
IMPACT REPORT 2022-2023



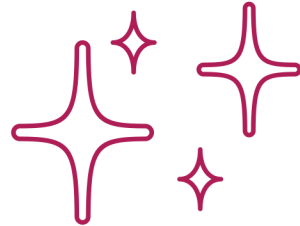
LAKE SHORE ARTS

LAKESHORE ARTS

CONNECTING STUDENTS
THROUGH ART

LAKESHOREARTS.CA
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OUR IMPACT

We worked with, engaged, and saw ...

112 Artists

478 Participants

1025 Visitors



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

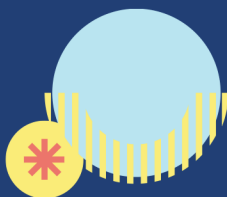
This year, Lakeshore Arts saw a lot of change. Our new Executive Director Theo Walker-Robinson completed their first year at the helm, bringing fresh energy, a business mindset, and many new ideas to the organization. Theo made many new connections with local artists and other stakeholders, while reconnecting with past Lakeshore Arts supporters. Unfortunately, they had to take a leave of absence at the end of the year. In the past year, we also gave a bittersweet farewell to Operations Manager Sharon Zarita Adhiambo, Community Project Space Curator Jacqui Arntfield, and Bookkeeper Cara Jordan.

Despite the magnitude of change this year, we managed to create and provide a plethora of programs for the community, while adopting a cautious return to in-person programming. At the beginning of the year we closed out *In Search Of..*, our public art tours of three South Etobicoke neighbourhoods and the captivating views that they offer. We had two exhibitions that highlighted local artists: *Gathering: The Art of Black Culture and Heritage* and *As Thin as Skin Can Be* by emerging artist Dessa Ely, presenting public art-making workshops alongside each exhibition. Partnerships with other social service organizations, arts organizations and local businesses sprouted many opportunities for meaningful programming this year. We're eagerly looking forward to strengthening those relationships in the coming year, as well as building our staff team back up.

Sincerely,
Nadajah Robinson
Interim Executive Director



Top: Photo of Theo Walker-Robinson
Lower: Photo by Gesilayefa Azorbo, of Nadajah Robinson



TREASURER'S REPORT



I have the pleasure of presenting the Treasurer's Report for the fiscal year commencing on August 1, 2022 and ending July 31, 2023. The Financial statements have been audited by Jeffrey D. Milgram Professional Corporation and approved by the Board of Director on December 18, 2023.

As part of our funding envelope from Art Services, the City of Toronto, Lakeshore Arts received status quo operating funding of \$293 thousand. These monies were used to invest in staff as we strive to create fair and equitable wages, provide benefits as well as pay for operational needs which include rent, insurance and utilities.

Our funding from Ontario Lottery and Gaming Association, secured in January 2018 through a charity bingo license, had amassed to \$65 thousand. These funds were to be used specifically for artist fees and program material and will allow us to continue to hire high-caliber artist facilitators and educators to deliver ongoing programming.

New funding included \$7,500 donations from the Larsen Foundation that consisted with 3-year funding for Q Summit program ending in 2023. We currently have two short-term investments held at Alterna Savings both to reach maturity in the next fiscal year, with a total face value of \$53,445.

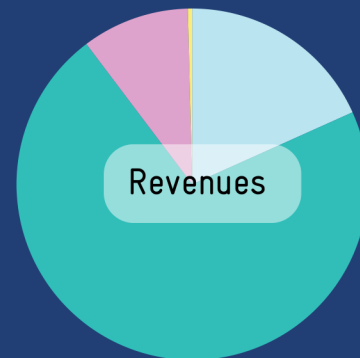
The main sources of income are currently stable, even though the fiscal year resulted in a deficit of \$9,869. The \$60 thousand CEBA loan received in 2020 as part of the federal government Covid-19 relief was paid back to the government on January 15, 2024. The Government forgave \$20 thousand.

It must be stressed that the current income levels are, of course, made possible only by the continued efforts of the LSA team of staff, with support from the membership – both within and outside of the Board of Directors.

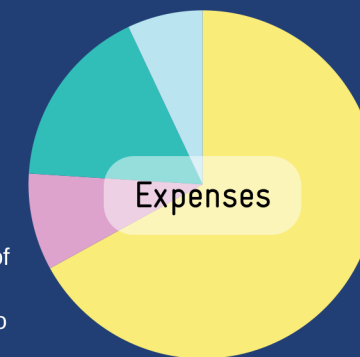
As I reflect on my 8 years as a Board Director and Treasurer, I am filled with gratitude to have been a part of a dynamic and ever-changing arts organization and look forward to the future of LSA and how they will continue to inspire the community.

With Gratitude,
Kathy Dimas, CPA CMA, Board Treasurer

- Artistic Fees & Programmi...
- Salaries & Benefits
- Operating & Facilities
- Fundrasing & Marketing



- Public Sector Operating
- Public Sector Project
- Donation/Sponsorship
- Other Revenue



OUR PROGRAMS: YOUTH

YOUTH CLIMATE COLLECTIVE

For this iteration of YCC, LSA partnered with Met Radio (TMU's campus radio) to offer a radio production program. Participants ages 12-16 were mentored by a poet, a climate advocate, and staff at Met Radio. Participants developed and recorded radio segments that creatively advocated about climate change issues. Their recordings aired on Met Radio 1280 AM in January 2023 for all local listeners to hear.



Photo by Nadijah Robinson.
YCC participant at Met Radio, 2022.

[Click here to listen to YCC's radio segments!](#)

YOUTH CLIMATE COLLECTIVE PARKS SUMMER SERIES

During late summer 2022, LSA hosted a 3-part Youth Climate Collective Summer Series to advocate for public parks and the environment. Events included climate art poster-making at Marie Curtis Park, rock-painting & a heritage tour at Lakeshore Grounds Interpretive Centre/Humber College, and teachings about public rallies at Mimico Square.



Photo by Revital Weiss.
YCC participant painting at Marie Curtis Park, 2022.



Photo by Iain d'Endel-Wales
YCC participants at Humber College, 2022.



Q SUMMIT

LSA's poetry and spoken word mentorship for 2SLGBTQ+ youth ages 19-29 returned for its fourth year, led by artists Melly Davidson and Martin Gomes. Over four months, participants developed their technical poetry skills, explored intersections of queerness, and built a community. The program culminated in the group contributing works to a published anthology with and performed at a live poetry showcase hosted by Tammy's Wine Bar.



[Click here to read this year's anthology!](#)



Above: Photo by Revital Weiss.
Below: Photo by Phillip Warner.
Q Summit Poetry Showcase at Tammy's Wine Bar, 2023.

REX PRIDE X Q SUMMIT

For this expansion of LSA's Q Summit programming, we partnered with REX Pride at the Rexdale Community Health Centre to offer a multi-arts drop-in program for 2SLGBTQ+ BIPOC youth. The program featured a new activity each week, including hand-sewing, vogue/ballroom, fashion, and more. The program culminated in a weekend retreat at Humber North Campus. Supported by the Community Partnership Fund at Humber College, the program was co-created with the participants based on their interests.



Photo by REX Pride Staff.
Participants at the Humber College Retreat, 2023.



PARTNERSHIPS: WORKMAN ARTS

Our partnership with Workman Arts presents art programs that develop artistic skills for participants within Etobicoke with lived experiences of addiction or mental health issues. Facilitators are peers who are employed to teach the courses in their respective artistic disciplines.

HEALING ART- MAKING FOR ARTISTS

Taught by artist and art therapist, Natalie Very B this workshop engaged aspiring, emerging artists in rekindling their artistic flames. Intended for artists who had fallen out of love with art-making due to high expectations and feelings of self-doubt, this workshop created space for participants to engage in a variety of playful and low-stakes activities.



Photo from Loretta Faveri.
"Silencing Your Inner Critic" print, 2023.

SAY IT OUT LOUD: INTRO TO SPOKEN WORD

Led by Instructor Lisa Shen, this course engaged novice youth and adult spoken-word enthusiasts in the fundamentals of spoken-word writing and performance, as well as techniques for improving their work.

ART OF FORGIVENESS: SILENCING YOUR INNER CRITIC

In this program, facilitating artist Loretta Faveri led participants through a cathartic and creative multi-step process involving drawing, writing, printmaking and assemblage.

STORY AS MEDICINE

Facilitated by Sharrae Lyon, this course engaged participants' bodies, voices and presence to free themselves up in this play-based workshop series.

JOY THROUGH KOLAMS

Taught by artist Shri Abirami Jayaraman, this class welcomed people of all ages to learn a beautiful and symbolic traditional artform, creating Kolams by pouring flour in a geometric design.



Photo by Nadijah Robinson. Kolams workshop at LSA, 2023



Photo from Natalie Very B.
"Silencing Your Inner Critic" collage, 2023

RECLAIM YOUR VOICE: WRITE YOUR SELF

Open to anyone looking to begin a writing practice or enhance their current one, this workshop helped participants to excavate their stories, establish writing routines, and care for themselves in their artistic practices. The course was taught by Jungle Flower who is a Tkaronto-based poet, speaker, trauma-informed writing guide & sound guide.



PARTNERSHIPS

ELEMENTS OF THEATRE

Elements of Theatre returned for a hybrid format taking place in-person at Community Living Toronto, with some participants logging in virtually. This drama workshop series for folks with intellectual disabilities builds their knowledge and skills in musical theatre, dance, movement, and improv, in a fun, inclusive setting for all skill levels.



Photo by Revital Weiss
Elements of Theatre participants dancing at
Community Living Toronto, 2023

DANCE TOGETHER FESTIVAL

Each summer, LSA partners with the The Dance Together Festival, to support them in producing a large-scale public art mural at Amos Waites Park. The mural is painted by artist Natalie Very B and community volunteers. Participants of all ages and experience levels enjoy the mural through movement every Saturday, guided by a host of instructors. The dance workshops range from Afro-Caribbean groove to Indigenous contemporary dance and more!

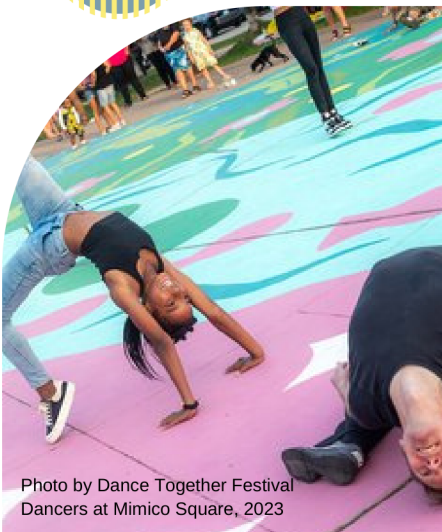


Photo by Dance Together Festival
Dancers at Mimico Square, 2023

REPAIR CAFE & WORKSHOPS



Left: Photo by Revital Weiss.
Sashiko mending workshop, 2023.



Right: Photo by Nadijah Robinson.
Community member repairing items at
Repair Cafe, 2023.

Through the City of Toronto's Climate Action Grant, LSA presented a series of events that encouraged and educated the community on repairing broken items rather than tossing them, as a sustainability practice. This included a Sashiko mending workshop, a repair skills workshop, and a Repair Cafe event.

COMMUNITY REMEMBRANCE EVENT

Photo by Evan Chen.
Ribbon activity for
Remembrance event at
St. Margaret's Anglican
Church, 2023.



This public gathering at St. Margaret's Anglican Church invited all community members who lost loved ones due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the toxic drug supply crisis, or any other means, to grieve together. Names of those who had passed were read out loud and community members took part in a commemorative ribbon installation.

PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

PUBLIC ART: IN SEARCH OF...



Photos by Nadijah Robinson.
Left: Guided tour of Thirtieth Street Underpass Mural
Right: Guided tour of Eighth Street Skatepark Murals

As part of ArtworxTO the City of Toronto's Year of Public Art, LSA created a series of public art and nature tours that highlighted five public art sites throughout South Etobicoke. Led by local artists and community leaders, the curated walking tours featured notable murals, structures, and elements of nature, including the underpass mural on 30th street, the murals at the 8th Street Skatepark, and the historic Oculus Pavilion surrounded by medicinal plants growing near Humber River.

WRITE BY THE WATER

In its fourth year, this intensive workshop series facilitated by writer, storyteller and multi-disciplinary artist, Whitney French, provided 10 BIPOC writers a creative and supportive environment to strengthen their writing skills and provide supportive feedback. With each iteration of this series, writers form long lasting friendships and leave with a renewed sense of determination within their creative writing practices.

EXHIBITIONS

ECOLOGIES & COSMOLOGIES

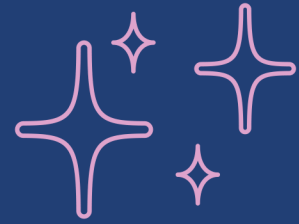


Photo by Jacqui Arntfield.
Installation view, *Ecologies & Cosmologies*, 2022

Ecologies & Cosmologies was an exhibition in partnership with Trinity Square Video that took place at various venues across Tkaronto, including Lakeshore Arts' Community Project Space. This exhibition presented the 2022 "Themed Commissions", which were produced over a summer residency, inviting artists to explore and critique different forms of interdependency and networks of life, and to destabilize fixed entities, identities, or borders through technologies, ecological or cosmological metaphors. Exhibiting artists at LSA included Sidi Chen, Jenna Reid and Cassandra Myers.

DESIRE(D) PATHS

This participatory exhibition by Colectivo Satelital explored the process of navigating national borders through the related systems of communication, transportation, importation, and identification. Through thematic stations, the project invited the public to use multiple art forms to envision new systems and create alternative pathways to navigating cross-border relationships.



Photo by Ernesto Cabral de Luna
Interactive exhibit for *Desire(d) Paths*, 2022.

EXHIBITIONS

GATHERING: THE ART OF BLACK CULTURE & HERITAGE



Photo by Gesila Azorbo. Artist Faith Abraham at the *Gathering* opening reception at LSA, 2023.

This Black History Month exhibition displayed a collection of artworks and images submitted by local Black community members, as important expressions of their cultures and their connections to community. *Gathering* celebrated Black creative hair styling, the flavours of Black cultural cuisines, and other elements of Black culture as community members themselves define it.



Photo by Gesila Azorbo. Councillor Amber Morley at the *Gathering* opening reception at LSA, 2023.

Alongside the exhibition, we presented two workshops for community members: Braiding with a Social Twist by Braids for AIDS, and a Self-portrait Wellness Workshop by expressive arts therapist Georgia Fullerton.

AS SOLID AS SKIN CAN BE DESSA ELY

This exhibition featured works by emerging artist Dessa Ely on the subjects of loss, racial identity, and healing using experimental materials and alternative processes, including rice paper sculptures, rust on steel, and chlorophyll prints on leaves.



Above: Photo by Revital Weiss. Installation view of chlorophyll print, *As Solid As Skin Can Be*, 2023.



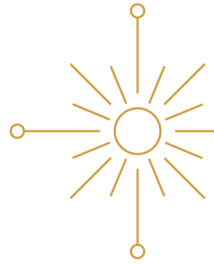
Below: Photos by Nadiyah Robinson. Left: Cyanotype workshop at Mimico Square, 2023. Right: Metal rusting workshop at ISA, 2023.

METAL RUSTING WORKSHOPS

In these workshops, Ely taught participants the chemical process of rusting metal to create images. Participants were invited to display their final works at a dedicated community exhibit within *As Solid as Skin Can Be*.

CYANOTYPE WORKSHOPS

In these workshops, artist Dessa Ely asked participants to consider the concept of (im)permanence through cyanotyping fabric. Participants were invited to bring personal objects and/or images to guide their cyanotype designs. Participants were also welcomed to display their final works at a dedicated community exhibit within *As Solid as Skin Can Be*.



HEARTFELT THANK YOUS!

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You are our partners in sustaining the arts in South Etobicoke.

THANK YOU



CONTACT

Phone
416-201-7093

Website
WWW.LAKESHOREARTS.CA

Email
INFO@LAKESHOREARTS.CA

Social Media
[@LAKESHOREARTS](https://www.instagram.com/LAKESHOREARTS)



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