

Communications Director, Claire Wynveen, Stepping Down from Toronto Fringe

After a decade at Toronto Fringe, our Communications Director, Claire Wynveen, is moving on to a new chapter in her career as Senior Media and Communications Officer at the Greenbelt Foundation.

Claire started at the Fringe in 2011 as Creation Lab Coordinator and became Communications Manager in 2013. In the last decade, Claire has supported thousands of independent artists and has been an important member of the leadership team in a time of rapid growth and major development for the organization. Claire's stewardship of the Fringe's voice, connections, and brand have been fundamental to the organization's achievements in growing into a more sustainable keystone cultural event in the city of Toronto, and expanding the Fringe community in our city, and beyond our borders.

While we are incredibly sad to lose such an integral member of our team, we know Claire will make an important contribution to this new sector. Toronto's theatre sector will miss her fiercely, but we look forward to what she will accomplish for vital environmental and climate change causes.

A search for a fulltime, permanent replacement will begin later this year. In the interim, Damien Nelson and Carly Chamberlain will be stepping in to steer the Communications Department through the upcoming Primetime and Next Stage festivals. Damien Nelson has been our Festival Publicist since early this year, and will be expanding her portfolio to become Interim Publicity and Marketing Manager. Carly Chamberlain has been our TENT Program Director in recent years, and will be returning to the organization as Next Stage Content Manager.

From Outgoing Communications Director, Claire Wynveen: "I have been so lucky to grow up alongside the Fringe – watching the organization become more stable and mature while I myself grew from an emerging indie theatre maker to an industry professional. The Fringe invested so much in me, and I am so proud of what I have invested in the organization. The Fringe teams of past and present are truly exceptional people and I have been so privileged to work alongside them. I look forward to applying my storytelling skills, honed at the Fringe, to the important climate and conservation work being done at the Greenbelt Foundation. I'll see you at Fringe – this time, in the audience!"

From Executive Director, Lucy Eveleigh: "I have had the pleasure of working with Claire for eight years. I know how lucky I have been to get that amount of time with her, and am truly fortunate to now know her as a friend. We even timed our first babies a few weeks apart. I will miss her terribly – working with Claire makes working easy. She brought so much passion and professionalism to the Fringe and has helped us shape this organization in new and exciting ways. The Greenbelt Foundation is so lucky to have her join their team and I only wish the best for her in this new role."

From Board Chair, Jason Murray: "Of course we're full of mixed emotions – it's hard to see someone of Claire's talents go, but we're over the moon for her all the same as she enters her next professional chapter! Claire has put so much into the Fringe – a full decade – and we're in awe of her incredible service to the wider community and the direct role she's played in maturing the festival. We'll always mark Claire's 10 years at the Fringe as an important period for us!"

Please stay tuned to our website and social media for information on the upcoming recruitment campaign to fill this position. Good luck, Claire! We look forward to seeing you at future festivals – without a walkie-talkie on!

- From the Staff of the Toronto Fringe