



## Mayworks: Festival of Working People & the Arts 2024 Events Package

### **Mayworks: Festival of Working People & the Arts**

The Mayworks Festival of Working People & the Arts celebrates the diverse artists and working people at the intersection of art, social justice, and labour. Mayworks festivals take place in communities around the world and relaunched in British Columbia in 2023.

The festival brings together artists and workers from a diverse range of organizations in the visual & media arts, community arts, cooperatives, and labour movement to celebrate the rich history of working people in BC.

Mayworks is organized by a volunteer programming team as an incubated non-profit cooperative of the Union Cooperative Initiative (UCI). The UCI is building an economy that works for all through the development, incubation, and operation of unionized cooperatives that are good for people and the planet. The festival provides flexible and living wage work opportunities for working class artists, gig workers, and cultural workers.

#### **Host an Event With Us**

Mayworks is a community celebration of working people and artistic labour. We welcome community organizations and unions partnering with us to host events that activate their members and community. If you're an artist looking to host an event [please check out our artist event hosting guide here](#).

#### **Hosting an Event (for Free!)**

The UCI is a proud resident of the historic Lim Sai Hor Kow Mok Benevolent Association Building in Vancouver's Chinatown. Our community studio and cooperative development centre hosts the Collective Print Shop, People's Pub Cooperative, Stitchers Cooperative, and members lounge.

The Studio can be utilized for pop-up events, socials, performances, installations, and other activities. It is available year round for bookings. [Check out the full details here](#).





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Our festival organizing team commissioned two union artists, [Paige Jung](#) and [Kyla James Yin](#), from the Arts and Cultural Workers Union (ACWU), IATSE Local B778 to create designs for the festival.

Paige's Solidarity Forever design illustrates the power of community solidarity. With a nod to “bread and roses” and the solidarity fist, this illustration demonstrates the

abundance of growth when we come together. We have a responsibility to look out for one another and create spaces where everyone feels valued and seen.

Kyla's window mural, Transmigration, explores the possibilities of a society in the far future, imagining mythology as both supernatural and technological. Kyla uses solarpunk as a way to imagine a present and future where history, the environment, and technology coexist harmoniously. The illustration also represents the ongoing history of labour organizing in Chinatown.



The depiction of the 麒麟 (Qilin) comes from its history as an auspicious symbol, and Kyla's desire to bring a symbol of good luck to Vancouver's Chinatown and to the labour organizing initiatives that take place there. The 麒麟 harmonizes natural, technological, and supernatural elements in the hope that our collective future can do the same.

### Host an Event or 2024 Programming

Thanks to support from Vancity Savings Credit Union and partner labour unions, the Mayworks Cooperative team will be opening up a small community grants program ranging from \$100 to \$500 to assist working artists with programming accessible events for the union, arts, and broader community.





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Mayworks event principles:

- **When anyone is paid, everyone should be paid.** All participating artists and cultural workers must be paid equitable living wages.
- Event hosts and organizations should be transparent in their funding and event plans with all artists and workers.
- Events should be accessible with free or sliding scale fees.
- Events with income revenue must follow the UCI redistribution principle where 10% of surplus and 1% of revenue is contributed back to the cooperative development fund. These resources are redistributed to equity denied workers to build justice focused cooperatives.
- Priority will be given to artists, cultural workers, and collectives from historically underrepresented and equity denied communities.
- Projects promoting social justice for working people will be prioritized.

We have created a simple application process and are happy to accept applications by phone or email to [info@unionci.ca](mailto:info@unionci.ca). [Event applications are now open!](#)

### **Donations**

Individual contributions are essential to the success of our festival. We strive to keep our events free or at low cost while maintaining a mandate to properly compensate artists and address issues of political significance. [Donations are accepted online here.](#) Any individual donation of \$50 or more is eligible for a free gift for pick-up at the UCI Studio in Chinatown at 525 Carrall Street, Vancouver!

### **Event Ideas**

Want to host an event but not sure where to start? Here are some event ideas our cooperative organizing team have put together:

- Button making party! [Inspiration from OCAD University](#)
- Host an Art Build at the UCI Studio or your union office! [Inspiration from 350.org](#)
- Crafters Resistance: Community Quilting party! [Inspiration from Mayworks Halifax](#)





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- Zine-making workshop or meet up! [Your how-to guide from Instructables](#)
- Host a panel discussion or solidarity event with precarious gig worker artists! [Inspiration from Mayworks Toronto](#)

Our union artists and cultural workers are here to help. Please reach out if you have an event idea

### Community & Program Partners

If you have any questions about Mayworks or if you are interested in supporting the festival, including co-presenting an event, please reach out to the Mayworks organizing team at [info@unionci.ca](mailto:info@unionci.ca).



Mayworks is an incubated cooperative project of the Union Cooperative Initiative (UCI). The UCI is **building an economy that works for all** through the development, incubation, and operation of union cooperatives that are good for people and the planet. We are a non-profit solidarity cooperative with a mission to build a worker-centred social and solidarity economy at home and abroad.

[Get Involved](#) | [Become a Member](#) | [Support our CO-OPs](#) | [Sign-up for our Newsletter](#)

*The Union Cooperative Initiative works on the homelands of 203 distinct Indigenous nations and cultures with more than 30 different languages and close to 60 unique dialects spoken across British Columbia. Our office is located on the Unceded Territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm ([Musqueam](#)), Skwxwú7mesh ([Squamish](#)) and sə́ilwətaʔ ([Tsleil-Waututh](#)) Nations in Vancouver. We commit to active reconciliation, solidarity, mutual aid, and concrete action with our Indigenous partners and members.*

