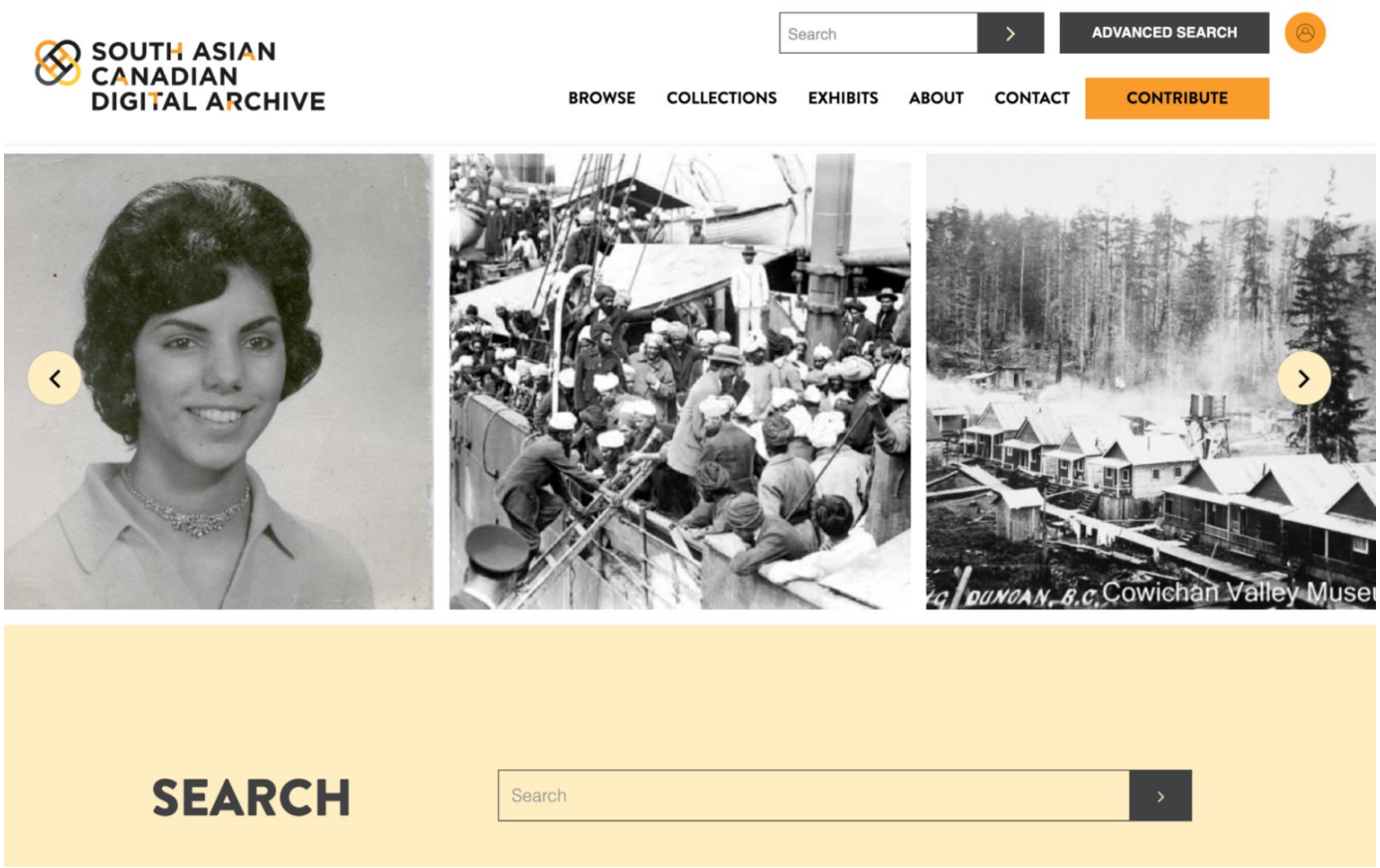
SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES INSTITUTE

South Asian Studies Institute

UNIVERSITY OF THE FRASER VALLEY

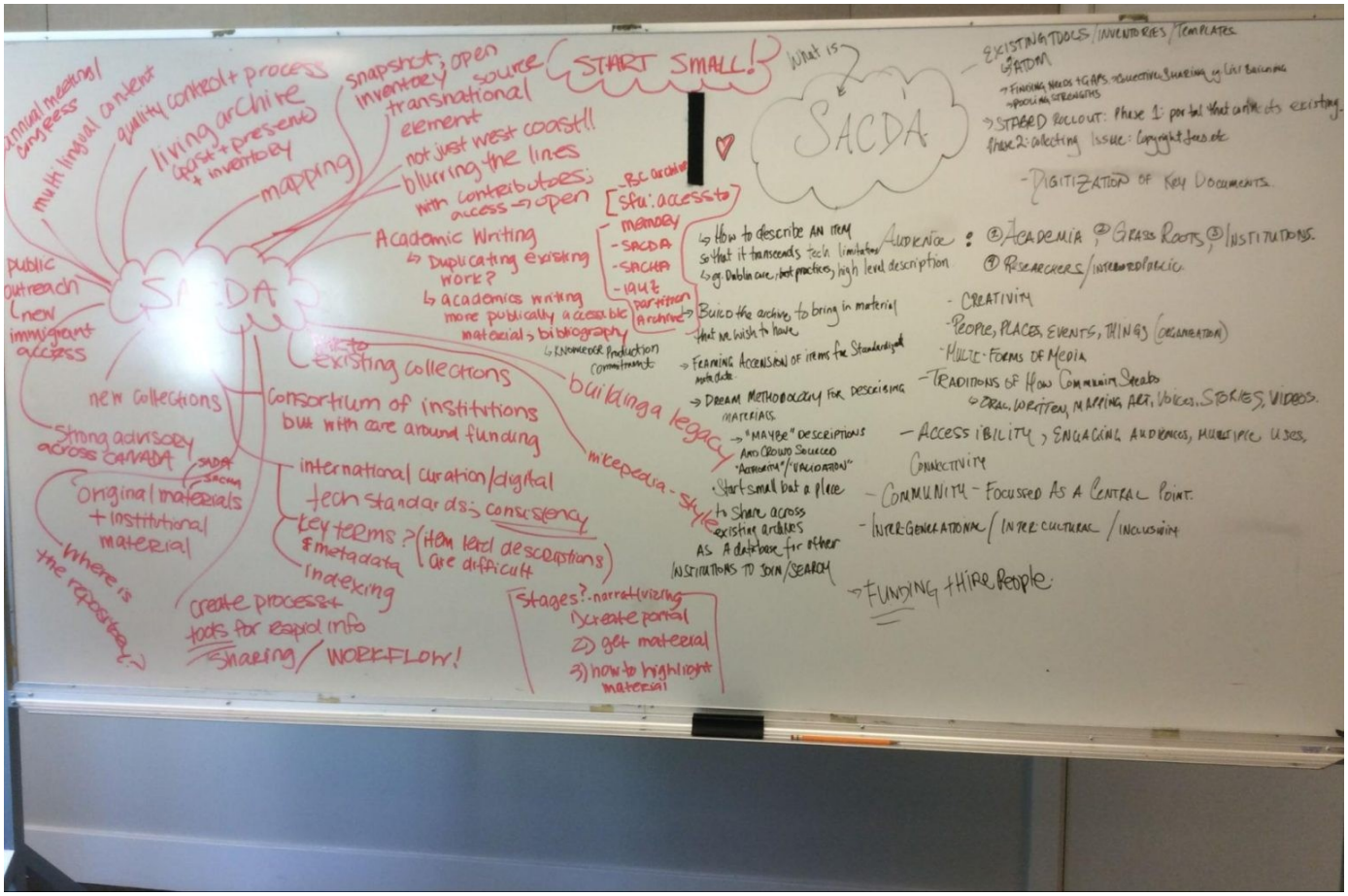
MENU



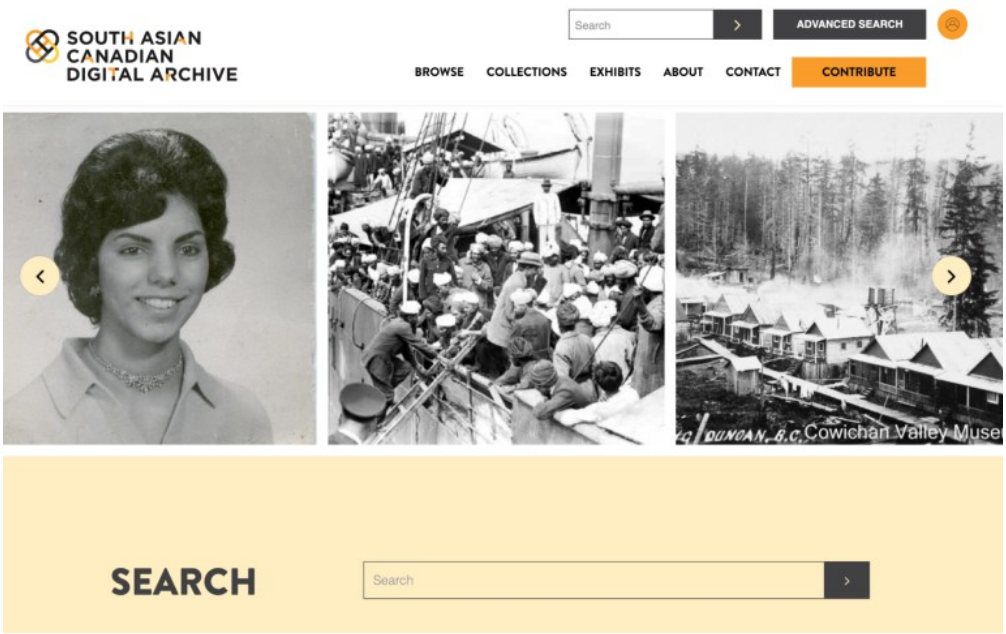
A Living Archive: SACDA, 75 collections and more

June 4, 2024 by SASI

Post Share



In the summer of 2017, at the initial gathering organized by the South Asian Studies Institute at the University of the Fraser Valley, a passionate group of scholars and heritage professionals came together to ask the question, ***What is a South Asian Canadian Digital Archive (SACDA)?*** The above mapping on the white board was the collective dream and vision that was successfully carried out shortly after.



In 2022, five years later, the South Asian Canadian Digital Archive (SACDA) was created to document the 120+ years of history and heritage of the South Asian Canadian diaspora in Canada. Over the past years, the SACDA team has worked on developing 75 unique multilingual archival collections. These collections speak to the histories, heritage, cultures, and key contributions of South Asian communities in Canada that range from migration and social histories, arts and culture, and labour activism to built environment histories.

As we reflect on our work at this juncture in 2024, we are immensely grateful for the following individuals and families who have shared their own and their family and immigration stories and histories with us for all to access on a free and public domain:

- Baltej Singh Dhillon
- Charan Gill
- Chindow Sidhu
- Devinder Kaur Johal
- Dr. Gurdev Singh Gill
- Dr. Kanwal Singh Neel
- Dr. Norman Buchignani & Dr. Doreen Indra
- Dr. Palaniswami Rathnaswami
- Dr. Paul Fontaine
- Dr. Sarah Beaulieu
- Greg Nesteroff
- Piara Singh Bains
- Harinder Jit Sunga
- Jeavan Deol

- Joan Mayo
- Judge Gurmail Singh Gill
- Kamaljit Sidhu
- Kelly Sangara
- Nirmal Gill
- Paul Hundal
- Ram Sundaram
- Raymond Atwal
- Rob & Rubeena Sidhu
- Robin Mayo
- Rosamund Norbury
- Subbu Govindarajapuram
- Sylvia Mahal
- Chandra and Vimal Bodalia

We built the following institutional partnerships over time to work collaboratively to develop archival collections, educational resources, and sharing skills and resources to further the documentation of the history and heritage of the South Asian Canadian communities:

- B.C. Forest Discovery Centre
- B.C. Labour Heritage Centre
- Burnaby Village Museum
- Chilliwack Museum & Archives
- City of Coquitlam Archives
- City of Delta Archives
- City of Surrey Archives
- Cowichan Valley Museum & Archives
- Institute of Islamic Studies, McGill University
- Kaatza Station Museum & Archives
- Kabir Centre for Arts & Culture
- Khalsa Diwan Society Vancouver
- Legislative Library of B. C.
- Paldi Historical Museum
- Sikh Heritage Museum, Abbotsford
- Simon Fraser University Library
- Tamil Cultural Society of B. C.

- The Reach Gallery Museum
- The Royal BC Museum
- University of British Columbia
- University of the Fraser Valley, Department of Information Studies
- University of the Fraser Valley Library
- University of Toronto Scarborough Library
- Vancouver Maritime Museum
- Waterloo University Library & Archives
- White Rock Museum and Archives
- Yucho Chow Community Archive

We have had an incredibly talented team that digitized each and every photograph, from family albums to 100+ years old ledgers, and wrote every word of metadata, so that the histories of the South Asian Canadian communities had a presence and voice in the Canadian record.

SACDA team (2020 – 2024)

- Dr. Satwinder Bains (Director, January 2020 – present)
- Thamilini Jothilingam (Digital Asset Archivist, November 2021 – present)
- Aishmitta (Volunteer, September – October 2023)
- Alisa Sohi (Assistant Digital Asset Archivist, August 2022 – March 2024)
- Anne-Marie.De Waard (Practicum Student, February – April 2024)

- Annshul Kashyap (Work-Study Student, September 2023 – March 2024)
- Ansh Seth (Research Assistant, January – April 2022)
- Amreen Kaur (Research Student Intern, July – August 2022)
- Arnav Mehta (Assistant Web Developer, September 2022 – March 2024)
- Arshdeep Sandhu (Assistant Web Developer, January 2021 – December 2022)
- Balraj Singh (Research Assistant, September 2022 – present)
- Benjamin Arends (Work-Study Student, February – March 2021)
- Dharani Persaud (Graduate Research Assistant, May – August 2023)
- Faria Firoz (Graphic Designer, September 2023 – March 2024)
- Gauri Sethi (Research Assistant, January 2024 – March 2024)
- Gurkiran Aulakh (Research Student Intern, May – August 2022)
- Jahnavi (Research Assistant, December 2021 – April 2022)
- Jaideep Kaur (Volunteer, March – May 2024)
- Jesse Kaufman (Communications Consultant, September 2021 – April 2022)
- Henna Mann (Filmmaker & Coordinator, January – May 2024)
- Kamal Sidhu (Translator, June – July 2023)
- Kiara Dabreo (Research Assistant, September 2023 – March 2024)
- Dr. Kusum Soni (Translator, October 2020 – October 2022)
- Madhavee Inamdar (Project Manager, June 2022 – July 2021)
- Magnus Berg (Digital Asset Archivist, September 2020 – September 2021)
- Manveer Singh Chatha (Research Assistant, September – December 2022)
- Meg McGinnis (Practicum Student, February – March 2022)
- Mitali Bharwaj (Research Assistant, January – August 2023)
- Pat Garland (Practicum Student, February – March 2023)
- Prabhpreet Singh Gill (Research Student Intern, May – August 2022)
- Pratham (Research Assistant, January 2023 – March 2024)
- Rashneet (Co-op Student/Research Assistant, September 2023 – March 2024)
- Raaynaa Madaan (Research Assistant, June – December 2022; January 2024 – March 2024)
- Rui Lu (Practicum Student, February – April 2024)
- Prati Kapoor (Research Assistant, November – December 2023)
- Ravjeet Dyal (Research Assistant, January – August 2023)
- Sadhvi Suri (Assistant Web Developer, September 2020 – January 2022)
- Shivam Vashisht (Research Assistant, January – December 2022)
- Tania Teixeira (Cataloguing Technician, September 2021 – February 2022)
- Tarun Sharma (Research Assistant, February – May 2024)

- Tim Ubels (Digitization & Cataloguing Technician, May – August 2021)
- Varshaa Kashyap (Research Assistant, December 2021 – April 2022)
- Hamad Abdullah Nazar (Coordinator, May 2024 – present)

SACDA has been wonderfully supported by our generous funders and donors:

- Government of Canada, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council: Connection Grant (2017)
- Government of British Columbia: South Asian Canadian Legacy Project (2020 – 2022)
- Government of Canada: Museum Assistance Program (2022 – 2024)
- Government of Canada, Young Canada Works (2021 & 2023)
- University of British Columbia, Irving K. Barber Learning Centre: BC History Digitization Program (2021, 2023 & 2024)
- University of the Fraser Valley, Research and Graduate Studies: SSHRC Explore Grant (2023 & 2024)
- University of the Fraser Valley: Work Study Program (2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, & 2024)
- University of the Fraser Valley, Department of Information Studies (2021, 2022, 2023, & 2024)

Happy International Archives Week! We welcome all to join this collective archival journey! Contact us at sacda@ufv.ca.

DIGITAL ARCHIVE

‹ AMPLIFYING ASIAN CANADIAN LEGACY: CHINESE CANADIAN SAWMILL WORKERS OF PALDI

› NATIONAL INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY

RECENT POSTS

Mehfil-e-Sukoon: Magical night of Sufi and Punjabi Folk Music with Maghar Ali Khan

Winds of Change: 50 Years of Inclusivity, Equity, and Diversity

SASI Research Assistant presents at Student Research Day

SASI honors International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

Preserving South Asian Canadian Heritage: The South Asian Canadian Digital Archive

RECENT COMMENTS

Satwinder Bains on SASI Research Assistant presents at Student Research Day

Siddique Shahzad on SASI Research Assistant presents at Student Research Day

MaryAnne MacDougall on SASI receives $300,000 USD Mellon Foundation grant

Fiona Angus on Amplifying Asian Canadian Legacy: Chinese Canadian Sawmill Workers of Paldi

Fiona Angus on Amplifying Asian Canadian Legacy: Chinese Canadian Sawmill Workers of Paldi

CATEGORIES

Caste Matters

Days

Digital Archive

Events

Exhibitions

News

Uncategorized

UNIVERSITY OF THE FRASER VALLEY

33844 King Road

Abbotsford, BC V2S 7M8

604-504-7441

ABOUT UFV

Contact

About UFV

Careers at UFV

News & Events

©2022 - UNIVERSITY OF THE FRASER VALLEY

COPYRIGHT · PRIVACY · SITEMAP · FEEDBACK