



**Gordon  
Smith  
Gallery**

**Artists  
For  
Kids**

**2023/24 ANNUAL REPORT**



Photo Credit: Amelia Epp

## Director's Message

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# DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

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**Allison Kerr**  
**Director, Artists for Kids and the Gordon Smith Gallery of Canadian Art**

Artists for Kids has learned that connection is essential in all that we do. Designing welcoming places of learning that place connection at the center of our practice through an ethic of care, we are committed to building capacity for intercultural understanding, empathy, and mutual respect within our programming. Placing positive and supportive relationships as the priority in all that we do, the Gordon Smith Gallery and satellite learning spaces offer time and space through the visual arts, to nurture belonging and to share and learn from the stories that each of us hold.

This past year, our summer and spring break camps were a resounding success, with over 180 young artists exploring their story through various mediums and techniques. The After School Art program continued to thrive, engaging 447 students across multiple school sites, fostering a love for art and innovation.

The Gallery Program, a cornerstone of our educational outreach, welcomed K to 12

students, providing enriching experiences that combined gallery tours and hands-on artmaking activities. Throughout the year, our professional development workshops empowered educators with new skills, resources and connection, ensuring that art education remains vibrant and impactful in our schools.

This year, we were honored to host several distinguished artists-in-residence, whose contributions have left a lasting impact on our students. From exploring the natural world through ceramics to delving into the relationship between photography and place, these programs have provided invaluable learning opportunities for our young artists.

Our exhibitions, "The Art of Conversation" and "Prevailing Landscapes," showcased the diverse talents of Canadian artists and sparked meaningful dialogues within our community. We are proud to continue this dialogue by adding significant works to our permanent collection, enriching our cultural heritage and inspiring future generations.

Artists for Kids would like to acknowledge the continued support of the NVSD Board of Education, our donors and artists patrons, 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 for our community's continued trust and support of our programs. Together, we will continue to inspire and nurture the next generation of artists.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Allison Kerr". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

# ARTISTS FOR KIDS' TEAM

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Photo credit: Arlene Martin

Front row left to right:

Sophia Boutsakis, Communications Assistant

Daylen Luchsinger, Vice-Principal, Arts Education

Amelia Epp, District Visual Arts Teacher

Back row left to right:

Chantal Pinard, Administrative Assistant

Emily Neufeld, Studio Technician

Allison Kerr, Director, Artists for Kids and the Gordon Smith Gallery of Canadian Art

Missing from photo: Meredith Preuss, Director, Gordon & Marion Smith Foundation for Young Artists



# ARTISTS FOR KIDS' PROGRAM STATISTICS

## Summer Day Camps

July & August 2023

Campers from grades K-12 enjoyed 3 weeks of summer day camps, at the Gordon Smith Gallery, the Shadbolt Studio and at Carson Graham Secondary.

Number of camps: 5

Number of campers: 100



Young artists experimented with new materials and different artmaking techniques.

## Spring Break Day Camps

March 2023

Eighty-four campers participated in our Spring break Day Camps held in both the Shadbolt Studio and the Reid Studio.

Full day and half day options were available to support families with different needs.

Number of camps: 6

Number of campers: 84

Number of bursaries: 6



Campers enjoyed a full week of creativity, friendship & fun.



Carson Graham Secondary hosted 30 campers for Woodworking & Engineering Camp.

## After School Art

October 2023 - June 2024

AFK After School Art classes were held at a number of school sites in North Vancouver throughout the fall, winter and spring terms.

Number of classes offered: 30

Number of students enrolled: 447

Number of bursaries: 27



Outdoor artmaking under the beautiful summer sun!



# ARTISTS FOR KIDS' PROGRAM STATISTICS

## Gallery Program

September 2023 - March 2024

The highly sought-after full-day AFK Grade 5 Gallery Program was a success once again this year.

The program consisted of a gallery tour of the *Art of Conversation* exhibition and an art-making activity in the studio.

- 40 grade 5 classes participated in the program, including 2 out-of-district classes.
- Over 1,100 grade 5 students from over 20 different elementary schools visited the gallery



Grade 5 students visiting the Gordon Smith Gallery and experiencing the Art of Conversation exhibition.

Students were asked to consider:

- What is a conversation? What are examples?
- How do we communicate without words?
- How do you think hairstyles, clothing choices, or accessories might convey a person's identity, feelings, or what they want to communicate without words?

Number of classes visiting the gallery: 40

Number of educators mentored: 48

Number of elementary schools visiting: 22

Number of students visiting the gallery: 1,152



## Spring Gallery Program

April 2024 - June 2024

K-12 classes were invited to visit the Gallery where Artists for Kids art educators led classes in a half-day interactive tour of the spring exhibition, *Prevailing Landscapes*, and a hands-on artmaking activity. Through the artmaking activity, students created collaged landscapes inspired by the work of artist Krystle Silverfox.



Example of artmaking activity

Number of primary classes: 22

Number of intermediate classes: 14

Educators supported and mentored: 41

Number of students visiting the gallery: 800



Students in grades K-12 visited the *Prevailing Landscapes* exhibition during the Spring Gallery Program



# ARTISTS FOR KIDS' PROGRAM STATISTICS

## Professional Development

### **Amelia Butcher – Bringing Clay into your Classroom (Launch of AFK Clay Kit)**

October 26 & November 16, 2023

Educators from across the district learned strategies and techniques to successfully incorporate clay into their teaching practice. Educators mentored: 19

### **Introduction to AFK Printmaking Kit for Elementary Educators with Paul Best**

October 20, 2023

In this workshop, Art Specialist Teacher Paul Best walked teachers through printmaking lessons designed specifically for elementary grades.

Educators mentored: 22

### **Artist Talk & Sculpture Workshop for Secondary Teachers with Parvin Peivandi**

October 20, 2023

Parvin Peivandi gave an artist talk, discussing her processes, techniques, and artistic influences. She also provided a hands-on workshop, leading a mixed media sculpture lesson inspired by her art practice and designed for secondary and intermediate classrooms.

Educators mentored: 13

### **Mini Monsters with Lexy Ho-Tai**

February 16, 2024

Lexy Ho-Tai worked with educators to build sculptural creatures using found recycled materials and provided a lesson plan for designed with cross-curricular teaching in mind.

Educators mentored: 20

### **Secondary Teachers' Lesson Swap**

May 3, 2024

Secondary art teachers from 7 different secondary schools in North Vancouver and West Vancouver came together to share successful teaching practices and lessons.

Educators mentored: 12



The Clay Kit was launched providing educators with the tools to bring clay into their classrooms.



## Young Artist of the Week

November 2023 - June 2024

Young artists in dance, drama, music and art, were profiled and acknowledged by Artists for Kids and the North Vancouver School District via social media, a personal letter and certificate.

Number of your artists celebrated: 20



Young Artist of the Week Dylan from Queensbury Elementary

# ARTISTS FOR KIDS' PROGRAM STATISTICS



Over 375 students exhibited their work at the Art from 44 District Art Show

## Art from 44 District Visual Art Show April 2024

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 student voice and creativity.

Schools participating: 23  
Number of students exhibiting their work:  
over 375

## Artists for Kids Studio Art Academy September 2023 to January 2024

Twenty-four grade 10-12 students from North Vancouver secondary schools were enrolled in the Artists for Kids Studio Art Academy hosted at Sutherland Secondary School and taught by Daylen Luchsinger. In-person field trips to art galleries and artists' studios, master classes with local artists were held throughout the term.

## Reid Cultural Grant January 2024

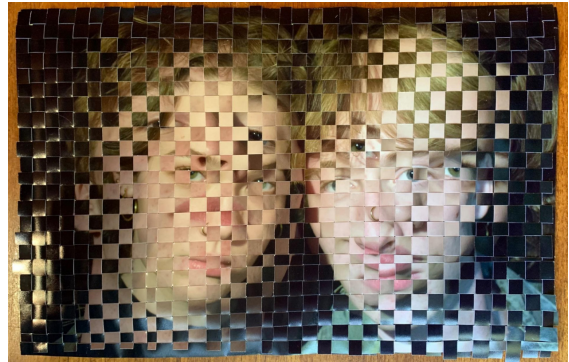
This grant provides schools an opportunity to enhance Indigenous Education at their school site. This \$1000 grant was awarded to Blueridge Elementary.

## Scholarships

April 2024

Two of the School District's visual and performing arts graduates were honored with a \$1,000 scholarship to support their post-secondary pursuits.

Number of students receiving scholarships: 2



Artwork created by Scholarship recipient Kate Purdy

## Volunteers

September 2023 – June 2024

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 mail outs, supporting 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, 23 volunteers contributed 758 volunteer hours.





# Paradise Valley Summer School of Visual Art



## Artist-in-Residence: Charlene Vickers

Charlene Vickers is an Anishinaabe artist based in Vancouver. Born in Kenora, Ontario and raised in Toronto, Vickers' painting, sculpture, and performance works explore memory, healing, and embodied connections to ancestral lands.

Vickers is the recipient of the VIVA Award in 2018, and recent exhibitions include a solo exhibition at the University of Saskatchewan in 2022 and Contemporary Art Gallery in Vancouver in 2021. The artist graduated Emily Carr University of Art and Design in 1994, Simon Fraser University in Critical Studies of the Arts in 1998 and earned her MFA from Simon Fraser University in 2013.



Art break! Campers enjoying the beautiful outdoors!

**July 10-14, 2023**

**Ages 8-15**

Number of campers: 97

Number of educators mentored: 6

Number of bursaries: 17

Number of scholarships: 1

Ninety-seven young artists enjoyed outdoor studio adventures with teams of experienced art teachers and one of Canada's finest artists. Campers received in-depth instruction in sculpture, collage, drawing, painting and printmaking, and took part in canoeing, hiking, cave exploration, campfire singalongs and a variety of fun filled outdoor games.



Bringing the studio outdoors at Paradise Valley Camp!



Creating art and memories at summer camp.

# Artists-in-Residence



Number of students in attendance: 14  
Number of secondary schools: 7

## ARTIST BIO

Michael Love was born in Chilliwack, British Columbia and is an artist and curator based in Vancouver BC. He attended both the University of the Fraser Valley and Emily Carr University of Art + Design to complete his BFA, and received his MFA in photography from Concordia University in 2009.

He has been the recipient of numerous awards and fellowships, including the Roloff Beny Travel Fellowship (2009), a Canada Council for the Arts Research and Creation Grant (2010), and the BC Arts Council Project Grant (2015, 2018). His photography has been published in Next Level, Prefix Photo and Blackflash magazines.

Love has exhibited his work both nationally and internationally. Solo exhibitions have included: Shadow Architecture, Franc Gallery (2019); Between Ideology and Ruin, Franc Gallery (2016); Three Wrongs Don't Make a Right w/ The Everything Co., Access Gallery (2013); Artek, CAFCA, North Vancouver (2013); The Long Wait, Fofa Gallery and Galerie Les Territoires, Montreal (2009), CAFCA, North Vancouver (2013); I'm With Them, UFV Gallery, Abbotsford (2006); Limitations of Use: A Spatial Metaphor, Lobby Project Gallery (2005).

## Michael Love

Fall 2023

Over the course of 3 days, senior students considered how photography impacts our relationship to place. With the North Vancouver waterways as the central location of inquiry, students engaged with the rich resources at the Museum of North Vancouver Archives to inform their approaches to the site. From working with scans of historical photographs, maps, and plans from the archive, to photographing on location, students combined historical documents with their location-based photographs.

Students learned:

- Photographing in natural light
- Researching within the archives
- Rephotographing images
- Photoshop skills including converting RAW images and levels
- Thinking through concepts of place
- Reworking images and combining them in Photoshop
- Printing photographs
- Crafting artist statements
- Exhibiting artwork



Senior students exploring the relationship between photography and place.



# Artists-in-Residence



Number of students: 45

Number of elementary schools: 23

## 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

Spring 2024

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 the natural world and the theme of pathways. They 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



Artwork in progress from the grade 7 Artist-in-Residence program with Amelia Butcher.

# Artists-in-Residence



Number of students: 19

Number of secondary schools: 6

## ARTIST BIO

Mark Johnsen (he/him) is an American visual artist living and working in Vancouver, British Columbia. His print-based practice examines the possibilities of the unique, hand-pulled impression in an era of digital reproduction. Through studies of material exploration, traditional and non-traditional printing techniques: he works to capture gestural and representational time stamps. He is the co-founder of Patio Press, a hybrid printmaking residency run alongside artist, Sara-Jeanne Bourget. He holds a BFA in Photography from California College of the Arts (2012) and an MFA from Emily Carr University of Art + Design (2020). He has exhibited throughout The United States, Canada, The United Kingdom, Turkey, Bosnia, Japan, Switzerland, and New Zealand and is currently an Assistant Professor in Print Media at Emily Carr University of Art + Design.



## Mark Johnsen

Winter 2024

In March, AFK offered an Artist-in-Residence program for senior art students, providing an opportunity to work for two school days at the AFK studios with artist Mark Johnsen. The AFK Artist-in-Residence programs provides vital skills training and the necessary dedicated time and focus that gives young artists the rare opportunity to immerse themselves in creativity and art making. During two school days, senior art students worked with professional printmaker, Mark Johnsen.

## Students learned:

- Photography in natural light
- Researching within the archives
- Rephotographing images
- Photoshop skills including converting RAW concepts of place
- Thinking through concepts of place
- Reworking images and combining them in Photoshop
- Printing photographs
- Crafting artist statements
- Exhibiting work



Student artwork from the senior Artist-in-Residence workshop with Mark Johnsen.



# Artists-in-Residence

## Sandeep Johal

Spring 2024

In May, grade 3 students had the opportunity to work for two school days at the Artists for Kids studios with artist Sandeep Johal. Students learned techniques for drawing and painting animals and foliage. They learned about colour theory and contributed to a collaborative large scale mural.



Number of students: 44

Number of secondary schools: 23

### ARTIST BIO

Sandeep Johal is a Canadian visual artist whose practice engages drawing, collage, textiles, and large-scale murals. Through her Indo-folk feminine aesthetic, she confronts themes of bleakness, despair and ugliness with their dissonant opposites: brightness, hope and beauty. Johal's work typically centers around the stories of women and while she highlights female suffering in its many forms, these are ultimately stories of resistance and resilience.

Johal has worked on a number of notable site-specific commissions including a recent mural for the Vancouver Art Gallery's inaugural #SpotlightVanArtRental project (2021), a digital projection mapping for Facade Festival produced by Burrard Arts Foundation (2019), and a 4,000 sf collaborative mural project for Vancouver Mural Festival, which centered around the Komagata Maru Episode and involved the denaming of the federal building it was painted on (2019). Her work was part of the group exhibition In/Visible: Body as Reflective Site through the McClure Gallery and Visual Arts Centre in Montreal in partnership with the IMPACTS Project (2019).



Grade 3 students learned techniques for drawing and painting animals and foliage.



Individual artworks were combined to create a mural that was displayed in the lobby of the Gordon Smith Gallery.

# CURATORIAL ACTIVITIES

## Fall Exhibition: The Art of Conversation

September 23, 2023 to February 29, 2024

*The Art of Conversation* featured artwork from over 20 Canadian artists, exploring the role of art as a platform for communication. *The Art of Conversation* drew conversational threads between the various work in the gallery, highlighting art's potential to facilitate and provoke dialogue.

Digital engagement has greatly impacted our representations of self and identity; similarly, artistic works are read through the filters of medium, material and composition. Commonalities between social media and artistic works were used as a framework for the exhibition, including thematic sections on message threads, portraiture, and representation, tagging, search histories, and conversations across cultural and generational divides.

Contemporary Canadian artists Clare Yow, Manual Axel Strain, Parvin Peivandi, Lexy Ho-Tai, and Karin Jones were invited to show their work alongside art from the AFK collection, including Graham Gillmore, Angela Grossman, Bill Reid, Kenojuak Ashevak and Atila Richard Lukacs.

Curated by Amelia Epp and Janet Wang

We acknowledge the support of the Canada Council for the Arts.



Fall Teaching Exhibition, *The Art of Conversation*



*Prevailing Landscapes* curated by Jackie Wong.

## Spring Exhibition: Prevailing Landscapes

April 12 - June 22, 2024

*Prevailing Landscapes* addressed the ways in which the Canadian landscape prevails in contemporary conceptual artistic practices. The exhibition features diverse works in painting, collage, sculpture, video, and photography by the following artists: Kim Dorland, Stan Douglas, Tim Gardner, Cameron Kerr, Krystle Silverfox, Ian Wallace, Jin-Me Yoon and Karen Zalamea.

The iconic Canadian Landscape has historically been a dominant theme in our country's visual artworks, and it remains a current area of inquiry for contemporary artists. As a subject, it is physically vast and offers a visual backdrop for art throughout different periods and genres. Historically, we have engaged with the Canadian landscape through the male gaze – a romanticised colonial perspective of the great Canadian wilderness. *Prevailing Landscapes* considers how contemporary conceptual artworks have challenged the colonial, male gaze that has shaped the discourse in the genre.

Curated by Jackie Wong with the support of The Gordon and Marion Smith Foundation.



# NEW TO THE COLLECTION

## Artists for Kids and the Gordon Smith Gallery Permanent Collection



**Anna Binta Diallo**, *A forecast of pastures, bluffs and bones*, 2023 digital collage on multilayered plexiglass, 5 ft x 5 ft, 5 panels  
Photo: courtesy of the artist and Towards Gallery. Photography by LF Documentation  
Acquired with the Artists for Kids' Acquisition Fund



**Geoffrey Farmer**, *Bouquet*, 2023 paper, wire, found bottle from the 1940's, 61 x 38.1 x 25.4 cm  
Photo: Khim Mata Hipol  
Gift of the artist



**Sara Khan**, *Renegade Mothers: Crocodile Breath*, 2023, Textile: buttons, fabric, thread and fabric glue, 96" x 36"  
Photo: Khim Mata Hipol  
Acquired with the Artists for Kids' Acquisition Fund

# NEW TO THE COLLECTION

## Artists for Kids and the Gordon Smith Gallery Permanent Collection



**Parvin Peivandi**, *Utopian Rug*, 2023  
ceramic figures, glaze and acrylic paint  
121.92 x 91.44 cm  
Photo: Khim Mata Hipol  
Acquired with the Artists for Kids' Acquisition Fund



**T & T (Tony Romano & Tyler Brett)**, *Carchitecture #1*, 2002,  
C-print, 8" x 10"  
Photo: Khim Mata Hipol  
Donated by Patrik Andersson  
& Judith Steedman



**Sandeep Johal**, *Horns of Power (Uterus Woman)*, 202, Textile 84" x 56"  
Photo: Khim Mata Hipol  
Acquired with the Artists for Kids' Acquisition Fund



**Stan Douglas**, *View of Clearcuts from Blowhole Bay (25 of 30)*, 1996, chromogenic print, 18 x 36 inches  
Gift of the artist

We gratefully acknowledge The Christopher Foundation and the Tuey Charitable Foundation for their support of the Artists for Kids' Acquisition Fund.



# ARTISTS FOR KIDS' EDITIONS

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## Print Sales

The total gross print sales during 2023-2024: \$35,412

## Print Publications

There were no print publications as recorded by Finance.

# SPONSORSHIP & DONATIONS

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Artists for Kids is grateful for the individual donors who have supported us for over thirty years.

The Gordon and Marion Smith Foundation for Young Artists

The Tuey Charitable Foundation

The Christopher Foundation for the Arts

The Idea Partner Marketing Inc.

The Edwina and Paul Heller Memorial Fund

The North Vancouver School District

The Beech Foundation

OPUS

ArtStarts

CUPE 389

Heffel Fine Art

We acknowledge the support of the Canada Council for the Arts.

Total financial donations: \$188,784.

# PROMOTIONS & ADVERTISING

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Artists for Kids and the Gordon Smith Gallery of Canadian Art along with the Gordon and Marion Smith Foundation for Young Artists provided a social media calendar via Instagram, Facebook and Twitter that strategically shared programming, events and fundraising.

The support of communication specialists DSIGN DEPT was brought in to re-brand Artists for Kids, the Gordon Smith Gallery and the Gordon and Marion Smith Foundation for Young Artists.

The [Gordon Smith Gallery Program Guide](#) was published to support the 2024-2025 school year.

# FORWARD VISION, OUR GOALS

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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 2023-2024 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 Artists for Kids Management Committee October 28, 2024.

**Chair**

Chris Atkinson

**Director**

Allison Kerr

**Secretary**

Helena Drury / Rain Hou

**Management Committee Members**

Gamelle Fitzgibbon

Rick Chan

Daylen Luchsinger / Jackie Wong

Cyndi Gerlach

John Crowley

Ian Wallace

Deb Wanner

Madelyn Hambly

Michelle Didier

# Appendix A

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

Statement of Operations - Unrestricted

Year ended June 30, 2024, with comparative information for 2023

	2024 Budget (note 5)	2024 Actual	2023 Actual
Revenue:			
Sale of prints	\$ 24,500	\$ 31,900	\$ 25,005
Less:			
Sales discounts	5,000	5,568	3,230
Sales commissions	1,500	2,777	565
	18,000	23,555	21,210
Cost of sales	9,500	6,664	6,879
	8,500	16,891	14,331
Donations	125,000	188,784	134,047
Grants - Exhibition	-	17,771	-
After school program fees	75,000	80,895	80,240
Summer program fees	85,920	78,041	59,303
Daycamp	53,150	62,308	71,883
Academy	9,000	9,744	9,428
Gallery rentals	500	-	500
Miscellaneous	3,500	6,475	8,525
	360,570	460,909	378,257
Expenses:			
Salaries and benefits	204,254	220,698	241,889
After school program	63,119	60,020	72,125
Enrichment program:			
Pullout	10,000	9,152	10,152
Exhibition	2,000	19,771	1,067
Gallery program	23,643	21,877	18,910
Day Camp	29,843	23,841	26,472
Art Academy	8,100	9,884	7,783
Printmaking	-	5,151	7,783
Summer program	47,364	74,109	53,846
Outreach	1,500	622	277
Scholarships	4,000	4,000	4,000
Professional fees	4,000	6,598	6,227
Promotion	7,000	881	5,560
Insurance	12,000	12,500	11,962
Credit card fees	1,500	1,203	1,160
Travel	3,700	3,343	2,830
Furniture and equipment	2,000	1,375	1,574
Supplies	3,500	3,724	3,428
Software	1,200	1,920	1,684
	429,223	480,669	470,946
Deficiency of revenue over expenses	\$ (68,653)	\$ (19,760)	\$ (92,689)



# **2023/24 ANNUAL REPORT**