EMPOWERING VULNERABLE YOUNGSTERS
National Overview



You are invited!

EMPOWERING VULNERABLE YOUNGSTERS
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"Creating innovative education since 1995, the new LEAD program meets the needs of today's youth. Together, let's empower our young people to LEAD their future with confidence, character and hope."
Marilyn Field, MSM

Our MISSION:

Using the LEAD values of Listen, Empathize, Act & Drive, youthLEADarts empowers vulnerable youth across Canada/Turtle Island with self-confidence, character, life skills and hope to LEAD their future.

Our METHOD:

youthLEADarts Inc. is a national charitable organization that offers accessible LEAD programs for vulnerable youth across Canada. We use the arts, technology and LEAD values in inclusive workshops where Teaching Artists and Indigenous Knowledge Keepers foster a supportive environment. Young people step beyond their life challenges and embark on self-discovery, skill-building and leadership training through creative play. This equips them with confidence and productive skills to lead their future.

- LEAD is the brainchild of education visionary, Marilyn Field, MSM, with youth Elijah Brown and teaching artists Lori Sherritt-Fleming, Shelley MacDonald, Roy Mulder and Deirdre Potash.
- Youngsters practice how to **LEAD: Listen, Empathize, Act, Drive** as they creatively play:
  L – Listen openly to others.
  E – Empathize with others who think differently.
  A – Act to make positive change.
  D – Drive yourself to achieve your dream.
- LEAD's four values pair with the traditional Indigenous Medicine Wheel for wellness and connection.
- LEAD workshops include play in media and technological arts, drama, poetry, spoken word, dance, music, visual, Indigenous, culinary arts and active outdoor activities. Schools and community organizations engage with LEAD.
- Outcomes: young people feel empowered with confidence, creative skills and hope to lead their future and contribute to society.



youthLEADarts relies on donations of $20,000 per region to deliver LEAD programs.

Please support LEAD at youthLEADarts Inc. | www.youthleadarts.com | donate@youthleadarts.com
per Lori Sherritt, President 7460 Moffat Rd., Unit 14, Richmond, BC V6Y 3S1 | m 778-319-6524 | info@youthleadarts.com
Canadian not-for-profit Corporation 1356683-8 | Canadian Charitable Registration No: 7625 94307 RR0001

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Our BACKGROUND:



Education Visionary, Marilyn Field, MSM:

- TDSB teacher Marilyn Field founded DAREarts (Thrive) in 1995 and LEAD in 2020 as educational empowerment programs that have reached over 220,000 children across Canada.
- Proven results: confidence and hope have led to increased school success. *"I got hope wakin' up every day,"* Leroy, 16

Teaching Artists Bring LEAD Programs Across Canada:



- **youthLEADarts** has strong roots across Canada. From beginning in 2020 with 60 youngsters in British Columbia, we now run programs in Quebec, Ontario and Nova Scotia.
- **youthLEADarts'** outstanding, multi-cultural Teaching Artists use the arts, technology and the LEAD values to empower our young people.

TOGETHER WE CAN:

1) BUILD YOUNG LEADERS IN COMMUNITIES ACROSS CANADA:



- Each group of up to 30 youth aged 6 to 19, engage in a series of workshops (in-person and online) in schools and community centres.
- Experienced Teaching Artists and Indigenous Knowledge Keepers work with teachers to mentor the youngsters.
- The youth **explore** how LEAD -Listen, Empathize, Act, Drive- nurtures them. They **engage** in collectively creating multi-arts products that express their voice. They feel e**mpowered** when they see how they can LEAD change and inspire hope.

2) CONNECT YOUNG LEADERS ACROSS CANADA:

- Youth connect nationally and share their ideas, including addressing Truth and Reconciliation online at www.youthLEADarts.com and social media, mentored by the LEAD mentoring team.

"Thank you for doing this for the kids in our community: an amazing opportunity for them!" Parent, Lismore, NS

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'LEAD' OUTCOMES for YOUTH:

1. Increased self-confidence and purpose
2. Widened perspective for open-minded decision-making
3. The drive to stay in school, build life skills and contribute to society



'LEAD' OUTCOMES for COMMUNITIES:

1. Positive alternatives to drugs, gangs and violence make safer communities.
2. Confidence and hope lead to self-reliant communities that strengthen our economy.

WHY youthLEADarts?

"LEAD's positive effect on the social and emotional progress of the children resonates long after the program ends…" **Justin Borsato, Vancouver school teacher**

1. Today more than ever, kids need to feel that they are loved and heard.
2. LEAD includes all of Canada and all kids no matter their challenges.
3. Kids of diverse backgrounds, cultures and needs are brought together.
4. Kids are invited to try activities outside of their comfort zones and expectations.
5. Kids learn that they have what it takes to be a great leader.
6. Each arts-based creativity workshop begins and ends with a LEAD Circle where inclusivity, equality, and respect are practiced.
7. LEAD pairs with Canada's Indigenous Medicine Wheel and Traditional Teachings.
8. LEAD's four values - Listen, Empathize, Act, Drive - give kids a practical pathway that they can follow in their personal lives to build self-confidence, life skills and purpose.
9. Kids are connected locally and nationally.
10. LEAD is fun!

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'LEAD' IN FIVE PROVINCES ACROSS CANADA:

- **British Columbia: Vancouver**
- **Ontario: Barrie, Midland, Penetanguishene, Christian Island**
- **Quebec: Montreal**
- **Atlantic: Lismore, Little Harbour, Barneys River, Pictou**
- **Northwest Territories: Wrigley**

COST PER PROVINCE:

LEAD adapts each program to meet the needs of each community:

• Local Program Development *(research, curriculum, training, evaluation)* *Consult with community and adapt a LEAD program to meet local needs; train local artists, teachers, volunteers in LEAD methodology and standards; measure outcomes (kids, schools, artists); create follow-up mentorship to support kids' growth)*	$ 3,500
• Local Program Delivery *(teaching artists, elders, young mentors)*	$ 9,000
• Local Program Materials *(supplies, technology, space, food, transportation, public showcase)*	$ 4,000
• Marketing and Communication (*website, social media)*	$ 2,100
• Other *(liability insurance, taxes & contingency)*	$ 1,300
• **TOTAL:**	**$20,050**

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

• **National Sponsor**	$40,000
• **Sponsor a Province**	$20,000
• **Sponsor a Community**	$10,000
• **Sponsor a Class**	$ 5,000
• **Sponsor One LEAD Workshop**	$ 1,000
• **Sponsor Technology** (*laptops, videography, etc.)*	$ 800
• **Sponsor a Child**	$ 500
• **Sponsor a Teaching Artist / Elder**	$ 500
• **Sponsor Belonging (T-shirts/stickers)**	$ 500
• **Sponsor Art Supplies**	$ 100

You can donate at: www.youthleadarts.com

Or e-transfer to: donate@youthleadarts.com

Or call/text Lori 778-319-6524 or Shelley 778-883-0781 or Marilyn 416-616-2821

Or mail to the address below

The children thank you! ***"…Now I feel brave!"*** *Brittany, 11*

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TESTIMONIALS:



Youth:

- ***"You believed in me before I believed in myself." Crisy, 14***
- ***"I discovered my voice and how to use it." Hamza 13***
- ***"I learned how to recognize and break cycles." Devin, 13***
- ***"My standards for myself went way up." Emanuel 12***



Justin Borsato, Britannia Elementary School teacher:

- *"youthLEADarts elicited profound discussions and projects outlining difficult subjects like racism."*
- *LEAD gives youth the opportunity to broaden the umbrella of art to meet and nurture their individual needs and interests. Youth were consumed by the LEAD values..."*
- *"Youth were motivated to succeed because they felt connected to the LEAD team who took time to form meaningful relationships with them. As a result, they explored their feelings effectively. Their ideas and emotions translated seamlessly into their projects."*



Parents & Community Leaders:

- *"My kids are so enjoying the LEAD program! They look forward to every month." Parent*
- *"The focus of the LEAD workshop I attended was L for Listen. The participants were challenged to take risks, trust each other and demonstrate teamwork to achieve their tasks. It was wonderful to watch how engaged the kids were working together." Community Leader*



Elder Amanda White, retired Indigenous Education Knowledge Keeper, Vancouver School Board, and residential school survivor:

- *"youthLEADarts gives Indigenous youth skills that fill the void between old ways and new ways: to become pioneers of new ways. "*
- *"In finding their voices, the youth call forth the true image of our people and, through youthLEADarts, are able to destroy the distortion of which many have been victims for too long."*

"We all can lead change when we listen." Mark Critch

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LEAD's ACCLAIMED TEACHING ARTISTS:

BRITISH COLUMBIA:

Lori Sherritt-Fleming, President & LEAD BC Program Director, is an award-winning children's author, performer and teaching artist. She founded the Tickle Trunk Players Theatre for Literacy and performs at major international festivals. Her STEAM based publications are: 'Hungry for Science', 'Hungry for Technology', 'Hungry for Engineering', Hungry for Math' and 'Hungry for the Arts'. Fitzhenry & Whiteside.

Candice Halls Howcroft is a member of the Squamish Nation, learning their culture and traditions from them over 20 years. She shares her knowledge as an Essential Skills Instructor at the Native Education College and as an Artist/Squamish Nation Liaison.

Trish De Luca is a fundraising professional and creator of programs for positive change. Working in film studios of Disney, Paramount and Warner Bros gave her insights into leadership and impact. For LEAD, Trish is developing 'After-school Power Programs' for youngsters that build positive thinking and confidence in a fun and safe space.

David Lyle brings his unique Indigenous voice to everything, including host of Nations at War documentary series on APTN. He has a distinguished career as a screen and tv actor and director, including in APTN's Health Nutz, Alaska Daily, Ice Road Terror, Supernatural, CW Network show Arrow, and CBC's Arctic Air. David is also an accomplished acting and dialect coach.

Damian Rumph is a teacher, writer and storyteller on the Traditional Coast Salish Lands of the Squamish (Sḵwx̱wú7mesh Úxwumixw), Tsleil-Waututh (səl̓ilw̓ətaʔɬ) & Musqueam(xʷməθkʷəy̓əm) Nations. In students of diverse backgrounds, he uses writing, performance and film to enable language acquisition.

Brunella Battista is a multimedia artist with works screened at the UN's World Peace Forum, and broadcast on CBC, Bravo!, Channel M. She is an internationally published writer, photographer and seasoned performer on stage and TV.

QUEBEC:

Deirdre Potash, LEAD QC Program Director, is a renowned Quebec teaching artist who develops and delivers transformative arts programs. She has partnered with The Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, DAREarts, Atelier 19, etc. to deliver small and large-scale programs. Based in Vaudreuil-Dorion, Deirdre travels widely with her message that "art feels good". www.artwill.ca

NOVA SCOTIA:

Shelley MacDonald, Vice President & LEAD Atlantic Program Director, is an award-winning Canadian film and theatre artist of Mi'kmaw-Scottish heritage based in Nova Scotia. Passionate about the arts and education, she has dedicated her 20+ career to youth mentorship and developing skill-building workshops that foster collaboration, youth employment, social justice, and systemic change.

Melanie McDuff is the heartbeat of youthLEADarts NS. She is the youth mentor for our monthly youth leadership program and is instrumental in the programs' design and delivery. Her leadership style is collaborative, inclusive and inspirational.

Roy Mulder's focus is creating strong audio-visual media. He is acclaimed for his underwater videography and heads the Canadian Marine Environment Protection Society.

ONTARIO:

Marilyn Field, MSM, is an internationally acclaimed education pioneer who founded DAREarts in 1995 and LEAD in 2020. Her methods have reached over 220,000 children in Canada. In 2001, she conducted at the Nobel Peace Prize's 100th Anniversary.

Tina Tucker Bye and her husband founded Grove Hall, a community-driven performing arts centre in St. Laurent, QC with year-round performances in dance, theatre, music and arts education for all ages.

Sheniz Janmohamed is an author, teaching artist, spoken word artist and land artist who has performed internationally for over 10 years, including at the Jaipur Literature Festival, Aga Khan Museum, and Vancouver Writers Fest.

NWT:

D'Arcy Moses, LEAD NWT Program Director, Indigenous Dene designer, is internationally renowned for his Indigenous couture fashion. He is the recipient of many awards, including the Queen's Jubilee Award for his contribution to Canadian Fashion and the Arts. He is Founder of the Banff Centre's Indigenous Fashion Couture Design Program. www.darcymoses.ca