

---

# NORTH YORK ARTS ANNUAL REPORT

n'A

NORTH YORK ARTS



2019

---

# WELCOME MESSAGE

On behalf of the Board and Staff of North York Arts (NYA), we would like to take this opportunity to thank all our supporters in 2019! We continued to build our arts services and programming in North York, provided opportunities for local artists, fostered and strengthened new partnerships, and engaged in more community events. We are very proud of our achievements and our continued efforts to establish a more inclusive, engaged, and sustainable arts and culture community in North York.

In 2019, we launched new programs in the community including **Drum to DJ**, a high-quality, 12-week contemporary music program for youth in two high schools; and **Northbound Exhibition Program**, a juried visual art program that showcased nine exhibitions by emerging artists at the Meridian Arts

Centre and North York Centre. This year also marked a continuation of our seniors community programming with the **Legacy Collective** (a North York-based seniors engagement initiative) based at North York Community House, and **Sunday Serenades**—a big band concert series at Mel Lastman Square. And finally, we sold out our inaugural fundraising event, **Beers & Brushes**.

This year, NYA created a board and staff development program called **Arts Connect**. Arts Connect was designed to address how NYA, as an arts service organization, could better incorporate recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission to support the process of decolonization and building right relations with Indigenous communities.

As we move into the new decade ahead, NYA will continue to work in collaboration with City Councillors, the City's Economic Development and Culture Division, artists, arts organizations, community stakeholders and our sister LASOs to provide arts programming and services outside the downtown core of Toronto. We will also continue to develop more partnerships with the public, business, educational and social sectors, as we begin to develop our next strategic plan for 2021-2024.

Finally, we would like to thank our amazing Board of Directors, staff, interns, volunteers and programming partners for all their hard work and unwavering dedication to our organization. And we are truly grateful for the financial investment we have received this year from all our public

funders, sponsors and donors that have enabled our community programming and events year-round.

Sincerely,


**Joe Borowiec**  
*Chair*

**Lila Karim**  
*Executive Director*

# Cultura Festival



North York Arts

 Mel Lastman Square



253 likes

Cultura Festival

# WHO WE ARE

North York Arts (NYA) is a non-profit organization and registered charity.

North York Arts is one of six Local Arts Service Organizations (LASOs) in Toronto whose purpose is to deliver on the City's social, economic and cultural goals outside of the downtown core. NYA was created to specifically address the needs and interests of artists, arts organizations and residents based in North York.

## VISION

An inclusive, engaged, and sustainable arts and culture community in North York.

## MISSION

To collaborate with artists, arts organizations, and partners to develop, strengthen, and promote cultural programming and initiatives for North York communities.

## OUR VALUES

**Collaboration.** We believe in the power of working with artists and partners to build a stronger community.

**Sharing.** We stand for the free and open exchange of knowledge, experiences, and ideas.

**Learning.** We are committed to investing in learning opportunities to best support our communities.

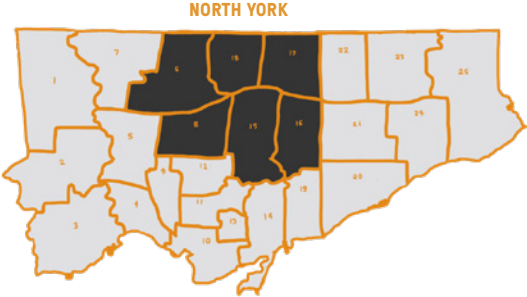
**Innovation.** We support novel and creative approaches that bring about growth in the arts and culture sector.

**Equity.** We strive to ensure fair and equal opportunities for all partners, artists, and community members.

**Integrity.** We consistently uphold our core values and our organizational responsibilities with the highest level of honesty, openness, and respect.

# WHO WE SERVE

NYA serves individuals and communities located within North York’s six wards. The six wards located in North York are: 6, 8, 15, 16, 17, 18.



We provide inclusive arts events and programs to youth, families, and seniors with a focus on programs to serve the Newcomer and Neighbourhood Improvement Area communities. In addition, we provide services and programs to support both emerging and established local artists and arts organizations.



Northbound Exhibition Program



Second Act Youth

# HIGHLIGHTS



18,032

community members  
attended and participated  
in various programs,  
events, and workshops



2,464

hours of volunteer  
community  
engagement



201

artists and performers  
contracted to  
showcase their work  
at local community  
events



98

volunteers at  
NYA programs,  
meetings, events,  
and workshops



63

community,  
sponsor, funder,  
and media  
partnerships



34

programs, events,  
and workshops  
produced, including  
citywide initiatives



6

wards  
programmed  
in North York



# PROGRAM PILLARS

**In 2019, NYA built upon our five main programming pillars, which ensured diverse and meaningful community engagement that contributed to our mission and strategic plan.**



Sunday Serenades



# 1.1

## ARTISTS IN THE COMMUNITY: CREATIVE LEADERS

- > Seniors Arts Access: with Legacy Collective
- > Drum to DJ Program

# 1.2

## ARTISTS IN THE COMMUNITY: COMMUNITY CONNECTS

- > Ephraim's Place: Summer Program
- > Second Act Youth
- > Creative Movements: Toronto Plaza Hotel
- > Anti-bullying Comic Arts Workshop
- > Community Sewing Workshop

# 2

## DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

- > Evolve! Performing Arts Program
- > Northbound Exhibition Program
- > Public Deputation Workshop
- > WorkSmarts Equitable & Anti-Oppression Workshops
- > Accounting Workshop with ArtStarts
- > Sewing Workshop with ArtStarts
- > School of Groove

# 3

## REVITALIZING PUBLIC SPACES AND CULTURAL TOURISM

- > Cultura Festival
- > Sunday Serenades
- > ThrowDown Dance Convention
- > Toronto Comic Arts Festival

# 4

## SPECIAL PROJECTS

- > Art Connects
- > Beers and Brushes Fundraiser

# 5

## VOLUNTEERISM, INTERNSHIP, AND MENTORSHIP

- > Volunteer and Internship Program
- > Professional Development Mentorship

# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



Northbound Exhibition Program

“For me, this was a huge achievement through which I got to meet a new range of audiences and gain recognition as a North York local artist that has been very helpful to my career development and my artistic practice.”

— Banafsheh Erfanian

## NORTHBOUND EXHIBITION PROGRAM

In 2019 NYA launched our formal juried exhibition program - Northbound. This professional development program, free for artists and participants, showcased a total of nine exhibitions at the Meridian Arts Centre and North York Centre. The program prioritized new-generation artists, newcomer artists, and artists with a connection to the North York community.



## Beers & Brushes

### BEERS & BRUSHES

Beers & Brushes was our inaugural (sold-out!) fundraising event in October 2019. The room was full of artists, community members, donors, and friends. The event was a casual reception with different activities, food and local talents held at the Amsterdam Brewery in North York. It was all about coming together to showcase, celebrate, and support North York's vast arts and culture sector. We are so thankful to everyone who supported us in making this night such a success. All proceeds from the event went directly towards NYA's programs.

### DRUM TO DJ

Led by Benjamin De Graaf of Love Music Initiative, From the Drum to the DJ is an after-school hands-on music program that explores the influence of African and Afro-Caribbean/Latinx drumming traditions on the evolution of hip-hop music, turntablism, and popular culture today.

Thanks to the support of the Department of Canadian Heritage, there will be two more instalments of the program in 2020 and 2021.

### ART CONNECTS

Art Connects was a cultural competency training program for NYA staff, board, and community partners funded by the Department of Canadian Heritage. Through a series of consultations with members of the Indigenous community, NYA asked: "As a non-Indigenous organization, what can we do to support the process of truth and reconciliation?" This led to several outcomes including the development of a new land acknowledgment; and an organizational commitment to authenticity, education, and balance.



Evolve! Performing Arts Program



“EARTH benefited tremendously from being a part of Evolve! If not for this process I would not have had the opportunity to explore this work so early on. It has allowed me to see what works and what I need to further expand upon.”

— Shameka Blake



# TREASURER'S REPORT

It is with great pleasure that I present the Treasurer's Report for the fiscal year of January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019. The financial highlights exhibited have been audited by the firm of Hogg, Shain & Sheck.

In 2019, North York Arts continued to maintain the appropriate governance and administrative infrastructure to support the growth of the organization. Our main sources of funding remained stable and our public funding increased from all three levels of government to support new programs and specialized community projects.

Moreover, North York Arts produced our inaugural fundraising event in October 2019, which was a great success. While raising money for the organization, we also created and strengthened relationships with donors and corporate sponsors.

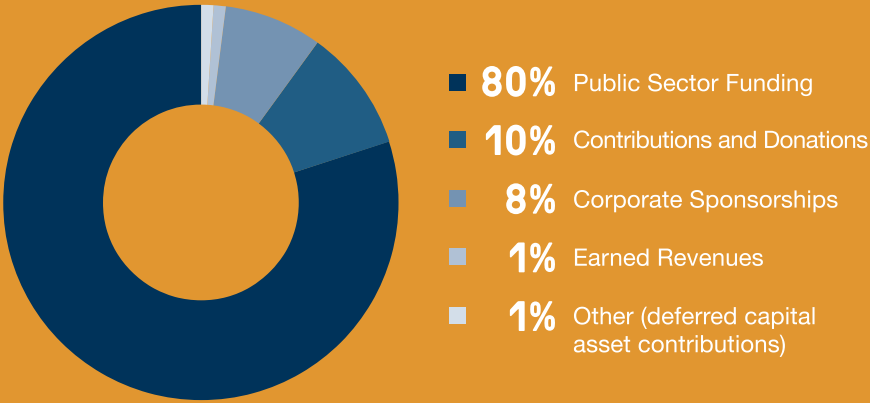
We recognize that a large percentage of revenues are still from the public sector, so we will continue to cultivate our corporate sponsors, individual donors and earned revenue streams to strengthen the revenue capacity for the long-term financial sustainability organization. One of our steps to achieve the latter was to hire a fundraising consultant for 2020 to guide the organization's fundraising strategies.

I like to take this opportunity to specifically extend my gratitude to the North York Arts Board of Directors, staff, and the Finance and Audit Committee for their exceptional commitment and work this past year. As well, I like to thank Young and Associates, and Hogg, Shain & Scheck who ensured that all financial matters are managed with care, integrity, and consistency.



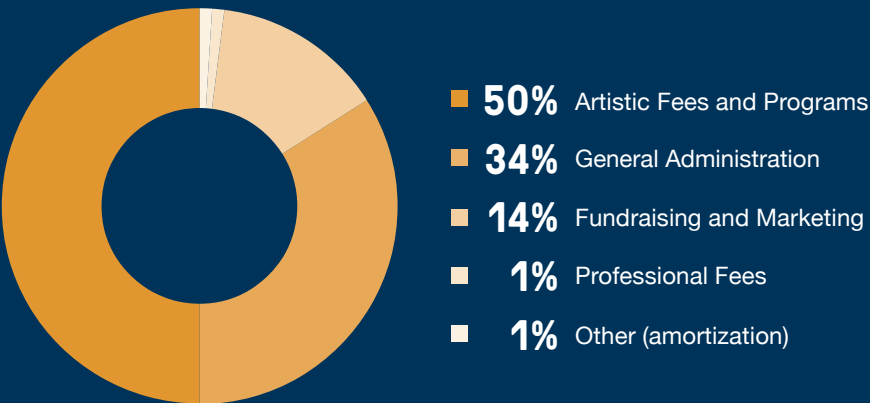
# REVENUES

---



# EXPENSES

---



The percentages presented in the information graphic for fiscal 2019 have been derived from the Financial Statements of North York Arts as audited by Hogg, Shain & Sheck. A copy of the audited 2019 Financial Statements may be obtained by contacting Lila Karim, Executive Director of North York Arts.

**At the heart of NYA are the many dedicated partners we work with. North York Arts gives our utmost thanks to all of the partners, funders, and donors who contributed to our organization and programs this year!**

## **MAJOR SUPPORTERS**



## **PARTNERS, FUNDERS, DONORS**

### **GOVERNMENT PARTNERS**

Department of Canadian Heritage  
Employment and Social  
Development Canada  
Employment Ontario  
Ministry for Senior and  
Accessibility  
Ministry of Citizenship and  
Immigration

### **CORPORATE PARTNERS**

CIBC  
Hogg, Shain & Scheck  
North York Centre

Sorbara  
St Louis Bar and Grill  
TD Bank Group

### **DONORS**

**Ambassador (\$5,000+)**  
The Hemera Group

### **Patron (\$250–\$499)**

David Oliver  
Kathleen Sloan  
Kirsten Kamper  
Lila Karim

### **Supporter (\$100–\$249)**

Bill Stephenson  
Ely Lyonblum  
John Ryerson  
Jordan Foster  
Joseph Borowiec  
Kristopher Dell  
Melissa Foster  
Mira Lax  
Nesha Karim  
Nina Zaslavsky  
Sheila Foster  
Simeon Taole and Danielle Ungara  
Susan Karnay

### **Friend (\$20–\$99)**

Anonymous  
Chhavi Malik  
Cindy Wan  
David Norsworthy  
Francesca Perez  
Heidi Stock  
Kelly Reindorf  
Michelle Herder  
Michelle Yeung  
Sonia Jog

### **PROGRAM PARTNERS**

Art Ignite  
Art Starts  
Artists in Motion (AIM)  
Bernard Betel Centre  
Casa Maiz  
Cinemascope  
Conoser  
Cultura Festival  
Culture Days  
CultureLink  
Dance Imersion  
DanceWorks  
Dispatch Talent

Ephraim's Place  
Great Gulf Doors Open  
Love Music Initiative  
MalPensando  
Muse Arts  
Neighbourhood Arts Network  
North York Community House  
School of Groove  
Toronto Comic Arts Festival  
TOES FOR DANCE  
Toronto Arts Council  
Toronto Outdoor Art Fair  
Toronto Public Library  
Work in Culture  
ZESTcreative

### **SISTER LASOs**

Arts Etobicoke  
East End Arts  
Lakeshore Arts  
Scarborough Arts  
Urban Arts

### **MEDIA PARTNERS**

Metroland Media  
Snapd North York

### **VOLUNTEER PARTNERS**

Art Gallery of Ontario  
Hot Docs

### **SUPPLIER PARTNERS**

Palette Art Supplies

### **EDUCATIONAL PARTNERS**

Western University

### **Staff**

Lila Karim - Executive Director  
Melissa Foster - Program and Outreach Director  
Cecilia Garcia - Program and Volunteer Manager  
Rachel Birnberg - Development and Communications Manager  
Kavita Gurm - Communications Assistant

### **Producers, Program Coordinators and Event Staff**

Brant Matthews  
Cecilia Acevedo  
Charlotte Young-On  
Derek Andrews  
Ebony Vinai-Singer  
Fanny Martin  
Kiersten Tough  
Piort Mrugacz

### **Indigenous Consultants**

Aqua Nibii Waawaaskone  
Joanne Dallaire  
Maria Montejo  
Veronica Johnny

### **Intern**

Brett Cormier

### **Board**

Joe Borowiec - Chair  
Kristopher Dell - President  
Jason Ho - Treasurer  
Susan Karnay - Secretary  
Bill Stephenson  
David Oliver  
Diana Panagiotopoulos  
Kathleen Sloan  
Kirsten Kamper  
Milleen Kung  
Nina Zaslavsky  
Umair Jaffar

### **Committee Members**

Cindy Wan  
Chhavi Malik  
Julian Carvajal  
May Chook  
Mira Lax  
Susan Wright

### **Volunteers**

Every year, NYA works with so many wonderful volunteers! Whether it's photographing our events, helping on-site at our summer festivals, or working hard at our programs and events, your dedication does not go unnoticed! Thank you for your commitment to NYA and the arts and culture sector in North York. Your contribution has been so valuable to our team and most importantly, our community! We can't wait to work with you again.

### **Photo Credits**

Ricky Yu, Jeff Sun, CJ Aggarao, and Elle Choi

# LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge that North York is the traditional land of the Huron-Wendat, the Seneca, Haudenosaunee and most recently, the Mississaugas of the Credit River. We also acknowledge that Toronto is covered by treaty 13.

This territory is the subject of the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, a treaty between the Anishinaabe, Mississaugas, and Haudenosaunee that bound them to share the territory and protect the land. Subsequent Indigenous Nations and peoples, settlers and all newcomers, have been invited into this treaty in the spirit of peace, friendship and respect.

North York Arts recognizes that truth and reconciliation is a continuous process and while this land acknowledgement is a crucial step, our organization has much more work to do. By adhering to our values and leading with authenticity, we are committed to building positive relationships with Indigenous peoples, the wider community, and the environment.

We aim to create shared spaces where we honour art as an expression of spirit and a platform for storytelling. We will continue to educate and be educated, and we will strive for balance in all of our relations. By creating these opportunities, it is our hope that we foster a more inclusive, engaged, and sustainable North York community for generations to come.

We are truly grateful to be able to work and create on this land.



NORTH YORK ARTS

5040 Yonge St.  
Toronto, ON, M2N 6RB  
416.733.9388  
[info@northyorkarts.org](mailto:info@northyorkarts.org)  
[www.northyorkarts.org](http://www.northyorkarts.org)

Charitable #: 78092 3892 RR0001

   @NorthYorkArts