



INDIAN
SUMMER
FESTIVAL

20
22

ANNUAL REPORT



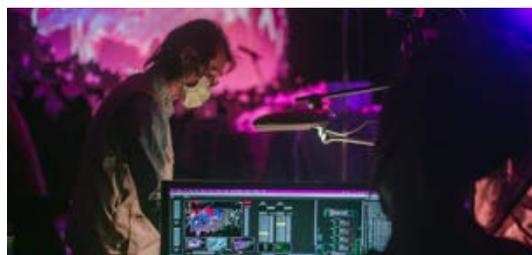
94
artists



from
22
cities



**OUR VISION
IS FOR AN
INCLUSIVE,
DIVERSE, AND
CULTURALLY-
RICH SOCIETY**



11
days

5
art mediums

*music
literature ideas
dance
visual arts
culinary*

TWELVE YEARS OF A FEAST OF IDEAS AND CULTURE

What a treat it was to gather again for the 12th edition of Indian Summer Festival, and to find the path to a new, more thoughtful way of savouring live events! This festival edition was meaningful to us not only because it was the last, bittersweet hurrah for the two of us as co-founders, but also because the theme of 'Inner/Outer Climates' spoke to our deepest concerns – personally and as a society. This year we presented some of the world's most powerful thinkers on climate change and social justice, a Grammy Award-winning musician, a boundary-pushing dance performance, a science-meets-art experience that brought you music from mushrooms, doctors and healers forging new pathways in the complex art of healing, award-winning filmmakers, sitar maestros, tabla wizards, brass bands, human-animal hip hop collaborations, outdoor art installations, Indigenous and South Asian DJs reclaiming their languages while making new ones. There was food for thought and for the stomach, celebration and provocation. We're honoured to have presented a galaxy of artists who led us to examine and dream new ways of living our lives, and to heal our inner and outer climates. We couldn't have hoped for a more meaningful culmination of our tenure at the helm of this organization.

We founded Indian Summer Arts Society (ISAS) because we saw the need for a gathering place, a long-table feast of ideas and culture that nurtures and surprises in equal measure. We are immensely proud of what we've built. We're passing the baton at a time when the organization is in a stronger position than ever. There is no denying this has been a turbulent and unpredictable time for the arts, but we are delighted to share that ISAS concluded 2022 with our most successful season yet. This has not been easy to achieve - it has taken dexterity and innovation from our artists and our team, commitment and vision from our board, and incredible support from our ecosystem of sponsors, funders and donors. All of these working together has brought us to a place of strength, ending the year in a strong financial position. Over the past twelve years we have also been able to build a healthy reserve fund that acts as a buffer during unpredictable times. The festival's reputation continues to grow locally, nationally



and internationally. We are thrilled that our long-time compatriots Pawan Deol and Laura June Albert are taking the leadership of the organization forward. We have a fabulous team which will soon be inviting new curatorial voices to it. We cheer our colleagues on and wish them warmly as they begin a new phase of the organization's life - nothing is more natural or delightful than growth and reinvention.

We founded the kind of festival that we'd like to attend, and we are so excited to soon be able to join the incredible community surrounding the festival in the audience. Like audiences before us, we are sure we will encounter the radical hospitality, tender provocation and joyful gathering that ISF has come to be known for. See you there!

*SIRISH RAO, CO-FOUNDING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
LAURA BYSPALCO, CO-FOUNDING MANAGING DIRECTOR*

BOARD CHAIR'S MESSAGE

ISF once again brought a singularly unique vision to its work this past year. The resilience and innovation at ISF was profound as it worked to redefine artistic programming during this complicated pandemic time. Loved by a diverse range of audiences and stakeholders, the multi-arts extravaganza hit all the marks once again. As we say an unapologetically loud thank you to the rich legacy of our founders, Sirish Rao and Laura Byspalko, the Board has been listening closely to stakeholders as we move through the complexities of organizational transition in this unique time. In all of our discussions, one thing is crystal clear - this is a Festival loved by its audiences. We are delighted to be welcoming Pawan Deol and Laura June Albert in to new senior leadership positions. ISF is in great hands as we look to the future and transform in new, exciting ways.

AM JOHAL, BOARD CHAIR



LOOKING AHEAD

ISF2022 was a triumphant, resounding success. Our 2022 events were spaces for tears, laughter, beauty, provocation, and celebration.

Given the extraordinary circumstances of recent years, we are incredibly grateful to be in the situation we are now. With tenacious strengths and innumerable assets, ISAS is well positioned to build into new growth.

A founder transition is one of the most profound and important changes an organization can go through. As senior management, we have spent years pouring love and care in to building Indian Summer in to the organization it is today. The care we have invested has been returned to us tenfold - by the rigour and creativity from the incredible staff, by the vision and steadfastness of our Board, by the generous outpouring of support from our community and partners, by the astounding and continuous beauty from artists, and by the joy and tenderness we witness over and over again in the faces of the audiences.

We know that what makes the Indian Summer Festival experience so special is the distinctive flavour, the boutique experiences, one-time offerings, and the elevated attention to detail. We are deeply honoured by the invitation to lead this necessary organization into its next stage, together. We will continue to uphold progressive leadership values and deep commitment to this community, with the brilliance of South Asian artists guiding us forward. If you have been part of building and supporting ISAS to where we are today - we thank you.

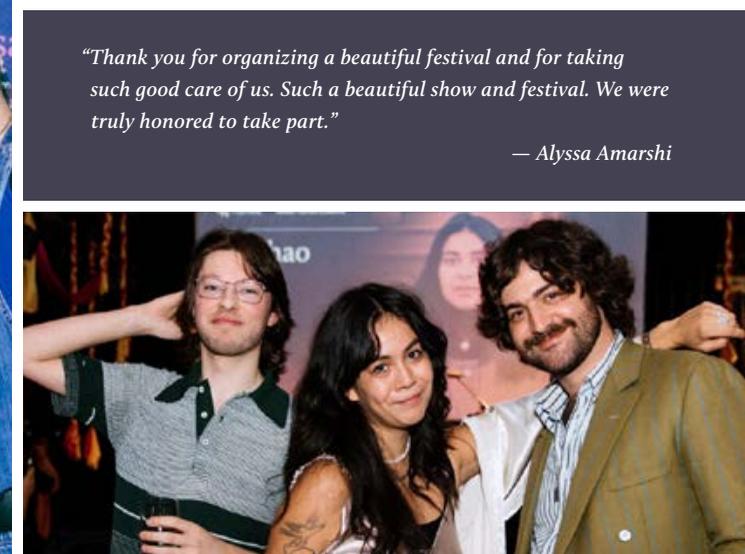
We send a gigantic, profound and heartfelt thank you to Sirish and Laura for creating this gift for us all. We also thank the outgoing founders and the current board for the trust placed in us for this appointment in our next chapter. We look forward to new and exciting futures just around the corner!

PAWAN DEOL, INCOMING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CULTURAL PROGRAMMING
LAURA JUNE ALBERT, INCOMING EXECUTIVE MANAGING DIRECTOR



"Thank you for organizing a beautiful festival and for taking such good care of us. Such a beautiful show and festival. We were truly honored to take part."

— Alyssa Amarshi



YEAR IN REVIEW

Our offering was spread over eleven days plus a bouquet of stellar off-season events.

For more information on these and past events please visit:

indiansummerfest.ca/isfevents/



JULY 7 OPENING PARTY – INNER / OUTER CLIMATES

ISF season kicks off with musical and culinary magic.



JULY 7 – JULY 17 UNDER THE BANYAN TREE

Kimira Reddy recreated a Banyan tree on Granville Island, inviting people to experience what it's like to rest for a moment in the middle of a village in India.



JULY 8 THE O SHOW

A celebration of 2Spirit community leadership and intersectional identities through film and music!



JULY 9 IMAGINARIUM

Sirish Rao and Jarrett Martineau host some of the world's most critical thinkers.



JULY 10 & JULY 17 ISF SOUND SYSTEM

A free stage presenting a musical Thali meal with something for every taste.



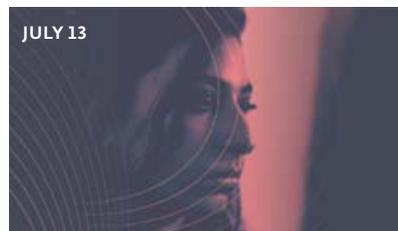
JULY 10 MODERN BIOLOGY

A surprising and beautiful musical experience that brings us closer to nature and each other.



JULY 12 OFF CENTRE

An exploration of queer identity through dance.



JULY 13 AROOJ AFTAB IN CONCERT

Grammy award-winning vocalist's Vancouver debut as she reimagines centuries-old ghazals & Sufi music.



JULY 14 SONG OF THE BREATH

Witness a powerful healing journey through the ancestral art of yoga.



JULY 15 5x15: THE ART OF THE WILD

An exploration of our inner and outer worlds with an eclectic lineup of speakers!



JULY 16 CLOSING PARTY FEAT. MADISON MCFERRIN

An evening of dancing and soundscapes inspired by the natural world!



NOVEMBER 26, 2021 A LIFE IN RHYTHM

World-renowned mridangam maestro Dr. Trichy Sankaran performs with his long-time disciple Curtis Andrews and his ensemble, The Offering of Curtis Andrews.



JANUARY 20 – 30 RUBY SINGH'S VOX.INFOLD

Experience sound as touch, sound as atmosphere, sound as a wondrous, enveloping presence. This event was part of the PUSH Festival.



FEBRUARY 5 CONVERSATION ON THE ART OF P.MANSARAM

Travel through five decades of P.Mansaram's artistic practice that revels in repetition.

2022 ARTISTS

Over the years, Indian Summer Festival has featured some of the world's finest artists and thinkers, playing our part in ensuring that Vancouver is a site of important local and global conversations. Our 12th edition saw Booker, Grammy, and Juno Award winners and nominees alongside some of the most exciting emerging talent.

"The variety of artists and good people working together to create such a successful event is a wonderful experience to be a part of and to witness... Really happy that the event is back in person. Vancouver needed that! It was a beautiful festival."
— Kimira Reddy

LITERATURE / IDEAS

Agam Darshi
Amitav Ghosh
Anjali Appadurai
Avni Doshi
Deepa Mehta
Jarrett Martineau
Leanne Betasamosake Simpson
Merlin Sheldrake
Naomi Klein
Robyn Maynard

PERFORMING ART / FILM

Alyssa Amarshi
Arun Mathai
Cristina Bucci
Natasha Gorrie
Jesse Kim
Jayda Bhinder
Kamal Pandya
Karma
Sharad Kharé
Sujit Vaidya
Tegvaran Sooch
Yogacharini Maitreyi

MUSIC

Arooj Aftab
Amarjeet Singh
Baljit Singh
Curtis Andrews
DJ Kookum
DJ Paisley Eva
DJ O Show
DJ Shao
Glow Motive
Gordon Grdina
JeanSe Le Doujet
kraKIN
Laydy Jams
Liam MacDonald
Lil India
Madison McFerrin
Mohamed Assani
Rishi Ranjan
Ruby Singh
Sharanjeet Singh Mand
Surya Brass Band
Tarun Nayar

CULINARY

Kalyana Catering
Nihal Elwan + team - Tayybeh
Christopher West + team - Medina
Tushar Tondvalkar + team - The Indian Pantry
Vikram Vij + team - Vij's / My Shanti

VISUAL ART

Chimerik Collective
Jackson Chien
Kimira Reddy

ISF+

Curtis Andrews	Inuksuk Mckay	Tiffany Ayalik
David Spidel	Jared Burrows	Tiffany Moses
Dawn Pemberton	Kaushik	Toleen Touq
Deepali Dewan	Robin Layne	Shamik Bilgi
Dr. Trichy Sankaran	Ruby Singh	Vidyasagar Vankayala
Indu Vashist	Russell Wallace	Sivaramakrishnan

94
ARTISTS FROM
22
CITIES

77%
LOCAL
87%
BIPOC ARTISTS

38%
CIS-WOMEN
6% GENDER
DIVERSE

VOLUNTEERS

"Exceptional— that's what I would say about my time at Indian Summer Arts Society. I really enjoyed my time during the festival and I was able to meet different established artists, witness mind blowing performances, work with and learn from kind hearted volunteers whom I still admire!"

*— Akshara Susan Mathew
Volunteer Coordinator, 2022*

As the in-person dimensions of our programming returned in 2022, the meaningfulness and connections of in-person volunteer work continued to be an important community pillar. Funding allowed us to support 124 volunteers (with a high proportion of students and retirees) in a positive community building experience, for a total volunteer contribution of 3033 hours.

We created engaging and multi-faceted ways for volunteers to build something collective together, all while contributing in real, tangible ways to the festival. In our post-festival volunteer survey, 89% of volunteers said that they had a well-rounded volunteer experience, 92% of volunteers felt "very appreciated", and 93% found the ISF staff were "very friendly".



COMMUNITY MENTORSHIP

The outward facing aspect of our work is to bring carefully curated arts experiences to our audience. But much of our work happens behind the scenes. Our team mentored several emerging arts workers this year, who helped with production, volunteer coordination and artist care. This is crucial capacity building – for the individuals as well as for the sector, and our team's dedication to providing a nurturing learning environment is noteworthy.

"Volunteering was a great fun and learning experience"

— 2022 Volunteer



ACCESSIBLE INDIAN SUMMER

Our vision is for an inclusive society. We aim to not only remove barriers, but to also celebrate and normalize diverse entry-points to enrich our festival as a space for everyone.

Some of our 2022 accessibility initiatives were:

- Interdepartmental accessibility meetings twice monthly to strategize accessibility throughout the organization at all levels including: event design, venue, box office, website, social media, artist services, office, and HR.
- 100% of our events had low-cost and low-barrier tickets
- Dedicated website pages for access info per each individual event, including describing the conditions, seating, ambient noise, content pace, and venue information, with a contact email for access requests.

• COVID PROTOCOLS

ISF exceeded Provincial requirements for Covid safety with the requirement of mandatory masks for indoor events for all, HEPA filtration in the space, covid testing for all staff and volunteers, and providing sanitation and regular cleaning throughout the festival.

"Refreshingly inclusive & respectful"
— 2022 Festival Patron

"My request to attend was met with enthusiasm and an eagerness to include, not just accommodate."

— The Kristy Corner

• VENUE ACCESS

Both of our indoor venues were accessible to people using mobility aids, We offer early entry and/or assigned priority seating, and complimentary companion tickets on request to anyone requiring for accessibility reasons.

• COMMUNITY TICKETING

All ISF2022 events offered subsidized tickets for individuals facing financial barriers in accessing arts programming.

- Self-selection of subsidized or Pay-It-Forward tickets.
- Program available in digital format to those with low vision, or who used screen readers
- Front of house was moved to a no-contact guest experience, along with contactless payments for all transactions.
- Guests with accessibility needs had the option to opt for reserved or advanced seating.
- Companion tickets were not only available for guests with disabilities, but offered directly to any guest who disclosed a disability that might require a companion

COMMUNITY PARTNERS



Trees clean our air and water, create habitats for biodiversity, contribute to our health and wellbeing, and create jobs for social impact. We're honoured to have reforestation through One Tree Planted as an integral part of our festival.

One Tree Planted is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit on a mission to make it simple for anyone to help the environment by planting trees. Their projects span the globe and are done in partnership with local communities and knowledgeable experts to create an impact for nature, people, and wildlife. Reforestation helps to rebuild forests after fires and floods, provide jobs for social impact, and restore biodiversity. Many projects have overlapping objectives, creating a combination of benefits that contribute to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.



Indian Summer Festival & VocalEye Watch Party!

Our third annual ISF watch party with VocalEye centred the experiences of Blind and partially sighted audiences. Guests had direct audience with ISF artist Sejal Lal who shared about herself and her practice, and offered described musical performances. After each song, audience members were invited to ask questions and share reflections. The event was very well attended - there were 29 blind and partially sighted guests on the video call. This was a successful event by every measure.

"So perfectly accessible to people who are blind or partially-sighted!"

— Guest, VocalEye watch party

CULTIVATING A DIVERSE AUDIENCE

One of the strengths of the Indian Summer Festival is our ability to bring together an incredibly diverse audience who would not otherwise be in a room together. It is important to us that our audience is multicultural and multi-generational.

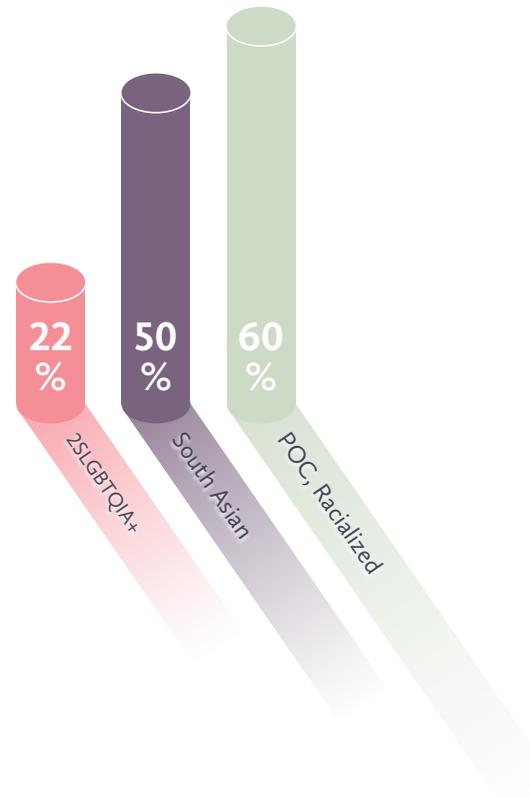
Our audience continues to grow and our surveys tell us that we welcome many new faces as well as loyal ones who come back year after year.

90%	of our audience said that they were very satisfied with the festival programs.
96%	of our audience said they would attend ISF next year.
98%	of our audience found our festival inclusive and welcoming as our team set out to provide a textured and nuanced sense of 'home'.

AUDIENCE ENJOYMENT TRACKER



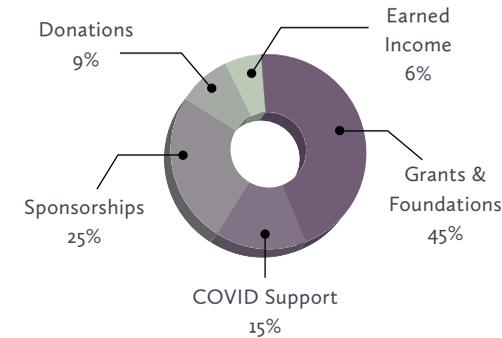
IDENTIFICATION CHART



"I have had the most incredible times being a part of the ISF family. I can honestly say I wouldn't be the artist I am today without the generosity of ISF. As both artist and attendee, it truly is a feast for the senses, for the mind, heart and spirit. I feel lifted, reflected and engaged when it's ISF time. Through ISF, I have found some of the most meaningful, long term collaboration with phenomenal artists from around the globe. I have never grown alongside a festival and felt so supported to branch into new forms of expression."

— Ruby Singh

REVENUE SOURCES



FINANCIAL RESILIENCE

We've historically cultivated four distinct revenue streams: grants, sponsorships, donations and ticket sales. Through pandemic turbulence and the massive hit to live event ticket sales models worldwide, our earned income stream nearly disappeared. Fortunately, Indian Summer has successfully offset these losses with steadfast support from funders and community, which enabled Indian Summer to retain staff, pay artists, engage audiences and carry out our mandate.

Given the state of uncertainty during this period, Indian Summer has fared remarkably well. Our return to live events in 2022 was joyful and triumphant for our community, and we remain committed as ever to nurturing multiple revenue sources. 2022 saw a modest return of sales revenue, and a renewed engagement from our Sponsor, Funder, and Donor communities.

"This whole festival is one of the most inclusive I have ever been to. Always feels like you are leading the way."

— 2022 Festival Guest



VANCOUVER SUN
Theatre / Music / Local Arts / Festivals / Entertainment / Celebrity
Indian Summer Festival experiences Inner/Outer Climates for 2022 event
The 2022 Indian Summer Festival celebrates its 12th year.
Stuart Dardley
Jul 06, 2022 • July 6, 2022 • 5 minute read
Join the conversation

Suit Dance is among the performers at the 2022 Indian Summer Festival

MEDIA COVERAGE



straight EVENTS GUIDES MUSIC NEWS GOLDEN HORNS
ARTS FILM & TV FOOD & DRINK
Indian Summer Festival booked Arooj Aftab at the Chan Centre before Grammy fame
by Charlie Smith on June 1st, 2022 at 10:19 AM



206 pieces of coverage

On The List
Menu

DRISHTI MAGAZINE



The Province

"The Indian Summer Festival promotes tremendous cross-cultural dialogue and music, bringing together Indigenous, South Asian, and East Asian artists, comedians, and writers in a smorgasbord of events... It's not fusion; it's interculturalism in which artists do not give up their identity. And it's helping to promote an appreciation for other cultures."
— Charlie Smith, Georgia Straight

236M combined audience across all coverage outlets

JUST ANNOUNCED SHOWS WIN STUFF TOP PICKS LATEST FROM 00604

Indian Summer Arts Society
THE 12TH INDIAN SUMMER ARTS FESTIVAL
Past (07/7/2022) 4:00PM
Multiple Locations

Global

THE VANCOUVER SUN
SERIOUSLY WESTCOAST

create a stir
Mushroom magic as Tarun Nayar unites his love of music and the natural world in Modern Biology
At Indian Summer Festival, the oceanology grad and tabla player uses fungi and plants' bioelectrical impulses to create his scores
BY ALEXANDER VARTY

Granville Island
Events
Indian Summer Festival
Thursday, July 7, 2022 to Sunday, July 10, 2022
1214 Carrville Street
Vancouver, BC V6L 1J6

SPOTLIGHT
Indian Summer Festival is heating up
Tickets: \$10/\$5
The Indian Summer Festival is heating up for its 12th anniversary. The festival, which runs from July 7 to 10, is a celebration of Indian culture and art. The festival features a variety of performances, including music, dance, and theater. The festival is a great opportunity to experience the rich cultural heritage of India. The festival is a must-see event for anyone who loves Indian culture and art.

89.2K est. social views





CULTURE LAB ARTIST AS HEALER

Culture Lab: Artist as Healer is a new ISAS multi-year project that uses the transformative power of art to contribute to societal wellness. The project invites and resurces South Asian artists in Metro Vancouver to work collaboratively with other artists, mentors, and members of the medical and wellness communities to develop healing methodologies through art. We refer to them as remedies against despair and potions for joy.

Concept, Design, and Artistic Director: Sirish Rao

Inaugural Medical Director: Dr. Arun Garg, MD FRCPS

Development and Design: Laura June Albert

Inaugural Jury Members: Shahaa Kakar, Mehroona Ghani, Jarrett Martineau, Dr. Arun Garg, Sirish Rao

Inaugural Advisors: Elder Robert Yelton, Dr. Andrea Grabovac, Dr. Rajiv Reebye, Karma Keenan

✦ THE NEXT ARTIST AS HEALER PROGRAM CYCLE WILL OPEN FOR APPLICATIONS IN FALL 2023

PARTNERS



FUNDERS



MEET YOGACHARINI MAITREYI

ISF'S INAUGURAL ARTIST AS HEALER

In 2022, Yogacharini Maitreyi took up residence as ISF's inaugural Artist as Healer. Maitreyi's work straddles the worlds of the arts and healing. She is a trained filmmaker with a degree in visual communications, as well as an international master yoga teacher, practical mystic, and founder of Arkaya Awareness Centre and Arkaya Foundation.

Maitreyi conducted a very successful five-month research and solutions lab resulting in the creation of an educational documentary film 'Karma: Song of the Breath', and a public mindfulness and movement event at ISF 2022.

In addition, we presented a panel discussion on art and healing at the annual CINI medical conference held in partnership with the Global Association of South Asian Physicians. The panel featured Maitreyi in conversation with medical professionals Hannah Marsh (Mindfulness Institute) and Dr. Farah Shroff (Harvard Medical School). A second panel was held with Arkaya Yoga and Banyen Books and Sound, featuring Maitreyi in conversation with psychiatrist Dr. Andrea Grabovac and noted pathologist Dr. Arun Garg. A major result of the first year of the Artist as Healer project has been to create important relationships and bridges between artists, medical professionals in the 'mainstream' system as well as healers from ancestral and traditional systems. Our call for a more integrative, collaborative approach to societal healing has found many echoes, to be built on in future iterations of the project.

"The Artist as Healer project is an awakening to the beauty inherent in science and the science inherent in art. This is of even more value during these unsettling times. We need to not only spread the healing integrative wisdom of ancient cultures but also be a custodian of the wealth that could be lost due to overemphasis on symptomatic treatment rather than addressing root imbalances."

— Yogacharini Maitreyi, Inaugural Artist as Healer



OUR PATRONS CIRCLE

VISIONARIES

East India Carpets
(Asha Fraser & Ravi Sidhoo)

CURATORS

Zena Sihota
Michael Alexander & Dianna Waggoner

BENEFACTORS

Tracey & Anibal Valente

CHAMPIONS

Angie & Steven Osachoff
Hari & Madhu Varshney
Jan Whitford and Michael
Stevenson
Pankaj & Rita Agarwal
Ritu Khanna

Lynn & Ashok Katey
Dhawan Medical Corporation
Jocelyn Morlock
Arvinder S Bubber
James Wright

LUMINARY

Asha Fraser



OUR SUPPORTERS CIRCLE

FRIENDS

Rupa Gopinath
Priya Anand

SUSTAINERS

Pam Ratner & Joy Johnson
Anil Patade
Sabi Marwah
Lynn Zanatta & Sam Sullivan
Suresh Bhalla
Sambriddhi Nepal
Rajwant Mangat
Laura Moore
Baljeet Singh
Upstart & Crow
Shahin Virji

CONTRIBUTORS

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Nicole Rogers
Jan Constantinescu
Allan Diamond
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Cheyanne Turions
Lena Vinogradova
Stephan Morin
Gail Irvine
Marian Collins
AB Berar
Christine Stoddard

“ISF is a one-of-a-kind experience that must be felt. It has the power to transform your understanding of yourself and this beautifully mixed-up world we live in.”

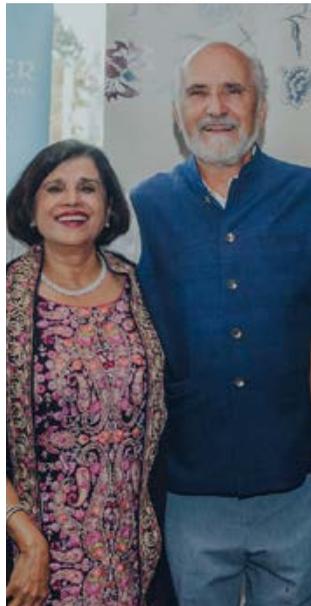
— Zena Sihota, Festival Patron



OUR PARTNERS

“As Founding Partner of the Indian Summer Festival, Simon Fraser University is proud of the special relationship we have formed with the festival over the past decade. This year’s event was better than ever with a program that included a wonderful array of creators, performers, thinkers. Congratulations and thanks to the organizers for once again providing SFU the opportunity to demonstrate our commitment to being Canada’s engaged university.”

— SFU President and Vice Chancellor
Joy Johnson



FOUNDING PARTNER



MAJOR PARTNERS



MUSIC SERIES SPONSOR



FUNDERS



FESTIVAL SUPPORTING PARTNERS



PREMIER MEDIA PARTNERS



EVENT SUPPORTING PARTNERS



EVENT COMMUNITY PARTNER



CULTURAL PARTNER

PROMOTIONAL PARTNERS



HOSPITALITY PARTNERS





"I love the respectful collaboration with Indigenous peoples, and the inclusiveness of queer voices"
— Festival Patron



21,016 attendees
94 artists



2 free events
+
1 public art installation



YOU HELP SHAPE US

For the past twelve years, Indian Summer has produced our annual festival, modeling the kind of society we'd like to see: A society that is creative, diverse, innovative, and inclusive; a society that centres on multiple perspectives and voices, and believes we're stronger together.

As we reflect on the last twelve years and the impact we've had, we know we've made progress, but we also know more work needs to be done.

We need your help.

The world is building more and more walls. Societies are becoming more suspicious and afraid of people who don't look like them and think like them. Our solution is to centre and amplify necessary South Asian voices and to platform BIPOC artists to lead the way. We know we have more in common than what divides us, and we believe that there's nothing more compelling than transformative experiences through the arts to show us what's possible. The truth is – there has never been a more urgent time to bring our communities together.

We are a community-driven non-profit and we believe in the power of our stories to bring us together. We have fought to create a hard-won ecosystem: we need your help to build on this model, to grow our platform for artists dedicated to a more inclusive society.

You can play a direct role in amplifying the voices of diverse artists whose work addresses some of the most pressing issues of our time.

Make a \$25+ donation and become a Supporter of Indian Summer - Join us!



Become a Supporter, for as little as \$25.
<https://indiansummerfest.ca/supportisf/isfsupporters/>



Join our Patron's Circle, with fabulous benefits and engagement.
<https://indiansummerfest.ca/supportisf/isfpatrons/>



OUR 2022 TEAM

Indian Summer Arts Society is a Vancouver-based charitable, not-for-profit secular arts organisation. Our mandate is to offer daring multi-arts events that catalyze and inspire audiences and artists in a spirit of dialogue and global citizenship. To achieve our mandate, in 2011 we founded the annual Indian Summer Festival.

Our curatorial practice is to center and amplify South Asian voices in conversation with other artistic communities. Each year, the festival presents provocative arts events that feature some of the best artists and visionaries from Canada, South Asia and beyond. The festival believes in the transformative power of the arts to build bridges and foster dialogue. From novelists to musicians, installation artists to filmmakers, Indian Summer Festival presents a vast roster of 80% local artists each year, ranging from emerging to globally renowned Nobel, Booker, Grammy, and Oscar prize nominees on its stages.

“Team ISF did a stellar job. It felt like such a celebration and also a very mindful space to gather.”
— 2022 Artist

▲ PHOTO FROM LEFT

LAURA JUNE ALBERT, AKSHARA SUSAN MATHEW, ANYA RAWLA, MIMI ABRAHAMS, SIRISH RAO, LAURA BYSPALKO, MIREILLE ST. PIERRE, MELISSA RATCLIFF, DIMPLE T. / NHYLAR, PAWAN DEOL

Sirish Rao *Co-Founder & Artistic Director*
Laura Byspalko *Co-Founder & Managing Director*
Laura June Albert *Development & Community Initiatives Manager*
Pawan Deol *Festival Producer*
Anya Rawla *Festival Administrator & Office Coordinator*
Manyara Rinomhota *Bookkeeper & Payroll Specialist*
Dimple T. / Nhylar *Digital & Communications Coordinator*
Rob Eccles (@lazbones) *Communications Designer*
Sandy Manj *Communications Strategist*
Melissa Ratcliff *Operations Manager*
Mireille St. Pierre *Production Liaison & Artist Services*
Akshara Susan Mathew *Volunteer Coordinator*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Am Johal *Chair*
Angie Osachoff *Vice Chair*
Shelly Dhawan *Treasurer*
Sambriddhi Nepal *Director*
Anna Ling Kaye *Director*
James Wright *Director*
Zahid Makhdoom *Director*
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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

In addition to our incredible artists, partners, funders and sponsors, supporters and patrons, team, board and advisors, the festival has been made possible with the support of many well-wishers whom we acknowledge with deep appreciation.

INDIVIDUALS

Alvina Yeung
Amanda Burrows
Amy Amantea
Amy Saini
Anita Bathe
Bobby Gidda
Brad Van Dam
Caitlin McKee
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Virender Singh

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Fawnz Creative

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TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Tech Butlers Ltd.

Indian Summer Festival takes place on the unsundered territories of the x̣ʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Səlílwətał (Tsleil- Waututh) Nations. As a festival amplifying diverse and necessary perspectives, Indian Summer Festival stands in solidarity with Coast Salish peoples and their struggles as they continue to steward and defend these lands and waters.

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