

2015/16 Annual Report

Creativity is

Big



ARTS UMBRELLA

Inspiring creativity. For good.

Big Things start small

Thirty-seven years ago, 45 children walked through our doors—the very first Arts Umbrella students.

Arts Umbrella has grown into something much bigger, becoming a nationally renowned charity that has provided the highest quality Dance, Theatre, and Visual Arts education to more than 500,000 young people.

“It was a dream to inspire all children to become healthy, confident, productive, creative citizens,” says Carol Henriquez, O.C., co-founder of Arts Umbrella. “Through the arts we’re realizing that dream.”

Arts Umbrella’s half-million students have gone on to become the creative citizens who are the success of the creative economy—leading the way in industries like movies, publishing, and video games. But it hasn’t stopped there. Creativity has paved the way for many students to become successful doctors, scientists, and business leaders.

Long before research started to show that creativity was the key to unlocking a child’s potential, Arts Umbrella was there, inspiring young lives through the arts.

Big things... great things... so often start small. Our past and current students are the perfect proof of that.

Vision

A better world where all young lives are inspired to pursue a lifelong journey towards self-expression, compassion, and humanity.

Mission

To be Canada’s leader in arts education for young people that builds community and delivers profound life experiences through our commitment to innovation, excellence, and inclusivity.

At the heart of what we do, we inspire people to live creative, authentic and courageous lives.





Big Impact

20,038 students enrolled

14,496 took part at no cost

412 bursaries totalling **\$134,266**

135 scholarships totalling **\$41,030**

243,179 instructional hours

1,044 classes, programs, and camps

213 staff and artist-instructors

37 community partners in Vancouver and Surrey

1,598 students exhibited their work

10,656 kids watched our performances

14,496 kids took part in our free school programs

64 Metro Vancouver schools attended free or low-cost shows

Board Chair's Message

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am very pleased to present the 2015/2016 Annual Report.

This has been a year of transition, including the departure of Lucille Pacey as President & CEO. Through Lucille's 12 years of leadership and dedication to Arts Umbrella, she helped to grow the organization significantly, and we thank her for her commitment to inspiring creativity in children and youth.

The search for a new President & CEO gave the Board the opportunity to consider the leadership needed to guide Arts Umbrella into the future, and we couldn't have found anyone more well suited than Paul Larocque. Paul's return to Arts Umbrella has been a source of renewed vitality within Arts Umbrella, bringing into motion countless activities, the priorities of which have included:

- ▶ The development of a business plan for the significant expansion of our core facility on Granville Island;
- ▶ An increased focus on fundraising;
- ▶ Enhancing our community engagement efforts in Surrey;
- ▶ And, the formation of a new strategic plan that will encompass the next exciting chapter for Arts Umbrella.

I am grateful to our entire Board for their hard work and commitment to ensure this exceptional organization can continue to make a powerful difference in the lives of young people. With my term as Board Chair coming to a close, I can reflect on this year of transition with the certainty that Arts Umbrella is in the best possible shape to continue to grow: growing the minds, souls and imaginations of our students, and increasing the reach and accessibility of our programming throughout Metro Vancouver.

Sincerely,



Michael Lee

Chair, Arts Umbrella Board of Directors

President & CEO's Message

It is with great pleasure that I share with you the highlights of the past year at Arts Umbrella. Since my return to the organization in April, I have been awestruck by the tremendous dedication that I witness every single day, from our students, instructors and staff, board of directors, volunteers, donors and community partners.

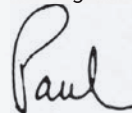
This year, we have exceeded tuition targets, excelled in fundraising, and have achieved a budgetary surplus. Working in collaboration with several community partners, we were able to accomplish many new projects, including:

- ▶ The Creative U program in partnership with Surrey Schools, an expressive arts program for children with intellectual disabilities.
- ▶ A new program with the Vancouver School District which saw us deliver 10 new after-school programs focusing on students who face barriers to participation due to financial, geographical, cultural and family circumstances.
- ▶ Participation in the official store opening of Simons at Park Royal where 15 Arts Umbrella students had their artwork exhibited within the store. As part of their commitment to support local art, Simons has made a three-year commitment to exhibiting Arts Umbrella student artwork.
- ▶ *Drum Heat*: A special benefit concert in support of Arts Umbrella Surrey organized by Arts Umbrella Board Member Sal Ferreras who brought together and performed with some of Surrey's most outstanding world musicians.

Also this year, Arts Umbrella received special funding of \$350,000 from the Province of British Columbia to carry out research, feasibility studies, and business planning in support of the expansion of our core facility on Granville Island.

Arts Umbrella has made a real difference in this past year, but we believe our programs will have an even greater impact in the years to come—helping to nurture creativity, innovation, and a positive sense of community for the next generation. To the entire Arts Umbrella community, I want to thank you for all of your support. It is because of you that we are able to inspire creativity... for good.

With gratitude,



Paul Larocque
President & CEO



Big Award for an Exceptional Artist

Last year one of the foremost awards honouring extraordinary women leaders recognized one of our own: Artemis (Arty) Gordon. The Arts Umbrella Artistic Director, Dance was the winner of the 2016 YWCA Women of Distinction Awards in Arts, Culture & Design.

“This award represents the work of many people,” says Arty. “The monumental effort in redefining and reshaping the traditions of dance training required the commitment, vision, and passion of many artists. I have been in the presence of so many wonderful colleagues, and the Arts Umbrella Dance Program is a reflection of all of our hopes for education and dance.”

The Arts, Culture & Design award recognizes women leaders who enrich Vancouver through a commitment to the arts, who promote the artistry of others, and who build community.

And what an inspiring community Arty has built around the Arts Umbrella Dance Program—a community that positively impacts the lives of thousands of young people.

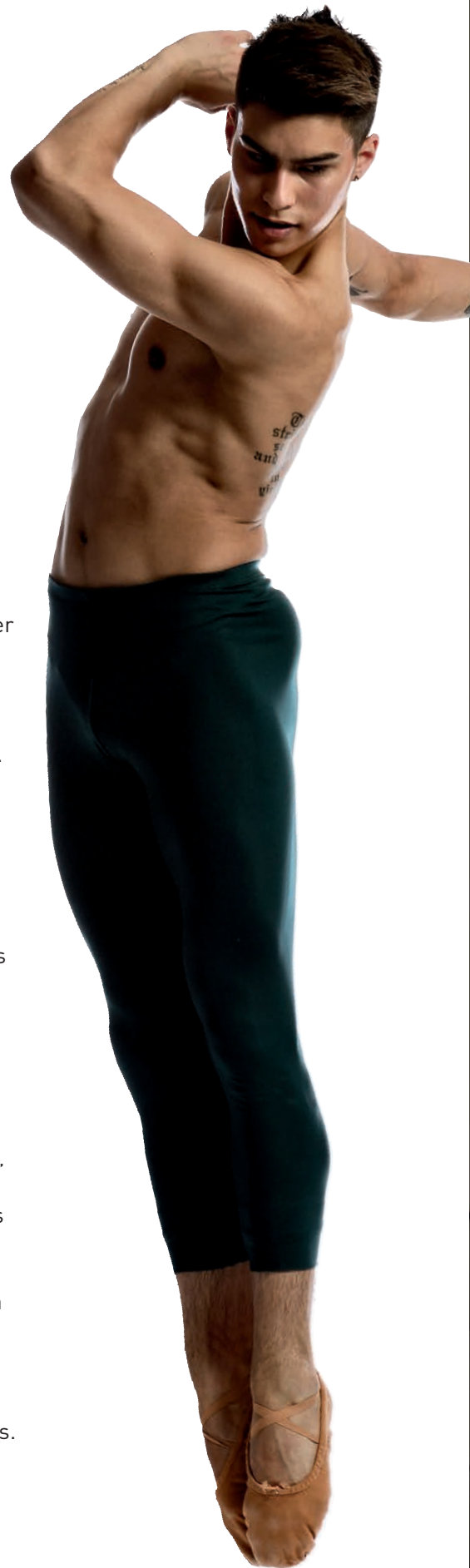
“She cares so deeply about every one of us,” says Dance post-secondary student Sabine Raskin. “She cares about providing her students with the best possible opportunities to succeed and realize our dreams.”

For more than 20 years, Arty has developed the Arts Umbrella Dance Program’s unique, well-balanced curriculum. Various exchanges, tours, and collaborations have spanned Europe, New York, Montreal, and Japan, and Arts Umbrella students have grown artistic confidence under mentorship of a highly respected faculty and through collaborations with international heavy-weights such as Ballet BC and Nederlands Dans Theatre. All told, the program provides outstanding access to dance education for students of all socio-economic backgrounds.

“The award speaks to Arty’s level of professionalism and to her contributions to the dance profession and community overall,” says Paul Larocque, Arts Umbrella President & CEO. “We are so proud of Arty, the Dance Program, and our students.”

Without the Arts Umbrella Dance Program and Arty’s driving force, many students might not be able to afford such a high level of training, which includes regular opportunities to perform world-class choreography and work with international artists. This access is rare, even for professional companies, and at Arts Umbrella it is available to young artists. The result is a high-calibre program that is increasingly applauded around the world.

Arts Umbrella congratulates Arty on the award, and even more so for developing the Arts Umbrella Dance Program into a life-altering experience for young dancers. Our shared vision at Arts Umbrella is a world where young people express themselves creatively for all of their lives—and Arty contributes to that in such a beautiful way.



Creativity On the Big Screen

Arts Umbrella was a giant influence in actor Paul Moniz de Sá's creative journey.

"I never imagined how much Arts Umbrella would affect my life," says the performer, who is also Arts Umbrella's Artistic Director for Theatre & Music. "Arts Umbrella gave me the courage to become a professional actor in film and theatre."

With a career spanning two decades, Paul is one example of the many Arts Umbrella students who have gone on to soar in creative careers. But why is Arts Umbrella critical in that artistic journey?

"One of the reasons it is an inspirational place is that all of the instructors are working artists," says the actor, who brings his incredible talent and passion to the classroom.

Yet when he was a child, Paul didn't see a creative career as a clear option for him.

"I come from an immigrant family and I'm the youngest of eight kids. No one in my family was an artist, so there was no point of reference. I needed a place like Arts Umbrella to express myself in a way that I wasn't able to."

Paul's career has included credits in *Once Upon a Time in Wonderland*, *The Killing*, *The X-Files*, and *Stargate SG1*, and his stage resume spans theatres across North America, including *Bard on the Beach*, *The Arts Club*, and *The National Arts Centre*.

But one of his most recent credits, playing a giant in Steven Spielberg's *The BFG*, is a leading highlight: "It was truly one of the most remarkable experiences of my life," he says.

Now, being a parent, performer, and instructor, he says his focus is "about giving from what I got."

"I truly believe these young actors, like those that came before them, will become leaders in the theatre community."



A Community of Supporters

Saje®

DATE: January 28, 2016

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ARTS UMBRELLA

\$20,000

DOLLARS

KATE ROSS LEBLANC

From Artists To Alumni *give art*

Dancing Big

On Mar 17, 2016, the Queen Elizabeth Theatre lights came up on a first: nine Arts Umbrella post-secondary dance students performing alongside Ballet BC's professional dancers.

The addition of the emerging artists allowed the acclaimed dance company to expand its cast to 25 for two works by choreographer Medhi Walerski.

"Very few students get the opportunity to work with a professional company," says Program 2 performer and Arts Umbrella student Zander Constant. "The incredible focus and attention to detail that the Ballet BC dancers all share asked a lot of the Arts Umbrella students."

"The process was very informative. I learned how professional companies operate day to day, and what I need to work on before I graduate,"

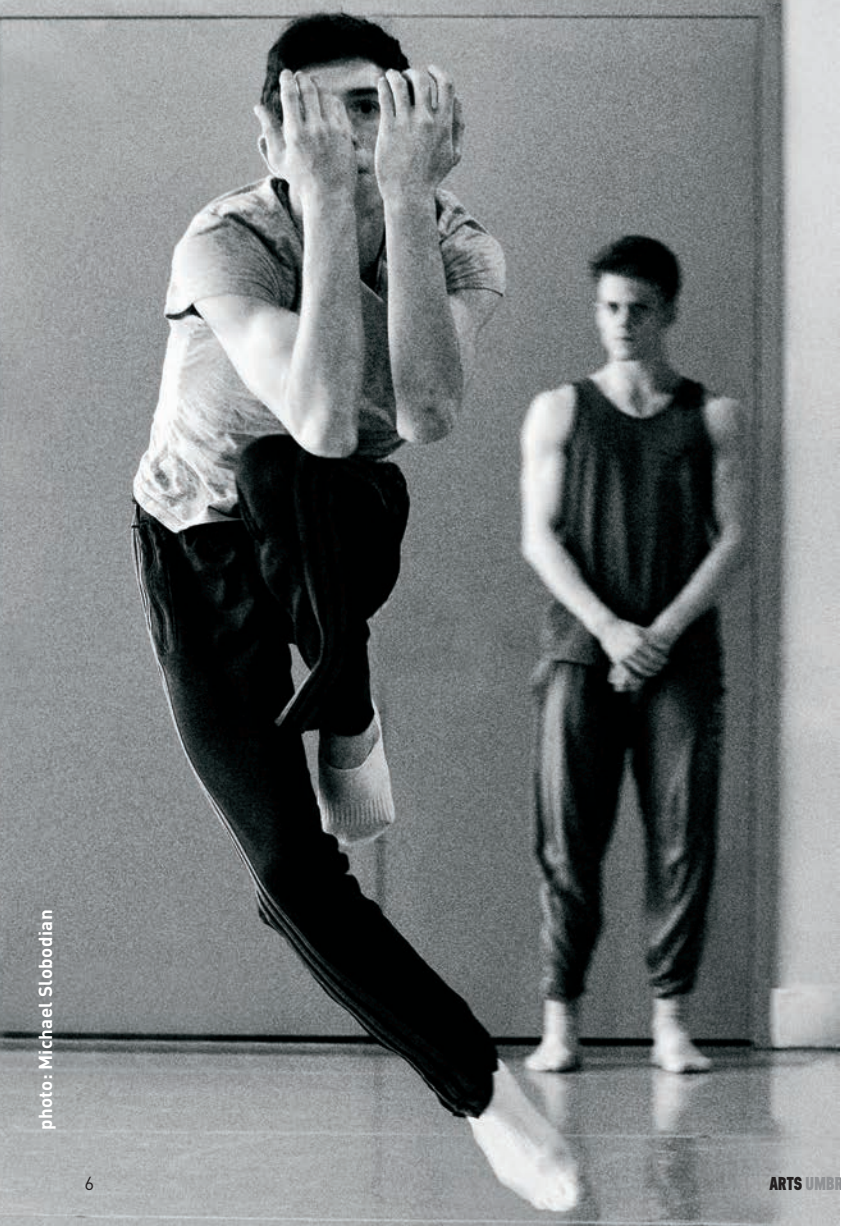


photo: Michael Slobodian

Collaboration can do magical things. And in Fall 2015, Saje Natural Wellness harnessed the power of collaboration to do something magical for Arts Umbrella. The Vancouver-based company worked with BC artist Dana Mooney to produce a limited-edition product line for charity—raising \$20,000 to support our arts programs in just two weeks.

Beautiful designs, a passionate community, and an Arts Umbrella alumna all contributed to the success.

“Art and wellness go hand in hand,” says Kiara LeBlanc, Saje’s Vice President Brand and Creative Director, who was also once a student in Arts Umbrella’s Theatre & Music program. “Growing up, I expressed myself through the art of theatre and it has remained very close to my heart.”

Just as Kiara did while growing up, more than 20,000 young people explore self-expression each year at Arts Umbrella. As a charity, Arts Umbrella relies on community supporters, such as Saje, to help us realize this important objective.

This community support allows Arts Umbrella to offer bursaries, free programs, and scholarships that reach all young people. In fact, three out of four students experience Arts Umbrella because of our free and low-cost programming.

“We’re so grateful that Saje, along with all our community supporters, help more young people experience the magic of the arts,” says Heather Corsi, Arts Umbrella Senior Director, Fund Development. “Saje exemplifies the incredible good that emerges when our community of artists, supporters, and alumni work together.”

On the Stage

Fun Fact
Arts Umbrella graduates now comprise about half of Ballet BC’s company members.

says Zander, who also recently spent time in New York working with Aszure Barton & Artists.

Beyond what the Arts Umbrella program teaches in technical skills, it nurtures a maturity and self-direction that prepares students to seize these next-level opportunities.

“The level and speed of development in the graduate program is huge,” says Artemis Gordon, Artistic Director, Dance. “This experience accelerated it. Students got the experience of working with a choreographer creating work at a company standard.”

The importance of being challenged by professional-level work while being a student cannot be understated—and our Dance Graduate Program students reiterate the impact of such opportunities.

“Arts Umbrella gives you the tools and experiences to be able to figure out what you need to do for yourself. And

once you know how to be in charge of your own growth, any challenge you meet is something that is obtainable,” says Sabine Raskin, an Arts Umbrella graduate who is now an Apprentice with Ballet BC.

That theme of growth and change is vital to dance, and indeed any art form.

“What I learned at AU cannot be written down, but surely embodied,” says another Graduate Program dancer and Program 2 performer, Charlie Prince. “I am still recognizing in myself, in my body, what I learnt every new day.”

“My greatest challenge (and gift) as an artist is to guide my mind and body with delicacy and strength in a world that is in constant, rapid change.”

Big Reach Means Big Impact



Arts Umbrella Core Facility

A centre of excellence with a rich and diverse selection of classes and programs—from preschool to post-secondary.



Arts Umbrella Locations

Facilities in Mount Pleasant, South Surrey, and Surrey Centre host many tuition-based and free community programs.



Free Community Programs

Free community programs engage students over several weeks at no cost—removing the geographic, cultural, social, and financial barriers that can prevent young people from accessing the arts.



Paid Community Programs

Through tuition-based classes, we bring creativity to many schools, community centres, and daycares.



Free Community Workshops and Performances

Our community workshops make a big impact in young lives, giving many students their first exposure to the arts.

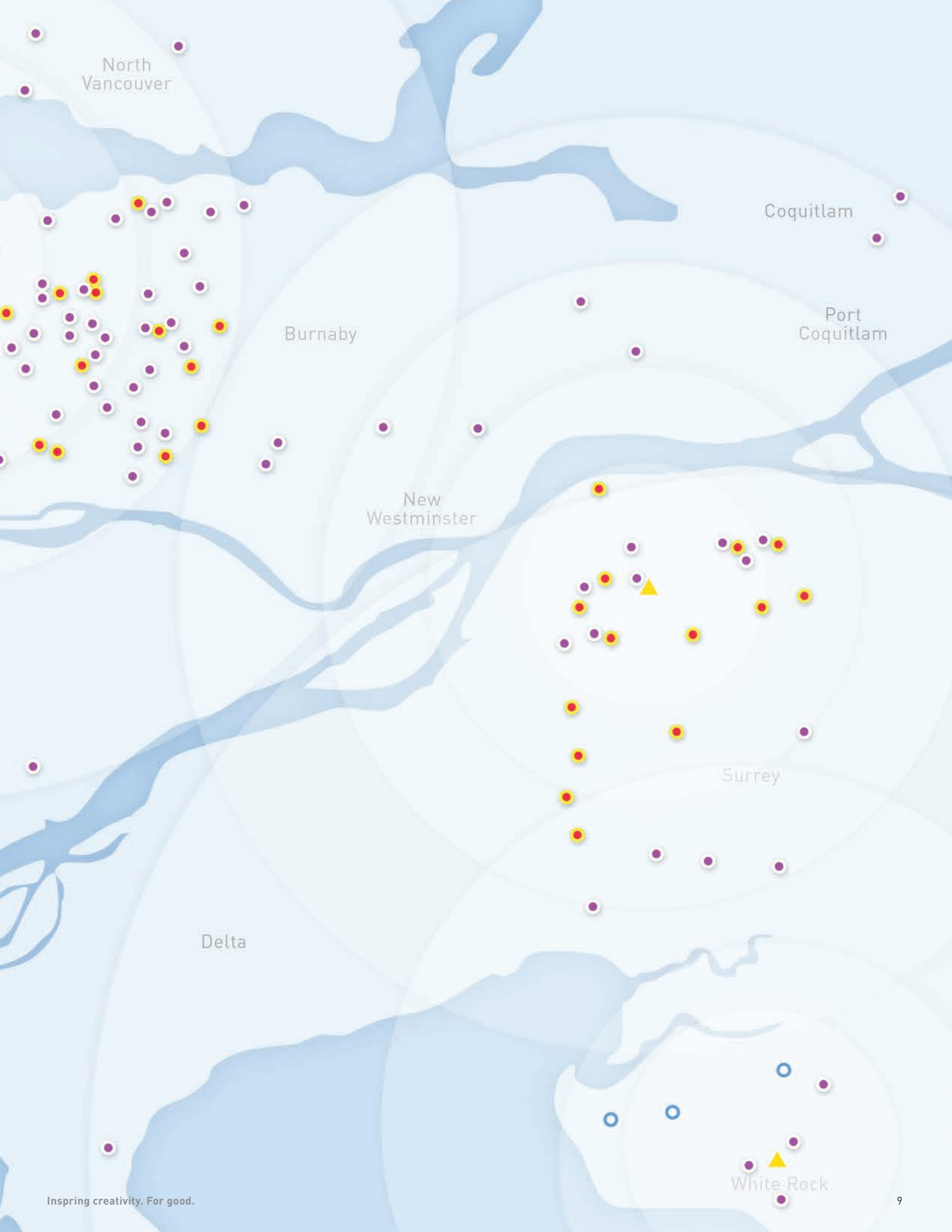
Students in our pre-professional Dance and Theatre programs bring engaging stories to life in school performances—helping grow enthusiasm and creativity in a new audience of young minds.



Paid Public Performances

We host a number of public performances throughout the year in theatres on Granville Island and downtown.





North Vancouver

Coquitlam

Burnaby

Port Coquitlam

New Westminster

Surrey

Delta

White Rock

Committed to a Bright Future

The Arts Umbrella Foundation holds an endowment that secures the sustainable future of Arts Umbrella and our community programming. Established in 1991, the Foundation stewards assets of more than \$6 million, ensuring future generations of young people experience life-changing arts programs.

Through the work of the Foundation, Arts Umbrella is able to offer bursaries for struggling families, free programming and performances for schools, and scholarships for talented young artists.

The Foundation is the strong, sustainable cornerstone of the long-term success of our programs and ensuring our inspiring community legacy continues to grow.

*Arts Umbrella
Invitational:
June 27, 2016*

**The 2016 Arts Umbrella
Invitational was a record-breaking
success because of strong
community support.
Together, we netted more than
\$110,000 to benefit the
Arts Umbrella Foundation.**



Splash 2015

This past year, Arts Umbrella arts programs reached even more young people—in no small part, because of the generous supporters who participated in our 33rd annual Splash. Arts Umbrella’s annual art auction and gala on Oct 17, 2015 raised \$300,000 in net proceeds to provide accessible arts education across Metro Vancouver.

In 2015, the event returned to Granville Island, the city’s arts and cultural hub, and Arts Umbrella’s home for more than three decades. The enthusiastic crowd included more than 450 businesses, community leaders, patrons, and art lovers who bid on almost 100 pieces donated by prominent local and international artists.

Since the very first Splash, the community has been the heart of the event’s success, helping to cumulatively raise more than \$5 million for Arts Umbrella.

Without your support, I am just a kid. With you, I am an artist.”

Paterson How,
Arts Umbrella Student



2015 Splash Artists

Pernilla Ahrnstedt

Thomas Anfield

Chloë Angus

Omer Arbel

Carole Arnston

Bailey Brothers

Marta Baricsa

Athena Bax

Judson Beaumont

Thibault Bennett

Joel Berman

Lisa Birke

Matthias Boening

Bratsa Bonifacho

Marcus Bowcott

Kevin Boyle

Christine Breakell-Lee

Paul Burke

Anne Carson

Rebecca Chaperon

Chris Charlebois

Peter Chen

Lil Chrzan

Barbara Cohen

Richard Cole

Diana Zoe Coop

Emily Cooper

Crystalworks Gallery

Ross den Otter

Sarah Dinnick

Jamie Evrard

Kendra Feller

Mary Fox

J.G. Freedman

Sunshine Frère

Dina Goldstein

Anna Gustafson

Michael J.P. Hall

Gabryel Harrison

Kerensa Haynes

Kate Henderson

Jan Henry

Lawrence Hislop

Noel Hodnett

Brian Howell

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Kendal Kendrick

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Markian Olynyk

Jim Park

Glenn Payan

Ross Penhall

Susan Point

Malcolm Raines

Anthony Redpath

Douglas Reynolds Gallery

Golnar Sepahi

Kinichi Shigeno

Robert Shiozaki

Ben Skinner

Stuart Slind

Tanya Slingsby

Joseph Staples

Peg Steley

Stewart Stephenson

Martha Sturdy

Jonathan Sutton

Anselmo Swan

Carla Tak

Lisa Turner

Marleen Vermeulen

Ken Wallace

Jeff Wilson

Paul Wong

Christian Woo

Arleigh Wood

Andy Wooldridge

Deborah Worsfold

Don Yeomans

Big Ideas Under a Stairwell

Visual Art Summer Intensive—a collaboration between Arts Umbrella, Contemporary Art Gallery, and Simon Fraser University.

What do chicken wire, lip balm, and plaster have in common?

They're just some of the thought-provoking materials used in the Visual Art Summer Intensive (VASI)—an Arts Umbrella collaboration with SFU School for the Contemporary Arts and the Contemporary Art Gallery (CAG).

"A different thing every week," is how 16-year-old student Danielle Rozali describes the program. She, along with 11 fellow students, rose to the challenge of exploring contemporary art practices and creating an exhibition in just three weeks.

"I asked, 'Can I fill a room in the CAG with drawings?'" says fellow VASI student David Gorodetsky, 16. "They said, 'Sure!'—it was very empowering."

With the freedom to realize their artistic vision in a professional gallery, Danielle, David, and another student transformed a small space under a stairwell into a magical pocket of illustration. With decorative lights, floor-to-ceiling drawings, and a peekaboo curtain, the young artists created a distinct experience for gallery-goers.

But what was it that made the Visual Art Summer Intensive so empowering? The confidence and self-esteem that comes with knowing your ideas will be nurtured and explored.

"Arts Umbrella gives a lot of opportunities," says David. "I come from a supportive family, but not everyone does." He says it's inspiring that instructors are practicing artists, giving the example that he's had the chance to go to his teachers' exhibitions.

"The instructors were easy to talk to and down to earth," says another student.

The high-quality instruction, strong program partners such as the CAG and SFU, and community-subsidized tuition fees all contributed to VASI's creative, supportive environment where young artists explored their own ideas.

For David, Danielle, and others, the Visual Arts Summer Intensive fostered their sense of connectedness. "It's definitely nice having a community," they agree. But it also helped build the confidence to embark on new challenges.

"Arts Umbrella pushed me further in my art and in myself; to explore more than just the generic opportunities presented to me."

"We want to pitch a mural for the Evergreen SkyTrain," say David and Danielle. "And we will use Arts Umbrella as a main reference."

Our Community Programs Have Grown Big



Did You Know?

More than 100,000 children have benefitted from Van Go, which Rio Tinto has supported since its inception, and continues to bring the arts to kids who otherwise would not have access.

On Nov 14, 1988, a van engine started. It was Arts Umbrella's cheerfully named Van Go, an art studio on wheels bringing high-quality arts programs, instruction, and supplies to Metro Vancouver's inner city schools.

From its very first school visit, it was a philosophy in action: "to bring the Arts Umbrella experience to those young people who—for physical, emotional, or financial reasons—cannot come to us" states the original flyer.

"Our community programs are so important because creativity is such a big part of life," says the program's first instructor Maureen Procter. "Without these types of programs a large population of Metro Vancouver kids would never get to experience art in a meaningful way."

Van Go also launched a legacy—becoming a model for all our programs funded by community supporters.

"Community programs are such an important part of who we are, and Van Go is the grandfather of them all!"

Today Arts Umbrella continues to make life-changing impact through these outreach programs: last year alone, we ran full sessions in 37 Vancouver and Surrey locations, reached 83 schools with workshop programs, and 62 schools with live performances.

The big total? More than 14,000 young people, each year, experience the arts free and a further 10,600 are captivated by live student performances.

But though the breadth of Arts Umbrella's community programs has grown, the philosophy remains the same: "ensuring accessibility to quality programming and the means for developing self-expression."

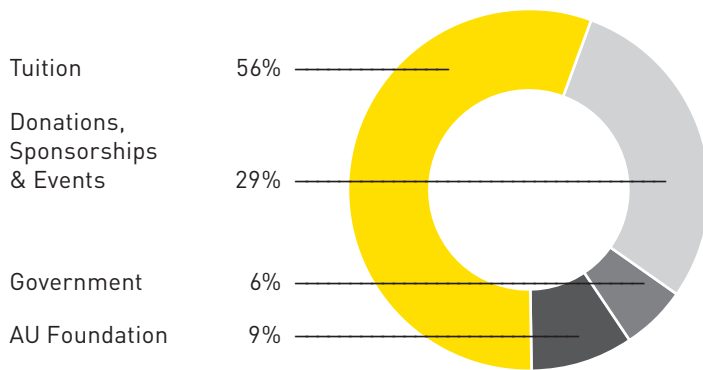
Arts Umbrella Association

STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES

For the years ended August 31, 2016 and 2015

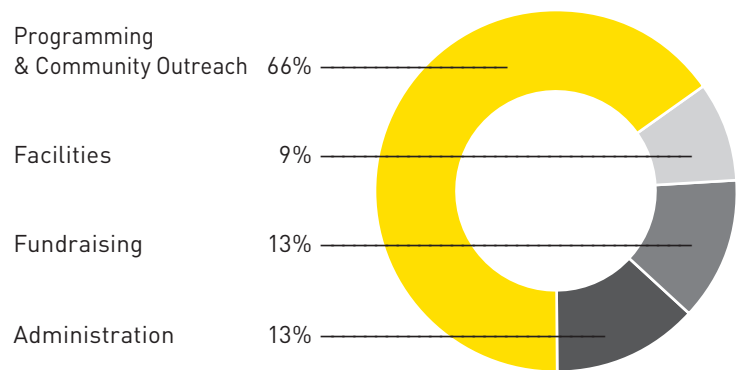
2016

REVENUES



Total Revenue \$5,721,392

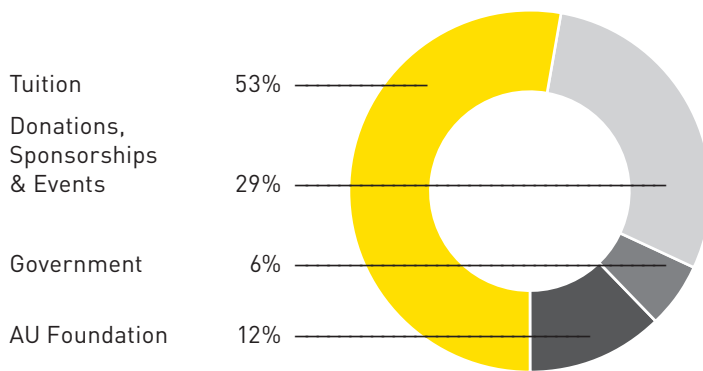
EXPENDITURES



Total Expenditures \$5,640,967

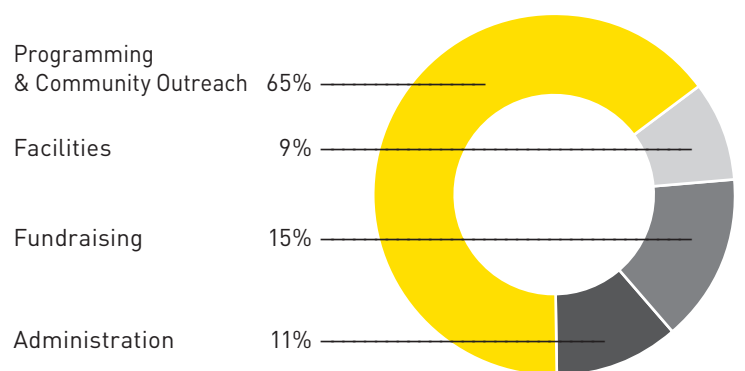
2015

REVENUES



Total Revenue \$5,464,245

EXPENDITURES



Total Expenditures \$5,445,276

Thank You To Our Annual Supporters

September 1, 2015 - August 31, 2016

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\$75,000 and above



\$50,000 - \$74,999



\$20,000 - \$49,999



\$10,000 - \$19,999

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\$5,000 - \$9,999

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\$1,000 - \$4,999

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