



Burnaby Association  
for Community Inclusion

# BACI Blast

INCLUSION THROUGH INNOVATION

DECEMBER 2011  
WWW.GOBACI.COM



## A Night to Remember

*In addition to good food and entertainment, the BACI Ball hit a high note with its successful fundraising and sector-leading awards ceremony. More than 140 people attended to enjoy the evening, including (pictured above, left to right): Karey DeGenova, Deb Burnett, Angela Lusignan and Laurie Maguire. Read more and see pictures from the evening on pages 4 and 5.*

## International Day for Persons with Disabilities Kicked Off in Burnaby's Public Libraries

*Community response encouraging art to remain on display all year*

By Ryan Rogers

Paintings have been put on display since the United Nations' International Day for Persons with Disabilities Dec. 3, kicking off a weeklong showing of art created by members of Artists Helping Artists (AHA).

The showing is a collaborative effort between AHA, an inclusive

community-based artists co-operative supported by the Burnaby Association for Community Inclusion (BACI), the City of Burnaby's Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee, and three public libraries.

Art site director Derek McElheron and co-op administrator Steve Quattrocchi

*See 'Library' page 2*

## Guest Speakers Share Where to Look for Inspiration

*Leveraging experiences from the present, past and future to incite innovation*

By Ryan Rogers

Guest speakers at the Non-Profit Partnerships Summit hosted by the B.C. government Nov. 25 called upon attendees to look at the world

*See 'B.C.' page 8*

## Children Proving the Power of an Inclusive Classroom

*Making a place where children of all abilities feel safe and comfortable*

The leaves have fallen at Southslope Out of School Care (OOSC) and the youngsters have spent their time outside gathering leaves together to run, jump and play in.

*See 'Day Care' page 6*

## BACI Dedicated to Helping Individuals Get a Leg Up

*Organization refuses to 'pass the buck,' says outreach worker*

Sometimes it just takes a little push, or a small contribution, to help get someone the start they need to be successful.

Outreach worker Tony Matijiw says he's proud that his colleagues at the Burnaby

*See 'BACI' page 6*



Artwork produced by members of the Artists Helping Artists co-operative is bringing Burnaby libraries to life.

## Library No Longer 'Silent Book Warehouse'

*Continued from front*

from AHA helped plan the art show.

"It was really good to get an in with the City of Burnaby and get to know the access committee and the event was a heck of a lot of fun," says Steve.

The opportunity for networking, visiting with people and food were all worth the admission.

"It's been getting a lot of positive feedback from the patrons of the library, which, when you do a library show, is what you're looking for."

Branch manager of the Tommy Douglas Public Library Roberta Summersgill says the inaugural showing has been low key, but quite enthusiastic for the paintings on display.

It's leading to a new relationship where art created by AHA members is on display throughout the year.

The library is no longer just a silent warehouse for books, says Roberta.

"We're out there to reflect what's happening in the community, and we do form partnerships with community organizations. So this is a new partnership for us and one that I think we'll keep working with," she says.

Artwork was on display Dec. 2-9 at the Tommy Douglas Burnaby Public Library, the Cameron Burnaby Public Library and McGill Burnaby Public Library.

# Students Gain Employment Direction

*BACI pilot project works with school board, CBI Consultants*

*By Deb Bartlett*

Four students have a clearer idea of what they want to do after high school and how they'll get there because of a new pilot project says Steve Withrington, Burnaby Association for Community Inclusion (BACI)'s manager for employment services.

Without participating in the program, Steve doesn't think the four students would be heading in as clear a direction as they are now.

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*"If we could get engagement from young folks in schools with developmental disabilities. . . some kind of work experience to add to their resumés by the time they leave school, then that will increase their opportunities."*

— Steve Withrington, manager for employment services, Burnaby Association for Community Inclusion

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They could have completed their schooling without any direction around employment, and "would no doubt have signed up for some kind of day program" when finished school.

Because the school district and education assistants are involved in the pilot project, the process is taking place years sooner.

Working with the Burnaby School District and CBI Consultants, the project supports four senior high school students in moving from high school to employment, rather than to traditional day supports.

"These kids are going to stand a much, much better chance of engaging in employment of some kind in a much shorter space of time," says Steve.

He says BACI has recognized there will always be an influx of people looking for services in the traditional day service model unless demand is addressed.

"We need to look at a way to stem the flow from schools straight into day services, the traditional model. If we could get engagement from young folks in schools with developmental disabilities towards employment, or at the very least . . . some kind of work experience to add to their resumés by the time they leave school, then that will increase their opportunities," says Steve.

The idea for the project began 18 months ago. Facilitation started this summer while the four students in the pilot were on summer break.

Response from the school board was very positive, says Steve, noting BACI's two partners have been "the driving force."

CBI and BACI employment specialists worked with the students in eight self-determination sessions to determine likes, dislikes and ideas about employment.

"That also gave them an opportunity to make a decision about the kind of presentation they wanted to bring to their school reviews at the end of the year," says Steve.

The students were to be able to deliver presentations "and have everybody on board when they're clearly stating 'employment is my key focus,' and have everybody support them."

The goal will be for all four students to have paid employment or at the very least some job experience to put on a resumé.

The pilot is half completed, and he hopes that Community Living British Columbia will see the value of the project and bring support into the schools to see young people establish employment goals.

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# Social Media Essential to Building Social Movements

*Technology manager passionate about using social innovation to influence inclusion*

By Ryan Rogers

Following the Non-Profit Partners Summit hosted by the B.C. government Nov. 25, Lisa Trick says she's excited to be a citizen of Vancouver and part of a community of people who "really care about the world they live in."

Lisa, the manager of technology, design and user experience for BACI, says the summit excited her to think B.C. could become a "better version of itself" through the successful implementation of social innovation.

"I believe social innovation is based on the law of your own two feet — if you want to do something, you stand up and do it yourself," says Lisa.

"It's good that there are enough people

at BACI who were there to really hear about the larger movement and go back as an organization and say how we want to influence inclusion, which is what we're really passionate about here."

A score of representatives from BACI attended the summit, including executive director Richard Faucher, senior manager of communications and resource development Carol Broomhall, assistant manager of finance Adam Gartland, senior manager of social and economic inclusion Kevin Lusignan, and manager of human resources and quality assurance Lisa Thomson.

Lisa says learning how social innovation helps create movements around inclusion is essential for

facilitating a more inclusive society.

There is room for more conversation on using technology and social media as a platform for innovation, she adds.

There are strong examples of some organizations making good use of social media to build momentum, like the website changemakers.com, run by Ashoka, a global association of the world's leading social entrepreneurs.

The BC Advisory Council for Social Entrepreneurship is inviting contributors to share their perspectives on social innovation on their website. Using Google Docs — a free, web-based office suite and data storage service — people can contribute to the discussion document called Together: Respecting the Future.

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## EDITORIAL

### Innovative Approaches to Funding, Programming and Partnering Essential

With every level of government having limited resources for the foreseeable future, innovative and creative approaches to funding, programming and partnering will be essential for growth in every sector. A strong showing from BACI managers and its leadership at the Non-Profit Partnerships Summit shows its commitment to searching for social innovation in the future.

Guest speakers spoke highly of looking to the present, past and future for the inspiration to innovate.

Past president of the J. W. McConnell Family Foundation Tim Brodhead encouraged attendees to look at the world around them to see how social inequality is constructing an unstable society. He calls for continuous renewal and holistic thinking for new ideas to eradicate poverty.

Tim presents a strong business case for a

sustainable society — it lasts longer, people are happier and it's more appreciated.

Executive director of the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres Paul Lacerte made a case for turning to his Aboriginal culture's ceremonies, traditions and heritage for inspiration. Incorporating elements of a shared past for new ideas could lead to a renaissance in social innovation.

President and CEO of the United Way of the Lower Mainland Michael McKnight implored change makers to look into a possible future where resources are so limited that innovation is essential.

Michael spoke of a future where change was in desperate need, and hoped those visions would fuel the necessary changes for a better future.

He was bold enough to envision a time when an organization like the United Way wouldn't need to exist because

social innovation had cured society's ills.

Searching for innovative ideas and celebrating their achievements is nothing new for BACI, as seen with the Inclusion through Innovation Awards presented for the first time in November. They represent a conscious effort to encourage community members to praise innovation at its best and stimulate further innovation in the future.

The awards are an inspiration and model for all when considering how to create new opportunities.



*BACI Blast news is published every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at [www.gobaci.com](http://www.gobaci.com)*

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# BACI Recognizes *posAbilities* for Advancing Inclusion Through Innovation

*Annual BACI Ball sees people come together to raise funds for BACI's children's services*

By Camille Jensen

VANCOUVER - The Burnaby Association for Community Inclusion (BACI) honoured one of its long-time partners *posAbilities* Nov. 3 for advancing the inclusion of people

“Years ago, someone at *posAbilities* had an idea that gardening might be a great way to get people together and help people belong. This idea captivated the imagination of the leaders at *posAbilities* and was nurtured

community projects, including 150 people who have a disability.

*PosAbilities* president Celso Boscaroli accepted the blown-glass Inclusion through Innovation award and said the recognition is an honour. He adds Can You Dig It! has been a pleasure to watch grow.

“It’s a local community garden initiative that enhances the lives of residents and citizens of Burnaby, and our communities around the lower mainland,” says Celso, adding there is something about gardening, and growing things that brings people satisfaction.

The first-ever Inclusion through Innovation awards honours an organization and an individual. This year, Richard says *posAbilities*’ deserved further recognition for understanding that a key ingredient to success is the right people.

Cynthia, Can You Dig It! project co-ordinator, has spent countless hours researching gardening and making connections with city and community partners. The initiative’s achievement owes much to Cynthia’s love of people, and her passion for making communities welcoming places, says Richard.

“Everyone who has met her, has the same reaction: here’s a great soul with a great spirit,” says Richard.

Cynthia recently gave birth to a son and couldn’t attend the awards ceremony.

BACI’s ball was held at the Pan Pacific Hotel. The night featured a three-course dinner, live and silent auctions, a jazz band, and dancing. All proceeds from the night benefit BACI’s children’s services.



Photo: Lisa Joy

*BACI co-executive director Richard Faucher congratulates *posAbilities* president Celso Boscaroli for winning its Inclusion through Innovation award Nov. 3.*

of all abilities and learning.

*PosAbilities*’ Can You Dig It! initiative and its creator Cynthia Page were honoured with Inclusion through Innovation awards during BACI’s annual ball and fundraiser.

Richard Faucher, BACI’s co-executive director, commended *posAbilities* which, despite an already stellar reputation, continues to grow and challenge itself to meet its goal of community living. This steadfast commitment ensured Can You Dig It!, an initiative which helps people with developmental disabilities and nearby residents transform urban spaces into gardens, was successful.

to grow,” says Richard, adding *posAbilities* sought expertise, created a business plan, and secured funding and support from partners like Social Venture Partners, MOSAIC, BACI and Wal-Mart.

“We recognize *posAbilities*’ efforts and commitment in this because we know at BACI how difficult it is to take an idea, no matter how worthy it is, and to turn it into reality. As a community, we can look at *posAbilities* for inspiration and leadership.”

Since launching almost two years ago, Can You Dig It! has created 20 gardens engaging 700 people in

# BACI Ball 2011 . . .



1. Liz Etmanski with her father Al and BACI board member Zaheda Jiwa.

2. Jillian Lebeck played for guests as they arrived.

3. Jordana Pratt, a BACI member.

4. About 140 people attended the Nov. 3 ball.

5. Kevin Lusignan, BACI's senior manager of social and economic inclusion.

6. The band Double Overtime provided entertainment.

7. Sharing Our Future Foundation chair Nicole Mangan and Chris Pinnel

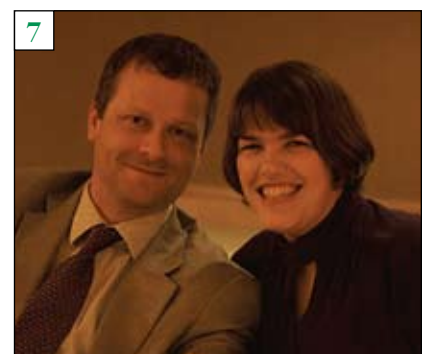
8. Anita Boscaroli, whose husband Ceslo is the president of posAbilities.

9. Several more of the ball's 140 attendees.

10. Hanif and Khairun Vellani.

11. The BACI Ball raised \$27,000 for its children's services.

12. BACI member Trevor Steadman.



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# Day Care Fostering Inclusive, Welcoming Attitudes

*Continued from front*

Supervisor Carly Neville says the children enjoy being silly and jumping in the leaf piles, and she's particularly pleased that they're welcoming of everyone to join in the fun.

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*"We don't discriminate — we love all the kids and the kids all get along no matter what, that part's pretty cool."*

— Carly Neville, supervisor, Burnaby Association for Community Inclusion

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One Grade 2 student who uses a walker saw the children playing and the students invited him to participate.

"It was really cool to see how the kids

embraced and encouraged him to join in their fun little game," says Carly.

The seven-year-old boy was thrilled, and pretended to be the hero Lightning McQueen complete with his catchphrase "Ka-Chow" from his favourite movie, *Cars*.

The day-care environment is fostering inclusive and welcoming attitudes for children of all abilities.

"Every child is a little bit different and we embrace them regardless," says Carly.

"Some have a harder time making friends, but they still have friends here, and they still feel part of the family.

We don't discriminate — we love all the kids and the kids all get along no matter what, that part's pretty cool."

The inclusive environment is helping children feel comfortable and accepting of people with many different abilities.

"Not all kids are so open, but it seems like the kids that are in care and one of the programs with BACI are that much more aware of inclusion," says Carly.

"Being a parent myself, it makes me feel good to know that there are places where kids, no matter what their difference is, they can feel cared for, and loved and have a safe place to hang out with peers," says Carly.

"I think it's nice for children that do have some challenges to feel at home, feel comfortable and feel safe being different," she adds.

Parents also see the impact the welcoming and inclusive environment is having on their children, expressing to Carly the happiness they feel when their children are invited to events like birthday parties. — RR

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## BACI Gives People 'the Opportunity to Do Well'

*Continued from front*

Association for Community Inclusion (BACI) are dedicated to helping the people they support get a leg up and pointed in the right direction.

"That's the thing I've seen time and again that BACI does — they give people the opportunity to do well," says Tony.

"I'll be honest, some (agencies) tend to pass the buck — and the thing I like about (BACI) is they don't pass the buck," he adds. "When someone comes to them with a problem, or they have a situation, (BACI) takes it on."

The residential and employment services provided by BACI, for example, are helping the individuals they support realize their hopes and dreams.

Through BACI's Employment and Supported Training (BEST) program, the team engages each individual's goal by developing their skills and

finding fitting jobs.

"They're not referring someone to an employment agency," says Tony. "They're trying to help them get employed."

Other individuals have been looking for a home to call their own.

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*"That's the thing I've seen time and again that BACI does — they give people the opportunity to do well . . . When someone comes to them with a problem or they have a situation, (BACI) takes it on."*

— Tony Matijiw, outreach worker, Burnaby Association for Community Inclusion

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"I've seen people who have never had their own apartment, and now they have their own apartment for the first

time in their life," Tony says.

The people BACI supports are empowered by having a decent place of their own, says Tony.

"I know of one individual, for instance, in his mid-40s and this was his first apartment — the first place of his own that he could go in, lock the door and someone had to knock on the door to come into his place," he says.

The individual built upon that momentum and found a part-time job at a retail outlet.

It goes to show how a little support can get the ball rolling and lead people on to achieving their goals.

But the key is that BACI is committed to helping everyone.

"They don't leave anyone hanging," says Tony. "They're going to take it on, make sure that this person gets pointed in the right direction." — RR

# Mother Commends BACI for Providing Support and Comfort

*Annual BACI Ball raises funds and spirits*

By Camille Jensen

If Sommer Fetherstonhaugh could have it her way, every family would experience the support and resources her family had when her youngest son was born.

The mother of three proudly describes her son Sam as an active six-year-old who loves playing with his sisters, riding his bike and learning to skate, so he can play hockey.

But when he was first born, and Sommer and her husband Colin learned he had Down syndrome, they felt unprepared, and full of questions.

It was the Burnaby Association for Community Inclusion's (BACI) Infant Development Program (IDP) that helped Sommer and Colin weave through the plethora of inundating information to get the right services for Sam: from simple things like finding a dentist or an appropriate playground to providing speech-therapy services and sign-language learning material.

"What IDP did for us is it gave us the information, the resources, the contacts and support Sam needed, and that we needed, so we could feel confident and help Sam strive to be the best that he could be," says Sommer. "Early intervention is so important, and I'm here to tell you that it's working."

Sommer shared her story at the BACI Ball, an annual fundraiser for the organization's children's services. The Nov. 3 gala evening convened 140 people for a three-course dinner, entertainment from Double Overtime and a live and silent auction.

Krista Moldowan, BACI's IDP senior manager, says the fundraiser is critical to ensure BACI is able to provide therapy services to 175 children

under three in their homes.

"It really benefits a wide range of families," says Krista.

This year, attendees were able to bet on the largest amount of auction prizes BACI's ever had, with items ranging from an original art piece, Vancouver Canucks tickets, vacation packages and women's jewellery.

Other items that raised large amounts for BACI included Whistler summer and winter getaways, which went for \$1,700 and \$1,400 respectively.

All in all, the BACI Ball raised \$27,000 for its children's services.

"We're really pleased with the success of the event," says Carol Broomhall, BACI's senior manager of communications and co-chair of the planning committee, noting this year saw a larger and more diverse turnout than past years.

"Everyone who attended seemed to have had a terrific time. There was great energy in the room and we were really happy with the generosity of the guests who participated in our live and silent auction."

Guests were further enchanted by a magician, who performed magic tricks for the crowd.

In addition to raising funds, Carol says a key outcome of the event is to bring people together in an environment that models the healthy and happy communities BACI strives to create.

This year also saw the inaugural presentation of BACI's Inclusion through Innovation awards, which is furthering the event's goal of fostering inclusive communities.



*Parent Sommer Fetherstonhaugh shares her family's story and what's been possible for them through early intervention.*

As a testament to creating an inclusive environment, Karey Degenova says several first-time gala attendees came up to her during the event offering to volunteer their time for next year's BACI Ball planning committee.

"That's the big part of the message we want out there: This is a community and we want you to be part of that community," says Karey, a BACI senior manager and co-chair of the event's planning committee.

BACI is extending a special thank-you to the many people and sponsors who made this this year's event a success.

This includes the BACI Ball planning committee: Hanifa Ladha (co-chair), Jennifer Ghioda, Kathy Kalia, Michelle Kosciecha and Krista Moldowan, as well as BACI's prize gathering team: Avelina Britton, Laurie Maguire, Arlene Moore, Dean Renning, Alisha Robb, and Zach Sinclair.

The BACI Ball: Beyond Abilities, which took place at Vancouver's Pan Pacific Hotel, received sponsorship from Design Network, Enviromold, the Burnaby Board of Trade, and Cellcom Wireless.

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## This Ability

View five films created by people BACI serves through a two-year media project partnership between BACI and the National Film Board of Canada. Visit [gobaci.com](http://gobaci.com) and click “Media and Public Events,” and then “This Ability,” to learn more.

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## Share a Story Lead

The *BACI Blast* welcomes everyone to share their story leads with us. Please contact [jennifer@axiomnews.ca](mailto:jennifer@axiomnews.ca) to learn how you can get your story told.

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## New Opportunity

What began as a weeklong art show in public libraries in Burnaby to celebrate the International Day for Persons with Disabilities could be leading to a new relationship. Read the full story at [gobaci.com](http://gobaci.com)

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## Bonsor Party

The annual Bonsor party, held Dec. 16, is one of the biggest events of the year! Check the *BACI Blast* online news service for a story and pictures in January.

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*B.C. Premier Christy Clark also presented at the Non-Profit Partnerships Summit Nov. 25. “British Columbia needs to be the incubator for social innovation in North America,” Clark told the more than 350 participants. “That has to be our goal. We have to be the place where every jurisdiction in North America comes to see what we’ve achieved.”*

## B.C. Well-positioned to be Hub for Social Innovation

*Continued from front*  
around them, their history and into their futures to identify injustice and develop social innovations.

Manager of technology, design and user experience for the Burnaby Association for Community Inclusion (BACI) Lisa Trick says the speakers shared insightful and inspiring perspectives.

Past president of the J. W. McConnell Family Foundation Tim Brodhead’s impassioned call to action to battle the growing gap between the rich and the poor made an impression on Lisa.

“We talked about things like the gap between the rich and the poor, and how growing inequality creates an unstable society,” she says.

“There’s a real business case to be made about a more sustainable society — it will last longer, people will be happier, and it’s more appreciated, in his perspective,” she says.

Executive director of the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres Paul Lacerte argued that spirituality, ceremonies and traditions are examples of how aboriginal ancestors were innovative and maintained their

society in times of oppression.

“I thought that perspective of reaching back and anchoring ourselves in our tradition is something we never hear at a conversation about innovation — I appreciated that new perspective,” says Lisa.

While looking into the past as a source of innovation, president and CEO of the United Way of the Lower Mainland Michael McKnight said B.C. should look into its future for innovation.

Lisa says Michael’s message was that innovation sometimes requires desperation.

“We have a really good life (in B.C.) — we have a beautiful place to live and a lot of services that meet our needs,” she says.

If B.C. wants to become a hub for social innovation, Michael argued innovators should imagine what the future could be like and figure out where social innovation will be required.

“We have to let our minds take us there to start to solve those problems, even though they’re not immediate,” says Lisa.

She says the entire summit and speakers were inspirational and B.C. is well-positioned to become a hub for social innovation.