

# COMMUNITY *News*

FALL 2023

“The RedBall is a travelling public piece by American artist Kurt Perschke, weighing in at 250 pounds (113 kg) and made of shiny, red PVC architectural vinyl.”

- The RedBall Project, p. 3

## Community Association Awareness

In 2021, the City's Neighbourhood Services and Marketing departments began work on a plan to introduce Saskatoon's Community Associations. In addition to highlighting Community Associations' accomplishments, this plan also aimed to help recruit volunteers and increase participation in Community Association programming.

Since 2021, different initiatives have been undertaken to accomplish these goals. Past initiatives include radio ads, billboards, published articles and increased presence at special events around the City, such as the White Buffalo Youth Lodge's Backpack Giveaway & Carnival and the Nutrien Fireworks Festival. This summer, community consultants and volunteers also visited summer play programs, handing out bubbles to the kids and talking to community members about the fantastic work being done by volunteers in their neighbourhood.



Above: Silverwood Heights and Willowgrove/University Heights display their banners at fun days in the park

In late 2022, the City of Saskatoon initiated a grant program for Community Associations to purchase branded promotional items with their logo – like a tablecloth or banner – to use at events and programs. In total, 31 out of 47 Associations took advantage of this program and purchased items.

Together, these initiatives will let the residents of Saskatoon and each individual community know about the hard work Community Association volunteers put in each month to bring neighbours together and strengthen their communities.

– Heidi Estrada, Community Consultant



Above: Community Consultants, Heidi and Lindsay, out at the Nutrien Fireworks Festival



Above: Digital billboards can be seen around Saskatoon in fall.

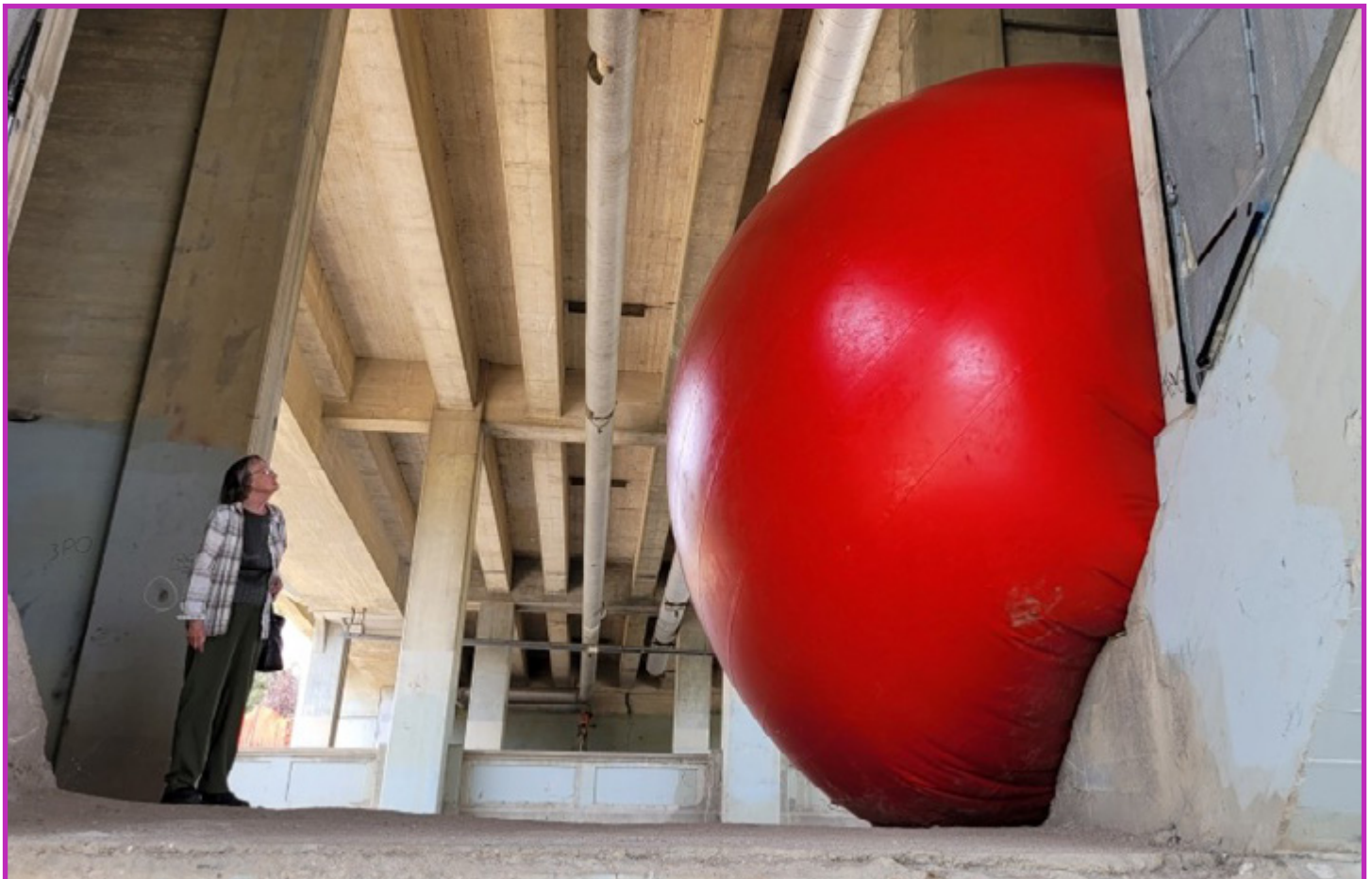
## The RedBall Project

The RedBall Project bounced into Saskatoon as part of the City's Placemaker Program last spring, attracting crowds, social media influencers and sparking conversations about the value of public art.

Thanks to collaboration of the Downtown, Riversdale and Broadway business improvement districts (BIDs) and the work of more than 20 volunteers, the one-of-a-kind inflatable mobile sculpture was installed at a new site each day within the BID's zones

Considered the world's longest-running street artwork, the piece has been to more than 25 cities globally, moving through city with a new site each day. For more images and information, or to follow the project, visit the RedBall Project website at [redballproject.com](http://redballproject.com).

– Alejandro Romero, Arts & Culture Consultant



# White Buffalo Youth Lodge Back to School Backpack Giveaway & Carnival 2023

This year, the White Buffalo Youth Lodge's (WBYL) Back to School Backpack Giveaway & Carnival planning committee came together to organize the biggest event yet, setting a goal of donating 3,000 backpacks to Saskatoon youth.

It was amazing to see all the intentional thoughts and details planned to ensure it was fun, accessible and a good time for everyone! The WBYL team led the way to ensure all aspects, including sponsors, volunteers, the barbecue lunch, bouncy castles, the Balloon Guy and haircuts, were covered. So many businesses recognized the growing needs of the community and stepped forward to support this new goal.

New to 2023 was a pre-registration option that allowed families to book a scheduled pick-up time. This helped alleviate the long wait times and gave families the chance to enjoy the carnival without worrying about making their way through the lineup for their children's supplies.

It was wonderful to see so many young people enjoying the festivities and witness the Saskatoon community coming together to celebrate the start of another school year.

If you are interested in supporting the Back to School Backpack Giveaway & Carnival please reach out to WBYL at [wbyl@sktc.sk.ca](mailto:wbyl@sktc.sk.ca) or 306-653-7676.

– Angela Daigenault, Indigenous Diversity and Inclusion Consultant



## SaskJazz Shuttle Receives Saskatchewan Lotteries Community Grant

The SaskTel Saskatchewan Jazz Festival's brand-new shuttle service was a terrific success and has instantly become a must have for festival patrons. Thanks to a \$6,000 Saskatchewan Lotteries Community Grant, support from SGI and funding from the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund and the City of Saskatoon, the shuttle service ran for all 10 days of the 2023 festival.

Festival goers could catch a ride, free of charge, to the festival site in Victoria Park from stops at the Broadway Theatre, The James Hotel, Persephone Theatre and the corner of Avenue D and 20th Street West. Two school buses drove the route continuously until the festival closed at 11 p.m. each evening. The shuttle system relieved traffic and parking congestion around the festival site, while also lessening some of the festival's environmental impact.

The new Accessibility Volunteer Team offered rides to patrons with mobility concerns from the festival gates to their seats. The new fleet of golf carts was an excellent addition to the shuttle project, allowing all patrons to easily access the park despite a steep incline at the north gate and the long distance between the south gate and the parking lot.



SaskTel Saskatchewan Jazz Festival organizers are excited to grow this project, and hope to expand the route in 2024.

– Kathy Allen, Arts and Grants Consultant

## The Bunkhouse Project

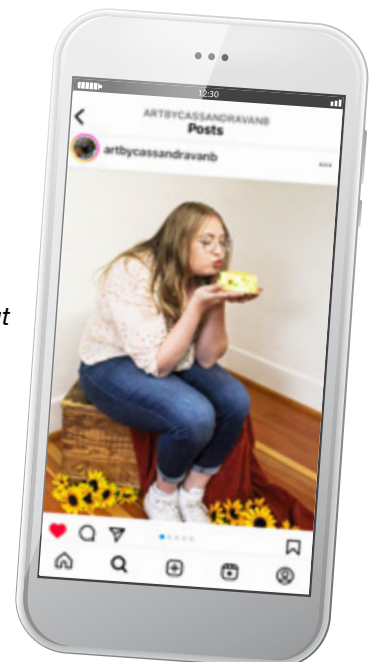
It's crazy to think that in a week I will have completed my first artist residency! Throughout my months at the Saskatoon Forestry Farm Park & Zoo, I truly feel that I have grown so much as an individual as well as an artist. I will always be thankful for the creative space the Bunkhouse offered — the studio became a second home to me. I have never had a designated place for my art, and the Bunkhouse changed that for me. The residency not only gave me a studio, but also access to all the beautiful, inspiring scenes of the Saskatoon Forestry Farm Park & Zoo.

Having this inspiration at my reach allowed me to expand my artistic abilities and push myself to try new techniques. Lastly, I have many special thanks to share. The first goes out to the City of Saskatoon for their Sponsor The Artist in Residency Program and the Saskatoon Forestry Farm Park & Zoo for providing a lovely space for artists to work and grow.

Next, a special thanks to Kathy Allen for their help, guidance and friendliness. Last, but not least, a special thanks to my residency buddies – I'm so glad I got to experience my first artist residency with you!

– Cassandra Van Buekenhout

Right: @artbycassandravanb Instagram Post Thursday, August 24, 2023.



## Eastview Walk Against Hate

The first Eastview Walk Against Hate was started by a small group of neighbours in response to a hate crime attack on one of Eastview's Muslim community members. The community showed up in large numbers to rally around Mr. Kashif and his family, and to walk together against acts of hate.

Since then, the Eastview Walk Against Hate planning group has continued to plan annual walks to bring the community together. This year saw a wonderful turnout, despite the rain. Police Chief Troy Cooper brought greetings from the Saskatoon Police Service and David Arnot spoke on behalf of the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission. The City of Saskatoon supported the event with funding through the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Advisory Committee's co-sponsorship fund.

– April Sora, Immigration and Inclusion Consultant



Above: Community founders and organizing committee for the Eastview Walk Against Hate L-R: Caitlin Grant, Fatima Coovadia, Lauren Lindgren and Michelle Lee-Klaassen.



Above: The Eastview Walk Against Hate founding members Caitlin Grant, Fatima Coovadia, Lauren Lindgren and Michelle Lee-Klaassen with community supporters and friends.

## World Refugee Day 2023

June 20 is World Refugee Day, an international day designated by the United Nations to honour refugees and to celebrate the strength and courage of people who have been forced to flee their home country to escape conflict or persecution.

The Saskatoon Refugee Coalition organizes an annual World Refugee Day event for the community of Saskatoon. This year, Métis Senator and Elder Nora Cummings opened the event with a prayer before His Worship Charlie Clark, Mayor of Saskatoon, offered greetings on behalf of the City. Speakers this year included a woman who fled South Sudan many years ago, as well as a young man who came from Syria with his family. Both shared their powerful stories of escape and what the day means to them.

Performers for the event were also those with lived refugee experience. The Karen Community presented a beautiful traditional dance and a small group of young women sang as the Voices of Afghanistan.

– April Sora, Immigration and Inclusion Consultant



Above: The Karen Community with Mayor Charlie Clark on World Refugee Day 2023.

## Connect • Be Active • Volunteer • Learn COMMUNITY ASSOCIATIONS



## Volunteer Training

Volunteer training is back in full swing with community consultants planning and presenting four workshops to almost 100 volunteers during the spring of 2023.

The Insurance 101 workshop was facilitated by insurance brokers who offered advice on the best questions to ask when choosing an insurance policy and how to ensure the policy will suit the Community Association's needs. The Treasurer's Workshop guided treasurers through the budgeting process and accounting basics, skills that would help any volunteer both new and experienced.

At the President's Workshop, a panel of volunteers with between three and 20 years of experience answered presidents' questions and offered advice from their experience.

The Neighbourhood Services Section is centralizing resources into an online drive where Community Association volunteers can access up-to-date information. Please contact your community consultant for the latest information and to access the resource. As well, please share any ideas for future training or workshops with your consultant.

– Heidi Estrada, Community Consultant

## Program Coordinator Networking Session

Program coordinators play a vital role in communities, arranging activities that will benefit residents both physically and mentally while also creating a social opportunities that might not otherwise exist. This year's training session focused on networking and, based on the feedback, this format may become a permanent option going forward.

Thanks to everyone who was able to join us at Station 20 West in June to be part of the learning!

– Mark Planchot, Community Consultant



**For more information on upcoming training, or if you have ideas for possible training opportunities, please contact your Community Consultant.**



### Search Online for Community Association Programs Across Saskatoon

Check out the City of Saskatoon's search tool at [saskatoon.ca/communityassociations](https://saskatoon.ca/communityassociations) to find the best neighbourhood programs for your interests, age and location.





To contact Community Development Staff, call 306-975-3378.

Tenille Thompson – Manager, Community Development

### Administration Support Staff

**Sherry DeBray**  
*Grants Administration Clerk*

**Brian Ekine**  
*Clerk Steno*

**Michaela Panahon**  
*Clerk Steno*

**Becky Ward**  
*Clerk Steno*

### Art and Culture Team

The Arts and Culture Team administers grant funding, initiates, and implements public art around Saskatoon and works with the Artist in Residency program through the Bunkhouse at the Saskatoon Forestry Farm Park & Zoo.

**Kathy Allen**  
*Arts and Grants Consultant*

**Alejandro Romero**  
*Arts & Culture Consultant*

### Social Development

Social Development serves as a convenor, facilitator, enabler, and funder to agencies and organizations to address issues concerning community well-being and manages programs and services that support Indigenous, newcomers, and lower-income populations.

**Jasmin Calix**  
*Local Immigration Partnership  
Coordinator*

**April Sora**  
*Immigration and Inclusion Consultant*

**Roy Lavallee**  
*Social Development Consultant*

**Angela Daigneault**  
*Indigenous Diversity and Inclusion  
Consultant*

**Kathleen Stone**  
*Indigenous Recreation Programmer*

### Neighbourhood Services

Neighbourhood Services is comprised of a team of Community Consultants who provide an important liaison role between 47 Community Associations and City Departments, support their recreation programs, provide advice and updates on City initiatives, and respond to community concerns.

**Lisa Thibodeau**  
*Neighbourhood Services Manager*

**Kevin Ariss**  
*Community Consultant*

**Lindsay Cockrum**  
*Community Consultant*

**Jan Cunningham**  
*Community Consultant*

**Heidi Estrada**  
*Community Consultant*

**Shelly Panko-Schultz**  
*Community Consultant*

**Mark Planchot**  
*Community Consultant*

**Alicia Worm**  
*Community Consultant*



Above: Lakeridge Community Association's President plays first game of Pickleball on the newly opened hybrid courts in Crocus Park. Funding for this was through the Lakeridge Community Association