

Antyx
Community
Ants

Annual Report

2019 - 2020



#205, 4202 17 Ave SE
Calgary, AB, T2A 0T2
403-444-0500 www.antyx.org
[@antyxarts](https://www.instagram.com/antyxarts)

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Executive ARTISTIC Director

MESSAGE:

Dear Antyx Community:

I am thankful that this report has given me the opportunity to pause and reflect on the work Antyx has done in the community over the past year. We have engaged youth, agency partners and neighbourhoods in using the arts to bring people together and explore critical issues like racism and discrimination, food insecurity and mental health.

In our programs, workshops and presentations young people have gained new skills, made new friends and worked together to be leaders and artists for their communities. We are proud of what they have accomplished!

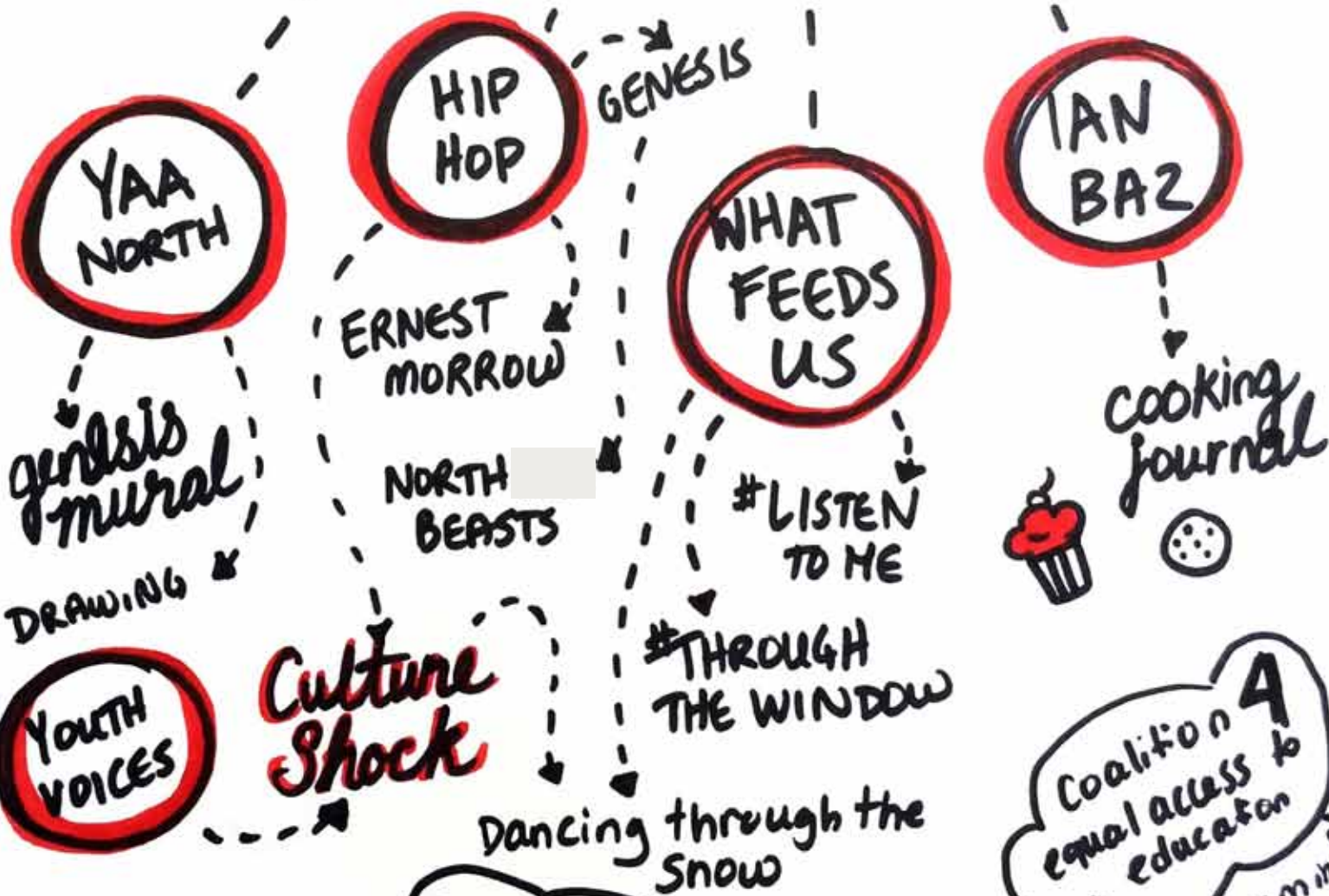
I am writing this message from home where I have been working for the past few months. It has been a difficult time. The pandemic has forced all of us to change the way we work, study and connect with each other. Through it all, I have heard stories about how so many youth and their families adapted and persevered. It has not been easy! The creativity and resilience of our community is inspiring. I am very proud of how Antyx has adapted during the pandemic and provided opportunities for youth to connect and creatively share their voices.

We miss being able to bring people together in person. We will keep adapting and finding ways to engage youth through the arts online, at a distance or, when the time is right, together in community centers, schools and parks.

We are optimistic about the future because in our work every day we see the incredible creativity and resilience of the youth we work with. So, enjoy a look back at our past year and join us as we help to ensure the new normal is full of art and informed by the creative voice of youth!

Executive Artistic Director
Richard Campbell

ANTYX



OTHERS:



COVID



Closure

2020

HOW WE ADAPTED...

In the middle of March 2020, life changed for all of us, all over the world. We had to adapt and change and create new ways of doing things. Programs and technology that none of us had heard of before March, were now part of our daily routines and necessary for us to function. Our teens were facing the new challenges of loss of friends, increased responsibility at home for taking care of siblings, cooking, and more. They struggled with their mental health, they felt alone and detached, and they suffered the same stresses of income, food access, tech access, abuse, freak hailstorms (and insurance coverage) that adults were facing. To top it all off the added pressures of things like online school, graduation, and their futures. Basically, we began to see a meltdown and jumped in the best way we could to fix it.

Antyx switched gears immediately and within days of closure we were having our first online sessions with youth as early as March 20. Our staff used their creativity to create unique and innovative ways for us to deliver our programs. We began to look at all our normal processes and procedures and transfer them to an online format. We asked ourselves: how does improv or image theatre work online? How does a cypher? Can we do a mural by correspondence? If we hosted a performance online, how would the platform be unique and beneficial to the message? What makes up that feeling of comradery that you get when in-person with each other and how can we build that in a digital format? These are all questions along with many more that we began challenging ourselves to dive deeper, be more creative, innovative and be leaders in the Calgary community for the quality and type of services we were offering online.

We also began more online engagement, livestreams, hosted dance meet-ups, had artists of various skills and backgrounds share their knowledge. We connected our youth to counselling services, food hampers and tech access. Some of our youth even began working with teens overseas on a project! Antyx initiated and hosted conversations and workshops with other youth serving partners of how to engage our teens as a collective, how to support their mental health and essential needs in this time, and how to make the best of this situation. We hosted some trainings on how to facilitate engaging sessions in an online format and we helped our partners problem solve some of their service delivery issues and challenges. Our youth also looked at how to engage the public by bringing people together while apart, encouraging others to advocate on issues important to them and use art as a tool to connect people and make change. We decorated windows, made posters, podcasts, paintings, photos and poems. We danced. We rapped. We protested.

Some things worked. Others didn't. But together Antyx staff and youth have been working together to weather this storm as best as possible, and have been finding ways to connect the other life rafts we find to ours, to make a stronger community and a stronger Calgary. We are in this together.



Doorstep Arts (from the UK) and Antyx have an online Image Theatre session on Zoom. Theme of this image is "Connection"

IAN BAZALGETTE

Creative Club

Creative Club at Ian Bazalgette Junior High is a leadership program for students the school. This was the sixth year Antyx has been running the group, and the third year collaborating with **Aspen's Youth Matters Program** in this venue. This year the group worked on numerous creative projects including: knitting, crafts, spoken words, short films, scrapbooking and cooking/baking.

The group worked on creating a cookbook/journal with recipes that have cultural or personal significance to the participants. The cookbook also contains photos, poems and other work created by the group.

After the COVID-19 closure, Ian Baz programming continued online through weekly Zoom meetings. The youth continued to work on their cookbook/journal that will be shared with others and the youth will keep as a digital record of their experience in the **Creative Club**.

"Everybody is very inclusive and understanding when it comes to everybody's differences. I felt very welcomed."

"I feel more confident in talking to other people and cooperating with them to create something innovative."

"It built up my confidence and let me share my ideas without any fear."

Antyx Youth Participants



Ian Bazalgette baking up some treats



YOUTH ARTS ACTION

TEAM
NORTH



Youth Arts Action North (YAAN) is a group of youth, ages 13-20, that meet at the **Genesis Centre** in Northeast Calgary. This year the group has been creating works related to the social justice issues within their northeast community such as inequality, discrimination as well as positive self-image and mental health.

To begin the year, YAAN worked on their drawing skills learning different techniques with guest artist Kasia Koralewska who taught them basic line, texture, composition and portrait work and how to use different drawing mediums. The group created portraits that expressed how they wanted the world to see them. The group recognized that adopting negative views that others may have of them can have a negative effect on an individual's mental health.

The group also spent time in a design process for a large mural that will present a positive and inclusive representation of a diverse group of female-identifying folks. The process of completing the mural at the **Genesis Centre** was delayed because of the COVID-19 shutdown.

During the pandemic, YAAN youth attended weekly online sessions with creative assignments and discussions centered around photography and other forms of visual art. They focused on the themes of connection, family and mental health. The group is currently working on a photography/poetry collaboration with the **What Feeds Us** group on a summer project!

“This program has helped me make new friends and shown me a world from a different perspective. I can be myself and not worry about anything when being part of this group and that makes me feel welcomed.” Antyx Youth Participant



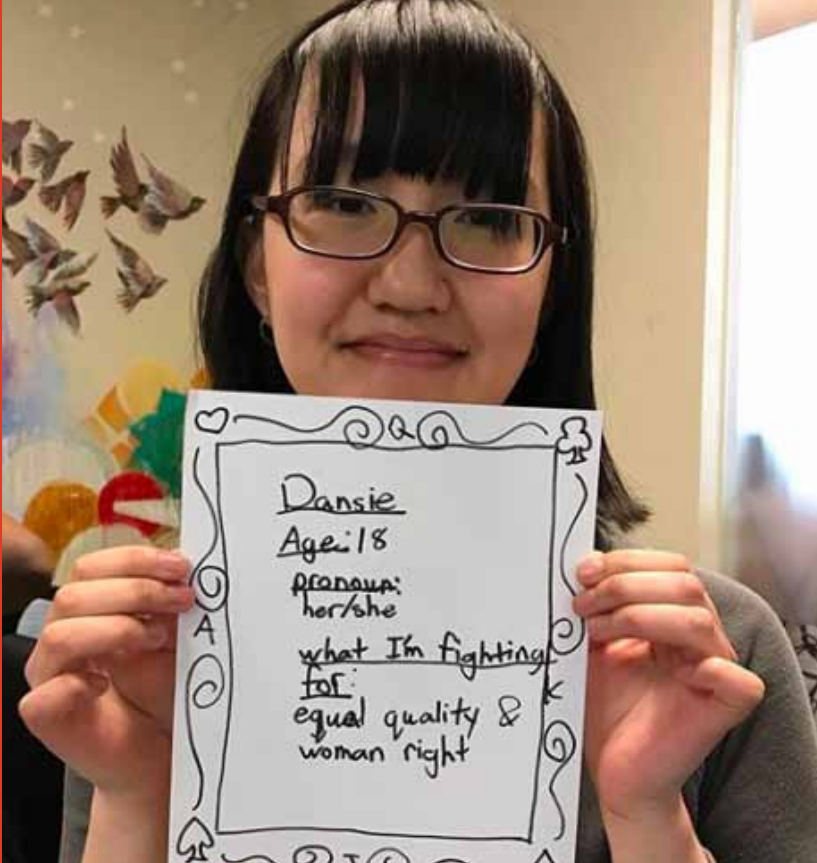
Painting with YAAN

WHAT

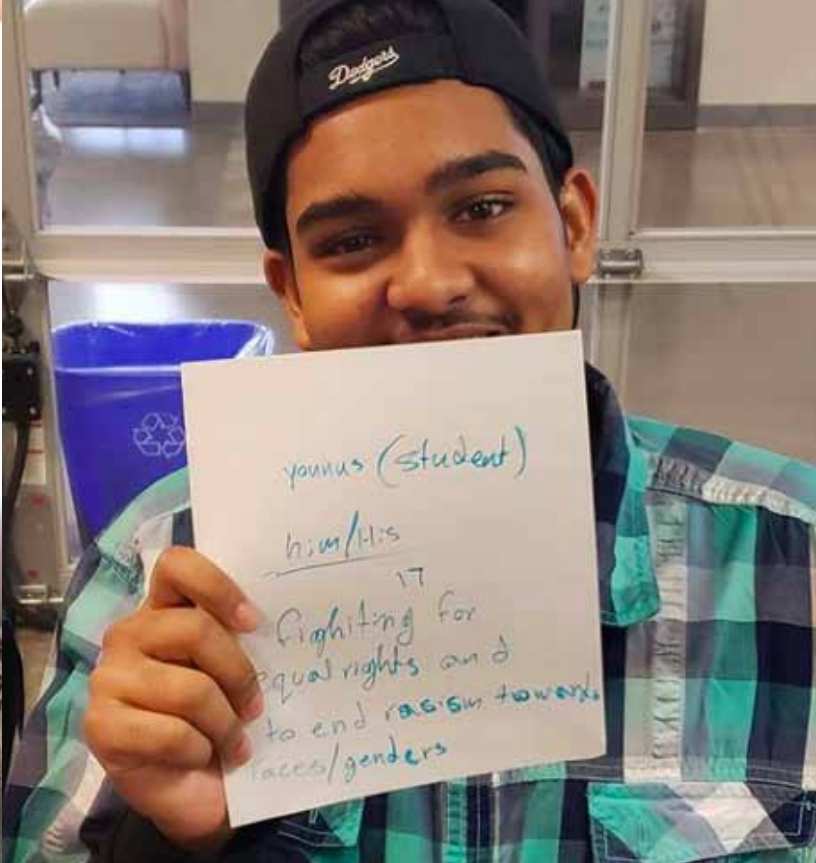
are you

FIGHTING

FOR?



Dansie
Age: 18
pronoun:
her/she
what I'm fighting
for:
equal quality &
woman right

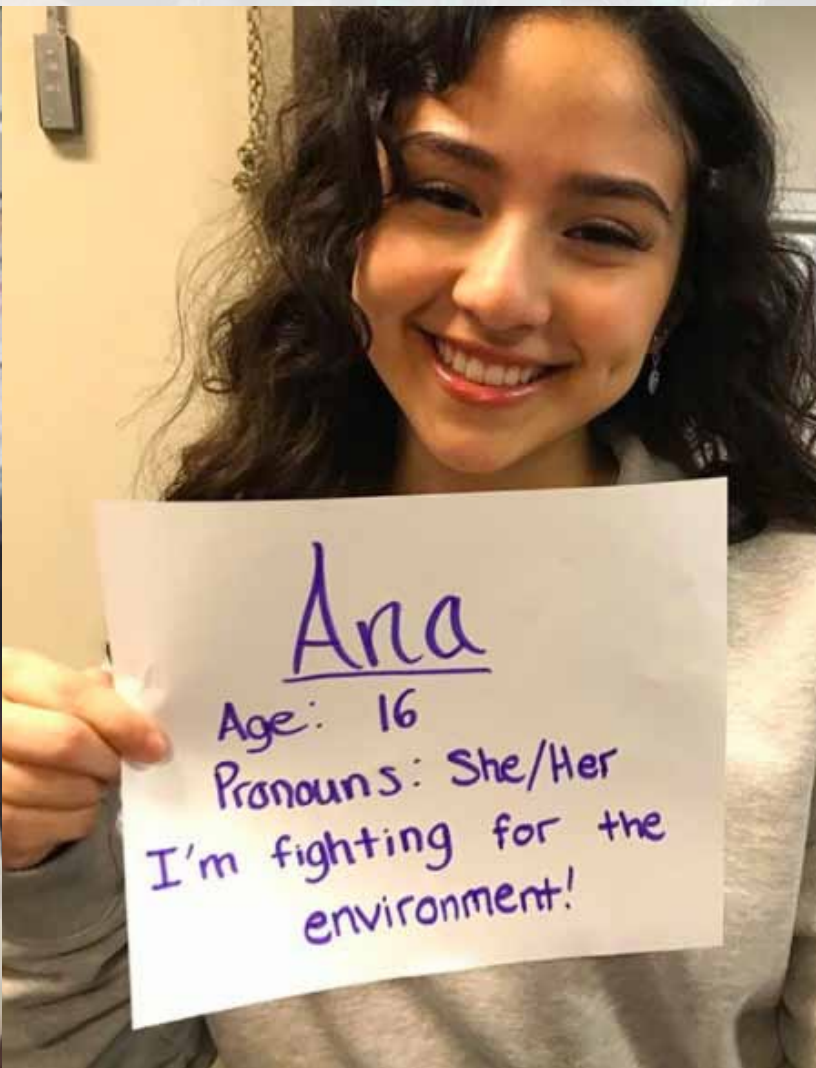


yannus (student)
him/his
17
fighting for
equal rights and
to end racism towards
races/genders

"I remember racial issues were discussed one afternoon and hearing the injustice some volunteers have experienced just because they are different has opened my eyes on how the world still needs a lot more work on accepting others" Antyx Youth Participant



Fathima
15
Her/she
Fighting for: Equality



Ana
Age: 16
Pronouns: She/Her
I'm fighting for the
environment!

What feeds Us

EVERYONE
HAS
HUMAN
RIGHTS

What Feeds Us (WFU) brings youth ages 14-24 together to learn, grow, cook and advocate for social issues they are passionate about through art and other creative mediums. This program is a collaborative project between Antyx and **The Alex Community Food Centre**. This year, the **What Feeds Us** youth engaged in creative projects which encouraged them to think about using their voices and the importance of having youth voices heard.

The WFU group created the **#ListenToMe project** which involved creating peaceful protest signs about social issues that are important to them. The project caught the attention of our community partners and became a travelling art installation. The project was featured at **Boys and Girls Clubs** offices, the **CIWA Youth Forum**, **Genesis Centre Pink Shirt Day** and **International Women's Day**. The project created opportunities to have conversations about a variety of social issues facing all Calgarians.

When in-person programming was halted due to COVID-19, the WFU program moved to online meetings, and **#ThroughTheWindow** project was created out of the quarantine experience of the group. This is a creative project involving decorating the windows of our homes with positive messages of hope during these uncertain times, that we also shared on our social media as an online form of a showcase. We are truly inspired by our youths' ongoing commitment to positive community influence.

The group is now collaborating with our **Youth Arts Action** group on a poetry and photo project documenting their experiences and thoughts during their quarantine experience and beyond. This project will run through the summer and be showcased in the early fall.

SAVE
OUR
Planet
There is No
"PLANET B"

WE
ARE
HUMAN

BLACK
Lives
Matter

TOXIC feminism Does NOT Make you FEMINIST!	WOMEN'S RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS!
GIRLS JUST WANT TO HAVE ♀ FUN-DOMINIA RIGHTS!	If it's NOT your BODY it's NOT your CHOICE

GAY
IS NOT
AN
INSULT

WE'RE
NOT
protesting
FOR THE SAKE OF
PROTESTING

EDUCATION
IS AN
INVESTMENT
NOT A
COST

I DON'T WANT
CHANGE
I NEED
CHANGE

EVERYONE
HAS THE RIGHT
TO BE TREATED
WITH
RESPECT

#ListenToMe posters

In Fall of 2020, **What Feeds Us** youth had the opportunity to attend an artist workshop hosted by **The Esker Foundation**, and artists Jane Trash and Sondra Mezaros. The theme was how to use signage to host a passive protest and get your voice out into the world. These artists began an "I am So Angry I Made a Sign" campaign back in 2016 while some other artists around the world were also creating "I am So Angry I Made a Sign" campaigns. These campaigns helped offload emotional tension and frustration at current events and gave a way for people to voice their ideas and share them with the world.

Our youth from **What Feeds Us** were so inspired by this work that they wanted to begin their own campaign. Posters about human rights, LGBTQ2S+ and women's rights, racism, climate change, food access and food systems change, and more were created. The posters travelled to a variety of venues around Calgary. People attending the exhibit were encouraged to create their own posters for the show. Following COVID-19 closures, this campaign moved online and people are still encouraged to make signs for us to share on our social media platforms.

*"I became more aware about the problems we have in our community, both locally and globally. We talked about a lot of these during our discussions."
Antyx Youth Participant*



#THROUGH THE WINDOW



The **Through the Window** project began in March 2020, by **What Feeds Us** youth after COVID-19 closures. They wanted to bring joy to their neighbours in a safe and socially distanced way. They developed a window decorating project since it was easy, accessible to all, and safe to do from your own home. The group came up with weekly themes from April-July and challenged people from Calgary and beyond to decorate their windows based on the weekly themes and share using **#ThroughTheWindow**. We have shared many of the decorated windows on our page and story posts on social media and are still sharing submissions coming in throughout the summer.

"I was proud to be part of Antyx. I felt I was making changes and impacting the community." Antyx Youth Participant



**“I RAISE UP MY VOICE - NOT SO I
CAN SHOUT, BUT SO THAT THOSE
WITHOUT A VOICE CAN BE
HEARD.”**

MALALA YOUSAFZAI

**“IF YOU THINK YOU ARE TOO
SMALL TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE,
TRY SLEEPING WITH A MOSQUITO”**

DALAI LAMA

HIP HOP

Our **Hip-Hop Program** at the **Genesis Centre** in NE Calgary continues to bring in a diverse group of youth ages 12-20 together to share the love of music, movement and togetherness. Each week, we can hardly wait to step into the **1000 Voices** room on a Friday evening; the room alive with energy. This program continues to create unique opportunities for youth to showcase their skills, and to teach their peers. Each week, the class is taught by a different youth artist. This year we have enjoyed learning a variety of dance styles from our youth instructors including Waacking, Breaking and Hustle. We even enjoyed a 90's boy band themed class! We are always blown away and humbled by the level of talent our youth.

“Antyx has helped me to be motivated in my learning as well as be able to share my learning with a number of people in my community. Being able to share my love for dancing with others is a big part of my life so, thank you Antyx.” Antyx Hip-Hop Participant

After the COVID-19 shutdown, our hip-hop dancers have been adapting their classes to different platforms. We have hosted youth and artist-led Instagram takeovers and live-streams, held a rap-writing workshop and continue to dance despite the circumstances. Antyx is adapting this program and continuing to connect the youth over the summer, in-person, in a safe and physically distanced way. We can't wait to be back with our signature cypher vibes when we are allowed to meet again!



Learning some moves



North Beasts



Group Selfie

CULTURE SHOCK

Culture Shock is the annual dance battle that is planned each year by the **Youth Voices** team at Antyx. This year we celebrated its 5th year running. **Culture Shock** began when the Youth Voices team decided to find a way to bring safe and welcoming hip-hop and breakdance events to NE Calgary. **Culture Shock** is completely planned and organized by with support and mentorship from Antyx staff.

This year **Culture Shock**, for the first time, became a two-day event. The first day of the event was a series of workshops to teach dance to youth of all experience levels and skills that they can use in cypher or competition the following day. The session was well attended with youth from all over Calgary with over 50+ youth attending.

The second day of the event began with opportunities for open-mic and dancing. This year we added an All-Styles competition onto our lineup, along with the breaking competition we usually hold every year. Guest performances from youth and professional dance and beat artists, as well as showcases by our judges, were also included. The event continued with a very popular open cypher time open to all youth to participate in and ended with an awards ceremony.

We had over 700 active participants and spectators over the two days. Feedback from participants was very positive. People felt the event was lots of fun and brought the dancers and community together in a very inclusive way.



All pics on page: Culture Shock 2019

DANCE

♪ To you? ♪

DOWN

RHYTHM

NORTH BEASTS

Throughout the summer months of 2019, a core group of approximately 15 youth dancers met once every week at the **Genesis Centre** for Antyx's weekly **Hip-Hop Program**. The group met with the purpose and intent to compete as a team in **Battle City**, a Calgary Breaking competition. Teams were recruited from across the city to compete. The Antyx youth-based team named themselves "**The North Beasts**".

With the support of Antyx staff, **Battle City** was kind enough to provide weekly coaching and training sessions from local professional dancers Justin Salcedo and Zak Buenventura of Calgary's **JuiceBox Crew**. After two months of difficult training, learning, and cyphering together as a newly formed dance crew, the **North Beasts** made it through multiple hard-fought victories against different teams of Calgary dancers until they were eventually crowned the **2019 Battle City Champions!** Judges and spectators were quick to praise the **North Beasts** team dynamic of energy, support, vibe, and love for one another as one of the key reasons for their triumph against other, sometimes more technical, teams that they had encountered.

*"I feel a sense of belonging because all people from different groups were being acknowledged and uplifted."
Antyx Youth Participant*

DANCING THROUGH THE SNOW

Dancing Through the Snow was born when Josh, a long term member from our **What Feeds Us and Genesis Hip-Hop Programs**, decided to develop new hip-hop related events in the Greater Forest Lawn area. He has been inspired by the work of our **Youth Voices** group and wanted to do something similar in his community.

Josh went to work and prepared a pitch for a community grant and went in front of a grant selection committee, presented his idea for **Dancing Through the Snow** and was awarded a grant to host the event!

In January 2020 he hosted **Dancing Through the Snow** at the **Alex Community Food Centre**, working alongside a group of youth volunteers from our weekly programs to plan the event, and to cater and decorate the venue. We had 75 guests attend and the event was a great success! Inspired by this turnout, Josh is looking towards planning a series of youth events in Greater Forest Lawn in the future.

"I have gained more confidence when performing anything. Presentations, dances, showing off art work, and in general it has boosted my confidence levels." Antyx Youth Participant

“I am able to accept and feel confident with what I believe and stand for what’s right regardless. It’s positive and safe because of the constant reinforced rules/guidelines and awesome facilitators. I always look forward to attending because it’s super fun and I feel happy!!”

Antyx Youth Participant

“I realized that social issues like mental health, racism and body issues [are] a part of my community and I would do anything to raise awareness to help my community”

Antyx Youth Participant



Steph and Alia check out London Graffiti



Doorstep Arts Scratch March 15

HOW DO WE LISTEN?
SILENCE IS EASIER
SO MUCH WRONGS EVEN THE SUPERHEROES AREN'T

MELTING POINT

POINT

WE'RE NOT PROTESTING FOR THE SAKE OF PROTESTING

WE'RE NOT PROTESTING FOR THE SAKE OF PROTESTING

you'll die of OLD AGE i'll die of MENTAL CLIMATE CHANGE HEALTH

It's NOT Our fault!


THIS IS ON OUR WATCH


ILLNESS NOT ALWAYS


ENOUGH THINK BEFORE YOU ACT

We  deserve to be **FREE**

doorstep arts

Since Fall of 2019, **Antyx Community Arts** has been collaborating with a group in Torbay, England called **Doorstep Arts**. **Doorstep Arts**, a youth theatre and social justice organization, also works with teens and does art for social change using theatre, dance, music and other performance styles.

This collaboration entitled “**Imagined Futures**” project was funded by the New Conversations Fund from British Council, the High Commission of Canada in the UK, and Farnham Maltings with support from Arts Council England. Jade Campbell from **Doorstep Arts** came to visit us and got to meet our program youth in October of 2019 for ten days..

In March 2020, just as COVID-19 was starting to gain traction around the world, Antyx facilitators Stephanie and Alia flew to the UK to complete their exchange with **Doorstep Arts**. Stephanie and Alia spent just over two weeks in the UK, starting with a week in London getting to know other organizations with similar mandates and goals, before heading to the South Western Coastal region of England to participate in the many DYT programs, exploring what possibilities might exist in an international exchange, and what we can learn from each other.

Our collaboration with **Doorstep Arts** continues. Currently, a group of youth from Calgary and Torbay in England are meeting online on a bi-weekly. They are having valuable discussions about mental health, quarantine and systemic race issues in both countries. After the summer break, we will be continuing these collaborative sessions and the youth are working towards a digital theatre performance.

We have documented our exchange with **Doorstep Arts** in a series of blog posts on the Antyx Website <http://www.antyx.org/imagined-futures> and have hosted some podcasts about our collaboration on our Antyx Voices Podbean <https://antyxwebmaster.podbean.com>

“Not only has talking circles grown on me as a skill, but listening to others has made me realize how similar a stranger’s ideas can be to mine.” Antyx Youth Participant

PINK SHIRTDAY

Pink Shirt Day is an annual anti-bullying initiative to raise awareness and take positive action against bullying. Antyx is a proud supporter of anti-bullying and hosts creative projects and events every year in the month of February.

This year, Antyx collaborated with **12 Community Safety Initiative** and **Boys and Girls Clubs of Calgary** to host a two-day creative challenge on Feb 8/9th. The 2020 **Pink Shirt Day** initiative involved a group of 8 youth working on creative projects such as podcasts and social media campaigns to spread awareness and tackle the issues of bullying. At the end of the two-day intensive, the work created by the youth was showcased the week of February 24-28 via social media and pod bean.

This is one of the images the youth created for the social media campaign launched across all Antyx and 12CSI partner platforms. The intent of this image was for the youth to express the negative verbal language used against them and show the impact it can have on a person through a simple picture.

In addition to our efforts in the Greater Forest Lawn area, Antyx was also part of the **Pink Shirt Day** event at the **Genesis Center**. Antyx hosted an engagement booth where youth participated in the **#ListenToMe** project, creating posters with sayings they wished for the world to see, centered around Anti-Bullying, equality and empowerment.



Social media content created by youth in Creative Challenge



Making podcasts



Antyx at Genesis Centre event



Antyx youth performance at the Genesis Centre event

“The most significant changes that I have experienced is a new sense of empathy. I am now aware of newer cultures, religions, and experiences of other people, making me feel more empathetic than I was before the program. I am also more aware of social issues due to the exploration of them through art.”
Antyx Youth Participant

SUMMER Mural CAMPS

Antyx worked with the **Community Hubs Initiative** during the summer of 2019 to complete murals at both **Bob Bahan Aquatic Centre** and **The Alex Community Food Centre!** Our youth worked tirelessly all summer to brighten up Greater Forest Lawn by creating murals for the area. They were mentored by artists at Antyx as well as Street Artist Kerz XXV, Indigenous mural artist Ryan Willert and Elder Dakota Eagle Woman. Together with our Antyx staff, guest artists, and elder, youth went deeper into conversations about “home, connection, community, connection to Forest Lawn, Canada and Canadian History.” We also conducted engagement sessions with people from the community. The youth went through all of our findings and paired it with their learnings, to design and paint murals at both locations.

The Alex Community Food Centre mural ended up being a dual-sided 64’ x 4’ mural that runs along their fence when you enter the parking lot. Youth worked mostly in the medium of graffiti with Kerz XXV. At **Bob Bahan**, we created murals in multiple spots, including the shed, activity center door, and picnic table. They stenciled the garden boxes and they hand-painted a wall in the front foyer of the **Bob Bahan** pool building as well. To celebrate this accomplishment, we hosted an opening showcase and celebration Sept 18, 2019 complete with artist talks, music, food, and a mural walk between both locations.

Currently this summer we are again working with the **Community Hubs Initiative** to create murals for both **Bob Bahan Aquatic Centre** and **Village Square Leisure Centre**. We have sent home art packs and met the youth daily on zoom. These murals are being collected from the youth and installed in Sept 2020.

“I found myself able to work with individual whose personalities did not match with mine and people that I would have avoided otherwise. Although I am good in group settings, I tend to avoid people with personalities opposite to me. This time, I found myself successfully working with everyone.”

Antyx Youth Participant



Painting at Bob Bahan

Summer Performance CAMP

For two weeks in July 2019, over a dozen Calgary teens from different cultural backgrounds met at Eau Claire Market for a daytime **Summer Performing Arts Camp**. The camp focused on the creation of a Forum Theatre performance. It is a type of performance that includes the audience in influencing and engaging with the performance as both spectators and actors (“spect-actors”) with the power to stop and alter the narrative as it is occurring.

This program was a joint effort between Antyx and **Action Dignity**. Linda Kee, an actress, community facilitator, and theatre professional, brought her expertise in forum theatre to the project. She guided the youth to help create scenarios related to issues of social injustice or oppression. The theatre practices encouraged the youth to explore creative, collaborative, personal feelings, and solutions to problems featured in the performance.

Highlights of the camp included the creation of guerilla street performances or “commercials” that the youths performed for random audiences, a field trip to Arts Commons, and the creation of the youths’ Forum Theatre pieces. The two weeks were inspiring. Many of the youth in attendance continue to pursue and create their own programs and initiatives centred around social justice, creativity, and the performing arts.



Cooling off in the river



Group Selfie

CIWA VIDEO

From December 2019 to February 2020, Stephanie from Antyx worked with the youth from **Calgary Immigrant Women's Association's** youth group at **St. Martha Jr. High** to create a video project around personal and cultural identity and the self. Youth explored their backgrounds, culture, family values, and what was important to them through the process, and the piece was showcased at the **CIWA Youth Forum** in February of 2020 where 500+ people attended! The video is on our YouTube channel for those interested in seeing it.



Stephanie and Jessica at CIWA Youth Forum

"I don't feel judged at all and I feel like it's a safe space to express my ideas"
Antyx Youth Participant

Creativity
takes
Courage

- HENRI MATISSE



BE



KIND

Staff



RICHARD

EXECUTIVE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
AKA. THE BIG "CHEESE"
AKA. "ART DAD"



STEPHANIE

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
COORDINATOR
AKA. THE CRAFTER
AKA. "SPARKLES"
AKA. "PREPPER"



NOOR

ADMINISTRATOR AND
COMMUNITY ARTS FACILITATOR
AKA. THE NOOR-GANIZER
AKA. "CURLS"
AKA. "WIZARD"



BRYAN

COMMUNITY ARTS FACILITATOR
AKA. THE STORYTELLER
AKA. "WORD SLINGER"
AKA. "CHAMP"



DWIGHT

COMMUNITY ARTS FACILITATOR
AKA. THE COMMUNITY BUILDER
AKA. "SMILES"
AKA. "HYPE MAN"

Students

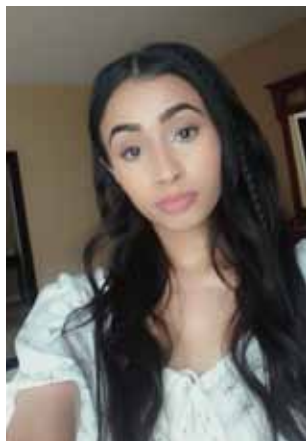
Meet our 2020 Student Intern/Practicum placements! These four wonderful individuals spent many hours with us facilitating classes, conducting outreach, developing communication and marketing plans, creating resources, maintaining our social media among all the other hundreds of tasks we require on a daily basis to help make Antyx programs and services so impactful. They have all weathered with us through the CoVid closure adaptations and have been instrumental in the adaptation of our processes since March.



JESSICA

AKA. THE MYSTIC JUICER

Jessica McCarthy is a second-year social work student at Mount Royal University. She has a life-long passion for the arts and can speak to the transformative nature of being involved in the arts community. Jessica has a background in theatre (both in front of and behind the curtain), dance, choir and played a variety of musical instruments growing up. Some of her most cherished memories are of her time on stage. She has also worked with youth in various positions over the years and is always amazed by their creativity, passion and talent. Working with youth inspires her and is a great reminder to all of us to continue to live in the moment and share our talents with others. In her free time, Jessica loves cooking delicious vegan food, exploring farmers markets, enjoying live theatre, dance and music events, and snuggling up on the couch with her little puppy Ellie. When Jessica finishes university, she plans to move to Victoria, British Columbia to start her career as a front-line mental health support worker.



KIRAN

AKA. THE BELIEBER

Kiran Randhawa is a 21-year-old social work student at Mount Royal University. She is passionate to work with youth regarding mental health and social issues in hopes to create a positive and indefinite change for future generations. Kiran has been involved in youth work for years and enjoys every moment of it. During her spare time, she likes to binge watch Netflix, play video games, paint, and explore the outdoors. Kiran is a huge foodie, so she loves trying out new foods and restaurants from all over the world!



ASHLEIGH

AKA. THE COMMUNICATOR

Ashleigh Imbery is currently studying public relations at Mount Royal University and is going into her fourth and final year. A fun fact about Ashleigh is that stained glass is her favorite art medium to experiment with! In her free time, she likes to learn new things. With this newfound amount of time during quarantine, she's learned how to cook new dishes, roller skate, make macramé hangers and even built a coffee table from scratch. As well, she likes to go to live shows and find new places to eat with friends. Ashleigh has previously worked with Antyx and loved the hands-on experience and opportunities it gave her. She is excited to be a part of Antyx for the summer and to work with passionate youths and incorporate the journey into her learning.



LIAM

AKA. THE INFLUENCER

Liam Crockford is a fourth-year student at Mount Royal University (MRU) studying public relations. He was born in Toronto, and moved to Calgary in 2015. One interesting thing about Liam is that he had the fantastic opportunity to visit Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait and Dubai. He spent three years working for a fast-food chain where he visited those places and trained staff for new restaurants. He had a lot of fun and got to meet some fantastic people during this time! Liam is excited to continue to work with Antyx this summer since he was with them as a part of his Community Service-Learning project during his third year at MRU.



Youth

FEATURE

XAVION

Xavion has been a part of Antyx for about a year and is our **2019 Culture Shock** champion! His focus on having fun and enjoying the experience led his dancing from a routine to an expressive performance and, ultimately, a win. When we asked him what Antyx meant to him, this was his response, "Antyx means, it's a whole community of so many diverse kids. It doesn't matter what type of dancing you do; everyone accepts everyone."

The hip-hop program has built a community where there is nothing but support for each other, Every youth has a different style when it comes to expressing themselves on the dance floor, and Xavion has nothing but inspiring words and advice for putting it all together, "Everyone's super supportive. There's people that are doing windmills, air flairs and there are people that are just beginning breakdancing, so everyone's supporting everyone. It doesn't matter what level you are or what type of dancing you do, it's like don't be afraid to express the type of dancing you do. If you like dancing, then just do it"

"When I think of a community, I think of everyone supporting each other, they kind of work together and rise up as a whole. I also think that when I think of community I think of a lot of different people, not just the same people working together and that's definitely what happens in Antyx as well" - Xavion



AMY

Our youth Amy has been with Antyx for three years, taking part in the **What Feeds Us Program**, where they focus on food justice and connecting art with social issues. Amy's favourite project with Antyx was working on the **Tales of Melontopia**, and they "felt like it was a very meaningful project to create a children's book for food security and make it accessible to younger audiences, and it was just overall really fun."

Our mission is to empower and engage our youths through combining art and education, and when we asked Amy what Antyx meant to them, they replied, "I feel like it's an opportunity. For people to connect, for people to learn and grow. I've felt like I've really learned a lot through Antyx. Through their programs, I've been educated on so many topics and at the same time I've built up a lot of different skills that I don't think I could've found anywhere else. It's just opened up a lot of opportunities for me to become a better person."

We believe that the arts can open the door to self-reflection and self-expression, and Amy's advice for joining Antyx is to "be open to new things like be open to trying new things and being open to learning more about yourself and learning more about others."

"There's a lot of things I like, but I think the thing that keeps me coming back are the people. Everyone is so welcoming, and kind, and we get so many different perspectives on everything that happens, and there's so many creative ideas that come from all the different people. It's just all of the different people and everything they bring to the table that really keeps me coming back." - Amy



Xavion



Amy

ARTIST

FEATURE

RYAN DE GUZMAN (RUBIX)

Ryan is an artist that teaches rap and breakdancing to youth. He first started rapping in 2006 and break dancing he had been doing throughout his life. He is especially passionate about teaching elementary kids. Ryan first heard of Antyx from its fellow staff members Brian and Dwight, whom he was friends with and learned about all its programs. He taught his first program at Huntington Hills school for four weeks with a group of youths and loved it.

Ryan loves the people within Antyx's community and how much they care about their work and projects with the youth. He says he gets a feeling of joy and laughter when thinking about his times at Antyx. He thinks of Antyx as "pure joy." He knows that Antyx cares about everyone within their community like their staff, volunteers and youth. They are there to support everyone's mental and physical health in an understanding way.

It took him 13 years to make his processes structure his work ethic and creativity, but he now shares his wisdom and perspectives with the youth that he teaches. Lately, he has been connecting with growing plants to change his outlook on his art and life, continuing his personal growth.

The youth have positively impacted Ryan during his programs. He gets much joy working with them and is very passionate about it. Throughout his time with the organization, the staff have impacted his perception of it positively and how much they care for what they do while working with Calgary's youth.



ZOE SLUSAR (ZHE THE FREE)

Zoe Slusar is a motivational speaker, rapper and independent filmmaker. She first heard about Antyx while she was working on a project with Dwight Farahat. The project was at the Blackfoot Crossing for the **Global Fest Urban Arts Crew** and their **Human Rights Forum**. Zoe is also the President of the **Cypher Club** and was invited to partake in the **Culture Shock** event.

As a featured presenter with **Young Women of Power** and an Artist Mentor with **Refreshed**, Zoe is here to inspire youth to use creativity as a positive outlet and is passionate about exploring the power of storytelling. She feels that youth get skipped over a lot in our world and that organizations like Antyx put youth at an equal focus. Zoe believes youth do not get many people expecting them to be 'gold' and she believes that Antyx does this for them. It cultivates an environment to grow.

Zoe has both impacted and been impacted by the youth that she has worked alongside. She describes it as a "healthy feedback" process when it is working at his best. Working with youth to her is a magical thing to not only encourage them but to be encouraged by them to grow as a person and an artist. Zoe has learned, while working with youth, that they are often the ones that are the teachers.



Artists

Every year we contract various artists to lead our youth in occasional workshops, sessions and camps. These artists run programs, facilitate activities and help us at events. They are dancers, rappers, designers, drawers, thinkers, makers, writers, performers, painters, photographers and podcasters. They motivate and inspire our youth to gain new skills, motivate them to use their creativity and many times become lifetime mentors for the teens. Here are some of the amazing artists we have had the pleasure to work with this year!

Aaron Trong (Truonks)
Brandon Ganuelas
Dakota Eagle Woman
Dylan Ganuelas (Ill Dill)
Gene Caborroguis (Gomo)
Jasen Canul
Justin Salcedo
Kasia Koralewska
Katria McKinnon (Muse)
Kevin Jesuino
Kevin Choo (Catfish)
Linda Kee

Luke Mason
Mark Johnson
Maverick Dumali (Mav-Wreck)
Rebecca Dawn
Ryan De Guzman (Rubix)
Ryan Willert
Shandie Ta
Tiziano Lombardo (Kerz XXV)
Vincent Joachim
Zak Buenaventura
Zoe Slusar (Zhe the Free)

“[I come] because of the people. No one is judgmental or rude to one another. They are friendly and they make me feel comfortable voicing my opinion.” Antyx Youth Participant

PARTNERS

Thank you to our many partners that have helped us throughout the year and on a daily basis for programs, projects and other initiatives. Your support and collaboration are very important to us, bringing new skills, thoughts and ideas. You challenge us daily to strive to be the best we can be, and you motivate us to make change in our communities and neighbourhoods. Your laughter in the hard times, and your joy in the good times, warm our hearts each time we see you. Your practice in community development and/or youth work inspires us to try new things, connect with our youth on different levels, and be the best non-profit we can be.

You are at the front line and in the trenches with us, making Calgary and its people a better place. We are very grateful to you.

Partner Organizations

1000 Voices
10 x10
12 Community Safety Initiative
Action Dignity
Aspen Family and Community Network Society
BattleCity
Boys and Girls Club Calgary
Calgary Board of Education
Calgary Bridge Foundation for Youth
Calgary Foodbank
Calgary Immigrant Women's Association
Calgary Public Library
Calgary Young Offenders Centre

Cornerstone Youth
Doorstep Arts (UK)
ENMAX
Genesis Centre
Immigrant Services Calgary
The Alex Community Food Centre
The City of Calgary
Two Wheel View
Urban Society for Aboriginal Youth

Partner Co-Facilitators

Danielle Fitzpatrick (The Alex CFC)
Kaylee Woronuk (Aspen)
Jade Campbell (Doorstep Arts)
Erin, Nab, Polly (Doorstep Arts)



Picture from Canva

VOLUNTEERS

Special thanks to all of our volunteers that contributed so much of their time and efforts to ensuring Antyx had such a great year. You allowed us to offer a better quality of services and programming. Your ideas, smiles and extra hands when we needed them helped us make Antyx the amazing non-profit it is. We acknowledge your hard work and we greatly appreciate you. We couldn't have done it without you!

From July 2019 - Aug 2020:

106 volunteers contributed **1862 hours** which is equivalent to **\$46,550** of work!



Board Members joining Antyx at the United Way Parade

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it is the only thing that ever has"

- Margaret Mead



Youth Volunteers

Volunteers helped as:

- Board members
- Front line facilitators teaching dance, rap, drawing, cooking/baking, visual art projects, murals and more.
- Aids at camps and special projects
- Guest artists and workers to teach youth important skills
- Planning special events
- Help at special events by setting up, prepping and serving food, playing music, etc.

Volunteers

Aaron Truong
Eric Albert
Shandie Ta
Jasen Canul
Kasia Koralewska
Yessica Delgado
Ryan Davis

Jared

JV
Josh L.
Kiran
Mackayla L.
Makayla K.
Mahalia
Mavrick
Maria
Markus
Moni
Rani
Savini
Xavion
Younus

Board

Robert Toth: President
Daniel Pisterzi: Vice President
Dylan Jones: Past President
Matthew Watt: Treasurer
Ami Kenzo: Secretary
Allan Nielsen: Director
Sara Stepa: Director

Bassem Hafez: Director
Ashley Vu: Director
Stephanie Savoie: Director
Lauren Minuk: Director
Chi Illiya-Ndule: Director
Irtiza Noor: Director

Youth Volunteers

Alex L.
Amy
Carlos
Dylan
Emily

“As I am more introverted I tend to work alone more than in groups but coming to antyx let me know that working in groups is so much fun and the diverse ideas that come are totally worth it.” Antyx Youth Participant

“Everyone in the program makes it feel like a little family especially with our circle talks and how we’re able to speak out mind. It also helps that the adults present are super approachable.”

Antyx Youth Participant

**“No matter where you came from
or who you are, they’ll always
make you feel welcome.”**

Antyx Youth Participant

WHERE

DO WE

GO

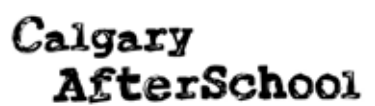
FROM

HERE?



Picture from Canva

FUNDERS



*“Art is when a human, tells another human, what it is to be human”
- Adrian Elmer*

A person is holding a hand-painted sign. The sign has a background of a rainbow with horizontal bands of red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and pink. The text on the sign is written in large, bold, black, hand-painted letters. The person holding the sign is wearing a black jacket and camouflage pants. Their hands are visible at the top corners of the sign, with red nail polish on the left hand and white nail polish on the right hand.

**BE YOU!
DON'T LET PEOPLE
JUDGE YOU**