

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**MOV opens “Chosen Family Portraits” Wednesday Aug 3<sup>rd</sup>**

***There are the families we are born with and there are the families that we choose.***

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The Museum of Vancouver has partnered with the Queer Film Festival and Options for Sexual Health to launch the extraordinary photography exhibit Chosen Family Portraits.

Chosen Family Portraits is a community-based art project commissioned during the 2010 Vancouver Queer Film Festival with Artists-in-Residence [Sarah Race](#) and [Sarah Buchanan](#).

On a Saturday in Mid August, 2010, photographer Sarah Race and radio journalist Sarah Buchanan—packed a minivan full of lights, sandbags, extension cords and recording equipment and headed to the Roundhouse Arts and Recreation Centre. This somewhat ragtag crew set up a DIY portrait and recording studio, and then waited for their first appointment of the day - a recently wed young lesbian couple.

This was the beginning of the **Chosen Family Portraits** project where the Festival audience were asked to model with their **chosen** families and to share their stories. A total of 28 families visited the portrait studio to pose with their loved ones, bffs, kids, parents, neighbours, allies and whomever they considered chosen family.

***“Your chosen family is the family you’re excited to go see.  
There’s not going to be the whole weight  
of what we traditionally think of  
family on your shoulders.” Participant***

The families and media are invited to view their family portraits on display at the Museum of Vancouver on **Tuesday August 2<sup>nd</sup>** and it will be open to the public on **Wednesday August 3<sup>rd</sup>** until late September.

The Museum of Vancouver (MOV) is the only location in town exhibiting all 28 portraits set in elegant hot pink frames, alongside the video documentary about each family. The exhibition demonstrates the power of the families we choose, rather than the families we’re born with. The portraits can also be seen on bus stops around town.

This will not be the last collaboration between **Options for Sexual Health** and the Museum of Vancouver both partners are involved in a multi-stakeholder exhibition planned for 2013 called Sex Talk in the City.

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**Where:** Museum of Vancouver, 1100 Chestnut Street. Kitsilano.

**Public Transport:** Catch Bus 22 / 2 over Burrard Bridge to Kitsilano. Get off Cornwall and Chestnut.

**Exhibit Dates:** Media and invited guests Aug 2<sup>nd</sup> 7pm / Public Opening Aug 3<sup>rd</sup> – Sept 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Cost:** Included with admission \$12/ includes Bhangra.me exhibit + Vancouver History Galleries

**Interviews and photos:** Contact Kate Follington / Media Officer at Museum of Vancouver, 604 730 5304 / 778 863 2203. [kfollington@museumofvancouver.ca](mailto:kfollington@museumofvancouver.ca).

**Photos attached and Interview options:** 1) Roger and Jim are the young, married, interracial "cowboy" couple or Kaylum (aka Drag Queen Vera Way) and family are the David Street family of four.