

IMPACT REPORT

2024-2025



LAKESHORE ARTS

CONNECTING COMMUNITIES
THROUGH ARTS

LAKESHOREARTS.CA
@LAKESHOREARTS

CONTENTS

- 2 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR(S) MESSAGE
- 3 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
- 4 OUR MISSION, VISION, VALUES
- 6 OUR IMPACT
- 7 OUR PROGRAMS
- 8 PROGRAMS: CHILDREN & YOUTH
- 10 PROGRAMS: ADULT & ALL AGES
- 12 COMMUNITY PROJECT SPACE
- 14 PARTNERSHIPS/COMMUNITY GOODWILL
- 16 TREASURER'S REPORT
- 17 FINANCES
- 18 FUNDING AGENCIES - PARTNERSHIPS
- 19 SPONSORS AND DONORS
- 20 BOARD OF DIRECTORS
- 21 STAFF



Cover:
Photo by Revital Weiss
Celebrate Diwali, 2024

Inside Cover:
Photo by Revital Weiss,
Crafting Change Through Natural Dye-Making
Workshop, 2025

Back Cover:
Photo provided by Revital Weiss
Local MRKT, July 2025

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR(S) MESSAGE

It has been an honor to serve as Lakeshore Arts' Interim Executive Director for the last two years. In that time, I have been proud to advocate for Lakeshore Arts to receive an increase in funding from the City of Toronto, with a promise to increase each year until 2030. Our team also launched new programming, such as our Paint and Sip evening events, which also served as a fundraiser to support our other programming initiatives. We established new and meaningful partnerships with local organizations such as the LAMP Community Health Centre and Toes for Dance. Most importantly, we were able to grow our team by adding Andi Canales as our Marketing and Communications Manager and Steffi Ng as our Program Coordinator. I'm proud of everything our staff team accomplished as we work to rebuild LSA, post-pandemic. As I pass the baton to our new Executive Director, I'm looking forward to continued stewardship as LSA's Interim Operations Manager.

Sincerely,

Nadijah Robinson (she/her) - Interim Executive Director

Stepping into the Executive Director role this year, I have been impressed with the commitment of Lakeshore Arts' staff, artists, and community members to uphold the mission of providing accessible arts experiences for all. Like most other arts organizations, the last few years have been full of transitions as we find our "new normal". We have succeeded through innovative programming, strong local partnerships, and championing artists.

Consolidating a year's activities into an Impact Report can sometimes feel reductive, capturing real-life experiences in statistics. But it can also explicate what focused work in community engagement, throughout an entire year, can accomplish. We're so proud to share our impact with you, as we continue to grow and learn with our community.

Sincerely,

Annie Katsura Rollins (she/they) - Executive Director



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is with deep gratitude that I write this President's Report as I step down as Chair, excited for what is to come. I joined the Lakeshore Arts Board as a volunteer in 2016, and later on as a board member. Arts programming has benefited me so much, both as a child and now as an adult. I feel privileged to be a part of both receiving and giving, to uphold the benefits of Local Arts Service Organizations through Lakeshore Arts. I am deeply grateful for the support we received this year from fellow board members Oscar Rivera and Akshat Jhaveri, as well as Denise Choy and Katherine Bosnitch.

This year revealed an extraordinary rise of leadership. In a time marked by change, we saw every level of the organization, staff members in particular, move into new roles to better serve our mission, and increase programming. I want to thank the significant contribution of Nadijah Robinson as Interim ED, whose dynamic leadership met each challenge, and transitioned the organization for growth to meet the community's needs.

We are excited to have Annie Katsura Rollins join as LSA's Executive Director. Annie's commitment to leadership in the arts programming sector in Toronto, and her decades of experience in the arts has already developed a meaningful and measurable impact.

Lakeshore Arts has continued to nurture our community's dedication to using art to impact lives in positive ways. I want to thank each person who brought this year to life alongside the dedication of volunteers, supporters, partners and staff. Your dedication to our mission and your generosity makes this work possible.

As we envision and plan for our next fiscal year, we remain committed to clarifying LSA's mission so it can guide us. We look forward to continuing the dialogue and making lasting change.

Thank you for being a part of Lakeshore Arts.

With gratitude,

May Yebuga (she/her)
Board President



OUR MISSION

As a registered charitable not-for-profit community arts organization, we are dedicated to engaging all peoples using multidisciplinary art forms as a way of enriching lives and strengthening Toronto's communities.

Connecting Communities
through Art

VISION

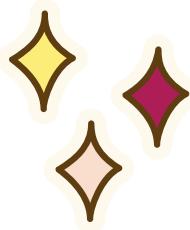
For creativity and collaboration to drive cultural, social and artistic growth and help build inclusive, healthy communities.

VALUES

Collaboration and Partnerships, Sustainability, Respect, Access and Lifelong Learning.



OUR IMPACT



1,485

Program
Participants

25,637

Public Art
Impact

73

Artists Employed

7

Partnerships

11

Community Projects &
Events

14

Volunteers

132

Community Project Space
Visitors

OUR PROGRAMS

Community Programs - Children & Youth

- Q Summit
- Youth Climate Collective - Crafting Change Through Natural Dye-Making Workshops

Partnerships/ Community Goodwill

- Councilor Amber Morley's Fall Fest
- Remembrance Gathering
- Local MRKT
- LAMP Awards
- Arts in the Parks
- Dance Together Festival

Events/ Festivals/ Performances

- Pride Toronto - Community Connect
- Celebrate Diwali

Exhibitions

- #CaribanaStories
- Youth Climate Collective - Crafting Change Through Natural Dye-Making Exhibition

Community Programs - Adult & All Ages

- Black History Month Workshops
- How to Get Free (No Strings Attached) \$\$ to Fund Your Next Film Workshop
- Workman Arts Satellite Programs
 - Chainmaille: Basics to Advanced
 - Palestinian Embroidery 101
 - Needle Felting: Soft Sculpture in Low Relief
 - Bring in Spring
- Write by the Water

CHILDREN & YOUTH PROGRAMS



Q Summit Poetry & Spoken Word Mentorship

Our Q Summit Mentorship Program continued for another year, with a cohort of 6 participants. This program provides a poetry development space for 2SLGBTQ+ youth ages 19 to 29, led by poets Melly Davidson and Martin Gomes.

This year's published anthology of participants' poetry was illustrated by artist Hyunsun Park, and our final in-person showcase took place at the Tranzac.



“ In this program I felt very open to explore and discuss the multitudes of identities. This manifested into more writing that felt free to discuss whatever I wanted or needed.

Program Participant

Youth Climate Collective: Crafting Change Through Natural Dye-Making

This year, our Youth Climate Collective (YCC) had a series of hands-on workshops focused on natural dye-making, led by Hannah Kujundzic, with assistance from Courtney Wynne. The Crafting Change Through Natural Dye-Making workshops explored the connections between climate activism, nature, and art by learning natural dyeing and weaving techniques.

The final works were displayed in an exhibition at our Community Project Space.



The workshops gave participants a chance to work with natural materials and collaborate with like-minded peers, while offering a space for both creative practice and reflection on climate care, sustainability, and community action.

Photo by Revital Weiss,
Crafting Change Through Natural Dye-Making workshop, 2025

ADULT & ALL AGES PROGRAMS



Black History Month Workshops

We held two workshops for Black community members to celebrate Black Joy & Resilience. A Breathing, facilitated by Jedidiah Mugarura, helped participants engage with the language of tenderness and joy of Black writers and thinkers. Participants focused on interactive reading and discussion about writers such as: Elizabeth Mudenyo, Darby Minott Bradford, Juliane Okot Bitek, Victoria Adukwei Bulley.

Sound Journey, facilitated by Micah Nelson, was a grounding & balancing workshop, where participants engaged in a healing sound journey and mindfulness practice to help balance the mind and body. Participants engaged in a creative journaling practice, which anchored the healing practices and tools in a visually artistic way.

Write by the Water



Our Write by the Water program was back for its sixth year, with storyteller, and multi-disciplinary artist, Jedidiah Mugarura now leading the program, as Whitney French has left the city and moved on to other endeavors. This 6-part intensive writing workshop invites BIPOC writers of all kinds to explore new works or to fine-tune works-in-progress, in a safer and inspirational environment while being mentored and coached by an industry professional.

“

I appreciated the welcoming environment created to ask questions, not only about craft but about other writers' personal experiences with their practice and craft.



Program Participant

Workman Arts' Satellite Programs

Our partnership with Workman Arts completed its third year, offering 4 programs for people with lived experience of mental illness or addiction, as part of this Satellite Program. From chainmaille jewelry-making to needle-felting, there was a combination of both in-person and virtual workshops offered.

Photo by Revital Weiss,
Bring in Spring Program, 2025



Photo by Revital Weiss,
Chainmaille Program, 2024

COMMUNITY PROJECT SPACE

#CaribanaStories

Presented by: Tanya Vividly & The Moonbeam Collective, with Curatorial Assistance by Waleed Abdulhamid.

This pop-up exhibition was inspired by desire, yearning, and needing a return to the origin stories of Caribana. A romanticization of the visual storytelling style of masquerade, featuring fashion mannequins designed by the team of All Things Creative.



Photo by Andi Canales

YCC: Crafting Change Through Natural Dye-Making Exhibition

The Youth Climate Collective's summer Crafting Change Through Nature Dye-Making workshops culminated in an exhibition displaying the participants' completed works.

Photo by Jackson Bailey

The works were created as a result of participants foraging, identifying plants used for dyeing, creating and using natural dyes and weaving looms with hand-dyed natural fabrics. This exhibition was designed to spark discussions on climate change, activism, and building direct connections with the natural world. It included interactive elements prompting self-reflection and engagement from visitors.



Paint & Sip Fundraisers

We introduced a new series of fundraisers, our Paint & Sip Nights. These events supported our ongoing community arts programming, and gave our community a chance to connect in a relaxed environment. Many thanks to our September 27th facilitator, Daniela Easter, our November 28th facilitator, Serene Illustrations, and our February 14th facilitator, Arowna Brooks!

“The instructor [Serene] made a point of coming around to each table and providing helpful feedback and encouragement. She was open and friendly. Her explanations for each step were clear and straightforward.”

Paint & Sip Participant



PARTNERSHIPS/ COMMUNITY GOODWILL

Celebrate Diwali Celebration

We were excited to partner with Reverse Karma for our first-ever Celebrate Diwali event in October, which took place at Lakeshore Arts & Mimico Square. We had an evening filled with free family-friendly cultural activities, such as henna, diya-painting, bollywood dance lessons, wood block printing, and more. We wrapped up the night with a diya candle lighting experience, for the community to enjoy.



Photo by Andi Canales
Celebrate Diwali, 2025

LSA's Tabling Events

The LSA team kept busy at various tabling events, bringing free family-friendly activities to the community, led by artist facilitators. Our fall season was marked by participating in Councillor & Deputy Mayor Amber Morley's annual Fall Fest at Fairfield Park. Our ongoing partnership with Local MRKT continued, with our presence at four of their markets at Mimico Square! We were thrilled to be invited to the LAMP's 25th annual Awards of Merit celebration, with artist Laurie Poirier leading a jewelry-making activity at LAMP headquarters.

Photos by Revital Weiss
Local MRKT, Sept 2024 (right) &
Local MRKT, July 2025 (below)



We joined Pride Toronto's Community Connect, which took place this year at Montgomery's Inn. The lineup of performances was spectacular, and we offered a beading activity, led by artist Chris Kilfoil. Our friends at Toronto Arts Foundation invited us to join the Arts in the Parks Kick-Off Celebration in Mimico Square, with their lineup of performances, and community arts engagement. We were joined by artist Rikesh Sharma, who led a paper kite-making activity.

TREASURER'S REPORT

As Treasurer, I believe the past fiscal year focused on finding our financial balance. After years of change, 2024–2025 felt like a return to more normal operations at Lakeshore Arts. Financially, it was a steady and well-managed year.

We closed the year with an operating deficit of \$15,987.77, which was both expected and well within a manageable range. This result was driven largely by timing, particularly around when grant funding is approved versus when it is recognized. Municipal operating funding approved late in the year for the next fiscal period was appropriately deferred, setting us up well for 2025–2026 rather than weighing on this year's results.

Public sector funding continued to be our strongest and most reliable source of revenue, providing \$305,966 in operating support. This was complemented by federal employment programs, restricted bingo funds, donations, sponsorships, and some investment income. Together, these sources enabled us to maintain program operations while covering day-to-day costs.

Most of LSA's spending went exactly where we wanted to: people and programs. Staff wages, benefits, artist fees, and program delivery accounted for the largest portion of expenses. This reflects our commitment to fair pay and meaningful community work. We also ensured that year-end accruals and classifications accurately reflected actual year-end activity, not just transactions recorded in the bank.

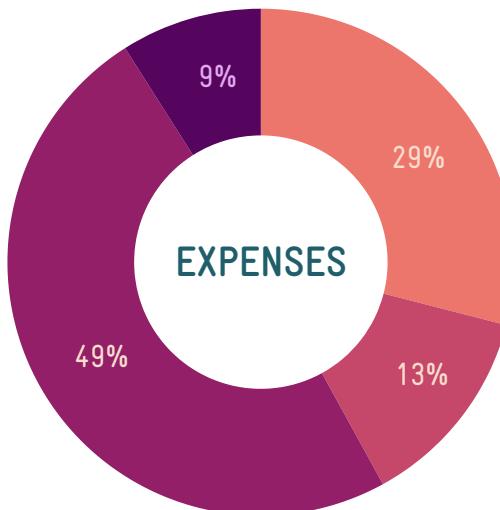
We're especially pleased to end the year in a strong financial position. Lakeshore Arts holds healthy cash balances alongside \$313,684.45 in investments, including GICs and a balanced mutual fund portfolio. Restricted funds, such as bingo revenue, were used as intended and clearly tracked.

Overall, I feel confident about LSA's financial standing. Our controls are improving, our reserves are intact, and we're entering the next year with clarity and confidence.

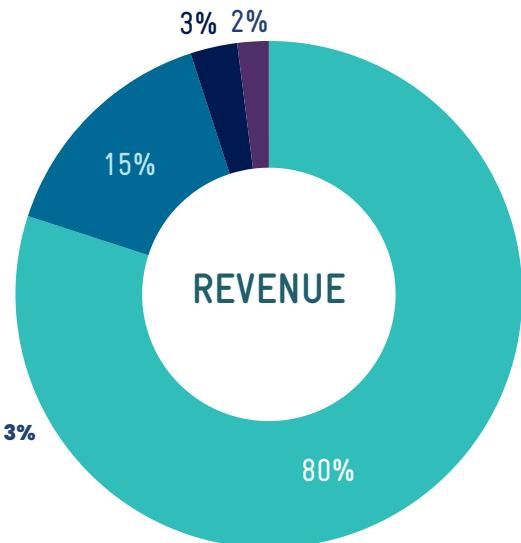
Akshat Jhaveri ,
Board Treasurer

FINANCES

OPERATING BUDGET



Artist's Fees & Expenses: 29%
Administrative Expenses: 13%
Salaries & Benefits: 49%
Fundraising: 9%



Government Funding: 80%
Earned Revenue: 15%
Individual Donations: 2%
Corporate/Foundation Support: 3%

NOTE: The percentages for the fiscal year 2024–2025 are derived from the audited statements of Lakeshore Arts, audited by Jeffrey D. Milgram professional corporation. The full audited statements may be obtained by contacting Lakeshore Arts at info@lakeshorearts.ca.

FUNDING AGENCIES



ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL
CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO
an Ontario government agency
un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario

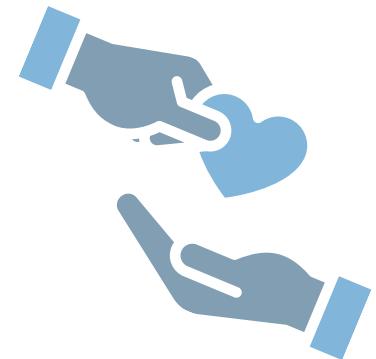


Johansen Larsen Foundation



INDIVIDUAL DONORS

Emma Latham
Fiona Kerr
Jamie Wilder
Jeffrey Milgram
Jerry Smith
Joy Sellers
Margaret Oddi
Mark Koczij
Maureen Boon
Scout Swartz
Timothy Ellis
Vanessa Johnston
Wendy Goodine



PARTNERSHIPS

Dance Together Festival
Dorothy Ley Hospice
LAMP Community Health Centre
Local MRKT
Met Radio at TMU
Pride Toronto
Reverse Karma
St. Margaret New Toronto
Toes for Dance
Workman Arts

CORPORATE DONORS AND SPONSORS

Apna Food Bazaar
Audrey S. Hellyer Charitable Foundation
Financial Health Management Group
Graham Rowlands & the South Etobicoke Community Group
Koshaa Fine Indian cuisine
Lilette Wiens - Toronto Real Estate Broker
Ridley Funeral Home
Royal York Spa Ltd
SHIPNOBLE INC.
Sunil Mistry Professional Real Estate Corporation
Tullo Insurance and Financial Services Inc
Waugh & Co.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MAY YEBUGA

President (2024-25)

AKSHAT JHAVERI

Director/Treasurer (2025)

DENISE CHOY

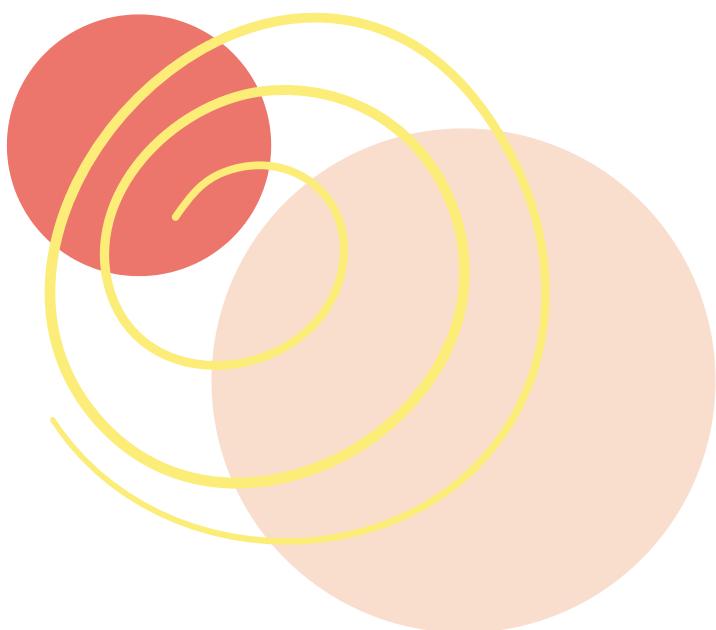
Treasurer (2024-25)

OSCAR VAZQUEZ RIVERA

Secretary (2024-25)

KATHERINE BOSNITCH

Director (2024-25)



STAFF 2024-2025

THEODORE WALKER ROBINSON

Executive Director
(Outgoing)

NADIJAH ROBINSON

Interim Executive Director/
Operations Manager

SHERRY POM FOREMAN

Operations Manager
(On Leave)

DANIELLE LEWIS

Operations Coordinator
(June-August 2025)

REVITAL WEISS

Programs Manager

STEFFING

Programs Coordinator

ANDI CANALES

Marketing & Communications
Manager

KADEEM PARCHMENT

Community Project Space
Attendant

CONTRACT STAFF

MNP

Bookkeeper (2024)

YOUNG ASSOCIATES

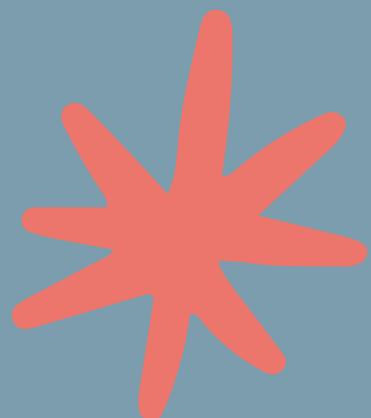
Bookkeeper (2025)

SAMRA BABAR

Events Coordinator

CHAWNTAY BARRETT

Programs Assistant





Follow us @lakeshorearts
Learn more about LSA at lakeshorearts.ca

Charitable Registration:
882969744RR0001