



Annual Report

April 2025-March 2026

We respectfully acknowledge that the work of soma anima arts (Kinesis Dance Society), takes place on the ancestral and stolen lands of the Coast Salish peoples, including the x^wməθkwəyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), Stó:lō, and Səlilwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations. We are deeply grateful for the opportunity to live, create, and play on these lands. Through our movement practices and artistic inquiry, we strive to honour the stories, stewardship, and enduring presence of Indigenous communities, and to deepen our responsibility to the land and to one another.

In the 2025–2026 season we continued to nurture vital artistic projects and foster meaningful community connections. Our programming featured original creations, community-engaged processes, and site-responsive works presented across local and regional venues. From interdisciplinary explorations to intergenerational dialogue, the season demonstrated the adaptability, vision, and resonance of our work.

We extend heartfelt thanks to our board of directors, collaborators, funders, and community partners for supporting us. Your belief in the transformative power of dance continues to inspire and sustain us.

As with many arts organizations, we continue to feel the effects of inflation. While our operating costs rise steadily, revenue streams have remained largely unchanged—and in some cases, have decreased. Donations have become lighter, and competition for grants has intensified, placing significant strain on our financial and human resources. These pressures have tested the resilience of our staff and volunteers, who continue to show extraordinary commitment in challenging conditions.

Our programming is sustained through a diverse mix of funding sources, including municipal, regional, and federal project grants - such as those from the City of Vancouver, North Vancouver Recreation & Culture, Metro Vancouver, the Province of BC (via the BC Gaming Commission), BC Arts Council and the Government of Canada (notably through the New Horizons for Seniors Program). We are also grateful for the support of private foundations, including the Hamber Foundation and the Vancouver Community Arts Fund, as well as income generated through earned revenue, individual donations, and fundraising efforts.

Amidst this financial climate, we have also been actively engaged in organizational renewal. As part of the leadership transition, Carline and Rachel continued their participation in the year-long Pathways Extended program to support their professional growth. We are in the ongoing process of revisiting and refining our mandate, mission, and values, as well as updating our strategic plan and internal policies to better reflect our current vision and needs. This evolution also included the creation of a new graphic identity, featuring a redesigned logo and website, that reflects the spirit of our transition to soma anima arts. These developments are part of a broader effort to build a sustainable, artistically vibrant, and community-rooted future.

soma anima arts / Kinesis Dance Society
Level 6 – 677 Davie Street, Vancouver BC, V6B 2G6
Tel: 604 684 7844 Fax: 604 606 6401
Email: admin@kinesisdance.org Website: www.kinesisdance.org
Registered Charitable Organization: #118981448RR0001

2024-2025 Project & Activities

Outreach & Community Engagement

The positive impact soma anima arts continues to have in the community is due in a large part to the success of its multi-faceted community outreach Dance Out Loud program, supported through BC Gaming.

In 2025-2026, this program was made of a vast array of activities:

- Weekly collaborative dance workshops for children: conducted in French in three francophone schools, as part of after-school care activities, with children from KG to Grade 5 (Ecole des Colibris / SDG La Marelle, Ecole Rose-des-Vents / SDG Les Copains, Annexe Queen Elizabeth / SDG Les Aventuriers)
- Collaborative Creative Dance Classes: Weekly workshops for older adults (55+) at Trout Lake Community Centre, Roundhouse Community Centre, Aberthau / West Point Grey Community Centre & The Dance Centre
- Generations: series of free performances & workshops at assisted living / care facilities located in the Vancouver Downtown Eastside (Central City Lodge & Cooper Place)
- Generations | Freedom Floor: component of the Generations program, series of free improv workshops for at-risk youth dealing with unhousing, addiction & mental health challenges, in partnership with The Foundry Granville Street
- Flowing Verse: a free workshop merging poetry and movement for the Dance Centre's Open House
- Vortex | 4D sound + dance jam: a series of immersive dance workshops in partnership with Lobe – spatial sound studio.
- Artemis' Embrace (see below for a more detailed description)
- Free open rehearsals & showings of various productions



Through these programs, we affirm our commitment to accessible, community-engaged dance practice. It underscores the value of sustained engagement, and the power of shared artistic experiences.

Artemis' Embrace: a community-engaged dance flash mob

Artemis' Embrace celebrated community engagement through movement, music, and collaborative creation. The main activities included rehearsals with professional dancers, community workshops, and a culminating performance on April 29th at Robson Square in honour of International Dance Day. In partnership with The Dance Centre, this event brought together professional artists, children, and community members in a vibrant public celebration.

Six professional dancers were contracted to revisit and deepen the original Artemis' Embrace choreography, co-facilitating workshops with Artistic Director Rachel Helten and Executive Director Carline Dolmazon. The community-based workshops created opportunities for shared learning and intergenerational exchange. The live performance was elevated by the dynamic presence of Balkan Shmalkan, Vancouver East Side community brass band who provided live music during the show.

One of the highlight of this 2025 iteration of Artemis' Embrace was the meaningful inclusion of approximately 70 students from École des Colibris and their teachers. Twice weekly throughout April, our team facilitated school-based workshops, introducing students to the movement language and values of Artemis Embrace. These sessions culminated in a joyous group performance on International Dance Day, where the children danced alongside professional artists and members of the broader Vancouver community.

Through this partnership with Ecole des Colibris & the engagement of young participants, not only did the project aligned deeply with our goals of accessibility, intergenerational collaboration, and community connection through dance, but we expanded the project's reach, enriched the process, introduced dance as a joyful and expressive practice to a new generation, and built bridges between professional artists and the broader public.



Key highlights included the children's enthusiasm and sense of ownership in the final performance, the energy brought by live music, and the moving sense of community was felt by all involved. A challenge was managing the logistics of school-based engagement alongside rehearsals and public programming, but the outcome proved immensely rewarding.

[Video](#)

Bright Shadow

Despite its strong potential, Bright Shadow was put on hold for 2025–2026 due to a lack of funding, delaying collaboration with the artistic team at a pivotal stage of development.

Rather than letting the project stall, Artistic Director Rachel Helten and Executive Director Carline Dolmazon continued to champion its vision, working tirelessly to secure new funding opportunities and build strategic partnerships.

Throughout the year, Bright Shadow was presented to presenters across Western Canada through the Dance West Network Pitch Marathon, expanding its visibility and generating new connections. Looking ahead, a significant milestone has already been secured: a technical residency, including three public performances, at the Shadbolt Centre for the Arts during the 2026–2027 season.

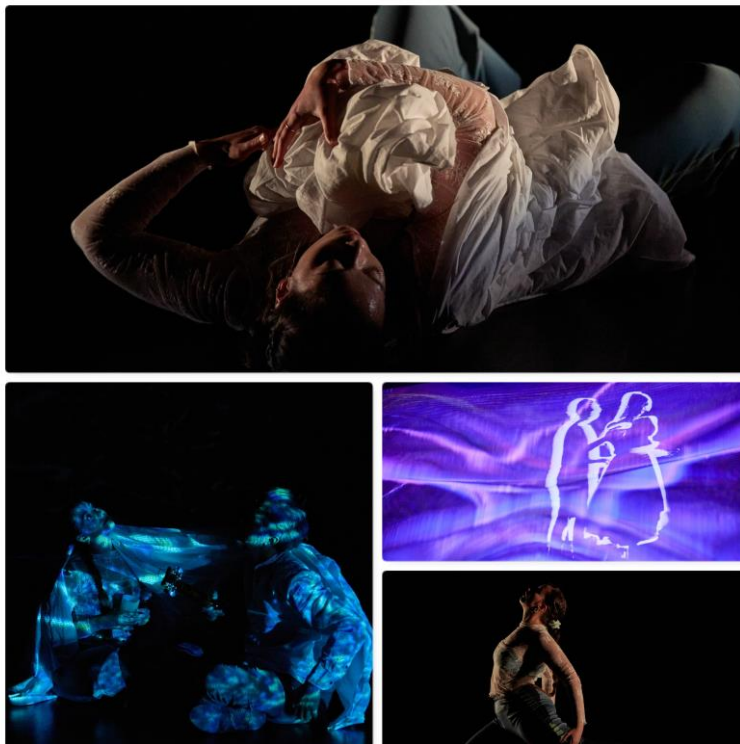
These developments demonstrate that while the project's timeline has shifted, its artistic vision continues to gain momentum, laying a strong foundation for its next phase of creation and presentation.

What is us & Eternal

What is us & Eternal is an interdisciplinary dance work by Rachel Helten and Ezequiel Peralta exploring the boundless, fluid, and multi-dimensional nature of love—el amor—as a force that transcends time and space. Drawing from movement, text, visions, and spirit, this piece reflects on love as a place of metamorphosis, memory, and eternal return.

It was performed in June 2025 at the Roundhouse Performance Centre, as part of the Unity Consciousness Arts Festival presented by Chimerik 似不像.

Video



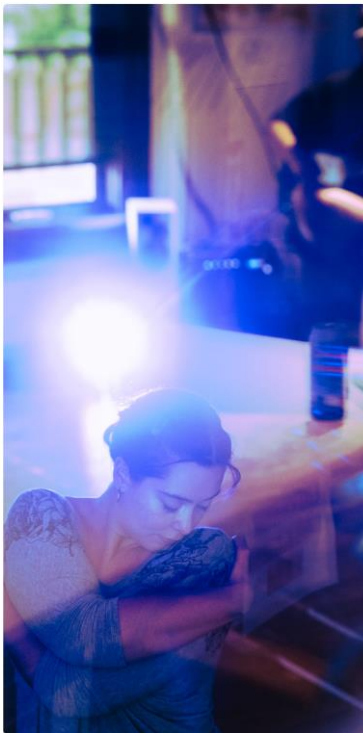
Gentle Glory

Rooted in Rachel Helten's lived experience navigating C-PTSD and mental health challenges, Gentle Glory explores how a deep connection to oneself and the Earth can foster strength and healing in an often violent world. Created in collaboration with her brother, composer and musician Ben Helten, the work blends contemporary dance, poetic text, and original music to investigate emotional intelligence and vulnerability as courageous acts of transformation.

During the 2025–2026 season, Rachel and Ben presented Gentle Glory in three Metro Vancouver communities, adapting the work to the unique indoor and outdoor spaces of each venue:

- Port Moody (July 2025) – As part of the PoMoArts OutSide Festival, the performance began indoors before inviting audiences to journey with the performers outdoors for its conclusion. An informal artist talk-back followed the presentation.
- North Vancouver (October 2025) – During BC Culture Days, Gentle Glory was performed outdoors in Civic Plaza and was followed by an artist talk-back and a community workshop on the theme of gentleness, hosted at the City Library.
- Vancouver (January 2026) – As part of The Dance Centre's Push OFF programming, the work was presented in a studio setting at The Dance Centre, followed by an artist talk-back.

By presenting the work across a variety of public and semi-public spaces, Gentle Glory increased access to contemporary dance and reached both intentional audiences and passersby who might not otherwise attend a performance. The project demonstrated how site-responsive work can foster meaningful community engagement while making contemporary dance more accessible and inviting.



In addition to these presentations, Rachel Helten and Carline Dolmazon participated in mentorship and professional development opportunities through the Dance West Network's Des Arts Dehors / Arts Outside program, strengthening their capacity to create and present work in outdoor and unconventional spaces.

[Video](#)

What's in the cooking for 2026-2027

Reverence for the Rebels: April 2026 - Dance Lab & performance for IDD at The Dance Centre

Gentle Glory: May 2026 – DADAO performance at Alliance Française

Reveries: May 2026 – Fundraising event

Luminous Web: June-July 2026 – A new Flash Mob series in North Vancouver

October 2026 – To be Confirmed, Burnaby Halloween Festival

Bright Shadow: September-November 2026 – Technical residency at The Shadbolt Centre for the Arts

Generations: Ongoing April 2026-March 2027

Freedom Floor: Ongoing April 2026-March 2027

Vortex & Flowing Verse: Ongoing April 2026-March 2027

Youth & Older adults' Creative workshops: Ongoing April 2026-March 2027

Beyond!



Successful Grant applications		Unsuccessful Grant applications		Successful Grant applications received in 2025-2026 but for project happening in 2026-2027	
Funder	Project	Funder	Project	Funder	Project
Government of Canada: New Horizon (2024 Intake)	Generations (Received in 2024-2025 / Partial amount was used in 2025-2026)	Click Foundation	Artemis' Embrace – IDD 2025	BCAC Project Assistance	Reverence for the Rebels
BC Gaming	Outreach	Louise Bentall Award	Bright Shadow	COV CASC (Fall intake 2025)	Reverence for the Rebels
Hamber Foundation (Fall intake 2024)	Artemis' Embrace (Received in 2024-2025 / Partial amount was used in 2025-2026)	CCA Residencies	Enduring Rhythms (Residency in Argentina)	Hamber Foundation (Spring intake 2025)	Bright Shadow (Deferred to 2026-2027)
Deux Mille Foundation	Artemis' Embrace (Received in 2024-2025 / Partial amount was used in 2025-2026)	COV-CASC (Spring Intake 2025)	Bright Shadow	Grant applications submitted in 2025-2026 for project happening in 2026-2027, with results still pending at yearend	
COV-CASC (Fall Intake 2024)	Artemis' Embrace – IDD 2025	BC Arts Impact	Bright Shadow	PNE Art Grant	Bright Shadow
Metro Vancouver	Generations / Freedom Floor (Received in 2024-2025 / Partial amount was used in 2025-2026)	CCA Research & Creation	Reverence for the Rebels	BC Gaming (2026)	Outreach
NVRC	Gentle Glory	CCA Concept to Realization	Bright Shadow	Canada Post Community Foundation	Generations / Freedom Floor
Metro Vancouver	Gentle Glory	COV – COF (Expression Of Interest)	Operating	COV-CASC (Spring Intake 2026)	Generations / Freedom Floor
Community Arts Fund	Generations / Freedom Floor	Government of Canada – New Horizon (2025 Intake)	Expansion of Generations	Hamber Foundation (Spring Intake 2026)	Luminous Web
		Hamber Foundation (Fall Intake 2025)	Reverence for the Rebels	NVRC	Luminous Web
		Patrimoine Canadien FACC	Luminous Web	CCA Artistic Creation	Bright Shadow
		City of North Vancouver	Luminous Web		

Fundraising initiatives 25-26	Goal: \$7,000	Total raised	\$6,678.60
November 2025: Online Auction			\$480
Various Call for Donations (Giving Tuesday, Holiday Season, Great Canadian Giving Challenge, etc)			
Individual Donors	Donation amount	Individual Donors	Donation amount
Carline Dolmazon (monthly donor)	\$1,700	Heloise Papillon	\$30
Ezequiel Peralta	\$1,800	Linda Rosenheck	\$55
Benjamin Rabaste	\$55	Paula Vander	\$100
Raphaelle Abitbol	\$55	Anne Cheng	\$20
Gaspard Roche	\$85	Denis Blais	\$250
Corporate Donors		Return-it Program	\$48.60
Dove Management	\$2,000		
Total raised through donation campaigns			\$6,198.60

Like most past years, one of our greatest challenges has been securing the financial resources needed to sustain our programming. Grant applications are more competitive than ever, placing increasing demands on our staff and volunteers and stretching our organizational capacity. While our fundraising initiatives have been successful, building and renewing long-term donor engagement remains an ongoing challenge. To ensure the long-term sustainability of our organization, we recognize the need to further diversify our revenue sources through a balanced mix of grants, individual giving, earned income, and strategic partnerships.