

Vancouver Fringe Festival Society
Board President's Report
October 2024

Hello! This is my outgoing President's report. I have been on the board for 8 years, I have spent the last year and a half as Vice President and then President. I've been a donor to the Fringe since my 20's and an avid theatre-goer and fan since childhood.

It has been 14 months since our last AGM and we have had two festivals within that time, though this report will speak to the last year in more general terms. I am thrilled that this is the second year we are producing a Transparency Report and give huge kudos to our Duncan for holding us to this. I would also encourage you to compare it to our last years report. It is exciting to see that we actively turned the dial (ie. changed the pie charts) in terms of where our funds are coming from.

This year our team worked hard, having found ourselves in a challenging financial climate. Duncan Watts-Grant and Tess Conrad (our Philanthropy Officer) campaigned around our 40th Anniversary Festival Year (2024) and being in Vancouver for another 40 years. We increased our monthly donors (yay!) and through a confluence of hard work, media attention, and timing, we found ourselves in the Federal budget (!!!). It was a big moment for our festival and a nod to the need of arts funding support in Vancouver. The government funding gave us some breathing room to now be able to really take the time to understand how we need to best model the organization for lasting success and that is the work to come this year.

This year we welcomes 4 new board members (who you will be voting on tonight): Erika Babins, Lindsay Moyle, Robin Tosczak, and Ingrid Broussillon. It is exciting to be bringing in folks with different skills. We recruited specifically for a Secretary, for succession planning for our Treasurer and for different experience within attending, performing in festivals as well as looking at language and community. It is a great crew who care deeply about supporting the society and building for the next 40 years.

The 2024 festival was a great success and while our lottery was smaller this year, it was encouraging to see that the changes we made to our lottery system worked. We had amazing local bands at the bar this year and many BYOVs. The amount of theatre that was produced wasn't that much smaller in the end due to the increase in BYOV venues.

I am thrilled to hand the Presidential baton over to Ally Schuurman, our current Vice President. Ally brings board experience as well as artist experience to this work and I look forward to supporting her and the board from the background.

See you on Granville Island.

Fringefully yours,

Leslie Carty