



# 2024 Impact Report



# Vancouver International Children's Festival Society Celebrates 47 Years!

May 27 – June 2, 2024

## Mission

The Vancouver International Children's Festival inspires and motivates young minds with professional artistic experiences that transform a child's understanding of the world around them and what is creatively possible.

By delivering new and diverse world-class live performances, we open a world of creative possibilities. A world in which future generations build on the passion for art and performance we share with them today.

## What Guides Us

- **SIMPLE:** We make it easy for a family or class to spend a day being creatively playful at our family festival.
- **FUN TOGETHER:** We make activities fun and creatively adventurous for kids and adults to enjoy together.
- **QUALITY:** We surprise you every year with the extraordinary quality of our programming and our performers.
- **CREATIVITY:** Imagination and artistic ingenuity governs our decision-making. We are comfortable taking creative risks.
- **LOCAL:** We look for ways to incorporate and celebrate BC artists including Indigenous representation, especially from the land the Festival is held on.
- **GLOBAL:** We demand diversity in emotional experience: in people, language, ideas, attitudes and culture.
- **ARTISTIC RISK:** Our mission is to always look for new, different work that pushes the boundaries for young audiences 6 months – 13 years of age.

# Report from Katharine Carol, Artistic & Executive Director



In 2024, the Vancouver International Children's Festival Society (VICFS) proudly celebrated its 47th annual Festival, witnessing the vibrant return of children and the adults who came with them. The joy of reconnecting with audiences, young and old, was truly inspiring.

A highlight of this year's Festival was the presentation of two highly anticipated shows from Australia, which I have been eager to present for many years. *360 Allstars*, a high octane circus and music show, brought the house down, thrilling

audiences with incredible performances. *Robot Song*, a moving musical theatre show that tells the story of a young girl with autism, resonated deeply with viewers. It was an absolute pleasure to present these remarkable productions at our 2024 Festival.

I also brought back two crowd-favourite shows from 2023: *Missy D* and *Tree*, both of which played to sold out audiences of delighted babies, children, youth and adults alike. In addition, we proudly premiered two local productions, *Papa Penguin* and *Otosan*, created by talented Vancouver artists. The Festival and all the artists we present are dedicated to providing children with the best work possible introducing them to the power of the performing arts.

Experiencing live performing arts is integral for the development of children's imagination, creativity and appreciation of the arts. Through attending the Festival, children are introduced to a variety of performing arts genres, discovering what moves and inspires them. Whether as spectators or participants, they explore and engage with a vibrant, global arts community created specifically for them. Our Arts Festival dedicated to children remains as relevant and vital to children, families and educators today as it was 48 years ago.

The Festival would not be possible without the invaluable support of our community. I am eternally grateful for the generous support of our sponsors, donors, and government funders who recognize the significance of our mission and make our work possible. I appreciate our dedicated Board of Directors, staff, production staff, technical teams, artists and the many volunteers whose efforts bring this Festival to life.

And of course, our audience—we would not exist without you! Thank you so much for coming and engaging with the performing arts. I look forward to welcoming you to our 48th Festival in 2025!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katharine Carol".

Katharine Carol, Artistic & Executive Director



# Our Commitment to Reconciliation

The Vancouver International Children's Festival Society acknowledges that we create and work on the ancestral, traditional, stolen and unceded territories of the hən̓q̓əmin̓əəm speaking xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) and sə́lilwətaʔt̓ (Tsleil-Waututh) people and the Sníchim speaking Sk̓w̓x̓wú7mesh (Squamish) people. We acknowledge the on-going cultural genocides of Indigenous Peoples by Canada, particularly the atrocities committed against children. We commit to work with the Indigenous Peoples of this land to raise the voices of Indigenous children through creativity and play.



Photo by Moonrider Productions

SQUAMISH OCEAN CANOE FAMILY HONoured THE 2024 FESTIVAL WITH CULTURAL SHARING. IN ADDITION TO PADDLING TOGETHER, MEMBERS ARE COMMITTED TO SHARING SK̓W̓X̓WÚ7MESH CULTURE THROUGH TRADITION SONGS AND DANCES.



Photo by Moonrider Productions

INDIGENOUS ARTS WITH CHRISTINE MACKENZIE,  
KWAKIUTL FIRST NATION ARTIST



Photo by Moonrider Productions

TSATSU STALQAYU  
(COASTAL WOLF PACK)



Photo by Moonrider Productions



Photo by Moonrider Productions

TSATSU STALQAYU (COASTAL WOLF PACK) SALISH SONGS AND STORIES  
TSATSU STALQAYU (COAST SALISH COMMUNITIES: MUSQUEAM, SQUAMISH,  
TSARTLIP, NANAIMO AND MORE)

# Celebrating Diversity

You helped us bring new and diverse stories to 18,371 children, teachers and families!

You committed to creating a Festival with unique shows and perspectives that brought us closer together.

Photo by Moonrider Productions



*ONE OF A KIND (BRITISH COLUMBIA)*



Photo by Dahlia Katz



*YASSAMA AND THE BEADED CALABASH  
LUA SHAYENNE (ONTARIO)*

"The Papa Penguin show was AMAZING!!!! Entertaining for both parents and kids. Really appreciated the representation of a same sex couple family and the many messages in the show." - Audience member



Photo by Ryan McDonald

**THE PAPA PENGUIN PLAY**  
CAROUSEL THEATRE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE (BRITISH COLUMBIA)

# Accessibility



Financial assistance from donors like you help the Festival create an environment where any person or group feels welcomed, respected, represented, supported, and valued to meaningfully participate.

## Relaxed Performances

**You came together so that 225 audience members could benefit from a more relaxed performance experience.**



*OTOSAN LITTLE ONION PUPPET CO.  
(BRITISH COLUMBIA)*

## Deaf and Hard of Hearing Friendly Shows



*JAM SIDE UP! THE KIF-KIF SISTERS (QUÉBEC)*

# Neurodiverse Performances

With your support, 22 neurodiverse children got a personalized interaction with an artist in an adapted performance that met their needs.

“It was one of the rare times my daughter could just exist and be herself in a space like that. It’s important to consider and program for kids on the spectrum. It was so special.”

- Tree, a world in itself *audience member and parent*



Photo by Sylvie-Ann Paré



TREE, A WORLD IN ITSELF, MOTUS (QUÉBEC)

# International Artists

Your support helped bring International Artists to the Festival.

You opened the door to new exciting voices that reflect the word we live in.

"The Allstars 360 show was great! My entire family enjoyed it and we hope they come back next year!"

Photo by Matt Loncar

360 ALLSTARS ONYX PRODUCTIONS (AUSTRALIA)



# Art Knows No Boundaries

You brought important issues to the stage.

You built a community that values shared experiences.



“Robot Song was excellent! What a fun, wonderful play with an amazing message.”



ROBOT SONG ARENA THEATRE (AUSTRALIA)



# Arts Education

A group of children are gathered at what appears to be a festival or fair. In the foreground, three children are smiling and looking towards the camera. The child on the left has a colorful unicorn face paint. The child in the middle has a flower face paint and is reaching out. The child on the right has a yellow flower face paint. Above them, a large, dark, ornate mask with blue and green patterns is hanging. In the background, other children and festival elements are visible, including a child with a backpack and a child in a white cap.

**You helped almost 9,000 school children experience a live performance at the Festival.**

With arts funding in schools continuing to decline, now more than ever experiences like the Children's Festival play a pivotal role in the arts education of BC children. For most, a visit to the Festival is their first experience at a live performance.

Photo by Tilly Nelson

**"It was overall an amazing experience for my students, awesome location and the play we watched was great."**

**- BC Educator**

# French Programming

The Children's Festival is committed to providing French Programming to the BC French Community and the 60,000 (and growing) French immersion and Francophone students in BC.

**You brought French students to the Festival to experience French language and culture outside of the classroom.**



Photo by Desann Sidhu

"Between the pre-concert energy, the show, the positive messages, autographs and pictures, Missy D was up there with my trips to Québec as the best French Immersion experiences my students have ever had."

**LA CASE DÉPART DE MISSY D : 1, 2, 3 ON Y VA, ON Y VA !**  
(BRITISH COLUMBIA)



# Building a Community

The support of donors helps us enrich the lives of children and ensure the Festival remains affordable and accessible to everyone through our community programs such as:



*WILL'S JAMS AT CANUCK PLACE*

## Hospital Outreach

The Hospital Outreach Program brings the Festival experience to children receiving treatment and hospice care at child-centre healthcare facilities. Children unable to leave their facilities can experience the Festival and benefit from the healing power of music and laughter.

**You brought a smile to the faces of 42 sick children and their families.**



“Thank you so much for stopping by Canuck Place with the fabulous performers. It was such a beautiful day in the garden and everyone who was there truly enjoyed their time.” - L. Fielding, Canuck Place Therapist

# Good Neighbours

The Good Neighbours Program provides a day of learning, laughter and inspiration for children and their families who would otherwise be unable to attend the Festival.

**You gave a day of fun to 88 limited income families.**

“Thank you so much, we loved it! We laughed like never before. It was truly a beautiful day. Plus, I had never been to this part of Vancouver. It’s great for the kids!”



Photo by Tilly Nelson



Photo by Tilly Nelson



Photo by Tilly Nelson

## Adopt a Class

This program provides a day filled with laughter, awe and learning for elementary school children attending enhanced support schools across Metro Vancouver.

**With your help, 768 children from enhanced support schools experienced an arts performance this year.**



“We had the best day ever! The students loved the Activity Village and the face painting was spectacular! The show we watched, was perfect. All the students were enraptured! Thank you for honouring us with free tickets and transportation. I can’t express how appreciative the students and their families are for this golden opportunity.”

*- 2024 Adopt a Class recipient*

# Emerging Artists

For over 12 years, the Festival's Youth for Youth program has been providing outstanding mentorship to emerging artists. The program develops the artistic skills of young artists and gives them the opportunity to showcase their work at the Festival.

**Your support allowed 8 emerging artists to shine and grow.**

"This has been such an inspirational and wonderful experience that I will treasure for my whole life. Thank you for giving us the space to be creative. And make something so unique and magical."

*- One of a Kind 2024 participant*



Photo by Moonrider Productions

**ONE OF A KIND 2024 CAST**





Photo by Tilly Nelson

# Volunteers

The Festival relies on a large team of volunteers. They donate their time, energy and enthusiasm to help us deliver a successful event!

**384 volunteers**  
**dedicated over 6,068 hours**  
**to make the Festival**  
**come to life.**



Photo by Tilly Nelson

“It’s a great experience and you improve so many skills like leadership, teamwork, organization, and communication!”

- 2024 Volunteer



# Special Events

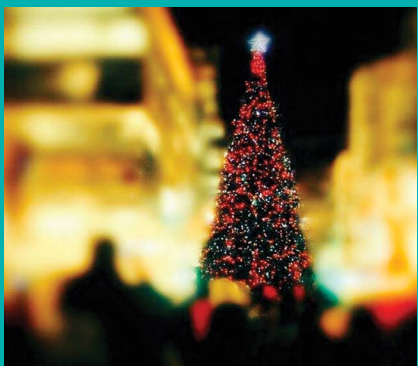
The Festival is involved with many special events throughout the year. It's an opportunity to provide the Festival's intelligent, thoughtful and quality programming all year long.



**BURT THE BEETLE WITH ASHLEY SPIRES** Presented with Vancouver Writers Fest - October 18, 2023



**CELEBRATING THROUGH SHARING CULTURE WORKSHOP WITH CHRISTINE MACKENZIE AT LUNARFEST**  
Feb. 10, 2024



**VANCOUVER CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING**  
December 1, 2023



# Numerically Speaking

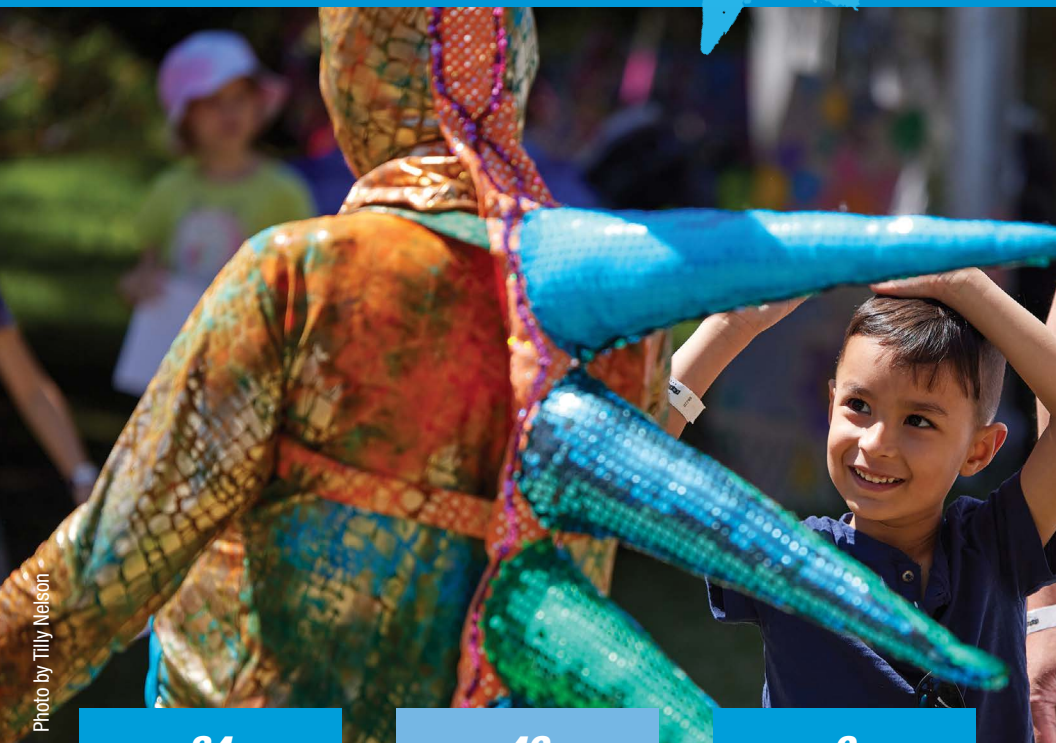


Photo by Tilly Nelson

**84**

SHOWS AND EVENTS

**49**

SOLD OUT SHOWS

**9**

VENUES

**13**

INTERNATIONAL ARTISTS

**14**

NATIONAL ARTISTS

**74**

LOCAL ARTISTS

**18**

ART INSTALLATIONS /  
ACTIVITIES

**7**

DAYS

**13**

YEAR-ROUND STAFF  
MEMBERS

**65**

CONTRACT STAFF  
MEMBERS

**49**

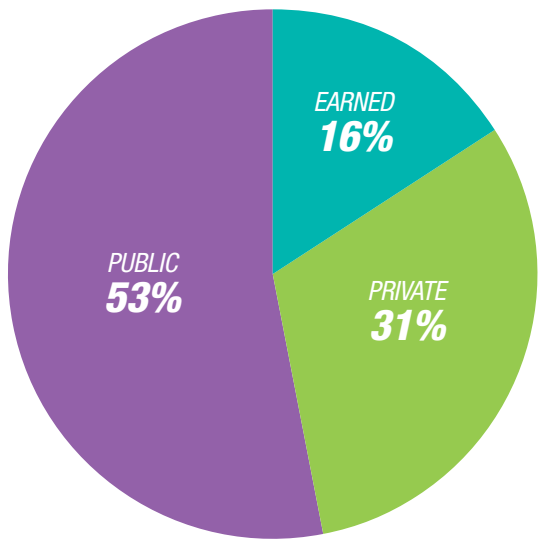
SOCIETY MEMBERS

**12**

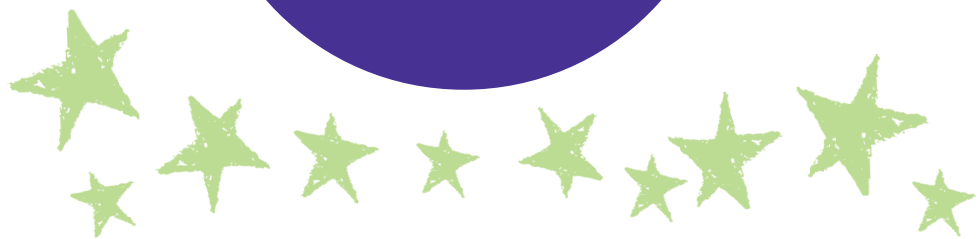
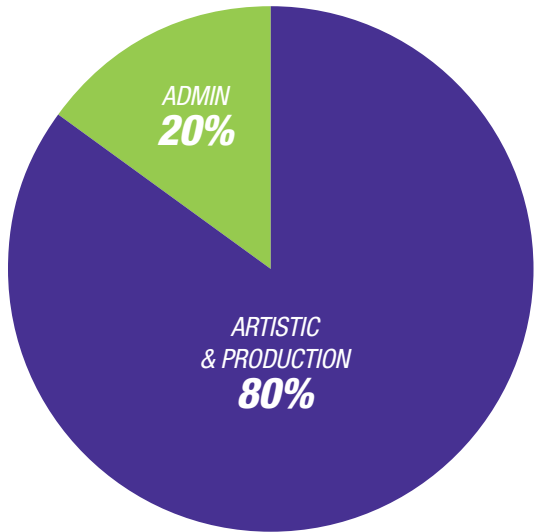
BOARD MEMBERS

# 2024 Financials

## Revenue



## Expenses



# Thank you to our donors and supporters

You did this for us! All the financial support the VICF receives allows us to create this rich annual arts experience for our young audience and the adults who come with them. We could not do it without you. Thank you so much!

## POTS OF GOLD

The Amacon Foundation Fund  
• Chris Spencer Foundation •  
Diamond Foundation • John Hardie  
Mitchell Family Foundation • Lion's  
Mane Fund • Mirhady Family Fund,  
held at Vancouver Foundation • The  
Estate of John Robert (JR) Seifred  
• The Estate of Lynne Harrison •  
The McLean Foundation  
• Vancouver Foundation

## UNICORNS \$1000-\$4999

Andrew Mahon Foundation  
• CanadaHelps (From CauseFund  
Vancouver Fund by Unite for  
Change) • Coquitlam Foundation  
• Lohin Foundation • McCarthy  
Tetrault Foundation • Shana  
Alexander • Teresa Sutherland  
• TF Event Company • The  
Christopher Foundation • The  
Lutsky Family Foundation  
• Vancouver Kidsbooks • Walmart

## BUTTERFLIES \$500-\$999

Katharine Carol

## DRAGONFLIES \$100-\$499

Cameron Wilson • Eleonore Shaffer  
• Elizabeth Bowen • Gerald  
Murenbeel • Jamie Fong  
• Jason Dubois • Jonathan Ryder  
• Kathleen Piovesan • Kevin  
Campbell • Kevin Deschamps  
• Ling Mei Tang • Mee Young Aird  
• Minna Schendinger • Natasha  
Jeshani • Natasha Wallace  
• Paul Dumontet • Paul Stewart  
• Pradeep Nair • Rebecca Aston  
• Robin de Pelham • Rui Zhu •  
Sally & Wilfrid Mennell  
• Tom Stulberg • Violet Tam

## FIREFLIES UP TO \$99

Christine Brittain • Coreen Philleary  
in honored Patrick and Patricia Philleary  
• Danya Rogen • Edith Davidson  
• Elaine Yuen • Eric Wong  
• Jacqueline Wainwright • Jeffrey  
Naim • Jessica Land • Kimberly  
Balfour • Lauren Kristjanson  
• Louise DeGagné • Mary Hein  
• Olivia Zeng • Rachel Richardson  
• Samad Raza • Scott Wood  
• Stewart McGillivray • Temple of  
Christ International School Limited  
• Adrienne Dickson • Kumasi  
Children's Home

## LADYBUGS IN KIND

Bard on the Beach • 2 Guys With  
Knives • Abandoned Rail Brewing  
Co. • Abbotsford Canucks' • Arc'teryx  
• Arts Club Theatre • Bacaro  
• Barnside Brewing Company  
• Baza Dance Studios • BC Lions  
Football Club • Beansprouts  
• Bloedel Conservatory  
• Blue Sky Clothing Co. • Book  
Warehouse • Britannia Mine  
Museum • Broadway Across  
Canada • Butchart Gardens  
• Cactus Club Cafe • Cake it easy  
• Capilano Suspension Bridge  
• Carousel Theatre for Young  
People • Carriage House Hotel and  
Conference Centre • Catara Pets  
• Chateau Victoria Hotel & Suites  
• Cheeky Ranch • Continental  
Coffee • Cookies by George • Cork  
it Wine Making • Craigdarroch  
Castle • Dashing Dawgs • Dilly  
Daily Kids Store • Earnest Ice  
Cream • Ethnic Enterprises • Fable  
(dish/dinnerware) • False Creek  
Ferries • Fine Art Bartending

• Fiorino • Firehall Arts Centre  
• Flying Squirrel Sports • Forbidden  
Vancouver Walking Tours •  
Foundation Body Lab • Fox & Oak  
• Frankie's Italian Kitchen •  
Frankie's Modern Diner • Free  
Label • Geo Cider Co. • Glen  
Valley Stables • Glow Room • Go  
Wireless • Golden Crust • Ground  
Up Climbing Centre • Hand Eye  
Ceramics • Hard Bean Brunch  
Co. • Havana Vancouver and The  
Flamingo Room • Hive Bouldering  
Gym • Homer Street Cafe and Bar  
• Hoodoo Adventure Company • Il  
Terrazzo • Inn at Laurel Point • Iron  
Dog Books • Jaana Ashley organic  
skin care • Jamjar Canteen -  
University Blvd • Jan & Jul • Jenny  
Bakes • Jericho Beach Kayak  
Centre • Kahlena Movement Studio  
• Kidtopolis • Kindred Cultures  
• Krause Berry Farms • Lagree  
West • Leah Alexandra • Lee's  
Donuts • Lemonade Gluten Free  
Bakery • Little Kitchen Academy  
• MAKE Vancouver • Malahat  
SkyWalk • Marika Productions  
• Massey Theatre • Massy Books  
• Maxine's Cafe & Bar • Memoir  
Studio Co • Mi Tierra Latina • Modo  
Yoga: Vancouver • Muffin Granny  
• Museum of Anthropology  
• Nature's Path • Nellie's Clean  
• Neverland Tea Salon • Nook  
Restaurant • One Under Golf Club  
• Open Door Yoga • Origins Parkour  
• Pazzo Chow • Pentiction Lakeside  
Resort • Please Beverage Co  
• PNE/Playland • Presentation  
House Theatre • Quazar's Arcade  
• Quest Reality Games • Rick  
Bronson's House of Comedy  
• Rio Theatre • Rocky Mountain  
Soap Company

• Sandman Suites on Davie  
• Science World British Columbia  
• Sea Vancouver  
• Shadbolt Centre for the Arts  
• Sheringham Distillery • Skoah  
• Spokes Bicycle Rentals  
• Squamish At Dusk • Stretch  
Vancouver • Studio 73 • Sunrise  
Ridge Waterfront Resort • Superflux  
Beer Company • Tableau Bar and  
Bistro • Taste Vancouver Food Tours  
• Terra Breads • The Chan Centre  
for the Performing Arts  
• The Comedy Department  
• The Keg Steakhouse and Bar  
• The Old Spaghetti Factory  
• Tofino Distillery • Toptable Group  
• Trikinetic Massage Therapy Clinic  
• Vancouver Academy of Music  
• Vancouver Art Gallery  
• Vancouver Bandits • Vancouver  
Canadians • Vancouver Folk Music  
Festival • Vancouver International  
Film Festival • Vancouver Opera  
House • Vancouver Recital Society  
• Vancouver Symphony Orchestra  
• Vancouver Whitecaps Football  
Club • Vancouver Writers Festival  
• Victoria Bug Zoo • Wahwah  
Designs • Waves Coffee • White  
Spot • Windfall Cider • Wovscape  
• Writers Fest • Yum Ice

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Christina (Ling Mei) Tang, Chair  
Eric Wong, Vice Chair  
Kevin Campbell, Treasurer  
Stewart McGillivray, Secretary  
Louise DeGagné Grace Starke  
Cameron Wilson Samad Raza  
Natasha Jeshani Olivia Zeng  
Jason Dubois Kieran Davey

## Staff Credits

|                                    |                     |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Artistic & Executive Director      | Katharine Carol     |
| Development Manager                | Marika Kovalcickova |
| Communications & Marketing Manager | Joanne Da Silva     |
| Operations Manager                 | Leanne Zacharias    |
| Audience Services Manager          | Kelly Creelman      |
| Production Manager                 | David Kerr (DK)     |
| Technical Director                 | Jessica Han         |
| Site Manager                       | Lauren Palidwor     |
| Volunteer Coordinator              | Kirith Bains        |
| Access Activator                   | Anika Vervecken     |
| Associate Producer                 | Larissa Lau         |
| School & Information Administrator | Allyson Mah         |
| Marketing Assistant                | Marjolyn Dimapilis  |
| Bookkeeper                         | Ewa Borkowska       |
| IT Consultant                      | Wayne Stewart       |

A huge shout out to our fantastic crew!

Many thanks to our awesome interns and volunteers!



# Thank you to our sponsors

## FESTIVAL PARTNERS



## COMMUNITY PARTNERS



## MEDIA SPONSORS



## GOVERNMENT FUNDERS



Supported by the Province of British Columbia



Funded by the Government of Canada  
Financé par le gouvernement du Canada



Canada Council for the Arts  
Conseil des arts du Canada

We acknowledge the support of the  
Canada Council for the Arts.  
Nous remercions le Conseil des arts  
du Canada de son soutien.

To learn more about the impact you or your organization can make,  
contact **Marika Kovalcikova**, Development Manager  
[development@childrensfestival.ca](mailto:development@childrensfestival.ca) | 604-708-5655, Ext. 106

**Vancouver International Children's Festival**  
1360 East 3rd Ave. Vancouver, BC V5N 5R8 Canada

