



**Gordon  
Smith  
Gallery**  
of Canadian Art

**Artists  
For  
Kids**

**2024/25 ANNUAL REPORT**





Photo Credit: Amelia Epp

## Director's Message

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# DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Photo by Arlene Martin

The Gordon Smith Gallery is a place of discovery and connection, welcoming over 5000 young people this past year, to engage with exceptional exhibitions and art education experiences. In partnership, Artists for Kids and the Gordon and Marian Smith Foundation for Young Artists, was proud to present the 2024 Fall Exhibit, *Playhouse*; an exhibit co-curated by visual artist, Annie Canto and art educator, Amelia Epp. In the Spring of 2025, the Gordon Smith Gallery collaborated with the regional Capture Photography Festival to host the Festival's Feature Exhibition, *Stitched: Merging Photography and Textile Practices*, co-curated by Chelsea Yuill and Emmy Lee Wall, which explored the intersection of photography and textiles.

Aligning with each exhibit, the Gordon Smith Gallery was pleased to host, *Art Education, For Life*, a multi-part speaker series gathering luminaries from various fields to share the

profound impact of art education on their journeys as well as host the beloved, *Music at the Smith*. Additionally, the gallery will continued to host the beloved, *Explore and Create*, a weekly Saturday afternoon art-making workshop for children and families at zero cost for participants.

Through the gallery's exhibits, two state-of-the-art on-site studios, and multiple satellite classrooms within the lower mainland, the Gordon Smith Gallery, Artists for Kids, and the Gordon and Marion Smith Foundation continued their commitment to provide our community with meaningful engagement points for exceptional arts education and experiences.

Bottom row: Sophia Boutsakis, Communications Manager; Daylen Luchsinger, Vice-Principal Arts Education; Amelia Epp, District Visual Arts Teacher

Top row: Chantal Pinard, Administrative Assistant; Emily Neufeld, Studio Technician and Gallery Preparator; Allison Kerr, Director, Artists for Kids and the Gordon Smith Gallery of Canadian Art



# ARTISTS FOR KIDS' PROGRAM STATISTICS

## Summer Day Camps

July & August 2024

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

Number of 5-day camps: 6

Number of campers: 92

Number of bursaries: 2



## After School Art

October 2024 - June 2025

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: 31

Number of students enrolled: 431

Number of bursaries: 17

## Spring Break Day Camps

March 2025

Eighty 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.

Number of 5-day camps: 5

Number of campers: 80

Number of bursaries: 3





# ARTISTS FOR KIDS' PROGRAM STATISTICS

## Gallery Program

September 2024 - February 2025

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

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



## Spring Gallery Program

April 2025 - June 2025

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, *Stitched: Merging Photography and Textile Practices*, and a hands-on artmaking activity.



Number of elementary classes: 54  
Educators supported and mentored: 62  
Number of students visiting the gallery: 1,146

Students were asked to consider:

- What is a comic?
- What comics features help to tell a story?
- What stories do the artists featured in the exhibition create space for in their work, and why?

Number of classes visiting the gallery: 49  
Number of educators mentored: 52  
Number of elementary schools visiting: 23  
Number of students visiting the gallery: 1,194





# ARTISTS FOR KIDS' PROGRAM STATISTICS

## Professional Development

### Bringing Clay into your Classroom with Artist Amelia Butcher

October 8 & October 16, 2024

Educators from across the district learned strategies and techniques to successfully incorporate clay into their teaching practice. Educators mentored: 16

### Garbage Press: Collagraph Printmaking

October 25, 2025

In this workshop, artist Reed H. Reed shared a hands-on collagraph printmaking workshop designed specifically for elementary and secondary teachers.

Educators mentored: 24

### Text-based Art with Whess Harman

October 25, 2025

Artist and curator Whess Harman discussed his practice, including his work on exhibit at the Gordon Smith Gallery. He led an art-making session with participants using text, painting, and stitching as the starting point of a small "protest patch" artwork.

Educators mentored: 22

### Comics and Visual Storytelling with Artist Sean Karemaker

May 5, 2025

This hands on workshop for secondary art, design and photography teachers focused on comics, drawing, and visual storytelling.

Educators mentored: 20

### Educator's Gallery Tour at Polygon Gallery

May 5, 2025

Educators took part in a Gallery Tour of the Polygon Gallery led by curator Elliot Ramsey.

Educators mentored: 20

### After School Printmaking Workshop Series

May - June 2025

A series of 5 printmaking workshops were offered to accompany printmaking kits.

Number of workshops offered: 5

Number of educators mentored: 61



## Young Artist of the Week

June 2025

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 young artists celebrated: 19





# ARTISTS FOR KIDS' PROGRAM STATISTICS



## Art from 44 District Visual Art Show May 2025

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: 24  
Number of students exhibiting their work: over 360

## Artists for Kids Studio Art Academy September 2024 to January 2025

Seventeen 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, and master classes with local artists were held throughout the term.

## Reid Cultural Grant January 2025

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

## Scholarships April 2025

Three 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: 3



## Volunteers September 2024 – June 2025

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, 19 volunteers contributed 724 volunteer hours.





# Paradise Valley Summer School of Visual Art



Artist-in-Residence: Samuel Roy-Bois  
Born and raised in Quebec City, Roy-Bois' artistic practice encompasses installation, sculpture, and photography, centering on the built environment, vernacular practices, and art as an emergent phenomenon.

Roy-Bois' work has garnered national and international recognition, featured in exhibitions at esteemed institutions including the Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal, the Audain Art Museum in Whistler, and the Esker Foundation in Calgary. Additionally, his pieces are included in numerous Canadian collections, such as the Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec, the Vancouver Art Gallery, and the Simon Fraser Art Gallery. Roy-Bois was honored with the VIVA Award in 2021.

July 8-12, 2024

Ages 8-15

Number of campers: 89

Number of educators mentored: 6

Number of bursaries: 11

Number of scholarships: 1

Eighty-nine 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.





# Artists-in-Residence



## Sean Karemaker

Fall 2024

In November, Artists for Kids offered an Artist-in-Residence program for senior art students, providing an opportunity to work for two school days at the Artists for Kids studios with artist Sean Karemaker. The focus of the workshop was on comics, drawing, and storytelling. Students learned strategies for planning character, setting and plot. They created their own unique scroll comic and explored techniques such as page composition, framing, drawing with 3D shapes, inking and cross hatching.

Students learned:

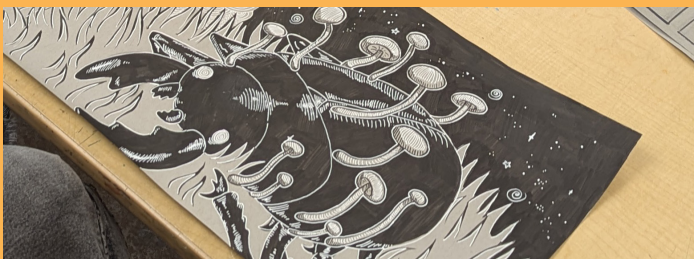
- developing key story elements
- planning characters, setting, and plot
- page composition
- framing
- drawing establishing shots
- drawing with 3D shapes
- cross hatching
- spotting blacks in comics

Number of students in attendance: 23  
Number of secondary schools: 6

### ARTIST BIO

Sean Karemaker is known for his unique form of panoramic, sequential art stories that take various forms, including graphic novels, paintings, dioramas and virtual reality. Informed by an extensive background in 3D Video Games Production and Graphic Design, His work is an intersection of personal expression in storytelling and cutting edge technology.

Sean has authored two graphic novels and his published work has been recognized by The Shuster Awards 2018, Best American Comics 2018, CBC's Best Canadian Comics 2018, and the Alcuin Society Book Design Awards. Sean's graphic sensibility translates to unique, immersive public art projects and he has been commissioned by the Vancouver Opera, Vancouver General Hospital and The Vancouver Airport.





# Artists-in-Residence



## Cindy Mochizuki

Winter 2025

In January, grade 3 students had the opportunity to work for two school days at the Artists for Kids studios with artist Cindy Mochizuki. Students learned techniques for character and world building through story, paper-cut and watercolour. Students created their own 2D creature through abstract watercolour techniques and used paper-cut to assemble the illusion of a theatrical set with varying depths.

Students learned:

- Tatebanko making (Japanese term for diorama)
- basic watercolour painting techniques
- paper-cut assemblage
- character development
- story development
- abstract creature making
- basic theories of depth perception
- light and shadow

Number of students: 24

Number of elementary schools: 48

### ARTIST BIO

Cindy Mochizuki's interdisciplinary practice explores methods of storytelling through multi-media installation, audio works, performance, animation, drawing and community engaged projects. She has created an extensive body of work on the Japanese Canadian experience particularly around food labor and the lives of Japanese settlers before WWII. These projects are realized through the engagement of historic archives, oral histories and retelling of story through various media.

Mochizuki's practice also includes projection/illustration design and scenography for theatre including shows such as East Van Panto (Theatre Replacement) and Otosan (Little Onion Puppet Co.). Her children's book Things on the Shoreline was published through Access Gallery in 2016.





# Artists-in-Residence



Number of students: 47

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

Winter 2025

In February, grade 7 students got the opportunity to work with a professional artist Amelia Butcher. Students created their own ceramic artwork exploring the natural world. 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





# Artists-in-Residence



Number of students: 19

Number of secondary schools: 7

## ARTIST BIO

Rebecca Bair is an interdisciplinary artist working across installation, video, drawing and photography. Raised in Ottawa, Bair is based in Vancouver on the traditional and ancestral territories of the Coast Salish peoples. She has exhibited widely across the Lower Mainland, including group exhibitions at the Vancouver Art Gallery and Surrey Art Gallery and a solo exhibition at West Vancouver Art Museum. Her work continues to gain national recognition and has been featured in Canadian Art and NUVO Magazine.

As an educator and facilitator, Bair centres mentorship in her work, as she uplifts Black, Indigenous and racialized youth through teaching at Emily Carr University of Art + Design, Vancouver, where she also received her Master of Fine Arts in 2020.



## Becky Bair

Spring 2025

In May, Artists for Kids offered an Artist-in-Residence program for secondary students in grades 10, 11, and 12. Over the course of two school days, students had the opportunity to work with artist Rebecca Bair at the Artists for Kids studios.

Students developed hands-on skills in alternative photographic techniques, focusing on cyanotype printing. Through this process, they learned to manipulate light and shadow using UV-sensitive materials, gaining an understanding of exposure control and composition. Students also developed skills in identifying and emphasizing patterns found in their environment, applying principles of contrast, texture, and negative space to create visually compelling cyanotype prints.

## Student's learned:

- alternative photographic techniques
- working with UV-sensitive materials
- controlling exposure times
- coating surfaces with cyanotype solution
- layering and multiple exposures
- conceptual development: place and identity
- interdisciplinary approaches to photography
- principles of design and elements of art
- exhibiting artwork
- printing photographs
- crafting artist statements





# CURATORIAL ACTIVITIES

## Fall Exhibition: *Playhouse*

September 20, 2024 - February 27, 2025

*Playhouse* featured artworks from over 20 Canadian artists and presented the Gordon Smith Gallery as a place to experience stories, meet characters, and transform the spaces we inhabit in order to unveil unseen narratives. The exhibition set the stage for us to consider ways in which the physical, social, cultural, and imagined qualities of a place are intertwined.

*Playhouse* was inspired by comics, broadly interpreted as characters acting in frames, asserting control over their own narratives. Comics are accessible forms of sequential storytelling where the reader builds a relationship with characters over time. Throughout the exhibition we encountered cultures, animation, paintings, and textiles containing active forms and figures performing within their panels and waiting to be interpreted by viewers of all ages.

The works of contemporary Canadian artists Whess Harman, Hannah Jickling and Reed H. Reed, Guná Jensen, and Cindy Mochizuki were shown alongside works from the Artists for Kids' Permanent Collection.

Curated by Annie Canto and Amelia Epp.

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



Photo by Rachel Topham Photography



# CURATORIAL ACTIVITIES



Photo by Rachel Topham Photography

## Spring Exhibition: *Stitched: Merging Photography and Textile Practices* Capture Photography, Featured Exhibition

April 3 - June 21, 2025

Photography and textiles are ubiquitous; we continuously add to our personal diary of photographs on our smart phones and are wrapped in and clothed by fabric. This exhibition explores the intrinsic relationship between textiles and photography. Photography, with its many uses for personal snapshots, evidence, surveillance, advertising, storytelling, and art, is a relatively new medium. Textiles have traditionally been dismissed as craft in part because of the gendered norms embedded within these historically domestic practices, which include sewing, beading, embroidery, knitting, lacemaking, weaving, and dyeing. Although obvious distinctions exist, there are many threads of connection between the materials and processes used in the two mediums: the natural and synthetic fibres that compose paper and thread and the chemical process of creating a photograph or dyeing fabric.

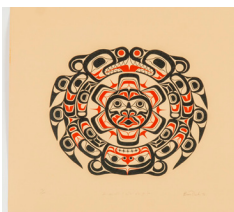
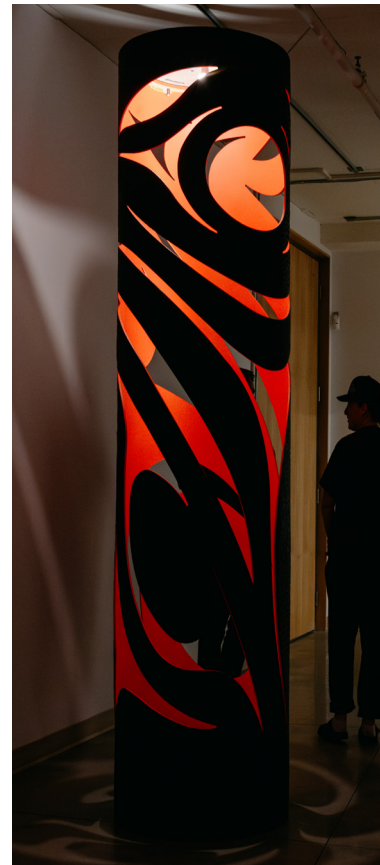
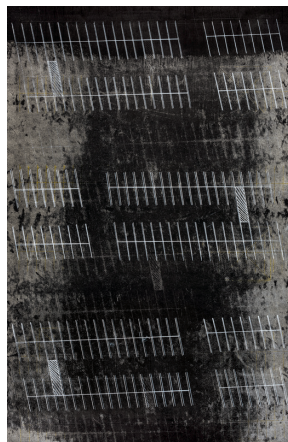
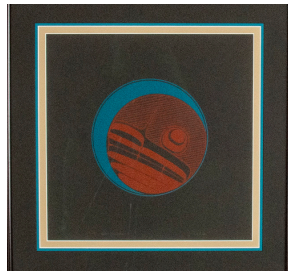
The artists in this exhibition proudly collapsed the divisions and hierarchies of these two mediums to reclaim and integrate methods of image-making into their critical practices, forming new approaches to lens-based and textile art forms. Including emerging and established artists, the artworks in this exhibition explore ritual, memory, aesthetic inheritance, technology, immigration, and colonial and embodied archives. In a cultural landscape that continues to become more and more digitized, their work asks what it means to create images that evoke the desire to touch and feel? By disrupting traditions that limit experimentation, the unexpected methods and hybridity of approaches chart new territories of what is possible in today's overwhelmingly saturated image culture.

*Stitched: Merging Photography and Textile Practices* was co-presented by The Gordon Smith Gallery of Canadian Art and Capture Photography Festival. It was sponsored by Parc Retirement Living and was generously supported by the Audain Foundation, the Timothy A. Young Family Foundation, the City of North Vancouver, the District of North Vancouver through the Arts & Culture Grants Program of the North Vancouver Recreation and Culture Commission, Artists For Kids, the Gordon and Marion Smith Foundation for Young Artists and the North Vancouver School District.



# NEW TO THE COLLECTION

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



- Christos Dikeakos, *The Music Lesson (1/3)*, 2013.  
photograph, Epson premium luster paper 2009, Archival dye print, 59" x 96", Donated by the Artist
- Robert Davidson, *Moon*, 1976.  
serigraph, 16.14" x 16.14", Donated by Alison and Robert Watt
- Lauren Brevner and James Harry, *Super Natural Eye II*, 2023.  
treated aluminum, acrylic paint, LED light fixture, 108" x 30", Acquired with the Artists for Kids' Acquisition Fund
- Jeff Wall, *A Sudden Gust of Wind (After Hokusai)*, 2022.  
inkjet print on symbol tatami 15 GSM paper, 35.5 cm x 30 cm, Edition of 300 + 30 Artist's Proofs, Acquired with the Artists for Kids' Acquisition Fund, Photo by Foundation Beyeler
- Beau Dick, *Si-si-uth and Tli-sli-gi-la (112/300)*.  
serigraph on Stonehedge Cover natural (rag) paper, 22.5" x 21.5", Donated by Alison and Robert Watt, Photo by DaVic Gallery of Native Canadian Arts
- Samuel Roy-Bois, *My Sun*, 2024.  
wood, paint and object, Acquired with the Artists for Kids' Acquisition Fund, Photo by Bobbi Barbirch courtesy of Nelson Museum Archives and Gallery
- Mark Johnsen, *Vacant Lot, I*, 2022.  
lithograph, silkscreen and monotype on Basingwerk paper, 40" x 26", Donated by the Artist
- Not pictured: *Artist for Artist series*, 2021: Graham Gilmore, Angela Grossmann, Attila Richard Lukas, Derk Root, Vikky Alexander, Rebecca Belmore and Dana Claxton, Donated by Herb and Cece Schreiber Foundation

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



# ARTISTS FOR KIDS' PORTFOLIO RELEASE

## 2024 Fall Portfolio Release

- Samuel Roy-Bois, *Goodluck series (wheelbarrow)*, 2023.  
archival pigment print on Legacy Baryta paper, 30" x 10", edition of 70
- Sandeep Johal, *I am easy to find*, 2024 .  
13 colour serigraph on Stonehedge paper, 10" x 24", edition of 30
- Anna Binta Diallo, *Red Feather*, 2024.  
archival pigment print on Hahnemühle paper, 24" x 20", edition of 25
- Anna Binta Diallo, *Prairie Girl*, 2024.  
archival pigment print on Hahnemühle paper, 24" x 20", edition of 25
- Sara Khan, *Self Portrait*, 2024.  
archival pigment print on Hahnemühle paper, 22" x 17", edition of 20



Photo by Rachel Topham Photography



# ARTISTS FOR KIDS' PORTFOLIO RELEASE

## 2024 Spring Portfolio Release

- Gordon Smith, *The Byway*, 2009.  
16 colour serigraph on Rives BFK 100% rag paper, 11.5" x 21.75", edition of 20 APs
- Michael Snow, *Smoke and Mirrors*, 1994.  
chromogenic print, pins, 40" x 28.5", edition of 50
- Wayne Eastcott, *Moodyville Notes*, 2005.  
archival inkjet, 16" x 22", edition of 15
- Karin Bubaš, *Late Winter, Lynn Creek*, 2010.  
Lightjet print, 14.75" x 44", edition of 45
- Ian Wallace, *Drums and Paint*, 2010.  
Archival inkjet print, 12" x 16", edition of 35



Photo by Rachel Topham Photography



# PRINT SALES

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## Print Sales

The total gross print sales during 2024-2025: \$51,225

# SPONSORSHIP & DONATIONS

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

The Gordon and Marion Smith Foundation for Young Artists

The Tuey Charitable Foundation

The Christopher Foundation

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.

# 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 and Facebook that strategically shared programming, events and fundraising.

The [Gordon Smith Gallery Program Guide](#) was published to support the 2025-2026 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 2025-2026 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 30, 2025.

**Chair**

Adam Baumann

**Director**

Allison Kerr

**Management Committee Members**

Helena Drury

Meghan Parker

Paul Ruben

Tara Ocejó

Amelia Epp

George Tsiakos

Ian Wallace

Deb Wanner

Michelle Didier



# Appendix A

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

Statement of Operations - Unrestricted

Year ended June 30, 2025, with comparative information for 2024

	2025 Budget (note 5)	2025 Actual	2024 Actual
Revenue:			
Sale of prints	\$ 24,500	\$ 51,776	\$ 31,900
Less:			
Sales discounts	5,000	2,600	5,568
Sales commissions	1,500	5,589	2,777
	18,000	43,587	23,555
Cost of sales	9,500	13,991	6,664
	8,500	29,596	16,891
Donations & Grants	-	17,947	84,781
Canada Council - Exhibition	20,000	20,000	16,974
Art Starts	9,500	9,800	9,800
Smith Foundation	100,000	100,000	95,000
Program Revenue			
After School Art	75,000	81,323	80,895
Paradise Valley Camp	79,849	78,019	78,041
Spring and Summer Daycamp	53,150	69,092	62,308
Art Academy	7,502	7,073	9,744
Pro-D Session	-	1,960	1,063
Misc (Interest & Gallery Rental)	4,000	3,910	5,412
	357,501	418,720	460,909
Expenses:			
Program Expenses			
After School Art	56,588	65,687	60,020
Paradise Valley Camp	70,903	71,684	74,109
Spring and Summer Daycamp	24,010	27,979	23,841
Art Academy	8,100	7,064	9,884
Enrichment Program			
Artists in Residence	11,500	10,803	9,152
Gallery Program	24,060	22,979	27,028
Outreach	1,000	1,736	622
Exhibition	2,000	21,996	19,771
Operating Expenses			
Salary and Benefits	224,144	222,705	220,698
Professional Fees	11,000	10,322	6,598
Communications and Marketing	12,500	8,693	2,801
Scholarships	4,000	4,000	4,000
Insurance and Bank Fees	13,500	13,360	13,703
Travel	3,700	1,968	3,343
Furniture and Equipment	2,000	1,250	1,375
Software Subscription	1,500	1,872	-
Copier Usage and Lease	200	2,667	-
Supplies	4,000	4,050	3,724
Special Program	-	3,365	-
	474,705	504,180	480,669
Deficiency of revenue over expenses	\$ (117,204)	\$ (85,460)	\$ (19,760)

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