

Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows
Arts Council

A **C** **T** **arts**
centre

2020-2021
Annual Report



Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows Arts Council/ The ACT Arts Centre 2020-2021 Annual Report



Table of Contents

Vision Mission Values	1
Executive Summary	2
Community Engagement and Access	3
The ACT Presents Performance Series	4
Arts Learning Programs	6
The ACT Art Gallery	8
The Volunteer Program	10
Finances, Recovery and Sustainability	11
Funders and Donors	13
2020-2021 Board of Directors	16
Staff	16
Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows	17
Arts Council	17

Vision | Mission | Values

Vision

To bring arts to the heart of our community.

Mission

We work in partnership with the community to develop, promote and celebrate the arts.

Values

Leadership • Collaboration • Integrity • Diversity • Accessibility • Innovation • Enjoyment

We acknowledge that we are fortunate to be able to work, create, learn, and connect on the traditional unceded territories of the Katsie First Nation and Kwantlen First Nation.

Programming Mandate

- to present high-quality exhibitions and performances featuring primarily Canadian artists
- to present a diverse balance of artistic and educational programming
- to develop The MRPMAC/ACT ARTS CENTRE Arts Centre as an inclusive centre for arts and culture within the community, appealing to a wide range of interests and ages
- to create mutually beneficial co-presenting opportunities, within our resources, with other not-for-profit arts and community organizations that will strengthen and diversify the cultural sector
- to encourage and support local artists and arts organizations through the delivery of our vision, mission and values



Executive Summary

Now 20 months into the Covid-19 pandemic, we continue to practice resiliency, flexibility and creativity, as we have learned to do having navigated a full year in the pandemic. Though our theatres have been shuttered for most of the year, in spite of all the year's challenges, we have not and will not waver from our efforts to continue to deliver our mission and programs. We have had so many bright spots that give hope for a slow but steady recovery:

The Arts Learning Programs saw record uptake in the Spring Break summer camps and were very close to filled to capacity for most of the year. We added many new classes for all ages, and the strong participation throughout the year proves that the arts are a basic human need, especially in difficult times.

The ACT Presents Series of live performances re-started in fall of 2020, offering a series of 50-seat houses, only to be closed in November by public health orders for the remainder of the season. Before the closure, we were able to welcome small numbers of patrons back to the theatres, which gave our staff the invaluable experience of planning for and executing the highest degree of safety standards in our spaces.

The Art Gallery remained open throughout the season, hosting a full season of exhibitions. The Arts Council acknowledges the immense contributions of artists and community members Gloria Stanley, Diane Speirs, Lisa Shepherd and Rob Egan for their invaluable service on the community Gallery Advisory Committee, led by Board member Linda King. The work of this committee resulted in sustaining gallery programs throughout a challenging time and offered valuable direction in long-term planning for the gallery.

Community Engagement activities moved into the virtual realm, in a series of partnership events with City of Maple Ridge and other community groups, for Canada Day, Celebrate the Night, Culture Days and Winter Fest. The operations team led our industry in developing a robust Covid Safety plan that allowed many of our long-time community organizations to continue to hold their performances and year-end recitals, videotaped and live-streamed.

We could not have continued to deliver any of the programs without the continuing generosity of our loyal volunteers, without whom, The ACT could not continue to operate. We are so very grateful to them for remaining steadfast in their generosity of time and talents to the Arts Council as they were able.

The uncertainty of the early days of the pandemic has now given way to the likelihood that the Covid pandemic will not be a finite period of time, but an 'era', in which we learn to live with this virus, as we have learned to live with the flu and other seasonal hazards. This will inevitably affect how people gather and participate in cultural events and activities, and it may be some time before The ACT fully regains its pre-Covid participation levels.

Even so, the fundamentals for the Arts Council's continuing impact remain strong. Dedicated people on the Board, staff and volunteers, committed support from our donors and funders, and a growing and thriving community with engaged arts-lovers will ensure the arts will continue to make an important contribution in the quality of life of the community.

Our greatest success over the past year is that, due to committed efforts on the part of the Board, staff, volunteers, funders and donors, the Arts Council remains strong and continues to connect, inspire, and heal our community through the arts as we all look forward to begin to gather together again.

Onwards and upwards,



A blue ink signature of Laura Butler.

Laura Butler
President



A blue ink signature of Curtis Pendleton.

Curtis Pendleton
Artistic & Executive Director

Community Engagement and Access

Though The ACT remained open only to registered guests and participants throughout most of the year, The Centre was the site of many community events that were recorded or livestreamed.

Canada Day 2020 welcomed country music artist Aaron Pritchett to the lobby of The ACT, in a live-streamed virtual celebration organized by the City of Maple Ridge.

The Arts Council also partnered with **Greg Moore Youth Centre** to host the annual **Youth Talent Show**, which was recorded and live-streamed from the Mainstage Theatre.

Culture Days welcomed guests to *Weaving Cultural Identities; Threads Through Time* textile and weaving exhibition in the Gallery. The City of Maple Ridge's **Celebrate the Night** live-streamed a performance from The ACT's Mainstage Theatre, featuring the Juno Award-winning Indie band *Said the Whale*. The ACT welcomed families for hot chocolate and photo ops with the lobby 20-ft tall Christmas tree as part of Maple Ridge's Winter Fest outdoor events.

The continual changing pandemic landscape presented many challenges for our rental clients over the year.

By developing a rigorous Covid -19 Safety plan, the operations team stepped to the forefront of our industry, becoming leaders in returning live filmed and live-streamed dance to the stage. Working closely with guidance from Fraser Health Authority, The ACT welcomed over 5,000 youth dancers to the Mainstage, in groups of 50 or fewer, allowing youth to showcase their year of hard work while keeping all participants safe.

The film industry was one of the first to open up after initial pandemic restrictions, and through joint efforts with the film safe workplace during the many movie shoots taking place at The ACT, including TV shows *Superman & Lois*, *Van Helsing* and *The J Team*, to movies *A Christmas in Nashville* with *Dolly Parton*, *Honey Girls* and several more.

The Arts Council proudly continued its *Excellence in Arts Youth Scholarship* program, awarding four scholarships in support of their continuing post-secondary education to the following SD 42 graduating Seniors, for their outstanding achievements in the Arts:

Kamil Gallus, Visual/Media Arts, Pitt Meadows Secondary

Gladys Zhao, Visual/Media Arts, Meadowridge School

Ethan Page, Music, Maple Ridge Secondary

Nicky Walton, Music, Maple Ridge Christian School

Number of community
use events

138

Attendance to
community use events

10,077



The ACT Presents Performance Series

The ACT Presents Series scheduled a total of 32 live performance events and film screenings to take place Sept 2020 - March 2021. All but a few had to be cancelled or rescheduled when we received news of further theatre closures in November of 2020, which kept our theatres dark to the public for the remainder of the season. While we were still able to provide performances and screenings for audiences of 50 people in September - October 2020, audiences enjoyed National Theatre Encore screenings of *The Lehman Trilogy*, Noël Coward's *Present Laughter*, Shakespeare's *Midsummer Night's Dream* and Arthur Miller's *All my Sons*.



Jill Barber

Live performances included vocalists **Jill Barber** in a solo show, Juno award nominee **Michael Kaeshammer**, jazz pianist **John Stetch** and the classical duo **Bergmann Piano Duo**.



Michael Kaeshammer

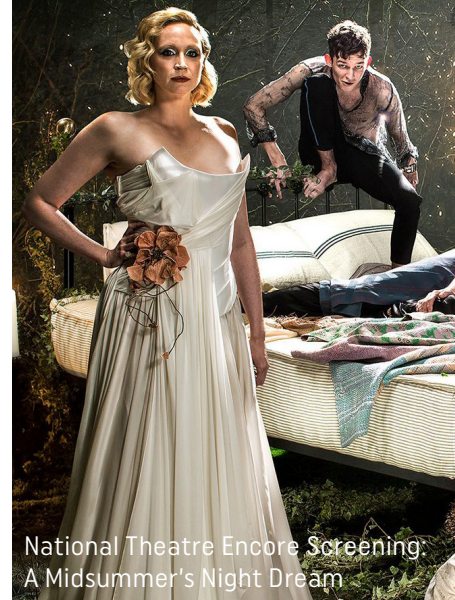


The Bergmann Duo

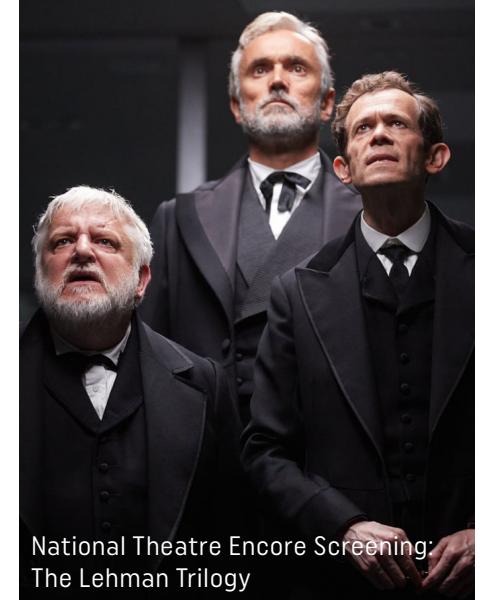


John Stetch

Extensive patron surveys indicated our patrons were not interested in streaming, and though had participated in streaming in the early days of the pandemic, their appetite for looking at a screen rather than participating in live arts diminished as the pandemic wore on. With live attendance at theatres impossible, throughout the season, we kept in close touch with our patrons through e-communications, offering aggregated online and streaming content links from regional, provincial national and international sources.



National Theatre Encore Screening:
A Midsummer's Night Dream



National Theatre Encore Screening:
The Lehman Trilogy



National Theatre Encore Screening:
Present Laughter



National Theatre Encore Screening:
All My Sons

Arts Learning Programs

Arts Learning Programs continued to attract strong and consistent participation, though with reduced number of classes available, as well as reduced numbers of students in order to adhere to PHO regulations and building capacities. Most classes had strong registration across the many age groups these programs serve, attracting children and youth, adult learners, school groups and teachers. Ceramics classes continued to flourish, with large waitlists, and musical theatre classes had strong participation and enthusiastic participants.

Spring programming, including Spring Break camps and specially-created programming for Kanaka Creek Elementary, saw an incredible increase over expectations, welcoming 631 participants to 71 different registered activities.



Arts Learning Programming has continued to run successful **home-schooling learning programs** throughout this programming year, offering classes in clay, art history, and cyber school.

Though **online and virtual programs** were offered throughout the year, interest in "in-person" programming began to increase and eclipse virtual learning. The last on-line class took place in spring 2021 and all programs have now been planned to be delivered fully in-person starting in summer 2021.

Arts Learning Programs welcomed **SD42 classes** to the exhibition and workshop of *The Still Lives of Leslie Pool*, a retrospective of one of Canada's leading visual artists in the ACT Arts Gallery. Classes from Alouette Elementary attended in person, and Yennadon Elementary and Pitt Meadows Elementary participated in very successful **premiere interactive virtual Art Gallery tour and workshop**.

Supporting educators with arts-based professional development opportunities, **the first Pro-D activity offered by the Arts Council** offered *Visual Art as a Recreational Therapy* for elementary school students. This Pro-D had to be cancelled due to COVID, and is rescheduled for Fall 2021.



Drop-in programs for adult learners included four **Life Drawing** sessions, six **artBARs** exploring glass painting, macramé, floral arranging, ceramics Halloween pumpkins, and paint pours on canvas. **Open Studio** in the ceramic studio allowed registered students to hone their skills and knowledge throughout the year. In compliance with public health orders, **Teen Band Jam** for Youth and **Friday Night Dance** for adults were cancelled until further notice.

All in all, the strong participation in the Arts Learning Programs throughout the year proves the intense need for creating and learning these programs fulfill in the community.

The ACT Art Gallery

The Art Gallery remained open throughout the season, welcoming visitors on a timed-entry basis with increasing capacity as the year progressed. Four diverse exhibitions were offered throughout 2020-2021 encompassing a touring exhibition, community exhibitions, and the first guest-curated show.

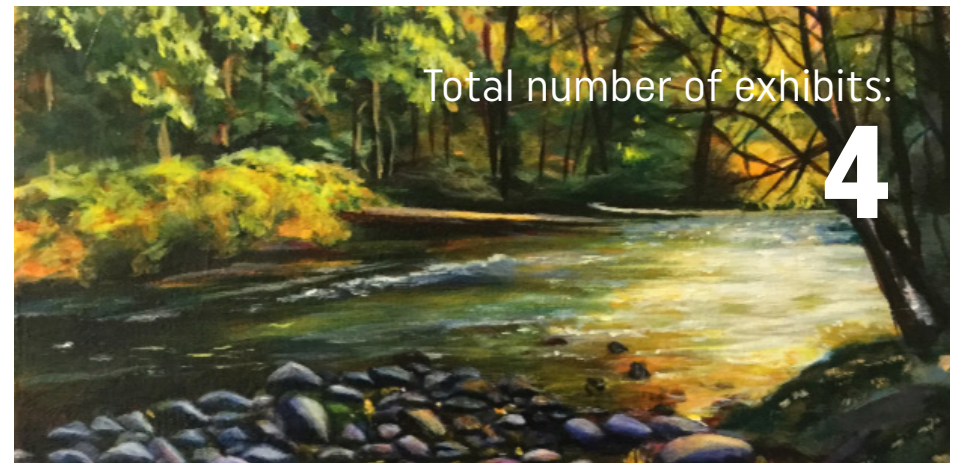


Weaving Cultural Identities: Threads Through Time

Vancouver Biennale

WEAVING CULTURAL IDENTITIES: THREADS

THROUGH TIME September 12 - October 17, 2020 | The Art Gallery **hosted** the Vancouver Biennale's touring of impressive and symbolic weavings created by six renowned Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh weavers. Part of a multi-phase project commissioned and circulated as part of the 2018-20 Vancouver Biennale, the project invited Indigenous and multi-ethnic weavers to engage in conversations about colonization and the dividing up of stolen land that followed. Featured artists included: Angela George (Squamish and Tsleil Waututh), Chepximiya Siyam' Chief Janice George (Squamish) and Skwetsimeltxw Willard 'Buddy' Joseph (Squamish), Debra Sparrow (Musqueam), Doaa



Total number of exhibits:

4

'SCAPES- GARIBALDI ART CLUB- 2020 JURIED

SHOW October 24 - December 12, 2020 | The Art Gallery showcased local painters group, the Garibaldi Art Club, exploring the traditional notion of 'landscape', finding inspiration in other 'scapes' including seascapes, cityscapes, and gardenscapes, among others.

MEDITATIONS: THE STILL LIVES OF LESLIE POOLE

January 9 - March 31, 2021 | This exhibit welcomed a unique retrospective exhibition featuring the still life works of one of Canada's most extensively recognized and collected artists, Leslie Poole.

Curated by Guest Curator Dr. Angela Clarke, Museum Director and Curator at the Italian Cultural Centre of Vancouver's Il Museo, exhibition of vibrant large-format paintings asked the viewer, after 11 months of isolation and computer screens, have we lost the ability to "see" the real world around us? The show invited viewers to step away from technology and fear-of-missing-out social media and embrace the things usually ignored in everyday life and to take a second look and encouraged the viewer to reflect less on our months of seclusion and use art to emerge back into the tangible and tactile world. The exhibition welcomed the first virtual school tours of the Gallery, to Pitt Meadows Elementary School and Yennadon Elementary School.



Curious Octopus and Ancient Vase
Brigitta Schneider

SHARING JOY: MAPLE RIDGE PITT MEADOWS ART STUDIO TOUR

Saturday, April 17 - Saturday, June 26, 2021 | When the pandemic forced the cancellation of the iconic 20-year old Maple Ridge Pitt Meadows Art Studios Tour weekend, The ACT Art Gallery welcomed the Art Studios Tour into our space for a longer exhibition, featuring 20+ artists to continue connecting artists with patrons. The exhibition translated the theme, 'Sharing Joy', through paintings in all mediums, functional pottery, ceramic sculptures, jewelry, sculpture, paper arts, functional art, mosaics, and more. 'Sharing Joy' reminded patrons that art brings joy not only to the beholder, but also to the artists, and demonstrated how art brings joy, especially when we work together and support one another.

The Volunteer Program

Although the pandemic has kept a majority of our beloved volunteers home over the year many others were able to help support the Gallery and shop operations this past season, welcoming the community back into The ACT with a smile and spritz of hand sanitizer.

Volunteers dedicated over **270 hours** to the many children and youth Arts Learning Programs, helping our instructors deliver high-quality summer camps and extraordinary weekly classes.

Many volunteers who could not come to the ACT in person participated in virtual tea parties, email conversations and some even brought out their sewing machine to help fashion bunting for the next season's 50th Anniversary projects and activities. Even when they cannot be with us our team of volunteers are reaching out in other ways to support each other, The ACT and our community.

We look forward to when we can be together again with all our volunteers and sharing the wonderful experiences, friendships and of course the amazing arts experiences The ACT has to offer.

Total number of active volunteers

31

1,307

Total number of
volunteer hours

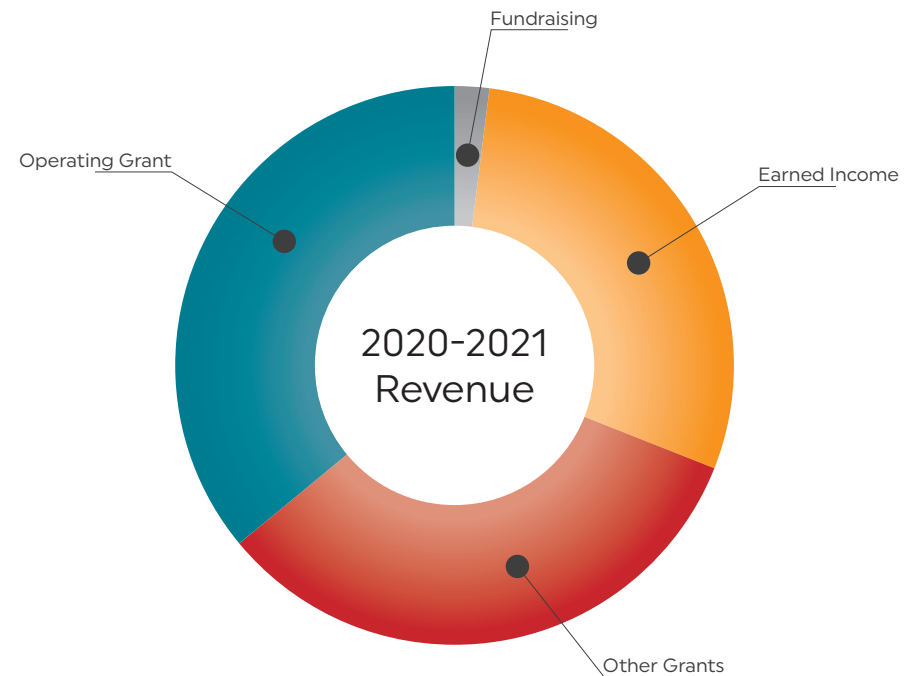


Finances, Recovery and Sustainability

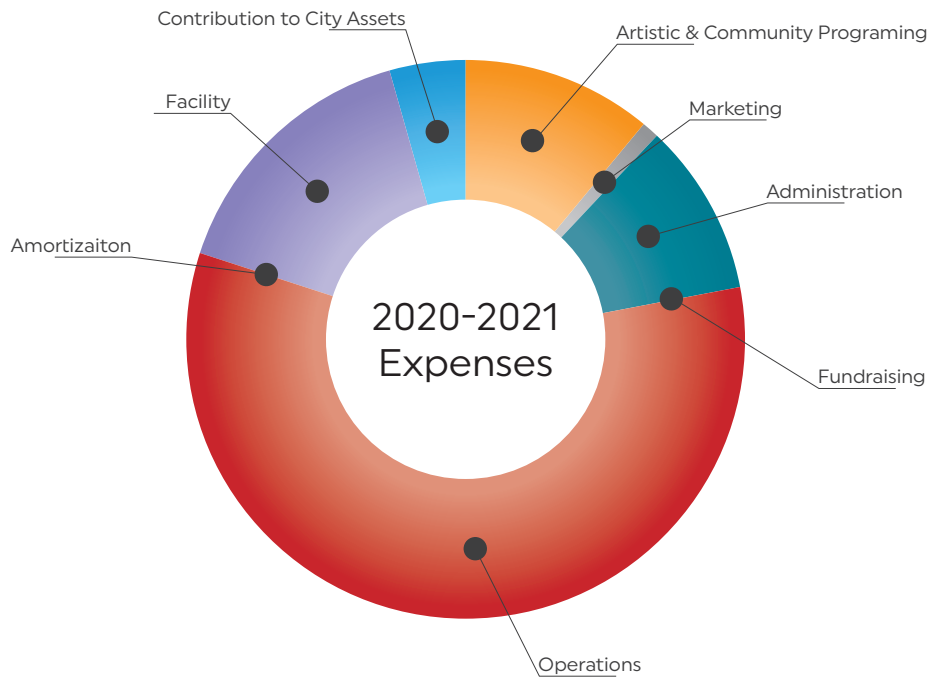
The Arts Council continued to reduce expenses while taking part in every grant and funding program available to continue operations of the Centre. The Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy program (CEWS), which covered a percentage of payroll, played a crucial role in maintaining a core staff to keep the Centre open and reduced-capacity programs running. Other pandemic funding support came from the Federal and Provincial governments. Earned revenue came primarily through rentals, for filmed events and for film shoots.

CEWS funding was gradually reduced over the course of the year, and will come to an end by mid-October 2021.

Additionally, early audience response indicates that despite the BC Vaccine Card required to attend performances, and the recent lifting of capacity restrictions, audiences remain reluctant to return to theatre spaces. Until the Centre can operate at full capacity and re-build its audience participation, The ACT will be unable to expect significant earned revenue, likely through 2022. As we recover and rebuild, projected sources to sustain core operations are past Fiscal Year reserves, which have been restricted by the Board of Directors to sustain recovery.



Revenue	Amount	Percentage
Operating grant	\$780,832	36%
Other Grants	\$705,253	33%
Earned Income	\$636,646	29%
Fundraising	\$38,926	2%
Total	\$2,161,657	100%



Expenses

	Amount	Percentage
Artistic & Community Programming	\$151,532	11%
Marketing	\$10,181	1%
Fundraising	\$1,726	~1%
Administration	\$135,477	10%
Operations	\$830,070	60%
Facility	\$188,022	14%
Contribution to City Assets	\$65,190	5%
Amortization	\$1,375	~1%
Total	\$1,383,573	100%

Revenue over(under) expense \$778,084



Funders and Donors

2020/2021 saw tremendous support for The ACT and The Arts Council from our regular community of granting bodies, sponsors and individual donors, as well as new emergency funding to help weather the pandemic storm.

Prospera (newly merged with Westminster Savings), was one of the first long-time funders to step in and pledge renewed funding for the 20/21 season, and **Morningstar Homes Limited**, Title Sponsor of The ACT Presents Season, in the second year of our three-year partnership, offered to apply their sponsorship to cover all Arts Centre Programs, recognizing that we would be challenged to program and present live performances. **Johnston Meier Insurance Agencies Group** renewed their sponsorship of The ACT Presents Season, supporting us in whatever form we were able to present.

The Government of Canada, Department of Canadian Heritage, and **The BC Arts Council**, pledged to renew support at the prior year's level, advancing the funding to be used for our programs at our

discretion. **The BC Arts Council** gave generously with a new **Expanded Arts & Culture Resilience Supplement Award**, and **Canadian Heritage – Cultural Spaces** expanded to grant funds specifically for COVID-19 related upgrades, to maintain the safety and health of staff, volunteers and patrons in our venue.

Additionally, **The Maple Ridge Community Foundation** administered funds from **Community Foundations of Canada**, COVID-19 Special Funding to maintain social connections to our vulnerable populations.

The Operating Agreement between the Maple Ridge Pitt Meadows Arts Council and City of Maple Ridge for operation of the The ACT Arts Centre was renewed for three years (2021-2023), and includes an operating grant to partially support programming across all program areas.

The Arts Council is so grateful to all our supporters, including donors to our annual fund, sponsors and grantors, for their generosity and commitment to the Arts through this challenging time.



2020/2021 Annual Fund Donors

ACT CHAMPIONS CIRCLE (\$1000+)

Sandra Wright

ACT HEROS (\$500-\$999)

Wayne Stephen
Bissky Architecture
& Urban Design Inc.
Broitman Family
Karin & Andy Clevon
Downtown Maple Ridge Business
Improvement Association
Josine Eikelenboom
Golden Artist Colors, Inc.
Victoria Gracey
Gillian Hodge
Linda King
Ken McCaig
Babs McLaren
Mike & Nancy Murray
Betty Anne Nelligan
Curtis Pendleton & Robert Caron
Jim Rule & Diana Mullock

ACT PRODUCING ASSOCIATES (\$300-\$499)

Laura Butler
Jean & Larry Doran
Dawn Flanagan
Berit Korsvold
Cheryl MacDonald

Alex Pope
Dr. Lynn Prindle
Kathleen Spiess
Janet Symonds

ACT PATRONS (\$100 - \$299)

Anonymous (1)
Doug & Helen Bing
Britta Cederberg
Teresa Cunningham
Jean Davidson
Bonnie Douglas
Linda & Douglas Gregson
Haney Automotive
Robert Hebert
In Memory of Nik Radosevic
Judy Jones
Kalyk Family
Debbie Kennedy
Linda King - *In memory of Sheila
Nickols & Dick Middleton*
Laurie Kinsman
Gayle Lyons
John & Val MacDonald
Catherine MacPherson
Velma Martin
Angie McLeod
Cameron Mcquarrie
McDonald's Restaurants of Canada Ltd.
Barbara Neff
Libby Nelson
Natasha Newberry - *in memory of
Sean Noll*
Cliff Olson

Paula Panek
Norma Jean Phillips
Nell Plotnikoff
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Carla Reed
John Ricketts
Monica Schulte
Patricia & James Thompson
Kendra Valois
Maria Vioria
Katherine Wagner
Diane Wallace
Janell Wallace
Dorothy Watts
Westgate Flower Garden
Joan Williams

FRIENDS OF THE ACT (\$25 - \$99)

Anonymous (8)
Jon Aaron
Addie Anderson
Linda Arnold
Pauline Bentley
Kevin Binnie
Wendy Bishop
Mary Blackstock
Leslie Brett
Olivia Burrage
Lori Campbell
Clear Focus Camera Club
Gary Cleave
Bev Collier
Diane Daignault

Karl Doering
Lionel Doucette
Jack Emberly
Heather Escaravage
Susan Farrell
Garibaldi Art Club
Zeta Gesme
Candace Gordon
Kathleen Hall
Patricia Hamer
Edie Hume
Sue Kellas
Christine Lewis
Janet Luinenburg
Michelle MacPhail
Kathy McRae
Sarah Nelson
Pearl Rooke
Diana Sanderson
Raeanne Schachter
Phyllis Schnider
Diane & Craig Speirs
Nina Stafford
Trevor & Marcia Takasaki
Teresa Thieman
Marla van Hilten
Beverley Van Rooyen
Sandra Walton
Christina Wensley

We thank our generous Funders & Donors



SPONSORS



Season
Title
Sponsor



Johnston Meier
Insurance Agencies Group

Music
Series
Sponsor

FUNDERS



Funded by the
Government
of Canada



2020-2021 Board of Directors

Laura Butler	<i>President</i>
Angie Mcleod	<i>Vice President</i>
Gary Cleave	<i>Secretary</i>
Monica Schulte	<i>Treasurer</i>
Linda King	<i>Director</i>
Jon Aaron	<i>Director</i>
Addie Anderson	<i>Director</i>
Kevin Binnie	<i>Director</i>
Karl Doering	<i>Director</i>
John Ricketts	<i>Director</i>
Diane Speirs	<i>Director</i>

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Katie Sullivan, *School District 42 Liaison*
Councillor Chelsa Meadus, *City of Maple Ridge Liaison*
Yvonne Chui, *City of Maple Ridge, Parks, Recreation and Culture Liaison*

Staff

Ms. Curtis Pendleton, *Artistic & Executive Director*

Business Administration

Pilaar Yule, *Finance Officer*
Michelle Taylor, *Accounting Clerk*

Marketing & Communications

Laurie Kinsman, *Manager, Marketing, Communications, and Brand*
Scott Ritchings, *Marketing & Communications Supervisor*

Development

Lyndsay MacAulay, *Development Officer*

Art Gallery

Philippa Glossop, *Artistic Administrator*

Arts Programs

Naomi Evans, *Arts Learning Programs Manager*
Tracy Wiens, *Arts Learning Programs Manager (Maternity Cover)*
Lori Ceaser, *Arts Learning Programs Administrative Assistant*

Event Services

Landrie Davies, *Operations Manager*
Kassidy Lesser, *Event Services Supervisor*
Chris McGill, Anthony Valentyne, Denise Allan, *Bartenders*

Technicians

Nathan Cordeiro, *Technical Director*
Shadoe Reisler, *Head Venue Technician*
John Supeene, Colin Carruthers, Cameron Davies-Conley, Russ Hawryzki, Kyle Myhre, Brady Veltin, *Technicians on Call*

Facility Operations

Colin McKay, *Facility Maintenance Supervisor*
Michael March, *Custodian*

Ticket Centre

Jennifer Babstock, *Ticket Centre Manager*
Jaime Lenz, *Ticket Centre Attendant*

Instructors

Janet Comer, Shelly Davies-Conley, Philippa Glossop, Sarah Helten, Lisa Lake, Laura Johnson, Jane McKay, Farhad Sadeghi Amini, Kathy Nay, *Art/Mixed Media*
Moriya Reeb, *Textiles*
Clive Tucker, Neidin Prout, William Hartley, Andrea Sutinen, Dan Severance, Ronald Boersen, *Pottery*
Mike McDonald, Angelic Voices, Matthew Clarke, *Music*
Lauren Trotzuk, *Drama*
Chloe Zondag, Paris Zondag, Katrina Smith, Rachael Harwood, Jill Karwatski, Julia Houle, Bobbi & Patricia Lusic, Robyn Picard, *Dance*
Paul Albertson, *Magic*
Mayra Gondim, Erik Walters, Kids Innovative,
Jason Peckham from Spark Academics, *Media Arts/Tech For Kids*

Canada Summer Jobs 2020, 2021

Emily Blackwell, Ava Buckley, Natasha Gosling, Nikki Szeto, Ruby Taylor, *Arts Learning Program Assistants*
Mahnoor Faisal, Rebecca Smit, *Marketing Assistants*
Arveen Gogoani, *Assistant Volunteer Coordinator*



Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows
Arts Council