

## Supporting Live Performers: An Interview with Susan M Boyce



*Image Description: Susan is smiling at the camera with her body slightly to the right. Her hands are at the front holding a red purse.*

I fell in love with live theatre when I was 20. Within a couple of years, my friends all knew it futile to call on a Thursday evening because I'd be out at a show. Lavish Broadway extravaganzas, experimental productions, classics from around the world, musicals, comedies, mysteries, tragedies—I just couldn't get enough.

I first splurged on seasons tickets to the Arts Club when it was only a single theatre on Seymour Street—festival seating, seats that fell somewhat short of being comfortable, and, if I recall correctly, beverages served in plastic cups. But the shows were incredible—both in their production values and the sheer variety of offerings. I've never let those seasons tickets lapse. And the shows just keep getting better and more diverse over the decades.

Heartwarming, funny, often thought-provoking, always stretching the imagination, these performances had the ability to immerse me in a different world. Were they always "pretty?"

Absolutely not. But that's part of what makes live theatre such an amazing experience. I still remember one performance, years ago, that was such a perfect depiction of my father—who had died the week before—I had to leave and return for another performance on another day when I could get my emotions more under control.

People ask often what my favourite shows are—an impossible question. *The Red Rock Diner* was as different from *Miss Saigon* or *Beauty and the Beast* as *The Mystery of Irma Vep* was from *Beneath Springhill: the Maurice Ruddick Story*.

For me, the most devastating part of the pandemic fallout was the loss of live theatre. Thankfully, the Arts Club found creative, new ways to connect with their audiences—digital performances, audio plays, podcasts, and one-person productions immediately slotted into every window between lockdowns—no matter how brief that window was. It was enough to keep the lights on and at least some of our many talented, local artists employed.

After more than three decades reporting on the residential construction industry, I decided to become a life story facilitator because I believe we human beings need stories. Science fiction writer Ursula K. Le Guin said, "There have been great societies that did not use the wheel, but there have been no societies that did not tell stories." British author Philip Pullman believes that "after nourishment, shelter, and companionship, stories are the thing we need most in the world." I agree with both of these literary stars. Stories are how we connect and connecting through live performance is storytelling at its finest.

As a longstanding Arts Club subscriber and a Legacy Circle member, I consider it a privilege and a responsibility to support this incredible company—the largest in Western Canada—as it moves

forward with innovative outreach, education programs, touring productions, and, of course, some of the finest live performances you'll see.

Now we're once again "alive on three stages," I can't wait to enjoy another full season—the first in almost three years. After some 45 years in the audience, I feel like the Arts Club performers and staff have become my extended family. Reconnecting with them is going to be a highlight of the next 12 months.

Please join me in supporting the Arts Club—either through a one-time donation, planned giving, or as a beneficiary of your estate. It doesn't matter how much you're able to give—every dollar helps. Let's keep the magic of live theatre thriving and vibrant in this great city of ours.



*Image Description: Susan is smiling with her hands resting on the edge of a yellow car door.*

# ARTS CLUB EDUCATION!

## Get Involved with our Education programs

Theatre education isn't only for youth! Arts Club's *adult courses* invite community members to learn the craft of theatre making in a friendly, supportive environment. Our courses for adults (18+) are aimed at those who are interested in learning about theatre, creating theatre, and being part of a warm, vibrant community. No experience required. Visit <https://artsclub.com/education/adult-courses> for course dates. Read on to learn about one of the classes we have coming up this winter:

### Community Creates

A devised theatre program for adults, Community Creates invites community member to come together and create an original show in tandem. Students will explore acting, writing, and movement while working as an ensemble to create an original performance that will be staged and performed on the Newmont Stage at the BMO Theatre Centre. No previous experience is needed.

Jan 16–Mar 27, 2023  
BMO Theatre Centre  
Cost: \$250 + GST  
Instructor: Hila Graf

*"Loved the collaborative process. Everyone is involved and contributes to the experience. Everyone is able to move safely within their comfort zone and expand it. Everyone has opportunity to grow creatively regardless of previous knowledge and experience."* –Community Creates student

## Segregated Funds: A New Way to Leave a Legacy

By: Robert Sharman

Recently Arts Club was advised of a legacy gift from a longtime patron who passed away.

There is a mixture of emotions that accompany these donations—appreciation for the financial help (especially after the challenges of COVID-19), a sense of loss of someone who got such joy from attending our performances, and finally, the pride that we were considered so worthy as to be made a part of their final Estate.

The honour of receiving such a gift is immeasurable. The patron, who our records show attended for almost 30 years, used an interesting and thoughtful approach to the gifting. They combined a tax effective way of donating registered funds with a little used financial product for some of their non-registered funds.

About 10 years ago the patron was introduced to Steve Tate of Tate Financial. In updating the beneficiary designations of their registered fund, the patron expressed the desire to support Arts Club.

The federal government has made provisions to give a meaningful gift beyond your lifetime, by allowing designation of a registered charity as a beneficiary of your RRSP or RRIF. All the remaining money in most retirement funds (e.g., a RRIF) is fully taxed in the year of death, often at the highest marginal tax rate. Designating a registered charity as beneficiary creates an official tax receipt that helps offsets taxes owed by the Estate.

You can designate your beneficiary outside your Will, therefore those funds are not part of your Will and they need not be probated or subjected to probate fees.



*Image description: Two people are sitting next to each other with their laptops on. There is a pile of paper in between the laptops and the person on the right is pointing at the paper with a pencil.*

The patron combined this technique with an approach that Steve introduced, a Segregated Fund. A Segregated Fund can be used for non-registered taxable funds. Like mutual funds there are a broad range of investment choices.

However, a Segregated Fund is created by Life Insurance companies. Like a Life Insurance policy, you can name a beneficiary on a Segregated Fund. When you name a beneficiary on a Registered Account, the funds do not have to be part of the Will and do not need to be probated or subjected to probate fees. The gift creates an official tax receipt that helps offset investment income of the non-registered funds.

Finally, receiving the gift of a Segregated Fund non-registered asset usually happens faster. Once the forms and documents are received by the Insurance Company, the payment can happen in as little as a couple of weeks. It is not subject to all the steps required in completing the terms of the Will.

A Segregated Fund can be (depending on your circumstances), a way to compliment giving non-registered funds with gifting registered money.

As the COVID-19 pandemic has reminded us, the only thing we can expect is the unexpected. Estate planning provides the peace of mind knowing that important — and often difficult — decisions have been made to care for what matters to you.

With the help of Professional Advisors, the challenges of the options that you may choose between can be tailored to what suits you best. We would be honoured to be worthy of your consideration and are available to assist you in whatever manner we can.



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.

*Image description: Bell Alliance's logo that reads "BELL ALLIANCE a personal approach to law" with the text "Thank you 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."*

## The Arts Club Remembers Twyla Graeme

This month we remember longtime Arts Club patron, the late Twyla Graeme. Thank you, Twyla, for your generous support to keep the arts vibrant in Vancouver!

## Inscribe Your Legacy

Consider leaving your legacy in a different way: inscribe your name, a tribute to a loved one, or some words of wisdom on a seat plaque that will remain in our theatres for 10 years.

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

Your gift is fully tax-deductible and directly supports theatre education initiatives, new play development, and the productions you see onstage.

Phone Rebecca Paterson at 604.687.5315, ext. 847 or email [donations@artsclub.com](mailto:donations@artsclub.com) for more information.

**PUT YOUR  
NAME IN THE  
SPOTLIGHT**



## Are you interested in joining the ARTS CLUB LEGACY CIRCLE?

# LEGACY

Anyone who loves the Arts Club can make a legacy gift. Large or small, all gifts will ensure that theatre will thrive for generations to come.

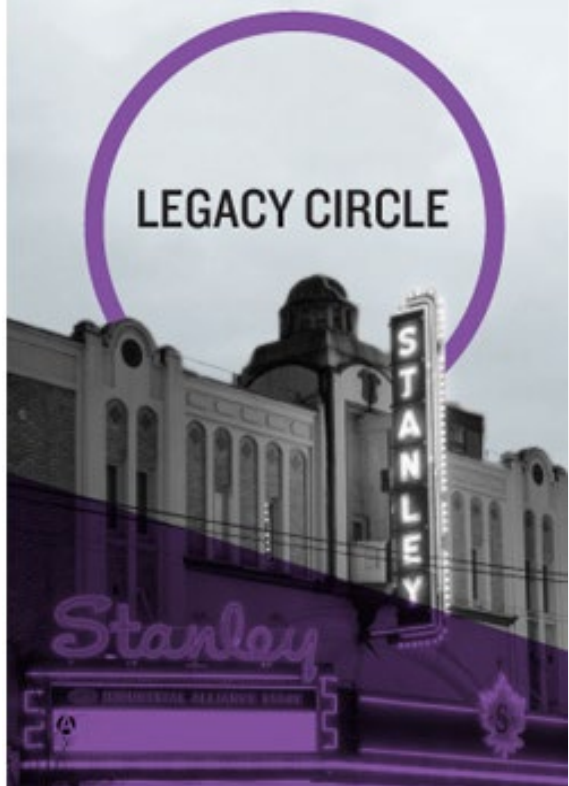
Legacy gifts can also provide you with important reductions in estate and income taxes. When making a decision about leaving a legacy, we encourage you to speak with your legal and financial advisors.

Anyone who has left a legacy gift to the Arts Club will be welcomed into the Arts Club Legacy Circle—a group of likeminded individuals who share a love of the performing arts.

Legacy Circle members are recognized in each of our play programs and in our annual report. If you choose to remain anonymous, we assure you that your information is kept in strictest confidence.

If you have already included the Arts Club in your estate plans, please consider letting us know. We would welcome you into the Legacy Circle and ensure that your wishes are carried in the manner you have intended.

To join the Arts Club's Legacy Circle, please contact Catherine Gautreau, Director of Fund Development, [cgautreau@artsclub.com](mailto:cgautreau@artsclub.com).



*Image description: A black and white photo of the outside of the Stanley Theatre with the text "LEGACY" at the top and a purple circle with the text "LEGACY CIRCLE" inside it*



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).