

Vancouver Moving Theatre in cooperation with the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians,
six community partners and Jumblies Theatre present



THE BIG HOUSE

UKRAINIAN HALL

MAY 8 TO 10 2015



Vancouver Moving Theatre acknowledges and honours that this event is taking place on the ancestral and unceded territories of the x̱məθkʷəy̱əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), səliwətaʔt (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations and Secwepemul'ecw.

Vancouver Moving Theatre in cooperation with
the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians,
six community partners and Jumblies Theatre
present

THE BIG HOUSE

A COMMUNITY GATHERING & CULTURAL FEAST
TO HONOUR THE FOUNDING COAST SALISH,
URBAN ABORIGINAL & IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES
OF THE DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE AND THE
GATHERING PLACES THAT GIVE IT STRENGTH

KAYACHTN WELCOME HUANGYINGBITAJEMO

Friday May 8, 5:30-8:30pm – doors open 4:30pm
Even in the Face of Adversity, There are Reasons to Celebrate
Honouring the Community of the Ukrainian Hall

Saturday May 9, 5:30 – 8:30pm – doors open 4:30pm
Memory is the Mother of Community
Honouring the Downtown Eastside
and the Gathering Places that Give it Strength

Sunday May 10, 2:00-5:00pm – doors open 1:00pm
Honouring Ancestral Territory and Artists
Working with and for Communities Across Canada

The feast is approximately three hours with no intermission.
Please turn off pagers, cellular phones and wrist-watch alarms
Taking photographs or making any recording of the feast is not
permitted.

UKRAINIAN HALL
805 East Pender Street

Letters or Comments:
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WELCOME! – VITAYEMO!

The *Big House* is a theatrical feast celebrating First Nations, Asian and European presence in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside: the historic heart of the city that lies between Cambie and Clark, Burrard Inlet and the old False Creek Flats.

Our Big House embraces the communities and founding cultures that make up this neighbourhood; our community partner organizations in the Downtown Eastside that contribute so much to the well-being of our community; and all of you who have gathering together for today's feast.

With the help of a great team of artists, we will share with you some of the Downtown Eastside's history and culture, celebrate its survival, and honour long-standing relationships between our diverse cultures and communities.

Thank you so much for joining us in this, our *Big House*. Enjoy!

Terry Hunter

Founder/Executive Director, Vancouver Moving Theatre
Artistic Producer, Downtown Eastside Heart of the City Festival

Welcome to our home! Vitayemo!

For over eighty years, this hall has been home to countless individuals, both Ukrainian and others, who happened to set foot in the Vancouver area and needed a place to meet, a place to renew old friendships and a place to foster new ones. Our Hall became that meeting place.

Ours has been a very active and colourful history. Members of this hall played key roles in supporting many social causes and workers struggles to help make this a better society. We are proud of our accomplishments.

We are very pleased to welcome you to this Big House Feast. We as an organization feel honoured to be a partner of this tremendous undertaking. Friday's event honours the community of the Ukrainian Hall. Saturday's event will honour the community of the Downtown Eastside and gathering places that give it strength. Sunday afternoon will honour the ancestral territory and artists from communities across Canada. By bringing these groups together and sharing our culture, we hope we will continue the traditions established by our predecessors.

We look optimistically towards the future.

Dianna Kleparchuk

President, Association of United Ukrainian Canadians, Vancouver Branch

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Big House projects are cultural feasts created for, with and about the Downtown Eastside's founding Coast Salish and immigrant/urban aboriginal communities: a thank you from Vancouver Moving Theatre to the neighbourhood in which it was founded.

These three Big House feasts taking place at the Ukrainian Hall this spring are the sixth in a series of feasts produced at local neighbourhood gathering places in partnerships with Downtown Eastside based organizations and Toronto's Jumblies Theatre.

Like other urban and rural places across Canada, this community has need of reconciliation. It is experiencing complex aftermaths of communal wounds: inherited legacies of displacement, residential schools, racism, exclusionary policies and their correlation with poverty, homelessness and pain-copying addictions. We have damaged and broken relationships to repair and new relationships to forge where none existed, while co-habiting lands and waterways upon whose health our collective survival depends.

In cultural traditions of the Downtown Eastside, feasts are a time for nourishing relationships, marking important events, offering gifts and acknowledgements, sharing learning and teaching, telling stories of interconnection, loss and joy: a storehouse of memories for the future.

Our communities have stories to share in the language of art about what is happening in Canada and who we are. We gain strength from traditional cultural teachings embedded in hospitality, story, song and dance. New stories are emerging for our situation and time, formed by culture, protocols and techniques that existed on this continent before colonialism, and those brought from the four corners of the globe. In the Big House we are coming together to create art with, for and about our community as we move forward in the long shadow of our collective history.

Thank you to AUUC Vancouver/Ukrainian Hall, our Big House community partners and the artistic and production team for your generous and immensely appreciated and valued support of these feasts. It is an honour and a privilege to work with you. Our community is stronger because of you.

Enjoy!

Savannah Walling

Founder/Artistic Director, Vancouver Moving Theatre
Associate Artistic Director, DTES Heart of the City Festival



AUUC VANCOUVER

Here in Vancouver's historic Downtown Eastside, the AUUC's heritage is rich and proud. Since its founding in 1928 at 805 East Pender Street, the hall has been committed to social justice and involved in major events in the city's labour history. The organization has been active in progressive labour movements and in providing a continuous program of instruction and performance in dance, choral and instrumental music as well as ongoing exploration of cultural traditions such as Malanka: the Ukrainian New Year's event celebrating the return of the sun's warmth and the lengthening days.

"Today the AUUC is a secular cultural organization dedicated to enjoying and preserving Ukrainian cultural expression within the multicultural environment of Canada. Members come from many walks of life and regions of the lower mainland and from various religions and ethnic groups. Many of them are long-term members or have generations-long family histories and involvement with the AUUC or are new to the organization."

– Laurel Lawry, Co-Artistic Director, AUUC School of Dance

The AUUC sponsors Vancouver's longest running folk orchestra, the Vancouver Folk Orchestra, and also the Barvinok Folk Choir, the AUUC School of Dancing, the senior Dovbush Dancers, and the annual Malanka, a Ukrainian New Year Celebration. In addition, the association reaches out to the community by sponsoring concerts, dinners and perogy lunches. The Association produces artistic activity throughout the year and is a host of rehearsals and cultural events produced by visiting cultural groups and arts organizations.

For more information visit: www.auucvancouver.ca

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ARTIST STATEMENTS

BEVERLY DOBRINSKY

I have been involved with the Big House Project from the beginning, being invited by VMT to facilitate the music aspect of the first feast at Oppenheimer Park in 2010. It was our intention to bring together neighbours of diverse cultural backgrounds [First Nations, Chinese, and Ukrainian] from the Downtown Eastside of Vancouver to a 'performative feast' which would draw from the traditions of all involved; as well as allow us to create new artistic expression of the shared experience. It proved to be a very satisfying artistic and community venture that challenged all of us to create an event which was wholly inclusive. We started from a strong grounding of respect for ourselves and each other, as we listened, offered, and learned. I was so struck by the possibilities of cultural sharing that were opened up by this 'simple' breaking of bread together that I suggested to Savannah at the end that this should be an annual event.

And so it has become.

I have continued in my capacity as musical facilitator throughout five more Big Houses, having the privilege of being witness to a beautiful unfolding. Each feast, although sharing some common elements of an evolving template, is its own unique expression of this coming together in the Big House. It is a beautiful kaleidoscope of artistic expression rooted in multicultural sharing and community feasting.

PAULA JARDINE

When my ancestors came to this country, they were looking to make a better life for their children and their children's children. They were unaware of the displacement they caused for the Mi'kmaq people on Prince Edward Island, where my father's people settled, or the devastation caused by the clearing of the plains that made it possible for my Ukrainian great-grandparents to farm in Manitoba.

I was inspired by the truth and reconciliation gathering in Victoria, and Murray Sinclair's words compelling those in attendance to take what we had learned and witnessed and share it with our communities. I want to be a part of a new relationship with First Nations in this country; for my ancestors, and for my children's children.

Designing the decor for this version of the Big House has given me an opportunity to explore more deeply my Ukrainian heritage, through the ancient iconography of pagan Ukrainian traditions. It is my great pleasure to serve tea for you today.

ROSEMARY GEORGESON

I am a Coast Salish/Dene storyteller, playwright and filmmaker with over twenty years of experience in the performing arts community. My work honours the knowledge that has been passed down to me through generations of my family, particularly our connection to water and fish. The stories that I tell are rooted within the histories of my own ancestors. And they are intended to be shared with a wide audience, sparking conversations and questions, and deepening people's connections to their own stories, ancestors, and homelands. I am particularly interested in telling stories that have been marginalized or silenced, and ethically I feel that this work must be inter-generational and cross-cultural.

Most of the projects that I have been involved with have started with a question, a missing part of the past, or a person who is not in the archives. I am currently researching the story of my great grandmother Emma and am actively working with the resources and archives housed at the Vancouver Public Library. I've written a piece on her called *My name is not Emma*, but there is still a lot of work to be done. The stories that I share are rooted in my own personal history and my family's history, and my family has a large history here, which gives me a lot to pull from.

I am very fortunate to be part of The Big House project from the beginning. The combination of feasting and sharing stories takes me back to our home in Georgeson Bay when I was a child. That time was the best learning experience of my life; hearing the stories and learning the things I needed to sustain me in my life. The Big House project has brought that connection back and it has been an honour to be part of this journey.

SHARON KALLIS

Thank you to all community members who have come out in the past year to eart-Hand Gleaners Society events or worked at the Means of Production garden and assisted in harvesting and processing the plants used in our various projects. The majority of work on display in the Lobby is a part of the harvesting and research work undertaken through the Terroir: Urban Cloth Project.

Terroir means a sense of place. It is the sum of the effects that the local environment, geography, geology and climate can have on a product created from the land. The Urban Cloth project weaves together First Nation gathering traditions, early settler agricultural methods and contemporary environmental art practices through shared investigations for urban cloth production. Our physical labour has been assisted, witnessed and transformed into a choreographed dance with community members. Together we examine labour and ritual, as they are linked through intention, concentration, and repetition.

Lead artists for Urban Cloth are: Tracy Williams, Sharon Kallis and Mirae Rosner. The shoe tangent that has come from this project has also been embraced by local weaver Rebecca Graham, another artist with whom we are pleased to share skills, and work with in the community. A final celebration shall take place June 14, 2015 with community dancers wearing their slippers. Please visit urbanclothterroir.wordpress.com for more information.

FRIDAY MAY 8 • ORDER OF THE FEAST

HONOURING THE COMMUNITY OF THE UKRAINIAN HALL

EVEN IN THE FACE OF ADVERSITY, THERE IS REASON TO CELEBRATE

The sequence and details listed below may have changed slightly between the writing of this program and the event. There will also be a few pleasant surprises on the way.

THE GATHERING PLACE

Sharon Kallis, Tetiana Zaruba, Coast Salish and Ukrainian weaving demonstrations/ Calvin Cairns (violin)

ARRIVALS

Erhu – Jirong Huang / table greetings and Introductions – table hosts / TEA and APPETIZERS

INTRODUCTION

Opening words – Dianna Kleparchuk and Terry Hunter / territorial acknowledgement – Bob Baker, Squamish Nation / song: *Blahoslovit'* (Ukrainian blessing song) as BREAD is served – Beverly Dobrinsky / Bread & Salt Welcome – Dovbush Dancers

SUMMER *a time for growing and learning*

Speaker of the House – Cody Kenny / story: *Plant & Human Communities Working Together* – Sharon Kallis / words and Nahaneé Family Feast Song – Wes Nahaneé / blessing: *Ancestor's Table* – Harriet Prince / song: *Wild Mountain Thyme* – Carnegie Village Singers as SALAD is served / words: *Philosophies of Chinese cooking* – Bob Sung

FALL *a time for endings and reflection*

Toast to the Community / words on the Medicine Wheel & song: *Nlaka'pamux* (a healing song by Shirley James) – Renae Morriveau / story: *Coming Back to our Home* – Dianna Kleparchuk / song: *Reve ta Stohne* – Barvinok Choir / a moment of silence for those we have lost / poem – *Heron Returns to False Creek* – Evelyn Lau with Autumn Moon over the Calm Lake – Jirong Huang (erhu) / words by Speaker of the House as SOUP is served

WINTER *where the stories gather*

Winter music – Alcvin Ramos (*shakuhachi*) / story – *The Other Side of the River: Vancouver's Great Fire & Paddle Song* – Wes Nahaneé / song: *All Together* – Carnegie Village Singers as MAIN COURSE is served / *Salmon Story* – Rose Georgeson with Alcvin Ramos (*shakuhachi*) / toast to the Cooks

SPRING *everything is new and fresh*

Toast to the future: from generation to generation – table hosts / procession: *Return of the Salmon* – Kelty McKerracher, Sarah May Redmond, Francis Heng with Jirong Huang (*erhu*) and Calvin Cairns (violin) / dance: *Spring Awakening* – AUUC and Dovbush Dancers w Big House musicians / song: *Mno Haya Lita* (Ukrainian song wishing good fortune) – Barvinok Choir as DESSERT is served / memory: *A Lesson in Communication* – Bob Sung/ Musqueam-English rap – Miss Christie Lee / acknowledgements – Terry Hunter / words – Speaker of the House / closing words – Bob Baker / circle dances: *Round Dance* – Harriet Prince with *Find Your Song* – Renae Morriveau, followed by *Ukrainian Kolomeijka Dance* with Big House musicians

PARTINGS

Song: *Pobazhannya* / Goodbye Friends – Barvinok Choir

SATURDAY MAY 9 • ORDER OF THE FEAST

HONOURING THE COMMUNITY OF THE DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE

MEMORY IS THE MOTHER OF COMMUNITY

The sequence and details listed below may have changed slightly between the writing of this program and the event. There will also be a few pleasant surprises on the way.

THE GATHERING PLACE

Rebecca Graham, Tetiana Zaruba, Coast Salish & Ukrainian weaving demonstrations; Calvin Cairns (violin)

ARRIVALS

DURC Drummers / table greetings and Introductions – table hosts / TEA and APPETIZERS

INTRODUCTION

Opening Words – Dianna Kleparchuk and Terry Hunter / territorial acknowledgement – Dennis Thomas, Tsleil-Waututh Nation / Song: *Blahoslovit'* (Ukrainian blessing song) as BREAD is served – Beverly Dobrinsky / Bread & Salt Welcome – Dovbush Dancers

SUMMER *a time for growing and learning*

Speaker of the House – Cody Kenny / story: Plant & Human Communities Working Together- Sharon Kallis / words and *Nahane Family Feast Song* – Wes Nahane / blessing: Ancestor's Table – Harriet Prince / song: *Wild Mountain Thyme* – Carnegie Village Singers as SALAD is served / words: *Philosophies of Chinese cooking* - Bob Sung

FALL *a time for endings and reflection*

Toast to the community / poem: *100 Years of Struggle* by Sandy Cameron – Leith Harris / poem: *Testimony* – by Muriel Marjorie / song: *Women's Warrior Song* (shared by Elder Martina Pierre of the Lil'wat Nation to honour women warriors everywhere) – Harmony of Nations / a moment of silence for those we have lost / poem – *Heron Returns to False Creek* – Evelyn Lau with *Autumn Moon over the Calm Lake* – Jirong Huang (erhu) / words by Speaker of the House as SOUP is served

WINTER *where the stories gather*

Music: Alcvin Ramos (*shakuhachi*) / story & song: *Remembering Chief Dan George & The Prayer Song* (aka the Coast Salish anthem) – Dennis Thomas / song: *All Together* – Carnegie Village Singers as MAIN COURSE is served / Memory: *Salmon Story* – Rose Georgeson with Alcvin Ramos (*shakuhachi*) / toast to the Cooks

SPRING *everything is new and fresh*

Toast to the future: from generation to generation – table hosts / dance: Hoop Dance – Joe Chatsis with DURC Drummers / procession: *Return of the Salmon* – Kelty McKerracher, Sarah May Redmond, Francis Heng with Jirong Huang (*erhu*) and Calvin Cairns (violin) / dance: *Spring Awakening* – AUUC and Dovbush Dancers w/ Big House musicians / song: *Mno Haya Lita* (Ukrainian song wishing good fortune) – Barvinok Choir as DESSERT is served / memory: *You're a Big Boy Now* – Bob Sung / Musqueam-English rap – Miss Christie Lee / acknowledgements – Terry Hunter / words – Speaker of the House / closing words – Bob Baker / circle dances: *Round Dance* – Harriet Prince with *Find Your Song* – Renae Morriveau, followed by Ukrainian *Kolomeijka Dance* with Big House musicians

PARTINGS

Song: *Traveling Song* – Harmony of Nations

SUNDAY MAY 10 • ORDER OF THE FEAST

HONOURING ANCESTRAL TERRITORY AND ARTISTS FROM COMMUNITIES ACROSS CANADA

WE ARE LIVING ON SHARED TERRITORY

The sequence and details listed below may have changed slightly between the writing of this program and the event. There will also be a few pleasant surprises on the way.

THE GATHERING PLACE

Tracy Williams, Tetiana Zaruba, Coast Salish & Ukrainian weaving demonstrations / Calvin Cairns (violin)

ARRIVALS

Erhu – Jirong Huang / table greetings and Introductions – table hosts / TEA and APPETIZERS

INTRODUCTION

Opening words – Dianna Kleparchuk and Terry Hunter / territorial acknowledgement – Bob Baker, Squamish Nation / song: *Blahoslovit'* (Ukrainian blessing song) as BREAD is served – Beverly Dobrinsky / Bread & Salt Welcome – Dovbush Dancers

SUMMER *a time for growing and learning*

Speaker of the House – Cody Kenny / story: *Plant & Human Communities Working Together* – Sharon Kallis / words and Nahane Family Feast Song – Wes Nahane / blessing: *Ancestor's Table* – Harriet Prince / song: *Wild Mountain Thyme* – Carnegie Village Singers as SALAD is served / words: *Philosophies of Chinese cooking* – Bob Sung

FALL *a time for endings and reflection*

Toast to the Community / words on the medicine wheel & song: *Nlaka'pamux* (a healing song by Shirley James) – Renae Morriseau / poem: *Testimony* – Muriel Marjorie / words & song – To Wake Oneself Up & The Paddle Song; poem: *Tribute to the Missing and Murdered Girls and Women of the Downtown Eastside* – Kelly Roulette / a moment of silence for Mother's Day as we remember those we have lost / poem – *Heron Returns to False Creek* – Evelyn Lau with Autumn Moon over the Calm Lake - Jirong Huang (erhu) / words by Speaker of the House as SOUP is served

WINTER *where the stories gather*

Music: Alvin Ramos (*shakuhachi*) / story – *The Past is in Front of Me* and song – *The Tired Paddler's Song* – Woodrow Morrison / song: *All Together* – Carnegie Village Singers as MAIN COURSE is served / *Salmon Story* – Rose Georgeson with Alvin Ramos (*shakuhachi*) / toast to the Cooks

SPRING *everything is new and fresh*

Toast to the future: from generation to generation – table hosts / procession: Return of the Salmon – Kelty McKerracher / dance: Spring Awakening – AUUC and Dovbush Dancers / song: *Mno Haya Lita* (Ukrainian traditional song wishing good fortune) – Carnegie Village Singers as DESSERT is served / memory: *Racial Comfort* – Bob Sung / Musqueam-English rap - Miss Christie Lee / acknowledgements – Terry Hunter / words – Speaker of the House / closing words – Henry Charles / circle dances: Round Dance – Harriet Prince with *Find Your Song* – Renae Morriseau, followed by Ukrainian *Kolomeijka Dance* with Big House musicians

PARTINGS

Song: *Train of Thought Travelling Song* – Russell Wallace and ensemble

MUSIC

Songs may change from performance to performance.

MUSIC

All Together – by Beverly Dobrinsky / *Train of Thought Travelling Song* – Russell Wallace, commissioned by Jumbles Theatre for the Train of Thought / *Nlaka'pamux* – a healing song by Shirley James / – shared by Elder Martina Pierre of the Lil'wat Nation to honour women warriors everywhere / *Reve ta Stohne (The Mighty Dnieper)* – lyrics by Taras Shevchenko, music by V. Kosenk / *Pobazhannya (Goodbye Friends)* – Ukrainian traditional song arranged by A. Kozak / *Strong Women's Song* – a Mi'kmaq song shared by elder Maggie Paul celebrating the strength of women / *Find Your Song*, composed by Renae Morriveau / *Autumn Moon over Calm Lake* – traditional song popular in south China / *Blahoslovit* – traditional blessing song

Arranged by Beverly Dobrinsky: *Wild Mountain Thyme* – traditional / *Mnohaya Lita* – a traditional Ukrainian blessing song / *Spring Awakening* - medley of Ukrainian traditional songs

Shared by Guest Presenters: Audrey Siegl – *The Paddle Song* / Woodrow Morrison – *The Tired Paddlers Song* / Wes Nahanee – *Nahanee Family Feast Song* / Dennis Thomas – *The Prayer Song* (aka *Coast Salish Anthem*) / *Traveling Song* – Harmony of Nations

ALL TOGETHER

We are gathered here all together
Together, Ensemble

ensemble – French

qagap [gugape] – Musqueam

zai yi qi [za yi chi 在一起] – Mandarin

isshoni [いっしょに] – Japanese

tillsammans – Swedish

todos juntos – Spanish

ulus'en [ulushen] – St'át'imc (Whistler to Lillooet)

net'ni [nay'ni] – Wetsuwet'en (Smithers)

vsi razom [vci razom] – Ukrainian

BLAHOSLOVIT

We praise once again

All in good time

Be Blessed earth, our mother

Our children's children to come

"Good fortune be your way"

REVE TO STOHNE / THE MIGHTY DNEPER

The Dnieper River roars and groans, the angry wind howls,
tall willows bend, waves rise like mountains.

The pale moon peeks out from behind a cloud

as if a little boat surfaces and sinks into the blue sea.

The third rooster does not sing, and no one makes a sound.

Owls in the grove shout to each other and an ash tree squeaks, again and again.

BLASHOSLOVY MATY / BLESS US, MOTHER

Bless us, mother, mother of creation

VESNA NASHA / OUR SPRING

The flowers are blooming and the

Young men and women are celebrating.

Spring is here!

МНОГАЯ ЛИТА / MNOHAYA LITA

Many more years of health, of blessings!

POBAZHANNYA / GOOD BY FRIENDS

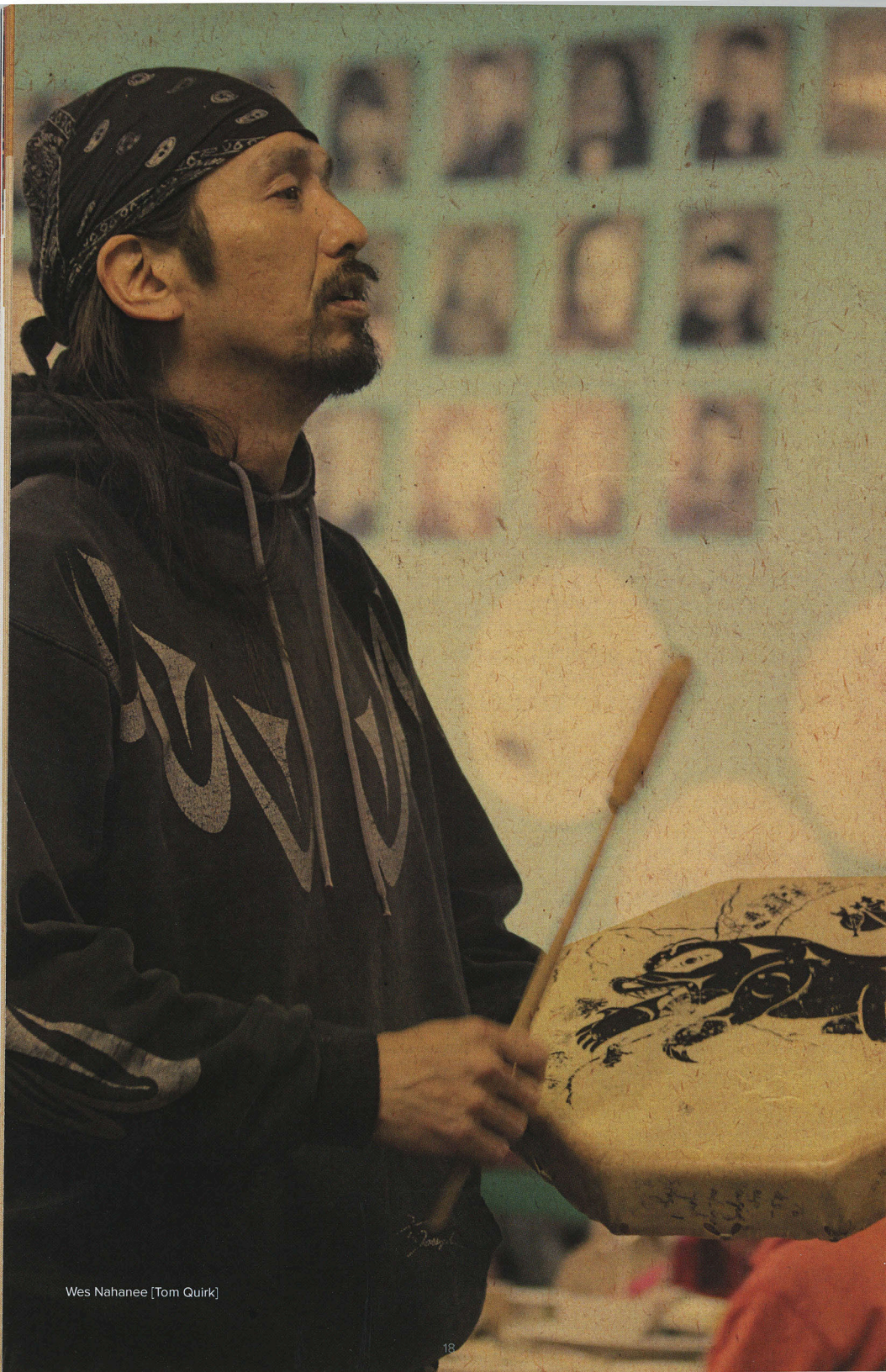
We'd keep singing but it's time to go, we wish you all the best from us.

Between us, let there be harmony, so that we all have good fortune.

For all of us in the cities and towns, let happiness reign in our hearts and full tables.

Goodbye, dear friends, we bow to you, we wish good fortune to you, all as one.





Wes Nahanee [Tom Quirk]



Big House [John Endo Greenaway]



Big House [Tom Quirk]

THE BIG HOUSE (2015) COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

As these Big House feasts came together, it became clear that they carried a common theme of gathering strength, all together. An important part of this gathering strength is our relationships with our Downtown Eastside community partner organizations, who have believed in, deeply informed, and nourished this cultural sharing journey from the beginning. In a profound sense, The Big House project is a co-creation with them. We are honoured to be deepening existing relationships and building new ones.

We had the special opportunity, for these feasts, to collaborate with our partners in the creation and presentation of artistic elements in the form of performance, story and visual art. Their contributions make these feasts the utterly unique events they are. Some emerged from workshops that took place in the months prior to the Big House, and some are offerings from existing programs. It has been a wonderful journey to explore with each place what contribution would bring an important presence to our feast as well as be of value to the organization itself.

With the Fathers for Thought program at the Downtown Eastside Neighbourhood House, workshops with artist Haisla Collins led to the creation of a beautiful block-printed bunting. This art piece is a part of the tree of life you see above you, and after the feasts it will hang at the Neighbourhood House. Many thanks to Rory Sutherland, facilitator of the Fathers for Thought program, and Carol White, the Executive Director of the Neighbourhood House, for this beautiful collaboration.

With the Carnegie Cultural Sharing Program, also with the guidance of Haisla Collins, we witnessed the creation of a beautiful block-printed banner that carries the participating Elders' names and nations. This canvas banner will proudly accompany the group in their Grand Entry to an Elders' Gathering on Vancouver Island this summer. It will also be a special resource for the group in future events, such as Aboriginal Day on June 21. Many thanks to Cody Kenny for bringing this important offering forward.

With the Oppenheimer Park Ladies Tea Party as well as with the Carnegie Cultural Sharing Program, artist Paula Jardine led pysanka (Ukrainian egg) decorating workshops, examples of which you see at your table. The pysanka egg is a universal symbol of gift-giving and of life and the participants enjoyed this spring tradition. Thanks to Ali Lohan of Oppenheimer Park and Cody Kenny of the Cultural Sharing Program for having us.

At the Aboriginal Front Door Society, artist Tetiana Zaruba led Ukrainian bead-weaving workshops with participants as a part of their social enterprise program, which aims to enhance employment opportunities for members of Aboriginal Front Door. This was a unique intercultural experience and you can see some of these creations in the entrance display downstairs. Many thanks to Bill Beauregarde, acting Executive Director, for this aspect of his collaboration with the feasts.

From the Drug Users Resource Centre (DURC), a project of the Portland Hotel Society, we are honoured to welcome the DURC Drummers as well as hoop dancer Joe Chatsis at the May 9 feast. Many thanks to Kailin See, the Director at DURC, for making their presence at our feast possible.

Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Gardens has generously donated many beautiful pieces, both living and non-living, to add visual beauty to our feasts. These include: lanterns for spring, summer and fall, decorative screens, tea urns and tea cups, a miniature penjing plant for the ancestor's table, a 100 year old Banyan tree in the entryway, Japanese-Maples, and the bouquets that grace your table. We were also lucky to have the collaboration of a master gardeners and a master calligrapher through the Gardens. Many thanks to Kathy Gibler for facilitating this and connecting with the spirit of these feasts so deeply.

EarthHand Gleaners Society, led by artist Sharon Kallis, have created a stunning display of natural materials gathered from our urban environment and beyond. This display includes samples and fibres from the urban cloth project, a collaboration with traditional weaver Tracy Williams, and uses willow and raw materials from the Means of Production garden. Natural plant fiber artists Sharon and Rebecca Graham will be conducting weaving demos in the downstairs gathering area every day prior to the feast. We are grateful to Sharon for her leadership and vision in connecting us with the land we live on.

Thank you again to all who have made this event so meaningful. With gratitude to our Downtown Eastside community,

Kelty McKerracher
Community-engagement Facilitator

PRODUCER

Vancouver Moving Theatre (VMT)

VMT is an award-winning professional arts company co-founded in the Downtown Eastside by Terry Hunter and Savannah Walling. VMT develops art that celebrates the power of the human imagination; creates shared experiences that bridge diverse cultural traditions and artistic disciplines; and gives voice to residents of the Downtown Eastside and beyond. VMT researches and creates original interdisciplinary repertoire; produces multi-disciplinary events and the Downtown Eastside Heart of the City Festival; and provides cultural services and educational resources.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Aboriginal Front Door Society serves the Aboriginal community in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. They operate a safe place for Downtown Eastside Aboriginal people to serve as an entry point for an Aboriginal specific drug and alcohol strategy; be a place where Aboriginal people can experience, learn and participate in traditional Aboriginal culture, teachings and ceremonies as part of their healing journey through life; and, provide leadership through respected Elders and other role models.

Oppenheimer Park Ladies Tea Party provides space and respite for self-determined women from the Downtown Eastside community. This weekly Friday afternoon gathering offers a peer supported environment for a variety of workshops and events where women meet to share perspectives, work on creative projects, drum, sing and drink teas.

Carnegie Community Centre – Cultural Sharing Program

Carnegie Community Centre – the 'living room' of the Downtown Eastside

– provides social, educational, cultural, recreational activities on-site or at nearby Oppenheimer Park. The programs serve people living in marginalized circumstances with the goal of nurturing mind, body, heart and spirit in a safe and welcoming environment. Culturally specific events bring a sense of belonging and camaraderie to an otherwise isolated and disenfranchised population. Carnegie's weekly Cultural Sharing Program, now in its twenty-sixth year, offers First Nations people from across North America an opportunity to share cultural traditions and learn from each other, participating in activities such as Pow Wows, special feasts, elders gatherings, singing, drumming, arts and crafts.

Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden

In the heart of Vancouver's historic Chinatown, the Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden serves more than 90,000 people a year through public admissions, free public access events and a range of educational, cultural, horticultural and artistic initiatives, with the mission of connecting cultures and communities. Opened in 1986, it is the first such garden built outside China. Its creation stemmed from the dreams of local citizens, the enthusiastic support of Vancouverites, the three levels of government and partnership with China. Run by a non-profit society, it is a garden, a living museum, a community gathering place, a caring neighbour, a window into history, a classroom, an art gallery and a place of harmony and quiet wonder. In 2011, National Geographic named it the World's Top Urban Garden.

The Downtown Eastside Neighborhood House

The secular, grassroots Downtown Eastside Neighbourhood House

(DTES NH) embraces people of all ancestries, genders, ages and descriptions; annually welcoming almost 9,000 DTES residents. Their mission: To provide opportunities for residents to meaningfully engage with and contribute to their community in an equitable atmosphere of sharing and learning. Their programming is community inspired and varied, from a Chinese Elders Community Kitchen to a Traditional Aboriginal Community Kitchen, Leadership Development for Grand/Parents, a Children's Community Kitchen, Nutritional Outreach Activities (Mobile Smoothie Project and Banana Beat), The Healing Circle, Father's for Thought, Table Talks project, a Family Drop In: Families, Farming and Food, and The production of a Right to Food Zine. Those who built the DTES NH put the Right to Food at the heart of our work, as nutritional vulnerability was a theme familiar to all. Their goal around the Right to Food is to reform the nutritional impact, quality, abundance and delivery of food in the DTES in consultation with residents, community food providers, non-food community organizations, healthcare professionals, policy makers, growers/suppliers, food/beverage industry professionals and researchers.

EarthHand Gleaners Society is a Vancouver arts based organization founded in 2013 to develop environmental education and ecological diversity by fostering hand-based skills through the creative arts using local plant resources. Working in residence at the Trillium North Park (at the corner of Malkin and Thornton Street), the plantings here were chosen because of their traditional use by the First Peoples of British Columbia. As the plants mature and are harvested, community members can learn about the plants and participate in garden bed maintenance and traditional methods of processing

plant fibres into useful things like rope or baskets for daily living. EarthHand is working with the Vancouver Park Board to develop community environmental art opportunities and with the Environmental Youth Alliance to transform the park into a new Community Environmental Art Hub.

Ukrainian Hall

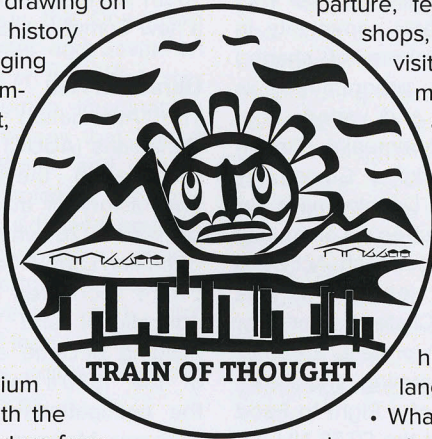
The Association of United Ukrainian Canadians (AUUC) has a rich and proud heritage in the Downtown Eastside. The history of the Ukrainian Hall dates back to 1928 when it was built as the Ukrainian Labour Temple. Immediately the centre sponsored a full slate of cultural, educational and social activities. The building became a focal point in some of the 1930's labor struggles: it was the occupational headquarters for the Carnegie Museum and the On-to-Ottawa Trek in 1935, and a refuge for injured strikers in the aftermath of the great Post-Office Sit-in of 1938. Since its founding the hall has been involved in efforts to support social justice and in building cultural programs. Today the Association of United Ukrainian Canadian's supports Vancouver's longest-running folk orchestra, the AUUC School of Dancing, the Dovbush Dancers and is a key community partner in the DTES Heart of the City Festival.

NATIONAL PARTNER Jumblies Theatre

Jumblies is a Toronto-based company with a national reach. Jumblies collaborates with communities in multi-year residencies and productions and offers nation-wide training and mentorship activities and resources. The Jumblies family includes several thriving and independent offshoot organizations: Arts4All, MABELLEarts, Making Room and the Community Arts Guild. Jumblies and its Artistic Director, Ruth Howard, have been proud to collaborate on many projects and events with Vancouver Moving Theatre since 2003.

TRAIN OF THOUGHT

Train of Thought is a west-to-east coast journey to collect and share stories: of the land as it was, as it is, as it might have been, as it could be: drawing on perception, memory, history and imagination; merging fiction and fact, whimsy and serious intent, bringing together artists and community members, First People and all others who have found refuge here over the years.



The TRACKS Symposium in Vancouver ends with the Train of Thought departure from the Pacific Central Station on Tuesday May 12. The first stop of the Train of Thought is Enderby BC, where the second phase of the TRACKS symposium takes place. The journey ends in Halifax on June 18, with before and after episodes on Vancouver and Prince Edward Islands.

Train of Thought was hatched over a decade ago by a group of Canadian community arts producers who wanted to share their practices and projects. Its purpose is to connect community arts practice and collaborations between First Nations and immigrant/settler artists and communities. Jumbles Theatre has taken the production lead, with Vancouver Moving Theatre and Runaway Moon amongst the core partners from the very start.

At each stop of the journey, travellers and hosts will engage in interactive events – ceremonies of arrival and departure, feasts, creative workshops, presentations, site visits – to share community arts practices and contribute to an evolving process of art making and enquiry, asking:

- What stories are important to send across the country?
- What are the buried histories, names and landscapes?

- What protocols exist/can be created to acknowledge the place and people?
- How can community arts enter into these questions and help us to shift tracks?

On the brink of departure, Train of Thought now has over ninety partners, over twenty stops, over sixty fellow travellers and participants in the hundreds along the way.

Please visit www.trainofthought.com to find out more about this trip: its route, partners, artists, activities, resources and supporters; with constant updates, postings and blogs along the way.

Ruth Howard

Artistic Director, Jumbles Theatre

THE ROUTE

British Columbia

Victoria	May 7
Vancouver	May 8-12
Enderby	May 13 -15
On-Board Activities	May 16

Alberta

Edmonton	May 17 -18
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Saskatchewan

Saskatoon	May 19 – 20
ON-BOARD Activities	May 21

Manitoba

Winnipeg	May 22 – 24
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Ontario

Sioux Lookout	May 25
Kenora	May 25
Thunder Bay	May 25-26
On-Board Activities	May 27
Nipissing FN/North Bay	May 28-30
Manitoulin Island	May 31
Mississauga FN/Blind River	June 1-3
Sudbury	June 4-5
Toronto	June 6-11
Windsor	June 11-13
Kingston	June 11
Ottawa/Killaloe	June 12-13
Kahnawake	June 14

Quebec

Montreal	June 15-17
On-Board Activities	June 18

New Brunswick/Nova Scotia/PEI

New Brunswick pick-up	June 18
Halifax, NS	June 18 - 20
Ship Harbour, NS	June 21
Epikweit, PEI	June 22

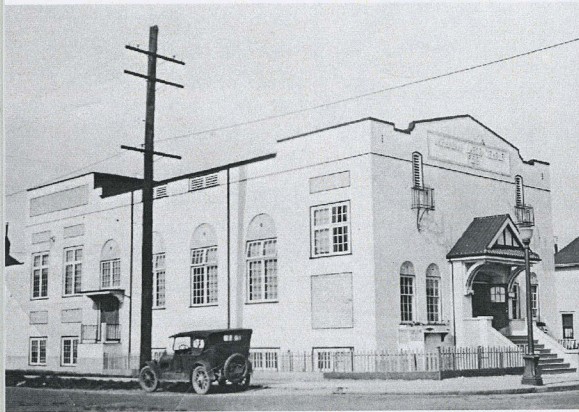
Train of Thought overarching funders include The J.W. McConnell Family Foundation, Ontario Trillium Foundation, Canada Council for the Arts, Ontario Arts Council, the In-spirit Foundation and VIA Rail, with many others funders supporting stop-over events and specific travellers.

Train of Thought logo designed by Lou-ann Neel

WHERE WE ARE

THE LAND

The Ukrainian Hall is situated in the city of Vancouver on the unceded, ancestral homelands of the Coast Salish peoples, specifically the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) First Nations.



Ukrainian Labour Temple (1928). Courtesy Harry Hoshowsky

THE HALL

The history of the Ukrainian Hall dates back to 1928 when it was built as the Ukrainian Labour Temple. Immediately the centre sponsored a full slate of cultural, educational and social activities. The building became a focal point in some of the 1930s labour struggles: it was the occupational headquarters for the Carnegie Museum and the On-to-Ottawa Trek in 1935, and a refuge for injured strikers in the aftermath of the great Post-Office Sit-in of 1938. Since its founding the hall has been involved in efforts to support social justice and in providing cultural programs.

THE COMMUNITY

Today's Downtown Eastside is situated on a spit of land bound by the waters of Burrard Inlet on the north, the tidal flats of False Creek to the south, and between vanished tidal streams that once flowed

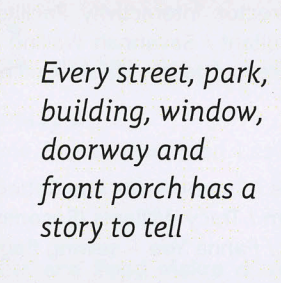
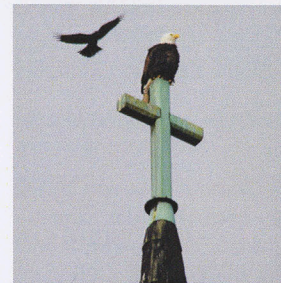
through gullies on the east and west (today's Campbell Avenue and Carrall/Columbia Streets).

The neighbourhood is made up of several historic districts – Victory Square, Gastown, Hastings Corridor, Chinatown, Strathcona, Oppenheimer (also known as Japantown or Powell Street), and a portion of the port of Vancouver.

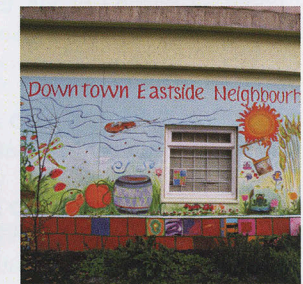
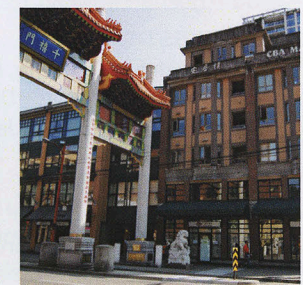
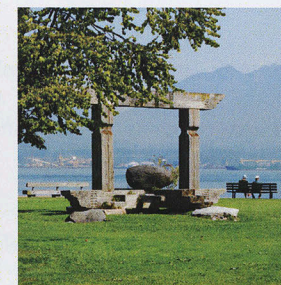
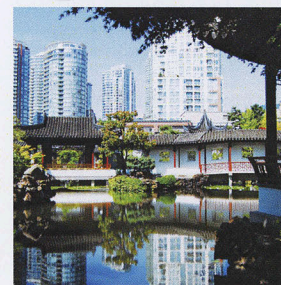
Ancestors of today's Coast Salish have used this area since time immemorial. The Downtown Eastside is home to the largest urban Aboriginal unofficial "reserve" in Canada and the second largest historical Chinatown in North America. Some of the most storied places, important centres and residential districts for Vancouver's Aboriginal, Asian, European and black immigrant communities lay on this land.

THE FALSE CREEK WATERWAYS

Over two times the size of today, the False Creek salt water tidal basin ran as far to the east as today's Clark Drive. It was surrounded by swamp, grassland, berry bushes, medicinal plants, and towering forests of hemlock, douglas fir and red cedar: a home to bears, cougars, elk and deer. Salmon bearing steams flowed up ravines at Campbell and Carrall/Columbia. Over ten miles of creeks came together into fast flowing streams pouring from Broadway through deep gullies into False Creek. Its mud flats were abundant with shellfish, oolichon, seals, sturgeon and thousands of migratory birds. First Nations people said "When the tide is out, the table is set."



Every street, park, building, window, doorway and front porch has a story to tell



Clockwise from top left: Through the Eye of the Raven, Orwell Hotel; Lion Dancer, Chinese New Year's Parade; Maple Tree Square; Oppenheimer Park; Chinatown Millennium Gate; Downtown Eastside Neighbourhood House; Carnegie Community Centre; Crab Park [centre]; Strathcona School; Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden; Strathcona Eagles

CREDITS

BIG HOUSE TEAM

Big House Projects build on a residency concept and performative feast structure originated by Ruth Howard and Savannah Walling in collaboration with Rosemary Georgeson, Beverly Dobrinsky, producer Terry Hunter and the artistic team. Each Big House event is tailored for its host venue in consultation with community partners.

VMT ARTISTIC TEAM

Beverly Dobrinsky – Music Director/ Mark Eugster-Lighting Designer/ Rosemary Georgeson – Culinary Artist / Ruth Howard – Design & Engagement Consultant / Paula Jardine – Décor Designer / Dorothy Jenkins – Floor Manager / Sharon Kallis – Contributing Décor Designer / Keltie McKerracher – Community Engagement Facilitator and Contributing Choreographer / Renae Morriveau – Dramaturge / Sarah May Redmond – Assistant Director, Interactivity Facilitator / James Fagan Tait – Strategizing and Staging Consultant / Savannah Walling – Artistic Director / Design and Making Assistants – Bill Beauregarde, Haisla Collins, Shifra Cooper (Jumbles Intern), Tetiana Zaruba

DESIGN CONTRIBUTIONS

Mamie Charleson – cedar roses / Sharon Kallis and Rebecca Graham – woven shoes / Paula Jardine – salmon lantern / Tracy Williams (Sesemiya) – woven cedar regalia / Haisla Collins – elders' banner / Fanna Yee – sewing flags / Rebecca Graham – split willow pension tray /

AUUC ARTISTIC TEAM

Beverly Dobrinsky (Director, Barvinok Choir) / Spring Awakening Co-Choreographers Debbie Wishinski Karras (Director, Dovbush Dancers) and Laurel Parasiuk Lawry (Director, AUUC Dancers); Janice Beck (Ukrainian costumes, vinoks and ceremonial bread)

PRESENTERS

Musicians and Singers – Murray Black, Calvin Cairns, Beverly Dobrinsky, Jirong Huang, Sarah May Redmond, Tetiana Zaruba, Savannah Walling, Martin Wong, Alvin Ramos / Poets – Christie Charles, Evelyn Lau / Cultural Presenters - Rosemary Georgeson, Sharon Kallis, Renae Morriveau, Wes Nahanee, Bob Sung / Dancers - Harriet Prince, AUUC and Dovbush Dancers / Speaker of the House - Cody Kenny

GUEST PRESENTERS AND ARTISTS – May 8

Cultural Presenters - Bob Baker, Dianna Kleparchuk / Singers - Barvinok Choir

GUEST PRESENTERS AND ARTISTS – May 9

Cultural Presenters - Dennis Thomas / Musicians - DURC Drummers, Harmony of Nations / Spoken Word - Leith Harris, Muriel Marjorie / Hoop dancer - Joe Chatsis

GUEST PRESENTERS – May 10

Singers - Dalannah Gail Bowen and Russell Wallace / Poets - Muriel Marjorie, Kelly Roulette/ Cultural Presenters - Henry Charles, Woodrow Morrison, Audrey Siegl

AUUC DANCERS

Meara Holubowich, Lisa Jatskevich, Dylan Lawry, Nathan Fung

BARVINOK CHOIR – May 8

Lyubov Artemenko, Marko Hirny, Elaine Joe, Kateryna Kovshova, Vira Kozik, Leona Levchuk, Carol Snider, Luba Udovenko, Helen Volkow, Savannah Walling, Joyce Williams

DOVBUSH DANCERS

Katherine Alpen, Alexandra Beck, Tatyana Beck, Cameron Fung, Meghan Fung, Jake Hobbis, Joey Hobbis, Montana Hunter, Danya Karras, Taralyn Karras, Jack Lawry, Caitlynn Schell, Egor Terekhine

DURC DRUMMERS – May 9

Earl Crow, Mervyn Small Legs, John Sam, Patrick Smith, John

HARMONY OF NATIONS – May 9

Bob Currie, Robyn Livingstone, Eunice MacMillan, Les Nelsen, Karen Thorpe, Phoenix Winter

CULINARY TEAM

Rosemary Georgeson – Chef and Food Maître d; Janet Georgeson – Sous Chef; Chantel Bennett and Jolene Mitchell – Kitchen Assistants; Charlene Hanson – busser / Janice Beck – Ukrainian ceremonial bread

SERVERS

Magnolia Cairns, Leith Harris, Paula Tait, Priscillia Tait

TABLE HOSTS

Dalannah Gail Bowen, Barbara Clausen, Shifra Cooper, Lora Corbett, Tina Eastman, Delores Fung, Libby Griffin, Francis Heng, Ruth Howard, Montana Hunter, Natalie Jatskevich, Elizabeth Murdoch, Hilary Strang, Eunice MacMillan, June Seto, Muriel Williams, Stephen Wong

VOLUNTEERS

Makers – Lucy Cairns, Francis Heng, Chloe Hight, Shayla Perreault, Fanna Yee, Yijun (Tony) Tang / Living Plants, bamboo and greenery – Pin Lee / Volunteer outreach – Vincent Wong / Jamie Johnson, David Gowman

ARCHIVAL EXHIBITS

Audrey Moysiuk, Margot Chitrenky, Hilda Ayala, Paula Jardine

PRE-FEAST DEMONSTRATIONS

Coast Salish Weaving, May 8 – Sharon Kallis / May 9 – Rebecca Graham / May 10 – Tracy Williams; Ukrainian Bead Weaving – Tetiana Zaruba

BIG HOUSE WORKSHOP FACILITATORS

Community shawls- Dalannah Gail Bowen and Harriet Prince (Downtown Eastside Centre for the Arts/Carnegie Community Centre) / Block-printing workshops - Haisla Collins (Downtown Eastside Neighbourhood House) / Elders Banner – Haisla Collins (Carnegie Cultural Sharing Program) / Pysanka Workshops - Paula Jardine (Carnegie Community Centre Cultural Sharing Program and Oppenheimer Park); Tetania Zaruba – Ukrainian bead-weaving (Aboriginal Front Door); Keltie McKerracher

VMT PRODUCTION TEAM

Terry Hunter – Producer / Liisa Hannus – Production Manager / Neal Miskin – Sound and Light Operator / Doug Vernon – Front of House / Resident Graphic Designer – John Endo Greenaway (Big Wave Design) / Publicist – Jodi Smith (JLS Entertainment) / Bookkeeper – Miya Olney / Accountant – Lucy Lai

VMT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ann McDonnell, President / Renae Morriveau, Vice-President / John Atkin, Secretary / Louise Leclair, Treasurer / Donna Dykeman / Todd Wong

BIG HOUSE COMMUNITY AND NATIONAL PARTNERS

2010

Carnegie Community Centre and Oppenheimer Park / 2nd Downtown Eastside Arts for All Institute: Oppen-Arts / Jumbli's Theatre (Ontario)

2012

City of Vancouver Dialogues Project / Downtown Eastside Neighbourhood House / Vancouver Native Housing Society (Skwachays Healing Lodge and Residence) / Jumbli's Theatre (Ontario)

2013

Downtown Eastside Neighbourhood House / Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden / The Art of Hospitality: 3rd Downtown Eastside Artfare Institute / Jumbli's Theatre (Ontario)

2014

Aboriginal Front Door / Carnegie Community Centre Cultural Sharing Program and Oppenheimer Park / Maps & Memories: 4th Downtown Eastside Artfare Institute / Raven's Eye Studio / Vancouver Public Library Aboriginal Storyteller in Residence Program / Jumbli's Theatre (Ontario)

2015

Aboriginal Front Door / Association of United Ukrainian Canadians / Carnegie Community Centre Cultural Sharing Program and Oppenheimer Park Ladies Tea Party Program / Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden / Downtown Eastside Centre for the Arts / Downtown Eastside Neighbourhood House / earthHand Gleaners Society / PHS Drug Users Resource Centre (DURC)/Tracks Symposium: 7th Canadian Community Play & Arts Symposium / Jumbli's Theatre (Ontario)

With apologies to those we unwittingly missed, and to those who joined us after this program went to print.

THANK YOU!

A big thanks for in-kind contributions from workshop participants at the Aboriginal Front Door, Association of United Ukrainian Canadians Carnegie Community Centre Cultural Sharing Program and the Oppenheimer Park Ladies Tea Party, the Downtown Eastside Neighbourhood House.

The 2015 Big House Project acknowledges in-kind support from the following partners: Aboriginal Front Door, Association of United Ukrainian Canadians, Carnegie Community Centre Cultural Sharing Program and Oppenheimer Park, Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden, Downtown Eastside Centre for the Arts, Downtown Eastside Neighbourhood House, earthHand Gleaners Society, PHS Drug Users Resource Centre (DURC), Jumbli's Theatre (Ontario).

We would like to acknowledge the enthusiastic and generous participation of Kathy Gibler and her staff at the Dr. Sun Yat Sen Classical Chinese Garden, for their loan of lanterns and other precious items of decor, and all that they have done to contribute to the beauty of the Big House feast hall. In particular we'd like to thank Vincent Wong, community engagement manager; master gardener Pin Lee for the living plants, greenery for the tables, and bamboo for the welcoming gateway; Shayla Perrault for her artistry on the Big House history; and visiting artist Yijun (Tony) Tang for the seasonal calligraphy.

We thank the Squamish Nation for their permission to gather cedar in their shared territory of Stanley Park, to use in the entranceways to the Big House.

And a big thanks to Lisa Yellow-Quill and Cody Kenney (Carnegie Cultural Sharing Program), Ali Lohan (Oppenheimer Park), Helah Cooper (Waterways Design), Bill Beauregarde (Aboriginal Front Door), Rory Sutherland (Downtown Eastside Neighbourhood House), Mountain View Cemetery, volunteers Lucy Cairns and Fanna Yee, and to the Cultural Committee of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians and families of the AUUC and Dovbush Dancers.

HATS OFF TO OUR SPONSORS

The 2015 Big House has been made possible with the generous support of Canada Council for the Arts- Theatre, BC Arts Council- Theatre, BC Gaming, City of Vancouver Cultural Services and Hamber Foundation.



Tom Quirk



The UBC Library and UBC Learning Exchange would like to thank the following participant for his contributions to digitizing this community-generated document:

Graham Cunningham

This community-generated work was digitized and deposited to cIRcle, UBC's open access digital repository, as part of the *Digitizing Community Memories* project of the *Making Research Accessible in the Downtown Eastside initiative (MRAi)*. In collaboration with the UBC Learning Exchange and UBC Library, the project provided training and support for community members in the Downtown Eastside to digitize and make openly available community-generated materials. This project aimed to increase access to historic Carnegie Centre publications and preserve these unique materials for years to come.

For more information on this project and the UBC Learning Exchange, please visit learningexchange.ubc.ca.

January 21, 2019