



Join us for the 3rd event in our fall series entitled
“Community Arts in Vancouver: Past, Present, and Future”

THE FUTURE OF COMMUNITY ARTS

We will partner with over a dozen organizations involved with kids, youth, and community art for a celebration and a display of creativity!

Saturday, November 26, 2011
Woodward’s Atrium, Hastings & Abbott
FREE: Register at <http://artsfutureyvr.eventbrite.com/>

The Community Arts Council of Vancouver (CACV) was established in 1946 as a means to bring communities together through artist-led collaborations. By selecting program priorities that both advance community arts throughout Vancouver as well as open barriers to understanding, the CACV is an advocate for the central role of the arts in the lives of people and their communities. From EcoArt at the Kitsilano Neighbourhood House to the painting of the Woodward’s Mural in the Downtown Eastside to assisting the Heart of the City Festival, the CACV offers a place for local artists to connect, for community members to have a voice and for the seeds of change to take root.

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The State of Community Arts in Vancouver: Community Arts Now

November 5, 2011

World Art Centre, SFU Goldcorp Centre for the Arts

As part of our 65th anniversary celebrations, the Community Arts Council of Vancouver is pleased to present a dialogue on creating community through the arts.

What is Community Art? What are its benefits and challenges? Local visual and performing artists and community members will share their experiences in the field as we explore the state of Community Arts in Vancouver.

The goals of the dialogue are to

- Facilitate networking
- Share tools, resources and best practices
- Explore and increase awareness of community arts – what are its forms and the benefits?
- Identify needs for the community arts in Vancouver

Agenda

8:30	Registration/Sign-in	12:00	Break (note that lunch is <u>not</u> provided)
9:00	Welcome	1:00	Community Choir
9:20	Coffee/Tea	1:30	CACV Survey: Initial Results
9:30	Artist Presentations - Session 1	2:15	Open Dialogue Session (small groups)
10:00	Artist Presentations - Session 2	4:00	Group Sharing
10:30	Break	4:20	Next Steps: Publication
10:45	Artist Presentations - Session 3	4:30	Close
11:15	Artist Presentations - Session 4		
11:45	Topic Submissions for Open Dialogue		

With thanks to:



Presenters

AHA MEDIA

Hendrik Beune: I was born with a bicycle in the Netherlands a long time ago. I came over when I was 19 and wanted to study marine biology. I did a four-year study at UBC and then worked for the federal government on the Fraser River Estuary. It was always my dream to live more of a hippie lifestyle and I got into oyster and clam farming on the Sunshine Coast. It was good, but after 12 years I decided it was time to go back to Vancouver. When I ran out of money I ended up in the Downtown Eastside. I was familiar with the area already because I did some oyster deliveries here and often ended up at the Astoria for a few drinks. I actually ended up living at the Astoria for a while. I decided it would be good for me to become more involved and do community work. I wanted to work on social sustainability, community engagement and justice issues, so I started volunteering. I found that through making art, I am able to touch the lives of many people in our community and bring people together! I am a founding member of Downtown Eastside social media group - AHA MEDIA with my partner April Smith.



April Smith, a 2011 DTES Small Arts Grant recipient, is Downtown Eastside resident, worker and advocate. She is usually a perky girl bouncing her way through the neighbourhood doing art, community outreach and story telling through the use of mobile technology. Her favorite art style is situational photography and videography which highlights the variable aspects of our community from the light hearted and sweet to the more volatile and stormy situations. Creating new community dialogue to help our DTES grow is what interests April. She also enjoys trying new techniques in painting, cartooning and experimental film making. April is a board member of W2 Community Media Arts Society and a founding member of Downtown Eastside social media group - AHA MEDIA.



Presentation – “AHA MEDIA”

Hendrik and April will discuss their years of involvement in the arts, from painting, drawing, cartooning for Megaphone Magazine, experimental filmmaking, photo documentation, social media coverage on many community arts, and activities in the DTES. They will present a series of slides, including images from their work at the Heart of the City Festival, the 2010 Olympics and their Shadow Theatre Play. As well, they will share their thoughts on how community arts should be encouraged through mentoring, studio space, grants, and peer to peer collaboration.

Savannah Walling: A theatre artist and writer trained in dance, mime and music, Downtown Eastside resident Savannah Walling is artistic director of Vancouver Moving Theatre (with whom she’s created over 50 productions); associate artistic director of the Downtown Eastside Heart of the City Festival and singer with the Barvinok Ukrainian choir. She researches, writes and/or collaborates with artists of many genres, techniques and traditions to create multi-layered original productions that interweave localized content, accessible storytelling, spectacle, and live music.



Presentation – “Vancouver Moving Theatre’s Tree of Community Art Practice” Founded in 1983, Vancouver Moving Theatre now focuses on community-engaged productions, arts projects, and festivals tailored for and with the inner city Downtown Eastside. Highlights include We Are the People; East End Blues and All That Jazz; A Downtown Eastside Romeo and Juliet, We’re All In This Together: The Shadows Project – Addiction and Recovery; In the Heart of a City: The Downtown Eastside Community Play; and The Downtown Eastside Arts For All Institute. For her presentation, Savannah will be accompanied by Priscillia Tait.

The Public Dreams Society

Jenny Lee Craig is an artist, administrator and creative facilitator who is very proud to have come on board as the Special Events Coordinator for the Public Dreams Society in 2011. As an artist her practice seeks to engage community through individual and collaboratively produced projects, initiating community lecture series, participatory pie-competitions, and experimental theatre projects. Both her individual art practice and her work with The Public Dreams Society is committed to community building through art.

Ari Lazer is a storyteller, interdisciplinary artist, event producer, and one of the original founders of the Dusty Flowerpot Cabaret. He has worked with the Public Dreams Society in a variety of capacities since 2007 – both coordinating projects and building artwork, this year he served as Artistic Producer, heading up Parade of Lost Souls. Focusing on large-scale geometric installations, and fantastical story worlds, he has performed, and presented work in conjunction with Vancouver Folk Festival, the Chicago Cultural Centre, and the Vancouver Art Gallery, amongst others. Ari is also the proprietor of the Traveling Alchemists' Outreach Society, a vehicle for mystical and magical arts in Vancouver.

Presentation – “Public Dreams”

The Public Dreams Society has been creating meaningful community experiences for over 25 years. Their two signature events, Illuminares and the Parade of Lost Souls, are Vancouver main-stays that engage thousands every year. Presenting this year's Parade of Lost Souls as a case study, Ari and Jenny will discuss how this very special event makes for some extremely challenging organizational tasks. How do you get the community to participate in the event rather than be passive viewers? How do you coordinate over 150 visual artists and performers to contribute their time, energy and skill? How do you successfully navigate civic bureaucracy to let 15,000 people parade through a residential neighbourhood? How do you coordinate enough funds that these events remain accessible and affordable for the public? And, ultimately, how do you ensure that something so big has a direct, significant impact on every attendee?



Anna Baignoche has been a student, performer, and an appreciator of the music of the world for as long as she can remember. Having travelled, lived, and studied in Cuba, Mexico, Brazil, and Turkey, she was deeply impressed by these countries' integration of music into the culture. After completing a degree in Contemporary Voice, specializing in world music, at Vancouver Community College, Anna B. (her stage name) has performed for 13 years in the Vancouver music scene in various projects: Anna B. and the Heartbones, a western Latin jazz sextet, Catita, a bossa nova and samba duo, and Diez, a ten piece Latin jazz band. In 2009, Anna received a BC Arts Council Grant to study bossa nova in Rio de Janeiro. She has released two albums: Heartbones (Western Jazz) and A Deal With the Wind (Western Latin Jazz – Spanish and English). Anna is currently completing a Master of Arts in Ethnomusicology at UBC.



Presentation – “Local Vocals”

Anna will discuss the importance of music making and singing as a glue that keeps communities together, happy, and getting along. She will give a brief history and overview of global communal singing, talk about the history and philosophy of Vancouver's song group, Local Vocals, evolutionary/biological benefits of singing, using singing to build bridges between communities. We will sing! Anna will be accompanied by Karen Ravensbergen.

Dalannah Gail Bowen is a community activist, blues/jazz/gospel singer, published poet and playwright. Dalannah has survived homelessness and drug addiction.

Presentation – “A Healing Journey Through Art: From Homelessness To Purpose”

Join Dalannah as she shares her story of recovery by re-connecting with her art, and her creation of the Downtown Eastside Centre For The Arts. Dalannah's presentation will address the nature of art, art's potential as a healing tool and Dalannah's goals for the Downtown Eastside community. She will be accompanied by Sharon Kravitz.



Sharon Kravitz is an aspiring documentary filmmaker, community organizer, and educator. She has worked in the Downtown Eastside for the last 17 years organizing large-scale events, community public art projects and arts and health programs for all ages. She has also participated on numerous panels about the essential role of arts and culture in creating healthy communities. Sharon graduated from the Documentary Film Program at Capilano University in 2009. She is currently working on a documentary based on the work of Dr. Bruce Alexander and his book *The Globalization of Addiction: A Study in Poverty of the Spirit*.

Sharon Kallis: With a “one mile diet” approach to sourcing art materials, Sharon works to discover the inherent material potential in a local landscape. By involving community in connecting traditional hand techniques with invasive species and garden waste she creates site-specific installations that become ecological interventions. Sharon works with Vancouver Parks Board, Stanley Park Ecology Society, Artstarts, Evergreen Society, Community Arts Council of Vancouver and Environmental Youth Alliance. Sharon has also exhibited and engaged communities with her practice in Ireland, Spain and throughout the United States.



(Photo: Sharon Kallis with Greg Ferguson of Stanley Park Ecological Society at CRAB Park.)

Presentation – “Community vs. Public Art”

Sharon will explore the question, “When does community art become public art?” Although funding sources from private sectors can open up potential ways of funding new projects, such support entails a shift from process-based to product-based requirements. What still works? What changes? What is lost or gained in using a community art framework for engagement in creating a public art work? Sharon will be accompanied by Rachael Campbell-Palmer, who will share her experience of participating in eco-art.

Julie Lebel is a contemporary dance choreographer, specialized in site specific and community based art. She graduated from UQAM-Dance in 1998 and has been based in Vancouver since 2006. Her work is the fruit of long term processes punctuated by improvisation, activities in the public space and experiments in other mediums.



Presentation – “Community Dance”

My experience of being a dance artist is led by the interest and love for creation and collaboration rather than performance. I rarely perform/dance my work and the work of others, unless it is improvised. I do not train as a dancer anymore, I rock climb, practice yoga. Funding is a major challenge in my practice and I sometimes find creative solutions around this problem like working on long term creative cycles for example. Since 2005, I have worked extensively on interaction with public spaces and have created platforms and ways to engage the public in movement and discovery of what can be the experience of dancing. Before bringing the work outdoors, I started working with community dancers in 2000 because I was fascinated with the possibility of finding unknown dances with people excited to find out what they could do. Since, working with community has always played a central role. The great diversity in the groups I work with makes it possible to bounce ideas in ways I would never think they could fly; from the entry point into a dance experience to the most experimental aspect of the art form. A great challenge for me in terms of community dance is the constant fostering of that diversity: outreach is difficult without the means necessary. For her presentation, Julie will be accompanied by Nissa Howard.

Pierre Leichner: Most of my works address bio-psychosocial and spiritual issues simultaneously. My recent projects put me in a collaborative dependency with living matter. I am also working on altered books project (DSM) Re-Revised that draws on my experiences as a psychiatrist and an artist. I am a collective member of Gallery Gachet and a board member on the Community Arts Council of Vancouver. I obtained my BFA from Emily Carr University in 2007 and my MFA from Concordia University in 2011. Pierre will be accompanied by J Peachy.



J Peachy is an Anmore based multi-disciplinary arts based advocate for mental health and the environment. While commonly known for his visual art, he sees himself as a lateral thinker, with good hand eye coordination and a penchant for colours. In addition to being part of Gallery Gachet, Peachy is the Artist in Residence for the Burrard Inlet Marine Enhancement Society and the Creative Lead for Arts Based Initiatives with the Canadian Mental Health Association - Simon Fraser Branch. He also sees the Media Arts as a mechanism for creative dialogue and is the creator and producer of the award winning Arts and Mental Health radio program, Sound Therapy Radio which airs on CJSF 90.1 FM. This fall a television version of the show begins airing on Shaw TV in Vancouver and Victoria.



Presentation – “Rescued by Apollo”

Pierre will discuss how he gradually became drawn into an environmental art practice. His sociopolitical concerns, desire for viewer participation and accessibility, and love for the outdoors and gardening all contributed. Pierre will show the projects that, since 2002, have led to this shift. Art has also been for Pierre an important means to recover his voice and self-esteem that had been eroded by working many years in the mental health care system. By being a collective member in Gallery Gachet Pierre will present how he continues to express his views and promotes the value of art in healing.

MC: Vanessa Richards is an inter/multi-disciplinary artist with a foundation in live art, theatre, creative writing, music, collaboration and programming. Her interests include participatory process and the role of the arts and artists (professional and amateur) in place-making, the civic imagination and social sustainability. She is experienced as a teaching artist, consultant, project leader and team member in planning, coordinating and facilitating arts and cultural projects since 1995. Joining Vanessa will be Dan Grasso who is a participant in her community choir events.

