



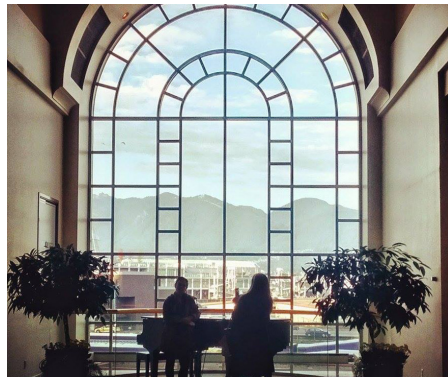
# BEATS

NEWCOMER YOUTH VOICE + PERSPECTIVE

Spring 2015 **ISSUE 5**

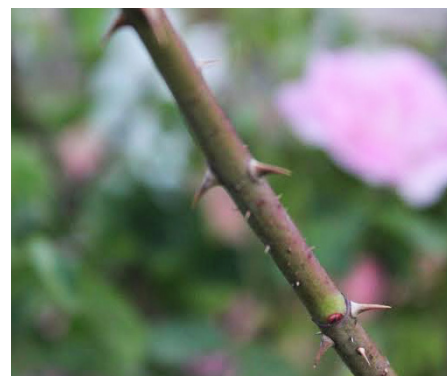
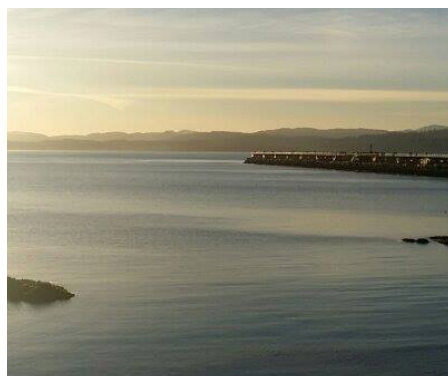
PHOTOGRAPHY, ARTS & ILLUSTRATIONS

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BEATS RECOGNIZES UNCEDED COAST SALISH LAND  
FUNDERS AND SUPPORTERS OF THE PUBLICAITON





# EDITOR'S **NOTE**

Jennifer Sarkar

Welcome to our special issue of BEATS on arts, photography and illustrations. BEATS team has been fortunate to receive continues support of the community and the youth.

A small team of three immigrant and refugee youth put together this amazing collection of art work done by newcomer youth in our community just over two months. This issue showcases the talent which exists within our immigrant and refugee youth community. This is a special issue for BEATS team because this is the first time we opened up a space of expression via arts, photograhly and illustrations.

We hope you enjoy the beautiful collection of work in this issue and the pieces inspire other newcomers in the community so they can speak up through various forms of creative expressions.

BEATS magazine issue 5 will not have been possible without the funding opporutnity by from SPEAK UP! grant 2015 (CCR: Canadian Council Refugees), YPC (Youth Philanthropy Council, A committee of Vancouver Foundation), support from PeerNetBC and Pave the Road BC members.

We are always looking for collaborating with other existing projects in the community. So, please contact us at with any ideas or feedback.

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# ISSUE 5 EDITORIAL TEAM



**ALEJANDRA RODAS**

**Editorial/Creative**

I am Alejandra. I am 14 years old. I was born in Colombia and I came to Vancouver 1 year ago. I am currently attending New Westminster Secondary school and exploring the fabulous city of Vancouver and its surroundings. I am passionate about community involvement and I identify myself as that motivational friend that always will tell you "I believe in you, you can do it!!! I quite enjoy expanding my mind and learning everything about the world, the people and lastly all I want to say is you can do anything you propose if you believe in it, and be positive !!!!! =D =D



**POOJA LODHIA**

**Editorial/Creative**

My name is Pooja Lodhia. I am originally from Navsari, India. I moved to Vancouver 5 years ago. I am a volunteer and a science student. My passion is helping people in anyway possible. I always like to try new things and gain experience.

I hope you like the collection of amazing work done by the youth in our community. I hope we all see and recognize the power of creative expressions.



**DAVID SADEGHIZADEH**

**Editorial/Creative**

Hey everyone! My name is David and this is my second time being part of BEATS. I am so happy we finally pulled it off because we worked hard on it so make sure you look at all the art work (cause that's mostly what is on this issue). You should also consider joining us for the next issue. It doesn't take much to be part of the editorial team. Take me for instance. I don't have any skill in arts and I procrastinate a lot (which means I do all my work very last minute), but I am still here! There is going be two more issues this year so make sure you get the copies for those too! I hope you enjoy Issue 5

## EXTERNAL CONTRIBUTORS

**MELISSA LEONG**

**RUBY LI**

**LEO HUANG**

**VIDALUZ ORTUÑO NACHO**

**PARNIYAN HAZHIR**

**SORAWIT KEN**

**COLLABORATIVE YOUTH MURAL by My Circle youth.**



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## MELISSA LEONG

We hope. Taipei

## ALEJANDRA RODAS

I took this picture from my balcony. It was crazy foggy outside. It seemed like I was in the actual clouds and I could touch the sky. The orange colors, the blue sky and the sunrise added a warm beautiful touch. When I see this picture it makes me think of when you can not see things clearly, like an illusion but in a good way; like being a child trapped in an adult body and see life as a child, not realizing problems or difficulties.





Collaborative mural by the immigrant and refugee youth of My Circle Program, ISS BC. 2015



## **ALEJANDRA RODAS**

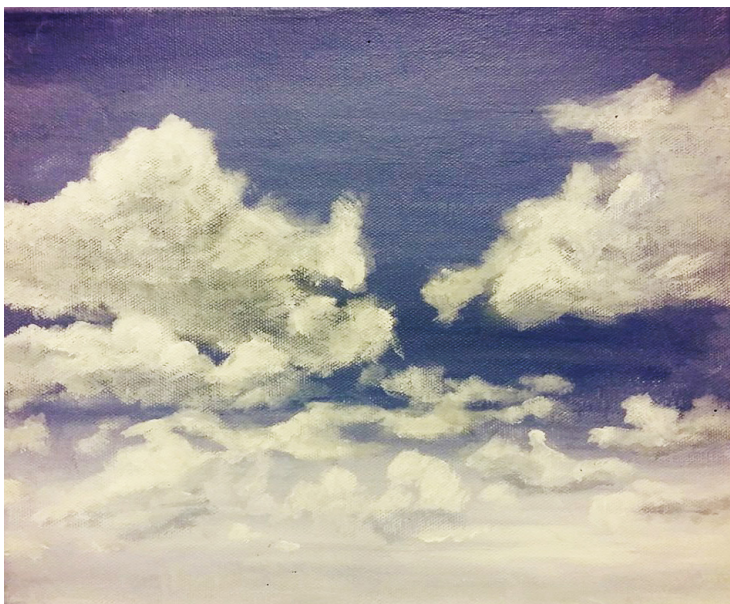
Origami Heron

Heron, lovely heron is mere peace. Origami and myself are about turning lifeless objects, thoughts, capacities, probabilities into something charming and vivid. Taking the potential everything has and explore it. Do the best of it. See the positive potential in everything and give a 110% in all new ideas you try.



### **POOJA LODHIA**

This painting is called Vanvas house. As the loyal and obedient son Lord Ram who agrees to leave the comfort of the palace for a long stay in the jungle.



### **MELISSA LEONG**

The peace within. I like to look up to the clear sky and admire the nature as a way to calm my anxious heart.



**RUBY LI**

Shades of beauty, learning and creating.



## DAVID SADEGHIZADEH

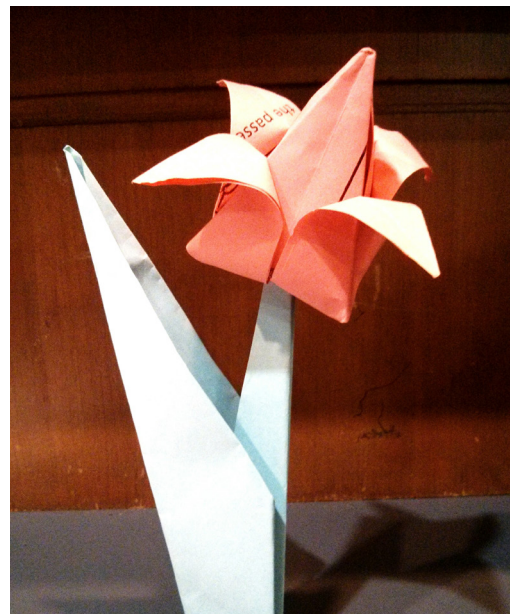
Time

It always amazes me how fast time goes by. That I have learned and grown so much from the years. From my darkest days that I was force to endure and to the wonderful blue skies I was privileged to enjoy. Time is truly precious and we have to be careful in what we devote it to.

## ALEJANDRA RODAS

little tulip

Little tulip open to the light. I made this tulip in the middle of the winter, it was rainy and cold, there were no flowers around. I made it because I love flowers and not seeing them makes me sad. Create your own flowers when you see yourself in the middle of the winter and you will feel better. When winter, look for little keys and whispers to change and get into spring.





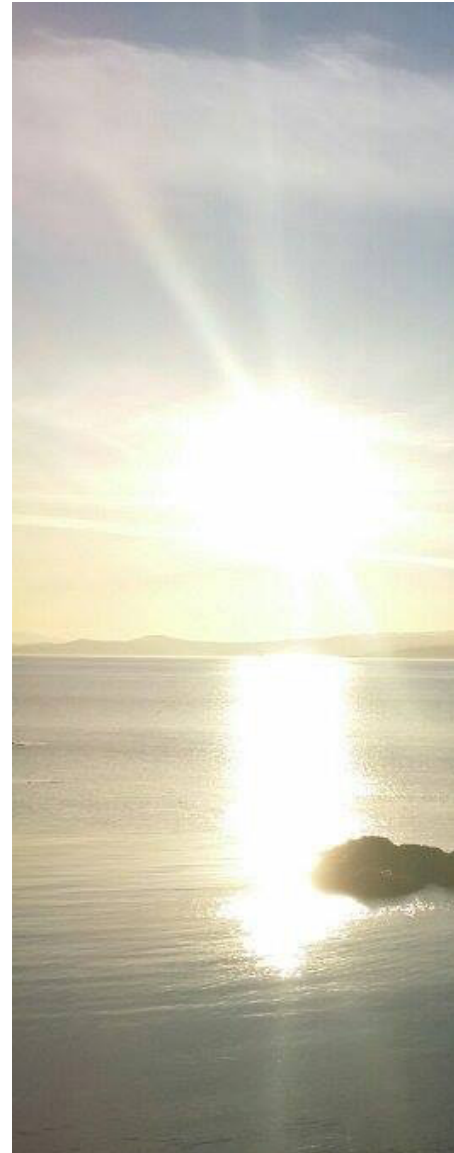
## LEO HUANG

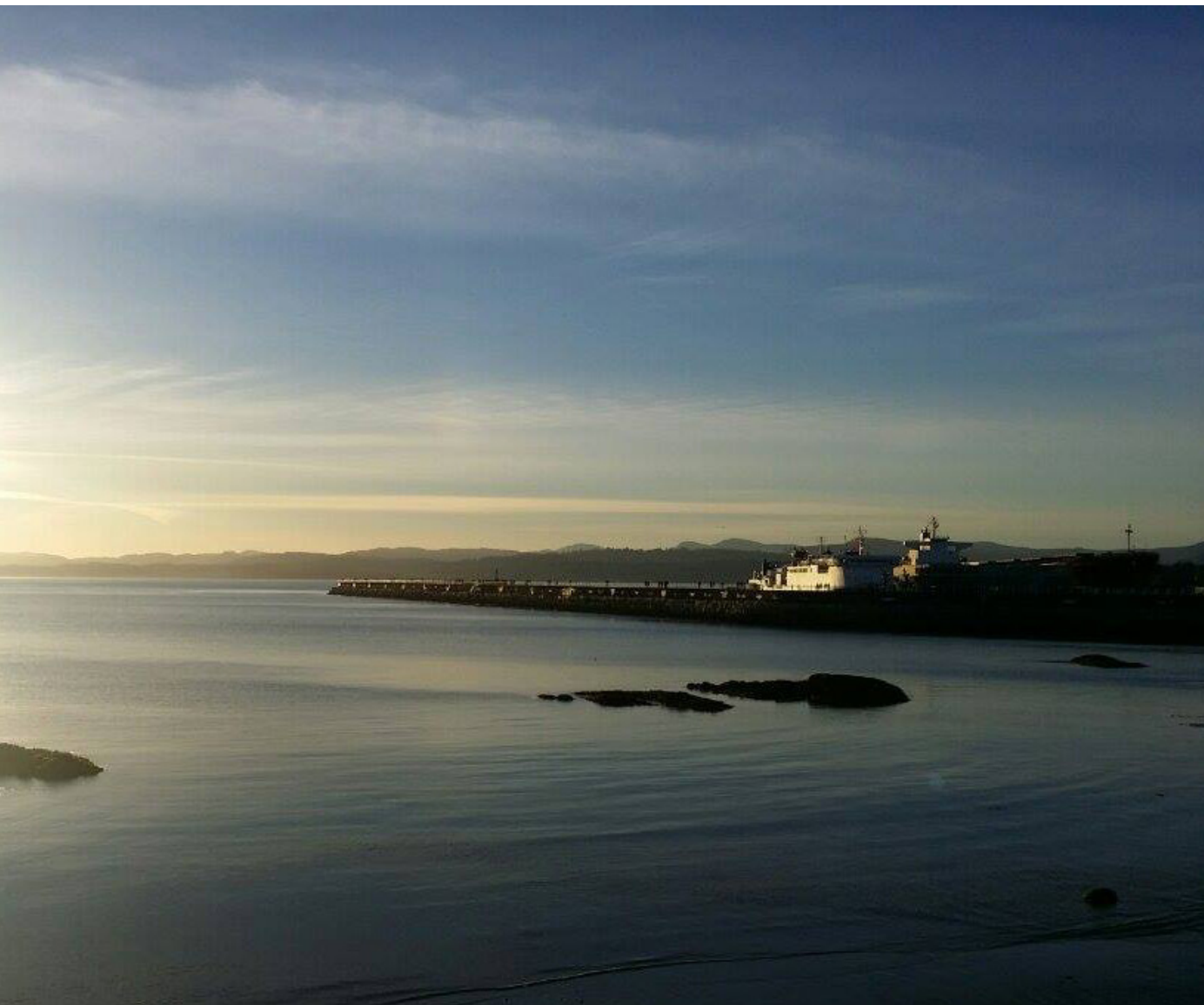
The blue bird never gives up. It looks up and up and never gets tired. It wonders about the world and the limitless possibilities to learn and gather all the knowledge from each land. It looks up and up and never gets tired.



**MELISSA LEONG**

Stairs to celebration. Taipei.





**MELISSA LEONG**

Beach side in Victoria, BC

**ALEJANDRA RODAS**

Flying chairs, Playland, Vancouver, BC

This photo was taken at Playland, Vancouver. I went there for my school field trip. This was my favorite ride because when I got to the top I was very high in the air and the breeze was pushing my hair back. It felt liberating, like I just left all my worries and problems on the ground and I was now free in the sky, like a bird.



## PARNIYAN HAZHIR

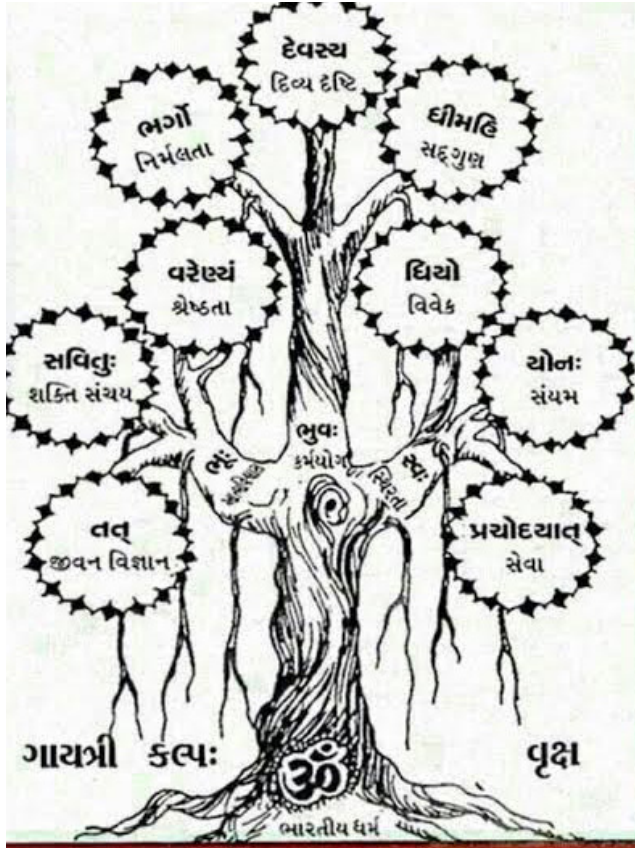
### *Top left*

This is a portrait of my sister who loves to dance. I've drawn her as a dancer and I've tried to capture the sense of freedom and happiness that she has felt in the past few years that she has discovered dancing as a form of self-reflection and meditation.



### *Top Right*

This is a drawing of my grandfather, I drew it shortly after he passed away. I drew him as a Bulbul, a bird often used in Persian literature - and more specifically, I made it in reference to the Bulbul in the Conference of the Birds by the Persian poet Attar. In the piece, the Bulbul leads the other birds on a spiritual journey and I felt that my grandfather had a similar role in my life.



## POOJA LODHIA

Gayatri Mantra

This picture is called Gayatri Mantra which is written in Sanskrit and translated in Gujarati which gives knowledge of path with right direction and good thoughts.



## MELISSA LEONG

The newspaper collages are from Hong Kong. They are written in Traditional Chinese. I admire the strokes of Chinese words and the beautiful night view of Hong Kong. So I put them together.



### **VIDALUZ ORTUÑO NACHO**

This piece reminds me of my experience as a migrant. At first I focused on the negative things and only saw thorns in my path, I felt very hurt. At the time, the great things that were to come were blurry and out of focus. But now I keep a positive mind and try to focus on the roses in my life.

### **ALEJANDRA RODAS**

Canada day parade



What I really like most about Canada is seeing all different cultures and people from all around the globe. Back in my country I wondered what is out there, what else is there in the world? What other civilizations were outside from my town in Colombia. Here in Vancouver I have the opportunity to expand my vision of the world because of all the majestic cultures I get to witness. Seeing the diversity absolutely opened my eyes and helped me grow as an individual. I have the opportunity to absorb knowledge from so many places and meet so many people here that I wouldn't have this opportunity if I was in my country.



**RUBY LI**

Gathering all the pieces and putting it back together.





**ALEJANDRA RODAS**

Cartagena, Colombia

One of the greatest blessing of being Colombia is its beautiful beaches in the Caribbean sea. The nature and wildlife in this part of the coutry are vast, stunning. This special city, Cartagena is an enormous tourist attraction but it conserves its colonial look from the 1800's and warm beautiful beaches.

**MELISSA LEONG**

Connections



## **ALEJANDRA RODAS**

Second home

## **SORAWIT KEN**

Pathway

The street lights with the mid night fog created this amazing illusion and the feeling of being in an imaginary land with magical powers. You forget the reality and get lost in your own imaginations.





**LEO HUANG**

When you are really, REALLY Hungry!!



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