

ABOUT ARTS UMBRELLA

OUR VISION

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

OUR 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.

History and Key Information

Arts Umbrella is a BC-based non-profit arts education organization for young people ages 2–22. Since opening its doors in 1979 to 45 students, it has reached more than half a million children, youth, and teens across Metro Vancouver and beyond.

Arts Umbrella offers paid and free community programming at its facilities in Vancouver and Surrey, as well as at partner locations at schools, community centres, neighbourhood houses, and health care hubs. Students exhibit work at Arts Umbrella and partner locations, and perform at theatres and schools across the Lower Mainland.

We believe that art is powerful—powerful enough to change kids' lives in incredible ways. Studies show that arts education improves test scores and problem-solving skills, and provides young people with the building blocks for life. The arts help children and youth develop traits like self-confidence, self-discipline, critical thinking, and creative expression. And the part that excites us most—once these traits are unlocked kids carry them for life.

No other organization in Canada offers the same breadth and depth of visual and performing arts training opportunities for young people—across a wide range of ages and disciplines, and taught by highly-qualified arts-educators. Through classes, workshops, performances, spring break, and summer camps, Arts Umbrella fosters an environment with no creative limits. We aim to build a community of innovators that will shape the future of our city, our province, our country, and our world.

Fast Facts

Accessibility — Arts Umbrella works to accommodate the learning needs of all students, to ensure the best possible artistic experience. We also foster a stigma-free environment where everyone is free from judgment, shame, and criticism. We embrace each and every student to create a comfortable and safe space for young people.

Highest quality — Our instructors are practicing artists who share their valuable experiences with the students. We use top-quality supplies, and base our classes on arts-education principles.

One-of-a-kind — Arts Umbrella is the only arts organization in Canada that offers such breadth and depth of visual and performing arts training opportunities for young people across a wide range of ages—from preschoolers to post-secondary students.

Reach — In addition to our core facility on Granville Island, Arts Umbrella serves Metro Vancouver with locations in Mount Pleasant, Surrey Centre, and South Surrey. We also offer dozens of paid and free programs in community centres, daycares, neighbourhood houses, and schools across the region.

Community Programs and Financial Assistance

As a non-profit Arts Umbrella believes every young artist should have an equal opportunity to express their creativity, regardless of social or economic barriers. Our free community programs, bursaries, and scholarships help minimize that barrier. In 2017 alone, we served more than 20,000 children and youth, with 80% participating at little to no cost to their families.

Community programs — Our free community programs harness Arts Umbrella's magic and expertise to provide free-of-charge, high-quality art classes, workshops, and performances to pre-school, elementary, and high-school students.

Bursaries — Our bursaries help put the best arts training within reach. In 2016, 412 students received more than \$134,266 in bursaries, allowing them to participate in our tuition-based programs at a substantially reduced rate.

Scholarships — With the generous support of our community partners, Arts Umbrella is able to offer scholarships to many of our students that demonstrate outstanding dedication, discipline, and passion for their creative pursuits.

For more information (media only), please contact:

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