

# Inspiration for change: Rethinking arts & culture

THIRD OF FOUR REPORTS TO THE COMMUNITY 07/08

The creative economy is among the fastest growing economic sectors in the developed world. Increasingly, we are makers of meaning—not just materials. Since 1965, **Simon Fraser University** has kept stride with culture's cutting edge. Now we're picking up the pace. Learn more at [www.sfu.ca/report2007](http://www.sfu.ca/report2007).



Michael Stevenson, President and Vice-Chancellor

## » What if art came down from the mountain?



Call it an arts transplant: Vancouver's cultural landscape will be reinvigorated when SFU's **School for the Contemporary Arts** moves downtown in late 2009.

The revolutionary training programs in contemporary music, dance, theatre, film and visual arts pioneered by such noted artists as **R. Murray Schafer**, **Grant Strate**, **John Juliani**, **David Rimmer** and **Jeff Wall** will soon relocate to the historic Woodward's district. With exciting new cultural facilities—theatres, screening rooms, sound studios and galleries—the school space will combine public exhibition and performance with intensive interdisciplinary teaching, and promises to be a magnet for arts enthusiasts from around the world.

## » What if artists taught artists?



Desirée Dunbar, Dancers Dancing

Our students learn from masters.

In 2007, SFU Contemporary Arts composer **Owen Underhill** won the Outstanding Classical Composition prize at the Western Canadian Music Awards. Musical colleague **Arne Eigenfeldt** wrote the score for Ballet BC's production of *In and Around Kozla Street*. Dance professor **Judith Garay**'s company, Dancers Dancing, toured throughout BC. And English professor **David Chariandy**'s first novel, *Soucouyant*, was nominated for the Governor General's Literary Award and the Scotiabank Giller Prize.



Totem pole detail, SFU Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology

## » Who shares our vision?

We are grateful to the donors who support our commitment to the creative city.

Vancouver businessman **Milton Wong** (right) contributed \$3 million to help SFU Contemporary Arts become the anchor tenant in the Woodward's redevelopment project. And Polygon Homes chair **Michael Audain** donated \$2 million to help create a visiting chair in visual arts that will bring international-calibre artists to Vancouver to engage with students, faculty and the community.



## » Does art trump science in the digital age?

SFU researchers are blurring the line between art and science.

Digital animation researcher **Steve DiPaola** is working with the **Vancouver Aquarium** to create a "virtual beluga" exhibit to raise awareness about the precarious conditions faced by wild belugas. Visual artist **Judy Radul**'s newest installation explores how the increased use of digital media in the modern legal system affects courtroom performance. And dance professor **Henry Daniel** is helping engineering science colleagues **Ivan Bajić** and **Jie Liang** eliminate delay in video transmissions. Using his choreographic models, they will be able to apply predictive decoding to anticipate patterns from a range of movement possibilities.

## » Who owns culture anyway?

The question of who owns the past is a growing concern for scholars, aboriginal groups, policy makers—even marketing professionals.

Archaeologist **George Nicholas** is leading an international research team in a \$2.5-million project that aims to resolve who should own or have access to ancient materials, artistic images and genetic data. The project will identify the range of intellectual property and ethical issues surrounding cultural heritage, and propose fair solutions for the future.