

The New View

TAKE A GOOD LOOK
July 2024 Edition ♦



Get Ready For Fusion Fest

By: Kit Billings

Holland Park is set to come alive with the sights, sounds and flavours of the world on July 20th and 21st as it hosts the 24th annual Fusion Fest. This highly anticipated event provides a vibrant celebration of cultural diversity and university, ensuring an unforgettable experience for attendees of all ages. As a hallmark of Surrey's commitment to multiculturalism, Fusion Fest showcases the rich tapestry of cultures that make up our community.

At the heart of Fusion Fest are the cultural pavilions, each representing different countries or regions. The festival hosts over 50 cultural pavilions, each offering a unique glimpse into the traditions, art, and cuisines of different cultures. Visitors can explore traditions, arts, and crafts, and participate in hands-on activities like calligraphy, henna tattooing, and dance lessons. These pavilions are a testament to the multicultural fabric of our society, providing attendees with the opportunity to learn about and appreciate the heritage and customs of various communities. From intricate handicrafts to vibrant traditional attire, the pavilions are a feast for the senses and a celebration of cultural richness.

The festival features eight stages with artists from various genres and backgrounds. Attendees can immerse themselves in talent from traditional folk dances to contemporary music, including African drumming, Bollywood routines, hip-hop, and jazz. The World Music Stage is particularly popular, offering continuous global sounds that are sure to get you dancing.



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Food lovers can embark on a culinary journey with a variety of international cuisines available from numerous food vendors. Fusion Fest's culinary offerings are a gastronomic delight, representing the diverse flavours of the world. Whether you are in the mood for spicy Mexican tacos, savoury Indian curries, or sweet French pastries, there is something to satisfy every palate. In addition to the food stalls, the Cultural Cooking Arena offers live cooking demonstrations where culinary experts showcase the art of making traditional dishes. These demonstrations provide a fascinating look at the preparation methods and ingredients that go into creating beloved global dishes. Attendees can pick up new recipes and cooking tips to try at home, adding an educational component to the culinary adventure.

Families and attendees of all ages will find a host of activities to enjoy at Fusion Fest. Don't forget to explore the Downtown Surrey BIA's Kids' Zone, where children can engage in crafts and face painting. Enjoy storytelling sessions, cooking demonstrations, dance workshops, and cultural lectures. These activities promise both educational enrichment and lively entertainment, making Fusion Fest a delightful experience for everyone.

Fusion Fest 2024 promises to be a celebration of cultural richness and community spirit. Mark your calendars and join us at Holland Park on July 20th and 21st for an unforgettable celebration of diversity, music, food, and family fun.

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BOMA BC Award Winners

The BOMA BC (Building Owners and Managers Association of British Columbia) awards are an opportunity to recognize the strategy, innovation, and excellence within the industry. This year, the team behind the operation of King George Hub received accolades in the categories of Emerging Leader and Building Operations Team of the Year. I had the pleasure of speaking with Ana Lagovschi, BOMA BC's Emerging Leader of the Year, about her career journey and aspirations. Ana, the general manager for King George Hub, has been with Warrington PCI Management for nine years and based in Surrey since 2021. She loves her job because of the diverse opportunities and variety of tasks she engages in every day.



Ana credited Lorna Park and Adam Spear as significant influences in her professional life and leadership style, appreciating the opportunities they've provided her. During our conversation, Ana humbly expressed feelings of imposter syndrome, often wondering, "Really? Me?" about receiving the award. Despite these feelings, Ana is a highly skilled and qualified property manager. Her main advice for upcoming property managers is to "roll with the punches," understanding that things may not always go as planned, making it easier to handle challenges. Ana attributes much of King George Hub's success to their exceptional building operations team, who also won a BOMA BC Award for Team of the Year. She described the team as a close-knit group that thrives on mutual respect and admiration, extending beyond their professional interactions. They hold frequent meetings to continuously improve their operations, enjoying the process along the way. The team cohesion is expected to contribute to the seamless opening of the newest phase in 2025, maintaining the standard set by previous phases.

Safety Audit

For nearly two decades, the Downtown Surrey BIA has been gathering information on Downtown Surrey businesses' perceptions of safety. As Downtown Surrey is a diverse community in transition undergoing many social and environmental changes, including gentrification, it is especially important to see how these changes impact safety in the area. The audit surveys and takes input directly from businesses to make recommendations based on these concerns. While the BIA cannot directly fix these concerns, we can advocate for change on behalf of businesses. These recommendations make the area safer to work, live, and play. This year, the goal is to survey 150 ground-level businesses in an area that spans 94th avenue just past Surrey Memorial Hospital, all the way up to 112 avenue past Gateway SkyTrain station.

Over the years as the community continues to develop, it is interesting to see how issues relating to safety may change or persist. For instance, in 2016 there was an epidemic of discarded needles in the area by businesses, which created biohazards for people nearby. This led to the funding of the Surrey Rig Dig needle pickup program, which saw a reduction in discarded needles in the coming years. Last year in 2023, there were issues relating to people lighting fires in the area. The interns worked hard to make recommendations and give out pamphlets with relevant information to businesses on the prevention of fires in the area. This highlights the importance of how research impacts everyone in the community.

While data is still being collected, it will be interesting to see what the biggest issues are in 2024. So, if you are part of a business in the area who wants to make your voice heard, be on the lookout for Stella.



Grosvenor Rd. Green Space

The Grosvenor Greenspace is a large open plot of land that lies near the intersection of King George Boulevard and 108th Avenue in Downtown Surrey, between the surrounding streets of Grosvenor Road, Hilton Road, and Bentley Road.

This site was once home to the Grosvenor Road School, which was closed and demolished in 2000. Since then, the land has remained vacant, with most of its activity coming from the diagonal path that runs through the space leading to King George Boulevard. Arguably, it is most used by commuters walking to King George Boulevard from the nearby residential neighborhood.

The Grosvenor Greenspace has been of particular interest to the BIA this summer, as it continues to sit unused, yet with so much potential. Recognizing this, the BIA has initiated efforts to transform this space into a vibrant community hub.

In June, two BIA interns conducted surveys on nearby residents, businesses, and a shelter to gather feedback from those in the surrounding area on what they would like to see happen in the space this summer. The goal of this survey is to focus on appreciative inquiry, an approach that concentrates on utilizing positive questions to uncover existing strengths and positive attributes of a focal point. This method helps to identify what the community values and how best to enhance and utilize this space.



The BIA views this greenspace as a valuable asset for community engagement. We plan to use this expansive area for enjoyable activities this summer and want to incorporate the neighborhood's ideas into our vision, transforming this open land into a hub for making memories and bringing the community together, instead of letting it go unused.

Potential activities and events could range from outdoor concerts, fitness classes, or sports days. The goal is to create a dynamic and inclusive environment that encourages community interaction and participation. With the support and ideas of the community, the BIA is excited to see this greenspace come to life.

Fusion Fest Headliners

Get ready for a transcendent musical experience with Fusion Fest 2024's lineup featuring Sudan Archives, Malkit Singh, Mauvey, and Jade LeMac. This year's festival promises an exhilarating blend of genres and cultures, showcasing the diversity and innovation of contemporary music.

Kicking off the musical extravaganza is Sudan Archives, crafting a mesmerizing blend of R&B, hip-hop, and experimental electronic music, enriched by hypnotic string loops inspired by West African fiddling. From her breakthrough single "Come Meh Way" to the critically acclaimed album "Natural Brown Prom Queen," she redefines the genre with soulful vocals and innovative production. With a talent for merging tradition with modern beats, Sudan Archives' music captivates with its depth and originality, offering a refreshing take on contemporary soundscapes.

No celebration of cultural fusion would be complete without Malkit Singh, the legendary Punjabi singer known as the "King of Bhangra." Malkit Singh has been a pioneer in popularizing Bhangra music worldwide, infusing traditional Punjabi folk rhythms with modern influences. His energetic performances and infectious tunes are sure to have festival-goers dancing to the rhythm of joy and unity.

Adding a contemporary flair to the lineup is MAUVEY, whose music defies categorization with influences ranging from Afro and pop to hip-hop, cinematic, rock, punk, alternative, and electronic genres. Born in Ghana and raised between the UK and Canada, MAUVEY's artistry reflects his diverse cultural experiences. His songs, rooted in storytelling and a passion for societal change, evoke a range of emotions and perspectives. MAUVEY's performances promise to be both introspective and electrifying, capturing the essence of modern musical expression and cultural fusion.

Jade LeMac, a 20-year-old Vancouver-based artist, unites storytelling with music, celebrating her half-Asian heritage and 2SLGBTQ+ community connection. Her debut single "Constellations" captivates with its unconventional love song charm, earning acclaim and millions of streams worldwide, highlighting her rising influence in music.

Together, these artists embody the spirit of cultural fusion and artistic innovation, promising an unforgettable experience at Fusion Fest 2024. Their performances will not only entertain but also inspire, celebrating diversity and unity through the universal language of music.

Explore The George

New King Do



Just off King George Boulevard near 104 Avenue and 140th lies the New King Do Seafood Restaurant. This family-owned Chinese restaurant is open for lunch and dinner every day except Tuesday when it is only open for dinner. The interior and atmosphere at the New King Do is inviting for customers of all ages and is especially suitable for families or large groups. New King Do's regular menu offers Chinese classics like fried rice, sweet and sour pork, rice rolls, and other delicious Chinese dishes at an affordable price. Additionally, for those just looking to have a light meal, the New King Do offers all-day Dim Sum which features dishes like dumplings, rice wraps, spring rolls, and more. The New King Do also offers a plethora of seafood like lobster, tilapia, and crab which can be seen freshly stored in tanks near the entrance of the store. For those looking to try something new, the New King Do also offers a specialty menu for dine-in customers between 11:00 am and 2:30 pm which includes dishes like Deep Fried Bombay Duck, Jellyfish in Chilli Sauce, Deep Fried Pepper Salt Squid Tentacle, and other exotic dishes. Overall, the New King Do offers delicious food for both Chinese food lovers and those looking to try something new. Order food from the New King Do now by either dining in, picking up, or delivering through apps like Uber Eats, SkipTheDishes, or DoorDash.



Explore The George Thakur Thal

Thakur Thal is a hidden gem located at 10028 King George Blvd, Surrey, BC, offering an exquisite blend of Gujarati and Rajasthani cuisine. Open Monday through Friday from 11:30 AM to 9:30 PM, this restaurant is a must-visit for anyone seeking an authentic taste of India. From the moment you step inside, you are greeted by an atmosphere that exudes warmth and tradition. Once you walk in, you are immediately captivated by the authentic decor, reflecting the rich cultural heritage of Gujarat and Rajasthan with vibrant colours, intricate patterns, and traditional artwork adorning the walls. The staff are exceptionally welcoming and kind, going above and beyond to ensure every guest feels at home. Their attentive service is particularly helpful for those unfamiliar with authentic Gujarati cuisine, as they are more than happy to guide you through the menu and suggest dishes tailored to your taste preferences.



Thakur Thal's menu boasts a variety of specialty dishes that showcase the rich, diverse flavors of Gujarati and Rajasthani cooking. Some highlights include Baingan Bharta & Bajri Rotlo, a smoky, flavorful eggplant dish paired perfectly with hearty millet flatbread; Undhiyu & Puri, a classic Gujarati mixed vegetable curry, slow-cooked to perfection and served with crispy, deep-fried bread; and Sev Tamatar & Paratha, a tangy tomato-based curry topped with crunchy sev, accompanied by soft, layered flatbread. In addition to their regular menu, Thakur Thal also offers a buffet, providing an excellent opportunity to sample a wide range of dishes and experience the full spectrum of flavors they have to offer. One of the standout features of Thakur Thal is their ability to accommodate all spice levels. Whether you prefer your food mild or with a fiery kick, the chefs ensure that every dish can be customized to suit your palate.

Overall, Thakur Thal offers not just a meal, but a culinary journey through the heart of Gujarat and Rajasthan. With its delicious food, welcoming staff, and charming decor, it provides a dining experience that is both authentic and unforgettable.

Explore the George

Kinton Ramen

Craving some good comfort food? Kinton Ramen is the place to find all the tastiest most flavourful comfort food around. From soups made by simmering only the best quality meats, to noodles created using a special air-tight mixing technique, a good quality base is important in ensuring the protein can shine. Kinton Ramen uses only locally sourced pork that is cooked in a way that brings out the caramelized flavour. Their chicken is sous-vide to the perfect melt-in-your-mouth texture that is the perfect addition to any soup or noodle. Kinton Ramen also offers a variety of vegetarian options, with vegetarian broth made with onion, carrots, ginger, garlic, and napa cabbage, seasoned with Japanese sake, mirin sweet vinegar and mineral rock. This is mouth-watering good ramen.

Opening in 2012, Kinton Ramen was one of the first Japanese ramen restaurants in Toronto, now with over 40 locations and counting, Kinton Ramen is serving people fine, fresh, authentic Japanese Ramen across parts of Canada and the US. In April of 2024 Kinton Ramen proved themselves as a customer centric business by dropping their bowl prices to those of 2021 prices. Beating inflation rates and allowing the opportunity to enjoy their food to everyone. Kinton Ramen also offers a rewards program where you can become a Kinton Bowler, finish your bowl to the very last drop and you are a part of the club. Collect stamps every time you visit to get discounts, get 1000 stamps for a \$1000 gift card. So, if you are looking for food to warm your soul head to Kinton Ramen located at the King George Hub, at 13639 George Junction #103, Surrey, B.C.



Explore the George

Mahaveer Chef's Choice

Mahaveer Chef's Choice located at 10227 King George, Surrey, B.C. is an excellent choice for affordable and authentic Indian food. Mahaveer is quick and easy, offering Tandoori dishes, rice dishes, veggie, chicken, lamb, seafood and beef dishes for takeout or dine-in.



With such a wide variety to choose from there is certain to be something for everyone from .99 cent samosas, to butter chicken or fish mirch masala they have anything you may be craving. If you are busy but still want to enjoy this fabulous food every day you are in luck, Mahaveer Chef's Choice offers Tiffin Service. For just \$200 for veggie and \$240 for non-veggie a month enjoy one tiffin per day.



Pick up between 11am and 8:30pm, 5 days a week, for 6 tawa roti and 2 different dishes. For more information about this service contact 604-497-2033. The staff are so welcoming you will want to stop by and say hi for your pick-up every day. Mahaveer's also offers dine-in options where you can sit and relax in the clean and nicely decorated dinning room. Stop by Wednesday-Monday from 11am-10pm to try it out for yourself.



Explore the George

La Conquistadora

Located in the heart of King George Boulevard, La Conquistadora is an iconic restaurant for authentic Mexican and Salvadorian cuisine. The moment you step inside, you will find rows of "papel picado" on the ceiling, which are decorative banners with various shapes and colours. These banners may draw you to the other room connected to the restaurant, or towards the back, where you can find authentic snacks and groceries from Latin America. This eatery boasts a vibrant, festive, and colourful atmosphere that perfectly complements its menu, a tribute to the rich cuisine of Mexico and El Salvador.

La Conquistadora's menu is a carefully curated blend of iconic dishes from both countries, showcasing the vibrant flavours and time-honoured recipes that define these cuisines. You can find classic Mexican food like burritos, flautas, enchiladas verde, tacos suaves, torta mexicana, and chile relleno. Most of these dishes come with rice, refried beans, and a salad, and there are also various appetizers like fried yuca and tostadas.

Equally impressive are the Salvadorian specialties, like carne asada, pescado frito, encebollado de pollo, yuca frita, and the pupusas being a standout favorite. Pupusas are corn tortillas stuffed with pork, beans, and cheese, served with salsa and a Salvadoran cabbage salad called curtido.

And of course, you can't miss out on the beverages. La Conquistadora features homemade traditional drinks like horchata and tamarindo, in addition to imported beverages, pop, and various types of juice.

La Conquistadora has menus in both Mexican and English, and it's no question that the diverse, but still classic, selection of food is a true testament to the authenticity of the restaurant. Come check out La Conquistadora at 10511 King George Boulevard, Surrey, BC.



Community Calendar - July

- Babytime Wednesdays | 10:00 am - 10:30 am | City Centre Branch This program is for babies 0-1 and their caregiver. Join us for songs, stories, rhymes and bounces to help your baby develop speech and language skills. After a 30 minute storytime, there will be a social time for babies and their caregivers!
604.598.7427 or surreylibraries.ca
- Family Storytime Fridays | 10:00 am - 10:30 am | City Centre Branch This program is for children of all ages and their caregivers. Join us for fun stories and songs for the whole family! Help imaginations grow and build a love of reading
- Mini Meat Draws and 50/50 Draws Every Saturday and Sunday tickets on sale at 5pm at Whalley Legion #102 - 10626 City Parkway, Surrey.
- Live Bands at Whalley Legion every Friday, Saturday and Sunday evening at Whalley Legion
- Craft 'N' Yarn Tuesdays 6–8:30pm City Centre Branch Join us for a casual crafting session. Bring your current project to work on in the company of others. Crafters of all kinds, abilities, and ages welcome. City Centre Branch 10350 University Drive, Surrey, British Columbia V3T 4B8
- Family Fun Saturdays 2–4pm This program is for children of all ages and their caregivers. Join us for KEVA® Planks and board games for the whole family.
- City Centre Branch 10350 University Drive, Surrey, British Columbia V3T 4B8
Room: Storytime Corner Contact 604-598-7426
- 2nd - Karaoke at Whalley Legion 7-11pm
- 2nd - Games On The Plaza, Central City Plaza, 3pm-5pm
- 2nd - Family Games Night, Civic Plaza, 6-8pm
- 3rd - Games Night at King George Hub at 6:30pm
- 4th - Games On The Plaza, Central City Plaza, 3pm-5pm
- 5th - FVDED in the Park at Holland Park
- 6th - Surrey Urban Farmers Market at Royal Kwantlen Park from 10am-3pm
- 6th - FVDED in the Park at Holland Park
- 9th - Games On The Plaza, Central City Plaza, 3pm-5pm
- 9th - Family Games Night, Civic Plaza, 6-8pm
- 9th - Community Clean-up, contact danae@downtownsurreybia.com
- 9th - Karaoke at Whalley Legion 7-11pm
- 10th - LA Bingo Wednesdays at Whalley Legion from 1-3pm
- 10th - Games Night at King George Hub at 6:30pm

Community Calendar - July

- 11th - Games On The Plaza, Central City Plaza, 3pm-5pm
- 13th - Surrey Urban Farmers Market at Royal Kwantlen Park from 10am-3pm
- 13th - Surrey Latin Festival at Civic Plaza
- 13th - Shredaton Keep your identity safe! Bring your papers to shred. 10am-2pm In front of Sprite multimedia, 13597 King George Blvd
- 16th - Games On The Plaza, Central City Plaza, 3pm-5pm
- 16th - Family Games Night, Civic Plaza, 6-8pm
- 16th - A New View 5-7PM Pre- registration required.
- 16th - Karaoke at Whalley Legion 7-11pm
- 17th - LA Bingo Wednesdays at Whalley Legion from 1-3pm
- 17th - Games Night at King George Hub at 6:30pm
- 18th - Games On The Plaza, Central City Plaza, 3pm-5pm
- 19th - New Gen Pop Up Market at Civic Plaza
- 20th - Surrey Urban Farmers Market at Royal Kwantlen Park from 10am-3pm
- 20th - Fusion Festival at Holland Park -11am-10pmAward winning festival including great food, fantastic entertainment
- 21st - Fusion Festival at Holland Park -11am-10pmAward winning festival including great food, fantastic entertainment.
- 23rd - Games On The Plaza, Central City Plaza, 3pm-5pm
- 23rd - Family Games Night, Civic Plaza, 6-8pm
- 23rd - Karaoke at Whalley Legion 7-11pm
- 24th - LA Bingo Wednesdays at Whalley Legion from 1-3pm
- 24th - Games Night at King George Hub at 6:30pm
- 25th - Games On The Plaza, Central City Plaza, 3pm-5pm
- 27th - Dog event at Grosvenor Rd., stayed tuned for more info
- 27th - Surrey Urban Farmers Market at Royal Kwantlen Park from 10am-3pm
- 28th - New Gen Pop Up Market at Civic Plaza
- 30th - Games On The Plaza, Central City Plaza, 3pm-5pm
- 30th - Family Games Night, Civic Plaza, 6-8pm
- 30th - Karaoke at Whalley Legion 7-11pm
- 31st - LA Bingo Wednesdays at Whalley Legion from 1-3pm
- 31st - Games Night at King George Hub at 6:30pm

Thursday Nights at the Hub

Join us for *Thursday Nights at the Hub*, hosted by the Downtown Surrey Business Improvement Association, on three Thursday evenings each month throughout June, July, and August. Starting promptly at 6 PM, these fun-filled sessions last between one to one and a half hours.

This summer, our exciting lineup includes yoga, Zumba, and various painting activities, such as painting tote bags, canvases, acrylic disks, and wine glasses. These events are a fantastic way to explore new activities, meet new people in your community, and soak up the summer sunshine. Best of all, they are completely free—just sign up, show up, and enjoy!

So far this summer, our *painting tote bags* event that took place on June 13th has been a tremendous success! A group of 21 participants joined us for an enchanting evening of creativity and fun, led by the talented art instructor Roxana. If you missed this event, don't worry—we have plenty more painting sessions coming up at King George Hub. Mark your calendars for July 4th for *Painting Canvases*, July 18th for *Painting Acrylic Disks*, and August 15th for *Painting Wine Glasses*.

If arts and crafts aren't your thing, perhaps you'd enjoy some outdoor exercise. Join us for *Yoga Night* with instructor Mackenzie on July 11th or for a lively Zumba session on August 1st.

Supplies and spots are limited! Stay updated by visiting the Downtown Surrey Business Improvement Association's Eventbrite page and following us on all our social media channels. Don't miss your chance to sign up for these exciting events.



Recap of Surrey Fest



This year's 24th annual Surrey Fest Downtown was truly unforgettable. Despite the crazy weather - intense rain and multiple hailstorms - it didn't dampen our spirits!

The plaza was full of informative community organizations who stuck through the weather, and many event goers enjoyed dancing, face painting, and free popsicles!

We are incredibly grateful to have had so many amazing sponsors whose support made this event possible. As well, our incredible performers, John Welsh Band, Anne Martina, Derby Town, and Junk Oy rocked the stage and brought a bright energy to Surrey Central Plaza.



We hope to see everyone again next year for a well-deserved sunny Surrey Fest!

Surrey Voices

Join us for Surrey Voices, a vibrant celebration dedicated to appreciating and exploring the diverse cultures within our community. This initiative aims to bring people together through music, dance, and art, offering a unique opportunity to explore and appreciate the rich cultural tapestry of Surrey.



Our last event, held on June 20th, was a delightful celebration of Japanese culture. Attendees had the chance to explore the intricate art of origami in a hands-on workshop with Aiko's Origami and appreciate the dynamic energy of Appare's yosakoi dancers. The sounds of traditional Japanese music filled the air, creating a truly enchanting atmosphere.

Looking ahead, we're excited to announce that the next Surrey Voices event will take place on July 25th. While the specific details are still under wraps, we promise another evening filled with cultural wonders and unforgettable experiences. Stay tuned on our social media for updates in the coming weeks as we reveal the theme and activities planned for this upcoming event.

Surrey Voices is more than just an event series; it's a celebration of the diverse cultures that make up our vibrant community. By showcasing different cultural traditions and artistic expressions, we hope to foster a greater understanding and appreciation among all residents. Whether you're looking to learn something new, enjoy some lively entertainment, or simply connect with your neighbors, Surrey Voices offers something for everyone.

Mark your calendars for July 25th and get ready to join us for another inspiring cultural celebration. We look forward to seeing you there!

By: Kit Billings



Community Cleanup

Volunteers Needed!

Pop and Pizza

As a city in transition, community building is an essential tool to ensure people are not left behind. We hope to build civic pride and create connections among our volunteers as they tangibly work to make our city a nicer place.

Contact to register:

danae@downtownsurreybia.com

Deadline: July 5

July 9, Civic Plaza
Cleanup — 10-12
Lunch — 12-1:30



A New View

Summer Social

July 16, 5-7pm

Civic Hotel

13475 Central Ave

Networking event and development showcase for all DSBIA members. Join us for the opening of the Civic Hotel rooftop patio as we gather to enjoy the new view.

Register now: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/a-new-view-tickets-928662844567?aff=oddttdtcreator>