Musqueam Cultural Center Tour

Since time immemorial, the Musqueam people have continuously lived on the land that we now refer to as Greater Vancouver, British Columbia. In June 2014, the City of Vancouver began to officially acknowledge that the city sits on unceded Coast Salish Territory, which includes ancient village and burial sites. Today, the Musqueam First Nations group is a vital, growing community of over 1300 members who live on a small portion of their traditional territory near the mouth of the Fraser River. Their cultural practices remain strong, despite the devastating impact of residential schools, colonial laws banning their ceremonies, and other attempts to force assimilation.

This tour, led by a member of the Musqueam Indian Band, will introduce us to their land and culture from their perspective. We'll visit their salmon streams and the exterior of the sacred Long House that serves as the heart of their community. We will learn about their traditional teachings and visit archaeological sites that date to 1500-4500 BP. In the Gallery at the Musqueam Cultural Center we'll see historic cultural objects, contemporary arts, and descriptions of Musqueam culture.

After the tour, we will engage in the Musqueam tradition of gathering together to “share teachings by listening, asking questions, being open to learning from others, and acknowledging what we don't know” (https://www.musqueam.bc.ca/our-story/who-we-are/). Dr. Leonard Bearne will engage in a conversation with a member of the Musqueam Indian Band who will deepen our appreciation for the Musqueam people's long standing oral tradition.

Date: Wednesday, October 16, 2019
Time: 1:30 pm – 5:30 pm
Meeting Place: Lobby of the Marriott Parq Vancouver Hotel
Cost: $65 per person (limited to 50 people)
What's Included: tour, transportation, and gratuities
Pre-registration required