

2018 Annual General Report

Mission: Our mission is to create a platform for local community members to strengthen intercultural connections through innovative programming promoting literary and other arts.

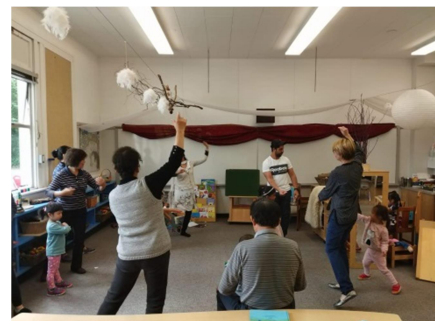
- To build awareness, interest and participation of people from all cultures in literary arts and other arts whilst increasing community cohesion
- To offer opportunities for individuals from diverse backgrounds to develop their skills and interest in language and literary arts.
- To play a prominent role in offering innovative programs related to language, literacy and literary arts among local communities in BC

Projects and Events in 2018



Culture Chats organized an Intercultural Community Arts Event on June 27th with support from the Burnaby Neighbourhood House, City of Burnaby, Government of Canada, Burnaby Intercultural Planning Table and many other local community partners. About 200 people attended the event. Attendees included families, seniors, and youngsters. It served as a platform for local community artists (from over 20 different nationalities) to showcase their arts and handicrafts. Various local dance groups presented multicultural dance performances. We also had an Eritrean Tea Ceremony demonstration.

In 2018 we also offered dance workshops. One was offered at the Windsor elementary school family drop in program over May/June culminating with a small presentation on June 21st. Another workshop was offered over June/July/August with a performance on June 27th and again on September 1st. The workshops included Indian folk dance and Yoga.



In October this year we have begun the pilot phase of a Community Reporting, Story writing and Research project. This project is set to record socio-cultural experiences of women presented through everyday life stories and articles. It is supported with ethnographic research exploring how differing cultural influences of participants impact their experiences. Participation provides an opportunity for skills development in expressive writing, story creation, digital media, communications, capacity building and intercultural competencies.



On September 28th this year we facilitated discussion on engaging community through arts and cultural activities. This conversation is part of the '[On the Table](#)' initiative of the Vancouver Foundation and we are grateful for their support in hosting this discussion. This small event was free and open to all for participation. We also had the pleasure of joining the BIPT stall at the Burnaby Pride Festival on Aug. 11 from noon to 4 p.m. Culture Chats will be looking to actively participate in summer festivals going forward.

Operations

Culture Chats registered 30 members for the 2018 annual year. We had over 200 people attend our annual multicultural event. Our dance workshops supported by a small grant from Vancouver Foundation and the summer pride event participation attracted all together about 50 to 75 people including families with children and adults. We have started a pilot reporting and research project with support from Vancity which will enable Culture Chats to develop and share resources about the cultural experiences of women in the community. Our total revenue amounted to \$4693.74 and our total expenses amounted to \$3378.06. Out of the balance the amount of \$1268.73 is restricted for the ongoing pilot research and reporting project due to end on March 30 2019. The balance for this year excluding this restricted amount is \$46.95. The Financial Report presented during the AGM on December 22, 2018

Culture Chats Team

Our work is supported by many volunteering hours. Our Directors Asmita Lawrence, Fiona Stevenson, Lawrence Francois have dedicated many volunteer hours to further the strategic vision and work of Culture Chats. Another eight community members have worked with us this year in various activities such as event organization, art work development, workshop

coordination and advisory support. We would gratefully like to acknowledge the work of Anjali Kumari Singh, Shihori Scott Moncrief, Oana Capota, Joy Vertucio Jung, Zelly Teferra, Rachel Stenberg, Craita Isbasescu and Baby Lisa



We would also like to thank the network of Advisors who have provided us with invaluable support for our work. We express heartfelt thanks to Kimberly Barwich, Rachel Ridley, Ana Maria Bustamente, Wendy Linnington, Branka, Vlasic, Seema Ahluwalia, Miriam Matejova, Maylen Crespo and Melek Ortabasi. We aim to secure more funding and expand our volunteer base and membership for next year. Our goal is to consolidate our existing program of activities and continue to initiate innovative projects. We are very grateful for the support of our partners and sponsors.