

The Cultch

2023/24 SEASON

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS



EVE GORDON & PAKU FERNANDEZ; PHOTO BY BEN SARTEN

THECULTCH.COM

TE TANGI Ā TE TŪI

IMPACT REPORT

WHAT IS AN IMPACT REPORT?

This Impact Report is our account of the work The Cultch has accomplished together, and is a record of our standing commitments to those we are responsible to serve and uplift.



BARBU
Cirque Alfonse;
Image by Frederic Barrette

A MESSAGE FROM HEATHER REDFERN

2023/24 was our 50th season and what a year it was! We celebrated with our founders, donors, volunteers, extended communities and many of the artists who have made incredible performances over five decades.

This milestone is a testament to our resilience and our ability to thrive even when facing significant challenges.

50 finds us in a process of renewal, as we face a changing landscape for the arts in Canada, because the federal and provincial contributions to operations have decreased or remain frozen at levels set 10–15 years ago. For The Cultch this means that we need to prove our community value to individuals, businesses, and foundations in the hopes that they will increase their patronage and donations.

This year our audiences returned hungry for the stories we share on our stages—the Culture Lab, Historic Theatre, and York Theatre, and our continually evolving digital stage, The Cultch: Online. Over this season, these places were home to stories of joy, tolerance, and hope. Together, we have been creating and embracing a vision of what the next 50 years could hold.

Hope is how we must move forward. I have faith that this community will do what it must to ensure the future of The Cultch. In 2023/24 we reached out and told our story about the service The Cultch provides to the community. Several new partners responded with generous support and gifts to uphold that work. You can read about some of them and their good work in this report.



HEATHER REDFERN *Image by Lisa Wu*

Over the next months we will be reaching out even further to create a reality that ensures the long term viability of The Cultch to continue to serve the community. The arts touch every aspect of society and humanity. Let us secure a place to celebrate all that is good between us.

Heather Redfern
Executive Director, The Cultch

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

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.



HOW BLACK MOTHERS SAY I LOVE YOU Image by Kenny Ho

LIVE PERFORMANCES

OUR 2023/24 LIVE PRESENTATION SERIES BROUGHT

11 Live Productions

250+ Artists

39,222 Audience Members

DIRTY LAUNDRY	JUNE 09–25, 2023 YORK THEATRE <i>Briefs Factory (Australia)</i>
FAIRVIEW	SEPT 27–OCT 08, 2023 HISTORIC THEATRE <i>The Search Party (Vancouver)</i>
TE TANGI Ā TE TŪI	OCT 19–29, 2023 YORK THEATRE <i>Te Rēhia Theatre with The Dust Palace (New Zealand / Aotearoa)</i>
HOW BLACK MOTHERS SAY I LOVE YOU	NOV 02–12, 2023 HISTORIC THEATRE <i>the frank theatre (Vancouver)</i>
EAST VAN PANTO: BEAUTY AND THE BEAST	NOV 22, 2023–JAN 07, 2024 YORK THEATRE <i>Theatre Replacement (Vancouver) & The Cultch</i>
THE MIRROR	JAN 24–27, 2024 VANCOUVER PLAYHOUSE <i>Gravity & Other Myths (Australia)</i> <i>presented with DanceHouse</i>
JULIET: A REVENGE COMEDY	FEB 08–23, 2024 HISTORIC THEATRE <i>Monster Theatre (Vancouver)</i>
PARIFAM*	APR 04–14, 2024 HISTORIC THEATRE <i>vAct with Medusa Theatre (Vancouver)</i>
YOU USED TO CALL ME MARIE...*	APR 18–28, 2024 YORK THEATRE <i>Savage Society (Vancouver)</i>



JULIET: A REVENGE COMEDY
Carly Pokoradi & Lili Beaudoin; Image by Cameron Anderson

FAT JOKE* APR 24–MAY 05, 2024
VANCITY CULTURE LAB
Neworld Theatre (Vancouver)

HOMECOMING* MAY 02–12, 2024
HISTORIC THEATRE
Urban Ink (Vancouver)

**FEMME FESTIVAL performances*

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

VIEUX FARKA TOURE FEB 23, 2024
YORK THEATRE
with Capilano University

THE CULTCH ONLINE & DIGITAL STAGE

WE OFFERED A WIDE RANGE OF DIGITAL CONTENT

11 Feature-Length Digital Productions

17 Digital Shorts

5 Online Play Readings from across Canada

4558 Total Views

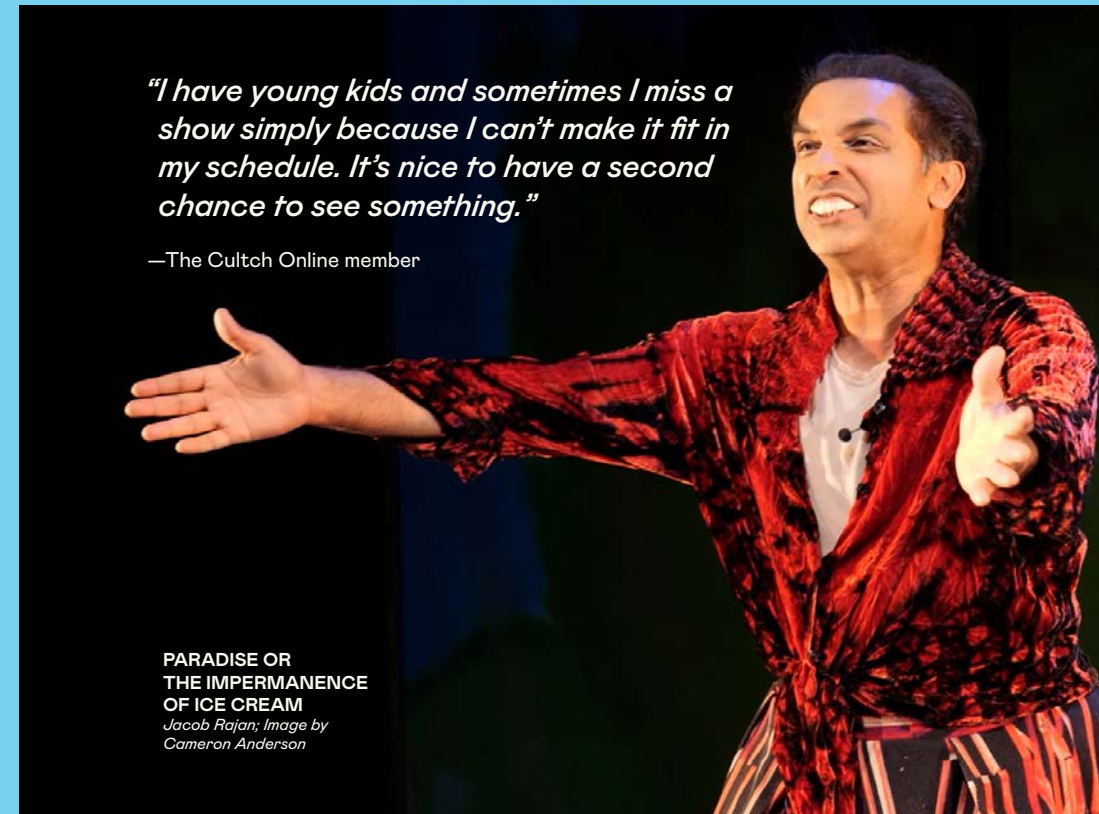
Since beginning a digital program in 2019, The Cultch has become an industry leader in creating, producing, and distributing high quality works of digital theatre in a variety of formats.

While The Cultch has returned to regular in-person programming, we are committed to building in 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.

2023/24 FEATURE LENGTH PERFORMANCES

BIRD*	<i>Kylie Vincent</i>
EAST VAN PANTO: BEAUTY AND THE BEAST*	<i>Theatre Replacement & The Cultch</i>
PARADISE OR THE IMPERMANENCE OF ICE CREAM*	<i>Indian Ink</i>
HOW TO BELIEVE IN ANYTHING*	<i>Ariel Slack (Online & In-Person Screening)</i>
LES FILLES DU ROI	<i>Urban Ink, Raven Theatre & The Cultch (In-Person Screening)</i>
QUEER & TRANS PLAYREADING SERIES*	<i>Zee Zee Theatre</i>



"I have young kids and sometimes I miss a show simply because I can't make it fit in my schedule. It's nice to have a second chance to see something."

—The Cultch Online member

**PARADISE OR
THE IMPERMANENCE
OF ICE CREAM**
*Jacob Rajan; Image by
Cameron Anderson*

2022/23 FEATURE LENGTH PERFORMANCES

MEDITATION*	<i>Amber Barton</i>
MAKING THE MYSTICS*	<i>Green Thumb Theatre & Kim Senklip Productions</i>
IN RESPONSE TO ALABAMA*	<i>Little Thief Theatre</i>
DEMOLITION	<i>Polytoxic</i>
THE CAFE*	<i>Aphotic Theatre & Itsazoo Productions</i>

2021 FEATURE FAVOURITES

CLEAN/ESPEJOS* *NewWorld Theatre*

**Created and filmed in collaboration with The Cultch Online team*

THE CULTCH ONLINE

The Cultch Online (formerly RE/PLAY) is our award-winning digital series dedicated to creating and showcasing diverse, boundary-breaking online performance. This online platform is our fourth stage, where we make select Cultch presentations accessible online, through beautiful, artistic filming of live performances.

The Cultch Online is The Cultch's commitment to:

- Experiment with new forms of performance
- Enable accessible methods of connection
- Provide an affordable way to enjoy favourite past performances
- Make local scale works visible to a national and international audiences

Our pay-what-you-choose membership model allows patrons to support the creation of these works as they are able, and sign up only once to access all our shows. Some of our features have been used as educational materials for courses at UBC Okanagan and Capilano University.

DIGITAL STAGE

This year, The Cultch initiated a collaborative project with five theatre companies from across Canada to build a cooperative digital platform, Digital Stage. Working with Urban Ink (Vancouver), Newworld Theatre (Vancouver), Prairie Theatre Exchange (Winnipeg), Theatre Passe Muraille (Toronto), and Eastern Front Theatre (Dartmouth), and funded by the Canada Council for the Arts, Digital Stage aims to further elevate the artform and accessibility of digital theatre.

The Cultch and other companies recognized that their online presentations were mostly reaching their local audiences, so the Digital Stage partners have come together to present their shows collectively and bring their audiences together in one place. Visit digitalstage.ca to learn more and to watch great shows from across Canada.

HOW TO BELIEVE IN
ANYTHING
*Ariel Stack; Image by
Cameron Anderson*



INDIGENOUS PROGRAMMING

The Cultch creates meaningful artistic gatherings on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories of the x̱w̱məθḵw̱əy̱ əm (Musqueam), Sḵw̱x̱w̱ú7mesh (Squamish), and sə́lilwə́ta7̱ (Tseil-Waututh) nations.

Our facilities are located in the Grandview-Woodland neighbourhood where one in 12 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.

YOU USED TO CALL
ME MARIE...
Rebecca Sadowiski;
Image by Emily Cooper
Photography



PROUD SUPPORTER OF INDIGENOUS PROGRAMMING AT THE CULTCH: THE RONALD S. ROADBURG FOUNDATION

The Cultch is thrilled to welcome the Ronald S. Roadburg Foundation as the sponsor for Indigenous Programming. The Roadburg Foundation's principle of *Tikkun Olam*, or repair of the world, and their commitment to supporting populations disproportionately affected by circumstance or inequities, are reflective of the values we work from at The Cultch.

Their game-changing gift is supporting Indigenous productions, ceremonies and gatherings, and providing a free ticket program for patrons who identify as Indigenous. This support has also created opportunities for Indigenous workers to bring their perspective to outreach and creation.

2023/24 INDIGENOUS PROGRAMMING

TE TANGI A TE TŪI

Te Rēhia Theatre and The Dust Palace
SEPT 23–OCT 8, 2023 | YORK THEATRE

This circus theatre hybrid from Aotearoa/New Zealand, performed entirely in Te Reo Māori, was a hit with audiences and had an almost entirely sold-out run.

YOU USED TO CALL ME MARIE...

Savage Society
FEB 15–MAR 5, 2024 | YORK THEATRE

A love story, a historical epic, and a celebration of Métis song and dance, this world premiere from Tai Amy Grauman delighted Vancouver audiences before touring to the National Arts Centre.

LES FILLES DU ROI (Film Screening)

Urban Ink and Raven Theatre
MAR 21–24, 2024 | VANCITY CULTURE LAB

Urban Ink's film adaptation of their cutting-edge, award-winning musical theatre production (which premiered at the York in 2018) had six sold-out screenings at The Cultch following its appearances at 15 film festivals all over North America.



TE TANGI A TE TŪI
Welcome Ceremony;
Image by Lisa Wu

WELCOME CEREMONY

The Welcome Ceremony for the company of *Te Tangi a te Tūi* took place at the MOA Haida Longhouse and included a welcome to the land from Elder Kelly White, followed up by presentations by Tsatsu Stalqayu (Coastal Wolf Pack), Kwiis Hamilton & Sam Bob, Dancers of Damelahamid, Quelemia Sparrow, and Christie Lee. It also included an exchange of gifts and a feast catered by Friendship Catering.

COMMUNITY GATHERING

The Cultch acted as a liaison for a community outreach event for partner Indigenous organisations to connect with each other and with the Ronald S. Roadburg Foundation. We had 53 people from over 19 different organisations in attendance. This was an incredible opportunity for people to connect and get to know one another. After a chance to chat and mingle, Squamish Elder Dennis Joseph offered some thoughts and a welcome song.

OUTREACH

WE CREATED OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENGAGEMENT

18 Post Show Talkbacks

9 Community Partners

TALKBACKS

Post Show talkbacks provide an opportunity for patrons to engage with the ideas presented in the show they have just experienced in a deep and meaningful way. Audience members get a chance to ask questions and to hear the creators of the show speak at further length about the themes in the show and the process of bringing it to the stage. Talkbacks are hosted by community moderators.

Often, further resources are available for patrons to take with them. For our presentation of *Fairview*, resources were sent to patrons before the show, and another set of further resources was provided afterwards both in-person in our moderated quiet space as well as by follow-up email. Similarly, during the run of *Fat Joke*, Newworld Theatre provided entertaining zines full of insights and information about fatphobia.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Community partners are offered lobby space during the run of our productions and invited to offer Cultch patrons resources and information about the work that they do. Community Partners are selected to highlight organisations doing important work in the community which relates to the themes and ideas in Cultch productions.



OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS FOR THE 23/24 SEASON:

Fairview: Hogan's Alley, Black Women Connect Vancouver, Federation of Black Canadians and in BC through their partners, BC Community Alliance

Te Tangi ā te Tūi: Raised funds for the Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre

How Black Mothers Say I Love You: Rainbow Refugee, Hogan's Alley

Parifam: Salal, Sexual Violence Support Centre

You used to call me Marie...: Downtown Eastside Women's Centre

Homecoming: Kathara Society

ACCESSIBILITY

WE PROVIDED TOOLS AND CARE FOR BETTER COMMUNICATION AND COMFORT



VOCAL EYE

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 seven 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 an ASL course with Queer ASL, which focuses on introducing American Sign Language and Deaf culture to 2SLGBTQQIA+ learners and their allies. We also hosted an integrated ASL performance of Fat Joke.

CLOSED CAPTIONING FOR THE CULTCH ONLINE

Every show in The Cultch Online series offers Closed Captioning.



FAT JOKE
Cheyenne Rouleau;
Image by Jesse Ray
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.

HIGHLIGHTS:

"The Cultch is the embodiment of theatre at the heart of our community [...] I wish everyone could have one in their neighbourhood."

—Kathleen Flaherty

"It's a rare case anywhere for a venue to remain vital for this long, let alone still standing."

—The Vancouver Sun

"I love my subscription to The Cultch. I have seen AMAZING work."

"Love the inclusivity, humour, and fun!"

"I love that The Cultch supports innovative Canadian playwrights."

"First time in the theatre and totally impressed with the beautiful space, the welcoming volunteers, the concession, the set... everything."

"When I look at how many venues have closed down even in the past five years, I think that it's a huge and wonderful thing that The Cultch is not only still there, but thriving"

—Veda Hille



"A beautiful gem in East Van. Gorgeous space."

"It is particularly special and meaningful to be able to attend a full Maori theatre production. The performance was magical, moving and impactful."

"The show was witty and very funny... I loved to hear that one of the authors lives in our neighbourhood. Thank you to The Cultch for being a vibrant artistic centre in East Van."

WE REMAINED A COMMITTED PARTNER TO ARTISTS

We continued to program, partner with, and support local, national, and international companies and artists; staying true to risk-taking and long-term commitments at a time when there are difficult realities for the arts community.

From committed long-term partnerships with Theatre Replacement (*East Van Panto*) and Urban Ink (*Homecoming*), to the fruition of our commissioning project with Urban Ink that brought the premiere of the Aotearoa/New Zealand production of *Te Tangi a te Tūi* (Te Rēhia Theatre/The Dust Palace) to the York stage, to the creation of a cooperative national digital platform.

We prioritize being the artistic home for companies here and around the world, and we're proud champions of the experiences they create for our audiences and the communities they bring together.

2023/24 ARTISTIC PARTNERSHIPS:

Briefs Factory (Australia)—*Dirty Laundry*

The Search Party (Vancouver)—*Fairview*

b current Performing Arts (Toronto)—*Fairview*

The Dust Palace (Aotearoa/New Zealand)—*Te Tangi a te Tūi*

Te Rēhia Theatre Company (Aotearoa/New Zealand)—*Te Tangi a te Tui*

the frank theatre (Vancouver)—*How Black Mothers Say I Love You*

Theatre Replacement (Vancouver)—*East Van Panto: Beauty & the Beast*

DanceHouse (Vancouver)—co-presenter *The Mirror*

Gravity & Other Myths (Australia)—*The Mirror*

Monster Theatre (Vancouver)—*Juliet: A Revenge Comedy*

Vancouver Asian Canadian Theatre (Vancouver)—*Parifam*

Medusa Theatre (Vancouver)—*Parifam*

Savage Society (Vancouver)—*You used to call me Marie...*

NewWorld Theatre (Vancouver)—*Fat Joke*

Rumble Theatre (Vancouver)—*Fat Joke*

Urban Ink (Vancouver)—*Homecoming*

Capilano University (Vancouver)—*Vieux Farka Toure*

Zee Zee Theatre (Vancouver)—*Dirty Laundry*

PuSh International Performing Arts Festival (Vancouver)—*The Shadow Whose Prey the Hunter Becomes*



HOME COMING Image by Mark Halliday



FAIRVIEW
Rehearsal;
Image by The Search Party

WE PROVIDED SPACE FOR LOCAL ARTISTS AND COMPANIES TO CREATE

12 Free Artistic Residencies

Each year, through our Grow-A-Show Program, we provide complimentary rehearsal and theatre space for local artists to create and develop their work. By providing support and resources, we allow artists to explore and push the boundaries of their creative practice.

The following artists and companies were supported through residencies and/or rehearsal space this season:

2023/24 RESIDENCIES

Pippa Mackie

Theatre Replacement

The Search Party

Urban Ink

Niall McNeil

the frank theatre

Monster Theatre

Vancouver Asian Canadian Theatre

Medusa Theatre

Emelia Symington-Fedy

Zee Zee Theatre

Rakesh Sukesh

RENTAL CLIENTS

96 Rental Clients

On top of The Cultch programming, our three theatres and Jim Green Studio Rehearsal space are available to rent. Our venues are busy all year round with a wide range of events, from independently-produced theatre to conferences, and stand-up comedy to graduations. We build lasting relationships with rental clients, with many returning once, or even multiple times, a year, and we have had glowing feedback for both our team and facilities.

CULTCH CONNECTS

WE DELIVERED

2000+ tickets to over 50 organizations & individuals

CULTCH CONNECTS

Cultch Connects is our ticket donation program (funded by generous individual donors) that allows us to give complimentary tickets to community organizations. We gave away over 2000 tickets to performances throughout the 23/24 season. The Cultch Connects Program provides a special night out for families and individuals that otherwise could not attend.

This season, we had a tremendous legacy gift from the late Madelene Vale Bird. Her special gift directed specifically to the annual *East Van Panto* allowed hundreds of children and families to have an unforgettable holiday experience!

“Hearing my ancestors’ names and seeing them on stage was an emotional rollercoaster. So glad I saw this play, bravo!!!”

—Cultch Connects recipient (*You used to call me Marie...*, 2024)

*“Thank you again for supporting the Kettle Society members with the community ticket donation program. The *Beauty and the Beast* panto helped bring some levity into an otherwise challenging life.”*

—Kettle Society recipient (*East Van Panto: Beauty and the Beast*, 2023)

“Thank you so much for your generosity. Not only for the ticket for myself but allowing me to bring a guest (who also loved the performance as much as I did). I cannot thank you enough to be able to see these productions and share with a friend. This program helps people in so many ways”

—Cultch Connects recipient (*How Black Mothers Say I Love You*, 2023)



CULTCH CONNECTS ORGANIZATIONS:

Aunt Leah's Place	Kitsilano Neighbourhood House
Britannia Community Services Centre	Little Mountain Neighbourhood House
Burquest Jewish Community Association	LMDSS (Lower Mainland Down Syndrome Society)
Camp Kerry Society—Love Cora (Lumara Grief & Bereavement Care)	Marpole Oakridge Community Centre
Capilano Community Services Society	Metis Nation BC
Cedar Walk Program (UNYA)	Metro Vancouver indigenous Services Society
City Gate Housing Cooperative	Pacific Association of First Nations Women
DEWC Downtown Eastside Women's Centre	Peak House—Pacific Youth & Family Services Society
Dixon Transition Society, Downtown Community Health Centre	Rainbow Refugee
Eagles in the Sky Out of School Care Program	Raven Spirit Dance
Foundry Abbotsford—Adolescent Day Treatment Program—East	Ridge Meadows Association for Community Living
Fraser Valley Foster Parent Association	SFU Indigenous Studies Department
Frog Hollow Neighbourhood House	The Kettle Society, Trout Lake Community Centre
Full Circle First Nations Performance	Urban Native Youth Association
IRSSS	V'ni Dansi
Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver	Vancouver Aboriginal Health Society—Indigenous Early Years Services
Kids Up Front	Volunteer Grandparents
KidSafe Project Society	Watari Counselling & Support Services Society
	YWCA Metro Vancouver



CULTCH CONNECTS: INDIGENOUS TICKETS

This season we were lucky enough to have the support of the Ronald S. Roadburg Foundation to provide Cultch Connects to Indigenous folks specifically. In addition to our typical methods of reaching the community through various organizations in the city, we wanted to reach a wider audience of Indigenous community members, including those who do not use the services provided by our partner organizations.

To accomplish this we:

- Physically dropped off flyers at various locations and organisations
- Included information in two e-newsletters sent to 26,000+ people
- Sent out a targeted email to our Indigenous community list and to the list of Indigenous organizations (approx. 200)
- Included information on each show's webpage about either the complimentary tickets available or the discounted tickets available for Indigenous patrons
- Included information about the complimentary tickets on the decal on the window of the York Theatre



HEATHER REDFERN &
NICOLE MCLUCKIE
*Image by Emily Cooper
Photography*

THE CULTCH 50TH ANNIVERSARY OPEN HOUSE

We kicked off our 50th Anniversary Season by welcoming our community to learn more about The Cultch, who we are now, and our history over the last 50 years!

Our team set up a massive open house where we toured people throughout our theatre spaces, hosted a community breakfast, and set up displays to highlight each of our incredible decades! We gave a backstage peek into our history and our process, and had over 450 people attend.



OUR 50th ANNIVERSARY!

The Cultch turned 50 this season!

To celebrate this milestone with the community, we hosted a 50th Anniversary Open House and Gala and raised much-needed funds through two campaigns!

As a non-profit arts organization, The Cultch relies on the generosity of its donors to continue to operate. Revenue from ticket sales represents one third of our annual budget. We are endlessly grateful to our donors for their generosity and vision.



THE CULTCH'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY OPEN HOUSE
Images by Lisa Wu

GALA

The Cultch's Historic Theatre cocooned a gregarious and generous group of guests on March 2, 2024, all gathered together to celebrate our 50 year anniversary. The evening was hosted by CBC's Margaret Gallagher and Bill Richardson. We were honoured to have 12 of our founders present at the event, reminding us to celebrate where we come from as we take on the future. We are so lucky to have a strong, resilient, and generous community that not only understands our mission as a not-for-profit performing arts organisation, but helps to financially support that mission.

"I hope to express my intense feelings of joy, still surging from the Gala evening. We know how hard it is to sustain a theatre, at the best of times, let alone, through, and after, a pandemic! Fifty rich years. So, thank you all, for the best possible celebration."

—Gala Guest

There were oysters, glasses of bubbles, immersive singing from the Vancouver Men's Chorus, a silent and live auction, dancing, and more! The event was completely sold out and joyously celebrated with the artists, patrons, and donors, who have created a thriving home for the arts in East Van for the last half a century!

TOTAL RAISED : \$113,870.65

50 FOR 50 FALL CAMPAIGN!

The 50 for 50 fall campaign was launched to celebrate the history and lasting impact The Cultch has had on East Vancouver. There have been many changes over the years, but one constant is the heart and soul baked into the place, making it an enduring and loved creative hub for Vancouver.

TOTAL RAISED: \$54,994

SPRING MATCHING CAMPAIGN: LEAD WITH LOVE, LEAVE A LEGACY

The Lead with Love Campaign was inspired by the love and incredible support The Cultch receives from the community. During the Gala, David McCann pledged \$50,000 as a random act of kindness in honour of his then-upcoming marriage. We were moved and inspired by this gesture and it allowed us to reflect on all of the patrons, donors, and community members who have left a part of their legacy at The Cultch. In honour of all of those who have and continue to support us, we invited the community to continue to lead with love into the next 50 years.

Local heroes Leanne Averbach, and Susan Mendelson joined David to match the \$75,000 in donations received as part of the campaign

TOTAL RAISED: \$75,000 x 2!!!



THE CULTCH'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY GALA
Hosts Margaret Gallagher & Bill Richardson;
Image by Marjo Wright

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:

IGNITE! MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

This program involves a series of workshops aimed at providing tools to emerging producers and curators to create a program that will be shared publicly.

“EL MASHUP SPOOKY EDITION”

Mentorship for Latine youth ages 13-16 by El Mashup Collective (15 participants).

**grant funded: CASC CoV and ArtStarts*

VIDEO AND PHOTO MENTORSHIP FOR LIVE PERFORMANCES FOR EMERGING FILMMAKERS

Workshop sessions and individual mentorship for two creators that will give emerging filmmakers the tools to record live performances. Filmmakers will also work on the production of an archival/promotions video of IGNITE! performances, edited in a collaborative by three local BIPOC emerging filmmakers.

KNOWLEDGE SHARE: SOCIAL EVENT FOR EMERGING CURATORS AND YOUTH PANEL

Public event open to emerging and mid-career curators, arts administrators, cultural producers and artists to share a space, talk about their experiences, eat some food and listen to some great music.

PROFESSIONAL HEADSHOT SESSION FOR IGNITE!

Artist, Rashi Sethi (30 participants)



THE CULTCH'S YOUTH PANEL *Image by Rashi Sethi*

TECH MENTORSHIP

Tech mentorship program from March to July; it includes one introductory session with tech staff in lights, video, and stage managing in YP events including Stories Written by Kids, IGNITE! 2024, and The Parallel Project.

“TELLING IT BENT”

Performance at IGNITE!, produced by frank theatre in collaboration with IGNITE! (10 participants). Telling It Bent is the frank theatre's writing workshop for queer, trans, Two Spirit, and questioning BC youth, ages 14 to 25. It provides mentorship and a performance opportunity at IGNITE!

“STORIES WRITTEN BY KIDS”

Partnership with Little Mountain Lion Productions, Matt Clarke. (34 participants) Produced by Little Mountain Lion, Stories Written by Kids provides mentorship directly at at-risk elementary schools to empower younger artists to write their first play.

“THE PARALLEL PROJECT”

Jocelyn Tsui and Argel Monte de Ramos The Parallel Project is a 7-week monologue writing workshop for BIPOC artists that includes individual and group dramaturgy sessions and culminates in two invited readings at The Cultch.

2024 IGNITE! FESTIVAL

OUR YOUTH PANEL STEERED & SUPPORTED

70+ Youth Artists over five days

Celebrating our 23rd 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.

This year we were particularly proud of curating and devising a call and response art exhibition that brought together collage and poetry, and we are also incredibly thankful for the support of local theatre companies such as Rice and Beans and Newworld for sponsoring two of our plays at IGNITE!, as well as to our in-kind sponsors, who helped to keep our artists nourished throughout the festival.

THE 2024 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
- 10 queer writer showcases by Telling it Bent
- Three Drag Performers



2024 IGNITE! FESTIVAL Images by Pedro Augusto Meza

YOUTH PANEL MEMBERS

Tadeo Rios Davila
Artist Liaison

Natasha Chew
Artist Liaison

Andrés Avecías
Communications Coordinator

Martha Rahmann
Communications Assistant

Trevor Stewart
Rehearsals Coordinator

Percy Tran
Community Partnerships and Promotion

Jordyn Wood
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Mann Charlermwat
IGNITE! Image Artist

YOUTH TECH MENTEES

Momoko Hosokawa

Natasha Chew

Corinne Langmuir

Rashi Sethi

THE CULTCH GALLERY

2023/24 GALLERY HIGHLIGHTS

12 Exhibitions

31 Artists

150 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 public Call for Artists and then have the opportunity to work with The Cultch's professional Curator, Yuri Araj, who works with the artists to help select the works for exhibition.

This gives local artists the opportunity have their work show in a well-known established venue, and livens The Cultch with another dimension of artistic practice.



CULTCH STAFF & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

VOLUNTEERS

The Cultch's incredible team of volunteers are some of the most important members of The Cultch family. In our 2023/24 season we worked with 136 volunteers!



VOLUNTEERS Image by Mario Wright

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Our 2023/24 Season employed approximately 161 Staff, which included IATSE Local 118 Technicians, Box Office attendants, Bartenders and Front of House.

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The Cultch is actively seeking new sponsorship and foundation opportunities. Sponsors reach and build new relationships with our trusted communities both online and in our theatre venues.

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Did we miss you or not recognize you as you wish? Please let us know by contacting Ivy Padmos, Partnerships Manager, at ivy@thecultch.com



TE TANGI Ā TE TŪI
 Welcome Ceremony;
 Image by Lisa Wu

THE MIRROR
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by Andy Phillipson



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