



Festival du Voyageur



# ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021

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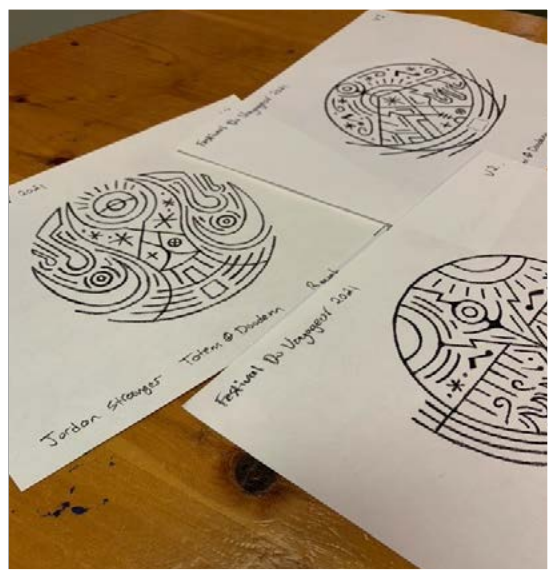
# LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Festival du Voyageur gathers by the Red River, on the ancestral land of the Cree, Oji-Cree, Ojibwe, Dene, and Dakota people, the Homeland of the Métis Nation, and Treaty 1 Territory.

In 2021, we are commemorating 150 years since the signing of Treaty 1. Festival du Voyageur recognizes that the stories we share about the fur trade and voyageurs are directly linked to the colonization of Canada. We are committed to sharing this narrative by providing an inclusive and honest account of our shared history.

As a signatory of the *Winnipeg Indigenous Accord*, we are committed to continuing our efforts towards reconciliation with Indigenous communities and support the *Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Calls to Action*, and the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)*.

Festival du Voyageur recognizes the importance of Indigenous culture and history in its programming and community initiatives.



FESTIVAL 2021 WORDMARK WAS CREATED BY INDIGENOUS ARTIST, JORDAN STRANGER. CLICK IMAGE TO VIEW LAUNCH VIDEO



PHOTO: CHRISTEL LANTHIER

# ABOUT US

*Festival du Voyageur inc. is a non-profit organization governed by elected community members. Known for bringing to life Western Canada's largest francophone event in the midst of winter, Festival du Voyageur inc. also owns and operates Fort Gibraltar, a re-constructed historic fur trade fort.*

## OUR MISSION

Promote *joie de vivre* and extend the reach of the French language and culture throughout the year through artistic, educational, historical and cultural experiences inspired by the voyageur era.

## OUR VISION

Promote discovery of the rich history of the voyageur era and the vitality of French language and culture in Manitoba.

## OUR VALUES

- Social Responsibility
- Heritage
- Innovation
- Inclusion
- Integrity

# BOARD PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MESSAGE OF RECOGNITION

*How to describe this past year? Although we have experienced trying times, we take pride in having held the first ever virtual Festival du Voyageur available for everyone to enjoy!*

### INNOVATION • PATIENCE • OPENNESS • TENACITY

Those are the words that come to mind when we reflect on the past year and on festivalgoers, sponsors, partners, board members, the team, and everyone who had a part to play in the success of Festival du Voyageur 2021.

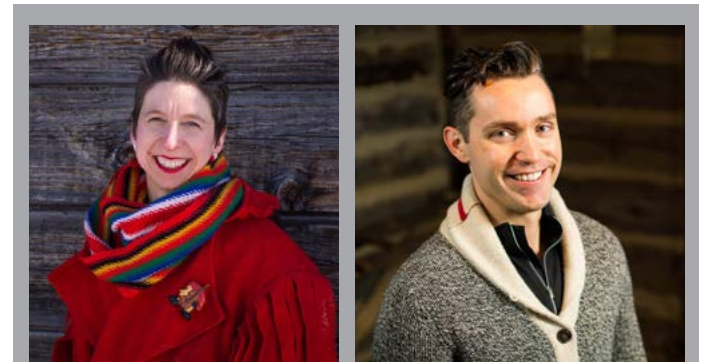
Festivalgoers were able to celebrate the *joie de vivre* in the safety of their homes by watching virtual concerts, supported by BellMTS and Caisse Financial Group, which were filled with impressive musical talent encouraging everyone to get up and dance with family members. With the series *Festival à la maison*, made possible by Safe at Home Manitoba, festivalgoers learned how to properly transform a block of snow into sculptures just like the professionals. They also learned how to incorporate maple syrup into recipes, make a roaring fire, improvise their very own voyageur games, and top it all off with a big kitchen party.

Over 7,000 students from Manitoba, Ontario, New Brunswick, Alberta and British Columbia participated virtually in the Canada Life School Program by creating Voyageur puppets, learning how to weave a sash, and making their own beaded patches.

Do you remember seeing the snow sculptures around the city? This year, we really aimed at putting smiles on Manitobans faces and boost morale by placing a large number of sculptures around the city. To encourage festivalgoers to take a break from sitting on their sofas and head outside, we also created snowfas in partnership with Downtown Biz.

Community support is without a doubt the key element that allowed for a virtual Festival to take place in 2021. We are grateful for all of our community partners and sponsors that continue to support this staple event.

As we plan ahead to 2022, we are hopeful that we will be able to meet on festival grounds to celebrate culture, art, music and stories that bring our community together.



NATALIE THIESEN  
BOARD PRESIDENT

DARREL NADEAU  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# TURENNE FAMILY OFFICIAL VOYAGEURS 2020-2021

As a proud Métis family, we know how to make the best of things! It was important for us to be creative and remain dedicated to our roles as Official Voyageurs which brings an essence of tradition to our community.

As ambassadors of the Festival, we take our roles seriously. We visited a few schools, held voyageurs games, built a festibar, watched the virtual concerts outside by a roaring fire, played bingo and took the time to relax on the snowfas! We even created our very own Instagram account to encourage festivalgoers to participate in the activities and share in the fun!

We would like to congratulate the team and thank everyone who took part in this year's virtual edition of Festival du Voyageur.

Looking forward to 2022, we will continue to bring our creativity, dedication and voyageur energy for you to enjoy!



Follow us! Instagram: [fdvoyageur.fo.2021.2022](https://www.instagram.com/fdvoyageur.fo.2021.2022)



GAB-RIEL, JULIE, ANNIKA, MARTIN, NATASHA TURENNE



# VIRTUAL PROGRAM AUDIENCE REACH

By offering a virtual edition of Festival du Voyageur for the first time, a wider audience was within reach. All of the concerts can still be viewed on our YouTube channel and shared with family and friends.

Stats: December 1, 2020 - February 28, 2021



BEHIND THE SCENES | RECORDING OF THE VIRTUAL CONCERTS

**118,578**

Website sessions

**66,728**

Unique homepage views

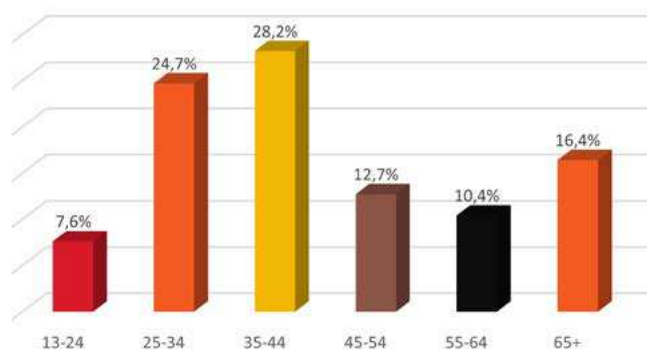
**320,832**

Social media audience

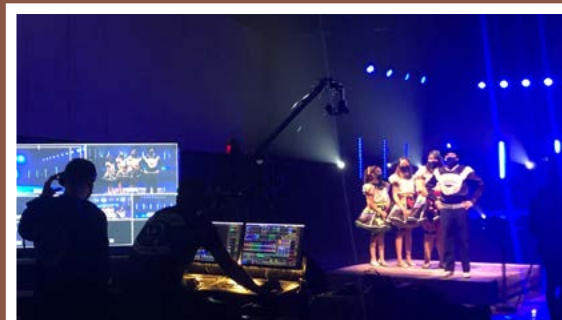
**117,200+**

Views on YouTube & Facebook

## VIEWER AGE



FESTIVAL CONTINUES TO APPEAL TO A WIDE RANGE AUDIENCE



BEHIND THE SCENES | RECORDING OF THE VIRTUAL CONCERTS

# SUPPORTING FRANCOPHONE ARTISTS



CLICK ON A PHOTO TO VIEW PERFORMANCE ON YOUTUBE



# COMMITMENT TO RECONCILIATION

*Festival du Voyageur promotes the celebration of Indigenous people and culture. We are focused on reconciliation and implementing Indigenous programming and educational activities throughout the year. Our programming for 2021 included Métis, First Nation and Inuit language representation, education, and art.*



## INDIGENOUS-FOCUSED INITIATIVES AND ACTIVITIES

- Partnered with Indigenous artist Jordan Stranger for the 2021 official wordmark
- Attended a traditional ceremony and teaching partnered with the Truth and Reconciliation Committee and the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs
- Attended a private water ceremony and residential school trauma teaching
- Developed a series of videos entitled Minut Michif
- Offered a series of workshops entitled Fayt à la min
- Added new Indigenous inspired crafts to the school program
- Focused on incorporating various Indigenous musical artists in our virtual programming with the support of FACTOR
- Featured the Bighetty Brothers Puppets who performed in English and Cree
- Added handcrafted items made by Indigenous artists to the Festival Boutique

## SUPPORTING INDIGENOUS ARTISTS



CLICK ON A PHOTO TO VIEW PERFORMANCE ON YOUTUBE





PHOTO: CRISTEL LANTHIER  
SCULPTOR: DAVID MACNAIR

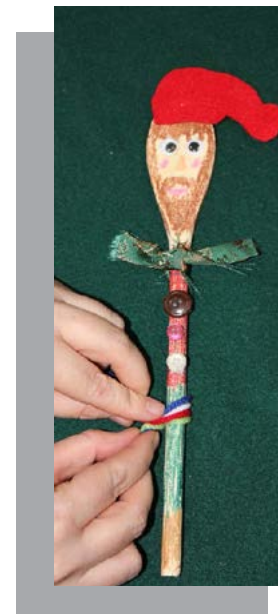
## CANADA LIFE SCHOOL PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

*A virtual edition of Festival du Voyageur's school program was offered for the first time. This allowed students to enjoy a variety of programming and activities which lifted their spirits and brought smiles to their face in the midst of a challenging year.*

canada *life*™

**4,700 TOTAL KITS WERE ASSEMBLED**

### VOYAGEUR PUPPETS: CREATE YOUR OWN FUR TRADE CHARACTER



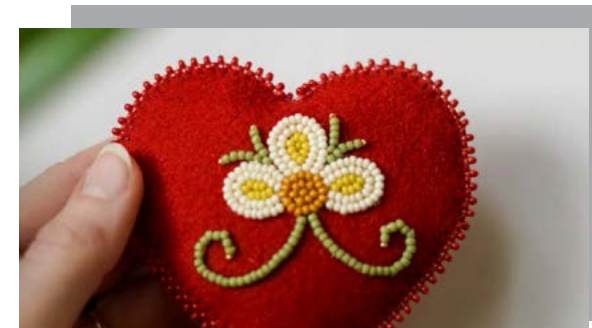
### WOVEN IN TIME: SASH-WEAVING



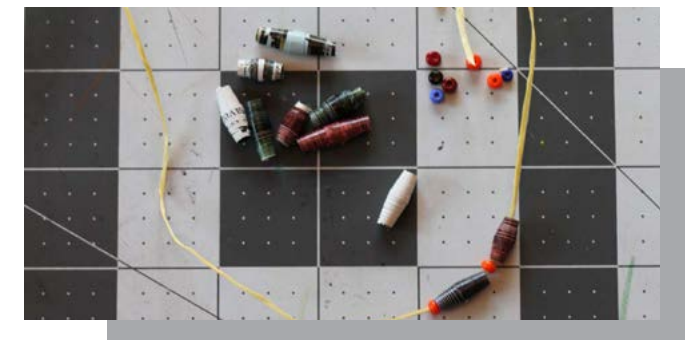
### BONHOMME GIGUEUR AND FRANCO-CANADIAN MUSIC



### MÉTIS BEADWORK: A MANITOBA TRADITION



### PAPER BEADS AND THE FUR TRADE



# CANADA LIFE SCHOOL PROGRAM PERFORMANCES



167 TOTAL PERFORMANCES



PHOTO: LA LIBERTÉ

**PULL UP A LOG UP TO THE FIREPLACE  
WITH TI'BERT LE VOYAGEUR**

- Grades: K-5
- Length: 25 minutes
- 20 (EN) / 11 (FR)

**STORIES AROUND THE FIREPLACE  
WITH ROB MALO**

(live)

- Grades: 5-12
- Length: 50 minutes
- 14 (EN) / 17 (FR)



PHOTO: SOPHIE MOQUIN

**THE BUSINESS OF  
FUR TRADE IN THE  
TRADING POST**

(live)

- Grades: 3-12
- Length: 40 minutes
- 25 performances (EN)
- 20 performances (FR)



**A VOYAGEUR'S LIFE  
IN THE  
WINTERER'S CABIN**

(live)

- Grades: 3-12
- Length: 40 minutes
- 18 performances (EN)
- 15 performances (FR)



PHOTO: JULES BRODEUR

**FORGED IN FURS  
IN THE  
BLACKSMITH SHOP**

(live)

- Grades: 3-12
- Length: 40 minutes
- 5 performances (EN)
- 2 performances (FR)



**MADAME DIVA &  
MICAH THE YOUNG  
VOYAGEUR**

(pre-recorded)

- Grades: K-12
- Length: 30 minutes
- 20 performances

# CANADA LIFE SCHOOL PROGRAM BEHIND THE SCENES





## CANADA LIFE SCHOOL PROGRAM FEEDBACK

*They loved it, they really loved it! A total of 81 schools from Manitoba, Ontario, New Brunswick, Alberta and British Columbia benefitted from 167 performances and 4,700 kits to entertain over 7,000 students this past February.*

“The actors did a fantastic job of keeping the kids engaged and entertained, and they learned lots!

“It was wonderful to see all the artifacts and we were really impressed with the energy and knowledge of the presenters.

“Ti'bert was an exceptional entertainer. The kids loved every minute of it!

“In this crazy time we are living, thank you to all at Festival for making it as normal and engaging as possible! Well done!

“The kids absolutely loved the sash weaving kits, and the instructional video was fantastic!

canada *life*

## ORDER OF THE CAPOTE & CONTESTS

*Thinking quickly on our jiggling feet, we wanted to continue the tradition of hosting the fiddling and jigging contests. With the support of Wawanesa Insurance and Power Corporation of Canada, we celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> edition of the contests and received a record number of 88 submissions!*



### FIDDLING CONTEST

**9 & under:** Tristan Paskvan  
**12 & under:** Max Francis  
**17 & under:** Kelton Tellier  
**60 & over:** Bill Smith  
**Intermediate:** Reid Warren  
**Open:** Jane Cory



### JIGGING CONTEST

**9 & under:** Savanna Anderson  
**14 & under:** Peyton Habinski  
**60 & over:** Ed Poitras  
**Open:** Jessica Lavallée



### ORDER OF THE CAPOTE

The 2021 Order of the Capote was presented to the late **Denise Lécuyer**. A heartwarming tribute honoring her dedication and love for her community was streamed virtually.

CLICK ON A PHOTO TO VIEW ON YOUTUBE

# 50 SNOW SCULPTURES

An impressive amount of snow sculptures were created this year which could be seen all over the city. In partnership with Conseil jeunesse provincial (CJP), we held the first P'tchi symposium encouraging young sculptors to further develop their skills. And thanks to Downtown Biz, festivalgoers could relax on snowfas!



PHOTOS: CRISTEL LANTHIER

**Fun fact...**  
In 2021, Festival du Voyageur produced its first ever snow sculpture map with the support of CN! Hé Ho!



PHOTOS: CRISTEL LANTHIER

# MINUT MICHIF

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH L'UNION NATIONALE MÉTISSE SAINT-JOSEPH DU MANITOBA  
& WITH THE SUPPORT OF CANADIAN HERITAGE

*A brand new series was created to learn about and celebrate Métis culture, art, tradition and food!*



**Mode métisse**  
Andréanne Dandeneau



**Comment faire de la galette**  
Paulette Duguay



**Au sujet du cuir et du cuir brut**  
Paul Desrosiers



**Ceinture fléchée**  
Miguel Vielfaure



**L'art visuel**  
Kyla Quiring



**Le partage des traditions**  
La famille Pambrun

CLICK ON A PHOTO TO VIEW ON YOUTUBE

# FESTIVAL À LA MAISON

PRESENTED BY UNIVERSITÉ DE SAINT-BONIFACE  
WITH THE SUPPORT OF SAFE AT HOME MANITOBA

*Festivalgoers were able to improvise from home and build their own snow sculptures, play voyageur games, bake with maple syrup and more!*



CLICK ON A PHOTO TO VIEW ON YOUTUBE

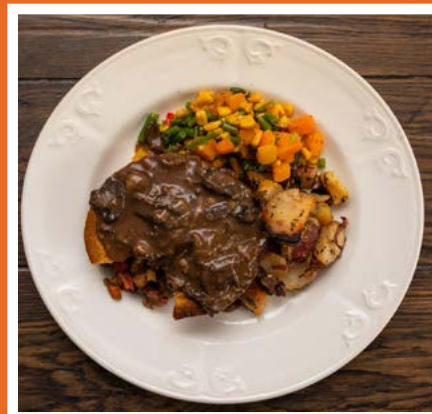
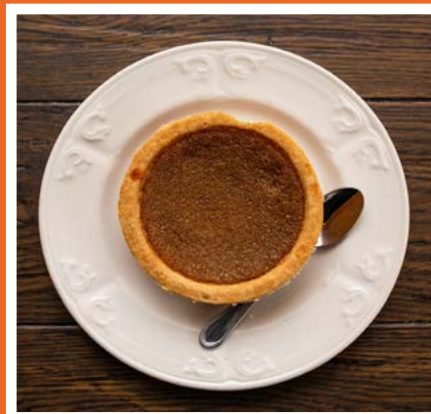
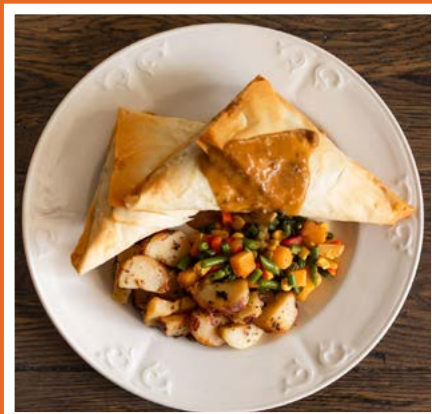
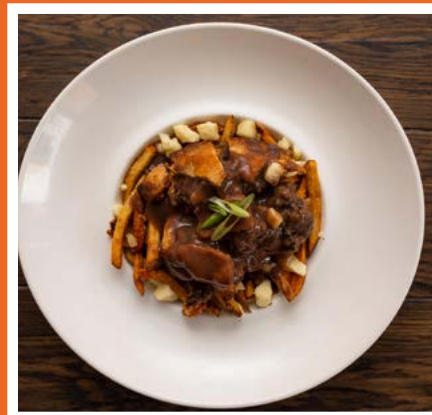
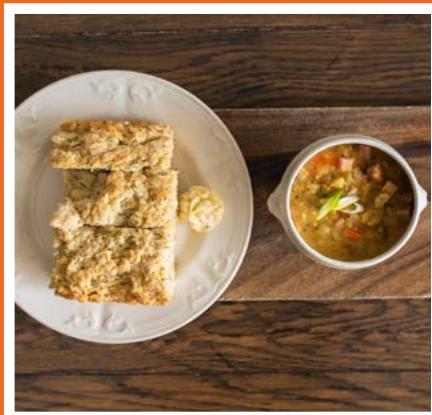
# TRADITIONAL FOOD & DRINKS

Are you a fan of traditional French Canadian food? Delicious food is a large part of Festival and we just couldn't let you down so we got creative. With the support of Roquette and the limitless talent of Promenade Café & Wine and Patent 5 Distillery, we brought take-home meals, pea soup, ice glasses and custom cocktails to the comfort of your homes. *Délicieux!*

**2,400  
MEAL KITS**

**500  
COCKTAIL KITS**

**1,050  
MEAL SIZED  
PEA SOUPS**



# SPONSORS & PARTNERS

*HÉ HO! Community sponsors and partners are a BIG reason why Festival du Voyageur was able to pivot and present such a unique experience to the community. We are grateful for their continued support of Western Canada's largest winter festival!*

## OFFICIAL PARTNERS



## OFFICIAL SPONSORS



## MEDIA SPONSORS



## FUNDERS



## FRIENDS OF FESTIVAL

Wawanesa Insurance

CN Rail

Éducatrices et éducateurs francophones du Manitoba

Qualico Communities

Roquette

Asper Foundation

Assurart



FEB 12-21 FÉV

HEHO.CA

A sincere **MERCI** and **HÉHO** from the team at **Festival du Voyageur!**

Relive our 2021 virtual programming by clicking on the image above!



**Festival du Voyageur**

## 2021 FESTIVAL LEADERSHIP

**Darrel Nadeau**, Executive Director  
**Julien Desaulniers**, Artistic Director  
**Ainza Bellefeuille**, Operations Director  
**Colin Mackie**, Director of Heritage and Education Programs  
**Monique Olivier**, Heritage and Education Programs Manager  
**Robyn Adams**, Indigenous Relations and Artistic Coordinator  
**Fatimaty Gueye**, Director of Finance  
**Marjorie Grainville**, Finance Assistant  
**Lor Brand**, Marketing & Communications Coordinator  
**Luc Guenette**, Operations Coordinator  
**Lynette Buchanan**, Administrative Assistant

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Natalie Thiesen**, President  
**Eric Plamondon**, Vice President  
**Lynne Connelly**, Past President  
**Marc Normandeau**, Treasurer  
**Rebecca Blaikie**, Secretary  
**Gabrielle Lisi**, Director  
**Marc Fabas**, Director  
**Dr. Yannick Fréchette**, Director  
**Beydi Traore**, Director  
**Sylvain Bourgeois**, Director  
**Fred Presber**, Director



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BDO Canada LLP  
201 Portage Avenue - 26<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Winnipeg MB R3B 3K6 Canada

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## Report of the Independent Auditor on the Summary Financial Statements

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To the members of Festival du Voyageur Inc.

### Opinion

The summary financial statements, which comprise the summary statement of financial position as at April 30, 2021 and the summary statement of operations and summary schedule of revenue and expenses for Winter Festival for the year then ended, and related note, are derived from the audited financial statements of Festival du Voyageur Inc. (the Corporation) for the year ended April 30, 2021.

In our opinion, the accompanying summary financial statements are a fair summary of the audited financial statements, on the basis described in the note.

### Summary Financial Statements

The summary financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations. Reading the summary financial statements and the auditor's report thereon, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the Corporation's audited financial statements and the auditor's report thereon.

### The Audited Financial Statements and Our Report Thereon

We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on the audited financial statements in our report dated September 15, 2021.

### Management's Responsibility for the Summary Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation of the summary financial statements on the basis described in the note.

### Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on whether the summary financial statements are a fair summary of the audited financial statements based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with Canadian Auditing Standards (CAS) 810, *Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements*.

*BDO Canada LLP*

Chartered Professional Accountants

Winnipeg, Manitoba  
September 15, 2021

**FESTIVAL DU VOYAGEUR INC.**  
**Summary Statement of Financial Position**

<b>As at April 30</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	\$	\$
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash and bank	230,791	-
Accounts, subsidies and grants receivable	137,395	129,613
Prepaid expenses	26,462	44,918
Inventory	45,931	51,881
	<u>440,579</u>	<u>226,412</u>
<b>Restricted investments</b>	<b>317,433</b>	<b>311,200</b>
<b>Capital assets</b>	<b>661,365</b>	<b>787,356</b>
	<u>1,419,377</u>	<u>1,324,968</u>
<b>Liabilities and Net Assets</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Bank indebtedness	-	79,044
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	149,691	98,801
Government remittances payable	1,578	30,458
Obligation under capital lease	5,727	5,454
Unearned revenue	52,500	61,000
	<u>209,496</u>	<u>274,757</u>
<b>Obligation under capital lease</b>	<b>35,864</b>	<b>41,591</b>
<b>Canadian emergency business account loan</b>	<b>40,000</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Deferred contributions related to capital assets</b>	<b>450,951</b>	<b>518,551</b>
	<u>736,311</u>	<u>834,899</u>
<b>Net Assets</b>		
Unrestricted	196,832	(42,891)
Internally restricted		
Invested in capital assets	168,801	221,760
Capital asset replacement	317,433	311,200
	<u>683,066</u>	<u>490,069</u>
	<u>1,419,377</u>	<u>1,324,968</u>

Approved on behalf of the Board of Directors:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Natalie Thiesen, President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Marc Normandeau, Treasurer

The accompanying note is an integral part of these summary financial statements.

**FESTIVAL DU VOYAGEUR INC.**  
**Summary Statement of Operations**

<b>For the year ended April 30</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	\$	\$
<b>Revenue</b>		
Operating grants		
Province of Manitoba		
Arts Branch	324,600	324,600
Economic development	7,715	-
Green Team	34,192	-
Government of Canada		
Canada's National Trust	-	7,902
Perspective Métisse	61,000	33,750
Service Canada	-	21,900
City of Winnipeg		
Winnipeg Arts Council	90,000	90,000
	<u>517,507</u>	478,152
Fête d'hiver (see schedule)	698,451	2,277,088
Centre Fort Gibraltar	68,220	120,651
Interest and other	13,252	25,695
Contributions related to capital assets	67,600	51,799
Other productions	6,687	34,597
	<u>1,371,717</u>	<u>2,987,982</u>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Winter Festival (see schedule)	579,124	1,803,509
Salaries and benefits	439,134	493,491
Fort Gibraltar	247,979	231,173
Amortization	127,893	102,978
Insurance	47,046	56,218
Training, meetings and receptions	18,228	19,375
Professional fees	52,264	51,392
Property taxes	28,845	28,642
Other productions	5,420	21,845
Bank charges and interest	7,368	33,705
Photocopies, office supplies and other	15,741	21,262
Telecommunications	10,685	13,539
Utilities	14,720	12,637
Supplies and service contracts	12,155	13,265
Promotion and marketing	2,267	2,318
Bad debts	-	3,400
	<u>1,608,869</u>	<u>2,908,749</u>
<b>Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses before other item</b>	<b>(237,152)</b>	<b>79,233</b>
<b>Other Item</b>		
Covid-19 Subsidies	430,149	49,188
<b>Excess of revenue over expenses for the year</b>	<b>192,997</b>	<b>128,421</b>

The accompanying note is an integral part of these summary financial statements.



**FESTIVAL DU VOYAGEUR INC.**  
**Summary Schedule of Revenue and Expenses for Winter Festival**

For the year ended April 30, 2021

	2021			2020		
	Revenue	Expenses	Contribution	Revenue	Expenses	Contribution
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Province of Manitoba						
Manitoba Advanced Education and Training and Employment Training Services	-	-	-	100,000	-	100,000
Bureau de l'éducation française	67,000	-	67,000	67,000	-	67,000
Project Racines fières	30,000	-	-	-	-	-
Government of Canada						
Canadian Heritage	159,325	-	119,494	159,325	-	159,325
JCT	65,414	-	-	-	-	-
City of Winnipeg	-	-	-	74,500	-	74,500
Province of Québec	-	-	-	10,000	-	10,000
	<b>321,739</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>321,739</b>	<b>410,825</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>410,825</b>
Admissions	-	-	-	693,835	9,114	684,721
Sponsorships	133,925	5,400	128,525	294,700	9,823	284,877
Souvenirs	76,117	43,932	32,185	81,982	48,695	33,287
Hosting	-	-	-	31,321	46,170	(14,849)
Volunteer training	-	1,388	(1,388)	-	16,440	(16,440)
School program	45,914	101,114	(55,200)	154,764	159,825	(5,061)
CCFM Trading Post	37,911	101,456	(63,545)	51,159	74,358	(23,199)
River Trail	-	-	-	-	8,647	(8,647)
Sculptures program	81,381	72,669	8,712	6,650	44,076	(37,426)
Marketing	-	102,098	(102,098)	10,179	152,106	(152,106)
Voyageur Park	1,464	151,067	(149,603)	541,673	1,234,255	(692,582)
	<b>698,451</b>	<b>579,124</b>	<b>119,327</b>	<b>2,277,088</b>	<b>1,803,509</b>	<b>473,579</b>

**Note on Basis of Presentation**

The summary financial statements presented includes only the summary statement of financial position, the summary statement of operations and the summary schedule of revenue and expenses for Winter Festival, and does not include the statement of changes in net assets, statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements. The summary statement of financial position, summary statement of operations, and the summary schedule of revenue and expenses for Winter Festival are reproduced in as much details as the audited financial statements. A copy of the audited financial statements is available at the office of Festival du Voyageur Inc.