

pacific contact 2023

APRIL 12-15 2023 ● NEW WESTMINSTER ● BRITISH COLUMBIA

Highlights



The lands on which Pacific Contact took place was among and around the ancient village site of sx^weyəməl.

These spaces exist within a territory with a rich history full of human and ancient Creation stories that tie many people + communities to the lands + waters in this region. These delicate kinships are constantly adjusting to the colonial imprint of contemporary society, so we recognize and hold space for those intricate relations in this region.

We would like to acknowledge these communities who sit around this fire:

Kwantlen First Nation
x^wməθk^wəyəm (Musqueam)
q̓íçáy (Katzie First Nation)
k^wík^wəłəm (Kwikwetlem)
Semiahmoo First Nation
səlilwətał (Tseil-Waututh Nation)
Sk̓w̓x̓w̓í7mes (Squamish Nation)
Stó:lō (Sto:lo Nation)
the Qayqayt First Nation.

As well we would like to acknowledge the deep relationship with the Tsilhqot'in Nation and their ancestor Chief A-han, who is interred on the Massey Theatre and 8th and 8th Creative Spaces grounds.

As a place that tells stories, we hold space for the delicate conversations + relations as Indigenous communities revitalize + resurge not only their cultures + history but their inter-community relations and kinships. As well we recognize and acknowledge the existence of ancient stories, place names and traditional knowledge encoded into the lands + waters we occupy.

These spaces exist within hə́q̓əmíə́r̓h̓ language territory of the Halkomelem language groups.

Ronnie Dean Harris, translation by Kaitlyn Rebecca Cunningham

Canada



BRITISH COLUMBIA
ARTS COUNCIL



BRITISH
COLUMBIA

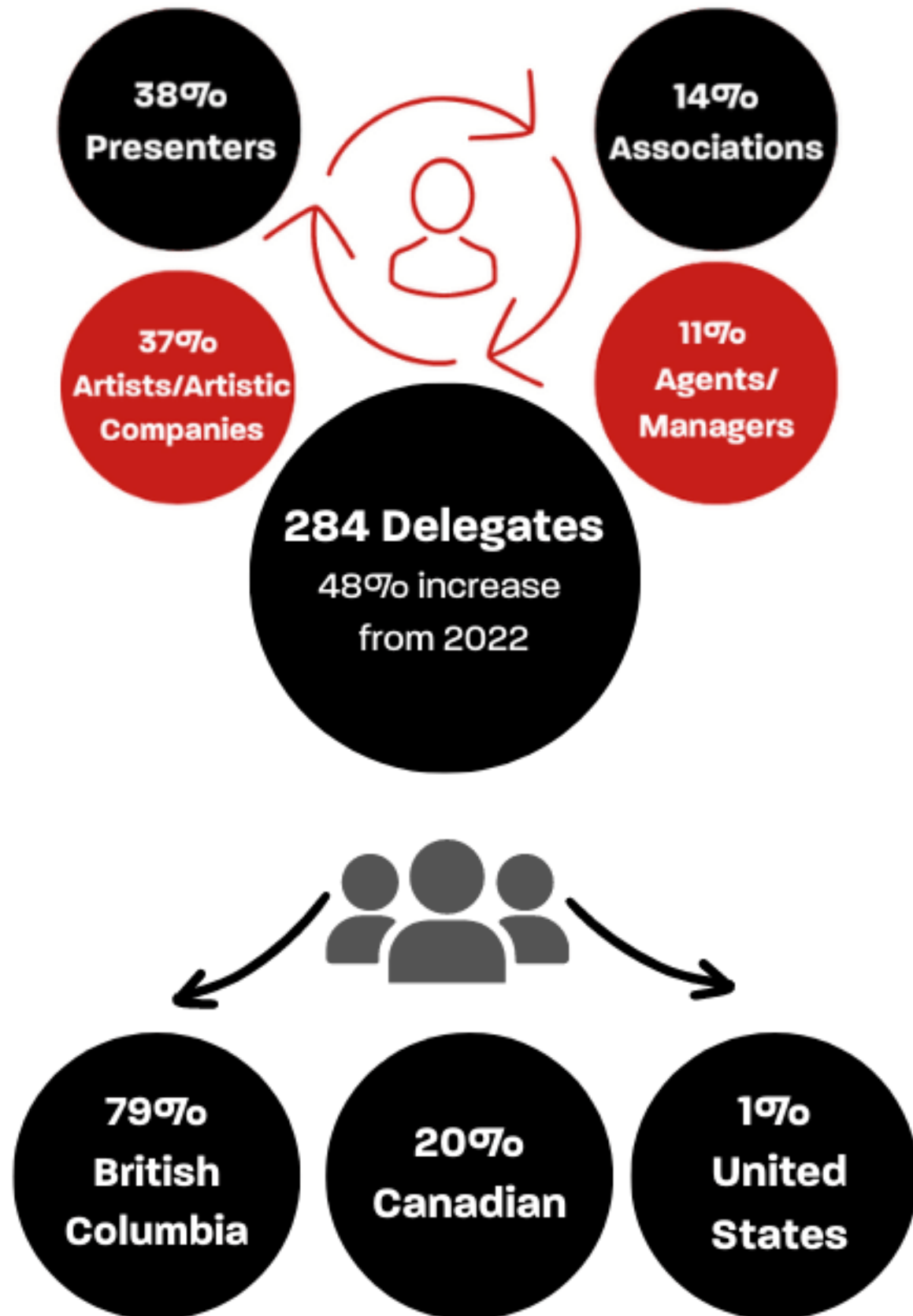
NEW WESTMINSTER

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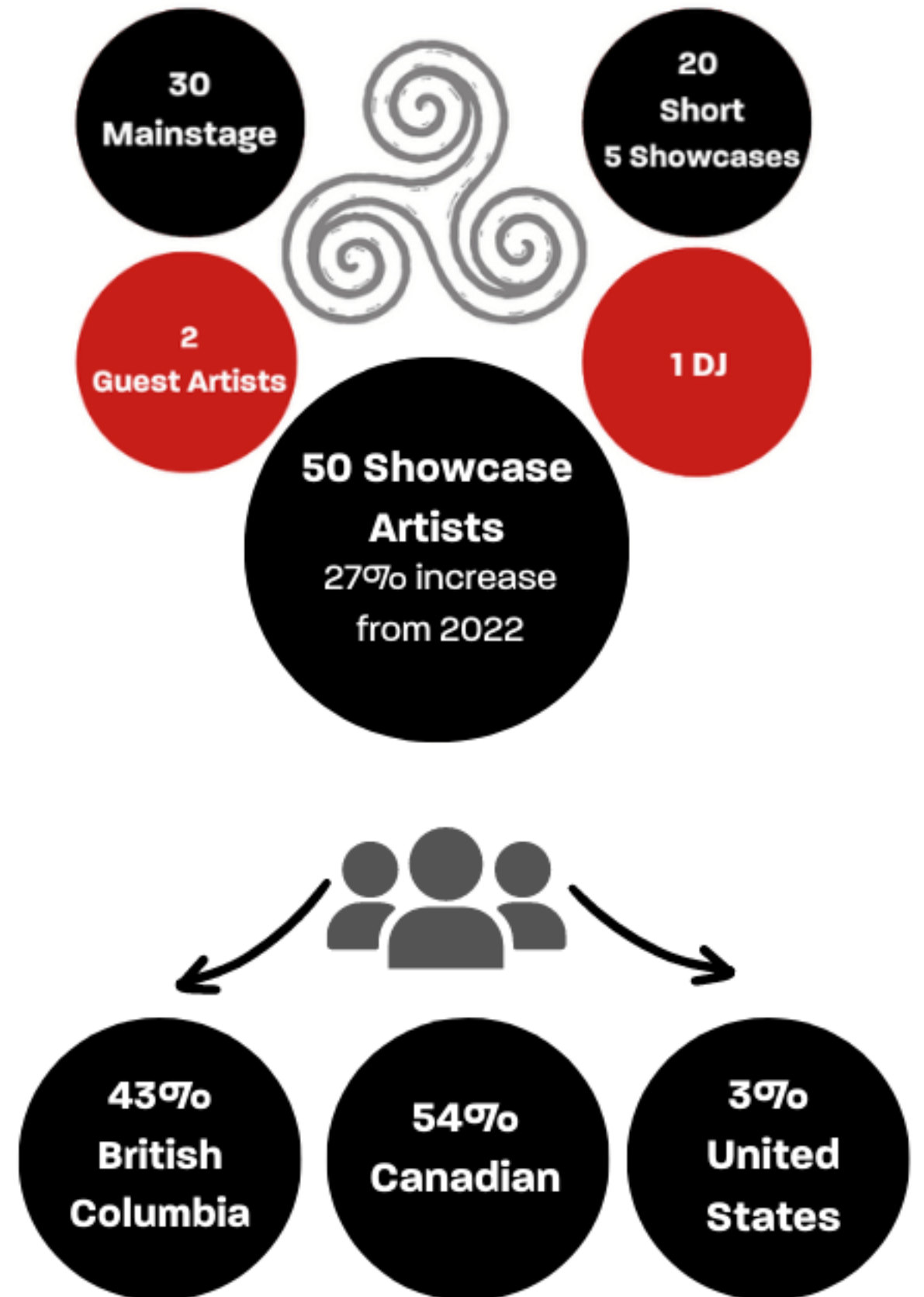
pacificcontact 2023 Highlights

4 Days 4 Venues

Delegates by the numbers



Artists: Showcases & Guests



Programming



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Opening at Fraser River Discovery Centre with host Caitlin McKee (top) and the Blue and Gold (bottom left), (Right) Ndidia O from the Blue and Gold



Father Mykhailo (L) & the Ukrainian Holy Eucharist Congregation Volunteers (middle) catered lunch on Thursday.



Sessions (top/bottom right) Navigating the Arts Through an Indigenous Lens with Elaine Bomberry, Jessica McMann, Leela Gilday & Meeka Morgan
Bottom left: Taking the Pulse of Canada's Cultural Arts Markets, Round Table Knowledge Sessions with session lead: Nina Buddhdev, Knowledge sharers: Adel Gamar, Akhil Jobanputra, Kamal Sharma, Mark Armanini, Vineet Miglani

Photography: Mary Matheson Photography

I love the changes you are making to the programs you offer and the way you seek to be inclusive. All the people who worked the conference were friendly, approachable, and did everything they could to help. Congratulations to you all!

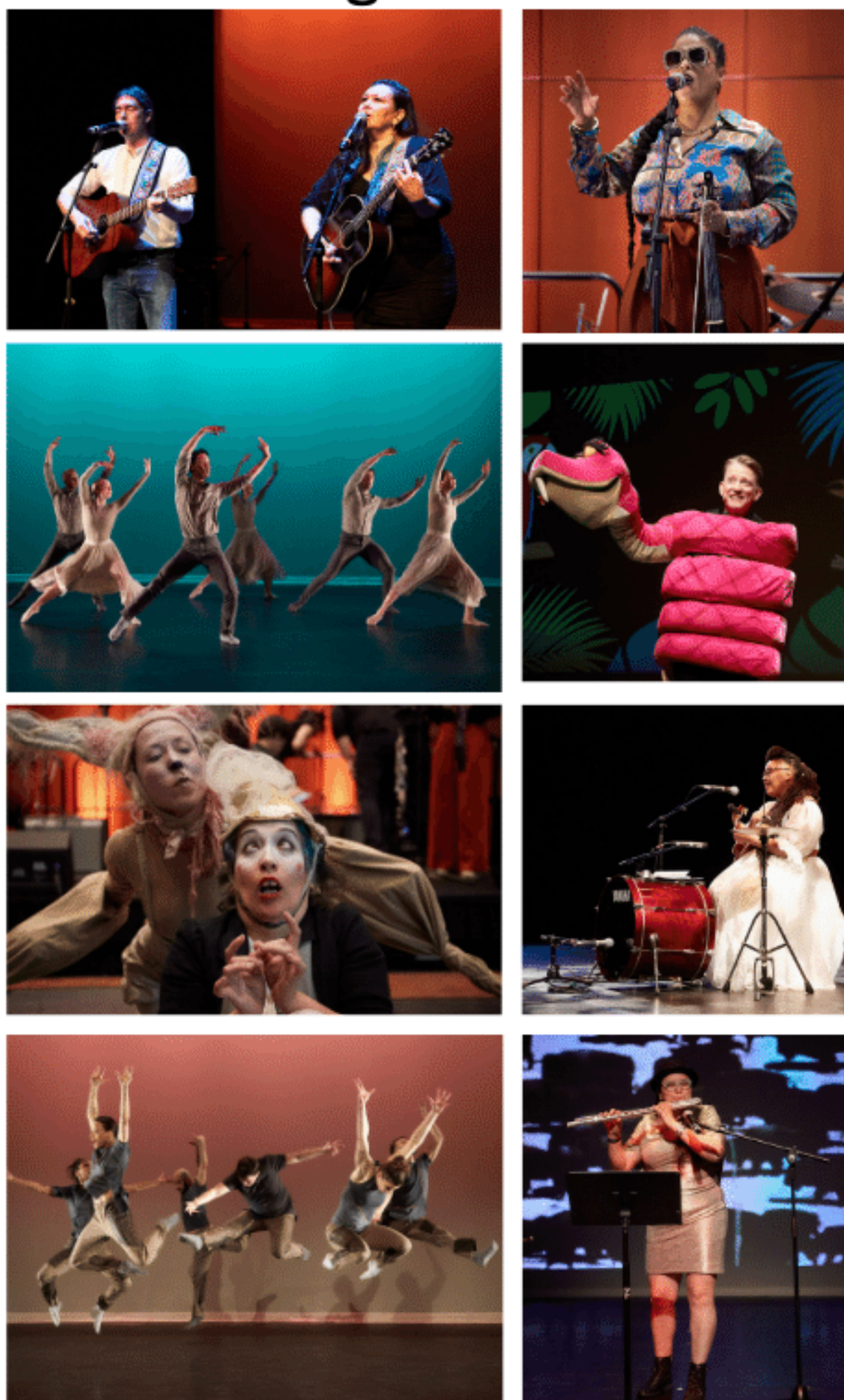
Thanks for all the efforts! Thank you for trying new things. Action is far better than inaction, even if it's not perfect. I very much enjoyed my time at Pacific Contact this year. Congratulations to all staff + board.

I found the Arts through an Indigenous Lens to be a truly eye-opening, inspiring and worthwhile workshop. Truly appreciated the panel members. Very happy to see changes, and the feeling of moving forward with BCTC.

It was my first time attending Pacific Contact, and the value it holds for the community was apparent and excellent

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Main Stage Showcases



Short 5 Showcases



Thank you so much for having me out for a showcase this year, I had an amazing time, and it was very valuable for my music career.

It was different for sure! People may complain about the outdoor showcase, the trains, and maybe the Contact Room being small, but I don't think anyone could say there was not enough variety of showcases. The strength of the conference was the diversity of performances so in my mind you nailed the most important part!

The outdoor showcase that moved indoor was fabulous, maybe it's the food and drink, but it felt more relaxed to enjoy the showcase even more.

Very much liked having the Short 5s on a real stage with proper equipment. The performances were much more professional and enticing.

Showcase Artists: Left (top to bottom): Sechile Sedare, Ballet Kelowna – taqaš and Other Works, Kirouac & Fielkov – Habitats, Sinha Dance – Out of Bark and Bone

Top Right: OKAN, Michael Harrison – VENTASTIC – Reimagining the Art of Ventriloquism, Jillian Christmas, Jessica McMann Trio

Short 5's Top L-R: Tissa Rahim, Shilpa Shankar, Nandi Sollar, All Bodies Dance Project, Translations, Bottom L-R: Robin Layne & the Rhythm Makers, Ghislaine Doté Music, L'Ecole Buissonniere/Skipping School, Beau Wheeler

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Excerpts from the Pacific Contact 2023 Survey



It was an absolute delight to connect with other performing artists and presenters. Everything at the conference was so well organized and thoroughly planned, I am so grateful to have been a part of the experience. A big thank you to BCTC once again for the opportunity to showcase my work. I'm eagerly looking forward to next year.



The discussion sessions were great learning experiences and provided a trusting space for exchange of new awareness and ideas to move forward. Thank you for the creative conference curation and a broad variety of showcases artists



It was exciting to visit New Westminster venues ... moving the conference around is a good idea..



Top L to R: Jessica McMann Trio, Norma McKnight
L to R: Dave Deveau, Ruby Singh
Pacific Contact delegates

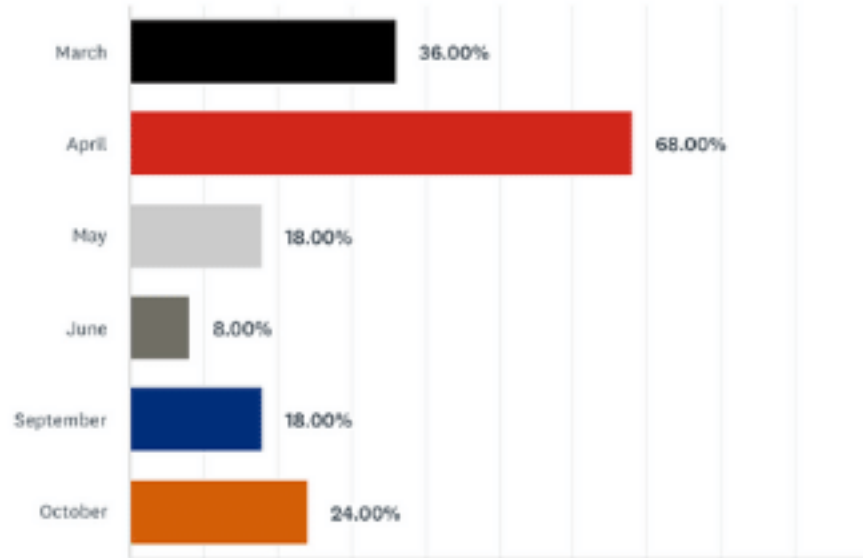
Photography: Mary Matheson Photography

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Timing

Please select your preferred timing for Pacific Contact:

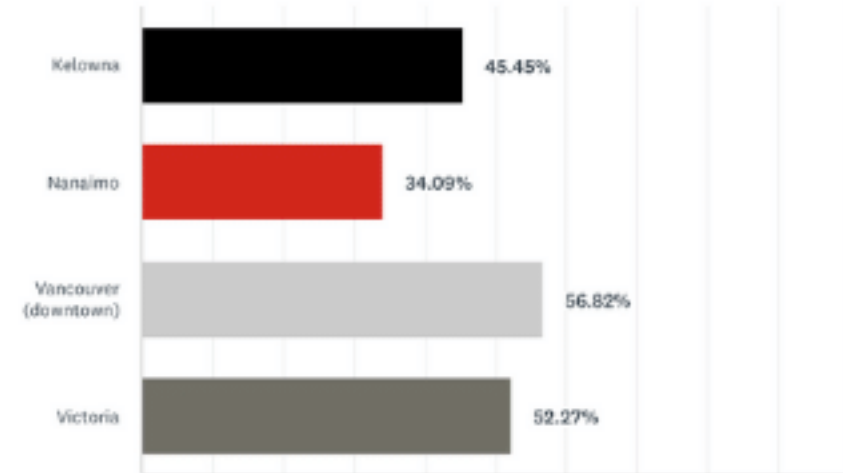
Answered: 50 Skipped: 11



Location

BCTC is moving the location of Pacific Contact around BC each year. Please select your preferred locations or suggest one below:

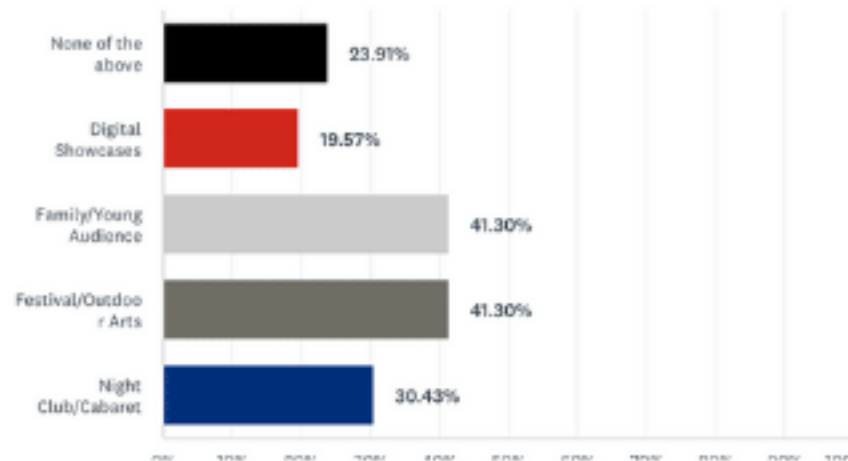
Answered: 44 Skipped: 17



Other Types of Showcases

BCTC is considering offering other types of showcases at Pacific Contact. Please select any or all that are of interest to you:

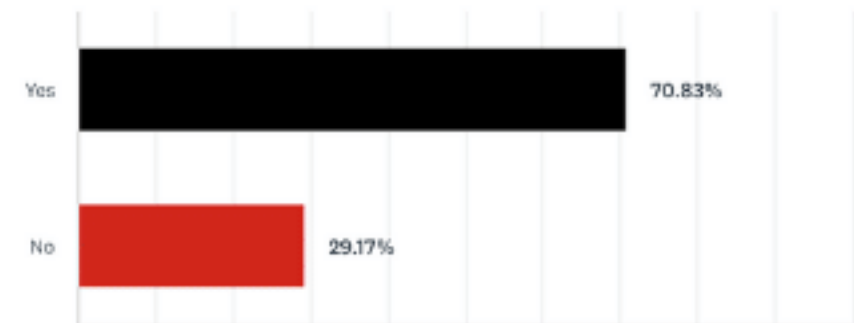
Answered: 46 Skipped: 15



Other Types of Workshops

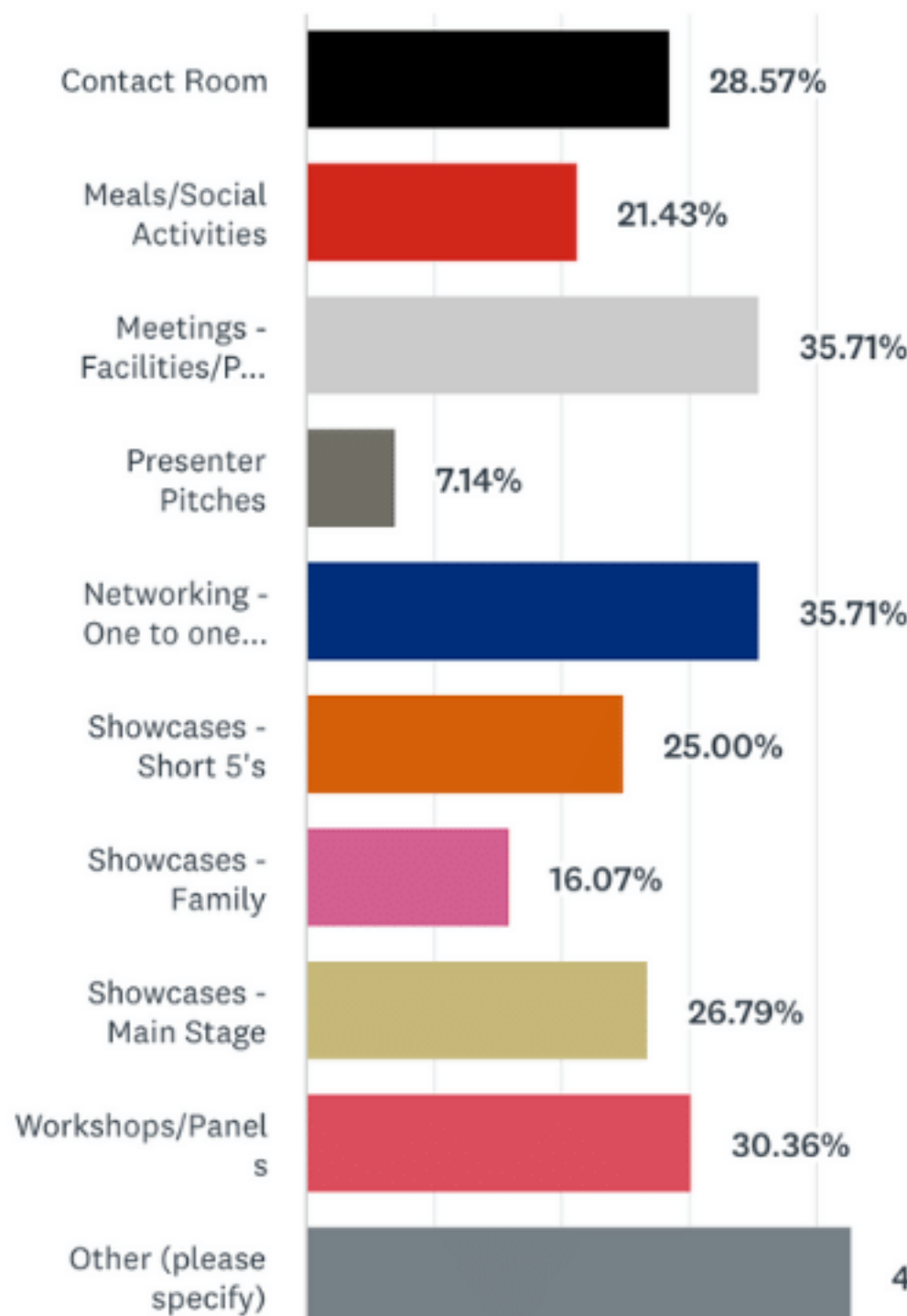
BCTC is considering introducing theatre, dance and other workshops to delegates to give them an idea of the community engagement artists can offer alongside performances, is this something that interests you?

Answered: 48 Skipped: 13



What you would like to see more of....

Answered: 56 Skipped: 5



See comments on the next page

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What would you like to see more of....

- Most conversations happened in the in-between breaks during the conference - having ample time for these breaks is important for people to connect.
- More Short 5's. I think they are a great way to give more artists the opportunity to perform and for presenters to see more options.
- More time for colleague meetings (artists, agents, presenters, etc.). One hour went by very quickly. Perhaps have attendees submit items for discussion prior to the conference that can be added to an agenda.
- I would love to see a Karaoke or jam night as a social event.
- Contact Room needs to be significantly more promoted to the delegates ... the value as a 'resource' over and above showcasing artists only needs to be appreciated and explored. Possibly a hand out of artists being represented?
- Downtime / flexible use time
- Felt there was enough, or more than enough, of all of the mentioned elements.
- Informal social events
- More showcases and Contact Room time. Presenters don't even look at you if you don't showcase, and most don't even show up for the showcases. How are they supposed to get to know them if they don't see the showcases and don't want to go to the Contact Room?
- Need to bring back the hospitality room each night for informal networking.
- Considering the One-to-ones, I would love to have those better organized and make sure we got proper networking from those.
- I'm assuming you mean more than what we already had this year, in which case, definitely not more showcases but of course, they are essential to the event, and I wouldn't want them to go away. Also, I'm less and less a fan of the contact room. I'd rather have more one-on-one meetings and less contact room time if it had to be a tradeoff.
- I thought the content of the conference was very good this year. What I found, though, is that because the conference was not held all within one hotel, there was no Hospitality suite, lobby or bar for an end-of-day time to relax and just meet with folks. No pressure of "work" but an opportunity to meet new folks in a less pressured way. I found this time that while there was some opportunity during the days to socialize, I found myself just looking for familiar folks and (being somewhat shy) not as comfortable in approaching new folks as in an off-work situation. This opportunity was also lost due to the shorter and less frequent shuttles.
- Soundwalk, recharge-related activities that happen outdoors or in a quiet space?
- Important to keep in mind when showcasing 50+ artists that not all will be getting work. Please keep this to less.
- Please focus more on the artists than the presenters.



pacificcontact2023 Opening



Opening Guests (L-R)

The Honourable Lana Popham, Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport.

The Honourable Peter Julian, M.P. New Westminster-Burnaby

Dr. Sae-Hoon (Stan) Chung, Chair, BC Arts Council

Guest Artists: Renae Morriseau with a performance by M'Girl

Bottom photo (L-R)

Councillor: Ruby Campbell, City of New Westminster

Mayor Patrick Johnstone, City of New Westminster

The Honourable Lana Popham, Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport.

The Honourable Peter Julian, M.P. New Westminster-Burnaby



pacific contact 2023 Awards

Each year, BCTC members are invited to nominate presenters, festivals, agents/managers, artistic companies and artists who go above and beyond and deserve recognition. The Awards are presented at Pacific Contact.

Congratulations to all of the nominees and to this year's winners.

2023 Winners

Presenter of the Year-Key: Nadine Tremblay, Bailey Theatre/Trail & District Arts Council

Presenter of the Year-Community: Colleen Brines, Quesnel Live Arts

Artist Representative: Brent Belsher - Belsher Arts Management

Festival of the Year, Nanaimo International Jazz Festival, Dirk Heydemann

Artist/Artistic Company: Ruby Singh

Best Booth: Shameless Hussy Productions



Photography: Mary Matheson Photography