



My name is Annie Ohana and I am the founder and director of MustangJustice, a Social Justice Youth Leadership Program operating out of Surrey, BC, at LA Matheson Secondary. It is with great hope and support that MustangJustice add their support the City of Surrey hosting Sundar a South Asian International Expo in 2020.

Our support was a no-brainer. Service towards Justice cannot occur in spaces that are not safe, inclusive, and diverse. When I say diverse, I do not mean simply cultural portraiture that renders centuries of knowledge, experience, and ways of knowing down to a dinner/dance/dress performance. I speak of a true recognition of ceremony, tradition, and practice. In what I have seen mentioned thus far, Sundar looks to be such a space for authentic, real, and intersectional cultural experiences.

I would be remiss to not mention the need to hold space as well as we see arising tide of hate speech/hate crimes, Islamophobia, Anti-Semitism and xenophobia. The specter of legislation such as Bill 21 in Quebec, underscore the vital need for all levels of government, profit and non-profit world, to support our beautifully diverse communities At MustangJustice we believe and practice Mentorship Through Identity. We see strength, power, and the positive catalyst that different faiths, cultures, heritage can be when brought together. We need spaces, events, and the creation of public norms that celebrate diversity, not denigrate it, that allow it to flourish in all of its visual beauty not ban it.

A beautiful program exists in the Unceded Nations of the Musqueam, Tsleil-Waututh, and Squamish people (colonial name: Vancouver) Called "Culture Saves Lives". many BIPOC communities, to include the diversity that make up the South Asian diaspora, have faced trauma, violence, and discrimination. From small practices of ceremony, to larger dedicated spaces for Expos such as Sundar, the idea is that it is our cultures that will help us fight back, overcome, heal, and stay resilient. This holds true as much in Surrey as it does elsewhere.

As MustangJustice we offer ourselves up as willing service providers, volunteers, and participants for this Expo. This opportunity allows us to empower ourselves and build beautiful connections that make Surrey stronger, safer, and more inclusive.

We support this project with unabashed enthusiasm and passion.

Intersectional Empowerment For All

Written on Unceded Coast Salish Territories of the Kwantlen, Katzie, & Semiahmoo Nations

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Next 100 Years Mentorship Through Identity, Shakti Team, Stand Up To Racism Metro

Vancouver, MarchOn, IndusMedia, @VISAFF, Global Girl Power, NEVR, Global Peace Alliance

School STA Rep/ SJ Rep/ BCTF and Non-Profit Workshop Developer/Facilitator

STA CMTES: Anti-Poverty, StatusofWomen, TIME, Aboriginal, Convention, International Solidarity