

Nuit Blanche arts festival adds downtown, Broadway locations

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Saskatoon Express

Nuit Blanche Saskatoon is growing older and getting larger.

The annual nighttime arts festival, which is now in its fourth year, is expanding from the Riversdale neighbourhood to also include the Broadway and downtown areas. The free, all-ages event, which is scheduled for Sept. 30 from 7 p.m. to 1 a.m., is a celebration of art and culture that brings contemporary art into public spaces.

Michael Peterson, the curator for Nuit Blanche Saskatoon, hopes the event encourages people to explore areas of the city they may not have entered before and to see Saskatoon in a new light.

"We're bringing art into alleyways, into empty lots, into spaces people may not make part of their normal day," he said.

Peterson said there's some alignment between what the festival is doing and what's happening in the neighbourhoods, noting some business improvement districts are also trying to make use of the city's underutilized spaces. For example, Venn Coffee — one of a number of businesses that will remain open during Nuit Blanche — recently set up shop in the alley off Broadway Avenue, between 10th Street and Main Street.

"Broadway is trying to bring more traffic into their alleyways, so it's this

interesting space of the city growing and, hopefully, us being able to bring attention to that and to encourage sort of a safe exploration," he said.

This year's festival will showcase 38 local artists, as well as feature projects by visiting artists from France, New York City, Quebec, Ontario, Alberta, Manitoba and B.C.

One of the projects that will be displayed downtown is from Saskatoon-based artist and graphic designer Stephanie Kuse, who is creating a video to be projected on a screen suspended across an alley between Second Avenue South and Third Avenue South. The 15-minute video will feature footage gathered in Saskatchewan during the summer and will loop with audio created by Adam Logan.

Also downtown, another Saskatoon-based artist, Lindsey Rewuski, will be producing a project entitled *Auspices*, which will feature a large-scale projection on a building along with a live audio performance.

Peterson said it was the right time to expand the festival beyond Riversdale to include the downtown and Broadway areas.

"It's always been the festival's intention to expand throughout Saskatoon, to incorporate different neighbourhoods. It was simply not something that was



Michael Peterson is the curator for Nuit Blanche Saskatoon. (Zenja Ivkovic Photo)

achievable in year one or two as the festival's growing and funding is being developed, but we were at a point where

it was this year," said Peterson.

"It's been a full year of work. I wrote
(Continued on page 21)