

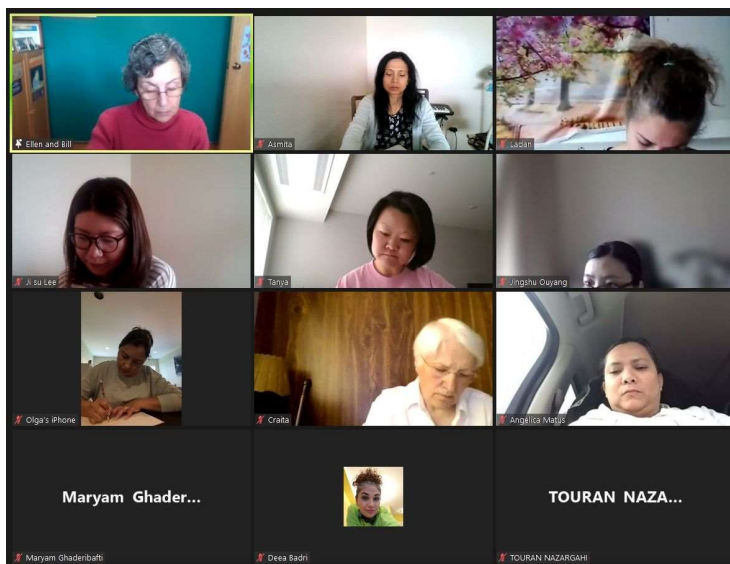
2022 Annual General Report

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

Programs and Events in 2022

Writing Program



Culture Chats received funding from IRCC to conduct writing workshops and to organize reading events to share the stories written by participants. Throughout Summer starting end of May 2022 writing workshops were conducted between until end of August 2022. Two sharing events were organized on July 01 and Nov 27. Podcasting workshops were conducted in September and October. Participants will be invited to join Culture Chats at the Stride Festival. The workshops were conducted online due to the Covid 19 pandemic, but the reading events were organized in person. We were fortunate to receive additional funding to record podcasts and digital files of the stories from IRCC. We worked with two podcasting consultants and podcasts are uploaded on our youtube channel.

We also participated in a neighbourhood event in August 2022 with the Burnaby Neighbourhood House and participants got an opportunity to read their published stories to children and families at a summer barbeque.

The Program will be completed by end of March 2023. Written stories of the participants will be published, and podcast as well as video files are shared on youtube. These links will also be shared into the wider community by our community partners Literacy Now and New2BC. Culture Chats has actively connected with community organizations with a view to organize suitable community engagement opportunities from these partnerships..

Culture Chats Youtube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9T60Of25ILJIXwvawqLyIq>

We also have a podcast channel on spotify:

<https://anchor.fm/culture-chats>

We will aim to conduct workshops for digital content creation in January and February 2023 and also organize another sharing event in Q1 2023

Art and Craft Workshops with Burnaby Festival of Learning

Culture Chats participated in the Burnaby Festival of Learning and organized two craft workshops for children. One was a workshop to create decorative artwork on the theme of Easter. The second was a workshop to work with recycled materials with Lori Goldberg. These were an immense success and Culture Chats received great coverage and promotional value also out of participating in this Festival. Our instructors were very well reputed, and feedback was excellent. Our focus was to encourage family time by inviting parents or caregivers to join in with the children.

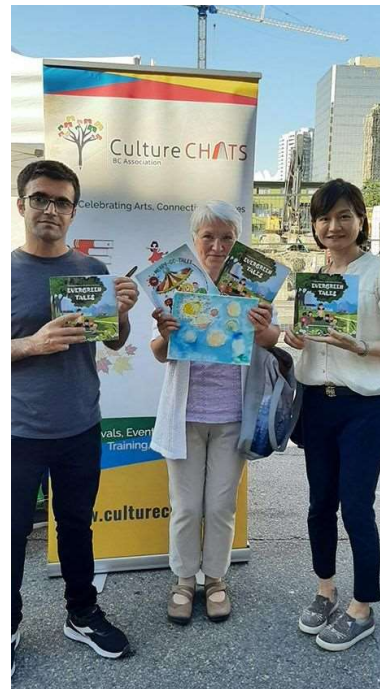


<https://festivaloflearning.ca/event/multicultural-arts-and-crafts-workshop/>



Canada Day Celebration by City of Burnaby

Culture Chats was invited to participate in the City of Burnaby's Canada Day celebration. There were crafts organized for children and it was a very busy festival. This was another successful opportunity also for our writing workshop participants to read a couple of stories at our table. We were invited by Burnaby Beacon to share information about our work, and we had a chance to meet many new members of community and share information about our free programs and events.



Surrey Community Dance Workshops

Dance workshops were conducted in Surrey through summer 2022. Folk dances were introduced to participants including portuguese goan dance and punjabi bhangra/giddha dance.



Participants performed at the Diwalifest event at the Surrey City Hall on Oct 16, 2022



Group dance performance on September 3rd at a 'Namaste Canada' event was a great experience for participants to perform together as a group on a big stage. The group choreography came together, and the process became more enjoyable for all participants

BC Multiculturalism Week Nov

On Nov 27 2022 Culture Chats organized a multicultural craft and stories event to celebrate BC Multiculturalism week. With support from local community and organizations such as South Burnaby Neighbourhood House, Literacy Now and BIPT, the event invited community artists to set up display booths. Multicultural art and craft activities for children were planned such as Chinese calligraphy, Jewish Hanukkah crafts, Christmas decoration creations and other. Participants from the Culture Chats writing workshops read their stories at the event and along with oriental musical performance it was a very entertaining event. This was free and open to all in community organized with a grant from Festivals Burnaby and funding from the Government of Canada.



Culture Chats Team

Our work is supported by many volunteering hours. Our Directors have dedicated time to further the strategic vision and work of Culture Chats. One of the Directors Asmita Lawrence also serves the role of ED, managing the programs and operations of Culture Chats. She is responsible for making funding applications, program design and development for Culture Chats through the year. She is employed as an independent contractor to work in Planning, Admin work & Organization support, Marketing, PR and Communications, Coordination & Facilitation for events and workshops, Outreach work to experts, professionals, speakers, partners, stakeholders. We would gratefully like to acknowledge the work of Advisory committee

members Maria Vargas, Giselle Hao-Palanca. Several community members have worked with us this year in various activities such as event organization, artwork development, workshop coordination thus extending key voluntary support including Christine Hui, Robin Sheriland, Wen Chi. We are thankful for collaborations with various community partners including Burnaby Neighbourhood House, BIPT, Literacy Now and Burnaby Festival of Learning.

Operations

Culture Chats benefits from counsel and support of Directors Craita Isbasescu, Lawrence Francois, Shokoofeh Mostofi and Asmita Lawrence also serves as the Executive Director. We have served over hundred clients in this year through our arts and craft events and workshops and our writing workshops and dance workshops. The presentations and online publishing of participants' works reached a much wider audience. Our annual revenue amounted to \$50034, and our annual expenditure amounted to about \$45330 with the bulk of the remaining funds restricted for the IRCC project to be completed by March 2023. Our annual AGM was held on Dec 18, 2022.

Thank You