

BC Arts Council Annual Report 2018 / 19



BRITISH COLUMBIA
ARTS COUNCIL



BRITISH
COLUMBIA

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Territory Acknowledgement

The BC Arts Council acknowledges it carries out its work on the traditional territories of Indigenous nations throughout British Columbia. We pay our respects to the elders, past and present, descendants, and custodians of these lands. We honour the knowledge keepers and the continuing relationships with Indigenous peoples in B.C. that develop through our work together. The BC Arts Council is grateful to the Lkwungen people and the Esquimalt and Songhees First Nations, on whose traditional territories we operate our main offices.

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Honourable Lisa Beare

Message from the
Minister of Tourism, Arts and Culture

I am pleased to present the BC Arts Council's 2018/19 Annual Report, which provides a detailed account of the Council's work in B.C.'s arts and culture sector from April 2018 through March 2019.

Supporting a strong and thriving arts sector in our province is central to the vibrancy, diversity and resilience of our communities. As a key agency for arts funding and development, the BC Arts Council assists B.C. artists and arts and culture organizations to flourish in every region of the province.

In *Budget 2018*, we were pleased to increase base funding for the BC Arts Council by \$15 million over three years. This investment provided an additional \$5 million to the BC Arts Council annual budget, raising it from \$24 million in 2017/18 to a record \$29 million for 2018/19.

This investment provided the Council with the ability to increase the number of grants by 23% over the previous year. In total, the BC Arts Council awarded over 1,700 grants to help B.C. performers, visual artists, dancers, musicians, publishers and Indigenous artists build a career in the arts. Grant recipients also included a cross-section of arts organizations, including museums, galleries, theatres, book publishers and community arts councils.

This new funding also supported the development of new or improved programs to broaden reach, extend eligibility criteria and address gaps in current funding programs for Indigenous, equity-seeking and rural/regional artists and arts organizations. This work aligns with the Council's key objectives in *New Foundations Strategic Plan for the BC Arts Council 2018-2022*. This exciting and aspirational plan is an important guide as we aspire to support the full potential of B.C.'s arts and culture sector.

I want to thank BC Arts Council Chair, Susan Jackson, along with other Council members for their ongoing commitment to helping arts and culture thrive in B.C. The expertise, experience and advice each member brings to the BC Arts Council is vital to supporting a prosperous creative economy, while creating a strong and diverse arts and culture sector that enriches the lives of people throughout the province.

Sincerely,

Lisa Beare,
Minister of Tourism, Arts and Culture



Susan Jackson

Message from the Chair

In accordance with the provisions of Section 6 of the Arts Council Act, I present this report on behalf of the BC Arts Council, reporting on activities of Council from April 1, 2018, to March 31, 2019.

On behalf of the BC Arts Council, I am pleased to present the 2018/19 Annual Report highlighting Council's achievements over the past year.

In 2018/19, with funding from the Government of British Columbia, the BC Arts Council awarded a record \$29 million, representing over 1,700 grants to individual artists and arts and cultural organizations in more than 200 communities across the province. This amount reflects a \$5 million increase to the Council's overall budget - the first installment of the government's commitment to double the Council's budget over four years.

The budget increase coincided with another highlight for 2018: the launch of *New Foundations Strategic Plan for the BC Arts Council 2018-2022*. This new plan reflects the BC Arts Council's innovative vision, renews our commitment to our values and establishes four key strategic directions:

- Sustainability and Creative Development;
- Indigenous Arts and Culture;
- Equity, Diversity and Access; and
- Regional and Community Arts.

In 2018/19, we saw a strengthening of the Council's existing programs in support of these key priorities, which included significant increases to operating grants and other program enhancements as outlined in this report. We look forward to further expansion and new programs, guided by the principles of sustainability, equity, diversity, access and reconciliation.

To administer the BC Arts Council's program funding, there are 15 appointed Council members who act as a governing body, providing strategic direction, policy direction and granting oversight. Council members

represent the regions, cultural diversity and artistic communities of B.C., and in 2018 we were pleased to welcome new members Norman Armour (Vancouver), Phillip Djwa (Vancouver), Pat Henman (Nelson) and Simone Orlando (Kelowna). These individuals are recognized for their unique contributions to arts and culture in B.C. and are a welcome addition to the already deep experience on Council. It is my great privilege to work alongside this extraordinary group of people and I look forward to the expertise and energy the new members will bring to our work. At the same time, I would like to thank outgoing Council members Corrinne Hunt and Jose Delgado-Guevara for their contributions and service.

I would also like to acknowledge the Council staff and peer adjudicators for their exceptional work in ensuring the delivery of our funding programs to support a wide range of arts and cultural activity across all artistic disciplines in 2018/19.

We are extremely fortunate in British Columbia to have a dynamic, innovative and diverse arts and cultural sector that contributes to the wellness and sustainability of every region in our province. I believe our new strategic directions, coupled with the increase to Council's overall budget, will ensure that the BC Arts Council is in a strong position to continue to work towards achieving our vision of a well-supported and thriving arts and culture sector in B.C.

Sincerely,

Susan Jackson
Chair, BC Arts Council



Mandate, Vision & Values

Our Mandate

The BC Arts Council was created in 1995 as an agency of the Province of British Columbia under the *Arts Council Act* for the purposes of:

- Providing support for arts and culture in British Columbia;
- Providing people and organizations with the opportunity to participate in arts and culture in British Columbia; and
- Providing an open, accountable and neutrally administered process for managing funds for arts and culture in British Columbia.

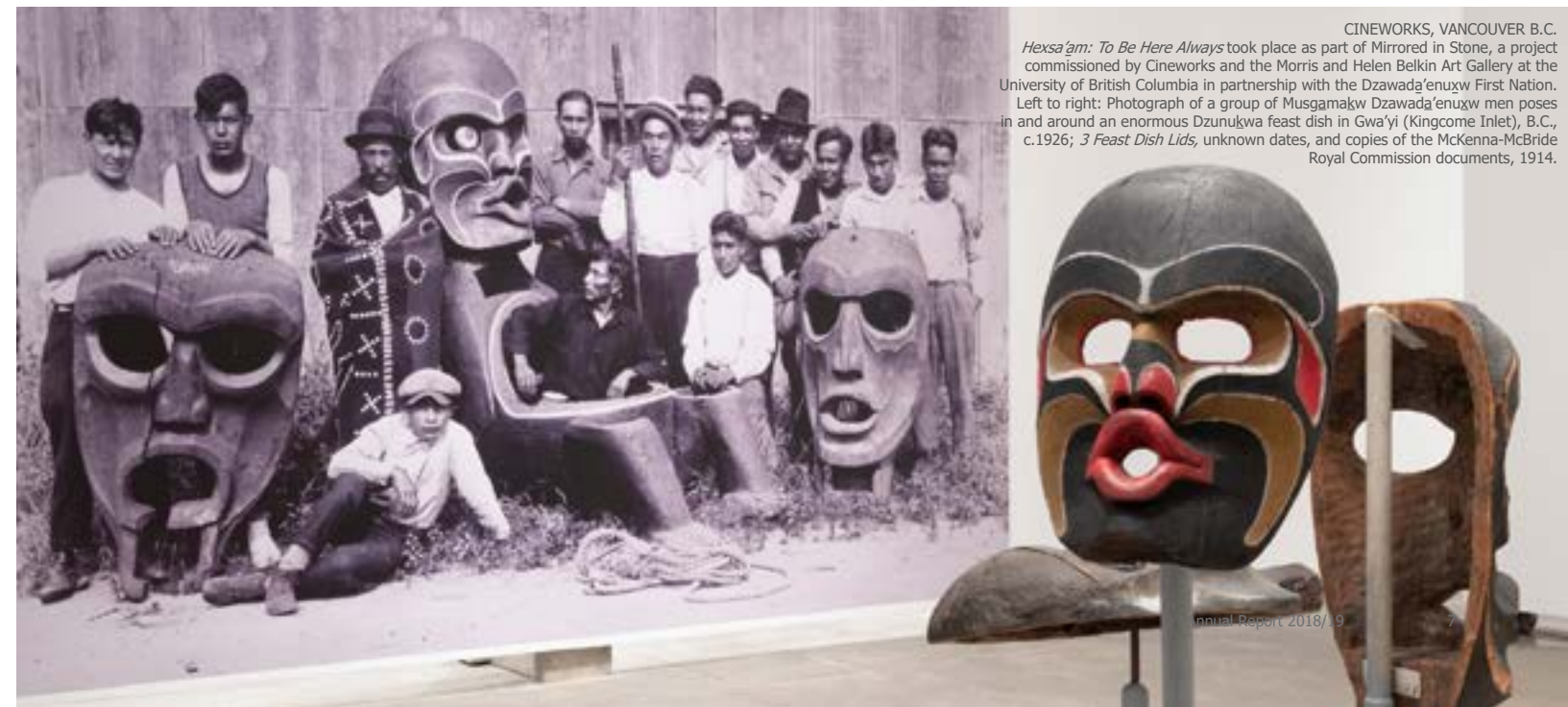
Arts and culture are an essential part of who we are, connecting, challenging and inspiring us.

Our Vision

The BC Arts Council will strive to ensure that artists and cultural organizations in British Columbia are well-supported, thriving and able to reach their full potential under principles of equity, diversity, accessibility and reconciliation. Arts and culture are seen as fundamental to developing vibrant and resilient communities, where the people of British Columbia are highly engaged in the province's unique arts and culture sector, and are recognized for their innovation and leadership in Canada and abroad.

Our Values

Our values guide all of our decisions and activities, from program design to the peer review process. We strive for constant improvement under these values in how we serve artists and cultural organizations throughout B.C.



CINEWORKS, VANCOUVER B.C.
Hexsa'am: To Be Here Always took place as part of *Mirrored in Stone*, a project commissioned by Cineworks and the Morris and Helen Belkin Art Gallery at the University of British Columbia in partnership with the Dzawada'enuxw First Nation. Left to right: Photograph of a group of Musgamakw Dzawada'enuxw men poses in and around an enormous Dzunu'kwa feast dish in Gwa'yi (Kingcome Inlet), B.C., c.1926; *3 Feast Dish Lids*, unknown dates, and copies of the McKenna-McBride Royal Commission documents, 1914.

Status of the Arts in B.C.

Overview

The BC Arts Council regularly consults and collaborates with arts and cultural organizations, artists, government ministries, local governments and other communities. These consultations help to inform policy, keep up-to-date on prevailing issues facing clients and provide responsive programs. Here are some of the current issues facing the sector in 2018/19.

ECONOMIC IMPACT & AFFORDABILITY CHALLENGES*

According to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), arts and culture in B.C. has grown nearly 25% since 2010, a rate significantly higher than the national average. The culture economy comprises 2.7% of the total provincial economy, greater than that of accommodation and food services, or of agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting combined.

B.C. continues to have the greatest concentration of artists (1.1%) and cultural workers (4.3%) per capita of any province. Culture jobs increased 2.4% in 2017 to reach 98,050 full-time and part-time positions. Overall, arts and culture jobs comprise 4% of total jobs in the B.C. economy, the largest share of any province.

Challenges continue to co-exist with this growth. Affordability is a major concern for artists, especially as many have been disproportionately affected by rapid rises in real estate values and subsequent displacement. Arts and culture organizations, including the BC Arts Council, are investigating how to respond to increasing pressures on arts and culture infrastructure and to improve the working conditions and career development opportunities for artists.

* this section highlights the most recent data available from Statistics Canada's Canadian Culture Satellite Account



INDIAN SUMMER ARTS SOCIETY, VANCOUVER B.C.
Hariprasad Chaurasia performing at the Orpheum, Indian Summer Festival, 2018.
Photo credit: Indian Summer Arts Society



NANAIMO ART GALLERY, NANAIMO B.C.
Arvo Leo's *The Orchids / Had the Look of Flowers That Are Looked At*
Installation view, Nanaimo Art Gallery, 2018. Photo credit: Sean Fenzi



PRIDE IN ART SOCIETY, VANCOUVER B.C. Performers Jeremy Dutcher and
Blanche Israël from "walaastoyik Lintuwakonawia" at the 2018 Queer Arts Festival.
Photo credit: Chris Randle

SOCIAL IMPACT

Youth, especially from culturally diverse backgrounds, continue to lead the way toward a more nuanced and comprehensive understanding of diversity that goes beyond a tick-box approach. Instead, the focus has shifted towards building on-going and reciprocal relationships with individuals and communities in ways that enhance social justice and respect human rights. The BC Arts Council recognizes that meaningful policy and programming results from the process of relationship-building with equity-seeking communities and that context must be considered when understanding what diversity and equity mean in a particular region or community.

Like many other areas of society, the arts and cultural sector has been impacted by an increased public awareness of the prevalence of sexual harassment and assault. The #metoo and #timesup movements have shed light on how entrenched and widespread these behaviour patterns have been and, unfortunately, continue to be. The concept of a workplace in the arts is more complex than in other sectors due to the high level of self-employment and informal collaborative work arrangements. The BC Arts Council is working with artists, arts organizations and agencies across government to better understand how to combat harassment and promote safer and more respectful workplaces.

RESPONDING TO THE DIGITAL SHIFT

One of the most pressing trends has been the fast-evolving opportunities and challenges posed by new technology and digital disruption. The proliferation of the internet, social media and mobile computing has resulted in revolutionary changes to the ways that information, including artistic content, is created, distributed and consumed. The arts sector has requested more resources and capacity-building activities in order to improve digital literacy and intelligence, both as a way of adapting to this digital shift and as a way to increase access to the arts through emerging technological platforms.

In August 2018, the BC Arts Council partnered with the Canada Council for the Arts to present a one-day Digital Strategies Symposium. Over 50 participants from across B.C. gathered to engage with presentations by technology specialists, peer-to-peer knowledge sharing and workshops focused on synthesizing collaborative strategies. This event provided opportunities for the arts sector to network with creative industries and digital experts, generating capacity to innovate and collaborate across areas.

The BC Arts Council's investment in the arts and culture sector is integral to the social and economic prosperity of our province. Funding allocated through stable and strategic programs helps address the changing needs of this growing and flourishing sector by enhancing opportunities to engage in the arts across the province.



BALLET BC, VANCOUVER B.C.
Alexis Fitcher and Justin Rapaport in *Solo Echo*. Photo credit: Michael Stobodian



PRIDE IN ART SOCIETY, VANCOUVER B.C.
Artist Su Fei's performance, *Everything* from the 2018 Queer Arts Festival.
Photo credit: Chris Randle

Provincial Impact

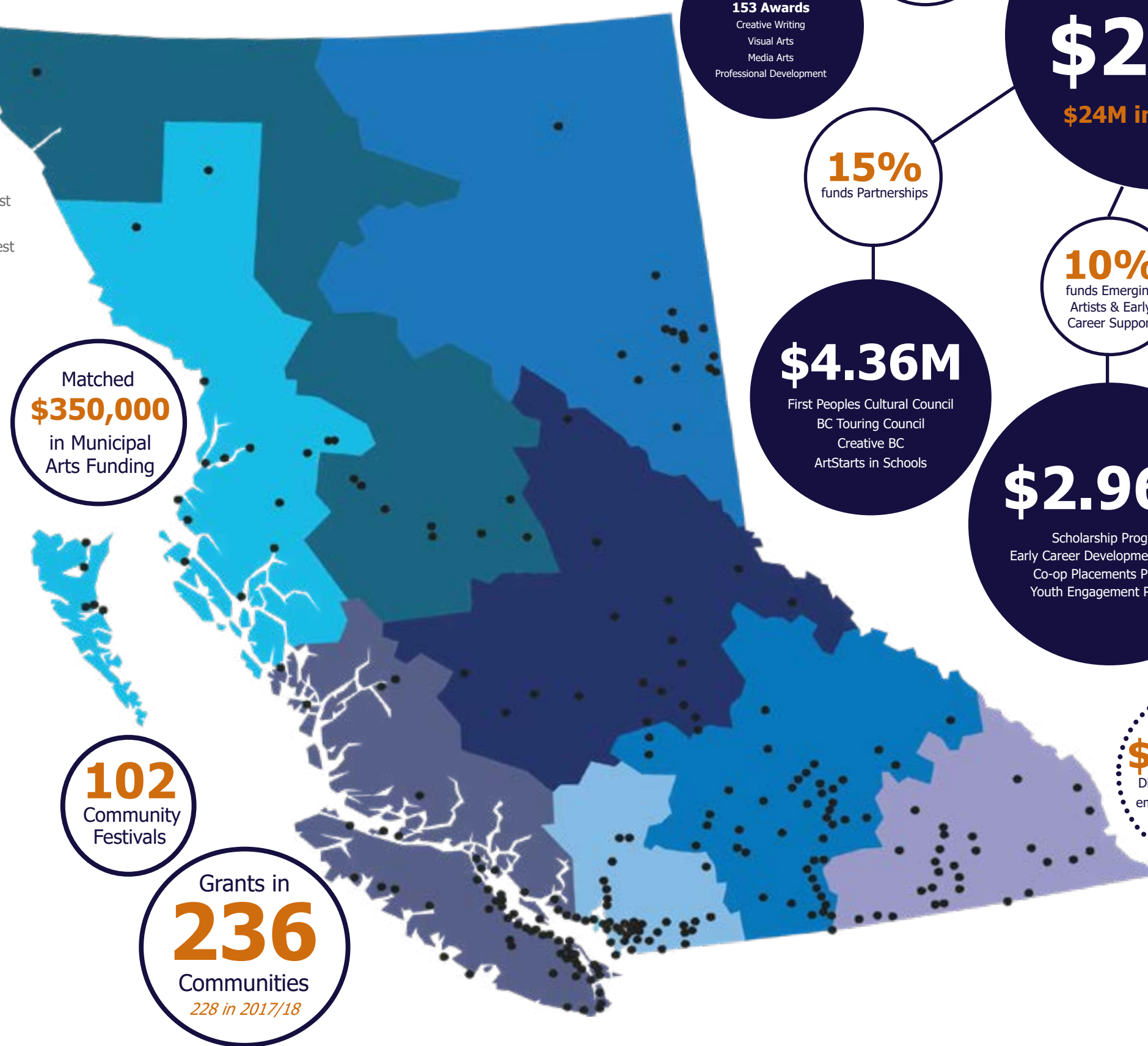
Overview

The BC Arts Council nurtures and supports arts and culture activity in communities across British Columbia.

- North Coast
- Nechako
- Northeast
- Cariboo
- Vancouver Island and Coast
- Lower Mainland - Southwest
- Thompson - Okanagan
- Kootenay

- 200** Jurors & Assessors
- 60** All School Districts Received Funding (includes Francophone, First Nations and Independent Schools)
- 3,092** Funding Requests
- 57%** Overall Application Success Rate
- 1,749** Approved Awards (including supplements)
- NEW 37%** First Time Organizations Awarded. 62 of 169 First Time Applicant Organizations to BCAC Programs received funding.

Icons provided by www.flaticon.com



Arts & Culture Investment
\$29M
 \$24M in 2017/18

\$1.69M
 153 Awards
 Creative Writing
 Visual Arts
 Media Arts
 Professional Development

7%
 funds Individual Arts Awards

8%
 funds Professional Projects

\$1.75M
 funding for professional projects

15%
 funds Partnerships

\$4.36M
 First Peoples Cultural Council
 BC Touring Council
 Creative BC
 ArtStarts in Schools

10%
 funds Emerging Artists & Early Career Support

\$2.96M
 Scholarship Program
 Early Career Development Program
 Co-op Placements Program
 Youth Engagement Program

52%
 funds Operating Assistance (includes Enhanced Capacity)

\$15.13M
 funding for operating clients

7%
 funds Community Arts

Community Arts Programming
\$2.10M
 286 Awards
 49% Funding Increase

\$1.50M
 Directly to students & emerging practitioners

\$1.46M
 Directly to organizations to engage youth or to host emerging practitioners in co-op placements or internship positions

Strategic Plan

Implementation Progress Report

In July 2018, the BC Arts Council released *New Foundations Strategic Plan for the BC Arts Council 2018-2022*. The strategic plan outlines Council's four new strategic directions to enhance opportunities for diversity, innovation and public engagement. The strategic plan emphasizes a commitment to work in collaboration with artists, cultural organizations and communities to ensure program priorities are more responsive to the creative and cultural needs of the people we serve.

GOAL #1

Sustainability & Creative Development

IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS

- Increase support for professional and organizational capacity building and sustainability throughout the arts and culture sector. Amplify support for developmental opportunities for artists, arts administrators and cultural organizations.
- Build awareness of the opportunities and challenges relating to new technologies, and build capacity in the arts sector to meet them.
- Encourage diverse forms of artistic research and experimentation.
- Expand support for underserved artists and organizations, including greater opportunities for accelerated advancement.

PROGRESS TO DATE

- Increased provincial funding of approximately \$3.1 million provides a more robust Operating Assistance program that:
 - Introduced a new \$20,000 minimum for all Operating Assistance clients. This increase in base funding will provide better year-over-year support for these well-performing organizations.
 - Provided one-time allocation of supplemental funds that increased the sustainability of these organizations.
- Hosted a Digital Strategies Symposium in August 2018, connecting the arts sector with technologists and offering peer-to-peer learning so that participants could collaborate on the opportunities and challenges posed by new technology.
- Provided funding at a higher success rate for new applicant organization with 62 of the 169 first-timers receiving funding.



BALLET BC, VANCOUVER B.C.
Artists of Ballet BC in *To this day*
Photo credit: Michael Slobodian

GOAL #2

Indigenous Arts & Culture

IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS

- Engage in partnership with Indigenous communities and organizations to inform policies and programs.
- Develop both dedicated funding and integrated policies that incorporate principles of reconciliation and accessibility into all programs.
- Improve awareness of eligibility and funding through outreach and partnership initiatives while improving access to programs.
- Enhance the support of Indigenous artists and cultural organizations, including both traditional and contemporary cultural expressions, as well as hybrid forms and experimentation.

PROGRESS TO DATE

- Enshrined the principles from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission on Canada: Calls to Action and the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples within the Considering Cultural Context guidelines for all grant programs. It articulates the rights of Indigenous peoples' to self-determination and to practice and revive their culture and traditions and acknowledges the damage caused by cultural appropriation.
- Delivered training and awareness building opportunities to appointed Council members and staff on topics of reconciliation, cultural safety, and Indigenous culture and history.
- Expanded program eligibility to include First Nations Band Councils and Friendship Centres in Arts-Based Community Development, Community Festivals, and the Youth Engagement programs.
- Increased investment of \$765,000 for the First Peoples' Cultural Council partnership provided additional support for administration and grant funding in the Aboriginal Arts Development Awards program.
- Supported the First Peoples' Cultural Council launch of a new Micro-Grant program with a responsive rolling intake that assists Indigenous artists and collectives to take up professional development opportunities and address emerging needs.
- Supported capacity building and professional development training at the Arts Integration Learning Lab: Indigenous Artists Edition, the first all-Indigenous Learning Lab offered through ArtStarts in Schools.



INDIAN SUMMER ARTS SOCIETY, VANCOUVER B.C.
Mohamed Assani, Amarjeet Singh, and members of
Allegra Chamber Orchestra at Indian Summer Festival
2018 *Songs for Scheherazade*, Ismaili Centre, Burnaby.
Photo credit: Indian Summer Arts Society



GOAL #3

Equity, Diversity & Access

IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS

- Strengthen engagement with historically underserved groups through increased outreach and communication efforts.
- Collaborate to discover new and improved ways that programs can be made more accessible and relevant, through both application and assessment processes.
- Review and improve organizational policies and procedures through an equity lens.
- Develop both dedicated and integrated funding strategies to better serve historically underfunded groups.

PROGRESS TO DATE

- Initiated procurement for an Equity Consultant to aid in the development of an equity framework including an equity audit and recommendations for programs and policies, consultations and staff learning opportunities.
- Completion of the Gender-Based Analysis Plus (GBA+) course by 100% of staff. This analytical tool is used to assess how diverse groups may experience policies, programs and initiatives differently.
- Strengthened direction, guidance and language to empower applicants and adjudicators to address issues of respectful workplaces.
- Initiated the development of a new web-based online application system and website that will improve accessibility to BC Arts Council programs.

GOAL #4

Regional Arts & Community Arts

IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS

- Improve outreach and communication efforts across the province to increase our understanding of regionally-distinct arts practices and raise program awareness and accessibility.
- Develop policies and practices to increase the capacity of regional arts and cultural organizations and artists to allow for full and meaningful participation in BC Arts Council programs.
- Increase support for professional arts in non-urban areas, acknowledging the unique and diverse characteristics of regional arts.
- Increase support for community arts throughout B.C., recognizing their importance in developing and celebrating vibrant communities.
- Support organizations and artists across the province to promote engagement and enjoyment of the arts.

PROGRESS TO DATE

- Provided grant funding to community arts organizations in all 27 regional districts and in over 200 communities throughout the province that included:
 - One-time supplemental funds distributed to all 73 community arts operating clients supporting capacity building and new opportunities.
 - \$690,000 in new funding for community arts resulting in 32% more community festivals funded (102 total) and almost double the Arts-Based Community Development projects supported (27 total).



Funding at a Glance

Overview

Programs for organizations, collectives and individuals contribute to the creativity, strength and resilience of the sector. Through our grants programs and partnerships, the BC Arts Council is investing in:

Organizational Sustainability and Advancement for the Professional Arts

Operating Assistance funding supports the stability and resiliency of organizations throughout the arts and culture sector. Almost 50% of the BC Arts Council's budget is allocated to sustain core funding requirements of operating clients. Since this funding is allocated for two or three years at a time, it supports these organizations in building capacity, allows for long-term planning and enables them to focus on work that contributes to the artistic and cultural diversity of the province. In 2018/19, dozens of organizations experienced transformational operating increases due to Council's decision to raise the minimum base level of support to \$20,000.

Training and Professional Development for Artists

The Professional Development program supports opportunities for artists to advance their practice and careers by funding learning activities all over the world. In 2018/19, the program was able to further support training and development of established artists through a 28% funding increase.

In addition, the BC Arts Council supports early practitioners through a wide range of training from pre-professional scholarships to development opportunities for emerging artists. This year, the Co-op program was separated from residency, internship and mentorship components in Early Career Development. This change offers further opportunities for organizations to support emerging artists and better aligns with the post-secondary Co-op education cycle.

Through the ArtStarts in Schools program, an Integration Learning Lab provides professional artists with mentoring, learning opportunities and tools for how to work effectively with young audiences in schools. This training amplifies the success of the artist in the classroom by increasing engagement and participation of the students.

Vibrancy and Resilience in Communities

There is increasing evidence that shows arts-based initiatives can be powerful positive agents of personal, institutional and community change. B.C.'s community organizations bring professional artists together with participants to engage in co-creation activities and leverage the arts to improve health and well-being, build resilience, help healing and tackle social justice issues. The BC Arts Council is seeing increasing demand to fund this type of empowerment activity. Creating something together is helping build the social fabric, cohesion and resiliency in communities. In 2018/19, the BC Arts Council supported 27 such projects through the Arts-Based Community Development program.

Throughout the year, festivals animate communities across the province featuring the best of B.C. artists. These events offer opportunities to engage with and participate in the arts, provide exposure for our B.C. artists and deliver economic benefits to host communities. In 2018/19, the BC Arts Council supported 102 community festivals in all regions of the province; up from 77 in 2017/18 due to an \$100,000 increase this year.

Indigenous artists and organizations

Arts and culture play a vital role in telling Canada's full history and can help lay the foundation for relationship building on the path towards reconciliation. Taking our lead from Indigenous artists, organizations and communities, and respecting the principle of self-determination, the BC Arts Council strives to deepen its engagement with the processes for decolonization and reconciliation. The BC Arts Council proudly supports the artistic development and activities of Indigenous artists and organizations across B.C. and continues work to remove barriers to access for all its programs.

Through the BC Arts Council's funding, in partnership with the First Peoples' Cultural Council, the Aboriginal Arts Development Awards program provided Indigenous artists and organizations with support for skill development, knowledge transfer between generations, internship and mentorship opportunities, capacity building and sustainability in 83 projects.

“There needs to be more opportunities like this that prioritize equity groups and their experiences in the arts! We need to support this process and engage people’s growth...I’m thankful to have been part of it and look forward to seeing more!”

- Participant feedback to ArtStarts in Schools' first Learning Lab exclusively for BIPOC artists
(*Black, Indigenous, and/or people of colour).*

Touring

B.C. artists and arts organizations are in demand regionally, nationally and internationally. Through the BC Arts Council touring programs, these artists and organizations are able to develop new markets and audiences, participate in collaborations and artistic exchanges and showcase the creative diversity of the province.

The Touring Initiatives program increases the ability of B.C. artists to work outside of the province and supports the many expenses associated with taking work on the road. More awards to fund technical and production costs, installation fees for exhibitions, tour management and booking fees and the costs of producing promotional materials were provided through a 24% funding increase for this program.

The Community and Key Presenters Assistance programs, offered in partnership with the BC Touring Council, are designed to support the presentation of performing arts events in rural communities across the province. The 2018/19 funding increases in these programs lay the foundation that will, over time, increase stability for presenters in rural communities to pay higher artist fees and explore new opportunities for their seasonal programming.

“Artists and counsellors noted how the [participant’s] confidence and ability to take risks grew each week. For many, this program was their first art experience, and they reported how it helped them heal, build confidence, and express themselves.”

*- from the Victoria Women's Transition House Society's
'Women's Ceramics Circle - Creativity for Healing', funded through Project Assistance.*

Public Museums & Indigenous Cultural Centres

Through funding for public museums and Indigenous cultural centres, the BC Arts Council plays a crucial role in supporting the knowledge keeping of human history. Increased outreach resulted in triple the number of Professional Project Assistance applications this year which included two Indigenous cultural centres receiving project funding for the first time.

The new minimum base level of \$20,000 for operating support meant significant funding increases for 10 public museum recipients; doubling the financial support to 40% of them. Overall the BC Arts Council's support of public museums and Indigenous cultural centres now benefits 37 communities across the province, totalling \$2.1 million across programs.

Literary Arts & Publishing

Through support of professional literary festivals and events, the BC Arts Council enhances public access to the literary arts. Grant programs providing assistance to writers distributed 37% more awards in 2018/19. Similarly, funding for book publishers increased substantially, bolstering sustainability and adding expanded access to capacity-building project assistance. Literary arts festivals are flourishing with the increased support, engaging audiences of thousands through presentations by writers from across Canada and around the world.

Development, Creation and Presentation of Work

Project Assistance programs support collectives and arts and culture organizations to pursue new ideas, produce innovative work and engage in creative experimentation. These activities span a broad range of disciplines including dance, music, theatre, literary arts, media arts, visual arts and public museum practice. With an increase to Professional Project programs in 2018/19, 145 projects were funded across nine artistic disciplines with an average success rate of 44%.

Youth

Early exposure to arts and culture ignites the imaginations of future artists and audiences and stimulates innovative thinking and learning. The BC Arts Council and its partners empower and inspire youth (under 30) through a variety of targeted programs to ensure opportunity in all regions of B.C.

The BC Arts Council's Youth Engagement program supports organizations taking innovative and inspiring approaches to actively engaging British Columbia's young people with arts and culture programming as participants, makers and audiences.

The First Peoples' Cultural Council's Aboriginal Youth Engaged in the Arts program supports Indigenous arts and culture leaders of the future. This rapidly growing population is demonstrating an increased level of commitment to and involvement with language and arts and culture revitalization. Projects funded in 2018/19 span artistic disciplines and included drum making, storytelling through film and artistic reconciliation collaborations.

Through ArtStarts in Schools, funding was distributed to every school district in the province in 2018/19. The Artists in the Classroom program brings professional artists into schools for hands-on curriculum-based experiences. These opportunities activate creative learning for young people across B.C. and may include coverage for artist transportation to remote schools reducing barriers to access.

The BC Touring Council's Community Presenter Youth Engagement program removes barriers to participation in the performing arts for young people and family audiences throughout the province. In 2018/19 projects included youth-focused mentoring, workshops, performances in professional venues, technical training and the creation of work by and for youth. Tens of thousands of youth were able to see professional artists performing in professional presentation settings across artistic disciplines, many for the first time.

Partnerships

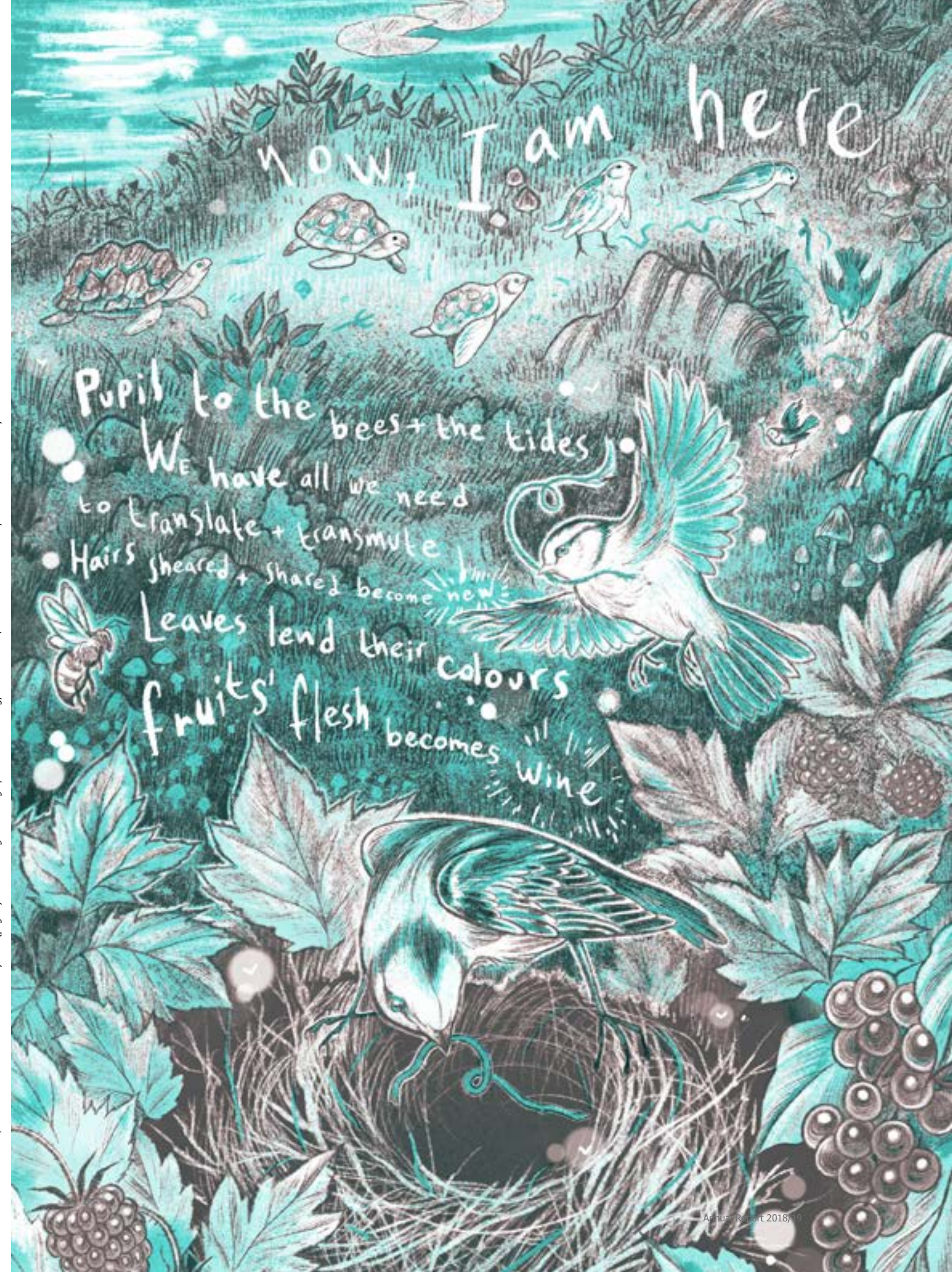
Through four ongoing and long-standing partnerships, the BC Arts Council continues to strengthen its ability to reach all corners of the province, increasing access to and participation in the arts through these established networks.

The BC Arts Council's partnerships with the First Peoples' Cultural Council, BC Touring Council, Creative BC and ArtStarts in Schools provide focused funding and support to specified client groups that are important to the development of the arts and culture sector including Indigenous artists and arts organizations, community presenters and school districts. In 2018/19, BC Arts Council partners received over 650 applications totaling \$9.8 million in requests and awarded 388 grants totaling almost \$4.4 million in funding.

"For a small community like ours this is likely the first and sometimes only opportunity that students will have to come into our performing arts centre and experience outstanding performing artists with full production values."

-Bill Usher, Kicking Horse Culture (Golden), on the BC Touring Council's Community Presenters Youth Engagement program.

CLOUDSCAPE COMICS, VANCOUVER B.C. A Woodward's story *Swift* (page 4), *The Witching Hours*. A graphic novel anthology about witches, written and illustrated by women and non-binary artists from B.C.





MUSEUM OF ANTHROPOLOGY, VANCOUVER B.C.
 Rosa Cheng of Vancouver Cantonese Opera performs at the book launch of *Divine Threads: The Visual and Material Culture of Cantonese Opera* at the Museum of Anthropology.
 Photo credit: Cyrus Wu



CINEWORKS INDEPENDENT FILMAKERS SOCIETY, VANCOUVER B.C.
 Sara Siestrem's *aretha franklin (1942-2018) reigns supreme*, 2018 and *up all night*, 2018. *Hexsa'am: To Be Here Always* took place as part of *Mirrored In Stone*, a project commissioned by Cineworks and the Morris and Helen Belkin Art Gallery at the University of British Columbia in partnership with the Dzawadā'enuxw First Nation.



KAMLOOPS MUSEUM, KAMLOOPS B.C.
 Kamloops Museum and Archives (KMA)'s exhibition *Ted Smith: Idea Forms*, Photo credit: Kelly Funk.



CASTLEREIGH THEATRE PROJECT SOCIETY, VICTORIA B.C.
 Nyla Carpentier, Erica Wilson, Nick Benz, & Taran Kootenhayoc
God's Lake at the High Performance Rodeo, Calgary, January
 2019. Photo credit: Ziibiwan Mahgagahbo

Key Figures

Financial Highlights

	2017/18	2018/19
PROFESSIONAL ARTS FUNDING		
Operating Assistance	\$10,990,000	\$14,063,990
Professional Projects	\$1,144,250	\$1,749,117
Individual Arts Awards	\$1,579,105	\$1,992,630
Scholarship Awards	\$750,000	\$807,000
SUBTOTAL	\$15,438,354	\$18,612,737
STRATEGIC INITIATIVES FUNDING		
Enhanced Capacity	\$870,000	\$1,065,000
Strategic Opportunities	\$345,000	\$474,900
Youth Engagement	\$1,440,000	\$690,800*
Early Career Development	\$1,494,799	\$1,300,000
Co-op Placements	above	\$161,000
SUBTOTAL	\$4,149,799	\$3,691,700
<small>*Reallocation of \$400,000 from Youth Engagement to First Peoples' Cultural Council (\$200,000) & BC Touring Council (\$200,000).</small>		
COMMUNITY ARTS FUNDING		
Arts-Based Community Development	\$240,000	\$400,000
Community Arts Organizations	\$908,866	\$1,298,487
Community Arts Development Projects	\$65,700	\$82,080
Community Festivals	\$196,902	\$321,000
SUBTOTAL	\$1,411,468	\$2,101,567
PARTNERSHIPS FUNDING		
Creative BC - Interactive Digital Media	\$650,000	\$745,000
ArtStarts - Artists in Education & Artists in the Classroom	\$1,300,500	\$1,253,000
First Peoples' Cultural Council	\$635,000	\$1,497,500
BC Touring Council	\$572,500	\$862,066
SUBTOTAL	\$3,158,000	\$4,357,566
BRANCH OPERATIONS		\$250,000**
<small>**External to the grants budget, an additional \$1.78 million provided for branch operations.</small>		
TOTAL BUDGET:	\$24,157,621	\$29,013,570

Budget Increase 2018/19

The 2018/19 BC Arts Council's budget increase coincided with the launch of the new strategic plan. As a result, the BC Arts Council was able to take first steps to deepen and broaden funding for the arts and culture sector in key strategic areas. The new \$5 million in funding focused on:

Emphasizing sustainability and artistic capacity by building a stronger foundation for arts organizations and artists

- Approximately 60% (\$3.1 million) of the increase was invested into core funding for professional arts organizations contributing to the development and economic impact of B.C.'s arts and culture sector.
- About 10% (\$500,000) was invested into community arts throughout the province, including a \$100,000 increase for community festivals.
- An additional amount (\$250,000) was added to programs that promote experimentation and innovation or support opportunities and address challenges in organizations.

Addressing gaps in current funding programs for Indigenous, equity-seeking and rural/regional artists, arts organizations and communities

- Approximately 20% (\$900,000) was invested into BC Arts Council partnerships and supported important community networks that enhance the reach of BC Arts Council funding such as the First Peoples' Cultural Council's mandate to provide artistic funding for Indigenous peoples.

Building capacity in program administration to support the expected increased volume of applications

- Approximately 7% (\$250,000) was invested into Council operations, with a focus on staffing.

Further to the \$5 million investment, the Council made program budget adjustments to align with program demand, meet strategic priorities and for administrative purposes. The BC Arts Council is excited to continue to build on the vision launched in 2018/19 through the *New Foundations Strategic Plan*. The arts improve quality of life, stimulate innovation and contribute to vibrant and healthy communities. The BC Arts Council's increased investment provides more opportunities across the province to access the arts, build creativity and strengthen capacity for the sector.

"There is an artistic impact when artists move beyond... their discipline and embrace art from other practices. By creating a concert built around the aural traditional of storytelling, literature, cultural identity, heritage and the idea of narrative, we hope to inspire further cross-arts explorations in our audience, our colleagues who attend the performance and the artists we commission and collaborate with."

- from Standing Wave Society's report on Mvthos, funded through Project Assistance



Council Members

Representatives for BC Arts Council

The BC Arts Council was established under the *Arts Council Act*. The Act provides for up to 15 government-appointed representatives to support the work of the BC Arts Council. Collectively, these representatives or Council members are expected to have expertise and experience across forms of artistic expression as well as characterize the cultural and geographical diversity of the province. Council members may hold terms for one to three years but may not sit for more than six years in total.

Appointed Members 2018 / 2019

SUSAN JACKSON, CHAIR
 Vancouver

**DR. JANE E. BRINDLEY,
 VICE CHAIR**
 Vancouver

NORMAN ARMOUR
 Vancouver

LINDSAY BAILEY
 Vancouver

MANJOT BAINS
 Vancouver

IAN CASE
 Victoria

PHILLIP DJWA
 Vancouver

PATRICIA HENMAN
 Nelson

DEAN HERON
 Victoria

DERRAL MORIYAMA
 Vancouver

PAULINE NOCENTE
 Vancouver

SIMONE ORLANDO
 Kelowna

YOSEF WOSK
 Vancouver

JOE SMITH**
 Union Bay

JOSEPH CROSS**
 Cranbrook

EMILY MOLNAR**
 Vancouver

DONNA MOORE**
 Kelowna

CORRINE HUNT*
 Vancouver

JOSE DELGADO - GUEVERA*
 Prince George

*Until January 2019
 **Until June 2018

For member biographies please refer to
 the BC Arts Council [website](#).

Responsibilities of Council Members

In addition to fulfilling the mandate under the *Arts Council Act*, Council members are primarily responsible for governance of the BC Arts Council's activities including:

- formulating a strategic plan and communicating its priorities;
- providing oversight and advice for policy or program development;
- advising and approving the allocation of grant funding; and
- ensuring the integrity of an open, accountable and neutrally administered funding process.

Council members are appointed by an Order-in-Council and are accountable to the people of British Columbia through the legislature. Council members broadly represent the arts and cultural community, reflecting the province's regional and diverse populations, and bring invaluable advice to the BC Arts Council through their experience in the sector.

Council members are responsible for acting in the best interests of the BC Arts Council, a principle founded on the conviction that decisions taken in the best interests of Council will also uphold the best interests of Council's clients and stakeholders. Council members recognize their responsibility for acting in the public and community interest, and that consultation is necessary to ensure policies and programs are responsive to community need.

The Council meets a minimum of four times per year, including one annual meeting outside a major urban centre, and members participate on sub-committees that meet frequently throughout the year. Council members are actively engaged in the arts and culture community, and participate in site visits, community consultations and outreach with clients and prospective clients.

Grant Adjudications

Peer Review

The peer-review process in the adjudication of grants is a fundamental pillar in the BC Arts Council's work and ensures the ability to engage in open, accountable and transparent decision-making while supporting freedom of expression and the exchange of artistic knowledge and experience.

The Council brings together panels of three to five artists and arts and culture practitioners to review applications and determine funding amounts. Within each program, these panels offer grants to artists and arts organizations that demonstrate excellence in a variety of assessment criteria that may include artistic merit, feasibility and innovation within the respective disciplines.

Considerations when selecting adjudicators include broad professional knowledge, expertise, geographical representation and varied aesthetic, institutional and cultural viewpoints, including those from Indigenous perspectives. A diverse jury panel is identified to adjudicate applications for a specific program and is best able to evaluate the applications under review as a result of the jury's collective knowledge and experience.

Assessors

As part of each adjudication, the BC Arts Council conducts consultations with assessors. In 2018/19, 200 artists and cultural practitioners were consulted during more than 50 adjudication panels. Discussions covered program structure, application processes, adjudication procedures, the new strategic plan and ongoing and emerging issues in the sector. These regular consultations are essential to facilitate continuous improvement, address changing needs, research new initiatives and maintain a high degree of responsiveness to important trends as they emerge.

We are grateful to those who served as advisors and jurors for the BC Arts Council and the programs offered through partnership with ArtStarts in Schools, BC Touring Council, Creative BC and the First Peoples' Cultural Council. A full list of panel members for 2018/19 is available on the BC Arts Council [website](#).

Call for Nominations

The BC Arts Council is always looking for interested individuals with discipline knowledge, open-mindedness, generosity of spirit and the ability to work collaboratively in the adjudication process.

Serving on a panel is a unique learning experience which offers insight into the process and a broader understanding of the sector. By providing this support, adjudicators are participating in cultural policy in action.

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming an adjudicator, please visit our website, or contact us at bcartscouncil@gov.bc.ca

Awards Listing 2018/19

For complete list of award recipients and granting amounts please refer to the BC Arts Council [website](#).



PuSh INTERNATIONAL PERFORMING ARTS FESTIVAL, VANCOUVER B.C.
The Eternal Tides by Legend Lin Dance Theatre (Taiwan)
Choreographer Lin Lee-Chen
Photo credit: Tim Matheson



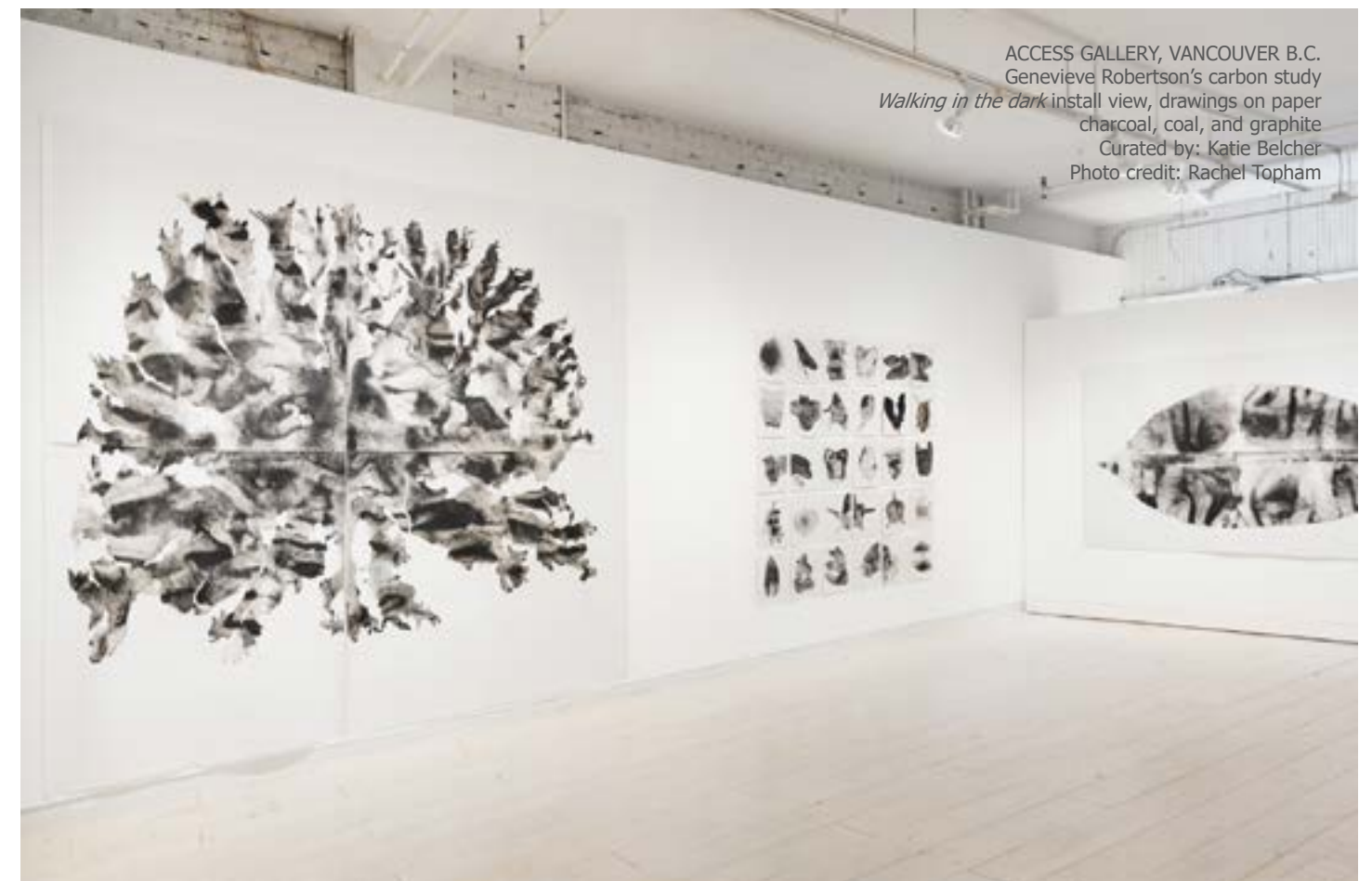
ACCESS GALLERY, VANCOUVER B.C.
Feathers Ether Sand Speech - Lauren Marsden,
Elizabeth Milton, Sydney Southam.
Milton's, *Punching a Pillow Until the Sun Rises*
Curated by: Whitney Brennan
Photo credit: André Costa



THE EXPLORATION PLACE, PRINCE GEORGE B.C.
The Exploration Place Museum and Science Centre, Ted Williams History Hall
Photo credit: Tourism Prince George



ACCESS GALLERY, VANCOUVER B.C.
Genevieve Robertson's carbon study
Walking in the dark install view, drawings on paper
charcoal, coal, and graphite
Curated by: Katie Belcher
Photo credit: Rachel Topham



BC Arts Council Staff

Special Thanks

Our work and this report would not have been possible without the dedicated efforts and inspired vision of the BC Arts Council staff. The following staff list is a representation of those working at the BC Arts Council at fiscal year end, March 2019.

MAIRA AURUCCI

Policy Analyst

ALLISON BOTTOMLEY

Senior Arts Policy & Program Advisor

NADINE CAREW

Program Officer: Dance, Theatre

SUE DONALDSON

Program Officer: Museums, Indigenous Cultural Centres, Literary Arts

SARAH DURNO

Director

CHRIS GILPIN

Program Officer: Publishing, Early Career Development-Performing Arts, Youth Engagement Program-Studio Arts

LINDA JOHNSON

Finance & Contracts Administration

SHERYL JONES

Program Officer: Early Career Development, Media Arts

BRIAN JONKER

Executive Director

JULIE KING

Team Lead, Finance & Administration

MONIQUE LACERTE

Program Officer: Community Arts & Partnerships

ERIN MACKLEM

Program Officer: Co-op Placements, Youth Engagement Program-Performing Arts

HANNAH MASHON

Associate Program Officer, Indigenous Youth Internship Program

WALTER QUAN

Program Officer: Individual Arts Awards, Arts Training, Professional Development, Music

KIMBERLEY REID

Acting Director

WENDY SWAN

Forms & Website Administration

RACHEL TEFAY

Administration, Co-op Student

INGMARIE THUNANDER

Program Officer: Scholarship, Annual Publications, Research

KIM WOODCOCK

Board Administrator

Thank you to staff both past and present for contributing to a thriving arts and culture sector in B.C.

In loving memory of
Julie Poskitt

BC Arts Council

Mailing Address:

Box 9819, Stn Prov Govt,
Victoria, BC V8W 9W3

Street Address:

800 Johnson Street,
Victoria, BC V8W 1N3

Tel: (250) 356-1718

E-mail: bcartscouncil@gov.bc.ca

Fax: (250) 387-4099

Website: www.bcartscouncil.ca

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Supported by the Province of British Columbia