

EX8.1.63



Serving up the Arts

Local Arts Service Organizations

WHAT WE ARE: Community arts organizations whose focus is to interact with our community using all forms of art as the catalyst. We build a strong sense of belonging and shared purpose amongst our neighbours at the local, grassroots level.

WHO WE SERVE: We are inclusive; our free art programs offer something for all ages, skill levels and interests. We engage with children, families, seniors, members, volunteers and artists of all disciplines. We support under-served communities through arts programming, activities and events.

OUR MAIN FOCUS IS YOUTH: Identifying their needs, helping them develop a **creative voice**, **self-esteem** and **employment skills**.

BY THE NUMBERS: In 2009/10, our programs directly impacted **7000** children and youth in 19 under-served and priority neighbourhoods across the City. We employed **350** artists, engaged **500** volunteers, involved **110** partners and our activities reached an audience of over **2 million people**.



Submitted key



www.lakeshorearts.com

URBANARTS

A CITY OF TORONTO ARTS COUNCIL
www.urbanartstoronto.org

SCARBOROUGH
arts COUNCIL
www.scarborougharts.com

ARTS
ETOBICOKE
www.artsetobicoke.com



CONTRIBUTIONS WE MAKE TO OUR COMMUNITIES:

Arts Education in Toronto's Inner Suburbs: Providing youth with opportunities to develop creative talents and skills, create networks for future employment, support mentoring and volunteerism.

Community Building: Replacing negative graffiti with murals and supporting a variety of public art projects in our communities.

Bringing together arts and business: Partnering with local BIAs to support neighbourhood arts initiatives and festivals.

Services, resources and partnerships: Each LASO provides direct services to residents through networking opportunities, workshops, free resources, meeting space, storage, PR and communications and connections with partner organizations including social service agencies, schools, galleries, theatres and libraries.

Media awareness: We reach thousands of Torontonians through our media outreach bringing positive messages about the impact our programs have on our communities.

VOICES FROM OUR COMMUNITIES:

"The Art on the Move workshop last night was AMAZING!!! The youth were fully engaged and the art that was created blew me away... not only did the youth dialogue with us about their dreams and talents, they also talked about their love for art and how it made them feel a sense of peace to just sit quietly and let their imaginations flow onto the paper through their paintbrushes and markers. Seeing them so happy and engaged in this art session truly warmed my heart (and those of the other staff here as well). Your programming and talented artists are helping to facilitate a positive impact on our community and we truly appreciate it. Thank you very much."

"Having received mentorship from rising local talent including the recently signed duo Candy Coated Killahz and Ooh Baby Gimme Mores, I have come to learn that professionalism and respect for the craft of music production are integral to success in the industry, all of which I was able to learn in the openly creative environment that is UrbanArts"

"The staff and students here at our school have regularly expressed how much they enjoy the workshops run by Scarborough C.A.R.E.S. The program did not just benefit the students who participated in the program; those students have become leaders by sharing what they learned with their classmates and teachers. Scarborough C.A.R.E.S. Program Staff all have an extraordinary zest for teaching – they created a desire in our students to work hard and an enthusiasm to grow as people and as artists."

"When I started as a volunteer for Arts Etobicoke I was driven by a desire to support the arts. Later, while continuing to be an enthusiastic advocate for the arts, I decided that above all, volunteering should be fun. And it is. Arts Etobicoke is a fantastic place to be a volunteer – lots of activities and events, interesting people, exciting work, generous recognition of your work and a welcoming environment. What an opportunity to do something that matters!"

WHERE WE ARE TODAY:

Since amalgamation, the Local Arts Service Organizations (LASOs) have been partially supported by the City of Toronto through the Arts and Culture Partnership Program, one of the funding programs of CPIP (Community Partnership and Investment Program, City of Toronto). With the City's grant, we leverage partnerships and other funding sources that enhance manifold, various kinds of resources required to engage young people, newcomers, and other under-served groups. We also bring together the local business and arts communities in a variety of programs which help build stronger communities and strengthen the vibrancy and diversity of our City.