



**CRD**

Making a difference...together

# Arts & Culture

2019 Progress Report





This page: Victoria Flamenco Festival, performance by Raino Dance School

Cover image: Night is for Sleeping, Day is for Resting, public artwork by Mowry Baden

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photo Victoria Flamenco Festival, John Robertson



Jeremy Loveday

CRD Director  
and Victoria  
Councillor

# Message from the Chair

**As I write this message, we are experiencing the COVID-19 pandemic. It is an incredibly challenging time for the arts. Mindful of the investment we have in our arts sector, the Arts Commission continues to support our grant programs and the strong framework we've established around shared governance.**

**The stories and statistics in this year's progress report describe how arts and culture are an integral part of building community and a resilient economy. This is just as true now as it was in 2019.**

One of the great pleasures of being Chair of the CRD Arts Commission is working with colleagues, elected and otherwise, from communities of different sizes and unique characteristics. We welcomed Sooke into the Arts & Culture Support Service in 2019. Sooke is well known for its creative community, a community that now has access to regional arts funding because of its participation.

Sooke Councillor Brenda Parkinson became the first councillor to represent Sooke on the Arts Commission. Sadly, Ms. Parkinson passed away in June 2019. She leaves a legacy as a steadfast champion of the arts known for her tireless public service and community building. We are grateful for her advocacy and contribution.

In 2019 the CRD Board made a commitment to explore 100% participation in the Service. While the majority of jurisdictions are already participating, we continue to reach out to others with the goal of full support.

In 2019 the CRD Board also started an important conversation about regional arts facility needs by striking the Regional Arts Facilities Select Committee. The committee will steward a community conversation about what we need in relation to performance and rehearsal spaces – small, large and everything in between.

Our ability to maintain consistent program funding is in no small part due to the work of the Arts Advisory Council (AAC) and Arts & Culture staff. Their dedication and passion for fostering the arts across communities deserves its own standing ovation.

I hope you find this report provides insights into how arts and culture builds resilient communities. During this uncertain time, there can be comfort in reflecting on the successes we've shared so far through strong leadership and coordinated action.

*Jeremy Loveday, Chair, CRD Arts Commission*

**“Arts and culture are an integral part of building community and a resilient economy. This is just as true now as it was in 2019.”**





James Lam

Manager  
CRD  
Arts & Culture

# Foreword

**At the heart of the Arts & Culture Support Service is its vision: that the arts are central to life in the region. This continues to be true even as the COVID-19 pandemic has reshaped our world and is challenging arts organizations of all types and sizes to find new ways to present their work.**

This report showcases the extraordinary creativity and community building that the arts and culture sector produced for our region in 2019. The information presented here, and the small sampling of activities described, provides a glimpse of the larger arts and culture scene in the capital region that the Arts Service was proud to support through its various programs.

**“CRD Arts & Culture will continue to do its part to invest in creativity and to support, promote and celebrate the arts.”**

We entered the second year of an enhanced Operating Grant program with the continuation of multi-year approval for selected organizations. This change acknowledges the operating stability of the key organizations that form the fabric of our regional arts ecology. Multi-year funding agreements reduce the administrative burden of the annual application process and provide predictable funding that encourages long-term planning.

We increased the flexibility of our Project Grant program to become ‘Projects, Series and Extended Programming Grants.’ This program provides the widest flexibility in supporting arts organizations, however they choose to structure their programming.

IDEA grants returned in 2019. While our focus remains on the support of organizations whose primary mandate is in the arts, this program encourages and support arts programming by non-arts-mandated organizations.

In 2019, we were delighted to relaunch LandMarksPublicArt.ca. The website provides a searchable collection of over 170 works of public art, commissioned through various municipal processes and installed throughout the capital region. It allows users to view and select works from specific neighbourhoods, artists or mediums, and to generate a personalized tour from those works.

Although 2020 will present significant challenges for many arts organizations, we look forward to the light the arts will shine on the shadows cast by the current uncertainty. The Arts & Culture Support Service will continue to do its part to invest in creativity and to support, promote, and celebrate the arts.

*James Lam Manager, CRD Arts & Culture*



Sheldon Elter and chorus (Shammy Belmore, Karina Cox, Skye Demas, Lara Ebata, Zoë Glassman, Kendra Shorter and Gianna Vacirca) in Bears (by Matthew MacKenzie)

photo: Belfry Theatre; David Cooper; environmental design: T. Erin Gruber; costume design: Brianna Kolybaba & Monica Dotor

**The arts are central to life in the region.**

# VISION



# Progress by the Numbers

## CRD Arts & Culture Funding

Multi-year Operating Grants  
\$1.6M

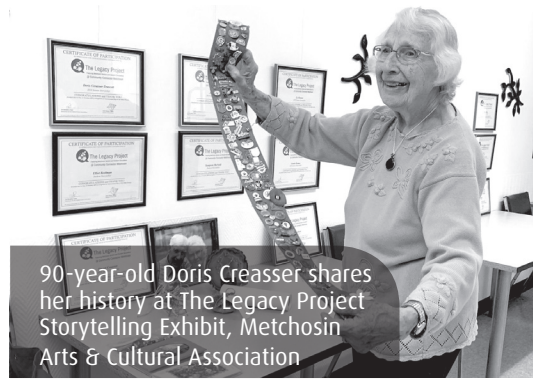
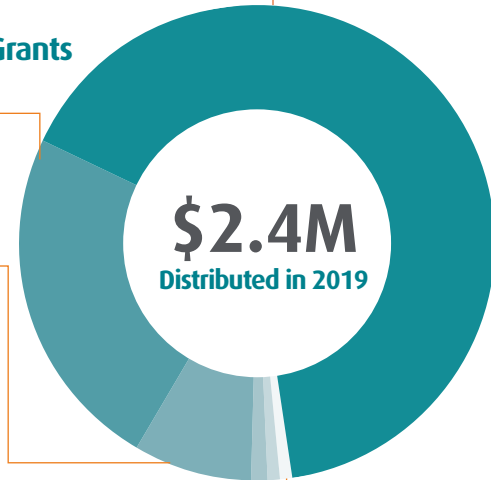
Annual Operating Grants  
\$580K

Project Grants  
\$195K

IDEA Grants  
\$30K

Equity Grants  
\$20K

Incubator Grants  
\$15K



90-year-old Doris Creasser shares her history at The Legacy Project Storytelling Exhibit, Metchosin Arts & Cultural Association

### HIGHLIGHTS

**94** Grants  
94 not-for-profit organizations and artist-led partnerships were supported by CRD Arts & Culture in 2019.

**23%** New Grantees  
21 new applicants were funded in 2019, this is 23% of the grantees.

**8%** of revenues provided by CRD  
Operating grant recipients generated \$27.5 million in revenues of which the CRD provided 8%.

## State of the Arts Snapshots

### NUMBER OF ARTISTS

Includes actors & comedians; artisans & craftspersons; authors & writers; conductors, composers & arrangers; dancers, musicians & singers; other performers; producers, directors, choreographers & related occupations; visual artists.

**158,100**  
Artists in Canada

**28,700**  
Artists in BC

**2,905**  
Artists in the region

**ONE IN EVERY 116** Canadian workers is an artist. BC has the highest concentration of artists.

**VICTORIA HAS THE HIGHEST** concentration of artists among the 72 smaller cities in Canada. (1.97%)

**THE SOUTHERN GULF ISLANDS** has one of the highest concentrations of artists in Canada. (4.59%)

HILL STRATEGIES 2016

### CULTURE JOBS

Includes heritage and cultural occupations (designers, editors, museum staff, etc.) and artists.



Culture contributes **98,050** jobs in BC, with **9,374** of those jobs based in the capital region.

STATISTICS CANADA, 2016

### GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (GDP)



\$7.9B total culture GDP in BC. The capital region accounts for **8.6%** of the total culture GDP in BC.

STATISTICS CANADA, 2016

This is the most recently available data. For direct links to research sources visit [www.crd.bc.ca/arts](http://www.crd.bc.ca/arts).

## Arts are Central to Life



In 2019  
CRD Operating  
and Project  
grant recipients:

Produced  
**3,357**  
events

Provided  
**3,564**  
jobs

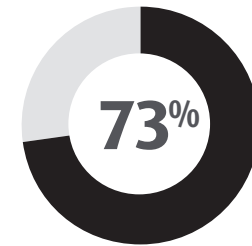
Convened  
**644K+**  
attendees

Involved  
**5,395**  
volunteers

Poet Alex Leslie speaks at the Kindling Writers Festival – a literary festival that celebrates the work of emerging LGBTQ2S+ writers, performers, and artists held at Open Space Arts Society.

## Building our Arts Future Together

**Nine municipalities** and electoral areas participate in the CRD Arts & Culture Support Service: Saanich, Victoria, Oak Bay, Esquimalt, View Royal, Highlands, Metchosin, Sooke and Southern Gulf Islands.



**304K people** live in jurisdictions that participate. The 2019 population estimate for the region is 418K.

SOURCE: STATISTICS CANADA

### Sooke joined the Arts & Culture Support Service



Strings program, Harmony Project Sooke



**167**

public artworks added to LandMarksPublicart.ca by a roundtable of cultural workers from participating jurisdictions.

Parade of Play mural by artist Luke Ramsey located in Oak Bay.

### OUR SERVICE

**9**  
Arts Commission members

**14**  
Arms-length, volunteer adjudicators

**1**  
Office with three staff members



# Impact Areas

Community

Governance

Equity

Creativity

Accountability



Bodhi frog is a wind-activated weather vane on Willows Beach in Oak Bay by artist Douglas Neufville Taylor. Find it on LandMarksPublicArt.ca.

## GOAL 1

# Increase Community Awareness and Knowledge

Goal One describes our aspiration to share the positive benefits of the arts with more people and generate more conversations about the organizations we support. We do this by collaborating with other sector leaders and using new communication tools. Together with the organizations we support, we are building a future where arts and culture increase community wellbeing and are central to everyday life in the region.

### Mapping Public Art Across the Region

We launched a new version of the online public art directory LandMarksPublicArt.ca. Originally created in 2009, this new version features artwork from every jurisdiction that participates in the Arts & Culture Support Service. As the CRD does not have its own public art policy, we worked closely with municipal cultural planners to get their input and doubled the number of artworks for the public to enjoy. Visitors to the site can create a self-guided tour of over 170 works of art searchable by location, artist or discipline. They can enjoy the art history and photos from their living room or make a customized, printable map for an outdoor walking, rolling or driving tour. [www.LandMarksPublicart.ca](http://www.LandMarksPublicart.ca).

### Amplifying Arts & Culture

In 2019, we expanded the ways we communicate. We joined Instagram and created more print materials celebrating the arts initiatives we support. We also created new tools describing funding programs, such as a grant finder matrix, and updated information recordings and videos. We hosted grant information sessions and drop-in events in different parts of the region.

### Progress Highlights

- Relunched LandMarksPublicArt.ca website
- Expanded social media reach with Instagram
- Presented funding information sessions

### IN THE COMMUNITY



The LandMarksPublicArt.ca website has artwork in every jurisdiction that contributes to CRD Arts & Culture.

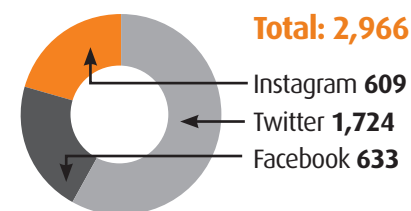


80% OF GRANT RECIPIENTS PROGRAM FREE, PARTICIPATORY ACTIVITIES FOR THE PUBLIC.

### Highest Tweet Impression

14.6K+

Where CRD Arts Followers Are



artwork Young Orca, Dale Palko, Pender Island

photos archive, Amber MacGregor; One Wave, Tony Sprackett



Artists from the Ministry of Casual Living, Zola Kell and Sabrina Blanchard.

### Bridge Studio Crawl Demystifies the Studio

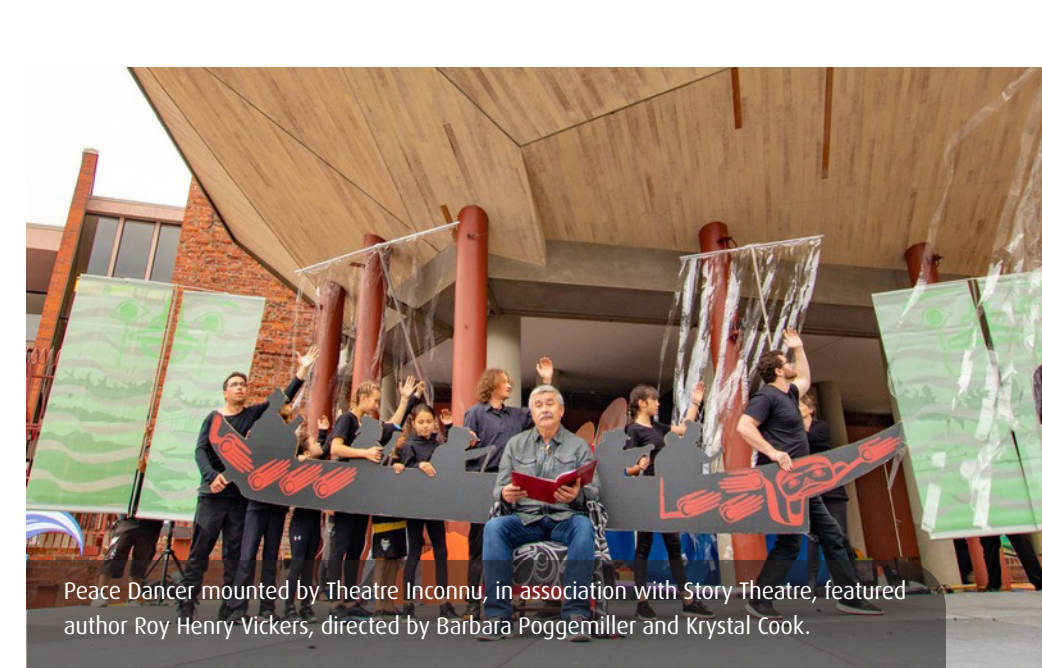
"I remember feeling intimidated going into a gallery setting when I was younger," says Alison Bigg, one of eight resident artists at the arc.archive Artist Run Centre. "I think when people get a chance to meet an artist in a gallery or studio, they have a better understanding of the creative process and feel welcome."

Creating a non-threatening environment is one of the inspirations behind the Bridge Studio Crawl. The crawl is an annual event that opens artist studios in Vic West, Rock Bay and Chinatown, showcasing over 100 artists for the community.

"Each artist works in a different way. Some [studios] are messy, like mine, and some are very tidy," says Bigg. "A lot of the personality of the artists and the art that they make comes out in the studio." During the crawl, curious visitors see artists working with paint, clay, printmaking, papier-mâché, felted wool and more.

The crawl gives people from inside and outside the arts community, or from different generations and diverse backgrounds, a chance to strike up informal conversations about how the art was developed and see how the artists create.

"Sometimes when someone comes into your studio, they get very excited. That is what is great for me," says Bigg. "We make real connections with the public and the other artists in the crawl too."



Peace Dancer mounted by Theatre Inconnu, in association with Story Theatre, featured author Roy Henry Vickers, directed by Barbara Poggemiller and Krystal Cook.

## One Wave Gathering Connects Coastal Leadership through Creativity

Each September, the One Wave Gathering showcases a spectacular array of local and international Indigenous arts and cultural events. Artists and audiences mingle over free programming including performances, cultural talks, music, visual art, dancing, education, storytelling, films and more.

"We created One Wave to inspire local and global action in addressing climate change, while upholding the Indigenous peoples who are leading the way," explains April Ingham, Executive Director of Pacific Peoples Partnership, the host organization.

At the signature community celebration, the gathering featured Peace Dancer, a production by local theatre companies Theatre Inconnu and Story Theatre, based on Roy Henry Vickers' and Robert Budd's book of the same name. Vickers, an acclaimed Tsimshian Nation artist and author, narrated the story accompanied by a theatrical adaptation with 30 youth and adults animating car-sized puppets. Also taking the stage were the Lekwungen Dancers, the Esquimalt Nation Dance Group and visiting artists.

**“ I was able to share a lot of knowledge about canoe carving. ”**

– Joe Martin

The event brought together master Indigenous artists to showcase their work and talk to the attendees. "I was able to share a lot of knowledge about canoe carving," said Tla-o-qui-aht Canoe Carver Joe Martin. Martin travelled from his studio in Tofino to speak with the crowd of over 400 people.

Flux Media Gallery exhibited short videos and digital art installations for the gathering. The artworks and presentations fused distant coasts by highlighting shared efforts in cultural resurgence, such as local language programs, as well as Polynesian wayfinding and canoe building with the organization Vaka Taumako.

One Wave partnered with the Alcheringa Gallery to present an artist talk by Dylan Thomas and Margaret August as part of the Surfers Paradise exhibition. The show featured 19 Northwest Coast artists who created artworks on surfboards, a sport born in the South Pacific.

"In [the] Pacific Islander world view...the great Pacific Ocean is not something that separates us, it is something that connects us," says Ingham. "The event inspires people to become shared stewards of our environment with North and South connections and have a lot of fun."





Kaleidoscope Theatre's production of *The House at Pooh Corner*.

## GOAL 2

# Increase Funding through Full Local Government Participation

Increased funding speaks to our mission to work together to fund arts and cultural activities. CRD Arts & Culture is a 'sub-regional' service, which means not every municipality or electoral area contributes to regional arts funding. The Arts Commission is developing more partnerships and encouraging more local governments to fully participate in funding the Arts & Culture Support Service. With more collaboration, advocacy and accountable governance, residents enjoy more vibrant and livable communities.

### Expanding Collaboration

Contributors to CRD Arts & Culture support the notion that we are more effective when working together. The contributing jurisdictions, which are Saanich, Victoria, Oak Bay, Esquimalt, View Royal, Metchosin, Highlands, Sooke and Southern Gulf Islands, are the source of the funding distributed to arts organizations. North Saanich is not a member but donated \$5,000 to the Arts & Culture Support Service in 2019.

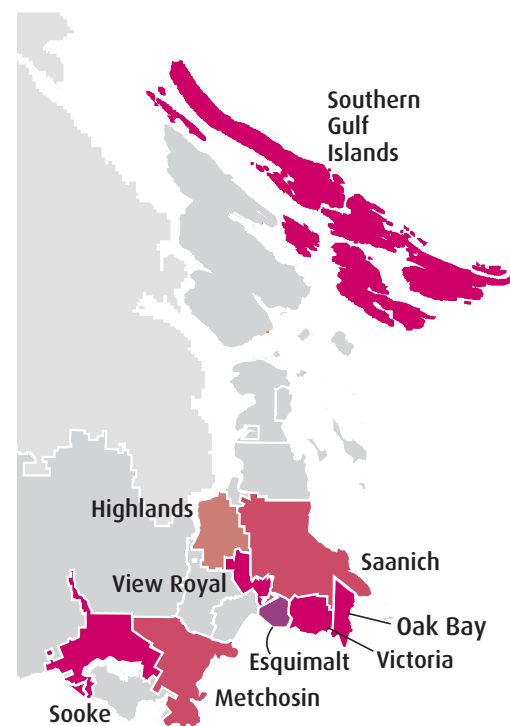
### Regional Arts Facility Needs Conversation

CRD Arts & Culture does not have jurisdictional responsibility or authority over facilities, nor does it fund capital projects. However, the Service is able to convene regional conversations and support public consultation. To advance conversations about facility needs, the CRD Governance and Finance Committee supported two recommendations: to establish a Select Committee to facilitate a discussion of regional arts facilities; and to have the Arts Commission and Royal & McPherson Theatres Services Advisory Committee report on the potential for full participation in their respective Services.

### Progress Highlights

- **Sooke joined the Arts & Culture Support Service**
- **Convened roundtables with cultural planners**
- **Helped start discussions about regional facility needs**

### IN THE COMMUNITY



### Contributing Jurisdictions

9

municipalities and electoral areas participated in the CRD Arts & Culture Support Service whereas six did not participate. One jurisdiction made a donation.

photo Kaleidoscope, Veronica Bonderud

photo Dance Victoria, Marc Mompilaisir

## New Saanich Studio is a Theatre Hub

When entering the Kaleidoscope Theatre headquarters in Saanich, you are drawn into a busy hub of artists. Past the entrance filled with sets and posters you'll find students running lines, parents waiting for their kids, and other artists preparing to rehearse in one of the four studios. "It's an energetic place, full of music, laughter and theatre," says Pat Rundell, Executive Director.

“ We have students coming from all over the region, sometimes twice a week. ”

The 45 year-old company offers camps, workshops, classes, lessons, and an annual season of critically acclaimed and beloved stories at the McPherson Theatre.

In 2019, Kaleidoscope secured a three-year lease for a new headquarters at University Heights Shopping Centre in Saanich. "It was an extensive and exhausting search. It can be a challenge to find commercial space that is accessible. We have students coming from all over the region, sometimes twice a week. They are part of our family. So it was really important for us to be in a location that is easy to get to," says Rundell. "We also wanted to stay within a municipality that was part of the Arts & Culture Support Service."

Originally built as a gym, the 8,000 square foot facility allowed Kaleidoscope to expand programming and rent rehearsal space to other local arts organizations. "The new studios were a dream come true for us."



Les Ballets Jazz de Montréal performs *Dance Me*.

## Lifting the Region's Global Profile

"We have built a community where an appreciation and love of dance is at the core," says Stephen White, Executive Producer of Dance Victoria. The company brings top-level professional dance from around the globe in a popular presentation series. "It is really wonderful to see how curious that community is about other cultures and seeing dance performers from other parts of the world," he says.

The company is committed to boosting the local arts sector through visionary programming. "All visiting companies offer a free master class to local dancers," says White. At its studios in Quadra Village, Dance Victoria offers rehearsal space, workshops and residencies for local independent dance artists developing new work. Dancers and non-dancers alike can take part in the annual 10-day 'Dance Days' festival with free dance classes and performances.

This is in addition to awarding the Chrystal Dance Prize, Canada's largest award for international collaboration in dance. A 2019 recipient, Mikaela Ko, currently studying in Germany, remembers "sitting at the Royal Theatre dreaming of how I would one day be performing like the multitude of talented companies I had the opportunity to see perform there."

When asked about the impact Dance Victoria's global reach has on the region, White says, "It makes the world a little bit smaller."



Summer music in Ed MacGregor Park.

### The Folks of Sooke

The Sooke Folk Music Society expanded their evening coffee house concert series by hosting a free afternoon music concert in Ed MacGregor Park on a warm, summer afternoon in June. "There wasn't a bad seat in the house," says organizer and musician Ray Spencer, referencing the colourful patchwork of chairs and blankets in front of the band shell.

The concert featured several folk musicians and attracted approximately 300 people of all ages. "It kept us busy for months," says Spencer. "We had a volunteer army and created a handbook for next time. It is a chance to give something back to this wonderful region."





CFUV Full Circle Podcast artist Kemi Craig produces stories about the experiences of Indigenous, Black and People of Colour.

## GOAL 3 Increase Access to Arts Services

This goal area recognizes the need to create dedicated funding strategies to ensure our grant recipients accurately reflect the arts community and find ways to increase access to all grant programs. Reducing barriers to our grant programs remains a priority. Our approach continues to evolve as we learn more from local arts communities. This goal area sets out our intention to foster and improve equitable access to Arts & Culture programs and services.

### Funding Ideas

The Arts Commission approved the relaunch of IDEA (Innovate, Develop, Experiment, and Access) Grants. The IDEA Grant program supports arts projects by non-arts mandated organizations. We see a strong demand from diverse organizations using arts programming to provide benefits to the community and bring creativity into everyday life. We saw a migration of past Equity program participants to the IDEA program.

### Reduced Barriers through Equity Grant

The *Building our Arts Future* plan established a pilot Equity funding program to support arts initiatives by applicants from communities that are at risk of exclusion or have difficulty accessing support for systemic reasons. Applicants can self-identify their community to determine eligibility and collaborate with a not-for-profit society to meet statutory requirements. The Arts Commission extended the two-year pilot program for a third year. The arms-length adjudication committee was expanded to broaden representation from the community.

### Progress Highlights

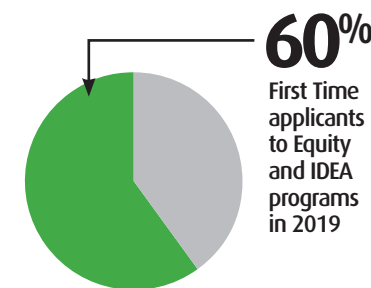
- Relunched IDEA program
- Renewed Equity pilot program
- Expanded representation on adjudication committee

### IN THE COMMUNITY



In 2019 IDEA grants funded neighbourhood festivals, disability arts, seniors storytelling workshops, art therapy programs and more.

**18**  
IDEA & EQUITY  
GRANTS  
Distributed in 2019



11 of the IDEA and Equity grant recipients were new applicants.

**\$50K** Total Equity and IDEA funding: \$50,945 distributed.

photos Full Circle, Aya Behr; Friends of Bowker Creek, Soren Henrich

photo REDress, John Aitken; tender textiles, Macayla Yan

## Podcast Empowers Communities

Full Circle is a spoken-word documentary podcast sharing unique and empowering narratives. “Full Circle amplifies the stories, experiences and knowledge of Indigenous, Black and People of Colour (IBPOC) in local communities,” says producer Kemi Craig.

With the help of a spoken-word coordinator and a production team at CFUV 101.9 FM, Craig explores complex issues such as language and decolonization, the history of the black community in the region and the representation of women in performative art.

“Having people from IBPOC communities shaping each episode in every aspect of production—research, writing, interviewing, and editing—means that we are able to place ourselves at the centre of conversations where we are usually erased, marginalized and undervalued,” says Craig. “We learn the value not only of telling and hearing our stories, but also develop the technical and artistic skills to continue our stories and create our futures.”

### Southern Gulf Island REDress Project

A lone female figure wearing a red dress wades into the ocean and disappears. It is one of the scenes in *Washed Up*, a short film by artist and filmmaker John Aitken addressing the disproportionate number of Indigenous women, girls, trans and two spirit individuals who go missing in Canada.

“I wanted to honour Jaime Black, the Métis artist who started the REDress project,” says Aitken. “Black places multiple red dresses in the landscape to represent missing and murdered Indigenous women.”

Aitken builds on the symbolism of the REDress project in *Washed Up*. The film presents a series of visuals using the images of red dresses with a simple but powerful score. Aitken screened the films on Mayne, Pender and Salt Spring islands and facilitated talking circles after each screening.

“I was expecting 20 people and 100 people showed up to Mayne Island Fire Department’s meeting room,” says Aitken. “Many individuals who viewed this film were moved and that made it easier to start the conversation about decolonization.”

Screening the film on several Gulf Islands was aided by the sponsor society Ptarmigan Arts. “We showed



The film *Washed Up* builds on symbolism of the REDdress project.

**“It was a powerful experience for everyone in the room.”**

the film on Pender Island,” says Lisa Fleming, Executive Director of Ptarmigan Arts. “It was a powerful experience for everyone in the room. The way John brought the community together to talk in his quiet, gentle way was eye opening and spurred community initiatives towards action and reconciliation.”



Embroidery from wellness workshops.

### tender textiles

“We should do this every week,” said one youth. “Yes!” exclaim others at the table. The group was participating in tender textiles, a three-part embroidery workshop series facilitated by two youth workers, one was also an artist leading the project.

The eight youth with diverse backgrounds and experiences came together at a table with seemingly infinite embroidery supplies keen to learn how to embroider and see what else may develop. In addition to a focus on embroidering, a fibre art, the workshop also included explorations of wellness, self-care, community, and intersectionality. The combination of creative skills with emotional discussion created a welcoming atmosphere and helped make conversation easier.

“With open hearts and creative hands, the youth learned the basics of embroidery skills and techniques,” explained the lead artist and facilitator, Macayla Yan. “Beyond that, the youth also cultivated a new creative practice that contributes to their wellness, gained new connections, and strengthened their self-confidence. Over the course of three evenings, some sort of magic happened.”





hapax theatre mounted a production of *Nevermore* (by Matt Conner and Grace Barnes) in the 2019 Victoria Fringe festival. They are recipients of an Incubator grant.

## GOAL 4 Sustain Growth of Arts Organizations in the Region

The capital region has some of the highest concentrations of artists and cultural workers in Canada and a wealth of talent. We want to see arts organizations take risks, achieve great success, and generate world-class cultural experiences for residents and visitors. The intention behind this goal is to help arts organizations innovate and grow sustainably in order to foster resiliency within themselves, and build the distinctive creative output of the capital region.

### Advancing New and Experimental Work

The Incubator program accelerates the development of new arts projects by helping emerging organizations try experimental practices. Uptake of the program grew in 2019 to include new theatre, multi-disciplinary interventions, and a rural community arts centre (Yellowhouse). To continue to provide more opportunities, the Arts Commission extended the two-year pilot program for a third year.

### Supporting Resiliency in Arts Organizations

The CRD has added three new grant programs to the Arts & Culture Support Service since 2017. The expansion of grant programs means we are funding more arts organizations. Simultaneously we increased outreach to a broader audience. In 2019, 23% of successful applicants were new to CRD funding. In addition to new applicants, the majority of grantees have been funded before; reflecting the resiliency of the organization we invest in and our goal to support sustainability of not-for-profit organizations.

**Progress Highlights**

- **Renewed Incubator pilot program**
- **94 not-for-profit organizations and partnerships funded**
- **Invested in research and experimental work**

### IN THE COMMUNITY



Yellowhouse Art Centre on Galiano Island launched year-round programming with support of an Incubator Grant. They provide art classes, dance shows and music festivals for all ages. Says Art Director, Roksan Parfitt, "This is fostering a unique art scene in an isolated community!"



of 94 CRD-funded arts initiatives premiered or created new work in 2019.

**\$15K**

Total Incubator funding distributed to three new arts organizations.

photo hapax theatre, James Holliko

credits Castlereigh Theatre photo: Astros Media (with set design by James Insell, projection design by Astros Media; projection technician, Maia Crockett; LX Design, R.J. Peters); Artemesia photos; Estraven Lupino-Smith; the fifty fifty arts collective photo, Victoria Music Scene



The *Wihitigo* costume, by Carmen Thompson  
Photo L to R: Aqqalu, Ashley Cook.

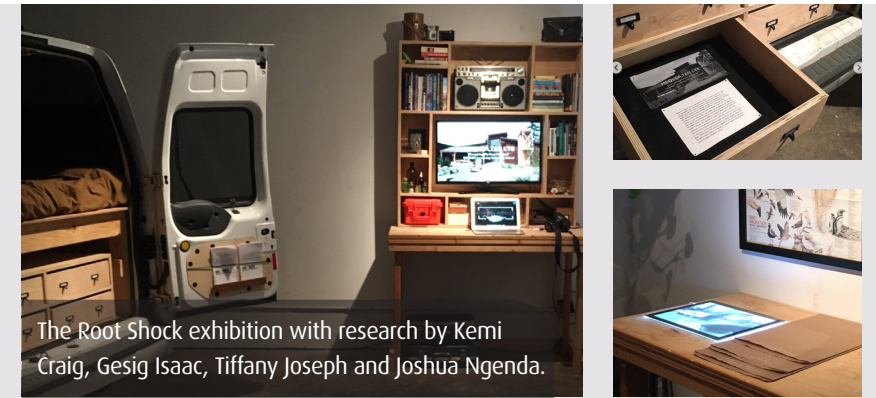
### An Original Outfit

Every aspect of *God's Lake* – script, live score, choreography, set, costumes – is original in every sense of the word. The play was produced by Victoria-based Castlereigh Theatre Project – the latest in a series dedicated to the research, creation and production of new documentary theatre. *God's Lake* started as a story based on the unresolved murder of 15 year-old community member Leah Anderson in 2013 but, as dozens of interviews were conducted for the project, it quickly became apparent the play was more about how her disappearance affected the small community she was from. The writers started to look at the context of Leah's story, what happened to her, the role of caregivers and the systems and institutions that disrupt communities. It is a rare glimpse into the lived reality of a remote, fly-in reserve told verbatim from interviews with its members.

Castlereigh worked with a strong team of artists including one of Canada's leading Indigenous costume designers, Carmen Thompson, to reflect the culture of the location. "When I read the script, I knew I had to do this one. Every story of missing and murdered Indigenous women is important. This story, *God's Lake*, was unraveling as we were creating," says Thompson, a member of the Diitiidaht/Kyuquot/Coast Salish Nations and a Victoria resident.

Thompson worked closely with the co-creators of the play, Kevin Lee Burton, Francesca Albright and the local design crew to create the costumes.

"Carmen ensured proper and respectful portrayal of the community in *God's Lake* Narrows through costumes," explains Albright. "The outfits also needed to be functional for the performers who sometimes needed to change in seconds. Thompson also had a spectacular challenge of creating a *Wihitigo* costume."



The *Root Shock* exhibition with research by Kemi Craig, Gesig Isaac, Tiffany Joseph and Joshua Ngenda.

## A New Arts Organization Takes Root

The newly formed Artemesia Institute spans the arts and natural sciences. It supports 'research-creation', a practice that takes an experimental approach to knowledge through artistic expression. "It's important for artists to have a chance to produce work that is not just an object or performance, but is developed through a research question," explains Director Estraven Lupino-Smith. It makes research more accessible and participatory. An Incubator Grant supported their inaugural exhibition 'Root Shock'. The exhibition, set up as a field station inside the Devonshire Gallery, featured research by Kemi Craig, Gesig Isaac, Tiffany Joseph and Joshua Ngenda. On display were activities to try such as miniature hand-made projectors, layering transparent photographs on a lightbox, and watching a video.

**“It’s important for artists to have a chance to produce work that is not just an object or performance.”**



The band 'Actors' play a free concert supported by the fifty fifty arts collective.

### Emerging Artists Get a Foot in the Door

"We feel that it's a duty for us to harbour emerging artists," explains Jzero Schuurman, Society Director for the fifty fifty arts collective. The fifty fifty produces multiple arts initiatives with an extended project series that ranges from satirical to sport (think pseudo lichen wig shop and music lottery). For 17 years the volunteer-driven collective has built a hands-on experience for local artists through gallery exhibits, a visual arts residency program, Instagram takeovers, and an experimental new music series. This is in addition to providing onsite studios for artists. "Our primary focus is to support local," says Schuurman. "It's an opportunity for emerging artists to get their foot in the door and go on professionally."





Christi Meyers, Assistant Concertmaster for the Victoria Symphony – one of the largest arts organizations in the region. They present nearly 60 performances each season. Over 50 musicians and conductors are joined by visiting artists to bring the music to life, to the delight of 130,000 attendees each year.

## GOAL 5

# Responsive to Community Granting Needs

The CRD Arts & Culture Support Service has invested in arts organizations through granting since 2001. Public-sector investment in the arts supports ongoing local economic development by arts organizations. As organizations grow and new types emerge, so does the need for new grant streams, application processes and reporting procedures. We strive to be responsive and accountable to organizations and their changing granting needs.

### More Granting Options

The CRD offered five separate grant programs in 2019; this is the highest number of funding programs to date. Within Operating Grants, nine organizations maintained multi-year funding, a cycle based on a model of three years of consistent funding.

The multi-year model established a greater degree of financial security for arts organizations when planning ahead and requires less administration time on grant procedures.

Many other organizations rely on other types of grant programs. We saw a need to communicate the flexibility of the Project Grants program, to ensure the community understood that multiple initiatives can be funded through one application. This resulted in a new name: Projects, Series and Extended Programming.

**\$2.4M** Total amount of arts and culture funding distributed by the CRD in 2019.

### Progress Highlights

- **Name updated: Projects, Series & Extended Programming**
- **Launched second year of multi-year operating grants**
- **Administered higher volume of grants and applications**

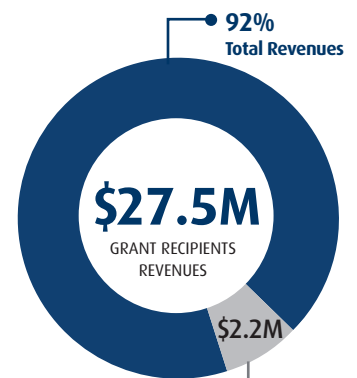
### IN THE COMMUNITY



The Esquimalt Township Community Arts Council received a Project Grant to present a community series that included aerial dancers and Splash of Light! Lantern festival for the benefit of approximately 4,700 attendees.

### Revenues

Operating grant recipients generated **\$27.5 million** in revenues of which CRD provided **8%**.



**Every \$1 invested in 2018 CRD Arts & Culture grants generates an additional \$11.55.**



VFF celebrated their 25th anniversary in 2019.

## A Quarter Century of Celebrating Film

The Victoria Film Festival (VFF) produces Vancouver Island's largest and longest running film festival. During February's dark winter nights, VFF's biggest event lights up the lives of thousands of movie goers.

"The annual film festival energizes the community and makes you feel that something special is going on," says Kathy Kay, Festival Director. Residents enjoy films, socialize and meet film makers. "We normally bring 40-60 industry guests into town to participate in the festival and attendees come from up island," explains Kay.

"We often put on things people don't normally see, even with all of the different online streaming channels," continues Kay. "We employ programmers that are very thoughtful about their selections and know their fields, they say 'go see this film and here's why' and audiences get to see something that blows their socks off."

VFF now sees over 28,000 attendees at the festival, and almost 55,000 attendees at all their programming year-round at the Vic Theatre and outdoor venues.

They are able to pay over 140 local and visiting artists each year and employ 14 staff. As a CRD multi-year operating grant recipient, they now have more time for development. Says Kay, "Multi-year granting provides security, and because the application is not annual it frees up time to work on projects."

photos Victoria Symphony Orchestra, Kevin Light; Victoria Film Festival, Ben Pius; Art Gallery of Greater Victoria, Kyra Koroski



## Spacing Out

The Art Gallery of Greater Victoria (AGGV) has BC's largest collection of visual art held in public trust with over 20,000 works worth approximately \$200 million dollars. The gallery is anticipating a large renovation to their current building that will provide new opportunities for exhibiting and protecting the collection. In preparation for eventual construction, the gallery launched off-site programming.

This means, in addition to popular offerings such as Emily Carr exhibits and family artmaking, gallery staff also curate experiences outside of the gallery. In 2019, they launched 'What Artists Bring to the Table,' a five part food series exploring the artistic practices of cultivating and cooking which was held at the Oaklands Community Centre. A 'Listener-in-Residence' program at a seniors care society was developed with the aim of using art to ease social isolation and cultivate intergenerational connection.

The second stream of community-based programming sprung from a need for alternative space but has other benefits. "It's an opportunity to build new relationships in the communities we serve," says Executive Director Jon Tupper, "in addition to establishing interest and support for our building project."

## Integrate Arts Pivots to Extended Programming

The Integrate Arts Collective's free, three-day festival had experienced rapid growth when organizers decided to hit pause. Their audience had shot up to 5,600 attendees, but the concentrated festival format wasn't sustainable for volunteers and funding.

"Integrate was making a good impact but eight months of work boiled down to three days," explains Development Coordinator, Regan Shrumm. "We were excited by a new vision and ideas for programming year round."

The society chose to extend their programming to a series based on emerging



Artists lead community discussion in Integrate's FEEDBACK/FEEDFORWARD series.

community needs. "We changed our mandate and mission to reflect that we are not just doing festival programming," says Shrumm. Integrate, a Project Grant recipient, was able to move forward without having to switch funding streams.





The Suffers at the Victoria Jazz Festival

# Let's Celebrate!

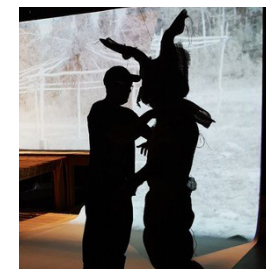
These organizations received funding through the Arts & Culture Support Service in 2019.

## Grant programs:

- Operating Grant
- Project Grant
- Equity Grant
- IDEA Grant
- Incubator Grant



CapriCcio Vocal Ensemble  
Bach and Mendelssohn



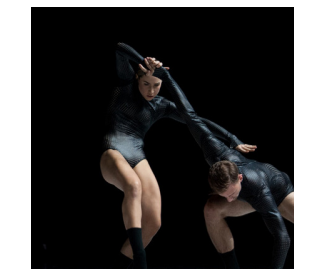
Castlereigh Theatre Project  
Society  
God's Lake



CineVic



Civic Orchestra of Victoria  
Strum, Rodrigo Guitar  
Concertos



Dance Victoria



Deluge Contemporary Art



Early Music Society



Eine Kleine Summer  
Music  
Summer Music Festival



Emily Carr String Quartet  
The Beethoven Cycle



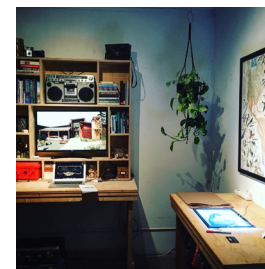
Ensemble Laude Choral  
Society  
20th Anniversary



arc.hive arts society  
Bridge Studio Crawl



Art Gallery of Greater  
Victoria



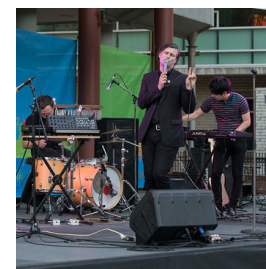
Artemisia Institute  
Root Shock



Atomic Vaudeville



Aventa Ensemble



fifty fifty arts collective  
Exhibitions & Programming



Flamenco de la Isla  
Society  
Victoria Flamenco Festival



Friends of Bowker Creek  
Society  
Creekside Concerts



Friends of Music Society  
Mental Pride Rock Band



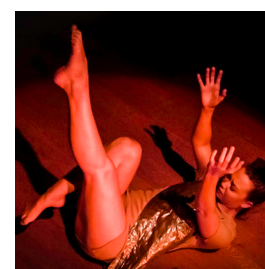
Garden City Electronic  
Music Society  
Wonderment



Ballet Victoria



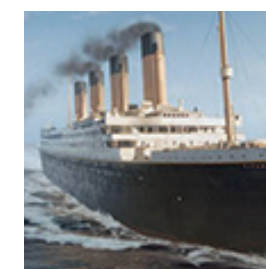
Belfry Theatre



Broken Rhythms Victoria  
Society  
Into the Wire



Campbell Bay Music  
Festival Society  
Indigenous Arts Program



Canadian Light Music  
Society  
The Titanic

photo Victoria Jazz Festival (photo (top), Richard Hum



Greater Victoria  
Performing Arts Festival



Greater Victoria Youth  
Orchestra



Harmony Project Sooke  
Youth strings-and-drums  
program



Hispanic Film Society  
Latin American & Spanish  
Film Festival



Impulse Theatre Society  
Performance Lab





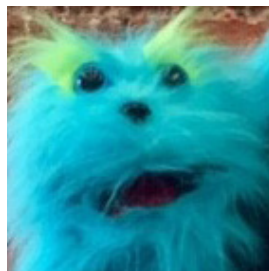
India Canada Cultural Assn of Victoria  
Victoria India Mela



Imagine new possibilities for talking and writing about art  
**FEEDBACK FEEDFORWARD**  
Session 2  
Kim Dhillon | Kemi Craig  
Tarah Hogue | Alana Sayers  
Saturday September 14, 2019 1:00PM  
Art Gallery of Greater Victoria



Inter-Cultural Assn  
Seeing Myself, Building Language through Art



Int'l Institute for Child Rights & Dev.  
Puppet Play for Child Rights



Intrepid Theatre



Sooke Festival Society  
Sooke Music & Arts Festival



Sooke Folk Music Society  
Sooke Folk Music in the Park



Sooke Philharmonic Society  
Community Concerts



Story Theatre



Suddenly Dance Theatre  
Season



Island String Players Society (Raven Baroque)  
Baroque music program



James Bay New Horizons  
Warm Fuzzies and Cold Pricklies



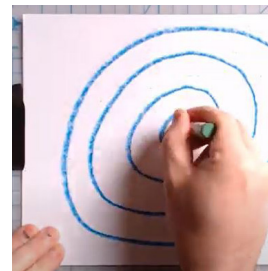
Kaleidoscope Theatre



Linden Singers of Victoria  
Choral Classics



MediaNet



The Proulx Global Ed. & Comm. Foundation  
Art Hive



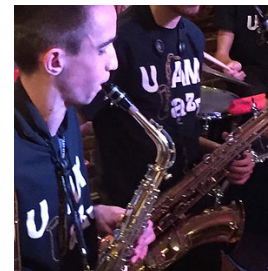
Theatre Inconnu



Theatre SKAM



Township Community Arts Council  
Aeriosa & Splash of Light!



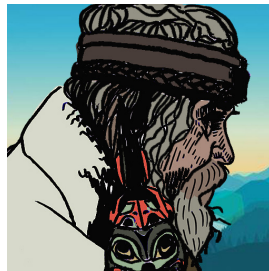
UJAM  
Summer Jam Festival



Metchosin Arts & Cultural Centre Association  
The Legacy Project



Ministry of Casual Living  
Exhibitions & Events



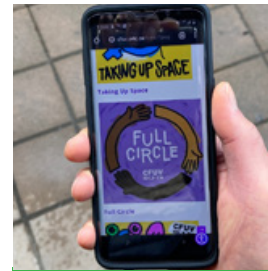
Ministry of Casual Living  
Beau Dick Memorial Mural



Old Dogwood Society for Arts & Ecology  
Tiny Tiny Cozy Fest



Open Space



University of Victoria Student Radio Society  
Full Circle



Veselka Ukrainian Dance Association  
Ukrainian Dance



Victoria Arts Council



Victoria Baroque Players Society  
Forces of Nature



Victoria BC Ska and Reggae Society  
Ska & Reggae Festival



Pacific Opera Victoria



Pacific Peoples' Partnership Association  
One Wave Gathering



Pender Island Art Society  
Le Petit Salon



Ptarmigan Art Society  
Mosaic Arts & Culture Festival



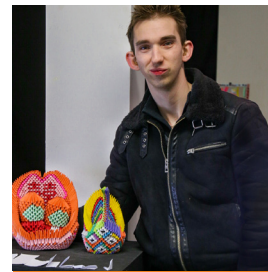
Ptarmigan Arts Society  
Southern Gulf Island REDress Project



Victoria Children's Choir



Victoria Conservatory of Music



Victoria Disability Resource Centre  
7th Annual Artists with Disabilities Showcase



Victoria Festival of Authors  
2019 Festival



Victoria Film Festival



Puente Theatre



Salish Sea Inter-Island Transportation  
Step Back in Time



Sing Your Joy  
10th Anniversary



SNAFU Dance Theatre Society  
Calling Home



Sooke Community Choir  
#modernlove



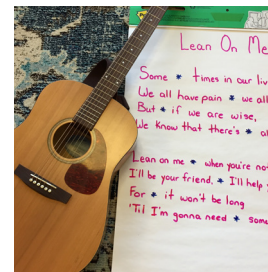
Victoria Good News Choir Society  
All Ages Together in Song



Victoria Guitar Society  
Syrian Encounter



Victoria hapax theatre Society  
Nevermore



Victoria Hospice Society  
Music Therapy



Victoria Jazz Society

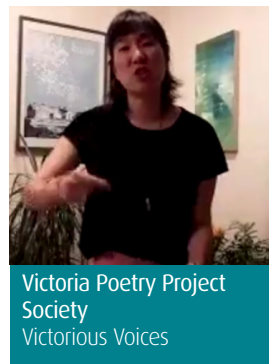




Victoria Operatic Society



Victoria Philharmonic Choir Society Mass in C minor / Great Mass



Victoria Poetry Project Victorious Voices



Victoria Shakespeare Society



Victoria Summer Music Festival Society



Victoria Symphony Orchestra



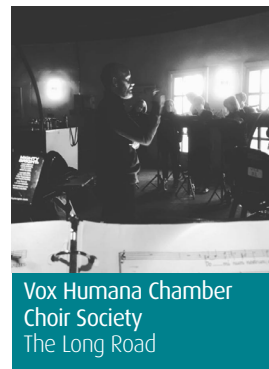
Victoria Tool Library Society tender textiles



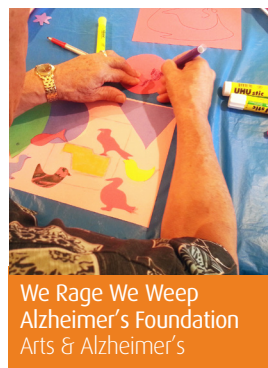
Victoria Women's Transition House Identity Formation through Doll Creativity



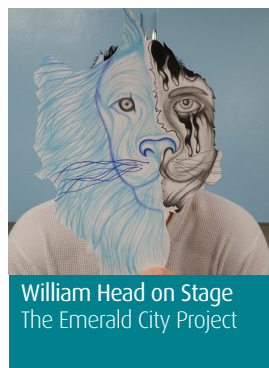
VIVA Youth Choirs Society Singing & Performance



Vox Humana Chamber Choir Society The Long Road



We Rage We Weep Alzheimer's Foundation Arts & Alzheimer's



William Head on Stage The Emerald City Project



Xchanges Artists' Gallery



Yellowhouse Art Centre Society Community programming

### Photo Credits

**Art Gallery of Greater Victoria** Megan Dickie **Artemisia Institute** Estraven Lupino-Smith **Atomic Vaudeville** Mackenzie Lemire **Ballet Victoria** Barbara Burns **Belfry Theatre** Stoo Metz **Broken Rhythms** Dyana Sonik-Henderson **Castlereigh Theatre Project** Society Astros Media **Cinevic** Daniel Carruthers **Dance Victoria** Cindi Wicklund **the fifty fifty arts collective** Victoria Music Scene **Flamenco de la Isla Society** Amity Skala **Friends of Bowker Creek Society** Soren Henrich **Greater Victoria Performing Arts Festival** Hermilo Granados **Impulse Theatre Society** Andrew Barrett **Intrepid Theatre** James Holkko **Island String Players Society (Raven Baroque)** Don Kissinger **Kaleidoscope Theatre** Jennifer Callioux **Metchosin Arts & Cultural Centre Association** Dawn Boshcoff **Ministry of Casual Living** Doug Jarvis **Pacific Opera Victoria** Rebecca Hass **Pacific Peoples' Partnership Association** Steven Davies **Ptarmigan Art Society** Lauren Mann **Ptarmigan Arts Society, Washed Up** John Aitken

**Puente Theatre** Jam Hamidi **Sing Your Joy Chorus** Brad Edwards **Photography Sooke Festival Society** Jim Poole **Story Theatre** Erica Petty **Suddenly Dance Theatre** Bernie Ng **Theatre SKAM** Emma Leck **Township Community Arts Council** Wendy Swan **Victoria Baroque Players Society** Jon-Mark Wiltshire **Victoria Childrens Choir** Carla Unger **Victoria Conservatory of Music** Mark Nicol **Victoria Film Festival** Tomasz Michniewicz **Victoria Guitar Society** Natasha Pashchenko **Victoria Hapax Theatre Society** James Holkko **Victoria Jazz Society** Dan Russek **Victoria Operatic Society** Paula Brown **Victoria Philharmonic Choir Society** Reuben Butterfield **Victoria Shakespeare Festival** Lara Eichhorn **Victoria Symphony** Kevin Light **Photography** **Victoria Tool Library Society** Macayla Yan **William Head on Stage** Sam Redmond **Yellowhouse Art Centre Society** Amos Hertzman

### Artistic Attribution

**Art Gallery of Greater Victoria** Blue Skies; Megan Dickie **Artemisia Institute** Root Shock; Kemi Craig, Gesig Isaac, Tiffany Joseph, Joshua Ngenda **Atomic Vaudeville** Hedwig and The Angry Inch; Performers: Griffin Leonard Lea and Jana Morrison; Costumes: Jimbo and Brady Taylor; **Ballet Victoria** Alice in Wonderland; Dancer, Tymin Keown **Belfry Theatre Old Stock** Creative Team - Hannah Moscovitch (Playwright), Christian Barry (Director), Ben Caplan & Christian Barry (Songs), Louisa Adamson (Stage and Production Manager), Louisa Adamson & Christian Barry (Set & Lighting Designers), Jordan Palmer, Graham Scott, Christian Barry & Ben Caplan (Sound Designers), Carly Beamish (Costume Designer), Laura Vingoe-Cram (Assistant Director) **Broken Rhythms** Into the Wire Dyana Sonik-Henderson **Castlereigh Theatre God's Lake** Costume design: Carmen Thompson, Set design: James Insell, Projection design: Astros Media, Projection Technician: Maia Crockett; L/X Design, R.J. Peters **Civic Orchestra of Victoria** STRUM Rodrigo Guitar Concertos

**Dance Victoria** BEGINNING AFTER; Choreography: Cayetano Soto Dancers Kirsten Wicklund, Peter Smida **Deluge** technotihuacan Antimatter [media art] performance by Rob Fatal & Bianca Oblivio **Ensemble Laude Choral Society** Luminescence **the fifty fifty arts collective** In Mirrors **Greater Victoria Performing Arts Festival** Studio Dance Noa Paster **Impulse Theatre Society** how to pull your heart out through your throat Actors: Rachel Levy, Julie Mombourquette and Chase Hiebert **Intrepid Theatre** Fringe Kids **Kaleidoscope Theatre** Vivaldi's Ring of Mystery Artist: Finn Letourneau **Greater Victoria Shakespeare Festival** Two Gentlemen of Verona; Performer Taylor Lewis **Ministry of Casual Living** A Scene of Joissance, Meichen Waxer **Open Space When Raven Became Spider**, curated by Leena Minifie (Gibxala, Ts'msyen) and featuring work from artists Joi T. Arcand (Cree), Sonny Assu (Kwakwaka'wakw), Shaun Beyale (Navajo), Julianne Beaudin-Herney (Cree/Mi'kmaq/Métis), Elle-Máijá Tailfeathers (Blackfoot/Sami), and Jeffery Veregge (S'Klallam).

**Pacific Opera** Artist Jessica Schacht Wigs workshop **Pacific Peoples' Partnership Association** Lorilee Wastasecoot curatorial collection **SNAFU** Calling Home Co-creators: Kristin Atwood and Kathleen Greenfield, Director by Kathleen Greenfield **Story Theatre** The Library Club **Suddenly Dance** Theatre First Abundance Society Dab Dance Project, Seoul, South Korea **Theatre Inconnu Crumble** (Lay me down, Justin Timberlake) Playwright: Sheila Callaghan Performers in photo: Matthew Connelly and Wendy Cornock **Theatre SKAM** SKAMPede Salty Broad Productions' SALTINES MYSTERY PARTY! Artistic Director & Co-Founder, Producer/ Dramaturg: Sarah Murphy, Writer/Director/Performer: Emilee Nimetz, Performers: Alyssa Bryce, Julie Mombourquette **Victoria Arts Council** contrapposto Lawrence Mandes Untitled (Pride Moccasins) **Victoria Guitar Society** Syrian Encounter Orontes Quartet (with guitars) with guest artists Deborah Campbell & Susan McDonald and Masa Kateb & Celso Machado **Victoria Operatic Society** Mamma Mia Victoria Childrens Choir Ocean World Concert **Victoria Disability Resource Centre** 7th Annual Artists with Disabilities Showcase Brayden Hrycun 3D origami **Victoria Jazz Society** Sonja Jobarteh **Victoria Poetry Project Society** Janice Jo Lee Victorious Voices Youth Arts festival **William Head on Stage** The Emerald City Project

photo Story Theatre, Dodds Eye Media



Story Theatre's annual general meeting doubles as a winter carnival with entertainment, games, and crafts for all ages, as well as an opportunity to explore their touring sets and puppets.

## Who we are

### Arts Commission

**Saanich** CRD Board Chair Colin Plant

**Victoria** Director Jeremy Loveday (Arts Commission Chair)

**Oak Bay** Councillor Tara Ney

**Esquimalt** Councillor Meagan Brame

**View Royal** Councillor Gery Lemon

**Metchosin** Councillor Sharie Epp

**Highlands** Councillor Karel Roessingh

**Sooke** Councillor Dana Lajeunesse

**Southern Gulf Islands** Wendy Gardner

### Arts Advisory Council

Taryn Craig  
Bill Crook  
Deborah Etsten  
Carolyn Heiman  
Michelle Heinz  
Ari Hershberg  
Emmy Beaton  
Suzanne Ives  
Bronwyn Mclean  
Patti Sullivan  
Diane Thorpe  
Joanna Verano

### Guest Adjudicators

Paulina Grainger  
Rudi Wallace

### CRD Arts & Culture Staff

Heather Heywood  
James Lam  
Jennifer Nichols

### About Us

The Capital Regional District (CRD) is the regional government for 13 municipalities and three electoral areas on southern Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands. The CRD works together to serve the public good and build a vibrant, livable and sustainable region. The Arts & Culture Support Service is one of over 200 services provided by the CRD.

The CRD Arts & Culture Support Service is the regional arts funding body for not-for-profit organizations. CRD grants support exhibitions, performances, readings and programming by organizations for the benefit of residents and visitors. Through outreach, the Service fosters collaboration between arts organizations, funders and audiences.

### More Information

Learn more about arts funding: [www.crd.bc.ca/arts](http://www.crd.bc.ca/arts)

FeedtheArtsYYJ feedtheartsyyj crdartsdev



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Capital Regional District  
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Victoria, BC V8W 2S6