

ARTS UMBRELLA

ARTS EDUCATION
FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

PROGRAM GUIDE 24 / 25



ART & DESIGN | DANCE | THEATRE, MUSIC & FILM

Welcome to Arts Umbrella

At Arts Umbrella, we are passionate about giving all young people the opportunity to be inspired, to create, and to feel confident in themselves through art. Our programs offer a variety of disciplines for young artists of all ages, at any stage of their creative journey, with the goal of making Arts Umbrella a place that fosters growth, self-expression, and community.

We are proud to be an organization that engages with young people on a national level and beyond, and we are committed to breaking down the barriers to accessing a high-quality arts education. From our Northern Arts Connection program that delivers arts education to some of the most remote communities in Northern Canada, to our Creative Launchpad scholarship students who are studying the arts at post-secondary institutions across the country, to our International Dance Audition Tour, with 470 auditioning dancers from 20 different countries.

While we have Arts Umbrella students from all parts of Canada, we are also extremely fortunate to be supported by an incredible community of funders, sponsors, and volunteers from across this country.

Our incredible faculty and staff bring their expertise, wisdom, and passion to Arts Umbrella, every single day, and we are in awe of their dedication. Their drive to deliver profound life experiences through arts education to all of our students, is inspiring, and we thank them.

And, to our students, we are forever inspired by you. This year, we are honoured to have our front and back covers showcase the incredible work of two of our students. Congratulations to Abigail Lai, Drawing & Painting Intensive Level 2 student, and to Aria, Covenant House program student, and to all our other student artists who dance, sing, act, and create at Arts Umbrella.

We are privileged to have you as part of the Arts Umbrella community.



Paul Larocque
President & CEO
Arts Umbrella

Our Vision

We envision a better world where all young lives embrace a lifelong journey towards self-expression and humanity.

Our Mission

Our mission is to deliver profound life experiences through arts education that inspire young people to live creative, authentic, and courageous lives.

Arts Umbrella acknowledges that its work in Vancouver is on the unceded, traditional, and ancestral territories of the x^wməθk^wəyəm (Musqueam), Sḵwəxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish), and səlilwətaʔt (Tsleil-Waututh) peoples and in Surrey on the unceded, traditional, and ancestral territories of the Kwantlen, Katzie, Semiahmoo, Kwikwetlem, Qayqayt, and Tsawwassen First Nations.



Why Arts Umbrella

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

Our Philosophy

Whole-self learning is the philosophy that guides every program at Arts Umbrella. From toddlers arriving for their first visual arts, dance, or theatre class to teens training in our intensive programs before heading out into the professional world, we believe that arts education goes past training artists who are proficient at their craft. We provide the space and time for students to examine the world and their place in it, using their arts education as a foundation for life, no matter where their path takes them.

Rigour & Opportunity

All programs at Arts Umbrella are led by a faculty of more than 200 educators and practicing artists that bring a wealth of educational and professional experience to our studios. Our student journey includes pre-school to post-secondary, offering access at every stage of a young person's development. Fundamentals of craft and technique are established for every discipline. At all levels, students are encouraged to engage critically with the challenges set before them as opportunities, knowing the rewards of accomplishment that spring from hard work, self-discipline, and dedication.

A Caring Community

At Arts Umbrella, students and their families find a community of peers who are engaged and similarly passionate. Though art can be an inherently individual pursuit, training is elevated by working collaboratively. Students discover self through relationships with others and responsibility to the ensemble; that which an individual brings to their craft strengthens and elevates the group as a whole.

Over the more than four decades since then, we have continued to build on the vision established by Arts Umbrella's founders, striving to provide a place where young people ages 2-22 can flourish, developing strength and confidence and finding the freedom that comes with self-expression.

A Multi-Disciplinary Hub

The opportunities provided to our students are limitless. Studios specific to each discipline allow instructors to teach and students to train to their fullest potential. Unique to Arts Umbrella is the offering of so many artistic disciplines in the same space. From clay sculpture and sketching techniques to musical theatre and filmmaking to ballet and choreographic workshops, Arts Umbrella students arrive to learn and leave inspired, surrounded by other young people's imagined creations taking form.

Accessible Arts Education

At Arts Umbrella, we strive to ensure that all young people, regardless of economic or social circumstance, are provided with the opportunity to access a high-quality arts education. We reach approximately 20,000 young people across Metro Vancouver annually, with nearly 75% served through bursaries, scholarships, and donor-funded community programs.

Art for All

At Arts Umbrella, we understand that for young people, physical and mental conditions, illnesses, and disabilities can occur for the first time or become more prominent. We acknowledge that for many students, barriers exist to accessing the right care, medical diagnoses, treatments, tools, and/or medication options. Arts Umbrella strives to support students, whether they have a diagnosis or not, and we are always learning how to make our classes more comfortable for our diverse range of students.



Arts Umbrella is committed to the ongoing process of Truth and Reconciliation. To honour National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, we offer our families and community the opportunity to engage with Indigenous artists and knowledge keepers. Families seen here are learning how to make woven bracelets with artist Alexa Lizotte.

Notes from Our Artistic Directors

Art & Design

"The value of an Art & Design education lies not in the production of pretty things, but in the cultivation of a critical and creative mind. One capable of distilling complex ideas and communicating emotions effectively through material form and imagery.

Artists know how to navigate the marvelous worlds within and beyond themselves. Personal expression and the value of others' experiences mean we believe in the fostering and amplification of diverse voices, and work together to build resolute inclusive communities. We play, we wonder, and we delight endlessly in the creation of strange new futures. Who wouldn't want to be an artist?"

-Patrick O'Neill,
Audain Artistic Director,
Audain School of Art & Design

Dance

"An education that incorporates Dance into its curriculum is a rich experience that develops high motor skills, self-actualization, and a sense of confidence that is unparalleled. The experience of learning through the body heightens the connections a student makes between ideas, concepts, and critical thought. The community that Dance develops lasts a lifetime, and evokes indispensable social skills.

Dance has been proven to increase cognitive development, expand flexibility, strengthen muscles, and improve balance. Current research has documented its importance of exercising the brain to support the body-mind connection. It's a beautiful way to live your life in your own body."

-Artemis Gordon, Artistic Director, Dance

Theatre, Music & Film

"Theatre, Music & Film encourages students to bring their whole selves into the room. We understand that talent is not something fleeting that some have and others don't. Instead, talent is nurtured through opportunity, craft, and consistency. With us, students are challenged to move beyond self-concern, using their craft and curiosity to explore the depths of human emotion and experience. Radical empathy lies at the heart of our curriculum and empowers students to tell stories that resonate genuinely with audiences. Our mission transcends mere teaching. We commit ourselves to nurturing young, expressive individuals, primed to leave their indelible marks on the world with their unique stories and captivating performances. Join us and discover how your creative voice can indeed make a difference."

- Andy Toth, Artistic Director, Robert M. Ledingham
School of Theatre, Music & Film



Credit: Devan Francis

New! Early Learning Foundations



Join us Tuesday
and/or Thursday
Mornings!

- Art Start
- Creative Dance
- Creative Drama

At Arts Umbrella, we believe that an arts education inspires young people to live creative, authentic, and courageous lives and we want to make it as easy as possible for the young people in your life to experience the arts as soon as they can. This is why we are introducing our new Early Learning Foundations (ELF).

ELF lets our youngest students experience a variety of art forms in one half-day session that has been designed with the busy lives of families in mind. Caregivers have the flexibility to drop-off to supervised studios between 8:30am and 8:45am and pick-up between 11:30am and 12pm. While the program gives children an enriched adventure in the arts, caregivers have a 3-hour window to work, catch-up with friends or have some me time.

For our early learners, this fun and immersive program will allow time to make friends, explore different art forms, investigate problem solving, nurture curiosity, and develop self-confidence, whether it's a first dance, theatre, or visual arts class.



Credit: Devan Francis

Student Services & Enrolment

Registration

You can register online or by phone. To register online, create an account by visiting artsumbrella.com and clicking the “Register Now” button at the top right of your screen. You will be directed to our registration portal and prompted from there.

Our friendly and knowledgeable Student Services team is ready to help with any questions or inquiries about:

- Registration (by phone or online)
- Program details
- Class changes, transfers, and withdrawals
- Payments and fees
- Bursary applications and scholarships
- Accessibility and learning supports

Registration for all 2024/25 Yearlong and Sessional programs begins June 1, 2024.

Locations & Contact

Granville Island

1400 Johnston St, Vancouver
604-681-5268
info@artsumbrella.com

Surrey Centre

Park Place, 102—13678 100 Ave, Surrey
604-585-6996
surrey@artsumbrella.com

Important Dates

Sessional Programs

Fall Session 2024: Monday, September 16 - Sunday, December 15
Winter Session 2025: Saturday, January 11 - Friday, March 14
Spring Session 2025: Monday, April 7 - Sunday, June 22

Yearlong Programs

Fall 2024: Monday, September 16 - Monday, December 16
(December 21 for Arts Umbrella Dance make-up classes)
Winter 2025: Monday, January 6 - Friday, March 14
(January 4 for Arts Umbrella Dance make-up classes)
Spring 2025: Monday, March 31 - Monday, June 16
(June 16-21 for Arts Umbrella Dance make-up classes)

Spring Break 2025

Week 1: March 17-21
Week 2: March 24-28

Summer 2025

Week 1: July 7-11
Week 2: July 14-18
Week 3: July 21-25
Week 4: July 28-August 1
Week 5: August 5-8

Closures

Arts Umbrella offices are closed and no classes take place on the following days, unless otherwise noted for specific programs.

- Labour Day: September 2, 2024
- National Day for Truth & Reconciliation: September 30, 2024
- Thanksgiving: October 12-14, 2024
- Halloween: October 31, 2024 (all afternoon/evening classes)
- Remembrance Day: November 11, 2024
- Winter Break: December 24, 2024 – January 2, 2025
- Family Day: February 17, 2025
- Easter Weekend: April 18-21, 2025
- Victoria Day: May 19, 2025
- Canada Day: July 1, 2025
- BC Day: August 4, 2025

Extreme Weather

In times of extreme weather, Arts Umbrella’s closure procedure aligns with that of the local public school district. In the event public schools are closed due to weather conditions, Arts Umbrella classes are also cancelled. Please check local radio, television, school board websites, and social media for school board closures.



Bursaries

Creativity is limitless, but for many families, finances can limit access to programming. As a non-profit organization, Arts Umbrella is committed to making our programs accessible to as many children and youth in our communities as possible.

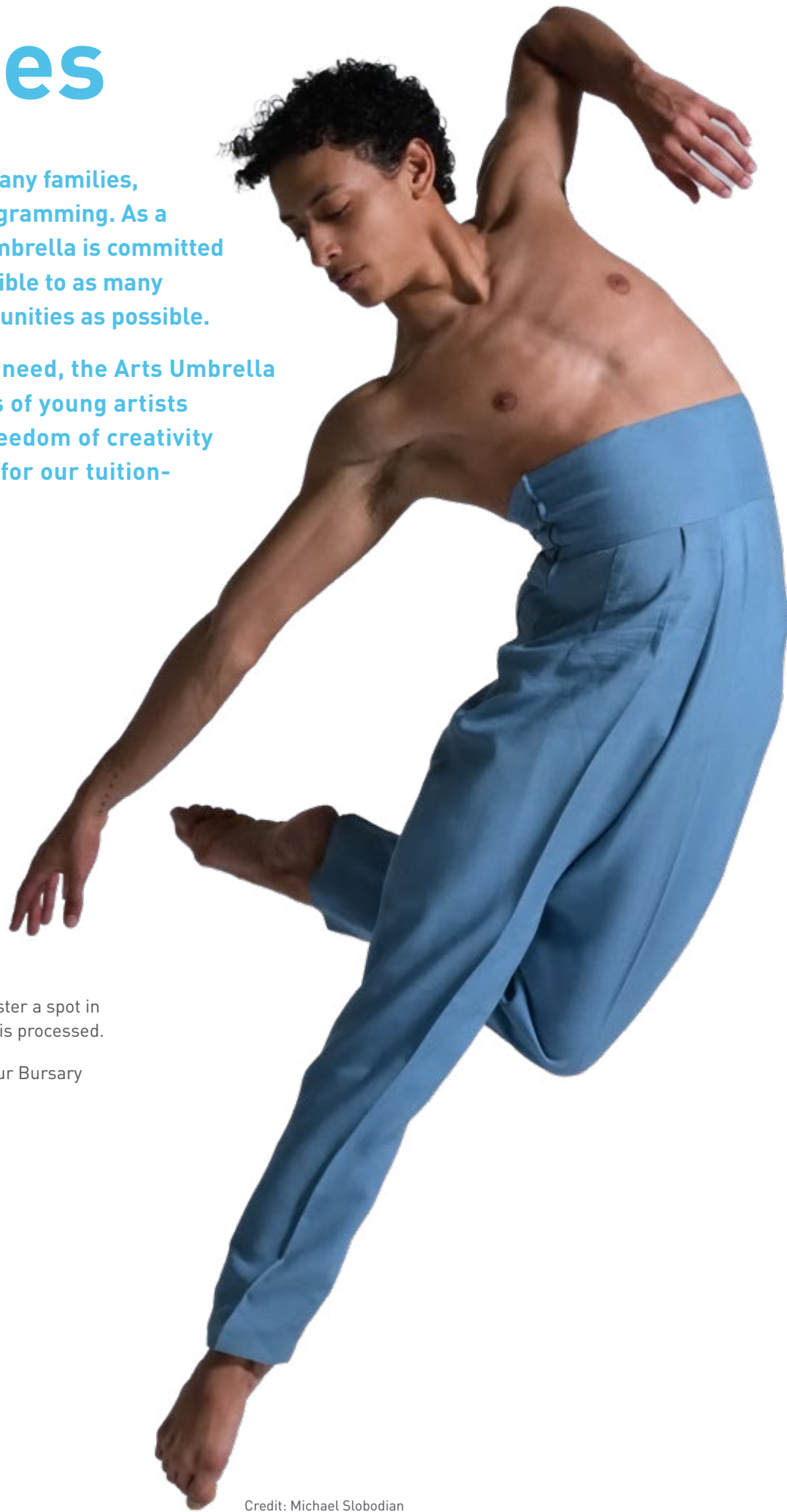
Distributed based on financial need, the Arts Umbrella Bursary Fund allows hundreds of young artists each year to experience the freedom of creativity by providing financial support for our tuition-based programming.

How to Apply for a Bursary

Applications for bursary funding are open to everyone for Fall, Winter, Spring, Spring Break, and Summer sessions.

To apply, download a Bursary Application Package from our website, then contact Student Services via email or phone to register a spot in your preferred class while your application is processed.

For more information or support, contact our Bursary Administrators at 604-861-5268 x 3343 or bursaries@artsmbrella.com.



Credit: Michael Slobodian

Scholarships

Arts Umbrella provides full and partial scholarships to students in select programs who are keen to stretch their artistic boundaries in a mentor-based learning environment. Based on applications, juried reviews, and/or interviews, scholarships are awarded to young artists that display passion and commitment to their program.

Creative Launchpad

Creative Launchpad is a financial award made available to students who are interested in pursuing an undergraduate degree, diploma or certificate in post-secondary studies across the spectrum of creative fields.

Generously funded by:

Jeff Mooney and Suzanne Bolton

Dancers of Today

Dancers of Today is a Ballet BC scholarship program that strives toward a more equitable and diverse future in dance, with the ultimate goal of creating a path accessible to all communities to feed into our professional company. The scholarship provides an aspiring dancer the opportunity to further their training with Arts Umbrella Dance, with preference given to applicants from underrepresented communities.

Full scholarship provided by:

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The following Arts Umbrella scholarships are merit-based and awarded on the recommendation of instructors. They are presented at a special celebration in June each year:

- Azra Young Award
- Barry Scott Legacy Fund
- Christie and David Garofalo Scholarship
- Dale Mearns Fund
- Dancing with Jocelyn Scholarship Fund
- Edna Davies Memorial Fund
- Gary Switlo Scholarship
- Glenn Gilmour Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Jack Shadbolt Scholarship Fund
- Ken and Anne Woods Scholarship Fund
- Ken and Anne Woods Post-Secondary Awards
- Lucille Pacey Legacy Fund
- Phyllis Ashley Endowment
- Rita Eichenger Endowment
- The Stearman Family Award
- Stephen Denslow Endowment
- West of Main Art Walk Scholarship
- Anonymous

McCall MacBain Fellowship

The McCall MacBain Fellowship is awarded to students in Arts Umbrella's Post-Secondary Dance Program to augment their education, gain meaningful experiences beyond their core training, and focus on future leadership opportunities.

Generously funded by:



RBC Auditioning Scholarships

As part of our longstanding partnership with RBC Emerging Artists, five students from our Professional Training Program in Dance are awarded graduate scholarships to be used to facilitate auditions as they embark on their performing careers.

Generously funded by:



Robert Lemon Stratford Prize

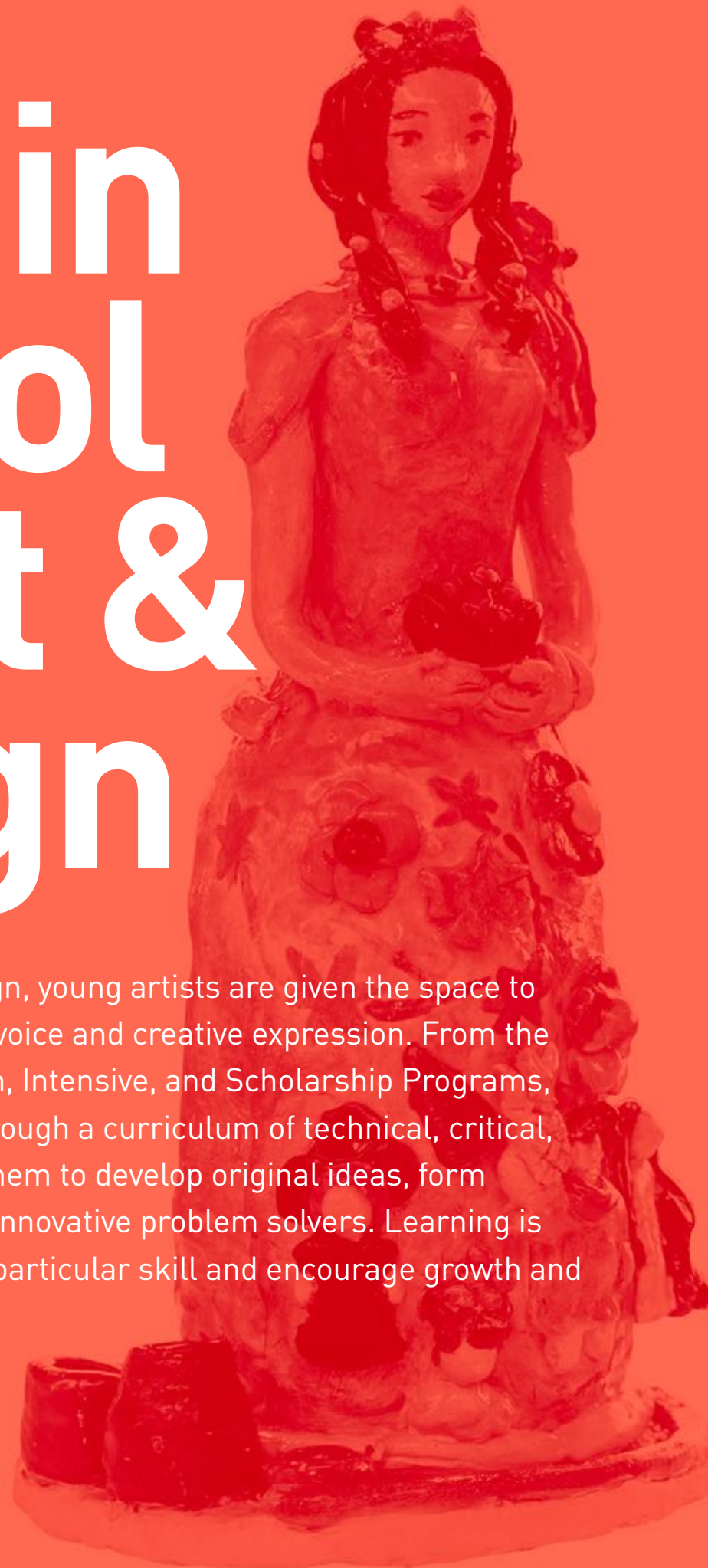
The Robert Lemon Stratford Prize connects the Robert M. Ledingham School of Theatre, Music & Film at Arts Umbrella with The Stratford Festival, North America's largest classical repertory theatre company. The Robert Lemon Stratford Prize is awarded to two current Arts Umbrella Intensive or Advanced Theatre Program students in grades 9-12 and supports their attendance at the Stratford Festival Theatre Intensive in July.

Full scholarship provided by:

Robert Lemon

Audain School of Art & Design

At the Audain School of Art & Design, young artists are given the space to discover the power of their unique voice and creative expression. From the General Program to the Foundation, Intensive, and Scholarship Programs, students ages 2-19 are inspired through a curriculum of technical, critical, and creative skills that challenge them to develop original ideas, form creative connections, and become innovative problem solvers. Learning is task-based, designed to develop a particular skill and encourage growth and progression over time.



Credit: Albert Law

Leadership & Faculty

PATRICK O'NEILL

Audain Artistic Director, Audain School of Art & Design

Patrick O'Neill received his BFA from UBC in 2016 and his MA in Contemporary Art Practice [Critical Practice] from the Royal College of Art in London, UK, in 2021 with distinction. As an artist, his work has been shown internationally in group shows in Vancouver, Amsterdam, Cardiff, and London and is held in a number of private collections. He is a founding member of

London-based artist collective, Waste Authority.

Prior to being named Audain Artistic Director of Art & Design at Arts Umbrella in 2021, Patrick had worked for nearly ten years as an arts educator throughout a number of major arts organizations including the Vancouver Art Gallery,

Polygon Gallery, and Arts Umbrella where he began his journey as an assistant and instructor in 2011. He is thrilled to lead the Audain School of Art & Design as it fosters accessible, inclusive and profound learning experiences for young artists in diverse communities across Greater Vancouver.

MEET OUR FACULTY

Shae Anthony
Marina Arndt
Danae Biln
Suzy Birstein
Giulia Borba
Amelia Butcher
Owen Caddell
Aslan Campbell
Ye Chu
Caelan Clark
Pedro Cruz
Amelia Deis

Jamie Dickinson
Kellie Diguangco
Adam Flewelling
Alexis Folka
Candyce Gao
Grace Gihm
Kate Gomberg
Spencer Gordon
Danya Gorodetsky
Cara Guri
Jonathan Harvey
Sarah Hoemberg

M. Lissette Isaak
Riba Kalb
Victoria Kallergis
Martina Kocmanova
Kit Liu
Nick Loewen
Crista Lof
Samantha Lu
Rae Mate
Bianca Meija
Olusha Milley
Kevin Michael Murphy

Emily Nguyen
Mariela Rojas Farias
Lusine Sahakyan
Niki Sampson
Dee Saunders
Andre Seow
Golnar Sepahi
Cindy Schreyer
Maya Schueller Elmes
Oksana Slonevskaya
Graham Smith
Yan Song

Kelsey Steeves
Arti Struyanskiy
Netsanet Tsegaye
Rose Wan
Jesse Wardell
Robert Whitelaw
Siling Zhang

General Program

The Art & Design General Program is made up of sessional classes, offered in three terms throughout the year: Fall, Winter, and Spring. These programs have no pre-requisite and projects vary by session and instructor. Spring Session students have the opportunity to have their work displayed to the public as a part of Arts Umbrella’s annual Expressions Festival in June, a celebration of student accomplishments over the past school year.

ANIMATION PROGRAMS

Students apply art and design fundamentals to create characters and settings, and learn how to bring them to life on screen. Using a range of techniques and tools—from pencil-on-paper to plasticine to Photoshop—students learn filmmaking, storytelling, and motion design. All materials used in class are provided, including computers and software.

Claymation

Ages 6-8, 9-12
Students learn to sculpt characters and props with plasticine, developing the model making and animation skills that are unique to this particular form of stop motion animation. Working at our camera stations to compose and photograph frame after frame, students develop an intuition for the principles of animation, from timing and spacing to squash and stretch. Students work with DSLR cameras and the industry-standard software, DragonFrame.

Stop Motion Animation

Ages 6-8, 9-12
Students learn how to create posable paper puppets, and how to bring them to life on screen by arranging and photographing them frame after frame. This technique invites material exploration, and students work with a wide variety of materials, from hand-drawn characters and props to readymade objects, textiles, collage, and even special-effects animation of students themselves. Students work with DSLR cameras and the industry-standard software, DragonFrame.

2D Digital Animation

Ages 9-12, 13+
In our Mac Lab, students bring their drawings to life using software such as Adobe Animate. At early levels, students cover frame rate, timelines, and drawing. Teens will expand on fundamentals with projects that challenge their skills.

Program Dates

Fall Session 2024: Monday, September 16 - Sunday, December 15
Winter Session 2025: Monday, January 6 - Monday, March 10
Spring Session 2025: Monday, April 7 - Sunday, June 22

Program Locations

All programs take place at Granville Island unless noted.

Admissions & Registration

No previous experience required. Registration for all programs and sessions opens June 1, 2024.

3D Modeling & Animation

Ages 9-12, 13+
Character design, storytelling, and world-building combine for students to learn the basics of digital sculpting and animation. They will be introduced to software such as Blender and Unity to gain fundamental skills and see their stories come to life.



Credit: Devan Francis



Credit: Devan Francis

ARCHITECTURE PROGRAMS

Students explore the architectural design process, learning the basics of space, function, form, texture, and balance, along with technical skills in drafting and model making. As students progress, they learn principles of urban design and community development, building a well-rounded design practice.

Architecture

Ages 6-8, 9-12 | offered at Surrey Centre
Students learn the fundamentals of architectural design, from sketching to model making, developing their creative problem-solving skills as they lay out floor plans and build 3D structures using cardboard and mixed media. Classes for older students focus on developing more conceptually rigorous designs, through projects based on real-life urban design and architecture case studies.

Architecture & Environmental Design

Ages 13+
Students create 3D architectural models, learning the conceptual and technical fundamentals of the architectural design process, exploring ideas in urban planning and theory, and discussing the relationships between natural and built environments. Real-world case studies are used to inspire projects and discussion on topics such as energy conservation, water management, and sustainability rating systems.

CARTOONING & GRAPHIC NOVEL PROGRAMS

Students apply design and visual art foundations to bring characters and stories to life in the form of cartoons, comics, and graphic novels. As they progress, students build complexity in both their technical and storytelling skills.

Cartooning & Illustration

Ages 6-8, 9-12
Students learn how to tell visual stories and draw distinctive and dynamic characters through comics, cartoons, and illustrations. Working with pen, pencil, marker, and ink, students learn to communicate sequential action, movement, story, and sound through the graphic conventions of cartooning and illustration. Students also learn panel layout, character sheets, speech bubbles, and hand-lettering.

Graphic Novel

Ages 9-12, 13+
Students learn the fundamentals of graphic novel creation, from character design and narrative structure to page layout and lettering, working with standard tools for graphic novel illustration—like non-photo blue pencils, brush pens, and alcohol markers. Students further develop their skills, and their original stories, as they progress. At the end of the term completed short comics are scanned to print a unique creation.

MEDIA ARTS PROGRAMS

Students apply design and visual art foundations to projects specific to the digital world. In earlier levels, students build digital, computer, and creative software literacy, skillsets that support them as they progress.

Digital Media

Ages 6-8, 9-12
Students build media and computer literacy through expressive creative projects, working with various software in our Mac Lab. Students learn to edit, manipulate, and create digital artwork using their own drawings and photographs as well as downloaded media, practicing internet safety. As students gain an understanding of the tools, techniques, and workflows of digital art and design they will move from using software such as Kid Pix, Photoshop and GDevelop to more in-depth tools such as Illustrator, Premiere Rush, and GarageBand.

Graphic Design

Ages 9-12, 13+
Students learn how to creatively combine text and image to communicate a message and convey ideas, feelings, and attitudes. They are introduced to fundamental design elements such as shape, line, space, balance and typography as they develop technical skills with industry-standard software such as Adobe Photoshop and InDesign. Through logos, posters, book covers, labels and more, students learn to produce strong visual designs that share messages and bring ideas to life.

Game Design

Ages 9-12, 13+
Using PC laptops, students learn the theory and practice of game design, from world building, level design and theme development to the details of individual game mechanics. Students design graphic assets for their own games, and then add interactivity using software such as GDevelop.

Filmmaking & Editing

Ages 9-12, 13+
From short films to YouTube videos, students are introduced to the essential processes of filmmaking and digital content creation. Students learn industry standard software and tools, including iMovie, Adobe Rush and Premiere Pro, After Effects, and both DSLR and handheld video cameras. Storyboarding, scriptwriting, and shot selection are all covered, as well as basic lighting, green screen, and sound recording depending on the project.

PHOTOGRAPHY PROGRAM

Arts Umbrella is home to one of the only fully functional educational darkrooms left in Vancouver. Students learn the fundamentals of photography, including exposure, depth-of-field, composition, photo developing, and presentation using a 35mm film camera. Technical skills learned include shooting speeds, black & white film processing, photograms, and cyanotypes. Cameras and all materials are provided for each student.

Darkroom Photography

Ages 9-12, 13+

The basics of film photography and photo developing are introduced to budding photographers, using a 35mm camera to shoot and a fully appointed darkroom to develop images in black and white. Students will learn the principles of lens selection, lighting, composition through a variety of shooting scenarios including street and studio photography. They will also learn the fundamentals of image editing through analog techniques such as burning, dodging and blending and be introduced to more experimental darkroom processes and cameras.

SCULPTURE & CERAMICS PROGRAMS

Students build, paint, and decorate 2D and 3D works using the principles of form, volume, texture, line, and colour and materials such as clay, pastels, plaster, and wood. They learn skills such as handbuilding, pinch-pot, coiling, sculpting, and glazing.

Ceramics

Ages 9-12, 13+

Students delve into the world of pottery and ceramic design as they bring concept sketches to life and explore contemporary approaches to an age-old practice. This class focuses on the technique of wheel-throwing alongside fundamental hand-building techniques such as pinch pot, coil, and slab work to create thrown or manipulated fired-ceramic objects and will also include the use of mixed glazes to finish.

Clay Sculpture

Parent & Me, Ages 2-3, 3-5, 4-6, 6-8, 9-12, 13+

Students learn the entire process of clay sculpting from idea design to fired and glazed three-dimensional object, focusing on the use of essential hand-building techniques such as pinch-pot, coiling, and slab work to create experimental creative objects with a focus on texture, form and expression using glazing, hand-painting and mixed media to decorate and finish. As they build, students develop focus, recognizing self and others, and listening skills. In Parent & Me classes, caregivers and students work together to build, paint, and decorate 2D and 3D fired ceramic pieces.

Sculpture & Mixed Media

Ages 3-5, 4-6, 6-8

Students create 3D works (or bring 2D pieces to life with added 3D elements) by transforming and combining different materials including wood, textiles, paper, paint, thread, and more. Students are taught and encouraged to use fundamental design elements such as space, texture, and line and develop building skills such as cutting, sculpting, and gluing.

Sculpture

Ages 9-12, 13+

Students create 3D artworks by combining and transforming a range of materials, discovering the special qualities of each, and exploring significant themes in contemporary sculpture. Working in the Arts Umbrella wood shop, students are introduced to safe tool use, and experiment with processes including assemblage, forming, carving, and casting. Fundamental concepts such as materiality, space, movement, and texture are incorporated into the creative process.



Credit: Devan Francis

VISUAL ARTS PROGRAMS

Young artists build a foundation for art and design through task-based projects, gathering inspiration through story, studying established artists and traditions, still-life observation, image reference, purposeful play, and imagination. Students build an understanding of symbols, the use of tools, and technical processes while also developing focus, effective listening skills, and an understanding of self in relation to others. As students progress, more advanced concepts and artistic techniques are introduced and built upon.

Parent & Me Visual Arts

Ages 2-3

Caregivers and students create 2D and 3D visual artworks together, exploring different mediums and processes such as pastel, marker, paint, and cardboard. Foundational elements of visual arts are introduced, including texture, shape, line, colour, and repetition.

Art Start

(Included in ELF)

Ages 3-5

Young artists begin their journey, creating 2D and 3D pieces across mediums and processes. Students are introduced to working with various materials such as paint, wood, cardboard, pastel, and pencil. Technical skills such as mark-making, colour-mixing, gluing, and building are also introduced.

Drawing & Painting

Ages 3-5, 4-6, 6-8, 9-12, 13+

Students explore methods of visual image-making, using a variety of drawing, sketching, and painting techniques inspired by reference, observation, and imagination. Purposeful play is used with the youngest students to develop the use of tools such as pencil, marker, pastel, paint, and ink, as well as life-skills such as confident self-expression, understanding feelings, and effective listening skills. As students progress, understanding is deepened through increased self-direction, discussion of artists, art history and the use of symbols, abstraction, and representation. More advanced technique, tools, and materials (such as acrylic) are introduced in teen classes.

Drawing & Sketching Techniques

Ages 9-12

Students deepen their study of fine art techniques related to drawing, working from image reference, still life observation, and imagination to create various traditional and non-traditional methods of representation and abstraction. They will use various dry materials such as pencil, marker, pastel, and charcoal on paper to build their understanding of principles like value, colour, gesture, proportion and perspective.



Credit: Devan Francis

Foundation Program

Supported by the Poseley Family

Program Dates

September 2024 – June 2025

Program Location

Granville Island

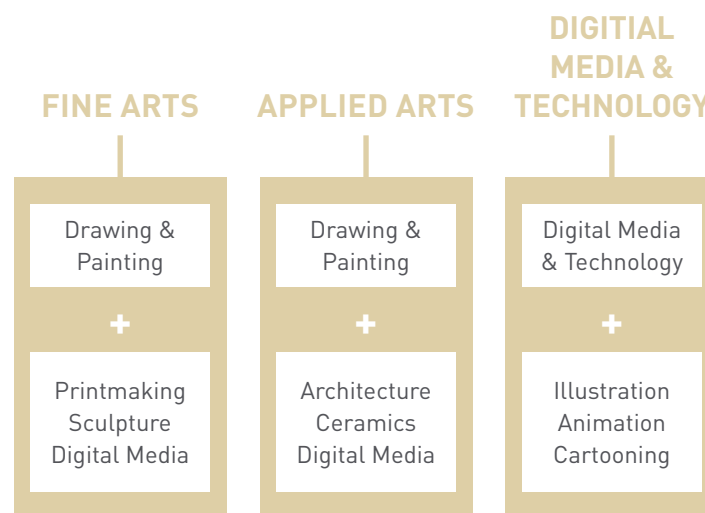
Admissions & Registration

No previous experience required. Registration for returning students opens in May and for all new students on June 1, 2024.

The Foundation Program offers the choice between three distinct packages: Fine Arts, Applied Arts, and Digital Media & Technology.

This yearlong, twice-per-week program is for students who are ready for a more in-depth and focused approach to their art practice where they can build important skills, discover their creative interests, and form a community of like-minded artistic peers. Students are grouped in cohorts by age - 7-8 years, 9-10 years, and 11-12 years - and will benefit from expanded learning opportunities including formal exhibitions, group critique practice, and optional field trips.

The Foundation Program is designed to provide a well-rounded multidisciplinary experience. They will learn key concepts of craft and technique and develop a strong base of visual literacy, communication, and design.



Credit: Devan Francis

Intensive Program

Program Dates

September 2024 - June 2025

Program Location

Granville Island

Admissions & Registration

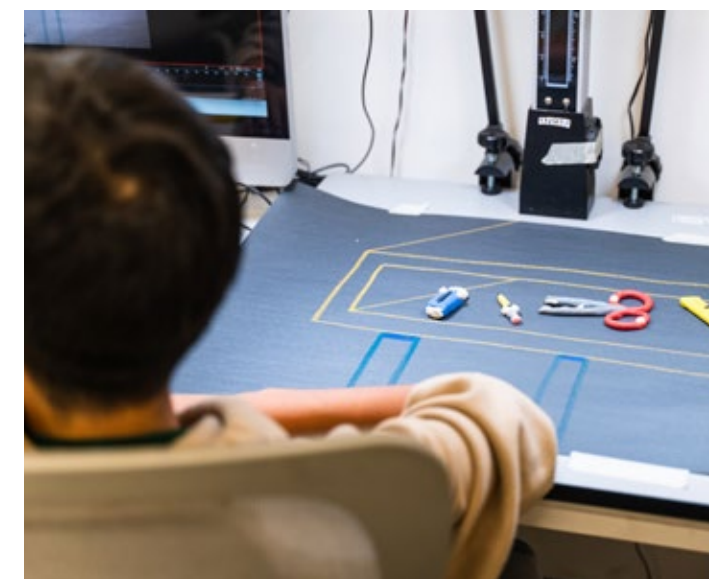
Registration open for returning students in May. Registration for new students is by application, requiring a portfolio submission and statement of intent. Submissions are accepted on a rolling basis throughout June, July, and August.

The Art & Design Intensive Program is a yearlong, once-per-week program designed for students ages 13-19 who wish to dive deep into a focused program area and develop a more thorough and rigorous artistic practice. Students will push themselves on more advanced concepts of craft and technique and develop close community in a supportive environment. At the core of the curriculum is the enhanced development of each students' voice through close mentorship and expanded learning opportunities such as group critique and exhibition. Regular attendance is required.

Architecture & Environmental Design

Ages 10-12, 13+

In an immersive studio environment, students engage in research and critique on a variety of contemporary topics such as energy conservation, water management, car culture, sustainable landscapes, and sustainability. Creative approaches to building public spaces and urban design are explored. Both as an individual and in groups, students plan, sketch, and build models that bring their ideas to life.



Credit: Devan Francis



Credit: Devan Francis

Clay Sculpture

Ages 13+

In a purpose-built ceramics studio, students will expand their practice of contemporary sculptural ceramics and advance their understanding of fundamental materials, equipment, techniques, and processes. They will study both contemporary and historical art references and develop critical creative approaches to sculptural ceramics.

Drawing & Painting

Ages 10-12, 13-15, 15-19

Students learn to apply their fine art practice to the field of contemporary image-making and material exploration. Advanced use of materials, methods, concepts and subject matter are all explored as students expand their application of core drawing and painting skills and techniques. They will engage in more critical approaches to art making and study both contemporary and historical art references.

Stop-Motion Animation

Ages 13+

Students will learn to apply their animation practice to the timeless tradition of stop-motion animation. They will advance their understanding of essential processes, tools, and equipment including the use of LED lighting, DSLR camera rigs, and professional animation software. They will explore a variety of material genres including clay, object, and cutout animations and develop critical approaches to storytelling, character design, and world-building. They will learn from both classic and contemporary animation references to develop a critical and creative approach to the craft of stop-motion.

Scholarship Programs

Created in partnership with Vancouver Art Gallery, Electronic Arts, BTY, Urbanarium, and the Contemporary Art Gallery, our application-based Scholarship Programs provide teens with opportunities to work alongside dedicated peers and passionate industry experts.

These programs provide unprecedented access to the expertise and experience found in diverse industries such as architecture, animation, and contemporary art. Programs are offered as full scholarships thanks to the support of generous donors and partners, and applications are open to all aspiring young artists.

Program Dates

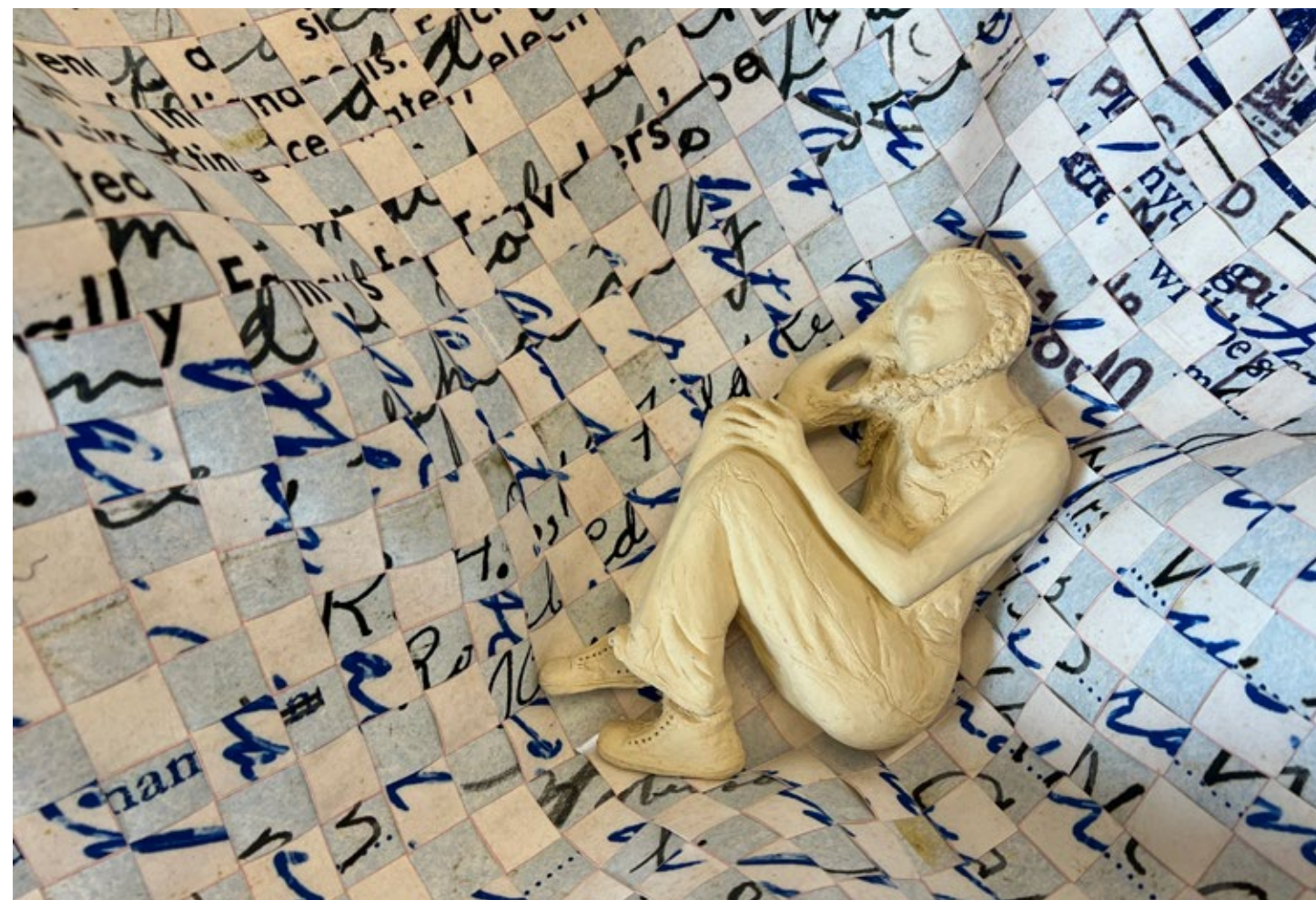
Each program takes place at a different time during the year. Please refer to our website for the most up to date information.

Program Location

Granville Island

Admissions & Registration

Admission to these programs is by application. We encourage applications from youth that identify as members of underrepresented groups. Please refer to our website for application requirements and submission deadlines.



Art Exchange student, Annastasya Wilke, age 16

Architecture Summer Intensive

Ages 15-19 | August, Two-Week Program

This program provides teens with the unique opportunity to work with some of Metro Vancouver's leading architects and other industry experts to develop their portfolios and applied art practices.

Participants learn about creative approaches to building public spaces and discover new ways of seeing the built environment. In an immersive studio environment, students engage in research, critique, and making, drawing, and building models to highlight their ideas. This program also works collaboratively with Urbanarium to give participants an opportunity to create new connections and gain a deeper understanding of the discipline. To celebrate their learnings, a small reception is held at the end of the program for family, friends, program partners, and donors.

Program Partner:
Urbanarium

Full scholarship provided by:



Art Exchange

Ages 13-15 | October-June

This yearlong contemporary arts program is a collaboration between the School of Art & Design and the Vancouver Art Gallery. At the gallery, students gain behind-the-scenes access, workshops, and tours of a number of exhibitions and have the opportunity to speak with and learn from exhibiting artists and gallery professionals. They will then respond to their experience back at our studios through mentored and self-directed projects, with the chance to curate, install, and critique their work multiple times a year in the Cassils | Henriquez Exhibition Gallery at Arts Umbrella.

Program Partner:



Full scholarship provided by:
Elmar and Christine Klukas
Terrence and Lisa Turner

Contemporary Art Practices

Ages 15-19 | August, Three-Week Program

Contemporary Art Practices is designed for artists interested in advancing their artistic skills and critical thinking. The intensive is a stimulating experience for young artists committed to experimentation and dedicated to pushing the boundaries of their own art-making. In a supportive studio environment, students work with professional Vancouver artists, curators, and educators to explore a range of contemporary art practices.

The program introduces participants to creative approaches in art-making through a series of workshops and self-directed projects at Arts Umbrella. Students engage in critiques and discussions about how to develop their ideas and work with new materials and methods. The program culminates with an exhibition of student work in the Cassils | Henriquez Exhibition Gallery at Arts Umbrella.

Program Partner:



Full scholarship provided by:



EA Teen Animation

Ages 15-19 | January-May

In this 15-week program, students learn the methods, techniques, and technologies used in animation and have the rare opportunity to learn from experienced industry professionals and hear from guest EA lecturers. These leaders share their knowledge and provide project mentorship as well as technique and skill development. Participants with a passion for animation, a talent for storytelling, and a commitment to the program will be able to develop a strong portfolio project perfect for post-secondary school applications. The program concludes with a showcase of student work.

Full scholarship provided by:



School of Dance

At the leading edge of arts education, Arts Umbrella Dance is a rigorous program designed for dancers ages 2-22.

As students advance through emotional and intellectual growth, providing a life-changing dance education that leaves an impact long after graduation. Through discipline and support, we help our students develop the tools needed for success in and out of the studio, advancing every student's potential. An incredible faculty of dance artists are at the backbone of the program; instructors in ballet, jazz, and contemporary dance who are at the forefront of their fields. Sought-after dance accompanists accompany every ballet and modern class to create a quality program for young dancers.

Arts Umbrella Dance alumni have gone on to dance professionally with companies across the globe, including:

Ballet BC, Canada
Ballet Edmonton, Canada
Batsheva Dance Company, Israel
Les Ballets Jazz de Montreal, Canada
Konzert Theater Bern, Switzerland

Gauthier Dance, Germany
The Gothenburg Opera, Sweden
Hessisches Staats Ballett, Germany
Kidd Pivot, Canada

Lyon Opera Ballet, France
Nederlands Dans Theater, Netherlands
Staatstheater Nurnberg, Germany
Swedish National Ballet, Sweden



Credit: Michael Slobodian

Leadership & Faculty

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 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.

In 2015, Artemis secured an affiliation with Ballet BC, increasing opportunities for emerging artists and amplifying the impact of international choreographers in Vancouver. In 2016, Artemis won the YWCA Women of Distinction award in the Arts, Culture, and Design category. She was also awarded with the 2017 City of Vancouver Mayor's Arts Awards in Dance.

SENIOR FACULTY

Sabra Perry

*Company Rehearsal Director,
Ballet, Repetiteur*

Sabra has performed in works by George Balanchine, Merce Cunningham, Thaddeus Davis, Ulysses Dove, William Forsythe, Jodie Gates, Jae Man Joo, and more. She was a faculty member at Ballet Academy East in New York, and a returning guest teacher at Alabama Dance Theater and the Parksville Ballet School. She has a BA in dance from SUNY Empire State College in New York and has been teaching at Arts Umbrella since 2012.

Lynn Sheppard

*Company Rehearsal Director,
Senior Jazz*

Lynn trained at the Gladys Forrester School of Dance in Toronto and the Royal Winnipeg Ballet School. As a professional, Lynn danced for Les Ballets Jazz de Montreal, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, Judith Marcuse's Repertory Dance Company of Canada, and JOE INK. Lynn has been teaching at Arts Umbrella for 28 years.

Katrina Cruikshank

Ballet, Repetiteur

Katrina has been a dance educator at Arts Umbrella since 2011. She is a graduate with honours from the Teacher Training Program at Canada's National Ballet School. Katrina holds her teaching qualifications with the Cecchetti Society of Canada, Registered Teacher Status with the Royal Academy of Dance and teaching qualification in National Dance. Katrina also held the position of Secretary as a member of the Cecchetti Society of Canada, B.C. branch from 2011-2014.

Andrea Hodge

*Company Rehearsal Director,
Ballet, Repetiteur*

Andrea received her professional training with the Joffrey Ballet in NY, the School of the Pennsylvania Ballet and the San Francisco Ballet in California. Andrea spent eight years dancing in Columbus, Ohio under the direction of John McFall, working with famed choreographers David Parsons, Lou Conte, Glen Tetley and James Kudelka, among others. In 1994, she joined Ballet BC and was honoured and delighted to be a part of numerous creations with John Alleyne, Mark Godden, Dominique Dumais, Serge Bennathan and Crystal Pite. Andrea has also spent time working with Electric Company Theatre, dancing in the film version of "The Score" and also behind the scenes in "Studies in Motion, The Hauntings of Eadweard Muybridge."

MEET OUR FACULTY

Stephana Arnold
Kay Huang Barnes
Nicole Rose Bond
Penelope Boyse
Ciara Cassidy
Ackerley Cooper
Cailin Costa
Reid Cuming
Livona Ellis
Hailey Fowler
Madeleine Gilbert
Tyrell Harley
Brynne Harper
Marinda Heshka
Kiera Hill
Laura Jaszcz
Kennedy Kraeling
Mika Manning
Ashley Sanderson
Seira Shimamura
Jacq Smith
Lorraine White-Wilkinson
Tomoyo Yamada

Musicians

Nicholas Apivor
Leah Bruno
Youngsin Choi
David DiTomaso
Gillian Dolinski
Zabelita Fraser
Jillian Lebeck
Sacha Levin
Perri Lo
Si Ping Ma
Trevor McLain
Victor Noriega
Thomas Pantea
Gregg Schiller

General Program

Open to dancers of all experience levels, the General Program offers a variety of options for dancers ages 2-18. Our ballet-based programs develop the strength and understanding necessary for long-term success in all Arts Umbrella Dance programs.

Our classes focus on the dancer as a whole, emphasizing physical, emotional, and intellectual development throughout the year. Parents can expect to remain in close contact with faculty throughout the year to assess student development, placement, and aspirations. To celebrate all of our aspiring young dance artists, Arts Umbrella Dance presents an annual year-end Recital each June at the Vancouver Playhouse Theatre.

Yearlong Program Dates
September 2024 – June 2025

Sessional Program Dates
Fall Session 2024: Monday, September 16 - Sunday, December 15
Winter Session 2025: Monday, January 6 - Sunday, March 16
Spring Session 2025: Monday, April 7 - Sunday, June 22

Program Location
All General Program classes take place on Granville Island.

Admissions & Registration
No audition or pre-requisites required.
Registration opens June 1, 2024.



Credit: Michael Slobodian



Credit: Devan Francis

Creative Dance: Parent & Me

Ages 1-2, 2-3
Caregivers and their little ones enjoy movement together, responding to various styles of music, tempos, and sequences based on stories. Locomotor movements such as walking, running, rolling, jumping, spinning, and marching are explored. Students become aware of other children in class, begin to socialize, and follow simple directions. Caregivers are expected to participate fully with their student.

Creative Dance (Included in ELF)

Ages 3-4
Through play-based learning, students find joyful expression and confidence participating in dance without an adult. They explore basic dance vocabulary, movements such as marching and galloping, and respond to various styles of music individually and in groups. Students will learn to improvise movement with the help of stories, poems, and props.

Creative Dance: Pre-Ballet

Ages 4-5, 5-6
A bridge to Introduction to Ballet and Ballet Levels 1-7, Pre-Ballet builds on skills learned in Creative Dance and prepares students with additional experiences of following instructions, taking turns, spatial awareness in lines and circles, as well as musical counting. Ballet vocabulary is introduced and students increase coordination, flexibility, and creative expression.

Ballet: Levels 1-7

Ages 6-13
These ballet classes provide an introduction to the world of ballet technique with a focus on alignment, form, and overall body strength. Concepts of posture and alignment, basic movement fundamentals, and coordination are all practiced in a supportive and well-paced environment. In this program, students take a minimum of one ballet class per week. Additional classes, such as jazz, character, contemporary, modern, and/or Broadway jazz are introduced as early as Level 2. Students must be taking ballet in order to add any additional styles of dance. Placement is determined by academic grade. For example, Level 2 dancers are in Grade 2 and do not need to have completed Level 1. Younger students attend 1-2 classes per week, gradually increasing to four classes per week by Level 5.

Hip Hop

Ages 6-18
In Hip Hop, students think on their feet and move their way through group dances, percussion games, and choreography. Energizing and fast-paced, this class develops rhythm, coordination, focus, strength, and agility, without losing the beat of fun.

Teen Program

Ages 13-18
Classes are offered in ballet, modern, and jazz, and offer teen dancers with as little as one year of dance experience a casual schedule that allows time for other activities outside of school and dance. Options are available for 2-4 classes per week, requiring a commitment of just 3-6 hours. Students must be taking ballet in order to add any additional styles of dance.

Intensive Programs

Program Dates

September 2024 – June 2025

Program Location

Granville Island

Intensive Program

Ages 8-10 | Levels 3IP, 4IP, and 5IP

The Intensive Program is designed for students who wish to advance their technique, with classes in ballet, jazz, character, contemporary, conditioning, and Cecchetti Exam Preparation. All dancers are required to take the full program as designed, attending 3-5 classes per week.

After completing Level 5IP, students may audition for Pre-Elementary, APT Junior, or continue with General Program Level 6.

Dancers enrolled in 3IP, 4IP, and 5IP must attend one week of our Junior Summer Dance Intensive each summer.

Admissions are made in consultation with Dance Faculty.

Pre-Elementary

Ages 11-12 | Levels 6-7

This after-school program introduces dancers to the rigour and physical demands of professional training, with a primary focus on ballet. Students take 12-16 hours of class per week, receiving an in-depth education with an emphasis on technique, vocabulary, and style. In addition to regular classes, advanced students work with renowned guest artists and perform world-class choreography through participation in Arts Umbrella Dance Company. Performances are an integral part of the program, through which students develop a strong sense of community and a thorough understanding of their craft.

Dancers enrolled must attend one week of our Junior Summer Dance Intensive each summer.

Admissions are by audition.

Admissions & Registration

Admission to Levels 3IP, 4IP, and 5IP is by consultation with faculty. Auditions are required for the Afternoon Professional Training Program and Pre-Elementary Program.

Afternoon Professional Training Program

Ages 11-18

This after-school program is designed for committed teen dancers. The APT student is interested in devoting time to the development of their dance education and performance opportunities. Discipline, focus, and time management are required, as students will maintain a full-time school schedule while dancing 9-15 hours per week.

Dancers enrolled must attend one week of our Junior or Teen Summer Dance Intensive each summer, depending on age.

Admissions are by audition.



Cecchetti Syllabus & Exams

The Cecchetti method is a style of ballet developed by Enrico Cecchetti in the early 1900s. Arts Umbrella utilizes this method because the exercises provide useful techniques without compromising musicality and choreographic style. The benefits to following a set training syllabus are many, including helping to articulate a structure to facilitate dancers setting personal goals and documenting growth. The Syllabus, exams, and presentation classes also serve as markers for a student's individual progress as a dancer.

At Arts Umbrella, students in Levels 3IP, 4IP, 5IP, Pre-Elementary 1, Pre-Elementary 2, Elementary, Intermediate, and Advanced follow the Cecchetti training syllabus. Participation in examinations is optional, but strongly recommended. Exams take place at the end of June, with additional preparation workshops leading up to exams in April-June.

Students in Pre-Elementary levels and up also have the opportunity to participate in the annual Cecchetti Classical Ballet Awards. Participation is based on auditions, which will take place in October with the Awards taking place in January.

Professional Training Programs

Program Dates

September 2024 – June 2025

Program Location

Granville Island

Admissions & Registration

Admission is by audition. Auditions for 2025/26 take place January-April 2025.

The Arts Umbrella Dance Professional Training Program demands and fosters high levels of physical strength, technique, and discipline. Higher levels are designed for advanced dancers seriously considering a professional dance career. In addition to regular classes, advanced students work with renowned guest artists and perform world-class choreography through participation in Arts Umbrella Dance Company. Performances are an integral part of the program, through which students develop a strong sense of community and a thorough understanding of their craft.

Professional Training Program

Ages 13-18 | Elementary, Intermediate, Senior, Advanced, Pre-Grad

This advanced half-day program was designed to offer high school students an enriched arts education - one that uses dance to develop cognitive and intellectual skills so graduates can pursue a professional dance career, or an academic post-secondary route. This program provides young students with a well-rounded education supported in a community of like-minded people. Classes are six afternoons a week, with a minimum of 25 hours weekly.

To complete their high school courses, students must either be home-schooled or have their high school provide a half-day academic program for them. In Vancouver, King George Secondary and Magee Secondary currently provide a half-day Sports and Arts program (SPARTS) that allows dancers to maintain a rigorous dance schedule alongside completing academic requirements in preparation for high school graduation and post-secondary opportunities.

Dancers enrolled in Elementary, Intermediate, Senior, Advanced, and Pre-Grad must attend our International Summer Dance Intensive (ISDI) each summer.

Credit both photos: Michael Slobodian

Post-Secondary Programs

Arts Umbrella Dance Post-Secondary Programs deliver rigorous dance training for dedicated students working towards a professional career in dance. For years, our program has been developing intelligent and motivated dance students into strong and in-demand dance artists.

Arts Umbrella graduates have been hired by critically lauded Canadian companies and cutting-edge contemporary companies around the world. These dancers are applauded as valuable company members for their maturity and understanding of the tenets of professional dance.

Dancers enrolled in Post-Secondary Programs must attend our International Summer Dance Intensive (ISDI) each summer.

Post-Secondary Program

Ages 17+
This program provides students with a high-level dance education towards a professional career in dance. Applicants must be at an advanced ballet level with a pre-professional background. Daily classes include ballet, pointe, allegro, pas de deux, composition, improvisation, classical variations, body conditioning, health, jazz, and contemporary techniques. The program also features residencies with renowned guest choreographers as well as rehearsals and performances with the Arts Umbrella Dance Company.

Arts Umbrella/Vancouver Community College Dance Diploma Program

Ages 17+
In partnership with Vancouver Community College, this two-year program is designed for dancers seeking to develop an advanced level of technical and choreographic skill in preparation for a career in professional dance. In addition to the dance curriculum outlined in the Arts Umbrella Post-Secondary Program, students take academic classes in arts and culture, rhythm training, and career development. Students have access to VCC-related plans such as health and dental coverage and a discounted transit pass. Upon completion, students earn a post-secondary diploma.

Generously supported by



Funded by the Government of Canada
Financé par le gouvernement du Canada



Program Dates
September 2024 – June 2025

Program Location
All Dance classes take place on Granville Island. VCC Diploma students take academic classes at VCC's campus in central Vancouver.

Admissions & Registration
Admission is by audition. Auditions for the 2025/26 school year will take place in early 2025. Advance registration for auditions is required.



Credit: Michael Slobodian

Summer Dance Intensives

Arts Umbrella Dance is proud to offer three Summer Dance Intensive programs each year, held at Arts Umbrella's Granville Island location.

INTERNATIONAL SUMMER DANCE INTENSIVE (ISDI)

ISDI is generously supported in honour of Trudy Pekarsky, by her loving family, for her many years of outstanding service to Arts Umbrella.

Ages 12+ (Academic Grade 8 and up)
For three weeks in August every year, world-renowned teachers, choreographers and répétiteurs come to Arts Umbrella Granville Island to offer a dance experience that leads dancers to reach their full performance potential. The intensive program includes ballet, repertoire, pointe, pas de deux for advanced students, Gaga, modern, Forsythe Improvisation Technologies, contemporary, movement exploration, and coaching and conditioning.

Admission to ISDI is by audition. The International Audition Tour begins in January of each year, with auditions held in Vancouver, Toronto, New York, and Amsterdam. For more information and to be the first to hear about next year's auditions, please visit artsumbrella.com/dance-auditions.

Previous faculty has included:

- Gioconda Barbuto
- Eric Beauchesne
- Yvan Dubreil
- Fernando Hernando Magadan
- James Kudelka
- Donna Krasnow
- Francisco Martinez
- Risa Steinberg
- Lukas Timulak

JUNIOR & TEEN SUMMER DANCE INTENSIVES

Ages 7-12 (Junior) | Ages 12+ (Teen)
A comprehensive way to keep technique sharp over the Summer break and prepare for classes in September, these Junior and Teen programs are some of the few intensives for younger dancers in Metro Vancouver. Taking place at Arts Umbrella Granville Island, these ballet-based programs feature classes such as Conditioning, Jazz, Repertoire, and Hip Hop taught by special guest instructors and Arts Umbrella faculty.

No auditions required. A minimum 1 year dance experience is required for Junior Summer Dance Intensive. 2 years dance experience is required for Teen Summer Dance Intensive.



Credit from top to bottom: Michael Slobodian

Arts Umbrella Dance Company



Credit: Michael Slobodian

Sophisticated, dedicated, and inspired, Arts Umbrella Dance Company is a pre-professional repertory company. The Company trains, rehearses, and performs new and innovative works by leading international choreographers. Company members are students of the Professional Training Program and Post-Secondary Dance Programs, selected by the Artistic Director.

AUDC performs across Metro Vancouver each season, culminating in Season Finale each May – four extraordinary performances at the Vancouver Playhouse Theatre.

The company has toured to Montreal, Toronto, New York, Japan and Holland and participated in exchanges and collaborations with groups such as Yokohama Ballet in Japan, Noord Nederlandse Dans Studio Group in the Netherlands, Joffrey Ballet School in New York City, Amsterdam University of the Arts, Dutch National Ballet Academy, Codarts, and Canada's National Ballet School.

An essential aspect of the Arts Umbrella Dance Company is working with a variety of international guest instructors and choreographers. Dancers acquire a broad movement vocabulary and learn how to understand and respond to a variety of choreographic visions. In addition to the immeasurable benefit of increasing their exposure and adaptability to the contemporary dance environment, these connections with the dance community create opportunities and open doors for our students to begin their careers as dance professionals.

Past Guests:

- Gioconda Barbuto, Nederlands Dans Theater
- Aszure Barton, Aszure Barton & Artists
- Francesca Caroti, Forsythe Technologies
- Yvan Dubreuil, OFF Projects
- Sharon Eyal, Co-A.D., L-E-V
- Johan Inger, Nederlands Dans Theater
- Donna Krasnow, University of California
- James Kudelka, International Choreographer
- Doug Letheren, L-E-V
- Fernando Hernando Magadan, Nederlands Dans Theater
- Francisco Martinez, Juilliard School
- Emily Molnar, AD, Nederlands Dans Theater
- Crystal Pite, AD, Kidd Pivot
- Amy Raymond, Dutch National Ballet
- Wen Wei Wang, Wen Wei Dance
- Tom Weinberger, Batsheva Danse Ensemble

Arts Umbrella Dance Company Performances



Mixed Nuts

Supported by Tom Ferries and Lisa Pankratz.

Tradition with a twist! This holiday production is a modern and engaging twist on Tchaikovsky's The Nutcracker, featuring an assortment of dance styles for an extra-special holiday treat. Mixed Nuts is performed annually in December at the Vancouver Playhouse Theatre.

Sunday Performance Series

Held over a series of Sunday afternoons in the Winter/Spring each year, AUDC performs new and innovative works-in-progress by leading Canadian choreographers alongside featured special guest artists at the Jack and Darlene Poole Theatre at Arts Umbrella Granville Island.



Midseason

AUDC returns to the Vancouver Playhouse each March for Midseason, two exhilarating performances of world-class repertoire and brand new works created for AUDC.

Season Finale

Supported by the Wesik Family Foundation.

Season Finale is a series of performances at the Vancouver Playhouse each May that represents the art of dance as envisioned by some of the world's greatest choreographers. This presentation of choreographies is a unique and extraordinary view into the world's stage of dance. Previous productions have included choreographic works by Crystal Pite, Sharon Eyal, Aszure Barton, Johan Inger, William Forsythe, and more.



Credit from top to bottom: David Cooper, Michael Slobodian, Michael Slobodian

Robert M. Ledingham School of Theatre, Music & Film

Programs at the Robert M. Ledingham School of Theatre, Music & Film nurture young artists' creativity and build skills that benefit them as performers and in everyday life. We see how singing in harmony fosters teamwork, how learning to use your voice builds self-confidence, how imagination is freed when encountering a new script, and how leadership is shaped long before one sits in a director's chair.



Credit: Nico Dicecco

Leadership & Faculty

ANDY TOTH

Artistic Director, Robert M. Ledingham School of Theatre, Music & Film

A graduate of New York's prestigious American Musical and Dramatic Academy, Andy has been directing, coaching, teaching and performing in Vancouver for over 25 years.

As a performer, local audiences may remember Andy as Edna in *Hairspray* at Theatre Under the Stars and the Arts Club, as Brian in *Avenue Q* for the Arts Club, and much more. Andy also has a thriving voice-over career, having voiced hundreds of cartoons and commercials over the past 30 years. Andy is in demand as an adjudicator, workshop leader, and coach for individuals and groups of professionals and community performers alike. He has been a guest speaker for auditions, courses and conferences at SFU, UBC, and Capilano University and businesses like RBC, FirstWest, and others. Andy also served as Musical Director for the smash hit production of *Spring Awakening* at Studio 58, and was the former Artistic Director of Awkward Stage Productions, a leading youth theatre production company.

MEET OUR FACULTY

Jasmine Ashley-Dy	Laura Jaszcz
Nathania Bernabe	Laurin Kaardal
Bryan Binema	Sarah Kelen
Eric Biskupski	Lucia Liberato
Jack Bumbala	Kasimir MacDougall
Britney Buren	Gemma Martin
Matt Clarke	Katherine Matlashewski
Ainslee Dalzell	Laura McLean
Chris Dlouhy	Paul Moniz de Sá
Francis Dowlatabadi	Daryl Nemetlu (Fretz)
Monica Emme	Olivia Paluzzi
Aidan Farrell	Patrick Ray
Seamus Fera	Emma Schellenberg
Rebecca Floresco	December Shields
Hailey Fowler	Terri-Lyn Storey
Ivana Franz	Cole Tinney
Erik Gow	Sargil Tongol
Isabella Halladay	Olivia Tsoi
Holly Collis Handford	Olivia Wong
Jackie Hanlin	Karen Worrod
Jonathan Harvey	Tomoyo Yamada
Roselle Healy	Cydney Uffindell-Phillips
Renee Iaci	

General Program

Program Dates

Fall Session 2024:
Monday, September 16 - Sunday, December 15

Winter Session 2025:
Monday, January 6 - Monday, March 10

Spring Session 2025:
Monday, April 7 - Sunday, June 22

Program Locations

All programs take place at Granville Island unless noted.

Admissions & Registration

No audition or pre-requisites required. Registration opens June 1, 2024.

The Theatre, Music & Film General Program is made up of sessional classes, offered in three terms throughout the year: Fall, Winter, and Spring. These programs have no pre-requisite and in-class exercises and activities vary by session and instructor.

General Program classes give young people an opportunity to discover the world of Musical Theatre, Theatre, Film, Stagecraft, and more, developing imagination, building confidence, and learning to work as part of a team. Supportive and knowledgeable instructors guide students, following a curriculum that focuses on process and personal development. At the end of each session, students present an in-class showcase of their work for family and friends.



Credit from top to bottom: Devan Francis

FILM

Develop on-camera acting skills through exercises, readings, and improvisation, building confidence and self-awareness both on- and off-camera. Students also learn how to prepare as an actor and tackle creative projects, such as how to develop a dynamic character. Work filmed in class will be shared digitally with family at the end the term.

Film Acting

Ages 6-8, 9-12, 12-19 | offered at Surrey Centre
Acting for film requires a slightly different skillset than acting for theatre. In this class, students study the fundamentals of acting, adding in considerations for angles, frames, and marks. Students also learn how to film a self-tape for auditions, both in front of and behind the camera.

Voice Acting

Ages 9-12
From cartoons to commercials and radio to video games, voiceover is an integral part of an actor's tool belt. In this class, students learn microphone technique and studio etiquette, and play with character voices as they explore the world of voice acting and see how to bring a script to life.



Credit: Devan Francis

MUSIC

Students learn to confidently create sound and explore vocal ability to tell a story. As they advance, students work with matching pitch, recognizing musical structure, vocal dynamics, and exploring different genres of music.

Creative Music

Parent & Me, Ages 3-4, 4-5, 4-6 | offered at Surrey Centre
Students will explore the voice and basic instruments, and are introduced to music terminology, tempo, rhythm, and scales. Using voice work and hand-held instruments such as drums and shakers, exercises encourage students to use their imagination, start to work with others, and build self-awareness. By Ages 4-6, students will be singing in rounds and are able to recognize the sound each instrument makes. In Parent & Me classes, caregivers are expected to participate fully with their student.

Group Voice

Ages 8-14
Led by an instructor and live accompanist, students work on technique, vocal stamina, projection, diction, range, and control, as well as their understanding of sheet music and harmony.

Private Voice

Ages 8+
Private singing instruction is the gold standard in learning to sing. Working 1-on-1 with an instructor, students learn the basics of music theory, review the structures and sensations of good singing, practice good vocal hygiene, and more. Some students will be invited to share their work at our year-end Cabaret nights in June.



Credit: Devan Francis

MUSICAL THEATRE

Sing, act, and dance! As participants progress, they incorporate more intricate harmonies, complex dance steps, and advanced acting techniques to further develop their musical theatre artistry. At the end of each session, students present an in-class showcase of their work for family and friends.

Musical Theatre

Ages 6-8, 9-12, 12-19

Students train as a “triple threat” in dance, music, and acting, building technique and complexity over time. Curriculum encourages students to make connections between their physical self, music, and story, and students develop their sense of self through communication and expression via song and dance. As they progress, students understand how elements of musical theatre come together to tell a story, understand stage directions, and build strong objectives and characters. Older students tackle more complex material and explore more specific acting techniques.



Credit: Devan Francis

THEATRE

Students explore a variety of age-appropriate acting tools and techniques, with younger students developing imagination, creativity, self-confidence, and empathy in a fun and expressive way. As students progress, they learn to apply specific technique to solo and group scripts, improvisations, and devised work. Teen artists continue to sharpen their instincts to make stronger and more consistent choices and add the broader context of acting through studies of theatrical history.

Creative Design

Parent & Me, Ages 3-5, 4-6

Through play and imagination, students are introduced to the “behind the scenes” world of theatre and the role of costumes, sets, props, and more. Using different stories as inspiration, students build pieces that help bring that world to life. Students learn elements of design thinking and problem solving, and the balance of safety and play in a building environment is emphasized. In Parent & Me classes, caregivers are expected to participate fully with their student.

Creative Drama (Included in ELF)

Parent & Me, Ages 3-4, 5-6 | offered at Surrey Centre

Little ones develop imagination, creativity, and self-confidence through games and theatre exercises, planting the seed for future theatre classes. Students explore storytelling and using their body to convey a story, discovering ways of relating to self, one another, and the world around them. In Parent & Me classes, caregivers are expected to participate fully with their student.

Acting

Ages 6-8, 9-12, 12-19

Students will study character creation, staging, and story structure, using theatre games and exercises to develop vocal control, awareness of breath and body, and more. As students advance, theatrical methods such as GOTE, Uta Hagen’s 9 Questions, and Eight Efforts are introduced.

Sketch Comedy & Improv

Ages 6-8, 9-12

Yes, and! Through classic improv games and exercises, students develop comedic scenes and scripts as well as skills for life such as teamwork, problem-solving, confidence, and accepting feedback. Curriculum is guided by the principles of Viola Spolin’s “Improvisation for the Theatre” and Del Close’s “Harold” format. Long form, theatre sports, and comedy-based improv are explored at higher levels, once foundations in Spolin-style improvisation are firm.

Stagecraft

Ages 6-8, 9-12

Learn the secrets of what goes on behind the scenes; how costumes, scenery, lighting and sound all work together with the actors create a production on the stage or the screen. Using age appropriate exercises, hands-on play and experimentation, students develop their understanding of the relationship between materials, design principles, and storytelling. Older students build on foundational skills with specific and more advanced techniques in scenic painting, prop building, lighting design and more.

Stage Combat

Ages 9-12, 12-19

What do Shakespeare plays and Marvel movies have in common? Stage combat! In this class, students learn basic stance/posture, approaches to consent and safety, safe striking, falling, blocks and parries, grappling, and control. Through structured exercises and play, students work on coordination, balance, strength, endurance, and teamwork to learn how a stage-combat sequence serves to further the development of a story.

Intensive Programs

At this level, students share a commitment to the art and craft of theatre, film, music, and performance and specific skills development takes greater priority than in the General Program. At-home preparation and regular attendance is required, especially for students considering further study in Troupe programs.

All students have the opportunity to perform and showcase their work during our annual Winter Shorts Festival in December and Expressions Theatre Festival in the spring.

Program Dates

September 2024 – June 2025

Program Location

All Intensive Programs take place at Granville Island.

Admissions & Registration

Admission to these programs is by application. Prospective students must have completed at least two sessions of Arts Umbrella Theatre training, or equivalent. Students are divided into levels appropriate to age and ability. Student applications are reviewed on a first come first serve basis. We recommend applying early. Acceptance letters will be sent to new students starting June 1, 2024.

Directing & Stage Management

Ages 13-19

A live theatre production is so much more than what happens on the stage. In this yearlong intensive, students learn the art and craft of directing and production management for theatre. Students learn processes and methods for breaking down scripts, supporting the rehearsal process, and working with actors, designers, and producers to facilitate great moments for the stage. As a practicum, some students will be offered the opportunity to intern on one of Arts Umbrella's productions with support from the Artistic Director and other professional directors and stage managers.

Film Acting

Ages 11-16 | Levels 1 & 2

Discover what it's like to be on set and what it takes to get there! Students explore techniques on how to be in the moment, how to surprise themselves in their work, and how to audition for film and television. Students collaborate to make original short films that are screened at multiple times throughout the year.

Musical Theatre

Ages 9-16 | Levels 1, 2, 3, & 4

Students eager to see their skills and confidence grow in Musical Theatre will learn acting techniques, dance and choreography, singing and musicianship, and more. Students build connection, safety, and community, while creating dynamic ensemble and solo performances, culminating in a one-act musical performed at the end of the year.

Note: Musical Theatre Intensives are delivered as a package along with Dance. Students are placed in classes based on age and experience.

Sketch Comedy & Improv

Ages 13-19 | Levels 1 & 2

Through a mixture of improvisation and writing, young actors gain creative thinking, team building, and communication skills that benefit them on the stage and in everyday life. Industry professionals help students develop technique, discipline and artistry. Curriculum is guided by the principles of Viola Spolin's "Improvisation for the Theatre" and Del Close's "Harold" format. Long form, theatre sports, and comedy-based improv are explored at higher levels, once foundations in Spolin-style improvisation are firm.

Songwriting & Music Production

Ages 12-19

Using music-making software and recording studio equipment, students will write lyrics and compose melodies as a group, and then record, mix, and master their song. They will also be introduced to the business side of being an artist, learning how to write a media release, creating album art, and devising social media campaigns to promote their work.

Stage Combat

Ages 13-19

What do Shakespeare plays and Marvel movies have in common? Stage combat! In this class, students learn basic stance/posture, approaches to consent and safety, safe striking, falling, blocks and parries, grappling, and control. Through structured exercises and play, students work on coordination, balance, strength, endurance, and teamwork to learn how a stage-combat sequence serves to further the development of a story.



Credit: Devan Francis

Stagecraft

Ages 13-19

Building on skills developed in the Stagecraft General Program, students blend creativity with technical skill, learning design elements of how productions come to life and how to work safely in a scene shop and backstage. They will work directly on the public presentations our programs create throughout the year, with an emphasis on collaborative design and practical use. Led by a combination of talented teachers and guest designers, students will create props, build set pieces, find and create costumes, and design sound and lights as they build the worlds around our Winter Shorts and Expressions productions.

Theatre

Ages 9-16 | Levels 1, 2, & 3

Young actors learn how to improve rehearsal and performance skills through focused theatre exercises, script work, and character studies that encourage mindfulness and self-awareness. Students experiment with emotional and physical character portrayals, learning a variety of theatrical techniques and styles such as Laban, mime, and mask, and breath work to help connect to and access different emotions. The year culminates in a performance of a one-act play as a part of Expressions Festival in the Spring.

Advanced Programs

These performing troupes and specialized training programs are designed for teens considering theatre and the performing arts as a career path. Our rich curriculum and program structure offers students a space to sharpen teamwork skills, cooperation, discipline, technique, creative expression, and individual artistry through vocal, movement, and theatre exercises. Many of our students have gone on to post-secondary theatre programs and professional acting careers across the continent.

All students have the opportunity to perform and showcase their work during our annual Winter Shorts Festival in December and Expressions Theatre Festival in the spring. Further performance opportunities may be presented throughout the year.

Program Dates

September 2024 – June 2025

Program Location

All programs take place at Arts Umbrella Granville Island.

Admissions & Registration

Admission is by audition. Participants are placed according to age, experience, skill, schedule, and the student's goals. Please check website for audition details. Admission takes place on a rolling basis; we recommend auditioning early.

Film Troupe

Ages 13-19

For the aspiring film actor and maker. Students work together to expand their awareness of the different aspects of movie making, gaining tools to be in the moment, finding honesty in their work, and honing their artistry. Throughout the year, students create short films that are shared with audiences.

Musical Theatre Troupe

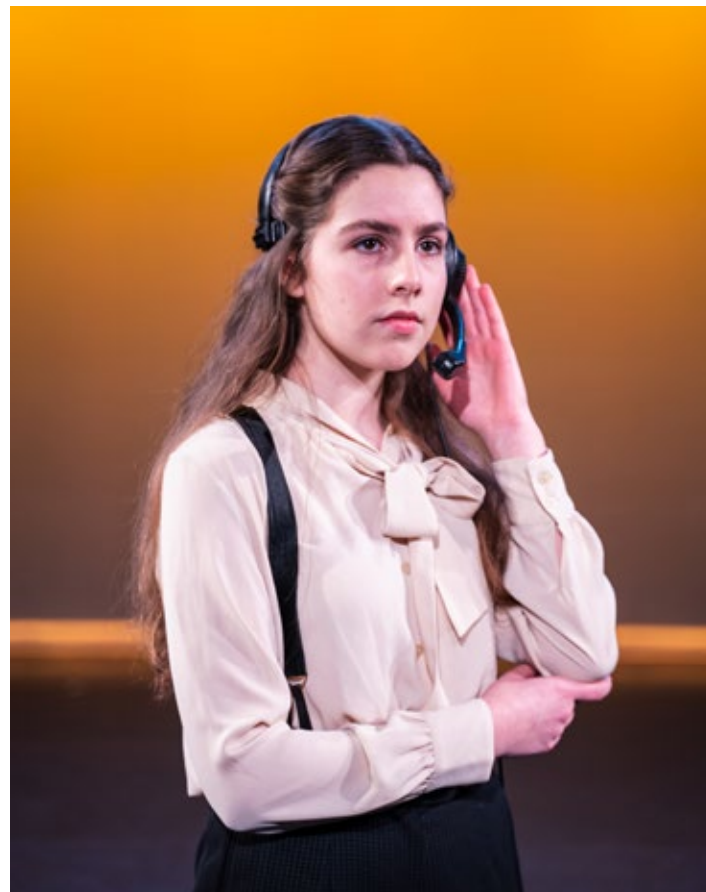
Ages 13-19

Young performers train with professional musical theatre artists to gain valuable ensemble and solo performance experience. Actors expand audition repertoire, develop their voice, and learn advanced singing, dancing, and acting techniques. In the Fall, students focus on building ensemble, complex harmonies, and choreography. In the Winter and Spring terms, students expand technique and apply it to staging either a full-length or school-length Broadway musical.

Sketch Comedy & Improv Troupe

Ages 13-19

Young comedians and improvisers hone their technique through writing and performing individual and group sketches, learning to take ideas from the brain to the page to the stage. Students learn collaboration, communication, creative problem solving, and to trust their instincts through games and classic improv exercises. Long form, theatre sports, and comedy-based improv are explored once foundations in Spolin-style improvisation are firm. Class work becomes performance-ready over the course of the year as students prepare for public shows in the Winter and Spring.



Credit: Devan Francis



Credit: Devan Francis

Theatre Troupe

Ages 13-19

Students prepare for an acting career with professional training in acting, voice, and physical theatre technique, focusing on the exploration of improvisation, character work, scene study, and script work to encourage a sense of ensemble and develop strong rehearsal techniques. In the Winter and Spring terms, students continue to hone rehearsal, performance, and production skills, including elements such as lighting, sound, costume, and set, as they prepare to tour and perform a school-length play for students across Metro Vancouver.

Half-Day Professional Training Program in Performing Arts

Grades 8+

This program supports those training in Musical Theatre, Theatre, and/or Film Acting, providing intensive instruction, professional coaching and mentorship, and performance opportunities throughout the year for students in Grades 8+.

Designed to prepare young actors with the tools to help them prepare mentally and physically for the demands of a career in the performing arts, students spend a minimum of 25 hours per week at Arts Umbrella, with advanced instruction in singing and musicianship, acting tools and techniques, physical theatre, auditioning, stagecraft, and dance.

Students combine their high-level training with academics through a myriad of online and distributed learning options. Many students choose to attend Magee Secondary School's SPARTS program. Other options include King George Secondary, home schooling, and distributed learning.

Advanced Theatrical Studies Series

For dedicated theatre artists, our **Advanced Theatrical Studies Series** offers workshops in all aspects of performing arts for stage, screen, and behind the scenes. All workshops offer participants practical and tangible tools and experiential learning as they build their skills and explore new disciplines.

Program Location

All workshops take place at Arts Umbrella Granville Island.

Admissions & Registration

Open to ages 13-19. Previous theatre experience required.

Students engaged with backstage work can explore professional-level lighting and sound creation and design, set and costume design, and stage management. Those looking to enhance performance skills will benefit from our masterclasses in classical acting or voice-over. Those prepping for professional or post-secondary auditions will find methods and support with classes designed to offer practical tools for audition success in theatre and film.



Credit: Devan Francis

2024/25 guest instructors will be announced in Fall 2024. Previous guest instructors have included:

- Blue Man Group
- Cirque de Soleil
- Tara Cheyenne Friedenberg
- Lauren Levitt & Associates
- Brad Gibson
- UBCP
- Omari Newton
- Barbara Tomasic
- Susan Bertoia
- Tara Travis

Pro D Days	Workshop A	Workshop B
September 20, 2024	Audition Tools & Techniques	Post-Secondary Prep I
October 25, 2024	Stage Management	Post-Secondary Prep II
November 22, 2024	Lighting	Voice & Speech
January 15, 2025	Costume Design	Auditioning: Film & TV
February 14, 2025	Set Design	Auditioning: Shakespeare
April 28, 2025	Sound	Auditioning: Musical Theatre

Summerstage Intensives



Credit: Devan Francis

Summerstage Intensives are designed for emerging teen actors who are looking to boost their skills and build their theatrical resume. Whether you're seriously considering a career in theatre or you simply love the theatre, our small class sizes give students one-on-one training and personalized education opportunities that enhance your process and your performance.

Program Dates

July 2025 (4 weeks)

Program Location

Granville Island

Admissions & Registration

Open to ages 12-19. No audition required but it is recommended that students have previous musical theatre or acting experience. Registration opens in Winter 2025.

Past productions include:

- *Alice By Heart*
- *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*
- *Godspell*
- *The Old Man and the Old Moon*

SHAKESPEARE ON SCREEN

Where classical acting meets the silver screen! In this immersive program, students will receive intensive training in classical acting techniques while adapting and producing The Bard's work for film. Students receive acting, voice, and movement training while developing on-camera skills, operating equipment, and learning about set decoration, props, costumes, lighting, audio, sound and video editing, and much more. Previous acting experience strongly recommended.

MUSICAL THEATRE

Our Summerstage Musical Theatre Intensive is the only Metro Vancouver musical theatre intensive to offer its students the opportunity to perform a full-length Broadway musical. Students develop a keen sense of their own skills, their ensemble, and recognize how to be their best within it. Professional instruction gives teens valuable ensemble and solo experience, with a spotlight on voice training, dance, and acting. This intensive finishes with a weekend of public performances in the Jack and Darlene Poole Theatre.

Performance Opportunities



Credit: Devan Francis

WINTER SHORTS

The Winter Shorts Festival showcases the fabulous work of the talented young actors in our Yearlong Intensive and Troupe programs with live performances and film screenings in December. Together, we celebrate their learning and the actor's process. Each class takes to the stage (or screen) at the Jack and Darlene Poole Theatre at Arts Umbrella Granville Island to perform a selection of material in progress. Family, friends, and the general public are invited to attend.

EXPRESSIONS THEATRE FESTIVAL

Presented annually in the spring, Expressions Theatre Festival is a celebration and culmination of a year of work for our Intensive and Troupe students. Each Troupe performs a full or school-length production for multiple school matinees and public performances, while each Intensive program presents a one-act play or musical for friends, family, and the general public. Musical Theatre students also participate in a series of Cabaret performances where they are able to perform in a solo setting.

Past Expressions productions include:

- *Cinderella*
- *Anne of Green Gables*
- *The Secret Garden*
- *Into the Woods*
- *Oklahoma!*
- *SpongeBob SquarePants: the Musical!*
- *Animal Farm*
- *13: The Musical*
- *Little Women*
- *Peter Pan*

Expressions Festival is presented by



Credit: Devan Francis

Arts Umbrella Community Programs

With generous lead support from Jeff Mooney and Suzanne Bolton

Arts Umbrella opens doors for all young people so that they can develop confidence and creativity through the arts. Thanks to the investment of Arts Umbrella donors, our in-reach and outreach community programs harness the same expertise as our tuition-based classes, and bring the Arts Umbrella experience to the children and youth across Metro Vancouver, at no cost.

Arts Umbrella's Community Programs engage children and youth that have been identified by our community partners as in need of accessible arts education as a result of experiencing varying intersections of oppression and marginalization. These experiences include - but are not limited to - racialization, intergenerational trauma, food insecurity, poverty, and precarious housing situations. For many young people, these programs offer a safe and supportive outlet to explore self-expression and the limitlessness of creativity. Time and again, studies show that arts education matters and that it provides the building blocks for life: critical thinking skills, improved self-esteem, and tools for collaboration.

Arts Umbrella works together with the Vancouver School Board, Surrey School District, and other community partners to develop programs that centre the needs of children and youth who participate in our community programs.

As of April 2024, these programs are supported by:

Beech Foundation



We acknowledge the financial support of the Province of British Columbia.



KPMG Foundation

Lohn Foundation

R. Howard Webster



Vancouver Sun Children's Fund

CAROL HENRIQUEZ COMMUNITY ACCESS FUND

Established in 2020 by the Moffat Family, the Carol Henriquez Community Access Fund was created in honour of our Co-Founder and Honorary Chair to ensure the long-term sustainability of our community programs.

Act Your Art Out Surrey

Weekly group instruction in performing and visual arts, aimed at helping students develop creative expression, positive peer connections, and self-confidence.

Supported by:



Surrey Fire Fighters Charitable Society

Artful Afternoons

Fun and engaging activities help young artists develop imagination and expression in visual arts, theatre, and film.

Supported by:

Jane Irwin and Ross Hill
Jeff Mooney and Suzanne Bolton
Amir & Yasmin Virani Family Foundation

Artistic Flair

This program fosters creative expression, self-respect, and teamwork through dance and theatre.

BMO Van Go & Stage Coach

Since 1988, the Van Go and Stage Coach programs have provided free visual arts and theatre workshops, bringing activities and art supplies into local elementary schools.

Supported by:



Covenant House

This program connects young people who have experienced homelessness with 14 weeks of engaging visual arts classes.

Supported by:

Warren and Twyla Wall

Creative Arts at BC Children's Hospital and Ronald McDonald House

Arts Umbrella instructors teach various art activities to children and teens undergoing care and treatment at BC Children's Hospital and Ronald McDonald House.

Creative Arts at BC Children's Hospital is supported by:

The Christopher Foundation
Dave and Pamela Richardson

Ronald McDonald House is supported by:



Creative Journeys

During this one-day field trip to Granville Island, or through online learning with the Surrey School District, students craft artistic interpretations during a number of thematically linked arts classes.

Supported by:



Dance It Out

Fun dance instruction in various styles fosters balance, coordination, creative expression, and teamwork.

Supported by:

Deux Mille Foundation

Eco Theatre

Schools across the Lower Mainland explore issues such as climate change, endangered species, and the overall health of our planet in this theatre program. This work is then given to a playwright to use as inspiration to create a new one act play with an environmental focus.

Supported by:

Grosvenor
The McLean Foundation



Head Start

Head Start offers young learners broad experiences across artistic disciplines.

Supported by:



John and Nina Cassils
Fasken Martineau DuMoulin LLP
Grosvenor

Northern Arts Connection

This distance learning program delivers Theatre programs online to elementary schools in remote communities across Northern Canada.

Supported by:

Cisco Canada
TakingItGlobal

Open Stage

A weekly, eight-month program that provides students with a safe environment to learn the basics of theatre.

Supported by:

Andrew Mahon Foundation
Anonymous
Geyer Family
Greygates Foundation
Pitblado Family Foundation
UBCP/ACTRA



Share the Experience of Live Theatre

Arts Umbrella students perform for thousands of school children at little to no cost each year.

Supported by:



St. John's School

There's an Art For That

This weekly program provides a fun and safe environment for students to explore the basics of drawing, painting, media arts, and theatre.



Credit: Devan Francis

Arts Umbrella Foundation

| As of December 2023

CAROL HENRIQUEZ LEGACY FUND

Literacy Chairs

Government of Canada
BC Arts Renaissance Fund

Core Discipline Chairs

Province of British Columbia
The Christopher Foundation
Meriem Foundation, in memory of Mary Margaret Young

New Initiatives Chairs

Audain Foundation
James A. Burton
Chan Foundation of Canada
Diamond Foundation
Alan P. Markin
Mearns Family, in memory of Dale Mearns
Sandra and Mark Snider
Anne and Ken Woods

Teaching Fellowships

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Cirque du Soleil
Margaret and Gordon Davis
Wendy and Dan Jarvis
Dr. Richard and Carolyn Kramer
Lohn Foundation, Darlene and Robert Spevakow
Jack Lutsky and Susan Mendelson
Darrell and David Mindell
Marsha and Norman Paul
Trudy and Dan Pekarsky
Marjorie and Art Reitmayer
Dave and Pamela Richardson
Drinda and Barry Scott
Beverley and Eric Watt
Mary and Peeter Wesik
Laylie and Shira Gold, Peter Krivel-Zacks, Juliet Zacks, Ted Zacks, in memory of Melanie Joy Sara Gold

THE NEW LIMITLESS FUND

Audain Foundation
Buschlen Mowatt Nichol Foundation
Canada Cultural Investment Fund, Endowment
Incentives Program
Stephanie Carlson
The Christopher Foundation
Kimberly Cudney and Fraser Phillips
Face the World Foundation
The Family of Melanie Gold
Robert Lemon, in memory of Robert M. Ledingham
Bill and Risa Levine
The Lutsky Families
The Moffat Family
Dana and John Montalbano
Jill and Hart Price
Bryce Rositch
Beverley and Eric Watt

SCHOLARSHIP AND BURSARY ENDOWMENTS

Barry Scott Legacy Fund
Ken and Anne Woods Scholarship & Bursary Fund
The Stearman Family Award

Scholarships and/or Bursary Endowments have also been established in honour or in memory of the following individuals:

Phyllis Ashley
Stephen Denstow, established by Ingunn Kemble
Jocelyn Dowdeswell
Rita Eichenger
Glenn Gilmour
Dale Mearns
Lucille Pacey
Jaspreet Rayat
Jack Shadbolt, established by the Whist Family
Gary Switlo
Azra Young

Canada Cultural Investment Fund

Arts Umbrella is honoured to receive funding from the Government of Canada's Endowment Incentives component. All new funding directed to the Arts Umbrella Foundation is eligible to be matched, providing operational stability and allowing us to reach more young people.

Arts Umbrella Board

| As of May 2024

Association Board

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Priscilla Lam, Treasurer
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Priscilla Lam
Toby Mallinder
Thomas O'Shaughnessy
Terrence P.R. Turner
Warren Wall

President & CEO

Paul Larocque

Thank You to Our Annual Supporters

| As of May 2024

INDIVIDUALS

\$1,000,000 and above

Jeff Mooney and Suzanne Bolton

\$50,000 - \$999,999

Anonymous

\$20,000 - \$49,999

Christie and David Garofalo
 Carol and Richard G. Henriquez
 Elmar and Christine Klukas
 Darrell and David Mindell
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 The Pekarsky Family
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 Ronald and Janet Stern
 Lesley Stowe and Geoffrey Scott
 Dermot Strong
 Rod and Jane Talaifar
 Warren and Twyla Wall
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 Garry Zlotnik

\$5,000 - \$9,999

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 Anonymous
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 Paul Balfour
 Fiona Brodie and Peter Rose
 Anna Katherine Castrejon
 Nickel
 Neil Chrystal and Andrea Hamilton
 Yvonne Gagnon
 Jane Irwin and Ross Hill
 Kathleen Keilty
 Timothy and Aerin Knight
 Priscilla Lam
 William Lang,
 In Memory of Denny
 Robert Lemon
 Katie Lever
 Eric and Jenny Martin
 Marily Mearns
 Pamela Moffat
 Jason Nicola
 Shawn Pozer and Deanne Schweitzer
 Jessica Taylor
 Catherine Thorpe

\$1,000 - \$4,999

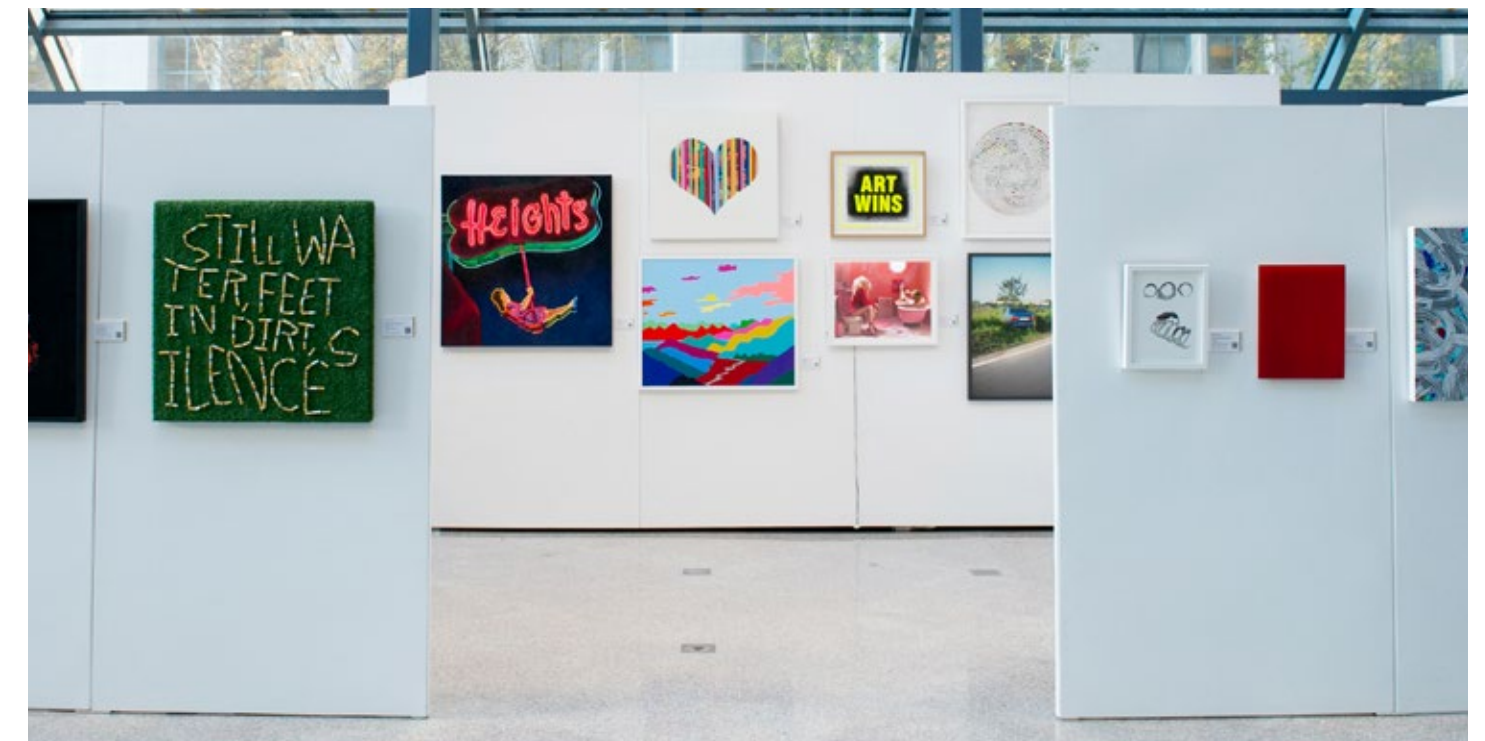
Adeola Adeyemi
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 Monique Badun and Michael Watt
 David and Nyle Beck
 Christine Breakell-Lee
 Etienne Bruson and Anny Morrissette
 Michael Burdick
 Monte Clark
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 John Nursall
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 Omer Sattar and Katie Lever
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 Barbara and Chris Stepien
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 Phil Tippetts-Aylmer
 David and Jasvinder Uppal
 Trudy Van Dop and Chester Kmiec
 Nada Vuksic
 Andy Wang
 Anne Watson
 Steven Wilson and Michael Simmonds
 Tony Yue and Joyce Chung
 Jonie Zimmerman

Splash 2023 Artists

It is the support from the artist community and their belief in Arts Umbrella's mission that make Splash possible. Thank you to all the Splash 2023 artists for their generosity.

- | | | | |
|------------------------|---|---------------------|----------------------|
| Abbas Akhavan | Douglas Coupland | Tom Hsu | Rubeena Ratcliffe |
| Shuinai Ashoona | Jack Darcus | Paul Hyde | Valerie Raynard |
| Joan Balzar | Stan Douglas | Sandeep Johal | Jay Senetchko |
| Athena Bax | Jessica Eaton | Krista Johnson | Bewabon Shilling |
| Shannon Belkin | David Ellingsen | Patricia Johnston | Ben Skinner |
| Rebecca Belmore | Jamie Evrard | Russna Kaur | Michael Soltis |
| Tara Lee Bennett | Annie Frind | Garry Neill Kennedy | Mira Song |
| Suzy Birstein | Jamie-Lee Fuoco | Sheila Kernan | Amy Stewart |
| Tiffany Blaise | Tanja Gardner | Marie Khouri | Yasmeen Strang |
| Bocci | Gregory Geipel | Wanda Koop | Scott Sueme |
| Bratsa Bonifacho | Shira Gold | Mara Korkola | Allan Switzer |
| Jessamyn Box | Dina Goldstein | Kari Kristensen | Svava Tergesen |
| Kevin Boyle | Anne Griffiths | Joseph Kyle | Joseph Tisiga |
| Bobbie Burgers | Angela Grossmann | Jean Paul Langlois | Mina Totino |
| Peter Braune | Gillian Haigh | Stacy Lederman | Kathy Traeger |
| Christine Breakell-Lee | Bradley Harms | Gaye Leggat | Lisa Turner |
| Annie Briard | Gabryel Harrison | Jolinda Linden | Terrence P.R. Turner |
| Ghislain Brown-Kossi | James Harry (Nexw'Kalus) & Lauren Brevner | Elizabeth McIntosh | George Vergette |
| Tom Burrows | Richard G. Henriquez | Iris Mes Low | Marleen Vermeulen |
| Edward Burtynsky | Colleen Heslin | Christian Nicolay | Lanni Weingarten |
| Leanne M Christie | Deirdre Hofer | Lisa Ochowycz | David Wilson |
| Lincoln Clarkes | Dana Claxton | Zoë Pawlak | Jeff Wilson |
| Brent Comber | Brian Howell | Birthe Piontek | Kyran Yeomans |
| | | Will Rafuse | Pablo Zamudio |



Credit: Jamie-Lee Fuoco

CORPORATIONS

\$100,000 and above



\$75,000 - \$99,999



\$50,000 - \$74,999



\$20,000 - \$49,999



\$10,000 - \$19,999



\$5,000 - \$9,999



\$1,000 - \$4,999

- | | | |
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| Ashia Mode Clothing | Coast Capital Savings | M&L Painting Ltd. |
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FOUNDATIONS

\$75,000 and above

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\$20,000 - \$49,999



Gadhia Family Foundation



Nicola Family Foundation

The Pamela and David Richardson Family Foundation



Taylor Taliesin

Wesik Family Foundation



\$50,000-\$74,999

The Christopher Foundation



GOVERNMENT

\$100,000 and above



We acknowledge the financial support of the Province of British Columbia.

Funded by the Government of Canada / Financé par le gouvernement du Canada | Canada

We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada.



This project is funded in part by the Government of Canada's Enabling Accessibility Fund.

\$20,000 - \$49,999



\$10,000 - \$19,999



\$10,000 - \$19,999

Anonymous

THE AUDAIN FOUNDATION



Pitblado Family Foundation

Vancouver Sun Children's Fund

R. Howard Webster Foundation

\$5,000 - \$9,999

- Al Roadburg Foundation
- Amir & Yasmin Virani Family Foundation
- Andrew Mahon Foundation
- CIBC Foundation
- Deux Mille Foundation
- Lion's Mane Fund
- McCarthy Tétrault Foundation
- The McLean Foundation
- Michael and Inna O'Brian Family Foundation

\$1,000 - \$4,999

- Beech Foundation
- The Freybe Family Foundation
- The Greygates Foundation
- Joseph Stanley Stauffer Trust
- Lohn Foundation
- Mathisen Family Private Foundation
- Moon Gate Foundation
- Pearley and Norine Brissenden Fund
- Randall Foundation
- Surrey Fire Fighters Charitable Society

GIFT-IN-KIND

\$50,000 and above

- Habanero Consulting
- Sandman Hotel Group
- Vancouver Civic Theatres

\$20,000 - \$49,999

CBC Vancouver

\$10,000 - \$19,999

Tiffany & Co.

\$5,000 - \$19,999

Tom Arntzen

Policies

Age

Students enrolled in sessional programs must be the age of the specific class by session start date. Students enrolled in year-long programs must be the age of the class as of December 31. Arts Umbrella reserves the right to withdraw students who have been registered in an incorrect age category.

Allergies and Sensitivities

Some Arts Umbrella students have life-threatening allergies. In consideration of these students, we ask that parents/guardians please not pack any of the following in snacks/lunches for consumption at Arts Umbrella: Peanuts, tree nuts, nut products, or shellfish.

Attendance

Every child who attends a class at Arts Umbrella must be registered. Instructors do not have the ability to register students. Attendance is taken at the beginning of each class and unregistered students will be directed to Student Services. No refund or make-up class is available for students who miss class.

Class Cancellation

Arts Umbrella reserves the right to cancel classes that do not meet minimum enrollment, and will cancel classes with an enrollment of 1-3 students up to two weeks prior to the program's scheduled start date. Minimum enrollment numbers depend on studio capacity and availability of materials.

Under most circumstances, cancellations will happen one to two weeks prior to the start date and families will be notified via phone and email. Students from cancelled classes may be transferred to another class free of charge. For classes with three or four enrollments, classes will run for up to two weeks plus two days before a cancellation decision. A pro-rated refund will be issued.

Arts Umbrella will strive to provide a substitute rather than cancel a class in the event of instructor illness. In the case of such a cancellation, a replacement attendance date is scheduled. If it is not possible for Arts Umbrella to schedule a replacement attendance date, a pro-rated refund is supplied to all affected clients. No refund or make up is eligible for students who miss class.

Diapers

For the courtesy of our faculty and other students, we can only accept students who are toilet-trained. Pull up diapers not allowed.

Fees

Applicable program fees must be paid in full upon registration. A charge of \$25 will apply to returned cheques. Payment can be made by cheque, cash, VISA, American Express, or MasterCard.

Field Trips

Instructors may lead supervised excursions during class time. Parental permission for these excursions is required at time of registration. Student Services staff are informed of location and times for excursions by instructors before leaving the building.

Health and Safety

The health and safety of our students, staff, and families is important to us. Students are not permitted to attend class if they are exhibiting any symptoms of a cold, flu or COVID-19, such as fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat and difficulty swallowing, coughing or sneezing, or other symptoms as described by the Public Health Agency of Canada, the BC Ministry of Health and BC Centre for Disease Control, or is required to self-isolate.

Illness or Injury

Refunds will not be provided for missed classes unless withdrawal is recommended by a medical practitioner, in which case a pro-rated refund will be provided upon receipt of a doctor's note.

Language

For safety reasons, we ask that your child has a working understanding of English before attending classes. For students who do not have a working understanding of English, please contact Student Services in advance of the class start date, so we can make the appropriate accommodations for your child.

Accessibility & Learning Supports

Arts Umbrella is actively working to support students with accessibility or additional learning needs. To help us create a welcoming/inclusive learning environment, please let Student Services staff know if your child has any access or support needs for their time at Arts Umbrella. If your child requires an aide in school, then an adult or aide should be present at Arts Umbrella classes, as it will help ensure your child has a more supported arts experience.

Parent Pick-Up

Arts Umbrella is not responsible for students before, after, or between classes. Parents or guardians late in picking up students will be charged \$10 per 15 mins. Repeated lateness may lead to discharge from the class with no refund.

Program Changes

Instructors and/or program content may change at Arts Umbrella's discretion, without notice. Information found on our online registration system should be considered the most up-to-date. Some programs and classes may have specific requirements and policies. Visit artsumbrella.com or contact Student Services for details.

Publicity and Advertising

Parental permission is requested at time of registration for Arts Umbrella to photograph and film students and their work for advertising and publicity purposes. Arts Umbrella reserves the right to use student artwork for exhibition at no charge.

Removal for Conduct

Arts Umbrella reserves the right to remove any student or parent who fails to comply with its policies, or who engages in any activity deemed contrary to the fulfillment of Arts Umbrella's objectives. In such an event, Arts Umbrella will be owed the fees for the complete session. Bursary recipients will be asked to reimburse the full value of any bursaries used toward their current registration. Read the student code of conduct at artsumbrella.com/student-conduct.

Withdrawal Fees and Deadlines

Please submit withdrawal and transfer requests in writing. Non-attendance or non-payment of outstanding fees does not constitute a formal withdrawal. In all programs, a pro-rated refund will be issued for a withdrawal if a doctor's note is provided.

- Vancouver: registration@artsumbrella.com
- Surrey: surrey@artsumbrella.com

Fall/Winter/Spring Sessional Programs

Withdrawal requests must be received in person, by phone, or in writing within 48 hours after the 2nd class of the session, regardless of when registration occurred. Withdrawal requests within this period will be refunded less 10% of the tuition fee.

Spring Break/Summer Sessional Programs

Withdrawal requests must be received in person, by phone, or in writing at least 2 weeks [14 days] before the start of camp. Withdrawal requests within this period will be refunded less 10% of the tuition fee.

Yearlong Programs (Dance & Theatre)

Withdrawal requests must be received in person, by phone, or in writing 2 weeks before the first class. Withdrawal requests within this period will be refunded less the \$100 deposit. After this period, late withdrawals will be refunded with the following deductions:

- 30% deduction before September 30
- 50% deduction up to, and including December 1
- No refund after December 1

Post-Secondary Dance Program

Arts Umbrella follows the VCC policy and will refund program fees to students who withdraw (voluntarily or involuntarily) as follows:

- Prior to the start day of the program: 100% refund (less \$100 administrative fee and non-refundable portion of the tuition deposit)
- Up to and including the fifth (5th) business day from the start of the program: 50% refund of tuition
- After the fifth (5th) business day of the program: No refund of tuition

*students registered for the program through VCC please refer to VCC's website for refund policy and procedures.





Granville Island
604-681-5268
info@artsumbrella.com

Surrey Centre
604-585-6996
surrey@artsumbrella.com

Back cover art by Covenant House student, Aria, age 20,
Arts Umbrella Drawing and Painting Program