



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA  
Learning Exchange



UBC LEARNING EXCHANGE  
20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY PROGRAM GUIDE

# Welcome to the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the UBC Learning Exchange

We are delighted to invite you to a dynamic series of events that reflect the diversity of our accomplishments together. It's an honour to celebrate this work, where everyone has something to teach and something to learn.

These events and this work happen on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Musqueam, Tsleil-Waututh, and Squamish peoples. We consider this statement a call to action and are committed to learning about and undoing the effects of colonialism both at UBC and within the Downtown Eastside.

Back in 1999 when we first opened our doors, many thought the idea of a research-intensive university setting up a free learning space 19 kilometres away from its main campus was folly.

Twenty years later, the Learning Exchange is a well-recognized, shared space where people from UBC and people from the DTES learn from each other. Although our programs and initiatives change with the needs and interests of the community, we've always tried to stay true to our principles of inclusion, reciprocity and collaboration.

In that spirit, as we invite you to these anniversary events, we also invite your ideas on how to build on what we have done so far. All events are designed to facilitate conversation and discussion—continuing these “learning exchanges,” large and small.

Thanks to all who have invested their time, energy, and care into this place in the last two decades.

A special thanks to Elder Doris Fox and Wendall Williams for helping us to expand our Indigenous programming and understand the cultural context that informs these activities, as well as for their help building new relationships.

To everyone, please join us in celebrating our history, and help us envision a brighter future.

With thanks,

— The Learning Exchange team

# Message from the President

I'm so happy to congratulate the Learning Exchange on its 20-year anniversary!

What started as a humble storefront that offered a small number of programs for Downtown Eastside residents is now a dynamic hub with year-round free programs and drop-in activities, real-life learning opportunities for UBC students, and an emerging capacity to support community-based research.



Every year, the Learning Exchange connects with 2,500 Downtown Eastside residents, supports the learning of more than 1,200 students, and partners with more than 40 community groups and 80 faculty.

These are impressive numbers for such a small unit. More impressive still is how much trust these numbers represent.

Building trust and relationships depends on showing up, day-after-day, year-after-year. It's not always easy and it's not always certain where we'll end up. It's about understanding that we're all in this together and together is the only way forward.

I'm grateful for the way the Learning Exchange continues to show up on behalf of the university to listen and try to get it right. From a university perspective, the Learning Exchange is a leader in community-engaged learning and a model to learn from. It embodies what UBC aspires to— inclusion, collaboration and innovation in the service of a more just society.

Congratulations to everyone who has helped make the Learning Exchange a trusted relationship builder between the UBC and the Downtown Eastside. I'm excited to watch the evolution of this work in the years to come.

Happy birthday Learning Exchange!

**Santa J. Ono FRSC FCAHS**  
**President and Vice-Chancellor**

# 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Events

## Speaker Series

This three-part series showcases topics of interest to community members in the Downtown Eastside. The sessions feature leading experts in their fields and are organized in partnership with the Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Studies at UBC.

### **FARM FRESH: SUSTAINABLE FOOD AND INDIGENOUS MEDICINE**

**Friday, Aug. 23, 2019**  
**10am - 4pm | UBC Farm**

Visit the UBC Farm and see devil's club and lavender turn into medicinal salves following traditional Indigenous methods, listen to Dr. Hannah Wittman talk about connections between early Chinese agricultural communities and Indigenous communities, and share a delicious farm-fresh meal. RSVP at the Learning Exchange or call the front desk, 604-827-2772.

### **IT'S A GUT FEELING**

**Wednesday, Nov. 27, 2019**  
**2pm - 3pm | UBC Learning Exchange**

Learn about the surprising connection between gut health and well-being with the co-author of *Let Them Eat Dirt: Saving Our Children from an Oversanitized World*, Dr. Brett Finlay. RSVP at the Learning Exchange or call the front desk at 604-827-2772.



### **RISING VOICES: THE RESURGENCE OF INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES**

**Tuesday, Mar. 31, 2020**  
**6pm - 7:30pm | VPL nəća?mat ct Strathcona Branch**

Join us for a community discussion on the resurgence of Indigenous languages, kicked off by a talk from Dr. Mark Turin, former chair of the First Nations and Endangered Languages Program at UBC.

RSVP at the Learning Exchange, email [christian.pollock@ubc.ca](mailto:christian.pollock@ubc.ca), or call 604-827-2772.



## **PATRON BBQ**

**Friday, July 26, 2019**  
**11am - 3pm | CRAB Park**

Enjoy a warm summer day by the water at CRAB Park as we kick off our year of anniversary activities and celebrate our patrons' involvement and engagement over the years. Activities will include a story-telling workshop with Wendall Williams, a photo booth with props, music, and outdoor games. RSVP at the Learning Exchange or call the front desk at 604-827-2772.

## **SPELLBOUND HALLOWEEN**

**Thursday, Oct. 31, 2019**  
**1:30pm - 3:30pm | UBC Learning Exchange**

If Dr. Siobhan McElduff's talk on the history of spells and magic doesn't enchant you, the dry ice and spooky decorations just might. Join us for Dr. McElduff's annual Spellbound Lecture. RSVP at the Learning Exchange or call the front desk at 604-827-2772.

## HEART OF THE CITY: HOLDING THE LIGHT

Various dates in late October & early November 2019

Sample a few of the many events at this year's Heart of the City Festival as part of our first ever "festival crawl." Participants will meet at the Learning Exchange and then walk to various festival highlights together. RSVP at the Learning Exchange or call the front desk at 604-827-2772.

## PATRON HOLIDAY PARTY

Friday, Dec. 6, 2019

Times TBD | Various Locations

Kick off your holiday season with a Karaoke Christmas Lights Trolley Tour! Trolley passengers will be whisked away to the sparkling holiday lights at St. Paul's Hospital, Van Dusen Botanical Gardens, and Stanley Park, all while singing along to classic holiday tunes. RSVP at the Learning Exchange or call the front desk at 604-827-2772.



## EXHIBIT: 2 PAYCHEQUES AWAY

Launch party:

Thursday, Jan. 16, 2020

UBC Learning Exchange

Exhibit: Jan. 16-Feb. 21, 2020

3:00pm - 4:30pm, Tues. and Thurs.

UBC Learning Exchange

Join us for 2 Paycheques Away, an exhibit that uses before-and-after-barber-visit portraits and stories shared by Downtown Eastside residents to shift perspectives and build relationships.

To RSVP to the launch party, visit the Learning Exchange, email [christian.pollock@ubc.ca](mailto:christian.pollock@ubc.ca), or call the front desk at 604-827-2772.

To see the exhibit, drop in the Learning Exchange during the times listed above.

## ARTS-BASED TEACHING AND LEARNING FOR ADULTS

Friday, Feb. 21, 2020

10am - 3pm | Creekside Community Centre

Learn about arts-based teaching and learning from a dynamic mix of community-based practitioners, academics, facilitators and researchers. Hosted by the Downtown Eastside Literacy Roundtable and the Learning Exchange, the forum features panel presentations and arts-based activities, with plenty of chances for questions and dialogue. Email [spring.gillard@ubc.ca](mailto:spring.gillard@ubc.ca) or call 604-827-0662.



## HEARTS BEAT

**Thursday, Mar. 19, 2020**

**Doors: 5:30 pm**

**Performance: 6pm - 8 pm**

**UBC Learning Exchange**

Listen to and feel the Hearts Beat, a musical exploration of the shared traditions of drums, dance, and song between Indigenous and Irish cultures. The evening of entertainment promises to foster intercultural learning, spark new connections and inspire our hearts and minds. RSVP at the Learning Exchange, email [suzie.oshea@ubc.ca](mailto:suzie.oshea@ubc.ca), or call the front desk at 604-827-2772.

## DIALOGUE ON STUDENT INVOLVEMENT IN THE DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE

**Thursday, Apr. 23, 2020**

**12pm - 4:30pm | Vancouver**

**Community College,**

**250 West Pender Street**

Are you a post-secondary educator who supports student learning in the community? This forum will kick off with a practitioner-led panel

discussion, followed by participant-led dialogue on common issues, promising practices, and how we might best support each other. Co-hosted by Vancouver Community College. For more information, contact Matt Hume at [matt.hume@ubc.ca](mailto:matt.hume@ubc.ca), or call the front desk at 604-827-2772.

## LEARNING EXCHANGE ANNIVERSARY OPEN HOUSE

**Thursday, May 7, 2020**

**11:30am - 7pm | UBC Learning Exchange**

Celebrate our 20th anniversary at this day-long, culminating Open House event. The day will include speeches from special guests; a gathering of past and present patrons, volunteers, and staff; musical performances; and delicious refreshments. Join us as we honour a shared past and envision a common future.

RSVP at the Learning Exchange, email [christian.pollock@ubc.ca](mailto:christian.pollock@ubc.ca), or call the front desk at 604-827-2772.

# Learning Exchange Team



**Angela Towle**

Academic Director



**Kathleen Leahy**

Director



**Jennifer Rentz**

Drop-in Coordinator



**Dionne Pelan**

Coordinator, Digital Literacy Programs



**Suzie O' Shea**

Community Animator



**Spring Gillard**

Coordinator, English Conversation Program



**Matt Hume**

Student Learning Coordinator



**Heather Holroyd**

Coordinator, Community-Based Research



**Eliza Javier**

Coordinator, Operations and Engagement



**Christian Pollock**

Event and Administrative Assistant



**Chris Koch**

Operations Manager



**Geoff D'Auria**

Communications Specialist

# Heartfelt Thanks

Thank you to all the people who fostered, led, and participated in the Learning Exchange for the last twenty years.

## 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Collaborators

Many people have contributed to our 20th anniversary. We would especially like to thank the following people and groups:

### COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Carnegie Community Centre Cultural Sharing Group  
Downtown Eastside Literacy Roundtable  
lexwst'i:lem Drum Group  
nəcā ?mat ct Strathcona Branch (Vancouver Public Library)  
Ray-Cam Community Centre  
SFU Faculty of Education  
SFU Library  
Supporting Transparent and Open Research Engagement & Exchange (STOREE) research project  
Vancouver Public Library  
Vancouver Community College  
YWCA Crabtree Corner

### UBC SCHOLARS

Brett Finlay  
Siobhan McElduff  
Mark Turin  
Hannah Wittman

### UBC PARTNERS

Irving K. Barber Learning Centre  
Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Studies  
UBC Events and Ceremonies  
UBC Farm  
UBC iSchool (Library, Archival, and Information Studies)  
UBC Food Services  
UBC Knowledge Exchange Unit  
UBC Library

### INDIVIDUALS

Doris Fox, Musqueam, Elder  
Wendall Williams, Cultural Support Worker, Six Nations  
Denise Nic Amhlaoibh, musician  
Eilis Courtney, musician  
Denise Dalton, musician  
Tony Dalton, musician  
Sal Gallagher, musician  
Blake Williams, musician

## Donors

The UBC Learning Exchange owes a debt of gratitude to our donors. Their vision and commitment to community service learning and social innovation made it possible to explore both partnerships with residents of the Downtown Eastside, as well as experiential learning opportunities for UBC students. We thank the early donors whose support helped us begin the work, and the current donors who support ongoing innovation.

**BC Ministry of Education**

**Carraresi Foundation in Memory of  
Augusto Carraresi**

**Dr. Lloyd and Mrs. Kay Chapman**

**HSBC Bank Canada**

**J.W. McConnell Family Foundation**

**Kaatza Foundation**

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