



# Embrace Arts: 2024 Report

# Contents

P.3 - Reflections on 2024

P.4 - Embrace Community

P.5 - Adaptive Recreation

P.6 - Embrace: Performance

P.8 - Thank You

Embrace respectfully acknowledges that we are working and creating on the traditional and unceded territories, of the Lək'wəŋən (Esquimalt and Songhees Nations) and W̱SÁNEĆ Peoples.



*Top Image: A posed photo from Tap Class.*

*Bottom Image: A photo of our 2024 summer staff.*

# Reflections on 2024

What a year it has been. 2024 was filled with imaginative work that pushed our creative boundaries. Whether it was puppetry in the park, Music Jam online, or our production of Briny in the YMCA swimming pool, we often found ourselves working outside of typical arts spaces to ensure we were connecting with our community. We are proud of the range of opportunities we were able to provide this year.

This success wouldn't have been possible without the incredible support of our community. Your generosity, whether through time, attendance, or financial contributions, has been invaluable. We're so grateful for this community and our many partners.

We look forward to continuing to offer new program and old favourites in this upcoming year. Thank you for being part of this incredible journey – We can't wait to see 2025 brings!

Tiffany Tjosvold  
(She/Her)

Executive Director of Embrace



*Image: A moment from one of our public performances of Briny*



*Image: Erin leading a drumming activity at summer camp*

# Community

This year we continued to run a variety of events and programs that focused on community connection through the arts.

## Embrace: Community Programs & Events

- Music Jam With Erin
- The February Fun Online Dance
- The Annual Friendship Formal
- The Karaoke Sing-Along Dance Party
- Puppetry in the Park with Kiley & Milly
- Music In The Park
- The Annual Halloween Dance



*Image: A board member and her friend at the Friendship Formal*

## Embrace: Team Work

We want to celebrate the fantastic team that made 2024 possible.

**Year Round Staff:** Erin Koop (Director of Music Programming) and Tiffany Tjosvold (Executive Director)

**2024 Contract Staff:** Claire, Devon, Janelle, Jayda, Kiley, and Milo

As well as a whole host of amazing volunteers, including our **Board of Directors** for 2024:

- |                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| • Zelda Coertze (President)    | • Lauren Goodmanson (Secretary)            |
| • Gillian Anderson (Treasurer) | • Lydia Montgomery (Director of Community) |



# Adaptive Recreation

In 2024, Embrace offered a variety of in-person and online adaptive recreation programs. We were thrilled to offer a wide variety of movement and music based programs both independently and with community partners. Our recreation programs reached more than 200 participants of all abilities. As in previous years, we had participants from from coast to coast participating in our online programs. This year our participants ranged in age from 5 years old to 90+ years old.

## Embrace: Internal Programs

- Summer Day Camps
- Dance Together With Tiffany & Erin
- Musical Theatre With Tiffany & Devon
- Tap with Devon & Tiffany

## Embrace: External Programs

- Dance classes in partnership with Vertical Performing Arts
- Dance classes in partnership with CNIB (*Online*)
- Dance classes and workshops for: CLV, PISE, SFRS, SD61



*Image: Tiffany and a student grooving together at Dance Together with Tiffany and Erin*

# Embrace: Performance

Embrace: Performance is Embrace's professional performance stream where neurodivergent, chronically ill, disabled, and non-disabled artists work together to develop original works. This year our work was both digital content and presented in-person.

The 2024 season started with our public presentation of Briny. Briny is a piece of immersive sensory theatre that has been designed for disabled and neurodivergent young audiences. The piece included original music, puppetry, and a wide variety of sensory experiences. In Fridays from mid-January to mid-March, we had the pleasure of inviting in small group audiences to explore the show directly in the pool with us.



*Image: The "Whales" shadow puppet sequence in Briny.*



*Image: The core team for Briny's public presentations. From left to right: Claire, Erin, Tiffany, Emily, Devon. Missing from the photo: Islay*

# Embrace: Performance



The next project our performance company took on was creating a short, all ages piece called *Treasure?* Directed by Corina Fischer, this original pirate tale was presented as a part of the SKAMpede festival.

Then in the fall, Embrace worked in collaboration with Impulse Theatre to run the Elevators program, as a part of Impulse Theatre's larger fall festival, Peek Fest. This year the Elevators program ran as a cohort of 4 neurodivergent and/or disabled artists who worked together on their individual projects, with sessions from a variety of community mentors.



In the fall Embrace also began work on a new piece of screendance that explores natural light phenomena. Our team was fortunate enough to have two residencies to begin work on the piece. We wanted to extend a big thank you to Dance Victoria and Impulse Theatre for providing our team with these residency opportunities.

*Top Image: The cast of Treasure? at SKAMpede  
Bottom Image: Embrace dancers working in residency*

# Thank You.

We are so grateful to have collaborated this year with a number of fantastic organizations. Embrace is truly thankful to be able to work with these groups in order to better serve our community.

We also wanted to express our sincere gratitude to the funding bodies who provided our primary finances during 2024.

## Primary Collaborators & Supporting Organizations in 2024:

- CNIB
- Dance Victoria
- Impulse Theatre
- Vertical Performing Arts

## Primary Funders in 2024:

- British Columbia Arts Council
- British Columbia Community Gaming Grant
- CRD Arts & Culture Support Service
- Timothy 6:18 Fund
- Victoria Foundation

In addition to these organizations, we wanted to extend our gratitude to the many other individuals and organizations who worked with Embrace this year. We are thankful for the amazing volunteers who support us with their time, and also to the individual donors who have financially supported us this year. Every little bit of time and money you have given makes a huge impact. Thank you for your continued support.