



Building Bridges

Vallalee Hoffman, Claire Cilliers with Bridgeview Community Association and the Surrey Environmental Education Centre (SEEC)



July 2004

Bridgeview Community Hall, 11475 126A St

The artists worked with the Bridgeview community through Bridgeview Community Hall to create a mosaic walkway, seating and a painted mural that grace the entrance to the Bridgeview Community Hall. Building Bridges was supported through the City's Community Art Matching Fund Program and through generous contributions of material, labour and cash.

In developing a theme for the project, the creative team considered Bridgeview's history as one of Surrey's oldest communities and its connection to Fraser River. All five bridges





are visible from the community and are featured on the pillar seats, while the mosaic pathway is rich with images of natural life indigenous to the area and community activity.

The artists held clay tile making workshops in local schools and at the Hall. Some of these workshops were enhanced with information that promoted environmental awareness. Students from Bridgeview Elementary School designed and created hand-made tiles in the shapes of fish, leaves, birds, animals and insects. These tiles were broken and included in the mosaics that were created by the community in workshops held at Bridgeview Hall.

Brightly coloured neighbourhood houses drawn by local children are painted on the field washroom building. Poetic text weaves its way around, capturing the passion involved in the creation of the project: "Building Bridges, nature, neighbours, history, hearts and hands, come together, share our dreams, thankful hands, create mosaic."

The project was completed in time for the Bridgeview Community Hall's 60th Anniversary celebrations, July 24, 2004.

Vallalee Hoffman is a versatile artist and arts educator/facilitator, working primarily with clay using a variety of techniques. Hoffman has worked for the Surrey Arts Centre as a visual arts instructor and as a programmer. She developed and taught art classes for the Community Arts Council of White Rock and District. Hoffman received a BFA from Emily Carr Institute.

A graduate of the University of Cape Town's Michaelis School of Fine Art, Claire Cilliers has over 15 years experience as a professional artist creating large-scale mixed media works. She has painted murals for public and private clients and has been involved in a diversity of community art projects. Cilliers loves to teach art to children and coordinates the Celebration Arts tent for the Surrey Children's Festival.

City of Surrey Public and Community Art Collection

