

# NYA'S ANNUAL REPORT

10 Years of  
Impact

# 2021



# LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



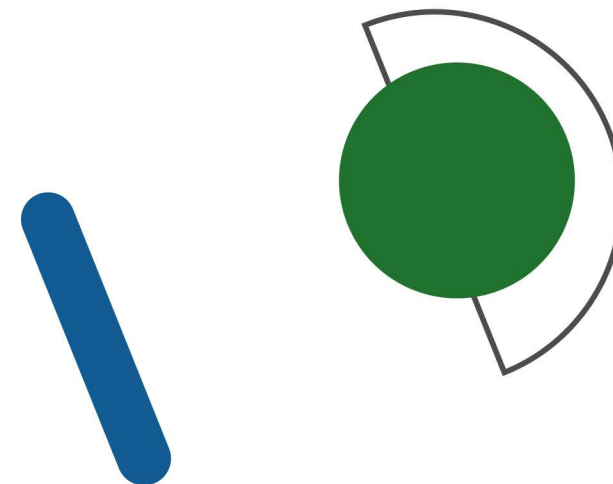
We acknowledge that North York is the traditional land of the Huron-Wendat, the Seneca, Haudenosaunee and most recently, the Mississaugas of the Credit River. We also acknowledge that Toronto is covered by treaty 13.

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.





# WHO WE ARE

North York Arts (NYA) is a non-profit organization and registered charity. We are one of six Local Arts Service Organizations (LASOs) in Toronto.

## Vision

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

## Mission

To collaborate with artists, arts organizations and partners to produce and strengthen local arts programming for North York communities.

## Sharing

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

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

## Innovation

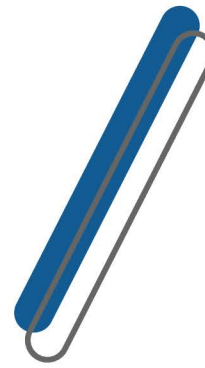
We support novel and creative approaches that bring about growth in the arts and culture sector.

## Equity

We strive to ensure fair opportunities and outcomes 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 6 wards: 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.



# A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2021 marks North York Arts' 10th anniversary! During this milestone year, we at North York Arts (NYA) celebrated our past and set course for a new future, while maintaining our commitment to connecting our communities to the arts and to each other through our programming. A few highlights from this past year:

- NYA's Northbound exhibition program offered emerging North York-based artists the opportunity to participate in their first professional, curated exhibition - providing them with financial support of their artwork, mentorship in their professional practice and promotion of their work.

- The Animation Project taught seniors stop motion animation over Zoom. Participants learned artistic skills and increased their digital literacy.
- NYA's 10th year anniversary virtual exhibition engaged 30+ arts workers, including 10 commissions. A comprehensive review of the past ten years is available on our website!
- With the Mapping Our Neighbourhoods program we engaged youth from Jane and Finch to create an interactive, online map, illustrated by youth and accompanied by audio descriptions of their favourite local spots! The map is also viewable on NYA's website.



While continuing to build on successful past programming, NYA also acknowledges the need for continued work to improve equity in the arts and our reconciliation with Indigenous communities. While adhering to our values and leading with authenticity, NYA will continue to work towards being better allies to Indigenous, Black, POC, 2SLGBTQ+ folx and other equity deserving communities.

We could not do what we do without support from our incredible Board of Directors, staff, interns, volunteers and programming partners. We wish to extend our sincere thanks for their



hard work and unwavering dedication and resiliency over the past year. NYA's Board of Directors provided leadership as we navigated a number of transitions in NYA staff. The NYA board committees worked hard to revise financial policies, develop new fundraising strategies, and recruit new board members. NYA staff worked tirelessly to deliver exciting, community-focussed programs to residents of North York.

The 2021 year marks the final year of service for four long-time board members. They are Joe Borowiec (Chair), Diana Panagiotopoulos, Jason Ho and Kathleen Sloan. Their outstanding service, leadership, and dedication is truly appreciated. All

four played key roles to ensure that the board performed its strategic and fiduciary responsibilities at a high level. As their terms come to an end, they hope that they leave NYA in a better position to continue its work in the communities and with the artists it serves.

On behalf of the Board and Staff of North York Arts, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all our funders in 2021, including individual donors, foundations, municipal, provincial and federal funders as well as private sponsors and in-kind support from businesses and individuals.

Our community programming and year-round events could not exist without this integral support.

As we look ahead, we will continue to develop partnerships with the public, business, educational, and social sectors. We are thrilled to welcome four new members to the Board of Directors and we will continue to foster the connection and impact that the arts can provide as a way to enrich the lives of people in North York.

Sincerely,

**Joe Borowiec**  
Board Chair

**Christina Giannelia**  
Executive Director






# 2021 HIGHLIGHTS

**80** Artists served

**420** Program  
Attendees

**2799** Audience  
Members

**18** Programs Held



# PROGRAMMING AT NYA




For the past 10 years, NYA has been celebrating creativity, diversity and talent through inclusive and accessible community arts programming. We serve and connect the community by designing programs specifically for and with North York artists and arts lovers alike. NYA leads the community arts sector - advocating for meaningful change and pushing boundaries towards a more equitable, innovative and bright future. Our programming supports arts professionals to evolve and take the next step in their artistic practice.

NYA has and will continue to provide inclusive arts events and programs to seniors, children, youth, and families, including programs serving the Newcomer and Neighbourhood Improvement Area communities within North York.

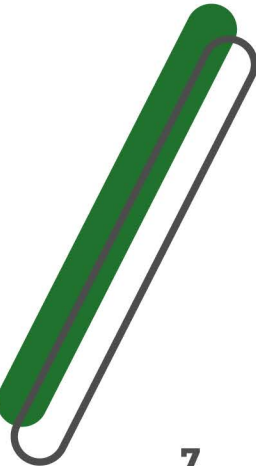
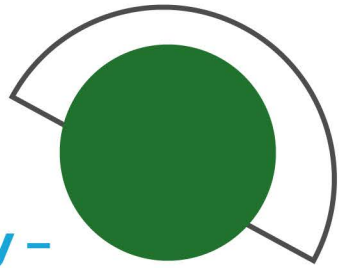
# 2021 PROGRAMMING



- + **Art Connects: I-talks**
  - + **Big Band Exchange**
  - + **Creative Wellness Strategies**
  - + **Designing Accessible Futures**
  - + **From Drum to DJ**
- 

- + **Mapping Our Neighbourhoods**
  - + **Mobile Architecture Structure Project**
  - + **Mother Africa – Rhythm and Movements Dance Program**
  - + **Northbound Exhibition Program**
- 

- + **NYA's 10th Anniversary – Podcasts and Commissions**
- + **Our World of A Thousand Colours**
- + **Patchwork Group: Ropa Vieja**
- + **Second Act: Seniors**
- + **Second Act: Youth**
- + **The Animation Project**
- + **Youtube for Beginners**
- + **Youtube for Beginners: Success Beyond Limits Partnership**







# 2021 PROGRAMMING HIGHLIGHTS

# 10th ANNIVERSARY PROGRAMMING



## Artist Commissions

In these 10 years, we have engaged with hundreds of artists. The artist commissions provided us with an opportunity to highlight their work and to give these artists the space to tell us what NYA means to them within each of their art forms, emotions, perspectives, and feelings.

## Podcasts

Julián Carvajal, our 10th-anniversary producer, had the opportunity to interview the CEO and President of the Toronto Arts Foundation and Arts Council, first Board Member of the organization, community consultants, and seven others who have been an integral part of North York Arts. Each week, we featured a podcast that offered our community the opportunity to learn about North York Arts and its beginnings and impact through the voices of influential members of our network. All of these conversations can be heard on our website!

# MAPPING OUR NEIGHBOURHOODS

In the Summer of 2021, we produced a program where four artists and youth from the Jane and Finch and Black Creek neighbourhoods gathered over 6 sessions to give North York a glimpse into their neighbourhood.

With the mentorship of Daniel Rotsztein, participants were invited to create an interactive online map, illustrated entirely by our youth participants. This map was also accompanied by audio descriptions of

their favourite local spots, and each participant wrote a personal narrative about the community they call home. Loocresha GD, Mindy H, Navpreet S and Shristi R have created a work of art that shows what this neighbourhood means to the people who live there.

The map can also be viewed and explored on our website!





# NORTHBOUND ART EXHIBIT

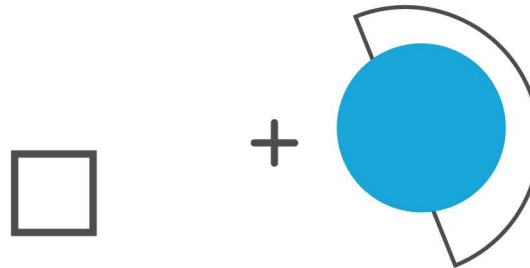
We had the chance to work with five emerging North York based artists in the digital realm to create a one-of-a-kind online exhibition featuring new work by Anna Kavemehr, Ashley Beerdat, Meraki Project, Aqsah Shah, and Anahita Akhevan.

Our artists explored themes of isolation, separation, and the changing world of the pandemic at a time when the artistic landscapes was uncertain.

These artists were given the opportunity to participate in their first professional, curated

exhibition and were provided with financial support of their artwork, mentorship in their professional practice and promotion of their work.

Each artist created a video introducing their exhibitions which can be seen on our YouTube channel.



## 2021 – DIGITAL EXHIBITION

### FEATURING:

Anna Kavehmehr, Meraki, Ashley Beerdat, Aqsah Shah, and Anahita Akhasan



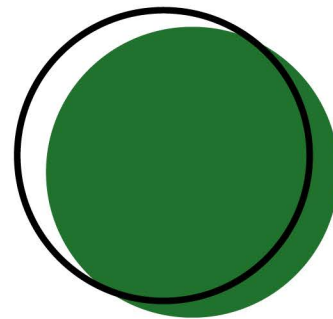
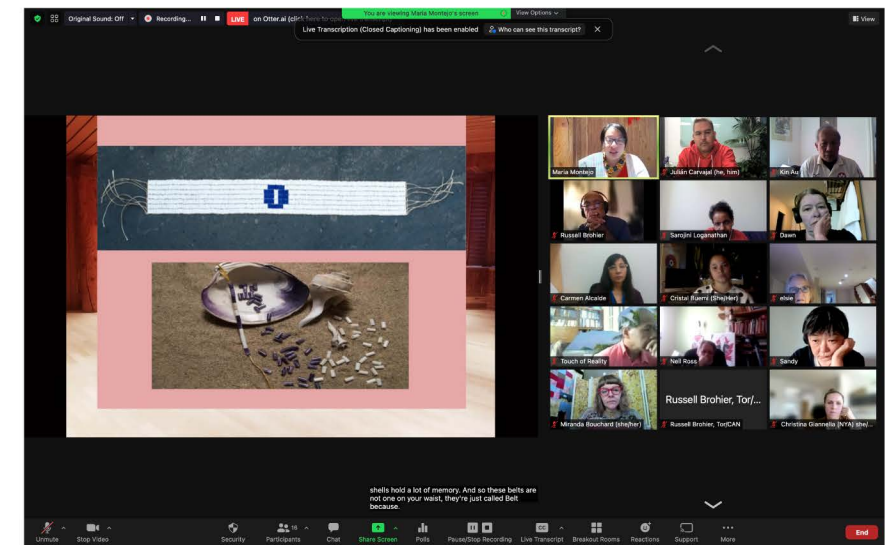
 **NORTHBOUND**  
2021 – DIGITAL EXHIBITION

# THE ANIMATION PROJECT

We were very excited for the opportunity to team up with the Toronto Animation Image Society (TAIS) to present our second edition of The Animation Project.

The Animation Project has been designed to make stop motion animation accessible to seniors by teaching each participant the basics and essentials of stop motion animation, and providing them with the tools to create their own video. Participants were given the chance to learn and expand their artistic skills and enhance their digital literacy.

These short films are also available to be viewed on our YouTube channel!



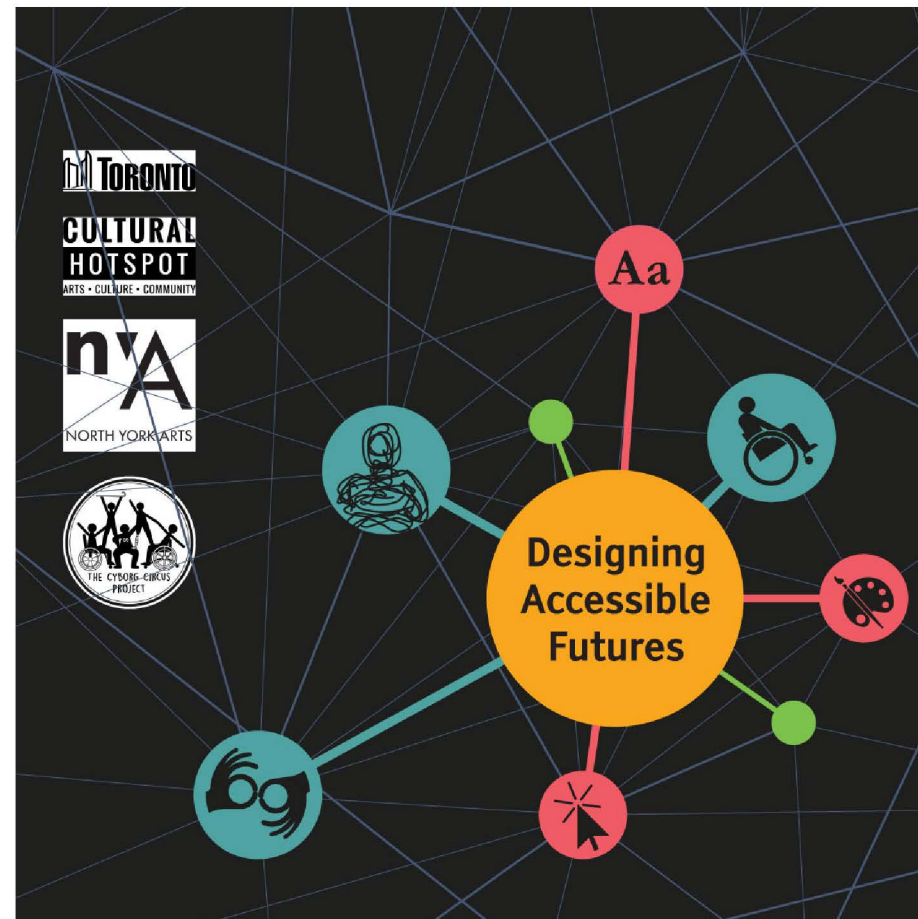
# ACCESSIBILITY AT NYA

The Disabled List/Accessible Futures invited us to rethink access as an organization, and dedicate real time and effort to making everyday changes that can meet the access needs of a broader audience.

One of the ways we integrated access in our digital exhibition for Northbound, was to focus on the important aspect of image descriptions for the artworks exhibited online. This was something very new to us and we had the opportunity to be led through the process by the talented team at The Disabled List, who created the image descriptions and shared the process with our organization and our artists.

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# TREASURER'S REPORT



It is with great pleasure that I present the Treasurer's Report for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2021. The financial highlights presented have been audited by the firm of Hogg, Shain & Scheck.

Due to the incredible and continued support from our funders and donors in the public and private sectors, NYA has been financially supported throughout 2021. This has been the second year of a global pandemic that has been particularly hard on the arts community, and we are grateful for this support. Like many other arts organizations, our community programming has remained online throughout the year. Also, due to our healthy cash

position, the Board has set aside additional funds to increase the foundational operational reserve. This will ensure that North York Arts remains financially resilient in the future.

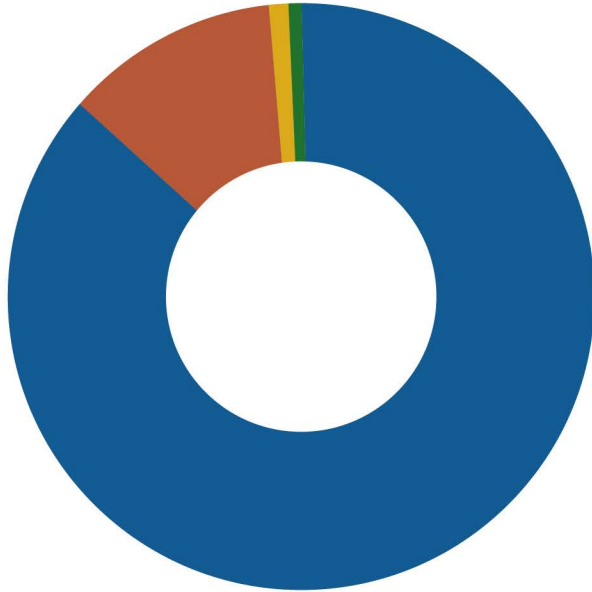
During our 10th anniversary in 2021, NYA raised over \$2,000 in our first ever community fundraiser! We are humbled and appreciate everyone's support! We are also thankful for the continued support from our municipal, provincial, and federal funders who are committed to supporting the community arts sector which NYA is a part of.

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

**Board Treasurer**  
**Bill Stephenson, CPA, CMA , C. Dir.**

# GRAPHS

## Revenues:



**1.0%** Contributions and donations

**1.0%** Corporate sponsorships, amortization, program service fees and other

**11.8%** Covid-19 Support

**86.4%** Public Sector

## Expenses:



**4.8%** Amortization and professional fees

**10.7%** Fundraising and marketing

**27.6%** General administration

**56.9%** Artistic fees and programs

## Revenues:

Public sector –86%

Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy - 12%

Contributions and donations – 1%

Corporate sponsorships, amortization, program service fees and other - 1%

## Expenses:

Artistic fees and programs –57%

General administration – 27%

Fundraising and marketing – 11%

Amortization and professional fees – 5%

\*The percentages presented in the information graphic for fiscal 2021 have been derived from the Financial Statements of North York Arts as audited by Hogg, Shain & Scheck. A copy of the audited 2021 Financial Statements may be obtained by contacting [info@northyorkarts.org](mailto:info@northyorkarts.org)

# FUNDERS, PARTNERS AND DONORS




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

## Funders

City of Toronto  
Ontario Arts Council  
Toronto Arts Foundation  
Toronto Arts Council  
Government of Canada  
Ontario Trillium Foundation  
Canada Council for the Arts

## Partners

TO Live  
Toronto Animated Image Society  
School of Groove  
Neighbourhood Arts Network  
(Toronto Arts Foundation)  
Muse Arts  
The Disabled List  
Cinemascope  
Ready2Post  
SlowPitchSound  
Art of Festivals  
Homes First  
Love Music  
Urban Arts  
Success Beyond Limits  
Teach 2 Learn



## Donors

Anonymous x5  
Bill Stephenson  
Christina Giannelia  
Cindy Wan  
David di Giovanni  
Elisabeth Giannelia  
Elka Weinstein  
Ely Lyonblum  
Eric Vriesen  
Evelyn Steinberg  
Jason Ho  
Jessica Singh  
John Ryerson  
Jonathan Stewart  
Joseph Borowiec  
Josie Spalla  
Kathleen Sloan  
Lila Karim  
Maria Cecilia Castineira Garcia  
Matias DeDovitiis  
Melissa Foster  
Mira Lax

Pilar Gonzales  
Sandra Lue  
Sheila Foster  
Simeon Taole  
Susan Karnay  
Vimbai Chikooore

## Sister LASO's

Arts Etobicoke  
East End Arts  
Lakeshore Arts  
Scarborough Arts  
Urban Arts





# TEAM

## 2021 Team Members

Lila Karim (outgoing)  
Christina Giannelia  
Melissa Foster  
Cecilia Garcia  
Julian Carvajal  
Rachel Birnberg (outgoing)  
Josie Spalla (outgoing)

## 2021 Committee Members:

Cindy Wan  
Sandra Huh  
Aitak Sorahitalab

## Board Members

Joe Borowiec - Chair  
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



# CREDITS



Cover:  
Images by Celeste Cole, Ricky Yu,  
and more

Page 2:  
Image by Unknown Photographer

Page 4:  
Images by North York Arts

Page 6:  
Images by Felipe Noriega and  
North York Arts

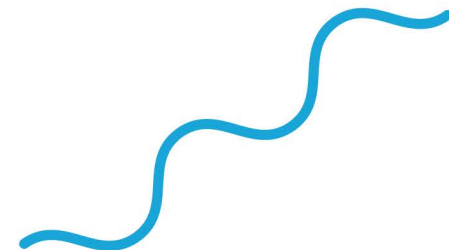
Page 10:  
Art by Shrista R, Loocresha GD,  
Mindy H, and Navpreet S

Page 11:  
Art by Anna Kavemehr,  
Ashley Beerdat, Aqsah Shah,  
Anahita Akhevan

Page 13:  
Art by Animation Project  
Participants

Page 13:  
Graphic by North York Arts

Page 17:  
Images by Ricky Yu and Tamoya  
Thomas



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