

Mary F. Banuth



23 October 2019

Dear Mayor Nelson Santos & Members of Kingsville Town Council,

It has been my pleasure to sit on the Migration Festival Committee for the last several years; as a member of the community I have seen the committee try to take ownership of the festival with some success, resulting in what I believe has been the best Migration Festival in many years! Kudos to the committee for their efforts in making MigFest 50 one that will go down in the history books!

It is important to note that I sit on the committee as a member of the community, not as the Executive Director of the Sanctuary. During Migration Festival, in addition to the activities being held by the committee, there were a lot of great activities also going on at the Sanctuary, and in our case this year, it turned out to be a banner year of activity. We received a lot of very positive feedback from the community about Friday night, Sunday, and even Saturday when we weren't technically open! We saw over 600 visitors on Sunday alone.

I personally found myself and that of the Sanctuary staff and volunteers to be spread way too thin; as a result, I have decided to resign from the committee. My first priority is the Sanctuary, its staff and volunteers. It is important to note that The Jack Miner Sanctuary still wants to be involved in Migration Festival, and will coordinate our activities to complement what is going on with the committee and the festival. We will still participate in opening ceremonies, the parade, and of course still have our own events. At the request of the committee, I will send a staff person (it might even be me) as needed to update and provide input, but I can't shoulder the load of Jack Miner events and that of the Committee.

While the weekend was a tremendous success, I am completely burned out: 14-18 hour days is asking too much of anyone. I have been overly extended with meetings, emails, etc., and by extension, so have the volunteers and staff of the Sanctuary. I have to keep the health of my staff and myself as my main priority, and as a non-profit, have to ensure that our time is well accounted for.

It has been a pleasure working with the Committee. And again, this has been a great MigFest 50. Thank you all for your support of the event, and of all events in the Town. We are very fortunate to live in such a great town.

Best Regards,

