ABSTRACT: This presentation will provide guidance for communities seeking to create pollinator ecosystems, planners looking for partnership opportunities and small changes that create big wins for both native species and placemaking. The original study investigates strategies used by communities seeking to create habitat for native bees within their urban environment by comparing the strategies suggested by biologists, community activists, bee city policies and municipal employees. The talk will cover case study communities, the story of VIU’s Bee Campus success, a brief overview of native bees of Vancouver Island and how to grow a pollinator neighborhood. This presentation will provide guidance and tools for residents to make innovative changes to their land and ways for cities to support species that require protection and enhancement of their habitats. Learning how to create pollinator planning initiatives is an opportunity to be creative and integrate citizens and their cities into the larger ecosystem.

Bios: Margot Thomaidas is a Master of Community Planning Candidate at Vancouver Island University who is the leader of the VIU Peace Garden and creator of the VIU pollinator garden. Her research interests include retrofitting suburban environments, built environment and health, and user experiences in urban design. Kirby Delaney is a graduate of the Master of Community Planning program at VIU. Her work has included integrating species at risk and human use into heritage buildings, designing pollinator gardens in built environments, working with partners to create pollinator planning projects and developing housing. Her research and passions include integrating habitat and novel urban spaces, storytelling and community engagement.

Wednesday, January 22, 2020
7:00 - 8:00 pm
Refreshments: 6:45 pm
Vancouver Island University, Arts and Sciences Building 355, Room 203