

THE CULTCH

22/23 **IMPACT** REPORT

Rebuilding and Celebrating Performance



IN MY DAY Scott Burton and company image by S. Race

Message from Executive Director Heather Redfern

This past year has proven that coming out of the pandemic, many things have changed. We have worked hard to be responsive to the needs of all of our communities, both local and international.

The landscape has changed, and The Cultch, like most live performing arts venues around the world, has seen a marked decline in attendance. That has not deterred artists from sinking their teeth into making amazing shows that have made us feel the deep connection we can only experience being in a room filled with other human beings. We also committed to continuing our digital RE/PLAY programming, providing an opportunity for those who cannot gather in our live spaces to interact with Cultch performances and for artists to expand their practices. Those attending The Cultch have been privileged to share the laughter, the stories, the pathos, and the love that has trod on our boards this year.

This new reality has led to stimulating conversations, soul searching, experimentation and exchanging ideas. As we look forward, we have had to look back and remember what the live arts bring to the human spirit.



Heather Redfern image by Lisa Wu

We bring everyone together to celebrate our own and each other's stories. We put messages of empathy, tolerance and hope into plays, dances, circus, music, puppets, storytelling and send it out into the universe for each person to find in themselves and to share with their communities. We are rebuilding and celebrating together.

Heather

Our Mission & Our Values

ART

To activate, engage, and encourage discourse through live performance

COMMUNITY

To cultivate a wide and diverse community of artists, audiences and supporters

PATRON LOYALTY

To build long-lasting and meaningful relationships with everyone who chooses to participate with The Cultch - to be the best contemporary cultural centre in Canada

OUR VALUES

Interaction with Art is a human necessity that is transformational. We create experiences for everyone that give life meaning and make communities vital and ready for change.

Our vision is realized through presenting a yearly series of innovative performances, supporting commissions and residencies, participating in partnerships and building relationships with multiple communities.

Our core values are realized by supporting excellence in artistic practice and patron experiences, the development of youth and emerging arts practices, providing artists with access to a diverse audience, supporting diverse and Indigenous creators, and advocating for artists and cultural workers in a creative and respectful working environment.

OUR VALUES

Art is at the centre of everything we do. We value everyone that chooses to create, work, and participate in the activities of the centre. Service to citizens is a core value.

- We embrace diversity. We meaningfully engage all generations.
- We respect the past and acknowledge and celebrate our elders.
- We value inspiration.
- We listen and respond.
- We work within our means.
- We are mindful that we work on unceded territory.
- We are mindful of the Climate Emergency in all we do.



ENSEMBLE STARWALKER Image by David Cooper

We Celebrate Diversity at Our Core

The Cultch is rooted in all of the diverse communities that make up the cultural richness that is East Vancouver. We develop long term partnerships and deep relationships with companies that are focused on equity deserving communities. Our programs are informed by our mandate to elevate and embrace diversity. We do this by ensuring our venues are safe spaces, populated with extraordinary professionals that make every company, artist, and audience member feel at home and supported.



We provided tools and care for better communication and comfort

VocalEye

VocalEye Live Description, also known as “Audio Description”, refers to descriptions of the visual elements of a performance or event that are spoken live and in real-time to listeners with vision loss. The Cultch hosted 7 VocalEye Performances throughout the season.

ASL

Our ASL-speaking staff member is supported through the professional ASL interpretation we integrate into our meetings, and through our regular ASL practice to learn the fundamentals of the language. The Cultch covers the costs for staff to take ASL courses.

Closed Captioning for RE/PLAY

Every show in our RE/PLAY online series offered Closed Captioning. In addition, *Year of the Cello* was an audio-only experience, inherently designed with blind and low-vision communities in mind. We created a customized low-vision friendly version of the webpage, and collaborated with blind/low-vision consultant Amy Amantea to improve the patron journey to the work.

Our bathrooms became more inclusive

Thanks to funding from the City of Vancouver, the BC Arts Council, and Canadian Heritage, we renovated our Historic theatre washrooms. The completed washrooms now allow for more personal privacy, and are welcoming to everyone no matter their gender identity.



MY LITTLE TOMATO Taylor Kare & Shay Dior image by Sarah Race

Live Performances

Our 2022/23 live presentation series brought:



LIVE PERFORMANCES

FALL SEASON

- Animal** Sept 20-24, 2022
VANCOUVER PLAYHOUSE
Cirque Alfonse
- Hot Brown Honey** Sept 23-Oct 8, 2022
YORK THEATRE
Quiet Riot
- Bad Parent** Oct 13-23, 2022
HISTORIC THEATRE
vAct
- The Cave** Nov 9-20, 2022
HISTORIC THEATRE
JMar Electric
- East Van Panto:
The Little Mermaid** Nov 16, 2022-Jan 1, 2023
YORK THEATRE
*Theatre Replacement &
The Cultch*
- In My Day** Dec 2-11, 2023
HISTORIC THEATRE
Zee Zee Theatre

WINTER/SPRING SEASON

- Little Willy** Jan 10-29, 2023
HISTORIC THEATRE
Ronnie Burkett
- Sacre** Jan 17-21, 2023
VANCOUVER PLAYHOUSE
Circa presented with DanceHouse
- Starwalker** Feb 15-Mar 5, 2023
YORK THEATRE
Urban Ink & Raven Theatre
- My Little Tomato** Mar 9-19, 2023
HISTORIC THEATRE
*vAct in association with ZeeZee
Theatre & rice & beans*

Paradise or the Impermanence of Ice Cream	Mar 23-April 2, 2023 HISTORIC THEATRE <i>Indian Ink</i>
Stupid F*cking Bird	April 12-23, 2023 HISTORIC THEATRE <i>Search Party Productions</i>
BIRD with Kylie Vincent*	April 18-23, 2023 VANCITY CULTURE LAB <i>Kylie Vincent</i>
RAVEN*	April 26-30, 2023 YORK THEATRE <i>still hungry</i>
űtszan(to make better)*	May 4-13, 2023 VANCITY CULTURE LAB <i>Ruby Slippers Theatre</i>
Body Parts*	May 3-6, 2023 HISTORIC THEATRE <i>Tara Cheyenne</i>
New Age Attitudes: Live in Concert*	May 11-14, 2023 HISTORIC THEATRE <i>Theatre Replacement</i>
First Mćtis Man of Odesa	May 24-June 4, 2023 HISTORIC THEATRE <i>Punctuate! Theatre</i>

*Part of the Femme Festival

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Jill Barber*	April 15, 2023 YORK THEATRE <i>CapU Jazz Series & The Cultch</i>
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THE CULTCH HOSTED 24 POST-SHOW TALKBACKS

RE/PLAY:
Digital Theatre

<p>6 FEATURE LENGTH DIGITAL PRODUCTIONS</p> <p>Sliding Scale Pricing (\$0, \$5, \$15, \$30)</p>	<p>12 RE/PLAY SHORTS</p> <p>Free to view (released once a month)</p>	<p>7514 TOTAL HOUSEHOLD VIEWS</p> <p>Estimated 2-4 people per household</p>
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2022/23 FEATURE LENGTH PERFORMANCES

Meditation*	<i>Amber Barton</i>
Demolition	<i>Polytoxic</i>
East Van Panto: The Little Mermaid*	<i>Theatre Replacement & The Cultch</i>
Year of the Cello	<i>Theatre Passe Muraille</i>
The Cafe*	<i>Aphotic Theatre & Itsazoo Productions</i>
In Response to Alabama*	<i>Little Thief Theatre</i>
TRANSFORM Cabaret Festival*	<i>Various (see below)</i>
Climate Change and Other Small Talk Podcast	<i>Sunny Drake, Why Not Theatre</i>

*Created and filmed in collaboration with The Cultch's RE/PLAY team

“Really happy to have the option to view online. We don’t live in Vancouver so it’s wonderful to be able to enjoy the Panto from home.”

—The Cultch Audience Survey

“The filming was well-shot and high quality, loved the captions.”

—The Cultch Audience Survey

RE/PLAY is The Cultch’s award-winning digital series dedicated to creating and showcasing diverse, boundary-breaking online performance.

Since beginning a digital program in 2019, The Cultch has become an industry leader in creating, producing, and distributing high quality works of digital theatre in a variety of formats. While The Cultch has returned to in-person programming, we are committed to the digital theatre space. As we continue to produce and present engaging new works, we are building an arts ecosystem where online and in-person performances live side by side.



MEDITATION Amber Barton image by Cameron Anderson

Indigenous Programming

The Cultch creates meaningful artistic gatherings on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓ əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səilwətaʔt (Tsleil-Waututh) nations.

Our facilities are located in the Grandview-Woodland neighbourhood where one in twelve residents identify as Indigenous. What does it mean to operate three theatre-venues on this Land and in this neighbourhood? The Cultch believes that our responsibility extends far beyond acknowledging the Land prior to every performance. We believe in action. We believe that it is our responsibility to serve our community by programming, supporting, and investing in Indigenous performances and Indigenous audiences.

We are committed to right relations with all nations, our role in decolonization, and reparations as a cultural institution. We have a responsibility to respond to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action. We work in partnership with the Indigenous arts community to make our venues accessible and supportive of ceremony and cultural practices for creation and performance. We always financially compensate for the time in leadership, knowledge sharing, protocols, ceremonies, and guidance.

Our first question to our partners is always, what do you need? We are called on to engage, by providing technical, marketing, artistic and financial support to the productions these artists and companies are choosing to make for their communities. We are guided by them and follow their lead.

2022/23 INDIGENOUS PROGRAMMING

Hot Brown Honey	Sept 23-Oct 8, 2022 YORK THEATRE <i>Quiet Riot</i>
Starwalker	Feb 15-Mar 5, 2023 YORK THEATRE <i>Urban Ink & Raven Theatre</i>
űtszan (to make better)	May 4-13, 2023 VANCITY CULTURE LAB <i>Ruby Slippers Theatre</i>
First Métis Man of Odesa	May 24-June 4, 2023 HISTORIC THEATRE <i>Punctuate! Theatre</i>
Transform Cabaret Festival	March 28-May 28, 2023 DIGITAL <i>co-produced with Urban Ink</i>

DIGITAL TRANSFORM CABARET FESTIVAL

TRANSFORM Cabaret Festival is unlike any other festival in the world. With a focus on empowering Indigenous artists and encouraging collaboration with non-Indigenous artists, this unique festival builds relationships and brings communities together to create lasting social change and groundbreaking performance.

This year's digital festival showcased powerful new works from local artists such as Kim Senklip Harvey's *Making The Mystics* and Corey Payette's *Guide My Way: The Music of Sedna*.

TRANSFORM FESTIVAL IS ENTIRELY FREE TO VIEW

11 Shows

Over 50 Artists

669 Household views

(Apart from large viewership across Canada, Transform Festival programming also reached people in Aotearoa New Zealand, the US, Australia, the UK, Fiji, and Costa Rica.)

TRANSFORM CABARET PROGRAMMING

Transform Cabaret Festival Retrospective Video	<i>RE/PLAY</i>
Te Tangi ā te Tūi	<i>The Dust Palace and Te Rēhia Theatre</i>
Guide My Way: The Music of Sedna	<i>Urban Ink</i>
The Candy Show	<i>Victor Pokinko and Archipelago Productions</i>
The War Being Waged	<i>Prairie Theatre Exchange</i>
Demolition	<i>Polytoxic</i>
Demolition - Staging A Protest Documentary	<i>Polytoxic</i>
The Darlings III	<i>The Darlings</i>
Connective T/issue - Classique Cirque	<i>Cris Derksen and Sidonie Adamson</i>
Opening Bash from Transform 2020	<i>Transform Ensemble</i>
Making the Mystics: an Artistic Ceremony Documentary	<i>A Green Thumb Theatre Production in collaboration with Kim Senklip Productions and The Cultch</i>

STARWALKER Dilan Chiblow image by David Cooper Photography



We Listened to Our Audience

Our audience's thoughts, opinions, and feedback are very important to us and keep us accountable. Following each production, we ask our patrons for their feedback so we can make adjustments.

Here are some highlights and suggestions that we will take to heart.

- “Loved the show, loved the performances, it really felt like a special place to be.”
- “Loved to see the representation of queer/ Indigenous people.”
- “I love that The Cultch supports innovative Canadian playwrights.”
- “I love being able to see Asian artists that look like me up on stage telling authentic, meaningful stories. I brought my dad with me to the show and we had a lovely conversation about representation afterwards and how stories prominently featuring and created by Asians don't only have to be culturally specific, they can be everyday stories...”
- “Thank you for bringing theatre like this to Vancouver.”

“Amazing staff”

We are grateful for the feedback our community provides. Based on audience suggestions, we will be incorporating youth pricing next season!

“The show was INCREDIBLE, really loved it. I wish you would have pricing options for children.”

“I wish there were adjusted ticket prices for students, youth, and children.”



EAST VAN PANTO: LITTLE MERMAID Ghazal Azarbad image by Emily Cooper



STUPID F*CKING BIRD REHEARSAL
Kerry Sandomitsky and Jesse Lipscombe

Artistic Residencies & Committed Partners

We provided space for local artists and companies to create

WE OFFERED 13 FREE ARTISTIC RESIDENCIES

Each year, we provide complimentary rehearsal and theatre space for local artists to create and develop their work. As a venue-based organization, we're in a privileged position to share these resources. The following artists and companies were supported through residencies this season:

2022/23 RESIDENCIES

COMPANY	ACTIVITY
Theatre Replacement	East Van Panto workshop
Zee Zee Theatre	In My Day workshops
Monster Theatre	artistic residency
VACT	My Little Tomato workshop and rehearsals
Minah Lee	dance residency
The Search Party	development residency
Urban Ink	Sedna workshop & concert
Dancers of Damelahamid	artistic residency
Urban Ink	Starwalker auditions, workshop & rehearsals
Niall McNeil	development residency
The Search Party	Stupid F*cking Bird rehearsals

We Remained a Committed Partner to Canadian and International Artists

We programmed, partnered, and supported over 30 local, national, and international companies at various stages of their processes. From honouring committed long term partnerships with Urban Ink (*Starwalker & Transform Cabaret*) and Theatre Replacement (*East Van Panto*) to bringing in international productions like Indian Ink's *Paradise or the Impermanence of Ice Cream* from New Zealand. We always want to support what they're working on next, and we're proud champions of the wildly unique experiences they create for our audiences.

ANNUAL PRODUCING PARTNERSHIPS

Theatre Replacement — East Van Panto
Urban Ink — Starwalker & TRANSFORM: Cabaret Festival

2022/23 NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ARTISTIC PARTNERSHIPS:

Amanda Sum (Vancouver)
Amber Barton (Vancouver)*
CIRCA (Australia)
Cirque Alfonse (Quebec)
DanceHouse (Vancouver)
Dancers of Damelahamid (Vancouver)
Hong Kong Exile (Vancouver)
Indian Ink (New Zealand)
JMar Electric (Toronto)
Kim Senklip Harvey (Vancouver)*
Kylie Vincent (New York)
Newworld Theatre (Vancouver)
Prairie Theatre Exchange (Winnipeg)*
Punctuate! Theatre (Edmonton)
Quiet Riot (Australia)
Raven Theatre (Vancouver)
rice & beans theatre (Vancouver)
Ronnie Burkett Theatre of Marionettes (Toronto)
Ruby Slippers Theatre (Vancouver)
The Search Party (Vancouver)
still hungry (Germany)
Tara Cheyenne Performance (Vancouver)
The Dust Palace and Te Rēhia (New Zealand)*
Theatre Passe Muraille (Toronto)*
Theatre Replacement (Vancouver)
Urban Ink (Vancouver)
Vancouver Asian Canadian Theatre (Vancouver)
Zee Zee Theatre (Vancouver)

*Digital Partnerships

85 RENTAL CLIENTS

On top of The Cultch programming, our three venues and Jim Green Studio rehearsal space are available to rent. Our venues are busy all year round.

Cultch Connects

We provided over 1800 tickets through our Cultch Connects Program

THE CULTCH DELIVERED 1811 TICKETS TO OVER 50 ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS IN THE 2022/23 SEASON

CULTCH CONNECTS

Cultch Connects is our ticket donation fund to community programs and it's always in high demand for the *East Van Panto* and other family friendly performances! The Cultch Connects Program provides a special night out for families and individuals that otherwise could not attend.

“From all of us at Aunt Leah’s Thresholds program, we would like to thank you and the Cultch for the complimentary tickets to last night’s performance of *Raven*. The mothers and their children felt very welcome by the staff. Most of the moms had never experienced theatre, and we all enjoyed ourselves immensely; the show was so fitting as it was about motherhood and all of its challenges.”

–Aunt Leah’s Thresholds Program Message (Raven, 2023)

“My son had so much fun and enjoyed the show!! Thank you so much for the support.”

–Cultch Connects Message

“I just want to thank you again and again for the opportunity to see *First Métis Man of Odesa* last night. What an educational, funny, relatable and ultimately hope-laden experience that was. I am sure I never would have seen that show without the opportunity that you provided me. Hugs to you all.”

–Kettle Society Cultch Connects Response Message (First Metis Man of Odesa, 2023)

CULTCH CONNECTS ORGANIZATIONS:

Aids Vancouver
Aleph in the Tricities
AMSSA (Affiliation of Multicultural Societies and Service Agencies of BC)
Aunt Leah’s Place
AUUC (Association of United Ukrainian Canadians)
Big Brothers Big Sisters Of Langley
Burnaby Association for Community Inclusion
CAAN (Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network)
CBRC (Community-Based Research Centre)
Circus West
City Gate Housing Cooperative
Crisis Centre
Dancing to Eagle Society
Dark Before the Dawn - healing event
Deer Crossing The Art Farm
Deltassist Family and Community Services Society
First Nations Assembly
Fraser Valley Foster Parent Association
Frog Hollow Neighbourhood House
Full Circle Performance
Guilford Learning Centre
Helping Spirit Lodge Society
Hollyburn Family Services
Kettle Society
Little Mountain Neighbourhood House
Lower Mainland Down Syndrome Society
Lu’ma Housing
Metro Vancouver Aboriginal Executive Council
Native Courtworker and Counselling Association of British Columbia (NCCABC)
Paul’s Club
PFLAG
PLEA
Queen Alexandra Family School
Rainbow Refugee
Renfrew Park Community Association
Ridge Meadows Association for Community Living
Spirit of the Children Society
Starlight Children’s Foundation
SWAN Vancouver
Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs
Urban Native Youth Association
Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre
Vancouver Aboriginal Health Society - Indigenous Early Years Services
Vancouver Friends for Life
Vancouver Resource Society
Volunteer Grandparents
Watari Counselling & Support Services Society
West Coast Family Centres



Image by Marjo Wright

Gala and Fundraising Efforts

We hosted our first gala in 4 years and ran a number of fundraising campaigns

GALA

The Cultch's Historic Theatre cocooned a gregarious and generous group of 100 guests on April 29, 2023, aimed at celebrating all things Cultch. The evening was hosted by CBC's Margaret Gallagher and Lisa Christiansen. There were oysters, glasses of bubbles, a silent and live auction, dancing and more! This was our first chance to host a gala in 4 years and it was a roaring success!

TOTAL RAISED: \$53,000

GALA AND FUNDRAISING EFFORTS

I LOVE THE CULTCH MATCHING SPRING CAMPAIGN

The Cultch would like to extend a special thank you to the Youssef-Warren Foundation, the McGrane-Pearson Endowment Fund, Leanne Averbach, and two anonymous donors, for matching up to \$50,000 of all donations received as part of our I Love The Cultch Matching Campaign.

TOTAL RAISED: \$54,360

Our Spring Campaign ran from March 20 - May 31, 2023 and featured a group of Cultch community members who all contribute to The Cultch in different but very meaningful ways. Volunteers, staff members, artists, donors, youth panellists, and artists. We asked each group to share one reason they love the Cultch.

“ I love The Cultch because we are a family”

- Dawn and Marlowe Petten
(Panto Family)



Dawn and Marlowe Petten image by David Cooper Photography

Youth Program & Ignite Festival

We supported and amplified our Youth Program

Emerging Artists thrived this season through our various mentorship programs and hands-on learning and creation opportunities. This season, 12 youth panel members met once a week to produce the *Ignite! Festival*, learn from each other, and participate in workshops and mentorships.

WORKSHOPS AND MENTORSHIPS:

- Dance mentorship** September 2022
Rachel Helten
- “El Mashup Spooky Edition”** October-November 2022
(15 PARTICIPANTS)
Mentorship for Latine youth ages 13-16
by El Mashup Collective Daniela Rodríguez and Dora Prieto
- “Managing Social Media Communications for young audiences”** October 2022
(8 PARTICIPANTS)
Mentorship Series for IGNITE!
Producers Jordyn Wood
- “Running an Arts Festival”** (6 PARTICIPANTS)
Mentorship Series for IGNITE!
Producers, Erin Lum, Fiorella Pinillos, Daniela Rodríguez Chevalier
- “Reflections on Artistic Curation”** (6 PARTICIPANTS)
Mentorship Series for IGNITE!
Producers, Heather Redfern and Emily Dundas Oke



YOUTH PANEL Image by Pedro Augusto Meza

- “Lighting, Sound and Video for an Arts Festival”** January 2023
(7 PARTICIPANTS)
Nico Weismiller, Neal Miskin, and Adam Prokop from The Cultch
- Multidisciplinary Collaboration Incubator** January-May 2023
Jordyn Wood, Eve Middleton-Meyer, Sam Jeffery. Mentorship series and Commission for IGNITE!
Orientation and Idea Generator led by Valentina Acevedo Montilla
Creation in Collaboration led by Jordyn Wood, Eve Middleton-Meyer
Intimacy On Stage and in Collaborative Relationships led by Sam Jeffery
- “Telling It Bent”** (10 PARTICIPANTS)
K.P. Dennis, Performance at IGNITE! produced by Frank Theatre in collaboration with

**Staging Intimacy
Scenes for
One-Act Plays**

IGNITE!
IGNITE! 2023
led by Sam Jeffery for The Treadmill

“Stories by Kids”

May 2023
(34 PARTICIPANTS)
*Partnership with Little Mountain
Lion Productions, Matt Clarke*

**Professional Headshot
Session for
IGNITE! Artists**

March 2023
(23 PARTICIPANTS)
Pedro Augusto Meza

**Arts Preparation
Mentorship Series**

June 2023
*Financial Literacy Workshop
Bio building, creating project
descriptions
Grant Writing Workshop
Headshot session /
Social Media Presence*

The Parallel Project

August 2023
*BIPOC Monologues, Workshop
series, mentorship and performance,
in partnership with PTC Vancouver.
Jocelyn Tsui and Argel Monte de
Ramos*

“Being in IGNITE! means I get to connect with amazing emerging artists in the city. IGNITE! gives me a place to explore my own creative imaginings in a supportive and inspiring group.”

-Tiffany Oud, multidisciplinary artist from IGNITE! 2023

2023 IGNITE! Festival

75+ YOUTH
ARTISTS OVER
5 DAYS

Celebrating our 22nd anniversary of amplifying emerging voices and talent, we were thrilled to welcome audiences back into the Historic Theatre for this year’s IGNITE! Festival. 12 Youth Panel members steered and supported over 75 young artists in realising their projects across live performance, visual art, and virtual reality.

THE 2023 IGNITE! FESTIVAL OFFERED:

- One visual art exhibition featuring eight photographers and visual artists
- Three one-act plays
- One short-film program featuring the work of nine directors
- Two poetry sets
- Five music shows ranging from live electronic music, to fusion prog-rock, jazz, soul, R&B and Hip-hop.
- Two dance performances (voguing and Kathak)
- Three Multidisciplinary Incubator presentations
- Ten Queer Writers Showcase by Telling it Bent
- Three Drag Performers

“Being in IGNITE festival means as cultural bearers of voguing and ballroom, we get to inspire new audiences to educate themselves on ballroom and hopefully inspire new participants and supporters of our community.”

-Savina Andromeda and Phoenix 007, voguers from IGNITE! 2023

The Cultch Gallery

12
EXHIBITIONS

30 ARTISTS

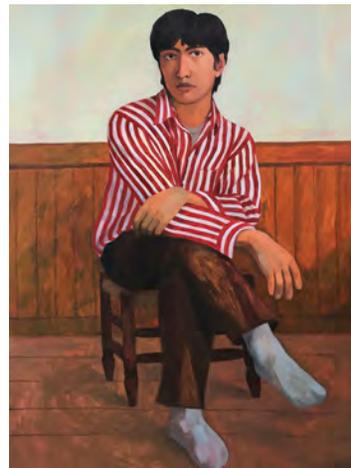
180
ARTWORKS

The Gallery at The Cultch is a community-based exhibition space that features artworks by over 25 artists per year. Artists are selected annually from a Call for Artists, then artists have studio visits with our Curator (Yuri Arajs) who visits their studio, selects work for exhibition, and meets with the artist in their work space.

Artists have the opportunity to work with a professional Curator, have their work shown in a well known established cultural venue, have a public reception, and are paid an exhibition honourarium.



ART FROM LEFT TO RIGHT, TOP TO BOTTOM
Harem Jamal, Clint Robertson, Lily Snowden-Fine



CULTCH STAFF AT THE KIDSAFE PROJECT PANCAKE CHALLENGE



Cultch in the Neighbourhood

THE CULTCH STAFF GIVE BACK

The Cultch Staff participated in a community Pancake Challenge for the Kidsafe Project at Queen Alexandra Elementary. We ended up winning best costumes, thanks to the *East Van Panto* costume archive. Staff members pulled out all the stops with their creative pancake making skills and raised \$325.

FIRST MÉTIS MAN OF ODESA AND TALKING STICK FESTIVAL: MÉTIS AND UKRAINIAN UNION

Full Circle: First Nations Performance and the Talking Stick Festival came on board as the community partner for *First Métis Man of Odesa* in May of 2023. Refreshments and energetic rhythms of traditional Ukrainian dancers, Métis jigging and the soulful strains of fiddle music marked the beginning of the Talking Stick Festival. This event was a unique cultural echo of the Métis and Ukrainian union represented in the performance.



THE CULTCH BEES

The Cultch's Apiary (a collection of beehives) is in its 5th season.

“We currently have two thriving double-deep colonies on the roof of the historic theatre.”

Resident Beekeeper Laara Sadiq harvests a modest 40-50 lbs of honey in late August.

“Their honey is a delicious combination of tree and flower pollen from the surrounding neighbourhood. It's a beautiful, rich, floral tasting honey that is distinctly East Van. The Cultch has created a tradition of giving the honey to artists who pass through its doors. It's become a lovely ritual.

It is such a pleasure to be the beekeeper at The Cultch. I volunteer my services, and in exchange I have had a place to learn and grow my skills as a beekeeper over the years. We operate on a very modest budget, but the returns are huge. Honey, beeswax, medicinal plants, and the bees, who contribute to cross-pollination and biodiversity throughout the 5 mile radius around the apiary. They are truly miraculous creatures.”

- Laara Sadiq, Resident Keeper



RAVEN company still hungry image by Andy Phillipson

WE DEMONSTRATED OUR RESILIENCY

THE CHALLENGES OF POST-PANDEMIC ARTS

We've labelled our 2022/23 Season as a rebuild because that is exactly what arts organizations are in the midst of doing. Rebuilding and re-establishing ourselves in a post-pandemic landscape. Many of our pre-existing audiences and donors have moved, shifted focus, gotten out of the habit of going to the theatre, or felt the strain of inflation, which has us looking for new ways to connect with old and new faces. While this has been a challenging year, we are firm in our resilience.

OUR POST-PANDEMIC NUMBERS

In the spirit of transparency, here is a comparison of our pre and post pandemic numbers.

- 75% of our pre-pandemic audience returned
- 74% of our pre-pandemic donors returned

HONOURING COMMITMENTS

We honoured our commitments to pre-pandemic productions like Vancouver Asian Canadian Theatre's production of *Bad Parent*, which was cancelled during our 2021/22 season due to illness. And, after three years on hold, we were finally able to welcome back international touring productions to our stages, such as our Femme Festival show *RAVEN* by the Berlin Circus company, still hungry.

UNDERSTUDIES

With COVID-19 still part of our daily lives and affecting the health of artists, we contracted understudies into a number of our productions to ensure the safety of the casts and audiences and to make sure the shows "would go on".

159 VOLUNTEERS



Cultch Volunteers image by Marjo Wright

VOLUNTEERS

The Cultch's incredible volunteers are some of the most important members of The Cultch family.

THE CULTCH BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Frank Costanzo
Chair

Roger E Holland
Vice Chair

Ryan O'Connor
Treasurer

Meghan Robinson
Secretary

Jane Brindley
Director

Doris Kraske
Director

Gavin Marshall
Director

Stephanie Hollingshead
Director

Marina Pratchett
Director

Caterina Sanders
Director

Peter Saulnier
Director

Lynda M Stokes
Director

Elia Robles
Director

Sangeeta Wylie
Director

Gala attendees image by Marjo Wright



THE CULTCH STAFF

Valentina Acevedo Montilla
Youth Program Manager

Cameron Anderson
Video Director

Benjamin Anton
Box Office Supervisor

Yuri Araj
Gallery Curator

Kelly Barker
Producer

Cody Biles
Technical Director

Kris Boyd
Digital Storytelling Project Lead

Anita Cheung
Bookkeeper

Len Gardiner
Caretaker

Zuzia Juszkiewicz
Graphic & Web Designer (on leave)

Alexandre Gauthier
Venue Technician Sound

Erin Gleig
Graphic & Web Designer

Ngairé Leach
Graphic & Web Designer

Audrey MacDonald
Operations Manager (on leave)

Chris MacDonald
Sales Manager

Pippa Mackie
Partnerships Manager

Andrew McCaw
Production Manager

Nicole McLuckie
Associate Executive Director

Connal McNamara
Marketing Manager

Lisa Mennell
Communications and Outreach Manager

Neal Miskin
Head of Audio

Cynthia Ndabazimvye
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