



**VIBE** ARTS

**2021/2022  
Annual Report**

**SPARK CREATIVITY. SPARK POTENTIAL.**

Participants in a Mural Making Workshop at Arts Etobicoke, November 2021



Participant showing off a piece created in a painting workshop for children and their parents at TNO Kids, August 2022

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# Welcome to our Annual Report!



Dear VIBE Community,

It was another whirlwind year for VIBE Arts. We have steadied ourselves after a rocky couple of years in our new way forward. This way includes more flexible environments for our staff and program participants to engage with VIBE, better, more specific outreach to communities left behind from the pandemic and a growth mindset for the organization that includes exploring new ways to deepen people’s connection to the arts. We have been a long-time children and youth-serving organization and will continue to provide programming to the young people who need it across Ontario. However, we have recognized that we are a community organization first, and when the community is engaged, whole neighbourhoods thrive.

**As a result, we have developed this year’s strategic focus around deepening community connections.**

### Deepening Our Roots

Providing ongoing programming in the communities that need it most. Committing to staying in these communities and developing long-term funding strategies to move away from the ad-hoc programming model prescribed by short-term funding. We will use the arts to deepen engagement, celebrate diversity and bring attention to the issues that are unique to the people who live there.

### Cultivating the Next Generation of Arts Professionals

Our roster is more talented than ever, and our network is more significant than before. We want to leverage these assets to bring the artists on our roster up through VIBE and provide the province with its next generation of Artists, Arts Leaders and Workers. Professionalizing our roster has a direct impact on the community as they bring programming and resources back to the communities they live, work and create in. It allows our work to have a ripple effect for years to come.

### Prioritizing Mental Wellness

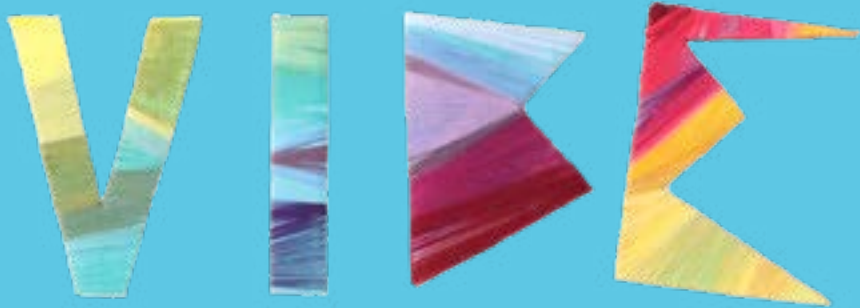
It starts with us, through initiatives that give our staff a fair work/life balance and enhance their physical and mental wellness. This approach will, in turn, be used in our programming model. It will drive how we engage with artists and support their creative growth, psychological safety, and mental wellness—understanding that the arts play a role in their wellbeing.

We hope you will follow along with us and continue to support this work.

*Katie + Onika*

Katie Hutchinson, Executive Director      Onika Powell, Artistic Director

### About VIBE



VIBE Arts operates at the intersection of arts and belonging. We know that not everyone has access to the arts; this is felt especially by people who live outside of the urban core. Members of equity-seeking groups including newcomer Canadians, racialized young people, Indigenous youth, the LGBTQ+ community and individuals living in poverty face complex barriers.

VIBE works directly within these communities to involve thousands of people each year in free arts experiences.

We bring young people together to collaborate in safe and accessible spaces and tap into the creative potential that lies in every corner of our province. VIBE programs develop life-long skills, nurture community connections and spark creativity. Together, we work to realize a future where every young person is equipped to contribute creatively to society.

### 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.

### MANDATE

Bring the power of community and creativity to the children and youth of the GTA.



**Stay in touch!**  
@VIBEArtsTO | vibearts.ca



**5535**  
PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

**72**  
COMMUNITY PARTNERS

**851**  
COMMUNITY ARTS WORKSHOPS

**106**  
MENTORSHIP WORKSHOPS

**957**  
TOTAL WORKSHOPS

**94**  
ARTISTS ENGAGED



**1614 Queen St. E.**  
Leslieville



**4455 Bathurst**  
North York



**Wexford Park**  
Scarborough

## Community Arts

This year we facilitated the creation of **3 public murals** across the GTA with over **125 participants**.

From young children and parents to up-and-coming mural artists to seniors, entire communities came out and created.

Janine Ilya, *Close to Home*, 2022



## Mentorship

In March, along with **380 community members**, we celebrated the work of **10 Black Youth Artists** from **NExT** with our first public exhibition in 2 years.

In our 2021/22 programming year, **25 emerging artists received creative mentorship** through 3 of our signature mentorship programs—**NExT, Desire Lines and LaunchPAD**.

Learn more at [vibearts.ca/programs](https://vibearts.ca/programs)



NExT artist Shahaddah Jack Performing at the Exhibition Opening, March 2022

# Program Highlights





# Artist Spotlight: Jasmine Vanstone

## VIBE: Tell us about yourself!

JV: My name is Jasmine Vanstone. My pronouns are She/Her. I'm a Jamaican Canadian Multidisciplinary Artist and Arts Administrator based in North York.

I went to York University and received a BFA in Visual Art Studio as well as a certificate in Cultural Artistic Practice for Social and Environmental Justice. I went on to receive more training in Arts Management. I took a Postgrad Certificate at Centennial College for Arts Management and that's where I started tapping into my artist and arts admin self.

The mediums that I use are painting, drawing, digital

collage, digital photography, paper craft and most recently murals and film. I like to explore wellness, identity, social justice, environmental justice and Anti-Black Racism in my art and in my work.

## VIBE: Tell us about your journey with VIBE!

JV: I feel like I've been engaged with VIBE longer than I've been at VIBE only because Onika was my mentor in the Centennial College Arts Management Program and that's where we started learning more about community arts.

Onika taught me how to build confidence in myself and that kind of pushed me to start keeping tabs on VIBE Arts and seeing what work they're doing. I just really enjoyed the fact that Black artists were getting space and to really share their voice in galleries where historically it's mostly been Eurocentric. I saw the posting for NEXt go up and I took advantage. That's when I started to blossom more as an artist because I had the opportunity to exhibit and receive artistic mentorship from Tony, Nayo and Kofi.

**With the NEXt Program I created my first body of work looking at my mixed-raced heritage and wellness, specifically how I experienced micro-aggressions and I'm starting to transform by embodying my true self instead of relying on others' perceptions of me.**



Through that program I started getting more involved in arts projects.

Another VIBE Program that I'm in right now is Desire Lines. Desire Lines is an opportunity where we can create public art with the TTC and also create arts programming. I'm going to be exploring wellness through digital mediums such as digital collage, journalling and using Canva to teach youth about the power of their own stories and their own voices.

## VIBE: What are some of the biggest takeaways you got from being involved in VIBE programs?

JV: My biggest takeaway would be the power of mentorship because it invests energy and the mentors get into that relationship because they have witnessed or experienced themselves needing that additional push. I was super grateful that I was able to get



Persephone's Panganat: Coolie, 2022

that push from Nayo and Kofi and Tony because I was able to tap into different resources and my own artistic development by having them guide me through their own life journeys.

**With mentorship it's super important, especially for BIPOC people to receive mentorship, because there's so many barriers and gate-keeping that's going on. Being able to offer that to all of the artists on the VIBE Roster is very empowering because there's a sense of community that's built. VIBE is also stronger for that.**

My second takeaway is that **my voice and my perspective deserve to be celebrated and shared.**

That is especially true coming out of my chrysalis. I have social anxiety and I also had low self-esteem and low confidence. Being able to share my work in any capacity and also talk about it through artist talks where people are interested in learning

more about my journey and my story just empowers me to keep going and keep growing. I'm really looking forward to stepping into myself more.

## VIBE: What is one of your favourite or most memorable moments on the VIBE Roster?

JV: When I just became the Education and Engagement Program Coordinator at TO Live and I learned that NEXt would be up at the Meridian Arts Centre. That was kind of a surprise for me as an artist and as the arts administrator behind the scenes.

I got to really see the exhibition develop through both ends and it was more of a holistic experience for me. It symbolized my growth as an artist and arts administrator.

And seeing the artists develop and getting to hear more of their stories in conversational experiences that we facilitated through Zoom but also seeing the load in happen. Load in is where everyone saw their art in the gallery for the first time and we were all just talking about how much work we put into it and celebrating each other and saying we did that and no one can take it away from us.

It was just really exciting because that just symbolized the future for a lot of us.

## VIBE: What do you think makes VIBE unique as a community arts organization?

JV: I would definitely say the staff, the artists, the mentors, the vision that community comes first. Looking at community development and being always open to feedback.

It feels like a family because everyone's invested in each other and whenever we need help especially with the artists we support each other and

collaborate and it just feels so open and welcoming.

But also the fact that there's placed importance courageous conversations, anti-oppression and also just social justice in general makes VIBE unique because with all of those different aspects it creates an ecosystem where **there's transformational change that can happen just from participating in arts engagement.**



Pause & Reflect: A Self-Care Invitation, 2022

**@articulately\_jasmine**  
**www.jasminevanstone.com**



# Thank you!

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

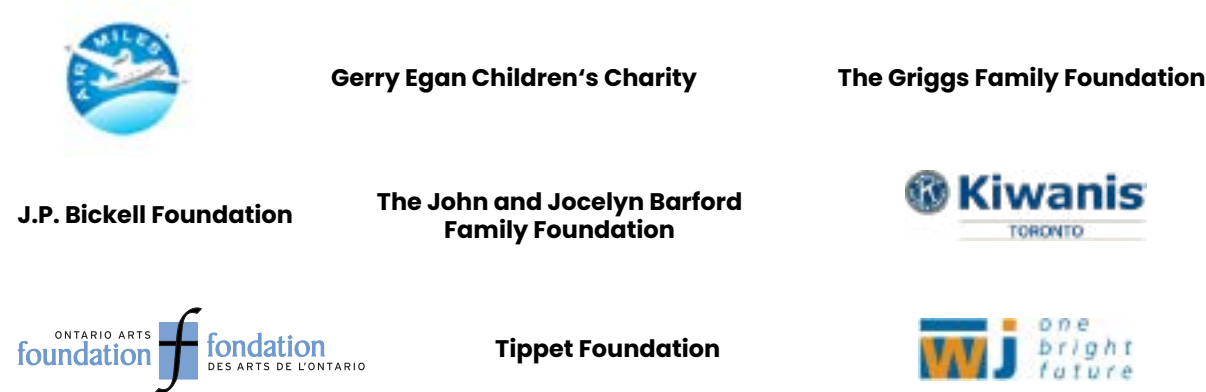
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Tessa Balaz

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## Bronze Supporters



## Public Funders

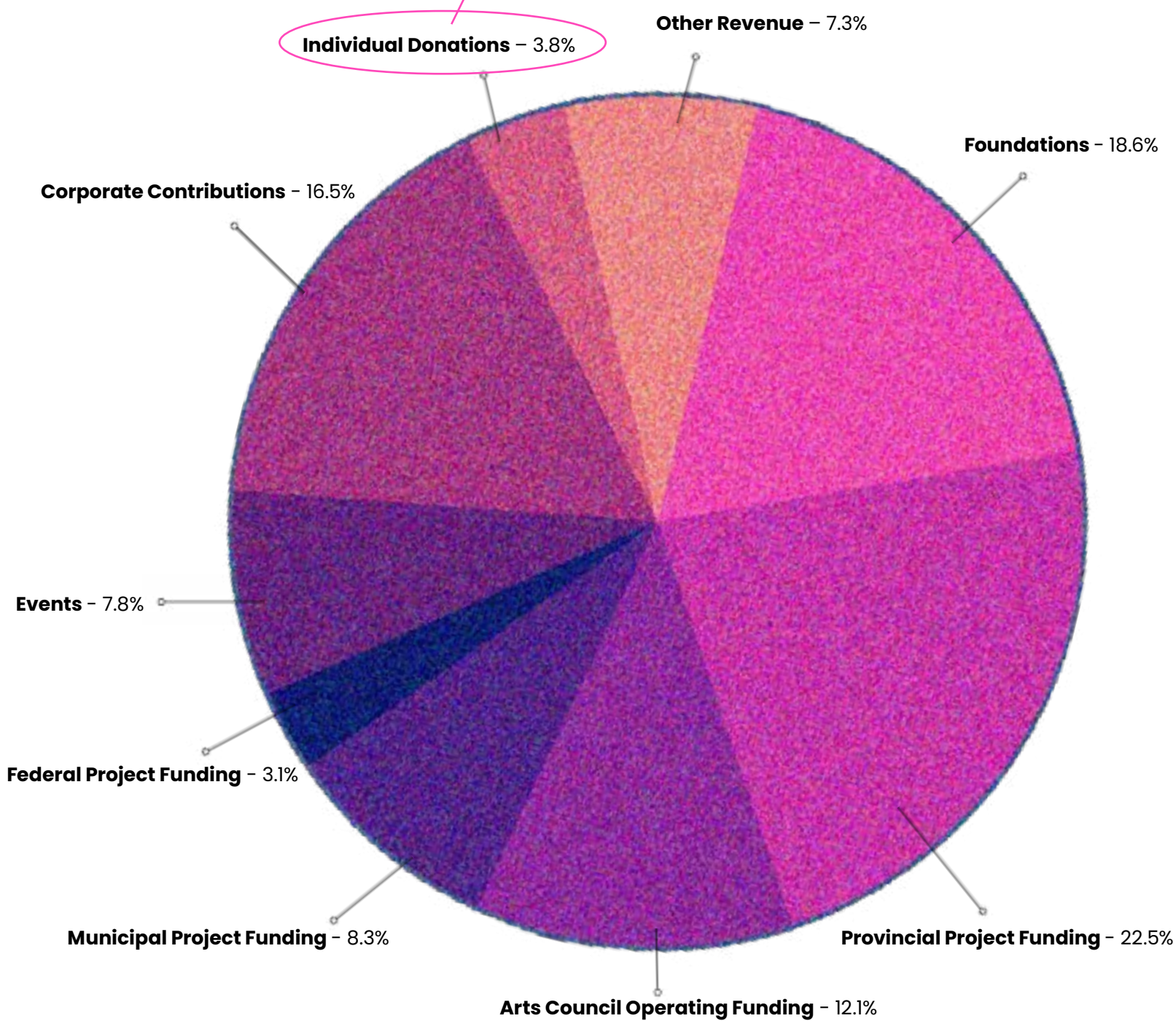


# Financials

Having individuals who support and invest in our mission helps create a foundation for the future of our work.

Support us by making a donation or by becoming an VIBE Arts Advocate—a committed monthly donor who champions our work.

Visit: [vibearts.ca/donate](https://vibearts.ca/donate)



VIBE Staff

- Katie Hutchinson**, Executive Director
- Onika Powell**, Artistic Director
- Ashabi Idris**, Community Program Manager
- Raven Lam**, General Manager
- Jason De Mata**, Mentorship & Program Manager
- Emma Gaudio**, Communications Manager
- Hannah Doucet**, Program Coordinator
- Reia Tariq**, Program Administrator
- Indira Thomas**, Bookkeeper

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- Jaime Shulman**, Director
- Steven J. Hudson**, Director
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good  
things are  
around the  
corner  
:)

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