

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### SAPPERTON PARK COMES TO LIFE WITH AEGIS WEST'S COMMUNITY CARNIVAL



New Westminster, BC – One of *posAbilities*' most anticipated community inclusion events of the year is back by popular demand. Celebrate diversity and inclusivity of all ages and abilities at the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Aegis West Carnival. On Friday, August 16 from 10:30am to 2pm, Sapperton Park will come to life with interactive games, engaging crafts, live entertainment, face painting, sports activities, and delicious BBQ food and treats. There is truly something for everyone to enjoy. As a free event, this carnival welcomes individuals who may face vulnerability to exclusion, to expand their social horizons in an accessible space. Attracting the attention of local community businesses and city clubs, this event is evolving into a hub for connection and collaboration.

Persons with developmental disabilities from *posAbilities*' Aegis West program and the staff team, have been collaborating with New Westminster's Neighbourhood Small Grants since 2012. Together, they have been creating projects which range from an open-to-community mural, to providing free gently-used clothing to community members, to teaching ASL to local elementary school students through songs, to hosting a summer carnival in the park. Each of these projects, from one-day events to months-long endeavours, foster inclusive opportunities for community within *posAbilities* to meet and connect with the greater community of New Westminster. The Vancouver Foundations' Neighbourhood Small Grants support people who want to make a difference in their community. The program is based on a simple but powerful idea, that "everyone is a valuable member of the community and that we all have something to share".

*"The various projects over the years could not have happened without the ongoing support of the Neighbourhood Small Grants and posAbilities. We look forward to many more years of collaboration for the overall benefit of the communities in which we live."* Amy Chang, Team Leader of *posAbilities*

Relationships form community. The social nature of this event is to encourage meaningful connections between family, friends, and community members. Sparking these social interactions in a safe and playful environment helps *posAbilities* create a sense of community and belonging that not only includes people with diverse abilities, but invites them to participate. By recognizing the strength of community, this summer event shines with vibrant culture and diversity.

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#### About *posAbilities*

*At posAbilities, we assist children, youth and adults with disabilities to lead meaningful and healthy lives. We work with families and community partners to deliver a full range of services that grow with the individual, including behaviour consultation, community inclusion, employment and home living. We are actively engaged in creating inclusive opportunities for the persons we support to flourish, continuously aspiring to challenge perceptions of ability and reduce the stigma that is often associated with persons who have developmental disabilities. Learn more at [www.posAbilities.ca](http://www.posAbilities.ca)*