



## PROGRAM DIRECTOR, ART & DESIGN

Full-time, permanent

(Please note: this position has been recently endowed and will be titled the “Audain Artistic Director, Art & Design”.)

### About Arts Umbrella

Arts Umbrella is where young artists ages 2–22 cultivate their passion and creativity in the visual and performing arts. As a non-profit organization entirely dedicated to arts education for young people, we believe that art is powerful. When young people engage in the arts, they gain self-confidence, develop compassion, and discover creative expression—immeasurable life-long skills.

A professional faculty delivers a wide range of instruction at every level, including advanced opportunity for young people who want to push, inquire and develop a more in-depth practice, including post-secondary scholarship programs across the spectrum of creative fields. With four locations in Vancouver and Surrey, Arts Umbrella delivers tuition-based programs as well as donor-funded programs that bring the Arts Umbrella experience to children and communities in Metro Vancouver who would benefit from them most. Each year, Arts Umbrella serves more than 20,000 young people, with nearly 80% through donor-funded programs, bursaries, and scholarship.

In April 2021, Arts Umbrella opened the doors of its new, 50,000 net-square-foot facility on Granville Island. This state-of-the-art building includes six spacious dance studios; four theatre, music and film studios with specialized technical equipment; 10 art and design studios, including a media labs, ceramics studio, and a photography darkroom; a 132-seat theatre; a public exhibition space; and a dedicated workshop area for woodworking, stagecraft building and general fabrication. With this exceptional opportunity, Arts Umbrella is poised to further our vision for a better world where the next generations are inspired to seek wonder through the arts. It is our mission to be Canada’s leader in arts education for young people; to build community and deliver profound life experiences through our commitment to innovation, excellence, and inclusivity. Arts Umbrella (“AU”) is an organization full of heart, where self-expression and creativity are valued and nurtured.

### The Opportunity

Reporting to the Senior Director, Programming, the Artistic Director, Art & Design is responsible for creating and implementing the artistic vision and mandate of Art & Design programming at Arts Umbrella. The Artistic Director oversees Art & Design educational programming while also leading day-to-day activities of the Art & Design department, all with an eye to supporting the organization’s strategic plan. The Artistic Director, Art & Design is based out of AU’s Granville Island facility, but is also responsible for Art & Design programming at AU’s two locations in Surrey, in addition to community programs being delivered through a growing network of schools, community centres, neighbourhood houses, and healthcare facilities. The Artistic Director, Art & Design leads a small administrative team as well as a large roster of approximately 100 part-time faculty.

### Key Accountabilities:

- Provides leadership in developing relevant and engaging programming for a wide range of ages and skill levels, from Early Learners to ages 6-19, entry level to advanced
- Based on a wide scope of experience and knowledge of contemporary art practices and art history, provides artistic direction in areas including Animation, Architecture, Clay Sculpture, Drawing & Painting, Media Arts, Mixed Media, and more
- Develops relationships within the larger art and design community, identifying new opportunities for young people to engage with contemporary artists and leading arts organizations (e.g., Visual Arts Summer Intensive with the Contemporary Art Gallery, Art Exchange with Vancouver Art Gallery)
- Ensures the successful implementation and continued development of AU’s Art & Design curriculum within programming at all AU locations and community partner locations
- Supports the recruitment and retention of Art & Design staff

- Provides day to day supervision, coaching and mentoring of Art & Design staff (administrative and faculty) in collaboration with the Senior Director, Programming, Director, Community Programs, and/or Manager, Program Operations
- Supports student recruitment and retention efforts, providing leadership in admissions for advanced programs
- Works within the parameters of the annual operating plan to meet growth targets, including new program development
- As a member of the artistic management team, contributes to strategic planning and implementation through articulating artistic and programming objectives
- Collaborates with various departments and artistic disciplines at AU, including but not limited to Dance, Theatre, Fund Development, and Marketing/Communications
- Develops and manages department annual budget and schedule/program mix in partnership with Senior Director, Programming, Manager, Program Operations, and Director, Community Programs.

### Here is what you bring

An ideal candidate for this position will have an inspired artistic vision for the future of Arts Umbrella's School of Art & Design and the experience to carry their vision to fruition. We are looking for a visionary candidate who demonstrates leadership, tenacity, and passion in their work, who has their finger on the pulse of trends and best practices in the art and design world. As a leader for our artistic team, our ideal candidate has the ability to influence and lead others towards a clear direction while mentoring and coaching the instructional faculty to deliver the highest standards of excellence in programming.

We are on the lookout for the following competencies:

- Undergraduate Degree in Fine Arts, Art History or other Arts discipline
- Masters of Fine Arts preferred
- Strong knowledge of best practices and current trends in Art & Design pedagogy
- Minimum three years' professional experience in a contemporary arts and design environment, including galleries, museums, artist-run centres or educational institutions
- Minimum three years' experience as a team leader preferred
- Experience leading arts educational programs for young people in any related discipline an asset
- Education/experience in Early Childhood Education an asset
- Experience in building collaborative community partnerships and relationships integral to maintaining Arts Umbrella's place in the broader community
- Highly developed communication skills, both written and oral
- Advanced interpersonal skills, able to relate and interact with multiple stakeholders, including children
- Experience exercising budget and project management skills

### Our commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion

Arts Umbrella values diversity and inclusion and is committed to building a team that represents a variety of backgrounds, perspectives, and skills and reflects the children and youth in our programs. We strongly encourage applications from people of all backgrounds.

### How to apply

Send your resume and cover letter to [careers@artsumbrella.com](mailto:careers@artsumbrella.com), indicating **PROGRAM DIRECTOR, ART & DESIGN** in the subject line. We strongly encourage applicants to apply as soon as possible, as we will review resumes and schedule interviews as they arrive. This position will remain open until filled.

Arts Umbrella thanks all applicants for their interest and advises that only those selected for an interview will be contacted. **No phone calls please.**