



Theatre
Dance
Multimedia
Music
Circus

PUSHFESTIVAL.CA

PuSh

INTERNATIONAL PERFORMING ARTS FESTIVAL

Impact Report 2023



x^wməθk^wəyəm Sk_wxwú7mesh səlilwətaɬ

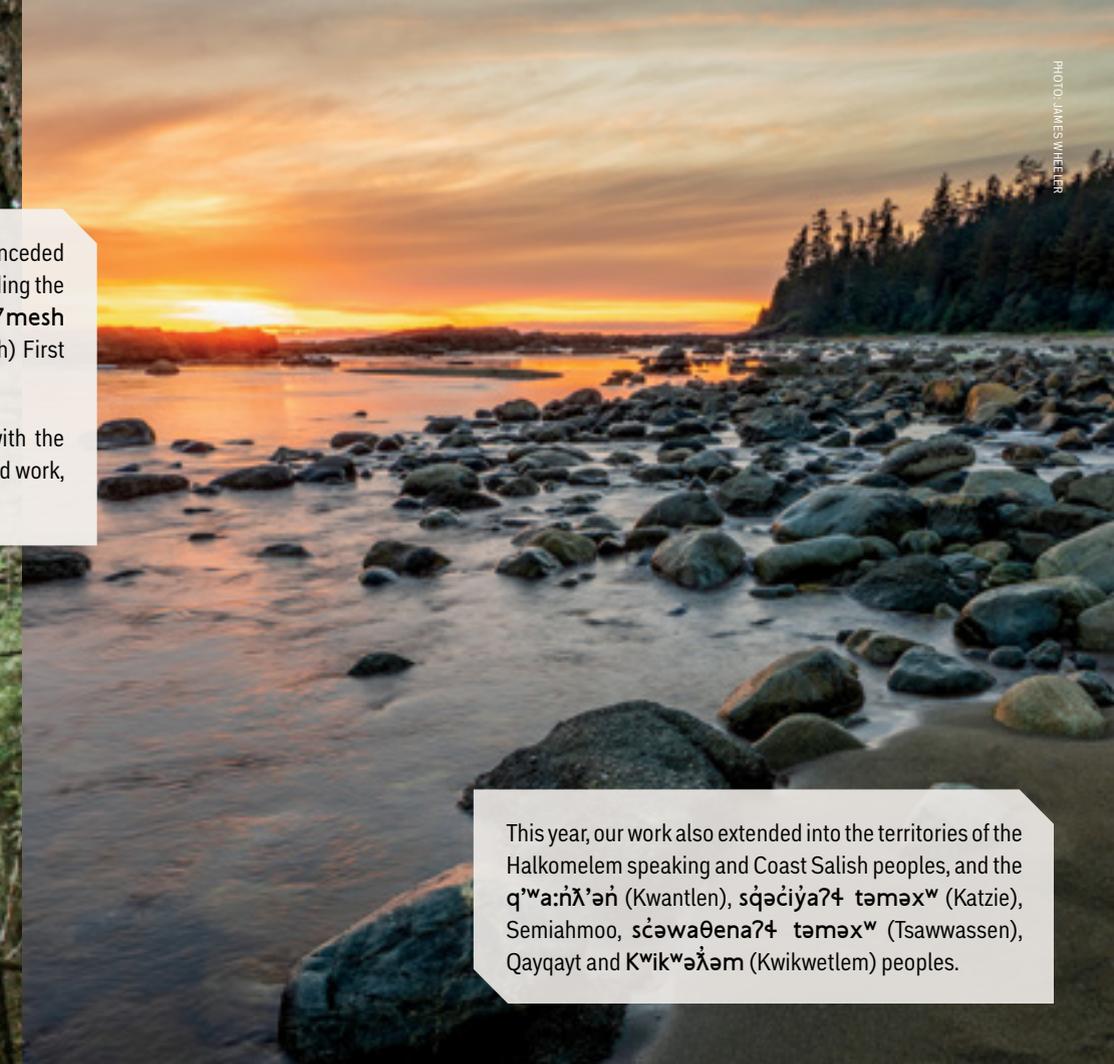
PHOTO: JAMES WHEELER



PuSh's work mostly takes place on the unceded territories of the Coast Salish peoples, including the x^wməθk^wəyəm (Musqueam), Sk_wxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətaɬ (Tseil-Waututh) First Nations.

It is our duty to establish right relations with the people on whose stolen territories we live and work, and with the land itself.

PHOTO: CHEW PRINCE



This year, our work also extended into the territories of the Halkomelem speaking and Coast Salish peoples, and the q^wa:ńł'əń (Kwantlen), sqəciya7ɬ təməx^w (Katzie), Semiahmoo, scəwaθena7ɬ təməx^w (Tsawwassen), Qayqayt and K^wik^wəłəm (Kwkwetlem) peoples.

PHOTO: JAMES WHEELER

MISSION



The PuSh International Performing Arts Festival engages and enriches audiences with adventurous contemporary works in a spirit of innovation and dialogue.

The PuSh International Performing Arts Festival is one of Vancouver's signature events. Produced each January, the 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 an intermediary of international partnerships, a meeting place for creative minds, a showcase of Canada's best and an incubator of brilliant new work.

The PuSh International Performing Arts Festival Society is a not-for-profit charitable organization: 82954 9948 RR0001

WELCOME

PuSh was back and in full force in 2023. After two years of pandemic-affected festivals, we were proud to present a large scale festival of innovative (and in-person) shows. With 19 works representing 5 continents, this Festival asked the question 'is art essential?' And you answered with a resounding yes. We were all reminded of the power of experiencing something profound in communion with each other.

There were many newcomers to PuSh this year, including staff, leadership, and artists, but there was no shortage of long standing members of the PuSh community. This coming together of new and familiar faces made 2023 a year that looked to the future while also acknowledging the past. A past filled with great success, incredible art, invaluable relationships, and important lessons.



We're very grateful to our staff, board, partners and volunteers for making the 2023 Festival such a meaningful and exciting experience. This was no easy feat, but they all managed it with such grace and generosity. None of this would have been possible without their tireless efforts.

We're also very grateful to our audiences, who returned to the theatre after years of global health risks. In so doing, they trusted us to continue programming essential works for the stage, works that would offer transcendent experiences.

Finally, we cannot express enough gratitude to you, the donors and sponsors who supported the 2023 Festival. You invest in PuSh because you believe in the necessity of live art, in the spirit of innovation, and in Vancouver as an international city. You believe in performances that push boundaries, surprise, and delight. Thank you for your continued support.

The PuSh team

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

You committed to essential, transformative art.

19 contemporary works in theatre, dance, music, circus and multimedia in person and online.



“Inspired Indigenous programming.”



OKINUM
PRODUCTIONS ONISHKA (CANADA)

PHOTO: YANICK MACDONALD

COLORED SWAN 3: HARRIET'S REMIX

MOYA MICHAEL / ANAKU & KVS
(BELGIUM)



PHOTO: DANNY WILLEMS

PHOTO: THOMAS BOTTICELLI

LONTANO + INSTANTE

CIE 7BIS (FRANCE/ARGENTINA/ITALY)



“...the possibility of stumbling into magic.”



PHOTO: IAN GRANDJEAN



O'DD

RACE HORSE COMPANY (FINLAND)

PHOTO: MINJA KAUKONIEMI

PHOTO: DAVID WONG & VANESSA FORTIN



LE CRI DES MÉDUSES

ALAN LAKE FACTORIE (CANADA)

SOLILOQUIO (I WOKE UP AND HIT MY HEAD AGAINST THE WALL)

TIZIANO CRUZ (ARGENTINA)



PHOTO: LUCIANA MARIA IOVANE

SOLDIERS OF TOMORROW

ELBOW THEATRE (CANADA)

“innovative and
provocative and
exploratory”



PHOTO: MATT REZNEK

PHOTO: SARAH RACE PHOTOGRAPHY



Club PuSh

- TALKING STICK
- THE BLACK ARTS CENTRE
- THE FRANK THEATRE CO.

You helped celebrate
diverse arts and peoples.

YOUTH PROGRAM



“the accessible pricing of the Youth Pass: without it I would not have been able to see any of the shows I went to see.”

PHOTOS: SARAH RACE PHOTOGRAPHY

The 2023 PuSh Youth Program encompassed the Youth Pass, Youth Assembly, and Youth Cohort.

The Youth Pass provided \$5 tickets for youth 16-24.

The Youth Assembly, a free, 1-day youth conference held during the PuSh Festival provided an opportunity for youth to meet and exchange with artists and arts professionals.

The Youth Cohort was a 6-month program for youth to experience, examine and engage in the professional contemporary performing arts community through artist workshops and discussions, studio visits, and a variety of performances. It was produced and created in collaboration with Surrey-based Solid State Community Industries. The free Youth Cohort program served suburban youth from newcomer families, several of whom experienced their first professional, contemporary arts performances at the Festival. This year, the program was run by Medley, a group of previous Youth Cohort participants, who managed the program under the mentorship of PuSh and Solid State leadership.



PHOTO: CHRIS RANDLE



PHOTO: SARAH RACE PHOTOGRAPHY



PHOTO: SARAH RACE PHOTOGRAPHY



PHOTO: SARAH RACE PHOTOGRAPHY

You created space for challenging but essential conversations.

INDUSTRY SERIES

Presented in partnership with Talking Stick and SFU Woodward's Cultural Programs, the 2023 Industry Series was curated through an Indigenous lens, and saw delegates once again meeting in person.

216 local, national, and international delegates participated in:

- First Nations Welcome & Protocols
- 5 circle and panel discussions
- 4 post-show artist talk backs
- 6 artist walks
- 8 new work pitches
- 4 partner events with PushOFF and Left of PuSh

VOLUNTEERS

This year 97 volunteers contributed over 1,000 hours of skill and expertise to PuSh.

The heart of the Festival!

PuSh wouldn't be what it is today without our amazing volunteers! Whether scanning tickets, picking up artists from the airport, delivering program guides or a thousand other jobs in between, PuSh volunteers make the Festival happen. To those of you who've been with us from the beginning, to those who joined us this year, and everyone in between, we thank you!



PHOTO: SARAH RACE PHOTOGRAPHY

ACCESSIBLE PUSH



You made the arts more inclusive and welcoming.

247

free Community Tickets distributed to marginalized groups through community partners

1

show with braille

5

Vlogs for deaf and hard of hearing patrons

4

staff & volunteer accessibility training sessions

3

"extra live/always relaxed" presentations

1

presentation with live-description

3

presentations with surtitles or ASL interpretation

8

show and venue visual stories

2

community committees



PHOTO: SARAH RACE PHOTOGRAPHY

"Well-trained volunteers who are willing to meet at transit stops, act as sighted guides and offer verbal descriptions of venues and shows."

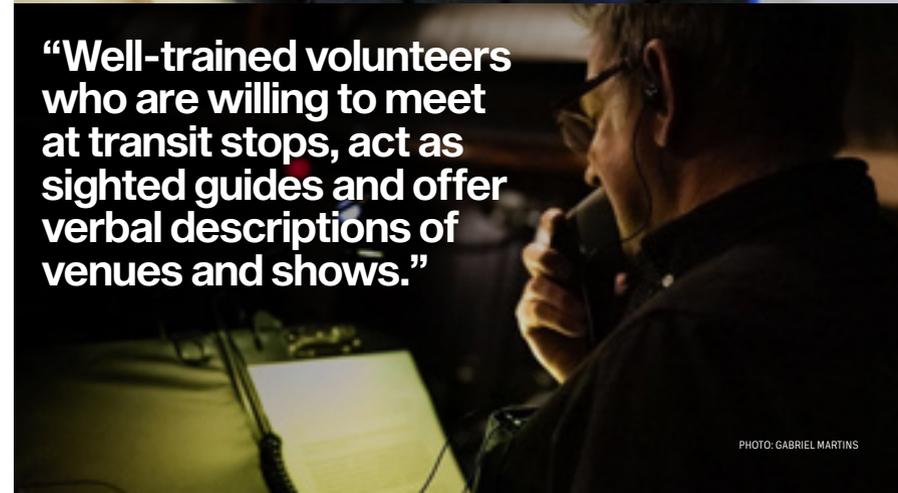


PHOTO: GABRIEL MARTINS

THANK YOU PATRONS CIRCLE DONORS

SUSTAINING (\$5,000.00-\$14,999.00)

McGrane-Pearson Endowment Fund
(held at Vancouver Foundation)

PRODUCER (\$2500.00-\$4999.99)

R & J Stern Family Foundation 

CURATOR (\$1000.00-\$2499.99)

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Kemo Schedlosky & Mark Gatha
Carol Newell

ADVOCATE (\$500.00-\$999.99)

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DK 
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Susan Loadman  
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Lainé Slater  
Ms. Kristin Stockley 

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FRIEND (\$20.00-\$149.99)

James D Anhorn
& Patricia A Walberg Anhorn 
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Linda Belton
Ms. Brenda J. Benham 
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Joel Bronstein
Jean-Christophe Bélisle-Pipon
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Donna Celle
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Ms. Lily Fong

Ava Forsyth
Karen Gelmon and Peter Busby
Shayna Goldberg  
Sean Guist
Michael Hayward
Michael Heeney and Hilary Meredith 
Jane Heyman & Lionel Johnston 
Darby Honeyman
Jane Hope  
Leslie Hurtig
Heather Hyde
Selwyn Jacob
Kristen K. Johnson
Vivian Kan  
Raeesa Lalani
David Lee
Laurel March  
Marlene Ferhatoglu
Jaspal Marwah
Andrea McKenzie 
Jessie Mill

Anonymous
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Mira Oreck  
David Pay 
Cory Phillely
Katharina Piechocki
Crystal L. Pite
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Sylvia Roberts
Alexandra Rudis
Kathryn Shaw
Shamim Shivji
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Sherry J. Yoon

 Donors who have given for at least 15 consecutive years

 Donors who have given for at least 10 consecutive years

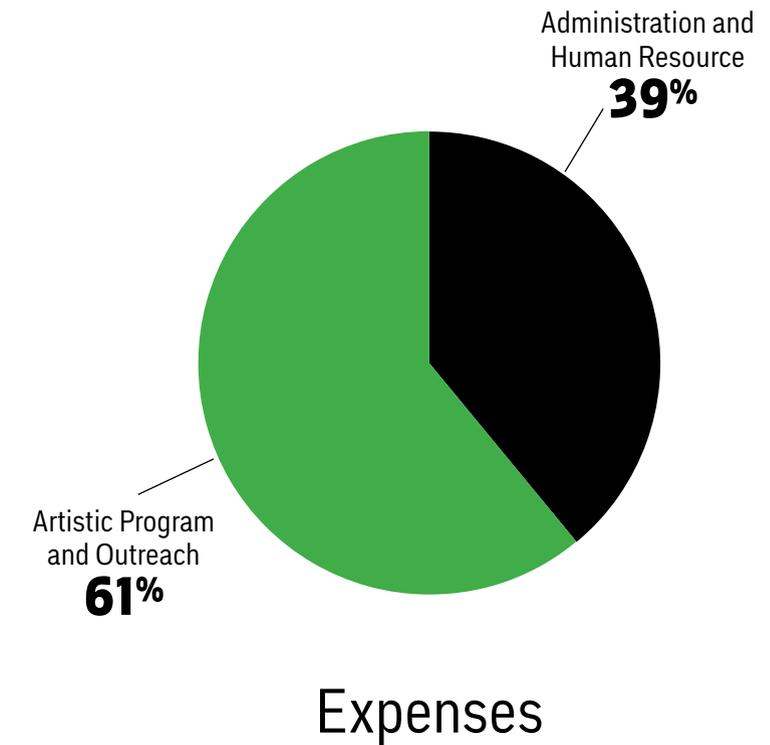
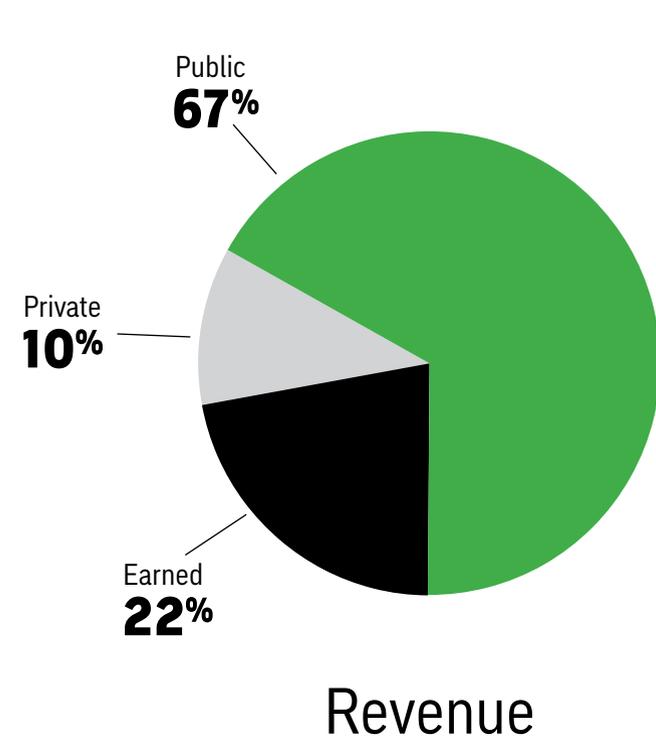
 Donors who have given for at least 5 consecutive years

 Donors who give on a monthly basis

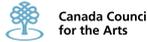
PUSH 2023 BY THE NUMBERS



2023 FINANCIALS



THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS

<p>PREMIER PARTNERS</p>	 	<p>DOWNTOWN VENUE PARTNER</p> 	<p>BEER PARTNER</p> 	<p>PREMIER BROADCAST PARTNER</p> 	<p>DIGITAL PARTNER</p> 	<p>PRESENTATION PARTNERS</p>  
<p>PRESENTING PARTNERS</p>		<p>HOTEL PARTNER</p> 	<p>WINE PARTNER</p> 	<p>PRINT PARTNERS</p> 		   
<p>FOUNDATION PARTNERS</p>		<p>COASTAL ADVENTURE PARTNER</p> 	<p>CAR SHARE PARTNER</p> 	<p>BEHIND THE SCENES</p> 	<p>FOREIGN AGENCIES</p> 	 
<p>GOVERNMENT PARTNERS</p>	  	<p>TELECOM PARTNER</p> 	<p>PROMOTIONAL PARTNERS</p> 	<p>YOUTH PROGRAM PARTNER</p> 		 
	 					 
	 					 
		<p>WEB PARTNER</p> 				   

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With thanks to our outgoing board members of the year:

Camiyar Chai

Carmen Aguirre

Johnny Trinh

Mimi Gellman



PHOTO: SARAH RACE PHOTOGRAPHY



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PHOTO: MIRJAM DEVRIENDT