



Embrace Arts:  
**2019 Report**

**EMBRACE**  
— ARTS FOUNDATION —





# Reflections on 2019

## Note from the President

2019 was another active and exciting year for Embrace with regularly scheduled classes as well as Spring Break and Summer Camps for participants of all ages and abilities. Embrace has established and fostered connections with a variety of community and theatre organizations including Cerebral Palsy Association of BC, CNIB, Theatre SKAM, and Impulse Theatre. In the coming year, Embrace is looking forward to deepening its relationships with community and theatre organizations to continue to bringing meaningful programming to participants, and forging a path for people of all abilities in the arts in Victoria.

- Zelda Coertze

## Note from the Executive Director

If there was one word that would most accurately sum up Embrace's 2019 experience, it's: **Connection.**

We felt a sense of greater connection with the community this year than ever before. In February, many braved the remnants of major snow storm to attend our annual Friendship Formal. This was only possible through the strong community care seen in actions like ride sharing, so that we could gather together. In summer, we had former Embrace participants travel from out of town to join us for our camps and reunite with their friends. And through experiences like the Peek Fest residency and our involvement with the InterdependDANCE collective this autumn, our professional stream finally feels more linked to the other local artists and organizations. I cannot wait to see where these connections will bring us in 2020.

- Tiffany Tjosvold

## Note from the Director of Music Programming

This year was filled with camps, classes, administration, trainings, shows, and more! Highlights included: offering six performing arts-based day camps, performing at the SKAMpede Festival, participating in a residency with Impulse Theatre's Peek Fest, being involved with Fringe Kids, and collaborating with numerous community partners to provide a variety of programs. We have seen a lot of program growth, especially in terms of kids camp enrollment and opportunities for community partnerships. In 2020, we are looking to build on this growth as we continue providing meaningful artistic opportunities to individuals of all ages and all abilities. I am excited for what the year will bring!

- Erin Koop

# Community

*This year we had the joy of being involved with hosting, facilitating, supporting, and collaborating on a wide variety of community events. Some of the free community social events we were involved with included:*

- Friendship Formal (*In Collaboration with CNIB*)
- Embrace Summer Magic
- Embrace Summer Magic Nanaimo
- The Annual Halloween Dance (*In Collaboration with CNIB*)
- Holiday Sing - Along (*In Collaboration with CNIB*)



## Fringe Kids

In August, Embrace was able to support at Intrepid's Fringe Kids event, by helping organize and facilitate a "Chill Zone" for people to relax in a low key, calmer sensory environment. We also had the privilege of running a modified Stories Unfold session at the event.

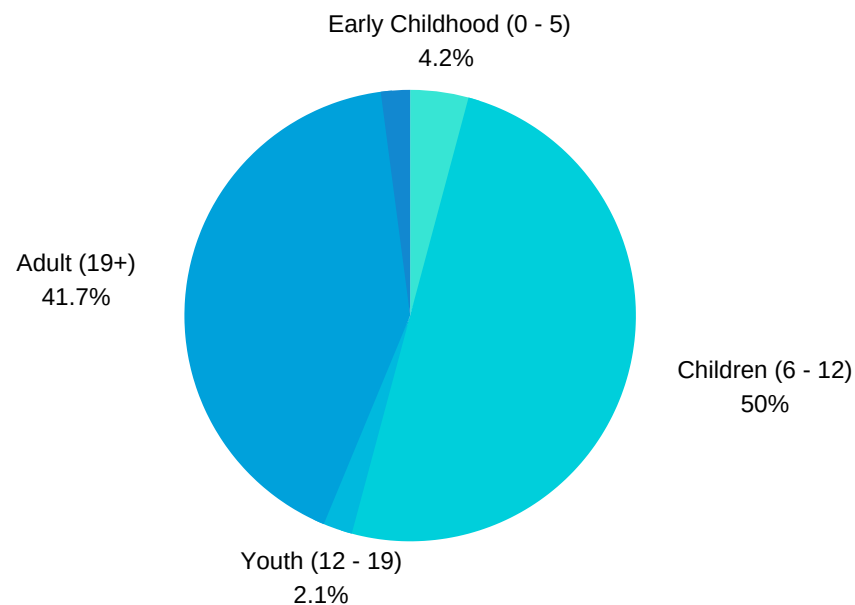
## InterdependDANCE Collective

This year several members of Embrace have been involved with the InterdependDANCE Collective. Embrace has provided financial support to cover some of the collective's access costs (ex. interpretation) There are many exciting things coming regarding our involvement with the collective in 2020.

## Volunteer Training & Intro to Adapted Dance Practices

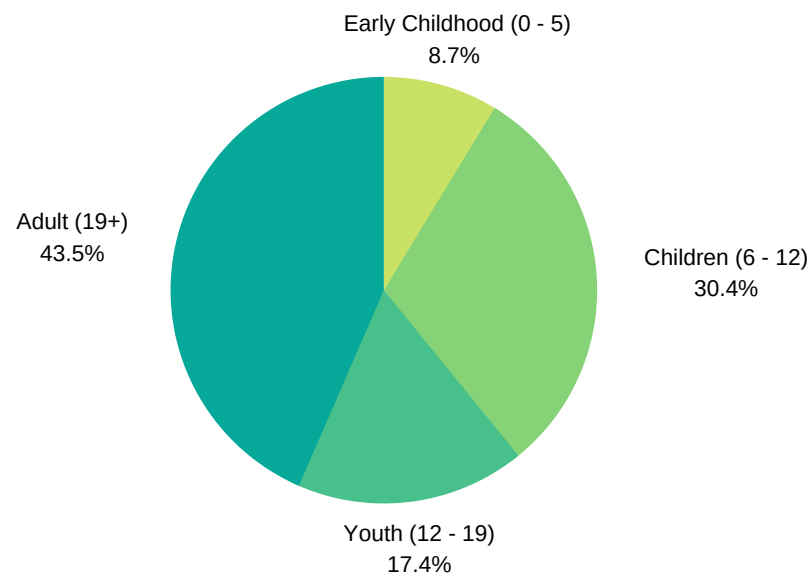
In November, Embrace ran our second, free, introduction to adapted dance practices training. This event was designed to provide information about the theories and principles that underpin our adapted programs.

# Program Demographics



Age of Embrace day camp participants

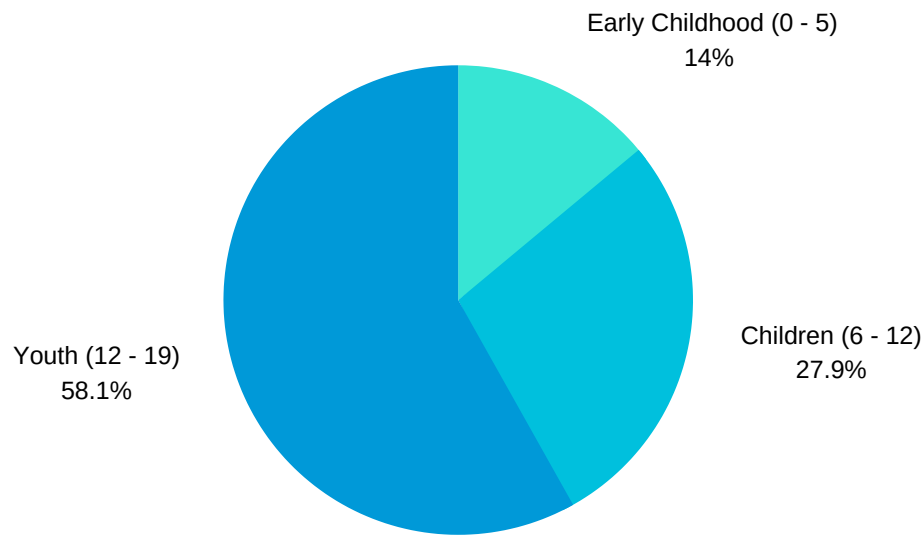
This graph shows the age of individual participants who attended camp with us in 2019. This graph is not representative of campers who attended more than one camp over the course of the year. The highest level of multiple attendance was with children, where we saw 50% of our campers attend more than one week!



Age of participants in classes run through partner organizations

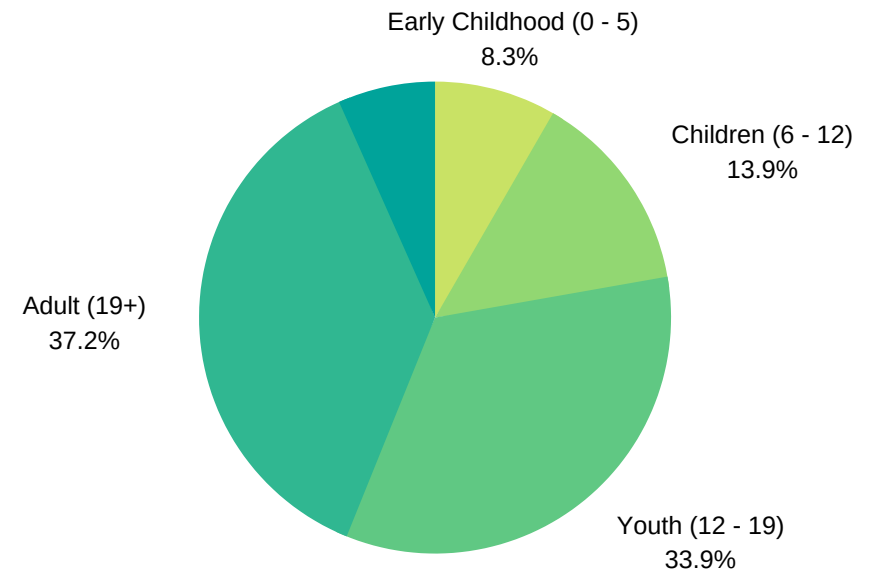
This graph shows the age of participants who attend dance classes which are run through other organization's. In these programs, Embrace staff facilitates and provides the volunteer support team, while these other organizations take on the funding and administration for the program. We are so grateful for these partnerships. Organizations included: Dance On It Studios, Cerebral Palsy Association of BC, and CNIB





### Age of Embrace participants attending contracted community programming

This graph shows the age of participants who were involved in Embrace's contracted programming. These are places where Embrace has been contracted in to provide sessions, like schools, community programs, and conferences.



### Age of participants across all of the "Embrace: Community" programs

This graph shows the age of participants across all of the Embrace: Community programs, including camps, classes, and community events\*

\*This graph does not include data from our involvement with Fringe Kids 2019

**In total we ran programming for more than 200 individuals of all physical and cognitive abilities, ranging in age from 4 - 74 during 2019.**

# Embrace: Performance

As a part of our commitment to creating meaningful artistic opportunities for individuals of all abilities, Embrace Arts Foundation houses a professional stream, *Embrace: Performance*. This professional stream focuses on developing new works collaboratively with teams comprised of artists self identifying with and without disabilities. *Embrace: Performance* strives to create innovative, interdisciplinary pieces that are rooted in the stories our artists have to tell.

This year, two new works were created by *Embrace: Performance*. We are grateful for the fantastic local companies: Theatre SKAM, and Impulse Theatre for having us involved in their programming this year.



## **Sylvia and The Cephalopod**

at Theatre SKAM's  
SKAMpede in July 2019

Featuring: Claire Bruce,  
Adam Irwin-Gunn,  
Tiffany Tjosvold

Accompaniment  
by: Erin Koop



## **S\_\_PACE**

at Impulse Theatre's  
Peek Fest in November  
2019

Created By: Luka Garivn,  
Erin Koop & Tiffany  
Tjosvold



# Partnerships & Support

## Primary Partners in 2019:

- Cerebral Palsy Association of BC
- CNIB
- Community Living Victoria
- Dance On It Studios
- InterdependDANCE Collective

## Funding Received in 2019:

- Canada Summer Jobs
- British Columbia Community Gaming Grant
- OneAbility: Small Projects Grant

