



DAREarts First Roots Aboriginal Program - QUERY

Thank you for your interest in our DAREarts Aboriginal Program called First Roots (Nee-tum-ochi-bek). We are a Canadian charitable organization dedicated to working in partnership with Aboriginal urban and remote First Nations, to bring arts programs to children and youth with outreach to communities.

"Youth gain self-esteem, confidence, sense of belonging and respect through their accomplishments in arts activities in which they participate together." – First Nations Traditional Teacher Bill Jacob

Backgrounder:

The program began in 2007 with an invitation from Webequie FN. It empowers youth, using the arts as tools to overcome challenges of isolation, substance abuse and suicide. DAREarts' First Roots program has expanded to other First Nations communities and its success has prompted invitations from communities across Canada.

In collaboration with local artists, traditional teachers and elders, DAREarts 'First Roots' program provides opportunities for youth in Aboriginal communities to explore the arts as a way to find positive empowerment. Engaging in multiple arts workshops over one week at a time, the youth create a multi-arts presentation and finale feast for their community.

Workshops may include:

Storytelling/Drama: Youth explore storytelling as it relates to real life experiences. **Dance:** Modern dance combined with traditional dance encourages self-expression. **Photography:** Youth see their world in new ways to tell their story. **Film-making:** Youth explore their own realities and relate to the beauty of their community. **Music:** Youth find their voice by composing, performing and recording their own songs, with traditional drumming. **Art:** Youth create their own 16" x 22" canvases to express themselves. **Fashion:** Youth sew their own traditional fashions and add individual designs. **Set-Building/Design:** Youth and Elders work together to build a large presentation screen plus staging on which work by the youth are presented to the community.

Program details:

A team of DAREarts artists-as-teachers visit the community for a week of workshops at a time. Supplies and equipment are brought to the community. They work with the youth in collaboration with the community's teachers, elders and artists. Up to 30 youth are engaged in multi-arts workshops held in the school or large community space. The whole community participates by celebrating their youths' accomplishments in a finale presentation and feast. Building community sustainability then becomes the focus.



Program Benefits:

- Increased interest in learning and education
- Increased awareness of personal potential
- Increased morale, trust and respect
- Increased marketable skills
- Decreased sense of isolation as the youth strengthen their voices
- Improved safety throughout the community

*"It provides students with a **sense of ownership**... to learn how to **set goals** and work towards **accomplishing those goals**..."*
- Principal, Webequie



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The program is for grades 5 and up. It uses the arts to build life skills and inspires youth to stay in school and take responsibility as leaders.

We are interested in having DAREarts' Aboriginal First Roots program in our community.

School/Group name: _____ Tel: _____

Community/FN: _____

Access: Fly-in-only Road Access

Contact name: _____ Role: _____

Address: _____ Prov. _____

Postal Code: _____ E-mail: _____

Signature of Contact \ Community Leader: _____

The following classes/groups would like to participate in the program:

Grade: _____ Number of Students _____ Teacher/Leader: _____

Grade: _____ Number of Students _____ Teacher/Leader: _____

Grade: _____ Number of Students _____ Teacher/Leader: _____

Grade: _____ Number of Students _____ Teacher/Leader: _____

Please list your goals \ what you would like to accomplish through the program:

FAX TO: 905-729-0037 or mail to address below

A DAREarts representative will contact you upon receipt of your registration.