

Annual Report April 2022-March 2023

Kinesis Dance somatheatro (Kinesis Dance Society) is grateful to live, dance, gather and create on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territories of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh peoples, today known as Vancouver, BC. At KDS, we recognize and celebrate all types of diversity including and not limited to ethnicity, gender identity and expression, sexual and romantic orientation, disability, age, and beliefs. We welcome the strength, knowledge, and power that comes from experiencing different perspectives, backgrounds, and cultures, and know this will deepen our shared understanding of the work we do. To achieve our vision of a community where everyone is respected and seen, we must recognize the intersections of power and privilege and actively work to ensure a safer and more equitable environment for all members of our community. As KDS' funder, staff and directors, we agree to do our part in creating a safe and welcoming environment for everyone.

Over the past year 2022-2023, although we were still dealing with the repercussions of the covid-19 pandemic on the Arts and Culture sector, we managed to research, create and deliver our programs successfully. Staff, Board, volunteers, donors and supporters all contributed in ways never before experienced.

Kinesis Dance somatheatro is recognized for its ability to engaged private sector support through its annual fundraising gala. This is the 3rd year that this wonderful event had to be cancelled but we managed to raise donations through email-pledge and Giving Tuesday campaign.

Outreach School Workshops

As part of our regular outreach Dance Out Loud Program, supported through BC Gaming, we went into two schools of the underserved Vancouver East Side to conduct workshops with grade 5-6 students.

We met twice a week for a month with the students of Lord Selkirk Elementary and Thunderbird Elementary, exploring through movement the elements of air, fire, earth and water. We reached out to a hundred kids, some of which who had never experienced dance before.

This year, we also started a partnership with two francophone schools, as part of their after-school care program, offering dance workshops in French to kids from Kindergarten to Grade 5 at Ecole des Colibris and Ecole Rose-des-Vents.

Aethernet: a community-engaged dance project

Aethernet was conducted into two phases, following covid-19 restrictions: phase 1 was entirely remote and digital, phase 2 was live and in-person.

Aethernet is a community-engaged dance project that was first born from the isolation we all felt when Covid-19 hit. After over a year ‘stuck’ at home, we felt motionless, our bodies screaming for action and connection. We were never “alone” however. We are all connected, not only through our ethernet cables, but mainly through the elements we are all made of. We are all made of the same stuff, bird and beast, star and stone - we are all one! *Aethernet* dances the air we breathe, the fire our passions light inside us, the earth we eat from, the water we come from and the life opportunities suspended in the ether, waiting for us!

The first phase of the project was conducted in year 2021-2022, but the premiere of the video that resulted was in 2022-2023. The first phase of *Aethernet* was supported through the City of Vancouver and BC Gaming.

It was 100% digital: teaching videos and guidelines were made available online. We sent a call for participation to the broader community, through social media, community centres, community-engaged organizations, and word of mouth. Out of the videos received (from different parts of Canada, but also from Mexico, Greece, France and Latvia), Paras Terezakis and videographer Yasuhiro Okada edited a video-montage that premiered on April 29th for International Dance Day 2022 online with The Dance Centre, and on the Mount Pleasant Community Art Screen managed by the Grunt Gallery, on which it stayed up till the end of October 2022.

Around the World Aethernet: <https://vimeo.com/697112746>

The second phase of the project started when covid-19 restrictions lifted. The second phase of *Aethernet* was supported through Canadian Heritage, BC Tourism, BC Gaming, the City of Vancouver and the Hamber Foundation. It was also made possible thanks to our venue partners The Dance Centre, Granville Island, North Vancouver Recreation Services, and The Shadbolt Centre for the Arts.

We conducted community workshops to explore the 5 elements and the 5 original dances. From the feedback of the community participants, we created a new short choreography, inspired by the 5 original element dances. This new dance routine was then brought back to the community at large through three series of free community workshops leading to free public performances at Granville Island, in North Vancouver and in Burnaby. We opened access to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community by providing ASL interpretation. Through these workshops/performances, we reached out to more than 150 volunteer community dancers, student dancers and professional dancers. The events were very successful, with a broad audience.

Granville Island Aethernet Flash Mob on June 3rd: <https://vimeo.com/720334663/dbf4bd52a5>

North Vancouver Aethernet Flash Mob on September 3rd: <https://vimeo.com/752614417>

Burnaby Aethernet Flash Mob, on October 1st: <https://vimeo.com/761950688>

Noxious

The production of *Noxious* was supported through BC Arts Council, BC Gaming and our generous corporate donor Omega Travel, as well as generous donations from individual donors.

Noxious is a choreographic investigation on toxicity and pollution – not simply that of our planet earth, but most importantly pollution of our minds. The toxicity that enters our inner self over a lifetime affects who we are, who we become and how we interact and navigate through life and thus our footprint on the earth. The inspiration for this new work grew out of 4 years of research, that started with a choreographic investigation focused on plastic pollution. Working under the exceptional circumstances of Covid-19 resulted in a shift in the focus of the work: the notion of pollution broadened to include the toxicity that enters not only our body but also our psyche.

Noxious successfully premiered at the Shadbolt Centre for the Arts in Burnaby in November 2022 and was very well received by the audience. Amongst the feedback: “it was intriguing and powerful”, “it twists us inside out and brings inner beauty out of temporary disgust”, “I got carried away, there is lots of depths”, “thank you for sharing such a thought-provoking and mesmerizing show”.



As KDS Administrator and then in my new role as Executive Director my focus on the past year has been to expand our outreach activities by adding more schools benefiting from our in-school workshops program, as well as increase the impact of **Aethernet** in the Metro Vancouver Area. One of my many challenges has been to find ways to finance the production of **Noxious**. Grant applications are more competitive than ever, straining resources, staff and volunteers to a new level.

This year, KDS also initiated a strategic planning journey towards a transition of our leadership and operative model.

Grants applied and received		Grants applied and denied		Grants applied and still pending	
Funder	Project	Funder	Project	Funder	Project
BC Fairs, Festival & Events Recovery Fund	Aethernet	CCA Explore & Create Concept to Realization	Noxious	BC Recovery & Resiliency Fund	All
Canadian Heritage Commemorate Canada – Reopening Fund	Aethernet	CCA Arts Across Canada Public Outreach	Aethernet	Community Services Recovery Fund	Strategic & Transition planning
BCAC Arts Impact	Noxious	Metro Vancouver	Aethernet	BC Gaming	Outreach year 2023-2024
BC Gaming	Outreach	CCA Explore & Create Concept to Realization	New community-engaged project	City of Vancouver	New community-engaged project for 2023-2024
City Of Vancouver Transit Shelter Advertising & Vancouver Live! Programs (in-Kind)	Aethernet	BCAC Arts Impact Grant	Strategic & Transition planning	Hamber Foundation	New community-engaged project for 2023-2024
City of Vancouver	Aethernet IDD (year 2023-2024)	CCA Strategic Innovation Fund Seed Grant	Strategic & Transition planning	City of Vancouver Cultural Learning & Sharing	Strategic & Transition planning
		Various Private Foundations (McLean, London Drugs, Molson, TD Friends of the Environment, MaxBell, Gencon, Catherine Donnelly, Oak, Daniel Langlois, Hamber)	Noxious		
		BC Fairs, Festival & Events	New community-engaged project for 2023-2024		