

WHY LEAVING A LEGACY IS IMPORTANT TO ROBERT SHARMAN

Robert has been a patron of the Arts Club for almost twenty years. He recalls driving past the Stanley Industrial Alliance Stage, reading the marquee, and thinking that he should buy tickets. He eventually realized that until he bought a subscription to the Stanley Series, he would just keep thinking the same thing, over and over! He found the plays to be such a source of enjoyment; he added subscriptions to the Granville Island Stage Series and the Revue Stage Series (now the Newmont Stage Series at the BMO Theatre Centre).

When asked about his favourite plays, “*Venus in Fur*, I couldn’t stop talking about it for weeks, I bored everyone I knew! *A Thousand Splendid Suns*, it knocked me out of my socks! Loved *The Sound of Music*—I couldn’t stop singing along.”

When he recognized that some Arts Club spaces needed improvement, he stepped up as an advocate and catalyst, and then as a donor. His contributions include the furnishing of the artist’s lounge at the BMO Theatre Centre, and taking a leading role to renovate the upper lobby of the Granville Island Stage, now named the Robert J. Sharman Waterfront Lounge! (He hopes to host his retirement party there next year).

After retirement, he hopes to contribute as a volunteer with the Arts Club’s Planned Giving program. Building off his experience as Senior Vice President and Senior Wealth Advisor at BMO Nesbitt Burns, he hopes to moderate conversations with donors and the Foundation, looking for the ways to make meaningful and tax-efficient gifts.

Robert’s advice to anyone is: “Buy a season subscription! You will then feel obliged to attend the plays, and you’ll get hooked. Many times I found when attending with friends or clients, such a lively conversation occurs—about what you liked and didn’t like, your perception of the characters—I grow closer to the people I bring along because you get a sense of their values, beliefs, and tastes. The conversations before, at the break and after the performance are half the fun.”

“The Arts Club plays a major role in my life. For me there is something special about theatre. No CGI computer effects. It’s person to person—humans in front of me telling a story on stage. When it works, I am transported right in there with the actors telling the story. It’s magical!”

“Why do I give? Because I never feel the ticket price reflects the value of what I receive. If a play moves me, connects with me, I get so much more than the price of the ticket. The ticket is too cheap. I know intellectually we need to support the arts, but it is also emotional for me. I feel like I am taking advantage of the Arts Club if I don’t do more than just the ticket price.”

“As a member of the Artistic Director’s Circle, I’ve had the pleasure of being invited to a fundraising dinner on the stage at the Stanley. I have taken a tour of the backstage area. A few years ago Ace Martens took a group of us on a tour of the BMO Theatre Centre. As we toured the green room area outside the rehearsal halls, I noticed there was no furniture—they simply didn’t have the money. I got this silly idea, just to go buy some furniture. It turned out to be a bit more involved.”

Continued...



“I got some investment companies to donate, donated some of my money, talked a friend who is an interior designer (Victoria McKenney) to help and convinced Kevin Halicki of Bay Side Furniture to give us a discount. I had such a sense of satisfaction the day I helped cart the chairs off the truck.”

“That led to chats with Kathy MacKenzie and Peter Cathie White. We started to look to renovate the upper lounge at the Granville Island Stage. I followed the same playbook, first getting a friend who is a Commercial designer (Sally Mills of Kasian) involved.

She pulled in contractors and sub trades. Working with the amazing Stan Hamilton—they even got the props department involved. As the project was too big for me to do much more than get the ball rolling, and as I was so passionate about this space, Kathy and I decided I would become a naming sponsor and commit to multi-year financial support.”

“It is just as important to me to leave a legacy for the future. I have been lucky and I have worked hard. I believe all of us have a duty to our communities. I have left a life insurance policy to another charity close to my heart and have chosen to leave the Arts Club a gift in my will. Living in COVID times, we have never been reminded more about how fragile society is and how much we need to help the arts. My gift to the arts can have a huge long-term impact. That gives me great comfort.”

“If you want to leave a legacy, think about the value of the dollars left in your estate. What is the best way to make a difference? At this time in history, huge economic measures have been taken to maintain people’s health, but organizations like the Arts Club are left on their own. It is vital to help the Arts Club stay afloat today and to grow the Foundation to help cope with whatever the future may hold.”



LEAVE YOUR LEGACY!



Are you looking for another way to leave your legacy and support the theatre you love at the same time? Consider inscribing your name, or the name of a loved one, on a seat plaque that will remain in our theatres for 10 years!

Seat plaques are \$350 at the Granville Island Stage and the Newmont Stage at the BMO Theatre Centre, and \$1,000 at the Stanley Industrial Alliance Stage.

Your gift is fully tax-deductible and has a direct impact on theatre education initiatives, new play development, and the work you see onstage.

Call 604.687.5315, ext. 847 or email us at vip@artsclub.com for more information or to purchase your personalized seat plaque today.

ARTS CLUB THEATRE SOCIETY VS. FOUNDATION: WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

Many patrons ask us if they should leave their legacy gift to the Arts Club of Vancouver Theatre Foundation or to the Society. We tell patrons that it is completely their decision. This explanation might help you with that decision.

The **Arts Club of Vancouver Theatre Foundation** endowment holds all gifts in perpetuity. An estate gift directed to the Foundation's endowment remains invested in the endowment with annual interest transferred to the Society to support the greatest need. The Foundation also holds the **Bill Millerd Artist Fund** which supports theatre artists by providing them with opportunities to develop their craft and further their artistic endeavors, as well as directs annual interest to the Society to specifically fund new works.

An estate gift directed to the **Arts Club of Vancouver Theatre Society** is unrestricted and helps fund our greatest needs. Examples of unrestricted funding needs are education and outreach programs, new play development and capital projects such as theatre renovations.

You can also direct your gift to the **Arts Club of Vancouver Theatre Society** with an expressed intention to support the endowment with a matched gift. The Society applies to the Department of Canadian Heritage's Cultural Incentive Program to match your donation, or a portion of, depending on their availability of funds. The Society then transfers the matched funds to the Arts Club of Vancouver Theatre Foundation's Endowment Fund. When leaving a gift in your will, make sure to include the legal name and CRA Charitable Business Number of recipient:

Legal Name: Arts Club of Vancouver Theatre Society (Unrestricted)

CRA Charitable Business Number: 11921 3551 RR0001

Legal Name: Arts Club of Vancouver Theatre Foundation (Restricted)

CRA Charitable Business Number: 82533 3347 RR0001



Thank you to Richard Bell and Bell Alliance Lawyers & Notaries Public for their continued support and sponsorship of the Legacy Circle program. For assistance with planning for your future, visit the Bell Alliance website for more information.

We are extending our deepest gratitude to those patrons who left a legacy gift in this past year:

Estate of Byron Aceman

Estate of Myfanwy Lyn Roddis

Estate of Arlene Vivian

And a thank you to our previous Legacy donors:

Estate of Doris Chillcott and Bruce Granville Peyman

Estate of Muriel Kathleen Don

Estate of Timmie Marr

Estate of Mary Sharon MacLean

Estate of Robert Osokin

Estate of Louise Chen Utengsu

Estate of Elizabeth Blyth Walker

Estate of Barrie Wharton

Leaving a legacy gift is an ideal way to be remembered as a dedicated benefactor of the arts and to help the Arts Club achieve a long and vibrant future.

If you have already left a gift in your estate, please join our Legacy Circle and allow us to thank you and ensure your wishes are honoured.

If you are considering a legacy gift and would like additional information about our options, please contact Eleanor Ryrie, Planned Giving Officer, at eryrie@artsclub.com or at 604.687.5315, ext.281.

Thank you!



STANLEY
INDUSTRIAL
ALLIANCE
STAGE

GRANVILLE
ISLAND
STAGE

NEWMONT
STAGE AT THE
BMO THEATRE
CENTRE

The Arts Club Theatre Company is a not-for-profit registered charity (no. 119213551RR0001).

Photos of Robert Sharman and the ribbon cutting ceremony by Moonrider Productions, photo of the theatre seat by Amanda Millar.