



powell street festival society

パウエル祭協会

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For immediate release Vancouver, BC (October 2021) - Powell Street Festival Society (PSFS) is proud to announce the support of Canadian Heritage's *Support for Workers in Live Arts and Music Sectors Fund*. The grant is designed to support the arts and cultural sectors in creating opportunities for artists and cultural workers as the sector weathers the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, and to create live and digital arts and cultural experiences within the existing restrictions on gatherings. Following this summer's modified Powell Street Festival, PSFS will use this support to present an array of artistic works to our audiences, and to directly support our community by creating opportunities for artists and production workers disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. PSFS has engaged long-time collaborator Diane Kadota Arts Management (DKAM) to manage and co-cultivate a dynamic season of live programming with a focus on diverse artists.

PSFS' offerings will include *Made In Voyage* by Ziyian Kwan and Dumb Instrument Dance, two concerts featuring internationally renowned master of resonance and sound Tatsuya Nakatani - November 10th and 13th at Massy Arts Society and Nikkei National Museum and Cultural Centre, a special Powell Street Festival screening and concert at Commercial Drive's Rio Theatre, and a new musical and podcast-in-development *Mildred Bailey*.

Details on each production are to be announced. Watch our website at powellstreetfestival.com or follow us @powellstfest on social media.

For further information or interview requests, contact Duston Baranow-Watts at media@powellstreetfestival.com or (604) 343-0269.



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About Powell Street Festival Society

Powell Street Festival Society's (PSFS) mission is to cultivate Japanese Canadian art and culture to connect communities. The main activity is producing Powell Street Festival (PSF), an annual celebration of Japanese Canadian art, music and culture in Vancouver's historic Japanese Canadian neighbourhood, Paueru Gai. The PSFS's vision includes a society enriched and interconnected through Japanese Canadian arts and fostering the recognition of Japanese Canadians as a creative force within the broader community.

A grassroots organization with social justice at its core, PSFS is deeply connected to its geographic location in unceded Squamish, Musqueam, and Tsleil-Waututh territories. The Powell Street neighbourhood was once a bustling Japanese Canadian community and today is known as one of the most impoverished districts in North America, the Downtown Eastside (DTES). The festival envisions itself as a space where progressive and quality arts presentation is an empowered contribution to society at large, enabling conversations about diaspora, diverse histories, and contemporary issues.

Creative social engagement is combined with traditional and contemporary art practices, exploring Japanese Canadian diversity to its fullest. Festival programming supports a mix of traditional and contemporary art forms. Off-season events are spaces where both emerging and established artists can push their practices, challenging themselves along with the audience. PSFS connects artists across disciplines and builds communities across cultures and socio-economic divides, with a commitment to community engagement and development.

PSFS, a charitable non-profit arts organization, gratefully acknowledges the financial support of The Canada Council for the Arts, BC Arts Council, the City of Vancouver, Canadian Heritage, the Government of BC, and its donors, all of which make this program possible. Donations can be made via Canada Helps. www.powellstreetfestival.com