



powell street festival society

パウエル祭協会

# 2022

# ANNUAL REPORT



Asahi Tribute Event (Photo: Kayla Isomura, 2022)





**The Powell Street Festival first took place in 1977 and has since expanded to be one of the largest and longest-running community arts festivals in Canada.**

The Powell Street Festival Society (PSFS) now functions as a non-profit registered charity arts organization based in Vancouver and the Paueru Gai Area—today known as the Downtown Eastside—located on the unceded territories of the Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), Səlílwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) and xʷməθkwəyəm (Musqueam) Nations.

In addition to the Powell Street Festival, the Society offers year-round programs and collaborates with local, national, and international organizations, artists, and communities to advance equity and well-being for all.

**Mission: To celebrate Japanese Canadian art and culture to connect communities.**

**Values:**

- **Community**—We foster engagement, collaboration and accessibility.
- **Artistic Excellence**—We cultivate and support artists and cultural producers.
- **Inclusivity and Diversity**—We program events and activities that welcome a wide range of participants, striving towards barrier free experiences.
- **Heritage**—We honour the location of Paueru Gai and Japanese Canadian history. Through this, we acknowledge a larger narrative of displacement and colonization.
- **Resilience**—We protect and maintain the financial and operational viability of the organization. Through this, we strive to sustain our capacity to fulfill our mandate and strengthen community.

# YEAR IN BRIEF

## 90 programs & events

## 102 artists, groups, and cultural producers paid

- 77% of total funds went to local artists

## 345 volunteers donating 7,764 hours

We are proud to be founded on volunteerism and are grateful to our community of volunteers who continue to shape and support our mandate.

## Increased investments in social enterprise & job creation

\$234,339 paid to peers and local organizations supporting low-barrier work.

## Facilitating a new Downtown Eastside Community Land Trust

In collaboration with local advocacy groups and elders.

## Launch of JC Youth Cohort

An expenses-paid summer program for Japanese Canadian youth living outside of BC.



Kisyuu & Shion  
Skye Carter



The Deep Cove



Kimiko Dorey



JODAIKO



Hiromoto Ida



Kaya Kurz



Southern Wave Okinawan  
Music and Dance



Kytami & Phonic Ops



Āza Nabuko

We aim to program events and activities that welcome a wide range of participants, striving towards more barrier free experiences. In 2022:

- All events and programs were free of charge, or sliding scale.
- ASL interpretation was incorporated into select live events (such as the *Road Work: Street Photography from the 70s & 80s* and a number of festival events).
- The Festival printed program and website were available in both English and Japanese. Festival emcees also hosted in both English and Japanese.
- Our festival livestream, *Festival Connect*, invited those unable to attend in-person to stay involved and enjoy select programming from home.

As PSFS continues to work to reduce barriers and grow community relationships, we welcome all feedback regarding the accessibility of our programming.



# 46<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL POWELL STREET FESTIVAL

**This year's Festival returned to Oppenheimer Park and the Paueru Gai neighborhood with deep appreciation for the power of relationships and community.**

With your support, we celebrated with a full-build two-day festival after going online the past two years. Applying lessons from the pandemic, we also produced *Festival Connect*, our on-the-ground livestream for those unable to attend in-person. Committed to showcasing dynamic and diverse programming, Japanese Canadian and beyond, Powell Street Festival presented an exciting lineup of events and initiatives, including:

- Performances and presentations by local and international professional artists
- Festival-favourite performers (martial artists, folk singers, poets, musicians and dancers)
- Partnerships with organizations such as the New Media Gallery, Anvil Theatre and more,
- *Fuki no Mizu*, a bespoke water mister installation designed in collaboration with UBC's School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture
- A new Cup-Share program as part of our Zero Waste Challenge

58 events & programs

11,000 attendees

63 professional artists and  
community groups paid

345 volunteers donating  
2,908 hours

46 peers paid



Powell Street Festival (Photo: Naiya Tsang, 2022)

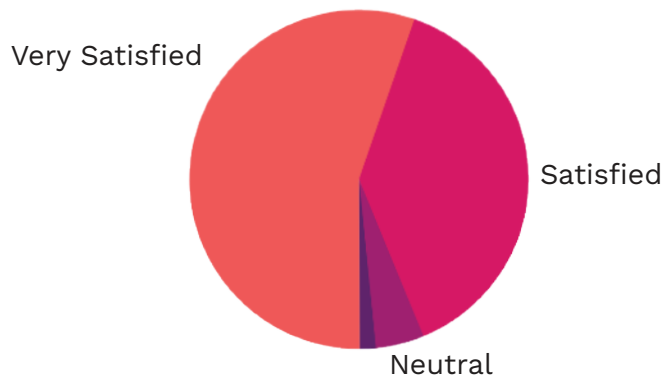


Powell Street Festival (Photo: Matthew Chun, 2022)

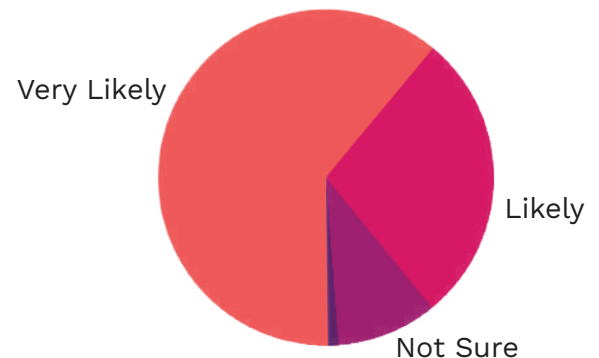
# 46<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL POWELL STREET FESTIVAL

As we adapt and recover from the pandemic, our festival survey demonstrates that we continue to offer outstanding cultural experiences that foster a community of diverse and committed festival goers.

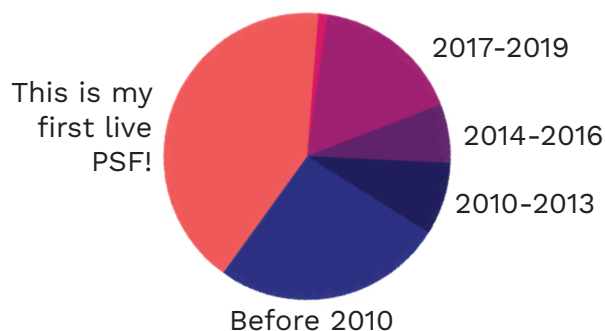
How would you rate your experience at the festival?



Based on your experience this year, how likely are you to attend next year?



When did you attend your first Powell Street Festival?

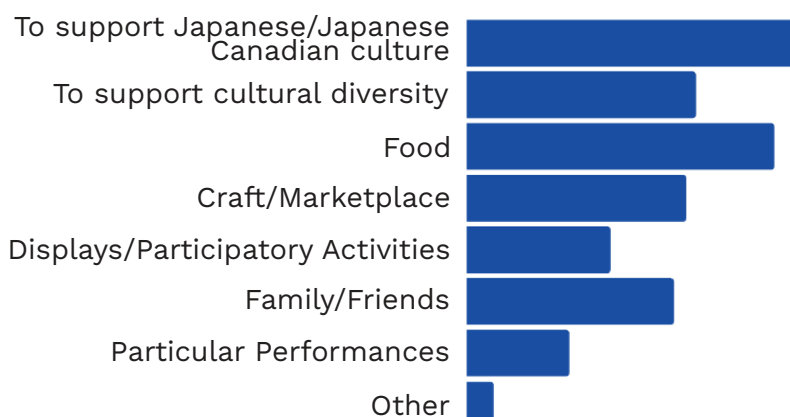


Our festival goers are diverse and self-identify as:

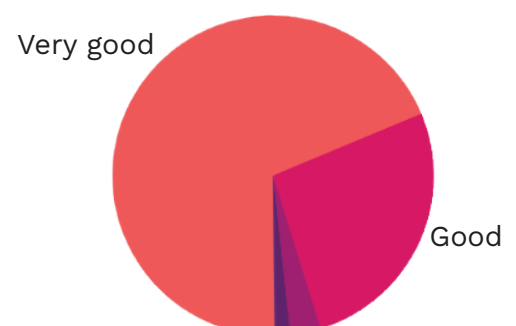


27% of festival goers primarily speak a language other than English

Why did you attend the festival?



How was your interaction with volunteers?





# YEAR-ROUND PROGRAMS

From May to August, we welcomed our first-ever **Japanese Canadian Youth Cohort** to the PSFS community. This program for three Japanese Canadian youth ages 19-29 aims to create an embodied experience of Japanese Canadian identity as vibrant and vital. Beginning with online training, education, intergenerational relationship building, and skills development, this program culminated in a 10-day production residency in Vancouver, where the Cohort traveled to sites of Japanese Canadian cultural interest and gained hands-on experience as members of the festival production team.

A new Cohort will join us in May 2023.



JC Youth Cohort members at Steveston Museum  
(Photo: Mayu Takasaki, 2022)



(Photo: 360 Riot Walk)

PSFS continued the stewardship of **360 Riot Walk**, an interactive walking tour of Vancouver's 1907 Anti-Asian Riots, created by artist Henry Tsang. It uses 360 video technology to trace the history and route of the riots in what is today known as the Downtown Eastside. This unique project interweaves the narratives of racialized communities, reclaiming how and what histories are told.

This year, the project expanded into education, piloting a field trip walking tour and a teacher resource for online tours.

The Paueru Mashup Community Dance is a high-energy dance that is accessible to all ages and abilities. It was commissioned from Onibana Taiko and Company 605 in 2020. Join us for lessons leading up to the Festival, or follow along with our Youtube tutorials to prepare yourself for the flash mob at the next Festival!



# YEAR-ROUND PROGRAMS

Thanks to donors and supporters, the success of the Telethon fundraising event in 2020 became a catalyst for unprecedented growth of our **Downtown (DTES) Community Care Programs**: it is our grassroots efforts to enhance the community's well-being in the face of ongoing food insecurity, housing crisis and other emergencies.

**In 2022, we invested \$350,462 to support job creation, care packages, meal preparation and grocery delivery in the DTES.**

- 63% of these funds created skills-building and low-barrier jobs for DTES residents.
- 30% were spent on groceries and supplies for the safe distribution of healthy meals.
- The remaining 7% covered peer salaries for the implementation of Powell Street Festival, events and our DTES Community Care Programs.

In November, we launched our **Winter Care Package Fundraiser** with a goal to raise \$10,000 to assemble and distribute 250 care packages to unhoused and precariously housed individuals living in the DTES. It is our third Care Package project since 2020.

With many thanks to individuals donors, we exceeded our goal and look forward to distributing 250+ winter care packages in the new year. Special thanks to Washington Market and DTES SRO Collaborative for their contributions.



DTES SRO Collaborative-PSFS Chinatown Grocery Program  
(Photo: Sean Cao, 2021)



Minori Harvest at Oppenheimer Park  
(Photo: Debbie Cheung, 2022)

Our DTES Community Care Programs collaborate with:

- **WePress Community Kitchen**, which prepares 700-1,000 meals per week for the unhoused and precariously housed in the DTES.
- **DTES SRO Collaborative** on the Chinatown Grocery Program and DTES Indigenous Elders Grocery Program, which altogether deliver groceries to 190 underserved elders and SRO tenants per week, thanks to **Bing Ho's** family and friends.
- **Community Impact Real Estate Society** and **EMBERS Eastside Works**, whose grants support low-barrier employment for people living on low incomes and fulfill key roles in our distribution of meals and groceries.
- PSFS' **Advocacy and Outreach Committee**, a team of dedicated volunteers who participate in DTES community-building efforts and organize annual events (see next page).



# EVENTS

Our **Advocacy and Outreach Committee** (AOC) hosted numerous events, including **Hanami** (April 10), **Asahi Tribute Game** (Aug 20) and **Minori Harvest** (Nov 13), providing capacity-building paid work opportunities, food and resources for DTES residents, and cultural activities which share Japanese Canadian history and culture. Special thanks to **WePress**, **Freybe**, **Yakashiro Farm & Gardens**, **Vancouver Japanese Language School**, **Lepp Farm Market**, **Oppenheimer Park** and **Carnegie Community Centre** for their support. See AOC's inaugural edition of their zine, *paueru gaizette*, on our website.



Hanami event at Oppenheimer Park (Photo: Andy Chan, 2022); cover of *paueru gaizette*



**Kyōdai** (Dec 3) at the Fox Cabaret was a multi-sensory concert experience created in collaboration with **Nikkei National Museum and Cultural Centre**. Exploring the theme of *kyōdai* (siblings) through Japanese Canadian home videos pre, during and post incarceration, the event featured musicians Jason de Couto Trio, Prince Shima, and Āza Nabuko, and home video curation by artist and video archivist Jeffery Chong.

In 2021, PSFS, in partnership with DKAM, became recipients of Canadian Heritage's **Support for Workers in Live Arts and Music Sectors Fund**. The grant supported the arts and cultural sectors during the pandemic by supporting live and digital arts and cultural experiences. This live event series concluded in 2022, and included the events below.



Illuminations, June 18  
(Photo: Emiko Morita, 2022)



Daruma Kuyō, Jan 15  
(Photo: Emiko Morita, 2022)

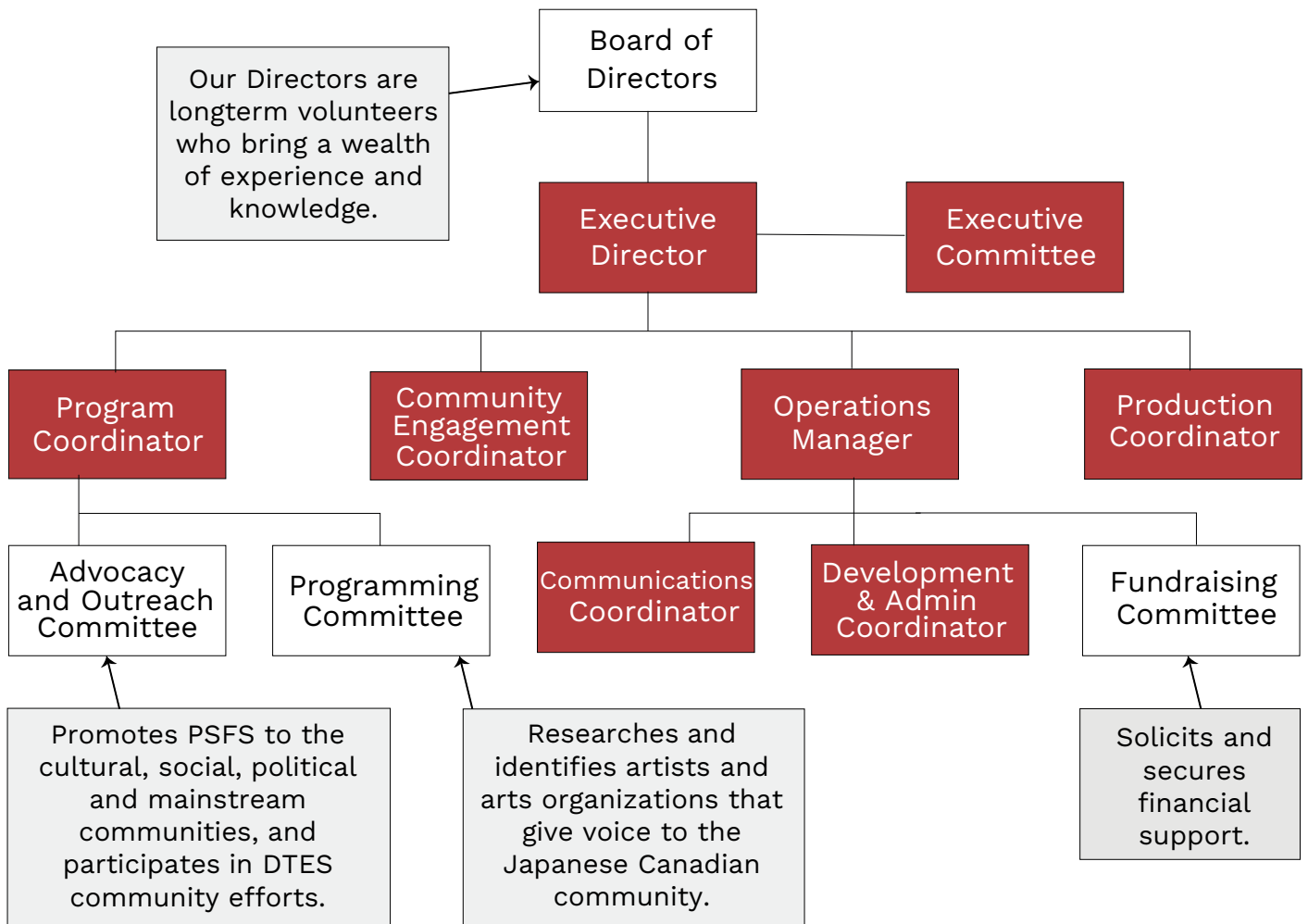


Drumming Up Spirit, May 21  
(cancelled due to COVID concerns)



# How We Work

In 2022, the PSFS team grew to 7 FTE (Full Time Equivalent) staff, and we continue to rely on our community of volunteers, who include the Board of Directors and Committees. The team expands during the festival production season to include summer staff and volunteer festival coordinators.



Powell Street Festival Production Staff (Photo: Emiko Morita, 2022)

# THANK YOU TO OUR 2022 SPONSORS



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Aburi Restaurants Canada, Al Pasternak, Amy Kiara Ruth, anaïs peterson, Ann Ishiguro (in honour of Laura Ishiguro), Anonymous, Anonymous (in memory of John McRae), Anonymous (in memory of Jim Wong-Chu), Anonymous (in memory of Mr. Doug Soo), Anonymous (in memory of Sid Tan), Anvil Press, Arsenal Press, Axel Starck, Banyen Books & Sound, Beth Carter, Bing Ho & Carmen Kwan, Bodega On Main, Bombay Masala, Bonnie Soon, Boteco Restaurant, Brian Pollard, Bryce Kanbara, Burdock & Co., Cadeaux Bakery, Carly Yoshida-Butryn, Carol Akasaka, Carole Henshall and Keith Lehman, Carolyn Nakagawa, Carrie Greig, Catlin Renay, Chris Clancy, Cold Tea Restaurant, Colin Chan, Colin Yakashiro, Como Taperia, Constance Kadota, Dahaza, Danell & Dave Yakashiro, David Murata, David Shimizu, Diane Kadota, Dean Sinnett (in memory of Frank Cunningham), Deborah Broderick (in honour of the Arai Family), Dee Anderson, Dilly Dally Toy Store, Dosanko, Douglas Chiu, Edward Steel, Edward Takayanagi, Eiichiro Ochiai, Elizabeth McKeown, Elmer Morishita, Emiko Morita, Emily Yakashiro (in memory of Bryan Yakashiro), Emma Sydora, Erica Isomura, Fatburger, Fujiya, Gary Katayama (in memory of Eiko Katayama), Gordon B Gallagher, Grace Eiko Thomson, Grace Ho, Greg Soone, Haisai! Sweets & Treats, Harken Coffee, Haruko Kubota, Heidi Nutley, Hildegard Westerkamp, Hiroko Sugiyama, Holly Sakaki, Imogene Lim, Izumi Sakamoto, Jana Squires, Jill Swanston, Joanna Bailey, John Durrant, John Price, JTB International, Judy Hanazawa, Kage, Kahoruko Koko Yamamoto, Kam Fung Li, Karen Bartlett, Katherine Chan, Kathy Shimizu (in memory of Mio and Victor Shimizu), Kazuho Yamamoto, Kelty McKinnon (in memory of Marie Saito), Kennely Ho, Kevin Huang, Kidsbooks, Kim Ohashi, Kim Uyede-Kai, Kimberley Kalanj (in memory of Amy Hayashida), Kimi Hawkes, Kristen Perry, Kyle Yakashiro (in memory of Kazuyo Yakashiro), Larry Lam, Laura Ishiguro, Les and Phyllis Murata, Leslie Komori, Linda Hoffman, Linda Hughes, Ling-Chuan Julia Wang, Lisa Mah, Lisa Uyeda, Lise Oda (in honour of Eli Oda Sheiner, Lucy Komori, Jayce Salloum, John Price, Julian Oda Sheiner, Kasumi Oda, Madison Oda Gallagher, and John Oda Gallagher), Lotus Miyashita, Lynn Deutscher Kobayashi (in memory of Ted Kobayashi), Lynne Kutsukake, Madeline Keller-MacLeod, Matthew Halverson, Margaret Gallagher, Marina Watabe, Maryka Omatsu, Masako Fukawa, Masami Hanashiro, Massy Books, Mayumi Takasaki, Meditating Bunny Studio Inc., Mee Young Aird, Megan Hines, Megumi Anderson, Merry Meredith (in memory of Tamio Wakayama), Mi Casa Mexicana, Michi Tsurumi, Michael Elliott (in memory of Hasome Kumiko), Michael Speier, Murata, Museum of Vancouver, Nami Studios, Nancy Pollak, Naomi Shikaze, Nicole Ninow, Nicole Yakashiro, Nina Inaoka Lee, Nora Ma, Ofra's Kitchen, Oh Carolina, Old Spaghetti Factory, Oon-Sim Ang, Otowa Ryu, Out and About, Paul Nguyen, Paul Stanley, Pho Hong on Fraser, Pizza Coming Soon, Pokey Okey, Queer Film Festival, Rachael McKendry, Rachel Enomoto, Rachael Nakamura, Randi Edmundson, Randy Iwata, Rebecca Ho, Red Cat Records, Rei Kitano, Ricepaper Magazine, Richard and Sandra Marsh (in honour of Samantha Marsh), Richard Kuzyk, Rick Shiomi (in memory of Gordon Kadota), Rico Escalante, Rieko (Rachel) Enomoto, Rika Uto, Rita Wong (in memory of Tatsuo Kage), Ruth Leckie, Rocky Mountain Flatbread, Rod Mickleburgh, Ryan Hirakida (in memory of Kaoru Tanaka), Sachiko Takeda-McKee (in memory of Mie and Masao Takeda), Samuel Araki, Scott Chan, Seara Yoshida, Setsu Miyanishi, Shaena Kobayashi, Shameless Buns, Sharon and Wen Wong, Shaunn Watt, Sher and Howie Shikaze, Sherri Kajiwarra, Shinobu Homma, Shou Shan, Simpson Ma, Sunrise Market, Susan Arai, Susan Doi (in memory of Tomoaki and Mitsue Doi), Susan Swanson, Taeko Mary Jane Morita, TAKENAKA, Tama Organic Life, Taryn Uede, Taylor Dawn, Teresa Vandertruin, The Bulletin, The Cinematheque, the frank theatre, The Hard Bean Brunch Co., The Postcard Place, Tokyo Katsu-Sand, Tom Teranishi, Vancouver Aboriginal Policing Centre, Vancouver Ikebana Association, Vancouver International Film Festival, Vancouver Latin American Film Festival, Vivien Nishi, Wendy Morita, Wesgroup Properties Limited Partnership, William McKee, Yoko (Powell) Piercey, Yvonne Kong (in honour of PSF Society & Volunteers), Za Daikon



Powell Street Festival (Photo: Marco Gazzoli, 2022)

**Join us in anticipation of a full-build live Festival with a livestream component in 2023.**

We look forward to engaging our community for another year of exciting programming. Whether you are a long-term festival-goer, previous volunteer, sponsor, or are new to PSFS, we want to celebrate with you in 2023.

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**[@powellstfest](https://twitter.com/powellstfest)**



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