



Urban  
ACADEMY



**URBAN ACADEMY ANNUAL REPORT 2018 - 2019**

*The Big Move*



## Head of School's Report

It was a milestone year for Urban Academy with our move into a wonderful new facility in March, unprecedented growth in our enrollment and school community and the development of our programming for students. As the school has developed, we have had to adjust our work in Admissions to accommodate the interest in the school. Interested families were invited to Parent Information Evenings and larger-scale assessments helped us to determine our new classes for the upcoming school year. We worked closely with our design and construction team to complete our lovely new school and to push forward on completion of the 3rd and 4th floors, ahead of schedule. The school community and student activities also flourished, with another remarkable Gala, outdoor education opportunities for students and maturing Performing Arts and Athletics programs.

I would like to acknowledge and thank our Board of Directors for their steadfast leadership in governing our school. They are firmly focused on providing a bright future for Urban Academy and a sustainable school for decades to come. I would like to thank Abi Shu for stepping up as Board Chair this year and providing an excellent transition on to the Board for new members and the changing work of the school.

A school is only ever as good as the quality of its instructors and Urban Academy is most fortunate

to have a very professional teaching force, whose central work is the success of their students. We will continue to grow our staff as we grow our enrollment and programming that our teachers are undertaking at every level and is demonstrated in the students' achievement.

Thank you to our community for your support and encouragement. This year was one filled with purpose and accomplishment and your dedication to your children and our school is most deeply appreciated.



*Mrs. Cheryle Beaumont*  
**HEAD OF SCHOOL**



## Chair's Report

The Board of Directors of Urban Academy are a dedicated and hard-working group who are focused on the responsible stewardship of the school. The 2018-19 school year was a milestone year for us, as we guided the development of our new school. It was with great pride we opened the doors to our families on March 4, 2019 and took possession of our lovely new building. We continued to work away at completing the interior, the exterior and our contributions to the development of the site. The Board made the decision to move forward with completing the 3rd and 4th floors and was able to do so with a solid financial plan in place as you will note from our Treasurer's report.

The Board is vigilant in their oversight of a strong succession plan that will carry the Board forward, year after year. This year we welcomed both Heather Hall and Kimberly Grant to the Board to serve as Members-at-Large. We saw our colleague, Mike Vint, step down and we thank him for his service to our community. The Board would like to thank and acknowledge Jennifer Thompson, who served for 5 years on our Board and in 2017-18 as our Chair. Thank you, Jennifer, for your generous service to our school.



The Board's Strategic Plan guides our work in concert with our Head of School, Mrs. Cheryle Beaumont. Together, we work through the priorities that have been set for the development of the school. This year, in addition to our new facility, we matured our Risk Management Program to suit our changing assets, completed a full policy review and revision, took our Advancement Program to a new level and met our goals for enrollment and growth.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to acknowledge and thank our wonderful staff for the skill and care that they bring to their work with our students. We are most fortunate to lead an organization that has such a high degree of professionalism and energy, focused on working with the school community to create such a vibrant Urban Academy. Never was this more evident than during the move to our new facility. A tremendous amount of work went into the physical move and an equal amount of work into introducing the students into their new school and the building of relationships between the junior and senior schools.

The Board of Directors would also like to recognize the leadership of our Head of School, Mrs. Cheryle Beaumont. Through her expertise, dedication and perseverance, she cultivated and led the teams who brought our new facility to fruition and who are now building and teaching the engaging and innovative programming for our students.

*Dr. Abigail Shu*  
**CHAIR, BOARD OF DIRECTORS**



## Student Achievement Report

Urban Academy students are focused on achieving to their potential in all areas of the curriculum, academically as well as in co-curricular and extra-curricular opportunities. The fifth graduating class of UA was celebrated this year, with all of them again moving on to the post-secondary institutions of their choice. Our students wrote the new Literacy and Numeracy assessments provided by the Ministry of Education and their results were excellent. Staff have continued to refine the internal assessment programs we use in Numeracy, Writing and Reading to ensure that our instruction is meeting student needs as well as challenging their critical and creative thinking.

The activities provided for students on the co-curricular and extra-curricular front expanded as well. Middle years students enjoyed dragon-boating, rock-climbing and kayaking. Skiing and snow-shoeing at our local mountains are always popular for students. Middle and senior students enjoyed the opportunity to attend and learn at Bamfield Marine Research station on Vancouver Island. The UA Show Choir learned that they have been invited to perform at Disneyland next spring, workshopping and learning with professional performers. Our athletic program expanded badminton, ultimate frisbee, soccer, volleyball and track, competing against other ISABC schools. We have enjoyed seeing Urban Academy students take part, and excel in all varieties of curricular and co-curricular activities this past year.

*Mrs. Cheryle Beaumont*

**HEAD OF SCHOOL**

## Treasurer's Report

The 2018-19 school year was a momentous one for the school on every front, including our work in the area of school finance. Urban Academy has undertaken an ambitious plan to grow the school, increase enrollment, build a new facility and ensure a sustainable future for the school going forward and our year end financial standing indicates progress on all fronts. The school completed the year with a surplus of \$1,232,144, a positive in a year of such expenditure focused on achieving the occupancy of our new building. Capital spending was certainly a main area of focus with the construction of the main project, completion of the 3rd and 4th floors ahead of schedule and fitting out new classrooms for our students.

Revenue was up over budget due to increased enrollment and actual registration exceeding the targets set for this year. Out-of-School Care revenues also far exceeded budget as that program continues to grow and provide a much-needed support for families requiring care for younger students. The overall size and depth of the school in staffing, programming, curricular and co-curricular opportunities for students is steadily growing and

developing. The Board is committed to guiding a maturing school while maintaining careful stewardship of resources and overseeing growth that is proportionate to our ability to manage it. The growth of our Advancement Program is of note, with a most successful Gala and Annual Appeal. Our school receives tuition and a government grant however, annual giving is critical to the overall financial health of the school and our families are generous in their support.

As Treasurer, I would like to extend my thanks to the Finance Committee, which it is my pleasure to chair. They review financial statements, provide guidance to the Board on the annual budget, fee schedules and consider the financial inputs that govern school finance. My thanks also to our Head of School, Mrs. Cheryle Beaumont and our Finance Manager, Mr. Peter Thrower for their work with myself and the Committee.

*Mr. Rory Langran*  
**FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIR**





## Facilities Report

The 2018-19 school year will be remembered as the year our staff and school community excitedly pulled together to move into our brand-new school, bringing both the Robson and the Uptown campus students and families together. The project has been a complex one, with many components of planning necessary for a purpose-built, modern school to be developed for our students and our future. We worked closely with WesGroup Properties, the developer who partnered with us on the site. The design team at Grant Architecture Studio has been an outstanding resource and team leader in ensuring that the needs of a growing private school were met in design, construction and contract management. DGS is an experienced general contractor in school construction and their years of experience stood everyone in good stead as the team pulled off a herculean effort to ensure we moved in on time and in turn, provided the old Robson Manor to PALS Autism Society, its new owner.

Before we completed the first part of the project, we embarked on phase two finishing the 3rd and 4th floors for occupancy in September 2019. Over the last few months of the school year the students have enjoyed their new gymnasium, the Early Childhood facilities, the technology and classroom space as well as the decks for playing and enjoying the outdoors. A gift from the Board to the Head of School was the naming of the new theatre, "The Cheryle Beaumont Theatre", an expression of thanks for the leadership on the new school. This is an acknowledgement and tribute that the Head of School most deeply values. It was a watershed year for us, one that the whole community supported and patiently waited for and now our students are benefitting from an exemplary facility for learning.

*Mrs. Cheryle Beaumont*  
**HEAD OF SCHOOL**

## Governance Committee Report

The role of the Governance Committee is to monitor the Board governance structures and practices including bylaws, policy, procedures and risk management. Along with annual review of the bylaws, policy and risk, the committee's activities are guided by the Governance Key Activities as outlined in the current Strategic Plan. This past year, the Governance Committee has focused on Risk Management as well as policies that support the school's transition to our new facility and the growth of the student body.

*Dr. Abigail Shu*  
**GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE CHAIR**



## Board Development Report

The Board Development Committee is responsible for actively pursuing succession planning while ensuring continual education and support for all Board members, thereby maintaining a highly effective and strategic Board of Directors.

This past year the Board Development Committee continued the annual tradition of conducting a Community Leadership Evening to which the community is invited to learn about leadership opportunities at Urban Academy. The event provides a direct connection between those interested in Board or Committee work to meet personally with the Board of Directors, the Volunteer Coordinator and Chairs of the PAX, Finance and Gala Committees. We had a total of 16 guests attend this year's informative evening, of which 9 expressed interest in exploring leadership roles with various committees. The Board Development Committee was able to directly connect all 9 of those interested parties with committee chairs for volunteer opportunities suiting their interests.

The Board Development Committee also supports the future strategic growth and development of the school for years to come by having a continuous eye to Board succession and recruitment to fit the needs and skills of the Board at any given time. One of the pieces of work in this regard is the annual review through surveys and analysis of the "Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities" of the existing Board and what strengths might require more attention. The review process for this work was revamped this past year by the Board Development Committee to provide a stronger tool for more meaningful assessment of the Board, and thus better assist the committee in future recruitment necessary for strengthening the Board.

*Mrs. Deborah McKenzie*  
**BOARD DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE CHAIR**





## Advancement Report

Urban Academy's Advancement program continues to flourish with strong community support for our major fundraising and friend-raising initiatives. The Gala, a much-loved UA tradition, raised \$85,000 this past year to furnish classrooms in our new school. The Annual Appeal, also focused on moving into our new home, raised over \$100,000! The school community donors are outlined as part of this report and we are most grateful for the support for students. The school has three components of financial support; the government grant that we qualify for as an independent school, the tuition that families pay and donations through our Advancement Program, of which our Gala Committee is an important part. Our PAX also raises funds to support classroom and student activities as well as providing wonderful opportunities for our school community to come together and enjoy each others' company. On behalf of the Board of Directors, our staff and our students, thank you to our generous donors and to the leaders in our school community who plan the activities designed to advance Urban Academy.

*The levels of giving and acknowledgement are outlined below:*

<b>Community Leaders</b>	.....	<b>\$10,000+</b>
<b>Community Innovators</b>	.....	<b>\$5,000-9,999</b>
<b>Community Builders</b>	.....	<b>\$2,000-4,999</b>
<b>Community Creators</b>	.....	<b>\$1,000-1,999</b>
<b>Community Stewards</b>	.....	<b>\$300-999</b>
<b>Community Supporters</b>	.....	<b>\$250</b>

## Thank you to our Community

### *Community Leaders:* **\$10,000 +**

Thompson/Wipp Family  
Watson Family

### *Community Innovators:* **\$5,000-\$9,999**

McKenzie Family  
Shu Family  
Anonymous

### *Community Builders:* **\$2,000-\$4,999**

Aitken/Hall Family  
Bains Family  
Bobeldijk Family  
Chen/Pan Family  
Dhillon Family  
Fletcher Family  
Langran/Smith Family  
Lewin Family  
Liang/Xiao Family  
Marsolais Family  
Rhattigan/Parr Family  
Ward Family  
Wu/Zhang Family  
Zhao/Xiao Family  
Anonymous

### *Community Creators:* **\$1,000-\$1,999**

Beaumont Family  
Bekar Family  
Carson Family  
Che/Liu Family  
Cheang/Huang Family  
Choi/Row Family  
Dernisky Family  
Dhanji Family

### *Community Creators* *Continued:*

Gaday Family  
Gadey/Gill Family  
Hassanali Family  
Hong/Marchand Family  
Jaramillo/Li Family  
Kofmansky/Nechaeva Family  
Ly/Sit Family  
Mangat/Lehal Family  
McCartney/Grant Family  
Merali Family  
Parmar Family  
Punjani/Khanmohamed Family  
Purewal Family  
Rithaler/Cepeliauskas Family  
Schmidt Family  
Tatla Family  
Whitton/Broomfield Family  
Yang/Liang Family  
Anonymous  
Anonymous  
Anonymous  
Anonymous  
Anonymous  
Anonymous  
Anonymous

### *Community Stewards:* **\$300-\$999**

Adams Family  
Agellon Family  
Amirali Family  
Athwal Family  
Baker Family  
Datu Family  
Dhurai/Bambra Family  
Dimitrov/Ilieva Family  
Elford Family  
Emelyanov Family  
Fallowfield/Heywood Family  
Gadey Family  
Gretton/Nowson Family  
Hayre Family  
Huang/Jang Family  
Jang/Yun Family  
Janmohamed/Merali Family  
Jhutee Family  
Kazakova Family

### *Community Stewards:* *Continued:*

Gretton/Nowson Family  
Hayre Family  
Huang/Jang Family  
Huang/Wu Family  
Jang/Yun Family  
Janmohamed/Merali Family  
Jhutee Family  
Kennedy Family  
Kirk Family  
Liu/Chen Family  
Liu/Tang Family  
Madani/Rehlan Family  
Nomura Family  
Ou/Xian Family  
Parmar Family  
Pourmohseni/Valadkhani Family  
Satish/Balakrishnan Family  
Seo Family  
Shayan Family  
Shipper/Furuhashi Family  
Tellez/Gallardo Family  
Uppal Family  
Walsh/Jomori Family  
Wang/Yu Family  
Wardley Family  
Anonymous  
Anonymous

### *Community Supporters:* **\$250**

Isfeld Family  
Kington Family  
McNamara Family  
Nutter/Willems Family

## Gala Sponsors

*Thank you to the following companies and friends of Urban Academy who sponsored our 2019 'Hat's Off Gala'! We couldn't have done it without you!*



New Westminster BC | T. 604.524.2211 F. 604.524.2711

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