



2024 EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP: EMPOWERING YOUNG LEADERS

“Since leading innovative education across Canada and internationally since 1994, I am honoured to create LEAD. The LEAD program empowers young people to LEAD change in themselves and in their world. Together, let’s empower our young people by widening their world and building community, no matter how diverse we are.”

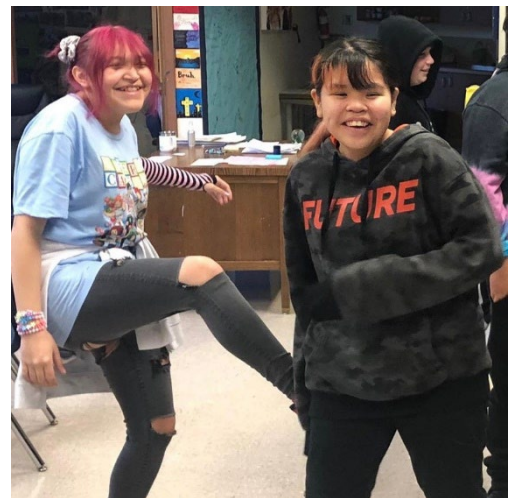
Marilyn Field

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

Amanda White, residential school survivor & retired Indigenous Education Elder, Vancouver School Board

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

Each school class chooses a theme important to them. Then 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 experienced arts-educators and Indigenous cultural knowledge keepers. In the end, the children feel empowered to LEAD their future.



VISION:

- LEAD is a pathway program 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 themselves and in their world.

METHOD:

- The brainchild of acclaimed education visionary, Marilyn Field MSM, who was inspired by youths like Elijah Brown plus key arts educators across Canada, LEAD guides young people in how to LEAD positive change - in their own lives and in their community.
- LEAD harnesses the actions of **Listen**, **Empathize**, **Act** and **Drive** to be a true leader:
 - L - Listen openly to what others say so you can see 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 program. The young people practise the LEAD values as they find their voice and take action to better their lives and community.

[youthLEADarts relies on donations of \\$10,000 per community to deliver its programs.](#)



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BUDGET PER COMMUNITY:

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| • Personnel (artist-educators and Indigenous elders) | \$ 5,000 |
| • Research, planning, Coordination, Training, Evaluation | \$ 2,500 |
| • Equipment and Materials | \$ 800 |
| • Community Showcase | \$ 200 |
| • Coordination and Outreach (beyond donated time) | \$ 1,500 |
| • TOTAL: | \$10,000 |

GOAL: 8 Communities Across Canada = \$80,000

- Britannia Elementary, Vancouver, BC
- Strathcona Elementary, Vancouver, BC
- Hastings Elementary, Vancouver, BC
- Webeque First Nation, ON
- Simcoe County, ON
- Montreal, QC
- 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 self-reliant communities;
- 3) Youths who **LEAD** with values strengthen our economy.



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BACKGROUND:

Education Visionary, Marilyn Field, MSM:

- Teacher Marilyn Field founded DAREarts in 1994 and LEAD in 2020 as charities to empower children by using the arts. Reached: over 220,000 children across Canada.
- Methods prove that arts give children the confidence and courage 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 QC in 2020, NS in 2022 and ON in 2024. **youthLEADarts** provides outstanding resources and experienced personnel to help everyone feel connected and motivated to lead.



EMPOWERMENT 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 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 and LEAD with values.
- Students explore how **LEAD - Listen, Empathize, Act and Drive** – nurtures themselves and others. They gain **confidence, curiosity, 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, You-Tube, Instagram and Tik-Tok.
- Artist-educators act as mentors as the young people share their ideas online.
- LEAD enables young people to **value integrity, diversity and inclusion** with wider perspective.



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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 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





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SOME OF THE ACCLAIMED ARTIST-EDUCATORS for 'youthLEADarts':

BRITISH COLUMBIA:

Indigenous Elder Amanda White from Haida Gwaii is a residential school survivor. Now retired, she was the Indigenous Education Enhancement Worker for 22 years and Knowledge Keeper with the Vancouver School Board. www.vsb.bc.ca

Artists Rendering Tales Collective Inc.* ARTCi won the 2021 City of Richmond's Artistic Innovation Award and 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 (Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh Úxwumixw), Tsleil-Waututh (səlilwətaʔt) & Musqueam(x̓m̓əθk̓əy̓əm) 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, Deidre travels widely with her message that "art feels good". 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

ONTARIO:

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 a children's choir at the Nobel Peace Prize's 100th Anniversary concert, performing with Paul McCartney. LEAD is her vision to further impact student success.

Sheniz Janmohamed is 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, from the National Theatre School, created Grove Hall, a community-driven performing arts centre in St. Laurent, QC that created year-round performances in dance, theatre, music and arts education for all ages.

NWT: D'Arcy Moses is an Indigenous Dene designer and a member of AKWE:KON, the Canadian Aboriginal Designer Trading Group.