

Constellations

A Digital Exhibition by Alex Neff

(on display at Albion Community Centre until Jan 2026)

Carefully chosen to invite an introduction to relationship building and community, this selection of portraits celebrates a group of folks who have had an incredible impact on the artist—providing guidance, stability, and reliable direction. As you spend time with these portraits, consider the relationships in your own life; what community looks like for you; what it *could* look like for you. Feel encouraged to start building that community by reaching out to the friends and family these portraits remind you of. Community begins with conversation.





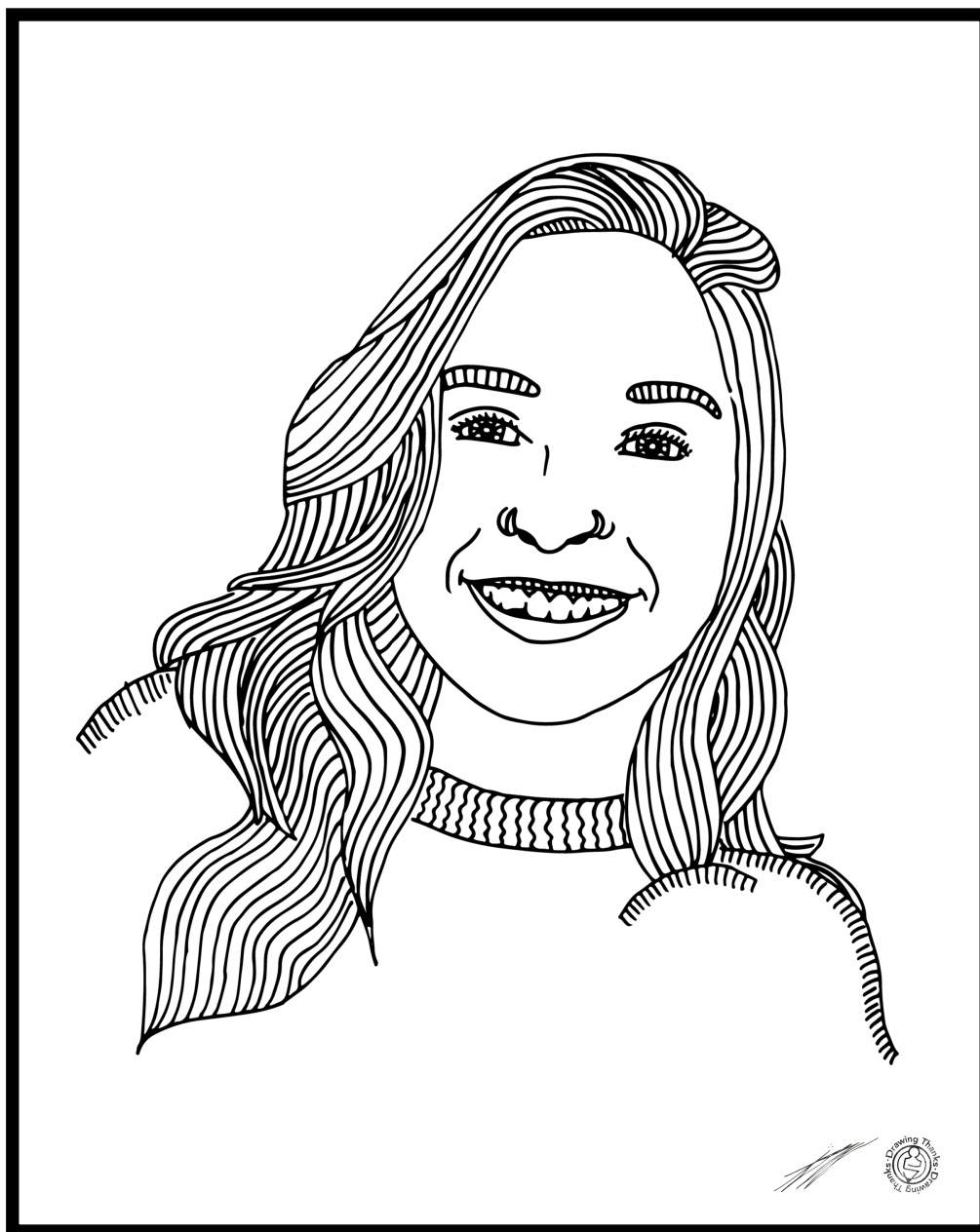
All artwork shared in this digital exhibition was produced on the unceded territories of the Katzie and Kwantlen First Nations, where Alex works, plays, lives, and learns.



Meet Adlayna,

She is a huge fan of live music. Whether she is checking out local bands or leading the events and concessions team at the ACT, she loves being gathered with her community around performances. It is always a joy to see her eyes sparkle as she recounts an unforgettable event.

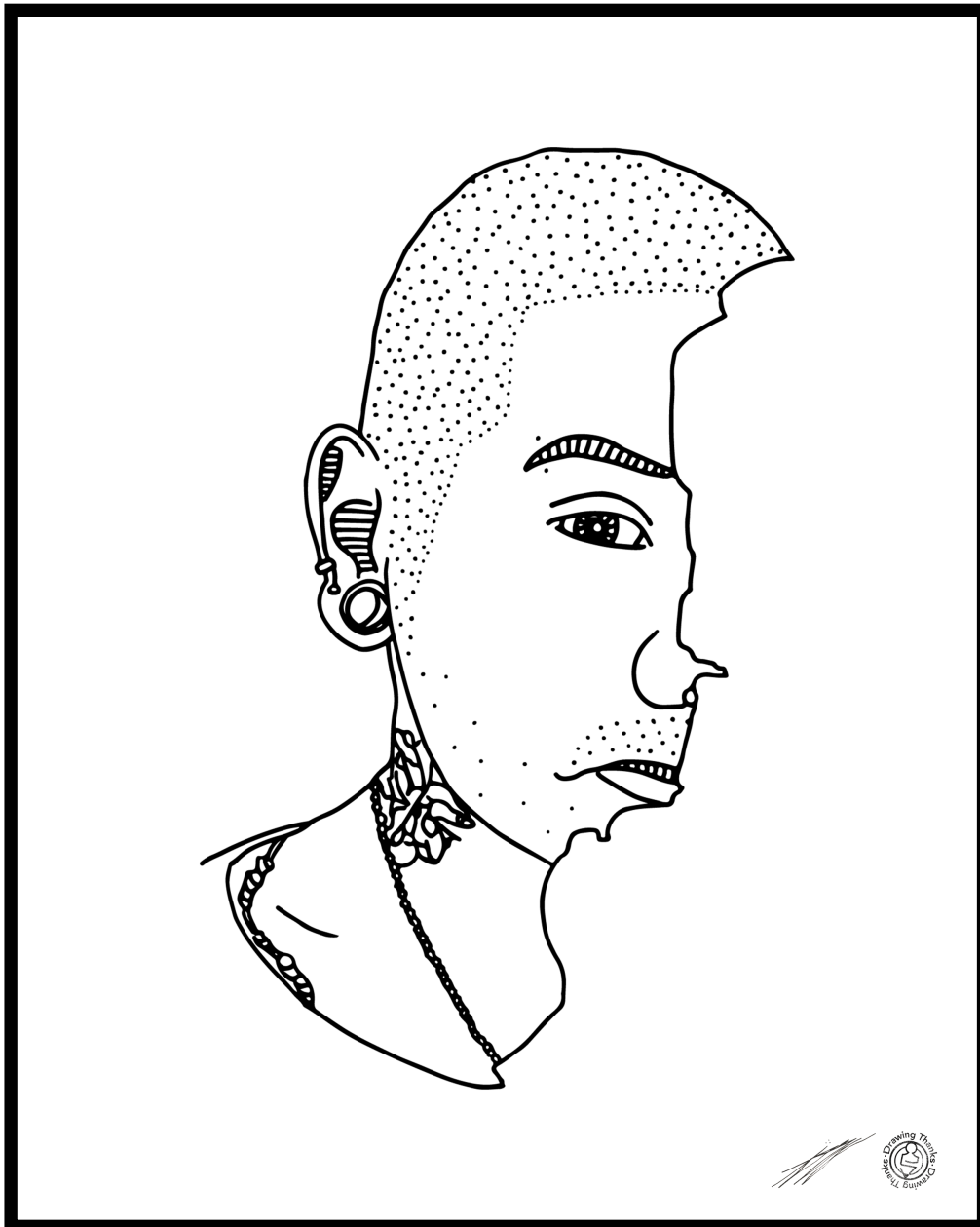
Thanks, Adlayna.



Meet Amy,

She is a brilliant, creative, and strong advocate for collaboration and co-learning. We have worked together on a few creative projects, and she has continuously inspired work out of me that fills me with pride. You can often find Amy hard at work with Maple Ridge Community Foundation.

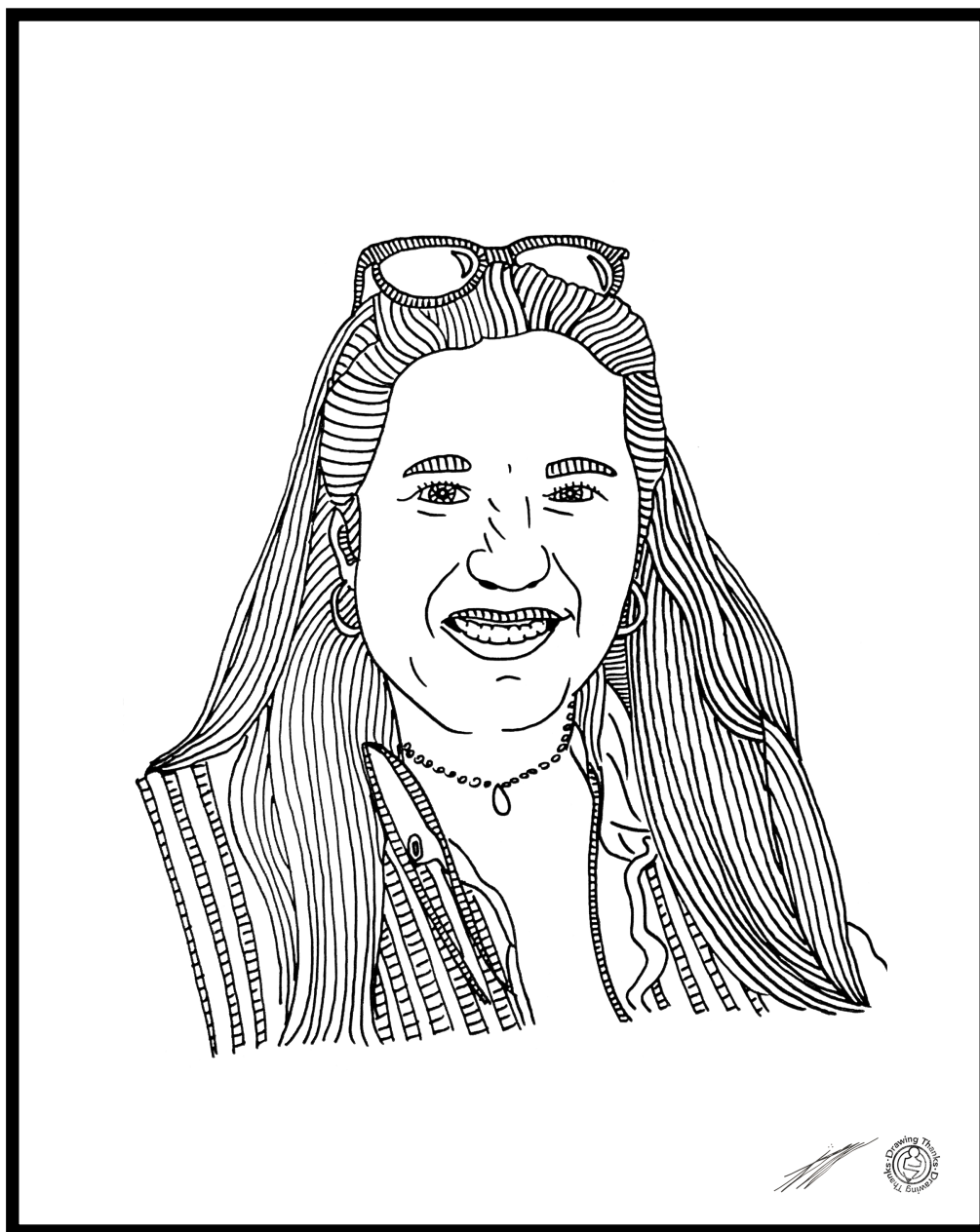
Thanks, Amy.



Meet Avian,

During a big milestone at Art Studio Tour, Avian generously offered to photograph the collection of Maple Ridge portraits thus far. Since then, we have often connected at Raymond Park to discuss our creative projects and share in our current curiosities. Avian is a wonderful neighbour.

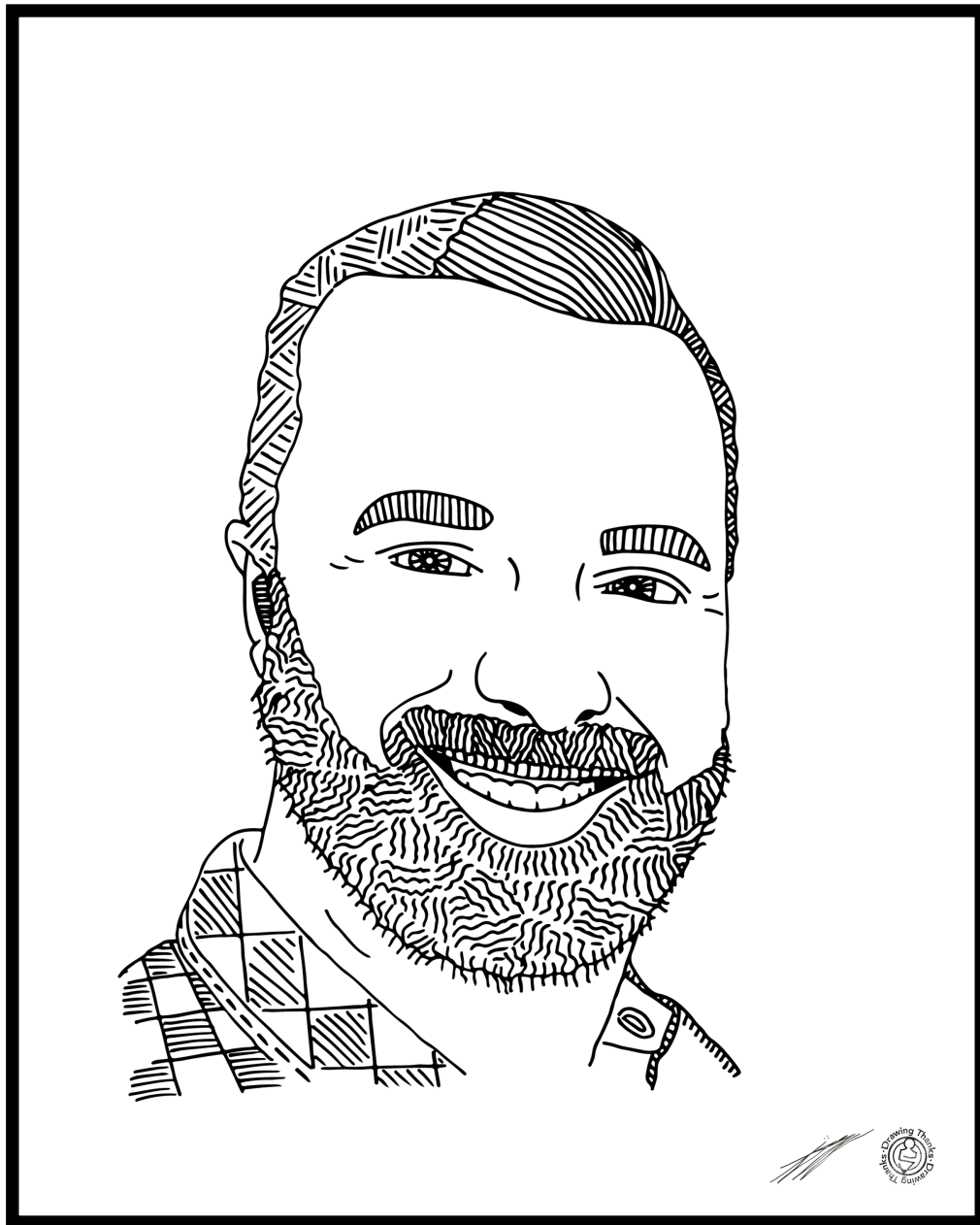
Thanks, Avian.



Meet Carolina,

She is a wonderful community organizer and is responsible for many important gatherings in Maple Ridge, including Multiculturalism Day and the Lapu Lapu Memorial Gathering, which occurred earlier this year. Carolina always makes sure everyone has a comfy seat at the table.

Thanks, Carolina.



Meet Chad,

Chad introduced Drawing Thanks to The HUB, where much storytelling and portraiture have occurred, exploring and honouring the unhoused folks living in Maple Ridge. Chad is a compassionate soul who is always looking out for the safety of his community with his big heart.

Thanks, Chad.



Meet Colleen,

She wanted to have a grumpy face in her portrait because sometimes we can be grumpy! Colleen is a good system fixer and brings a critical eye. She is a brilliant creative and the other Artist in Residence for the City of Maple Ridge. Working, learning, and playing with Colleen brings me joy.

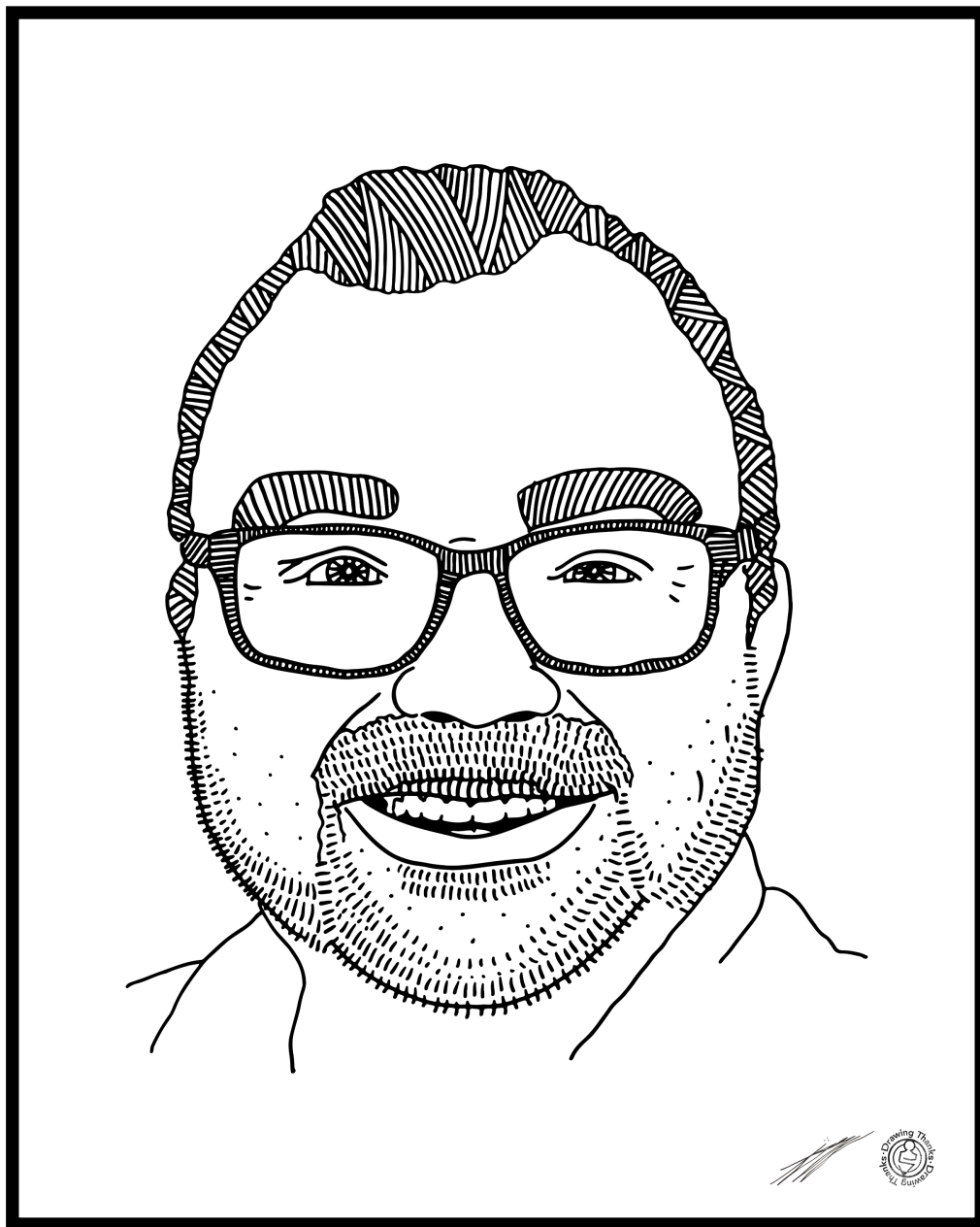
Thanks, Colleen.



Meet Danica,

Danica is another big fan of music and friends and coworkers with Adlayna. We used to work together at The ACT and share fun conversations about favourite records, VHS collections, and her incredible daughter. Danica and her daughter both love to dance and are so good at it!

Thanks, Danica.



Meet Ernie,

You might know him from his time as mayor of Maple Ridge; you might know him as Santa; you might even just know him as that chatty guy at the farmer's market! Ernie seems to know everyone, and it is such a joy to explore the community alongside him and experience his gregarious lens.

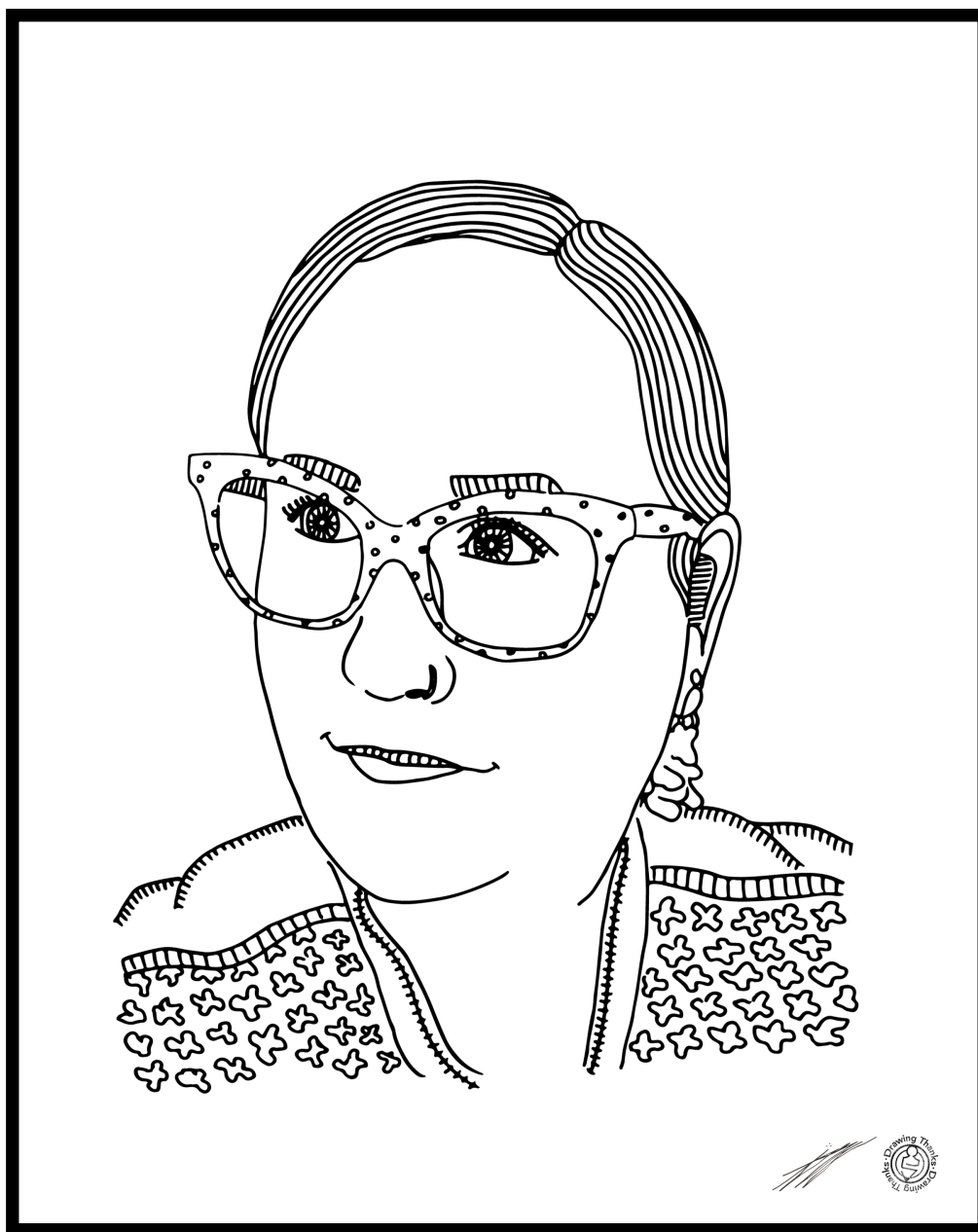
Thanks, Ernie.



Meet Faune,

Faune is a kind and thoughtful soul who is led by their morals, creativity, and curiosity. They are always inspiring me to see things differently and ask one more challenging question than I initially planned. They make those around them reach their fullest potential through love and care.

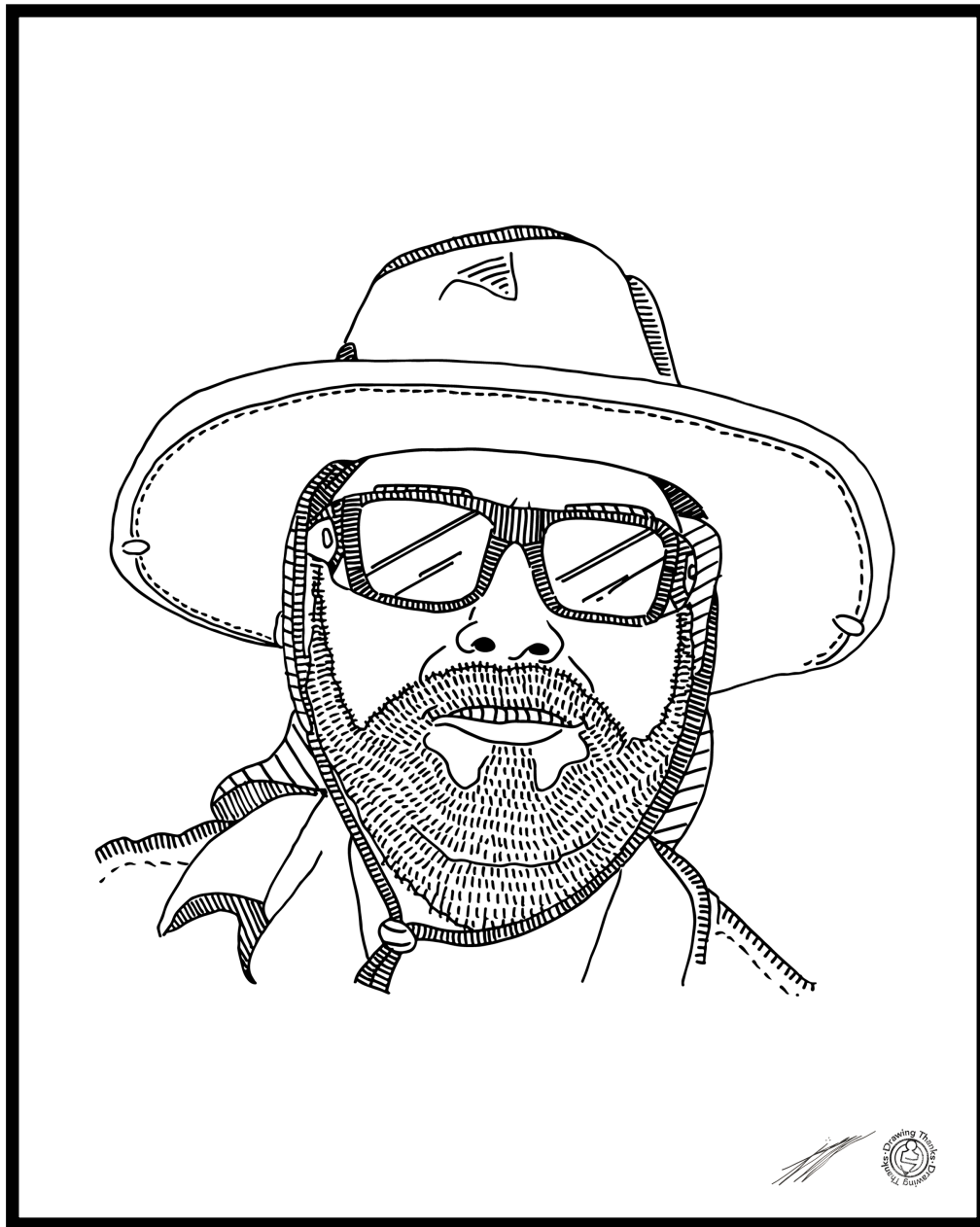
Thanks, Faune.



Meet Janet,

She is the sparkle queen. Janet uses bold colours and beadwork to make incredible works of art. Janet cares deeply about creative expression and helps so many other artists to present their work through her role at The ACT. You can always find Janet with a smile and the coolest set of earrings.

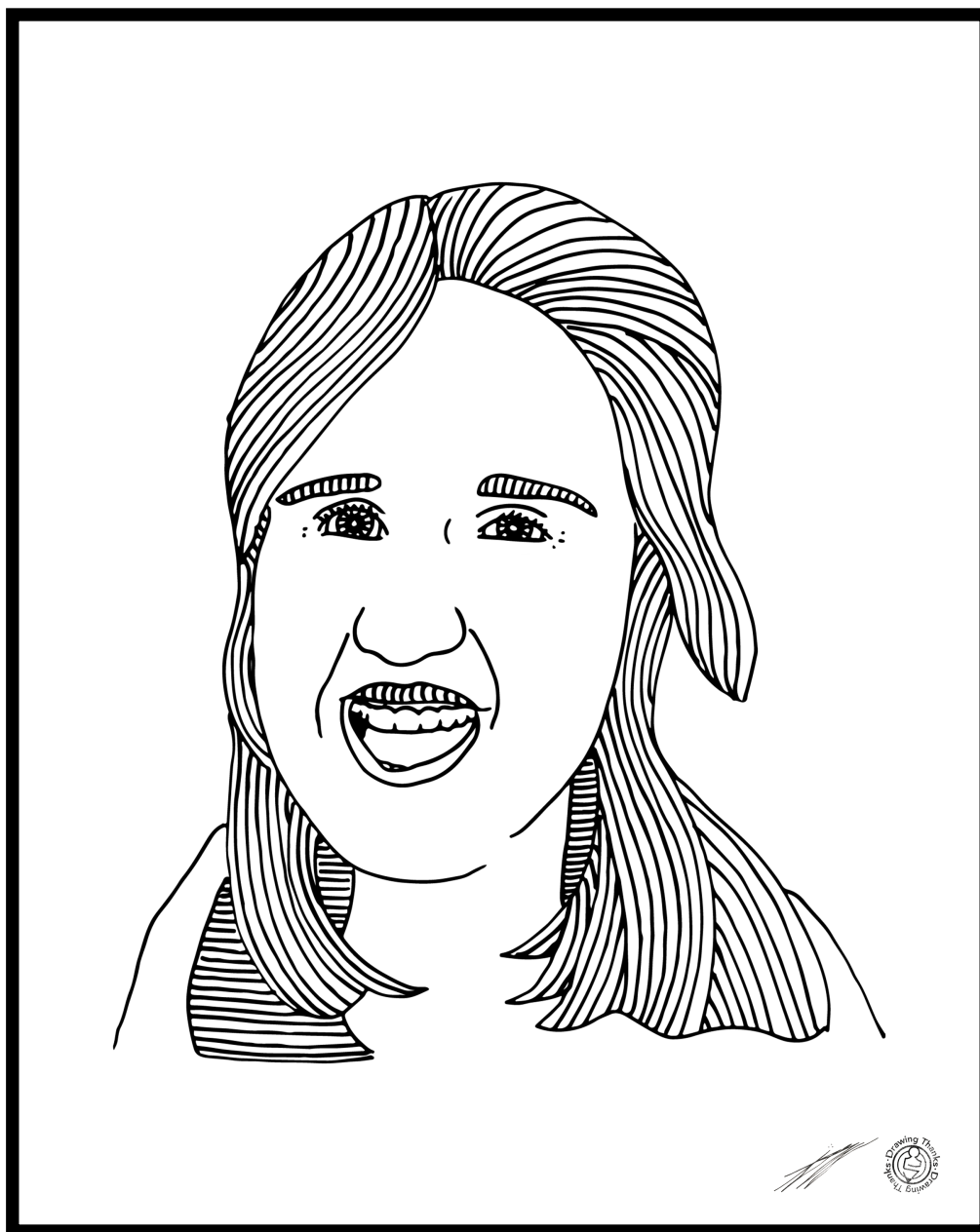
Thanks, Janet.



Meet Jeff,

Jeff has supported Drawing Thanks for many, many years and has helped to make Maple Ridge feel like home for me. Being near nature is great for Jeff because he loves fishing, kayaking, and taking long walks with family. My favourite moments with Jeff are our drives around town.

Thanks, Jeff.



Meet Jenna,

She is a loveable goofball and always looking to get a laugh. She can tell the funniest stories using sign language and will be sure to share her favourite jokes when she makes a new friend. No one can quite light up a room like Jenna, and you can always count on her for honesty and smiles.

Thanks, Jenna.



Meet Joy,

She is the loving matriarch of her family and is always there to support someone in need. I have many favourite memories with Joy, including dancing in the kitchen to ABBA, Johnny Nash, and Carole King. Joy has an incredible way of inspiring the inner strength of those around her.

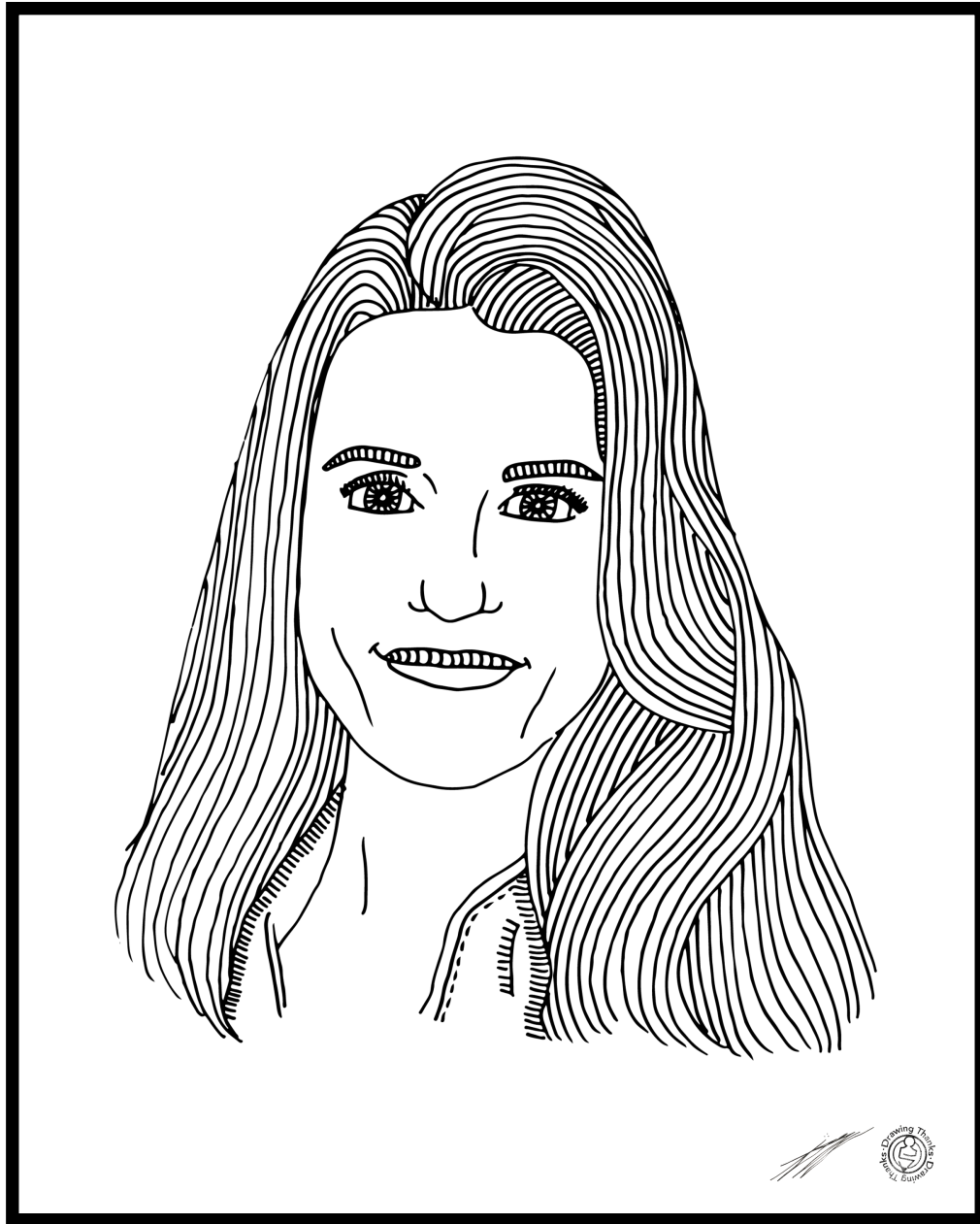
Thanks, Joy.



Meet Kaity & Mehrdad,

These two big-hearted humans bring so much to their community. There is little they wouldn't do for the ones they love and have a reputation in both their friend circles and family for being there when things get messy. I can always count on them to discuss anything without judgment.

Thanks, Kaity & Mehrdad.



Meet Kathryn,

She was an important mentor to me during my high school days at Thomas Haney Secondary School. She nurtured and cultivated numerous opportunities for me to marry art and language, creating something neither could express on their own. It has been a gift to have her on this journey.

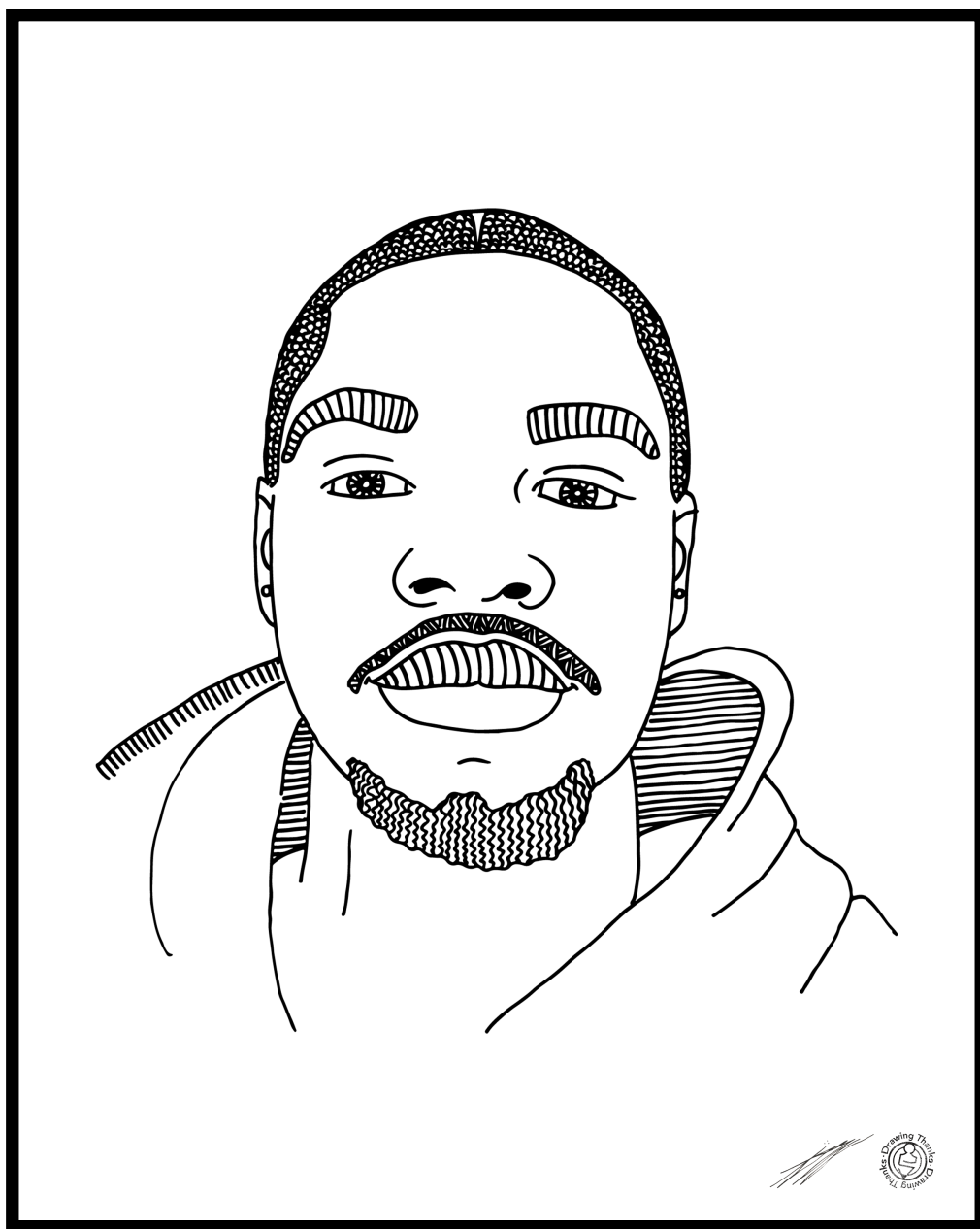
Thanks, Kathryn.



Meet Len,

He is from the Katzie Nation and shares so much wisdom with the folks around him. Len did a portraiture series called *A New Legacy Project* which had an immense impact on me as a creative. I learn so much from Len and the community resources he shares online.

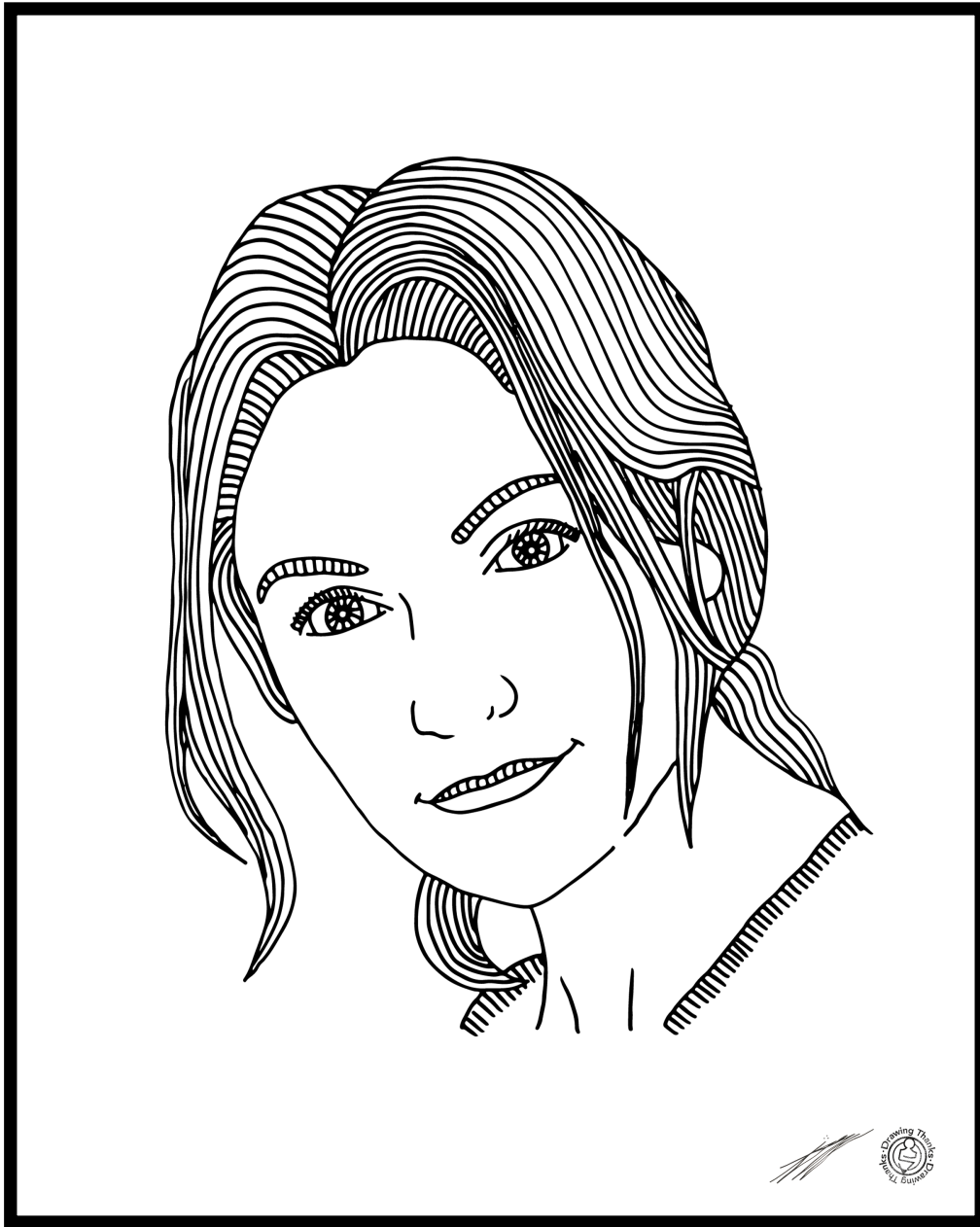
Thanks, Len.



Meet Malcolm,

Malcolm finds his sense of community at Maple Ridge Boxing Club. It is always a pleasure to see his face light up as he talks about his training. He has given me a strong sense of community at Bella Nonna's, my favourite bakery. It feels good to see familiar faces in familiar places.

Thanks, Malcolm.



Meet Megan,

She is a talented ceramicist and graphic designer who has really made me feel part of the community during this residency. I have spent time with Megan at The ACT, we have hyped each other up for Art Studio Tour, and she even came to the first Side Door concert in the studio.

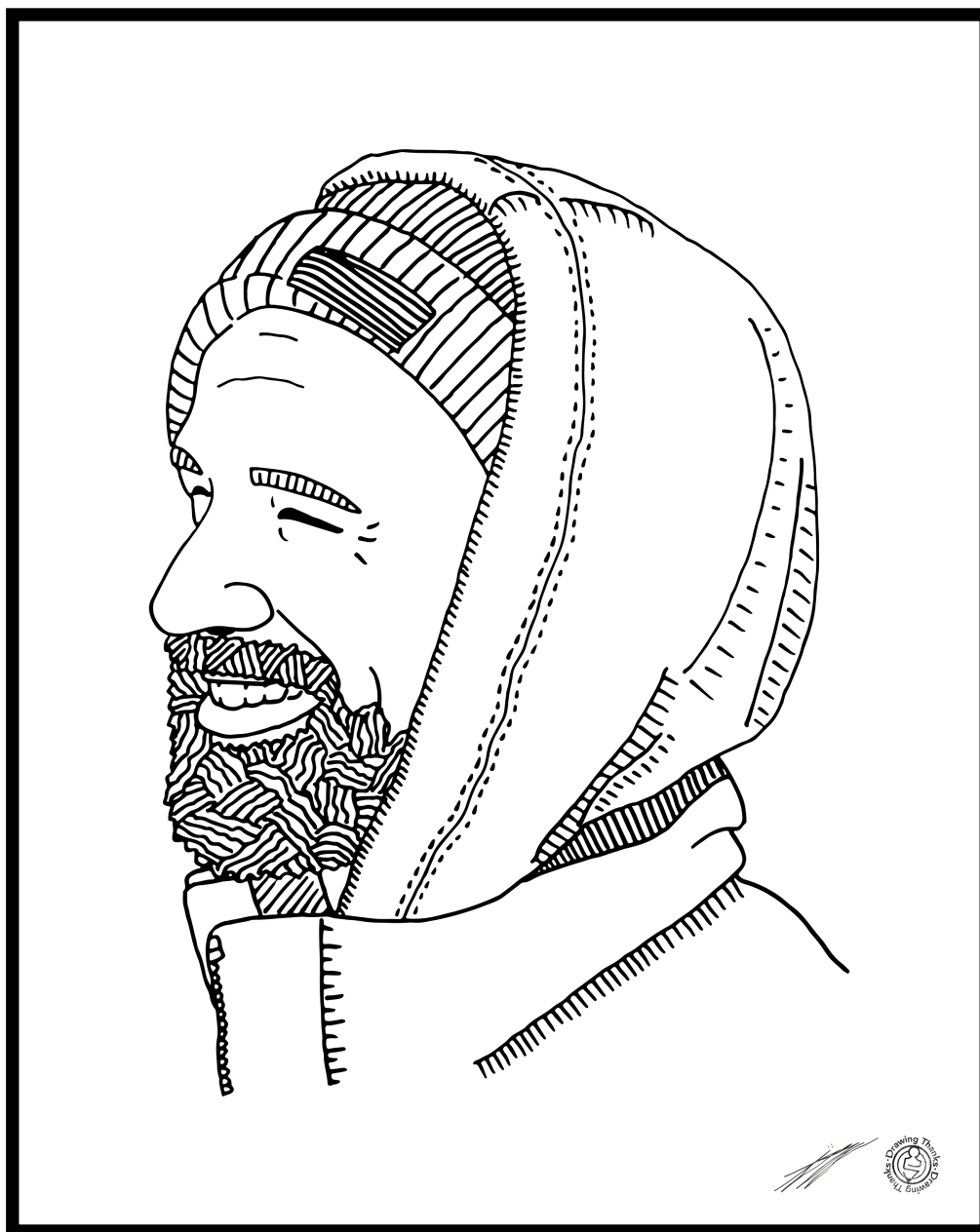
Thanks, Megan.



Meet Romeo AKA Bongganisa,

We were the artsy kids in high school and have since both pursued our creative passions. Romeo is a talented visual artist and also a *fierce* drag queen: Bongganisa. These days, you can often find him performing with House of Rice at the Birdhouse. Romeo's soft heart inspires my own.

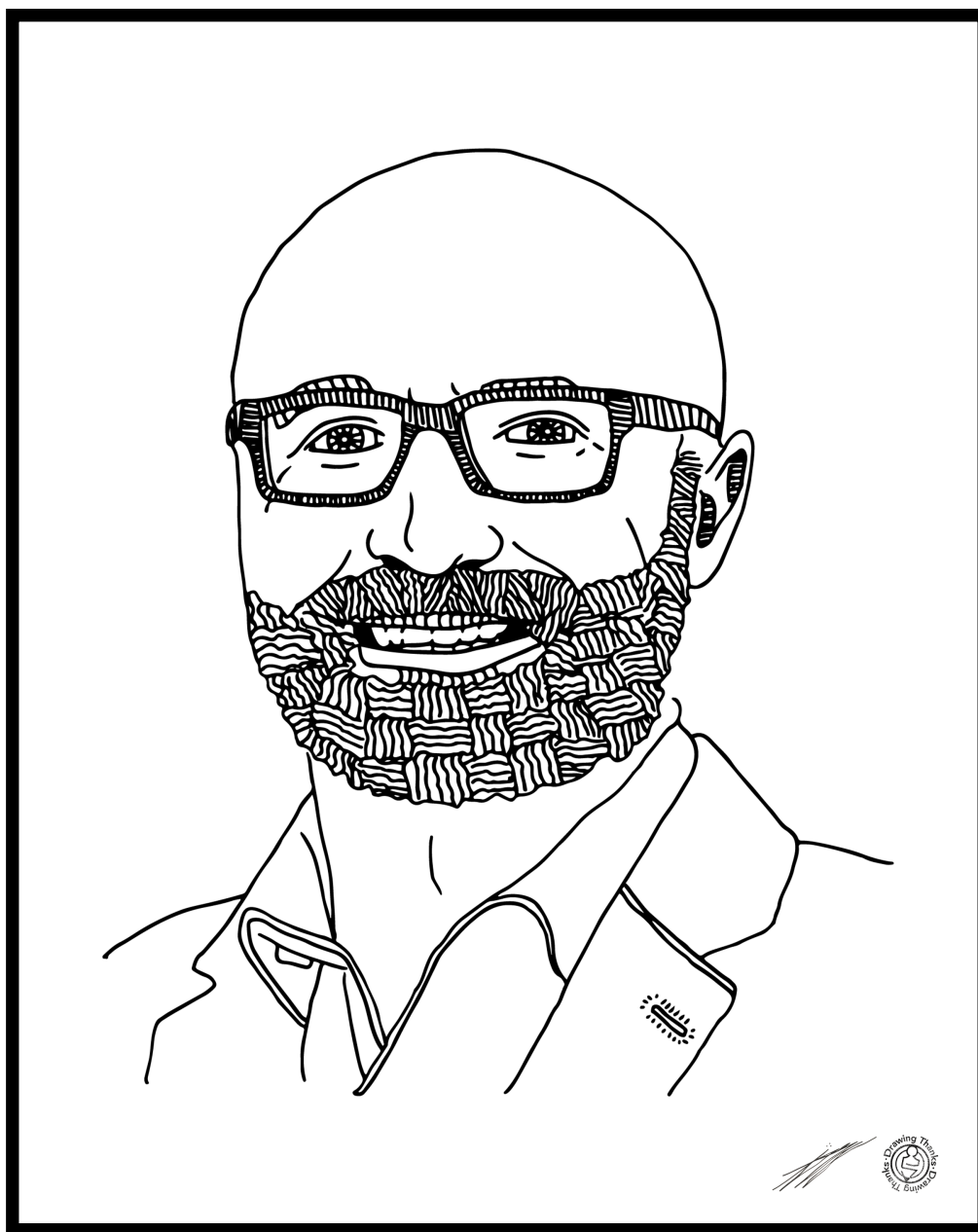
Thanks, Romeo.



Meet Russ,

If you have ever had an incredible time at an event in Maple Ridge, odds are this man had something to do with it. Russ is a thoughtful, energetic caregiver to all things arts, culture, and events in Maple Ridge. He motivates, encourages, and trusts his community in such impactful ways.

Thanks, Russ.



Meet Tony,

Tony is a beloved member of the community and has helped countless youth to find their own sense of belonging and purpose. Word of mouth quickly brought Tony to my attention and I was honoured to help celebrate his retirement this year with a commemorative portrait.

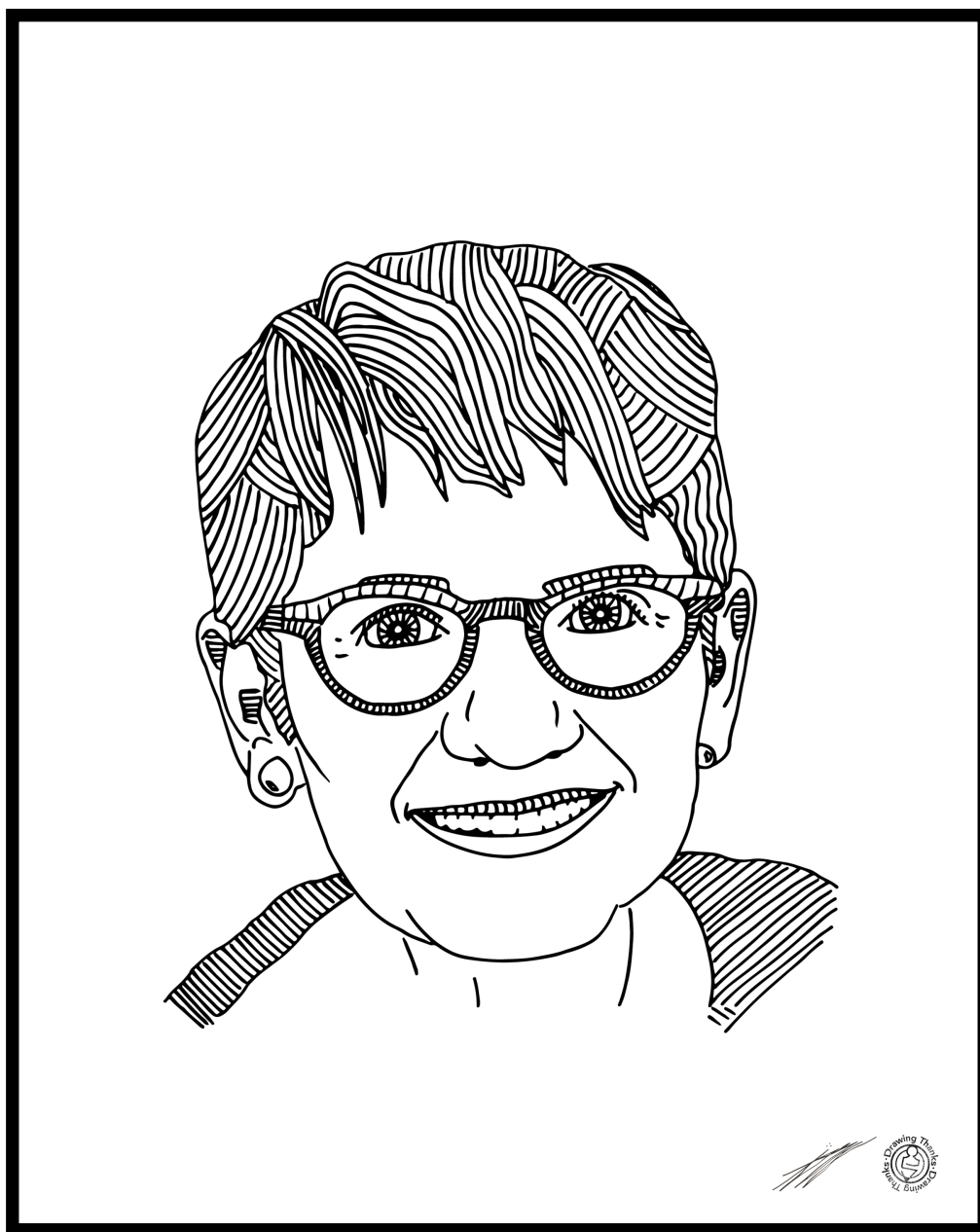
Thanks, Tony.



Meet Tyson,

There is no one quite as well-connected and hard-working as Tyson. He is a passionate volunteer in many local spaces and participates in a variety of community performances through Emerald Pigs and Dancing in the Ridge. Tyson is quick to connect his friends and make cool things happen.

Thanks, Tyson.



Meet Valerie,

She is a visual artist who has a knack for evoking emotion and nostalgia. We got to know each other during her installation, *Architecture of Memory*, at The ACT. Valerie is so skilled at bringing her community into conceptual thinking spaces and welcoming memories to the present.

Thanks, Valerie.

Thanks for sticking around to learn all about my community. To check out these artworks in person, visit Albion Community Centre in Maple Ridge! And please, feel encouraged to take a photo with the exhibition and tag @drawingthanks on social media! I love to hear community stories.

With gratitude,
Alex

