

## Curating the Village: Open Sessions Program

A two-day gathering exploring care, community, labour, and creative practice as lived and material conditions shaping cultural work today. Bringing together artists, curators, caregivers, and cultural workers, the program considers caregiving in its many forms — including parenting, elder care, artistic collaboration, mutual aid, and community support — through workshops, performances, conversations, and shared food. Free on-site childcare will be available during Saturday’s daytime sessions at Critical Distance Centre for Curators, with hybrid access available for select afternoon sessions.

### Friday, June 26 — Evening Sessions

Theatre Direct | 6:15 – 8:15 PM

6:15 – 7:15 PM

**Session 1: Indu Vashist**

#### ***Take Care of Yourself: Somatic Movement for Artists and Cultural Workers***

A guided movement session inviting participants to connect body, mind, and land through mindful practice. The session explores proprioception (the body’s sense of movement and position), interoception (awareness of internal sensations), exteroception (sensitivity to external stimuli), and nociception (the perception of pain) as pathways toward integration, presence, and care. Registration required.

*Theatre Direct Studio — Studio H, 1 Wiltshire Ave*

---

7:30 – 8:00 PM

**Session 2: Mark Reinhart**

***1, 2, 3 (are you ready)***

A performance-in-process combining movement, sound, stillness, and storytelling as a reflection on—and an archive of—caring for a mother through illness and death.

*Theatre Direct Studio — Studio H, 1 Wiltshire Ave*

## **Saturday, June 27 — Day Sessions**

**Critical Distance Centre for Curators | 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM**

*Hybrid access available for afternoon sessions (12:15–4:30 PM). Registration required.*

**10:00 – 10:30 AM**

**Arrival + Coffee / Tea / Light Snacks**

**On the Walls + Throughout the Space**

Michelle Wilson

44.4 Mother/Artist Collective

Shira Leuchter

Renée Anne Bouffard-McManus

Maryna Salagub

Amanda White & Zoë Heyn-Jones (Creative Food Research Collaboratory)

Critical Distance Centre for Curators — publications + reading materials

---

**10:30 AM – 11:45 AM**

**Session 3: Concurrent Workshops**

**Janet Hinkle**

***Their Own Words***

A participatory visual art workshop and installation inviting community members of all ages and skill levels to connect, play, and create alongside caregivers, care partners, and those we care for. Participants share experiences in a relaxed environment while exploring themes related to caregiving through collective making and conversation.

**Ebru Winegard**

***Weaving Connections: A Creative Pause for Caregivers***

A hands-on weaving session inviting caregivers to slow down, connect, and create using upcycled and everyday materials. Participants explore simple techniques while transforming fabric scraps and found objects into handmade pieces. The workshop emphasizes relaxation, creativity, and community, offering a supportive space for sharing stories and experiences. No prior experience is needed.

---

**11:45 AM – 12:15 PM**

**Lunch by Rafah's Kitchen**

## **Afternoon Offerings (Rolling Sessions)**

**12:15 – 12:45 PM**

**Session 4: Jeneen Frei Njootli**

### ***Open Letter***

A collaborative workshop advocating for artists who are also parents.

---

**12:50 – 1:10 PM**

**Session 5: Una Janićijević**

### ***The Art Audit: Children's Voices in the Art World***

A research-based project that centers the voices of children and artist-caregivers in evaluating public art spaces, recording their impressions—joys, frustrations, and questions. Rather than asking for permission to be included, The Art Audit reclaims space and authorship for families within the art world. Originated by Lara Bozabalian and Una Janicijevic (Milk Teeth Collective), with support from Balancing Act Canada and MOTHRA: Artist-Parent Project.

---

**1:15 – 1:35 PM**

**Session 6: Ragamalika Mohanraj**

### ***With You, In Rhythm***

A reflection on sustaining artistic practice alongside caregiving, drawing on the structure of Bharatanatyam and the fluid storytelling of Odissi. The work considers how practice can be reimagined through rhythm, imitation, and everyday interaction, inviting children into the process rather than waiting for uninterrupted time. The presentation includes a short Bharatanatyam performance.

---

**1:40 – 2:00 PM**

**Session 7: Tender Again**

### ***Community Care***

Tender Again is a mutual-aid, abolitionist, decolonial care initiative providing monthly drop-in bodywork, food, and community support for neighbors facing barriers to healthcare — prioritizing unhoused people, frontline workers, low-income, Indigenous, Black, trans, and migrant community members.

---

**2:05 – 2:25 PM**

**Session 8: Amanda White & Zoë Heyn-Jones (Creative Food Research Collaboratory)**

***Intergenerational Explorations of Cabbage as Material & Metaphor***

A collaborative project exploring food, care, and artistic research through the lens of the cabbage. Drawing on a recent residency with their children, the work considers themes of maternity, working-class foodways, settler culinary traditions, and intergenerational collaboration. The session shares elements of this research through an interactive performance-lecture, including a collective food-based gesture.

---

**2:30 – 2:50 PM**

**Session 9: Margaret Evans (Balancing Act Canada)**

***Care in Practice***

Highlights and learnings from Balancing Act Canada's Level UP! initiative, which empowers arts employers and organizations to integrate caregiver support into their programs—through projects such as residencies with parent/caregiver support, flexible working models, childcare subsidies, and intergenerational programming.

---

**2:55 – 3:15 PM**

**Session 10: Heather Frise**

***I Just Want to Wake Up***

A short film combining night-time conversations and drawings, capturing the pressures of pandemic life while caring for both a young child and a mother living with Alzheimer's. Frise reflects on the in-between space of the "sandwich generation," where care, fatigue, and time continuously overlap.

---

**3:15 – 3:30 PM**

Rest + Snacks

---

**3:30 – 4:30 PM**

**Session 11: Yanaminah Thullah, Regatu Asefa, Sandra Dusabe, Delilah Edouard Williams**

***Cura — Caretaking in Curation***

Grounded in the etymological root of the word curate—cura, meaning "to care"—this session brings together four curators. Informed by their lived experiences, they discuss the curatorial

models they've developed to integrate care into their creative practices. Drawing on their respective exhibitions and programming, they highlight approaches that center community engagement and storytelling.

---

**4:30 – 4:55 PM**

Rest + Snacks

---

**5:00 – 6:00 PM**

**Session 12: Sasha Singer-Wilson**

***Give and Care***

An open-format LongTable discussion (conceived by Lois Weaver) exploring caregiving as both lived experience and structural condition. Drawing on strands of feminist thought and lived practice, the conversation invites participants to reflect on how care shapes relationships to time, labour, responsibility, and artistic process. Moving between personal reflection and collective dialogue, the LongTable creates space for shared thinking around care, social expectation, and the conditions that sustain or constrain how we live and work together.