

Minutes/Meeting Summary

Cultural Fusion Festival Introduction Meeting

Monday, February 15, 2022

7:00 pm

Microsoft Teams

Attendees: Krystal Roberts, City of Pickering
 Cristopher Farrell, City of Pickering
 Sean Baillie, Pickering Rotary
 Shashi Bhatia, Pickering Rotary
 Jaylan Hayles, Pickering Rotary
 Ashraf Hanna, Canadian Coptic Foundation
 Norin Francis, Durham Tamil Association
 Farah E, Whitby Baha'i
 Raveena Rajasingham, Academic and Fine Arts of Durham
 Tom Batchellor, Ajax Rotary
 Donald Igbokwe, African Canadian Cultural Foundation
 Anne Kouvas, Local Business Owner
 Mushtari Afroz, Kathak Bandi Dance
 Sumaira Munir, Friends Indeed Canada
 Pinch, Spoken Word Artist
 L. Hall, NaBC
 Cecil Ramnauth
 Pat Nasmith

Item/ Ref #	Details, Discussion & Conclusion (summary of discussion)	Action Items/Status (include deadline as appropriate)
1.	Cultural Fusion Festival Meeting - Welcome	
	Krystal Roberts welcomes participants to the virtual meeting and introduces the Cultural Fusion Festival meeting and asks everyone to share their name and organization in the chat to help with taking notes.	
2.	Cultural Fusion Powerpoint Presentation	
	Krystal begins a power point presentation called Pickering Cultural Fusion 2022 – Informational Meeting . This is anticipated to be Pickering's new signature event to celebrate how culture as melded and fused to create new beautiful traditions and cultural practices.	Power point presentation has been posted online at www.pickering.ca/culturalfusion

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	<p>The power point highlights examples of Fusion festivals around the world. Surrey, Canada. Larz, Germany. Gosnells, Australia. Columbus, United States.</p> <p>Krystal introduces Pickering Rotary as a partner at the helm of the event. Introduces Sean Baillie, President of Pickering Rotary to speak about their involvement with Cultural Fusion Festival.</p> <p>Sean Baillie, President, Rotary Club of Pickering</p> <p>Pickering Rotary is glad to be participating in this event. This event has been in motion for a few years. Sean introduces Shashi Bhatia, Director of Community Events, to speak on the event.</p> <p>Shashi Bhatia, Director of Community Events, Pickering Rotary</p> <p>“This is an opportunity for us to show art, heritage and culture that transcends all borders. This event is a chance to show off multiple cultures. Though Rotary is lead partner all groups are all partners and should be involved in this event.”</p>	
3.	<p>What does Pickering’s Cultural Fusion Look Like?</p>	
	<p>Krystal Roberts resumes presentation, and opens the floor up for discussion on the planning topics, Entertainment, Food, Art and Activities.</p> <p>Comments included:</p> <p>Pinch: Pickering and Scarborough both have food truck festivals with diverse food options. We could draw some food trucks to the event.</p> <p>Ashraf Hanna: Seniors have been the hardest hit by the pandemic. Suggestion to try to arrange transportation for them to the festivals and have them be involved and ensure programming.</p> <p>Jaylan Hayles: Suggests to do live cooking demonstrations. Guests not only watch but can take part in cooking demonstrations.</p> <p>Cecil Ramnauth: Suggests having yoga at the festival. South Asian classical song and dance, with a Fashion Show. Include art and storytelling. Is this only going to be in</p>	

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	<p>Esplanade? Krystal responded: The event will be held in the park but if the grant funding comes through there will be a tourism aspect that will live on (before/after) the event that will highlight cultural food stops, sculptures, etc for n Cultural Map of Pickering that will have a path around the event space, connecting to the waterfront trail for visitors.</p> <p>Shashi Bhatia: Suggests a Fusion Festival Parade, like a parade of flags representing all the cultures.</p> <p>Raveena Rajasingham: Having a health care aspect incorporated into the Festival. The cultural fashion show would be a good idea. Does not have to be strictly their culture. Can incorporate with music and dancing. A lot of people enjoy interactive food making.</p> <p>Jaylan: Are fireworks allowed for this festival. Krystal responded: We are moving away from fireworks however other methods of exciting lighting can be done instead. Example: drones or laser light shows could be researched.</p> <p>Shashi: Different cultural groups drumming demonstrations and Dragon dancing can be added to the festivities.</p> <p>Sumaira: Caricature artists – Drawing live caricatures are very popular.</p> <p>Norin Francis: Culture workshops – Yoga, Meditation- can learn about the culture. Henna instruction. Cooking, Fashion show. Sri Lankan Traditional Drumming.</p> <p>Pinch: Reach out to local high schools (example Dunbarton and Pine Ridge) to draw on young artists. Have an installation such as a mural around Esplanade and part of festival. Moving away from fireworks is a good idea as there are animals, residences, and people with sensitivities to fireworks.</p> <p>Mushtari: A dancer and choreographer in Pickering that is funded by art councils. Are there going to be opportunities for artists to take part and be paid? Krystal responded: There will absolutely be opportunities. This is why it is important to get the extra grant money to expand activities of the Festival</p>	

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	<p>Raveena: Is there a possibility to close off one of the streets and make it a street festival? Is there enough space in Esplanade? Krystal responded: We will be closing Esplanade North and South to allow for more event space, at this time, we do not think we will be able to close Valley Farm Road.</p> <p>Cecil Ramnauth: We need to keep in mind that there may be a need for physical separation for people who might be sensitive to certain activities. Example: faith based reasons for not being around non vegetarian activities.</p> <p>Shashi Bhatia: Will having individual meetings with groups and highlighted the need for groups to take ownership of the event. Shashi will be passing ideas to Krystal.</p> <p>Cecil Ramnauth: Is there a place where information will be posted? Krystal responded: Yes we have a dedicated webpage where information will be updated regularly www.pickering.ca/culturalfusion and we will be posting on our social media channels, facebook, Instagram and twitter</p> <p>Ideas posted in the chat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anne Kouvas – Latin and Greek community representation Raveenie Rajasingham – Health Care Fair and Fashion Show Anne – Corrado’s Aranchini Sean Baillie – Jamaican Food Donald Igbokwe – Indigenous drumming Pinch – Spoken word, poetry inclusion Sumaira – Introduction to parks and Trails in Pickering Anne – have a local chef participate in cooking demonstrations L.Hall – Bahamas Junkanoo Legends can parade around the grounds 	

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	<p>Norin – Sri Lankan Traditional fashion show for all ages. Can also arrange south Asian food trucks</p> <p>Donald Igbokwe – City of Pickering Recreation should put out an announcement inviting various Cultural groups & Food to participate so that interested groups can register, making sure that wider Cultural presentation are represented</p> <p>Sumaira – Information unique traditions from different countries using pictures or demos.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Idea for a banner is writing the word “Pickering” in different languages ○ Wedding dresses of different countries ○ Calligraphy <p>Anne – knows a someone that teaches string art</p> <p>Donald- Soccer</p> <p>Sean – Roti skin or naan demonstrations</p> <p>Donald – Q: will admission to the event be free? A:The event will be free to attend</p> <p>Sumaira – A message board or banner for everyone to write a message for the community</p> <p>Norin Francis – Parai Drumming workshops (Sri-Lankan) -Bollywood dance workshops</p> <p>Sumaira – A pictorial showcase of Pickering’s cultural and natural heritage</p> <p>Pinch – Local businesses that can be involved Sakada Sushi – Japanese Mr. Delicious – Jamaican Drupati’s – Trinidadian Island Mix – Guyanese-Chinese</p> <p>Anne – Henna tattoos for kids</p> <p>Sumaira – Live Henna demos</p>	
4.	Next Steps	

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	<p>Krystal introduced three participation levels:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support – can provide community contacts (vendors/other organizations) and host a booth at the event 2. Committee – can attend future meetings, take on roles at the event and/or provide volunteers. 3. Sponsor – can sponsor a performance <p>Next meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuesday, April 12, 7:00pm (Will hopefully be in person) • Tuesday, June 14, 7:00pm • Tuesday, July 12, 7:00pm • Thursday, August 18, 7:00pm (onsite at event space) <p>Donald suggested that Hybrid meetings should be considered for those that find it easier to attend. Krystal noted it can be a possibility and will look into it for future meetings.</p> <p>A survey will be sent out to all participants to ask for any other ideas, and commitment level for those interested in continuing with the event.</p>	<p>Krystal to action.</p> <p>Krystal to send</p>
5.	Conclusion of Meeting	
	<p>Thank you to everyone for taking time out of their schedules to learn about this event, and put fourth some really great ideas. The City and Pickering Rotary look forward to working with many of the groups here today to plan this exciting new initiative.</p> <p>If anyone has any more information they would like to share, feel free to reach out to Krystal Roberts or Cris Farrell at the information below.</p> <p>Krystal Roberts, Coordinator, Community Partnerships 905.420.4620 ext 3604 kroberts@pickering.ca</p> <p>Cris Farrell, Cultural Outreach Assistant 905.420.4620 cfarrell@pickering.ca</p>	

Meeting Adjourned: 8:00 pm

Copy: Manager, Cultural Services