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# 2015 AN- NUAL RE- PORT





The 2015 PuSh International Performing Arts Festival marked the beginning of our second decade. And with this turning of a page, another chapter of the PuSh Festival story has unfolded.

To start, it was a year of artistic and audience breakthroughs. The three weeks of the Festival launched with breathtaking works by dance icon Louise Lecavalier and international circus stars Les 7 doigts de la main. Both productions enjoyed enthusiastic sold-out houses—an extra matinee of the circus show was added to meet demand. Equally audacious was *Le Grand Continental*®, which starred 75 community dancers in a public outdoor performance. (A documentary called *Between the Lines*, funded by TELUS Optik Local, was commissioned to capture this remarkable community-building endeavour.) Other highlights include innovative works created for public spaces by two leading Dutch artists, a first-time presentation of work from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and the return of a Festival favourite: Marianno Pensotti from Argentina. Club PuSh on Granville Island was once again a dynamic performance and social hub, opening with Austin's Christeene, who set a decidedly raunchy tone. Ivan Coyote returned to Club PuSh with a punch, political and heartwarming in equal measure, selling out an added late-night performance.

Just as notable is our new co-located space at 750 Hamilton Street: The Post at 750. The move was engineered in partnership with three of Vancouver's most trusted arts organizations: DOXA Documentary Film Festival, Music on Main and Touchstone Theatre. A \$2.1 million capital campaign, an inspiring administrative and creative facility, and an innovative model for cooperation, mutual growth and community impact—this has been a major undertaking, and sets the course for the next stage our organization's life.

So the story continues. Exciting opportunities will arise, as ongoing challenges will persist. A new strategic vision is now called for, if we are to remain resilient and fulfill our mission in our second decade. But what remains unchanged, what continues to drive the PuSh Festival narrative, is our unwavering belief that creativity and the live performing arts are central to our communal future, to Vancouver's civic and social life, and to the province's economic well-being and brand.

#### **Norman Armour**

ARTISTIC & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

If there is one thing we can be certain of in our world, it's that we are continually in a state of change. No moment in time is static, therefore the measure of our success is how we take the opportunity that change brings us and turn it into a chance for some creative and positive evolution.

It's incredible to believe that a few years ago, the idea of a shared arts space downtown was just a dream. It had felt close several times, but it wasn't until last fall, thanks to some advanced preparation that positioned us to take advantage of a great opportunity, that we and our partners moved into The Post at 750—and the dream became a reality. What will come from our being a part of downtown Vancouver, placed among the cultural centre of the city, is the story that we are now writing.

As we build on the potential of this new space, our commitment to bringing you the most adventurous and ground-breaking performing arts—from home and away—remains. Our 2015 Festival raised the bar, further revealing how we not only facilitate unique experiences but also tell the stories that our communities need to tell and hear. Performances were moving, meaningful and sometimes just plain wild—it was so PuSh!

It's an incredible time to part of this vibrant organization. We're moving forward with a strong team, on the staff and board, and your continued support of what we're creating is a big part of what makes the PuSh Festival so successful. Thank you for being a part of our foundation and our future.

#### **Christianne Wilhelmson**

BOARD PRESIDENT





2014/2015 BY THE NUMBERS



JANUARY 20 TO FEBRUARY 8, 2015  
**28,000+ ATTENDANCE**  
*17 PERFORMANCE VENUES IN 20 DAYS*  
**250+ PERFORMANCES & EVENTS**

**87% AVERAGE HOUSE CAPACITY**  
**90+ SELLOUTS**

22 Mainstage events, 9 Club PuSh performances, 6 free movies in the PuSh Film Series, 17 Push Conversations, 3 PuSh Feasts, 12 PuSh Assembly networking events, 2 industry workshops

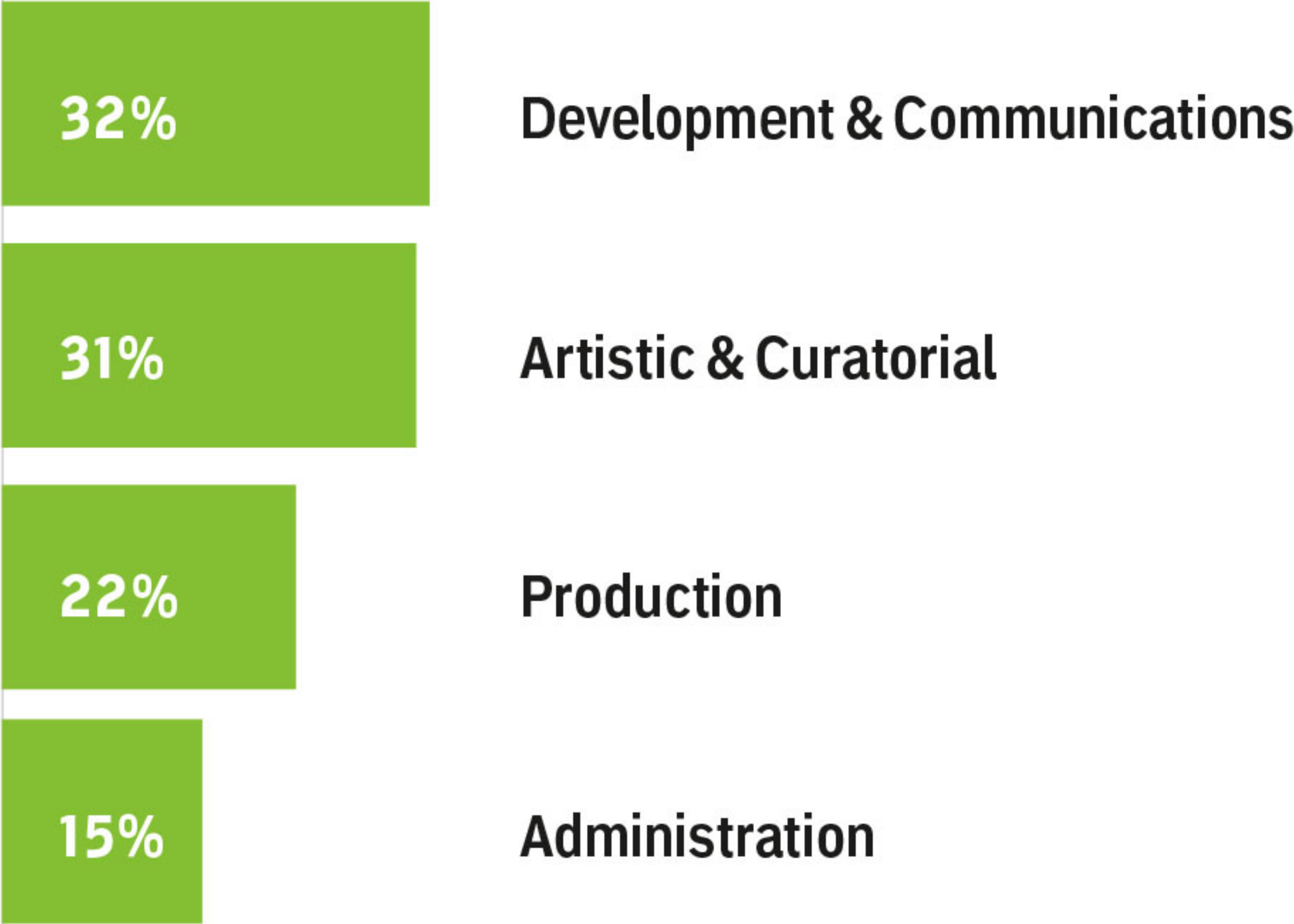
200 ARTISTS PRESENTED WORK FROM ARGENTINA, AUSTRALIA, BELGIUM, CANADA, CZECH REPUBLIC, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO, FRANCE, GERMANY, THE NETHERLANDS, NORWAY, SCOTLAND, AND THE UNITED STATES

**17 BOARD MEMBERS / 9 PERMANENT STAFF / 25 CONTRACT STAFF / 25 LEADERS COUNCIL MEMBERS / 170 FESTIVAL VOLUNTEERS CONTRIBUTED 2,200 HOURS**

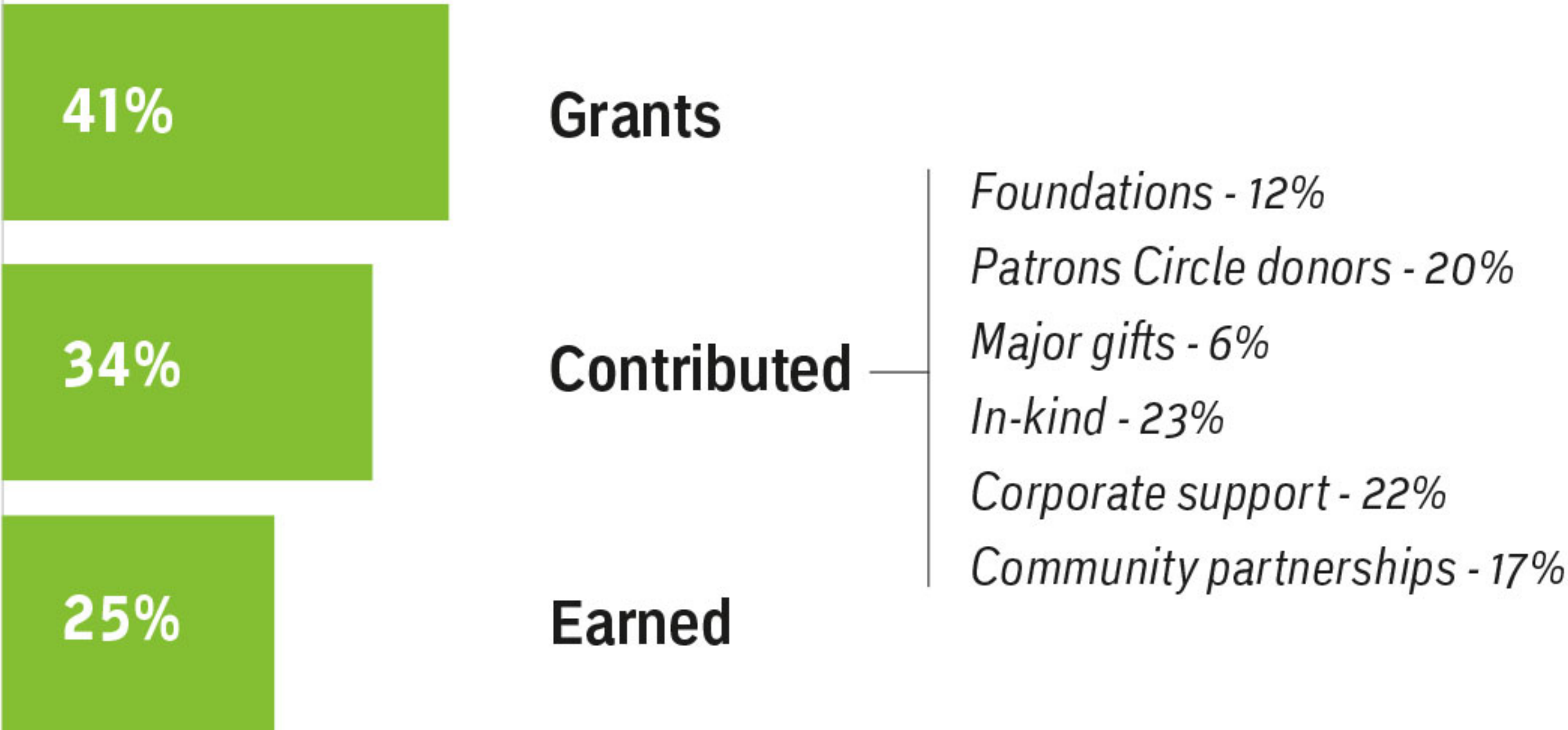
6,300+ FACEBOOK FANS ; 7,400+ TWITTER FOLLOWERS; 81,000+ SESSIONS FROM 49,000+ WEBSITE USERS; 52% OPEN & 13% CLICK-THROUGH RATES ON E-NEWS LIST; 85,000,000+ EARNED MEDIA IMPRESSIONS ACROSS PRINT, TV, RADIO, ONLINE (VERIFIED BY MRP MEDIA RELATIONS POINTS)

\$1.8 MILLION OPERATING BUDGET

EXPENSES



REVENUE





## 2014/2015 SEASON MILESTONES

### MAY 2014

*Kiss the Rabbit*, a documentary about the PuSh Festival celebrating its 10th anniversary in 2014, premieres at Vancity Theatre.



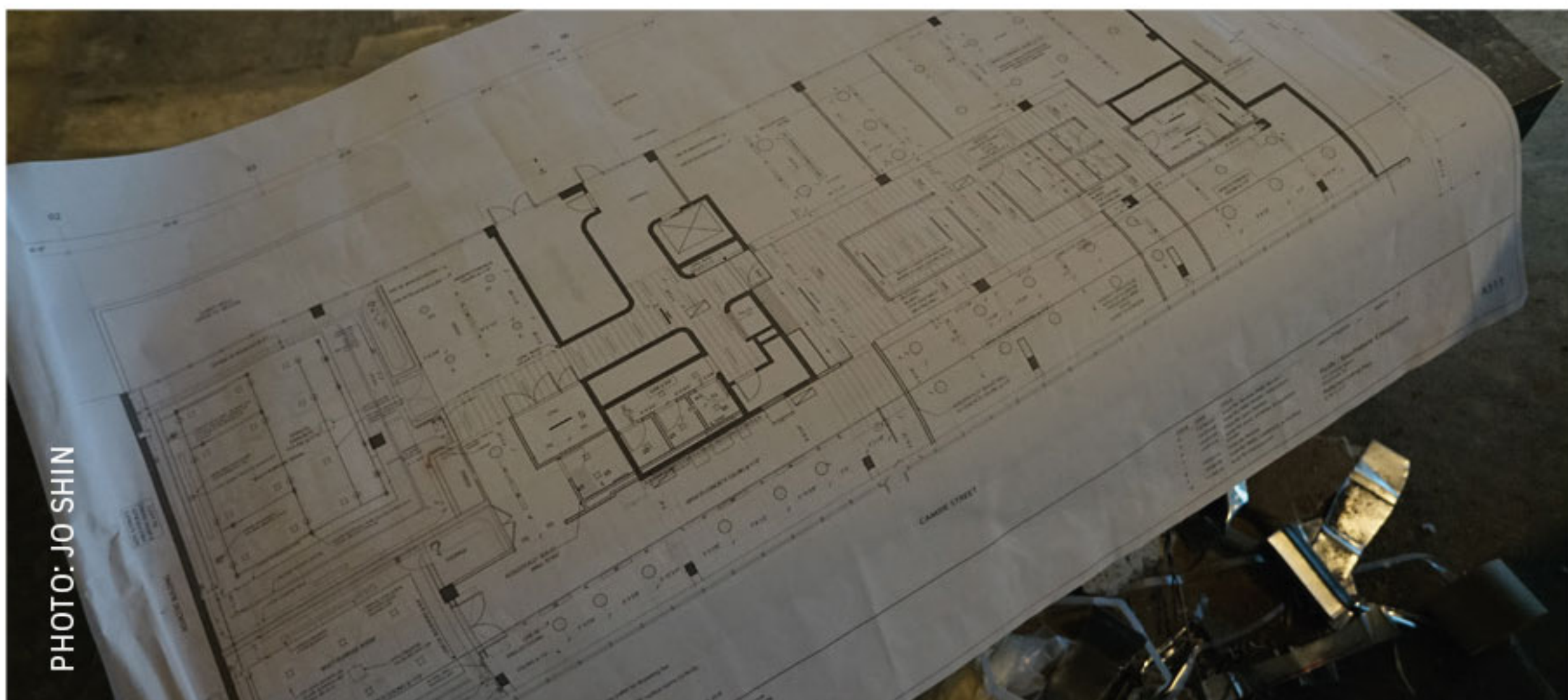
### JUNE 2014

Roxanne Duncan joins the PuSh Festival as Managing Director, as Founding Managing Director Minna Schendlinger steps down after nine years.



### AUGUST 2014

Construction begins on The Post at 750, a new 8,500-square foot co-located administrative and production space in downtown Vancouver, spearheaded by the PuSh Festival with its partners DOXA Documentary Film Festival, Music on Main and Touchstone Theatre.



### SEPTEMBER 2014

Recruitment and auditions begin for 75 non-professional dancers to perform *Le Grand Continental*®, an outdoor public dance to take place at the 2015 PuSh Festival. Selected cast rehearses for three months in preparation for the January performances.



### NOVEMBER 2014

PuSh announces the 2015 Festival programming, featuring over 250 performances and events from January 20 to February 8.

PuSh Festival presents *The Love Song of R. Buckminster Fuller* by Academy Award-nominated director Sam Green with live score performed by Yo La Tengo, to a sold-out house at the Vogue Theatre.





## DECEMBER 2014

PuSh Festival moves into its newly constructed headquarters at The Post at 750, which features inspiring design of office, communal and rehearsal spaces and operates in an innovative cooperative model.



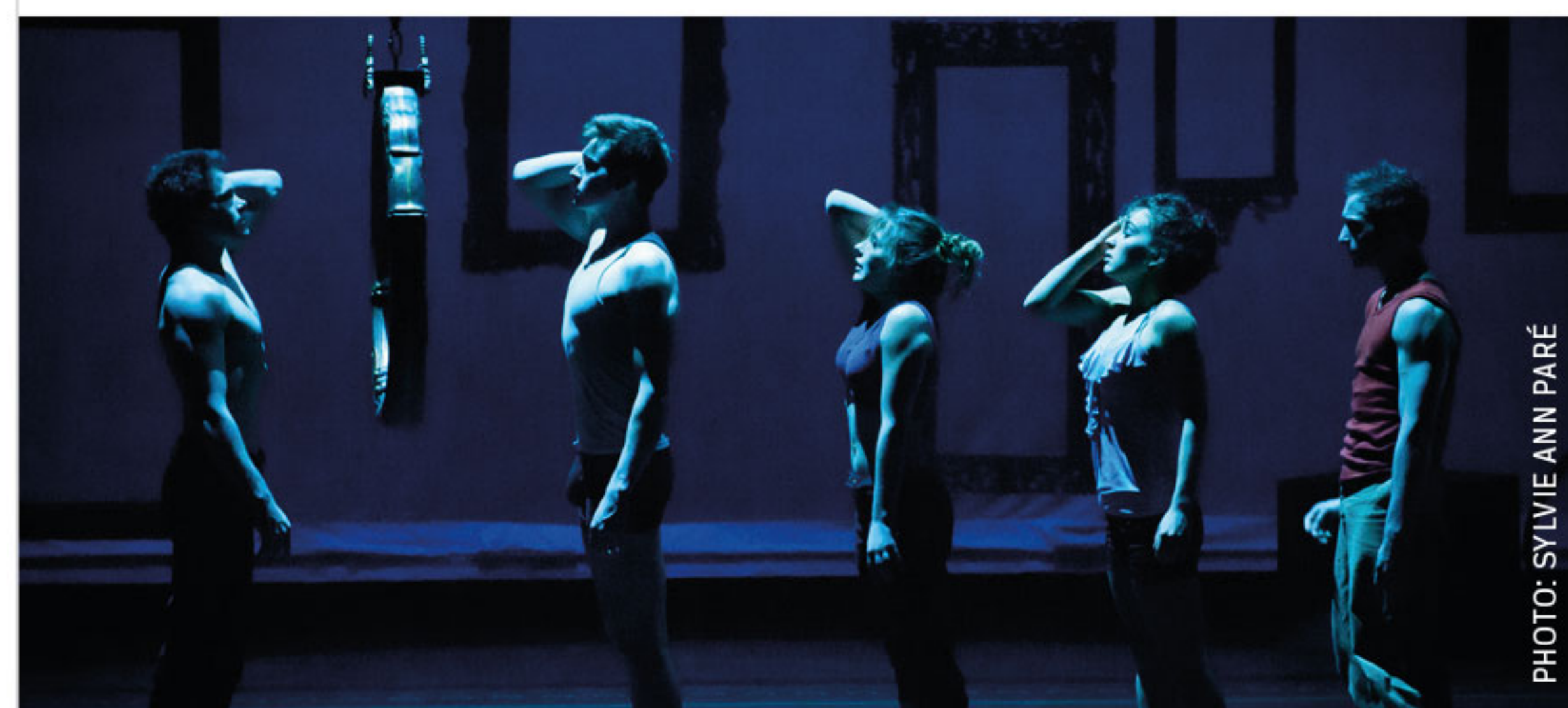
400 Four- and Six-Show PuSh Passes sell out for the 2015 Festival to eager and enthusiastic PuSh patrons.

## JANUARY 2015

2015 PuSh Festival launches with two sold-out performances by Canadian dance icon Louise Lecavalier in her choreographic debut, *So Blue*.

***Séquence 8*, by Quebec circus company Les 7 doigts de la main, is a runaway hit at the Vancouver Playhouse and a sold-out matinee performance is added to the three-night run.**

2,600 people attend four jubilant performances of *Le Grand Continental*® at the Queen Elizabeth Plaza, in the rain and sun.



## FEBRUARY 2015

Mariano Pensotti, one of Argentina's most treasured theatre makers, returns to the PuSh Festival for the fourth time with *Cineastas*, a veritable feat of live art.



## APRIL 2015

PuSh Festival partners with Il Centro Italian Cultural Centre to present Italian actress Isabella Rossellini in her quirky one-woman performance, *Green Porno: Live on Stage*.







FUSE; PHOTO: LUCIANA D'ANUNCIACAO

ART

## Presenting the very best in contemporary performance

VOTED #1 PERFORMING ARTS FESTIVAL  
2015 BEST OF THE CITY: WESTENDER  
READERS CHOICE

*Every January, the PuSh International Performing Arts Festival injects some light into Vancouver's winter dreariness with nearly three weeks of bold, innovative programming—theatre, dance, music and more. Once again this year's festival is packed with wall-to-wall must-sees.*

—THE GLOBE AND MAIL

*Have some boundaries in need of a nudge? The PuSh Festival guarantees at least a nuzzle with this year's eclectic line-up of performers.*

—BEATROUTE

*Discovering the PuSh International Performing Arts Festival is like discovering a room full of stories you'd never heard before, and being able to choose how you'd best like them to be told to you.*

—WESTENDER



LE GRAND CONTINENTAL; PHOTO: TIM MATHESON



THE ROAD FORWARD; PHOTO: RIZ HERBOSA DG





IT'S GOING TO GET WORSE; PHOTO: LUC DEPREITERE



SÉQUENCE 8; PHOTO: YANN BOYENVA



BULLET CATCH; PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ARTIST

ART

## Showcasing new, groundbreaking and extraordinary works

**8 WORLD PREMIERES**  
by Vancouver and Canadian artists

**16 WEST COAST PREMIERES**  
by international artists

**9 INTERNATIONAL ARTISTS MAKE DEBUTS**  
in Vancouver

*[...] with the connection that's built between one artist on-stage and her audience, this stripped-down PuSh Festival find gets pretty damn close to rapture.*

—GEORGIA STRAIGHT

ON IT'S GOING TO GET WORSE AND WORSE AND WORSE MY FRIEND  
BY LISBETH GRUWEZ (BELGIUM)

*The audience didn't just stand up with synchronized spontaneity at the closing bell—it erupted. [...] a piece that is as heartwarmingly human as its feats are mind-boggling.*

—GEORGIA STRAIGHT

ON SÉQUENCE 8 BY LES 7 DOIGTS DE LA MAIN (CANADA)

*I'm still amazed.*

—VANCOUVER COURIER

ON BULLET CATCH BY ROB DRUMMOND (SCOTLAND)



## AUDIENCE

# Tapping into new and existing audiences for the performing arts

*Séquence 8 absolutely rocked my world and initiated my journey of gaining more exposure to the performing arts...*

—ANONYMOUS, PATRON & DONOR SINCE 2015

*I swear, I cried. I cried because I haven't since, and probably will never again feel the way I did that night. I could not have imagined even five minutes earlier that I would be part of such an amazing experience.*

—RODRIGO P., PATRON SINCE 2014

## INDUSTRY

# Stimulating audience and performing arts industry through dialogue and exchange

**340 PUSH ASSEMBLY REGISTRANTS**  
(100% increase over 2014)

**35 INTERNATIONAL PRESENTERS**  
attend the Festival

**6 DIALOGUE EVENTS** with visiting artists

**2 WORKSHOP INTENSIVES**

**8 CANADIAN COMPANIES**  
pitch their works for international touring opportunities

*The PuSh Assembly is one of my favourite events. It is always well planned with lots to see and do, with enough time to talk and connect.*

—NAOMI C., CANADIAN PRESENTER







THE ADVENTURES OF ALVIN SPUTNIK: PHOTO: JO SHIN

## ACCESS

# Creating transformative experiences that are accessible to all

**450+ YOUNG PEOPLE 16 TO 24 YEARS OLD REGISTERED for Youth Passports**

**200+ FREE OR REDUCED TICKETS distributed to community groups**

**ACCESSIBILITY AUDITS CONDUCTED on 16 Festival venues**

**2 PERFORMANCES WITH VOCALEYE LIVE DESCRIPTION AND AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE TRANSLATION for patrons who are blind, partially sighted, deaf or hard of hearing**



ARTIST TALK: PHOTO: SARAH RACE

*I want to thank you and your funders for ensuring that there are tickets available for those who cannot otherwise afford to go. As a writer these productions are so inspiring. All artists need to cross-pollinate if they hope to continue to grow.*

—JONINA K., ABORIGINAL WRITERS COLLECTIVE WEST COAST



YOUTH ASSEMBLY: PHOTO: SARAH RACE

*Our youth loved the performances and shared with us that they've never seen anything like they did during these performances. They felt very grateful and emotional throughout this experience. The pieces encouraged them to embrace a broader understanding of art.*

—FREDA M., BROADWAY YOUTH RESOURCE CENTRE





PATRON CIRCLE EVENT; PHOTO: JO SHIN

## DONORS

Inviting arts lovers to join a community of PuSh donors whose generosity and commitment make big waves



CLUB PUSH; PHOTO: NADIA CEALBAS

398 DEDICATED PUSH DONORS  
CONTRIBUTE \$145,000+

*My life would be meaningless and uneventful if it weren't for PuSh.*

—GERRY K., PATRON SINCE 2006, DONOR SINCE 2011

*Thank you for making Vancouver a better city for all of us who love performing arts!*

— SANDRA G., PATRON & DONOR SINCE 2015



PATRON CIRCLE EVENT; PHOTO: LIESBETH BERNAERTS



## SPONSORS

# Collaborating with corporate partners to achieve artistic, community and business objectives

\$126,000 IN CASH CONTRIBUTIONS

\$120,000 IN IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS

\$66,000 CONTRIBUTED BY FOUNDATIONS

*We've been extolling the virtues of this amazing festival for six years now. Ultimately, for one overarching reason, they deliver on their promise to "push" the performing arts with some of the best examples from around the globe. And from an advertising perspective, it's always more enjoyable to build a campaign when all you need to do is sell the truth.*

—JEFF LEWIS, PRINCIPAL & CREATIVE DIRECTOR, ME&LEWIS

*One of my favourite things about the PuSh Festival are the events that engage community participation. The past two seasons TELUS, through our community television service Optik Local, has provided funding for the making of two PuSh Festival documentaries, Kiss the Rabbit and Between the Lines, extending the experience and telling the stories of the creators beyond the Festival.*

—PREM GILL, DIRECTOR OF CONTENT, TELUS

*The Vancouver Economic Commission is very pleased to have partnered with PuSh Festival to create further awareness of and engagement in the world class culture of our city, to our business community and stakeholders.*

—KATRINA TU, MANAGER OF MARKETING AND EVENTS, VANCOUVER ECONOMIC COMMISSION



FLUEVOG SHOES BENEFIT EVENT. TIM MATHESON



FUNDRAISER. PHOTO: JO SHIN



## THANK YOU TO PUSH FESTIVAL PARTNERS

The PuSh Festival is built on partnership. The soaring success of the 2015 year is thanks to our remarkable corporate, foundation, government and presentation partners. Our gratitude and pride for their contributions knows no bounds.

### CORPORATE AND FOUNDATION PARTNERS

#### PREMIER MEDIA PARTNERS



#### PRODUCTION PARTNER

#### CULTURAL PARTNER



#### ACCESSIBLE PUSH PARTNER



#### CREATIVE PARTNER



#### GALA & EVENT PARTNER



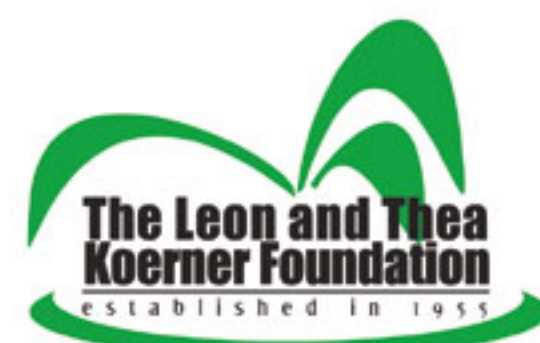
#### COMMUNICATIONS PARTNER



#### COMMUNITY PARTNER



#### DIS/APPEARING CITY SUPPORTERS



#### YOUTH PROGRAM SUPPORTER

#### PRESENTATION PARTNERS



#### HOTEL PARTNERS



#### CATERING PARTNER



#### CLUB PUSH WINE PARTNER



#### CLUB PUSH BEER PARTNER



#### DISTRIBUTION PARTNERS



#### MEDIA AND PROMOTIONAL PARTNERS



#### BEHIND THE SCENES:

Arts Factory, Christie Lites, Earnest Ice Cream, Go Wireless, Helijet, McMedia Audiovisual, Odd Society Spirits



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GOVERNMENT PARTNERS



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# THANK YOU TO PUSH FESTIVAL DONORS

PuSh Patron Circle donors care, nourish and enhance what it is to be human, in the truest sense of what it means to be philanthropists. For their tremendous generosity to the PuSh Festival, we honour and thank our donors for their commitment.

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**SUSTAINING (\$5,000 – 14,999):**

Bing Thom Architects, David Cousins, Peter Dickinson & Richard Cavell~, Glotman Simpson, Anndraya Luui\*, me&lewis ideas inc., The R&J Stern Family Foundation

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Burgundy Asset Management Ltd., CDm2 LIGHTWORKS, Chris Dobrzanski\*, John Fluevog Shoes Ltd., Blayne & Sharon Johnson, Paula Martin, McGrane-Pearson Endowment Fund held at the Vancouver Foundation, Alexandra Montgomery, Jennifer Stanley & Thom Weeks\*

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*\* Donors who have given for at least five consecutive years. We are so honoured to have so many deeply committed donors who continue to see the value in supporting what we do, year after year. A heartfelt thank you goes out to you!*

*~Donors who are part of our monthly giving program. We extend an extra special thanks to these donors whose monthly gifts ensure the year-round sustainability of the PuSh Festival.*



# PuSh

## INTERNATIONAL PERFORMING ARTS FESTIVAL

**PuSh International Performing Arts Festival engages and enriches audiences with adventurous contemporary works in a spirit of innovation & dialogue. The PuSh Festival is one of Vancouver’s signature events. Produced over three weeks each January, the Festival presents groundbreaking work in the live performing arts.**

**The PuSh Festival expands the horizons of Vancouver artists and audiences with work that is visionary, genre-bending, multi-disciplined, startling and original. The Festival showcases acclaimed international, Canadian and local artists and mixes them together with an alchemy that inspires audiences, rejuvenates artists, stimulates the industry and forges productive relationships around the globe. The Festival is a broker of international partnerships, a meeting place for creative minds, a showcase of Canada’s best and an incubator of brilliant new work.**

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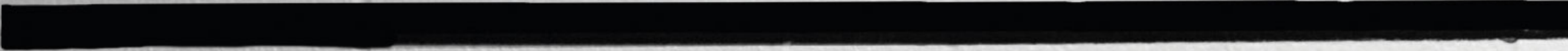


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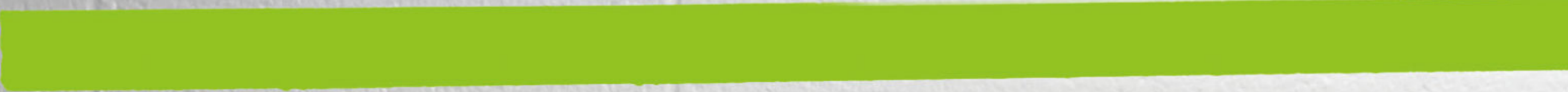
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