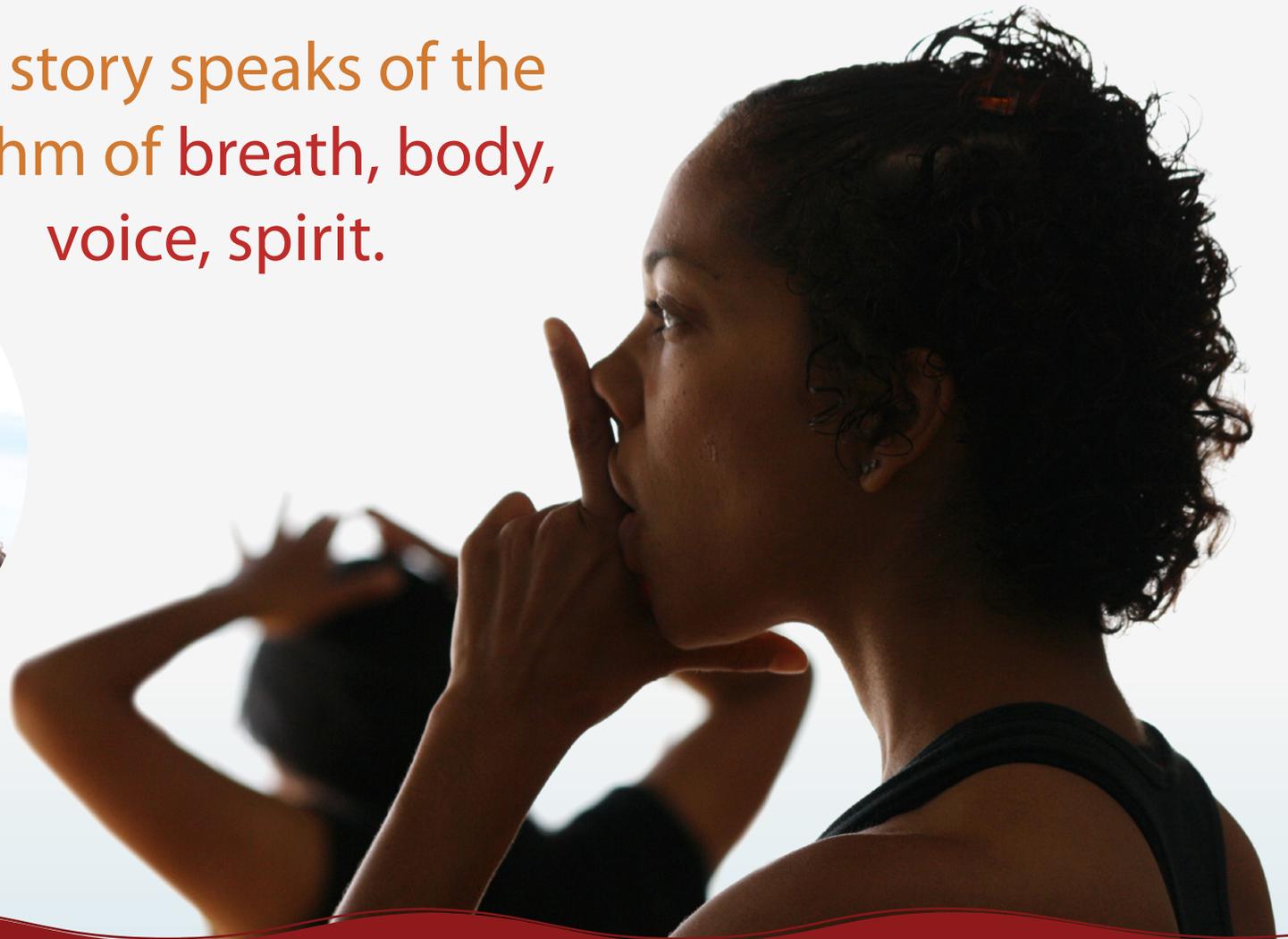




# Our Past Illuminates Our Future

ANNUAL REVIEW 2021/22

Our story speaks of the  
rhythm of breath, body,  
voice, spirit.



The roots of Arrivals Legacy Project, the organization, are intertwined with those of the creative process that feeds it.



**WE ARE ARRIVALS LEGACY PROJECT**, an inter-arts organization that exists to centre the creative voices of BIPOC visionaries. We are working to cultivate a world where artists revel in the creative potential of their cultural inheritances.

We guide, we gather and we grow the cultural and creative legacies of artists and creators, enabling them to access and re-route their creative impulses by attuning to the wisdom of their ancestral stories. We do this through our signature Personal Legacy workshops and residencies, virtual and in-person gatherings around emerging stories, and a growing library of learning tools and insights on art and ancestry.



## Our Past ...

THE ROOTS OF Arrivals Legacy Project, the organization, are intertwined with those of the creative process that feeds it.

Our obsession with the art of making springs from the heart of Founding Artistic Director Diane Roberts, who honed her skill as a dramaturg and director in the slow burn of developing emerging artists and in bringing new works and voices to light.

Propelled by her own experiences of being othered by Western European pedagogies of art and theatre, and inspired by her mentor Zab Maboungou, Diane took her first steps towards developing a groundbreaking African and Diasporic methodology for artistic creation in 2003. A creative flow of testing and deepening the Arrivals Personal Legacy process gathered momentum in collaboration with a trusted ensemble of co-facilitators and artists.

Today, Arrivals Legacy Project boasts a vibrant Alumni community and a team of 16 co-facilitators.

## Seedpool 2.0

THE CONCEPT OF THE SEEDPOOL virtual studio for Alumni of our workshops and residencies was planted, but not fully realized, as part of the arrivalslegacy.com website launch in 2016. The timing was not right.

It wasn't till 2021 that the idea of a virtual playground for Alumni to share emerging stories took shape, and Diane and her team were able to successfully secure funding through the Canada Council. Technology Director Anju Singh and website developer Atef Abdelkefi have been working closely with Diane to score out the development of the platform.

In early 2022 we launched a consultation with members of our Alumni community on the features of the platform. With the appointment of UX designer Vanessa Myho to support the design and testing of the site, Seedpool was well on the way to becoming a reality.

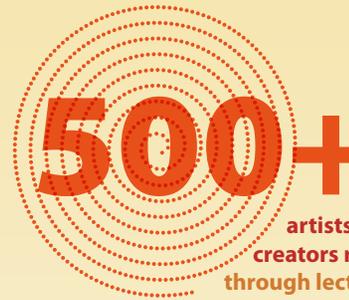
## From Process to Organization

WE RETURNED AGAIN to the roots of the Process to identify our core values as an organization, which drive everything we do:

Balance  
Kinship  
Growth  
Curiosity  
Honour  
Integrity

## Our Past by Numbers

Since 2003, Arrivals Legacy Project has evolved from a process to a working methodology, to a non-profit organization



artists and creators reached through lecture-demos, workshops and residencies



workshops, residencies and lecture-demonstrations: 48 workshops, 10 lecture-demonstrations, 7 residencies



known cross-disciplinary projects fueled by Arrivals Legacy Project



artists and creators from multi-disciplinary backgrounds are members of ALP's Cross-Canada Co-Facilitation Team





Diane Roberts,  
Founding Artistic Director

### MESSAGE FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

AS I REFLECT ON A STORY that has been 19 years in the making – and counting – I trace its trajectory along the same arc that I and my co-facilitators invite artists to take with us in our workshops.

It is a continuing story. As we deepen our understanding of the roots of the process, we re-centre creative practice for future generations of BIPOC artists.

It has been a landmark year for Arrivals Legacy Project. My vision in 2016 of creating a virtual gathering space for Alumni artists to connect and follow the clues left by their Ancestral sources was finally made possible last year.

I've also been privileged to work with a multi-skilled team and Board to distill the essence of what has evolved from a spark of an idea, to a complex working methodology, and now to a non-profit organization with a promising future.

I'm so proud of what we have achieved together thus far, and grateful for the insight, wisdom and perspectives we have all brought to this beautiful journey.

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## Our Timeline

### 1 TESTING THE GROUND 2003 – 2005

While teaching an Introduction to Acting class at Concordia University and an MFA Cultural Production workshop at York University, Diane Roberts introduces a new grounding technique using Ancestry as a springboard.

Diane and Heather Hermant team up to research the first Personal Legacy Workshop defining African and Diasporic process for grounding artists.

### 2 KINDLING POTENTIAL 2006 – 2014

The first research-creation residency on Galiano Island with Heather and Lopa Sircar on works exploring their ancestry. Diane applies the work in a cross-Canada workshop series; in a Co(Lab) and with Indigenous youth as Artistic Director of Urban Ink Productions (Vancouver), and in the production of the first work inspired by the process, *ribcage: this wide passage*.

The co-facilitation team grows from 2 to 4 to 12.





Rita S Karakas,  
Chair

### MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

IT IS TRULY AN HONOUR to present the inaugural annual review for Arrivals Legacy Project, and the important work that it does to connect artists and creators to their ancestry.

The energy and dedication of my fellow Board members over the last year have been outstanding, as we have worked alongside Diane and the team to establish and future-proof the organization.

Finally, I owe a deep debt of gratitude, on behalf of the Board, to Diane for her insightful approach to uncovering Indigenous and diasporic ancestries through art. We are constantly in awe of the potential of this creative process as a transformational force for good for artists and creators, and for healing societal wounds.



“The Arrivals Personal Legacy Process has allowed me to dig deep and connect to a community of talented artists who are on the same journey. More than ever, I feel empowered to explore and write fearlessly.”

— Marie Leofeli Barlizo MFA, BFA, Playwright, Screenwriter, Producer, Recipient of the 2022 Jovette Marchessault Award for Playwriting, National Theatre School Playwriting Mentor, and instructor, LMDA Regional Rep (Canada) and Board of Director (USA)

### 3 SPARKING CONNECTIONS 2015 – 2019

Arrivalslegacy.com is developed with Alumnus Jude Wong and Atef Abdelkefi, including the first iteration of the SeedPool as a gathering place for Alumni. Diane offers lecture-demonstrations and workshops in Canada, the UK, Central America and Europe.

National and International residencies with Liliona Quarmyne and Shauntay Grant embed the methodology.

### 4 TENDING THE FLAME 2020 – 2021

New partnerships are established with Black Theatre Workshop, Diasporakidz, lbs/sq inch, Concordia University, University of Winnipeg, University of Victoria, Stratford Festival, Pangea Arts (Minneapolis) and Art2Action (Florida), University of New Westminster (UK).

Legacy Voice is birthed from a partnership with Moving Voice Institute. Diane introduces the first virtual workshops.

### 5 FEEDING THE SOIL 2021 – 2022

With \$230K 3-year funding from Canada Council's Digital Strategy Fund, the SeedPool project can be taken to the next level. Arrivals Legacy Project is registered as a national non-profit organisation in May 2021, with a 7-member Board of Directors.

Additional funding from the Digital Now and Sustainability grant programs paves the way to build the organisation and design and build SeedPool and its support systems. \$21K is generated in workshop revenues.

A new visual identity for Arrivals Legacy Project is launched to reflect the vision, values and purpose of the organization.

2014

2015

3

2016

2017

2018

2019

2020

4

2021

5

2022

2023

## ... Our Future

### ARRIVALS LEGACY PROJECT CONTINUES TO BE ON THE MOVE IN 2022-3.

WE CONTINUE TO DEEPEN our own roots, and to experiment with combining time-honoured ways of being and doing with new forms of creative expression.

The first test of the SeedPool virtual playground will host a curated four-month virtual residency from September-December 2022 for an Alumni artist test group of 18. Led by Diane and our cross-Canada Curatorial Dramaturgy Team, the program will invite the artists into an exploratory process of exchange designed to seed new individual and collaborative creative propositions.

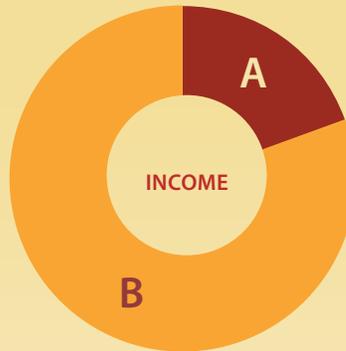
Our newly branded website and SeedPool will be launched as part of our strategy to engage our Alumni and wider community in our work and vision and to raise the profile of Arrivals Legacy Project.

As a young organization we will prioritize developing the financial stability, policies, systems and governance structures that will help us better serve our community and reach the next generation of artists.

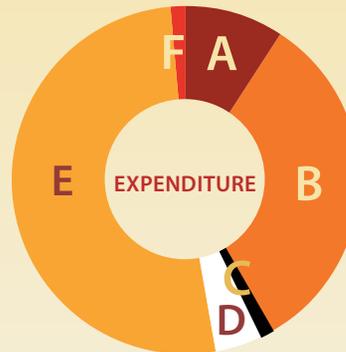
Acknowledging our feet and the territories they land on. The land we're standing on together. Here, now, and in the future.

All in-workshop photographs by Diane Roberts. In order of appearance: Marika Warren, Mayahuel Tecozautla, Adedokun Peter Olalekan, Rosemary Georgeson, Jessica Hallenbeck, Kitt Johnson, Anuradha Rao.

## 2021/22 Financials



- A. Workshop Fees **\$21,810**
  - B. Public Sector - Grant Revenue **\$90,000**
- TOTAL: \$111,810**



- A. Administrative and Professional Fees **\$10,182**
  - B. Artistic Fees **\$36,167**
  - C. Fundraising Costs **\$1,198**
  - D. Marketing and Communications **\$5,130**
  - E. Production, Technical Fees **\$56,851**
  - F. Programming **\$1,409**
- TOTAL: \$110,937**

Full financial statement available upon request.

## Partners

THANK YOU to our partners, lbs/sq inch, Diasporakidz and Playwrights Workshop Montreal, without whom we would not have been able to achieve what we have in 2021/22.

### SUPPORTED BY



Conseil des Arts  
du Canada

Canada Council  
for the Arts

### BOARD

Rita S. Karakas, *Chair*  
David Garneau, *Vice-Chair*  
Peter Gardiner Harding, *Treasurer*  
Diane Roberts, *Secretary*  
Heather Hermant, *Member*  
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Arrivals Legacy Project is a registered non-profit.



OUR PAST ILLUMINATES OUR FUTURE

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