



Community Arts Society

2024-2025 Annual Report



Antyx Community Arts Society

Annual Report 2024/2025

Introduction

2024/2025 marked another 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, and strategic direction for the year ending March 31, 2025. 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.

Our Vision, Mission, and Values

Vision: Safe and inclusive communities where every youth is valued, resilient, and free to express themselves.

Mission: Engaging youth through the arts to build confidence, tackle social issues and grow community connections.

Values: Antyx firmly stands behind Diversity, Inclusivity, Integrity, Creativity, Freedom of Expression, Relationships.

Board Chair's Report

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am proud to share Antyx Community Arts Society's accomplishments in 2024/2025. The Board's focus this year centred on strengthening the foundations of our organization — welcoming a new Executive Director in December 2024, completing strategic Board recruitment to bring the skills and experience needed for strong governance, and approving a comprehensive Financial Policies and Procedures manual that reinforces our commitment to responsible stewardship. Working in close partnership with our Executive Director, the Board has supported meaningful progress against our 2025 strategic priorities: aligning programs with the commitments we make to our funders, reinforcing financial oversight and capacity, and investing in the program infrastructure that allows us to deliver consistent, high-quality experiences for youth. As we look to 2025/2026, we will continue to advance the priorities of our 2023–2026 Strategic Plan, deepen our



partnerships with funders and community, and support the continued growth of programs that empower Calgary's youth.

Executive Director's Report

2024/2025 marked a period of stabilization and renewed focus for Antyx. Following a period of leadership transition, I joined as Executive Director in December 2024, and I am pleased to report that the organization has emerged stronger, more focused, and well-positioned for sustainable growth.

Against our 2025 strategic goals, we made meaningful progress across three priority areas: strengthening the alignment between our programs and the commitments we make to our funders; reinforcing financial stewardship through improved policies, oversight, and professional capacity; and investing in the program infrastructure that allows us to deliver high-quality, consistent experiences for the youth we serve.

Throughout the year, our programs continued to provide young people with opportunities to explore their identities, develop their voices, and build critical life skills through creative expression. We are deeply grateful to our community partners and funders whose continued support is vital to this work. Their trust enables us to reach and empower more young people across our communities.

Looking ahead, we are excited to expand our digital arts programming, deepen our youth-centred approach through initiatives such as the Antyx Youth Creative Council, and continue strengthening our capacity to serve Calgary's youth. Together with our dedicated team and Board, I look forward to building on this momentum in the year ahead.

2024/2025 Year in Review

Guided by our 2023–2026 Strategic Plan, this year's efforts centred on three priorities that together strengthen our ability to deliver meaningful impact for youth.

Strengthening Program–Funder Alignment

We enhanced the alignment between our programs and funder commitments through improved grant tracking, expense reviews against grant agreements, and clearer outcome reporting. This approach ensures that every program delivers against the outcomes we commit to, and that funders can see the tangible results of their investment in Calgary's youth.

Financial Stewardship

Antyx significantly strengthened its financial management capacity this year. In January 2025, we retained a CPA as contract Controller. Towards the end of the year, our Board approved a comprehensive Financial Policies and Procedures manual covering accounting, procurement, approval



authority, segregation of duties, cash management, and oversight. Revenue for the year exceeded budget expectations, with strong grant support from United Way, the Calgary Arts Development Authority, and the Alberta Foundation for the Arts.

Enhancing Program Infrastructure

We invested in the people, systems, and partnerships that make excellent programming possible. A Grant Manager/Writer joined the team at the end of the year to strengthen our funding development capacity.

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. 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.

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.

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 neighbourhoods 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.

Social Emotional Learning 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.

Our Impact: What Youth Take With Them

Across every program cycle, we see young people grow in ways that extend far beyond the studio. Our programs are designed to deliver measurable outcomes in three interconnected areas:

Social-Emotional Learning

- Youth develop greater resilience, self-esteem, independence, and a stronger sense of identity through the creative process.
- Youth gain practical tools for understanding and expressing their emotions in healthy ways, building lifelong therapeutic skills.
- Youth are able to relate to themselves and others with acceptance and understanding.

Group and Collaborative Skills

- Youth build strengthened social support networks that provide ongoing encouragement and connection.
- Youth create lasting relationships with peers and mentors who understand and support their journeys.
- Collaboration on projects fosters teamwork, communication skills, and the ability to work across difference.

Community Impact

- Youth develop the skillset and mindset needed for successful transitions to adulthood.
- Schools, neighbourhoods, and communities are strengthened when youth use the arts to address social justice issues.
- Youth become catalysts for positive change within their communities.

Youth Voices: Stories from Our Programs



The true measure of our work lives in the experiences of the young people we serve. Two stories from this year illustrate the kind of transformation our programs make possible.

Alex — Finding a Voice Through Digital Storytelling

“I used to think podcasts were just people chatting, but this workshop showed me they are actually a powerful way to do creative storytelling. I was able to move past my nerves to conduct a real interview, teaching me how to ask the right questions to get a great story. Getting to use the professional mics made everything click — I felt like a producer.”

Alex joined our Intro to Digital Arts workshop hesitant to participate, with a narrow view of what digital media could achieve. The workshop’s blend of technical production and storytelling helped Alex see digital tools not as equipment, but as a medium for authentic connection. During a live-interview pilot, Alex learned how to craft intentional questions that unearthed personal stories from peers. Access to professional-grade equipment provided a sense of legitimacy, transforming Alex’s self-perception from a passive observer to a confident producer. This is the heart of our digital arts work: building a sense of belonging and giving youth the tools and platform to be heard.

Sam — From Consumer to Creator

“I usually just spend my time gaming, but the Intro to Digital Arts session showed me I could actually create the stuff I see online. Having all that gear and equipment in one room, and someone to show me how it actually works, made it fun to explore all the mediums for creating.”

Sam, like many of his peers, initially saw digital spaces primarily as a place for gaming and consumption. The barrier between “playing” and “creating” felt immense. A curriculum that showcased digital art as a multifaceted discipline helped Sam realize that his passion for gaming was a gateway to broader creative storytelling. A low-pressure atmosphere, professional-grade gear, and mentorship from a facilitator transformed a daunting technical hurdle into a fun exploration. Sam no longer sees himself as just a gamer, but as a creator with the agency to build the digital worlds he once only watched.

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 Central Library
- Hillhurst Sunnyside Community Association
- Cornerstone Youth Centre



- Forest Lawn Activity Centre
- The Salvation Army - Community Resource Centre
- Cardel Rec South
- The Genesis Centre
- Bishop McNally High School
- Families Matter Society
- Thorncliffe Greenview Community Association
- Contemporary Calgary

Governance and Accountability

Antyx is governed by a dedicated volunteer Board of Directors that provides strategic direction and oversight. During the 2024/2025 fiscal year, the Board met ten times, with consistently strong attendance throughout the year. The Board operates through three standing committees: Governance and Human Resources; Communications and Fund Development; and Audit and Finance.

A Board evaluation is conducted annually, with results reviewed each December and used to guide Board development and training. Each committee also completes an annual self-evaluation and reviews its Terms of Reference. Through strategic recruitment this year, the Board welcomed new leadership in the Chair, Vice-Chair/Secretary, and Treasurer roles, bringing the skills and experience needed for strong governance.

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.

Looking Ahead

In August 2025, Antyx plans to establish the Antyx Youth Creative Council, empowering youth to shape our digital arts programming through direct input on program design, evaluation, and promotion. In the year ahead, we also plan to expand our digital arts programming by introducing a graphic design component in a drop-in makerspace format, enabling youth to create digital zines through graphic design, digital collage, poetry, and photography. We also intend to introduce a new “Antyx Amplify” podcast program where youth build audio storytelling, interviewing, and production skills to amplify their voices and share the stories that matter most to them. These initiatives align with our youth-



centred approach and respond to youth interest in digital storytelling, graphic design, and self-publishing, while remaining rooted in our core mission of empowering youth through the arts.

Closing Remarks

As we reflect on 2024/2025, 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 2025/2026, we are excited to build on this momentum, expanding our impact and continuing to celebrate the transformative power of art.







