

# 2018 Annual Report



artstarts

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**Use the links above to jump through our 2018 Annual Report.**

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Text is all embedded and should be completely accessible on most e-Readers. If you require a copy of our annual report in another format, or know someone who would like and is struggling to access our report, please contact us at [communications@artstarts.com](mailto:communications@artstarts.com)

# About ArtStarts

**ArtStarts in Schools is a charitable organization that expands the role of art in education to activate learning and nurture creativity in British Columbia's young people.**

Since 1996, ArtStarts has collaborated with educators, artists, families and community to promote art as an essential part of learning and life.

Art is not extra.  
**Art is essential!**

## **Our Mission (What We Do)**

ArtStarts in Schools provides innovative arts programs for young people, practical resources for teachers and artists, and leadership in advocacy for arts in education.

## **Our Vision (Why We Do It)**

ArtStarts envisions a society where the arts are regarded as an essential part of educating young people and a catalyst for creating innovative, engaged and contributing members of society.

- We inspire beliefs that art can and should be integrated into all aspects of life and learning.
- We create opportunities for young people to have artistic experiences at school where they spend most of their time.
- We create opportunities for artists and educators to be partners in education through professional learning experiences.
- We support families to have creative artistic weekends together through some of our free family programming.
- We work as a network weaver in community to really advocate around this common cause that art should be an essential part of learning and life.

# Systems Change

The way we perceive art in our culture as siloed and superfluous rather than integrated and essential. The value of art is a cultural decision and in our culture, art is perceived as extra. We want to address the root cause of this issue which starts with how young people are taught to think about art in schools.

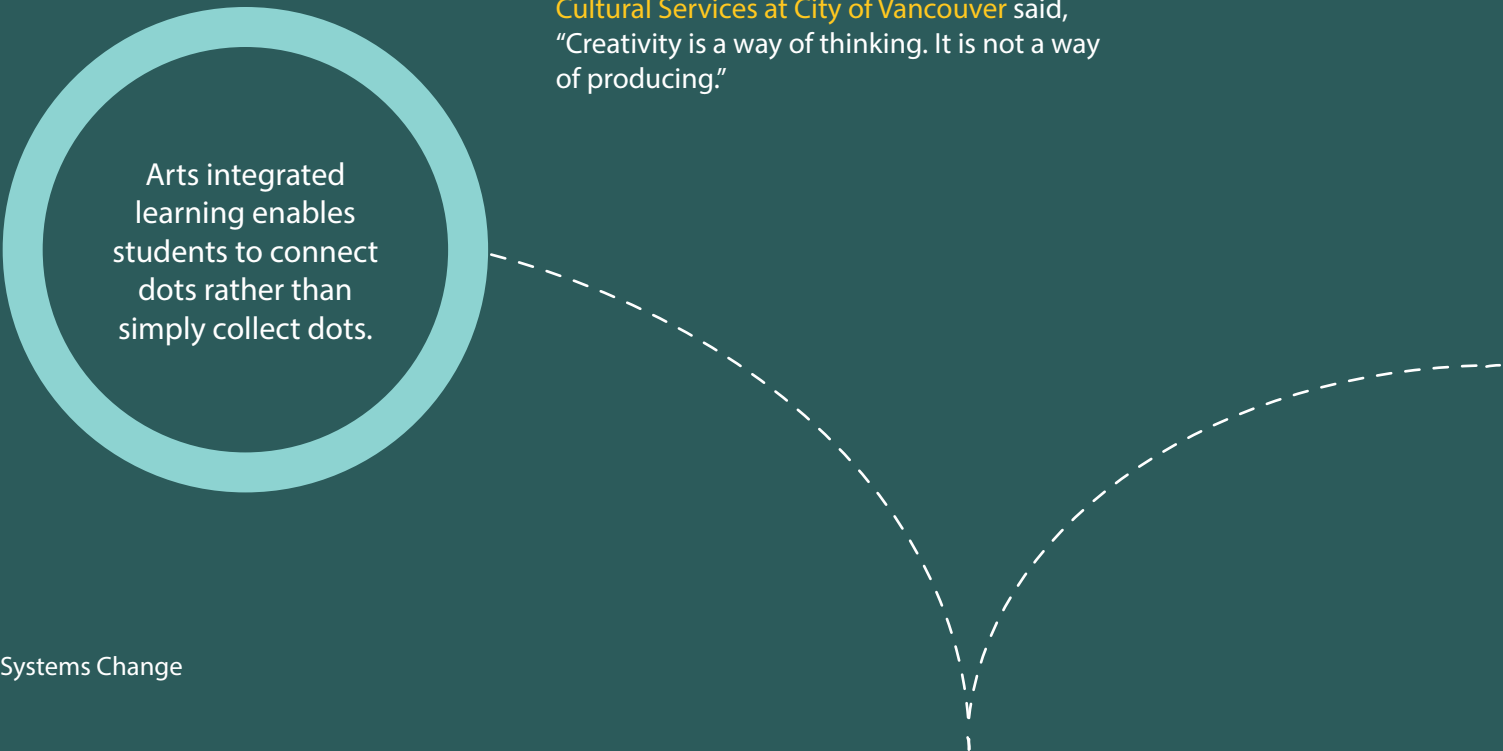
"In my experience, the arts in the BC schools systems are often pushed to the side and something that we are trying to impart to our students are real-life skills the things that carry with you beyond school. Knowing some arbitrary fact isn't necessarily going to apply as frequently the ability to develop oneself autonomously."

- **Quill Point**, **Educator**.

**Charlotte Kingston** from the **BC Civil Liberties Association** said, "I think art helps young people to find their voice. It helps them to feel more fearless. I think that's what people use all day regardless of their career choices."

**Joanna Riquett**, **creator and publisher of Hayo magazine** said, "Art enables curiosity, and curiosity provides the spark to pursue education. Art and creativity are what allow the mind to be open."

**Branislav Henselmann**, **Managing Director, Cultural Services at City of Vancouver** said, "Creativity is a way of thinking. It is not a way of producing."



Arts integrated learning enables students to connect dots rather than simply collect dots.

# Networks Change Systems

**At ArtStarts, 2018 was a year all about expanding our understanding of collaboration and building a network culture.** Navida Nuraney, ArtStarts' Executive Director participated in Banff Centre's Cultural Leadership program. This program is designed to help cultural leaders understand and explore the increasingly complex and interdependent cultural environment in which we operate.

**We were introduced to this model which completely shifted the way we approach our work.**

## **Four Principles:**

*Cracking the Network Code*, by Jane Wei-Skillern, Nora Silver and Eric Heitz (2010)

### **Mission, Not Organization**

Leaders adopt strategies and tactics to advocate the mission, not simply stimulate organizational growth.

### **Humility, Not Brand**

Working alongside peers as equals, willing to take a back seat when others are in a better position to lead.

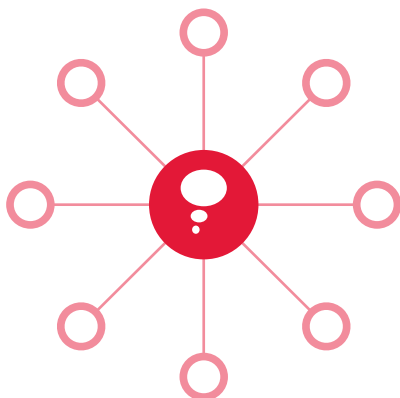
### **Trust, Not Control**

Trust and shared values are far more important than formal control mechanisms (eg. contracts and accountability).

### **Node, Not Hub**

Seeing the organization as one part of a larger web of activity directed towards a cause, not as the hub of an action wide range of arts-based experiences that activate learning for young people.

#### **Organization as HUB**



vs.

#### **Organization as NODE**



# Artists

When artists collaborate with students and teachers, amazing things can happen.

[artstarts.com/artists](https://artstarts.com/artists)

Artists offer much more than practical skills in the arts — they foster a unique approach to thinking, learning, and looking at the world.

ArtStarts supports artists in all disciplines by helping establish connections between the worlds of art and education, building artists' capacity to work in schools, offering grants that support creative projects and more.

In 2018, we supported  
artists to work in  
**206**  
communities across the  
province

225 Artists in  
the Classroom  
completed  
**122**  
projects.

91 Artists on Tour  
completed **2,101**  
performances and  
workshops, earning  
**\$1.73 mil**

**“Not only has ArtStarts provided me this opportunity to tour, but they have also supported me in the process. My show has been booked in over 60 schools in the province and the good word and bookings are continuing to spread.”**

- **Candice Roberts**, ArtStarts Artists on Tour



Artist Aglika Ivantcheva's AIC project:  
Who am I? Building Identity through Puppets”

**“I have been teaching as an Artist in the Classroom for a number of years. I have thoroughly enjoyed traveling in Vancouver and across BC, demonstrating to students exciting new ways they can communicate stories, and introducing teachers to new tools for their toolboxes.”**

- **Julian Lawrence**, ArtStarts Artists in the Classroom



Artist Ruby Smith Díaz's AIC project:  
Still Here: Black Histories & Futures



**The Arts Integration Learning Lab** is an experiential learning series for artists interested in working with young people and educators in schools. In 2018, we did two Learning Labs. One in Kelowna, the traditional territories of the Syilx/Okanagan Peoples and one in Vancouver for performing artists.  
[artstarts.com/learning-labs](http://artstarts.com/learning-labs)

**Performing Arts Edition**  
**2018 guest facilitator**  
Rup Sidhu!

**Performing Artist**  
**Learning Lab fun fact**  
Five of 16 participants  
Showcased the following  
month!

**Kelowna Edition 2018 (traditional territories of the Syilx/  
Okanagan Peoples) hosts and facilitators**  
Ellis Studios, Ewa Sniatycka, and Cathy Stubington

**Kelowna Learning Lab fun fact**  
ArtStarts was proud to support the Simone Orlando, AD of Ballet Kelowna, in bringing a dancer from her company to join for the week – this was an exciting innovation to shed some light on the company’s creative process and modelled some excellent co-creation!



“The Learning Lab was an incredible experience!! It helped me understand in a far more useful manner what opportunities exist for myself as an artist to bring my art practice to the BC education system...I hope that the Learning Lab is funded every year so that more artists (and ultimately youth across BC) can benefit from this.”

- Sami Majadla, 2018 Learning Lab participant.



Kelowna Learning Lab: Catherine Jameson, Levana Irena Prud'homme, and Allison Lang

**Funder recognition:** The cost for artists selected to participate in the Learning Lab is fully subsidized, covering tuition, program materials and lunch. This opportunity is made possible through funding support from BC Arts Council and the Government of British Columbia.



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ARTS COUNCIL  
An agency of the Province of British Columbia



BRITISH  
COLUMBIA  
Supported by the Province of British Columbia



# Teachers

ArtStarts provides a convenient, cost-effective service to book touring **artists into schools across the province.**

Serving  
**61**  
districts...

[artstarts.com/aotd](http://artstarts.com/aotd)

**ArtStarts' Artists on Tour Directory** features over 90 professional artists available to tour in BC, representing a wide range of artistic disciplines and cultural backgrounds.

"These performances often allow our students access to genres and cultures that they would otherwise not be exposed to. I regularly look for performances that connect to the curriculum in ways that make it easy for students and teachers to transition from performance to other classroom instructional content. We truly appreciate the opportunity to be able to expose our students to a variety of arts performance that enhance their arts education and often inspire them to pursue arts themselves."

- **Educator, SD06 (Rocky Mountain School District).**



Dancers of Damelahamid dance, the school audience responds.

**We create space for teachers to collaborate with artists** to create memorable learning experiences for their students. Artists in the Classroom (AIC) Grants bring professional artists into classrooms to collaborate on projects that demonstrate artistic excellence, strong curricular connections, and high levels of student engagement.

**649**  
educators  
integrating  
arts into their  
classrooms

**[artstarts.com/aicd](https://artstarts.com/aicd)**

**ArtStarts' Artists in the Classroom Directory** features 68 professional artists available to work with young people across BC. Working in a variety of disciplines, these artists are skilled in their craft and have a specific interest in working on projects with young people. Many artists listed in the AICD have experience working in schools or on projects funded by Artists in the Classroom grants.

"It was such a holistic and organic process working with Isabelle. It was rewarding to witness the students take risks in their learning and stretch their thinking outside the box."

**Anita Lau**, Teacher Grade 3-4, Mitchell Elementary re: Artists in the Classroom Grant



Exploring Indigenous art form with Virginia Morgan

**ArtStarts offers professional development opportunities for teachers** interested in bringing the arts and arts integration into schools across British Columbia. Through professional learning opportunities, we wish to provide practical resources and approaches that can enhance the ways educators, artists and young people are engaged in and through the arts.

[artstarts.com/infusion-teachers](http://artstarts.com/infusion-teachers)

One initiative is **Summer Camp**, a unique opportunity for teachers to explore the core competencies together and translate them into arts-based experiences for young people! Core Competency of Social Responsibility through arts-integrated learning was the focus in 2018.

Educators spent two jam-packed days exploring culturally appropriate implementation of the First Peoples Principles of Learning, and learning how to apply trauma-informed principles to make more accessible classrooms and more sustainable school years for teachers themselves.

This year we also hosted a record number of teacher candidates from the education program at UBC.

Workshops included Sínulhkay and Ladders with Michelle Nahanee; Preventing Educator Burnout through the Arts with Natalie Robertson, Aboriginal Support Worker; Movement is for Every Body with All Bodies Dance; and our annual favourite, Collaboration Blocks with Leanne Ewen.

"ArtStarts Summer Camp activities support and reinforce the value and power of the arts to teach what is most important, such as the Core Competencies and strategies for differentiation."

- **Laura Berardinucci**, K-12 teacher

Photo (right): Summer Camp 2018: Teaching Core Competencies with Leanne Ewen



**“By being in a group setting for two days with new teachers and more experienced teachers as well, I was able to deepen my understanding of the teaching experience. I found it comforting to hear experienced teachers talk about their struggles and also their triumphs. Listening to the other teachers share their experiences showed me that we are all still learning, reflecting, and improving our practices regardless of how long we have been teaching! The workshop about burnout was especially helpful as it is something that I am especially at risk for while I start this new and rewarding career.”**

Sara Coyle, 2018 teacher candidate



Funder recognition:

van<sup>co</sup>uvers  
foundation

# Families

ArtStarts provides a wide range of programs both in schools and out, with our weekend and public programming, we work to provide opportunities for families to discover and build creative confidence together. [artstarts.com/events](http://artstarts.com/events)



On the last Saturday and Sunday of the month we offer free arts-based events for kids and families—in both Vancouver and New Westminster

## 2018 Featured Artists

Desiree Dawson  
Gord Grdina  
Karima Essa  
Kung Jaadee  
Project Soul  
Rhythm Resource  
Runaway Moon Theatre  
Shayna Jones  
Sm:)e Band  
Story Theatre Company  
Will's Jams

Funder recognition: This program is made possible thanks to the Province of British Columbia through their Community Gaming Grant and Westminster Savings.

In 2018, the ArtStarts gallery team prototyped a new initiative called ArtStarts Explores—a hands-on drop-in workshop series for creative and adventurous families

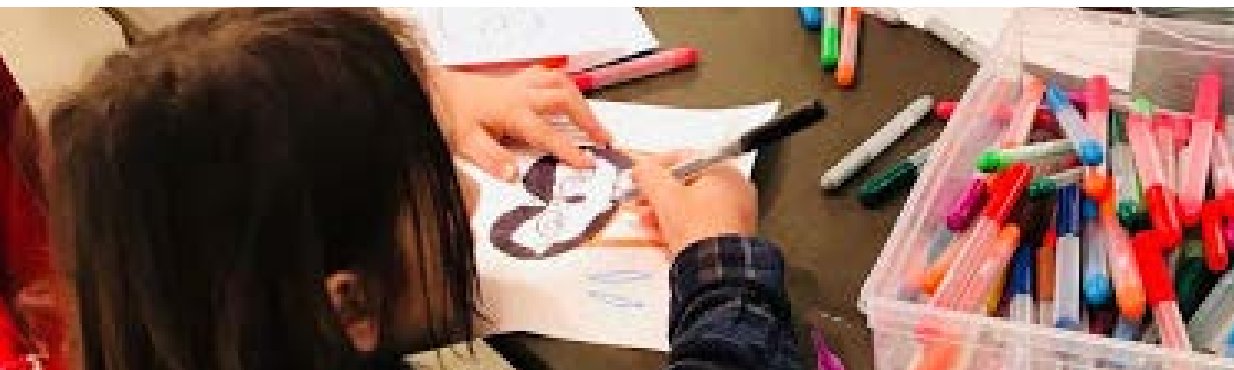
## Three Rules of Explores

1. You cannot make a mistake at Explores because mistakes don't exist here!
2. You will not take anything home with you!
3. Respect! Respect yourself, respect the other folks in the space!

Funder recognition: ArtStarts Explores is supported in part by a Metro Vancouver Cultural Grant.

**591**

Visitors who  
Explored with us  
in our first year.



ArtStarts Explores: Masks, February 2018



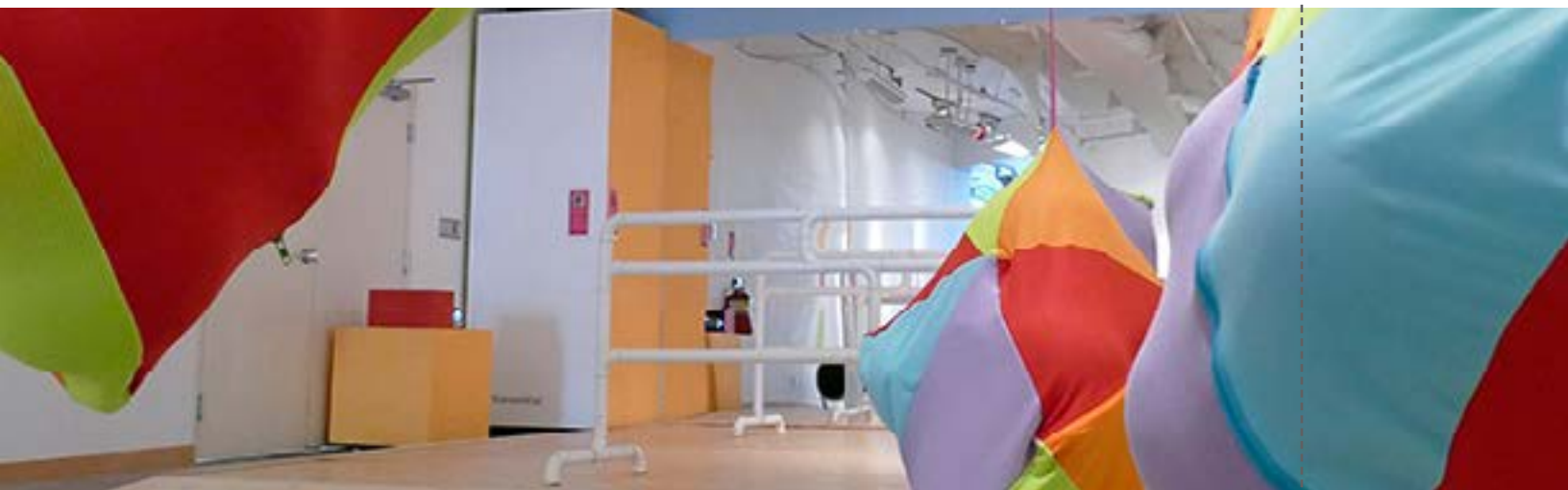
# Gallery

Since the gallery opened in 2006, the ArtStarts Gallery exhibitions have celebrated the exciting artwork that emerges when students, educators and professional artists work together to deepen learning, creativity and community connections.

[artstarts.com/gallery](http://artstarts.com/gallery)

From July 2018 to Spring 2019, *Movement is for Every Body* was a two-part exhibition showcasing movement, dance, and accessibility. Who gets to call themselves a dancer? What's dance and what's movement? Is there a difference? We explored these questions—and challenged how you're usually supposed to move in an art gallery! Part one of *Movement is for Every Body* featured artwork from four schools and 557 students!

Funder recognition: We acknowledge the financial assistance of the Province of British Columbia and Telus.



View of our pop up dance studio

# Activating the Gallery

Thanks to funding from RBC's Emerging Artist Program, three highly collaborative, innovative dancers & choreographers brought an anti-oppressive lens and a passion for working with children, youth, and families to the ArtStarts Gallery.

Tin Gamboa (Maria Clara Project), Ralph Escamillan (FakeKnot and VanVogueJam), and danielle wensley (All Bodies Dance) demonstrated to young people and families that a fulfilling career in the movement-based arts is possible, and showed teachers that art is an essential part of education!

As part of her RBC Emerging Artist Residency, Tin Gamboa facilitated workshops for three groups of Early Childhood Education students seeking to integrate the arts into their own professional practices. Here's what Tin had to say about creating a safe environment for ECEs to explore how the movement-based arts can facilitate learning:

"My goals with the workshops for Early Childhood Education college students were to express the importance of movement in development and in learning. I also aimed to share, through the lens of my own work, how one can use creativity and generate movement — this creative process involved discussion of our individual motherlands as the theme for creation. Not only were we able to generate movement and understand movement from a heartfelt and different lens, but we were also able to tap into connection and vulnerability as we practiced conversation, reflection, and movement. When I requested feedback at the end of the workshop, I heard comments such as: "I'm usually a shy person, but I felt so calm," "I learned a lot from this. Thank you," "I feel very relaxed," and "We are doing this in class on Monday!"

- Tin Gamboa,  
ArtStarts Emerging Artist-in-Residence

Tin moves through the gallery as she explores movement and creativity.

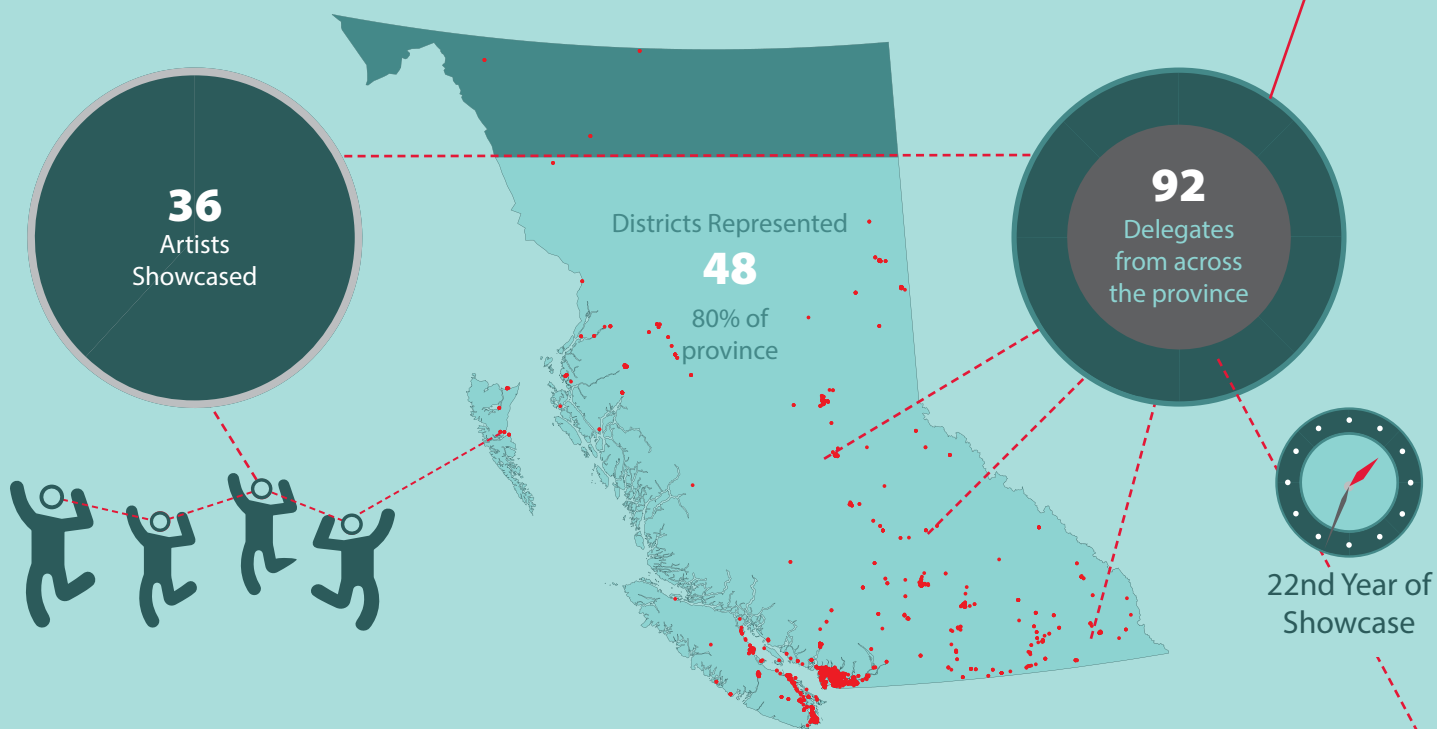




# Showcase 2018

The ArtStarts Showcase is an inspiring event for school and community arts programmers interested in booking artistic performances for young audiences. From dancers and storytellers to musicians and theatre groups, the range of performing artists presented at the ArtStarts Showcase always proves to be diverse, engaging and relevant.

[artstarts.com/showcase](http://artstarts.com/showcase)



Student audience watches Aché Brasil at Showcase 2018



The Jellyfish Project performing at the 2018 Showcase.

**“ArtStarts Showcase has huge importance in bringing together artists and delegates from around the province in order to bring the best experiences for our kids.”**

**Bob Oldfield**, Retired Administrator

“For the Showcase 2018 theme, the team at ArtStarts chose one close to their hearts, Storytelling. We believe stories are one of the most powerful tools for change because it allows you to experience someone else’s journey through their eyes. In other words, stories build empathy. Through empathy we can collectively share the experience of the arts.”

**Navida Nuraney**, ArtStarts Executive Director

Funder recognition: We acknowledge the support of the Canada Council for the Arts, BC Arts Council, the City of Vancouver, and Canadian Heritage



Canada Council for the Arts    Conseil des arts du Canada



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Canadian  
Heritage

Patrimoine  
canadien

# Grants

Through the support of mission aligned funders in 2018, ArtStarts administered six different grants available to school districts, schools, and artists. These grants support the arts in education and creative experiences for young people in British Columbia."

## Artists in the Classroom

Artists in the Classroom grants bring professional artists into schools for rich, hands-on learning experiences. Grants offer up to \$3,500 for small scale projects and up to \$10,000 for large scale projects. *Funded by Province of British Columbia and BC Arts Council.*

[artstarts.com/aic](http://artstarts.com/aic)

**\$444,024**

disbursed to schools  
to bring artists into  
the classrooms

**122**  
projects

**12,246**  
students  
engaging in  
hands-on arts

**\$675,000**

disbursed to BC  
school districts  
for artistic  
performances.

## Artists in Education

Artists in Education (AIE) grants support artistic programming in schools across BC, including performances, workshops and residencies. *Funded by Province of British Columbia and BC Arts Council.*

[artstarts.com/aie](http://artstarts.com/aie)



AIC Grant Recipient: Mitchell Elementary students worked with artist Isabelle Kirouac on 'The Bird Project'."

### Creative Spark Vancouver

Creative Spark Vancouver grants support emerging artists who live in Vancouver interested in building their careers and working with young people in an arts-based capacity. Grants offer up to \$2,000. *Funded by the City of Vancouver.*

[artstarts.com/creativesparkvancouver](http://artstarts.com/creativesparkvancouver)

### Creative Spark Columbia Basin

Creative Spark Columbia Basin grants support artists who live in BC's Columbia Basin region to work with young people in an arts-based capacity. Grants offer up to \$1,000.

*Funded by Columbia Basin Trust, through the Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance*

[artstarts.com/creativesparkcolumbiabasin](http://artstarts.com/creativesparkcolumbiabasin)

**\$19,991**

disbursed to 58 schools for

**6,154**

subsidized tickets

**\$43,922**

disbursed

**24**

emerging artists

projects involving

**375**

young people

**12**

Columbia Basin artists

projects involving

**448**

young people

**\$13,792**

disbursed to:

### Cherniavsky's Mr. Music Fund.

Cherniavsky's Mr. Music Fund helps schools bring students to live performances of classical/traditional music, opera or ballet. Grant offers up to \$500. *Funded by Cherniavsky Junior Club for the Performing Arts Society.*

[artstarts.com/cherniavsky](http://artstarts.com/cherniavsky)

### Arts in Education Council of BC Fund

Arts in Education Council of BC Fund (AIECBC) supports professional development in the arts for BC teachers. Grants offers up to \$500.

[artstarts.com/aiecbc](http://artstarts.com/aiecbc)



Pattern Nation Imagination Exploration: A six week visual & wearable art course for young people.



# Financial Summary

**ArtStarts in Schools' total revenues for 2018 amounted to over \$3 million** from government bodies, foundations, corporations, individuals and earned income from our programs and services. Approximately 40% of our total budget was disbursed in the form of arts grants. The remaining expenditures included supporting our network of professional artists, presenting the ArtStarts Showcase, offering professional development for artists and educators, operating the ArtStarts Gallery of young people's art, offering community arts based programming and program services.

Financial Summary and Comparison		
	2018	2017
<b>Income</b>	<b>\$3,027,605</b>	<b>\$3,033,455</b>
School Performances	\$995,213	\$978,409
Earned Income	\$271,442	\$268,489
Public Funding	\$469,036	\$467,787
Private Funding	\$99,767	\$53,377
Granting Programs	\$1,180,544	\$1,255,123
Investment Income	\$11,603	\$10,270
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>\$3,038,673</b>	<b>\$2,997,435</b>
School Performances	\$996,489	\$978,409
Programs and Events	\$115,927	\$110,595
Services and Support	\$661,962	\$663,395
Marketing and Outreach	\$26,102	\$10,693
Facility Expenses	\$26,332	\$32,774
Consultants	\$46,628	\$12,541
Grant Disbursements	\$1,165,233	\$1,220,896
<b>Net loss/ profit</b>	<b>-\$11,068</b>	<b>\$36,020</b>

# Our Community of Supporters

We gratefully acknowledge our community of supporters, including individuals, corporate sponsors, foundations and government funders who help to ensure that art is an essential part of educating our young people. #artisessential

## artstarts.com/supporters

### Major Supporters:

British Columbia Arts Council  
Government of British Columbia  
Vancouver Foundation  
2010 Legacies Now  
BC Social Venture Partners Foundation  
Canada Council for the Arts  
Department of Canadian Heritage

### Up to \$25,000:

Cherniavsky Junior Club for the  
Performing Arts Society  
Columbia Basin Trust through the  
Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance  
TELUS Vancouver Community Board  
RBC Foundation  
Westminster Savings  
BPS Wealth Management

### Up to \$10,000:

Manny Padda  
Vancity Community Foundation

### Up to \$5,000:

Amy Nathoo\*  
James Lepp / Six  
Hundred Four  
Jesse Dodge and Mala  
Srivatsa  
Larry Achtemichuk\*  
Metro Vancouver  
Cultural Grants  
The Edith Lando  
Charitable Foundation  
The Louis Family

### Up to \$1,000:

Allan Douglas\*  
EA Outreach Giving  
Leslie Shieh\*  
Khang Nguyen\*  
Kiky Kambylis\*  
LiveWritePaint  
Mia Lok\*  
Navida Nuraney\*  
Telus Employee  
Charitable Giving  
Sam & Patti Gudewill\*  
Tom Fijal\*  
Zoée Montpetit/Queer  
ASL

### \$101 to \$500:

Anne Uebbing  
Bill Sangha  
Birgit Zorzi  
Bob Oldfield\*  
Dawn Quast\*  
Daniel Duggan  
Cameron Minty  
Christine Ames  
Christopher Porter  
Edwin Yau\*  
Emily Beam\*  
Elfred Matining\*  
Erik Minty  
Faina & Boris Sichon\*  
Fares Boulos\*  
Fred Minty  
Gary Wang\*  
Gregory Pierce  
Hubert Chan  
Ian Cromwell  
Jay Dilley  
John Firkins  
John Veltheer  
Laura Harries\*  
Laurie Buckley\*  
Lucie Wallace\*  
Luz Alvarado\*  
Karen Marler  
Keri Pierce  
Kim The\*  
Krista Cameron  
Libby Hart\*  
Mary Beam

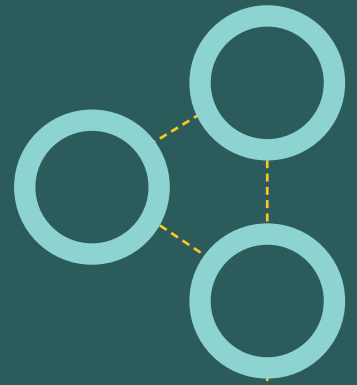
Mary Blais\*  
Nellie Sun\*  
Orane Cheung\*  
Pavan Thind\*  
Rekha  
Pavanantharajah\*  
Sarah Ellis\*  
Shiela Carnahan  
Simona  
Martinezguerra\*  
SPUD  
Stephen Petrucci\*  
Sukhdev Thind\*  
Susan Seymour\*  
Thara Vayali\*  
The Wawanesa Mutual  
Insurance Company  
Theodora Lamb\*  
Tina Parbhakar\*  
Will Stroet\*

### In Kind

Blake Cassels &  
Graydon LLP  
Opus Art Supplies  
Raincoast Books  
River Market at  
Westminster Quay  
Rosedale on Robson  
Suite Hotel  
SPUD  
Vincent To  
Photography

*\*indicates our amazing  
monthly donors.*

# Donor Spotlights



**Manny Padda:** entrepreneur, philanthropist, and ArtStarts major donor.

## **What sparks your creativity?**

**Manny:** I feel most creatively inspired when I'm experiencing the unknown. I love exploring new and different situations, meeting new people and listening to perspectives that are different than mine. My kids are also a huge source of creative inspiration — especially since they let me see the world through fresh eyes and engage in imaginative play. And I often brainstorm ideas on paper. Writing down my thoughts helps me unlock new connections and follow tangents.

## **What inspires you in your leadership role?**

**Manny:** I'm all about people. My teams, partners and colleagues motivate me every day to do my best work. I also love the challenge of taking on new endeavours and working with teams.

## **What value does art bring to STEM (science, technology, engineering, math)?**

**Manny:** Art is so important in tech because it brings an element of creative problem-solving that isn't always included in the STEM disciplines. As more technical jobs are automated and replaced by artificial intelligence, being able to think creatively will be more important than ever.

## **Why do you choose to support ArtStarts?**

**Manny:** ArtStarts is making real change in our community by providing arts education and support for those who may not otherwise have a chance to explore creative fields. In my opinion, the arts and the creative thinking skills they promote are just as critical as math and science when it comes to preparing kids for tomorrow's careers.

Manny passionately announcing his matching gift for new monthly donors.





**SVP Vancouver:** a network of engaged philanthropists who invest time, money and professional expertise.

Photo: Navida with our lead SVP partners Larry and Linda



#### **Gina Ungaro, Interim Executive Director**

##### **Describe SVP's model in a nutshell.**

**Gina:** With a vision to ensure more children and youth reach their full potential, SVP Vancouver seeks to effect significant, long term positive social change in our community by strengthening the organizational capacity of local non-profits by investing time, money, and expertise to help them scale their impact.

##### **Why does SVP focus on supporting young people?**

**Gina:** We believe that all young people should have access to equitable, meaningful, and community-enhancing activities. We invest in our youth because when they gain vital skills, responsibilities, and confidence, they can reach their full potential, contributing to a stronger community and a better world.

##### **What value does art and creativity bring to young people's lives?**

**Gina:** Inviting young people to flex their creative muscles and get curious about art allows them to think about challenges laterally - to apply innovative ideas that will achieve different results.

##### **What aspects of ArtStarts' direction are you most excited about?**

**Gina:** We're excited about ArtStarts' commitment to providing arts programming to all youth through a lens of equity and social justice, which closely aligns with our values.



## Read about the BC Arts Council's new [Strategic Plan](#)

BC Arts Council is one of our founding supporters. Hear from **Monique Lacerte, BA, MACD** - our program officer.

Why is equity, diversity and access in the arts important?

**Monique:** Equity, Diversity and Access are important to consider in the arts because diverse creative voices best reflect the lived experiences of all British Columbians, not just that of the majority. We should strive to address unintended barriers and historic inequities regarding access to arts and culture opportunities, funding and programs for underserved artists, organizations and audiences. Being good citizens (and public servants) requires us to reflect critically on patterns of inclusion and exclusion, particularly those that may be deeply engrained. Both unconscious bias and a tendency to be drawn to the familiar can result in reinforcing longstanding assumptions around arts and cultural experiences.

What is the value of enhancing arts and culture in schools?

**Monique:** The arts are important as they contribute to the development of a whole person. Exposure to and participation in a wide variety of arts activities during the formative years (while in school) makes such experiences normative, and encourages within the individual, acceptance of difference, pursuit of critical discourse and expectation of creative expression

into adulthood. Arts in education (and in community) prepares us to live lives of significance as free-thinking persons connected to society, enabling us to gather and evaluate information, write clearly and think creatively, work in teams to solve complex problems, and connect with people from different backgrounds.

Further, exposure to a variety of professional arts practices enable young minds to image themselves in those roles later in life, whether for career or leisurely pursuit.

How does ArtStarts help deliver the strategic priorities in BC Arts Council's strategic plan?

**Monique:** ArtStarts in Schools Society assists BC Arts Council to meet the goals of its strategic plan - New Foundations: by providing BC artists access to school markets as performers and artists in residence (Equity, Diversity and Access), (Indigenous Arts and Culture); by training emerging artists to work efficiently and effectively inside school culture (Sustainability and Creative Development), (Indigenous Arts and Culture); by providing expertise in disseminating arts funding into every region and School District across BC (Regional Arts and Community Arts), (Indigenous Arts and Culture); and by encouraging the fair payment of BC artists at industry standards (Sustainability and Creative Development).



BRITISH COLUMBIA  
ARTS COUNCIL

An agency of the Province of British Columbia



## ArtStarts in Schools

808 Richards Street  
Vancouver\*, BC  
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\*We wish to respectfully acknowledge that we live, work, and play on the unceded, ancestral, and traditional territory of the x<sup>w</sup>məθk<sup>w</sup>əyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and sə́lilwətaʔt (Tsleil-Waututh) peoples.

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