

WHO WE ARE:



DAREarts is a Canadian not-for-profit organization that uses arts education to empower children with confidence, courage and leadership skills to unlock their potential and ignite change - in their lives and in their communities. DAREarts was founded by teacher and pianist, Marilyn Field. Since 1996, DAREarts has impacted over 140,000 young Canadians aged nine to nineteen. DAREarts programs have been offered in the Ontario, Alberta, Nova Scotia and British Columbia with plans for other provinces.

THE VISION:

To inspire young Canadians with a lifelong motivation for creative thinking and excellence in their lives through educational experiences in the arts

WHAT WE DO:

DAREarts exposes 10,000 children yearly to diverse cultural opportunities that they would not otherwise experience. Through specialized out-of-school workshops with arts professionals, children are exposed to a wide variety of arts experiences that help them to develop confidence, courage and life skills. The children, in turn, develop their leadership skills by teaching their classmates what they learn and contributing to safe and vibrant schools and communities.

WHERE WE WORK:

DAREarts works in priority communities across Canada that are challenged by lack of opportunities to motivate their children. DAREarts engages them in a wide range of cultural experiences beyond their familiar environments that build their confidence, courage and life skills to combat challenges like isolation, substance abuse and suicide.

DAREarts uses the arts to empower vulnerable Canadian children. Armed with confidence, courage and leadership skills, they unlock their potential and ignite change in their lives and in their communities.

"DAREarts helped me find myself." - Amy, 13

THE NEED:

- Low self-esteem in children can lead to nonsocial behaviors, underachievement and even suicide.
- Canada has 434 youth gangs with roughly 7,000 members nationally (Canadian Police Survey). School dropouts who get involved in drug selling are at higher risk of being involved in gun-related violence.
- Youth at risk of joining gangs tend to be from groups that suffer from the greatest levels of inequality and social disadvantage (Public Safety Canada).
- **DAREarts provides children with tools needed to be successful. As youth excel, there is a decrease in the number of school drop outs and less participation in drug and gang activity.**
- Dealing with financial pressures, some school boards have cut budgets for music and other arts. Saving money by targeting arts programs imposes a particular hardship on those that have no access to the arts.
- In a study at the University of California, children who received daily music lessons for eight months scored 80% higher in spatial intelligence (for complex math and engineering skills) than children who did not.
- **Children who participate in DAREarts become more fearless risk takers in other aspects of their learning.**
- Over 8 in 10 Americans feel that the arts ‘help young people develop discipline and perseverance’ and help them ‘to learn skills that can be useful in a job.’
- Employers look for people who can think critically, solve problems, communicate well, conceptualize, reason and make decisions. Corporate leaders now recognize the role of the arts in preparing people for the workplace.
- **Children who participate in DAREarts report increases in both overall learning and personal feelings of worth and competence.**

“Ideas are what build business. And it is the arts that build ideas ... The skills the arts teach – creative thinking, problem-solving and risk-taking, teamwork and communications – are precisely the tools the workforce of tomorrow will need.” Richard Gurin, Pres. & CEO, Binney & Smith Inc.

DAREarts OBJECTIVES:

- Stimulate the minds and enhance the knowledge, skills and attitudes of children who struggle in difficult environments by daring them to: 1) Explore all the arts (music, visual arts, drama, dance, architecture, fashion, culinary and literature) throughout history and world cultures; 2) Engage in creative activities that enhance learning; 3) Learn from and appreciate the value of arts professionals in our society; 4) Develop tolerance and respect for the values and cultures of others; 5) Become leaders by peer teaching; 6) Build courage and confidence to be leaders, not followers.
- Reach more than 10,000 Canadian youth each year by expanding programs across the country
- Contribute to a creative and dynamic workforce by helping children develop a wide range of higher level thinking skills through artistic challenges.

“I dare myself to do new things without fear.” Thomas, 13

PROGRAMS:

DAREarts 'All-The-Arts':



DAREarts' core program focuses on children aged 9 – 14 who are selected due to vulnerability to negative influences or lack of access to opportunities. In hands-on, out-of-school workshops led by certified teachers and professional artists, the children engage in dance, music, drama, visual arts, photography, architecture, fashion, literary and culinary arts. By addressing values along with activities, the children develop talents, interests and skills while building their self-confidence and courage to be leaders. Then they return to their respective schools to teach their peers. They become active leaders and advocates for safe and vibrant communities.

'All-The-Arts' Extension Programs:

Outside of our core program, we continue to nurture interests and talents, providing opportunities for children and youth to enhance their creativity and skill base through other creative workshops. These include:



DARE To Play:

Thanks to the **Herman Smith Memorial Music Trust**, DAREarts children have access to complementary music lessons. Violins were provided by Remenyi Music and other generous donors. The program has expanded under the name **'From Violence To Violins'** led by violinist Moshe Hammer: *"The most rewarding aspect of teaching the young students... is that they become adept at problem solving..."*



DARE To B-Dance:

This is a partnership program with **'Break It Down'**, a youth-led organization of internationally acclaimed 'B-Boy professionals. Held in high schools in priority neighbourhoods, their dance workshops promote positive lifestyles, diversity and creative abilities. The teens develop self-confidence and leadership skills.

"DAREarts encouraged me to form my own crowd instead of following the crowd..." Betty, 14



DARE To Drama:

DAREarts drama camps provide intensive, Shakespeare-themed summer drama training for teens, including improvisation, mock battles and Shakespearean language. A day in Stratford is a highlight, allowing teens who seldom leave urban neighbourhoods, a chance take in a performance at the Stratford Festival, tour backstage and discuss drama with lead actors. The group then performs their own mini-version of that play.

Thirty teens also spend a day at the Shaw Festival in Niagara-On-The-Lake in the fall and participate in workshops, sponsored by Northbridge Insurance.



DARE To Act:

Many graduates return to DAREarts as teens to participate in weekly after-school creative workshops that help them develop social, career and financial literacy skills that help them through the tough teen years.

Each year, the DAREarts Leadership Awards grant scholarships to six graduates who continue to demonstrate leadership in their lives. These teens tell their stories to the public at the annual DAREarts **Leadership Awards Gala**.



DARE To Sing:

This is a collaborative community-building program at various schools, in partnership with the Toronto District School Board and organizations like The Queensmen Chorus. The program provides opportunities for children to participate in after-school choirs and glee clubs, helping them develop self-confidence through singing.



DARE To Draw Attention:

Canadian children connect art with responsibility through this project in which they *'Draw Attention'* to serious issues that affect children. They paint original greeting cards that they sell to provide help. Their focus has shifted from Afghanistan to our own remote First Nations communities that suffer the effects of substandard conditions and pervasive substance abuse.



DAREarts 'First Roots' Aboriginal Program:

DAREarts partners with local elders, artists and traditional teachers in remote First Nations communities to help youth build their inner strength to overcome challenges and, as leaders, ignite change in their lives and in their communities. Activities include sharing circles, storytelling, painting, dance, music, drama, fashion, photography, film-making and computer graphics. ***"...To help our youth to learn to respect themselves by providing opportunities for reflection and renewal ... to build and sustain healthy people and healthy communities."*** - Bill Jacob, Webequie First Nations

KEY CONTACTS:

CHAMPION MENTORS:

Ed Asner
Sonja Bata
Michael Burgess
George Chuvalo
Morgan Freeman
Gene Hackman
Ben Heppner
Gen. Rick Hillier
Eugene Levy
Eric Jackman
Karen Kain
Peter Oundjian
Charles Pachter
Christopher Plummer
Marshall Pynkoski
Mark Raynes Roberts
R. Murray Schafer
Albert Schultz
William Stevenson
Roy Henry Vickers
Jeannette Zingg

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Robert Bissett (*Retired Sr. VP, Bank of Montreal*)
Sandra Bussin (*former trustee & municipal councillor*)
Stanley Elkind, (*Counsel L.L.P. McLean & Kerr*)
Frank Hennessey, *Chairman (President, Bento Nouveau)*
Jennifer Hibberd (*Children's Dentist*)
J.C. Pennie, *Vice Chairman (President, Windrush Energy)*
Ryan Pennie (*President & CEO, Zast-Foods Corporation*)
Shamin Mohamed Jr. (*DAREarts grad & Founder, Letsstopaids.org*)
Donna Quan (*Executive Superintendent, TDSB*)
Faruq Remtulla (*Ministry of Energy, Hydro One*)
Fabian Richenberger, *Vice Chairman (President, Lombard Canada)*
Deborah Robinson (*Executive Director, Canadian Litigation Counsel Inc.*)
Julian Sale, (*retired management, Agfa*)
Paul Semple, *Vice President (COO, Noront Resources Ltd.)*
Paula Smith (*retired nurse*)
Monika Jensen Stevenson (*writer, producer*)
Marilyn Field, *Founder & President (Teacher)*

DAREarts KEY PERSONNEL:

Brenda Norton (*Director of Operations*)
Lisa-Marie Norton (*Program Coordinator*)
Susan Hindle (*Director of Development*)
Genevieve Anthony (*Lead Teacher*)
Trish De Luca (*Vancouver Coordinator*)

LEAD SUPPORTERS:



GUY CARPENTER



Scotiabank Group



ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL
CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO

FOUNDER – MARILYN FIELD:



*Marilyn is a Canadian with a passion to inspire children.
DAREarts is her full-time focus.*

Marilyn is recipient of:

- Canada's Meritorious Service Medal (awarded by Governor General Adrienne Clarkson 2003)
- The Queen's Jubilee Medal (awarded by Ontario Premier Ernie Eves 2003)

Related Activities:

- Conductor of the International Centipede Children For Peace Choir at the Nobel Peace Prize 100th Anniversary Concert in Norway, 2001
- Elementary School Teacher & Music Specialist, TDSB - present
- Advisory Council, NTDTV Chinese New Year Concert 2004, 2005
- Honorary Patron, Headwaters Arts Festival 2002 – 2004
- Honorary Patron & Fundraising Volunteer, Headwaters Health Care regional hospital 1998 - 2003
- Former Board Director: Theatre Orangeville
- Former Board Director: Opera Atelier
- Former Board Directors: The Speech Foundation of Ontario
- Founding Board Director of Toronto Senior Strings - retired musicians from Toronto Symphony
- Former Committee member of 'The Stratford Express' yearly fundraiser for Stratford Festival
- Chair of the Canadian Opera Company's first CD Launch gala - 1995
- Former President of Esprit Orchestra: expanded education program; expanded corporate sponsorship; established international recognition; chaired fundraising events; initiated marketing strategy; eliminated deficit
- Represented Canada with the Orford String Quartet to open new Canadian Embassy in Japan
- Teacher in Scarborough elementary schools for 12 years: co-conducted All-Scarborough Chorus; trained teachers in music; co-organized "Arts Odyssey" a cultural festival for 2,000 students
- Graduate of University of Toronto and Western Ontario, Royal Conservatory of Music
- Private piano & theory teacher