



ARTS CLUB  
THEATRE  
COMPANY

## ARTS CLUB THEATRE COMPANY ARTISTIC DIRECTOR PRESENTED WITH YWCA WOMEN OF DISTINCTION AWARD

**MAY 1, VANCOUVER, B.C. // Traditional territory of the *x̱wməθkʷəy̓əm*, *Skwxwú7mesh* and *səlilwətał* Nations** – The Arts Club Theatre Company celebrates Artistic Director **Ashlie Corcoran** on her YWCA Women of Distinction Award in the Arts, Culture & Design category. She was recognized for her remarkable achievements, including her community engagement, creation of artistic programs and cultivation of diverse programming at the Arts Club.

“Receiving the YWCA Women of Distinction award in Arts, Culture & Design is both an honour and a reminder of the profound responsibility we have as artists and arts leaders,” said Corcoran. “The Arts Club exists to create a world where vibrant communities—built on imagination and connection—are brought to life through the powerful spark of shared stories and intimate artistic experiences. As a space for connection and imagination, it’s essential that we create opportunities where all voices are heard and everyone feels they belong—whether as an artist, a worker, or an audience member. Accessibility, inclusivity, and the removal of barriers are not just values I hold close; they are guiding principles in how we shape the future of the arts. I am deeply committed to ensuring that theatre remains a place where everyone can participate, contribute, and thrive.”

The Arts, Culture & Design category celebrates women and gender-diverse people who have enriched the community through their talents and commitment to the arts. The award also acknowledges those who have made a significant and sustained difference in the Vancouver arts scene. Corcoran champions accessibility in the Arts Club’s productions and has introduced relaxed performances for neurodivergent audience members and accessible performances for those with sight or hearing challenges. She has also employed disability experts and cultural consultants to guide Arts Club productions and introduced several artistic programs to support BC’s theatre industry. Outside of the Arts Club, Corcoran is a mentor through the Loran Scholars’ Foundation, helping young people reach their full potential and serve their communities.

“It is an honour to serve as board chair for an organization that elevates equity and inclusion and celebrates the strength of women in this community,” said **Wanda Costuros**, Chair, Board of Directors, Arts Club Theatre Company. “My fellow board members, and all of us at the Arts Club, are incredibly proud of the work that Ashlie does to bring diverse points of view to the stages of our homegrown not-for-profit professional theatre company.”

The award was presented on Monday, April 28, 2025, at the 42<sup>nd</sup> annual YWCA Metro Vancouver Women of Distinction Awards presented by Scotiabank.

### ABOUT THE [ARTS CLUB THEATRE COMPANY](#)

The Arts Club Theatre Company is situated on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories of the Coast Salish Peoples, in particular the *x̱wməθkʷəy̓əm*, [Skwxwú7mesh](#), and *səlilwətał* Nations. We invite you to reflect on your relationship to these lands.

The Arts Club is one of the largest not-for-profit theatre organizations in the country and is the principal gathering place for the theatrical arts in British Columbia. Comprising three unique venues across Vancouver, the Arts Club welcomes more than a quarter million guests annually, tours

provincially and nationally, and engages students and artists alike through educational and professional programs.

Above all, the Arts Club is dedicated to the advancement of local artists telling stories from around the globe and, in particular, those of our region. From this, we believe that culture expands, an understanding of differences is nurtured, and art bursts forth. The Arts Club was founded in 1964 and is currently led by Artistic Director Ashlie Corcoran and Executive Director Peter Cathie White.

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