

ARTS UMBRELLA

ARTS EDUCATION
FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

PROGRAM GUIDE 25 / 26



ART & DESIGN | DANCE | THEATRE, MUSIC & FILM



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), Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish), and sə́lilwətaʔt (Tsleil-Waututh) peoples and in Surrey on the unceded, traditional, and ancestral territories of the Kwantlen, Katzie, Semiahmoo, Kwikwetlem, Qayqayt, and Tsawwassen First Nations.

Young People are Our Compass

As Canada's leading voice in arts education, Arts Umbrella holds a vital responsibility in helping to preserve and shape our national identity.

Ours is a unique institution - defined not only by the quality of our programs but by a deep, enduring commitment to nurturing the creative potential of young people. At Arts Umbrella, we strive to provide more than instruction; we foster a safe, inclusive, and inspiring environment where young people are empowered to explore, express, and embrace their most authentic selves.

We are proud of the community we have built. It is a place of belonging and discovery, a launching pad for emerging artists, innovators, and changemakers - regardless of the direction their lives may take.

Young people are at the heart of every decision we make. They guide our vision, shape our purpose, and drive our pursuit of excellence. This is a privilege we hold with the utmost care.

Thank you for being part of the Arts Umbrella community—today, tomorrow, and for years to come.



Paul Larocque

President & CEO
Arts Umbrella



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.

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.



Credit: Devan Francis

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 and Opportunity

All programs at Arts Umbrella are led by a faculty of more than 200 arts 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.

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 annually across Metro Vancouver and beyond! 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 acknowledge National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, we offer our families and community the opportunity to engage with Indigenous artists and knowledge keepers, and to honour survivors of the residential school system, their families, and communities.

Credit: Devan Francis

Early Learning

**Join us Tuesday
and/or Thursday
Mornings!**

- Art Start
- Creative Dance
- Creative Drama



ELF lets our age 3-5 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.

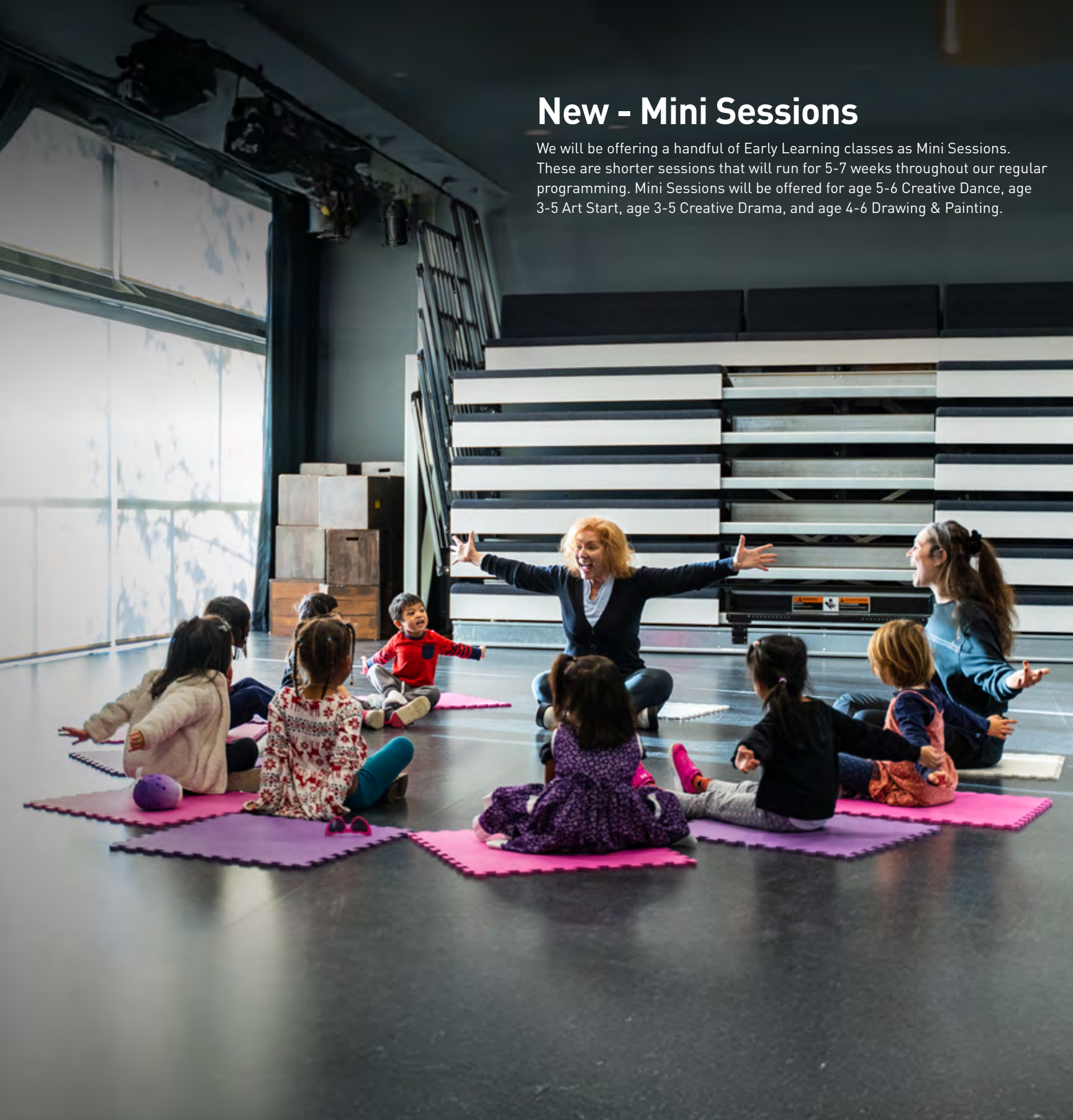


New - Explorers

Students age 5-6 will embark on a yearlong exploration of various artforms in this weekly, afterschool class. Dynamic programming will include Art & Design, Dance, Music, and Theatre. With the area of focus changing every 5-8 weeks, Explorers gives our young students a chance to try a bit of everything and perhaps, discover their passion.

New - Mini Sessions

We will be offering a handful of Early Learning classes as Mini Sessions. These are shorter sessions that will run for 5-7 weeks throughout our regular programming. Mini Sessions will be offered for age 5-6 Creative Dance, age 3-5 Art Start, age 3-5 Creative Drama, and age 4-6 Drawing & Painting.



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 2025/26 Yearlong and Sessional programs begins June 1, 2025.

Locations & Contact

Granville Island

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

Surrey Centre

Park Place, 2-13678 100 Ave, Surrey
604-497-0308
surrey@artsumbrella.com

Important Dates

Sessional Programs

Fall Session 2025: September 15 - December 14
Winter Session 2026: January 10 - March 13
Spring Session 2026: April 7 - June 22

Mini Sessions

Fall Session 2025: September 8 - October 26
Winter Session 2026: January 12 - March 2
Spring Session 2026: April 7 - May 17

Explorers

Fall 2025: September 11 - December 11
Winter 2026: January 15 - March 5
Spring 2026: April 9 - June 25

Spring Break 2026

Week 1: March 16-20
Week 2: March 23-27

Summer 2026

Week 1: July 6-10
Week 2: July 13-17
Week 3: July 20-24
Week 4: July 27-31
Week 5: August 4-7

Closures

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

- Labour Day: September 1, 2025
- National Day for Truth & Reconciliation: September 30, 2025
- Thanksgiving: October 11-13, 2025
- Halloween: October 31, 2025 (all afternoon/evening classes)
- Remembrance Day: November 11, 2025
- Winter Break: December 24, 2025 – January 1, 2026
- Family Day: February 16, 2026
- Easter Weekend: April 3-6, 2026
- Victoria Day: May 18, 2026
- Canada Day: July 1, 2026
- BC Day: August 3, 2026

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.

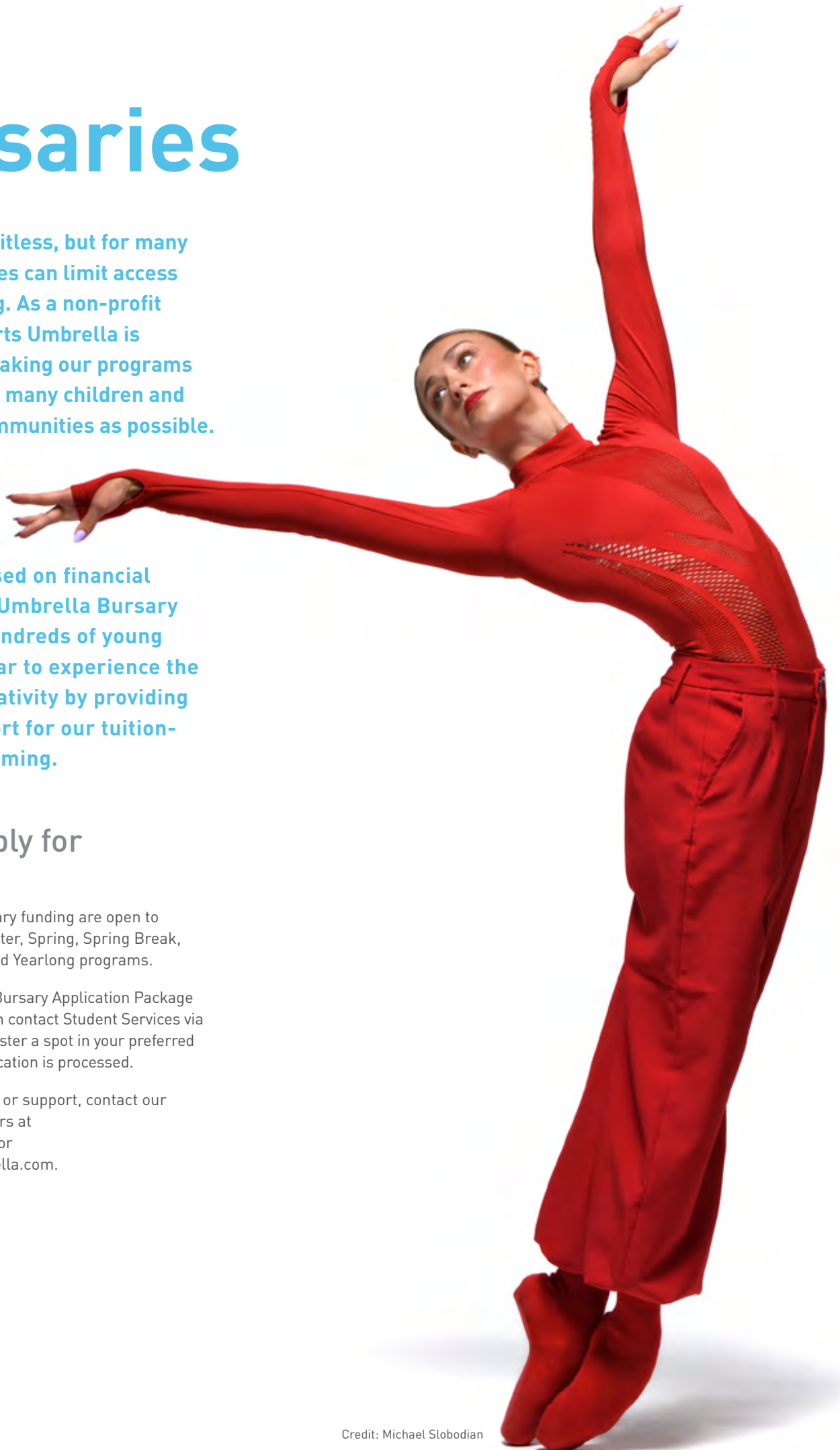
Distributed based on financial need, the Arts Umbrella Bursary Fund allows hundreds of young artists each year to experience the freedom of creativity by providing financial support for our tuition-based programming.

How to Apply for a Bursary

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

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@artsumbrella.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 Arts Umbrella 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:



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
- Community Roots Scholarship Fund
- 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 CULTURAL LEADERSHIP SCHOLARSHIP

The McCall MacBain Cultural Leadership Scholarship 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

In the Audain School of Art & Design, we value the power of creative expression. We believe that art gives us the tools we need to reimagine what is possible and to inspire that belief in others. All of our programs are based on a curriculum that combines life skills with essential technique, couched within a profound context for inspiration. From our sessional General Program classes through to our yearlong Foundation Program for students aged 7-12 and our Intensive and Scholarship Programs for students aged 10-19, every student journey can be unique and tailored to help them grow and progress 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.

Before being named Audain Artistic Director of Art & Design at Arts Umbrella in 2021, Patrick spent nearly a decade as an arts educator with leading institutions including

the Vancouver Art Gallery, Polygon Gallery, and Arts Umbrella, where he began 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

Marina Arndt
Suzy Birstein
Amelia Butcher
Owen Caddell
Aslan Campbell
Caelan Clark
Leea Contractor
Pedro Cruz
Michael Cutting
Giulia De Oliverira Borba
Jamie Dickinson
Kellie Diguangco
Grace Gihm
Spencer Gordon
Danya Gorodetsky
Danielle Green

Jonathan Harvey
Mariana Hermosillo Mendez
Sarah Hoemberg
Grant Holt
Lisette Isaak
Riba Kalb
Homa Khosravijelodar
Martina Kocmanova
Shraddha Kumbhar
Kit Liu
Crista Lof
Bianca Mejia Domingo
Olusha Milley
Kevin Murphy
Amelia Rodriguez
Lusine Sahakyan

Niki Sampson
Dee Saunders
Kathy Schleindl
Cindy Schreyer
Maya Schueller Elmes
Andre Seow
Golnar Sepahi-Donboli
Bryn Skippen
Oksana Slonevska
Graham Smith
Yan Song
Arti Struyanskiy
Netsanet Tsegaye
Rose Wan
Rob 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.

Program Dates

Fall Session 2025:

Monday, September 15 - Sunday, December 14

Winter Session 2026:

Saturday, January 10 - Friday, March 13

Spring Session 2026:

Tuesday, April 7 - Monday, 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, 2025.

ANIMATION PROGRAMS

Students apply art and design fundamentals to create characters, settings, and stories and learn how to bring them to life through time and motion. Using a range of techniques and tools—from mixed media and plasticine to Adobe Animate and Blender—students learn how to use storyboards, animatics, and character design to tell unique stories. 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 made famous by Wallace and Gromit. Working at our animation stations to compose and capture frame-by-frame movement, students develop an intuition for the principles of animation, from squash and stretch to timing and exaggeration. Students work with DSLR cameras and the industry-standard software, DragonFrame.

Stop Motion Animation

Ages 6-8, 9-12

Students learn how to give life to the everyday world of readymade objects by arranging and photographing them frame-by-frame. This technique is fundamental to all animation practices, and invites students to work with a wide variety of materials, from hand-drawn characters and props to readymade objects, textiles, collage, and the students themselves. Students work with DSLR cameras and the industry-standard software, DragonFrame.

2D Digital Animation

Ages 6-8, 9-12, 13+

In our MacLab, students bring their drawings to life using software such as Adobe Animate. At early levels, students develop basic computer skills and cover animation fundamentals such as frame rate, the timeline, and storyboarding. Teens will expand on those with projects that challenge their skills to include basic concepts such as tweening, lip-syncing and rigging.

3D Modeling & Animation

Ages 9-12, 13+

Students learn how to sculpt and build their own digital 3D models to create characters, build worlds and design props. They will also learn how to access and download ready-to-use 3D assets to create movement and motion through key frames, tweening and timelines to be used in animations or video game sequences. Students will learn the basics of software such as Blender and Unity to gain fundamental skills and see their stories come to life.



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.

Comics & Cartooning

Ages 6-8, 9-12

Students learn how to tell captivating illustrated stories using the most fundamental principles of visual art including bold lines, simple shapes, and strong colour choices. Students learn to apply simplification and exaggeration to communicate their stories with clarity and humour. Working with pen, pencil, marker, and ink, students learn to create sequential action, movement, story, and sound through the graphic conventions of cartooning and comics. Students also learn panel layout, character sheets, speech bubbles, and hand-lettering.

Character Design & Illustration

Ages 6-8, 9-12, 13+

Students delve into the rich process of creating memorable characters with distinctive personality, visual appearance, aesthetic

and behaviour, as well as how this form of concept art is be used in animation, comics, video games and more. From figure drawing to facial expression, costume design to props, students will learn all aspects of how the human (or non-human) figure can be used to tell imaginative stories.

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 Painting & Design

Ages 6-8, 9-12

Students learn how to create expressive digital artworks in our MacLab using a digital tablet, stylus pen and easy-to-use, industry-standard software such as Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator, Kid Pix, and Krita. Essential computer literacy skills will also be taught while they explore fundamental drawing & painting concepts in the digital sphere such as digital brushes, colours, and blending layers. Students will also learn to apply design to their digital art to create movie posters, book covers, story illustrations, and more.

Filmmaking & Editing

Ages 9-12, 13+

From short films to YouTube videos, students are introduced to the essential processes of filmmaking, editing and digital content creation. Students learn industry standard software and

tools, including iMovie, Adobe Rush, Premiere Pro, and After Effects,. They will also be introduced to the technical aspects of filmmaking using both DSLR and handheld video cameras, as well as working on a team to collaborate on a movie production. As students progress, advanced processes might also be covered from storyboarding, scriptwriting and shot selection to lighting, green screen, and sound recording.

Video 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.

PHOTOGRAPHY PROGRAMS

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.

Digital Photography & Photoshop

Ages 9-12, 13+

Students learn how to compose, light and shoot a wide array of captivating images using DSLR cameras and will explore the endless creative possibilities when editing them in Adobe Photoshop. Light, colour and composition will be mixed with cutting, collaging, blending and digital painting to create unique digital expressions. They will be introduced to the technical features of the camera including aperture, shutter speed, and ISO as well as the digital tools of Photoshop. From street photography and editorial images to green screened special effects, students will learn how to consider the camera and computer as creative tools for their own unique artistic expression.

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.

Mixed Media & Sculpture

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, papier mâché, 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, gluing, and assemblage.

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 | offered at Surrey Centre

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+ | offered at Surrey Centre

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 Principles & Techniques

Ages 9-12, 13+

Students deepen their study of what is arguably the most direct and intimate of all art processes: drawing. Students will learn the fundamental techniques and visual concepts related to making marks on a surface to create an image. Line, gesture, composition, tone, value and expression will all be explored through a variety of references include from image, still life, the figure and including abstraction and the use of imagination and chance. They will focus on the use of dry materials such as graphite pencil, conte, charcoal, marker, and pastel to create expressive works on paper.



Credit: Devan Francis

Painting Principles & Techniques

Ages 9-12, 13+

Students dive deep into the key processes, techniques, methods and materials that underly the practice of painting. They will use a variety of wet mediums including tempera, acrylic, gouache, watercolour and ink to blend, colour mix, and layer to create dynamic works of art. They will be inspired by a variety of references including from image and still life to explore how paint can express ideas and stories through landscape, portraiture, narrative, figurative and abstraction. As students progress, understanding is deepened through increased self-direction, discussion of artists, art history and the use of symbols.

Foundation Program

Generously supported by the Poseley Family

Program Dates

September 2025 – June 2026

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, 2025.

The Foundation Program is built on the principles of visual and contemporary arts that prioritizes sound technical skills with critical, creative expression. Together these provide the ideal conditions for deeply passionate artists to flourish. This program aims to reach big and dive deep to establish a solid foundation for an expressive artistic practice to flourish.

The Foundation Program is a yearlong, twice weekly program that's composed of one yearlong "core" discipline in combination with a rotation of inspiring "explore" classes. This structure is designed to establish solid technical and conceptual roots while exposing them to the exciting breadth of the visual and contemporary arts. They will develop essential skills of self-expression, empathy and creative agency to become well-rounded and confident human beings.

All age groups will benefit from expanded learning opportunities that are unique to the Foundation Program including formal exhibitions, celebratory receptions, and optional field trips.

Junior

Ages 7-8

Students in the Junior Foundation Program will follow a specialized student journey that is composed of essential visual and contemporary art practices including a yearlong Core discipline in Visual Arts accompanied by a rotation of five exciting Explore classes including: Clay Sculpture, Stop-Motion Animation, Architecture, Printmaking, and Sculpture.

Intermediate

Ages 9-10, 11-12

Students in the Intermediate Foundation Program will be introduced to more choice in both their yearlong Core class (Visual Arts or Media Arts) and their Explore classes, where they get to choose from our exciting suite of contemporary-themed elective options, including Video & Special Effects, Ceramics, Darkroom Photography, Architecture, Fashion Design, Creative Electronics, and more. Please see the website for more information.



Intensive Program

Generously supported by the Gadhia Family Foundation

Program Dates

September 2025 - June 2026

Program Location

Granville Island and Surrey Centre

Admissions & Registration

Registration opens 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 10-12 and 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 supportive purpose-built studio environments. 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.

Clay Sculpture

Ages 13-19

In a purpose-built ceramics studio, students will expand their practice of contemporary sculptural clay sculpture ceramics and engage in handbuilding, carving or sculpting techniques to advance further their understanding of fundamental advanced materials, equipment, techniques, and processes. They will study both contemporary and historical art references and develop critical creative approaches to sculptural ceramics/clay forms.

Ceramics

Ages 10-12, 13-19

Students will delve deep into the world of ceramic design, including both functional-ware and experimental clay forms. They will focus on wheel throwing techniques, glazing, and kiln firing methods to develop a contemporary and art historical knowledge of craftsmanship, design thinking, and materiality. Use of surface design and texture to convey story, culture and identity will also be explored.



Credit: Devan Francis

Drawing & Painting

Ages 10-12, 13-15, 13-19, 15-19 | offered at Surrey Centre

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 10-12, 13-19

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.

3D Modeling & Animation

Ages 10-12, 13-19

Students will learn all aspects of the 3D modelling and animation workflow using industry-standard software such as Blender and Unity. They will build creative and technical skills in modeling, texturing, rigging, animation, lighting, and rendering to create unique characters, build memorable environments, and complete a short animation using storyboarding, key frames, tweening and other essential processes.

Scholarship Programs

Created in partnership with Vancouver Art Gallery, Electronic Arts, BTY, Urbanarium, and The Polygon 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.



Credit: Devan Francis

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:

Vancouver
Artgallery

Full scholarship provided by:
Elmar and Christine Klukas
Terrence P.R 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:

T H E P
O L Y G
O N

Full scholarship provided by:

Buschlen Mowatt Nichol Foundation



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:



Lindsay Mearns 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, they are provided with 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
Ballett Hagen, Germany
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
Scapino Ballet Rotterdam, 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 Parkville 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, Repetiteur*

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 30 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

Kay Huang Barnes
Nicole Rose Bond
Ackerley Cooper
Reid Cuming
Livona Ellis
Hailey Fowler
Madeleine Gilbert
Brynne Harper
Marinda Heshka
Laura Jaszcz
Mika Manning
Seira Shimamura
Jacq Smith
Lorraine White-Wilkinson
Tomoyo Yamada

Musicians

Nicholas Apivor
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 2025 – June 2026

Sessional Program Dates

Fall Session 2025:

Monday, September 15 - Sunday, December 14

Winter Session 2026:

Saturday, January 10 - Friday, March 13

Spring Session 2026:

Tuesday, April 7 - Monday, 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, 2025.



Credit: Devan Francis



Credit: Michael Slobodian

Creative Dance: Parent & Me

Ages 1-2, 2-3

This joyful class invites young children and caregivers to explore dance through playful movement, props, and imagination. Fostering motor skills, creativity, and connection, it emphasizes musicality and coordination in a nurturing space. No experience needed—just bring energy and enthusiasm as you move, create, and bond together. Caregivers participate fully.

Creative Dance (Included in ELF)

Ages 3-4

In this playful, imagination-rich class, young dancers participate independently as they explore movement through stories, props, and inventive expression. They build confidence, coordination, and body awareness while developing foundational dance skills. Social interaction and creative expression are encouraged, supporting artistic and emotional growth in a joyful, nurturing environment.

Creative Dance: Pre-Ballet

Ages 4-5, 5-6

This joyful bridge to formal ballet introduces young dancers to basic ballet vocabulary, musicality, and spatial awareness. Through guided exercises, students build coordination, flexibility, and confidence while learning to follow instructions and move with intention. Creative exploration blends with age-appropriate ballet fundamentals to support skill development and expressive movement.

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 offered. 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 2025 – June 2026

Program Location

Granville Island

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.

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 11-16 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 our two-week intensive program, ISDI2, each summer.

Admissions are by audition.

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 8-12 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 2025 – June 2026

Program Location

Granville Island

Admissions & Registration

Admission is by audition. Auditions for 2026/27 take place December 2025 – April 2026.

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 days 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. We partner with Magee Secondary School who currently provides 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. Students who attend Magee receive credits towards graduation from their training at Arts Umbrella.

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

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.

Program Dates

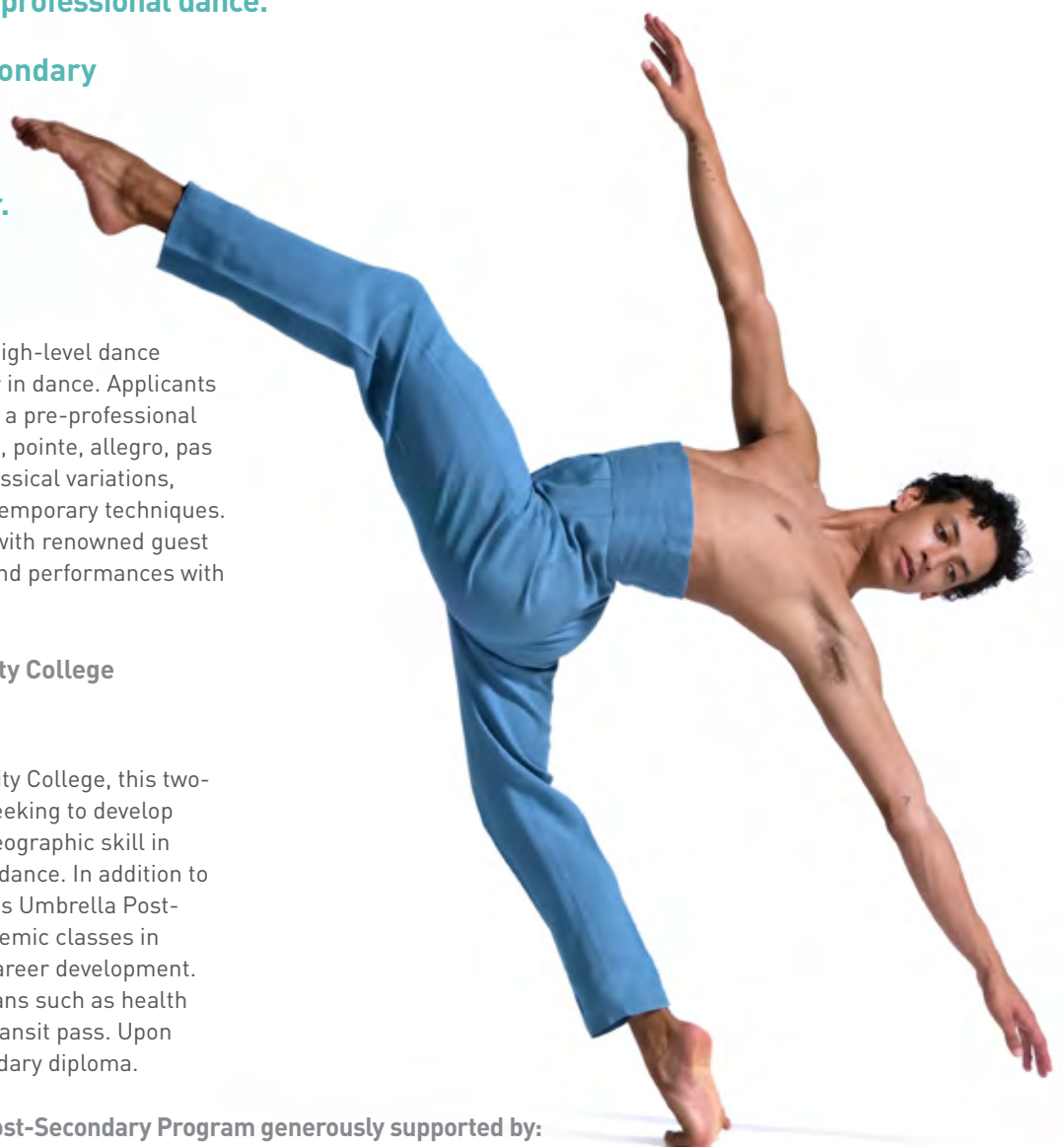
September 2025 – June 2026

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 2026/27 school year will take place in early 2026. Advance registration for auditions is required.



Professional Training Program and Post-Secondary Program generously supported by:



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



Credit: Michael Slobodian

Summer Dance Intensives

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

ISDI is also generously supported by The Parachute Fund.

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

INTERNATIONAL SUMMER DANCE INTENSIVE (ISDI)

Ages 13+ (Academic Grade 9 and up)

For three weeks in August every year, world-renowned teachers, choreographers and repetiteurs come to Arts Umbrella Granville Island to offer a dance experience that leads dancers to reach their full performance potential. The intensive full-day, three-week program includes classes such as ballet, repertoire, pointe, modern, contemporary, movement exploration, Gaga, Forsythe Improvisation Technologies, partnering, 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.

ISDI2

Ages 11-13 (Academic Grade 6-8)

This two-week intensive program has been developed to recognize the need for dancers in Grade 6, 7, and 8 to experience a purposefully challenging program. Dancers who show potential to excel in a dense and comprehensive program will be encouraged to elevate their dance practice. The faculty of this program have been invited based on their professional perspective on current methods and choreographies. The intensive is ten full days of movement exploration, dance technologies, repertoire, body conditioning, and improvisation. Dancers are mentored and coached with the express intention of empowering dancers to move through the rigorous years of professional training ahead.

Admission is by audition. For more information and to be the first to hear about next year's auditions, please visit artsumbrella.com/dance-auditions.



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.

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
Darren Devaney, L-E-V
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 Hernandez Magadan, Nederlands Dans Theater
Ralitza Malehounova, Marco Goecke Repititeur
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

Generously 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

Generously supported by The Parachute Fund

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

Season Finale

Generously 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
Erin Aubrey
Nathan Bernabe
Eric Biskupski
Jack Bumbala
Britney Buren
Matt Clarke
Sage Collins
Ainslee Dalzell
Francis Dowlatabadi
Kayla Dunbar
Monica Emme
Aidan Farrell
Seamus Fera
Rebecca Floresco
Hailey Fowler
Ivana Franz
Erik Gow
Isabella Halladay

Jackie Hanlin
Roselle Healy
Renee Iaci
Laura Jaszc
Kitra Jeanne
Laurin Kaardal
Sarah Kelen
Lucia Liberato
Katherine Matlashewski
Laura McLean
Paul Moniz de Sá
Daryl Nemutlu (Fretz)
Olivia Paluzzi
Michael Park
Patrick Ray
Jenn Tiles
Karen Worrod
Clare Wyatt
Cydney Uffindell-Phillips

General Program

Program Dates

Fall Session 2025:

Monday, September 15 - Sunday, December 14

Winter Session 2026:

Saturday, January 10 - Friday, March 13

Spring Session 2026:

Tuesday, April 7 - Monday, 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, 2025.

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 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.

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



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

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, 6-8

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

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 7-14

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.



Credit: Devan Francis

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 2025 – June 2026

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, 2025.

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 11-16 | 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.

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



Credit: Javier R. Sotres

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 2025 – June 2026

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.

2025/26 guest instructors will be announced in Fall 2025. 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



Credit: Devan Francis

Date	Workshop
Friday, October 24, 2025	Stage Management
Friday, November 21, 2025	Lighting Design
Sunday, January 18, 2026	Costume Design
Friday, February 13, 2026	Set Design
Monday, April 20, 2026	Sound Design

Summerstage

Generously supported by the Gadhia Family Foundation



Credit: Devan Francis

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.

Program Dates

July 2026 (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 2026.

Past productions include:

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

Performance Opportunities

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:

- *Hadestown*
- *Between the Lines*
- *Newsies*
- *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





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 2025, these programs are supported by:



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



The Jules Foundation

Highbury Foundation

KPMG Foundation

Lohn Foundation

Timothy A. Young



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
Amir & Yasmin Virani Family Foundation

Nancy Chan Creative Horizons Program

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

Supported by:

Chan Family Foundation

Artistic Flair

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

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:



Canucks Autism Network Creative Dance

The Canucks Autism Network Creative Dance program provides engaging, weekly creative dance instruction to children ages 7 to 12 years at Arts Umbrella's Granville Island facility.

Supported by:



Covenant House

This program connects young people who have experienced homelessness with 21 weeks of engaging visual arts classes.

Supported by:

Leah and John O'Neill
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:

Danica and Andrew Booth



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. At the end of this 6 week program, classes share the work they have created in the Jack and Darlene Poole Theatre, at Arts Umbrella - Granville Island, for family and friends.

Supported by:



Head Start

Head Start offers young learners broad experiences across artistic disciplines.

Supported by:



John and Nina Cassils
Fasken Martineau DuMoulin LLP
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Northern Arts Connection

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

Supported by:

Cisco Canada
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Open Stage

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

Supported by:

Al Roadburg Foundation
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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:



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 June 2025

CAROL HENRIQUEZ LEGACY FUND

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SCHOLARSHIP AND BURSARY ENDOWMENTS

Barry Scott Legacy Fund
Ken and Anne Woods
Scholarship
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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 Denslow, 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

NEW GIFTS CONFIRMED THIS PAST YEAR

In recognition of a \$2M permanently endowed gift from the Audain Foundation was the naming of the Audain School of Art & Design. In recognition of a \$2M permanently endowed gift from Lindsay Mearns was the naming of the Lindsay Mearns School of Dance.

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 June 2025

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Thank You to Our Annual Supporters

As of June 2025

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David and Jasvinder Uppal
Nessa van Bergen
Trudy Van Dop and
Chester Kmiec
Nada Vuksic
Andy Wang
Derek Wyborn
Jonie Zimmerman

Splash 2024 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 2024 artists for their generosity.

Maru Aponte
Shuvinai Ashoona
Joan Balzar
Enda Bardell
Athena Bax
Shannon Belkin
Tara Lee Bennett
Suzy Birstein
Tiffany Blaise
Bocci
Kevin Boyle
Peter Braune
Christine Breakell-Lee
Jesse Brillon
Ghislain Brown-Kossi
Michelle Bui
Hank Bull
Leanne M Christie
Laura Clark
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Cindy Richmond
Jay Senetchko
Jack Shadbolt
Bewabon Shilling
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Trig Singer
Stuart Slind
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Carla Tak
Alex Tedlie-Stursberg
Kathy Traeger
Howie Tsui
Lisa M Turner
Terrence P.R. Turner
George Vergette
Marleen Vermeulen
Gloria Wong



Credit: Jamie-Lee Fuoco

CORPORATIONS

\$100,000 and above



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\$50,000 - \$74,999



\$20,000 - \$49,999



\$10,000 - \$19,999



\$5,000 - \$9,999



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Wesik Family
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\$10,000 - \$19,999

Anonymous

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GOVERNMENT

\$100,000 and above



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GIFT-IN-KIND

\$50,000 and above

Sandman Hotel Group

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\$20,000 - \$49,999

CBC

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. Late registration for sessional programs is not eligible to be pro-rated due to missed classes. Payment can be made by cheque, cash, VISA, American Express, or MasterCard. A charge of \$25 will apply to returned cheques.

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 Drop-off & 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. Students under the age of 13 must be brought to and from class by an adult on their authorized pick-up list provided during registration. Please notify Student Services with any changes to this list or to inform of any unexpected lateness.

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 code of conduct at artsumbrella.com/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. Please note, this policy applies from the time of registration up until the stated deadlines.

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

Fall/Winter/Spring Sessional Programs

Withdrawal or transfer requests must be received in person, by phone, or in writing up to and including 48 hours after the 2nd class of the session. Transfer requests prior to this deadline are offered at no additional charge except for any difference in course fees. Withdrawal requests before this deadline will be refunded less 10% of the tuition fee.

Spring Break/Summer Sessional Programs

Withdrawal or transfer requests must be received in person, by phone, or in writing at least 2 weeks [14 days] before the start of camp. Transfer requests prior to this deadline are offered at no additional charge except for any difference in course fees. Withdrawal requests before this deadline will be refunded less 10% of the tuition fee.

Yearlong Programs

Withdrawal requests must be received in person, by phone, or in writing a minimum of 2 weeks before the first class. Withdrawal requests before this deadline 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.



Front cover: Artist participating in Art Exchange, a full-scholarship program for teens, in collaboration with the Vancouver Art Gallery

Back cover: Dancer participating in an Early Learning Creative Dance class

