

Annual Report 2020



Message from the Executive Director and the Board Chair

Throughout the pandemic North York Arts (NYA) has been working to connect our communities to the arts and each other. We continued to build our arts services through virtual and remote programs, provided opportunities for local artists, and we fostered and strengthened new partnerships. We adapted quickly to connect residents to the arts and we provided support while communities grappled with loss, isolation and uncertainty. On behalf of the Board and Staff of North York Arts, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all our supporters in 2020; we could not have done it without your continued support.

During this unique and challenging time, we also reflected on and strategized for the future of arts programming in Toronto post-pandemic. We continue to explore and experiment with online platforms and alternative models of programming that we hope will broaden and enhance the arts sector.

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR AND THE CHAIR



NYA Staff and Board Strategic Planning
Session with CPAMO (September 2020)

In the midst of a year of change, NYA board and staff created a new strategic plan to guide our work for 2021-2024. We used learnings from consultants and stakeholders, insights from programs such as Arts Connects, and our pandemic reflections to inform our plan. Now, for the next three years, our goals and action steps are clear with the guidance of the following strategic directions: enhance local arts programming & connections in North York, build organizational resilience and capacity, and create systemic change for the organization.

NYA also acknowledges the ongoing work required to ensure equity in the arts. We have a responsibility to undo, unlearn, and re-educate ourselves to become better allies

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR AND THE CHAIR

to the Indigenous, Black, POC, 2SLGBTQ+ and all other communities that face marginalization. While adhering to our values and leading with authenticity, NYA will continue to work towards change for the organization.

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 over the past year. 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.

As we move into 2021, NYA's 10th anniversary, we will continue to work in collaboration with City Councillors, the City of Toronto's Economic Development and Culture Division, artists, arts organizations, community stakeholders and our sister LASOs to provide arts programming and services outside the City's downtown core. We will also continue to develop partnerships with the public, business, educational, and social sectors. It is our hope and plan that NYA will continue to bring the connection and impact that the arts can provide as a way to enrich the lives of people in North York.

Joe Borowiec
Board Chair

Melissa Foster
Interim Executive Director



NYA Staff (L-R) Kavita Gurm, Cecilia Garcia, Lila Karim, Rachel Birnberg, and Melissa Foster (April 2020)

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.

VALUES

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

◆ Collaboration

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

◆ Innovation

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

◆ Sharing

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

◆ Equity

We strive to ensure fair opportunities and outcomes for all partners, artists, and community members.

◆ Learning

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

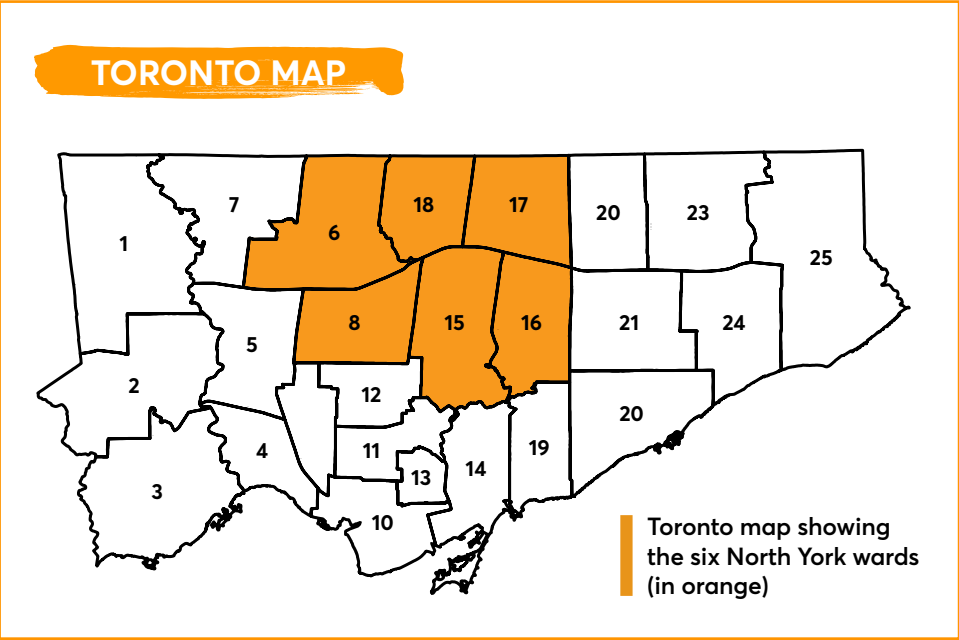
◆ Integrity

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.

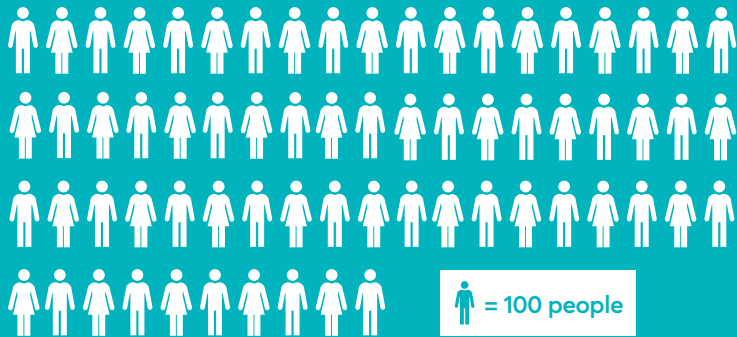
We provide inclusive arts events and programs to youth, families, and seniors with a focus on programs to serve the Newcomer and Neighbourhood Improvement Area communities. In addition, we provide services and programs to support both emerging and established local artists and arts organizations.



Highlights

6,692

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



57

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



Toronto Mycelial Network. Artwork by Vilma from Legacy Collective (June 2020)

35

community, sponsor, funder, and media partnerships

26

programs, events, and workshops produced, including citywide initiatives

6

wards in North York and beyond serviced by programs

Program Pillars

In 2020, NYA continued to build upon our five main programming pillars through various programs that ensured diverse and meaningful community engagement.

1 ARTIST IN THE COMMUNITY

- ◆ Drum to DJ
- ◆ Seniors Animation Program
- ◆ My Story My Own Voice: WhatsApp
- ◆ Northwood Community Centre Black History Month Art Gala
- ◆ Second Act Seniors
- ◆ Second Act Online
- ◆ Creative Arts: Toronto Plaza Hotel
- ◆ Heroes Battle Bullying Comic Arts
- ◆ Semillitas Latinas – Summer Camp

2 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

- ◆ Mentor in Residence
- ◆ Artist networking and mentorship sessions – Northbound Program
- ◆ TAC Grant Writing Workshop
- ◆ Deputation workshops
- ◆ Designing Accessible Futures

3 REVITALIZING PUBLIC SPACES AND CULTURAL TOURISM

- ◆ Big Band Exchange (Sunday Serenades)
- ◆ NYA Colours

4 SPECIAL PROJECTS

- ◆ Art Connects
- ◆ Toronto Mycelial Network
- ◆ Nuit Blanche

5 VOLUNTEERISM, INTERNSHIP, AND MENTORSHIP

- ◆ School of Groove – Youth Council
- ◆ Blank Canvas
- ◆ Patchwork Collective
- ◆ Jane Stories – Sarvenaz Rayati
- ◆ Centennial Student Mentorship

Program Highlights



Second Act Seniors
ESL Program
(February 2020)

Like most organizations in our sector, this year challenged our team to reimagine and innovate to provide safe, engaging, and relevant arts programming for the North York community. While some programs were sadly cancelled or postponed, others were thoughtfully adapted and some even created. Below are some programs we'd like to highlight from this past year.

YouTube for Beginners

After consulting with youth from our ESL Creative Arts Program, Second Act, we determined that participants had a common interest in YouTube content and YouTube creators. Taking our insights and adapting to online programming, we partnered with Urban Arts and Toronto artist and YouTuber, Melissa Falconer, to create YouTube for Beginners. YouTube for Beginners is a comprehensive and interactive course designed to teach young creatives how to start and grow their own YouTube channel. Participants learned how to plan, strategize, and create content, how to optimize their videos for growth, and how to remain consistent so they could reach their individual goals.

This 5-week program was a huge success with the participants, all of which have started planning their YouTube channel. We hope to continue this program for North York youth from here on out!

YouTube for Beginners participants
(November 2020)



TESTIMONIAL

“ I liked that we got to learn a lot about YouTube from a creator’s viewpoint. I like that the program helped me narrow down my true interests and what content I will enjoy making the most. ”

– YouTube for Beginners Participant

The Animation Project

The Animation Project (previously known as the Seniors Animation Project), was run in partnership with Toronto Animation Image Society (TAIS), and funded by the Government of Canada. With a lot of care, this once in-person program had to be adapted online. Ultimately, our team delivered a 16-week digital animation course for adults ages 55+. Participants had the opportunity to connect with peers, channel their creative expression, and develop digital literacy. At the end of the course, each participant created a unique and personal animation that was premiered online on Giving Tuesday. We are so proud of everyone involved in this project!

The Animation Project senior participants
(October 2020)



TESTIMONIAL

“It allowed me to approach reality in a different way. Now I perceive animation as a new world, where I can give life to whatever object I choose. With this technique I feel like a magician!!”

– The Animation Project Participant

#NYAColours

Six feet apart, but more together than ever! North York got a pop of colour in August 2020 when local artist Jieun June Kim transformed Mel Lastman Square’s amphitheatre with her vibrant artwork. #NYAColours was a creative way to encourage safe social distancing while reminding North York residents of the artistic community that surrounds us. Jieun used spray chalk with custom stencils to mark safe seating areas and bring beautiful rainbow colours to the square. Thanks to our partners at Art of Festivals and Cinemascope for helping to make this possible!

TESTIMONIAL

“With #NYAColours, we got to play on Mel Lastman Square as a blank canvas, sparking some joy even though we couldn’t gather.”

– Fanny Martin, NYA Colours Producer

NYA Colours, Social Distancing Art Installation (August 2020)



Treasurer's Report

It is with great pleasure that I present the Treasurer's Report for the fiscal year of January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020. The financial highlights exhibited have been audited by the firm of Hogg, Shain & Sheck.

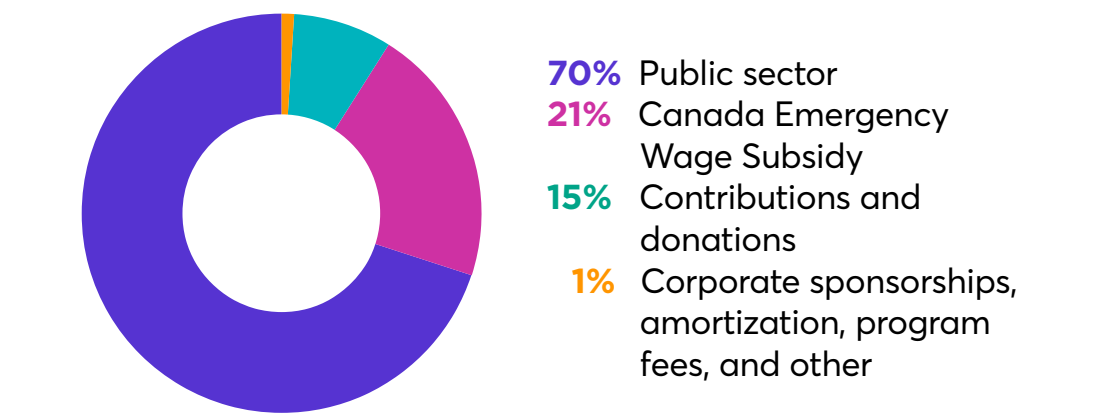
With all the challenges of the pandemic in 2020, North York Arts was able to sustain its operations due to the incredible and responsive support from our municipal, provincial and federal government. Similar to other arts organizations, our community programming mainly pivoted online and continued throughout the year. The Board took this opportunity during the year to build out a foundational operational reserve to ensure that North York Arts can financially respond to changes in the future.

As we move forward into our 10th anniversary with our new strategic plan (2021-2024), we will continue to cultivate our corporate sponsors, individual donors and earned revenue streams in order to strengthen the revenue capacity for long-term financial sustainability.

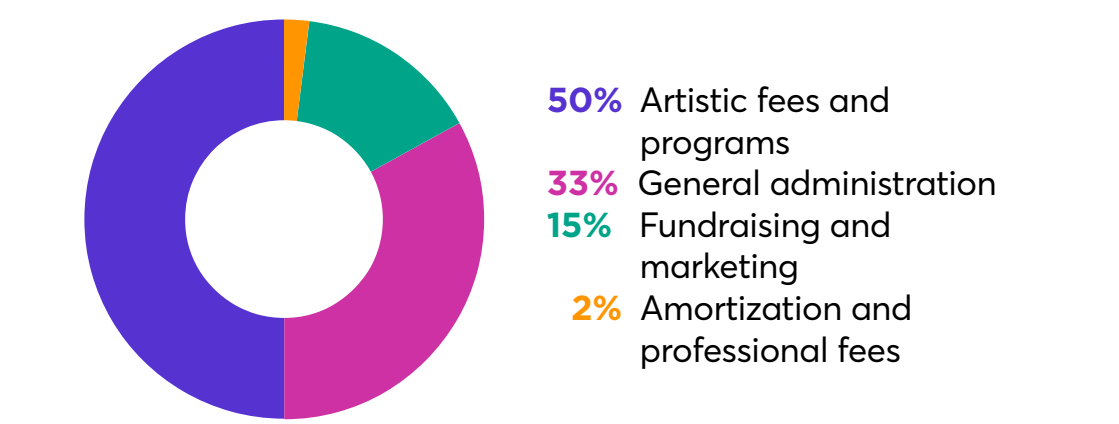
I like to take this opportunity to specifically extend my gratitude to the North York Arts Board of Directors, Staff and the Finance & Audit Committee for their exceptional commitment and work this past year. As well, I would like to thank Young Associates, and Hogg, Shain & Scheck who ensure that all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

Bill Stephenson, CPA, CMA
Board Treasurer

Revenues



Expenses



The percentages presented in the information graphic for fiscal 2020 have been derived from the Financial Statements of North York Arts as audited by Hogg, Shain & Scheck. A copy of the audited 2020 Financial Statements may be obtained by contacting Melissa Foster, Interim 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 and Funders

GOVERNMENT PARTNERS

Canada Council for the Arts
Department of Canadian Heritage
Employment and Social
Development Canada
Ministry for Senior and Accessibility
Ministry of Citizenship and
Immigration
Toronto Arts Council

CORPORATE PARTNERS

Minto Communities

FOUNDATIONAL PARTNERS

Metcalf Foundation
United Way

PROGRAM PARTNERS

A. Weiss Comics
Art of Festivals
Casa Maiz
Cinemascope
Community Arts Canopy
Cultura Festival
Cultural Hot Spot
CultureLink
Downsview Collegiate
Emery Collegiate
Legacy Collective
Love Music Initiative
M.Falconer
Muse Arts
Neighbourhood Arts Network

North York Community House
School of Groove
The Cyborg Circus Project
The Disabled List
Toronto Animated Image Society

SISTER LASOs

Arts Etobicoke
East End Arts
Lakeshore Arts
Scarborough Arts
Urban Arts

Donors

AMBASSADOR (\$500+)

Hogg, Shain & Scheck
Nesha Karim

PATRON (\$250–\$499)

Anonymous
Joseph Borowiec
David Oliver
Diana Panagiotopoulos
Kathleen Sloan
Jonathan Stewart
Lila Karim
Vimbai Chikore

SUPPORTER (\$100–\$249)

Andrea Langford
Anonymous
Bill Stephenson
Claire Hopkinson
David Di Giovanni
Elka Weinstein
Ely Lyonblum
John Ryerson
Kirsten Kamper
Matias de Dovitiis
Melissa Foster
Milleen Kung
Mira (KatzBlumenthal) Lax

SUPPORTER (Cont'd)

Nina Zaslavsky
Sheila Foster
Simeon Taole and Danielle Ungara

FRIEND (\$20–\$99)

Anonymous
Bennett McCardle
Brenda Blake
Cathryn Levine
Cindy Wan
Ellen Valter
Eva Bild
Heidi Stock
Ike Zimbel
James & Frances Barry
Janet Bacon
Jasmine Vanstone
Jessica Fuentes
Jessica Singh
Lynn To
Marta Lapena
Mary Pompili
Patricia MacLeod
Shawn Stillman
Stephanie Rallis
Susan Karnay
Tenny Nigoghossian

Staff and Board of Directors

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

Ebony Viani-Singer
Fanny Martin
Julian Carvajal

CONSULTANTS

Aqua Nibii Waawaaskone
Charles Smith
Joanne Dellaire
Maria Montejo
Veronica Johnny
Victoria Glizer

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Susan Karnay, Secretary
Bill Stephenson, Treasurer
David Di Giovanni
Diana Panagiotopoulos
Elka Weinstein
Jason Ho
Jessica Singh
Jonathan Stewart
Kathleen Sloan
Milleen Kung
Mira Lax
Nina Zaslavsky
Umair Jaffar

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Susan Wright
Cindy Wan
Sandra Huh
Aitak Sorahitalab

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

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