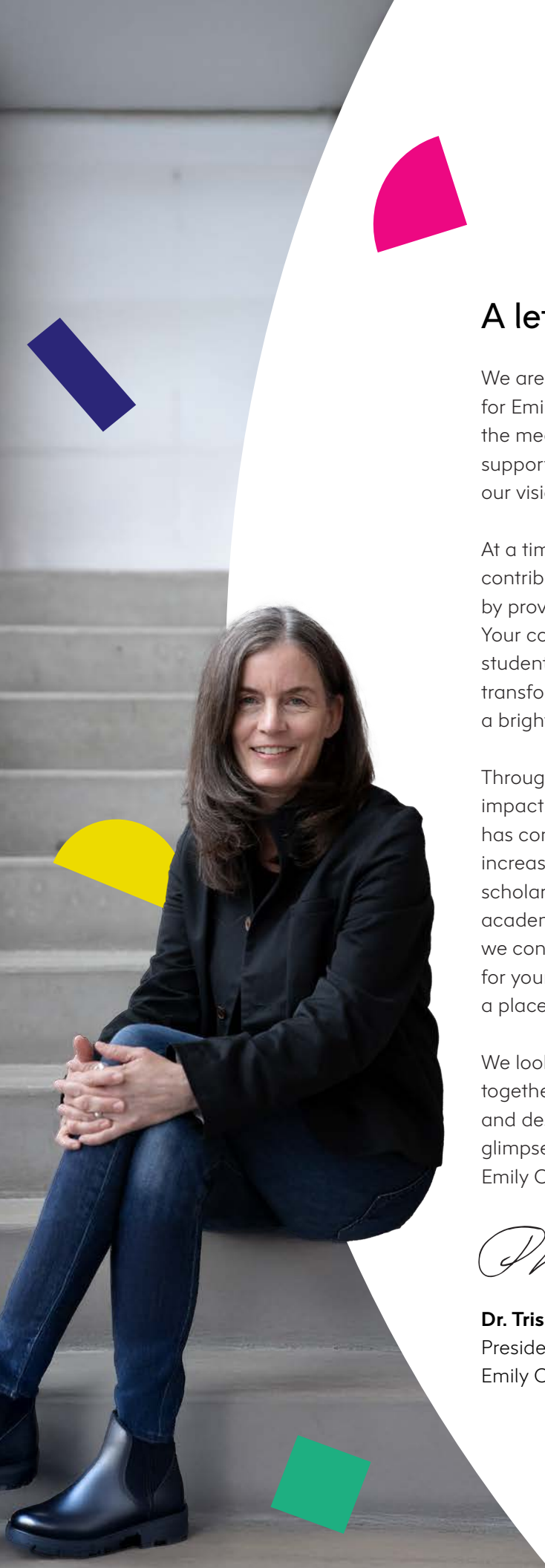


# Stewardship Report 2024



Mangled Vision by Ice Fredericks  
Bachelor of Fine Arts, Visual Arts, 2024



## A letter from the President

We are pleased to present the 2023/2024 Stewardship Report for Emily Carr University of Art + Design (ECU), celebrating the meaningful impact of your generosity. Your unwavering support and dedication have been important in advancing our vision of building a better world through art and design.

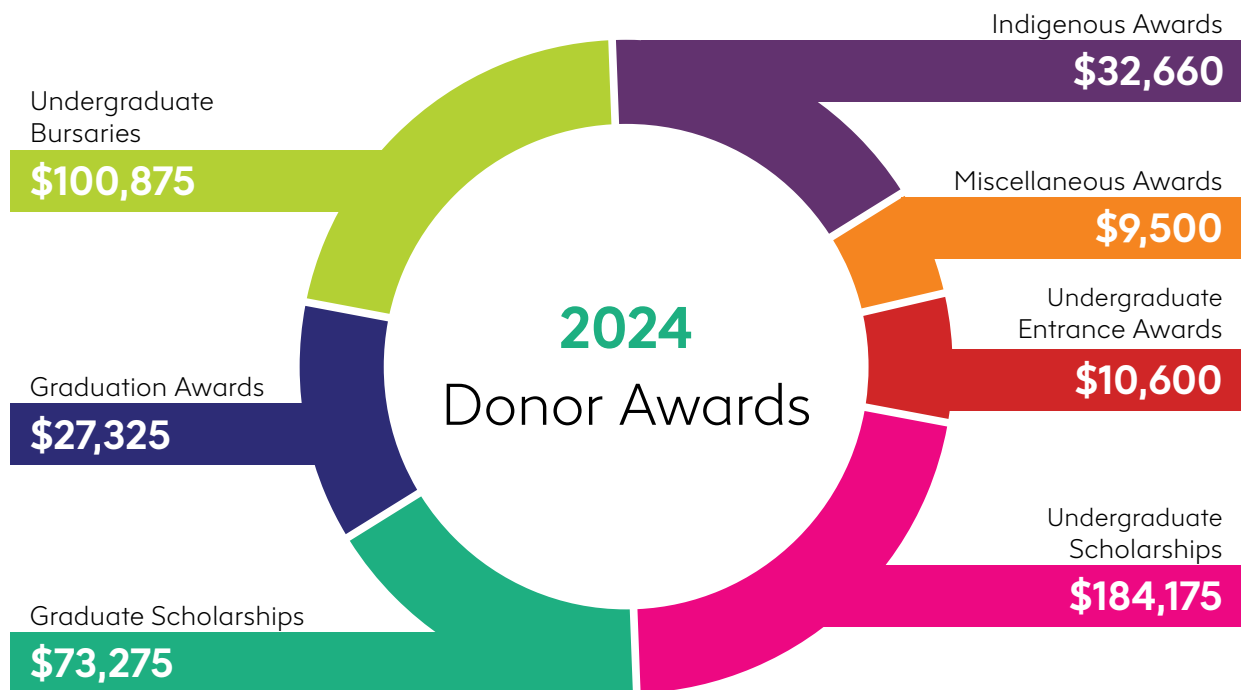
At a time when educational funding faces challenges, your contributions have significantly impacted our students' lives by providing access to crucial resources for those in need. Your commitment to equitable access has empowered students from diverse backgrounds to engage in a transformative cultural experience, ultimately contributing to a brighter and more inclusive future for our society.

Throughout this report, we have highlighted the incredible impact of your support over the past year. Your generosity has contributed to the advancement of our goals, including increased access to the number and value of awards and scholarships, which have enabled students to pursue their academic aspirations and furthered our strategic goals. As we continue to grow as a university, we are deeply grateful for your commitment to our community and for being part of a place where creativity, curiosity and critical thinking meet.

We look forward to continued collaboration and working together to underscore the transformative potential of art and design education. We hope these stories provide a glimpse into the exciting work and learning taking place at Emily Carr University, made possible by supporters like you.

**Dr. Trish Kelly**  
President + Vice-Chancellor,  
Emily Carr University of Art + Design

# Thank you for your support!



## Award distribution

**144 BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS**  
Critical + Cultural Practice, Illustration, Photography, Visual Arts

**25 MASTER OF ARTS**  
Masters of Fine Arts full time, Master of Fine Art low residency

**77 BACHELOR OF DESIGN**  
Communication Design, Industrial Design, Interaction Design

**18 MASTER OF DESIGN**  
Information Futures, Interdisciplinary Design, Interaction Design

**71 BACHELOR OF MEDIA ARTS**  
Animation, Film + Screen Arts, New Media + Sound Arts, Film + Screen Arts

**2 CONTINUING STUDIES**  
Certificate Programs, Micro-Credentials, Teens Programs



# Art apprenticeship network strengthens artistic community ties

The Shumka Centre for Creative Entrepreneurship fosters the movement of creative students into systems and situations where their work and ideas can have the most impact. Through collaborative partnerships and practice-based programs, the Centre serves as a hub for entrepreneurship and enterprise activities at ECU, where emerging artists and designers can find community, knowledge and connection to the resources they need to launch their projects worldwide.

Now in its fourth year of operations, the Shumka Centre's Art Apprenticeship Network program fosters meaningful, long-lasting connections within the art community by connecting emerging Emily Carr University students with established professionals through a part-time apprenticeship model.

The Art Apprenticeship Network provides unique learning opportunities outside the classroom, as highlighted by Bachelor of Media Arts student Aranza Berges, who mentored under filmmaker and media artist Lauren Marsden in 2024. "I had the opportunity to learn invaluable skills that

I might not have encountered otherwise. Working alongside Lauren Marsden, I was able to experience the entire filmmaking process, from visualization to filming and producing," says Aranza.

By providing essential hands-on experience for emerging artists and valuable support for established professionals, the program offers a unique opportunity for mutual growth. This innovative approach to knowledge and skill sharing creates a win-win situation for the art community locally and regionally.

Master of Fine Arts student Leah Koutroumanos, who mentored with multidisciplinary artist Scott Massey in 2023 and 2024, credits the program as crucial to her education.

"It has expanded my understanding of professional practice and significantly affected my conceptual practice. I learned about the pace of making art as an independent professional artist," says Leah. "I am excited to employ the perspective and industry-specific knowledge this apprenticeship has given me."

Discover more about The Shumka Centre's programming by scanning the QR code to be directed to their website.






## Traditions + new initiatives at the Aboriginal Gathering Place

Emily Carr University's Aboriginal Gathering Place (AGP) hosts students and contemporary artists, while also informing curriculum and community. The AGP allows our Indigenous students to develop and strengthen their identities in a supportive, safe environment.

"I have now been Executive Director, Indigenous Initiatives at Emily Carr University for one year, and have come to appreciate the incredible cultural and Indigenization work of my predecessor, Brenda Crabtree," says Daina Warren of stepping into her role at the AGP after Brenda's retirement.




Daina points to the AGP's "special energy and unique autonomy," which allows it to be a space in which cultural teachings, Indigenous knowledge and skill transference can thrive beyond the classroom and studio environment, enriching the Indigenous student experience. This past year saw the successes of the student-curated

exhibition Frybread as Fok, as well as the second annual Indigenous Summer Market. "Participating in the market allowed me to get to know what I like as an artist rather than as a student making work for classes," says ECU alum Leila Berg (BDES 2023).

In addition to providing curatorial opportunities and workshops for students, the AGP also listens to student requests for future programming and for which guest speakers to invite.

"It is rewarding to be a part of such an inspirational community and to know that we are a platform that guides Indigenous artists into the future," Daina says.

As part of their public programming, the AGP is home to the Aboriginal Speaker Series, panel discussions, and special events, including the Inuit Film Festival taking place November 1, 2024, in celebration of the upcoming International Inuit Day.





## Why we give to ECU

Helmut and Donna Meisl have a keen interest in the arts as well as supporting the creative arts. In a recent correspondence, Helmut stated they "realize that the arts are often a neglected area of society and education, despite its importance. We are grateful for the presence of Emily Carr University and for its encouragement of the varied areas of artistic creation."

The Meisl's long enjoyed visiting ECU during their visits to Vancouver when it was located on Granville Island. In 2016, the Meisl's established the Donna + Helmut Meisl Endowed Award and their contributions have supported 16 recipients of this award so far.. They have been diligent in growing their endowment and recently expanded the scope of the award to include a scholarship for Graduate Students in their second year.

Helmut Meisl was raised in the Vancouver area, where he obtained a BSc and MD from the University of British Columbia.

Donna Meisl was born in California though grew up in Vancouver and attended the former Vancouver City College.

Helmut and Donna furthered their studies in California, where they remained for their careers. Donna completed her studies at the California Arts and Crafts College with a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree with an interest in sculpture, drawing and painting. Helmut practiced Emergency Medicine for 37 years before he and Donna retired in Bellingham, Washington.

Last year, the Meisl's funds were transferred to the Vancouver Foundation and it now sits in the Vancouver Foundation's Socially Responsible Fund. The Meisl's legacy in the Vancouver arts community is impactful and their investment in Emily Carr Students will make a mark on many generations of artists and designers.





'Reimagined between the shadows, wonder held in the light' by Aiden Kirkegaard. From the Libby Leshgold Gallery at Emily Carr University during the opening reception for the 2024 edition of The Show.

# Research enhances teaching at Emily Carr University

Research at Emily Carr University is led by artists, designers and scholars tackling complex challenges and contributing to communities locally, nationally and globally. Our researchers are uniquely positioned to bring their creativity, scholarly inquiry and applied research expertise into contact with some of the most pressing questions of our time.

Justin Langlois, Associate Vice President of Research + Dean of Graduate Studies, guides ECU's graduate programs and research initiatives, supporting faculty and student research, fostering academic and industry partnerships, and empowering the academic community to shape a better future together.

"The Research + Industry Office provides central supports to lift up all faculty, staff and student researchers," says Justin. "We aim to ensure researchers have the resources to embark on new, exciting ideas that allow them to have local and national impact.

This, in turn, provides high-impact training opportunities for students in the form of Research Assistants for many of these projects, providing them real-world experience in research, problem solving and community engagement."

ECU is home to four established research centres—the Health Design Lab, Living Labs, Material Matters and the Basically Good Media Lab—along with the DESIS Lab. Additionally, the Shumka Centre for Creative Entrepreneurship offers students unique opportunities to build the community, knowledge and resources needed to launch and fund projects. All of these groups are dedicated to increasing student involvement.

"We have faculty working on artificial intelligence, future design strategies for climate planning and policy development, and engaging a profound number of students with experience that better prepare them for the workforce," says Justin. "The impact of these research projects is felt throughout our internal community, but there are also tremendous impacts on the external, broader community."





## Research gives our students an inside look at how much of an impact creativity through art, design and media can have on the world.

Art and design research is supported by partnerships across a multitude of industries and areas. In response to climate change, faculty member Manuhua Barcham has partnered with Indigenous communities across the Pacific to explore the role of design in weaving together different knowledge systems. The research aims to develop resilient climate futures for Indigenous peoples through the positive engagement of Western Science with Indigenous Knowledge.

These collaborative efforts extend to the work being done in Material Matters around rethinking practices of making, relationships to materials and knowledge acquisition. Charred Wood is a project beginning this fall that brings together scientists, artists, designers and Indigenous knowledge keepers to do field work at a site identified by Forestry BC that has been impacted by forest fire.

Research culture at ECU is a strategically important element of the university. "Institutional scale initiatives are like our NSERC Mobilize grant, provide multi-year funding that focuses on pairing faculty with external community partners to solve complex real-world problems," says Justin. "It underlines how art and design research and expertise can play an invaluable role in addressing challenges across the broader community."

To see the impact of ECU research on the broader community, check out the inset on how the Health Design Lab is helping design care spaces at the new St. Paul's Hospital in Vancouver.

Scan the QR code for the whole story.



## How ECU staff + students are helping shape the new St. Paul's Hospital

Students and staff from the Health Design Lab (HDL) at Emily Carr University of Art + Design (ECU) are helping design hospital-department care spaces at the new St. Paul's Hospital in Vancouver. Through this partnership, the Shaping Scopes + Procedures project is co-led by Rob Paquin, a doctoral researcher in healthcare service design, and Nadia Beyzaei, designer and HDL manager.

Rob says, "It's also about improving patient care." It's possible to design a hospital that provides better health outcomes for patients and reduces opportunities for negative consequences of care."

This practice-based partnership afforded ECU students a real-world opportunity to collaborate with frontline healthcare staff to revolutionize future healthcare spaces throughout the province.

Quality improvement and research projects can be collaborative, fun and meaningful, not only for the project team but for the people being engaged.

**Linh Phan**  
Student Research Participant

# Caitlin ffrench's Exploration of Iceland

Last fall, interdisciplinary artist and MFA student Caitlin ffrench (MFA 2024) won the 2023 Audain Travel Award. Caitlin planned to use the award to fund an artist residency in Iceland, allowing her to continue her work with the land.

The prestigious Audain Travel Award provides \$7,500 annually to young artists enrolled in a full-time fine-arts undergraduate or graduate level program to encourage travel to view art. The scope of Caitlin's trip required additional funding she was able to obtain from the Canada Council for the Arts.

"The first part of the trip was research," says Caitlin. "This centred around Roni Horn's Library of Water in Stykkishólmur. I spent a day in the museum with these columns of water from 24 glaciers and glacial tongues in Iceland. One of those glaciers, Okjökull, died a few years after Roni installed the library, so it also acts as a tomb. It's the last water of the glacier."

Caitlin's work centres around natural landscapes and grief for the dying world coined as solastalgia by philosopher Glenn Albrecht. "Knowing of the land is what my work is about," said Caitlin.



**This experience provided opportunities and connections that would have been unlikely to occur otherwise.**

"I returned to the glacier that I've been studying for the last ten years and was able to rephotograph it as well as collect ochre from the side of the glacial lake."

After gathering supplies in Reykjavík, Caitlin left to go to the small 895-person town of Blönduós to connect with twelve other artists at the Ós Textile Residency. "It's hard. After spending the month together, each person has a piece of your heart, which ends up cast all over the world," says Caitlin.

Connections and community extended beyond the residency. An article published on the artist in The Reykjavík Grapevine linked Caitlin to the very philosopher her practice is linked to. "The day after the piece came out, Glenn emailed me," said Caitlin. The residency work, new relationships and overall experience in Iceland has opened the door to the next twenty years of Caitlin's artistic practice.

Scan the QR code to learn more about Caitlin's work and her initial reaction upon receiving the Audain Travel Award.



# The Libby Leshgold Gallery: A hub for contemporary art and community engagement

The Libby Leshgold Gallery is a public art gallery devoted to advancing contemporary art within the community, engaging students, faculty, staff, and the broader arts landscape in Greater Vancouver. As a vibrant cornerstone of Emily Carr University, the gallery reflects the university's diverse activities through its exhibitions, events, and public programs.

Director and Curator Vanessa Kwan highlights the gallery's unique role on campus: "Thinking about where the gallery is situated within the school, it's a beautiful lens," says Vanessa. "It brings practices relevant to artists on a national and international scale into the space, while also connecting the work happening within the university to the greater community."

Central to the gallery's offerings is the Audain Distinguished Artist-in-Residence Program, which brings nationally and internationally renowned contemporary artists to Vancouver. These artists immerse themselves in the local community, creating new works and participating in activities that enrich the local culture.

"The gallery engages students, emerging voices, research, teaching, and learning, but also embodies the highest aspirations of the broader arts community," Vanessa says. "Innovation, impact, presentation, and engagement with arts practices at every stage are central to our mission. Process is incredibly important, and a gallery should encapsulate that."

The Libby Leshgold Gallery also houses READ Books, an award-winning bookstore featuring an exceptional collection of artist monographs,

exhibition catalogues, critical theory, and artist editions. This resource serves as a vital platform for extending the impact of artists' work and research, cultivating deeper connections within the creative community.

ECU Press adds to the gallery's rich offerings. Through publications, including artist books, monographs, collected writings, and music projects, it showcases the work of emerging Vancouver-based artists alongside international artists

A visit to the Libby Leshgold Gallery offers much more than exhibitions. Visitors might experience book launches, artist talks, lectures, or symposia. Through its vibrant events, public programs, and multifaceted initiatives, the gallery continues to inspire, connect, and uplift both Emily Carr University and the wider arts community.

Vanessa Kwan, Director + Curator, Gallery + Exhibitions in the Libby Leshgold Gallery with Reyhan Yazdani's 'She Who Observes,' 2024 (rear wall) and Andrew Yong Hoon Lee's [Floating Axe Head], 2024 (floor).



# Cost of an arts education based on a 4-year undergraduate degree.

Emily Carr University of Art + Design, like many other universities, is navigating financial challenges with resilience and innovation. As global economic pressures and the costs associated with post-secondary education rise, we are leveraging the generosity of our donors and forging strategic partnerships with industry and non-profit organizations to keep student success at the forefront. The implementation of our new strategic plan will enable us to streamline resource allocation, focusing on our top organizational priorities as we continue to grow. These proactive steps reflect our commitment to financial sustainability and ensure a bright, stable future for the university, aligning with our vision to shape a better world through art and design. Below is an approximate breakdown of annual expenses for an ECU student.

Undergraduate Student Total Cost per year

**\$32,682**

Domestic

**\$52,902**

International

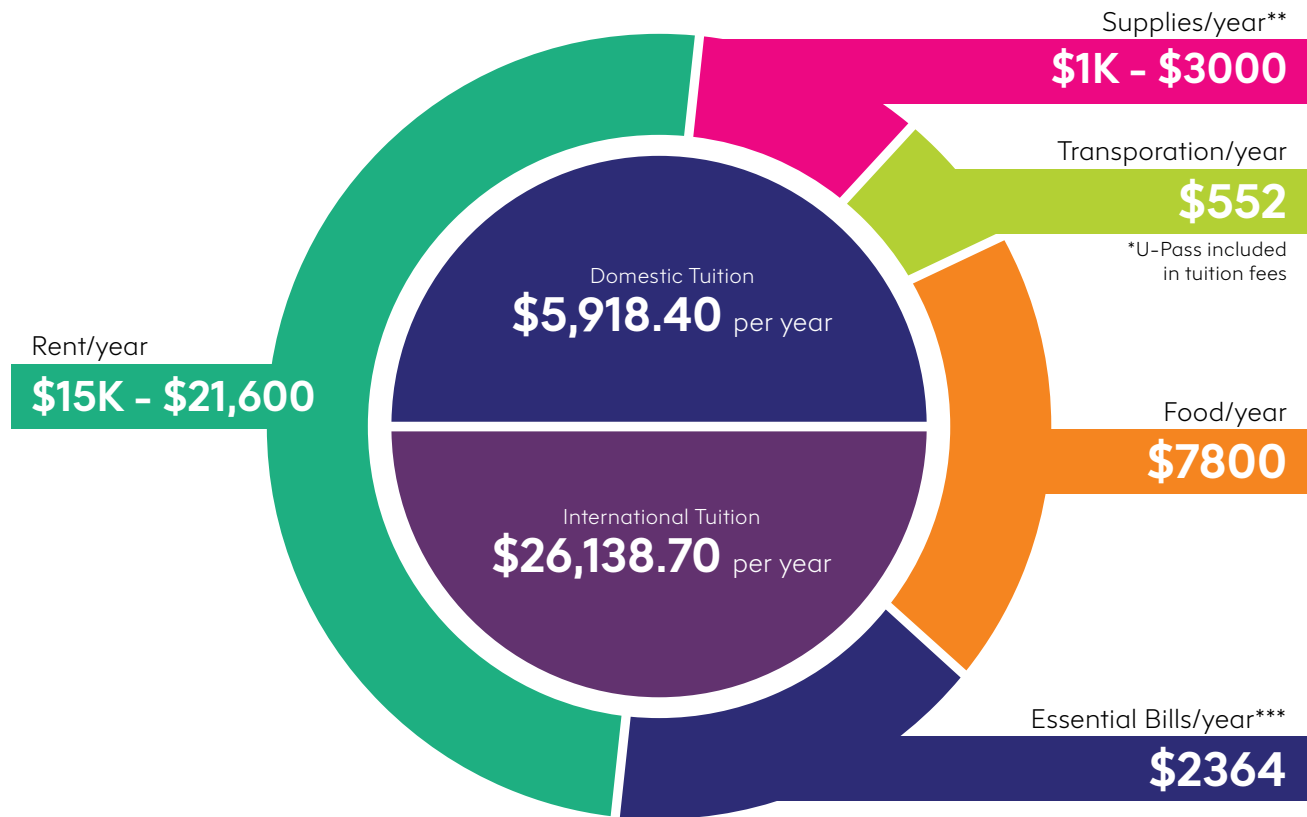
4 Year Undergraduate Degree Total Cost

**\$130,728**

Domestic

**\$211,608**

International



\*Costs exclude optional educational fees, discretionary spending, clothing and hygiene essentials, wellness activities, entertainment and is low end estimate for rent/supplies

\*\*Art supplies, books, software  
\*\*\*Health care, utilities, etc.

# Emily Carr University

## Canada's only university to rank among the **Top 30 for art + design worldwide.**

We are artists, designers, experimenters, thinkers, educators and leaders advancing the critical role of art and design education in a complex and changing world. We are committed to using the transformative power of art and design to address the challenges of our time, to imagine new ways of being that we didn't know were possible, and to catalyze personal, social and cultural change.

We produce influential thought leaders and world-renowned artists. Our immersive programs, state-of-the-art facilities, and mentorship opportunities allow students to thrive at ECU. Our graduates are consistently recognized as the most notable innovators, artists, and culture makers of their generation.

We are recognized nationally and internationally for the excellence of our programs and the quality of our graduates.

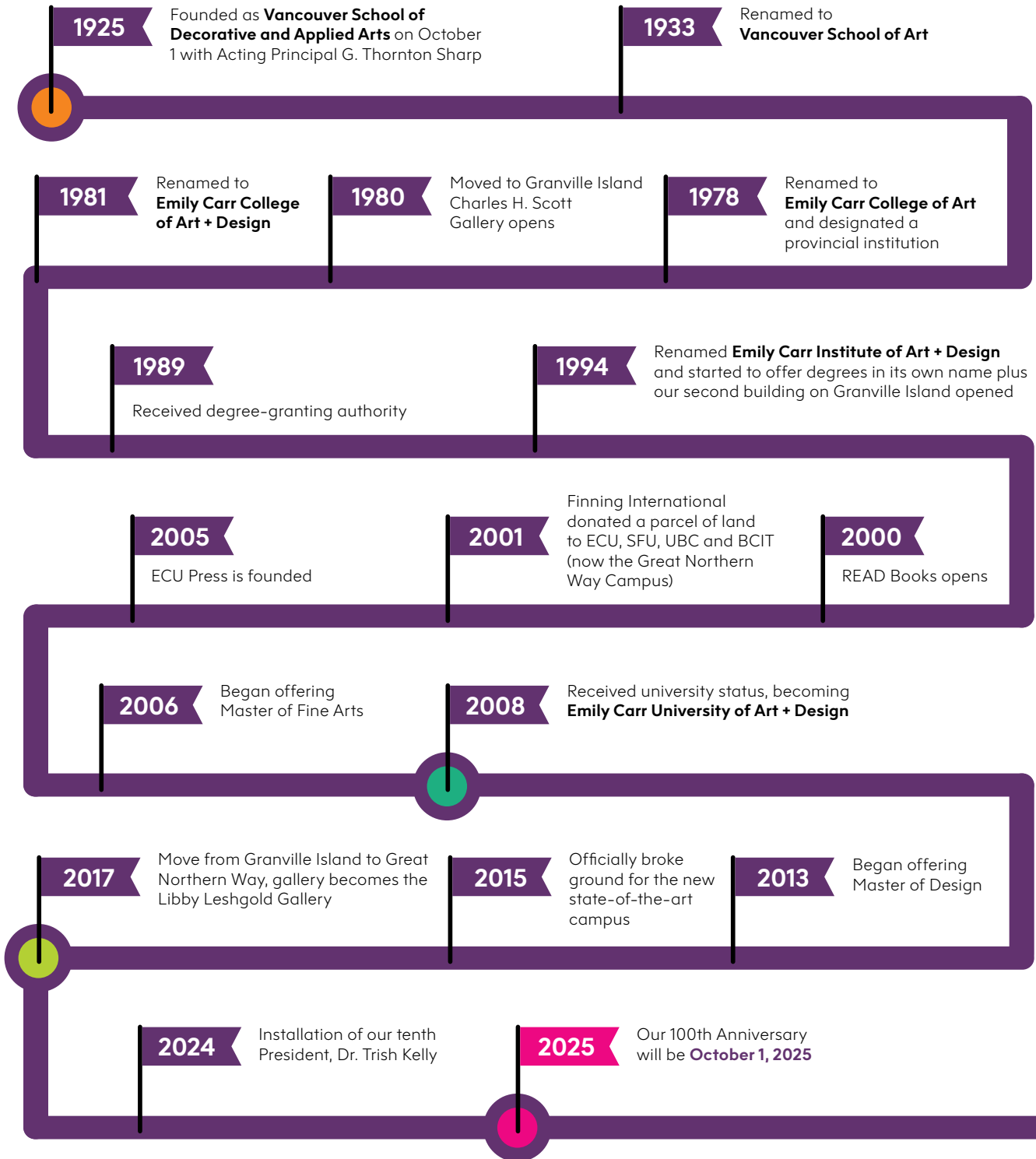
**#1** in Canada fifth consecutive year  
#13 in North America, and #29 Globally  
2024 QS World University Rankings for Art + Design

**#2** in Canada  
#6 Globally  
Animation Career Review



## 100th Anniversary

Founded in 1925, Emily Carr University of Art + Design (ECU) has been a space of innovation in visual arts, media arts, and design, consistently pushing the boundaries of creativity. As we approach our centennial year, we will reflect on a century of achievements, celebrate influential alumni and faculty, and highlight the groundbreaking contributions that have helped shape a better world through art + design.





Your generosity  
makes a difference.

Thank  
you for  
Supporting my  
dream!

Thank you  
for helping me  
achieve my  
dream! 😊

THANK YOU  
FOR HELPING  
US ACHIEVE  
OUR GOALS! ❤️

Thanks  
😊

Thank you  
for making it  
possible for  
me to go to  
school

You rock!  
thank you  
so much for  
what you  
do! 😊

♥️ THANK YOU FOR  
SUPPORTING  
THE ARTS! ♥️

thank you  
for providing  
so many tools  
- especially in the  
sew shop, access  
matters!



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