





ABOUT ARTS UMBRELLA

Arts Umbrella is where young artists ages 2–22 cultivate their creativity in Dance, Theatre, and Art & Design. As a non-profit centre for arts education, we believe that art is powerful. Powerful enough to change childrens’ lives in incredible ways. When young people connect with the arts, they gain self-confidence, develop self-discipline, and discover creative expression—qualities they carry with them for life.

Arts Umbrella has four locations in Vancouver and Surrey, as well as donor-funded programs at schools, community centres, neighbourhood houses, and healthcare facilities across Metro Vancouver. We reach more than 24,000 students every year, with nearly 81% participating at little to no cost.

Our Story

In 1979 Arts Umbrella opened its doors to 45 children. It was an endeavour buoyed by the dream of five passionate artists and parents concerned about the lack of arts education available to young people in Metro Vancouver. Their dream was to instill in all children a love of the arts—to inspire young people to become confident, creative, and compassionate citizens.

In the early years, the founders were involved at every level of the organization—from instruction and administration, to fundraising and sitting on the Board of Directors. While the first classes in visual and performing arts were held in a borrowed space, the need for a permanent location was soon recognized. By 1983, Arts Umbrella moved into their new home on Granville Island—a converted 1930s nail factory—and began fundraising for renovations. Over the past 40 years, Arts Umbrella has continued to grow as demand for high-quality, accessible arts education rose across Metro Vancouver. In 2020, Arts Umbrella will move into its new home on Granville Island, in the South Building of the former Emily Carr University of Art & Design.

Access to the arts has always been a cornerstone of Arts Umbrella co-founder Carol Henriquez’ vision. Bursaries and community programs were early initiatives to ensure that all young people, regardless of economic or social circumstance, were provided with the opportunity to access a high-quality arts education. Today, Arts Umbrella staff work tirelessly to ensure that access to an arts education remains a cornerstone of what we do.



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.

Our Locations

GRANVILLE ISLAND

1286 Cartwright Street, Vancouver, BC V6H 3R8

Q7

77 East 7 Avenue, Vancouver, BC V5Y 1M4

SOUTH SURREY

N116 - 15850 26 Avenue, The Shops at Morgan Crossing
South Surrey, BC V3Z 2N6

SURREY CENTRE

102 - 13678 100 Avenue Surrey, BC V3T 1H9



HOW WE WORK

Paid Programs

Arts Umbrella offers tuition-based programs at our locations on Granville Island, South Surrey, and Surrey Centre. These programs in Art & Design, Dance, and Theatre & Music follow a rich curriculum based on arts education principles, with offerings in Sessional (Fall, Winter, and Spring) Terms, as well as intensive and pre-professional year-long programs.

Bursaries

Arts Umbrella believes that finances should never prevent a child from participating in the arts. As a non-profit organization, Arts Umbrella is committed to making our programming accessible to as many children and youth in our communities as possible. Our bursaries allow hundreds of children to register in tuition-based programs at a reduced rate, based on financial need.

Applications for bursary funding are open to everyone. Eligibility and submission details, as well as applications, are available to download from the Arts Umbrella website, and all applications are held in confidence.

Northern Arts Connection

Arts Umbrella is partnered with Toronto-based TakingITGlobal in the delivery of an acclaimed program called Connected North, which provides participating schools with access to engaging and innovative virtual content. Northern Arts Connection provides schools in remote Canadian communities with access to high-quality arts education, engaging some of Canada's most under-served children and youth in visual arts and performing arts workshops and performances.

Scholarships

Arts Umbrella offers a number of scholarship-based programs, funded by donors and created in partnership with organizations such as the Vancouver Art Gallery, the Contemporary Art Gallery, BTY Group, and Electronic Arts. Students must apply to our scholarship programs, and successful candidates are selected based on demonstrated skill, passion, and commitment.

Additionally, Arts Umbrella provides merit-based scholarships to students on an annual basis, based on instructor recommendations.

Donor-Funded Community Programs

For many children, Arts Umbrella is their first experience with the world of art. Our donor-funded community programs harness Arts Umbrella magic and expertise, and bring free-of-charge, high-quality arts classes to the young people across Metro Vancouver who would benefit from it most.

PROGRAM INFORMATION

Overview

Arts Umbrella classes are based on arts education principles that seek to engage and foster the whole child. Programs and workshops are led by more than 250 industry experts, practicing artists, and specialized educators. From early childhood education to professional-level programs, Arts Umbrella is committed to providing young people with the best possible arts education.


Arts Umbrella has developed programs with a number of established and reputable community partners, including Ballet BC, Bard on the Beach, BTY Group, Capture Photography Festival, the Contemporary Art Gallery, the Vancouver Art Gallery, Electronic Arts, BC Children's Hospital, Ronald McDonald House, Microsoft, and more.





Art & Design

The Art & Design program offers a variety of visual, applied, and media arts classes for young people. Our rich curriculum is designed for students at every level, including mentorship for those seeking to expand their artistic practice. The program also includes portfolio-building and advanced-level classes, in addition to community partnerships that provide scholarship programs and public exhibition opportunities.





Dance

Arts Umbrella Dance is a rigorous program designed for dancers ages 6-22. From the General Program to our Pre-Professional Training and Post-Secondary Programs, the excellence and innovation of Arts Umbrella Dance permeates everything we do. The curriculum balances physical development with emotional and intellectual growth, providing a life-changing dance education that has impact long after graduation.



Theatre, Music & Film

Arts Umbrella Theatre & Music programs nurture young performers' creativity and build skills that will benefit them on the stage and in everyday life. The curriculum explores collaborative and solo acting exercises, as well as the technical aspects of theatre and film, like lighting, sound, and costume and set design. Additional programs in writing and directing expand students knowledge in the theatre and film industries.

THE NEW LIMITLESS CAMPAIGN

In 2020, Arts Umbrella will open the doors to its new 50,000 net-square-foot home in the iconic South Building of the former Emily Carr University of Art + Design on Granville Island. The facility more than doubles our current square footage, significantly increasing our capacity to serve young people throughout Metro Vancouver and across the province.

This transformative project is made possible through historic funding from the Department of Canadian Heritage and major support from the Province of BC and the City of Vancouver.

The tremendous support from all levels of government, together with lead support from the private sector, will ensure Arts Umbrella can expand its mission to be Canada's leader in arts education for young people.

A campaign to raise the remaining funds towards the \$37-million capital and endowment fund goal is now underway. To learn more about the building and how it will impact the community, visit thenewlimitless.com.





Building Information

LOCATION AND SIZE

- Street Address: 1400 Johnston Street, Granville Island
- Arts Umbrella’s new home will be 50,000 net-square-feet
- Arts Umbrella projects that within 3–5 years, the new facility will welcome 15,000 young people each year, in addition to students reached in Surrey and extensive donor-funded community programs throughout Metro Vancouver.

ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN

Honouring the original design by Patkau Architects, the initial schematic to repurpose the building has been completed by award-winning architecture firm Henriquez Partners Architects (HPA).

HPA previously worked with Arts Umbrella on three projects:

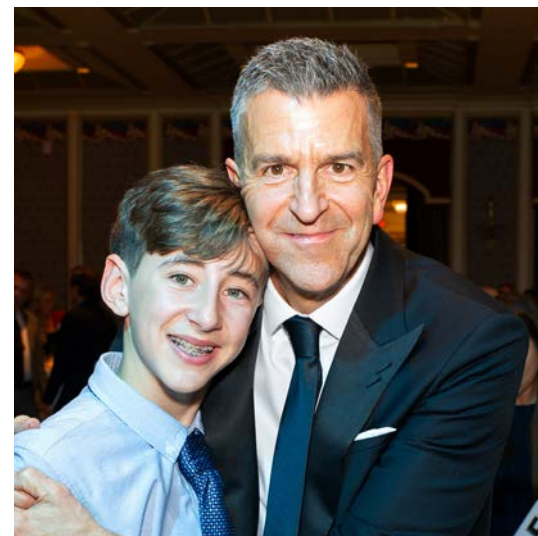
- 1992: building repurposing at 1418 Cartwright Street—from an industrial factory space
- 1990: building renovation at 1418 Cartwright Street
- 2000: building expansion at 1418 Cartwright Street

TIMELINE

- Initial planning and seed investment complete
- March 2018: final design development, building code consultation, electrical, mechanical, structural engineering consultation.
- January 2019: construction and renovations began
- Winter 2021: New facility opens

FACILITIES

- 6 Dance studios designed to suit dancers of all ages and experience.
- 4 Theatre & Music studios with specialized technical and audio equipment that support multi-media applications.
- 10 Art & Design studios, including state-of-the-art media labs, a darkroom for photography, and two kilns for ceramics.
- A 132-seat professional theatre open to Vancouver’s arts community.
- A publicly accessible exhibition space to showcase the works of students and visiting artists.
- New workshop spaces for woodworking, stagecraft building, and general fabrication will enhance our capacity to train professionals for the industry.



SIGNATURE EVENTS

Splash Art Auction & Gala

Since 1983, Splash Art Auction & Gala has established itself as one of Vancouver's preeminent art auctions in the city.

Now in its 37th year, Splash is proud to feature the works of over 100 renowned artists from British Columbia and beyond.

Nicola Wealth Invitational to Benefit Arts Umbrella

Held annually at Point Grey Golf & Country Club, the Nicola Wealth Invitational is recognized as one of Vancouver's premiere charity golf tournaments.

Arts Umbrella's annual signature events raise vital funds to provide young people across Metro Vancouver with equitable access to arts education, through bursaries, scholarships, and donor-funded community programs.

KEY TEAM BIOS



Paul Larocque
PRESIDENT & CEO

In 2016 Paul Larocque became Arts Umbrella's third President and CEO in its 40-year history. He previously held senior management positions at Arts Umbrella in the late 90s and early 2000s. Prior to his return to Arts Umbrella, Paul held the position of Associate Director at the Vancouver Art Gallery for more than a decade. With over three decades of involvement in the cultural sector, Paul is committed to promoting the importance of arts education and the arts in our communities.



Roxanne Gagnon
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, ART & DESIGN

Vancouver-based ceramic artist Roxanne Gagnon has exhibited her work both internationally and throughout Metro Vancouver. Roxanne has worked in the education field for over 20 years and joined Arts Umbrella in 2005. She is dedicated to fostering community through art-making, by providing space for individual successes within the classroom and facilitating big-impact projects and community partnerships.



Artemis Gordon
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, DANCE

An artistic and pedagogical authority in dance, Artemis Gordon was named Artistic Director of Arts Umbrella Dance in 1992. Since then, she has developed the program's rigorous curriculum and international recognition. Artemis has toured the Arts Umbrella Dance Company to Europe, Asia, and the United States, and fostered collaborations with companies around the world.



Paul Moniz de Sá
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, THEATRE & MUSIC

Paul Moniz de Sá is a professional actor, director, and sound designer. He's worked in theatres across North America and his on-camera credits include Steven Spielberg's The BFG, Arrow, The Flash, and more. Paul has been the director of the Senior Theatre Troupe for more than a decade and is a proud graduate of both the Arts Umbrella Theatre Program and Studio 58.



Susan Smith Alexander
SENIOR DIRECTOR, PROGRAMMING

Susan Smith Alexander's career began in radio, including many years at Z95.3/650 CISL in Vancouver. In 1999, she joined GENERATOR Ideaworks to create sales promotions for brands such as Molson Canadian. After a stint managing Cossette's Blitz Promotion division in Vancouver, an nhl.com project with Los Angeles-based mobiico, and a marketing position at Coca-Cola Limited, Smith Alexander transitioned to the not-for-profit world, joining Arts Umbrella in 2005. She joined as Director, Marketing and Communications, adding Development to her role in 2007. Since 2011, Smith Alexander has worked in Programming, currently as Senior Director, Programming.



Andy Toth
ASSOCIATE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, THEATRE & MUSIC

Andy Toth directs one of the Arts Umbrella Musical Theatre Troupes. Outside Arts Umbrella, Andy is an accomplished voice actor with hundreds of cartoons and commercials to his credit. Andy is also Artistic Director of Awkward Stage Productions, a leading youth theatre production company that offers real-world production experience to young artists moving from their awkward stage to the next stage, whatever that may be.

KEY FACTS

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2018–2019

By The Numbers

24,069

children and youth served

7,030

students in donor-funded
community programs

572

students received bursaries
or scholarships

19,602

students engaged in donor-
funded programming (community
programs, performances, bursaries
and scholarships)

12,000

students attend donor-funded
performances with Arts Umbrella-
led talkbacks

18

programs reaching over 125
community partner locations

MEDIA CONTACTS

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Social Media Handles

ARTS UMBRELLA BRAND

Facebook /artsumbrella

Instagram @artsumbrella

Twitter @artsumbrella

LinkedIn /artsumbrella

Vimeo /artsumbrella

SPLASH ART AUCTION & GALA

Instagram @au_splash



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