

CREATIVE CITY

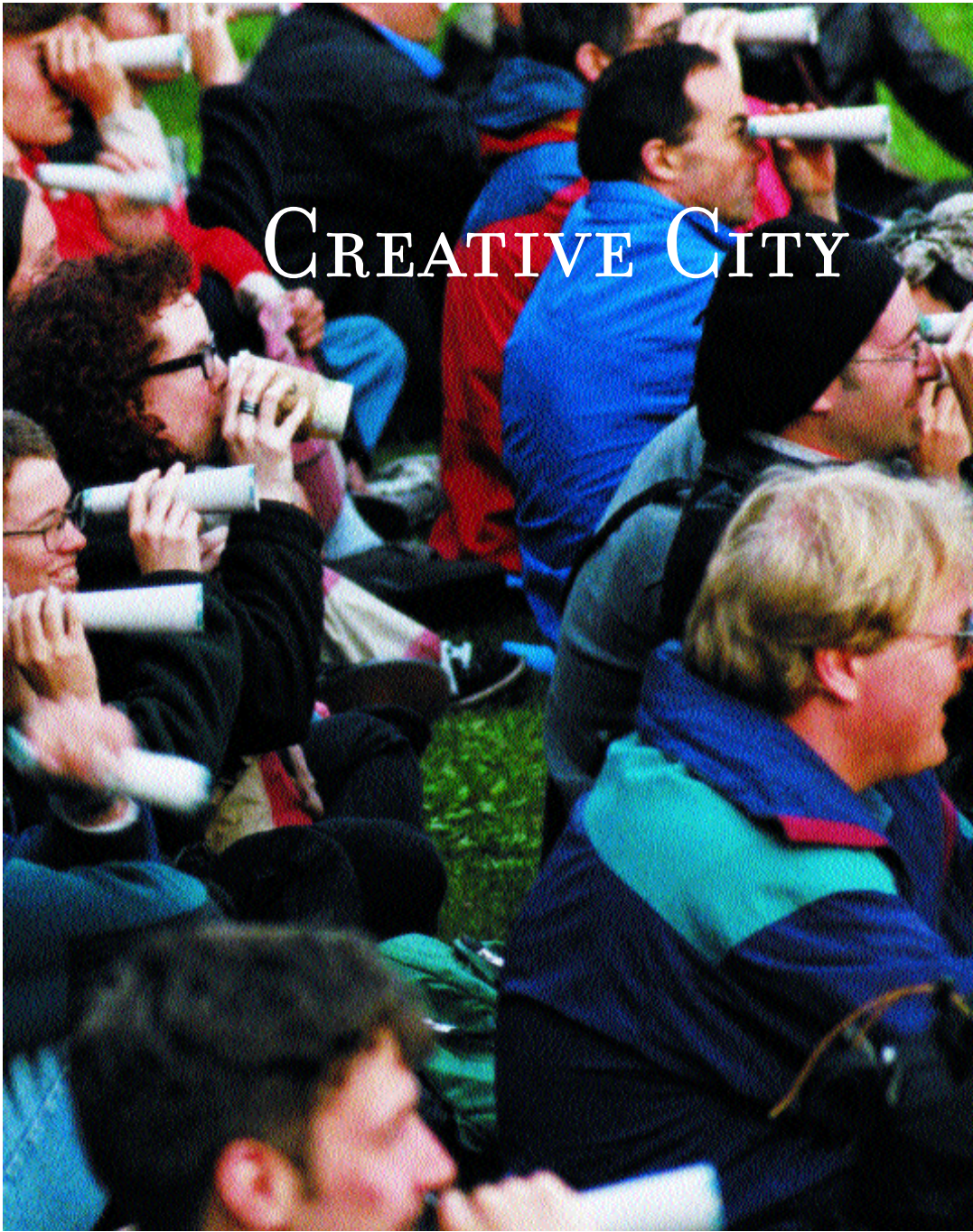
Office of Cultural Affairs: City of Vancouver



A PROFILE









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City Cultural Objectives

To ensure our future as a creative city, open and accessible to artists, to the broadest range of artistic expression, and to the widest participation.

Cultural Goals

Council adopted the following goals on October 27, 1987 to guide the City of Vancouver’s over-all direction and specific decisions concerning the arts and the development of cultural policy :

- ❑ To promote a high level of creativity and excellence in the cultural life of Vancouver.
- ❑ To promote diversity in the artistic life of the community, including both the professional and non-professional, the traditional and the innovative, the established and the aspiring.
- ❑ To encourage financial and managerial efficiency in the operation of Vancouver’s cultural organizations.
- ❑ To ensure the existence of adequate facilities for the creation and presentation of the arts in Vancouver.
- ❑ To ensure that all Vancouver residents and visitors, including senior citizens, youth, low income people, members of ethnic minorities and other distinct groups have opportunities to enjoy and participate in cultural activities.

Previous Pages: The audience at Electric Company’s *The Wake*. Photo: Tim Matheson

Left: Lakshmi Shankar, India Music Society. Hindustani vocal classical recital at Norman Rothstein Theatre



Message from the Mayor

From their earliest days, cities have been fertile ground for the arts, providing resources as well as opportunities for creativity. The arts, in turn, have greatly enriched urban life, making cities more exciting places to live, work and visit.

Here in Vancouver our cultural assets and activities help define the distinctive character of our city and its neighbourhoods. They animate our parks and other public spaces, and offer people of all ages opportunities to be entertained, moved, amused, informed and challenged to think in new ways.

The cultural sector produces significant benefits for our economy, providing employment and generating revenues. It enhances Vancouver's attractiveness to tourists, businesses and

employees, especially information workers, who thrive on ideas and innovation. Increasingly, the arts are also being recognized as a tool for community development in such areas as education, crime prevention, race relations and health.

To gain an insight into the programs and policies the City has put in place to foster a supportive environment for the arts and culture, I encourage you to read this report and its companion, the Office of Cultural Affairs' *Annual Review*. At the same time, I invite you to join me and my colleagues on Vancouver City Council in our galleries, museums, theatres, concert halls, community centres and parks, where you can experience the arts first hand.

Philip W. Owen
Mayor

Councillors

Fred Bass
Jennifer Clarke
Lynne Kennedy
Daniel Lee
Don Lee

Tim Louis
Sandy McCormick
Gordon Price
George Puil
Sam Sullivan



Buster Simpson's *Brush with Illumination*. Photo: Barbara Cole



Director's Introduction

Creative City. Why? Because a creative city can become anything it chooses. Imagine the possibilities.

That's what we are about: Vancouver ... being a creative city ... and becoming more so. This document profiles a broad range of means by which the arts and culture are fostered and shared by the people and City of Vancouver. These programs — strongly supported by Mayor and Council, passionately delivered by a dedicated staff, enthusiastically engaged in by the creative community and public — reflect the value we place on works of the imagination and the creative experience. This says that we are a creative city.

The OCA's mandate, and many of our programs, are oriented to development in the sector. With a focus on originality, diversity, quality and accessibility, we encourage and provide opportunity for new creators, new forms, new partners, new audiences and new participants. Vancouver recognizes that cultural creativity stimulates and attracts originality and innovation in all fields. We are a creative city with an active commitment to becoming more so.

This first edition of *Creative City* provides an overview of the responsibilities and activity of the Office of Cultural Affairs and our civic partners that provide cultural services or support. It presents the big picture of strategic initiatives, policy and programs that form the ongoing context



and guide posts for day-to-day activity. We plan to renew *Creative City* on a three year cycle.

To complement *Creative City* with more time-sensitive news and data, we are also publishing the *Annual Review*, included in the back cover. The *Annual Review* will be revised and disseminated each year to keep you current with the remarkable diversity of arts and cultural activity taking place in this community, supported by the City. Short-term initiatives, recent awards or budget and program changes will also be included. These two new publications will of course be supported by the OCA's website, which I invite you visit.

Keeping the OCA's eclectic constituencies well informed is both a responsibility and a pleasure. City Council, Vancouver's creative community, the public and arts participants-at-large, as well as neighbouring municipalities and other strategic partners, each have information needs. We hope these new reports and the complementary information provided in our brochures and on our website will meet those needs. Please, have a look and let us know.

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Burke Taylor". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

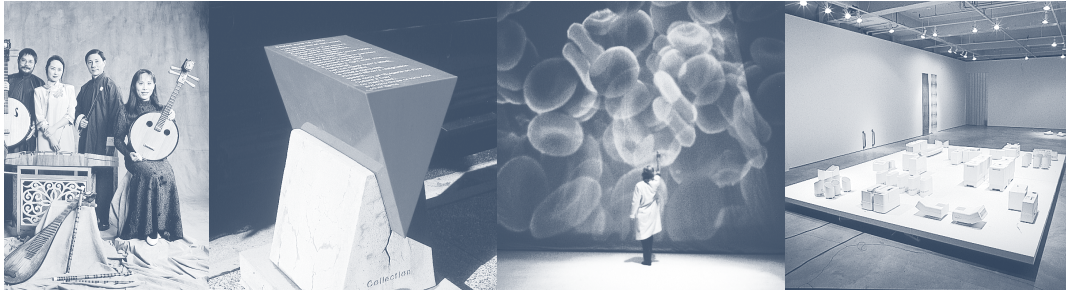
Burke Taylor
Director

Left: Peter Coleman-Wright as "Don Giovanni"
Vancouver Opera. Photo: Tim Matheson

Arts & Culture in Vancouver

Vancouver's not-for-profit arts and cultural sector is a complex and interrelated community that encompasses large institutions and small neighbourhood groups, service organizations and arts organizations focussed on the creation, production and dissemination of art. It is a community engaged in activities

indicating shifting tastes, is also up. At the same time, the number of not-for-profit arts groups continues to increase, in part because energetic young artists are setting up new organizations to produce and present their work.



er Chinese Music Ensemble
ight: Ji-Rong Huang, David
Wei Young, Vivian Xia, Yong
Min Yu. Photo: David Cooper

Mark Lewis' *Collection*
Photo: Barbara Cole

Megan Leitch in the Electric Company
Theatre's *The Score*
Photo: Tim Matheson

Ante Lui's *Pathology* at the
Contemporary Art Gallery
Photo: Kim Clarke

as diverse as literary readings, baroque opera, flamenco dance, video installations, fringe plays and museum exhibitions.

Taken as a whole, this not-for-profit arts community is experiencing growth. Employment in full-time and part-time, permanent and seasonal positions has risen. The number of productions in the city has increased in recent years, especially in music and theatre. Total attendance at performances and exhibitions, while

This growth has not been achieved without considerable effort and resourcefulness. Faced with changing senior government funding priorities, uncertain corporate sponsorship and sometimes fickle audiences, many local arts organizations have developed new strategies to secure the resources they need. Often these new approaches involve collaboration with other arts groups. Co-operative programming initiatives by the city's artist-run centres, in which exhibitions have been co-ordinated around

a central theme, have provided increased publicity and a richer experience for the public. Joint marketing by the *See Seven* group of alternative theatre companies has led to the sharing of equipment and a venue. The dance community's long-term collective efforts to secure adequate office, rehearsal and studio performance space have borne fruit in a new dance centre in downtown Vancouver.

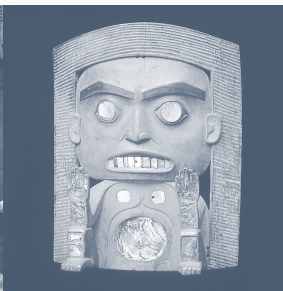
Vancouver's arts groups are always seeking ways to reach new audiences and to address the diverse needs and interests of specific groups. The very successful Music in the Morning concert series has a growing audience of seniors and others looking for daytime cultural programming. The Vancouver East Cultural Centre's youth advisory program has led to the development



oro Dance's *X-Roads*
to: Man-kit Kwan



Tibetan Weaver Tsering Chonzom,
during *Celebrating Tibetan Culture*
exhibition at the Roundhouse
Photo: E. Kidd



Frontlet, Tsimshian, c. 1850
Vancouver Museum



Alex Diakun and Alec Willows
in *High Life* at the Arts Club Theatre
Photo: David Cooper

The city's arts and cultural organizations work hard to give their audiences a broad range of experiences, presenting established work from different cultural traditions as well as new creations reflecting contemporary artistic practice. Local performing companies offer glimpses of work in progress. Events like Artropolis present an overview of the visual arts in the province. Impresario organizations and the city's film, jazz and other major festivals provide the public with a window on the world.

of a youth pass and a youth calendar. Individual Vancouver artists are exploring alternative ways of engaging community members through community art projects, where participants become collaborators in creating and presenting art. Expanding creative opportunities for artists from distinct communities are also attracting new audiences. When Satellite Video Exchange screened the work of deaf video artists in its training program, there was standing room only.



Above: Grant Linneberg (left) and Tom McBeath in John Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men* by the Playhouse Theatre Company. Photo: David Cooper
 Right: Ballet BC. Dancer: Sylvain Senez. Photo: David Cooper

The Role of Cultural Affairs

The Office of Cultural Affairs advises Vancouver City Council on issues and strategies related to the not-for-profit cultural sector, develops and manages cultural policies and programs, and participates in city planning and development processes. These activities are supported by research and analysis of trends in Vancouver's cultural sector and policy directions in other cities. The OCA is guided in its role by the City's cultural objectives: *To ensure our future as a creative city, open and accessible to artists, to the broadest range of artistic expression and to the widest participation.*

On behalf of City Council, OCA provides direct services of support to large and small not-for-profit cultural organizations through grants that

assist with the costs of operations, projects, organizational development and capital expenditures. Cultural Affairs staff manage the City's Public Art Program, which includes community projects as well as large-scale public and private development initiatives. Working with other civic departments, OCA is involved in the development and upgrading of City-owned and other cultural facilities through capital grants and zoning incentives.

In promoting a healthy environment for the arts, staff co-ordinate efforts with neighbouring municipalities and senior levels of government, undertaking joint projects and funding partnerships. The Office also works closely with members of Vancouver's arts community and the public it serves, disseminating information and consulting on policy, programs and new initiatives.

Civic Cultural Partners

In working to provide a full range of cultural services and opportunities for artists, residents and visitors to Vancouver, the Office of Cultural Affairs shares responsibilities with a number of civic partners: the Civic Theatres, Vancouver Park Board, Vancouver Public Library and the Engineering Department, which co-ordinates services to special events and film shoots, as well as the street banners program. City-owned facilities and public spaces support a wide spectrum of arts and cultural activities ranging from festivals in the parks, to workshops in community centres, to events in the Civic Theatres.

VANCOUVER CIVIC THEATRES

The City of Vancouver owns and operates three well-equipped performing arts facilities: the Queen Elizabeth Theatre (2,931 seats), the Vancouver Playhouse (668 seats) and the Orpheum concert hall (2,780 seats).

Queen Elizabeth Theatre

Built by the City in 1959, the Queen Elizabeth Theatre (QET) is home to Vancouver Opera and Ballet British Columbia, and is the City's premier venue for Broadway shows, pop and rock concerts, opera and dance, as well as live broadcast gala award ceremonies and telethons.

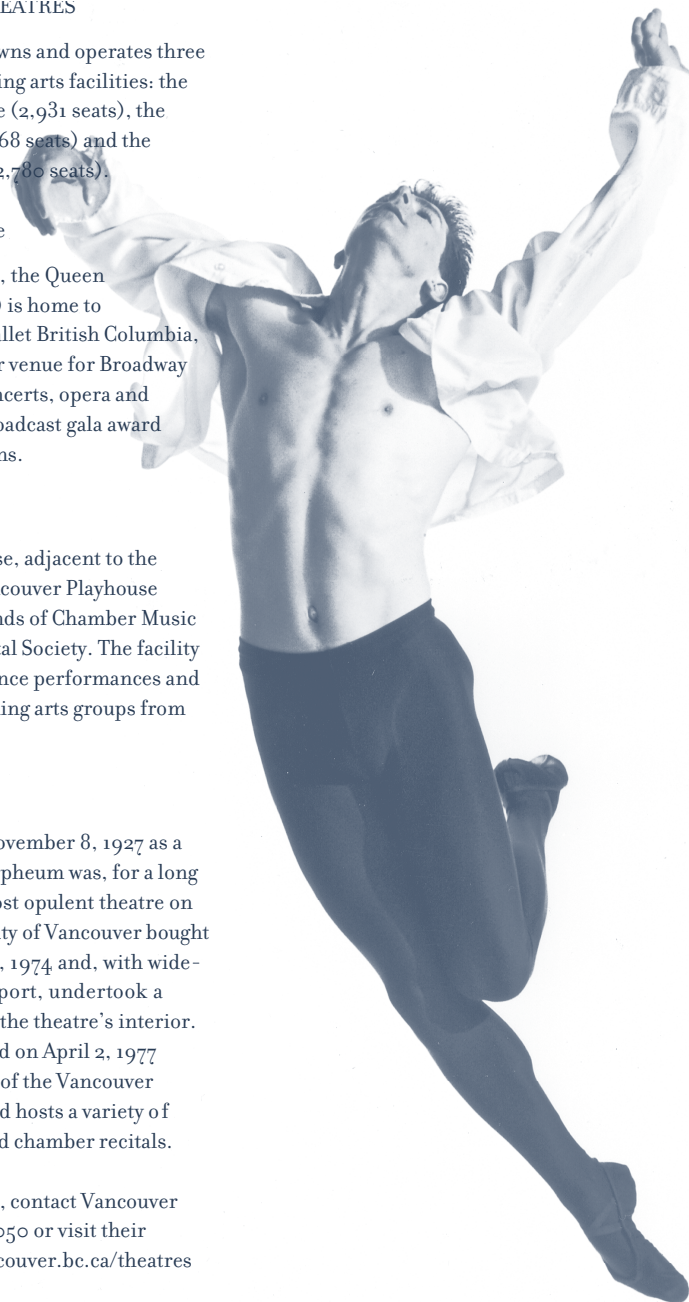
Vancouver Playhouse

The Vancouver Playhouse, adjacent to the QET, is home to the Vancouver Playhouse Theatre Company, Friends of Chamber Music and the Vancouver Recital Society. The facility often hosts concerts, dance performances and other events by performing arts groups from diverse communities.

Orpheum

Originally opened on November 8, 1927 as a vaudeville house, the Orpheum was, for a long time, the largest and most opulent theatre on the Pacific Coast. The City of Vancouver bought the theatre on March 19, 1974 and, with widespread community support, undertook a complete restoration of the theatre's interior. The Orpheum re-opened on April 2, 1977 as the permanent home of the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra and hosts a variety of pop, classical, choral and chamber recitals.

For further information, contact Vancouver Civic Theatres at 665-3050 or visit their website at www.city.vancouver.bc.ca/theatres



MAJOR EXHIBITING INSTITUTIONS

The City of Vancouver owns and holds in trust for the people of Vancouver a significant collection of art and artifacts. These collections are housed in City-owned or leased facilities and are exhibited and managed by independent not-for-profit societies: the Vancouver Art Gallery, the Vancouver Maritime Museum, the Vancouver Museum Commission, the H.R. MacMillan Space Centre and the Arts, Science and Technology Centre: Science World.

Vancouver Art Gallery

Founded in 1931, the province's largest public art gallery maintains and exhibits the City of Vancouver's considerable art collection, and manages new acquisitions. VAG has a year-round program of exhibitions and undertakes extensive outreach and education activities. Its major public exhibitions draw on the civic collection and touring shows, presenting a wide range of artworks, from *Emily Carr* to *Contemporary Art in Asia*, from *Impressionist Masterworks* to *Global Conceptualism*.

Vancouver Museum

Canada's largest civic museum tells the story of Vancouver's past, present and future. Founded in 1894, it serves as custodian of the city's history and holds the City's extensive collections in natural history, archaeology, ethnology and Asian arts. In recent years the museum has been engaged in a major revitalization project, renovating galleries, installing a new permanent exhibit and adding a new



Vancouver Art Gallery. Photo: Barbara Cole

learning centre. The museum also develops temporary exhibits including *Portrait V2K*, the City's Millennium Project.

Vancouver Maritime Museum

The VMM, which has operated in its current location at Kits Point since 1958, is the principal maritime museum on the Pacific Coast of Canada. In addition to its permanent exhibition of maritime art and artifacts, model ships, the Children's Discovery Centre and the St. Roch National Historic Site, the Museum presents temporary exhibits and hosts visiting ships of historical interest in its Heritage Harbour.

H.R. MacMillan Space Centre

The centre, which shares a City-owned building with the Vancouver Museum, presents educational programs and exhibits in the areas of astronomy, space science, space technology, remote sensing and earth management. Its permanent exhibits and

galleries include the Planetarium with its multimedia shows, an interactive exhibition gallery, the multimedia theatre *Groundstation Canada*, a simulated journey to Mars and the Gordon Southam Observatory.

ASTC Science World

The Arts, Science and Technology Centre: Science World combines science and the arts through exhibitry, its 3D Laser and Omnimax theatres, and programming focussed on interactive, hands-on, family education and entertainment. While based in science, Science World uses the arts to present creative learning experiences. For instance, the *Music Machines* exhibit allows children to explore both the science and the creation of sound and music while the *Centrestage Performance Series* features local actors, musicians and artisans as well as scientists. Science World also hosts temporary exhibits.

PARK BOARD

Roundhouse Community Arts and Recreation Centre

Opened in spring 1997 on the former Expo lands, the Roundhouse is the first community centre dedicated to community arts. In addition to providing the regular sports, social and recreational programs available in most community centres, the Roundhouse has purpose-built performance and exhibition spaces, specialized program staff and a dedicated arts budget. The centre has been the venue for a number of professional-level

art exhibitions based on community interests and experiences. It has hosted music, dance and theatre performances, and has initiated local oral history projects reflecting life in the neighbourhood. For more information, contact the Roundhouse at 713-1800.

Artists in Residence Program

The Artists in Residence Program is a partnership between the Park Board and Community Centre Associations which supports artists working in community contexts. The program is based on short-term projects that provide a lasting legacy — whether new understandings of creative processes or an artwork which remains in the community. For more information, contact Park Board recreation services staff at 257-8495.

VANCOUVER PUBLIC LIBRARY

From the landmark Central Library to its many neighbourhood branches, the Vancouver Public Library is the second largest public library system in Canada and a well-used cultural resource. Over 395,000 cardholders borrow more than eight million items annually. The Literature Division has an outstanding Canadian collection in addition to the world prose, poetry and drama publications it has been collecting since the library opened in 1887. The Fine Arts and Music Division was established over 65 years ago in direct response to the demand for a special library for musicians, artists, architects, art collectors and dramatists.

Facility Development & Planning Initiatives

Appropriate cultural facilities are essential to any community and key to the economic health of any city. These facilities serve residents, attract tourists and businesses, and enhance quality of life. In addition to the Civic Theatres, the City owns and leases (at nominal rent to not-for-profit societies) the Firehall Arts Centre, Vancouver East Cultural Centre, Heritage Hall, Pacific Cinecentre, Vancouver Museum, Vancouver Maritime Museum, H.R. MacMillan Space Centre, Vancouver Academy of Music and the site on which Science World sits.

The City contributes to capital projects through an annual Capital grants program and through the lease of City-owned land and buildings. As well, Office of Cultural Affairs and Facilities Development staff provide assistance with facility development and project management. Major projects currently under way with support from the City include the Vancouver Dance Centre and the Vancouver Museum Phase 3 revitalization project.

Ensuring access to appropriate and affordable facilities is a challenge in any major city. It is especially challenging in Vancouver's rapidly developing real estate market. In order to ensure that our artists and arts organizations can afford to remain part of our city, the OCA actively seeks opportunities to acquire arts spaces through zoning incentive programs. This includes a density bonus program where the City, in partnership with private developers, creates affordable cultural facilities at no cost to taxpayers.

The City has been able to acquire spaces for individual artists, such as the 30-unit CORE Artists Live/Work Co-op, and spaces for arts organizations, including the Public Dreams production studio, the Alliance for Arts and Culture site and the Canadian Craft Museum. Recent cultural bonuses include the Contemporary Art Gallery (Nelson and Richards Street) and the New Music Resource Centre (Davie and Hornby), a home for the Canadian Music Centre and the Vancouver New Music Society.

Cultural Affairs staff participate in the overall planning of the city, seeking creative ways, through new development, to address our cultural and social needs and to enhance the livability of the city.

Public Art Programs

Since 1986, City Council has adopted a variety of policies and programs intended to provide citizens with an experience of art in public places. These programs give contemporary visual artists a role in planning and development projects that are initiated or reviewed by the City.



Right: *Utility Pole* by Marko Simcic. Photo: Barbara Cole

Public art opportunities arise in three contexts: at civic parks, buildings and engineering works; at major new private-sector developments; and in residential/neighbourhood settings. Within these separate spheres, artists are encouraged to create work that expresses the spirit, values, vision and poetry of place that collectively define Vancouver. More information about these programs, as well as artist opportunities, project updates, walking tours and a registry of new and historic works, can be accessed via the Office of Cultural Affairs website.

Panorama, a newsletter covering public art projects and issues, is also available online or by mail: write or email for a free subscription.

City-sector (Civic Capital) projects seek artist commissions for civic buildings, infrastructure components (streets, engineering works), parks or public open spaces. Civic commissions are typically seen as a means of humanizing infrastructure elements, reinforcing civic values, acknowledging community histories and animating public space. Artworks installed on top of traffic-signal poles, at the intersections of Granville, Oak, Cambie, Main, Fraser, Knight, Victoria and the 37th Avenue Ridgeway Greenway, are an example of work combining artistic interest and a "way-finding" function.

All major new private developments seeking rezoning are required to allocate funds to public art in publicly accessible areas. Private sector projects typically seek artist commissions which add distinction, identity, artistic profile and a marketing edge to their developments. In recent years, major private-sector commissions have transformed public realm areas of the north shore of False Creek. Works as diverse as Buster Simpson's *Brush with Illumination*, Henry Tsang's *Welcome to the Land of Light* and Chris Dikeakos and Noel

Best's *Lookout* are but three contributions to the largest public art development program in Canada. In years to come, similar commissions will be developed along public rights of way through Coal Harbour.

The Community Public Art Program fosters collaborations between artists and communities on projects which build community pride, cohesion and identity. Community members contribute their ideas, their problems and their favourite sites; artists contribute their design skills, their art-making experience and their intuitive connection to place. Notable recent examples include Eric Neighbour's fibreglass *Dragonflies* (and other insects) at Oak Park Community Centre and Firehall, 59th and Oak Street, and Pat Beaton's *For the Birds* murals at Mt. Pleasant and Riley Park community centres.

The Public Art Program is managed by the Office of Cultural Affairs in partnership with other City departments. A Council-appointed volunteer Public Art Committee, consisting of artists, curators, urban designers and community representatives, gives policy direction as well as practical advice on program implementation to City Council, staff, artists and citizens. Juries of artists and community representatives select artists for specific projects.

Awards

CITY OF VANCOUVER ARTIST RESIDENCY AWARDS

Two unique civic awards are designed to recognize professional artists for their work, while providing them with appropriate and affordable spaces for its creation. Established in 1996, the *City of Vancouver Artist Residency Award* provides rent-free occupancy of a City-owned artist live/work studio for a period of three years. The *City of Vancouver Artist Live/Work Rental Award*, set up several years later, provides a low-income professional artist with live/work studio accommodation for a three-year term at \$325 a month.

Artist Residency Award

1996-1999 Teresa Marshall
1999-2002 Steven Shearer

Artist Live/Work Rental Award

1999-2002 Alison McTaggart

CITY OF VANCOUVER BOOK AWARD

Perhaps more than anyone, writers create a city's reputation outside its boundaries — and Vancouver is blessed with an abundance of writing talent, as well as a vibrant publishing community. In recognition of this, the City presents an annual cash award to the author of an outstanding book that contributes to an appreciation of Vancouver, its history and the achievements of its residents.

City Council established the award in co-operation with members of Vancouver's book community in 1989. Works of fiction and non-fiction published anywhere in the world are eligible, and winners to date, selected by annually appointed juries, have included novelists, historians, a poet, a biographer and a botanist.

Cultural Grant Programs

In keeping with its Charter, the City of Vancouver's investment in the arts focuses on not-for-profit arts and cultural organizations. This approach recognizes that a thriving not-for-profit sector, including theatres, concert halls, alternate cinemas, museums and galleries, is a cornerstone of urban vitality that contributes to a sustainable and creative city. Moreover, the sector plays a valuable role in the overall cultural ecosystem of the arts, nurturing the talents of individual artists, and supporting the artistic innovation that benefits commercial cultural enterprises and cultural industries such as sound recording, filmmaking, publishing and new media.

The City first invested in the arts in 1893, when the City Band requested a grant for its summer concert series. Now, a century later, it contributes \$6.5 million annually to an average of 143 local arts and cultural organizations through grant programs developed and managed by the Office of Cultural Affairs on behalf of City Council. Taken together, these programs help ensure that a broad range of activities in the performing, exhibiting, media and literary arts is available to people of all ages, backgrounds and walks of life.



Right: Gu Xiong, *You and I* at Artspeak.
Photo: Kim Clarke

OPERATING ASSISTANCE

Three civic grant programs help sustain and develop the established organizations that provide the infrastructure and stability needed for a healthy arts community. Annual **Operating** grants are available to large and small organizations that create, produce or display artists' work, or that provide services to those organizations. The **Major Exhibiting Institutions** described earlier in this report receive operating assistance and have the use of City-owned or leased land and buildings at a nominal rent. **Theatre Rental** grants contribute ongoing support to performing arts groups that regularly use the Civic Theatres, among them Ballet BC, the Vancouver Bach Choir and the Playhouse Theatre Company.

PROJECT ASSISTANCE

Project grants are the City's main form of assistance for new and developing groups, as well as for those that work on a project-by-project basis. Civic funding in this category is primarily targeted to artistic initiatives that break new ground. This includes experimenting with new art forms and creative processes, introducing work from various cultures, and reaching out to diverse audiences in our pluralistic city. Another type of project assistance is provided by **Donald Alexander Baxter Theatre Rental** grants, funded through the Vancouver Foundation and administered by the Office of Cultural Affairs. These give performing arts groups that are not regular users of the Civic Theatres, including many groups from distinct communities, the opportunity to present special events in the Orpheum, Vancouver Playhouse or Queen Elizabeth Theatre.



Arts Umbrella Preschool Mixed Media Class

DIVERSITY INITIATIVES

This important program emerged from community consultations that indicated a need for more resources to build artistic capacity in Vancouver's distinct communities, especially those defined by race, ethnicity and disability. Focussing on the performing and visual arts, **Diversity Initiatives** supports the development of new works by groups from distinct communities, artistic leadership training through mentorships and internships, and cross-cultural collaborations that promote intercultural understanding and artistic development.

AUDIENCE DEVELOPMENT

In keeping with its mandate of supporting broad community access to the arts in Vancouver, the City helps promote awareness of arts and cultural activities through the **Transit Shelter Advertising** program. Operated in partnership with Pattison Outdoor Ltd., the program offers transit shelter advertising space throughout Vancouver to local not-for-profit arts organizations at a nominal cost. Depending on budget levels, special **Audience Development** grants may be also be available for start-up costs of new and unique audience development projects undertaken as partnerships by two or more arts organizations.

Funding Partnerships

The City is an active partner in developing strategic and collaborative funding mechanisms to maximize the public and private sector resources available to assist and strengthen the Vancouver arts community.

ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Organizational change and renewal are vital to the cultural sector's ability to serve its public well, to respond to the shifting priorities of public funders and private sponsors, and to use the opportunities presented by new technologies. Most of the City's contributions in this area come through partnerships. For example, it co-operates with training institutions to help arts groups upgrade staff skills through **Arts Administration Training** grants. On a larger scale, the City pools its funds with the BC Arts Council, Department of Canadian Heritage and the Vancouver Foundation in the Arts Partners in Organizational Development program. Administered by the Vancouver Arts Stabilization Team, **Arts POD** provides funding and expertise to enable small arts and cultural groups to assess organizational strengths and weaknesses and develop strategies for addressing operational challenges and long-term sustainability.

VANCOUVER ARTS STABILIZATION TEAM

The multi-year pilot project was set up to help ensure the sustainability of qualifying arts organizations. Focussing on organizational development and strategic planning, VAST has provided eight of Vancouver's largest organizations with the resources to strengthen management and governance practices, erase long-term debt, and establish working capital reserves. Funding has come from a group of corporate and individual donors, the Vancouver Foundation, Department of Canadian Heritage, BC Arts Council and the City of Vancouver, which has contributed \$500,000 over a period of five years. The program, which will run until 2004, reached a milestone in 1999 when the Arts Club Theatre joined Ballet BC, Green Thumb Theatre, Vancouver Art Gallery, Vancouver Chamber Choir, Vancouver Opera, Playhouse Theatre Company and Vancouver Symphony Orchestra as a qualifying organization.

Intermunicipal Initiatives

CULTURE-L

To facilitate the exchange of information among municipal cultural staff members across the country, the cities of Vancouver and Toronto jointly developed the electronic discussion list Culture-L in 1998. Thanks to Culture-L, a growing network of professionals working on cultural policy and planning issues in Canadian municipal governments can readily ask for advice, obtain examples of innovative practices and programs, and discuss common issues and concerns. For more information, see the OCA website.



Bramwell Tovey, Vancouver Symphony Orchestra
Photo: David Cooper



REGIONAL CULTURAL PLAN

A priority for the OCA in recent years has been the strategic planning process undertaken with the 20 other Greater Vancouver municipalities. The process has been led by the Regional Cultural Plan Steering Committee, comprising staff with cultural responsibilities in member municipalities and chaired by the Director of the Office of Cultural Affairs. Since its inception in 1995, the committee has initiated a series of research studies, conducted public consultations, and created an implementation plan to establish an intermunicipal partnership for regional cultural development.

The Steering Committee's research and consultations helped identify three key strategic directions for creating a strong arts and culture environment in the CVRD:

- ❑ co-ordinating development of region-serving cultural facilities and services
- ❑ facilitating cultural economic development initiatives
- ❑ improving region-wide information exchange about cultural activity

To address these strategic directions, the committee pinpointed five priority actions:

- ❑ improve and develop the financial environment for region-serving cultural organizations throughout Greater Vancouver
- ❑ develop the *Greater Vancouver Cultural Information Network* to improve the region-wide flow of information about arts and culture
- ❑ develop a program to enhance access to existing arts and cultural activities region-wide by facilitating their distribution to regional venues
- ❑ develop a cultural tourism strategy to increase and enhance regional distribution of the economic and social benefits of cultural tourism
- ❑ establish a new strategic partnership with senior levels of government to support arts and culture in Greater Vancouver

A business plan tabled in June 2000 recommended the establishment of an intermunicipal service delivery group to implement these actions. Given the number of players and interests involved in this major regional cultural initiative, it will be some time before all its outcomes are clear.

Portrait V2K Millennium Project

For its millennium project the City undertook *Portrait V2K*, a community-wide popular history project co-ordinated by Cultural Affairs staff in conjunction with the Vancouver Museum, Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation, Vancouver School Board and other community partners, with support from federal and provincial millennium programs, corporate sponsors and donors.

This unique portrait of the city by the people who know it best has created a rich legacy of personal stories and photos about Vancouver. These are highlighted in a six-month exhibition at the Vancouver Museum and commemorated in a 96-page book, 200 street plaques throughout the city, and ten "Story Stones" set in parks and boulevards. All of the more than 1,500 submissions sent by e-mail, collected through workshops and interviews, or received in the mail form part of a permanent archive, lodged with the Vancouver Museum, City Archives, Vancouver Public Library and Vancouver schools. Stories and photos can be viewed at www.portraitv2k.com.



English Bay 1920. Photo: Eveline Barman

Who We Are

Nancy Duxbury, Cultural Planning Analyst
Jenny Fung, Secretary
Sue Harvey, Cultural Planner
Bryan Newson, Public Art Manager
Alice Niwinski, Cultural Planner
Burke Taylor, Director
Lorenz von Fersen, Cultural Planner

OCA Website

www.city.vancouver.bc.ca/oca

The Office of Cultural Affairs' website, which is continually evolving, includes information on:

- ❑ cultural grant programs
- ❑ transit shelter advertising program
- ❑ major cultural facilities
- ❑ performing arts facilities inventory
- ❑ artist live/work studio program
- ❑ City of Vancouver book award
- ❑ public art, including the public art registry and public art walking tours
- ❑ culture-related Council reports
- ❑ reports of the Regional Cultural Plan Steering Committee



Above: Vancouver Museum Education Program

Following Pages: Paul Verheyen and Phoebe MacRae in Modern Baroque Opera's *The Amazement*. Photo: Yukiko Onley

Translations

This report describes the activities of the Office of Cultural Affairs in the City of Vancouver

Ce dépliant décrit les activités de l'Office des Affaires Culturelles de la Ville de Vancouver

Este folleto describe las actividades de la Oficina de Asuntos Culturales de la Municipalidad de Vancouver

Tài liệu này liệt kê những chương trình do Phòng Văn Hóa Thành Phố Vancouver thực hiện

ਇਹ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਵੈਨਕੂਵਰ ਸ਼ਹਿਰ ਦੇ ਸੱਭਿਆਚਾਰਕ ਕਾਰਜਿਹਾਰ ਡੈਵਤਰ ਦੀ ਬਰਗਰਮੀ ਵਾਰੇ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਦਿੰਦਾ ਹੈ.

本單張介紹溫哥華市政府屬下文化事務部的活動與工作。

Thank you to all the cultural organizations that sent photographs to help illustrate this report.



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