

BUCKINGJAM PALACE

IMPACT REPORT

2023-24



Prepared by
**BJP MUSIC
FOUNDATION**

Prepared for
OUR COMMUNITY

Published February 15th, 2025

A NOTE FROM US:



**LISA
BUCK**

Artistic Director & Founder

The 2023-24 season was a success on many fronts for BuckingJam Palace and the charitable non-profit that runs our larger organization, The BJP Music Foundation.

We sold out our concerts; we hosted top-tier jazz artists; we collaborated with the US Consulate General in Calgary, the Black Chamber of Commerce, Women Band Directors International, CADME and Jazz Denmark – the first organization in Canada to do so. There were so many beautiful musical moments and every concert felt like a celebration with valued friends.

We are clearly filling a gap in Calgary's music culture. But if we want to be sustainable, we need to continue to address our vulnerabilities: reliance upon a free venue, volunteer leaders who have reached capacity, and opportunities to expand programming and welcome a wider community, including youth, to concerts, being limited by current space and budget.

The 2023-24 season saw BuckingJam Palace thinking big.

In January 2024, Shana Barbour joined the BJP team for one term as our first Executive Director, implementing policies, procedures and systems to enable our organization to work as efficiently as possible. This 2-year position was made possible by generous support from The Calgary Foundation. We transitioned to Zeffy, a Canadian donor support and ticketing platform that waives all external fees. Our volunteer board of directors continues to grow and shape the collaborative, future-forward organization we want to be. We thank all of our volunteers for their valued contributions.



**AIMEE-JO
BENOIT**

Executive Director

In tandem with an operating grant from Calgary Arts Development Authority, we were able to include promotional marketing efforts and external venues in our season. It required taking risk, asking for trust from our audience, and receiving deeper engagement from the board. While we are grateful for the support grants provide in helping us navigate the challenges of growing-particularly in terms of venue space & staffing - **we aim to become self-sufficient, for in order to truly thrive, we must create a resilient operational model moving forward.**

We are grateful for you, our community, who enable us to work in the sector we are all so passionate about.

The Arts will always be an invaluable contribution to society, and your support means we can continue to make this impact.



**JODI
LUCAS**

Board Chair

-Lisa, AJ & Jodi

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

At a time when an alarmingly small percentage of all jazz musicians are female, we are working hard to ensure that a diverse set of musical voices are heard on the BJP stage. **While 35% of female-identifying artists is a number that we are incredibly proud to boast, it's still not enough.**

We hosted a completely Canadian roster in 2023-24 from all over the country. Artists hailed from Vancouver all the way to Toronto, Montreal and Edmonton. Our country boasts top-tier jazz talent and we have been lucky enough to host them in the BJP living room. **Of the 10 concerts in this season, 9 featured a female bandleader.**

Our gigs provide an anchor point around which musicians can build a tour. Without donors and supporters like you, our venue would not be able to carry out its mandate to pay artists fairly and treat them with love and respect. **Along with our jazz trail partners, BJP is leading a culture change: fair pay for all.**

10

Concerts

26

Artists

100%

Canadian

35%

Women



Jodi Proznick



Aretha Tillotson



Marianne Trudel & John Hollenbeck

“BJP is one of the best venues to perform in, anywhere. With its wholehearted audience, fantastic acoustics, and unparalleled hospitality from Lisa, Tom, and the entire team, I always leave feeling inspired by the sense of community and filled with gratitude.”

- Jodi Proznick



Audrey Ochoa



Kate Wyatt



OKAN

Sienna Dahlen & Bill Coon

\$16,887

PAID OUT TO ARTISTS

“Playing BJP is always a pleasure! The staff, the venues and of course, the audiences are always incredible! Thanks so much for hosting Bill and me earlier this year. We so appreciated it!”

- Sienna Dahlen & Bill Coon

OUR COMMUNITY



Attendees
600+



Members
100+



Newsletter
700+

Our Nica's Circle members are the reason we can take risks in programming. Nica's members are instrumental in helping BuckingJam Palace pay fair performance fees and provide dinner and transportation to our hard-working, touring musicians.

\$5000+

NICA'S CIRCLE

\$3700+

DONATIONS



Without our audience, BJP is just an idea. You are the magic that brings our community together. Connecting in a warm, safe environment enables us to take risks and share the beauty of the genre that we make our priority.

OUR VOLUNTEERS



Led by our fearless Volunteer Coordinator, Wendy Lomnes, our dedicated volunteers greets you at the door, give you the lay of the land, pour your drinks and create the warm, hospitable vibes which define BJP. **Thank you to our volunteers for a wonderful year!**

1200+

volunteer hours



24+

volunteers



Our Board of Directors is comprised of like-minded music lovers and music makers. We are fortunate to have a small but mighty group of passionate souls who are authentic in their ambitious drive to uplift music culture in Calgary and beyond. Our volunteer board continues to grow, including members from across the country to allow for greater perspective and diversity.

OUR COLLABORATORS



**Jazz
Denmark**



WBDI

* In November 2023, we welcomed Jazz Denmark into the living room for a Jazzcamp for Girls. The workshop was organized and funded by Jazz Denmark’s Deputy Director, Agnete Seerup, and led by Mette Marie Ørnstrup and Anders Boye Knudsen. 12 students, facilitated by CADME, stepped up to the plate for a weekend of learning, improvising, and connecting. In 2025, Lisa heads to Scandinavia to build on the relationship started by this workshop.

[read more here](#)

* In January 2024, we hosted Audrey Ochoa and Jodi Proznick, leaders of the 2024 Women Band Directors International (WBDI)- Alberta Girls in Jazz Camp for a celebratory concert. BJP is proud to support and amplify the work of WBDI by hosting this annual event.

[read more here](#)

OUR SUPPORTERS



Provided funding from the Community Investment Fund, allowing us to hire a .5 Executive Director.



Provided funding from the Operating Grant Fund, allowing us to expand our offerings and administration efforts.



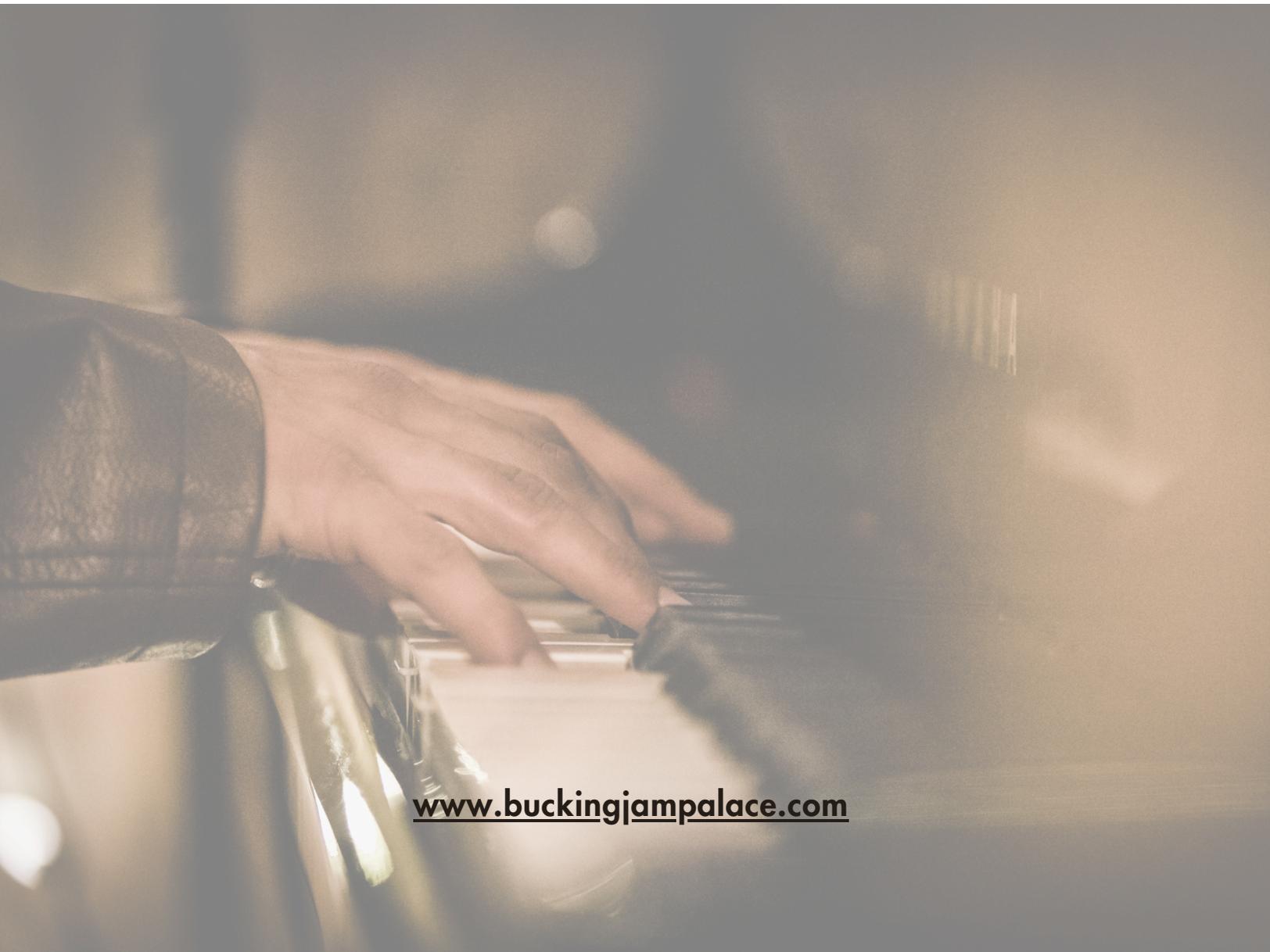
Provided funding to update policies and procedures manual and to restructure our charitable status to allow us to fund unqualified donees to as to extend our mandate's reach.



THE
ESTABLISHMENT
BREWING
COMPANY



THANKS FOR A GREAT SEASON!



www.buckingjampalace.com