



2025 EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP: EMPOWERING YOUNG LEADERS

"As leaders of innovative education nationally and internationally since 1994, we are honoured to forge the LEAD program. Together, let's empower ALL our young people to LEAD their future by widening their perspective and inspiring values and hope."

Marilyn Field

"youthLEADarts gives youth a sense of worth and purpose."

Amanda White, residential school survivor | Indigenous Knowledge Keeper, retired from Vancouver School Board

VISION:

LEAD is a pathway program for ALL young people to lead positive change.

MISSION:

Empower all young people, including in underserved communities, with the skills to lead positive change in themselves and their world by using LEAD values: Listen, Empathize, Act, Drive.

METHOD:

LEAD and the organization **youthLEADarts** fosters personal growth in young people, allowing them to step outside of difficult life circumstances and limited opportunities to feel empowered with confidence and hope.

- The brainchild of education visionary, Marilyn Field MSM who was inspired by youths like Elijah Brown and key teaching artists across Canada. LEAD guides young people in how to LEAD positive change - in their own lives and in their communities.
- LEAD guides youths in practicing four values - Listen, Empathize, Act and Drive - to be a leader:
L – "Listen openly to others 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. Just do it."
D – "Drive yourself to complete your dream. What powers you to keep going?"
- Each school/community group chooses a theme important to them. Then they engage in LEAD's series of workshops in drama, dance, literature/spoken-word, music, visual arts, photography / videography, media and Indigenous arts activities, mentored by experienced teaching artists and Indigenous Knowledge Keepers. Results: the children feel empowered to LEAD their future.
- Schools and organizations can integrate the LEAD program into their own programs. ALL young people, no matter their history, can find their own voice as they practise the LEAD values and take action to better their lives and communities.



youthLEADarts relies on donations of \$20,000 per province to deliver its programs.



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BACKGROUND:

Education Visionary, Marilyn Field, MSM:

- Teacher Marilyn Field founded DAREarts in 1994 and LEAD in 2020 as programs to empower children using arts and values. Reach: 220,000+ children across Canada.
- Results prove children gained the confidence and courage to LEAD change.
- Results include increased school success. *"I got hope wakin' up every day,"* Leroy, 16



Teaching artists LEAD youthLEADarts Workshops Across Canada:

- **youthLEADarts** is comprised of acclaimed teaching artists from all disciplines across Canada who use the arts to transform young lives.
- They inspire youths to be leaders using creativity 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.



YOU CAN HELP TO:

1) BUILD YOUNG LEADERS IN COMMUNITIES ACROSS CANADA:

- Addressing Calls to Action from *'The Truth and Reconciliation Commission'*, a national team of experienced teaching artists 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. Using dance, drama, music, spoken word, visual art, photography, videography and Indigenous arts, they collectively create multi-arts productions while discovering their own inner strengths and voice.
- Students explore how **LEAD - Listen, Empathize, Act and Drive** – nurtures themselves and others. They gain **confidence, communication, collaboration and leadership skills** as they see how their voices can elicit change and inspire hope.



2) CONNECT YOUNG LEADERS NATIONALLY and INTERNATIONALLY ONLINE:

- All young leaders, including from underserved communities, can further connect online through www.youthLEADarts.com, You-Tube, Instagram and Tik-Tok.
- Artist-educators act as mentors as the young people share their ideas.
- LEAD enables young people to **value integrity, diversity and inclusion** with a wider perspective.



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BASIC COST PER PROVINCE:

- Program Development (*research, curriculum, training, evaluation*) \$ 3,000
- Program Delivery (*personnel: teaching artists, Indigenous elders, youth apprentices*) \$10,000
- Program Materials (*supplies, technology, space, transportation, showcase*) \$ 4,000
- Marketing and Communication \$ 2,000
- Other (*Insurance, Taxes & Contingency*) \$ 1,000
- **TOTAL:** **\$20,000**

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP?

- **Sponsor a Province** (*Call to discuss naming rights*) \$10,000
- **Sponsor a Community** \$ 5,000
- **Sponsor a Teaching Artist / Elder** \$ 2,500
- **Sponsor Technology** (*laptops, videography, etc.*) \$ 1,500
- **Sponsor a Youth** \$ 1,000
- **Sponsor T-shirts/Buttons** (*gives identity & belonging*) \$ 500
- **Sponsor Education Supplies** \$ 200

Donate online at www.youthLEADarts.com or call/text Lori at 778-319-6524 or Marilyn at 416-616-2821

“...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) **Confidence and courage** to be LEADers who listen, empathize, act and drive positive change for the future.
- 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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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 our ACCLAIMED TEACHING ARTISTS & MENTORS:

BRITISH COLUMBIA:

Brunella Battista is a multimedia and teaching artist with works screened at the World Peace Forum for the UN, and broadcast on CBC, Bravo!, Channel M, and CJSF Radio. Brunella has extensive experience in film and video production for many high-end clients. She is an internationally published writer, photographer and seasoned performer on stage and TV.

Lori Sherritt-Fleming is an award-winning children's author, performer and teaching artist. 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 20 years. She shares her knowledge as an Essential Skills Instructor at the Native Education College and as an Artist/Squamish Nation Liaison.

Trish De Luca is an accomplished fundraising professional and creator of programs for positive change. Her career began in film studios like Disney, Paramount and Warner Bros, gaining insights into leadership and impact. As part of LEAD, Trish is developing and executing 'After-school Power Programs' for youth, building positive thinking and confidence in a fun and safe space.

David Lyle brings his unique Indigenous voice to everything, including host of Nations at War documentary series on APTN. He has a distinguished career as a screen and tv actor and director, including in APTN's Health Nutz, Alaska Daily, Ice Road Terror, Supernatural, CW Network show Arrow, and CBC's Arctic Air. David is also an accomplished acting and dialect coach.

Damian Rumph is a teacher, writer and storyteller on the Traditional Coast Salish Lands of the Squamish (Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw), Tsleil-Waututh (səlilwətaɣt) & Musqueam(xʷməθkʷəy̓əm) Nations. In students of diverse backgrounds, he uses writing, performance and film to enable language acquisition.

QUEBEC:

Deirdre Potash is a renowned Quebec teaching artist 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

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 a teaching artist, 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 strong audio-visual communication. He is acclaimed for his underwater videography and heads the Canadian Marine Environment Protection Society.

Melanie McDuff is the heartbeat of youthLEADarts NS. She is the youth mentor for our monthly youth leadership program and is instrumental in the programs' design and delivery. Her leadership style is collaborative, inclusive and inspirational.

ONTARIO:

Marilyn Field, MSM, is an internationally acclaimed education pioneer who founded DAREarts in 1994 and LEAD in 2020. Her methods have reached over 220,000 children in Canada. In 2001, she conducted at the Nobel Peace Prize's 100th Anniversary.

Tina Tucker Bye 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.

Sheniz Janmohamed is an author, teaching artist, 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.

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