

PRESS RELEASE



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LANGLEY'S INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL KICKS OFF AT INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

LANGLEY, BC – Building on the success of last year's inaugural community event, Langley's International Festival (LIF) will be back for a second year August 23, 2008 to ensure that multiculturalism has both a voice and a venue in Langley. Shar Dubas, Executive Director, and a handful of Board Members have formed the LIF Society, a non-profit organization with a mission to eliminate racism and promote cultural awareness in Langley and neighboring communities.

To kick off this year's event, LIF has collaborated with community partners to bring the first International Women's Day Celebration to Langley, open to everyone. The event takes place on March 8, 2008, from 1-4 p.m. at Kwantlen University College Theatre, 20901 Langley By-Pass. The partners include: Intercultural Network, the Manners Club, Trinity Western University, Langley School District, Kwantlen University College, Langley Arts Council (Group Member), Langley Community Service Society, and Focus on the Family.

Those attending the event will experience a tapestry of cultures including an Intercontinental Fashion Show by JL Model Talent Management Inc. and Modella Enterprises, Inspirational Speakers, International Performing Artists such as Mexico Vivo and Portal a Tango, followed by light refreshments provided by Starbucks. Dubas says, "This unique event will promote diversity and inspire unity by recognizing women from around the world despite race, age, status or ability. This event gives the community an opportunity to collectively share their experiences and acknowledge women's achievements from all backgrounds and nationalities."

“There has been tremendous support in Langley for the creation of this event. While LIFS spearheaded the celebration; it has been a wonderful experience to work with so many partners who have quickly and enthusiastically joined in making it happen. Working alongside these community key-players has given us the ability to heighten cultural awareness and embrace women from all nations.

“More than a quarter million people from other countries are making Canada their new home each year. It is a privilege to help host an event that affirms the value of their cultural background and encourages them that their future here can be bright.” - Janet Fierbach, Intercultural Network.

"The event and the Intercontinental Fashion Show is a great opportunity for everyone to see beyond the stereotyped conceptions of beauty; it is in our diversity not our size, height, age or skin tone that true beauty exists." Jolienne Hough, Agent - JL Model Talent Management Inc.

“As a community agency, we support acceptance and inclusion in communities. We believe in treating all community members with fairness, respect and dignity. Women are definitely an important part of our community. We are happy to see the success of the 1st International Women’s Day Celebration in Langley and provide them our full support.” - *Ronnie Law, Program Manager, Immigrant & Multicultural Services - Langley Community Services Society*

"I support International Women's Day to recognize the value of each individual woman, for as a woman this is a time to be truly grateful for all that we are."
- Lynn Cris, Modella Enterprises.

“It has always been LIF’s mission to encourage respect and maintain our cultural heritage. Our newly formed LIF Society Board members were carefully selected based on their commitment to uphold this mission within the Langley community. The Board consists of seven local professional women from various nationalities who include:

Shar. . . Dubas – Executive Director representing France and Métis
Lois McCann – Assistant Executive Director representing – Ireland
Cleci Blauth – Secretary – representing Brazil
Lori Mallard – Treasurer – representing – Italy
Brenda Sleva – Medial Relations Manager – representing – Ukrainian
Sonya Paterson – Community Liaison – representing - Germany
Susan Friesen – Website Developer – representing – Poland
Annette Blenkarn – Sponsorship – representing - Netherlands

The LIF Association has also formed a Planning Committee from various cultures within the region. If interested in representing your ethnic heritage or volunteering, call Shar. . . Dubas at 604-530-4661.

“LIF is more than a one-day event. The International Women’s Day Celebration is one of a series of collaborative events that we have planned for this year to encourage cultural awareness on an ongoing basis. Our overall objective is to help people to discover the richness in our diversity and learn to work and live together in harmony in our community -- to inspire peace, unity and respect for all cultures. Regardless of our gender or cultural backgrounds, we are all one people.”