



WePress

Community Arts

Space Society

2020 Annual Report

WE RESPECTFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE THAT WEPRESS IS A COMMUNITY ART SPACE ON THE OCCUPIED AND UNCEDED TRADITIONAL TERRITORIES OF THE X̱MƏθKʷƏY̱ƏM (MUSQUEAM), SḴW̱X̱W̱Ú7MESH (SQUAMISH), AND SƏL'IL'WƏTƏʔŁ (TSLEIL-WAUTUTH) NATIONS. WE ARE GRATEFUL TO BE HERE UNINVITED, TO LIVE AND WORK ALONGSIDE THE PEOPLE INDIGENOUS TO AND WHO HAVE STEWARDED THESE LANDS SINCE TIME IMMEMORIAL. IN 2020 WE WORKED ALONGSIDE AND LEARNED FROM MANY INDIGENOUS FOLKS IN AND BEYOND THE DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE NEIGHBOURHOOD IN WAYS THAT CENTER DECOLONIAL RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN PEOPLE AND WITH THE LAND.

THE MISSION OF WEPRESS IS TO ADVANCE EDUCATION BY PROVIDING WORKSHOPS ON HISTORIC AND CONTEMPORARY METHODS OF PRINT- AND ART-MAKING FOR THE PUBLIC, WITH A PARTICULAR FOCUS ON INDIVIDUALS FROM MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES IN VANCOUVER'S DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE (DTES).

WEPRESS OFFERS HISTORIC AND CONTEMPORARY METHODS OF PRINT- AND ART-MAKING IN A SAFE AND WELCOMING SPACE, PARTICULARLY TO THOSE MARGINALIZED BY SYSTEMS OF CLASS, SEXUALITY, GENDER, RACE, CULTURE, DISABILITY, MENTAL HEALTH, ADDICTIONS, AND COLONIZATION. WE SEEK TO SUPPORT THEM TO VOICE THEIR STORIES, LIVED EXPERIENCE, AND DREAMS, AND TO BUILD COMMUNITY CAPACITY AND RESILIENCE THROUGH ART-MAKING.

winter

OPEN STUDIO

FREE, ACCESSIBLE,
ART MAKING
DROP-IN.



CREATING REGULAR,
LOW BARRIER INCOME
OPPORTUNITIES FOR ARTISTS
AND PEOPLE INTERSECTIONALLY
MARGINALIZED OUT OF MEETING
THEIR BASIC NEEDS

WORKSHOPS

SLIDING SCALE,
ACCESSIBLE, OFFSETS
COST OF FREE PROGRAMS

ONLINE WORKSHOPS

- * SLIDING SCALE AND / OR FREE WORKSHOP AND DROP-IN SESSIONS
- * PARTNERSHIPS WITH HEART OF THE CITY FESTIVAL, JUDITH MARCUSE PROJECTS, INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR ART FOR SOCIAL CHANGE, AND ABORIGINAL WRITERS COLLECTIVE AND WARRIORS AGAINST VIOLENCE
- * TOPICS: MARBLING WITH WATER, PRINTMAKING, BEADING, WRITING, AS WELL AS VIRTUAL ART DROP-INS

fall

FUTURE:

MUTUAL AID, BUILDING
HEALTHY & SUSTAINABLE
NON HIERARCHICAL
SYSTEMS

RADICAL CARE RESIDENCIES (2021)

- * SUPPORT ARTISTS MAKING WORK AT HOME, OR WHEREVER THEY ARE LIVING, BY SUBSIDIZING THEIR PRACTICE.

ART SUPPLY KITS

2000 FREE ART
SUPPLY KITS
DISTRIBUTED
KITS THROUGH
22 DTES
ORGANIZATIONS
& GROUPS IN
EARLY 2021.



PAN-PAN TIMES & SUPPORTING FRONTLINE WORK

- * DIVERTING STAFF HOURS TO DTES RESPONSE
- * DISTRIBUTING CELL PHONES WITH FREE DATA PLANS
- * COORDINATED MEAL DISTRIBUTION NETWORK THAT PROVIDED 1200 MEALS PER DAY X 7 DAYS A WEEK X 6 WEEKS
- * DISTRIBUTED PPE (MASKS, HAND SANITIZER, GLOVES)

ARTIST RESIDENCIES & STIPENDS

- * SUPPORTED OUR OWN NETWORK OF ARTIST FACILITATORS (~20 INDIVIDUALS) STIPENDS BECAUSE WE COULDN'T HIRE THEM TO FACILITATE WORKSHOPS.
- * REDIRECTED THE FUNDS FROM A PROPOSED PROJECT ABOUT INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES (THAT WAS CANCELLED) TO FINANCIALLY SUPPORT EIGHT INDIVIDUAL INDIGENOUS ARTISTS WITH THEIR ART AND COMMUNITY PRACTICES.

WEPRESS COMMUNITY KITCHEN

& THE DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE
COMMUNITY KITCHENS NETWORK

- * WEPRESS COMMUNITY KITCHEN HAS BEEN PROVIDING 200 HOT MEALS 5 DAYS A WEEK SINCE JUNE TO THE DTES COMMUNITY.
- * IN 2020 ALONE, WEPRESS DISTRIBUTED ABOUT 30,300 HOT MEALS.
- * LOW-BARRIER COOK POSITIONS GAVE REGULAR INCOME TO OUT OF WORK ARTISTS AND PEOPLE MARGINALIZED OUT OF TYPICAL INCOME OPPORTUNITIES



PHOTO: KAYLA ISOMURA

Spring

summer

1261 PEOPLE ATTENDED 22 WORKSHOPS AND DROP-INS, AND VIEWED OR ATTENDED OR 10 DIFFERENT ART PRESENTATIONS AND COMMUNITY ARTS PROJECTS IN 2020.

OVER 30,300 MEALS DELIVERED AND DISTRIBUTED IN 2020 + MORE IN 2021!

2000 ART SUPPLY KITS DISTRIBUTED SO FAR IN 2021

34 ARTISTS HIRED IN 2020 + MORE WORKERS THROUGH THE WEPRESS COMMUNITY KITCHEN

other activities

CHINESE SENIORS PROJECT

THE WORKING GROUP CONTINUED TO MEET VIRTUALLY IN 2020. AFTER COMPLETING THE TRANSLATION WORK, THE GROUP BEGAN TO CURATE THE BOOK—WRITTEN TEXT, ARTWORK BY SENIORS, PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THE WORKSHOPS IN 2018 AND 2019, AND ARTWORK BY COMMISSIONED ARTISTS. CURRENTLY, THE CONTENT IS BEING EDITED.

NON-CORPORATE + SECURE DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE

NINA RESEARCHED AND DEVELOPED A WAY FOR WEPRESS TO HOLD VIRTUAL MEETINGS ON OUR OWN SERVER USING AS MUCH NON-CORPORATE AND OPEN SOURCE TECHNOLOGY AS POSSIBLE. WE CONTINUE TO DEVELOP SAFE, RELIABLE, COMMUNITY-OWNED, NON-CORPORATE DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND INFORMATION SHARING.

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS: JODIE MAK, HANNAH BENNETT, PEERANU VISETSUH, NAMIKO KUNIMOTO, JANICE SHIMIZU, SHIRLEY LUM, SANDI LIANG, SARA MONTGOMERY, JENNIFER OUSON, ANNA VIEIRA, MONICA KUMAR, ASHLEY BODILY, PIERRE LEICHER, DANIELLE ENRIGHT, AND MELISSA MULLER.

THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDERS AND PARTNERS, INCLUDING THE BC ARTS COUNCIL, CITY OF VANCOUVER, CANADA COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS, GOVERNMENT OF CANADA THROUGH THE UNITED WAY LOWER MAINLAND, COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS OF CANADA / VANCOUVER FOUNDATION, COMMUNITY FOOD CENTRES OF CANADA, AND CAREER LAUNCHER, PROVINCE OF BRITISH

COLUMBIA, VANCOUVER FOUNDATION, COMMUNITY RESPONSE FUND, DTES RESPONSE, COMMUNITY IMPACT REAL ESTATE SOCIETY, POWELL STREET FESTIVAL SOCIETY, GALLERY GACHET, AND OPUS ART SUPPLIES.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE WORK WAS DONE WITH SUPPORT FROM DTES RESPONSE, NETWORK OF INNER CITY COMMUNITY SERVICES SOCIETY, POTLUCK CATERING, HAVE CULINARY TRAINING SOCIETY, SOUTH HALL, WILDEBEEST, THE COMMUNITY RESPONSE FUND, CITY OF VANCOUVER AND CIRES PEER FUND, HIVES FOR HUMANITY, POWELL STREET FESTIVAL SOCIETY, AND THE SPENCERCREO FOUNDATION (TO NAME A FEW).