

Beginning: A NATIONAL CONVERSATION

VANCOUVER JOIN IN. MAY 3-4, 2022

The first national conversation focusing on the challenges and opportunities facing artists living with developmental disabilities is happening at Vancouver's SFU Woodward's Cultural Programs

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

For two days – May 3-4, 2022 – the National accessArts Centre is hosting BEGINNING: A National Conversation, taking place in Vancouver and Banff – as well as virtually across the country. The focus of this event is to invite artists living with developmental disabilities, the broader disability sector, as well as the local arts and culture sectors to come together to reimagine a world that shines a bigger light on the creativity of artists living with developmental disabilities.

Panelists and speakers from all around the world will be convening in Banff, where sessions will be livestreamed to our Vancouver audience. All three of our keynote speakers, however, will be spending time specific to the Vancouver group with an interactive discussion and Q+A session that will hopefully inspire all delegates.

WHY NOW?

As we slowly move into a new state of normal, the arts and culture sector is moving quickly to better understand how to recover from the pandemic, and how it can contribute to the kind of social change needed for communities to recover. It's important for artists living with developmental disabilities to be a part of this discussion.

So many disability arts conversations often exclude or do not primarily focus on the unique challenges and opportunities facing artists with developmental disabilities. This is the time to bring artists together – and to invite those who've been traditionally outside of this community to come in and be a part of developing ideas and solutions.

REGISTRATION:

\$50*

FREE* for artists living with developmental disabilities
USE PROMO CODE: Vancouver2022

* Includes snacks and meals during the two days.
Please visit the website for more details.



Full program details available on:

BEGINNING2022.COM



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WHY SHOULD I GO?

Artists living with developmental disabilities — This is your chance to share your ideas, network with other delegates, and participate in discussions taking place across Canada that will explore your vision for a better world for your artistic practice. These conversations will connect you with people who can collaborate to make your vision happen.

Caregivers and members of the disability sector — Your unique perspectives matter. Panel discussions and facilitated conversations during the two days will give you opportunity to share your experiences, and to understand how you can be even better allies supporting artists with developmental disabilities.

Mainstream arts partners/funders/agencies — You need to be there! Share the work that you are doing to advance equity and inclusion, and have an open mind to learn new ideas and perspectives on how to better support and showcase neurodiverse artists.

WHAT DO I GET OUT OF IT?

If you are an artist with a developmental disability, a caregiver/disability sector member, or a mainstream arts partner, this is your opportunity to be inspired by one another. Over the course of two days, meaningful conversations will happen naturally and with the help of a facilitators — and will be sparked by the kinds of keynotes and panel discussions that will be happening throughout the gathering.

Vancouver delegates, this is your chance to hear from and interact with speakers like Tom di Maria, whose group Creative Growth has elevated their artists' practice and careers to new heights. Or Betty Siegel, who is working with the Kennedy Center to push for more accessibility across all arts partners in the United States. Daniel Vais' group is working with performers with Down syndrome and has been featured in Vogue Magazine and the Guardian for its unique approaches to supporting performers with developmental disabilities. What are their learnings? What kinds of opportunities could we explore that could open the door for partnerships and collaboration?

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