



BC Arts Council

Annual Report 2022/2023



TERRITORY ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The BC Arts Council acknowledges it carries out its work on the land of Indigenous nations throughout British Columbia. We pay our respects to the Elders and Knowledge Keepers, past and present, descendants and custodians of these lands and waters. We are grateful for the continuing relationships with Indigenous Peoples that develop through our work together. We acknowledge and raise our hands to the lekwungen (Lkwungen) people, known today as the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations, on whose ancestral lands we operate our main offices.

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TRAIL AND DISTRICT ARTS COUNCIL, THE BAILEY THEATRE, TRAIL.
Body Positive Bollywood, TECK Family Series. Karima Essa.
Photo by Jana Frandsen, Wink Photography

HON. LANA POPHAM

MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

On behalf of the Government of British Columbia, I am pleased to receive the BC Arts Council's 2022/23 Annual Report, highlighting the council's achievements in the arts and culture sector from April 2022 to March 2023.

This report details the recent successes of the council and the progress on goals and priorities outlined in the BC Arts Council's *Extending Foundations: Action Plan 2022-2024*. This plan is aimed at increasing equity, diversity, inclusion and accessibility as well as calls to action for reconciliation to expand opportunities and remove barriers to BC Arts Council grant funding.

As recently appointed minister for arts and culture, I am extremely pleased to be collaborating with such an incredible team. Our government shares the council's conviction that arts and culture are an important contributor to the health, well-being and economic strength of B.C.'s communities.

We know the last three years have been incredibly challenging for people in the arts and culture sector. Our government, working in partnership with the BC Arts Council, is determined to support and build back a vibrant and thriving arts sector that is responsive to the needs of artists and arts organizations throughout the province.

To this end, the Province continued to provide funding to the BC Arts Council at \$39.6 million through last year's Budget. Additionally, we provided \$34.5 million in resilience funding to support economic recovery for people working in the sector. This included \$30 million distributed to 337 arts and culture organizations and an additional \$4.5 million to expand the Arts Infrastructure Program providing \$8.5 million in grant funding to 128 arts and culture organizations.

Our government has provided this funding because we are committed to the recovery and renewal of this vital sector for B.C. artists and for the prosperity of the province. We know a flourishing arts and culture sector supports our economy by improving a community's competitive edge, attracting a strong workforce, and drawing visitors worldwide.

I am proud of the BC Arts Council's accomplishments of the past year. Through the BC Arts Council, our government has enhanced opportunities for people working in B.C.'s arts and culture sector to build back a stronger, thriving sector. In the coming year, we will continue to work closely with artists and arts organizations to create a sustainable future for arts and culture in the province.

Sincerely,



Hon. Lana Popham,
Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport



BOB D'EITH

PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY FOR ARTS AND FILM

On behalf of the Government of British Columbia, I am pleased to acknowledge the BC Arts Council's 2022/23 Annual Report, detailing the council's work in the arts and culture sector from April 2022 to March 2023.

This report highlights the recent successes of the BC Arts Council as it continues to engage the sector to understand their needs and to use this feedback to move forward on the goals and priorities of the BC Arts Council's *Extending Foundations: Action Plan 2022-2024*.

As part of this work, in spring 2022, I led virtual arts and culture roundtables with communities throughout B.C. with Sae-Hoon Stan Chung, chair, and Dana Claxton, vice chair, of the BC Arts Council. We heard directly about the distinct challenges and opportunities impacting rural and urban arts and culture communities. Based on the feedback we received, we took action to strengthen supports in the arts and culture sector.

One direct result of these roundtables was the launch of the BC Arts Council's Accelerate Program. The pilot program is a two-year initiative to improve access and reduce barriers to funding for equity deserving and regional arts and culture organizations and collectives. Grant funding is intended to offer stability while being flexible in supporting a range of expenses associated with artistic growth, development, production or exhibition, expansion and operations. I know many artists and arts and culture organizations throughout the province will benefit from this new program.

As a musician and writer, I personally know the tremendous impact of art and culture on individuals and on communities. It is a source of inspiration, community connection and pride for British Columbians. As Parliamentary Secretary for Arts and Film, I am proud to remain committed as ever to working with Minister Popham and the BC Arts Council to achieve shared objectives aimed at building a healthy, vibrant arts and culture sector, which complements our government's priority to provide a good life for British Columbians and their families.

Sincerely,



Bob D'Eith,
Parliamentary Secretary for Arts and Film



JOINT MESSAGE

BC ARTS COUNCIL CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Over the past year, as we emerged from multiple waves of the pandemic, we saw artists, practitioners, and arts and culture organizations again demonstrate resilience and innovation in offering creative and artistic opportunities in communities right across the province. As the sector has continued to create and regenerate, the BC Arts Council has continued our reflection on the role we play in sustaining creativity and artistic exploration, while improving conditions for practitioners and supporting positive change.

Last spring, in close collaboration with Government, we launched *Extending Foundations: Action Plan 2022-2024* – council’s plan for breaking down systemic barriers within policies and programs to support calls to action for reconciliation, diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility. Since announcing *Extending Foundations* in April 2022, we have made significant progress on its implementation and are proud to say that we are seeing real change. We also acknowledge that these shifts have demanded that council reflect critically on the distribution of resources and have required others within the sector to be part of the change.

Updates to the Operating Assistance Program included shifts in assessment criteria and eligibility requirements, removing barriers and resulting in a dramatic expansion of the program. We provided Operating Assistance grants to 26 new organizations this year, providing much-needed, sustained support to organizations that had been historically underserved.

We launched the Accelerate Pilot Program – a multi-year initiative to improve access and enhance capacity for equity-deserving and regionally-based arts and culture groups – investing \$2.5 million in 143 arts and culture organizations and collectives*. As these organizations stabilize, develop and grow, they will strengthen the resilience, diversity, and creative offerings of the province’s arts and culture sector.

We expanded awareness and subsequent provision of accessibility supports by 178% over the previous year. These funds assist applicants who are Deaf or have a disability, as well as provide support for costs to individuals and organizations to support accessibility needs within projects.

In total, the council distributed over \$71 million in funding in 2022/23, through 1723 grants to individual artists, cultural practitioners, and arts and culture organizations throughout the province. This includes \$36.9 million in grants through the BC Arts Council’s base budget, and additional one-time investments from the Province in Arts and Culture Sector Resilience funding and in the Arts Infrastructure Program, totalling \$34.5 million.

*Figure represents total funding and grants delivered for the Accelerate Pilot Program of which \$1,510,675 was paid out through 60 grants in fiscal year 2022/23.

This year has also provided the council with renewed opportunities for reflection and engagement, both internally and with community. In collaboration with the Secretariat, all fifteen council members participated generously to better understand how we can best allow the unique strengths of our diverse perspectives to be brought to bear on our work together in support of greater equity and social justice. This work has resulted in a new governance document that includes a commitment to creating an Indigenous Elder-in-Residence role for council, inspired by outgoing council member Roy Henry Vickers.

We also found new opportunities to convene with community as we expanded our outreach and engagement efforts. This included the roundtable conversations co-hosted with Parliamentary Secretary D’Eith that launched *Extending Foundations*, as well as community and partner events and consultations – including a return to in-person engagement with a trip to Prince George in October – among other opportunities. We have listened carefully to arts and cultural practitioners and communities about how we can continue to improve our strategies and actions. These conversations and reflections have guided our work.

Since being appointed as chair and vice-chair two years ago at the height of the pandemic, our conversations with community have reaffirmed the potency of arts and culture, artists and communities to connect and inspire our daily lives, as well as the importance of public sector funding in enabling the telling of our stories.

We are deeply grateful for the work of outgoing council members Judy Darcy, Evan Klassen, and Roy Henry Vickers. We also want to acknowledge the remarkable opportunity we have had for collaboration with Parliamentary Secretary Bob D’Eith alongside the former Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport, Melanie Mark, and look forward to continuing that work with Minister Lana Popham. We want to extend our appreciation to the tireless efforts of ministry staff in delivering a record amount of funding and championing change.

We look forward to meaningful conversations over the months ahead as we embark on a new strategic vision to support the diversity of communities, places and stories of this province.

We invite you to engage with us, and to share stories of the great value that arts and culture brings to our world as we work towards bringing communities closer together through artistic creations.

Sincerely,



Sae-Hoon Stan Chung, Chair, BC Arts Council



Dana Claxton, Vice Chair, BC Arts Council



BC ARTS COUNCIL: COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS, PRINCE GEORGE.
Photos courtesy of the BC Arts Council



PRINCE GEORGE FOLKFEST SOCIETY, PRINCE GEORGE.
Coldsnap 2023, Morgan Toney. Photo by James Doyle

MANDATE, VISION AND 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.

OUR VISION

The BC Arts Council has set its course toward an aspirational vision where:

- 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; and
- 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 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.



STATUS OF THE ARTS IN B.C.

This report details a time of recovery and adaptation. In the spring of 2022, after two years of significant impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic, the arts and culture sector saw a lifting of restrictions on organized gathering and events, including capacity limits and indoor mask orders. However, society had changed, audiences were cautious and culture workers were fatigued. As one of the hardest hit sectors and one of the last to recover, the arts and culture sector continued to face challenges resulting from ongoing uncertainty created by the pandemic and rising costs.

In March 2023, the investment of an additional \$34.5 million in funding by the Provincial government distributed by the BC Arts Council helped to advance sector recovery, foster hope and activate positive changes, bolstering the resiliency of organizations and practitioners.

Other areas of focus for the sector included creating equitable opportunities for artists and practitioners, and the development of modern, safe cultural facilities. Practical steps for taking sustainable climate action is a growing conversation across the sector.

Economic Impact Data

This section highlights the most recent data available from Statistics Canada's Canadian Culture Satellite Account, which at the time of going to print, was from 2021.

Between January and December 2021, B.C. generated \$8.3 billion in cultural gross domestic product (GDP). This figure includes the film industry. While the arts and culture sector overall showed signs of recovery and a return to 2019 levels, some sub-sectors had not returned to levels seen in the 2019/20 reporting year. Live performance GDP was 34% below pre-pandemic output levels. As a proportion of B.C.'s total GDP, culture accounted for 2.9% in 2021. Jobs in the culture sector accounted for 4.4% of all jobs in the province, totalling 117,972 culture jobs in British Columbia in 2021. This was 16% more than 2020.¹



SUNSHINE COAST ARTS COUNCIL, POWELL RIVER.
Sechelt Show with Mick Henry. Photo by Naoko Fukumaru.

Artists and Cultural Workers

In British Columbia, the population grew nearly 3% in 2022, marking the highest annual growth rate since 1996, and maintaining the highest proportion of artists nationally.² Nearly 40,000 artists reside in this province; in other words, one in every five Canadian artists (20%) resides in B.C.³ Inflation rose considerably – a major concern for arts and culture organizations, as well as individual practitioners – along with the cost of doing business.^{4,5} The job vacancy rate in the arts, heritage, and entertainment was above the average for the Canadian economy as a whole, while the median wages of professionals in the arts and culture continue to be below other professional occupations.⁶



VINES ART FESTIVAL, CREEKSIDE PARK, VANCOUVER.
Afro Van Connect at The Black Blossom. Photo by Sheng Ho.



BURNABY ART GALLERY, BURNABY.
Public printmaking activity
with BAG on a Bike.
National Indigenous Peoples Day.
Print created by Paisley Nahanee.
Photo by S. Race

Equity and Wellbeing

It has been well documented that the pandemic magnified the impacts of existing inequities such as lower pay, greater health risks, and higher instances of discrimination as evidenced by the social determinants of health.^{7,8} As such, many artists and culture workers struggled with affordability and well-being.

Conversations about the role of arts funders to improve conditions for artists and focus on equity and reconciliation continued to be paramount. The BC Arts Council has committed to ensuring the distribution of funds represents the growing and diverse population of the province as well as upholds the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*. In 2022, significant work began on data collection and information management. The *Anti-Racism Data Act*, *Accessible British Columbia* regulation and *Declaration Act Action Plan* are important in providing guidance on current and future strategies.

Improved Cultural Facilities

The need for safe, accessible and affordable cultural facilities continues to be a key issue for the sector. Specific infrastructure challenges are unique based on the needs of a particular place, location or community factors. For example, places to gather to perform, present or exhibit in rural British Columbia are fewer in number when compared to other non-urban regions elsewhere in Canada, while urban centres face high costs and operational challenges.^{9,10} To help address these inequities, the BC Arts Council provided an increased Arts Infrastructure Program this year, bolstered by one-time funding from the Province. Over \$8.5 million was provided for project planning, purchasing specialized equipment, building, and renovations. These projects will increase the number of cultural spaces as well as protect cultural heritage and physical artifacts.

Taking Climate Action

Arts and culture sector organizations are grappling with adapting to climate-driven wildfires and extreme weather conditions. While British Columbia did not declare states of emergencies this year – in contrast to the three declared in 2021 – there is now a greater awareness within the sector of the need to be prepared and to play a part in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. While British Columbia has the highest proportion of organizations or businesses in the arts, heritage, and entertainment that have pursued (or will soon pursue) some type of environmental or climate-readiness practice, with some organizations working on adopting a carbon calculation tool, more action is needed.¹¹ The BC Arts Council is seeking to understand the pathway to climate justice.

⁷ Indigenuity for the Indigenous Performing Arts Alliance (2021) Research Report

⁸ DeBruin, D., Liaschenko, J., & Marshall, M. (2012). Social justice in pandemic preparedness. *American Journal of Public Health*, 102(4), 586-591

⁹ Hill Strategies (2022) Publicly owned arts and culture spaces in Canada's provinces and territories.

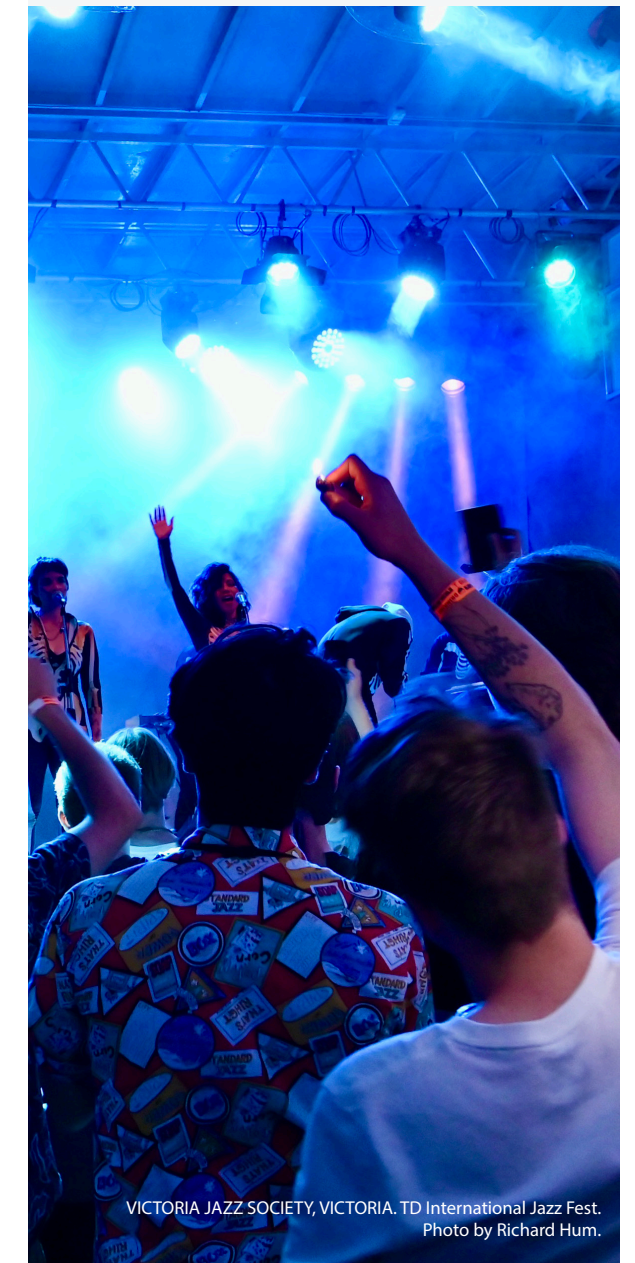
¹⁰ C-Space; Jones, C. (2023) Backstage Spaces: Progress Lab 1422 and the Future of Performance Creation Space.

¹¹ Hill Strategies (2022) Environmental practices of arts, heritage, and entertainment organizations and businesses.

Working Across Government

Anti-Racism Data Act

In 2022, government introduced the *Anti-Racism Data Act*. This means the government can collect personal information for the purposes of identifying and eliminating systemic racism and advancing racial equity. The Act outlines appropriate data standards and the importance of cultural safety protocols.



VICTORIA JAZZ SOCIETY, VICTORIA. TD International Jazz Fest.
Photo by Richard Hum.

STRATEGIC VISIONING

PROGRESS THIS YEAR

The BC Arts Council's *New Foundations Strategic Plan: 2018-2022* outlined the Council's four strategic directions. This plan focused on shifting our approach to achieve greater equity and accessibility while supporting arts and culture in B.C.

In April 2022, the BC Arts Council announced the extension of its current strategic plan to 2024 and the launch of *Extending Foundations: Action Plan 2022-2024*, in order to continue to realize the objectives of *New Foundations* with expanded commitments and targeted actions.

New Foundations – Directions

Sustainability and Creative Development

Indigenous Arts and Culture

Equity, Diversity and Access

Regional Arts and Community Arts

While *New Foundations* continued to provide direction, *Extending Foundations* drove our response to recovery and reconciliation, equity, diversity, inclusion and access over the past year. *Extending Foundations* is supporting the arts and cultural community as it emerges from the health, economic, social, and cultural impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and continues to address the sector's calls for social justice.

We are halfway through the timeframe for the Action Plan and have reached several major milestones. The following provides a summary of the progress we've made since the launch. Visit the *Extending Foundations* Activity Tracker on our website: www.bcartscouncil.ca/priorities to continue to track our progress.

Extending Foundations

Action Areas

Measures to support reconciliation, equity, diversity, inclusion and access are at the centre of *Extending Foundations*. The Action Plan expands the vision, directions and commitments of the BC Arts Council through seven action areas and associated priorities:

Renew Strategic Visioning and Planning

- Current strategic plan extension
- Strategic vision for 2024

Establish Diversity, Equity, and Access Program Supports

- Targeted investment in underserved and equity-deserving organizations
- Equity support initiatives

Implement Process and Procedure Improvements

- Reduced barriers to funding programs
- Increased access to services

Modernize Peer Assessment

- Transparent, accountable peer assessment process

Rebalance Funding Distribution

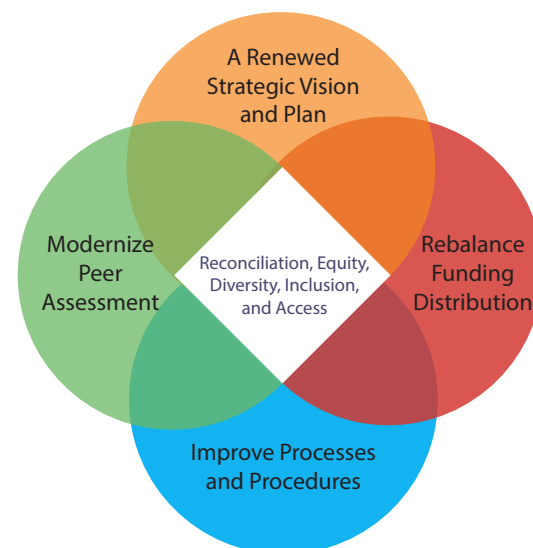
- Funding redistribution within existing budget to support equity

Deliver Arts Impact Grants

- Flexible strategic development program

Expand Arts Infrastructure Program

- Spaces that support the work of B.C.'s arts and culture practitioners



ACTION 1

Renew Strategic Visioning and Planning

- Aligned our processes and procedures to *Extending Foundations* strategic priorities and commitments, distributing 1272 grants to organizations and collectives and 451 grants to individual practitioners.

- Facilitated 70 assessment meetings with 282 peer assessors to support realization of BC Arts Council's strategic goals and collect recommendations for improvements.

- Participated in nine virtual regional roundtables hosted by Parliamentary Secretary D'Eith and BC Arts Council in the spring of 2022, collecting community input to reflect on *Extending Foundations* and inform the renewal of council's strategic vision.



VANCOUVER ACADEMY OF MUSIC, VANCOUVER. Harp Hamsters. Young harpists. Photo courtesy of VAM.

ACTION 2

Establish Diversity, Equity, and Access Program Supports

- Created an external Equity Advisory Network, with current membership of 21 individuals, who met nine times to inform peer assessments and advise on policy and program development.

- Worked with the Equity Advisory Network in the development and introduction of Designated Priority Groups policy to support eligibility and access to strategic programs and funds.

- Introduced the Equity Data Tool and revised voluntary self-identification to support better data collection for program evaluation, research and gender-based analysis.

- Maintained investment of \$1.725 million in First Peoples' Cultural Council, resulting in 68 grants to organizations and individual practitioners, including 13 in the Indigenous Scholarship program.

- Launched the Accelerate Pilot Program to support capacity for equity-deserving and regionally-based arts and culture groups.

- Invested in sector-led initiatives to support capacity development including providing support to facilitate a consortium of arts service organizations in researching and creating the Pathways pilot program. This professional development and mentorship program will be a supportive learning environment which focuses on integrating the principles of reconciliation, equity, diversity, inclusion, and access.



SOOKE ARTS COUNCIL, SOOKE. Sooke Music and Art Festival. Photo by Victoria Bailly.

ACTION 3

Implement Process and Procedure Improvements

- Streamlined Project Assistance program offerings including:
 - Two intake opportunities.
 - Options to submit video/oral components in applications.
- Re-introduced two-year funding cycles for Operating Assistance Program accompanied by single intake deadline and simplified program guidelines.

• Enhanced services with additional staff roles in accessibility coordination and outreach and a continuing regionally-based program advisor role.

• Expanded accessibility options, supporting a significant increase in demand when compared to the first year. Application Assistance supported 16 applicants with over \$8400; Access Support funding supported 12 artists with \$76,000 in associated grants.

• Delivered over 50 outreach events, reaching approximately 1300 people, including a return to in-person council-hosted events with the 'Community Connections' engagement session in Prince George.

• Launched webinar series, including BC Arts Council's YouTube channel featuring pre-recorded information sessions with closed captioning.

• Enhanced web resources to increase transparency and accessibility, including accessibility resources page, glossary of terms, and updated FAQs.



BILL REID GALLERY OF NORTHWEST COAST ART, VANCOUVER. Todd DeVries Cedar Weaving Workshop Photo courtesy Wayne Louie.

ACTION 4

Modernize Peer Assessment

• Completed a third-party fairness review of the assessment process which confirmed that the process is transparent and fair and provided recommendations for continuous improvement.

• Introduced revised peer assessment framework.

• Revised assessment and ranking process, incorporating the Designated Priority Groups policy in funding allocations.



BURNABY ART GALLERY, BURNABY. Installation view of Dream Marrow, with works by Hana Amani, Audie Murray and from the Permanent Collection, curated by Emily Dundas Oke. Photo by Blaine Campbell.

ACTION 5

Rebalance Funding Distribution

• Distributed \$2.5 million in targeted investment to 143 equity-deserving and regional arts and culture organizations through the Accelerate Pilot Program.*

• Launched revised Operating Assistance Program with adjustments to eligibility requirements and assessment, resulting in 26 new organizations being brought into the program (8% increase overall). The majority of new organizations are designated priority groups, identified through equity support initiatives.

• Updated assessment criteria groups and weightings with greater emphasis on reconciliation, equity, diversity, inclusion and Access across programs.

• Revised Fair Notice policy for Operating Assistance programs to include equity-based criteria.

*Figure represents total funding and grants delivered for the Accelerate Pilot Program of which \$1,510,675 was paid out through 60 grants in fiscal year 2022/23.



VICTORIA ARTS COUNCIL, VICTORIA. Joshua Watts exhibition Gifts from the Ancestors, main gallery. Photo courtesy of Victoria Arts Council.

ACTION 6

Deliver Arts Impact Grants

• Continued the Arts Impact program, providing responsive and flexible funding for arts and culture organizations and collectives to address their most pressing priorities.

• Integrated feedback from the 2021/22 Arts Impact program and community roundtables to expand the program eligibility to include sector-based activities.

• Delivered 147 Arts Impact Grants totalling \$3.9 million.



GREYSTONE BOOKS, VANCOUVER. Super Small Book Launch. Photo courtesy Greystone Books.



PENTICTON & DISTRICT COMMUNITY ARTS COUNCIL, PENTICTON. Ha Ha Ha Kidzfest. Photo by PDCAC staff.



KELOWNA ART GALLERY, KELOWNA. Photo installation by Clea Haugo, Registrar, and Christine May, Curator. Photograph by Fred Herzog titled "Fishseller", on loan from the Vancouver Art Gallery. Photo by Joshua Desnoyers.

ACTION 7

Expand Arts Infrastructure Program

• Continued the Arts Infrastructure Program to develop and enhance spaces that support the work of B.C.'s arts and cultural practitioners.

• Delivered 136 Arts Infrastructure Program grants, totalling \$8.5 million.

• Provided further alignment with CleanBC to lower climate-changing emissions and support greening-of-the arts initiatives.

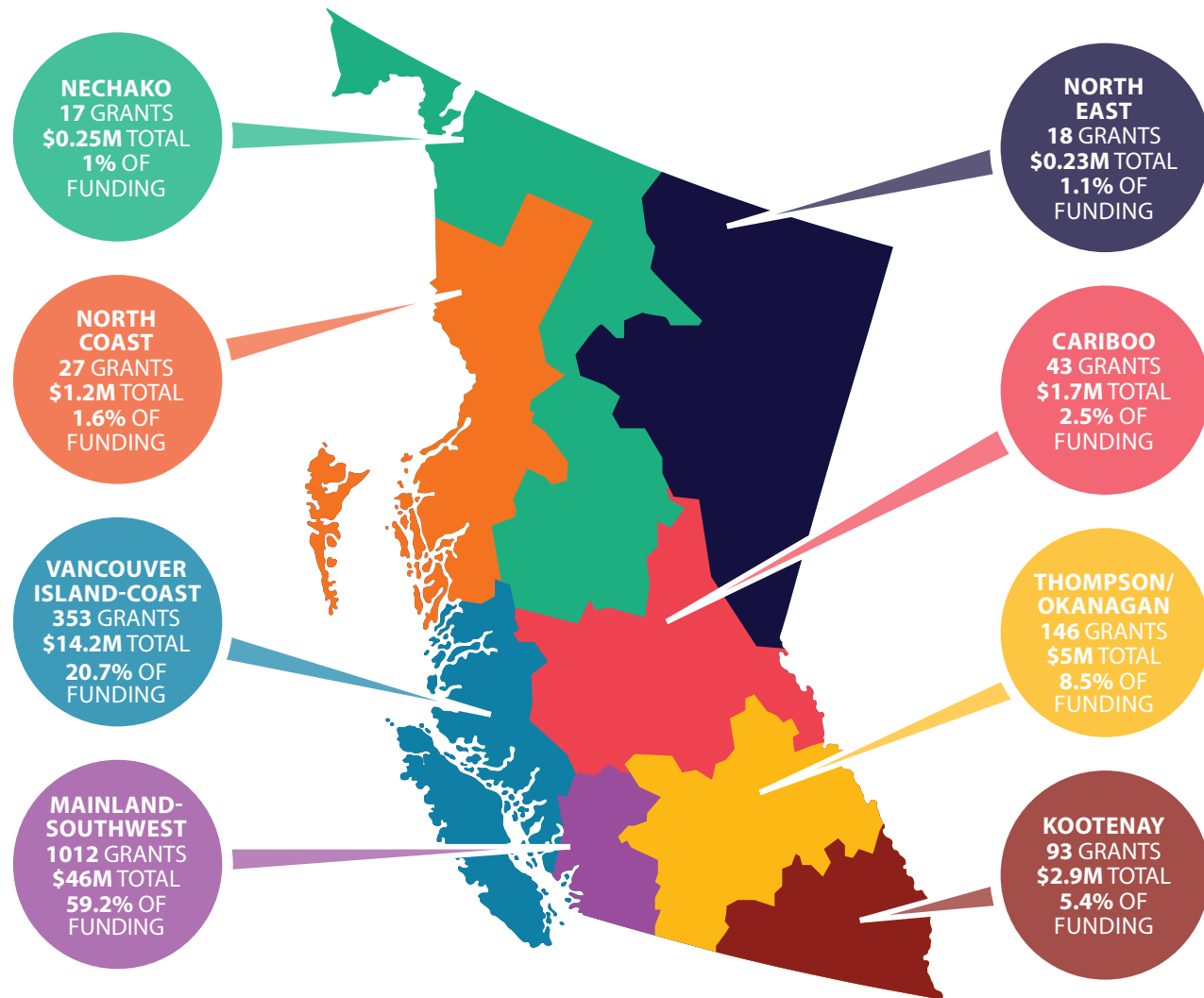


CHOR LEONI, CHAN CENTRE FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS, VANCOUVER. Photo by Phil Jack.

AT A GLANCE

FUNDING ACROSS THE PROVINCE 2022/23

Funding by location distributed in fiscal year 2022/23 through the BC Arts Council's base budget and supplemental funding.*

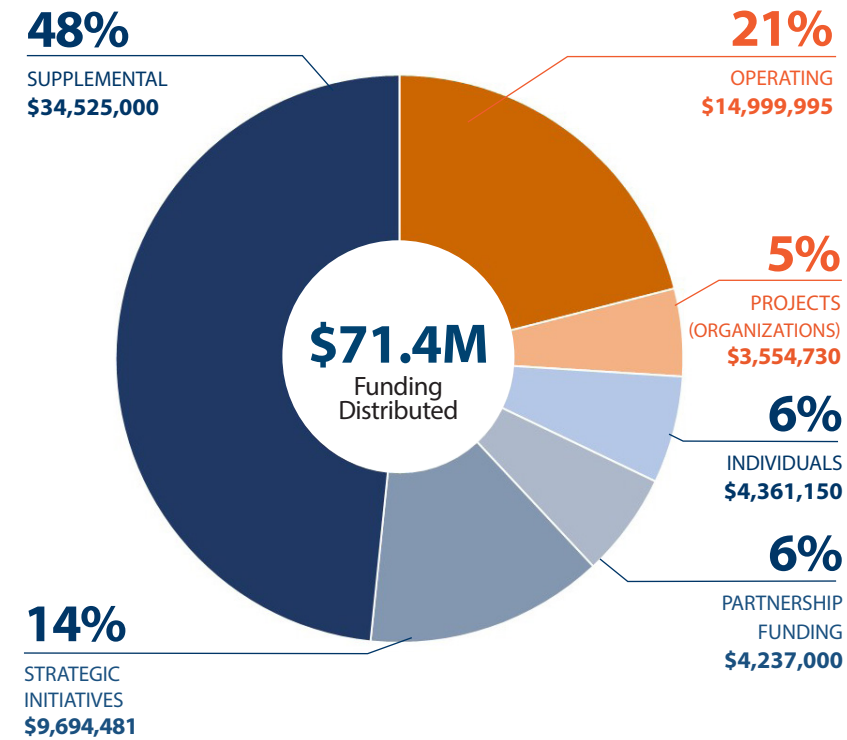


*Map and figures do not account for regional distribution of funding delivered through partner agencies, strategic investments or Accessibility supports. The map includes the portion of Accelerate Pilot Program grants paid out in fiscal year 2022/23.

Funding delivered through partner agencies 2022/23



GRANT FUNDING



1723
Approved grants

2577
Funding requests

1272
Grants to organizations and collectives

451
Grants to individuals

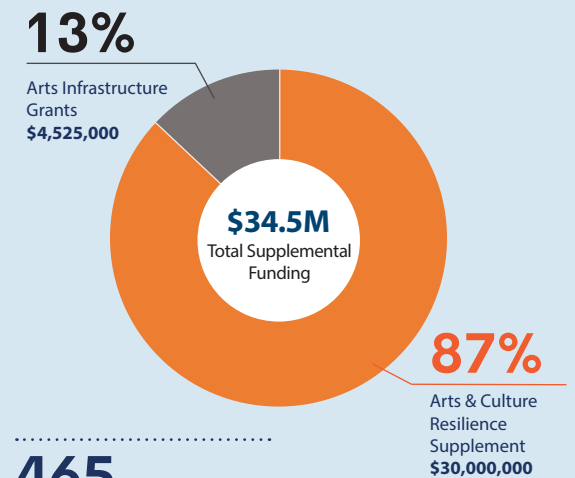


Supplemental Funding

The BC Arts Council distributed \$34.5 million in one-time year-end funding from the Province to support the arts and culture sector as it worked towards recovery and renewal.

The investment is helping organizations attract and rebuild audiences, recover financially, and adjust to ongoing post-COVID realities.

A resilience supplement of \$30 million was distributed to 337 arts organizations across the province. A one-time investment of \$4.5 million was provided to the Arts Infrastructure Program. This amount was in addition to the existing \$4 million Arts Infrastructure program budget, providing a total of \$8.5 million in grants to 128 arts and culture organizations.



465
Grants distributed
Arts & Culture Resilience Supplement: 337
Arts Infrastructure Grants: 128



KEY FIGURES

	2021/22	2022/23
PROFESSIONAL ARTS FUNDING Supporting professional arts activity		
Operating Assistance	\$13,519,575	\$13,531,710
Professional Projects	\$3,272,466	\$2,669,268
Individual Arts Awards (includes Pivot for Individuals for 2020/21)	\$2,456,749	\$3,461,150
Scholarship Awards	\$988,000	\$900,000
SUBTOTAL	\$20,236,790	\$20,562,128

	2021/22	2022/23
STRATEGIC INITIATIVES FUNDING Supporting time-limited or strategic development programs		
Arts Infrastructure Program	\$4,001,017	\$3,984,052*
Strategic Investments	\$353,825	\$294,459
Arts Impact Grants (including Co-op Placements for 2021/22)	\$3,493,410	\$3,905,295
Accelerate Pilot Program	--	\$1,510,675**
SUBTOTAL	\$7,848,252	\$9,694,481

	2021/22	2022/23
COMMUNITY ARTS FUNDING Supporting community arts activity		
Arts-Based Community Development	\$526,815	\$392,730
Community Arts Organizations Operating Assistance	\$1,449,484	\$1,468,285
Community Arts Development Projects	\$324,673	\$139,027
Community Festivals	\$368,130	\$353,705
SUBTOTAL	\$2,669,102	\$2,353,747

	2021/22	2022/23
PARTNERSHIPS FUNDING Supporting programs delivered by partners that meet specific priorities of Council		
Creative BC - Interactive Fund	\$680,000	\$675,000
ArtStarts in Schools - Artists in Education & Artists in the Classroom	\$1,300,000	\$1,300,000
First Peoples' Cultural Council – Indigenous Arts Programs	\$1,725,000	\$1,725,000
BC Touring Council – Community Presenter Assistance	\$537,000	\$537,000
SUBTOTAL	\$4,242,000	\$4,237,000

TOTAL BC ARTS COUNCIL FUNDING **\$34,996,144** **\$36,847,356**

*Figure represents commitment from BC Arts Council base budget. An additional \$4,525,000 in supplemental funding was added for a total of \$8,509,052 for the Arts Infrastructure Program.

**Figure represents amount paid out of fiscal year 2022/23. Total funding delivered for the Accelerate Pilot Program was \$2,501,924, of which \$991,249 has been paid out of fiscal year 2023/24.

	2021/22	2022/23
SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING One-time contingency		
Arts Impact Grants	\$4,540,000	—
Arts Infrastructure Program	—	\$4,525,000
Resilience Supplements	\$7,938,000	\$30,000,000
SUBTOTAL	\$12,478,000	\$34,525,000

TOTAL FUNDING DELIVERED **\$47,474,144** **\$71,372,356**

BC Arts Council Budget

	2021/22	2022/23
BUDGET		
BC Arts Council – Base Budget	\$35,815,000	\$35,815,000
BC 150 Cultural Fund	\$1,540,000	\$3,795,000
Supplemental Funding	\$12,478,000	\$34,525,000
TOTAL	\$49,833,000	\$74,135,000

	2021/22	2022/23
EXPENSES		
Grants to organizations, individuals, and partnerships	\$47,474,144	\$71,372,356
Operations***	\$2,187,130	\$2,636,920
TOTAL	\$49,661,274	\$74,009,276

***External to the grants budget – staff salaries and benefits, peer assessment expenses, and all operating expenses.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

REPRESENTATIVES FOR BC ARTS COUNCIL

The *Arts Council Act* provides for up to 15 government-appointed representatives as BC Arts Council members. Collectively, they broadly represent the cultural and regional diversity of the province as well as a range of artistic practices and expertise.

We would like to thank the following outgoing members for their contributions and service:

Judy Darcy
Evan Klassen
Roy Henry Vickers

Appointed Members 2022/23

SAE-HOON STAN CHUNG, CHAIR **Cranbrook**

DANA CLAXTON, VICE CHAIR **Vancouver**

JULES ANDRÉ-BROWN **Victoria**

IAN CASE **Victoria**

JUDY DARCY **New Westminster**

KIRANDEEP DHALIWAL **Vancouver**

JAI DJWA **Vancouver**

PATRICIA HENMAN **Nelson**

DEAN HERON **Victoria**

MIRANDA HURON **New Westminster**

EVAN KLASSEN **Kamloops**

PAULA MARTIN **Vancouver**

MIKE MURRAY **Maple Ridge**

SIMONE ORLANDO **Kelowna**

ROY HENRY VICKERS **Hazelton**

For member biographies please refer to the BC Arts Council website:
www.bcartscouncil.ca.



CARNEGIE DANCE TROUPE AND KAREN JAMIESON
DANCE SOCIETY, VANCOUVER. Photo by Chris Randle.

GRANT ASSESSMENT

PEER REVIEW

Peer assessment of grant applications is the primary means of review and is used to uphold the *Arts Council Act* purpose of providing an open, accountable, and neutrally administered process. The peer assessment process also provides for transparency and is fundamental to the work of the BC Arts Council.

For each relevant program, we bring together panels of three to five artists and arts and culture practitioners to review applications and determine or recommend funding, based on how effectively applicants addressed the program criteria outlined in the guidelines.

Assessors are identified with consideration given to the diversity of artistic and cultural practice (representation of different artistic disciplines, approaches and fields of practice); a range of professional specialization (representation of different roles within the arts, such as creators, interpreters, administrators, directors, independent artists); geographic and regional representation; Indigenous perspectives; cultural perspectives; and stage of career. The goal is to have a panel of assessors who, through their diversity of experience and background, can evaluate the range of applications for each program intake.

We also use the opportunity of the panels to conduct consultations with assessors to inform policy and program development. Discussions cover the structure, intent and outcomes of individual programs; application and assessment processes; the Council's strategic plan; and ongoing and emerging issues in the sector. These 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.

Peer assessors are remunerated for their time, expertise and labour.

We are grateful to those who served as assessors for our programs and also for the programs offered through partnership with ArtStarts in Schools, BC Touring Council, Creative BC, and the First Peoples' Cultural Council.

A full list of BC Arts Council panel members and Equity Advisory Network members 2022/23 is available on the website: www.bcartscouncil.ca.

282
Assessors

9
Equity Advisory
Network meetings

10
Program
Advisors

70
Assessment
Meetings



GRANT ASSESSMENT

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

We are always looking for individuals with discipline and sector knowledge, open-mindedness, generosity of spirit, and the ability to work collaboratively through the assessment process.

Serving on a peer assessment panel provides a unique learning experience, valuable insight into how the funding process operates, and a broader understanding of the sector. By providing this support, assessors are participating in cultural policy in action. Assessors are remunerated for their services. Through our online grant management system, individuals can register their interest in becoming an assessor.

AWARDS LISTING 2022/23

For a complete list of award recipients and grant amounts please refer to our website: www.bcartsCouncil.ca.

Equity Advisory Network

The BC Arts Council would like to acknowledge the impactful work of the Equity Advisory Network.

The Equity Advisory Network is a committee made up of experienced artists and arts and culture practitioners from a variety of fields of practice, with specific work and lived experience in the area of equity and diversity. Their role is to enhance the voices of Indigenous and equity-deserving communities in policy, programs and processes.

In the past year, 21 participants of the Network assembled to support the direct validation of 50 organizations as designated priority groups. The group's insights were critical in supporting staff in the validation process for over 645 organizations and collectives. This enabled us to identify and prioritize equity-deserving organizations. For example, 22 new organizations identifying as designated priority groups were brought onto to the Operating Assistance Program.



URBAN INK, VANCOUVER. Starwalker. Written and directed by Corey Payette. Dillan Chiblow and Jeffrey Follis. Photo by David Cooper.

STAFF

SPECIAL THANKS

Our work and this report would not be possible without the support of the dedicated staff who worked within the Arts and Culture Branch of the Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport during the timeline of this annual report.

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JULIA PAUSELIUS Program Advisor: Visual Arts

ANISSA PAULSEN Program Advisor: Indigenous Cultural Centres; Museums; Scholarships

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

A = Acting



DANCE WEST NETWORK, VANCOUVER. Re-Centering/margins Creative Residency Arts 2022/23. Sidney Chuckas. Photo by Elizabeth Steele.

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DANCERS OF DAMELAHAMID, VANCOUVER. Spirit & Tradition. Nigel Baker-Grenier. Photo courtesy of Margaret Grenier.

ARTS UMBRELLA, VANCOUVER. Rehearsal at Arts Umbrella's International Summer Dance Intensive. Photo by Michael Slobodian.

POWELL STREET FESTIVAL SOCIETY, VANCOUVER. Rakuchi Mikoshi Omikoshi at the 46th Annual Powell Street Festival. Photo by Matthew Chun.

KELOWNA ART GALLERY, KELOWNA. Muralist Dylan Ranney works on a wall installation. Photo by Joshua Desnoyers.

Design by Hannah Mashon