

# *after homelessness...*

## Outreach Coordinator Final Report

By Dafne Blanco

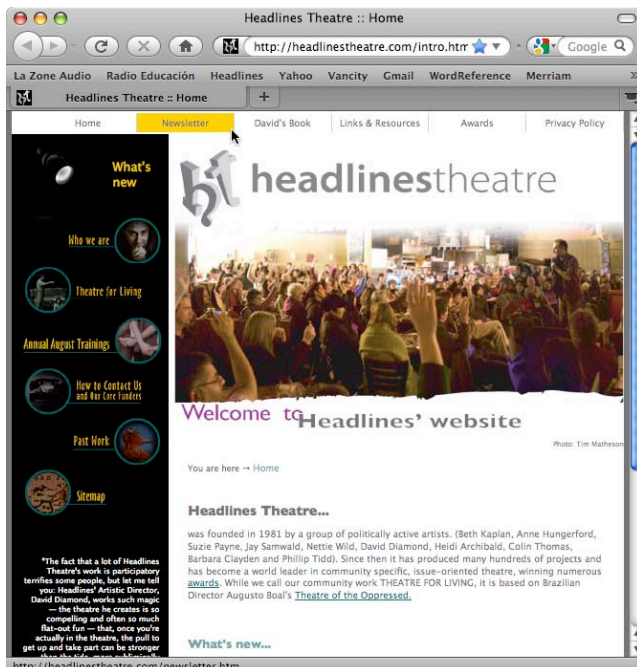
### January and February

Our 2009 main stage project *after homelessness...* looked at issues of homelessness and mental health. Given the subject matter and scope of the issue, we at Headlines had identified the need to tour the project into three Metro Vancouver municipalities. In order to do that, we agreed that finding community partners in the hosting communities was essential. Peter Greenwell from the Metro Vancouver Regional Steering Committee put us in touch with some key people in the Tri-Cities area, but after several conference calls, it became clear that the social workers and advocates there were stretched to their maximum, and their efforts needed

to focus on creating their first shelter in the area. However, out of these exchanges a great connection was established with Sandy Burpee from the Tri-Cities Task Group on Homelessness and Seraina Keusch, Community Mental Health Worker from New View Society. Both became great allies when it came to recruitment and grassroots promotion of the show in the Tri-Cities area.

Eleven years after its original creation, we agreed that Headlines' web site needed a radical makeover, primarily to comply with current World Wide Web code. During January I focused my energies on revamping it:

<http://headlinestheatre.com/intro.htm>



## March

In addition to the fact that we were not able to establish a viable sponsor partnership in the Tri-Cities, finding an appropriate venue proved impossible. While we kept looking for both, one day I had bumped into Jim Sands, from SPARC BC (Social Planning and Research Council of BC) at a local networking event. I knew he had been very supportive of our 2004 production *Practicing Democracy*. I proposed to the rest of Headlines' staff we approach him to establish a partnership. I initiated communications with Jim and we had a very productive first meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup>: SPARC was onboard! Although the organization's office was now based in Burnaby, they also work in Vancouver and have a provincial mandate, which became all the more valuable when helping us to reach out to Metro Vancouver and BC.

Sharon Folkes, Housing Planner from the City of Burnaby had learned about the project through a series of email forwards. She put us in touch with the Chair of the Burnaby Homelessness Task Force, Nadine Loewen, who invited us to their monthly meeting on March 10<sup>th</sup>. I introduced the project to the Task Force and made some good connections to recruit participants for the *Theatre for Living* workshop that would lead to the creation of the play later in October.

Throughout March, Jim from SPARC (our confirmed Community Partner) and I worked on developing the terms of reference of our partnership. Even though SPARC had an extensive local and provincial network and a solid reputation doing research on homelessness and affordable housing issues, they were not necessarily connected to the frontline work on such issues. So we identified the need to strike a working group with key stakeholders in Metro Vancouver. Jim and I then developed an outline of activities and commitments (Appendix A) in order to approach people to join the ***after homelessness... Community Working Group*** (CWG).

On March 23, I attended Les Merson's documentary film, *Something to eat, a Place to Sleep & Someone Who giveS a Damn*, and made connections with several people including Judy Graves, Coordinator of the Tenant Assistance Program City of Vancouver, Mark Smith, RainCity Housing and Support Society Executive Director, Laura Stannard, member of the Citywide Housing Coalition and Les Merson himself. We invited Judy and Laura to join our CWG later on.

## April

And so, while we were thrilled to have Judy and Laura onboard, Jim and I kept connecting with people to invite them to join the CWG. David Diamond (Headlines Theatre's Artistic and Managing Director) had been invited



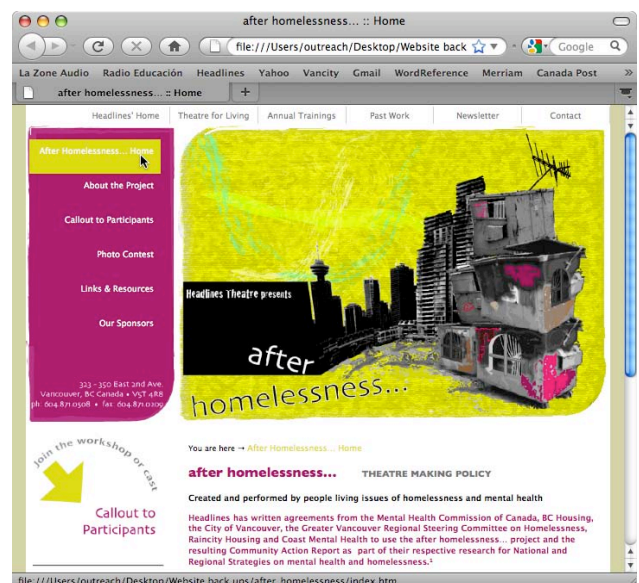
by Nancy Hall, a SFU teacher and former mental health advocate to facilitate a seminar on using *Theatre for Living* techniques on health education and addictions frontline work. I asked her to join the CWG. Rosemary Collins emerged after a series of email introductions originated by Jim. Rosemary turned out to know and be a big supporter of Headlines' work and gladly joined the CWG. We met Jaime McEvoy, New Westminster City Councillor, and the Director of the Hospitality Project at the Shiloh-Sixth Avenue United Church, when looking for potential venues in New Westminster. Although his church didn't fit our technical requirements to host the play, he became very excited about the project and accepted my invitation to join the working group.

We planned to have a mini-conference (later renamed Community Dialogue Sessions) attached to the project that would deal with the practical aspects of housing the homeless; as David would say, the nuts and bolts of the issue that didn't belong in the play. The play would be a wonderful conduit to explore human dynamics, and the Forum Theatre event could engage audiences in brief discussions on systemic issues, but neither could investigate in depth the practicalities around the frontline issues, nor showcase successful stories of organizations already offering supported, affordable housing.

I worked on the recruitment brochure (Appendix B). First, I developed the illustration that we would use to brand the project temporarily, until we came up with the final graphics for our mainstream and grassroots campaign later in the process (see previous page), and then proceeded to create the brochure borrowing some of the language from previous projects' recruitment materials, and adapting it to the subject matter.

With the recruitment brochure ready to go, on April 4th I attended the Grand March for Housing, organized by the Citywide Coalition for Housing. The march was very well attended and I was able to distribute the brochure and talk to people about the project. On my bus ride back home, I saw a woman holding a huge cardboard house, I knew she must have gone to the march as well. I approached her and after chatting for a while, it turned out she was Alison Emond, the Youth Housing Registry Worker at the Broadway Youth Resource Centre! She was an old fan of Headlines and had been receiving my newsletter updates about *after homelessness...* During all my years of employment at Headlines, we had never met face-to-face so, it was a lovely coincidence that allowed me to put a face to the numerous emails and phone calls we exchanged over the years. Later on, she brought several youth groups to both the performances and the Community Dialogue Sessions.

Having designed the illustration also allowed me to create the project provisional website (see right):



Coming up with the definitive graphics for our mainstream and grassroots campaign is always a wonderfully creative, and yet a very challenging process. After all, the quality of the materials is an important element that either helps the promotion of the project to catch fire, or could work against it. David envisioned the central image in the materials as photography, rather than an illustration. So, conversations in the office started and we came up with the idea of launching a photo contest in the community to find the image. The first place winner would be used in all promotional materials. To David, finding an image that conveyed a true and authentic voice of the community was essential, while I was excited about community involvement as a way to feed another buzz out there about the project. After deciding on the details of the guidelines, I launched the ***after homelessness... Photo Contest***.

Below is an initial list of organizations to which I forwarded the Photo Contest guidelines:

Alliance for Arts and Culture	Langara College
Burnaby Homelessness Task Force	LifeSkills Centre
Carnegie Community Newsletter	Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood House
Crescent Beach Community Services	Network of East Vancouver Organizations -
Downtown Eastside Centre for the Arts	NEVCO
facebook network	PIVOT's Hope in Shadows
Frog Hollow Neighbourhood House	Presentation House
Gallery Gachet	South Vancouver Neighbourhood House
Gordon Neighbourhood House	The Gathering Place
Heart of the City Festival	The Kettle Friendship Society
Individual artists	Vancouver Youth Radio
Kitsilano Neighbourhood House	Vibrant Surrey

The Carnegie Centre Newsletter featured our Photo Contest in their May issue (Appendix C, archival version only of this report). This was especially important because this newsletter is a major source of information for the residents of the Downtown Eastside, Canada's poorest neighbourhood and ground zero for the homelessness crisis in this country.

It is worth to focus on PIVOT, since we ended up developing a closer collaboration as described later on in this report. I had contacted John Richardson, PIVOT Legal Society Executive Director regarding the photo contest, (PIVOT had written a letter of support for the project) and we discussed possibilities to spread the word. He put me in touch with Carolyn Wong, Coordinator of PIVOT's Hope in Shadows project and she was of great help both in terms of leads and distribution of the information.

Towards the end of April, I concentrated on consolidating and coordinating the working group. Our first meeting took place on April 23 at SPARC's office. We focused on explaining the project in detail, the committee's purpose and the recruitment of participants. The final CWG was comprised of:

Jaimie McEvoy	The Hospitality Project, Shiloh-Sixth Avenue United Church
Jeff Brooks	Former Social Planner - City of Vancouver
Judy Graves	Tenant Assistance Program City of Vancouver
Laura Stannard	Citywide Housing Coalition
Nancy Hall	Former Mental Health Advocate
Rosemary Collins	Wilson Heights United Church

## May

Simultaneous to the push to promote the photo contest, I launched the callout to the participant recruitment campaign and the search for a Counsellor/Support Person for the project. The first workshop participant applications started to trickle in: the word about the project was slowly spreading around.

In the midst of the second most aggressive campaign of Headlines' database optimization I ever embarked on, I started to organize and systematize a list of organizations and deepen my research of community resources.

The Burnaby Task Force on Homelessness announced that they supported *after homelessness...* in principle, and that Colleen Fitzgerald would become the liaison between the Task Force and Headlines. David and I had a great meeting with Colleen and she agreed to help us spread the word about workshop participant recruitment.

We also met with Terry Hunter and Teresa Vandertuin, from Vancouver Moving Theatre, old friends of Headlines and the producers of the *Heart of the City Festival*, a major feature of the Downtown Eastside cultural and artistic landscape. We had a lovely discussion about ways we could partner and how they could best support the project. They surely followed through their offer later on by helping us to network the project at various stages.

It became clear to David and I that we needed to recruit what we called a Community Liaison (CL), to help us tap into Downtown Eastside community; somebody with the 'street credibility' and community connections in the area to help us recruit participants and promote the performances later on. We thought of Sandra Pronteau, who played *Angel* in our 2004 mainstage project *Practicing Democracy* and with whom I met on May 20<sup>th</sup> to discuss the position responsibilities and a rough outreach plan. Sandra's help proved truly invaluable while acting as CL (later on she joined the cast during an emergency<sup>1</sup>). Sandra's final report can be found as Appendix D.

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<sup>1</sup> Please refer to David Diamond's Final Report at:  
[http://headlinestheatre.com/past\\_work/after\\_homelessness/reports\\_after\\_homelessness.htm](http://headlinestheatre.com/past_work/after_homelessness/reports_after_homelessness.htm) )

Another good connection was the one I established with Bob Gilson, from the Network of Inner City Community Services Society. They coordinate the Hastings Street Media Lab which provides disadvantaged youth with the opportunity to explore and develop their creativity working with various forms of multi-media be it music, video or digital graphic arts. He agreed to spread the word about the photo contest and the project in general through the Vancouver Youth Radio. Another lovely surprise was to receive a phone call from a Youth Worker at Frog Hollow Neighbourhood House, who was organizing an outing with a group of youth to take pictures in the streets and submit them to the photo contest, asking for some guidance.

David and Adeline Huynh, Headlines' Production Manager had booked a venue-touring trip to New Westminster to decide on the second performance space for *after homelessness...* I tagged along with them because I knew they were going to meet with key people in the area working on the ground with the homeless population, and I wanted to activate them as recruitment and grassroots promotions agents. And so, I connected with Dave Brown and Will Shnarde, from the Lookout Society and Reverend Mevis, from the St. Barnabas Anglican Church. Although none of the spaces we toured fit our technical requirements, they both became really good contacts for the project. After a systematic search throughout Surrey, and following through a long series of email introductions initiated by Jim Sands, Adeline was finally able to find a great venue in the core of New Westminster: The Holy Trinity Cathedral.

## June

I went to the Megaphone Magazine fundraiser on Friday, June 12 at the Interurban Gallery. I had the opportunity to talk about the project with people attending the event.

On June 17, we had our second meeting with our CWG. The goal of the meeting was to determine the themes and facilitators for the mini-conference, now called Community Dialogue Sessions. Although following the meeting we had some frustrating email exchanges to nail down the specifics of the Sessions, this was an unorthodox, lively session where we witnessed how the CWG members' expertise on issues of homelessness was truly enriching the project.

On June 19<sup>th</sup>, I made a presentation at The Kettle Friendship Society. There were between 50 and 60 people at their lunch program and many showed interest in being part of the project. I gave away many brochures. When I first contacted Jenette MacArthur, their SEED Employment Program Coordinator I didn't realize that The Kettle has Supported Housing Programs and Enhanced Supported Apartments, as well as Women's Transitional Housing, and several Licensed Care Facilities with many outreach workers that would help to spread the word about the project!

The word was certainly out. I received an unexpected email from Stephen Long, a collective member of Gallery Gachet offering the gallery's support to the project. We then scheduled a meeting for June 24 to introduce us to the gallery staff and brainstorm ideas as to how we could collaborate. The obvious conclusion was to showcase the winning contest photographs in an exhibition in the Fall, ideally running concurrently to the *after homelessness...* performances

(happening a few blocks away from the gallery), and to engage local artists, community and gallery members in the contest through a workshop on the basics of photography coordinated and sponsored by the gallery. It was the perfect way to involve the community in the process. Unfortunately, due to lack of promotion, only 6 people (all Gachet volunteers) attended the workshop, since it was announced only four days before the date.

On the bright side, our ongoing work with Gallery Gachet resulted in the development of a larger collaboration. It was decided that instead of a solo exhibition of the photo contest top 10 finalists, we would join the Oppenheimer Park and PIVOT's Hope in Shadows photo contest in a collective exhibition. It was a perfect match: Oppenheimer Park Community Art Show *In Our Backyard*, featured works by artists from the creative community in and around Oppenheimer Park. Works included printmaking, painting, traditional craft, installations, drawings, video and documentation; *Hope in Shadows: portraits of our community*, was a selection of winning photographs from the annual Hope in Shadows contest for Downtown Eastside residents. The exhibition was scheduled for Nov 6 to 29, 2009. To see our top 10 finalists go to:

[http://headlinetheatre.com/past\\_work/after\\_homelessness/photo\\_contest\\_after\\_homelessness.htm](http://headlinetheatre.com/past_work/after_homelessness/photo_contest_after_homelessness.htm)

One big discovery about the photo contest: when we launched it we didn't take into account the fact that for many DTES residents, owning a camera is way beyond their means. We just took it for granted. Carolyn from *Hope in Shadows* first brought it to our attention, and she explained to me how they actually distribute disposable cameras in the DTES. And so, we bought 10 cameras, 4 of which were distributed in New Westminster through The Hospitality Project and 6 more were given away by Sandra our CL.

I contacted Allyson Muir, Manager of Mental Health & Addiction Housing, from the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority, who had provided us with a letter of support. After updating her regarding the project she invited me to present it on June 25 to a group of about 15 Supported Housing frontline workers attending their monthly meeting organized by Allyson. It was an amazing opportunity to introduce the project to the perfect crowd. Some of them had already heard about ***after homelessness...*** through their own networks, but everybody was excited about distributing my recruitment information: the perfect ripple effect.

## July

Since the recruitment campaign was up and running smoothly, I turned my attention to finalizing the coordination of the Community Dialogue Sessions. Even though the meeting with the CWG had been a fabulous exchange, and we had moved further ahead on defining the themes and listing potential panelists, we hit a wall. The clock was ticking and summer was upon us. Even though the Sessions were still months away, most of the people in our list were busy stakeholders in the community. Also, I was in charge of designing the promotional materials for both the play and the Sessions and the print deadlines overlapped with the participant recruitment deadline and subsequent participant interviews in September. I was going to be extremely busy and I needed to manage my schedule wisely.

Thus, letters of invitation went out to the original list of panelists. As anticipated, we soon realized that some of them couldn't attend due to previous commitments. Our problem was that when a person was unable to participate, we at Headlines were the least qualified to suggest a substitute, we needed the CWG to take a more proactive role in finding alternate panelists. So I launched a round of individual telephone meetings with CWG to survey possibilities, get contact information or arrange email introductions.

Another concern of ours that came up was the lack of diverse voices. It was very important to have a true exchange of ideas, discuss the issues that really matter to the larger community. We wanted the Dialogue Sessions to: 1) be a true invitation to explore what can be done in the future, not engage in finger-pointing sessions to discuss what has or has not be done; 2) have an open floor format, in other words, reduce the time that the "experts" would have to present their perspectives to 10 minutes each and engage the community in the discussion for the rest of the session. It was also essential to invite a homeless person to join the panel; and 3) be a forum for a wide range of perspectives so we weren't *talking to the converted*. For us, this was

the meaning of having a dialogue, and not just recreate a monologue of people who agree: what did the grassroots mainstream community see as solutions to housing the homeless in terms of location and financial resources, for instance? Unfortunately, we were less successful at point 3, since we were not able to tap into any of the people/organizations that had been quite vocal against the creation of homeless shelters in their areas of residence to invite them to join the panel and attend the Sessions.

By the end of July, with many panelists confirmed and their bios delivered to us, I was able to start the overall design of the Sessions brochure, only leaving blank the slots of those few panelists left to be confirmed (see Appendix E, print and archival versions only for hard copies). This is the final version of the poster-brochure for Dialogue Sessions (see left and next page).

**headlines theatre**  
presents

# Community Dialogues: housing the homeless

3 days of community dialogues  
- in partnership with the  
- theatre project  
- to enrich a Community Action Report  
for government and social service agencies.

**Theatre Making Policy. Speak out and be heard.**

**Firehall Arts Centre**  
280 East Cordova St. Vancouver  
Nov 24, 25 and 26, 2009  
headlinestheatre.com

**All events are FREE**  
11:30pm each day

**November 24**  
*location, location, location*

Is it viable to create shelters and/or housing in the communities in which homeless people are residing? If so, how? If not, why?

Moderator: Kathryn Greisinger, Journalist

Panelists:  
- Shirley Chan, Executive Director, Building Opportunities with Business  
- Dr. Kerry Jang, Councillor, City of Vancouver and Professor, Dept of Psychiatry, UBC  
- Anne Klöppenberg, Former City Planner, City of Vancouver

**November 25**  
*What makes a home a "home"?*

Beyond bricks and mortar, what are the essential ingredients of safe, appropriate housing?

Moderator: David Diamond, Artistic Director, Headlines Theatre

Panelists:  
- Liz Evans, Executive Director, PHS Community Services Society  
- Sandra Proutreau, Community Activist  
- Mark Smith, Executive Director, RainCity Housing and Support Society

**November 26**  
*The 5 Ws: who here hat hen hy is the Money?*

How do we finance safe, appropriate housing for people who have been homeless?

Moderator: Charlie Smith, Editor, Georgia Straight

Panelists:  
- Craig Crawford, Vice-President of Development Services, BC Housing  
- Jill Davidson, Assistant Director, Housing Policy, City of Vancouver  
- Catharine Hume, Vancouver Site Coordinator, At Home? Our 5th Project, Mental Health Commission of Canada  
- James McEvoy, Director of the Hospitality Project and New Westminster City Councillor

**15 Legislative Theatre Performances in Metro Vancouver:**  
Theatre Making Policy

**Firehall Arts Centre**  
280 East Cordova St. Vancouver • Nov 24-26, 2009  
The Holy Trinity Cathedral  
514 Columbia St. New Westminster • Dec 1 & 2, 2009

Free passes available at various homeless support groups

Website: [www.headlinestheatre.com](http://www.headlinestheatre.com)  
Info: [headlinestheatre.com](mailto:headlinestheatre.com) or 604.871.0508

**Sponsors:**



## August

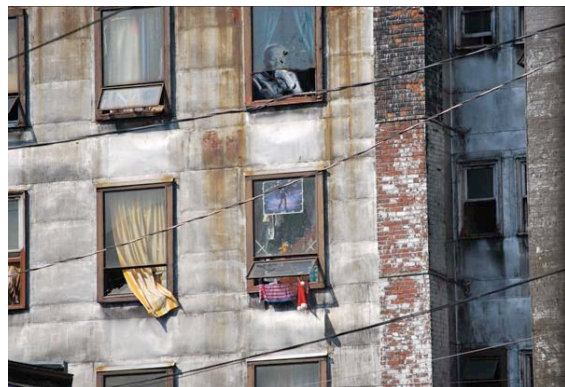
Among my cyclical duties throughout the year, there is the coordination of our *Theatre for Living* Annual Training Sessions, taking place in August. Although trainees register all-year-round, July and the beginning of August are the busiest time to deal with final registrations, cancellations, liaise with our Financial Administrator, etc. Thirty people from all over North America and the world attend our trainings, and I was occupied with it for most of August, while at the same time dealing with the coordination of the Community Dialogue Sessions, the Photo Contest submissions and participant recruitment. The Photo Contest deadline was August 24. We received 265 photos mostly from all over the Lower Mainland. A few came from the rest of Canada, India, Thailand and Mexico. While Gallery Gachet would coordinate a jury to select the top 9 finalists, we agreed that it would be our prerogative at Headlines to select the first place since it would be used in all promotional materials. We selected Donna Ross' *Stories Untold*. Even though we loved her photo, David, Gabriela De Lucca (Headlines' Publicist), Donna and I met to engage in a creative discussion about how to enhance the photo to fit our vision of the project. David felt that it needed a human presence and Donna agreed, so I worked my Photoshop magic to add it. See below to compare the original version, the modified version and the final poster (see Appendix F of the print and archival versions for hard copies of the poster and flyer):



Original



Enhanced





## September

Applications to join the cast and workshop kept arriving. By the deadline on September 15, we had received 125, a record number in Headlines' history. We had to go through all applications and boil them down to 40. And so, David and I had four extremely intense days of ten interviews each to shortlist the 14 workshop participants and 6 cast members. Although David will ultimately choose the cast, the process is one of my favorite tasks within my job because it always gives me the opportunity to feel closely in touch with the selection of the people who will be at the heart of the project. Their participation in the workshop will create the mandate for the play. Having been in charge of recruitment, collecting and reading all the participants' submissions was an immense gift. People shared amazing, sometimes terrible, heart-wrenching personal histories in writing and during the interviews, and having access to them always makes me feel truly humble and honoured. Their very presence and genuine desire to be part of a project that will effect change, is a testament to their resilience and ability to rise above the dreadful, multilayered effects that homelessness can have on one's dignity and humanity.

We held our third and last meeting with the CWG. The goal of the meeting was to enrich the grassroots publicity strategy for *after homelessness...* The main task of CWG was to help us with the grassroots promotion of the performances through their established networks and ongoing on-the-ground activities. Our request included the forwarding of an email invitation and a reminder to the performances; direct outreach by phone to their own contacts to

activate further networks; distribution of posters and flyers to promote the production through established networks and on a one-on-one basis to their clients/constituencies.

In mid-September, Melanie Kuxdorf came on board as Community Outreach / Publicity Assistant to help us with the promotion of the Community Dialogue Sessions.

I prepared all print materials to go to press by the end of September.

## October



Since we now had the definitive image for our promotional materials, I proceeded to develop the final version of the project and Dialogue Sessions websites: [http://headlinestheatre.com/past\\_work/after\\_homelessness/index.htm](http://headlinestheatre.com/past_work/after_homelessness/index.htm)

[http://headlinestheatre.com/past\\_work/after\\_homelessness/cds\\_after\\_homelessness.htm](http://headlinestheatre.com/past_work/after_homelessness/cds_after_homelessness.htm)



We had discussed the need to ensure that the homeless population would be able to attend the show. Ticket price was \$10, but we agreed to reestablish the same free voucher system that we used with *shattering* (Headlines' 2008 Western Canada Tour), which basically involved sticking a *Free Entry for 2* label on the flyers. I then would distribute them widely through organizations working on the ground with the homeless.

And so, the grassroots publicity campaign began. Working in collaboration with Melanie and Gabriela, we came up with the text to create an email template for the grassroots campaign. My system involves first calling back my contacts in organizations originally reached out to recruit participants, and asking them to help us spread the word about the shows. I mail a couple of posters, a bunch of flyers and free vouchers, and request they mail to me in exchange their own materials for our resource table at the theatre lobby, to thus profile their services. I also ask them to forward an email template throughout their own networks:

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**From:** Dafne Blanco <outreach@headlinestheatre.com>  
**Date:** Thu, 29 Oct 2009 15:39:10 -0800  
**To:** <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** after homelessness... Headlines' 2009 main stage project

Hi Adam,

It was nice to talk with you on the phone today. Thank you for agreeing to forward the email below throughout your networks, please ask your contacts to do the same. I will also mail a couple of posters, flyers and the free passes. If support workers at RainCity want to organize a group of people to come to the shows, they can contact me directly and I'll set a group reservation.

And we do have a resource table in the theatre lobby, so it'd be great if you could you mail me some materials about your programs to our address below.

I'll see you at one of the shows! All the best,

Dafne Blanco  
Community Outreach Coordinator  
**Headlines Theatre**  
:: :: ::

Headlines Theatre presents  
**after homelessness...**

Homelessness. We see it everyday. It breeds rejection and desperation. We want to help, but we block it out in order to live with it, to cope, to keep on going down the street.

We know solutions exist – but how do we tap into them? How do we create safe and affordable housing in Metro Vancouver?

**Headlines** is offering a creative response: using theatre as a conduit to explore solutions together. Enter **after homelessness...** a Forum Theatre play; a fun, dynamic, audience-interactive evening created and performed by people who have been homeless.

The project includes the **Community Dialogue Sessions: housing the homeless**, a series of moderated panel discussions that will get at the nuts and bolts of creating safe, affordable and supportive housing and a group art exhibition at Gallery Gachet ( <http://www.gachet.org/> ) for the Downtown Eastside Heart of the City Festival

**after homelessness...** and the **Dialogue Sessions** will generate a Community Action Report which is designed to inform policy. Headlines Theatre has written agreements from six major organizations, including the City of Vancouver, the Greater Vancouver Regional Steering Committee on Homelessness, BC Housing and the Mental Health Commission of Canada, to receive the report for their research.

**Theatre Making Policy. Speak out and be heard.**

November 21 to 29, 2009 at 8pm  
Preview November 20 • Tickets 2 for 1  
**Firehall Arts Centre - 280 E. Cordova St,  
Vancouver, BC**  
Reservations: **604.689.0926** - Tickets: \$10 +  
\$2 advance purchase fee

December 1 to 6, 2009 at 8pm  
**Holy Trinity Cathedral - 514 Carnarvon St,  
New Westminster, BC**  
Reservations: **604.871.0508** - Tickets: \$10

*Free tickets available at various homelessness support groups*

**Reservations recommended**  
<http://headlinestheatre.com>

Headlines Theatre gratefully acknowledges :: Operating Support: Canada Council for the Arts + City of Vancouver + BC Gaming + BC Arts Council + The Melusine Foundation :: Project Support: Catherine Donnelly Foundation + Vancouver Foundation + City of Vancouver's Great Beginnings Program + Coast Capital Savings Credit Union + VanCity Foundation + CAW-Canadian Auto Workers + Columbia Institute + Hamber Foundation :: Thank you to our Media Sponsors: Shaw TV + CBC + Georgia Straight + Co-op Radio :: Thank you to our Community Partners for their help and support: SPARC BC and our Community Working Group + PHS Community Services Society + Gallery Gachet + The Downtown East Side Heart of the City Festival and Vancouver Moving Theatre + RainCity Housing and Support Society

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Many times we have witnessed the extraordinary ripple effect that this method of communication has in reaching out far and wide. It is always amazing to see how the information that first goes to organizations dealing with the issues, ends up reaching way deeper into the larger community. I imagine that's explained by the fact that community workers are members of that larger community first and foremost; we are all connected after all. It is also true that social workers understand, for the most part, how the project helps further their own mandate.

At the time, I was coordinating the efforts of Melanie, our Community Outreach and Publicity Assistant; Sandra, Community Liaison; Nicole Dyer, who became our intern for only a short period due to a personal situation; and two volunteers, Clare Mcnamee-Annett and Alisa Stanton who helped us to spread the word in the UBC and SFU campuses, respectively. I also got in touch with Shyam Wazir, a friend of Headlines who was a participant of the *Theatre for Living* workshop that led to the creation of our 2005 production *Here and Now*. Shyam remained in contact throughout the years and had offered to help with **after homelessness...** After a couple of conversations, the idea of producing a TV Public Service Announcement (PSA) came up and he volunteered to produce it.

While the grassroots promotion campaign was well underway, I also spent a good chunk of time designing the bus shelter poster (it looked spectacular on such a big format!) and several newspaper ads for both the play and the Community Dialogue Sessions. See two samples below:

Homelessness Action Week was a series of events around Metro Vancouver throughout October 11-17, coordinated by several organizations. On October 15, I attended the The Gathering Place *Homeless Connect*. The event was for people who were homeless or at-risk of homelessness and was geared around wellness and self-care. They offered services like haircuts, footcare, showers, Income Assistance Intake, and food. I was able to distribute free vouchers for the play to the homeless people accessing the services and I introduced the project to some of the volunteers there, who came from all walks of life, including the corporate world. I connected with Erika De Salvo, who was coordinating the event and she put me in touch with Marianne Davidson, The Gathering Place Volunteer Coordinator.



It was time to send the traditional *Opening Night Invitation*, which went out on Oct 29 via our email marketing web-based application to 364 contacts and to 103 via regular mail (Appendix

G, archival version only). I suggested to the team to extend the invitation to *Opening Weekend* (Nov 21-22). The reason behind my suggestion was two-fold: 1) *Opening Night Invitation* truly helps to start a buzz and build audiences; and 2) the Firehall Arts Centre holds 136 seats, minus the 20 seats that we reserved every night for free voucher walk-ins, totals 116. We invited 467 people and their one guest, which equals 934, how could we honour only 12.4% of the invitations? It is true that not 100% of the guests would RSVP, but why waste the opportunity? After all, we only needed 24.8% of the invitees to respond in order to fill the house on Opening Night, as well as next day – a Sunday, which is traditionally a close-to-dead night. This strategy, in conjunction with the strong ongoing outreach and mainstream publicity campaigns paid off, as I will describe later in this report.



Final coordination happened with Gallery Gachet, Oppenheimer Park and PIVOT's Hope in Shadows via email and telephone before the Opening of our collective exhibition: ***We call it home: Headlines Theatre + Oppenheimer Park + Hope in Shadows.***

On November 13, I joined a panel presentation and discussion at the Downtown Eastside Arts4All Institute, produced by the Vancouver Moving Theatre and Jumblies Theatre. The title of the panel was *May I have this dance? Forming Community Partnerships*. The purpose of the session was to provide an in-depth introduction to principles and practices of community-engaged arts. Using ***after homelessness...*** as a point of reference for my presentation, I was able to indirectly seed excitement about the show, which didn't stop me from making a direct invitation at the end and distributed flyers to all the attendees.

## November - December

The grassroots publicity campaign intensified. The ideal plan is to focus on it almost exclusively, since we were three weeks prior to Opening Night. However, the reality of production time prevails. Multitasking is a must and my work pace is hectic. Besides the campaign, I had to collect materials for our resource table (please see samples at the end of the binder, print version only) and design the layout of the Evening Programme, due on Nov 11. (Appendix H, print and archival versions only). It is the Publicist's task to gather the copy while I create the layout, a time-consuming endeavour, which ideally, should start as early as possible by gathering the production team and cast bios, and a word from the Artistic and Managing Director. There is also the compiling of a list of thank yous and acknowledgements (a task shared by all the staff, but coordinated by me before the definitive version is "dumped" into

the programme). The bios need to be approved by the cast and we have to proofread it several times before it goes to press. Handling it in this manner allows me to work on the layout in between tasks well in advance before the deadline – a week before opening, completing it as much as possible before crunch time, when all the final details pour over us. It’s all about time management!

In the midst of all the major tasks, many other details had to be taken care of: create oversized banners for the sandwich boards on the sidewalk pointing people to the venue; create a file with the sponsor logos to be delivered to the Tele/Webcast Director; edit/produce or make sure that cast photos for the theatre lobby are ready; constantly update or ensure that the website is updated with the latest information; send electronic newsletter reminders, and one week before opening night, get on the phone to remind the people in my network of organizations that the show is about to open.

While we were going insanely busy in the office, the cast was experiencing the complexities of the issue, which transcended the streets right into the rehearsal venue<sup>2</sup> and Sandra, our Community Liaison, had to step in to take on the role of *Shawna*. This left me without her valuable support on the ground just when I needed her the most to help promote the shows among the street population. I interviewed two people to take over her contract but that didn’t work out. Happily, my concerns were unwarranted, since the ball was already rolling and by way of the outreach campaign, we had already reached into the homeless population through organizations and agencies. In the end, a total of 488 free vouchers were used by members of the community who wouldn’t have been able to attend the theatre otherwise (288 at the Firehall Arts Centre and 198 at The Holy Trinity Cathedral).

*“I lived on the porch of Rectory/Holy Trinity Cathedral for almost 5 months. **after homelessness...** really hit Home, so to speak. I thought it was very well done! It has inspired me to try to help the Street People I met while I was outside. I was never homeless while at Trinity. Many thanx for an excellent play.” – Lawrence, audience member*

For a complete list of audience members’ and media quotes go to:

[http://headlinetheatre.com/past\\_work/after\\_homelessness/reports\\_after\\_homelessness.htm](http://headlinetheatre.com/past_work/after_homelessness/reports_after_homelessness.htm)

At this point, I was very pleased to start getting requests for free vouchers from organizations that I didn’t know of! The word was certainly out.

Traditionally, although not written in stone, it is the Production Manager’s task to network our live, interactive webcast with our worldwide-spread contacts, while I take on a supporting role. I shared my experience of previous webcasts with Adeline, including brainstorming a list of key people and old friends of Headlines around the world, the need to follow up by phone and email with them, etc. I put together the intro page to the webcast interface and sent two

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<sup>2</sup> (for more details, see David Diamond’s Final Report at [http://headlinetheatre.com/past\\_work/after\\_homelessness/reports\\_after\\_homelessness.htm](http://headlinetheatre.com/past_work/after_homelessness/reports_after_homelessness.htm))

announcements through our email lists. Although a truly exciting aspect of the project, it is always a delicate balance when promoting the webcast, since we want to prevent the local audience from choosing to watch the project in the convenience of their homes, rather than venture out into the cold, dark November night and go to the theatre, where you have to pay a ticket price.

Preview Night finally arrived. In the midst of all the nervous excitement, we got news in the office from David in the Firehall, that a member of the cast hadn't shown up for rehearsal. It was not like him. The situation was absolutely unexpected and extremely hard to process. We all in the office engaged in trying to find him. We finally heard news from him next day confirming that he was stable and in the hospital. It was lovely to see how his supporting community stepped in, as well as we did at Headlines, to the best of our abilities.

As I mentioned earlier, Opening Night was a great success. We were sold out and had a lineup of people hoping to get in. This was the case throughout most of the Vancouver run at the Firehall, up until the night of the webcast on November 29, which was also the final night there. That particular night there was a lineup of more than 20 people trying desperately to get in. Among them, there was a group of people from St. James Community Services Society carrying free passes. I was happy to see that all of them made it into the theatre.

Below is a thank you note, one of many, from a community worker who received free vouchers and distributed them among her clients:

-----  
**From:** Katalin Bencsik <[REDACTED]>  
**Date:** Mon, 7 Dec 2009 15:54:56 -0800  
**To:** <outreach@headlinestheatre.com>  
**Subject:** Appreciations

Hi Dafne,

I just wanted to thank you again for our clients to be able to go and see your Headline Theatre production. I only got positive feedback from clients who attended. Congratulations for coordinating this successful production. Our clients sometimes experience homelessness and poverty first hand, and they were able to emotionally connect to the production for sure. Thank you again, and if you have more productions available with similar issues, please keep us in mind. We would love to spread the word about it again.

**Kathy Bencsik**  
Group Facilitator/Life Skills Counsellor  
Burnaby Family Life/Life Skills Services  
-----

There were other ways in which the project stimulated the community. For instance, inspired by *after homelessness...* More Than A Roof Society (they manage supported housing buildings across Metro Vancouver) organized an in-house theatre troupe for Christmas to look at issues directly affecting their communities.



## My media involvement

A bit forced by circumstances, I had to overcome my fear of media interviews for this project. It was a great learning experience and a nice change for me, since in previous projects I had only focused on the Spanish-speaking media, either by translating our press releases or/and giving radio interviews. Following is a list of the interviews in which I was involved:



(Okay, I couldn't help it! Please indulge me. I HAD to include the photo above, [Dafne Blanco ready for action], *Vancouver Courier*, Nov 25, 2009).

Date	Media	Focus
11.18.09	Co-op Radio <i>Wake up with Co-op</i>	Theatre as a means of educating community
12.01.09	Radio Canada Int'l - <i>Canada in the Americas</i>	Headlines, CMHC and the show
11.25.09	Vancouver Courier	Community Dialogue Sessions
11.30.09	Asian Look	(With other Headlines' staff) show

## Three Days of Community Dialogue Sessions

As I mentioned earlier, Melanie was mostly in charge of the promotion of the Dialogue Sessions. I supported the process by sharing with her our system of grassroots promotion, and by including information and Dialogue Sessions brochures in every package sent to my list of organizations.

Beyond the usual administrative tasks around the coordination of the panel discussion, there was very little logistical work to be done, since the Sessions took place at the Firehall stage. Melanie and I (along with the Firehall Technical Director) managed to set up the space for the sessions and welcome the attendees.

Below is the final structure of the panels:

Attendance	Date	Theme	Moderators and Panelists
40	Tue, Nov 24	<b><i>Location, Location, Location</i></b>	<b>Moderator:</b> Kathryn Gretsinger <b>Panelists:</b> Shirley Chan, Kerry Jang and Anne Kloppenborg
59	Wed, Nov 25	<b><i>What makes a home a home?</i></b>	<b>Moderator:</b> David Diamond <b>Panelists:</b> Liz Evans, Sandra Pronteau and Mark Smith
58	Thu, Nov 26	<b><i>Who Where What When Why is the Money?</i></b>	<b>Moderator:</b> Charlie Smith <b>Panelists:</b> Craig Crawford, Jill Davidson, Catharine Hume, Jaimie McEvoy, Violet-Rose Pharoah

For full details about the Community Dialogue Sessions go to:  
[http://headlinetheatre.com/past\\_work/after\\_homelessness/cds\\_after\\_homelessness.htm](http://headlinetheatre.com/past_work/after_homelessness/cds_after_homelessness.htm)

In the end, the Sessions were very successful: considering the fact that they happened in the middle of the week, in the afternoon, during a week of pouring rain and with many other community events happening simultaneously in the DTES. They were very well attended. The audience was quite diverse, including social and agency workers, civil servants, residents of the DTES and people living the issues under discussion. The audience was truly engaged and we received the sincere compliments of some of the panelists for the great organization and turnout.

The ideas generated by the Community Dialogue Sessions were collected by our Community Scribe to enrich her Community Action Report.<sup>3</sup> The report will be distributed to the three levels of government and social service agencies and grassroots organizations dealing with the issues.

Personally, I would've loved to see more common folk attending, more of the mainstream community members whose lives rarely intersect with the issues, except when they hear them portrayed in the news or they walk into a homeless person at their condo's dumpster or at the gates of a downtown corporate building. In the end, I think we were more successful at tapping into that sector through the performances.

### **The New Westminster Run at The Holy Trinity Cathedral**

We opened the New Westminster week of performances on December 1<sup>st</sup>. As we had a great run in Vancouver, we were hoping that the momentum would carry onto the second venue. Although this happened to a great degree, it soon became clear that we needed to give it an extra push. New Westminster was new territory for us, and there were not nearly as many grassroots organizations working on the issues there as in Vancouver. On top of this, the week prior to opening at The Holy Trinity Cathedral, I had not focused on making reminder calls to organizations in New Westminster and bordering municipalities as I usually do. I had spent almost the entire week before at the Community Dialogue Sessions, diverting precious working hours that should have been used to push for grassroots promotion of the second week. I overlooked this when I developed my work timeline and Melanie's contract was over. I was on my own and time was against me, but I launched a desperate reminder mini-campaign a couple of days before moving to the second venue. Part of the strategy was to reactivate key contacts who had been great and also made cold calls to shelters and as many churches I could in the area (see list of shelters in Appendix I, archival version only). Last minute invitations to shelters was part of the plan from the beginning, since it's impossible for people living under such

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<sup>3</sup> The Community Action will available at: [http://headlinetheatre.com/past\\_work/after\\_homelessness/reports\\_after\\_homelessness.htm](http://headlinetheatre.com/past_work/after_homelessness/reports_after_homelessness.htm)

precarious conditions to commit in advance to a night of theatre. Through Leya Eguchi, from the New Westminster Homelessness Coalition I was able to reach out directly to new key stakeholders there in that last week. However, I know for a fact that this was not the only source of information through which people learned about the show, since the word was already out thanks to the help of numerous people and organizations, especially Jaimie McEvoy and Robyn Kelly from the Hospitality Project. Jaimie, who is also a New Westminster City Councillor, graciously helped us to give it a final push by, among other things, announcing the show at a City Council meeting which has a large number of TV viewers.

I also knew that people were hearing about the project at their churches' Sunday services, including of course, our hosting venue The Holy Trinity Cathedral. This, as anybody who has been a Headlines' staff knows, epitomizes our highest grassroots promotion dreams and expectations.

Another wonderful surprise was the last minute supportive push of Peter Fedos, the Director of the Hyland House, Options for Community Living. Hyland House is a 35 bed emergency shelter for homeless men and women in Surrey. I had distributed the callout to participants through one of his colleagues earlier in the process, but hadn't been able to connect directly with him. I emailed Peter the information about the shows and soon after I realized how far and wide his network was. Layer after layer of forwarded emails originated from him, my original correspondence made their way back to me!

## Conclusions

Overall, from the grassroots/community engagement perspective, the project was a real success. Apart from the usual immense workload, and the stress during production due to ongoing deadlines, I can say that the project went quite smoothly.

As I mentioned before, we had 125 applications, a record number in Headlines' history; I contacted 120 organizations, also a record number, by phone and email and most of them also received posters, flyers and Community Dialogue Sessions brochures. A final list of organizations is included as Appendix J.

We had 9 performances at the Firehall Arts Centre in Vancouver and 6 at The Holy Trinity Cathedral in New Westminster. The response was phenomenal: 93% attendance rate and standing ovations almost every night. Audience members came from Burnaby, Coquitlam, Delta, Fort Langley, Langley, New Westminster, North Vancouver, Richmond, Squamish, Surrey, Vancouver, Victoria, White Rock, to name just some.

Like in any good project, its success lay in the right chemistry of all elements, both in terms of process and product: a well thought out proposal, strong outreach and mainstream media campaigns', great workshop participants and cast, and ultimately, the wonderful artistic quality of the production. The team was a mix of talent and experience, solid work ethics and commitment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dafne Blanco', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dafne Blanco  
Community Outreach Coordinator  
Headlines Theatre

# Appendices

### ***after homelessness...***

#### **Community Working Group Members Description of Activities**

Headlines Theatre is requesting a commitment for a total of 3 meetings between April and Sep, 2009, with tentative dates as follows:

1. Week of April 20-24
  2. Week of June 15-19
  3. Week of Sep 14-18
- And ongoing participation via phone and email

The tasks of the Community Working Group (CWG) will be divided into 2 main areas:

- **Networking and Grassroots Promotion** of the *after homelessness...* performances. This consists of 2 phases:

- **Meeting 1, April:** Help us to develop an action plan to identify and/or access local social services and community organizations to distribute information about participant recruitment.

- Timeline - Action plan to be implemented from May to Oct 2009
- Activities - Information sharing in terms of leads and community connections; forwarding of callout to participants mostly by email, fax and word of mouth.

- **Meeting 3, September:** Grassroots Promotion of the *after homelessness...* performances through the CWG members' established networks and ongoing on-the-ground activities. Headlines Theatre will provide all the promotional materials (posters, flyers, email invitations) to facilitate the process.

- Timeline - Action plan to be implemented from Sep to Nov, 2009
- Activities - Forwarding of an email invitation and a reminder to the performances; direct outreach by phone to their own contacts to activate further networks; distribution of posters and flyers to promote the production through established networks and on a one-on-one basis to their clients/constituencies

- **Strategic Planning for the 3-day mini-conference**

**Meeting 2, June:** A brainstorming session to identify themes and facilitators. Headlines Theatre will coordinate the logistics and administrative aspects of the mini-conference.

# after homelessness...

theatre making policy

An Audience-Interactive Theatre Project

Created and performed by  
people living issues of homelessness and mental health

Have you or a loved one been affected by homelessness?

Do you like to think on your feet?

**H**eadlines Theatre the producer of the 2004 award winning community project *Practicing Democracy*, as well our recent projects *Here and Now* and *SHATTERING*, (formerly known as *METH*) is working in collaboration with numerous grassroots organizations on our 2009 main stage project *after homelessness...*

*after homelessness...* will be created and performed by people who have been touched by homelessness and its connections to mental health,

whether it is through their own lives or the lives of loved ones. The play will perform for the general public and be a way for diverse audiences in Metro Vancouver to create a vehicle for people living the issues to help develop policy and plans to ensure that housing that is created is safe, appropriately supported and affordable.



**W**e are looking for up to twenty people to participate in a 6-day **Theatre for Living Workshop**.

No acting experience is necessary. Just a willingness to be honest about your experiences and a desire to play!

Participants should have a connection to homelessness and accompanying issues of mental health and want to use the theatre to do something about it. We need a diversity of perspectives from within the community to enrich this work.

We invite you to join us in developing this exciting project!

All the participants will be paid

Join the community workshop!

**T**he workshop will use theatre games and exercises to build trust and explore your experiences around the issue. In the beginning, these games and exercises will be non-verbal. Slowly, the workshop will create plays, based on the life experiences of the workshop participants. This will happen through a symbolic, physical language. It is these points of tension that will form the subject matter of the play. **You will not be asked to make testimonials where you tell really personal stories to the group.**

The purpose of the workshop is to gather the core material for the creation of the Forum Theatre production that will perform in Metro Vancouver

The workshop will take place from **October 17 to 22, 2009**, at the Russian Hall, 600 Campbell Ave, in Vancouver.

It is very important that you are able to commit to coming to every day all day of the workshop.

The cast and workshop participants will be a mix of people who have either experienced the homelessness and mental health issue in their own lives, or through their family members and friends. Having a living knowledge of the issue will be one of the essential criteria for participation.

Being in the play is not a healing opportunity – it is employment in a project the purpose of which is to create an artistic focal point for community discussion and transformation.

If you are keen to explore your relationship to these issues

your perspective is valuable to this workshop!

**Each workshop participant will be paid \$600.00 for the week and lunch will be provided each day. We will be able to arrange accommodation for up to 2 workshop participants (1 month) and 2 cast members (3 months) who are not currently in housing.**

Are you interested  
in being in the  
production?



**S**ix members of the community workshop will create the main-stage Forum Theatre play along with Headlines' Artistic Director David Diamond and a professional design team. We don't want the community workshop to be an audition so, if you want to be considered for the cast, you will be asked to do some improvisation work with David during the participant interview.

**Cast will be paid \$650 per week from October 17, 2009 to December 06, 2009. Housing will be provided for up to 2 cast members for the duration of the project.** Cast members will sign contracts stating they are available for the full time period and all performances.

**P**lease send us a letter/email/fax indicating that you are available to commit to the dates and times of the workshop (**Oct 17 to 22, 2009, from 9am to 5pm each day**). If you are interested in creating the public main-stage show and being a cast member, please indicate that you are available to do so (**Oct 17 to Dec 06, 2009**).

Please, also state why you want to be part of this project and how it is relevant to you. **And be sure to let us know how we can find you again (a phone number, email, mailing address, a contact person...)**. If you have any questions, feel free to give us a call at **604.871.0508**.

323-350 East 2nd Ave. Vancouver, BC • V5T 4R8  
fax: 604.871.0209 email: [info@headlinestheatre.com](mailto:info@headlinestheatre.com)



- **Fifteen Performances will take place in Metro Vancouver**
  - Firehall Arts Centre, 280 East Cordova St, Vancouver Nov 20 to 29, 2009
  - The Holy Trinity Cathedral, 514 Camarvon St, New Westminster, Dec 1 to 6, 2009
- **World Wide Webcast: Sunday, Nov 29 at 8pm**

## The Schedule

### • **Deadline for applications:**

September 15, 2009 (Maximum 20 participants)  
Please specify whether or not you are interested in going on to create the main stage production or if you would like to be in the workshop only. For more information, or if you would like to join, please call 604.871.0508 or <http://headlinestheatre.com/>

### • **Participant interviews and cast auditions:**

September 21, 22, 23 and 24, 2009  
All potential participants will be interviewed, those interested in being in the play will audition. It is not possible to prepare for this, just bring yourself and be willing to play!

### • **Final selections:**

October 02, 2009  
We will announce the workshop participants and cast.

### • **Workshop:**

October 17 to 22, 2009  
The **Theatre for Living Workshop** will take place from 9am - 5pm each day. Lunch provided.  
Russian Hall, 600 Campbell Ave, Vancouver

### • **Rehearsals:**

October 26 to November 15, 2009  
(9am - 5pm daily, Monday is off)  
The cast creates the main stage production.

### • **Performances:**

Nov 20 to Dec 6, 2009  
The Forum Theatre production will be performed 15 times in Metro Vancouver.  
Firehall Arts Centre & 2nd Venue TBA

• **Community Action Report:** In January 2010, the report will be released to the general public via Headlines' web site and to social service agencies & the Mental Health Commission of Canada, BC Housing, the City of Vancouver, the Greater Vancouver Regional Steering Committee on Homelessness, Raincity Housing and Coast Mental Health, among others.

Thanks for ongoing operational support:



And to alter homelessness... funders as of June 23, 2009:



And our media sponsors:  
**SHAW**



**Appendix D**

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**Headlines Theatre – “After Homelessness”  
Community Liaison Final Report  
January 4/2010  
By Sandra Pronteau**

On May 20/ 2009, I met with Miss Dafne Blanco (**Coordinator Outreach – CO**), Miss Gabriela De Lucca (**Publicist – P**), and Mr. David Diamond (**Artistic/Managing Director – AD**) to discuss the (**Community Liaison – CL**) job description and responsibilities involving “After Homelessness” Project.

My role in the CL position includes:

- Help network the photography contest
- Help network recruitment for the Community Workshop
- Help arrange and co-ordinate interviews and press coverage as necessary
- Work with OC and P regarding alternative publicity and marketing
- Attend production meetings, community meetings as necessary
- Represent Headlines on Committees, meetings etc.
- Keep track of contacts and meetings to be included in the OC’s Final Report.

In agreement to this position, I possess the ability and years of background experiences with knowledge surrounding community resources and its various service providers within the DTES geographic area was regularly announced on Vancouver Coop Radio - 102.7Fm through the program “**Eastside Story**” which airs every Monday.

Some of the meetings I had the privilege to attend include Headlines Theatre AGM to meet the Board of Directors (B.O.D). For whom I will be working and representing as well. This was held on June 4/09. I have also met with the 3-day mini Conference Housing Dialogue planning committee on June 17/09. The committee supported and asked if I would be willing to participant for the Housing Dialogue panel place during November. The three days were held at Firehall Arts Centre on November 24, 25, and 26, 2009 here in Vancouver for this Community Dialogues on housing the homeless.

While doing outreach work within the dtes community; I have attended the Carnegie Community Action Program (CCAP) meetings and encourage the committee members to take part in the Photo contest and the plus the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of the project. To include the workshop participants to assist the beginning process of “After Homelessness” production. Did some outreach on the streets with various individual’s who don’t utilize the services due to their personal reasons. This also surrounds being homeless and lacking trust in services.

The next couple of pages will include the organizations I have connected with. I would also like to add to end note I have used the website/emails contacts through various allies/friends as well.

## List of Organizations

Aboriginal Shelter  
201 Central Street; Vancouver, BC  
Ph. 604-720-9761

Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre  
1607 East Hastings Ave.; Vancouver, BC  
Ph. 604-720-9761

United We Can  
39 East Hastings; Vancouver, BC  
Ph. 604-681-0001  
E.D. Brian Dodd

Oppenheimer Park  
Vancouver, BC  
Parks Rec. Sandy

DTES Neighborhood House  
501 E. Hastings; Vancouver, BC  
Ph. 604-215-2030

DTES Senior's Centre  
509 E. Hastings; Vancouver, BC  
Ph. 604-254-2194

Coop Radio  
360 Columbia Street; Vancouver, BC  
Ph. 604-684-8494

YWCA Crabtree Corner  
533 E. Hastings Ave.; Vancouver, BC  
Ph. 604-216-1650

YWCA Sheway  
533 E. Hastings Ave; Vancouver, BC  
Ph. 604-216-1699

Union Gospel Mission  
616 E. Cordova Ave.; Vancouver, BC

Ph. 604-253-3323

Vancouver Native Health Society  
449 E. Hastings Ave.; Vancouver, BC  
Ph. 604-255-9766  
E.D. Lou Demarais

Positive Outlook Program (POP)  
441 East Hastings Ave.; Vancouver, BC

The Living Room Society  
528 Powell Street; Vancouver, BC  
Ph. 604-255-7026

Downtown Community Health  
569 Powell Street; Vancouver, BC  
Ph. 255-3151

Carnegie Community Centre  
401 Main Street; Vancouver, BC V6A-2T7  
Ph. 604-665-2220

Aboriginal Front Door Society  
384 Main Street; Vancouver, BC  
Ph. 604-697-5666

Salvation Army (SA) Harbour Lights  
119 E. Cordova; Vancouver, BC

(SA) Belkin House  
Richards Street; Vancouver, BC  
Email: [belkin\\_house@telus.net](mailto:belkin_house@telus.net)

New Haven Shelter – Salvation Army

Lifeskills Centre  
412 E. Cordova Street; Vancouver, BC  
Ph.60-4678-8278

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The following **Appendices** exist in the print version only of this report

- E** • hard copy of the Community Dialogue Sessions poster-brochure
- F** • hard copy of the show poster and flyer
- G** • hard copy of the Opening Weekend Invitation
- H** • hard copy of the Evening Programme, and
- I** • hard copy of the List of Shelters used in the last-minute New Westminster campaign

## Appendix J

List of organizations contacted by phone and/or email to distribute the photo contest, recruit workshop participants and cast, and to promote the performances of *after homelessness...*

Organization	Contact
<b>Community Working Group</b>	
<b>Community Partner:</b> SPARC BC - Social Planning and Research Council of BC	Jim Sands
Citywide Housing Coalition	Laura Stannard
Former Mental Health Advocate	Nancy Hall
Former Social Planner - City of Vancouver	Jeff Brooks
Tenant Assistance Program City of Vancouver	Judy Graves
The Hospitality Project, Shiloh-Sixth Avenue United Church	Jaimie McEvoy
Wilson Heights United Church	Rosemary Collins
614 (The Salvation Army)	Aaron White
Ahavat Olam	David Mivasair
BCCDC Street Nurse Program	Fiona Gold
British Columbia Non-Profit Housing Association	Karen Stone
Broadway Youth Resource Centre	Alison Emond
Building Opportunities with Business - BOB	Shirley Chan
Burnaby Family Life Skills Services	Kathy Bencsik
Burnaby Task Force on Homelessness	Colleen Fitzpatrick
Canadian Health Commission	Katy Vinson
Carnegie Centre	Rika Uto
Carnegie Community Action Project	Sandra Pronteau
Carnegie Newsletter	Paul Paylor
Canadian Auto Workers - CAW	Susan Spratt
Coast Mental Health	Cindy Lou Griffith
Coast Mental Health Resource Center	Justin Hachlaf
Covenant House - Vancouver	Mark Savard

Delta Clubhouse Program	Holly Krawchuk
Directions Youth Services	Ali Afzali
Dodson Rooms	Gordon Wiebe
Downtown Eastside Centre for the Arts	Dalannah Bowen
Downtown Eastside Neighbourhood House [DTES NH]	Stacey Bonenfant
DTES Community Activist	Mary Ann Cantillon
Fraserside Community Services Society	Caroline Bonesky
Gallery Gachet	Lara Fitzgerald
Goodman House	Scott McMyn
Greater Vancouver Food Bank Society	Martice Milton
Greater Vancouver Regional Steering Committee on Homelessness, Metro Vancouver	Judy Roberts
Homeless Nation Vancouver	Janelle Kelly
Hope for Freedom Society	Rob Thiessen
Hope in Shadows	Carolyn Wong
Humanities 101	Margot Butler
Interurban Gallery	Fundraising event
Justice Institute of BC	Michelle LaFlamme
Kaleidoscope	Donna Ross
Katherine Sanford Housing Society	Bonnie Rice
Kekinow Native Housing Society	Terry Frank
LifeSkills Centre	Shawnah Fossen
Living Wage Campaign	Michael McCarthy Flynn
Liz Gurney Shelter	Kim
Lookout Emergency Aid Society - DTES	Karen Young
Lookout Emergency Aid Society - New Westminster	Will Shnarde
Mavis McMullen Housing Society	Elizabeth Briemberg
More Than A Roof	Hector Com
MOSAIC	Sandra Chua
Network of Inner City Community Services Society - NICCSS	Bob Gilson

Network of East Vancouver Organizations - NEVCO	Fern Jeffries
New Fountain Shelter	Sarah Blyth
New View Society	Seraina Keush
New Westminster Homelessness Coalition	Leya Eguchi
New Westminster Outreach Group	Kevin Oxley
Newton Advocacy Group - Project Comeback	Sandie Seymour
Not In Anyone's Back Yard - NIABY	Through email and web email form
Oppenheimer Park	Carrie Campbell
Options for Community Living, Hyland House	Peter Fedos
Pacific Community Resources - New Westminster Youth Employment Resource Centre (NWYERC)	Paul Chartier
Peer to Peer	Sandra Dunn
PEERS Vancouver	Bonnie Taylor
Phoenix Society Transitional Housing Program	Brian Parker
PIVOT Legal Society	Laura Track
Port Coquitlam Food Bank	Joyce Lissimore
Progressive Housing Society	Jaye Robertson
RainCity Housing (performances)	Adam Mitchell
RainCity Housing (recruitment)	Daniele Hurley
S.O.S. (Settlement Orientation Services)	Byron Figueroa
SFU - Dialogue Program	Joanna Ashworth
South Fraser Community Services Society	Megan Baillie
Stevenson House Shelter	Anthony Owusu
Tenant Resource & Advisory Centre	Karen Frederickson
The Elizabeth Fry Society - Sheena's Place	Lisa St. Cyr
The Gathering Place	Mary Anne Davidson
The Gathering Place	Wendy Wood
The Holy Trinity Cathedral	Glynn Crew
The Kettle Friendship Society	Jenette MacArthur
The Purpose Society of the Lower Mainland	Anna Troung

The River (Community House in DTES)	Trista Perry
The Surrey Housing and Homelessness Society	Vera LeFranc
The War College	Jonathan Evans
Tri-Cities Task Force on Homelessness	Sandy Burpee
Trinity Western University - Drama Department	Kim Hayashi
United Way of the Lower Mainland	David Bernard
Vancouver Aboriginal Child and Family Services Society	Janeth Muñoz
Vancouver Coastal Health	Ron Carten
Vancouver Coastal Health - Mental health & Addiction Housing	Allyson Muir
Vancouver Foundation	Catharine Hume
Vibrant Surrey	Al Vigoda
You Count - Collingwood Neighbourhood House	Jennifer Gray-Grant
<b>Faith-based homelessness organizations</b>	
First United Church Mission - DTES	Nina Matthews
Lutheran Urban Mission Society	Pastor Brian Heinrich
Queens Avenue United Church	Monica Lee
Salvation Army Family Services - New Westminster	David MacPherson
Senior's Services Society	Kara-Leigh Jamieson
St Barnabas Anglican Church	Roxee Forrest
St. Andrew's-Wesley United Church - Homelessness and Mental Health Action Group	Don Evans
St. Francis de Sales Parish - Extreme Weather Shelter	Mylene Valli
St. James Community Services Society	Nola
The Salvation Army / Belkin House	Carlos Galvez
Union Gospel Mission - New Westminster Drop-in Centre	Harvey Froment
Union Gospel Mission - The Orchard	Alf Greening
Union Gospel Mission - Vancouver Drop-In Centre	Mike or Mariusz
Union Gospel Mission - Women's Outreach Team	Sarah Lee
<b>Shelters - New Westminster / Surrey</b>	

All Nations Youth Safe House - Surrey	
College Place - New Westminster	
Fraserside Emergency Shelter - New Westminster	
Gateway - Surrey	
Liz Gurney's - New Westminster	
Sheena's Place - Surrey	
Stevenson House - New Westminster	