

artstarts

Annual Report 2019



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A Message from the Board President

The 2019 year has been a defining year for ArtStarts in Schools. Our overarching goal has been to respond with agility to the changing world and increasingly focus on the youth we serve.

This report is where you get a chance to see how our various collaborators have worked with us with passion and commitment to ensure that young people across British Columbia see art as an input, an outlet, a process, and a priority.

Our staff and board have kept creativity, conversations, and community at the forefront of how we put our mission into action. I couldn't be prouder to work with this small and mighty team for such a meaningful purpose.



This year we spent time reevaluating our thinking, our concepts of art, and our technological systems. Our organization has worked on a macro and micro level, managing system overhauls and undergoing comprehensive and thoughtful long-term planning. Our process helped us develop a strategic plan to keep ArtStarts adaptable, increasingly relevant, and socially conscious.

Sincere gratitude goes out to you, our community, full of dedicated artists, funders, sponsors, donors, and volunteers. On behalf of the board and staff—to each of you: Thank you, we could not have accomplished any of this work without you!

flux
/flʌks/

noun: the action or process of flowing, changing, moving

The world is in flux and we all have a hand in shaping the future. To walk forward takes a steady organization, a courageous community, and a capacity to pivot. We look to the future with imagination and optimism, because in times of change art is not something to silo. Art is essential.

Most importantly we look forward to creating with you. We believe that it takes a village. Together, we can offer arts programming in a way that encourages youth, artists, and teachers to develop their engagement, empathy, and creative process. Together, we can unleash creativity and watch it soar.

Warmly,

Thara Vayali
Board President
ArtStarts in Schools

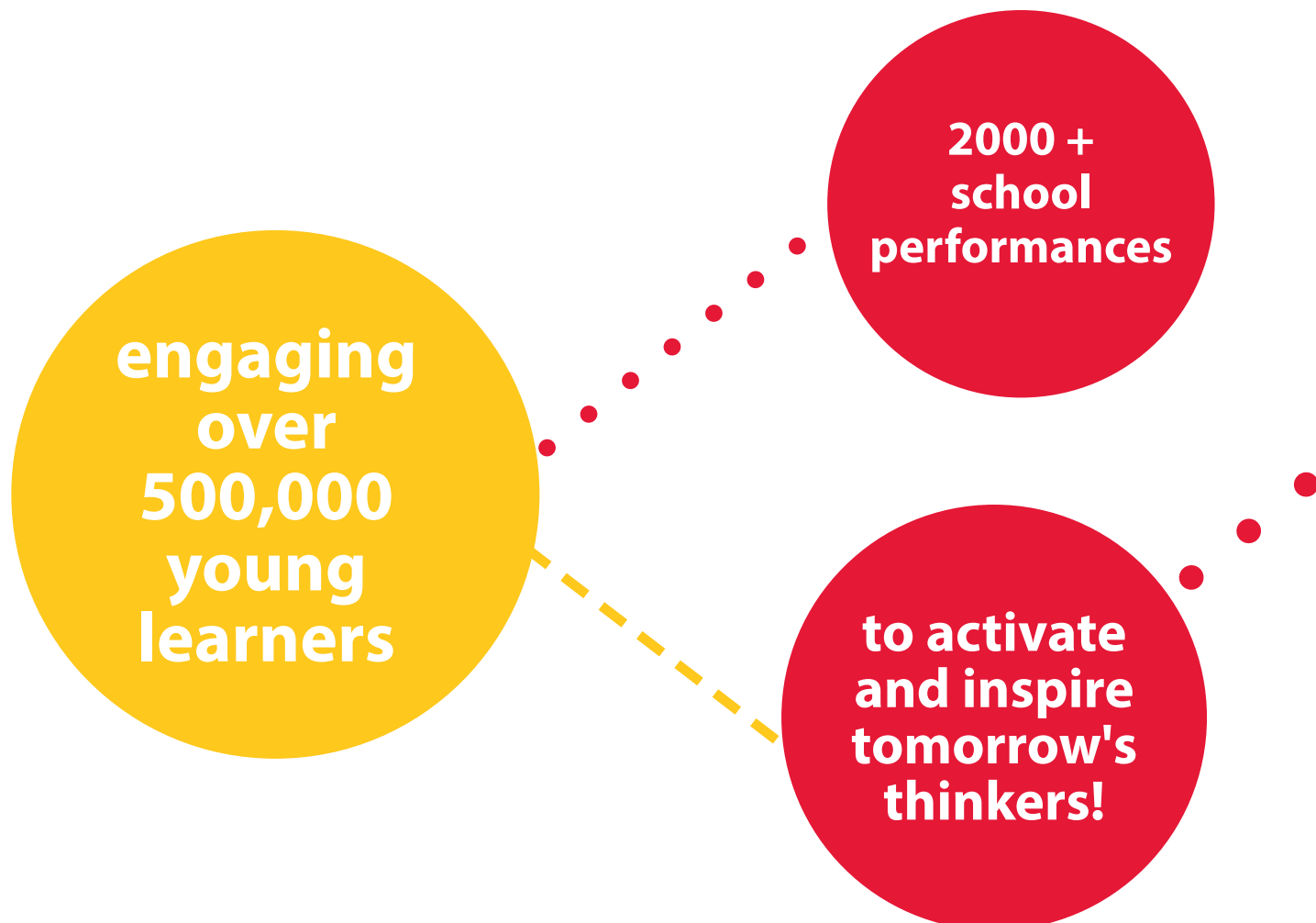
About ArtStarts

ArtStarts exists to ensure **art is an essential, integrated aspect of life and learning**. Alongside a network of values-aligned peers, ArtStarts advocates for art to be valued, supported, and resourced to influence patterns and create pathways that give way to **systemic change**.

But increasing access to arts programming is not enough. For ArtStarts to realize its mission, arts education must be equitable and inclusive. ArtStarts is committed to employing an **anti-oppression lens** to ensure young learners of diverse lived experiences meaningfully engage in arts-based programming and education.

ArtStarts' mission is to provide innovative arts-based experiences and programs for young people, practical resources for teachers and artists, and leadership in advocacy for arts in education.

ArtStarts' vision is to create a society where the arts are considered an integral aspect of educating young learners, and necessary for developing innovative and engaged members of society.



Systems Change

ArtStarts is committed to pursuing its mission, not as a single actor, but as one node tethered to a network of values-aligned individuals, communities, artists, families, educators, organizations and institutions. Collectively, our goal is to influence the culture of arts education in British Columbia and address the root causes that lead to art being undervalued and siloed in our education system. Our concerted efforts require navigating a complex social, political and cultural landscape to ultimately establish deep systems change.

In addition to external systems change, ArtStarts is also committed to internal systems change. In 2019, we invested in and developed our organizational capacity by learning new tools and systems with the intention to make processes more efficient and accessible for artists and teachers.

We recognize that both internal and external systems change are an iterative process, not a linear one. As we move forward into 2020, we continue to reflect on and be responsive in our approach.



ArtStarts is committed to providing students with accessible arts-based experiences in their schools...

and considers intentional representation of equity groups an important part of this commitment.

Anti-Oppression

Our ongoing learning journey has us committed to understanding that simply increasing arts programming in education does not mean young people are able to harness their own creativity equally. Who is considered an artist, and what is considered art, has long tracked dimensions of gender, race, class, ability and sexuality. These dimensions also influence young learner's ability to meaningfully access and participate in arts programming.

For ArtStarts to achieve its mission, it's not enough to simply influence systems change in our society. We must also commit to dismantling oppressive systems. That is why we apply an anti-oppressive lens to all aspects of our work. In doing so, young learners of various backgrounds and identities feel respected and see themselves reflected in the arts education they receive.

Our Team

Realizing ArtStarts' mission is made possible with the support of a network of values-aligned peers. It also takes a dedicated team consisting of our staff and board. That is why ArtStarts invests in its people. Over 2019, the staff and board sought professional development opportunities that enhanced their capacities and broadened their perspectives to effectively deliver ArtStarts' mission. Here is a look at the team(s) and what we've been learning this year.

Staff

Throughout the year, staff had the opportunity to expand on their own learning journeys, enhancing ArtStarts' organizational capacity.

Members of ArtStarts staff engaged with their personal art practice and literature. They also participated in in-person learnings including Conscious Use of Power by Inner Activist, InSea World Congress at the University of British Columbia and the multi-day summit, Stratagem. These experiences provided the ArtStarts team a chance to connect with values-aligned individuals and organizations committed to arts integration and social justice.

Each professional development experience is an opportunity for our team to bring a part of ArtStarts with them, and in turn build on their individual lived experience to further enrich the organization as a whole.



Staff members in 2019: Navida Nuraney, Rekha Pavanantharajah, Emily Beam, Leah Horlick, Pavan Thind, Laurie Buckley, Darcie Dyer, Hannah Jarvis, Lily Cryan, Kay Slater, Sarah Kim, and Ayesha Kanjee.



"The awareness that there may be additional ways of being, knowing, and leading to learn about and apply have allowed many different possibilities to come to life. These learnings not only apply to my role as an ArtStarts board member, but as a colleague, friend, and family member."

— Gary Wang, Board Vice President

Board

In 2019 the board participated in JEDI (justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion) sessions with experienced JEDI consultant and facilitator, Natasha Aruliah. These experiences contextualized anti-oppression in relation to the board's role and responsibility. The outcome of these sessions tested the board's notional appreciation of diversity and inclusion and they emerged with a deeper, more purposeful commitment to promoting justice and equity for all young people in British Columbia.

Board members who served in 2019: Thara Vayali, Gary Wang, Mary Blais, Edwin Yau, Mia Lok, Theodora Lamb, Tina Parbhakar, Will Stroet, Aryn Somani, Stephen Petrucci, Bob Oldfield, and Libby Hart.

Our Artists

From established to emerging, new to long-standing, artists who participate in ArtStarts workshops, perform in schools on tour, or develop innovative projects alongside teachers and young learners in the classroom. All our partner artists contribute to creating a vibrant and diverse arts-education landscape in British Columbia.

In collaboration with artists, ArtStarts builds bridges between the arts and education to make art an essential part of young learner's lives. The enriching arts-integrated experiences artists bring to classrooms, auditoriums, and beyond, make young learners are better equipped to problem solve and think critically in the innovative ways needed in today's world.

artstarts.com/artists

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artists from equity-seeking groups participated in the **QTBIPOC Showcase Intensive** to significantly reduce barriers and increase representation for artists applying to ArtStarts Annual Showcase and other programs.



"It made me feel so much more at ease and I felt more relaxed since it was such a warm and special space."

— Mason Meghji, poet and spoken word artist

"It allowed for meaningful & deep conversations about the economic and emotional realities of being QTBIPOC working artists."

— Jane Shi, writer & poet

Funder recognition:



"I think it's a rare opportunity to be in this kind of space so it made me feel safe to really ask questions and get the most out of the workshop."

— Romi Kim, interdisciplinary artist and drag performer, 'Skim'

90 artists on tour delivered **2,111** performances in schools,
generating **\$1.6 million** in income for artists through
ArtStarts' **Artists on Tour Directory**.



**"With [the Artist on Tour Directory],
we have been able to make art our
job by having an incredible amount
of exposure to school districts
across the province."**

— 3 Crows Productions, Indigenous storytellers

**"Once I got my foot in the door
as a performer for the 2017
showcase, my work as a touring
storyteller began to soar. "**

— Shayna Jones



29 artists participated in **3** Learning Labs, an evolving workshop series supporting artists from a variety of disciplines committed to designing impactful arts-based experiences with young learners and educators.

artstarts.com/learning-labs



"As a non-Indigenous person it was so important for me to learn from and with Indigenous artists who have a clear vision for youth in their community and in relation to the land. So powerful to learn with and hold space for our experiences and to grow in doing so."

— BIPOC Performing Artist Learning Lab participant

"There needs to be more opportunities like this that prioritize equity groups and their experiences in the arts! We need to support this process and engage people's growth, so I'm thankful to have been part of it and look forward to seeing more!"

— BIPOC Performing Artist Learning Lab participant



Funder recognition:



Our Teachers

Our partners in the education system play a vital role in expanding art-based curriculum and experiences in the lives of young people. ArtStarts provides pathways for teachers, school administrators, and superintendents looking to integrate impactful arts experiences to their schools and districts through capacity building opportunities and directory services.

Summer Camp is an opportunity for educators to build their capacity to facilitate arts-based experiences for young people in their classrooms. Educators come away from the two-day intensive reconnected with their own creative capacities and focused on creating safer spaces for students to make mistakes and to learn by doing.

Workshops included Everyone Can Dance with Lily Cryan, Everyone's a Maker with Emily Smith and Everyone Can Draw facilitated by Kay Slater.

artstarts.com/summercamp



31

educators and
teacher candidates
participated
in two full
days of workshops

"Camp made me—someone who definitely doesn't identify as an artist—feel more comfortable incorporating art in the classroom."

— SFU PDP student

"ArtStarts Summer Camp really got me excited to practice a lot more integration of artistic practice, movement, and play in the classroom. The focus on process rather than product was especially helpful."

— Gwen Floyd, K-7 TOC

Artists on Tour Directory

ArtStarts' **Artists on Tour Directory** integrates over **90** professional performing artists **into schools across 61** districts!
artstarts.com/aotd



"The artists we have had visit our schools have all been inspirational for our students and staff."

— Educator

Artists in the Classroom Directory

The **Artists in the Classroom Directory** connects teachers with professional artists experienced in working in schools for the purpose of collaborating on projects that activate young learners' engagement and creativity in the classroom.

artstarts.com/aicd



Artist Candice George leads students in an Artist in the Classroom Directory school project on storytelling.

"This was a unique experience for the students. It is always great to have an outside voice on oral storytelling that the kids enjoy and listen to."

— Artist in the Classroom Directory educator

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professional artists available to teachers wanting to bring rich arts-based experiences into their classrooms.



Our Families

ArtStarts' family programming connects young people to arts-based experiences that help bring to light their creative capabilities.

On the last Saturday of each month we host free and engaging events through **ArtStarts on Saturdays** at the Gallery and **ArtStarts at River Market** in New Westminster.



ArtStarts' **Explores** workshop series is a chance for young people to gather at the ArtStarts Gallery and participate in engaging workshops that build capacity for innovation and sparks creativity.

Explores is guided by three simple rules:

1. Respect oneself and one another.
2. There is no such thing as making a mistake.
3. Nothing is for keeps.

We acknowledge Edith Lando's support of ArtStarts' Explores program

Funder recognition:



Funder recognition:



Gallery

The Gallery is more than just an exhibition space. It's a place where artists, young people, educators, families and the ArtStarts team gather. The ArtStarts Gallery provides a springboard to envision what is possible with art. It is home.

artstarts.com/gallery

Our **RBC Emerging Artists-in Residence**, Romi Kim, created a ball gown from recycled plastic for her drag persona "Skim". Romi's "Skim in Burnaby" showcased on our MicroMezz Gallery and explored her experiences as a Korean-Canadian drag performer growing up in Abbotsford.

"I applied to the Emerging Artist Residency to create my project "Skim in..." where I bring my drag character out into the art world and also back to memorable places of my youth. Moving to Vancouver this past September, I knew I wanted to do this performance back in Burnaby where I went to elementary school but needed financial support."

— Romi Kim



Funder recognition:



**RBC
Emerging Artists
Project**

**The ArtStarts
Gallery is
the only free,
public gallery
in Canada...**

**...exclusively
dedicated to
young people's
art!**

Maker Space

ArtStarts Gallery transformed into the Maker Space: **the only free maker space dedicated to young people and their art in Vancouver.** It is an environment where young makers get to put the 'A' in STEAM, dissolving boundaries, and giving way to a microcosm of emergent possibilities. When young learners interact with the Maker Space, they leave their own imprint on ArtStarts and carry a part of the Maker Space experience with them as they venture into the world. The Maker Space is made possible through support from generous donors in our community.



Showcase

The ArtStarts Showcase draws educators, schools, and community arts programmers to witness artistic performances. Showcase serves as a catalyst to help ensure arts-based experiences happen in schools and communities across our province.

artstarts.com/showcase

"It was really powerful seeing the highlights of the new shows to bring to my school. The artists really thought about what they were presenting and changed my perspective."

— Lisa Thom, SD68

75 delegates representing **41** out of **62 districts** attended the **23rd annual showcase.**



Canada Council
for the Arts

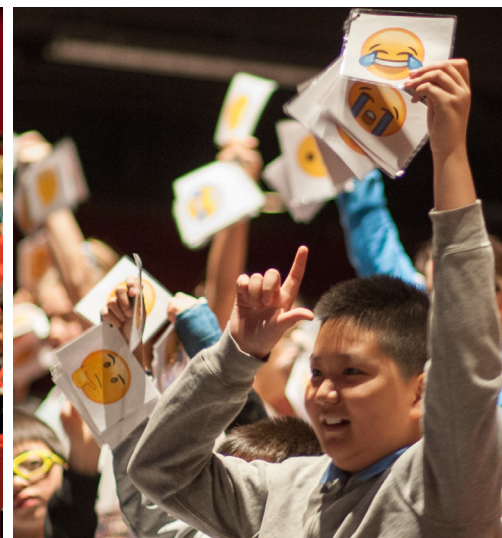
Conseil des arts
du Canada

Funder recognition:



BRITISH COLUMBIA
ARTS COUNCIL

 CITY OF
VANCOUVER



Grants

Artists in Education

grants support school districts across BC to program performances, workshops and residencies.

artstarts.com/aie

Artists in the Classroom

grants bring professional artists into schools for rich learning experiences. Grants offer of up to \$3,500 for small to medium scale projects and up to \$10,000 for large scale projects. artstarts.com/aic

Cherniavsky's Mr Music Fund

makes it possible for students to attend quality live performances of classical and traditional music, opera and ballet. Grants offer up to \$500.

artstarts.com/cherniavsky

Cherniavsky Junior Club for the Performing Arts Society

Creative Spark Vancouver

grants were launched in 2016 to support emerging artists in the City of Vancouver interested in building their careers and working with young people in an arts-based capacity. Grants offer up to \$2,000.

artstarts.com/creativesparkvancouver

Creative Spark Columbia Basin

grants support creative projects with young people facilitated by artists in BC's Columbia Basin region. Grants offer up to \$1,000.

artstarts.com/creativesparkcolumbiabasin

Arts in Education Council of BC Fund

offers grants to support teachers' professional development in the arts. Grants offer up to \$500.

artstarts.com/aiecbc

62

school districts leveraged this grant to bring artistic activities to students in remote, rural, and urban schools across BC.

17,340

students learned from professional artists in their own classrooms, opening their minds to what is possible in education.

4,646

tickets purchased provided rich cultural excursions to professional venues, a first experience for many young people.

52

emerging artists worked with young people to create their own artwork

7

artists funded through Creative Spark Columbia Basin in collaboration with the Columbia Basin Trust.

Financial Summary

38%

of ArtStarts' revenue was disbursed to schools, school districts and artists in the form of grants to ensure art is essential in BC

Financial Summary and Comparison		
	2019	2018
Income	\$3,190,770	\$3,027,605
School Performances	\$998,397	\$995,213
Earned Income	\$292,474	\$271,442
Public Funding	\$494,082	\$469,036
Private Funding	\$170,520	\$99,767
Granting Programs	\$1,223,602	\$1,180,544
Investment Income	\$11,695	\$11,603
Expenses	\$ 3,204,042	\$3,038,673
School Performances	\$1,003,116	\$996,489
Programs and Events	\$141,518	\$115,927
Services and Support	\$752,545	\$661,962
Marketing and Outreach	\$13,695	\$26,102
Facility Expenses	\$38,228	\$26,332
Consultants	\$17,190	\$46,628
Grant Disbursements	\$1,237,700	\$1,165,233
Net loss/ profit	-\$ 13,272	-\$11,068

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

Program and Operating Support in 2019

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
BC Community Gaming Grants
City of Vancouver

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
Creative BC

Up to \$10,000

Manny Padda
Vancity Community Foundation

Up to \$5,000

Amy Nathoo*
Jesse Dodge & Mala Srivatsa*
Larry Achtemichuk*
Linda Louis*
Sarah Ellis*
The Edith Lando Charitable Foundation
20 - Our Supporters

Up to \$1,000

Allan Douglas*
Gary Wang*
Leslie Shieh*
Khang Nguyen*
Kiky Kambylis*
Mala Srivasta*
Mia Lok*
Navida Nuraney*
Sam & Patti Gudewill*
Scott Shaw
Telus Employee
Charitable Giving
Tom Fijal*
Zoée
Montpetit/Queer ASL

\$101 to \$500

Amanda Lui
Anne Uebbing
Bill Sangha
Bob Oldfield*
Charlotte Ensminger
Chelsea Peters
Christine Ames
Christopher Porter
Dan Bowditch
Dan Cohen*
Daniel Duggan
Edwin Yau*
Emily Beam*
Elfred Matining*
Fana Soro
Faina & Boris Sichon*
Fares Boulos*
Gail and Abhyankar
Gregory

Kozak (Scrap Arts)
Gregory Pierce
Heather Hoiness
Hubert Chan
Ian Cromwell
Jamie Oliveiro*
Jay Dilley
Jaydeen Williams*
John Firkins
John Veltheer
Kristi Heath
Laura Harries*
Laurie Buckley*
Lucie Wallace*
Luz Alvarado*
Lynda Gerty*
Karen Marler
Keri Pierce
Kim The*
Libby Hart*
Lyndy Gerty
Marianne Rev
Mary Beam
Mary Blais*
Michael Mitchell
Nellie Sun*
Nizar Nuraney
Orane Cheung*
Pavan Thind*
Rekha
Pavanantharajah*
Rosie
McLeod - Shannon
Rowena Veylan
Rupinder Sidhu
Shannon Holding
Sharon Connelly

Shiela Carnahan
Simona
Martinezguerra*
SPUD
Stina Brown*
Sukhdev Thind*
Susan Seymour*
Tejas Madhur*
Thara Vayali*
Theodora Lamb*
Tina Parbhakar*
Val Emberl
Will Stroet*

In Kind

Blake
Cassels & Graydon LLP
Opus Art Supplies
River Market at
Westminster Quay
Vincent
To Photography
Vancouver
Civic Theatres

** indicates our
monthly supporters*

Supporter Spotlight

Our community of supporters help pivot the needle on ensuring art is essential. We asked them to share **why they support our mission** and how they view ArtStarts' impact through our collective efforts.

"I identify with the value and role of creativity for all our young learners and for our future society. Adding the 'STEAM' in STEM resonates with me."

— Larry Achtemichuk, Monthly Donor and SVP Lead Partner



"We've seen ArtStarts empower students and educators to think differently, approach learning in new ways, and take creative risks."

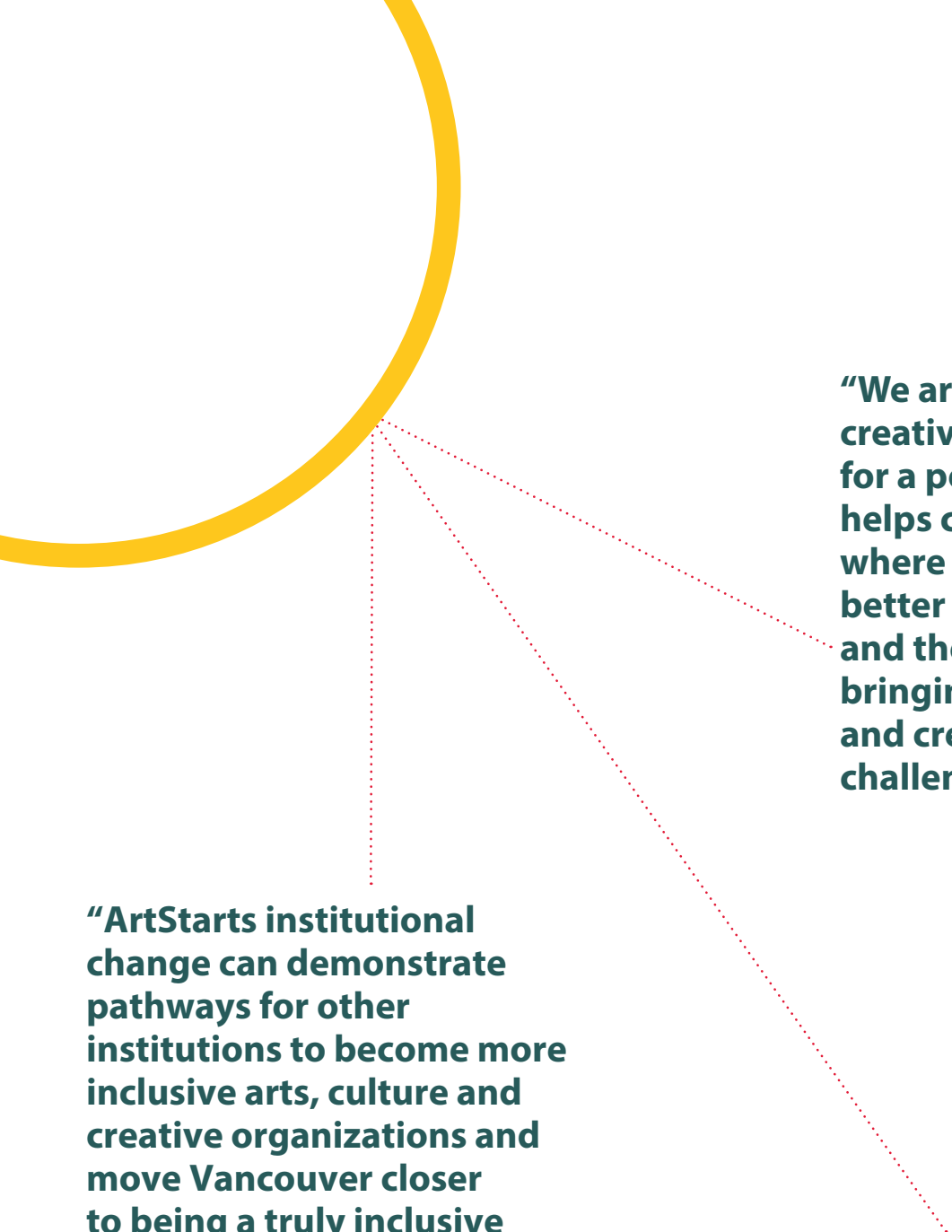
— Nicole Eich, Foundation and Community Giving Manager Westminster Savings



"We have experienced firsthand how ArtStarts empowers teachers, artists and families to confidently engage young people in arts-integrated learning where self-expression, curiosity and imagination are at the centre and where learning is alive ..."

— Simona Martinezguerra, grade 5 student, monthly donor & Juliana Bedoya, parent, monthly donor





"We are living in a time when creative solutions are needed for a positive future. ArtStarts helps create the conditions where young people can better understand themselves and the world around them, bringing their unique ideas and creativity to bear on the challenges of our time."

— Lynda Gerty, monthly donor



"ArtStarts institutional change can demonstrate pathways for other institutions to become more inclusive arts, culture and creative organizations and move Vancouver closer to being a truly inclusive arts, culture and creative community."

— Marnie Rice, City of Vancouver



"Not all kids are the same—not in intellect, ethnicity, ability, health, sexual orientation. ArtStarts shows kids that ALL people are creative, that art, in all its guises, is a part of everyone."

— Linda Louis, Donor and SVP Lead Partner



Thank You

A young boy with dark hair, wearing a red baseball cap with the 'GAP' logo and a white sweatshirt with a colorful car graphic, is reaching up with his right hand towards a ball of teal yarn. The yarn is suspended in the air, having just been tossed. The background is a vibrant, geometric playroom with large blue and purple triangular shapes. On a purple shelf above, several spools of colorful thread are visible. To the right, another purple shelf holds more spools and a black container. In the bottom right corner, a wooden sewing machine sits on a yellow surface. The overall atmosphere is bright and playful.



ArtStarts in Schools

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*We wish to respectfully acknowledge that we live, work, and play on the unceded, ancestral, and traditional territory of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and səlilwətaʔt (Tsleil-Waututh) peoples.

Stay in Touch!

Get all the latest news about exhibitions, events, and more. Sign up for our newsletter and follow us on social media.

ArtStarts.com



@artstarts

#artisessential

Charitable Registration
89765 8936 RR0001R