

*“youthLEADarts gives youth a sense of worth and purpose.”*

**Elder Amanda White, retired Indigenous Education Knowledge Keeper,  
Vancouver School Board and residential school survivor**

**VISION:**

- LEAD is a pathway for all young people to be leaders of positive change.

**MISSION:**

- Use the values of LEAD – Listen, Empathize, Act, Drive - to empower young people, including in underserved communities, with the skills to lead change in their own lives and in their world.

**METHOD:**

- The brainchild of acclaimed education visionary, Marilyn Field MSM, LEAD guides young people in how to lead positive change in their own lives and in their community.
- LEAD harnesses the actions of **L**isten, **E**mpathize, **A**ct and **D**rive to be a leader:  
L - Listen openly to what others say so you can see a wider world beyond your own experiences.  
E - Empathize with how others think and feel. Openly accept how they are different from you.  
A - Actions speak louder than words. What do you want to say? Do it.  
D - Drive yourself and your idea to completion. What powers you to keep going?
- Schools and organizations adopt the LEAD program into their own schedule. The young people practise the LEAD values. When they each take 100 LEAD actions, they receive the LEAD Medallion.

**LEAD** and its organization called **youthLEADarts** fosters personal growth in young people, allowing them to shed pre-existing labels and step outside of difficult life circumstances to see their world with hope and opportunities.

As each school class of students explore a theme of their choice, they engage in a series of arts workshops in drama, dance, literature/spoken-word, music, visual arts, photography / videography, media and Indigenous arts activities, mentored by the experience of Indigenous Elders, cultural knowledge keepers and arts-educators. They feel empowered to be leaders.



*youthLEADarts relies on donations of \$10,000 per school community to deliver these programs.*



# youth LEAD arts

## 2023 EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP: EMPOWERING YOUNG LEADERS

### BACKGROUND:

#### Education Visionary, Marilyn Field, MSM:

- Teacher Marilyn Field founded DAREarts in 1994 and LEAD in 2020 as charities to empower children, using the arts. She and arts educators have reached over 220,000 children across Canada.
- Their methods prove that the arts can give children the confidence, courage and voice to LEAD change.
- Results include increased school success. *"I got hope wakin' up every day,"* Leroy, 16



#### Artist-Educators Lead youthLEADarts Workshops Across Canada:

- youthLEADarts is comprised of acclaimed artist-educators from all disciplines across Canada who use the arts to transform young lives.
- They inspire youths to be leaders through the arts and the LEAD values of Listen, Empathize, Act and Drive.
- youthLEADarts has strong roots in underserved communities across Canada, after launching with 60 youngsters in BC and Quebec in 2020 and Nova Scotia in 2022.
- youthLEADarts provides outstanding resources with experienced personnel to help everyone stay connected and motivated to learn.



### EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP:

#### 1) BUILD YOUNG LEADERS IN COMMUNITIES ACROSS CANADA:

- Addressing Calls to Action from 'The Truth and Reconciliation Commission', a national team of experienced artist-educators and Indigenous Elders work with students in grades 6/7/8 alongside community schoolteachers.
- Up to 30 students engage in a series of up to 10 daylong workshops - in person and online. Engaging in dance, drama, music, spoken word, visual art, photography, videography and Indigenous arts, they collectively create their own multi-arts productions as they find their voice.
- Students explore how the values of LEAD - Listen, Empathize, Act and Drive - are important to nurture in themselves and in others. They gain confidence, communication, collaboration and leadership skills as they see how their voices elicit change and inspire hope.

#### 2) CONNECT YOUNG LEADERS NATIONALLY and INTERNATIONALLY ONLINE:

- Young leaders from underserved communities further build leadership skills by connecting online through [www.youthLEADarts.com](http://www.youthLEADarts.com), You-Tube, Instagram and Tik-Tok.
- Artist-educators act as mentors as the young people share their ideas and voices online.
- LEAD's reach enables young people to appreciate the value of diversity and inclusion with a wider perspective beyond their own.



## TESTIMONIALS:

**Elder Amanda White, retired Indigenous Education Knowledge Keeper, Vancouver School Board and residential school survivor:**

*“youthLEADarts gives Indigenous youth skills that fill the void between old ways and new ways. “*

*“Thank-you, youthLEADarts, for teaching the youth to become pioneers of new ways. In finding their voices, the youth call forth the true image of our people and, through youthLEADarts, are able to destroy the distortion of which many have been victims for too long.”*

**Justin Borsato, Britannia Elementary School teacher:**

*“youthLEADarts elicited profound discussions and projects outlining difficult subjects like racism.”*

*“Students were motivated to succeed because they felt connected to the people and the project in front of them. The youthLEADarts team took time to connect with students and formed meaningful relationships with each of them. As a result, students were inclined to be vulnerable and explore the depths of their feelings more effectively. Their ideas and emotions translated seamlessly into their projects”.*

*“LEAD gives youth the opportunity to broaden the umbrella of art to meet and nurture their individual needs and interests. Youth were consumed by the LEAD values and continue to promote them.”*

## Youths:

*“I was changed by Elder Amanda’s words. Now I look at the world from what is good for all of us, not just me.” Emanuel, 12*

*“Now I know that good leadership has more than one trait.” Butterfly, 12*

*“I discovered my voice and how to use it.” Hamza, 13*

*“I learned how to recognize and break cycles through the Medicine Wheel.” Devin, 13*



## ACCLAIMED ARTIST-EDUCATORS for 'youthLEADarts':

### BRITISH COLUMBIA:

**Retired Vancouver School Board Indigenous Education & Elder Amanda White** is from Haida Gwaii. She has been an Indigenous Education Enhancement Worker for 22 years and Knowledge Keeper with the VSB for the last 5 years. A residential school survivor, she is dedicating her retirement to LEAD, including within her home community in Haida Gwaii. [vbs.bc.ca](https://vbs.bc.ca)

**Artists Rendering Tales Collective Inc.\*** In 2019, ARTCi was nominated for a Governor General's Award for arts education.

**\*Lori Sherritt-Fleming** is an award-winning children's author, performer and artist-educator. She founded the Tickle Trunk Players Theatre for Literacy and performs at major international festivals. Her STEAM based publications are: 'Hungry for Science', 'Hungry for Technology', 'Hungry for Engineering', 'Hungry for Math' and 'Hungry for the Arts'. [Fitzhenry & Whiteside](#).

**\*Candice Halls Howcroft** is a member of the Squamish Nation, learning their culture and traditions from them over the last 20 years. She shares her knowledge as an Essential Skills Instructor at the Native Education College and as an Artist/Squamish Nation Liaison for The Learning Through the Arts Program with The Royal Conservatory.

**Damian Rumph** is a teacher, writer and storyteller who is honoured to create on the Traditional Coast Salish Lands of the Squamish (Sḵw̓xwú7mesh Úxwumixw), Tsleil-Waututh (səlilwətaʔ) & Musqueam(xʷməθkʷəy̓əm) Nations. In students of diverse backgrounds and abilities, he uses writing, performance and film to enable language acquisition.

### QUEBEC:

**Deirdre Potash** is a renowned Quebec artist-educator who develops and delivers transformative arts programs. She has partnered with The Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, DAREarts, Atelier 19, etc. to deliver small and large-scale programs. Based in Vaudreuil-Dorion, Deirdre travels widely with her message that "art feels good". [www.artwill.ca](http://www.artwill.ca)

### NOVA SCOTIA:

**\*Shelley MacDonald** is an award-winning performing artist and filmmaker who is of Mi'kmaq and Scottish ancestry. With 20+ years of experience as an artist-educator, she has collaborated on theatre and film projects across Turtle Island, creating meaningful cultural experiences that focus on social justice to help create systemic change.

**\*Roy Mulder's** focus is creating media with an audio-visual communications degree with a strong interest in photography. He has kept up with the technology as it has transformed from film to video to digital production. He is acclaimed for his underwater videography and heads the Canadian Marine Environment Protection Society.

**Alan Syliboy** is an internationally renowned Mi'kmaq artist, film maker, writer, musician and motivator. In 2007, Alan illustrated the novel *The Stone Canoe: Two Lost Mi'kmaq Tales*. In 2009, Alan collaborated to create in his signature style the animation *Little Thunder* for the Vancouver 2010 Olympics. This was then featured in 40 world festivals. [www.alansyliboy.ca](http://www.alansyliboy.ca)

### ONTARIO:

**Sheniz Janmohamed** fosters community as an author, artist-educator, spoken word artist and land artist who has performed internationally for over 10 years, including at the Jaipur Literature Festival, Aga Khan Museum, and Vancouver Writers Fest. Her writing is published in anthologies including Arc Poetry Magazine and Quill & Quire.

**Tina Tucker Bye** is an international arts educator. She and her husband, a teacher for the National Theatre School, created a community-driven performing arts centre named Grove Hall in St. Laurent, a town in southwest Quebec that creates year-round performances in dance, theatre, music and arts education for all ages.

**Marilyn Field, MSM**, is an internationally acclaimed education pioneer who founded DAREarts in 1994 and LEAD in 2020. Her innovative methods have reached over 220,000 children across Canada. In 2001, she conducted at the Nobel Peace Prize's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary concert, performing with Paul McCartney. LEAD is her vision to further impact student success. [youthLEADarts.com](http://youthLEADarts.com)



**BUDGET PER SCHOOL COMMUNITY:**

• Personnel (seven artist-educators and Indigenous elders)	\$7,000
• Research, Planning, Coordination, Training & Evaluation	\$ 1,500
• Equipment and Materials	\$ 800
• Community Showcase	\$200
• Coordination & Outreach beyond donated time	\$500
• <b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>

**15 School Communities Across Canada Need Funding in 2023 = \$150,000:**

- |  |                                  |
|--|----------------------------------|
| • Britannia Elementary, Vancouver, BC              | • Haida Gwaii, BC                |
| • Grandview ɥuuqinak'uuh Elementary, Vancouver, BC | • Webeque First Nation, ON       |
| • Strathcona Elementary, Vancouver, BC x 3         | • Montreal, QC x 2               |
| • Hastings Elementary, Vancouver, BC x 4           | • Sipekne'katik First Nation, NS |
|  | • Lismore, NS                    |

*"...LEAD's positive effect on the social and emotional progress of the children resonates long after the program ends..."* Justin Borsato, classroom teacher

**OUTCOMES for YOUNG LEADERS:**

- 1) A **widened perspective** for open-minded decision-making;
- 2) The **confidence and courage** to be LEADers who listen, empathize, act and drive positive change in themselves and others;
- 3) The **drive** to stay in school and build life success.



**OUTCOMES for COMMUNITIES:**

- 1) Youths with **positive alternatives** to drugs, gangs and violence make safer communities;
- 2) Youths with **knowledge, passion and empathy** lead to stronger and more vibrant communities;
- 3) Youths who **LEAD** strengthen our economy and society.

