

For Immed. Release: 12/18/08: Arts/Family Events: Outdoor Holiday Art Exhibit - The Mavor Moore Theatre Society and Theatre at UBC announce **THE WINDOWS PROJECT**: *Theatre at UBC Design students interpret ideas from downtown eastside residents to create inspirational window dressing* | Located at: at 300 Block Main St. at Hastings | Exhibition Runs: Dec. 15 – Jan. 5, 2009 | [www.theatre.ubc.ca](http://www.theatre.ubc.ca)

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T H E U N I V E R S I T Y O F B R I T I S H C O L U M B I A

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The Mavor Moore Theatre Society & Theatre at UBC present

# The Windows Project

Sponsored by The City of Vancouver's Downtown Eastside Neighborhoods Group, 'Great Beginnings' program.

Between December 15<sup>th</sup> and January 5<sup>th</sup> the public are invited to view a unique storefront exhibition series, located at 300 Block Main St. at Hastings, which was created and installed by a team of Theatre at UBC Design students. Incorporating special lighting effects, **The Windows Project** installations are three dimensional artistic interpretations of the thoughts and feelings expressed by community members when asked what the holiday season means to downtown eastside residents.

In one window wooden shipping pallets magically deconstruct and reform as flying birds. In another storefront lays an exquisite paper sculpture of a lotus, its blossom petals ascending into the air. A third window holds a tranquil forest scene with a hollow stump, the interior of which reveals a colorful inner life. One additional installation by the UBC students is planned for the new-year at the **Aboriginal Front Door**. Unlike the present storefront exhibits, which come down January 5<sup>th</sup>, the AFD window design will provide a permanent display space for art created by downtown eastside Aboriginal artists.

The preparation for this collaborative exhibition took place over several months. After attending a workshop led by **Carnegie Centre Outreach Coordinator Bob Moss**, the Theatre at UBC Design students participated in more than a dozen community meetings facilitated by **Patricia McSherry** from the **Mavor Moore Theatre Society**. It was here that the students gathered ideas and presented design concepts/drawings. Drawn from many cultures, two of the prevailing themes that emerged from the community consultations were "hope" and "forgiveness".

The Windows Project was initiated by Patricia McSherry who approached the Designers Guild of Canada with the idea. Designers Guild Board Member and UBC Professor **Alison Green** seized on the proposal as a wonderful challenge for the senior year Theatre at UBC Design class. UBC Professor **Ron Fedoruk** supervised the student artists and the installations were built in the scene shop at UBC. The six students who have made The Window's Project their graduating assignment are MFA Design Candidate **Anna Louisa Espinosa** along with BFA Design Candidates **Rachel Glass, Marshall McMahan, Matt Parsons, Sally Song** and **Wlad Woyno**.

The Windows Project was made possible with the support of the **City of Vancouver's Downtown Eastside Neighborhoods Group, 'Great Beginnings' program**, which is part of the province's 150th Anniversary celebration. Great Beginnings is a joint initiative spanning from 2008 to 2010, involving the Province, the City of Vancouver and the community. The project celebrates the culture of Vancouver's first urban areas, including Strathcona, Gastown, Chinatown and Japantown (Oppenheimer area).

**The Mavor Moore Theatre Society** has a mandate that includes the encouragement of emerging artists and the creation of theatre that could be a bold catalyst for change.

## The Windows Project

~ An inspirational downtown storefront holiday exhibit for all ages ~  
Located at 300 Block Main St. at Hastings | December 15<sup>th</sup> - January 5<sup>th</sup>  
Free!

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