

# Roedde House Museum 2024 Report



Prepared for 2025 Roedde House Preservation  
Society Annual General Meeting  
January - December 2024





# Roedde House Museum Annual Report

Roedde House  
Museum  
2024 Report

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# Mission

The Roedde House Preservation Society is dedicated to the preserving, maintaining and enhancing of the Roedde House Museum and to presenting heritage exhibits and programs reflecting the early history of Vancouver for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations.

Since the Museum's official opening in May, 1990, the Roedde House Preservation Society has run Roedde House as a threefold facility:

- a museum with tours, including a schools program,
- a venue for music and other cultural entertainment,
- a rental facility for small receptions and artistic projects.

## Roedde House Museum 2024 Report





# Board Chair Message

Cindy Kravchenko

We were grateful to once again receive funding from GMR Foundation to replace the rug in the parlor and the carpet on the back stairs. This will be a nice "glow-up" for the parlor as the current rug is almost bald in some spots and has served for many years. Also, the carpet on the back stairs was in sorry shape and badly in need of refreshing.

We ended the year with a very successful Annual Campaign for 2025 projects, exceeding our target of \$3,000.00. A big Thank You to all who donated, especially the Martin-Blair family who have made it possible for us to replace the blinds throughout the museum in 2025.

The House had 3 very different large exhibits this year - Pauline Johnson, Swinging in the Rain, and German Expressionism.

Pauline Johnson highlighted her life and life's work and was relevant to RH because she spent her last years in the West End.

Swinging in the Rain explored the early jazz scene in Vancouver highlighting the diversity of performers and opened with a special concert. The Roedde children were jazz fans but Gustav was not.

German Expressionism looked at various aspects of this artistic movement. Our relationship with the German Consulate was renewed, with the Consul granting RH \$1,750.00 to hire a Graphic Designer to design the exhibit. The exhibit was supported with screenings of 'Nosferatu', 'The Cabinet of Dr Caligari', and 'Pandora's Box'. Also, a Woodblock carving workshop and 'Intersection of Genius' - Kandinsky and Schoenberg. We also welcomed a new Community Partner - Cineworks. It is important that we explore the Roedde's German heritage in showcasing the House.





# Board Chair Message Continued

With Sara returning from maternity leave, we moved to a new staffing model, with Sara working 3 days per week and created a new position, Collections & Exhibits Coordinator working 3 days per week. Joyce maintains her position at 15 hours per week. This model will allow us to continue to move towards best practices and professionalism.

As always, a huge thank you to all the volunteers. Your engagement and enthusiasm are a joy to behold.

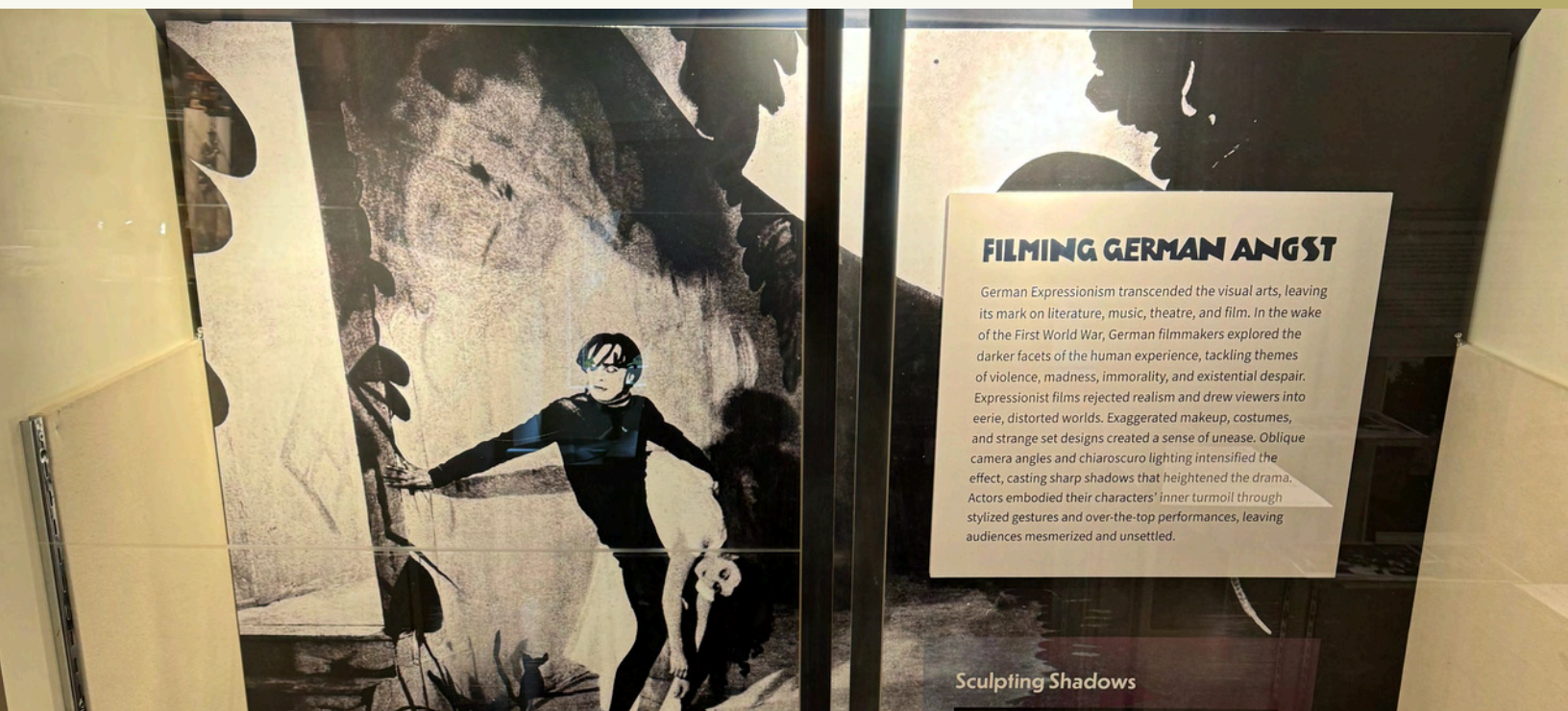
And the staff are the backbone of the House. All so very talented, smart, and willing to do what it takes. The House would not be what it is without you. Thanks are not enough.

Finally, the Board who diligently oversee operations and care for the House.

Many thanks,

*Cindy Kravchenko*

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## FILMING GERMAN ANGST

German Expressionism transcended the visual arts, leaving its mark on literature, music, theatre, and film. In the wake of the First World War, German filmmakers explored the darker facets of the human experience, tackling themes of violence, madness, immorality, and existential despair. Expressionist films rejected realism and drew viewers into eerie, distorted worlds. Exaggerated makeup, costumes, and strange set designs created a sense of unease. Oblique camera angles and chiaroscuro lighting intensified the effect, casting sharp shadows that heightened the drama. Actors embodied their characters' inner turmoil through stylized gestures and over-the-top performances, leaving audiences mesmerized and unsettled.

Sculpting Shadows



# Message from the Staff

Sara Hepper, Museum Manager &

Joyce Cheung, Community Engagement Coordinator

I think I can speak confidently for both Joyce and myself when I say that this last year was bustling at Roedde House Museum, with many changes on many levels. The year started off with interim manager Rachel Lige at the helm until July, and in that time we had a seasonal coordinator, Jackie Vink, until February, a concert coordinator, Noah-Franche-Nolan, until summer, and summer student, Jenna Mossop, for the duration of summer. As summer came to a close, our community engagement coordinator, Joyce Cheung, kept the museum steady until I returned from my parental leave at the end of August.

Returning part-time as I juggle parenthood, I was supported by the new collections and exhibitions coordinator, Chase Nelson, as he took care of collections, exhibits, and our concerts. Our new staff roster of part-timers did our best to juggle the increase in visitors, volunteers, events, and overall interest in the museum, but this was only possible thanks to the unwavering support of our many volunteers who filled in the gaps and stepped up to help as often as they could. Another key to keeping the museum steady through all of the changes has been our milestone in staff retention with Joyce now celebrating 4 years at the museum and myself now celebrating 6 years. It's a testament to how much we love the museum, the community that has gathered around it, the volunteers who make it a pleasure to come to work, and our passion for connecting with our members and new people through our events and programs as we share our little slice of local history.

Hope to see you soon!

*Sara Hepper*

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## Staff, Board & Volunteers

### STAFF

Sara Hepper (Manager), Rachel Lige (Interim Manager), Joyce Cheung (Community Engagement Coordinator), Noah Franche-Nolan (Concert Coordinator), Jackie Vink (Seasonal Event Coordinator), Chase Nelson (Collections & Exhibitions Coordinator)  
Thank you to our YCW / CMA Summer Student Jenna Mossop!

### BOARD

Thank you to our 2024 board!  
Amanda Alster, Alannah Berson, Paul Busch, James Gibson, Jason Eckford, Cindy Kravchenko, Lindsay McIntosh, Anthony Norfolk, Simran Rehncy, Elizabeth Roach & Franziska Schurr

### VOLUNTEERS

62 Active Volunteers (Jan-Dec 2024)

### MEMBERS

93 members (Jan-Dec 2024)

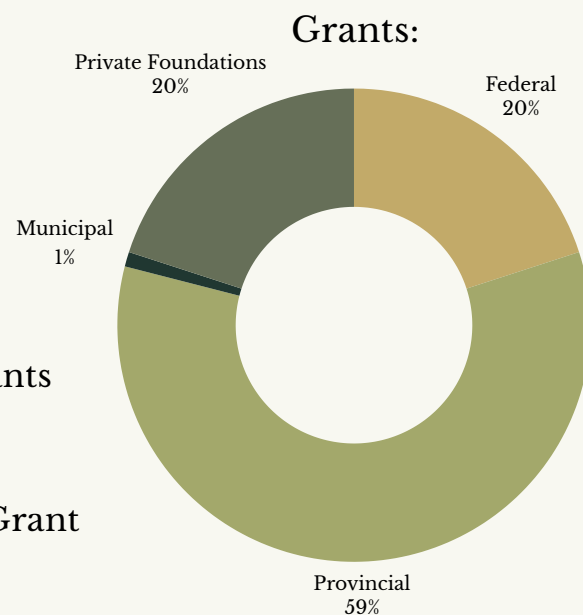
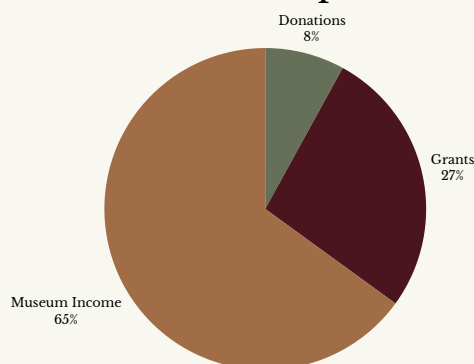






## Grants and Donations

On behalf of everyone at the Roedde House Museum, we extend our deepest gratitude to all of our donors and grant providers. Your support is the cornerstone of our existence, enabling us to preserve and share the rich heritage and culture embodied within our walls. Together, we ensure that the legacy of Roedde House continues to inspire and enrich generations to come. Thank you!



- BC Community Gaming Grants
- The GMR Foundation
- Vancouver Foundation
- City of Vancouver Cultural Grant
- McGrane Pearson
- Robert Half
- Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany
- Young Canada Works/ Canadian Museums Association
- The many private donors that continue to give and support us, we couldn't do it without you!



# Visitor Statistics

In 2024 the museum returned to pre-pandemic visitor numbers, as visitor attendance has continued to steadily increase since 2020. This surge was predominantly driven by a rise in museum tours as well as events. Participation in the Tourism Challenge further bolstered visitor numbers compared to the preceding year. These developments show a positive trend in visitor engagement, signaling promising prospects for the museum's continued expansion and popularity in the post-pandemic landscape.

We had **6,767 visitors** to the museum this year, made possible thanks to **2,769 volunteer hours**!!

## Rentals

Beyond being an intimate and unique setting for private rentals such as weddings and meetings, the museum continued to be the perfect setting for creative projects, with photoshoots and music videos taking place once again in 2024. In total we had 11 rentals in 2024!



## Roedde House Museum 2024 Report







## Programming

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We have had another year of excellent and diverse programming including:

- Monthly Jazz concerts
- Vancouver Inter-cultural Orchestra concerts
- May Fair Market
- Japanese Tea Ceremony
- Tea and Tour Sundays
- Curator Talks
- Strawberry Festival with West End Seniors Network
- Special Exhibit and Posey Making to celebrate Aging with Pride
- Jenny Pluck Pears English country tunes
- Paranormal Exploration Night
- Mystic Market
- Victorian Ghost Stories
- Movie Nights in the Parlour
- Victorian Christmas Market



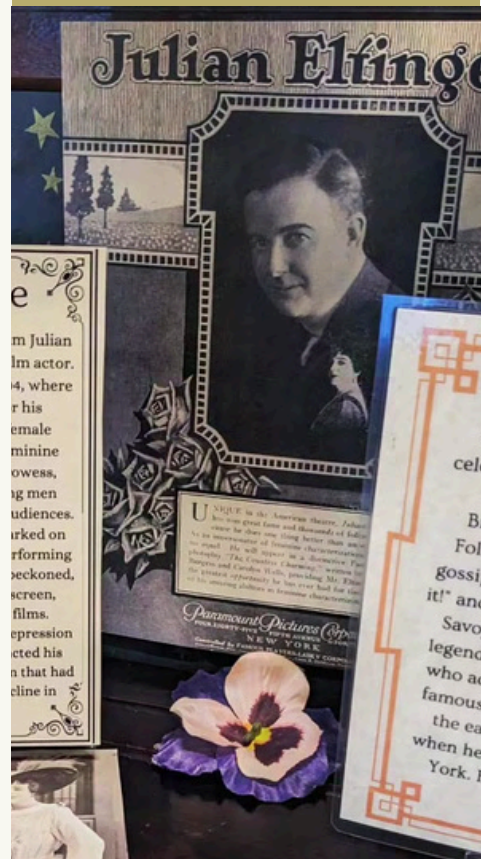
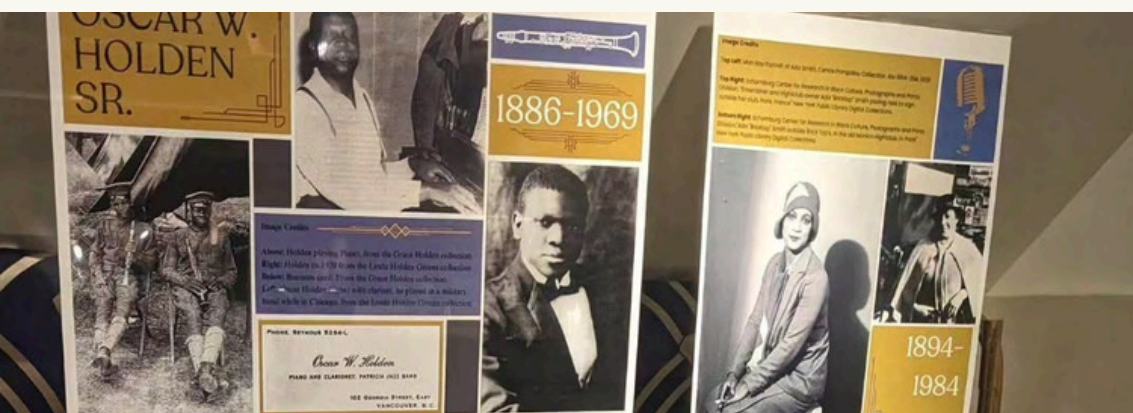


## Exhibitions

We offered a record number of exhibits in 2024 thanks to the enthusiasm of our Exhibits Committee and the expertise of our president Cindy, vice president James, interim manager Rachel, and new Collections and Exhibitions Coordinator, Chase. Themes explored a wide variety and offered diverse historical narratives and cultural explorations.

### Exhibits:

- Legacy Voyage: The African American Migration to BC, 1858
- Whispers and Winks: The Art of Victorian Flirting
- A Nostalgic Look at Victorian Christmas
- Roedde Boys in the War
- Stanley Park and The Legends That Live On
- Pride In Performance: Queer Jazz and Vaudeville Stars
- E. Pauline Johnson, Tekahionwake: A Retrospective
- Swingin' in the Rain: Vancouver's Early Jazz Era
- National Nurses' Week
- Express, Expression, Expressionism: an exploration of German Expressionism in art and film



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# Restoration & Preservation

The **2024 Maintenance and Improvement Projects** were very successful thanks to the donations we received from our members and a grant from the always supportive GMR Foundation. This enabled us to replace the worn and badly discoloured flooring in both of our public washrooms, with marmoleum which is not only more historically accurate but also very durable. In the process we were also able to ensure both toilets are accessible, having replaced one thanks to a grant from the City of Vancouver. We also had wallpaper touch-ups finished by Victoria Oglinski

As a City-owned building, the City of Vancouver takes responsibility for the exterior upkeep of the house, and this year they were able to restore our side porch which was rotting and which we rely so heavily on for our outdoor summer concerts. The porch and stairs had to be rebuilt in areas to replicate the original historical flooring still present- this was a learning experience for us as well as the helpful contractors who meticulously carried out the work.

Planning for 2024 commenced in the fall of 2023, with fundraising commencing in November 2023. Projects do not proceed unless fully funded.

*Thank you to our generous donors who make these restoration and preservation projects possible!*





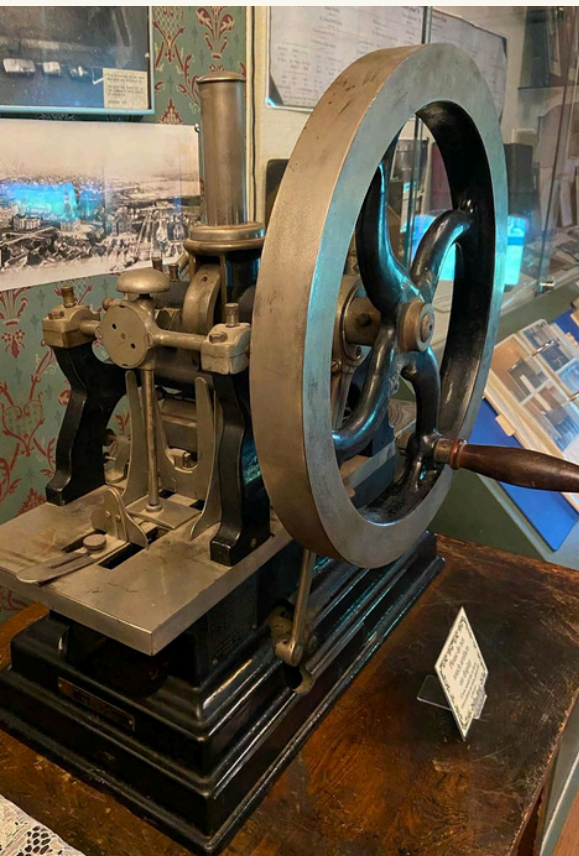
# Collections and Archives

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In 2024, the Collections Committee continued to work away at improving our collections care systems- reorganizing, accessioning, de-accessioning, and caring for the many artefacts in our collection. The committee was bolstered by the addition of a new staff role, a Collections and Exhibitions Coordinator under Chase Nelson. Chase brought an extensive background in collections management and made huge impact to improve our systems and approach in the short time he had at the museum. Aided by our archives lead, Ada Alster, and collections committee lead, Riley Martin, we had a strong team of professionals working together.

Earlier in the year we took on some new and exciting artefacts including a printing press from the early 1900s, an encyclopedia set, and a walnut writing desk that had once belonged to Matilda Roedde.

Many thanks to all those who worked so hard on our preservation efforts!



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## Collaborations & Community Partnerships

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We were fortunate to have opportunity to collaborate with many of our community members on various events at the museum this year, including:

- The King George Secondary Archive for exhibits and shared research
- The Vancouver Postcard Club for special events
- Japanese Tea ceremony with SaBi Tea Arts
- 5 Concerts with the Vancouver Inter-Cultural Orchestra
- The West End Seniors' Network and Vancouver Friends for Life for outdoor summer events, including the annual Strawberry Festival, BC Seniors' Day, and Aging with Pride
- The Vancouver Heritage Foundation Places that Matter Fair
- Jenny Pluck Pears - English Country Tunes
- Local paranormal investigators for an evening of paranormal tours
- Cineworks for movie screenings
- Bill Allman and Famous Artists for our Christmas Ghost Stories
- Plus various local artists, artisans, and crafters as vendors for our three markets!







# Roedde House Museum 2024 Report

Thank you for your support, trust,  
encouragement and patronage!



*maison ~ musée*  
**ROEDDE**  
*house museum*  
— 1893 —

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