



Community Arts Society

2023-2024 Annual Report



Antyx Community Arts Society

Annual Report 2023/2024

Introduction

2023/2024 marked a year of vibrant artistic expression and community engagement for Antyx Community Arts Society. Guided by our mission to empower youth and foster social change through art, we navigated challenges with resilience and celebrated significant achievements.

This report offers a comprehensive overview of our programs, impact, financial standing, and strategic direction for the year ending March 31, 2024. We are proud to showcase the transformative power of art within our community, highlighting the dedication of our team, volunteers, and the invaluable support of our partners and funders.

Board Chair's Report

The Board of Directors at Antyx is immensely proud of the organization's accomplishments in 2023/2024. We successfully adapted our programming to meet the evolving needs of our community, creating spaces for creative expression and critical dialogue. Our strategic focus remained on increasing accessibility, strengthening partnerships, and ensuring the long-term sustainability of Antyx. A key highlight was the launch of our expanded Mural Arts program, resulting in murals displayed for the public across the city and a high demand for future iterations. As we look towards 2025, we will prioritize deeper community engagement, exploring innovative funding models, and continuing to advocate for the importance of arts education.

Incoming Executive Director's Report

As the incoming Executive Director, it's been a privilege to join Antyx and witness the dedication that drives this organization.

Over the past year, Antyx has faced challenges related to workload, systems, and governance, which contributed to staff burnout. These are widespread issues, with many NGOs navigating increasing demands and limited resources. At the same time, the rapidly changing world—marked by socio-political unrest, economic instability, and technological advances—has left many youth feeling overwhelmed and disconnected. This environment has only intensified the need for youth-focused programming and support.



The pressure on the sector to deliver high-impact outcomes while caring for staff well-being calls for nimbleness and sustainable practices. Though we face challenges, we are using this time for reflection and improvement, and I'm pleased to report that meaningful progress is already underway.

We are deeply grateful to our community partners and funders whose continued support is vital to our work. Their trust enables us to reach and empower more young people in our communities.

At the heart of everything we do is our unwavering commitment to empowering youth. In 2023/2024, our programs provided young people with opportunities to explore their identities, develop their voices, and build critical life skills through creative expression. As we move into 2025, our goal is to deepen the impact of our programs, foster stronger community connections, and harness art as a powerful tool for personal growth and collective transformation.

With my background in organizational development and leadership, I'm excited to continue strengthening our mission and ensure every young person we serve has the tools to thrive. Together, with our dedicated team, I look forward to facing the future with confidence.

Program Highlights: Fostering Creativity and Social-Emotional Growth

Antyx Community Arts Society delivers impactful programs through a dynamic 10-week cycle approach, designed to foster social-emotional learning (SEL). Each program cycle is thoughtfully structured to equip participants with valuable skills, promote self-discovery, and create opportunities for community engagement. A remarkable 22 of these programs were launched this year. These initiatives empower participants to explore their identities, express themselves creatively, and develop resilience in navigating the complexities of their lives.

1. Youth Arts Action: Nurturing Artistic Expression and Personal Development

Youth Arts Action continues to be a cornerstone of our programming, providing a welcoming space for young people to explore a range of artistic mediums without the pressure of prior experience. This program goes beyond technical skill development, embedding social-emotional learning (SEL) into every activity. Through projects like crafting emotionally resonant comic strips, designing mixed-media art installations reflecting personal identity, and collaborating on art events with intergenerational participants, youth gain self-awareness, empathy, and communication skills.

- **Example: Through The Decades (July-August):** This interactive Youth Arts Action cycle engaged participants in a nostalgic journey through the history of pop culture, social movements, and artistic styles across various decades. The program incorporated a mix of historical research, creative workshops, and collaborative art-making to allow participants to discover the transformative power of art in times of societal change.



2. The Film Lab: Empowering Youth Voices Through Digital Storytelling

The Film Lab harnesses the power of digital media to empower youth to explore pressing social issues and become effective storytellers. Participants learn the fundamentals of filmmaking, from scriptwriting and cinematography to editing and sound design. But more importantly, they develop their critical thinking skills, hone their collaborative abilities, and find their unique voice. Through projects such as creating documentaries about local community challenges, producing public service announcements on issues like climate change or mental health, and showcasing their films at community festivals, youth gain confidence, media literacy, and a platform to advocate for change.

- **Example: Movies for a Change (December 2023 - February):** This impactful Film Lab cycle immersed participants in the art of social documentary. They engaged in workshops to master essential storytelling techniques, from research and interviewing to filming and editing. Working in small teams, they documented local heroes and challenges in their community. Culminating in a public screening, their films sparked important conversations and fostered a deeper sense of belonging.

3. Mural Projects: Transforming Public Spaces and Amplifying Community Narratives

Mural Projects stand as powerful symbols of community collaboration and artistic expression. These large-scale public artworks not only beautify neighborhoods but also serve as visual narratives that reflect the stories, values, and aspirations of local residents. Through collaborative workshops, community consultations, and collective art-making, youth and community members come together to design and create impactful murals that celebrate diversity, promote social justice, and inspire dialogue.

- **Example: Basketball court Forest Lawn (April):** The activation of the basketball court in Forest Lawn, was an incredible success this year. With the help of community stakeholders, students created a mural that would be uplifting and inspiring to the members of Forest Lawn.

SEL Integration: Building Life Skills and Resilience

Embedded within each program, SEL components empower youth with the critical skills needed to thrive in school, work, and life. Through group discussions, art-based activities, and mindfulness exercises, participants develop their emotional awareness, self-regulation, empathy, and relationship-building skills. These skills are essential for navigating challenges, fostering positive relationships, and becoming engaged citizens.

Community Engagement and Partnerships

Antyx is deeply committed to building strong relationships with community partners. These collaborations allow us to expand our reach, access diverse perspectives, and ensure that our programs are responsive to local needs. We are grateful for the ongoing support of our partners, whose commitment helps us to create transformative opportunities for youth.



- The Salvation Army Community Resource Centre
- The Central Library
- Hillhurst Sunnyside Community Association
- Autism Aspergers Friend Society
- Cornerstone Youth Centre
- Forest Lawn Activity Centre
- Ronald McDonald's House
- Cardel Rec South
- The Genesis Centre
- Centre for Newcomers
- Planet Youth
- United Way



Team, Volunteers and Partners Recognition

Antyx extends its deepest gratitude to our facilitators and dedicated volunteers, whose time, talent, and passion make our work possible. From program delivery to providing administrative support, our team is essential to our success. We also express our sincere appreciation to our funders and partners, whose generous contributions enable us to continue to provide high-quality arts programming to our community.

Closing Remarks

As we reflect on 2023/2024, we are filled with pride in what Antyx has accomplished. Thanks to the collaborative efforts of our board, staff, volunteers, partners, and funders, we were able to make a real difference in the lives of youth and our community. As we look forward to 2025, we are excited to build on this momentum, expanding our impact and continuing to celebrate the transformative power of art.









