings hope for a better world in a time when we so urgently need it.”

—Millard Fuller, founder,  
Habitat for Humanity

How do we keep on working for change in tough political and economic times? Paul Loeb, author of the bestsellers *Soul of a Citizen: Living With Conviction in a Cynical Time* and *The Impossible Will Take a Little While: A Citizen's Guide to Hope in a Time of Fear*, will explore what keeps us going despite all the obstacles. Paul Rogat Loeb has spent over thirty years researching and writing about citizen responsibility and empowerment—asking what makes some people choose lives of social commitment, while others abstain. According to *Sierra Club* magazine, “Loeb tells the stories of ordinary people who became activists, and examines the stumbling blocks—perceived powerlessness, cynicism, burnout—that keep most from participating in the public sphere, as well as the rewards of following a different path.”

## Featured Speaker:



**Paul Loeb** has written five widely praised books, lectured to enthusiastic responses at colleges and universities around North America. His newest book is *The Impossible Will Take a Little While: A Citizen's Guide to Hope in a Time of Fear* (Basic Books, 2004), named by The History Channel and The American Book Association as their #3 political book of 2004 and won the Nautilus Award for the best social change book. Find out more by visiting [www.paulloeb.org](http://www.paulloeb.org).





# GROWING CITIZENS: GARDENING AS A CATALYST FOR CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Wednesday May 6, 6:30–8:30 pm

*I believe in changing the world through small, local positive actions. Creating life where there is decay is just one of the ways we can accomplish this.*

Aaron — Guerrilla Gardener Vancouver Meet Up Group



Guerrilla Gardening, Plant a Row, City Farm Boy, Greenways, Community Gardens, Share a Yard, and Festival of the Fields are just a few of the programs and projects that are currently taking place around the Metro Vancouver area. These activities reflect a worldwide gardening movement that attracts horticulturists, urban farmers, agrologists, back yard gardeners and activists who are proactive in elevating the notion of the private urban garden into the cultivation of productive public places.



Whether planting and harvesting vegetable gardens as a means to address food security, cultivating community gardens to enhance neighborhood pride and wellness or guerrilla gardening to lay claim to and beautify neglected public spaces, these green advocates are proactive in their determination to engage with their communities and make a difference.

The dialogue will focus on the various gardening initiatives in Metro Vancouver and explore how this work contributes to unique forms of citizen engagement.

## Featured Speakers:

**David Tracey** is the author of *Guerrilla Gardening: a Manualfesto, a guide to greening cities*. Tracey is a working journalist and environmental designer who operates *EcoUrbanist* in Vancouver and is the Executive Director of Tree City Canada, a non-profit ecological engagement group.

**Ward Teulon** is a professional agrologist and the owner/operator of City Farm Boy, a local Vancouver business whose mission is to promote urban agriculture, farming and gardening as a viable and environmentally positive way to enhance landscapes and lifestyles.

**Sylvia Holland** is a planner, community leader and dedicated advocate of greening the urban environment through community gardening initiatives.

## With a special performance by:

**Vanessa Richards** is a singer/songwriter. Among her many activities, she is the Chair of the Working Arts Society, involved in producing cultural events and festivals including the Sistahood Festival and formerly with the Public Dreams Society.

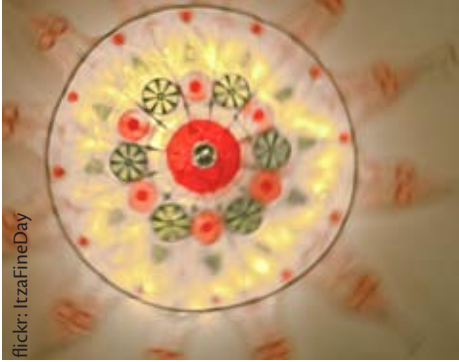


Register online:

<http://websurvey.sfu.ca/survey/32180225>



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# CELEBRATING CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT: HOW DO COMMUNITY FESTIVALS AND THE ARTS ENGAGE CITIZENS AND CREATE SOCIAL CHANGE?

**Wednesday June 3, 6:30–8:30 pm**

This session will explore the ways and means that cultural festivals enrich their communities and cultivate caring and connected citizens. Community cultural leaders from around Metro Vancouver will share stories about the vision and impacts of local community celebrations. Join representatives from Public Dreams, The Dragon Boat Festival, Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival, and many others. Share the stories of how community celebrations create active and engaged citizens.

## **Featured Speakers:**

**Pamela McKeown** is the Artistic Director of Public Dreams Society, which produces Illuminaria and the Parade of Lost Souls.

**Matt Hern** is the Director of the East Vancouver Celebration Society, which produces many unique pedestrian based public Vancouver events including Car-Free Vancouver Day.

**Linda Poole** is the Executive Director of the Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival.

**Anita Webster** is the Communications Manager of the Vancouver Dragon Boat Festival.

**Brandon Walker** is the President of the Open Air Symphony Society.

## **With a special performance by:**

**Cory Sweet & Danny Vie.** Danny Vie is the founder of Carnival Band and long time community cultural activist. Cory Sweet is the current administrator of the Open Air Symphony Society.



**Register online:**

<http://websurvey.sfu.ca/survey/32209956>

# CULTIVATING A CULTURE OF DIALOGUE

## A GUIDE TO DIALOGUE

The spirit of dialogue is guided by a give and take in the mutual search for meaning:

- **Be generous of spirit: stay open to new ideas and perspectives**
- **Be disciplined in your participation: brief, focused, and on topic**
- **Speak personally: share good stories of lived experience rather than set opinions or pet preoccupations**
- **Listen past defenses, past the familiar, past your certainties**
- **Inquire into assumptions: ask, e.g., What do you mean? Tell me more ... What leads you to believe this ... ? How are you personally affected?**

Contact Dialogue Programs for more information about upcoming workshops, certificate and diploma programs at [dialogue-info@sfu.ca](mailto:dialogue-info@sfu.ca)

[www.sfu.ca/dialogue](http://www.sfu.ca/dialogue)