

Biography: Karen Ball and Burke Taylor

Karen Ball

Karen Ball is a nationally recognized culture leader with over 20 years developing the arts and cultural landscape in Canada. Through her consulting practice she has been a thought leader and collaborator in key cultural planning within Alberta including providing strategic direction and leading multi-stakeholder consultation for the City of Calgary in the creation of their Culture Plan, working with the Premier's Council for Culture to advance Alberta's cultural prosperity and providing direction for Canada 150. Karen is on the Board of the Calgary Olympic Bid Exploration and a member of the Calgary Chamber of Voluntary Organization's Board of Directors.

Karen played a lead role in developing Calgary's Arts Space Strategy and Capital Plan and companion Cultural Spaces Investment Process (that recommends cultural projects for infrastructure investment to the City of Calgary). She developed the peer-based Municipal Operating Grant program for Calgary arts organizations, administered through Calgary Arts Development where she served as the inaugural Director of Community Investment overseeing granting, arts spaces and community engagement, and played a central role in the development of the City of Calgary's Festival and Event Policy and festival investment programs.

In her role as Executive Director for Calgary2012, the non-profit organization charged with delivering Calgary's year as Cultural Capital of Canada, Karen built a range of grass roots programs that directly engaged over 5,000 Calgarians from every corner of the city in sharing and celebrating Calgary's culture. This included direct investment in over 2,000 individuals, cultural organizations and heritage organizations to create projects that celebrate and grow Calgary culture – many of which continue as legacies of this important year.

As a past member of Alberta's Premier's Council for the Arts and Partnership and Network Officer for Western Canada for the Canada Council for the Arts, Karen provided her expertise in building and leveraging strong networks to build strategic support for the arts and culture in Alberta and across Canada. She has built innovative communities and systems to support healthy non-profit operations, capital development, and place-making as Calgary Arts Development's Director of Resource Development and Director of Community Investment and continues to provide expertise to organizations wishing to build deep and meaningful connections with their communities of stakeholders and supporters.

Karen is a certified fundraising executive that has served as the Director of Advancement at the Alberta College of Art + Design and Major Gifts Officer for the Banff Centre. As Executive Director of ArtsHabitat in Edmonton, Karen developed the first and only designated artist live/work housing in the Province. She has also served as the Producer of The Works Art & Design festival in Edmonton and as a curator for the Ontario Craft Council.

Burke Taylor

Burke Taylor is a principal in *Taylor-Harvey Inc. (THI)*, a full spectrum international cultural planning and producing consultancy with clients in both private and public sectors. THI focuses on social change and economic development through strategic planning, public policy and programs, creative partnerships, and the visioning, planning, and producing of major and mega- cultural events.

A cross-section of clients and volunteer activities include: International Olympic Committee (IOC), Reconciliation Canada, the University of British Columbia (UBC), Toronto 2015 Pan/Para Pan American Games, National Capital Commission of Canada (NCC), United Nations Development Program in China (UNDP), Creative City Consortium of Japan (CCCJ), Municipality of Shanghai Cultural Administration, Creative City Network of Canada (CCNC), City of Yokohama, City of Tokyo, and the Pyeongchang 2018 Organizing Committee.

Concurrent with consulting activity Burke is the co-founder and Co-Director of the *University of British Columbia Centre for Cultural Planning and Development*, an international centre for education and professional development of cultural policy, planning and development practitioners.

Burke is deeply committed to the process of reconciliation between and among Indigenous peoples and all Canadians. He worked closely with Chief Robert Joseph and *Reconciliation Canada* (RC) on the public events surrounding the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Vancouver hearings, drawing 70,000 people out in support of Survivors in the Walk for Reconciliation. Burke also assisted on development and roll-out of the RC's education and community leaders' reconciliation workshops. These programs were the product of an unprecedented partnership including the Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres and the Union of BC Municipalities, with the support of the Province of British Columbia.

The *Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games* were the culmination of Burke's Olympic journey from creation of the Vancouver Bid through delivery of "Canada's Games" as the VANOC Vice-President for Culture, Celebrations and Education, and as Executive Producer of the *Vancouver 2010 Cultural Olympiad*. The national impact of these programs was directly related to the unprecedented partnerships and collaborations comprising the key departments and agencies of the Government of Canada, the Provinces and Territories, the Four Host First Nations, the Games Host Cities, and VANOC Sponsors.

Recognizing Vancouver 2010's unique success with public engagement and the new range of Olympic Experiences it offered, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) commissioned Burke to write the first *IOC Guide on Cultural Olympiad*, setting out for future Games Organizing Committees (OCOGs) the Olympic Movement's cultural public engagement vision and the means to achieve it. Burke continues to advise individual Bid Cities, HostCos and OCOGs on public engagement strategies and activities related to the cultural pillar of the Games.

Between 2003 and 2006 Burke was also founding Executive Director of *Arts Now*, a division of *2010 Legacies Now*, a strategic development initiative of the Province of British Columbia to ensure engagement and legacies of the Games in communities throughout the province.

Prior to his role in VANOC, Burke was founding Director of the *Office of Cultural Affairs for the City of Vancouver*. There he led development of Vancouver's comprehensive spectrum of cultural policies, programs, strategic investments, and new facilities, and the integration of cultural interests throughout the planning processes of the city. In this context Burke also became an international leader in the development of the practice of cultural planning, and coined the term "Creative City" to communicate his vision for the city.

While at the City of Vancouver, Burke founded the *Creative City Network of Canada - Réseau des villes créatives du Canada, (CCNC)* a national community-of-practice for Canadian municipal staff with arts and cultural development responsibilities. The CCNC rapidly developed a membership representing approximately 130 cities across Canada. Burke keynoted both the 10th Anniversary Summit of the CCNC, and the inaugural meeting of the Creative City Network of Japan (CCNJ) which was loosely modeled on the CCNC.

Before joining the City of Vancouver, Burke was the performing arts producer of the *Olympic Arts Festival of the Calgary '88 Olympic Winter Games*; Production Director for the *Canada Pavilion at Expo 86* in Vancouver, and *Expo 85* in Tsukuba, Japan; and an *Explorations Program Officer with the Canada Council for the Arts*.

Prior to this Burke was Assistant Director of the *Canadian Association in Support of Native Peoples*, a national NGO dedicated to supporting development of Indigenous representative organizations and voices; and to providing educational materials and resources to better inform the non-indigenous peoples of Canada.

Burke was honored to receive the *Canada 125 Medal* on the occasion of the 125th Anniversary of Canadian Confederation in recognition of his contribution to Canadian cultural development. In 2016 Burke received the inaugural *Cultural Leadership Award from the Creative City Network of Canada*. Burke holds a degree in Political Science from the University of British Columbia.