This zine-comic tells the story of a play collectively created at the UBC Learning Exchange called UP voices.

It is also a toolkit giving insights into how theatre can bring your community to life project.

The UBC Learning Exchange - 612 Main Street - Van, BC - V6A 2V3

www.learningexchange.ubc.ca

~ A UBC LEARNING EXCHANGE ZINE ~

THE COMIC

by

THE VOICES UP! COLLECTIVE
From the spring of 2016 to the fall of 2017, Voices UP! was performed four times, bringing stories of the Learning Lab, a dynamic arts-driven program for members of the downtown Eastside community offered through the UBC Learning Exchange, to hundreds, from community members to academics and evaluation practitioners.

This toolkit carries forward the Voices UP! experience to an even wider audience and shares insights into how you can use theatre to bring your evaluation findings to life.

Thank you to all the Learning Exchange staff, students, and volunteers who made this come possible.

For more info and resources, visit: www.learningexchange.ubc.ca

THE END

BUT VOICES UP! FOREVER
THE PERFORMANCE

THE CAST ON STAGE

TALKBACK

What is Evaluation?

Shared Nerves, Shared Excitement

IT’S LIKE A KIND OF RECOLLECTION; WE TRY TO REFLECT ON WHAT WORKS, AND WHAT DOESN’T. THAT WAY, WE GET TO KEEP IMPROVING OURSELVES!

THE UBC LEARNING EXCHANGE IS A SPECIAL PLACE IN VANCOUVER’S DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE WHERE PEOPLE CAN COME TO LEARN, LEAD, OR JUST HANG OUT & CHAT.

Weehawken, Squamish

English Conversation Program

Aa... Bb... Cc...
The Learning Lab was a three-year pilot program—pretty experimental.

How do we do?

Where do we go from here?

How are people feeling about the Learning Lab?

It was time for an evaluation!

Once we had the scenes, we started...

Takeaways

Lessons we learned about why theatre works for sharing evaluation findings.

#1 It's an emotional, memorable experience that gets people engaged in what you have to say.

#2 Theatre’s immediacy motivates the audience into thinking, talking, and taking action right away.

#3 Findings can be made accessible to a wider audience of people than would need a written report.

#4 Using collective creation lets participants take ownership of the evaluation findings.

#5 You can learn new things and have deeper insights through the process of turning findings into a play.
WHAT'S A PLAY WITHOUT US

WE HAVE SEE PUPPETS BECAUSE
WE HELP FOLKS EXPRESS THEIR FEELINGS!
WE'RE ADORABLE

WHAT IS EVALUATION ???

MAKE YOUR PUPPETS HAPPY

A PUPPET-RUPTION

JACOB, NICK AND DENZEL, they call to ANDREW.

You're doing DIZZLE here, right?

That's right. Learning Lab.

Then we have a question for you.

WE WANTED TO INVOLVE LEARNING LAB PARTICIPANTS IN THE PROCESS AND SHARE THE RESULTS IN A WAY THAT COULD BE ENGAGING....

SO WE ASKED FOLKS....

BUT... WE DIDN'T WANT JUST ANOTHER DUSTY REPORT ON A BOOKSHELF

EVAL REPORT REESE!

WHY NOT THE F E?
I've never acted before.

JOHNNY

What will it look like?

SYLVE

We don't know and that's okay.

ANDREW

I don't think this is going to work!

KEN

THE CAST OF VOICES UP!

THEATRE'S MY THING!

CHENS

WHO IS GOING TO WRITE IT?

TERESA

SOUNDS FUN!

SKY

WHERE WILL WE PERFORM?

JAY

WHAT IF WE MADE A PLAY?

PRINCIPLES

1. Create a welcoming, open space where everyone feels comfortable joining in and having fun.

2. Believe that everyone is an artist. Recognise everyone's strengths and contributions to the process.

3. Use collective creation for every aspect of the performance so everyone works together and has shared ownership.

4. Let everyone choose their own level and type of participation so that everyone can work to their own comfort level.

5. Have staff participate equally alongside everyone else to have a shared experience, bond, and build trust.

THE MAHJONG CLUB SCENE
THE ARTASTIC! SCENE

“IT’S A GREAT WAY TO MEET NEW PEOPLE...”

FOLKS WHO WEREN’T COMFORTABLE WITH PERFORMING COULD STILL CONTRIBUTE.

ARTASTIC!

attles art

It’s a great way to meet new people...

Our Evaluation FOUND that there were a few very popular core activities that were the most LASTING over time...

LEARNING LAB

Streamlining through program criteria.

Volunteer, Club

The scenes in the play could be based on these activities.

Then we had a good idea!

We got together to share our experiences.

At all our meetings...

TEA AND SNACKS WERE A MUST!
IT MAKES ME FEEL HAPPY TO BE FIRST NATIONS
I've never sewn so many buttons in my life!

Voices UP!
EAGLE SKY
It makes me feel happy to be First Nations.

MARIA
I've never sewn so many buttons in my life.

CONVERSATIONS

WRITING...

THE BUTTON BLANKET SCENE

Each button has a story

THE THUNDERBIRD

Around 35 days of programming.

ANDREW

RE-WRITING...

ANDREW

All of this makes up the Learning Lab at the UBC Learning Exchange.

Tuesdays are days that we create an environment that is welcoming, environment that is welcoming, playing, writing. We do it all. My name is Andrew, I run the Learning Lab. My name is Andrew, and I try to get people to learn. I try to get people to learn.

And I'm Andrew. I'm a UBC student, working at the Learning Exchange part-time, to evaluate the Learning Lab. It was a three-year pilot program - pretty enthusiastic. I believe it's been 3 years, so the evaluation is now done. I'm working on the evaluation.

Learn to sew

GRATEFUL TO OUR TEACHERS & ELDERS

SING AS WE SEW