



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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“ 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. ”



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



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 supports 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)

The arts are central to life in the region.

VISION

Progress by the Numbers

CRD Arts & Culture Funding

Multi-year Operating Grants
\$1.6M

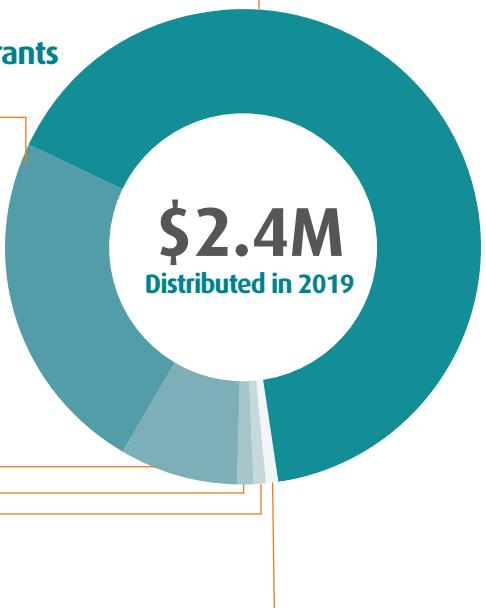
Annual Operating Grants
\$580K

Project Grants
\$195K

IDEA Grants
\$30K

Equity Grants
\$20K

Incubator Grants
\$15K



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

This is the most recently available data. For direct links to research sources visit www.crd.bc.ca/arts.

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
BC Culture 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

Arts are Central to Life



In 2019
CRD Operating
and Project
grant recipients:

Produced
3,357
events

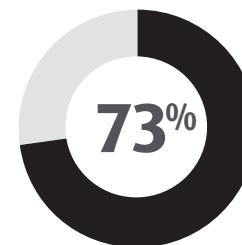
Provided
3,564
jobs

Convened
644K+
attendees

Involved
5,395
volunteers

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



Bohdi 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

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.



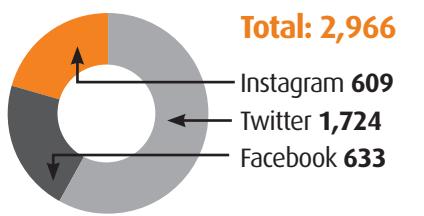
The LandMarksPublicArt.ca website has artwork in every jurisdiction that contributes to CRD Arts & Culture.



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

Highest Tweet Impression
14.6K+

Where CRD Arts Followers Are



atwork Young Orca, Dale Pallo, Pender Island
photos archive, Amber MacGregor, One Wave, Tony Spracklett



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 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.

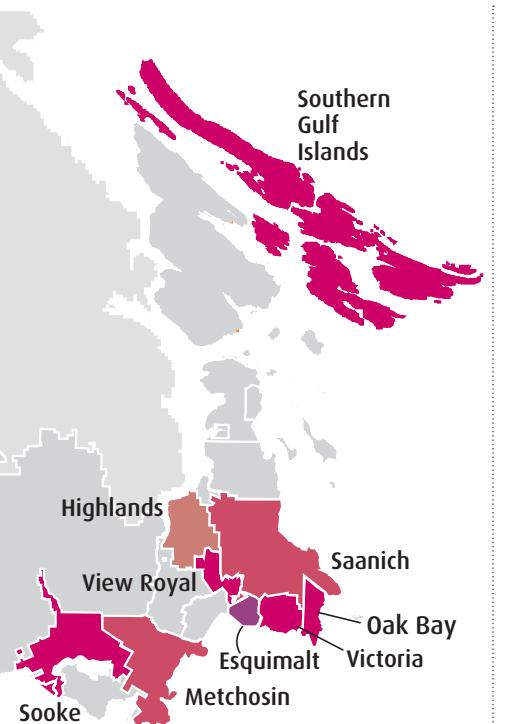
Regional Arts Facility Needs Conversation

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.

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."

photo Kaleidoscope, Veronica Bondeud



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

- Relaunched IDEA program**
- Renewed Equity pilot program**
- Expanded representation on adjudication committee**

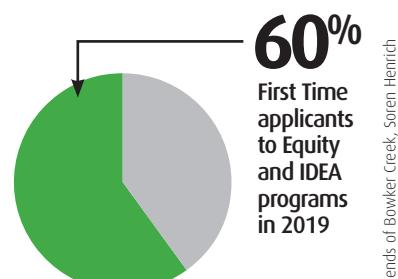
IN THE COMMUNITY



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

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

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



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

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."



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."



The film Washed Up builds on symbolism of the REDress 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."

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



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!"

70%

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 Holko



The Wihtigo 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.

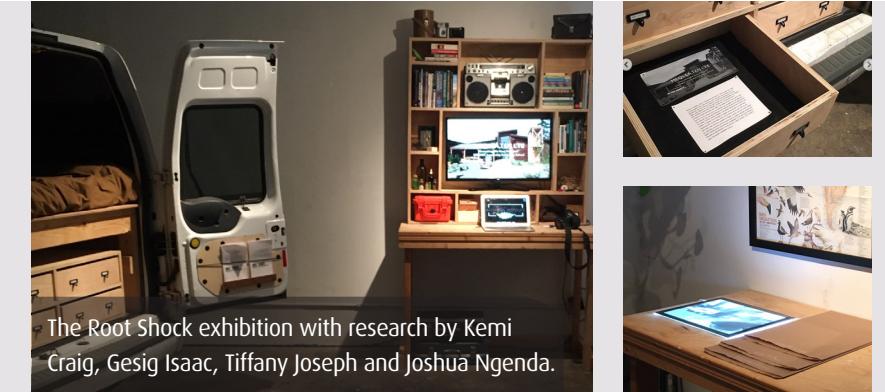
God's Lake started as a story based on the unresolved murder of 15 year-old community member Leah Anderson in 2013 but, as dozens of interviews were conducted for the project, it quickly became apparent the play was more about how her disappearance affected the small community she was from. The writers 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 Diiitiada/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 Wihtigo costume."

photo: Castlereigh Theatre photo: Astros Media (with set design by James Insell; projection design by Estraven Lupino-Smith, the fifty fifty arts collective photo, Victoria Music Scene)



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 Artemisia 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 handmade projectors, layering transparent photographs on a lightbox, and watching a video.



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."

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



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.

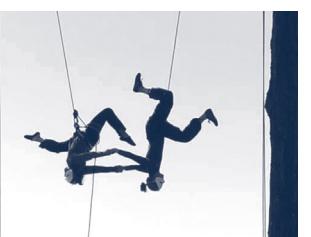
\$2.4M

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**

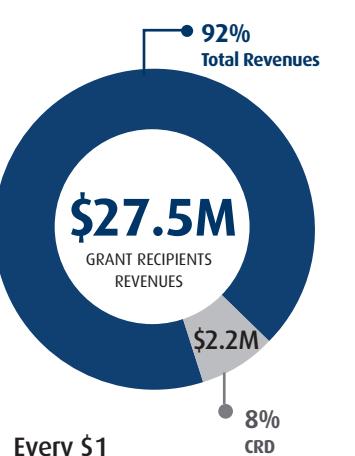
IN THE COMMUNITY



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."



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.

Grant programs:

Operating Grant
Project Grant
Equity Grant
IDEA Grant
Incubator Grant



The Suffers at the Victoria Jazz Festival

Let's Celebrate!

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



arc.hive arts society
Bridge Studio Crawl



Art Gallery of Greater Victoria



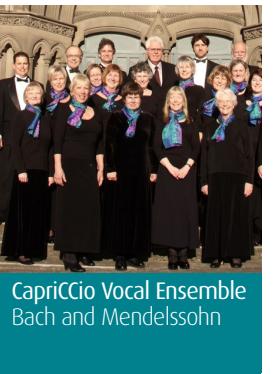
Artemisia Institute
Root Shock



Atomic Vaudeville



Aventa Ensemble



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



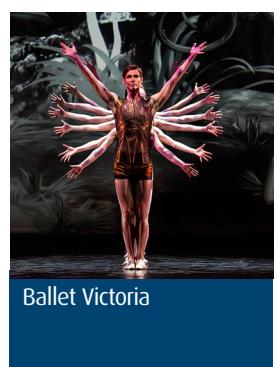
Eine Kleine Summer Music
Summer Music Festival



Emily Carr String Quartet
The Beethoven Cycle



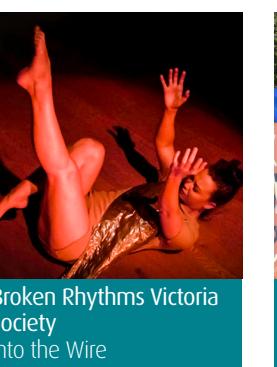
Ensemble Laude Choral Society
20th Anniversary



Ballet Victoria



Belfry Theatre



Broken Rhythms Victoria
Into the Wire



Campbell Bay Music Festival Society
Indigenous Arts Program



Canadian Light Music Society
The Titanic



Greater Victoria Performing Arts Festival



Greater Victoria Youth Orchestra



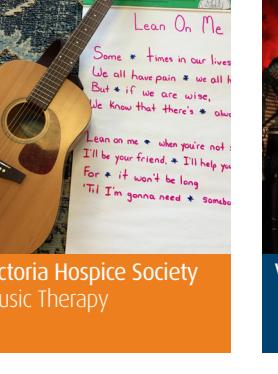
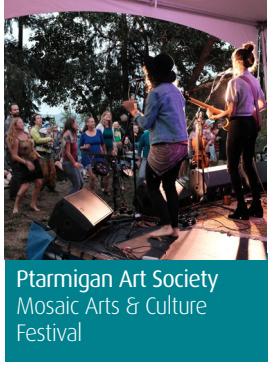
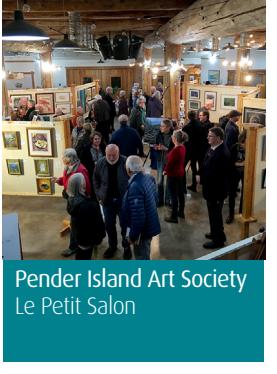
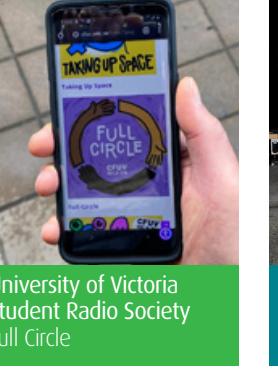
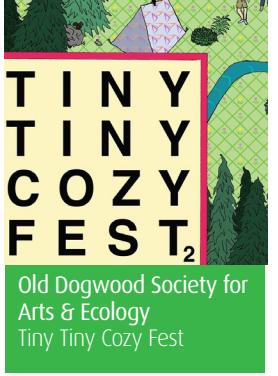
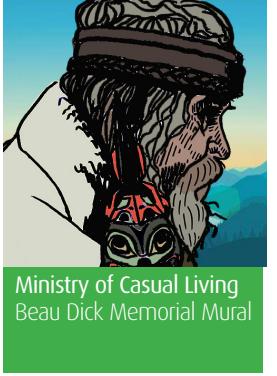
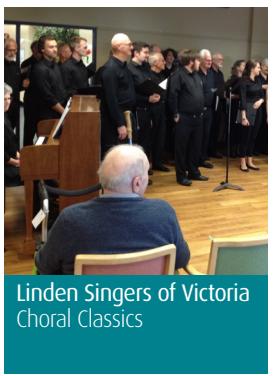
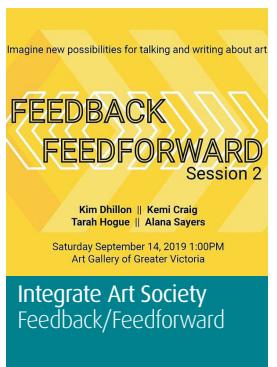
Harmony Project Sooke
Youth strings-and-drums program



Hispanic Film Society
Latin American & Spanish Film Festival

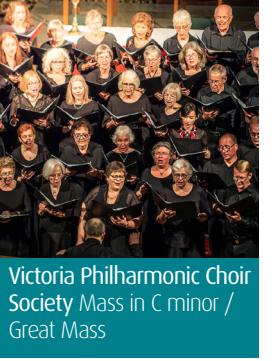


Impulse Theatre Society
Performance Lab





Victoria Operatic Society



Victoria Philharmonic Choir Society Mass in C minor / Great Mass



Victoria Poetry Project Society
Victorious Voices



Victoria Shakespeare Society
Victorious Voices



Victoria Summer Music Festival Society



Victoria Symphony Orchestra



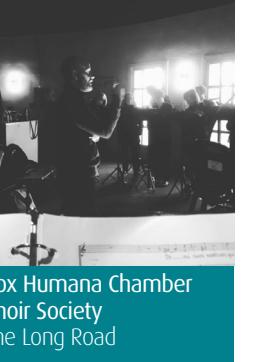
Victoria Tool Library Society
tender textiles



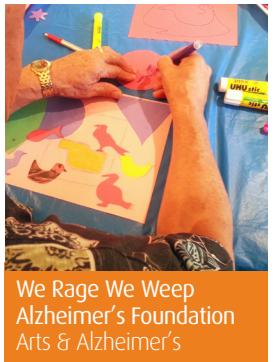
Victoria Women's Transition House Identity Formation through Doll Creativity



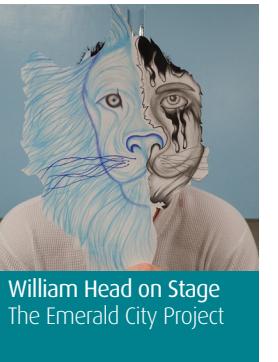
VIVA Youth Choirs Society
Singing & Performance



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

Pacific Opera Artist Jessica Schacht

Wigs workshop

Pacific Peoples' Partnership

Association

Lorilee Wastasecot

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 Connolly and Wendy Cornock

Theatre SKAM

SKAMPede Salty

Broad Productions'

SALTINES

MYSTERY PARTY!

Artistic Director &

Co-Founder, Producer/ Dramaturg:

Sarah Murphy, Writer/Director/Per-

former: Emilee Nemetz, 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 Katab & Celso Machado

Victoria Operatic Society

Mamma

Mia Victoria Childrens Choir

Ocean

World Concert

Victoria Disability Resource

Centre

7th Annual

Artists with

Dis-

abilities

Showcase

Brayden Hrycun

3D origami

Victoria Jazz Society

Sona Jobarteh

Victoria Poetry Project Society

Janice Jo Lee

Victorious Voices

Youth

Arts

festival

William Head on Stage

Rodrigo

Guitar

Concertos

Amos

Hertzman

photo Story Theatre, Dods Eye Media



Who we are

Arts Commission

Arts Advisory Council

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

FeedtheArtsYYJ feedtheartsyyj crdartsdev

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
Cinevix Daniel Carruthers
Dance Victoria Cindi Wicklund
the fifty fifty arts collective
Victoria Music Scene
Flamenco de la Isla Society
Amy Skala **Friends of Bowker Creek Society**
Soren Henrich
Greater Victoria Performing Arts Festival Hermilo Granados
Impulse Theatre Society Andrew Barrett
Intrepid Theatre James Holko
Island String Players Society (Raven Baroque) Don Kissinger
Kaleidoscope Theatre Jennifer Callioux
Metchosin Arts & Cultural Centre Association Dawn Boscoff
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

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, Tymian Keown
Township Community Arts Council Wendy Swan
Victoria Baroque Players Society Jon-Mark Wilshire
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 Holko
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
Civic Orchestra of Victoria STRUM Rodrigo Guitar Concertos
Yellowhouse Art Centre Society Amos Hertzman

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