

**VIBE** ARTS

FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Spark creativity. Spark potential.



**2019  
Annual  
Report**

# 2019



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since 1995

## VIBE Arts for Children and Youth



### About VIBE

VIBE Arts operates at the intersection of arts and community. As identified in Toronto Foundation's 2018 Vital Signs Report, "the arts enhance our sense of well-being, connectedness and civic pride. Engaging people actively in art and creation is a key part of sharing and fostering culturally vibrant communities. The arts have a positive impact on social integration, as well as personal and community development."

We know that not everyone has equal access to the arts, specifically, people living outside of the urban core, and those from equity-seeking groups including newcomer Canadians, people of colour, Indigenous youth, the LGBTQ+ Community, those living in poverty and any intersections of these identities.

VIBE works to bring free arts programming and mentorship to people of all ages who identify with these populations. We bring communities together to create art in safe and accessible spaces. Our programs build a sense of belonging, develop life-long skills and relationships, spark inspiration and promote healthy behaviours and decisions.

### MISSION

To work collaboratively with partners in under-resourced communities to create a lasting impact on the lives of young people through arts education programming

### VISION

Vibrant communities where young people express themselves artistically and use their creativity and leadership to engage fully in community.

### Stay in touch

@vibeartsto  
vibearts.ca

V I



# Welcome to our 2019 Annual Report

For the artists we serve, VIBE Arts' 2019 Fiscal Year was one of our most impactful yet.

2019 saw the launch of a collaborative report with sector leaders through Platform A, and the beginning of our Desire Lines program, which gave young artists the resources to create large scale works for public display. The community events we hosted made way for dozens of artists to perform, exhibit and engage in front of tens of thousands of people.

VIBE has always aimed to open creative spaces in under-resourced communities where children and youth are inspired to participate in the arts. Across 20 years, we have learned the power of mentorship, representation and taking a community-based approach to the arts. As a result of these learnings, VIBE takes a double, pay-it-forward approach to all programming.

Community programs for children and youth are facilitated by a professional arts educator and a youth emerging artist. In each program, the professional arts educators act as mentors for the youth artists. Mentors share advanced techniques, provide advice, build networks and offer new opportunities to their mentees. Emerging artists, in turn, gain valuable skills and experience to grow under their creative mentors. Youth artists are selected for programs in communities that they grew-up, live, work and/or create in. Their lived experiences add a level of value and understanding, beyond the arts, for the young people involved in our programs. Both facilitators play an equally important role in ensuring each program is high-quality, community-oriented and reflects the participants.

At VIBE, we see year over year how involving young people in arts programs

helps develop skills like leadership, teamwork and critical thinking, all while empowering, enriching and soothing.

Yes, VIBE does provide arts programs - but in that, we create more than just art. We create community. We create leaders. We create tomorrow's creative thinkers.

Thank you for being a supporter.

We can't wait to show you what we achieve in 2020.

**Katie Hutchinson,**  
Executive Director

# Youth Advisory Council

**VIBE Arts** is supported by a Youth Advisory Council, a governing body that provides valuable input from a youth perspective. Council Members join with experience participating in VIBE programs and living in or identifying with the communities that we engage.

## **MATTHEW CUFF**

A graduate of the School of Toronto Dance Theatre. With over 6 years of Ballet, Contemporary, and Hip Hop Dance training, Matthew has performed in numerous events. He has worked with established choreographers including Christopher House (TDT), Sean Cheesman (SYTYCDC), and Luther Brown (SYTYCDC). With his versatility and passion for dance and choreography, Matthew strives to strengthen the community of dance in Toronto.

## **ASMAA ER-ROUHI**

Asmaa is an emerging artist at VIBE Arts and a Film Production student at Humber College. She has been involved with many projects over the years with VIBE Arts, and independently. Asmaa strives to connect with people through the arts and hopes to produce creative and thoughtful work. Community involvement is crucial to Asmaa's work, as it helps her network connect with others.

## **NICHOLAS WANNAMAKER**

Nicholas Ridiculous is a multidisciplinary artist who loves organic creation. Following experiences with the child welfare system, Nicholas uses his passion to express and help others with similar experiences. With a foundation in creative writing, visual arts, fashion arts and design, Nicholas hopes to tell stories across all mediums. He is a nostalgia junky who draws inspiration from his life and the things he loves in hopes of understanding this ridiculous world.

## **SHASHANN MIGUEL-TASH**

Toronto born and raised, Shashann is a self-taught artist who likes to experiment with different mediums. She is an Arts Educator with VIBE and Urban Arts. Shashann's work is heavily influenced and inspired by Toronto culture, music and social issues. Shashann is a graduate of Seneca's Art Fundamentals program, studied Visual Art and Digital Art at Humber College and is currently a student at OCAD University.

## **FRANNIE POTTS**

A Scarborough born and based emerging artist, Frannie is deeply inspired by the night sky and universe. She incorporates stars into her works to provoke thought and creativity. Frannie believes that communities benefit from art opportunities by collaborating in the revitalization of their neighbourhoods, while artists benefit from compensation, promotion and gratification. In art-making, Frannie relishes in positive interactions with people of all ages.

# Board of Directors

The VIBE Arts Board of Directors fundraise, advise, govern, oversee policy and strategic direction and assist with the leadership and promotion of VIBE Arts.

Each board member brings unique experience to assist VIBE in achieving our goals.



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CHAIR

CEO AND FOUNDER  
OF ARMSTRONG  
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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
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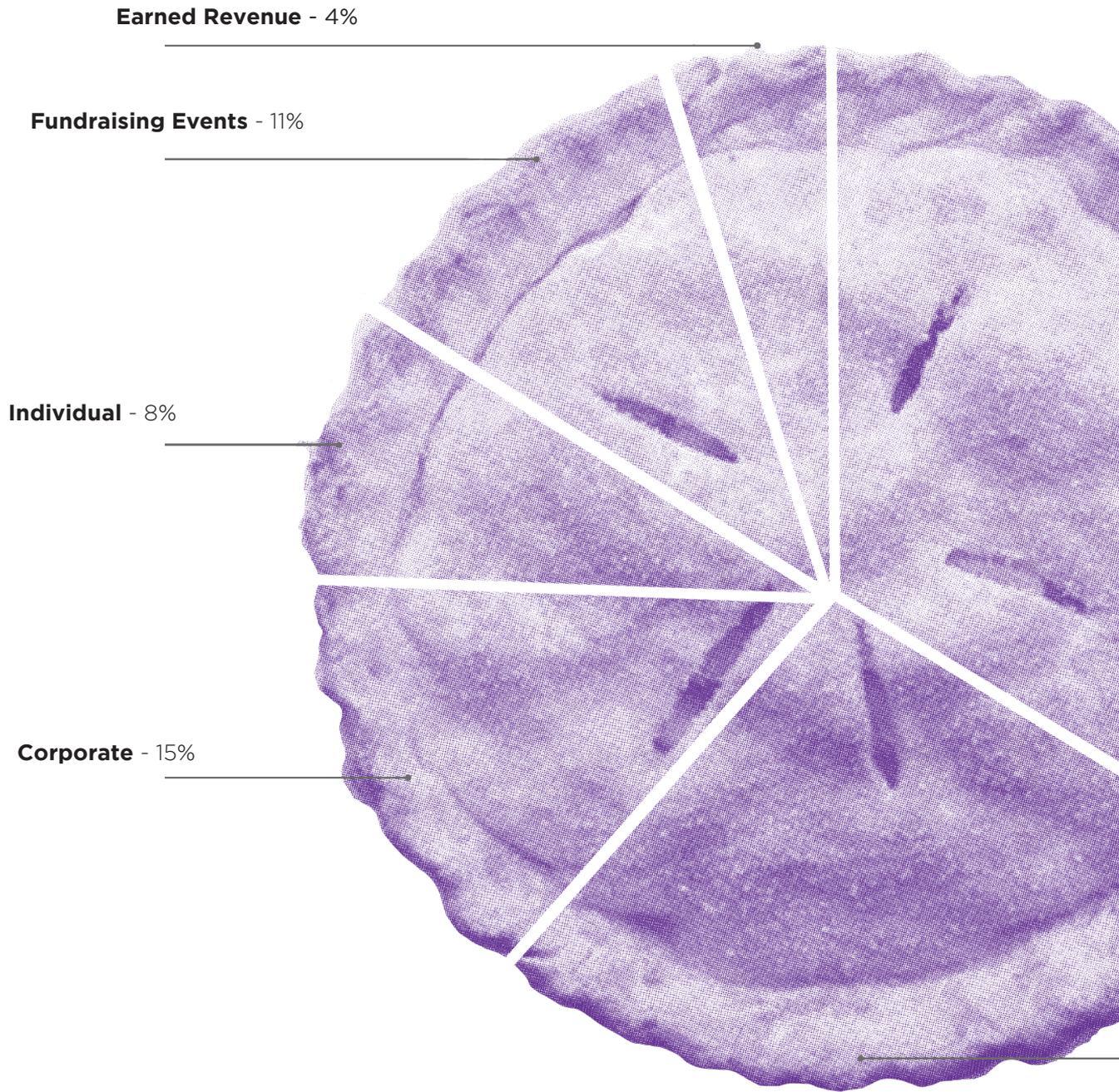
**DWAYNE MORGAN,**  
DIRECTOR

WRITER, PERFORMER,  
AND AUTHOR



**THIS COULD BE  
YOU!**

APPLY TO JOIN THE  
VIBE ARTS BOARD  
OF DIRECTORS  
AT [VIBEARTS.CA/  
JOINOURBOARD](http://VIBEARTS.CA/JOINOURBOARD)



**6,000+**  
**Youth Participants**

In your neighbourhood, or around the corner, VIBE serves youth with connections across the GTA and beyond.

# Financials:

## Fresh from the oven



**Government - 38%**

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### Take a bite out of this!

Although Individual Giving accounts for only 8% of our financial profile, it is vital to the sustainability of our organization. Anyone can raise money for VIBE through their own fundraising initiatives, or by simply making a donation at [vibearts.ca/donate](https://vibearts.ca/donate)

**Foundations - 24%**

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**88**

**Artists**

This year, we added 12 artists to our impressive roster of working creatives.

**1,020**

**Workshops**

Our multi-disciplinary arts workshops provide culturally relevant programs intersecting through over 30 mediums.

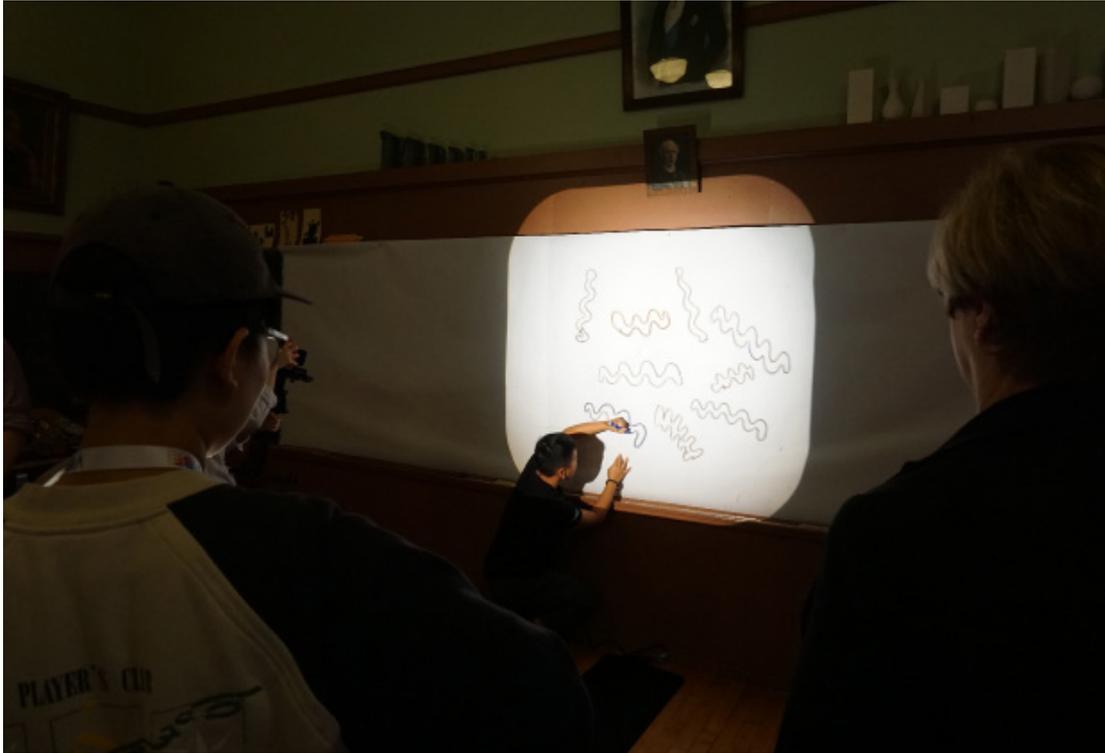
**90**

**Locations**

This year, VIBE Arts workshops reached as far as Sioux Lookout, a Northern Ontario community home to a large Indigenous population.

# Artist Spotlight:

## Paddy Leung



Paddy Leung uses a projector to trace shapes at the City of Toronto's 2019 Big Draw Festival at Zion Schoolhouse.

This year, VIBE sat down with multi-disciplinary, creative force **Paddy Leung** to reflect on the stand-out programs they designed and led in their first year with the organization.

"I felt very constrained by the competitiveness and rigidity of art school," Paddy said of initially pursuing a career in the arts.

Feeling isolated and frustrated, Paddy made the choice to withdraw from a formal arts education, but a voice inside them made certain that this would not be the end of their relationship with the arts.

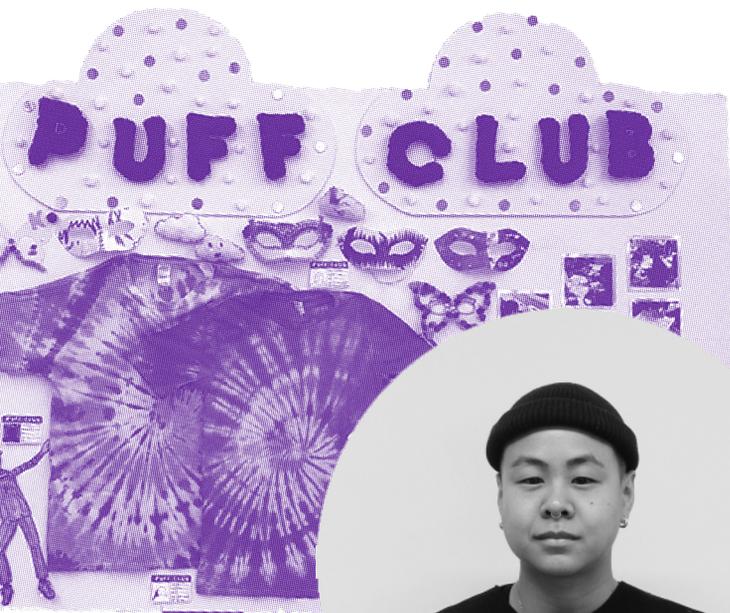
**"I had so much to share, but I didn't have a platform to share on."**

On a bit of a whim, Paddy began hosting their own DIY mask-making and haircut parties, inviting community members to gather and take part in collaborative art-making.

These events led to a revelation - this was Paddy's purpose: to use art to create a safe space where people could express their creativity and be their true selves.

Pursuing this mission, Paddy joined VIBE as an artist-educator one year ago. The moment that Paddy walked into VIBE's artist orientation, they knew they had finally found a community to resonate with.

The diversity and richness of the artists gathered at VIBE - established and emerging, returning and new - inspired endless possibilities and openness for Paddy.



**While VIBE Arts** focuses on delivering arts education to under-served youth across Ontario, many people don't realize that VIBE also hires underrepresented artists to deliver our workshops and programs. This gives artists opportunities to earn a living through their craft and teaches them skills to further develop as arts educators.

Working with VIBE, 2019 has been a year of learning and transformation for Paddy.

Paddy has the skills and ability to effortlessly connect with the curious and creative minds of young learners. For Paddy, their students, and many like them, art is a gateway to connect with the brave voice inside us that knows we have the power to imagine and create paths for ourselves.



**“Young people have artistic voices they don't know that they have yet.”**  
- Paddy Leung



## PUFF CLUB

Using paper, glitter, streamers, and dreams, Paddy has been known to make beautiful, handmade, sculptural decorations of oversized donuts, clouds, flowers and so much more. Our students love working with Paddy because the art seems to embody their imagination and youthful optimism - something that at times, can be difficult to express.

[paddyleung.com](http://paddyleung.com) | [@paddy\\_leung](https://www.instagram.com/paddy_leung)



# Program Spotlight: **Boreal Creates**



**Feedback from a Boreal Creates**  
Grade 9 participant in Sault Ste Marie



Participants in a Boreal Creates program at Kina Awiya Secondary School in Sault Ste Marie craft traditional lacrosse sticks and snow snakes under the guidance of Artist Frank Belleau.

At **VIBE Arts**, we continue to build relationships to expand our reach across Ontario.

Since winter 2018, VIBE has had the privilege of collaborating with Indigenous artists and youth in Northern Ontario, to offer a series of programs developed for these communities. Funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation, **Boreal Creates** is a three-year project that hosts a variety of art programs in Sioux Lookout, Thunder Bay and Sault Ste Marie.

Boreal Creates has provided an opportunity for local artists to deliver

programming that reflects their communities' interests and celebrates culture. The program has hosted a jean jacket design workshop, watercolour, acrylic and woodland painting, traditional lacrosse stick and snow snake making, set design and beading.

Boreal Creates not only provides access to unique arts opportunities for youth, but also provides paid mentorship and facilitation experiences for local artists.

VIBE Arts looks forward to continuing to build and strengthen relationships with communities across Ontario.

**Boreal Creates is supported by:**



An agency of the Government of Ontario  
Un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario

# Mentorship

## Scarborough Gardens Arena Mural

In summer 2019, VIBE took on a large-scale mural project, employing professional artist **Sean Martindale** to design, create and lead a collaborative mural in Scarborough.

The finished mural spans over 35 metres across walls of the Scarborough Gardens Arena, a community hub that is home to an indoor skating rink.

The mural-making process offered mentorship to six youth from Tropicana Community Services, and to VIBE Artists Jasmine Wemigwans, Sylvie Stojanovski, and Frannie Potts.

Each participant received employment and transferable skills in project management, leadership and problem solving.

The finished mural, called Kinetic Motion, is inspired by the movement of skates on ice.

This project was offered in partnership with StART - StreetARToronto



“ One thing I loved about the StART mural was that I had the chance to interact with community members everyday. I learned that I love working with people and spending time in the community. The youth on this project were spectacular to work with. I learned so much from them. ”

- Sylvie Stojanovski, Youth Emerging Artist



Musician and Desire Lines 21st showcase.



VIBE and StreetARToronto mural depicting the movement of skates on ice.

# Desire Lines

Beginning January 2019, VIBE welcomed 7 emerging artists to Desire Lines.

Desire Lines is a two-year program presented by VIBE Arts and made possible by the RBC Foundation and Pattison Outdoor Advertising.

The name 'Desire Lines' refers to the paths that are created when people choose to stray from an existing route. This is often seen in parks and natural spaces - the routes that people choose to take instead of the ones that are dictated to them.

Each year, a cohort of equity-seeking, youth artists are provided with three distinct opportunities. First, they receive employment and facilitation experience through creating, leading and curating their own hands-on art experiences for children and youth in communities that the artist identifies with.

Secondly, throughout the year, they engage in over five professional development opportunities.

Finally, each artist is provided with the resources to create their own original 4'x6' artworks. These works go on to be publicly exhibited in subway stations across Toronto in January 2020.

Visit [vibearts.ca/desirelines](http://vibearts.ca/desirelines)



Artist Vicky Wang performed original music at the November



to's 2019 mural, titled Kinetic Motion, was named after the  
ce. Artists used a grid system to meticulously complete the design.



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# Strategic Focus 2020



## Anti- Racism



## Bridging the Gap



## Cultivating Creative Thinkers

# Looking Forward to brighter futures

## 01. Anti-Racism

Leveraging our organization-wide Anti-Oppression training, we will actively review organizational practices and programming to identify areas that could perpetuate systemic racism. Systemic racism often results in youth facing unfair economic barriers and less access to opportunities. At VIBE, we recognize that racism is evident in the persistence and intersection of Islamophobia and Anti-Black attitudes. In 2020, we will actively and intentionally work to identify, acknowledge, and create programming that amplifies the voice of, and provides opportunities for, our BIPOC communities.

## 02. Bridging the Gap

At VIBE, we recognize a crisis: For Ontario youth, access to arts is reducing at an alarming rate. Due to ever-shrinking school budgets and the elimination of funding for community programs, young people are no longer provided with equal opportunities to explore, create and change their lives through art. Given the significant roles that arts education plays in supporting students' learning and development, equitable access to artistic resources and programming should be imperative. Recent studies prove that, in schools within communities where budgets primarily feed social services, resources that support arts education are typically the first go. VIBE's offerings are essential to bridging this gap; bringing professional arts educators into the classroom to inspire true arts education experiences with developing minds, and allowing every student, regardless of circumstance, a chance to benefit from the arts.

## 03. Cultivating Creative Thinkers

Our world is changing. The problems we face now are more complex than ever. The future will not belong to computers, as initially predicted, but will be led by creative thinkers who present effective solutions to tackle issues. VIBE is passionate about ensuring that creative potential is sparked, in even the youngest artist, in service of an increasingly creative, innovative future. Nurturing creativity in childhood is essential. VIBE delivers programs that not only nurture, but celebrate and inspire creativity. Demonstrating value in creativity, through public exhibitions and performances, will inspire the next generation of creative thinkers to take on the challenges that lie ahead.

# Supporters



Photo courtesy of Redbull Music, Maggie Stephenson.

# Thank you

to our donors, funders, sponsors, volunteers, community and corporate partners for their continued, meaningful support.



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# VIBE Arts 2019 Annual Report



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