



— Making a Difference - Through the Arts! —

## COMMUNITY ARTS FUND

Supporting Community Arts in the Downtown Eastside

*Really I have a heart of gold, And very pleasant I have been told,  
So take the time and sit and talk with me, Look past the looks and see what you see*

- Anthony Dunne  
DTES resident, excerpt from *Looking or Seeing*



**A Project of the Community Arts Council of Vancouver 65 Years Old in 2011- With No Plans to Retire!**



Photos: David Cooper courtesy of Vancouver Moving Theatre and the Heart of the City Festival.

*For me, community art is about artists working with communities and communities working with artists in a variety of shared collaborative experiences. Community art is about valuing and building upon what's already in place in the community, its diversity and the wisdom it has accumulated. It's about engaging respectfully and patiently with the many layers of its residents, landscape and social systems. It's about supporting arts creation that celebrates, commemorates, educates and heals.*

- Savannah Walling,  
Artistic Director, Vancouver Moving Theatre  
Co-founder, DTES Heart of the City Festival.

## THE COMMUNITY ARTS COUNCIL OF VANCOUVER

The Community Arts Fund is managed by the Community Arts Council of Vancouver (CACV), the first arts council in North America. Since 1946 we have been a significant contributor to shaping the cultural life of Vancouver. The Council is a registered charity with financial support from the Province of British Columbia,

British Columbia Arts Council, City of Vancouver, Vancouver Park Board, 2010 Legacies Now, Vancouver Foundation, members and donors.

Working together with community and professional artists we create activities that build on people's strengths, address issues of social

change and build bridges for the well-being of all. The CACV focuses on arts-based cultural and community development within the City of Vancouver among artists, arts, social agencies and the broader community. We strive for an inclusive community through the arts.

## The Downtown Eastside: The Heart of the City

Vancouver's history and future is connected with the Downtown Eastside, the original heart of our city. The 100th Anniversary of the Carnegie Centre in 2003 was an occasion to celebrate the rich arts scene that has thrived for many years in the DTES involving community and professional artists in many art forms: visual, mixed media, music, theatre. New initiatives were launched such as the annual Downtown Eastside Heart of the City Festival with 46 community partners, 400 performers and over 7,000 participants. These carry on today and make a difference. The DTES is a leader in the community arts in Canada. The Community Arts Fund will provide sustainable support for community arts opportunities in this extraordinary neighbourhood. A great deal has been accomplished with modest resources.

The CACV is placing a high priority on supporting community arts in this neighbourhood because we value its multiplier effects:

- the creation of new art;
- training, education, mentoring and new jobs;
- capacity building among local residents and community organizations;
- opportunities for people to contribute to their community.

Participation in arts and culture is a transformative experience. People find ways to overcome formidable personal challenges: poverty, addiction, mental health, homelessness.



***We are inviting you to be part of this transformative process by investing in the community arts in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside.***



# COMMUNITY ARTS FUND IN THE DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE

## Purpose – Building Community through the Arts

**The Community Arts Fund will contribute to the capacity and sustainability of community arts programs in the Downtown Eastside.**

The Fund will support DTES community groups to:

- enable local residents of all ages and backgrounds to experience the arts as audience, as participants for personal and community development, and as aspiring artists.
- build on people's talents and strengths to acquire new skills and knowledge.

- support collaboration and sharing of knowledge and skills amongst community arts organizations in program planning, marketing and fund-raising and in-kind resources.
- build bridges for partnerships with groups outside the Downtown Eastside.
- support a shared identity through the arts amongst the mosaic of diverse groups and neighbourhoods that compose the Downtown Eastside.



## Join Us in Making a Difference Through the Arts!

**The Fund welcomes contributions from all who value the power of the arts in transforming the lives of individuals and communities. Donations are eligible for a charitable tax receipt.**

By cheque:

Community Arts Council of Vancouver  
(Community Arts Fund)  
#440-111 West Hastings Street  
Vancouver, BC. V6B 1H4.

By credit card:

through Canada Helps (visit [www.cacv.ca](http://www.cacv.ca))

By donation of publicly traded shares:

(visit [www.cacv.ca](http://www.cacv.ca))

***The arts are a great equalizer; no matter your station in life, everyone needs some aspect of the arts to grow and develop as a contributing member of society.***

- Yulanda Faris

Chair, Community Arts Fund Fundraising Committee  
recipient of the Roman John Hnatyshyn Award for Volunteerism in  
the Performing Arts

***The mark of a great city is the respect and recognition it accords to all its citizens regardless of their personal, social, and economic circumstances or ethnic and cultural backgrounds.***

- Michael Clague, President, Community Arts Council of Vancouver



Photo Credit Yun Lam Li, Woodward's Community Mural Project 2007.

# What People are Saying about the Arts in the DTES

*If your exposure to the Downtown Eastside has been limited to what you read in the daily press, ... you might not know that it's also home to a diverse range of artists and musicians, a source of innovative answers to the problems associated with inner-city life, and the cradle of Vancouver's reputation as a peaceable and ethnically diverse urban centre.*

- Alexander Varty, Georgia Straight. November 2008.

*Presently there is a renewed energy on the streets of the Downtown Eastside and festivals and cultural events are precursors of this evolution.*

- Pamela Fairfield with Richard Tetrault in Painted Lives and Shifting Landscapes. Anvil Press 2005, Page 25.

*We had a wonderful time in your festival and it was fun for me especially...We really appreciated the effort from all of you to make all neighbours included and we were part of it!*

- Qui Xia He, professional musician,  
DTES Heart of the City Festival.

*It was really good. It was the best experience I've had...it's a real healing experience for people to have the opportunity to be goofy without needing alcohol or drugs.*

- Muriel Williams, community actor, A DTES Romeo and Juliet.

*We're here to open up the hearts and emotions of the people. We're here because we care.*

- Stephen Lytton, community actor,  
Downtown Eastside Community Play.

*One of the things we have forgotten is that cities are communities of people. But what is the glue that holds them together? Common values. Common ideas. In recent years, it's also the growing importance of culture. Our economic well-being is based on our ability to celebrate culture, and celebrate the true identity of our cities.*

-- Bing Thom, architect, Vancouver.

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## "Look Past the Looks and See What You See"

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Historic Foot Prints Community Arts Project  
- Carnegie Community Centre.

