



**Annual
Report
2020**



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Welcome to our 2020 Annual Report

A Message from the Interim Executive Director and Interim Board President:

2020 was a year of imagining new possibilities, from adapting to the pandemic, to seeing shifts in the global consciousness of social justice. The events we witnessed in 2020 called for our attention, demanded justice, and inspired action to follow each other’s stories, and harness the power of the arts to engage our minds, our emotions, and our imaginations. Together with those who weave stories—artists, youth, educators, and families—we develop more empathy for one another, we see multiple perspectives, and we are inspired to create change.

At ArtStarts, we believe that the centering of arts in young people’s learning and lives is more important now than ever before. Artistic experiences are tools which have the power to catalyze critical thinking, facilitate the exploration of perspectives, cultures, intersecting identities, and inspire awareness and action. The arts nurture in young people the creativity and innovation required to build a better, and more just world.

Simon Hodges says, “If we want to transform society, we must learn to tell—and listen to—a new set of stories about the world we want to create. When stories are deeply grounded in values, they can communicate a vision and not merely a picture of the realities we face.”

On behalf of ArtStarts, thank you to our community of families, young learners, educators, and artists. Thank you to our network of sponsors, donors, and collaborators. Thank you all for the critical role you continue to play in the story of ArtStarts, in nurturing creativity and imagination, and inspiring action.

With gratitude,


Winnie Tam,
Interim Executive
Director


Gary Wang,
Interim President,
Board of Directors



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.

We focus on creating meaningful change where young people benefit most equitably and directly—in their schools and classrooms.

By providing young people with access to arts-based learning experiences, we develop a generation that values the creative, collaborative and innovative skills necessary to thrive in learning and in life.

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.

ArtStarts respectfully acknowledges that we carry out our work on the lands of Indigenous nations throughout colonial British Columbia.

Our office and ArtStarts Gallery are located on the unceded, ancestral, and traditional territory of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and sə́lilwətaʔt (Tsleil-Waututh) peoples.

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.

2020 has been a fast-changing and transformative time, yet our commitment to systems change is ongoing and ever-evolving

Systems Change and Anti-Oppression

ArtStarts continues to explore the possibilities for transformation and change, following the learning journey that began in 2018, which allowed us to deepen our understanding of how we relate to power, privilege, systems of oppression, and justice. We know we cannot advocate for the arts as an essential component of education without understanding how systems privilege some students, teachers, and artists over others.

Throughout 2019 and 2020, ArtStarts engaged artists from equity seeking groups, and we will continue to actively bring their workshops, performances, and diverse stories to share with students and teachers across BC.

2020 has been a fast-changing and transformative time, yet our commitment to systems change is ongoing and ever-evolving, anchored in our internal and external anti-oppression work, as well as in our new strategic plan for the next four years.

Our Team

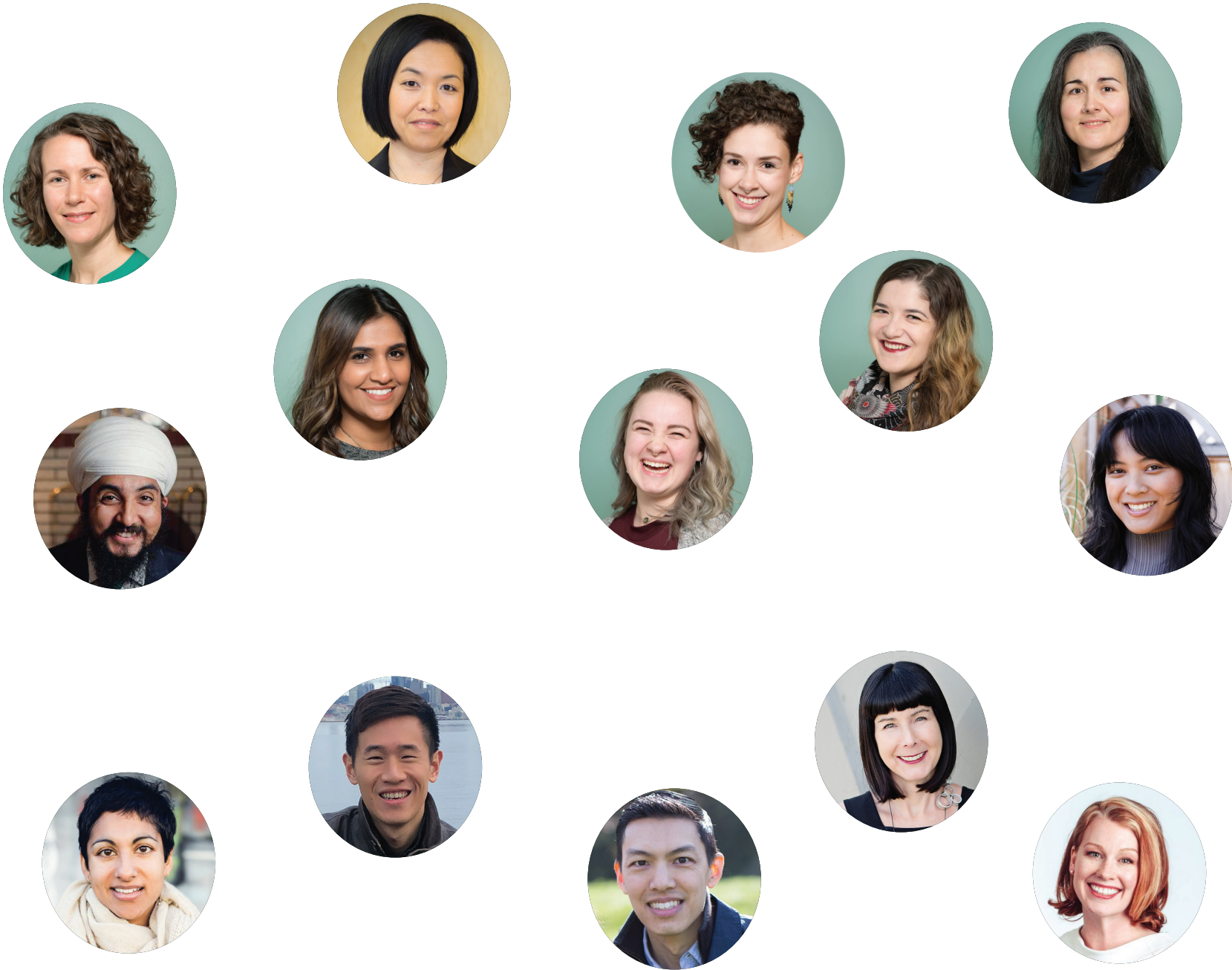
Staff

In 2020, the ArtStarts staff team explored new possibilities for how we work, reimagined our programming, and supported artists to adapt their projects so arts experiences could be delivered to schools and young learners across the province in COVID-conscious ways.

Without their dedication, resilience, and creativity, we would not have been able to continue to sustain and build our relationships with artists, educators, and families during a very isolating year full of transformations.

Board

In 2020 the Board finalized the 2020-2024 Strategic Plan, recruited three new Board Members to serve in 2021, hired an Interim Executive Director, and played an operational role to support staff and programming transitions.



Staff members in 2020 (L to R):
Emily Beam, Winnie Tam, Darcie Dyer, Kay Slater, Paneet Singh, Pavan Thind, Hannah Jarvis, Lily Cryan, Elysse Cloma

Not pictured: Navida Nuraney, Rekha Pavanantharajah, Laurie Buckley, Leah Horlick, Noal Amir, Aslam Bulbulia

Board members who served in 2020 (L to R): Thara Vayali, Gary Wang, Edwin Yau, Mary Blais, and Theodora Lamb

Artists

From established to emerging, new to long-standing, a wide range of artists from varying disciplines and cultural backgrounds participate in ArtStarts workshops and family programming, perform in schools, or develop innovative projects that engage young people through the arts.

The diverse artists on our directories and in our network contribute to creating an enriching arts education landscape in British Columbia, and inspire young people through projects in their classrooms and performances in their schools.

artstarts.com/artists



58

Artists on Tour
Directory artists booked throughout the year

13

artists performed for **ArtStarts on Saturdays**



Digital Learning Lab

Learning Lab is a free professional development opportunity for artists to build their capacity to plan, fund, and lead arts-integrated experiences in schools and classrooms.

ArtStarts hosted two Learning Lab series in 2020, pivoting to a digital format in order to adjust to COVID-19. For accessibility purposes, workshops were available with live automated captioning through Google Meet, and sessions were kept between 60 to 90 minutes to account for issues like screen and video call fatigue.

artstarts.com/learning-labs



23

artists participated in our **Digital Learning Lab series**

"Clear and well-articulated content and logistics, gentle and meaningful examination of some complex ideas (especially around oppression, privilege and reconciliation), and well-designed sessions that respected everyone's time and voice."

—Digital Learning Lab participant



Learning Lab is funded by BC Arts Council.

COVID Conscious Artist Directory

The **Artists on Tour Directory** integrates over 90 professional performing artists into schools across 61 districts to book artists throughout the school year.

Due to social gathering restrictions and the overall health and safety guidelines resulting from the pandemic, ArtStarts had to make adjustments to our current Artists on Tour Directory and launch the **COVID Conscious Directory, which offered online programming and tailored in-school performances and workshops that adhered to the provincial health guidelines.** The purpose of this directory was to make arts experiences still available for students in the province, especially during such a challenging and uncertain time.

artstarts.com/aotd

> 45
school districts in the province received virtual or in-person programming in 2020

700+
bookings in 2020

“The ArtStarts performances have a tremendous impact on our students in the Cowichan Valley. The performances display a high level of professional talent and also inspire students to continue their exploration and skills in the performing arts. In this time of COVID, more than ever, we need to support the performing arts and provide opportunities for students to experience music, art, dance, and dramatic performances.”

—Grant Mellemstrand, SD79 Cowichan Valley



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



57
professional artists are available to teachers wanting to bring enriching arts-based experiences into their classrooms.



Teachers

Our partners in the education system play a vital role in expanding arts-based curriculum and nurturing creativity 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.

artstarts.com/teachers



Due to limited capacity and teacher restrictions, ArtStarts did not offer professional development opportunities to teachers in 2020, but funded three professional development opportunities through the Artists in Education Council of BC Fund.

"Teachers link learning and learning targets to the performances so there can be deeper learning and conversation classrooms K to 12. Often times this involves classes recreating their own versions of the art experience they were engaged in and other creations."
—Perry Smith, SD34 Abbotsford

Families

There is always something happening on Saturdays on ArtStarts. Whether it's ArtStarts Explores, or ArtStarts on Saturdays, we offer free weekly programming for young people and their caregivers to enjoy process-based and educational arts experiences together.

artstarts.com/families



We acknowledge **The Edith Lando Charitable Foundation's** support of ArtStarts Explores.

ArtStarts also acknowledges the financial support of **the Province of British Columbia** and **Prospera Credit Union** for ArtStarts on Saturdays.



ArtStarts on Saturdays went on hiatus from March-June after closing our Gallery and Maker Space due to COVID, and then transitioned to online performances in July starting with Drag Story Hour with Shay and Skim! We have been joined by incredible performances from all over the province and have been so impressed and inspired by how the artists have pivoted to engaging and personable online performances.

In April, we launched **ArtStarts Explores: Our Province at Play,** a digital series of free online family programming focused on getting all age ranges and skill levels to make time for play and exploration together. **We have greatly expanded our audience for weekend family programming by transitioning to online workshops, where the content can be accessed online at any time.**

We had some of our first youth performers for ArtStarts on Saturdays with the Flaming Balloon Collective in November!

Grants

ArtStarts offers grants that support the arts in education and creative experiences for young people in British Columbia.

While COVID heavily impacted activities funded through ArtStarts grants, art is still happening all over the province!

Young people are especially craving art and connection right now. Many of the grant applications and final reports we receive highlight the importance of young people being able to express how they feel, their experiences over the last year, and their hope and fears for the future.

artstarts.com/grants



44

school districts applied for the Artists in Education grant to bring arts experiences to their schools

5,605
students learned from professional artists in their classrooms

"Honestly, every call filled me to the brim with inspiration. There's something so powerful about sharing a space with your fellow creatives, even virtually."

- Alex, 17, Creative Spark Vancouver participant



670,000

students impacted by the Artists in Education grant, which brought performances and workshops to their schools

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 of up to \$3,500 for small to medium scale projects and up to \$10,000 for large scale projects.

artstarts.com/aic

Arts in Education Council of BC Fund

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

artstarts.com/aiecbc

In 2020 we disbursed the last of the funds to three great professional development offerings!

Cherniavsky's Mr. Music Fund

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

artstarts.com/cherniavsky

This grant has been put on hold until such time that in-person gatherings are allowed. We are grateful for the continued support of the Cherniavsky Junior Club.

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 arts-based learning. Grants of up to \$3,000 for individuals and \$5,000 for collectives.

artstarts.com/creativesparkvancouver

Financial Summary

ArtStarts in Schools experienced a 32% reduction in revenues in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy helped us retain staff and deliver free digital programming, and we ended the year with a surplus that has been reserved for future capital projects.

ArtStarts is grateful for emergency response funding that has sustained the organization through a financially challenging year.

| Financial Summary and Comparison | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| | 2020 | 2019 |
| Income | \$2,148,564 | \$3,190,770 |
| School Performances | \$390,934 | \$998,397 |
| Earned Income | \$175,402 | \$292,474 |
| Public Funding | \$602,573 | \$494,082 |
| Private Funding | \$101,887 | \$170,520 |
| Granting Programs | \$862,408 | \$1,223,602 |
| Investment Income | \$11,360 | \$11,695 |
| Expenses | \$2,103,302 | \$3,204,042 |
| School Performances | \$392,012 | \$1,003,116 |
| Programs and Events | \$64,467 | \$141,518 |
| Services and Support | \$672,685 | \$752,545 |
| Marketing and Outreach | \$6,069 | \$13,695 |
| Facility Expenses | \$26,873 | \$38,228 |
| Consultants | \$90,771 | \$17,190 |
| Grant Disbursements | \$850,425 | \$1,237,700 |
| Net loss/ profit | \$45,262 | -\$13,272 |

Our Community of Supporters

We gratefully acknowledge our community of supporters, including individuals, corporate sponsors, foundations and govenment 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 2020

Major Supporters:

British Columbia Arts Council
The Province of British Columbia
The Government of Canada
Vancouver Foundation
BC Social Venture Partners Foundation
Canada Council for the Arts
BC Community Gaming Grants
City of Vancouver Cultural Services
TELUS STORYHIVE

Up to \$25,000

Columbia Basin Trust through the
Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance
Prospera Foundation
Creative BC

Up to \$10,000

TELUS Vancouver Community Board
RBC Foundation
Vancity Community Foundation
The Edith Lando Charitable Foundation

Up to \$5,000

Amyr Nathoo*
Cherniavsky Junior Club for the Performing Arts
Society
Larry Achtemichuk*
Sam & Patti Gudewill*
Solara Foundation
Linda Louis
The Louis Family

Up to \$1,000

Gary Wang*
Khari McLelland
Mala Srivasta*
Zoée Montpetit/
Queer ASL

\$101 to \$500

Allan Douglas
Aliyah Amarshi
Aslam Bulbulia*
Dan Cohen*
Daniel Duggan
Edwin Yau*
Elfred Matining*
Emily Beam*
Faina & Boris Sichon*
Fares Boulos*
Juliana Bedoya*
Khang Nguyen*
Leslie Shieh*
Libby Hart*
Lucie Wallace*
Luz Alvarado*
Lynda Gerty*
Mairy Beam*
Mary Blais*
Mia Lok*
Paul McDonald
Rekha
Pavanantharajah*
Robert Oldfield*
Rosie McLeod -
Shannon
Sarah Ellis*
Sharon Jeroski
Shiela Carnahan

Stina Brown*
Susan Seymour*
Susan Wahlroth
Tejas Madhur*
Thara Vayali*
Tina Parbhakar*
Tom Fijal*
Wilson Tang
Winnie Tam

In Kind

Blake Cassels &
Graydon LLP
River Market at
Westminster Quay

** indicates our monthly supporters*

Supporter Spotlight

Our community of supporters help to ensure that art remains essential. We asked them to share **why they support our mission** to nurture creativity in the lives of young people across the province.

"It's especially important for Indigenous and racialized students to see people like themselves as successful artists and positive role models. Thank you for all that you do to make the arts a vital aspect of childrens' education."

— Valerie Sing Turner, Donor

" Some children are reached through music, some through the written word, and others by art, in any of its many forms."

— Linda Louis, Donor, SVP Lead Partner

Thank you!

"We're so inspired by the way ArtStarts pivoted their programs during COVID-19 to continue offering their inclusive arts, culture and creativity programs. We've seen how ArtStarts inspires children of all backgrounds and abilities and we're proud to support these vital programs."

— TJ Schmaltz, President, Prospera Foundation

ArtStarts in Schools

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Fax: 604-683-0501

*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 səʔilwətaʔt (Tsleil-Waututh) peoples.



@artstarts

#ArtIsEssential

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

ArtStarts.com

Charitable Registration
89765 8936 RR0001R