

COMMUNITY ARTS & HERITAGE EDUCATION PROJECT

cahep

2013-2014

# ANNUAL REPORT



DANCE PLAY WRITE DREAM CREATE PAINT GET MESSY BUST A MOVE SHARE YOUR STORY!

### **A note from our Executive Director:**

This past year has been filled with exciting change and transition for our organization.

As I step into my new role as Executive Director of CAHEP, I am excited to bring my previous 8 years of experience working with the organization, my passion for working collaboratively, and my belief that inclusive arts programming can truly enrich and transform lives and communities with me. We are pleased to continue working with our former Executive Director, Pam Cain, as Developer and support staff for CAHEP.

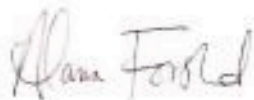
We have had the opportunity to work with our Board of Directors to pave the way for a bright and inclusive future for arts education and community arts in Thunder Bay through the development of our new Strategic Plan.

In February of 2014, we were honoured to have our work acknowledged through a City of Thunder Bay Arts & Heritage Award in the Arts Organization category.

Throughout this year, our staff, artists, volunteers, and partners have seen firsthand the transformative powers of the arts among countless children and youth. Through engaging in our programs, we have observed participants who previously had not had access to the arts grow to dj and facilitate impromptu dance squads at community hip hop events. We have watched youth pick up cameras for the first time with mentorship from local artists, and become lead photographers/filmers in their neighbourhoods. We have seen students who take part in Artists in the 5th become empowered by the program and ask how they can bring more artists into their schools. We worked in collaboration with our non-arts partner organizations to ensure they become advocates and supporters of the incredible impact arts programming can have on individuals and their communities. We are proud to play an active role in ensuring the arts are infiltrated into building, strengthening, and growing a creative, understanding, more accepting community.

CAHEP is continually fuelled, inspired, and humbled by the creativity that is brought to us by local artists, partners, and participants in our programming. We are grateful for the connections we've made, and are excited to continue to bring arts to more schools and the community of Thunder Bay.

On behalf of our staff and board, I extend a tremendous thanks to everyone who has supported us in countless ways; through funds, time, mentorship, skills, knowledge, advice, and inspiration. Working together, we are building a strong and creative community.



Alana Forslund  
Interim Executive Director

## WHO IS CAHEP?

CAHEP is an award-winning non-profit charitable arts education organization based in Thunder Bay. Together with local artists, schools, and organizations who serve the community, we develop and implement inclusive, multidisciplinary arts and heritage programming.

To ensure participants take pride and ownership of what they create, we encourage them to lead their artistic process every step of the way; from the type of project they engage in, to creation, to how the work is showcased to the community. They are encouraged to use the arts to share their stories, hopes, and dreams, to build a stronger community for all.

Our programs are developed to address the various barriers (economic, social, transportation, cultural) that people face in their day to day lives.

**Mission:** Enhancing communities through inclusive arts and heritage education programming for children, youth, and their families.

**Vision:** Engaging in arts and heritage enriches lives.

### Values:

- Promoting arts and heritage in the community
- Valuing the work of artists
- Participant-centered programming facilitated by artists
- Accessible and low or no-cost programming
- Community outreach and partnership building
- Opportunities for artist development
- Transformative possibilities of arts and heritage engagement
- Providing a showcase for the work of participants
- Creating positive connections with arts and heritage disciplines

### History:

In December of 2000, an Arts Education sub-committee of the City of Thunder Bay's Arts & Heritage Committee completed a study on Best Practices in Arts Education from several cities in both Canada and the USA. The study looked at what programming was already in place locally, who could access that programming, and where the gaps existed. From the results of the study, several recommendations were made to improve the level of arts education for our community.

These recommendations included:

- More financial support for artists
- More community-based arts education programming
- Partnerships with private sector and individual artists
- Artists in Residency programs
- More venues for young artists to perform and display their talents.

**Advisor:** Bonnie McNulty

Regional Advisor, Ministry of Citizenship & Immigration, Tourism, Culture, Sport & Recreation

**Artists:**

Eleanor Albanese, Nicole Armstrong, Elliott Doxtater-Wynn, Biwaase'aa Drummers, Zach Bryson, Chaban Ukrainian Dancers, Ma-Nee Chacaby, Sarah Anne Eby, Judy Forslund, Sarah Furlotte, Elizabeth Hill, Brian Holden, Carol Kajorinne, Susan Kakepetum, Derek Khani, Kaitlyn Khubyar, Vivike Knutson, Fritz Lehmsberg, Judy Mayor, Caitlyn McMillan, Nathan Meshake, Eric Miller, Claudia Otto, Tine Schrijvers, Dayna Slingerland, Shibastik (Chris Sutherland), Lise Vaugeois, Laura Wilson, Rita Zavagnin.

**Volunteers:**

Callen Banning, Shaylyn Bishop, Katie Bond, Nathan Burke, Liz Buset, Nathan Forslund, Judy Forslund, Zoe Gordon, Beth Haywood, Amery Larocque, Dee Larocque, Jennifer Little, Sarah Mason, Lisa Milani, Lora Northway, Melissa Miller, Nathan Ogden, Dayna Slingerland, the CAHEP Board of Directors.

**Community Partners:**

Evergreen a United Neighbourhood, Fort William BIA, Thunder Bay Art Gallery, Crime Prevention Council, Community Action Group, Boys & Girls Club Vale Unit, Canada Games Complex, Bay Street Film Festival, Eat Local Pizza, Thunder Bay & Area Food Strategy, Painted Turtle/Gallery 33, Lake Superior Art Gallery, Fort William BIA, Youth Centres Thunder Bay, Hospice Northwest, Baggage Building Arts Centre, Regional Multicultural Youth Council, Gillies Community Centre, Kakabeka Legion, Murillo Public Library, Hospice Northwest, Volunteer Thunder Bay, Chapters Thunder Bay.

**School Partners:**

Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board, Conseil Scolaire de District Catholique des Aurores Boreales, Lakehead Public Schools, Dennis Franklin Cromarty High School, and Superior High School.

**Funders:**

**Operating:** Ontario Arts Council (Arts Education Organizations), City of Thunder Bay

**Grants, Foundations, and Government Funding for Projects:** Johansen Larsen Foundation, District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board, Thunder Bay Community Foundation, United Way of Thunder Bay, Ministry of Culture Summer Experience Program, Department of Canadian Heritage Building Communities through Arts & Heritage.

**Partnership Funding:** Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board, Lakehead Public Schools, Conseil Scolaire de District Catholique des Aurores Boreales, Hospice Northwest, Evergreen a United Neighbourhood (through the Province of Ontario's Safer and Vital Communities Grant).

**Donations:** Chapters, Volunteer Thunder Bay, Margaret Wanlin, John Rafferty, Pam Cain, Liana and Robert Frenette, TBT Engineering, Multiple anonymous donations.

**In-Kind:** Thunder Bay Multicultural Association, Definitely Superior Art Gallery, Ontario Library Association, Paramount Theatre, Painted Turtle Art Shop, Michaels Arts & Crafts.

## 2013-2014 PROGRAMS

CAHEP develops programming that spans across the arts disciplines and that is driven by the creative ideas of participating children, youth, families, and seniors.

We believe in working collaboratively with partners to bring inclusive arts programming that addresses barriers people face in their day to day lives. Healthy communities are built when citizens work, share, learn, and create together.

We offer: General Arts Programming, Artists in the 5th - Arts Fiesta, What About the Books/Forest of Reading, Neighbourhood Arts Engagement Programming, Connecting with Community, Art to the Streets Programming, Rural Arts Programs, Resources, and Opportunities for Mentorship and Development.

We encourage intergenerational, cross-cultural, and youth engagement in our programming.

### Artists in the 5th - Arts Fiesta

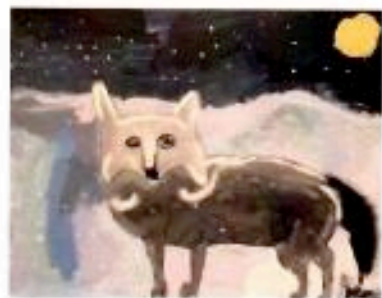
Since 2003, this core CAHEP program has infused the arts into local elementary schools across the City together with local artists and heritage programmers. Focusing on an enriching collaborative process, educators, students in grades 4, 5, and 6, and artists work together to create projects in **dance, drama, literary arts, music, new media, and visual arts.**



All Artists in the 5th work is inspired by an annual theme. The theme for 2013-2014 was Spirit of the North. It was interpreted in countless ways including through stop-motion animation, theatre that shared local legends, and a sculptural forest of printmaking projects. Last year, for the first time in Artists in the 5th history, an educator from one class became a performer on stage along with his class!



Participating artists encourage students to provide input into every step of the creative process; from the beginnings, when project ideas are just seeds, to how work is presented at the Arts Fiesta. This instills a strong sense of pride and leadership in each and every artwork that is created.



To showcase all of the work created through Artists in the 5th, CAHEP hosts the **Arts Fiesta**, a celebration for participating artists, classes, educators, and the community. In 2014, the Arts Fiesta was held in partnership with the Thunder Bay Multicultural Association's Folklore Festival at Fort William Gardens. 7 performance projects were showcased on stage, and 9 visual art and media projects were displayed in a pop-up art gallery, both at the Arts Fiesta and throughout the

weekend of Folklore Festival. Classes were given the opportunity to participate in an afternoon of cultural workshops, provided by the Thunder Bay Multicultural Association. They also receive the opportunity to evaluate the day and their experience in the program.

#### 2014 Artists in the 5th Statistics

- 14 Local Artists created 16 projects in 5 Schools from 3 school boards
- 380 Students in grades 4-6
- 500 spectators during Arts Fiesta, 10,000 viewed visual art projects throughout the weekend of Folklore Festival

**Supporters:** Ontario Arts Council, City of Thunder Bay, Thunder Bay Community Foundation, District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board, Thunder Bay Multicultural Association, Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board, Lakehead Public Schools, and Conseil Scolaire de District Catholique des Aurores Boreales.

### Forest of Reading/What About the Books

Since 2011 this program has run in conjunction with the Ontario Library Association and the Forest of Reading Program. Through the Forest of Reading program, CAHEP engaged artists in school classes to create projects related to books nominated for the prestigious Blue Spruce Awards. Projects were displayed at the Festival of Trees, an event at the Coliseum Grounds that is hosted by the Ontario Library Association for more than 1200 students.

During the Festival of Trees, CAHEP hosts a series of book-inspired visual art activities for students in attendance.

14 school classes from the Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board participated in visual art projects with 6 local artists: Derek Khani, Sarah Eby, Judy Mayor, Nicole Armstrong, Pam Cain and Carol Kajorinne.

#### 2014 Forest of Reading Statistics

- 6 Local Artists
- 14 Classes
- 350 Students created artwork
- 1200 Students viewed artwork created



**Supporters:** Ontario Library Association and Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board.

