



Artists for Kids and
Gordon Smith Gallery

ANNUAL REPORT | 2021-2022



Director's Message

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DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



We are inspired to design welcoming places of learning that place connection at the center of our practice through an ethic of care. We are also committed to building capacity for intercultural understanding, empathy and mutual respect within our team, with a specific highlight on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Call to Action, #63. We will dream ourselves into being, allowing each other to learn, relearn, share and grow together.

It starts here. It starts with each other. With this, Artists for Kids would like to acknowledge the continued support of the NVSD Board of Education, our donors, our outstanding volunteers and the commitment of the Gordon and Marion Smith Foundation and its staff. Truly, Artists for Kids exists because of the commitment and support of our community. On behalf of Artists for Kids, we are incredibly grateful to our community, for their trust and support of our programs.

The power to allow our dreams into being, truly reflects the essence of Artists for Kids. After 33 years of learning, growing and sharing with each other, we are so proud to be where we are today.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Allison Kerr".

With this dream, we have become storytellers for the arts in North Vancouver. Beginning with the smallest of gestures of possibility and connection, to the dream of bringing a community together through the lens of the arts, Artists for Kids has placed positive and supportive relationships as the priority in all that we do. Our Annual Report has become a celebration of our journey and of each other.

We have learned that connection is essential in all that we do.

AFK TEAM



Daylen Luchsinger
Vice Principal, Arts Education

In reflecting on 2020 at Artists for Kids and where we are today, a visualization of a welcoming gesture comes to mind. I believe in all that this organization does, this is at its core. Welcoming aspiring young artists to programs that will build their artistic practice, confidence and well-being and include them in a larger community-based family that loves, supports, and advocates for the arts.

As a part of this team, I try to center my work around this notion of a welcoming gesture. This was so generously offered to me as I came to work at Artists for Kids, by the team and by one of AFK's biggest supporters and advocates, Gordon Smith. Gordon graciously invited a young teacher over for dinner to build a meaningful relationship and connection, and I'm sure to instill a passion and drive to support the arts and the journey AFK is on. Sharing food is such a special gesture to offer someone and I am ever grateful for Gordon's friendship and mentorship that came from this gesture. As I look forward to 2021-22, I am hopeful that the gesture of sharing food and discussing art is on our collective horizon.



Amelia Epp
District Visual Arts Teacher

Connecting with students and teachers across the school district and wider community is our goal at Artists for Kids (AFK). Over the 2021-2022 school year, we continued to reimagine our programs and resources, keeping connection and student-centered education at the forefront as we adapted to the ever-shifting circumstances of the pandemic.

In the fall of 2021 we re-designed our well-loved grade 5 Gallery Program, bringing it out to schools when it had been offered onsite at AFK for decades. With the goal of connecting with Grade 5 students and teachers, we launched a blended model for this program and visited all Grade 5 classes (including combined classes) in the school district, leading an in-person art workshop to create art inspired by the teaching exhibition, *Beyond the Horizon*. This workshop was followed by a tour of the exhibition at the Gordon Smith Gallery, either in-person or via Microsoft Teams.

Within the workshop, students were asked to consider what supports and mindsets they need in order to go "beyond the horizon." Certainly, at AFK, we continue to stretch our own ways of teaching, as we continued to think creatively and flexibly about how to foster connection through art during a pandemic.

AFK TEAM



Emily Neufeld
Studio Technician

At Artists for Kids, Emily is generally responsible for all the physical labour jobs. She preps the supplies, cleans the studio spaces, orders materials, maintains equipment, installs the exhibitions and student work, and cleans cupboards and closets, all while listening to various podcasts and audio books.

For the 2021-2022 year, Emily was involved in planning and supporting the four artist-in-residencies and summer camp, as well as installing the two gallery exhibitions and keeping the supplies topped up for after school art classes and the gallery program. She is also responsible to organize and install the student artwork in the lobby and maintaining the prints displayed in the first floor hallway.

Emily has a son at Carson Graham and has an art practice on top of her work at AFK.



Marilyn Ramen
Registrar

As an Art Registrar with degrees in Art History, Archival and Library Informational Studies and a person of colour, who engages in the arts and educational fields, I look to my role to inform myself on the ongoing learning and practices needed for care and handling processes associated with collections management for the Artists for Kids' Collection, including decolonizing documentation. My intention as the Art Registrar is to provide voice and inclusiveness through documentation practices of the collection.

As well, as the Arts Registrar, I have the opportunity to work on lasting documentation history and knowledge relevant to the NVSD, AFK and Smith Foundation, which provides a meaningful dialogue with donor relations and with the community.

AFK TEAM



Chantal Pinard
Program Assistant

The 2021-2022 school year saw a return to many of AFK's most loved programs. Some programs were slightly re-envisioned, but all were delivered with that same love and passion for students, teachers, artists and the arts.

While I am involved in most things clerical, from website updates and social media to program administration and budgeting, my favourite part of the job is helping students share their creativity with their families and friends. Whether through exhibitions of student artwork for After School Art and Artist-in-Residence Programs, or the Young Artist of the Week photo shoots, students are always so proud of the work that they create. Their smiles are so genuine that you just know that Artists for Kids is having a positive impact on their lives.



Khim Hipol
AFK & Smith Foundation Intern



Karl Hipol
AFK & Smith Foundation Intern

We would like to acknowledge Young Canada Works for their generous funding which has enabled Artists for Kids and the Smith Foundation to create meaningful job opportunities to help students and interns acquire skills in cultural and heritage sectors.

AFK PROGRAM STATISTICS

Summer Day Camps

July & August 2021

We were thrilled to be able to provide 6 weeks of summer camps for students aged 6-18. Camps were run in both the Gordon Smith Gallery (limit: 20) and the Shadbolt Studio (limit: 10) where 68 students enjoyed a safe and fun summer art experience.

Number of camps: 6

Number of students: 68

Number of bursaries: 3



After School Art

October 2021 - June 2022

AFK After School Art classes were delivered both in-person and virtually, offering families the flexibility to choose which option worked best for their unique family circumstances.

Number of classes offered: 33

Number of students enrolled: 518

Number of bursaries: 7



Spring Break Day Camps

March 2021

Forty-three campers participated in our Spring break Day Camps held in both the Shadbolt Studio and the Gordon Smith Gallery.

Number of camps: 4

Number of students: 43



AFK PROGRAM STATISTICS

Gallery Program

September 2021 - March 2022

In the fall, AFK launched a blended model for our Grade 5 Gallery Program.

AFK offered a half-day Gallery Program to ALL grade 5 classes (including split classes) in the school district. Each program, led by AFK art educators, consisted of two parts:

- an in-person art workshop in their classroom, creating art inspired by the fall teaching exhibition and
- a tour of the fall exhibition *Beyond the Horizon*, either in-person at AFK or in classrooms via MS Teams.



Spring Gallery Program

September 2021 - March 2022

K-12 classes were invited to visit the Gallery where AFK art educators led classes in a half-day interactive tour of the spring exhibition, *We Can Only Hint at This With Words*, and a hands-on artmaking activity. Through the artmaking activity, students investigated the use of pattern, shape, colour, and texture to create movement, balance, and space in abstract art.

Students were asked:

- How would you describe a feeling without using words?
- Can you describe and respond to works of art using multiple senses?

Number of primary classes: 15

Number of intermediate classes: 12

Number of secondary classes: 1

Educators supported and mentored: 71



Grade 5 students visiting the Gordon Smith Gallery and exploring the *Beyond the Horizon* Exhibition

Students were asked to consider:

- What is a horizon?
- What does it mean to go "beyond the horizon"?
- What supports and mindset do we need in order to go "beyond the horizon"?

Number of grade 5 classes visited for the in-class workshop: 71

Number of in-person gallery tours: 11

Number of virtual gallery tours: 58

Number of educators mentored: 71



Students in grades K-12 visited the *You Can Only Hint at This With Words* exhibition

AFK PROGRAM STATISTICS

Professional Development

Russna Kaur – May 2022

Painter Russna Kaur provided a hands-on painting workshop for educators as well as an Artist Talk, which was posted online as a virtual resource for educators.

Amelia Butcher – February 2022

Educators from across the district tuned-in to a virtual Artist Talk, which was later posted on our website as an online resource for all to access.

Sara Khan - March 2022

Artist Sara Khan led a virtual Artist Talk which was later posted on our website as an online resource.



Artist-in-Residence Sara Khan works with senior students



Young Artist of the Week

November 2021 - June 2022

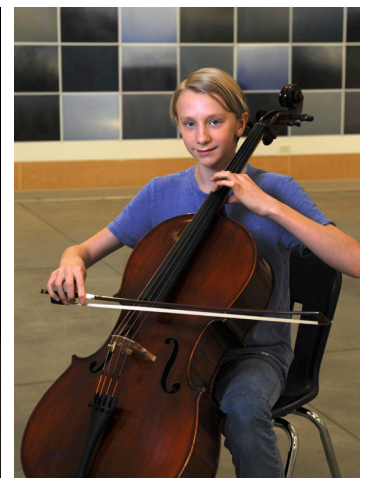
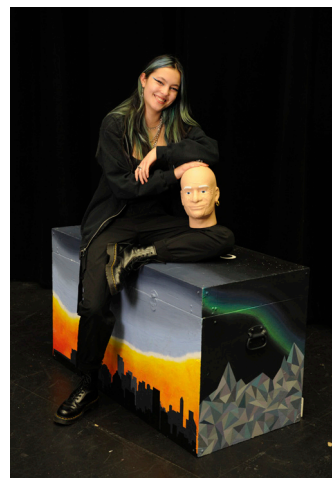


AFK Art Academy students in the art studio at Carson Graham Secondary

AFK Academy

September 2020 to June 2021

Twenty-five grade 10-12 students from North Vancouver secondary schools were enrolled in the AFK Studio Art Academy hosted at Carson Graham Secondary School and taught by Daylen Luchsinger. Virtual and in-person field trips to art galleries and artists' studios, master classes with local artist were continued, with health and safety of all participants, a priority.



Young Artists of the Week Caitlin (left), Leo (right) and Viggo (above).

AFK PROGRAM STATISTICS



Over 400 students exhibited their work at the Art from 44 District Art Show

Art from 44 School District Art Exhibit April 2022

Students K-12 at the North Vancouver School District, participated in the annual Art From 44 School Art Exhibit! This student exhibition provided a window into classroom practice and student creativity.

Schools participating: 24

Number of students exhibiting their work: over 400



Artwork by students in Mr. Bogen's AP ART class at Handsworth Secondary



Artwork created by Scholarship recipient Melis Eres

Scholarships April 2022

Three of the School District's finest Visual and Performing Arts graduates were honored with a \$1,000 scholarship to post-secondary institutions.

Number of students receiving scholarships: 3

Reid Cultural Grant June 2022

This grant traditionally provides schools an opportunity to enhance Indigenous Education at their site. This \$1000 grant was awarded to Queen Mary Elementary to assist in their work to support Indigenous Education through the lens of the Arts.

Volunteers September 2021 – June 2022

Artists for Kids depends on our volunteers for so many of the little tasks that create pressure points at various times of the year. From gathering data, following up with donors, preparing mailouts, supporting the set-up, take down and hosting of exhibitions and special events and being extra hands during inventory time, we couldn't do it without them.

This year, 21 volunteers logged a total of 267 volunteer hours. We are incredibly grateful for their support.

AFK Artists-in-Residence



Number of students in attendance: 21
Number of secondary schools: 5

ARTIST BIO

Birthe's art practice explores the relationship between memory and identity, with a special interest in the topic of female identity and its representation in our society. Her main focus is photography but she also utilizes other art forms like installation, assemblage and collage to investigate to what degree our complex identities can be visualized.

Her work has been exhibited internationally, in both solo and group shows, and is featured in many private and public collections. Birthe teaches in the Audain Faculty of Art at Emily Carr University of Art and Design in Vancouver.

Birthe Piontek

Fall 2021

Over the course of three days, students were given the opportunity to work with Birthe Piontek on a project that critically examined the difference between a self-portrait and a selfie, and how objects can be added to a portrait to communicate identity.

Students learned:

- Strobe lighting set up
- High key photography
- Low key photography
- Photography using natural light
- Photoshop skills including converting RAW images and levels
- Thinking through concepts of identity
- Self-portraiture and how it relates to the modern-day selfie
- Printing photographs
- Crafting artist statements
- Exhibiting artwork



AFK Artists-in-Residence



Number of students: 55

Number of elementary schools: 20

Resources created: 1

ARTIST BIO

Amelia Butcher is a visual artist based in British Columbia with a sculptural and drawing practice centered in clay. She graduated from Emily Carr University in 2013 and is a founding member of the Dusty Babes Collective. From 2015-2021 she lived and worked out of their communal studio, built by the late great Don Hutchinson, in Surrey, BC. She has exhibited widely and instructs classes and workshops in ceramics, sculpture and comic-making for all ages. She is a board member of the BC Potters Guild and currently works out of a studio in Vancouver, the unceded, ancestral territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations.



Amelia Butcher

Winter 2022

During two school days, grade 7 students got the opportunity to work with a professional artist Amelia Butcher. Students created their own ceramic relief tiles exploring botanical imagery and the theme of transformation. They will learned ceramics techniques including hand building and glazing.

Students learned:

- Botanical drawing
- Observational drawings of natural objects
- Hand building techniques
- Use of the slab roller
- Sculpting with clay
- Joining clay
- Glazing objects
- Press molds
- Planning and design process
- Color theory
- Principles of design



Student artwork from the grade 7 Artist-in-Residence program with Amelia Butcher.

AFK Artists-in-Residence



Number of students: 66

Number of elementary schools: 22

Resources created: 1

ARTIST BIO

Russna Kaur is an artist living and working in Vancouver, Canada. She holds a MFA from Emily Carr University of Art + Design (2019) and a BA (Honours) with a studio specialization from the University of Waterloo (2013). Kaur explores how the surface of a painting can reveal a narrative that addresses complex personal and cultural histories. Her large-scale and multi-surface paintings are developed through rigorous explorations of color, text, digital sketches, and mixed media.



Russna Kaur

Spring 2022

Grade 3 students spent two school days working with professional artist Russna Kaur. Students created bold, colourful paintings incorporating personal stories and collaged imagery. They explored painting techniques including layering, creating surface texture, colour theory, and incorporating text and collage.

Students learned:

- Layering paint
- Creating texture with paint
- Collage techniques
- Storytelling through symbols
- Colour theory
- Elements and principles of design
- Planning and design process
- Image development strategies



Student artwork from the grade 3 Artist-in-Residence workshop with Russ Kaur.

AFK Artists-in-Residence



Sara Khan
Spring 2022

For two school days, senior art students worked with professional artist, Sara Khan to create a self-portrait with watercolours, using collaged imagery, drawing, negative space, and patterning. Inspired by Khan's artistic practice, students explored image development strategies and watercolour painting techniques.

Students learned:

- Image development strategies
- Planning and design process
- Colour theory
- Principles of design and elements of art
- Watercolour techniques
- Collage techniques
- Drawing exercises
- Self-portraiture

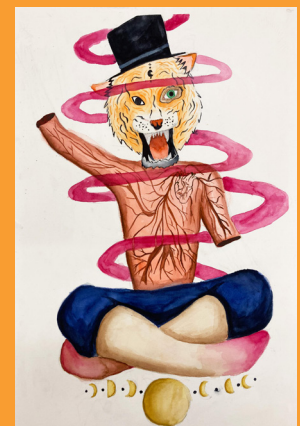
Number of students: 18

Number of secondary schools: 6

Number of resources created: 1

ARTIST BIO

Khan was born in Birmingham, England in 1984 and raised in Lahore, Pakistan. She holds a BFA (with honours) from National College of Arts, Lahore (2008). She was 1 of 13 international artists selected for the Bag Art camp, an international art residency in Bergen, Norway (2012). She was also 1 of 23 artists selected for the Vancouver Mural Festival (2018).



Student artwork from the Senior Artist-in-Residence workshop with Sara Khan

CURATORIAL ACTIVITIES

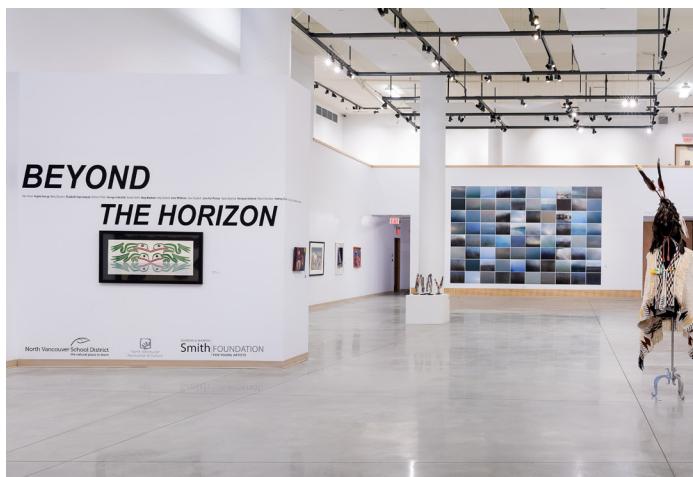
Fall Exhibition: Beyond the Horizon

September 25, 2021 - February 24, 2022

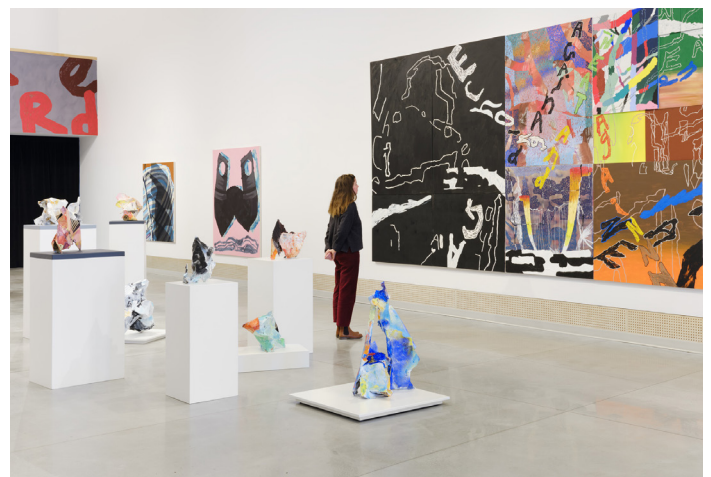
Beyond the Horizon is an expression that encourages us to consider what is “farther than the possible limit of sight, beyond what we can foresee, know or anticipate.”¹ It is both visual - what we see - and conceptual - what we know. The horizon as a metaphor provides us with an opportunity to challenge and evaluate our own ways of knowing. The artists in this exhibition expand conventional uses of materials and explore modes of making through collaboration with other artists and the land. 1. thefreedictionary.com

Featuring works by Alan Wood, Angela George, Betty Goodwin, Bill Reid Elizabeth, Angrnaqquaq, Esteban Pérez, George Littlechild, Gordon Smith, Greg Murdock, Holly Schmidt, Irene Whittome, Jack Shadbolt, Jane Ash Poitras, Karen Zalamea, Robert Davidson, Rodney Graham, Sylvia Tait, Takao Tanabe, Toni Onley and Xwalacktun

Curated by Karl Hipol



Beyond the Horizon, Fall Teaching Exhibition



We Can Only Hint at This With Words, Spring Exhibition

Spring Exhibition: We Can Only Hint at This With Words

April 23 - June 25, 2022

We Can Only Hint at This With Words is an exhibition consisting of large scale, multi-surfaced mixed media paintings by Russna Kaur, shaped cut-out paintings by M.E. Sparks, and mixed media sculptures and stop-motion video by Andrea Taylor, the exhibition will present a range of painterly material explorations. All three artists navigate the complexities of working with historical reference, and in doing so, find ways to construct their own shapes and gestures. The exhibition will explore the different ways each artist quotes, pulls apart and reshapes the historical narratives that inform their work. The exhibition will be accompanied by a Zine jointly produced by the artists and featuring texts by Yani Kong and Jayne Wilkinson.

Featuring artists Russna Kaur, M.E. Sparks, and Andrea Taylor

Curated by Kate Henderson

Artists for Kids Collection

Acquisitions

Charlene Vickers

Turtle Clan Searchers (7), 2010, acrylic, marble dust medium, polystyrene

Charlene Vickers

Thunderbird Women, 2010, original work in felt, wood buttons, thread

Russna Kaur

Butterfly Tattoos, 2019, acrylic, oil, latex, sawdust and pastel on canvas and wood panel. 96" x 72" (11 surfaces)

Angela George

Rivers have Mouths, 2020, handwoven contemporary Salish Blanket, wool

Print Sales

The total gross print sales during 2021-2022 was \$40,735.

Print Publications

There were no print publications in 2021-2022 as recorded by Finance.

Sponsorship & Donations

Artists for Kids has been fortunate to have a variety of donors and supporters who have embraced the work we do and the programs we offer. With their generosity and contributions, we have been able to expand our offerings and provide financial assistance for those families whose kids could otherwise not discover the untapped creativity inside them.

The Gordon and Marian Smith Foundation
The Leon and Joan Tuey Family
The Christopher Foundation
The Edwina and Paul Heller Memorial Foundation
The Beech Foundation
The Idea Partner Group
North Vancouver Recreation Commission
The Quan Family
The Thornton Family in Memory of Vaughan Thornton
Donald Steel
Ian Wallace
CUPE 389
ArtStarts
Heffel Fine Art Auction

Total financial donations: \$121,827

Promotion and Advertising

AFK and the Smith Foundation provided a social media calendar via Instagram, Facebook and Twitter that strategically shared programming, events and fundraising. We also promoted programs with the North Shore News, Family Fun Vancouver and the Squamish Chief.

North Vancouver School District Presents... Beyond the Horizon Choral Festival 2022

By Daylen Luchsinger, VP Arts Education

This past February after many Covid and Omicron induced pivots secondary choirs from across the lower mainland came together to learn share and grow through song. Choral directors Frank Lee and Melodie Langevin began dreaming of this festival in the late spring of 2021. Their vision was to interweave choral music with the visual arts. Working with the art exhibit Beyond the Horizon curated by Carson Graham alumni Karl Hipol in the Gordon Smith Gallery Frank and Melodie asked their colleagues to select choral pieces that aligned with this theme of Beyond the Horizon. The choirs were also asked to learn the mass choir piece "You Do Not Walk Alone" composed by Elaine Hagenberg. Under the mentorship of guest clinician Scott Liethead they collaboratively workshopped and performed this piece.

Each session was started with the sharing of the Coast Salish Anthem by Swalklanexw or Tchilaqs7Tchila. Their sharing of song, drum beat and words was an incredible gift that resonated throughout the days and opened our hearts, and minds to learn through the shared song.

There was laughter, tears of joy and a general sense of excitement. For many including the clinician Scott these were the first in person performances since the start of the pandemic. I know Frank and Melodie are already dreaming and planning for next year. I myself am excited to see how this melding of choral music and visual art exhibitions continues and am grateful for the gift of song Frank, Melodie, Scott and all the students shared with us this year.
Daylen Luchsinger, VP Arts Education

If you have a few minutes in please enjoy these recordings from the Beyond the Horizon Choral Festival.

[Seycove Secondary and West Vancouver Secondary](#)
[Carson Graham Secondary and Little Flower Academy](#)
[Handsworth Secondary and New Westminster Secondary](#)
[Argyle Secondary and RE Mountain Secondary](#)



Argyle Secondary with RE Mountain Secondary (left) and Seycove Secondary with West Vancouver Secondary (right) performing at the Choral Festival

FORWARD VISION, OUR GOALS

As a District resource, Artists for Kids will be examining and **acting upon** the following goals, supporting the overarching North Vancouver School District 2021-31 Strategic Plan for the 2021-22 school year.



Student Centered Education

Provide supports to art educators and students to build courage to teach and learn from diverse perspectives.



Innovative Instruction

Implement and model adaptable teaching strategies that embrace diverse personal journeys.



Welcoming and Inclusive Culture

Address systemic inequalities by designing welcoming, engaging and accessible learning systems and practices.



Mental Health and Well-Being

Place connection with self, others and environment at the center of our practice.



Truth, Healing and Reconciliation

“Build student capacity for inter-cultural understanding, empathy, and mutual respect. Identify teacher training needs in relation to above.”

Truth & Reconciliation Call to Action: #63



Environmental Stewardship

Place connection with self, others and environment at the center of our practice through an ethic of care.

Submitted to the North Vancouver Board of Education October 19th, 2022 on behalf of the 2021-22 Artists for Kids Management Committee:

Chair

Mark Pearmain / Chris Atkinson

Director

Allison Kerr

Secretary

Jacqui Stewart

Management Committee Members

Angelee Bulsara

Matt Burnett

Rick Chan

Cailyn Kim

Daylen Luchsinger

Kulvir Mann

Nancy Roberts

Ian Wallace

Deb Wanner

Appendix A

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 44 (NORTH VANCOUVER) - ARTISTS FOR KIDS PROGRAM

Statement of Operations - Unrestricted

Year ended June 30, 2022, with comparative information for 2021

	2022 Budget (note 5)	2022 Actual	2021 Actual
Revenue:			
Sale of prints	\$ 34,500	\$ 40,735	\$ 52,081
Less:			
Sales discounts	6,000	6,854	13,480
Sales commissions	-	445	200
	28,500	33,436	38,401
Cost of sales	12,000	7,358	18,573
	16,500	26,078	19,828
Donations	123,500	121,827	148,933
After school program fees	60,000	73,768	20,674
Summer program fees	-	-	-
Daycamp	42,770	47,927	36,100
Gallery rentals	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	11,305	12,001	11,926
	254,075	281,601	237,461
Expenses:			
Salaries and benefits	266,954	273,262	187,218
After school program	75,960	60,803	10,053
Enrichment program:			
Pullout	10,000	9,760	6,740
Exhibition	2,500	2,019	1,598
Gallery program	21,580	20,113	2,419
Day Camp	38,628	22,142	19,292
Art Academy	9,600	9,309	9,338
Summer program	-	245	-
Outreach	1,500	1,007	149
Scholarships	4,000	4,000	3,000
Professional fees	7,500	7,635	4,812
Promotion	5,000	3,470	2,144
Insurance	11,416	11,416	11,422
Credit card fees	4,000	1,952	4,482
Travel	4,450	3,043	1,625
Furniture and equipment	2,000	1,815	1,803
Supplies	4,000	3,850	4,574
Meals and Entertainment	-	106	-
Miscellaneous	2,200	1,956	1,821
	471,288	437,903	272,490
Deficiency of revenue over expenses	\$ (217,213)	\$ (156,302)	\$ (35,029)

See accompanying notes to financial statements.