

## Sharing Our Stories

### Queering Our Proud Prairie Past

Western Development Museum

2610 Lorne Avenue, Saskatoon

Tuesday, 14th June, 2022

12:30 PM to 9:30 PM

IN PERSON for the 1st time since 2019

(See Registration info on last page)



**12:30 PM to 1:15 PM REGISTRATION & COFFEE**

*Lobby & Saskatchewan Hall*

**1:15 PM to 2:00 PM OPENING ACTIVITIES**

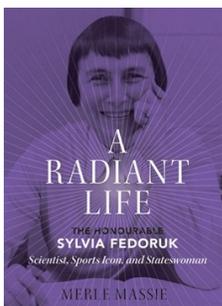
*Saskatchewan Hall*

## Welcome Words, Land Acknowledgement and Keynote Speaker

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**Keynote Speaker — Merle Massie will be speaking about the writing of her book**

### **A Radiant Life: The Honorable Sylvia Fedoruk**



**Merle Massie** is a Saskatchewan historian and author, raised in Saskatchewan's forest fringe and trained at the University of Saskatchewan. She is co-author (with Stuart Houston) of *36 Steps on the Road to Medicare: How Saskatchewan Led the Way*, and her second book, *Forest Prairie Edge: Place History in Saskatchewan*, won a Saskatchewan Book Award in 2015. She now lives on the prairies, farming with her husband and writing Saskatchewan stories.



**2:00 PM to 3:15 PM WORKSHOPS**

**Indigenous Beading and Storytelling — Jordy Ironstar (he/they) Gallery 2**

**Jordy Ironstar** is a Two Spirit Nakoda Oyadé and member of Cége K'ína First Nation, raised in Saskatoon. Jordy focuses on beadwork with [Wjcaǰpimaza O'j](#) (Beading By Ironstar). Jordy is also the Two Spirit Ambassador for Fierte Canada Pride, and Lead of the Two Spirit Working Group (Reconciliation Saskatoon).



**Queering the Countryside Panel — Laura Budd and Donny White** *Sask Hall* Live-streamed



An exploration of 2SLGBTQ+ identities and communities in rural Saskatchewan. (hosted by: University of Saskatchewan Archives)

**Laura Budd** (she/her) is an activist, mother, a peer navigator and transgender living in Yorkton, Saskatchewan. She is an active member of the province’s queer community, part of the grassroots efforts to help youth struggling with their identity and educate organizations about gender diversity.

**Donny White** (he/him) is a curator and historian who resides in Maple Creek.

**Gay Male Stories Panel — Gay Guys Meet Up — A Retrospective** *McLeod Hall*



The way gay men have found each other has changed over the decades. From bath houses and personal ads in newspapers in the 1970s to Grindr and other apps in the 2020s. A panel of men will discuss how things have changed over the years in Saskatoon and elsewhere. Attendees will be invited to contribute their stories.

**Moderator — Robert Clipperton** (he/him)— is an amateur historian and collector of stories.

**Panelists — TBA**

**“Queen for a Day: My Life in Drag”** *Gallery 3*

**Iona Whipp** was born in a van on a Saskatchewan highway not too many years ago and since then has skyrocketed to performer and hostess extraordinaire. Iona has a deep love for the stage and lives for the applause. Making a strong connection with her audience is paramount to her. She is so excited to emerge from the Covid cocoon and start reconnecting with people in person.



Just a few years ago....cough, the sun shone down with all its power and cast its glow to a spot in small town Saskatchewan. Next to that very spot sat **China White**, Drag Queen extraordinaire. China has been supporting and building LGBT communities all over North America. Her love of comedy and lack of eye brows made Drag a natural part of her existence.

Please also welcome Saskatoon’s newest queen, **Mary Jane!** This sweet blonde popsicle will have you saying things like “is that a man or a women? I’m confused, and she looks strong.” The name really explains for itself if you know what I mean. \*wink \*wink .



**Writing Your Truth — Capturing Our Stories in Words**

**Belinda Betker** (she/her)

*Palace Theatre*

Truth. Honesty. Authenticity. What are the differences, and what do they really mean in your writing? How do you overcome hesitancy about writing deeply and truthfully? How do you trust yourself enough to write authentically? This workshop will incorporate writing prompts and exercises to inspire you to express your most honest self. We encourage you to bring your preferred writing materials – pens, pencils, journal, notebook, laptop, etc.



**Belinda Betker’s** first poetry collection, *Phases* was a 2020 finalist for two Saskatchewan Book Awards. *Phases* reveals a tomboy’s journey through to coming out in mid-life and performing as a drag king. Belinda’s poetry and award-winning haiku are also published on-line, and in various anthologies, literary journals, and chapbooks. Belinda is a founding member of two long-running Saskatoon writing groups – Sisters’ Ink, and The Obsessors. She was also a founding member of the Saskatoon Writers Collective. She lives in Saskatoon with her Australian wife and their rescue dog, a springer-spaniel/terrier cross.

**Documentaries and Film Shorts — Discovery Room** One hour of queer short documentaries and film shorts.

**Playing with Paint** *Gallery 2*

Think the ‘arts’ are beyond you? — Think you can’t draw or paint but want to explore colour? This workshop, based on Neurographic Art, is a method of connecting your brain and art. It can be used as a form of stress relief and uses minimal materials. This process allows focus on only the lines and colours in front of you and guarantees success.

**Jean** (she/her) is an artist, teacher and life-long learner who practices, observes and instructs in the Visual Arts.

**Alejandro** (he/him) is a versatile Artist, facilitator, volunteer, art administrator and instructor; currently, the Public Arts consultant for the City of Saskatoon. With a passion for creating art, social engagement, meditation, and equine therapy. [www.iamalejandro.com](http://www.iamalejandro.com)



**Lesbians in Fiction - Unmentionable: Sex, Literature, & the Publishing Business** *Sask Hall - Streamed*

What are the differences between porn and erotica, and between romance and erotic romance? Should literary fiction ever include sex scenes? Is there any famous work of literature which does NOT include sex in any form? Will discuss ways that writers of the past struggled to refer to taboo sexuality without having their work censored, and how writers of today struggle to integrate genres which were formerly considered completely separate.

**Jean Hillbold** (she/her) has taught literature, composition and creative writing in the University of Regina since the 1990s. She married her long-term partner, Mirtha, in 2010. Under her pen name, “Jean Roberta,” she has written erotic and fantasy fiction and her most recent publication is an erotic novel, *Prairie Gothic: A Tale of the Old Millennium* (Lethe Press, MA)



**Trans Panel** *McLeod Hall*

What is your greatest desire for the future? What do you anticipate your life to be like as you age? What advice do you have for younger trans people in today’s world?

**Bobbisue Thompson, Janae Brownlee & Jai Richards** discuss questions like these.

**Bobbisue Thompson** (she/her) — I am a transgender woman who has transitioned later in life after many years of trying to be what society expects. Since coming out I have become active in the community and have finally come to accept myself as the person I was meant to be.

**Janae Brownlee** — I am a transgender woman. I work as a minister in the United Church, and am also trained as a mental health therapist. I am particularly interested in families of choice, and the societal impact on Queer people.

**Jai Richards**

(he/him) is a Registered Psychologist in Saskatoon. He transitioned 10+ years ago and is working to make the process easier for those who find themselves on a similar journey. Jai worked for 25 years in community-based organizations until he made the decision to follow his passion and attend graduate school to become a Psychologist.



**Telling Our Stories Through Drumming — Jennifer Lenny** (they/them) *Gallery 3*

Two-Spirit Metis mother, educator and advocate in the gender and sexually diverse community, creates a safe space to experience drumming as a tool for connection to the past and reflections between Indigenous and non Indigenous. People do not need to know how to drum to participate in the session.

**“Sex and the City: Saskatoon’s Bawdy Past”** *Palace Theatre*

**Candice Klein** (she/her) provides a historical overview and lecture on the history of sexuality in Saskatoon. Since the city’s inception, Saskatoon saw a massive influx of sex workers, gambling dens, and speakeasies – an image that may be hard to envision within a Temperance colony. From the proliferation of brothels during Prohibition, to the queer activism of the 1980s, Candice offers a fun look into our city’s sexual past.

Candice Klein is a PhD Candidate in the Department of History at the University of Saskatchewan. She has expertise in several historical fields including the history of gender and sexuality, Indigenous history, Canadian history, and queer history. Candice takes pleasure in camping, hiking, thrifting for antiques, spending time with friends, and enjoying the company of her partner and their two cats, Melvin and Fitz.





# How to Register

Use QR Code below, click or enter:

<https://www.zeffy.com/.../ea9b43ad-3b46-41f7-9202>

or phone 306-361-1813 if you don't have access to the internet.

**Cost**  
Regular \$40  
(Subsidies also available)



## Evening Activities — Sask Hall

5:00 PM Dinner by the Western Development Museum

6:00 PM Presentations — Western Development (Queer) Art Project

and — U of S — Neil Richards Collection

6:30 PM Stand-up Dessert Bar Social with live music by Aurora Bella

**Aurora Bella** is a singer/songwriter currently based in Saskatoon. She performs solo as a singer-songwriter on piano, acoustic and electric guitar, and ukulele. Aurora is a charismatic performer who comes naturally to the stage. Her songs incorporate her love of storytelling, mythology, folktales, and literature with personal stories, sly humour and thoughtful reflections on deeper themes.



7:30 PM Dance/Social — Music by DJ Grande Fromage

9:00 PM Close

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