

Vancouver Island South
Film & Media Commission
2023 Year End Report



VANCOUVER
ISLAND SOUTH
FILM & MEDIA
COMMISSION

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ABOUT THE COMMISSION

The Vancouver Island South Film and Media Commission was established as a non-profit organization on December 18, 1984.

Its roots, however, date back to 1974 when it was founded by the Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce. This makes it the longest running film commission in British Columbia.

The Vancouver Island South Film and Media Commission's mandate is to market and promote the locations, skills and creativity inherent in Victoria and on Vancouver Island to the global film industry.

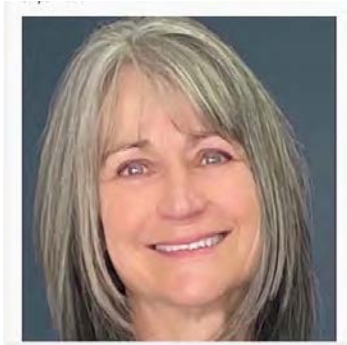
Thanks to the hard work of film commission staff, we have seen extraordinary growth in the industry resulting in record direct spends, and making us one of the most successful regional film commissions in British Columbia.



WHAT WE DO:

- Market the CRD to producers worldwide
- Provide continuous consulting and production services from the beginning to the end of the project
- Provide script breakdowns, location scouting and location packages
- Recommend accommodations and local suppliers
- Help with permits, troubleshoot and act as a go-between and mediate if things go wrong
- Develop our local [REDACTED] and maintain a crew database
- Host networking events, professional development, educational workshops and our [REDACTED]
- Promote the industry to government
- Support local producers

MESSAGE FROM FILM COMMISSIONER



As Film Commissioner, Kathleen Gilbert is responsible for marketing the CRD to producers worldwide. Prior to becoming the film commissioner, she worked in the film industry as a location manager for over twenty years. In 1990 she was a founding member of CineVic Society of Independent Filmmakers. Her resume includes shows like *Little Women*, *Intersection*, *X-Men 2 and 3*, *Final Destination* and a slew of television movies. Kathleen was born in Sarnia, Ontario, Canada, where she ran a small business for several years. She attended The University of Calgary in the Fine Arts Department and went on to graduate with distinction from the University of Ottawa with a degree in Communications. After university she worked for the Anglican Church of Canada for seven years, developing and coordinating several programs for homeless women in Ottawa, Canada.

“Well, that was a bumpy ride!

January 2023 started very promising with at least five shows filming in the Region including **Dead Boy Detective**, **Trail Runner**, **Project K**, **Sports Check Commercial**, and **The Blessing Bracelet**. By the end of April, over 15 productions had been filmed. Then on May 2, everything came to a screeching halt as the writers went on strike, followed closely, on July 14, by the actors. Thus, May and June were painfully quiet with only two productions filming each of those months.

However, despite industry labour unrest, we landed more than 38 film and television productions including **Amazing Race Canada**, **The Nature of Things**, **Making Waves**, **Guiding Emile**, **Auroa Teagardens Mysteries**, **In The Blink of an Eye**, **Reginald The Vampire**, **Under The Bridge** and **To All A Good Night**, just to name a few.

We continue to work toward encouraging the development of a dedicated film production studio, supply chain infrastructure and crew development. With the positive progress of the Westshore Film Studio, we are very hopeful that the CRD will see the first purpose-built film studio in 2024 or early 2025. We are also focused on growing the numbers of local crew with staff and board members regularly doing speaking engagements at local high schools and post-secondary institutions.

2024 holds great promise for the CRD as we work to bring more shows, good-paying jobs and larger direct spends to our region.”

As a Location Scout / Location Manager, working with the film commission has been a lifesaver for me! I enjoy how organized and easy to access files are and will ensure that the film commission is my first point of contact when scouting for locations. Thank you for your hard work and dedication to the film industry!

Leah LaRocke, Location Manager / Location Scout

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

KEY ORGANIZATIONAL GOALS AND YEAR END RESULTS

1. Create Prosperity through Economic Development

- 38 productions created over 1,100 high paying sustainable jobs

2. Engage and Empower the Community

- Over 700 members, 13 corporate sponsors, 14 volunteers
- 2541 film locations registered
- Hosted networking mixer with over 100 members attending
- Roll out engagement plan, including in-person presentations to local high school students and First Nations youth. This program continues to be very popular. The schools that we presented to in 2023 include:
Camosun College, University of Victoria, Lambrick Park High, Victoria High, Esquimalt High, Reynolds Secondary and Mount Douglas Secondary
- Engage more effectively with First Nations to identify barriers to entry into the industry. This continues to be an ongoing effort. This year we applied for two different grants so that we could hire a First Nations liaison.

3. Improve access to film industry training and career information

- Our Film Commissioner taught two Production Assistant Courses for Camosun College and we now have an additional 50 trained Production Assistants available for work in our Region.
- See recorded career talks by local industry professionals [here](#)

4. Strive for new infrastructure to support a growing industry

- Supported multiple production studio initiatives in progress for the South Island. Our Film Commissioner along with a representative from The City of Langford and the developers of the Langford Studio met with six of the major studios and streaming services and promoted our Region.
- Increased the number of service providers including film catering and equipment rental houses
- Expanded crew and service directory (865+)

As a local filmmaker in Victoria, the work of the Vancouver Island South Film & Media Commission has a direct impact on my ability to work on film sets making a living for my family, which is critical for me. Not only does their work tangibly buoy my ability to support my family in the industry I love, but builds my knowledge and skills to improve my own films that fulfill the creative gaps I have in my heart.

Arnold Lim, Director/Producer

GOALS & STRATEGIES FOR 2024

The VISFMC has set the following goals and strategies for 2024:

To **increase** the number and diversity of film and television productions filming on Southern Vancouver Island by 10%.

To achieve this, the VISFMC will:

Continue to **market and promote** the region's locations, skills and creativity to the global film industry, using various channels and platforms, such as trade shows, newsletters, webinars, and social media.

Continue to provide **production and location services** to film clients, such as location scouting, permitting, liaison, and referrals, ensuring a smooth and efficient filming experience.

Continue to **develop and maintain relationships** with key stakeholders such as Creative BC, regional film commissions, municipal film offices, government agencies, industry associations and media outlets, enhancing the coordination and communication among the film community.

To **increase** the capacity and quality of the local film workforce and infrastructure by 15%.

To achieve this, the VISFMC will:

Continue to support and facilitate the **training and development** of local crew and businesses offering workshops, seminars, mentorships, and scholarships, enhancing the skills and knowledge of the film industry.

Continue to encourage and assist the **investment and expansion** of local film equipment and facilities.

GOALS & STRATEGIES FOR 2024 continued

To increase the **engagement and participation** of the local film community and public by 20%.

To achieve this, the VISFMC will:

Continue to organize and host **networking events** for local and visiting film professionals, creating opportunities for collaboration and connection among the film community.

Continue to support **local projects**, showcasing and celebrating the local filmmakers and stories.

Continue to **educate and inform** the local public about the film industry's benefits and impacts, using various channels and platforms such as newsletters, webinars, social media, and media outlets.

CONCLUSION

The VISFMC is **proud** of its achievements in 2023 and looks forward to continuing its mission and vision in 2024. The VISFMC **thanks** its funding partners, sponsors, members and supporters for their generous and ongoing support. The VISFMC also invites **feedback** and suggestions from the film community and the public, as it strives to improve its services and performance. The VISFMC will continue to **work hard** to bring more film and television productions to Southern Vancouver Island and to encourage and assist **local stories** to reach a global audience.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS & STAFF

We would like to thank our hard-working Board of Directors. In 2023 we welcomed a new board member: Sally Chang. Sally brings over three decades of hospitality and tourism industry experience, primarily in senior management positions in sales, events management, front office and accounting.

EXECUTIVE



Don Enright
President



Darlene Tait
Vice President



Annie Wong-Harrison
Secretary



Todd Webber
Treasurer

Everyone we worked with was professional, helpful and responsive. The VISFMC helped us find local personnel including costuming, props & set decorators, and location sound mixer. We couldn't have been happier with the variety of facilities available on the Island.

Lumity Productions/Ward 1 Studios

DIRECTORS



Michael Reid



Hazel Braithwaite



Donna Petrie



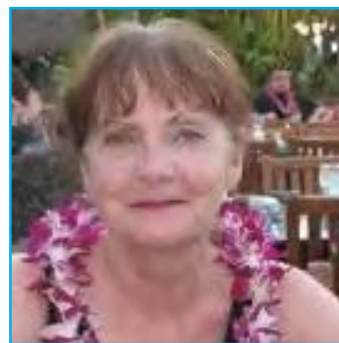
Tim Urquhart



Paul Rayman



Ed Kahakauwila



Barbara Coultish



Sally Chan

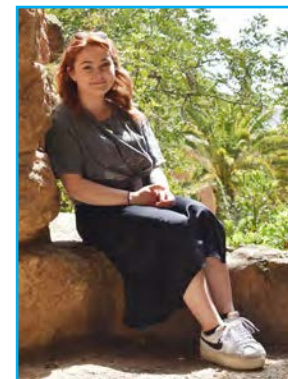
STAFF



Maureen McGavin
Production Services Coordinator



Rehema Ngongo
Office Administrator



Quin Evans joined our team in the summer and is a joy to work with. Catching us up on stats, working hard on our online auction and just being an all-around great addition to our team.

Maureen, your exceptional work has not only been incredibly helpful but has also brought a smile to my face. Thank you for consistently going above and beyond to assist with this project. It's a true pleasure working with someone as dedicated and talented as you.

Leon Lee, Producer, Flying Cloud Productions

VOLUNTEERS



Arlene Bethune

Arlene is one of our most dedicated volunteers. Thirteen years ago, she walked into our office looking for something interesting to do in her retirement. Well, we sure have kept her busy. She has been instrumental in every event that we have held over the last 13 years. She works hard every year to ensure that our online auction and many of our other events are successful. The next event you attend, you will probably meet her welcoming guests at the sign-in table.



Madeline Star

Madeline is a relatively new but dedicated volunteer. Her passion for film and her organizational skills make her a valuable asset to the Commission. Her role primarily involves updating and managing location files, ensuring every detail is accurately documented for our location database.

Madeline's involvement in the film office has led to on-set film opportunities. She has landed background acting roles in both film and television shows, turning her volunteer work into a stepping stone for an unexpected but exciting side career.



We Have the BEST Volunteers

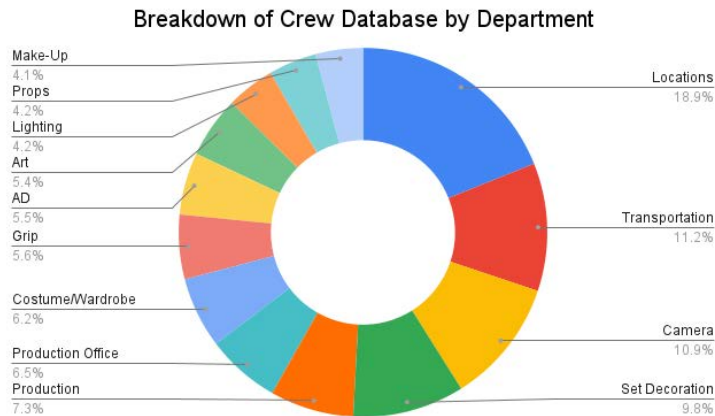
Left to right Madeline Star, Ava Creed, Deb Deacon, Jacob Gallant, Shadelle Molloy, Ryan Reynolds

After a long hiatus from the industry and re-entry in a city I had not shot a movie in for about 20 years, I was relieved to have the South Island Film Commission at my disposal! Maureen was so helpful in the extreme, especially when it came to finding local crew. It made my job that much easier.

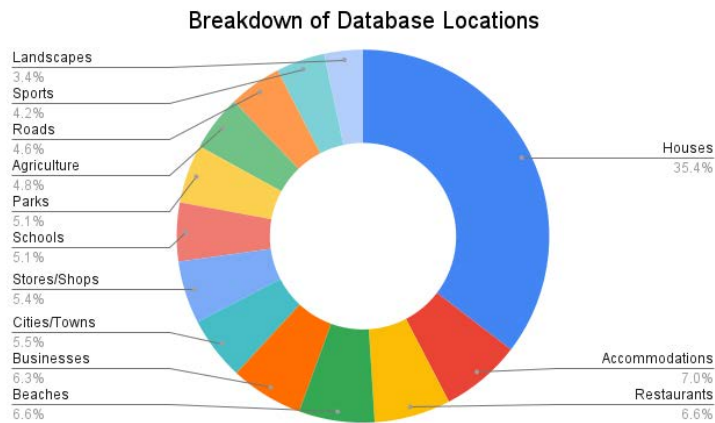
Tracey Traeger-Gatabaki, Producer

OUR CREW DATABASE

Our locations, crew and service databases are crucial tools in our toolbox. It is important that they continue to grow and that they are kept updated. It is a time-consuming yet necessary undertaking. However, without up-to-date location photos and crew resumes, our ability to land shows is hindered.



697 local crew in our Crew database



2545 locations in our Locations Database

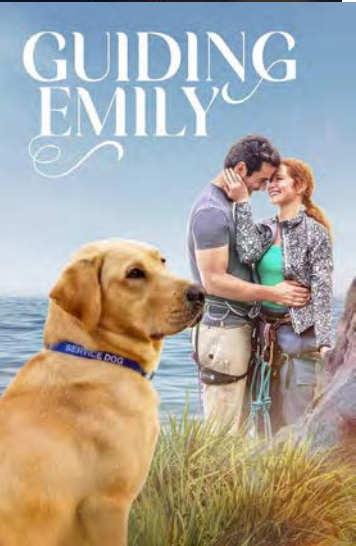
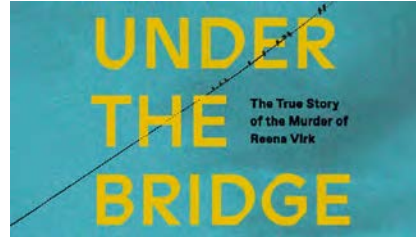
2023 Productions: 38

2023 Projects Serviced: 135

PRODUCTION HIGHLIGHTS

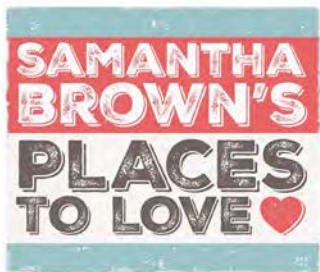


HOW I GOT
[HERE]



SVFV
REGINALD
THE
VAMPIRE

WILL RETURN



IN THE NEWS

DOUGLAS MAGAZINE:

https://issuu.com/page-one/docs/douglas_octnov23

CHEK NEWS:

<https://www.cheknews.ca/island-film-production-could-be-on-pause-while-hollywood-actors-strike-1160609/>

<https://www.cheknews.ca/so-happy-for-our-local-crew-vancouver-island-film-industry-celebrates-end-of-hollywood-strike-1176886/>

VICTORIA TIMES COLONIST:

<https://www.timescolonist.com/local-news/victoria-film-industry-faces-slower-season-amid-hollywood-labour-action-7029794>

<https://www.timescolonist.com/local-news/pretty-scary-summer-for-victoria-film-industry-amid-labour-disputes-7280725>

CFOX 1070:

<https://www.iheartradio.ca/cfox-1070/site-search-local-7.15195911?searchField=film%20industry>

FACEBOOK:

<https://fb.watch/osLygROxgA/>



Two 2023 graduating classes of the Camosun Micro-Credential Production Assistant Course taught by Film Commissioner, Kathleen Gilbert.

ACCOLADES

“Having the ability to work with and supply the movie industry has definitely created a new revenue stream for Cloverdale Paint on Vancouver Island. Everyone we’ve had interactions with has been wonderful, and we hope to continue that growth moving forward”

**Sam Parsons, Architect and Designer Representative
Vancouver Island Cloverdale Paint Inc.**

“I have the Film Commission to thank for the opportunity to serve productions like the Netflix series MAID, who hired me for regular coffee service multiple times per week during the filming of the show and even brought Bru Bike on as a prop. Choosing my business as a treat for your staff helped keep my business alive as I watched nearly every other private event, market and special event get cancelled. I cannot express how much I value and appreciate this opportunity.”

**Kristina Hochheim | Founder
Bru Bike Espresso Bar Ltd. | Bru Bar**

Sponsoring the film commission has proven to be valuable not only for the off-season business we receive, but because we know we are supporting economic development in the CRD.

**Annie Wong-Harrison, National
Car Rental and Arbutus Inn**

I cannot express how grateful I am to have had the privilege to work with these groups for our filming and look forward to working with them again in the future. Thanks again for all of your assistance and guidance throughout our prep.

**Shawn Flynn
Locations Manager**

I’ve scouted for numerous film locations over the last 35 years in Toronto, New York, Los Angeles, Miami, and Vancouver in addition to numerous other states, Canadian provinces and islands in the Bahamas. The Victoria Film Commission, with their attention to detail, in-depth knowledge of the processes of film production and rapid response capabilities is second to none of the location centers or areas I’ve listed above.

**Allan Harmon, Producer
Really Real Films Inc.**

EVENTS



Summer Mixer



VIP Studio Tour of Reginald The Vampire



Wendy's Retirement Party

PROVINCIAL & MUNICIPAL FUNDERS



SPONSORS

GOLD



SILVER



BRONZE



Business

Days Inn by Wyndham
Victoria Uptown

Grant Thornton

Open Water Catering

The Chamber,
Greater Victoria Chamber
of Commerce

Friends of the Film Commission

Garside Signs

Fort Rodd Hill,
Parks Canada

Open Water Catering

Freedom Rent to Own

MUNICIPAL INVESTMENT

Creative sector development

The Film Industry spends over 3.2 billion dollars in BC annually. Our mandate is to bring more of those dollars to the CRD with our targeted objectives for 2024. Municipal funding is used to support our core functions, which include representation for all public and private film locations, crew and related business services in the region. We maintain a detailed location and crew database with thousands of detailed photo files from attractions across the South Island and profiles of local industry professionals for hire. We also offer a platform for local businesses to promote themselves directly to the industry.





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250-386-3976

CONTACT:

General: admin@filmvictoria.com

Production Services: coordinator@filmvictoria.com

Film Commissioner: kdgilbert@filmvictoria.com

Website: www.filmvictoria.com

If you would like to become a sponsor or member of the Vancouver Island South Film & Media Commission and help grow the local film industry, please contact us for more information.