

# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



artstarts

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# MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT & CO-DIRECTORS

2023 was an incredible year for ArtStarts, marked by diverse and empowering arts-based experiences across the province. Now in its 27th year, ArtStarts has brought young people, artists, educators, and community members together through arts and culture programming that continues to enrich students' lives and enhance self-expression.

Through our partnership with the British Columbia Arts Council, we have provided innovative grant programs to empower school districts, schools, and artists to bring arts into classrooms. We would also like to thank them for their resilience funding supplement, which was instrumental in stabilizing ArtStarts operations due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We are happy to report bookings for arts programming and workshops have increased, and we expect that increase to continue into 2024.

In partnership with the City Of Vancouver, ArtStarts is working to transform our 808 Richards location into an accessible arts space for young people. We also want to recognize the Canada Council for funding the digital ArtStarts gallery. The gallery is closed and expected to break ground on an exciting new upgrade in 2024.

We thank our Board of Directors for a year of outstanding contributions and commitment to solid governance that has been instrumental to ArtStarts. We want to recognize Albert Zhang and Angelique Muhorakeye for their service and exceptional commitment to ArtStarts, who have now moved on to new adventures. In 2023, we also welcomed Marielle Kho, Paisley Smith, and Malik Ali to the ArtStarts board.

We also want to extend our deep gratitude to ArtStarts staff for their dedication to ArtStarts. ArtStarts staff are critical to establishing professional, compassionate, and rewarding relationships between young people and arts and culture. Looking back on 2023, our staff brought together an incredibly successful ArtStarts Showcase, with educators and artists from throughout and beyond the province coming to bring the arts to young people. As we renew our strategy through 2024, we invite you to connect with us to share your perspective and thoughts on ArtStart's new direction. Visit us at [artstarts.com](https://artstarts.com) to learn more.

**Mishel Quaal, President**

**Pilar Wong Navabi, Vice President**

**Heather Campbell, Co-Executive Director, Administration**

**Jules André-Brown, Co-Executive Director, Programming**

# OUR STAFF



**Jules André-Brown**

Co-Director,  
Programming



**Heather Campbell**

Co-Director,  
Administration



**Necole Hines**

Manager,  
Booking & Touring



**Kamana Ntibarikure**

Manager, Communications  
& Development



**Alice Kim**

Coordinator,  
Operations & Governance



**Izzy Data**

Coordinator,  
Grants



**Dana Lopez**

Coordinator,  
Booking & Touring



**Peisen Ding**

Coordinator,  
Public Programs



**Erin Lum**

Communications  
& Development Assistant

# OUR BOARD

ArtStarts' Board of Directors consists of members representing the education, artistic, and business communities. A sincere thank you to our Board Members!



**Mishel Quaal**  
President



**Pilar Wong Navabi**  
Vice President



**Nabeel Anjum**  
Board Member



**Kartik Bharadwa**  
Board Member



**Tina Lai**  
Board Member



**Malik Ali**  
Treasurer



**Marielle Kho**  
Board Member



**Paisley Smith**  
Board Member

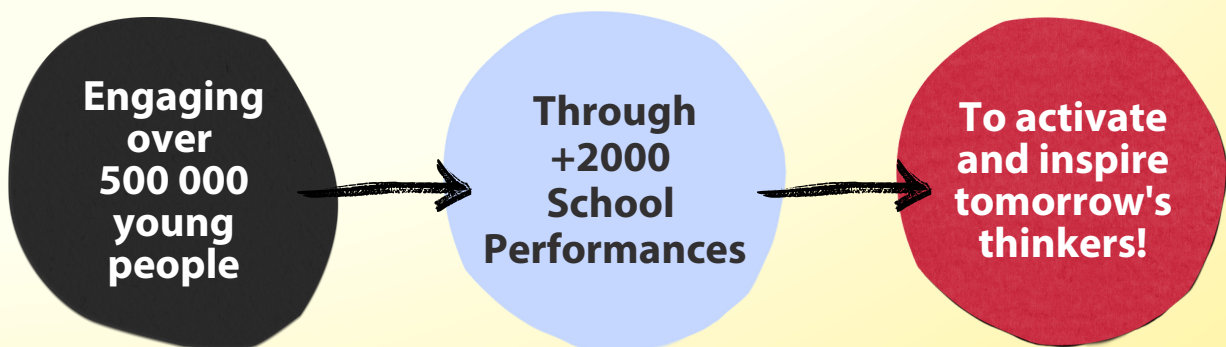


# ARTSTARTS PROGRAMMING

**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.

ArtStarts' key areas of activity include booking school performances, grants to schools, artists, and districts, an annual conference that connects artists and educators, gallery exhibitions of young people's art, and free family programming in the community. In partnership with the BC Arts Council (BCAC), we provide funding to support art-based education in schools and grants to support artists in running arts projects involving young people.



# STRATEGIC PLAN

ArtStarts' 2020-2024 Strategic Plan guided our work in creating meaningful change where young people benefit most equitably and directly—in their schools and classrooms. This five-year strategic plan is our plan of action to achieve a deeper mission impact.

The following strategic directions grounded the plan:



- 1. Expanding the Role of Arts in Education**
- 2. Integrating an Anti-Oppression Framework**
- 3. Influencing Systemic Change**
- 4. Enhancing Organizational Capacity**

Throughout 2023, we focused on providing young people with access to arts-based learning experiences. We worked with educators to help young people be creative, collaborative, and gain the innovative skills necessary to thrive in learning and life. Moving forward, we will be renewing our strategy. We look forward to your input.

**PLEASE VISIT US AT [ARTSTARTS.COM](https://www.artstarts.com)**





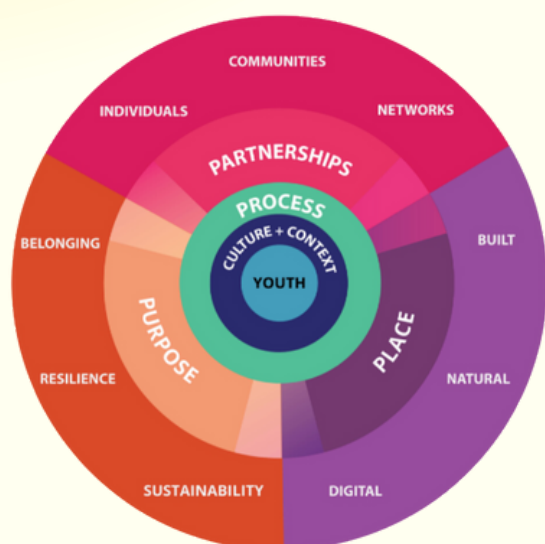
Photos by Pardeep Singh



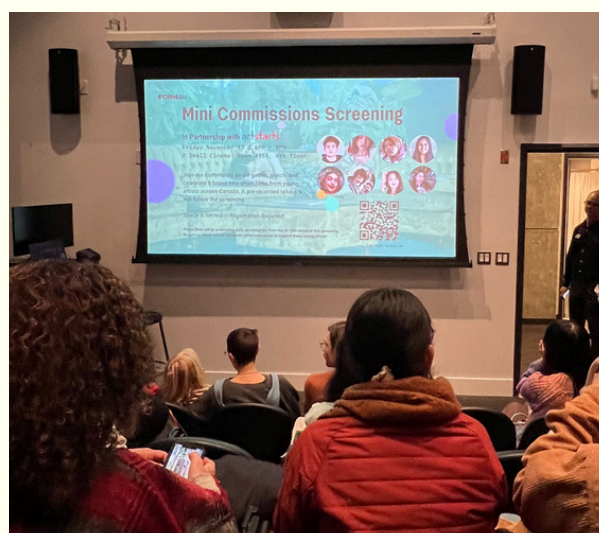


# PARTNERSHIPS: 4P FRAMEWORK

In 2022, we began implementing the Purpose, Place, Process, & Partnership (4P) Framework, co-developed by youth and Royal Roads University's Resilience By Design Lab. This process-based framework has helped us center young people and their creativity as we work to expand the role of arts in education, integrate an anti-oppression framework, and enhance our organizational capacity.



*The 4P Framework*



*F-O-R-M's 2023 Mini Commissions Screening  
presented in partnership with ArtStarts.*

*Photo by Chimgee Mendee*

The 4P framework informed our approach in redefining our partnership structure this year. ArtStarts had the opportunity to connect and collaborate with various local organizations that engage young people; Festival of Recorded Movement (F-O-R-M), Black Arts Vancouver, H.R. MacMillan Space Center, and Eco Nova. We are excited to have solidified these ongoing partnerships that will grow and evolve in the coming years. Given this year's success in partnerships, we are looking to also examine our grants system to reflect the 4P framework.



# GALLERY AT 808 RICHARDS

In 2023, The ArtStarts Gallery at 808 Richards was closed due to ongoing renovations—we are installing new accessibility features that will significantly improve the experience for all visitors. We are excited to introduce an accessible washroom and elevator to the 2nd floor so that all young people can fully engage with ArtStarts.

While the gallery's regular operations are on pause, families walking by 808 Richards can explore and experience our Window Exhibition which features art projects made by young people!

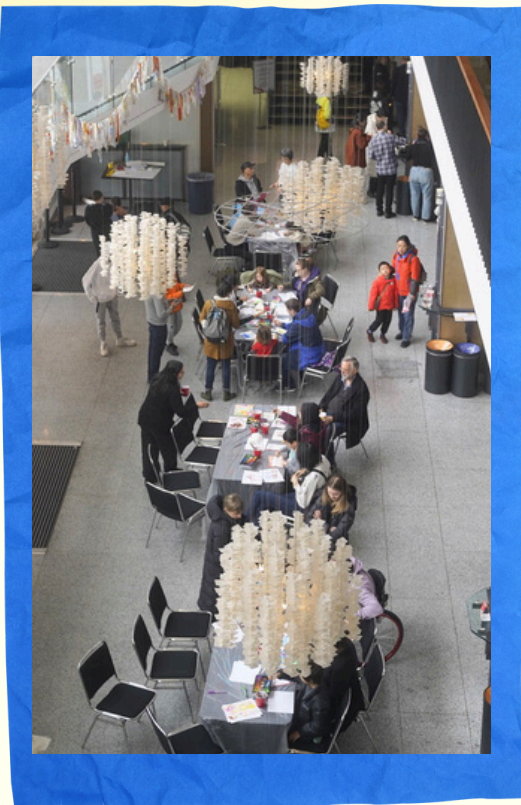


*The Window Exhibition at 808 Richards, featuring stories from:  
Firefly: A Firefly Book of stories by Ms. Beuk's Grade One and Two Class  
A World of Monsters & Magic by Chloe Boyd, Clyde Hunt, and Kaitlyn Pleasance  
Photo by Jules André-Brown*



# ENGAGING FAMILIES

In February, we hosted a Family Day Arts Event at Queen Elizabeth Theatre, co-presented with Vancouver Civic Theatres and in partnership with F-O-R-M. Families explored Collage, Painting, and Music stations and viewed Films made by youth (courtesy of F-O-R-M). We were thrilled to welcome over 600 patrons into the Queen Elizabeth Theatre space!



**V C T** VANCOUVER  
CIVIC THEATRES

*Photos by Erin Lum and Jules André-Brown*

# ARTIST DIRECTORY

ArtStarts supports artists by helping establish connections between art and education, building artists' capacity to work in schools, offering grants that support creative projects and more. We know that artists offer much more than practical skills in the arts — they foster a unique approach to thinking, learning, and looking at the world. Artists contribute to creating a vibrant and diverse arts-education landscape in British Columbia.

The ArtStarts Artist Directory features over 90 artists who have experience working with young people. ArtStarts is the connecting point that provides students in BC with artistic experiences that are relevant, representative, and integrated into their learning through the Artist Directory.

*Photos by Pardeep Singh*

**45**

**PROFESSIONAL  
PERFORMING ARTISTS**

**45**

**PERFORMANCES  
AND WORKSHOPS**



**45**

**SCHOOL DISTRICTS**

**45**

**YOUNG PEOPLE  
REACHED ACROSS BC**





# SHOWCASE 2023

We were thrilled to host our annual Showcase event over two days in April. Educators, schools, and community arts programmers gathered to experience 25 new workshops and performances available to tour schools during the upcoming year. Showcase serves as an excellent opportunity to celebrate the talented artists in our Artist Directory and connect with our community!

35

ARTIST DELEGATES  
REPRESENTING

45

SCHOOL DISTRICTS  
REPRESENTED



Photos by Pardeep Singh



# ARTISTS IN THE CLASSROOM (AIC) GRANT

Artists in the Classroom Grants bring professional artists into schools for hands-on learning experiences. Grants are offered up to \$3500 for small/medium-scale projects and up to \$10 000 for large-scale projects.

Through AIC, artists and educators collaborate to expand the role of arts in education and activate learning for young people across. ArtStarts received 151 AIC Applications in 2023. We assessed and funded 96 projects and disbursed all AIC funds. In a trend that continues from the 2022-23 Year, nearly half of all AIC applications were from first-time applicants.



10 704

**STUDENTS ENGAGED  
IN AIC ACTIVITIES**

96

**GRANTS  
DISBURSED IN 2023**

159

**ARTISTS RECEIVED  
A GRANT FROM AIC**

*QMS and Khowhemun join Quw'utsun elders for a special canoe welcoming ceremony for John Marston's six-week artist residency at Queen Margaret's School. Photo by Ashley Marston*



BRITISH COLUMBIA  
ARTS COUNCIL



BRITISH  
COLUMBIA

Supported by the Province of British Columbia

# ARTISTS IN EDUCATION (AIE) GRANT

Artists in Education (AIE) grants support artistic programming in BC school districts, including performances, workshops, and residencies.

Through AIE, artists and educators collaborate to bring thousands of performances into schools. In 2023, school-based performances strongly returned to pre-pandemic levels. BC school districts were able to bring artists for tours and cultural performances to young people throughout the province.

*Photos courtesy of Artists*



**56**

**SCHOOL DISTRICTS  
IN BC USE AIE FUNDS**



BRITISH COLUMBIA  
ARTS COUNCIL



BRITISH  
COLUMBIA

Supported by the Province of British Columbia



# CREATIVE SPARK VANCOUVER (CSV) GRANT

We know that small projects can make a big impact. Launched in 2016, Creative Spark Vancouver grants support Vancouver-based emerging artists to work with young people (5-18) on an arts or culture-based project. This entry-level grant offers up to \$5000.



*Queer youth participating in the CSV-funded 'self checkout' spring break intensive, facilitated by local artists Lamont and Maxx Sadler. Photos by Ralph Escamillan and danielle Mackenzie Long*

**11**

**UNIQUE GRANTS  
DISBURSED IN 2023**

**20**

**ARTISTS RECEIVED  
FUNDING FROM CSV**

**165**

**YOUTH INVOLVED  
IN CSV ACTIVITIES**







**"STUDENTS WERE ABLE TO  
PRACTICE RESILIENCE AND  
LEARN SOMETHING NEW,  
WHICH WE WERE REALLY  
PROUD OF! "**

*- Surrey School District Teacher  
Participating in Artists in the Classroom Activities*





## THE ART STARTS IN SCHOOLS SOCIETY

### STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

	2023	2022
<b>Income</b>	<b>2,268,587</b>	<b>2,248,989</b>
School Performances	617,735	562,435
Earned Income	295,849	221,760
Public Funding	685,884	379,728
Private Funding	26,433	43,993
Granting Programs	635,576	1,033,422
Investment Income	7,109	7,651
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>2,257,182</b>	<b>2,614,849</b>
School Performances	632,696	586,875
Programs and Events	150,260	84,058
Services and Support	770,342	790,819
Marketing and Outreach	7,627	6,956
Facility Expenses	16,676	17,041
Consultants	99,225	101,290
Grant Disbursements	580,356	1,027,810
<b>Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses</b>	<b>11,405</b>	<b>(365,860)</b>
Change in Net Assets Financial		
Balance as at Jan 1, 2022	87,664	453,524
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	11,405	(365,860)
<b>Balance as at Dec 31</b>	<b>99,069</b>	<b>87,664</b>

#### Notes:

1. ArtStarts also received a recovery allocation from the BC Arts Council in Q1 2023 of \$252,063, again helping to offset the 2022 deficiency.

# TREASURER'S REPORT

We wish to thank Grant Thornton for being our 2023 auditor and sincerely appreciate the dedicated audit team led by Donna Diskos. We are grateful for their insight and experience, which help strengthen ArtStart's organizational capacity.

We also want to thank the generous donors who have supported ArtStarts' mission. With our community's support, we have contributed to incredible arts and culture performances and activities for young people across the province.

2023 marked another powerful and decisive moment for ArtStarts' organization's finances. We began our financial year with a projected operating deficit. In Q1 of 2023, ArtStarts received a recovery allocation from the BC Arts Council of \$252,063, significantly offsetting the 2022 deficiency.

Throughout the remaining quarters of 2023, ArtStarts began restructuring towards sustainable organization. I'd like to thank Heather Campbell and Jules André-Brown for their diligence and leadership in helping ArtStarts strengthen its financial health, steward the organization's resources and refocus our strategy.

2024 and beyond is an exciting chapter in our organization's history. ArtStarts is well-positioned to a new future in helping young people experience diverse and empowering arts and culture in education throughout BC.

**Malik Ali**  
**ArtStarts Board Treasurer**



# OUR SUPPORTERS

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

## 2023 Program and Operating Support

### Government Supporters

British Columbia Arts Council  
Canada Council for the Arts  
City of Vancouver  
Department of Canadian Heritage  
Government of British Columbia  
BC Community Gaming Grants  
Government of Canada

### Sponsors, Foundations, & Institutions

BC Social Venture Partners Foundation  
British Columbia Arts Council  
Cherniavsky Junior Club for the  
Performing Arts Society  
Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance  
Vancouver Foundation

### In-Kind

Vancouver Civic Theatres

## Individual Donors

Alan Litke  
Mia Lok  
Patti Gudewill  
Bronia Kingsbury  
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Winnie Tam  
Lynda Gerty  
Mairy Beam  
Tom Fijal  
Avalon Bourne  
Aslam Bulbulia  
Lucie Wallace  
Colleen McKenna  
Tejas Madhur  
Robert Oldfield  
Jamie Oliviero  
Stina Brown  
Larry Achtemichuk  
Emily Beam  
Faina Sichon  
Tom Fijal  
Sharon Jeroski  
Jeff Leung  
Lisa Ochowycz  
Hubert Chan  
Sharon Harowitz



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Fax: 604-683-0501

Charitable Registration:

89765 8936 RR0001R

ArtStarts gratefully acknowledges that we carry out our work on the lands of Indigenous nations throughout colonial British Columbia. Our office and the ArtStarts Gallery are located on the unceded, ancestral, and traditional territory of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and Selílwitlh (Tsleil-Waututh) peoples.

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