

Cracks in the Concrete Conference

Adapt(ing): Life in Full Bloom

March 10-11 2022

Attend online at www.creansociety.ca/conference

Introduction:

We are excited to host our 7th annual conference - a weekend of activism, networking, and interactive discussions. The #CracksintheConcrete Conference embraces intersectionality, creativity, curiosity, and collaboration. Our focus is social justice, equity, and diversity as it impacts marginalized youth and communities.

Since its inception in 2016, our conference has featured many distinguished speakers and performers including Lee Maracle, Janet Mock, A Tribe Called Red, Khari Wendell McClelland, Kat Blaque, and Thirza Cuthand.

This year's conference is themed "Adapting: Life in Full Bloom". We focus on the change that has begun since the pandemic, but with a positive outlook highlighting the amazing work being done in our community. We also want to showcase the varied experiences of youth as they continue to adapt to today's ever-changing society.

Our conference will be held over 2 days. The first day will consist of 3 speakers who will present a series of inspiring talks focused on their lived experience, specifically: disability awareness, mental wellness and public service. The second day will consist of 4 panels each focusing on the amazing work community members are doing in the areas of conflict resolution, creating financial security using art, preserving identity and culture, and the impact of COVID-19 on university students in British Columbia.

We look forward to seeing you on Zoom or Facebook Live (www.facebook.com/creansociety).

CREAN respectfully acknowledges that this event takes place on the unceded territories of the Lekwungen (Chekonein, Chilcowitch, Swengwhung, Kosampsom, Whyomilth, Teechamitsa, Kakyaakan, Songhees, Esquimalt) and WSÁNEĆ (S'ÁUTW/Tsawout, WJOLELP/Tsartlip, BOKEĆEN/Pauquachin, WSIKEM/Tseycum) Peoples.

Conference Schedule

Day 1: Thursday, March 10 2022

Attend on Zoom here

Lunch & Learn: Journeys of Adaptation and Truth

Join us for an inspiring afternoon filled with unique life stories and experiences of three distinguished speakers. Follow along as each speaker shares how they have navigated disability awareness, mental wellness and public service. Most importantly, find out what life in full bloom means to them!

2:30-3:00pm

Understand(ing): Moebius Syndrome and Disability Awareness by Kelsey Ferrill

3:00-3:30pm

Journey(ing): Mental Wellness and Community by Vanessa Simon

3:30-4:00pm

Belong(ing): Reflections on Public Service by Sharmarke Dubow

Day 2: Friday March 11 2022

Attend on Zoom here

10:15-11:15am

Connect(ing): Strategies In Conflict Resolution & Disagreement

Do you know what healthy conflict and disagreement looks like? Most of us were raised to believe that all arguments, regardless of topic, tone, or setting, are to be avoided. However, not all conflict is unhealthy. Join us for a conversation with conflict mediators and human rights educators as they share important techniques for navigating conflict and disagreement

Speakers:

- Moussa Magassa (Human Rights Educator, University of Victoria)
- Angie Osachoff (Senior Regional Program Manager, Equitas)
- Leanne Harder (Mediator, Olive Branch Consulting)

11:20-12:30pm

Cultivat(ing) Your Inner Creativity to Build Financial Security

Eight out of ten adults say they cannot achieve their life's goals without financial security. Have you ever felt like you've had to sacrifice your creativity for a pursuit of financial security? Or vice versa? Nothing is guaranteed in the creative field, especially when there is no certainty about where your next client or paycheck is coming from.

Join us for a conversation with business owners and creatives as they discuss how they have leveraged their creativity to build financial security.

Speakers:

- Nerissa Allen (President & CEO, Black Business Association of BC)
- Naina Kansal (Manager, Start Up Canada)
- Rose Prieto (Owner, New Stone Age Cabochons)

1:00 -2:00pm

Preserv(ing) Identity, Culture, & Connection through Art

Art impacts society in many ways. It impacts culture and can also contribute to preserving, celebrating, challenging, and inventing community identity. Join this panel of racialized creators as they discuss how art serves as societal commentary. The artists will also share how they keep their identity and culture alive through various art mediums.

Speakers:

- Tenzin Wangmo (Founder, 1959)
- Sepideh Yadegar (video mentor, producer, writer)
- Melissa Johns (Digital + Interactive Coordinator, ImagiNATIVE)
- Mary Ann Maiangowi-Manatch (Marketing & Membership, Indigenous Performing Arts Alliance)
- Jaime Morse - Indigenous arts activator & artist

2:30-4:00pm

Navigat(ing) a Pandemic World as a University Student

The pandemic has highlighted inequities in our education system. School closures and social isolation have affected all students, particularly more vulnerable students. Experts say a mental health crisis is emerging as many students have lost access to services that were offered by schools. Join us for a conversation about the impact of the pandemic on students' academic and mental well-being.

Speakers:

- Araba Etrew (Coordinator, SFU Black Student Support Centre)
- Saad Shoaib (Vice-President of External Affairs, UBC Alma Mater Society)
- Ophelia (Effy) Taylor (Pride Representative, University of Victoria Student Society Board of Directors)



Contact:



2722 Fifth St,
Victoria BC V8T 4B2



hello@creansociety.org



250-721-9611