



powell street festival society

パウエル祭協会

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*For immediate release*

## **NEW INTERIM GENERAL MANAGER FOR PSFS**

Vancouver, BC – December 20 - The Powell Street Festival Society Board of Directors is delighted to announce the appointment of Julia Aoki, a longtime PSFS enthusiast, to the role of interim General Manager and Programming Director of the Powell Street Festival.

Julia Aoki has been involved with the Festival as a volunteer and three-time volunteer coordinator since 2004. With each passing year, she is increasingly in awe and admiration of the dedicated community members that keep the festival going, which in no small part inspired her recent graduate work structured around Oppenheimer Park, completed through York University's Programme in Communication and Culture. She is very pleased to be stepping into the position of Interim General Manager and Programming Director and looks forward to growing her relationships within the Powell Street Festival community—all the while working as tirelessly and passionately as our outgoing GM, Kristen Lambertson!

Julia Aoki secured the position due to her experience working with the Powell Street Festival and Downtown Eastside (DTES) community along with the common vision she shares with the Board for the continued development of the Festival.

With three years of solid experience in Festival volunteer coordination, Julia has been a widely respected member of PSFS for over 7 years, having been involved as a volunteer, a member of the Board of Directors, an Advocacy Committee member, and a Fundraising Committee member.

Kristen Lambertson, outgoing General Manager and Programming Director said the appointment of Julia should allow the Festival and the Society to continue to thrive and expand, better serving its public. “As we move forward, it is essential to tap into the enormous pool of talent right here at our doorstep. Julia has certainly distinguished herself with her dedication to the Festival, her understanding of Japanese Canadians and the DTES community, her grasp of the PSFS audience and her desire to program an exciting array of artistic programming.”

**We gratefully acknowledge the financial assistance of the Canada Council for the Arts, Department of Canadian Heritage, BC Arts Council and the City of Vancouver Office of Cultural Affairs, Sunrise Soya Foods, and the Strathcona Business Improvement Association.**

### **About Powell Street Festival:**

The Powell Street Festival Society's (PSFS) mission is to celebrate the arts and culture of Japanese Canadians and Asian Canadians, to encourage Asian Canadians to take a leadership role in the development of the arts in Canada, and to foster community development through cultural events. <http://www.powellstreetfestival.com>

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