



BACKGROUND

The Coastal First Nations Dance Festival is a celebration of the stories, songs, and dances of the indigenous peoples of the northwest coast of North America. Produced and presented annually by Dancers of Damelahamid, the festival transforms the UBC Museum of Anthropology's Great Hall into a celebration of Indigenous cultures and dance traditions. The festival places particular emphasis on the vibrant and rich cultural traditions practiced by artists from coastal British Columbia, Manitoba, the Yukon, and Alaska.

The festival consists of three primary components:

Signature Evening Performances

Ticketed Gala events featuring headline performances from Dancers of Damelahamid and Indigenous guest artists.

Festival Stage Performances

Presentation of performances from visiting guest artists, taking place on weekend afternoons and included with UBC Museum of Anthropology admission.

School Group Performances

Weekday performances introducing students to the rich history and traditions of First Nations dance, performance, and storytelling.

The wide variety of dance groups presented have included artists from First Nations, including: Musqueam, Squamish, Tsleil-Waututh, Kwakwakawakw, Gitksan, Tsimshian, Nisga'a, Haida, Tagish, and Tlingit Nations, as well as a Maori Kapa haka Dance group from Gisborne, New Zealand.