



# RADICAL CONNECTIONS ANNUAL REPORT 2023

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Public Edition



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# MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2023 has provided so much to be thankful for.

Radical Connections is making a difference, bringing joy and meaning to so many people in healthcare!

I am grateful to our dedicated board members - cj, Liz, Heidi, Anne - the Wise Women who birthed this organization and continue to provide much-needed strategic support. Many thanks to our small, dedicated team - Artistic Director and master coordinator Jenny, expertly making the magic happen; Sri, keeping our books in order and hastening our charitable status; and our students, Tara and Yara, communications experts, getting the word out to all of you and beyond. In addition, our researchers, volunteers, and partners have been vital to making connections and keeping our work evidence-based. The growing artist team continues to amaze me, both with their brilliant talents, and with their abilities to engage with their audiences, whether a roomful of people or one-on-one. Dr. Fraser Rubens and I are once again active as Concert Docs, feeling so blessed to bring music to residents in retirement and long-term care residents.

Collaborations with our major partners are a constant source of inspiration, creativity, and meaning. The storytelling project with Kim Kilpatrick on Bruyère's Palliative Care Unit has already resulted in life-giving stories, and we look forward to both expanding and telling stories about the process (orally and visually) in the coming year. The Dementia Society of Ottawa and Renfrew County continues to warmly welcome Radical Connections artists to their Daisy Café, and together we are offering one-on-one online connections with our artists through their online site "Our Sphere". uOttawa's Music and Health Research Institute, Bruyère's Research Institute, Sanokondou, and the Equity in Health Systems Lab all foster excellent research and vital academic connections.

The Gala Fundraiser / House Concert on December 9th was both a joyous celebration and a financial success, thanks to many of you! We had 43 people in attendance - the house was full and happy, and we raised close to \$3000!! Even more importantly, it was an opportunity to have a good time, build community, and raise awareness about what we are doing. Long-term care residents Chris and Barby stole the show, giving their perspective on the benefits of

artists in their spaces. Our performing artists - Chas, Empress, Kim, Eleanor, Laura, Colin - provided a variety show that was both entertaining and inspiring. We all have stories on the reawakenings we have seen when people we know respond to music and the arts, and many of those stories were shared.

Looking forward to many more opportunities to create Radical Connections in 2024!

**Dr. Carol Wiebe**  
**Executive Director**



# FROM THE INTERIM CHAIR OF THE BOARD

*To improve care and strengthen communities by bringing artists and people in healthcare together.* This vision statement has continued to be realized through the dedicated work of the Radical Connections team in 2023.

Ever-evolving as a new organization, the year started with achieving the long-awaited charitable status in February and ended with a successful fundraiser event in December. In addition to individual donations, the team has been successful in receiving grants building the organization's ability to deliver services as outlined in this annual report.

The vibrancy of the work continues to be driven by the artists, residents, recipients, elders, students, health care delivery organizations and researchers who consistently express the benefits of artist engagement in health.

My thanks to Dr. Carol Wiebe, Executive Director, for her vision and ongoing personal investment in this work. Thanks also to the Radical Connections team, specifically Jenny McMaster and Sri Alageswaran, for another successful year. It has been my pleasure to continue to serve with the other board members (cj fleury, Heidi Sveistrup, and Anne Coulombe) each of whom bring a unique skill set and passion to this initiative.

The focus for the upcoming year will continue to be on sustainment. The board supports the Radical Connections team in actively looking at ways to partner and engage with other organizations to increase the ability to extend this work over the coming years.

**Liz Loewen, PHD**  
**Interim Chair of the Board**





## 2023: A Year in Brief

**Radical Connections was Awarded Charitable Status in February 2023!**

**Projects** - Community Connections with the Dementia Society, Storytelling on the Palliative Care Unit, Healing Interactive Performances - Livestream series, online and in-person concerts and workshops

**Presentations** - online, Quebec City, Toronto, Ottawa, Alabama

**Research, publications** - Rebecca MacDonald published [Unmasked Connections: Piloting Virtual Interactive Artist Performances in Healthcare – A Feasibility Study](#), in *OBM Integrative and Complementary Medicine*

**Three newsletters** - online publications [March](#), [July](#), [October](#)

**Marketing** - increased social media presence (Facebook, Instagram, YouTube)

**Grants** - New Horizons Program for Seniors (Federal Government), TD Bank, Canada Summer Jobs Program (Federal Government), Cultural Human Resources Council (Student Work Program)

**Fundraising** - GoFundMe campaign for an amplifier, Concert Docs concerts, Gala Fundraiser

**Partnerships** - Dementia Society, Bruyère, Ottawa Art Gallery, Clown Tendresse, GigSpace, Digital Art Resource Centre, Equity in Health Systems Lab, Sanokundu



## RADICAL CONNECTIONS

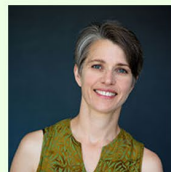


### GALA FUNDRAISER

ELEANOR CROWDER  
KIM KILPATRICK  
CHAS GUAY  
EMPRESS NYIRINGANGO  
KATHRYN PATRICIA COBBLER  
LAURA LOEWEN  
COLIN AINSWORTH



House Concert  
Wakefield, Quebec  
(Address will be sent to ticket holders)  
December 9th, 7pm



*Eat, Drink, Listen, and Laugh  
while supporting a great cause:  
Improv, Music, Storytelling  
and Great Company*

## Projects

### Community Connections with the Dementia Society

Radical Connections was awarded the [New Horizons Grant for Seniors](#) from the federal government for a partnership with the [Dementia Society of Ottawa and Renfrew County](#) (DSORC). This grant funds projects that empower seniors in their communities and contribute to improving their health and well-being.

To support this project Radical Connections onboarded its second cohort of artists with virtual knowledge exchange sessions with an introduction to services provided by DSORC. The organization Clown Tendresse also became a partner and provided performers.



Musicians

Kate Weekes, Guitar, Banjo, Vocals



Musicians

Kathryn Patricia Cobbler, Violist and Looper



Theatre

Naomi Tessler, Playback Theatre,  
Improvisational Theatre



Poetry and Spoken Word, Theatre

Kelsey Rideout, Original spoken word poetry,  
poetry readings and dramatic texts and  
monologues,

Beginning in the summer months, numerous Radical Connections artists performed in-person at DSORC's weekly Daisy Café. These performances will continue in the new year with increased frequency as the Café has been expanded to two sessions a week, due to its popularity. Radical Connections and DSORC staff have also been collaborating to use DSORC's Our Sphere portal to bring virtual one-on-one sessions to seniors in their homes. Special thanks to Zoë Kirschner of DSORC for her work on this project.

**Fanny Marks**

Musician

**Jay Kuchinsky**

Musician

**Jennifer Vallance**

Theatre

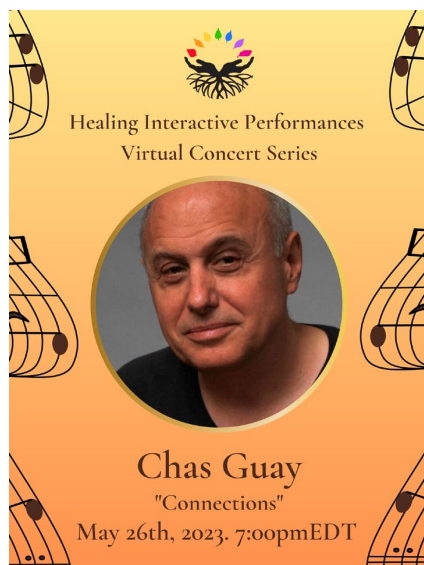
**Jesse Stewart**

Percussionist

## Healing Interactive Performance Live Stream Series

In order to offer affordable art programming to retirement homes, long-term care homes and people in care in their homes Radical Connections launched a series of monthly virtual performances. With the help of [GigSpace](#) facilities we offered a series of poetry sessions, storytelling events and concerts. Most were livestreamed from GigSpace's location on Gladstone, and a few were recorded from healthcare locations such as The Royal, Residence Elisabeth Bruyère, and the McMullen Gallery in Edmonton.

The [2023 HIP Virtual Concert series](#) is now available for free.



## Unmasked Connections Live In-Person Concerts and Workshops

As pandemic restrictions lifted making medical institutions more accessible to guests, Radical Connections began to offer regular in-person events. Using the funds from the Ontario Arts Council Unmasked Connections project, we offered concerts and Saint-Vincent Hospital and group workshops at Elisabeth Bruyere Residence.



## Storytelling in Palliative Care



Jaya Rastogi, Kim Kilpatrick, Ginger and Kathryn Boese

For the past year, Radical Connections (RC) has been working with Bruyère's Palliative Care Unit (PCU) to bring storytelling into palliative care. The PCU and RC teams wanted to do something similar to [Dr. Cory Ingram's 55-word storytelling project](#) at the Ottawa Hospital. Dr. Ingram was enthusiastic to join the project and share his resources.

Storytelling is used in palliative care to promote well-being and process difficult emotions. It is also a meaningful experience for the participants and their loved ones to hold on to in a place of uncertainty and loss. With funding help from the Bruyère Academic Medical Organization (BAMO), the PCU team brought on Ottawa storyteller Kim Kilpatrick to lead the sessions. Over the next few months Kim and research coordinator Jaya Rastogi met with patients, staff, and family care givers to collect and craft stories. The outcome of this project will be a collection of 30 stories, a research paper on the usefulness and feasibility of storytelling in palliative care as well as an artistic interpretation of the stories.

We recently received news that we have been awarded a second BAMO grant for the knowledge dissemination portion of the project which will involve a film and visual art created through the collaborations of Kim and visual and media artist Rachel Gray. We have also applied for the Ontario Art Council Communities and Schools Grant and the City of Ottawa Equity and Inclusion Grant for this portion of the project. We await the results of our application. The research and art will be presented at the Bruyère PCU, the Ottawa Art Gallery in November and the [McGill International Palliative Care Congress](#) in October.


## Presentations


### February: Creativity in Hidden Places

In February Radical Connections teamed up with the [Equity in Health Systems Lab](#), Sanokundu, and the University of Manitoba to offer “Creativity in Hidden Places” an installment of the **Critical Dialogues for Action Series**. This evening of performances and conversation featured poet, playwright and actor Eleanor Crowder and singer/songwriter and long-term care resident Barby Clement. Eleanor and Barby’s friendship and collaboration were one of the virtual connections forged during the Unmasked Connections/Bruyère pilot project of the previous year. Watch the recording [here](#).

**sanokundu** | CRITICAL DIALOGUES FOR ACTION SERIES  
FOSTERING HEALTH PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP EDUCATION WORLDWIDE

In partnership with





## Creativity in Hidden Places:

### Conversations and Recitations

**Speakers:**  
**Eleanor Crowder** Poet, Actor, and Producer  
**Barby Clement** Songwriter, Musician, and long-term care resident  
**Jenny McMaster** Artistic Director, Radical Connections  
**Dr. Carol Wiebe** Executive Director, Radical Connections

Did you know there are artists everywhere? Entering a hospital or long-term care does not mean creativity and the desire to collaborate with other artists stops. Over the past months, **Radical Connections' Unmasked Connections program** has brought musicians, poets, and actors to people in care at Elizabeth Bruyère Residence and Residence Saint-Louis. More than one creative collaboration evolved.


Join poet, actor, and producer **Eleanor Crowder** and poet, singer-songwriter **Barby Clement** as they trade songs and poems, revealing their personal imagery and discovering shared experience. They will offer a short demonstration session and be ready to answer questions.


Hear from Executive Director **Dr. Carol Wiebe** and Artistic Director **Jenny McMaster** about the vital work of the Unmasked Connections program and why it must continue.

**Tuesday, February 21, 2023**  
**14:30 - 16:30 ET**


**REGISTER NOW**

Go to  
[www.eqhslab.com/cdfa](http://www.eqhslab.com/cdfa)  
OR  
Scan the QR code





\*The Critical Dialogues for Action is a self-approved group learning activity (Section 1) as defined by the Maintenance of Certification Program of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada.\*



## **April: Health and Humanities Conference**

April 13 and 14, Radical Connections participated in the [Canadian Association for Health and Humanities Conference](#) in Quebec City.

The annual national conference called "Creating Space" brings together scholars, teachers, clinicians, artists, and students. The meeting is typically close to the International Congress on Academic Medicine (formerly Canadian Conference in Medical Education). It attracts speakers and participants from across the many fields that form Health Humanities from Canada and internationally. Founded in 2010, it is designed to be highly interactive and interdisciplinary.

RC brought two presentations "Radical Connections of Music/Arts and Wellness", the first a presentation about [Unmasked Connections](#) and [the Die Schöne Müllerin Project](#) with musical performances by Executive Director, Carol Wiebe on the flute and piano, Laura Loewen on piano, and Colin Ainsworth, tenor. We also had a poster presentation introducing the Storytelling in the Palliative Care Unit project. The artistic lead /storyteller Kim Kilpatrick and collaborator Dr. Cory Ingram from the Mayo Clinic were on-hand to answer questions.

## **May: Music and Health Research Institute Conference**

May 3 to 5, Radical Connections participated in the [Inaugural Conference of uOttawa's Music and Health Research Institute](#) (MHRI)

MHRI, in partnership with The Royal Ottawa Mental Health Centre, hosted a series of multidisciplinary and intersectoral outreach activities focusing on the benefits of music engagement on health and wellbeing. These events gathered leading researchers from across Canada, in the humanities and social sciences (music, education, and psychology), health sciences (rehabilitation, audiology, and speech therapy), sciences (neurosciences, biomechanics) and various domains of medicine. Dr. Gilles Comeau, Director of MHRI, founded the Institute "to explore the interactions between music and health, and to develop solutions that can improve well-being for individuals and communities". Radical Connections is a partner of MHRI, and Dr. Carol Wiebe is a member of the Steering Committee and several MHRI working groups.



Dr. Carol Wiebe and Jenny McMaster presented the Unmasked Connections pilot project during the symposium Music for Older Adults, and Carol also presented during the Social Prescription Summit.

Carol also performed on the piano with cochlear implant user and violinist Alexandre Sylvestre (seen below).



## June: Therapeutic Recreation Ontario Conference



Aahana Uppal, Kim Durst-Mackenzie, Jennifer Vallance and Jenny McMaster

June 7 to 9, Artistic Director Jenny McMaster, Bruyère Recreational Coordinator Kim Durst-Mackenzie, RC artist Jennifer Vallance and research student Aahana Uppal present at the Therapeutic Recreation Ontario conference in Toronto.

TRO is the only professional association that represents Therapeutic Recreation practitioners in Ontario. With a membership of more than 1,800 including practitioners, educators, and students, their mission is to lead the TR profession through growth, advocacy,

and innovation. This year's theme was "Trek to Excellence".



RC's presentation led to a partnership (in the works) with Baycrest at Home and article in the Ontario Association of Resident's Council's [Seasons Magazine](#).

### August: Art of Medicine Rounds, University of Alabama

On August 15<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Carol Wiebe presented online to The Art of Medicine Rounds, a long-standing monthly medical humanities series. She had been invited by Dr. Alan Blum after Radical Connections' Quebec City presentation in April. *Humanizing Healthcare with All Kinds of Artists* was well-received, with great questions from the engaged audience.

### September: Voices from Palliative Care

On September 26, Radical Connections again worked with the [Equity in Health Systems Lab](#), Sanokundu and the University of Manitoba an installment of the **Critical Dialogues for Action Series** this time devoted to the PCU and Storytelling project. This session involved a panel discussion between Storyteller Kim Kilpatrick and past medical project lead Dr. Kaitlyn Boese. Watch the recording [here](#).

### October: READi Symposium and Program Showcase:



Manya and Justine Present at the READi Symposium (Pallavi presented virtual)

The Research and Education in Accessibility, Design, and Innovation (READi) training program held its seventh annual symposium and program showcase on Tuesday, October 24<sup>th</sup>. Funded by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) of Canada through its Collaborative Research and Training Experience Program (CREATE), READi is the first interdisciplinary post-secondary accessibility-training program offered in Canada.

Radical Connections READi team Justine Walker, Pallavi Sodhi, and Manya Kakkar presented the design for an app that will allow artists and people in care to easily connect for one-on-one virtual sessions.

## Music Care Conference

October 27th, [Music Care Conference by Room 217](#), was held at the Dominion Chalmers Centre in Ottawa.

The Music Care Conference is a national conference bringing together community members who are interested in music and care. This educational and inspirational conference identifies and integrates common themes and issues using music across the care spectrum and highlights the social and wellness implications of music in care.

Radical Connection's artist Empress Nyringango hosted a drumming and movement workshop. Dr. Carol Wiebe and Dr. Fraser Rubens performed as Concert Docs and RC staff were available for questions at our information table.

## Symposium on Health and the Visual Arts, EBA

October 28th, at the [The Enriched Bread Artists Studios](#) in Ottawa

Radical Connections Artistic Director Jenny McMaster and artist/researcher Maren Kathleen Elliot gave a review of our current projects and spoke about the importance of the relationships forged between artists and people in care. After many presentations in the health sector, this was the first time RC presented at an arts-based organisation.

## Fundraising

### GoFundMe

In July Radical Connections launched a GoFundMe Campaign to raise money to purchase high quality sound equipment for our in-person events. Close to \$400 was raised and we purchased an amplifier.

### Gala Fundraiser:

In December, Radical Connections hosted a Gala Fundraiser in the form of a House Concert in Wakefield, Quebec.

This event featured a sampling of our talented artists including Empress Nyringango, Kim Kilpatrick, Eleanor Crowder and Chas Guay as well as performances by special guests [Colin Ainsworth](#) and [Laura Loewen](#). However, what stole the show according to Ottawa journalist Phil Jenkins in his write up in the Wakefield paper *the Low Down*, were statements made by recipients of RC's services. Former Saint-Vincent-Hospital patient, and music lover Christine Reynolds, made a live appearance via Zoom, while LTC resident and songwriter Barby Clement recorded a humorous and impassioned video plea for donations.

With 43 attendees, close to \$3000 was raised!



Barby Clement with at her keyboard

## Partnerships

- Dementia Society of Ottawa and Renfrew County
- Bruyère, with special mention to the Palliative Care Unit and therapeutic recreation team.
- Equity in Health Systems Lab and Sanokondou - to highlight the potential for arts to promote equity in healthcare
- GigSpace - to host and record our livestream concerts

- [Clown Tendresse](#) - to bring humour and joy to the client of the Dementia Society (below left).
- [Digital Art Resource Centre](#) (formerly SAW Video) - to offer digital collage activities, hosted by Martin Brooks, to the patients of Saint Vincent Hospital (below right).



- [Ottawa Art Gallery](#)
  - Storytelling and Palliative Care project, film screening, art exhibition and live performance to present artwork by storyteller Kim Kilpatrick and visual artist Rachel Gray based on narratives collected from Bruyère Palliative Care in November 2024.
  - Trillium Resilient Communities Grant to fund collaborative projects.





# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## Radical Connections - Connexions Vitales Balance Sheet - Unaudited

	Total	
	As of Dec. 31, 2023	As of Dec. 31, 2022 (PY)
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Cash and Cash Equivalent		
Membership Shares	\$15	\$15
RC Chequing	11,727	1,147
RC Investment Savings Account	48	48
Total Cash and Cash Equivalent	11,789	1,210
Prepaid Insurance D&O	0	594
Total Current Assets	11,789	1,804
Total Assets	11,789	1,804
Liabilities and Equity		
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Short term borrowings from related parties	0	96,952
Accrued Liabilities	1,007	0
GST/HST Payable	39	(8,060)
QST Payable	0	(40)
Payroll Clearing	71	0
Total Current Liabilities	1,117	88,852
Total Liabilities	1,117	88,852
<b>EQUITY</b>		
Opening Balance Equity	15	15
Retained Earnings	(87,063)	(15,380)
Profit for the year	97,721	(71,683)
Total Equity	10,673	(87,048)
Total Liabilities and Equity	11,789	1,804

**Radical Connections - Connexions Vitales**  
**Profit and Loss - Unaudited**  
**January - December 2023**

	Total	
	Jan - Dec. 2023	Jan - Dec. 2022 (PY)
<b>INCOME</b>		
Donations - General Public*	167,800	830
Donations - Foundations	25,000	0
Project Funding - Ontario Arts Council	0	8,000
Project Funding-BRI	0	18,400
Project Funding - Other Org	20,144	0
Sales of Product Income	150	0
Government of Canada - Canada Summer Jobs	4,858	0
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>217,952</b>	<b>27,230</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Staff Cost	76,530	84,761
Honorariums	0	1,000
Performance Cost - Artists	14,526	8,320
Legal and Professional Fees	272	2,122
Dues and Subscriptions	8,699	394
Promotional	2,598	1,940
Other Expenses	17,606	376
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>120,231</b>	<b>98,913</b>
<b>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</b>	<b>\$97,721</b>	<b>(\$71,683)</b>

\*A short-term loan was converted to a donation in 2023, which improved our financial position.

**Radical Connections - Connexions Vitales**  
**Statement of Cash Flows - Unaudited**  
**January - December 2023**

	As of Dec. 31, 2023	As of Dec. 31, 2022 (PY)
<b>OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Net Income	\$97,721	(\$71,683)
Adjustments to reconcile Net Income to Net Cash provided by operations:		
Prepaid Insurance D&O	594	(594)
Accrued Liabilities	1,007	-
<b>GST/HST PAYABLE</b>	8,099	(7,242)
QST Payable	40	-
Payroll Clearing	71	-
Total Adjustments to reconcile Net Income to Net Cash provided by operations:	9,811	-
Net cash provided by operating activities	<b>107,532</b>	<b>(79,519)</b>
<b>FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Short term borrowings from related parties	(96,952)	79,952
Net cash provided by financing activities	<b>(96,952)</b>	<b>79,952</b>
Net cash increase for period	<b>10,580</b>	<b>433</b>
Cash at beginning of period	1,210	777
Cash at end of period	<b>\$11,789</b>	<b>\$1,210</b>