



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

## Mayworks: Festival of Working People & the Arts

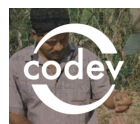
The Mayworks Festival of Working People & the Arts celebrates the diverse artists and working people at the intersection of art, social justice, and labour. Mayworks festivals take place in communities around the world and were relaunched in 2023 in BC.

The festival brings together artists and workers from a diverse range of organizations in the visual & media arts, community arts, cooperative, 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.

### Mayworks Programming

In 2023 we held 18 events with 571 attendees throughout the lower mainland. Events were presented in partnership and support from 11 partners and sponsors.





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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 Programming

Thanks to support from Vancity Savings Credit Union and partner labour unions, the Mayworks team will be providing small community and artist grants ranging from \$100 to \$500 to assist working artists with programming accessible events for the union, arts, and broader community. [We also provide free space at our Chinatown studio in Vancouver.](#)





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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).

[Applications are now open!](#)

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

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 UCI 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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### Donations

Individual contributions are essential to the success of our festival. We strive to keep our events free or at low cost while maintaining the principle to properly compensate artists.

[Donations are accepted online here.](#)

### Donations Benefits

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!

### 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).

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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 səilwətaʔ ([Tsleil-Waututh](#)) Nations in Vancouver. We commit to active reconciliation, solidarity, mutual aid, and concrete action with our Indigenous partners and members.*

