

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](http://www.learningexchange.ubc.ca)



~ A UBC LEARNING EXCHANGE ZINE ~

# UP

voices

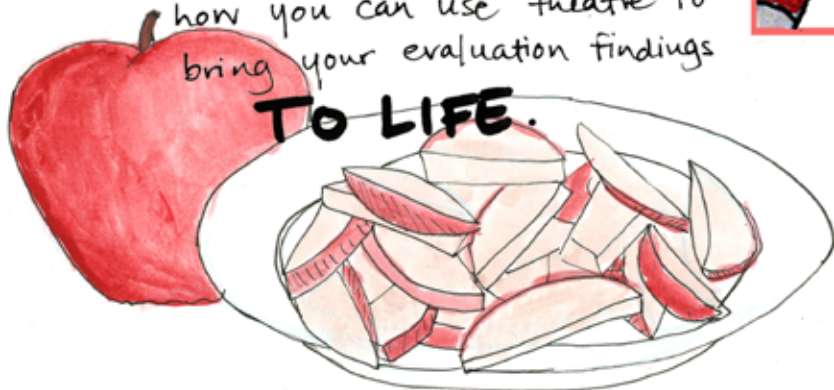
THE  
COMIC

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 COMIC POSSIBLE



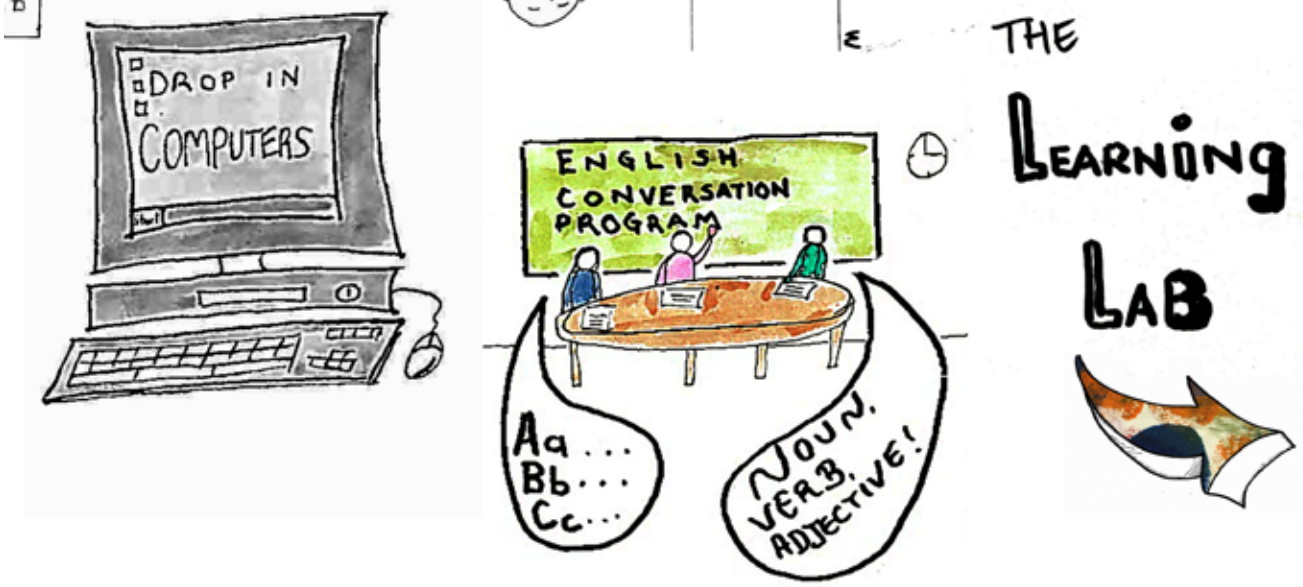
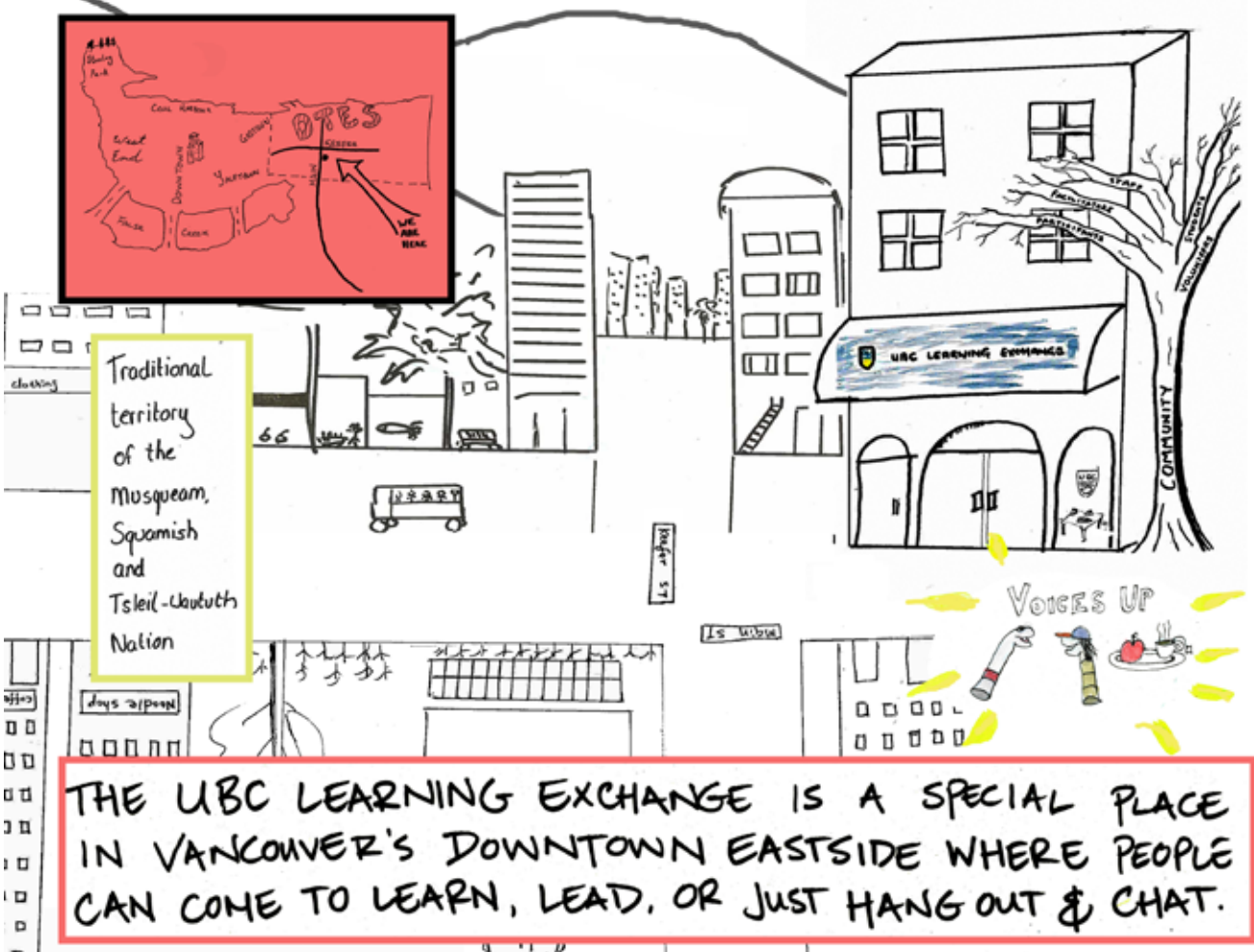
THE END



BUT VOICES UP! FOREVER



FOR MORE INFO AND RESOURCES, VISIT:  
[www.learningexchange.ubc.ca](http://www.learningexchange.ubc.ca)



# THE LEARNING LAB

Matches  
Community  
Members with  
activities they're

**PASSIONATE**

ABOUT -

as a  
PARTICIPANT  
OR  
AS  
A

**LEADER**

THE LEARNING LAB WAS A  
THREE-YEAR PILOT PROGRAM -  
PRETTY EXPERIMENTAL.



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 read 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.

BUILDING  
THE  
SET



Rehearsing  
the play



REWRITING  
THE SCRIPT  
(multiple times!)



WORK TOGETHER AND  
ENJOY!

WE MADE SOCK PUPPETS BECAUSE...

WHAT'S A PLAY WITHOUT US

WE HELP FOLKS EXPRESS THEIR FEELINGS!

Make your PUPPETS happy

WE'RE ADORABLE

The CHARACTERS speak for you

ACTUAL PAGE OF SCRIPT

**A PUPPET-RUPTION**

ets, NICK and DENZEL, they call to ANDREW.

You're do DENZEL ion here, right?

That's right. ANDREW an evalu

Learning Lab

Then we have a question for you:

**WHAT IS EVALUATION???**

**EVALUATION!**

HOW DID THINGS GO?

WHAT IS EVALUATION?

WHAT WAS IT LIKE?

- RELATIONSHIPS ARE IMPORTANT!
- CLUES WERE:
  - CONTINUOUS!
  - RELIABLE!
  - FREE AS SCOUNDING!
  - FAIR-FAIR!
  - INTERABILITY!
  - STREAMLINING!

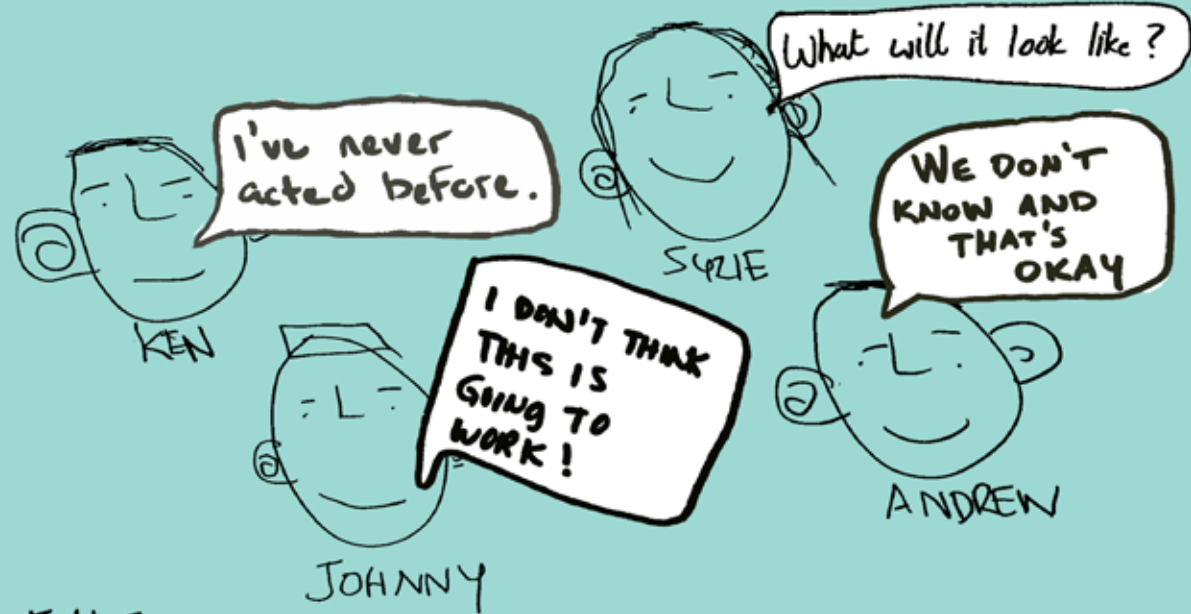
**BUT... WE DIDN'T WANT JUST ANOTHER DUSTY REPORT ON A BOOKSHELF**

**EVAL REPORT**  
READ ME PLEASE!

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

**WHY NOT THEATRE?**

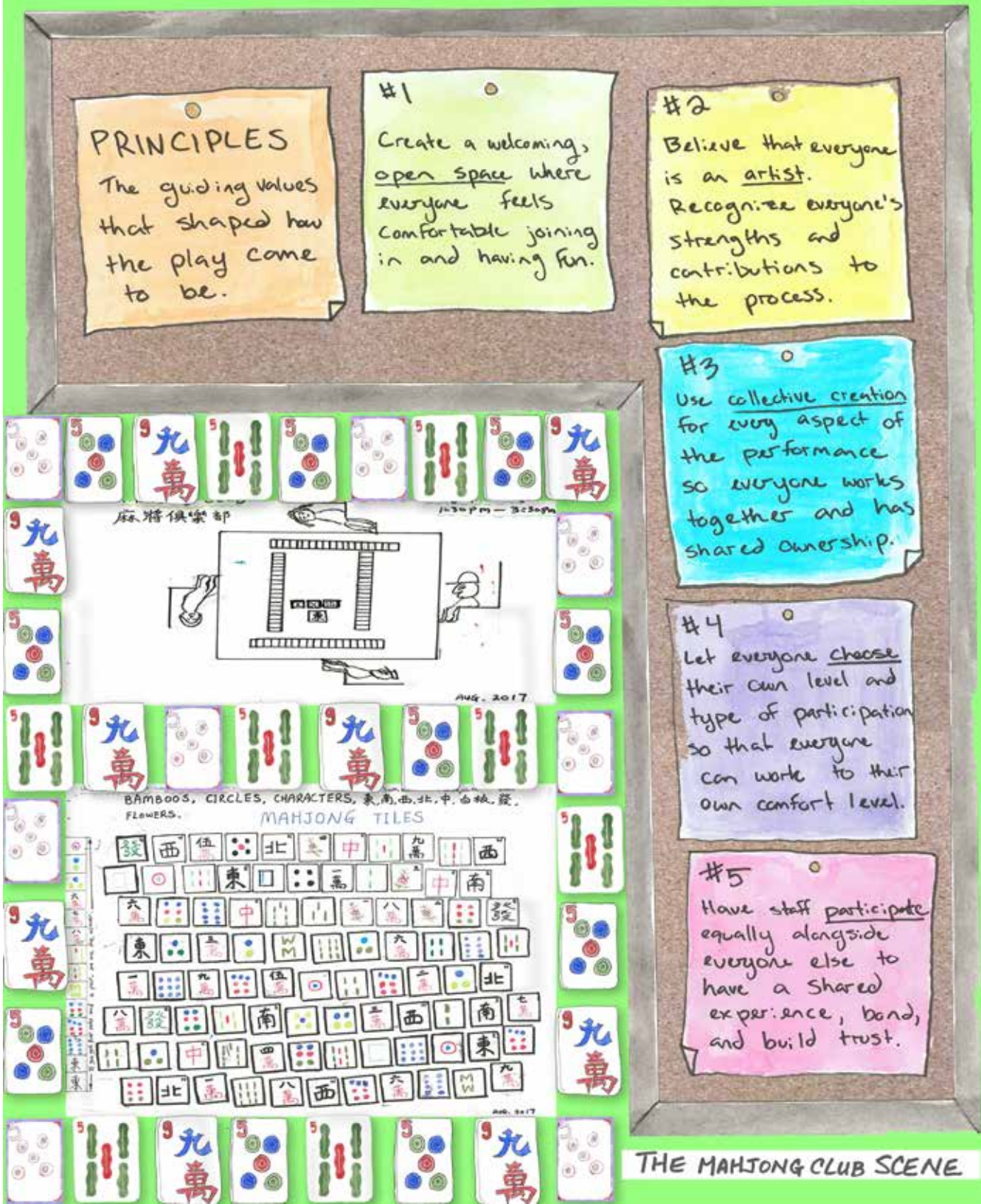
SO WE ASKED FOLKS...



THE CAST OF VOICES UP!



WHAT IF WE MADE A PLAY?



**#1 PRINCIPLES**  
The guiding values that shaped how the play came to be.

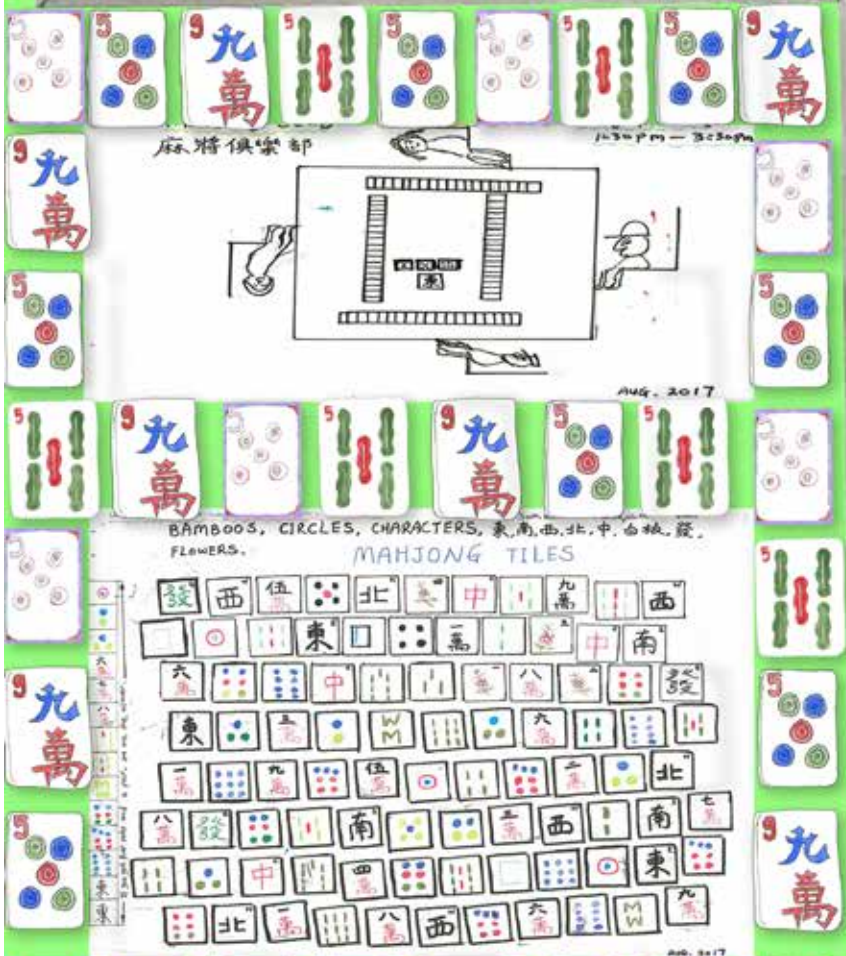
**#1**  
Create a welcoming, open space where everyone feels comfortable joining in and having fun.

**#2**  
Believe that everyone is an artist. Recognize 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



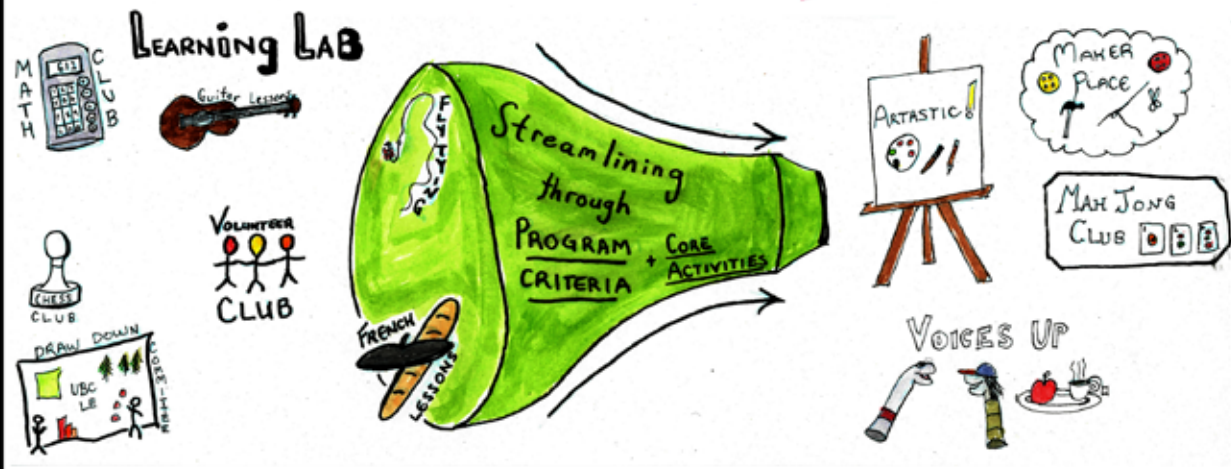
FOLKS WHO WEREN'T COMFORTABLE WITH PERFORMING COULD STILL CONTRIBUTE



IT'S A GREAT WAY TO MEET NEW PEOPLE...



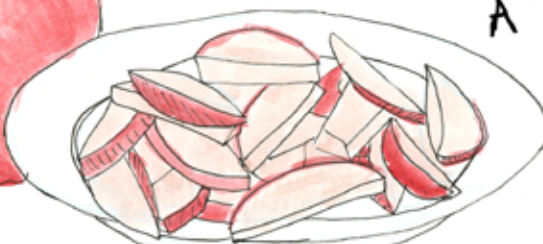
Our EVALUATION FOUND THAT THERE WERE A FEW VERY POPULAR CORE ACTIVITIES THAT WERE THE MOST LASTING OVER TIME...



THEN WE HAD A GOOD IDEA!

THE SCENES IN THE PLAY COULD BE BASED ON THESE ACTIVITIES

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!

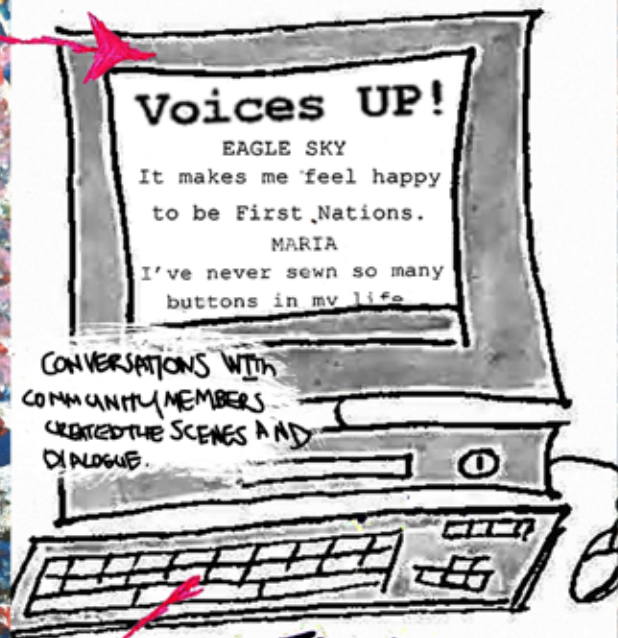


CONVERSATIONS

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 WITH  
COMMUNITY MEMBERS  
CREATED THE SCENES AND  
DIALOGUE.

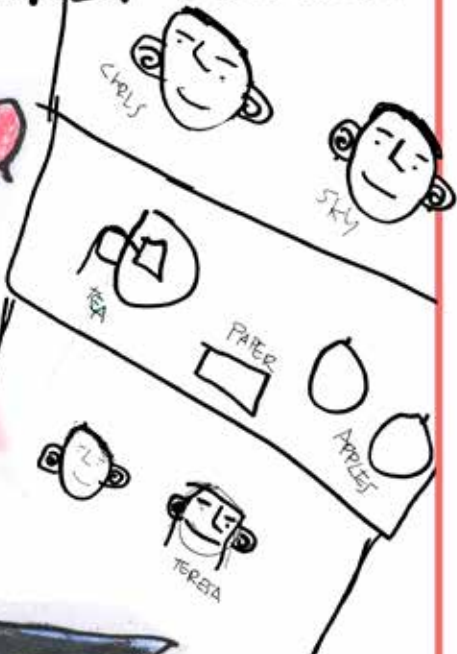


WRITING...

THE BUTTON BLANKET SCENE



EACH BUTTON  
HAS A STORY

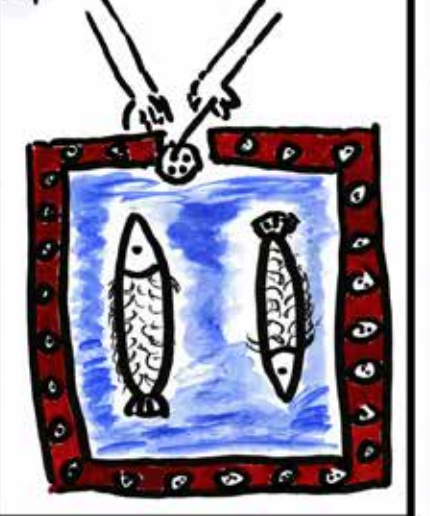


THANK YOU SO MUCH TO  
FIRST NATIONS ARTIST  
WILLIAM WASHEN JR  
AND ELDER DORIS FOX



GRATEFUL  
TO OUR  
TEACHERS & ELDERS

learn to sew



SUZIE & ANDREW  
Around 800 days of programming.

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

with activities they're passionate about  
Suzie that matches  
The Learning Lab is a program that our community members can explore - either as a participant or a leader. And if we don't have an activity that matches their interest, we create one. Fishing, fly-tying, wilderness skills, volunteering, painting, playing guitar. We do it all. My name's Suzie, I run the Learning Lab. We try to get people to take a step outside their comfort zone.

ANDREW  
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 experimental. And now it's been 3 years, so the question is how do we do?

ANDREW  
shops, 100... 10 facilitators.

ANDREW  
The Learning Lab.

SUZIE  
The Learning Lab... use numbers. It's the only way to really understand the... have to spend a day in the Learning Lab with the...? Let's go!

MORE  
CONVERSATIONS

