

2018/19 ANNUAL REPORT



Photo courtesy of Chris Randle



THE ROUNDHOUSE COMMUNITY ARTS AND RECREATION SOCIETY

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Photo courtesy of the Roundhouse

PROJECT

All of us who work, play or socialize at the Roundhouse will be active participants in an evolving project to find new and creative ways to integrate the arts, community, culture and sport.

OASIS

The Roundhouse is located in the center of one of the largest urban experiments in history, transforming a few hundred acres of mostly vacant lots into one of North America's most dense and diverse urban sites. The Roundhouse will be an oasis in the center of this dynamic mix, enabling people to use their creativity and energy (at whatever level) to rejuvenate themselves and to be better equipped to face the blizzard of challenges and opportunities around them.

CONNECTION

The Roundhouse exists to identify and serve the needs of widely divergent communities. To do this, the Roundhouse must reach out to the places and situations where those communities feel comfortable. These relationships will grow into Roundhouse programs through sponsorships, partnerships and our own productions.



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SUPERVISOR'S REPORT



PETER FOX

Supervisor
Arts and Recreation Services

We had another successful year at the Roundhouse Community Arts and Recreation Centre, with a fabulous range of programs, events and activities.

In partnership with the Vancouver Park Board, we welcomed artists Christie Charles, Charlene George and Wil George, who explored the cultural knowledge of birds through performance, weaving, language, video, sound and poetry. This wonderful exhibition was curated by Kamala Todd.

SongBird North launched its 23rd season in Vancouver with great stories and song-writing, as well as a warm and unplugged vibe.

MoreSports returned to the Centre, providing accessible activities to bring the community together and fill the gap between kids and sports. We further expanded our youth programs, and saw an increase in participation for young people in decision-making through the startup of our Youth Council.

We continued to host an array of family-friendly special events that consistently sold out. The increasing number of strollers at these events suggests growth in our community. We look forward to catering to as many families as possible in the future.

I would also like to recognize the development and growth of the Arts & Health program. Healthy Aging through the Arts continues to provide ways for older adults to improve health through participation in dance, writing, painting and singing.

And we must celebrate the launch of the inaugural Queer Elders Prom Night. Much appreciation to The Rainbow Roundtable for all their efforts and voluntary contributions in making this fun-filled evening of dance a success.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our motivated and dedicated staff and auxiliary staff teams, who have contributed in so many ways throughout the past year.

I also wish to thank the board of directors of the Roundhouse Community Arts and Recreation Centre Society, committee members and the Roundhouse Advisory Council for their support. It is a pleasure to work with such a dedicated group.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



ANDREW DILTS

President

Roundhouse Community Arts
and Recreation Centre Society

It has been a pleasure serving as the President and Chair of the board of directors for the Roundhouse Community Arts and Recreation Society for the past three years.

Regardless of where my experiences have taken me, everyone I speak with has shared their positive feedback of the Roundhouse. They have nothing but high praise for staff and volunteers who have made the facility a success.

Please make sure you take time to reach out to both congratulate and thank our staff members and volunteers for all of their hard work and dedication. They are responsible for the wonderful accomplishments you will read within these pages, and we sincerely value their time and contributions.

The board of directors thanks the staff and volunteers, as well as the City of Vancouver and the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation for a supportive and collaborative relationship, without which the Roundhouse would not be possible. We are truly fortunate to have a strong team and beneficial partnerships at this historic facility.

IN MEMORIAM

RALPH McKNIGHT

November 7, 1946 -
September 25, 2018

MICHAEL NOON

June 20, 1937 -
January 22, 2019

The board and Advisory Council were saddened to hear that Ralph McKnight passed away in late September 2018. Ralph's lively spirit will be sorely missed at the Roundhouse. Ralph was a founding board director, serving as President from 1999-2002, and joining the Advisory Council in 2005. A rudder for the Roundhouse Society, he was always enthusiastic about new and creative ideas, encouraging involvement and energetic discussion. We can find some solace in the knowledge that Ralph's presence is embedded deep within the Centre, and won't soon be forgotten.

Michael Noon, a beloved member of the Roundhouse Society's board from December 2008 until January 2013, and then of the Society's Advisory Council until 2015, passed away peacefully early in 2019. Noteworthy projects include the Roundhouse Story Project and the Joint Operating Agreement. He was a strong promoter of the Roundhouse's mission to provide an inclusive, educational, and welcoming space for all. He is remembered for his sharpest of minds, his insatiable curiosity, his notable and contagious laugh and his extraordinary generosity and kindness.



Photo courtesy of the Roundhouse

ARTS, CULTURE AND ENGAGEMENT

RESIDENCIES

All Bodies Dance

Arts & Health: Heathy Aging
Through the Arts

BC Youth Week

Creative Remix

Deborah's Gate

LINK Dance

Mothers and Motherlands

Roundhouse Ageless Dancers

Roundhouse Community
Dancers

Roundhouse Youth Theatre
Action Group

State of the Practice

Sustenance Festival

Words Rising, Birds Rising: A
Coast Salish Artist Residency

Mothers and Motherlands (May 12, 2019) invited local families and visitors from afar to trace their matrilineal history on a giant map of the world. Poet and facilitator Amal Rana offered gallery visitors a rich experience in the sharing of maternal ancestry stories. Cedar weaver Qmdmaxl (Contessa Brown), Sto:lo and Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish) designer Nicole Preissl and the VOICE OVER mind choir joined Amal in a day-long intergenerational celebration of motherhood. Toddlers and elders reflected on how some of their maternal ancestors travelled through complex routes to get to this land. Others may have had shorter journeys. For families Indigenous to this land, maternal ancestors have been here since time immemorial.

For **Words Rising, Birds Rising: A Coast Salish Artists Residency (Aug 20-29, 2018)**, we invited Christie Charles of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) Nation, Charlene George of the Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) Nation and Wil George of the Seilíwítlh (Tseil-Waututh) Nation to participate in this project, which was curated by Métis-Cree media artist and educator Kamala Todd. The artists explored cultural knowledge of birds through performance, weaving, language, video, sound and poetry. Presented in association with the Vancouver International Bird Festival, this exhibition and residency coincided with the 27th International Ornithological Congress in Vancouver, offering a local Indigenous lens to the city-wide conversation.

Performances and activations took place in a large, sculptural, abstracted thunderbird nest in the center of the Exhibition Hall, offering community members both cultural oral storytelling performances and intimate conversation with the artists, through activities including personalized poetry sessions and weaving demonstrations. The work centred local languages hən̓q̓əmin̓əm̓ and Skwxwú7mesh sníchim in writing through two powerful artist installations. Additionally, a soundscape filled the exhibition space with expressive bird calls and the names of Northwest Coast birds in our local Indigenous languages.

ARTS, CULTURE AND ENGAGEMENT



Photo courtesy of Chris Randle

ARTS PARTNERS | Alternative Arts, Artists in our Midst, Arts Umbrella Dance, BeaYOUtiful Foundation (new), Capture Photography Festival, Caravan World Rhythms, Cherry Blossom Festival, Chinese Music Ensemble (new), Erasga Dance, Gamelan Gita Asmara (new), Filipino Music and Art Foundation of BC, Flamenco Rosario, Kasandra Flamenco (new), Kiruthika Dance (new), Made in BC - Dance on Tour, Modulus Festival, New Works: Dance Allsorts, NOW Society, Orchid Ensemble, Publik Secrets, PuSh Performing Arts Festival, Queer Arts Festival, Quirk-e: Queer Imaging and Riting Kollektive for Elders , Real Wheels, Red Chamber (new), Square One, Talking Stick Festival, Time Will Tell, TRUIMF Lab, Tricycle Poetics, Vancouver Comic Arts Festival, Vancouver International Dance Festival, Vancouver Outsider Arts Festival, Vancouver Seniors Singing Association, Vancouver Swing Society, Vancouver Writers Festival with Vancouver Public Library (new)

SPECIAL EVENTS

I Heart Yaletown

June 5, 2019

Engine 374 Anniversary Celebration

May 19, 2019

Eggstacular Easter Egg Hunt

April 20, 2019

Kids' Movie at the Roundhouse

March 9, 2019

Family Day

February 18, 2019

Kids' Movie at the Roundhouse

January 12, 2019

Kids' Movie at the Roundhouse

December 16, 2018

Winter Holidays at the Roundhouse

December 8-9, 2018

Breakfast with Santa

December 9, 2018

Kids' Movie at the Roundhouse

November 17, 2018

Halloween Carnival

October 31, 2018

Pumpkin Carving

October 21, 2018

Kids' Movie at the Roundhouse

October 6, 2018

Kids' Movie at the Roundhouse

September 23, 2018

Roundhouse Fun Fair

August 19, 2018

Summer on the Turntable

July 2 - September 1, 2018



Photo courtesy of the Roundhouse

This year, the Roundhouse Bounce and Grill was re-imagined as the Roundhouse Fun Fair to reflect a family-friendly event focused on celebrating and giving back to the community through activities, rides, games and entertainment. With generous support from local businesses and a by-donation barbeque, we raised significant funds for the BC Children's Hospital on behalf of the Roundhouse Community Arts and Recreation Centre Society and Urban Fare.

With more inflatables, rides, and activities to keep the whole family entertained, we hope to continue seeing you there!

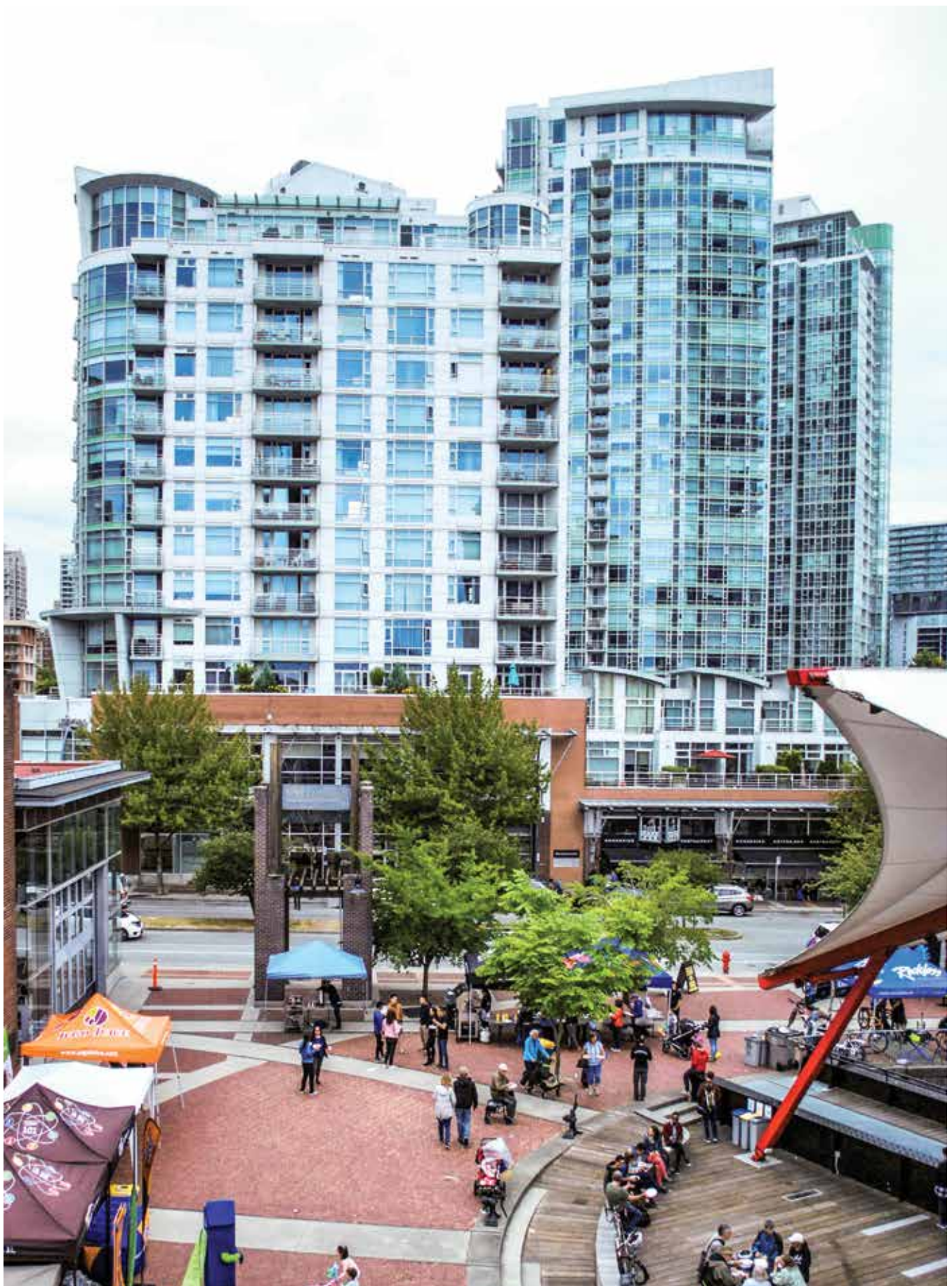



Photo courtesy of the Roundhouse

COMMUNITY YOUTH DEVELOPMENT



It's been an exciting year for the Roundhouse as we welcomed a new full-time Community Youth Worker to the staff team in September 2018. Since then, youth programs have gone through a series of transformations to meet the needs of youth in the neighbourhood. Specifically, it's been a pleasure to see growth in youth leadership at the Roundhouse with the newly formed Roundhouse Youth Council. This group of dedicated high school students has spent several hours volunteering both in and outside of the Roundhouse while fostering their personal and professional growth. The Council held fundraisers with proceeds donated to a local charity, volunteered at the RBC Race for the Kids in support of the Children's Hospital Foundation, and were ambassadors at a City of Vancouver electronics recycling event to help reduce landfill waste. Allowing youth to take part in decision-making at the Roundhouse is pivotal in building a positive and engaging community. We are eager to see what other projects the Council will accomplish in the near future.

We were grateful to host two main events as part of Youth Week 2019. For the first time at the Roundhouse, over 90 youth competed in a two-day Youth Week 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament. Our very own Roundhouse youth won the Junior Boys division and brought home the champion trophy now proudly displayed at our Front Desk. In addition to these electrifying basketball games, the Roundhouse hosted the 13th annual Youth Week Skateboard Jam at the Downtown Skate Plaza. In partnership with the Vancouver Skateboard Coalition, youth as young as eight competed in the skateboard competition and had a great time while parents, relatives, friends and pedestrians watched and cheered.

All of our successes would not have happened without the enthusiasm and dedication of all Roundhouse Staff, particularly the Youth Staff Team, including: Sheroan Anthonypillai, Stratos Charalambides, Silvia Rubino, and James Hickson. Thank you also to the Roundhouse board for their continuous support and generosity, as we continue to provide a safe, inclusive and welcoming space for all youth at the Centre.

PROGRAMMING



Photo courtesy of the Roundhouse

CHILDREN

This year we welcomed a group of aspiring young filmmakers over Spring Break for our Lights, Camera, Action camp. Children were introduced to key roles on set including camera operator, production assistant and floor director, and had the opportunity to rotate through these roles over the course of the week. Using green screens and digital equipment they explored a variety of genres, ranging from silent films to Hollywood productions. At the end of the week, they tested their skills by producing their own films to take home.

We strive to offer programming that responds to community need, including the introduction of our first Before School Kids Club. This affordable and essential service offers safe, fun and supervised care to children before the start of class each day. Our After School Kids Club continues to flourish as children participate in arts and crafts, sports and a variety of games that keep them engaged once the school day is over.

PROGRAMMING



Photo courtesy of the Roundhouse

ADULT

The Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation supports new and existing recreation programs that are inclusive, welcoming and comfortable. In reviewing adult programs at the Roundhouse, we recognized room for improvement in programming for patrons with physical disabilities. In response, we allocated space for wheelchair floorball, a sport that combines rules from hockey, soccer and basketball in a fast-paced and inclusive environment. This well attended Thursday night session is not limited to wheelchair users and provides wheelchairs so that able-bodied patrons can also participate.

In an effort to keep programming fresh, we review program proposals from the community each season, first with Roundhouse programmers, then with our programming committee, which is comprised of staff and Roundhouse Society board directors. New programs added this year included drawing and photography classes, 3D printing sessions and ESL tutoring.

PROGRAMMING



Photo courtesy of the Roundhouse

OLDER ADULT

This year, we were excited to introduce Rainbow Roundtable, a meet up group for LGBTQ2S elders. This facilitated, weekly session offers participants an opportunity to share their experiences, discuss topics ranging from film to health, and attend performances and events outside of the Centre. We were also excited to welcome LGBTQ2S and binary community members to our first annual Queer Elders Prom Night, presented as part of the 17th annual Older and Creating It week. The Exhibition Hall received a glamorous face lift for the event, which celebrated the diversity of the Roundhouse community.

Programmer Diana VanderVeen continues to meet regularly with older adults to ensure that programming responds to their interests and needs. This year, we added Euchre to our roster of social games, and Hawaiian Dance to our fitness offerings.

VOLUNTEERS

Our Community Youth Worker, Sally Chan, has been hard at work creating new programs, including the Roundhouse Youth Council. The Council offers youth leadership opportunities and a chance to connect with their community. We're excited to introduce you to some of the Council's first members! Though formed just under a year ago, this team of very cool and very engaged youth grades 8-11 have been involved in a variety of events and initiatives. We asked why they decided to join and why community engagement is important to them.

"Helping out the Roundhouse and giving back to the community is a very neat opportunity since this community has done so much for me over the past couple of years! This program makes feel like I have a voice." – Golnar, grade 9

"Meeting new people and making new friends." – Warren, grade 8

"I joined because I wanted to be a part in helping to better my community and gain leadership skills while working with motivated, like-minded peers. I have already done so much with my friends and look forward to doing so much more for my wonderful community." – Edward, grade 11

"The need to learn what youth in Canada are like (as I'm from another country) and to practice my English." – Maximo, grade 10

"To help younger kids and other people at the Roundhouse, for example, if they need help or to be shown around. And it is also a great way to meet new people." – Youssif, grade 8

"My friend (Golnar) had already joined and said she enjoyed working with a great/welcoming group of people and asked if I would join. I agreed and liked it as well. I love getting updated on current events occurring in my community and working with my friends."
– Sonja, grade 9

"I've always wanted to try and make an impact in my community but was unsure how to and then I stumbled upon the Youth Council." – Leo, grade 11

"Friends from my school invited me to join and I said sure since I was already going to youth group on Fridays." – Mateo, grade 9

"Getting to know your community and volunteering."
– Joshua, grade 9



Photo courtesy of the Roundhouse

PRODUCTION



This year we welcomed Annie Cavanaugh as our new Production Manager/Technical Director. Annie has worked in theatre, live events and arts festivals in Australia, the UK and Canada for the past 12 years. Most of her work has been in production and technical management, with some casual work in audio, lighting and audio visual. Annie's passions include Thai food, iced Americanos and road trips.

We continue to provide rentals for a mix of non-profit, commercial and private events. This year rentals included: **Meow Expo**, an expo dedicated to all things kitty cat that drew in 1,200+ people; **Vancouver Flip Out**, a multiday pinball event that garnered international interest and brought in 700+ people; and **Electra Fest**, a celebration of electric vehicles that, within a year, has doubled in size.

We also formed relationships with three local organizations seeking weekday event space for multiple events a year:

TechVancouver attracts individuals working for tech companies in Yaletown to their speaker series and pizza and beer socials, helping community members expand their knowledge and business network.


Minerva BC is a non-profit that supports women and girls in gaining confidence and life skills needed to become leaders in their communities and chosen industries. The group hosts a catered breakfast with speakers who are leaders in their industries.

BCjobs.ca hosts Tech Talent Day, a hiring/networking event that takes place in the Exhibition Hall. The group invites local tech organizations and job seekers in the industry to mix and mingle.

This year we acquired a new fridge for the Servery and upgraded our mics to comply with the radio frequency upgrade, and projectors to an SDI signal flow to align with industry standards. Since the 2017/18 wall repair, we have worked with our Head Preparateur to ensure the walls are sturdy enough for the wear and tear resulting from 300+ days of events taking place in the Exhibition Hall each year.

Thank you to our Tech, Front of House and Front Desk staff, who work tirelessly to support our programs, partnerships, rentals and residencies.

COMMUNICATIONS



Communications at the Roundhouse has many facets. Among those, we connect patrons to programs and events, notify staff of workplace updates and changes, and create visuals to invite the public into an exhibition space. It's that last one which holds a special place for Communications because we play with graphic elements to establish a visual language, allowing viewers to confidently interact with the material on display.

We collaborate with all of the recreation and arts programmers on a variety of projects, such as Seniors Week, State of the Practice and Family Day. All of them have their challenges and exciting moments, but perhaps the one that was most satisfying to work on was the *Words Rising, Birds Rising* exhibit, an artists' residency in August 2018, with three artists from the local First Nations: Christie Charles (Musqueam), Charlene George (Squamish) and Wil George (Tsleil-Waututh), and curated by Métis-Cree filmmaker and cultural planner Kamala Todd.

The exhibition consisted of video projections, song and poem recordings, installations and site-specific performances. It created an immersive experience with the sounds of local birds and their names spoken in the original languages of these lands, *hə́nqəmíṇəm* and *Sḵwú7mesh*. The unique spatial design of the multimedia show helped to celebrate the rich and ongoing relationships that Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh people have had with their lands and waters for millennia.

Communications Assistant, Natalie Hawryshkewich worked closely with the arts programmers and the artists on three key displays. She translated the artists' main ideas into printed pieces that would work within the context of the space, considering such things as restrictions and possibilities of the space, legibility of words from varying distances, font weight and colour. The artists guided the creative process, providing valuable feedback. For instance, Natalie suggested using all capital letters for Christie Charles' installation which correlated *hə́nqəmíṇəm* words to bird tracks. In English, capitalization often indicates importance or hierarchy. Christie informed her that *hə́nqəmíṇəm* should not be capitalized. As a result, the type was set in lower case.

Most importantly, Natalie considered the Indigenous voice in a colonial space: how to present Indigenous languages with clarity and strength, teaching the language of birds to an immigrant population. We very much look forward to supporting more Indigenous projects at the Roundhouse.

PARK BOARD

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Director of Recreation
Donnie Rosa

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Sarah Cavanaugh
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Margaret Naylor [acting]

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Community Youth Worker
Sally Chan

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Communications Coordinator
Hanne Lene Dalgleish

Communications Assistant
Natalie Hawryshkewich

**Interested in joining the
Roundhouse Society board
of directors or committees?**

Contact Andrew Dilts at
president@roundhouse.ca