

# 2020 Annual Report



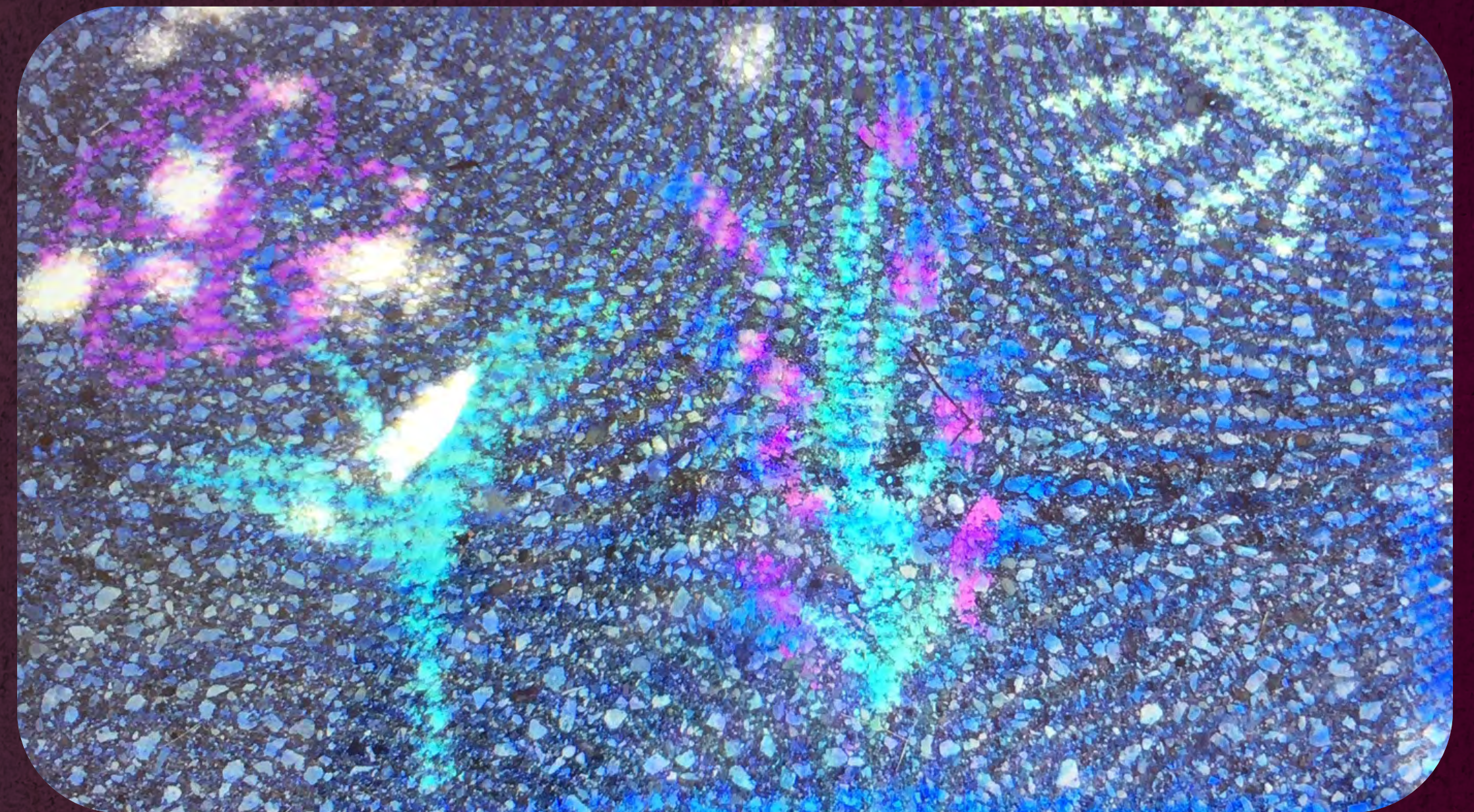


# Organization

Culture for Kids in the Arts (CKA) was founded in 1999 by Vitek Wincza, Founder and Artistic Director of the Hamilton Conservatory for the Arts, a unique environment for programs in dance, music, visual, theatre and media arts. Under the artistic leadership of Wincza, CKA continues to experience steady growth while ensuring accessibility to quality arts programming for children and youth.

CKA operates out of a historic arts education building in a shared facility that represents a vibrant cultural hub and is recognized for its innovative and accessible arts programming for children and youth. Working programming for children and youth.

Working hand-in-hand with community partners as satellite learning centres, CKA has delivered interactive arts programs to over 56,000 local children and youth.





## Mandate

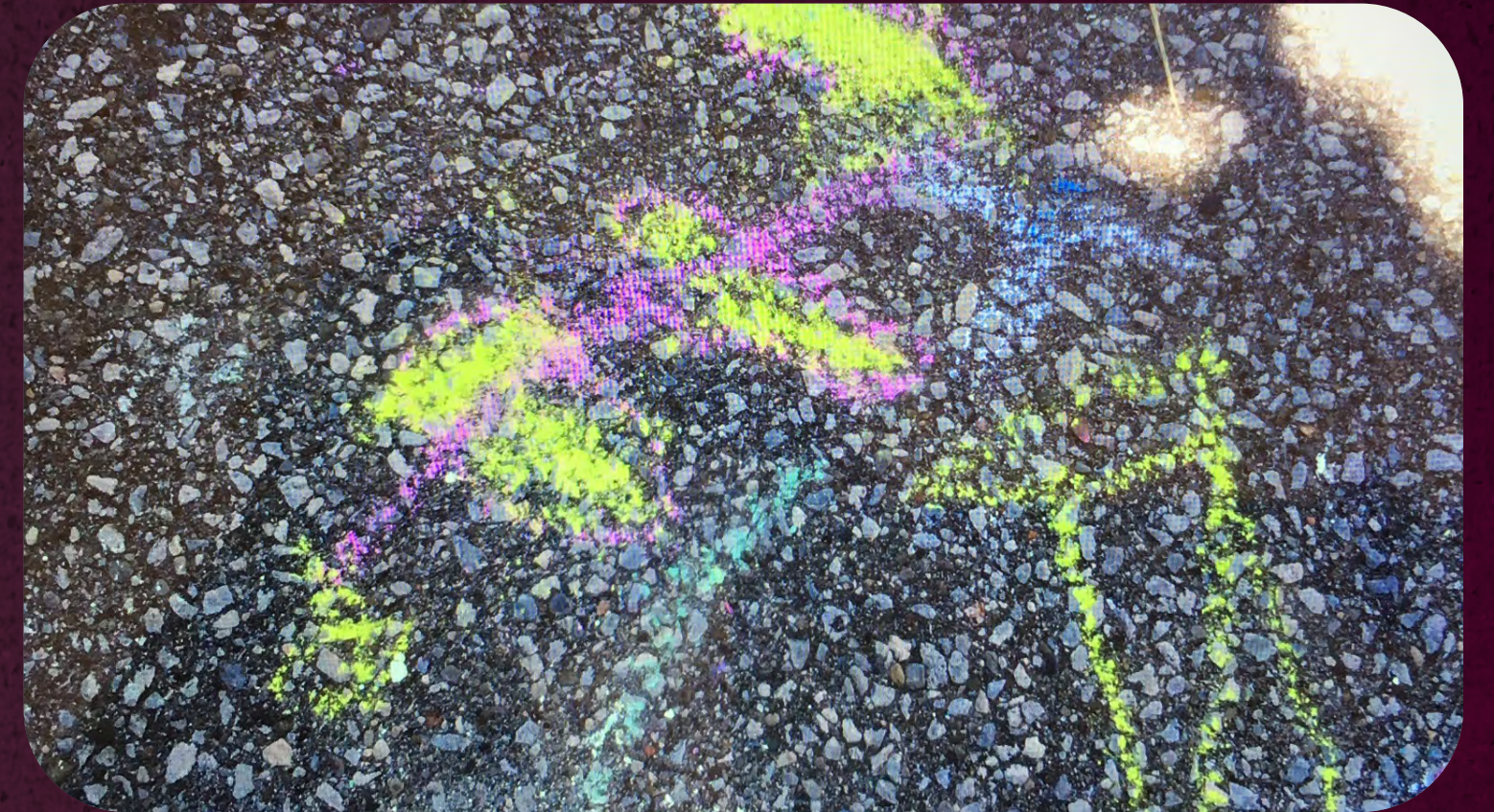
Culture for Kids in the Arts (CKA) is dedicated to providing access to quality arts programming to children and youth in the greater Hamilton region.

## Mission

Connecting kids to creativity to build a better community: Culture for Kids in the Arts expands the learning potential of children and youth through high quality community-based arts experiences and arts educator training and employment programs.

## Vision

Culture for Kids in the Arts (CKA) is a catalyst for innovative community-based arts, training and employment programs that foster civic engagement by making participation in the arts available to each and every child and youth in greater Hamilton.





# DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Welcome everyone, what a year! We are all being tested but are resilient, active and staying connected. CKA focuses on creating inspiring and unique ways of learning through the arts and including arts as a strategy to support the emotional, physical and intellectual health and wellbeing of the community.

During our process of adapting new ways and best practices to deliver virtual arts programs during COVID it has proven, now more than ever, how important it is to include arts as a strategy for health and wellness.

Our COVID response is robust. Pivoting to deliver virtual programming, we continue to expand our technical capacity and learning and reach new audiences in new spaces and communities. CKA's funding initiative renovated the HCA Recital Hall and transformed it into Hamilton's newest theatre space, the Black Box Theatre. New equipment will give CKA and its partnering organization's the capability to deliver live and streamed performances, creating access to new audiences.

At the centre of our shift is our new name. Arts For All is a promise to continue delivering quality arts programming to children and youth, and expand connections for intergenerational participants with artists and neighbourhoods across the greater Hamilton region. A special thank you to Jane Allison from Dovetail Community for guiding us through this exciting transformation.



The purpose of Arts Education is not to create professional artists, but to inspire imagination. Imagination fosters and nurtures possibilities. Possibilities bring successful people into our neighbourhoods, our communities, and our world.

**— Vitek Wincza**  
*Founder and Artistic Director*



Thank you to our Board of Directors, who have supported us through this challenging year, and welcome new members. We're very excited about the journey ahead of us all. Thank you to our team of artists, educators and administrators who have all devoted their time and talents to the children and youth in our community. And a special thank you to the many flourishing relationships with funders and supporters.

We've been focused on arts education for a long time and we're getting better. Together with governments, sponsors, volunteers, artists and educators, and all of you, we are supporting the vision of making arts accessible to all and making our community better. Join us as we set our sights on the next twenty years!



Vitek Wincza  
CKA Artistic and Executive Director



Vitek Wincza - Photo: Harold Sikkema



# 2020: A year of listening

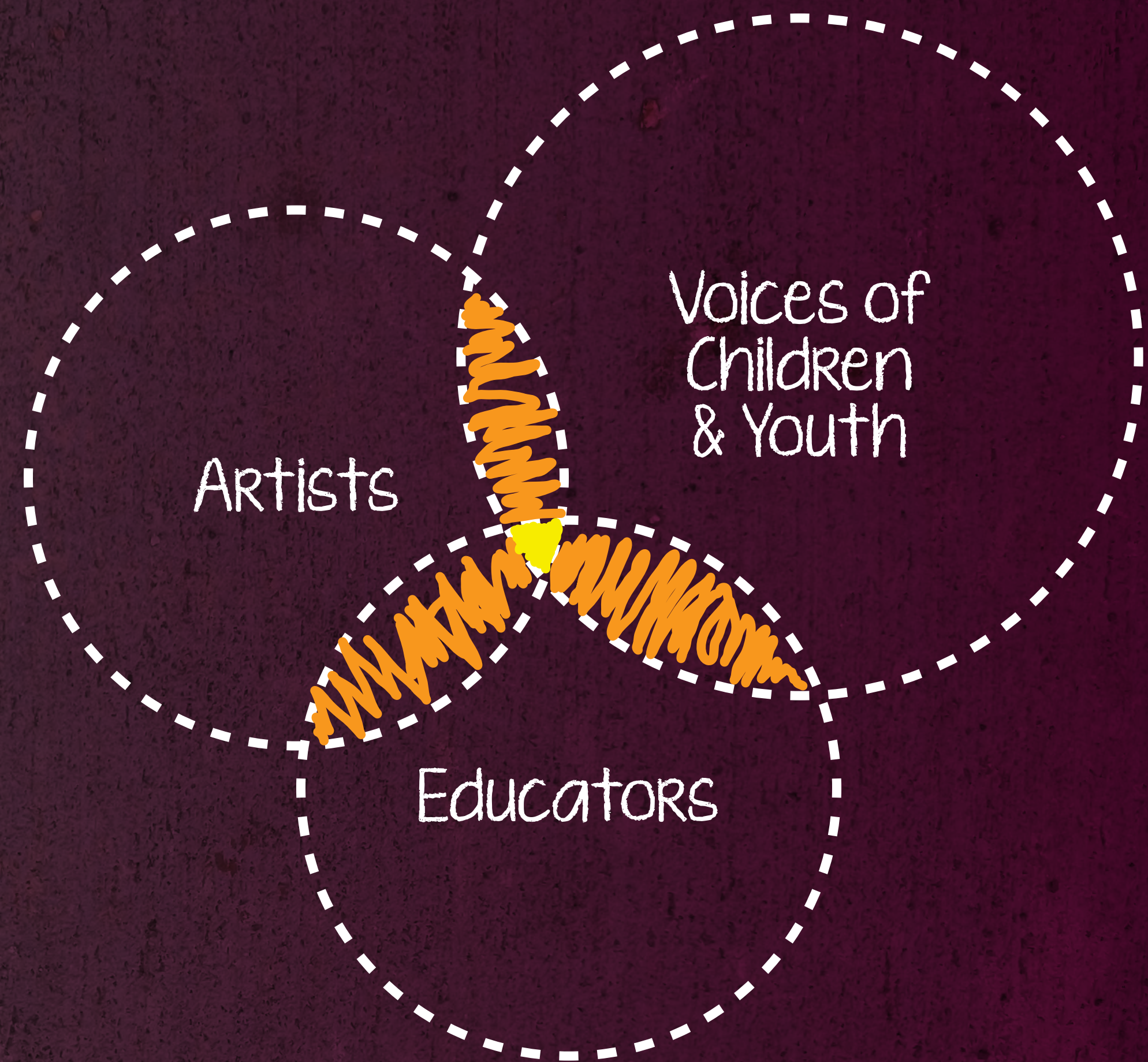
During a year as challenging as 2020, the importance of listening has come to the foreground for us at CKA. While it has been difficult to listen via video-conference, arts education in particular, has continued to offer opportunities to listen to children through the process of their creative development.

Listening as a practice is also emphasized in the provincial guidelines that shape early learning in Ontario.

Through pedagogical documentation, arts educators engage, observe, and listen to children. We are learning that this approach affords us a helpful lens by which to examine all aspects of our work.

In the following pages, you'll have the opportunity to "listen" to the voices of children as well as the voices of our staff of emerging educators, as they reflect on and examine experiences in arts and learning.

**We invite you to "listen in" as these converging communities converse.**





2014

## How Does Learning Happen?

Ontario's Pedagogy for the Early Years



*Ontario's guiding framework for early years education is pivotal in our work*



*How Does Learning Happen?* asks educators to be attuned to what children know, what they wonder about, and their working theories about the world around them.... All are co-learners, constructing knowledge together.

**— How Does Learning Happen?**  
*Ontario's Pedagogy for the Early Years*

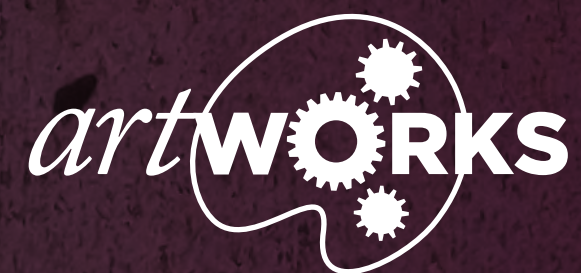




The figurative drawing on a paper sculpture was created lovingly as a gift for a sibling. The young artist wanted to create an artwork that memorialized their bond which was strengthened by spending more time together during the pandemic. The paper puppet design was inspired by the personality and features the artist treasured most about her sister. Her hope was the creation would bring the siblings closer together as they grow.

— **Deeshani Fernando**  
*Artist Educator*





# Flagship Programs

Each of our six core programs support our goal of accessible arts education through community engagement, mentorship, professional and early learning.

In 2020 we created digital platforms and adapted to change with digital strategies across all of our programs. One outcome of these digital approaches was that we were able to broaden our reach into new geographic regions.

We anticipate a hybridity that is likely to continue into the future, where we can engage live audiences, while simultaneously streaming online.

In keeping with our vision to make the arts accessible to all, we are excited by the potential that is held in the online arena to further our work.







# Social Arts Empowerment

**Professional learning access and resources for artists and community agency workers.**

Being “arts ready” means that the people who work with children and youth everyday are informed about the importance of arts and how creative use of time is an essential asset to healthy development.

CKA empowers artists, educators and human service workers in diverse spaces and communities.



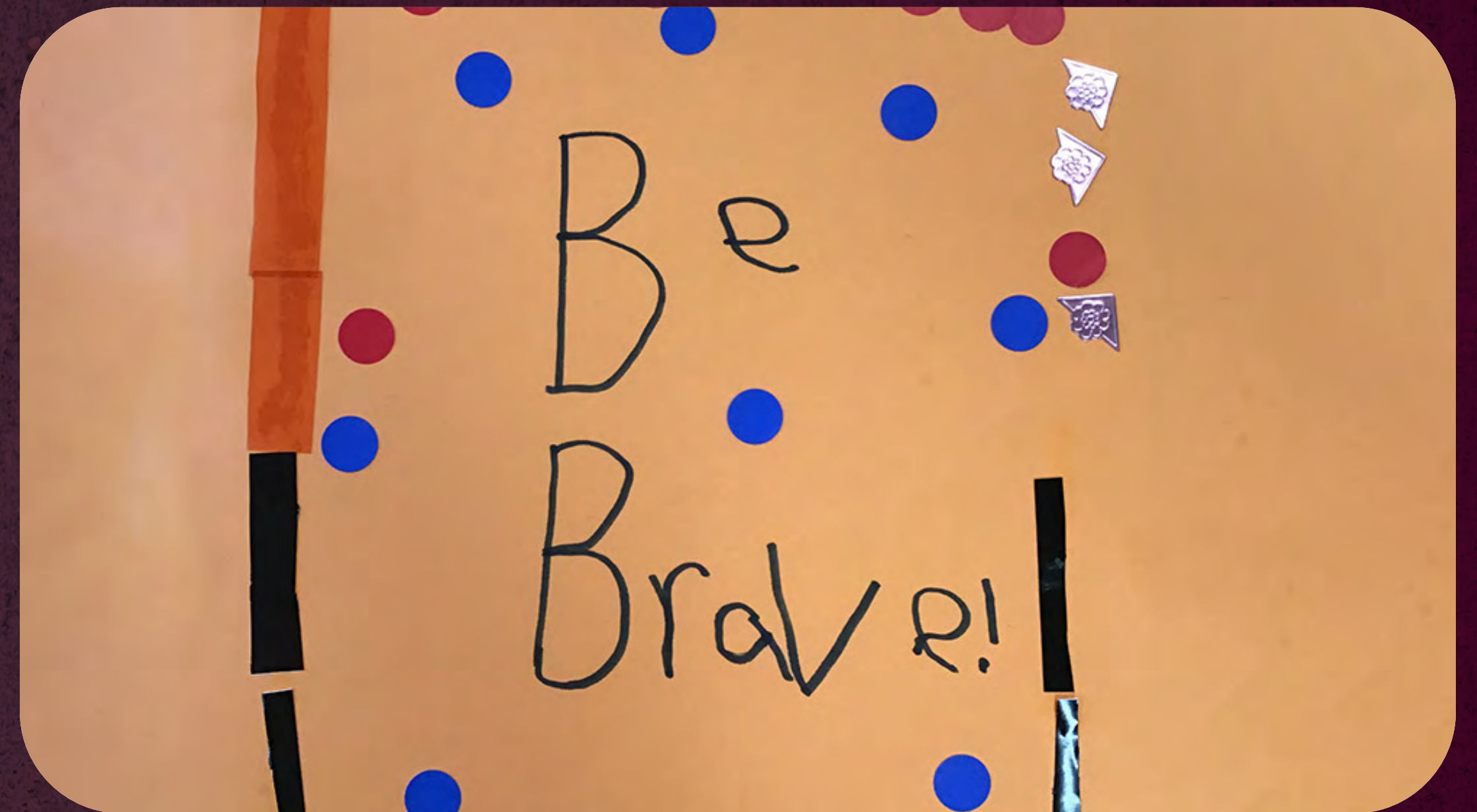
Artwork by Children and Youth from Artasia in Dundas





The willingness to be receptive and active in times of need demonstrates what cooperation can manifest within a community.

— **Charlie Star**  
*Artist Educator*



*Artwork by Children and Youth from Artasia in Dundas*



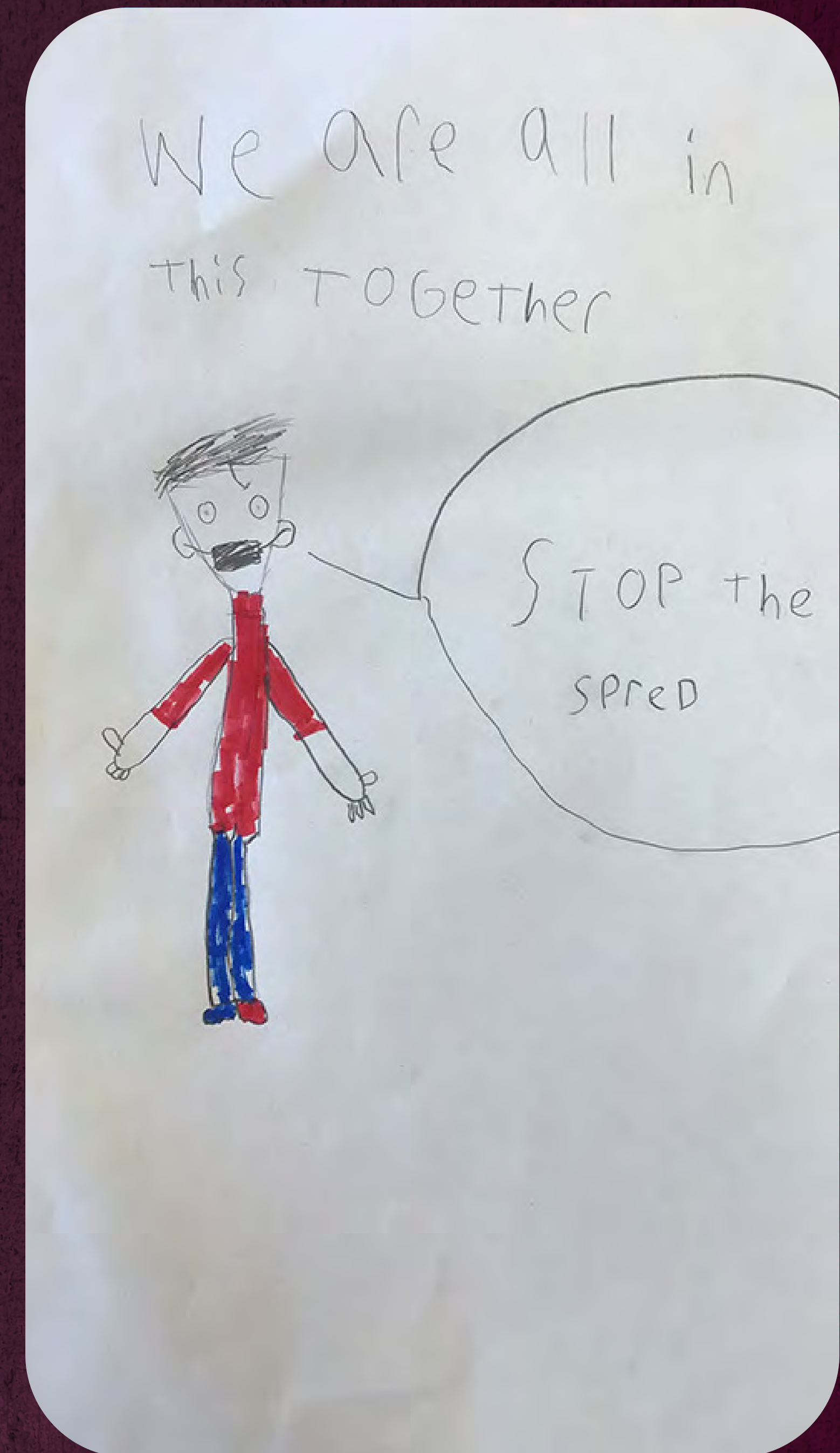


# Seeing Potential

**Together. We use art to empower the voices, imagination, and potential of the children in our community.**

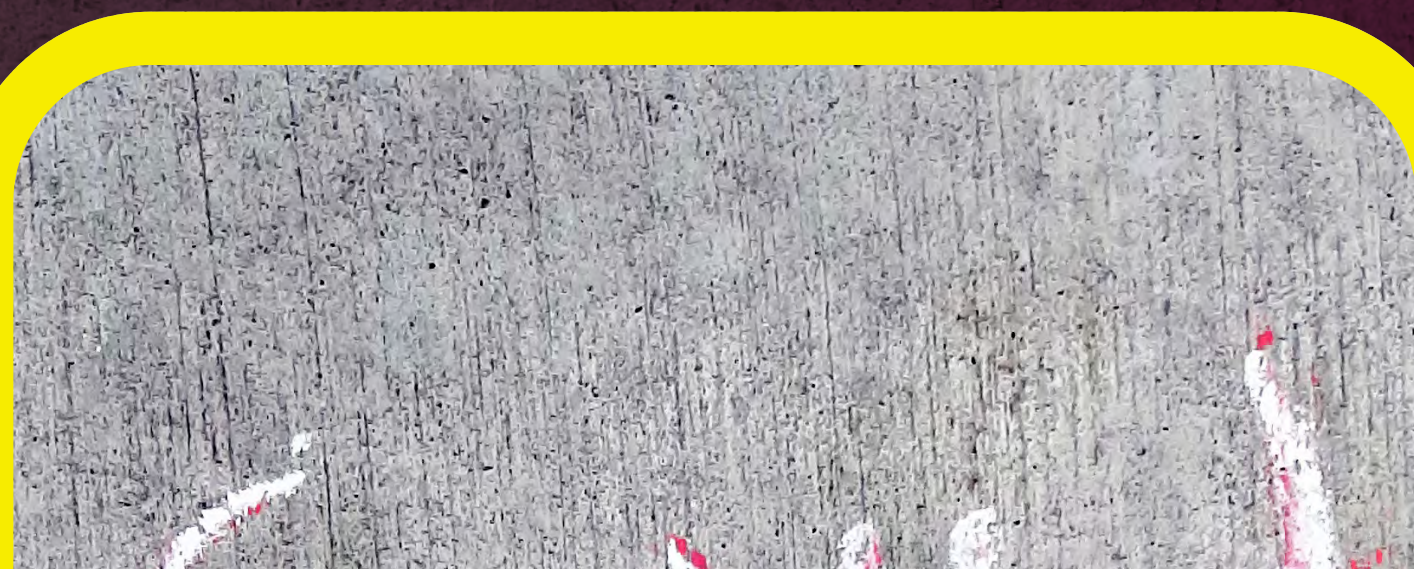
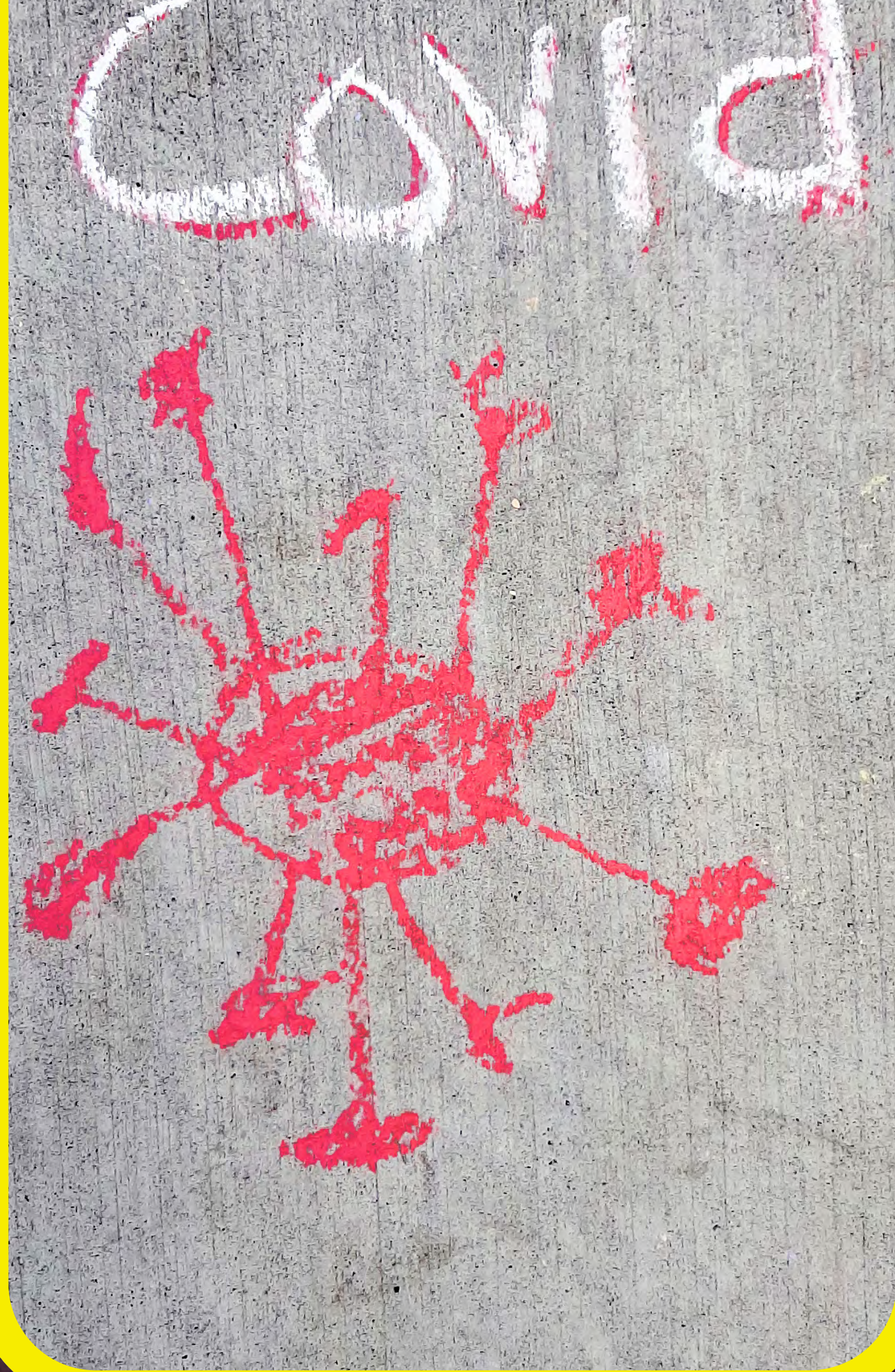
Artasia 2020 delivered a research and development virtual arts program at the start of the pandemic to children of essential workers in care with a virtual team of emerging educators.

Virtual program delivery brought Artasia into new rural spaces and people's homes in licenced child care spaces.



Artwork by Children and Youth from Artasia in Dundas







Sandi



What is your favourite way to say hello?



Learning about diversity from a young age is a crucial stepping stone to combating racism from the root – I was happy to see how safe each child felt to share a part of their culture with their peers.

— **Andrea Abeysekara**  
*Artasia Apprentice*

*During Artasia 2020, children and youth created emoji with Sandi the Crane*



# For the Joy of Singing

**Supporting the creative growth of children with different abilities and sharing joyful experiences with peers.**

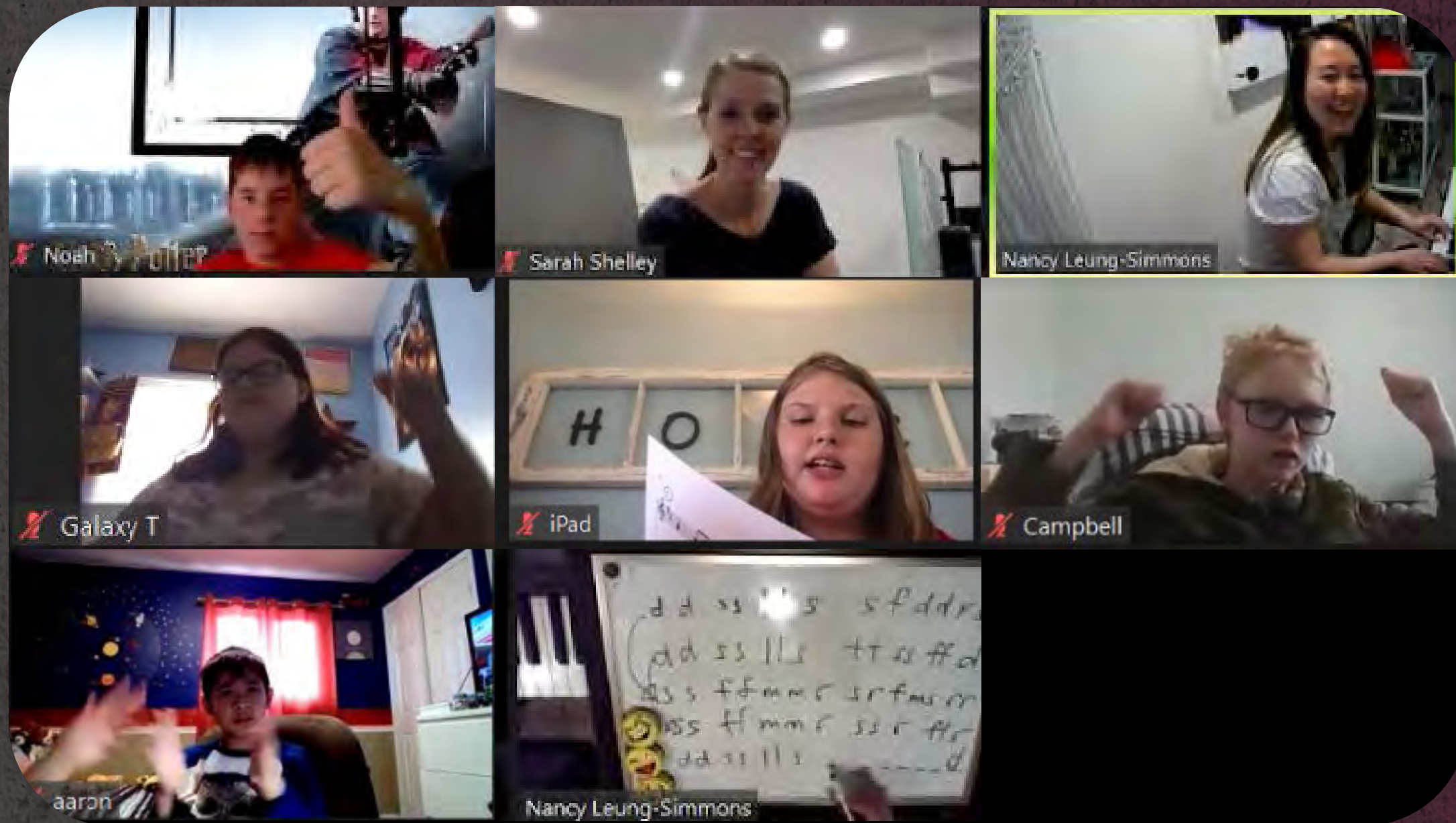
Resilient Resonance Choir participants adapted to singing together online. Contracted artist educators and music therapists worked together with staff from the Ron Joyce Children's Health Centre to meet choristers in their homes each week.

Digital performances and the creation of a music video highlight some of the creations of this vibrant group.



*Music Therapist Nancy Leung-Simmons adds layers of interaction to Resonance Choir experiences*





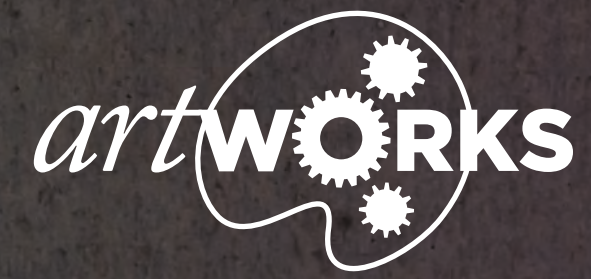
*Resonance Choir participants interact via Zoom*



Perhaps adults will have to do their due diligence by keeping ears and hearts extra wide open, as the challenges of developing away from people/family/friends whom you love dearly is immense for us, but likely larger for children. This may serve as a gentle reminder to play the part of a friend and comforting adult as much being an enforcer and a teacher.

**— Devon Savas**  
*Artist Educator*





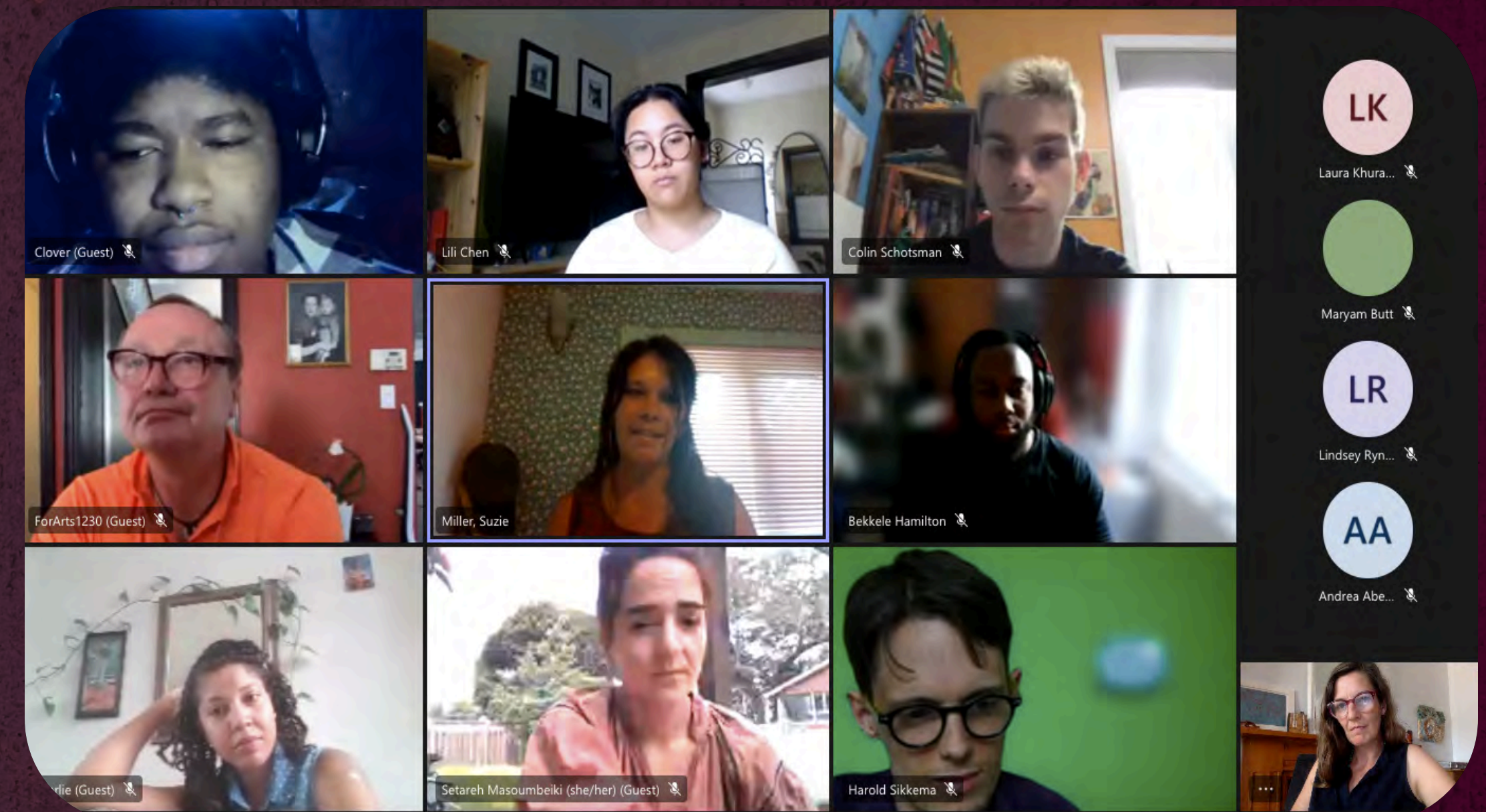
# Our Creative Economy

**Mentorship is at the heart of everything we do.**

Every year Culture for Kids in the Arts hires and mentors emerging artists and students with meaningful work in the arts sector.

In 2020 a team of 8 emerging artists led the way at the start of the pandemic to forge a path forward in a virtual landscape to deliver arts programming to children and youth. Through computer screens in individuals' homes, relationships were at the heart of delivering arts programs to children across three regions in the greater Hamilton area.

The Canada Summer Jobs program expanded to hire emerging workers throughout the school year, deepening the impact for both the young workers and the organization.



*Indigenous Educator Suzie Miller leads an engaging session about storytelling*





*Window art created by children and youth during the summer of 2020*



In a time of uncertainty with the world, the young artists were very keen to support each other with the process of creating the layers to their window artwork. With simple shapes like the heart, polka dots, and stars, they hoped to draw in their neighbours to join the conversation of spreading happiness to uplift each other.

— **Deeshani Fernando**  
*Artist Educator*



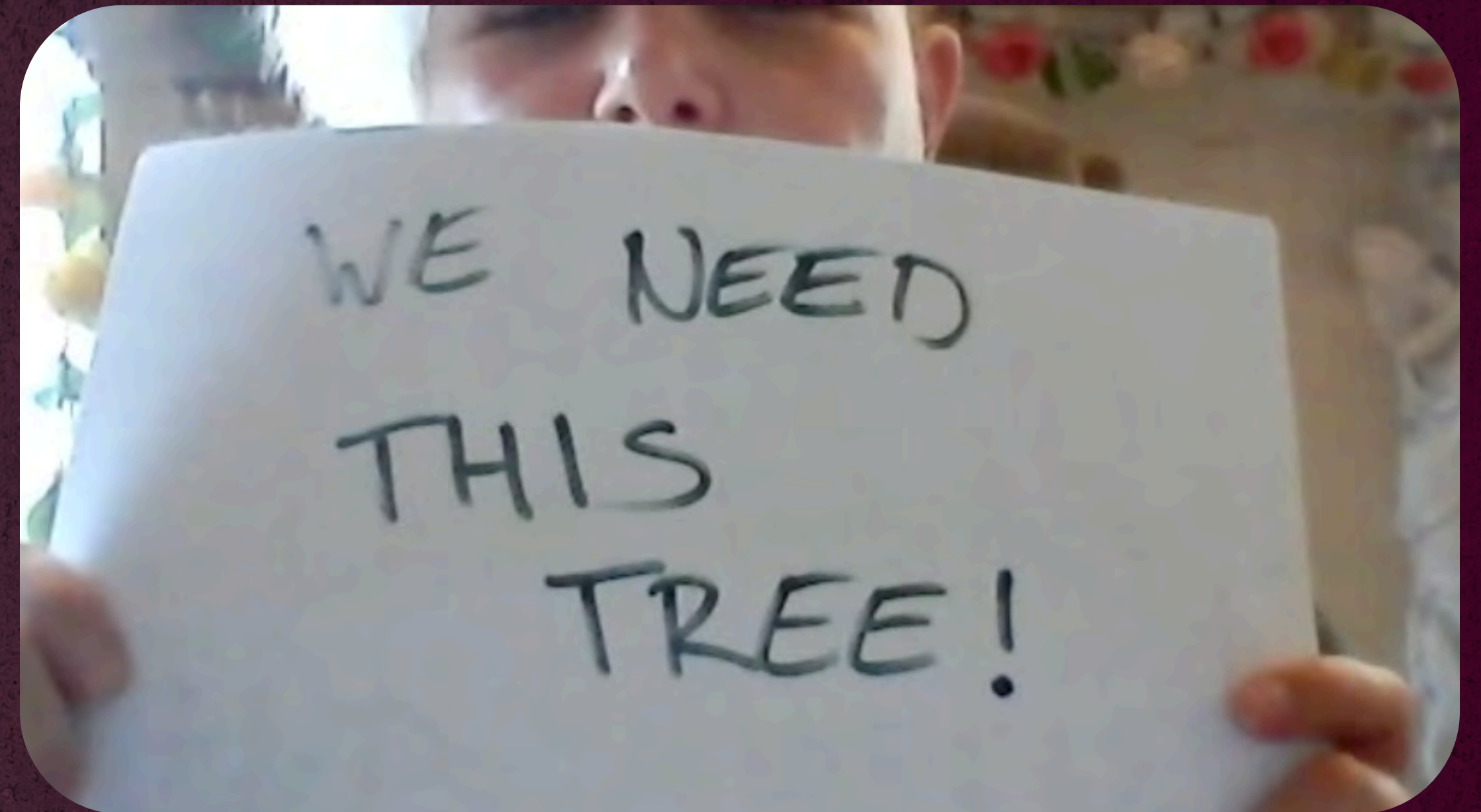


# Time to Explore

## **Arts exploration, access and collaboration with practicing artists.**

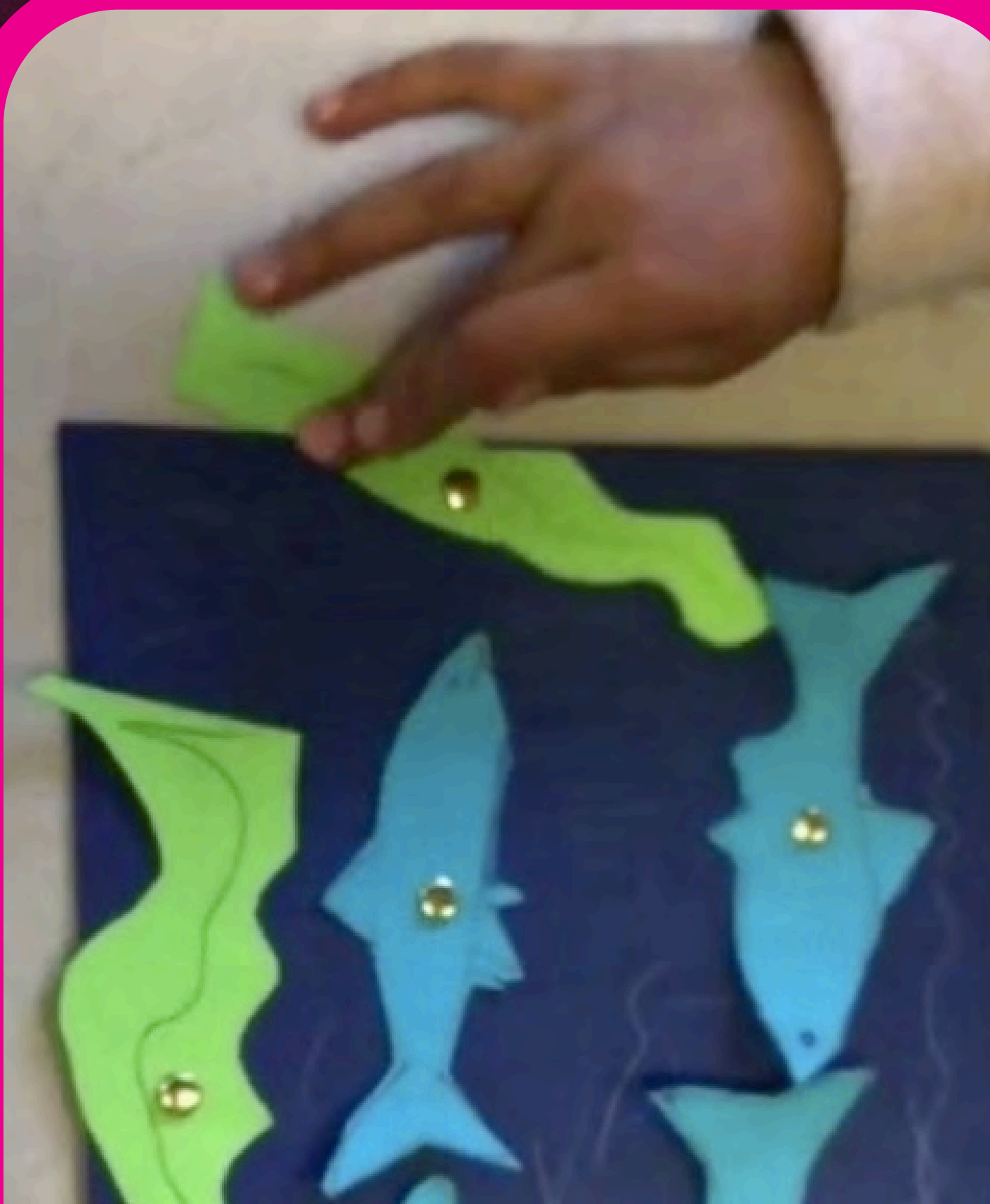
Over 500 children and youth and 40 Artist Educators and community agency staff experienced an abrupt ending to the After School Arts Program in March 2020. Opportunities emerged for 16 Artist Educators to expand their practice adapting to online delivery and performance considerations.

Culture for Kids in the Arts reached new participants in licensed home childcare and rural spaces with the assistance of technology removing barriers to distant and new communities.



*The story of the Great Kapok Tree is featured in the After School Arts Program*

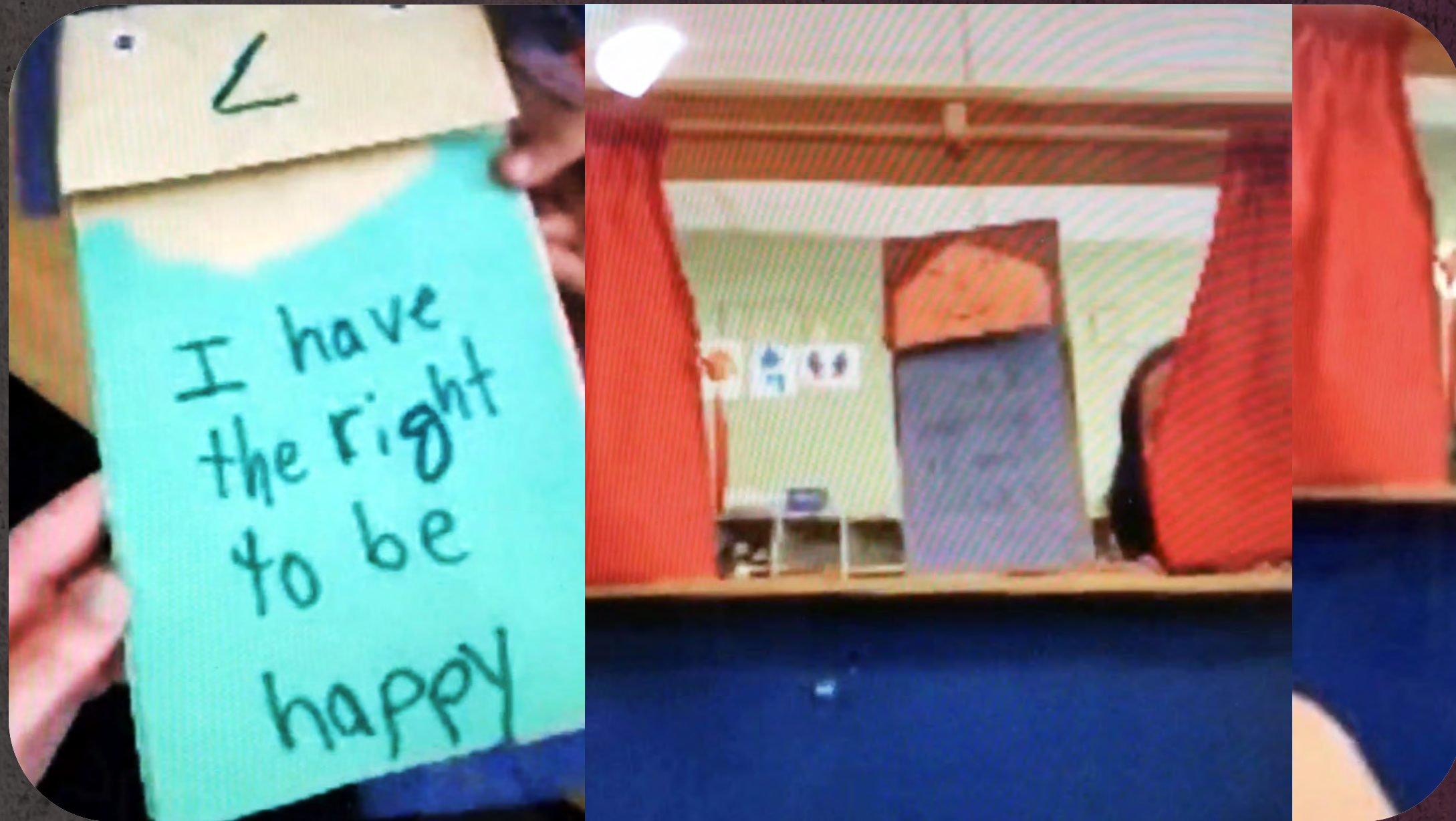












*Hamilton's Charter of Rights of Children and Youth informs our arts programming*



Participants not only understood their rights as young individuals but worked cohesively and cooperatively to share their rights with the community.

— **Lindsey Rynders**  
*Educator*



# KiNDERfest



## Theatre for Young Minds

**Rich performances designed to captivate  
and stimulate young minds.**

During the pandemic months, the HCA Recital Hall space was under construction and a new black box theatre with streaming equipment set the stage for live and digital collaborations with professional theatre companies.



*CKA brings professional theatre for early years into community spaces*



# Black Box Theatre

**Ensuring that the arts, culture and community have supportive, innovative spaces.**

Together we ensure arts, culture and heritage live here.

Supported by the Ontario Trillium Foundation Capital Fund, Culture for Kids in the Arts has transformed the HCA Recital Hall into a multi-disciplinary multi-media Black Box Theatre, a professional arts hub with projection and screening capacity for an integrated multi-channel live and electronic streaming experience supplemented by Canadian Heritage: Canada Cultural Spaces Fund for the acquisition of specialized equipment for live and recording of arts activities.



*The transformation of HCA's recital hall into a Black Box Theatre lays the foundation for a bright future where Kinderfest can reach new heights*





The pandemic brought a newfound appreciation for playing outdoors, therefore, respecting the waters that are part of our essential life regardless of where you live. This became an important idea to make a statement on.

— **Deeshani Fernando**  
*Artist Educator*



# Finances



CULTURE FOR KIDS IN THE ARTS

Statement of Operations and changes in net assets

For the year ended August 31, 2020

	2020	2019
REVENUES		
Government grant (Note 3)	\$ 180,642	\$ 145,785
Donations	1,868	4,715
Foundations and Sponsorship	107,460	58,540
Earned revenue	11,954	44,729
Fundraising	150	6,214
Interest income	37	-
	<u>302,111</u>	<u>259,983</u>
EXPENSES		
Program expense (note 7)	172,832	239,740
Consulting	26,331	24,162
Professional fee	5,589	3,638
Insurance	2,664	2,496
Amortization (Note 5)	2,583	-
General and administration (Note 4)	<u>49,034</u>	<u>56,300</u>
	259,033	326,336
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES	<u>43,078</u>	<u>(66,353)</u>
OPENING NET ASSET	20,140	86,493
CLOSING NET ASSET	\$ 63,218	\$ 20,140





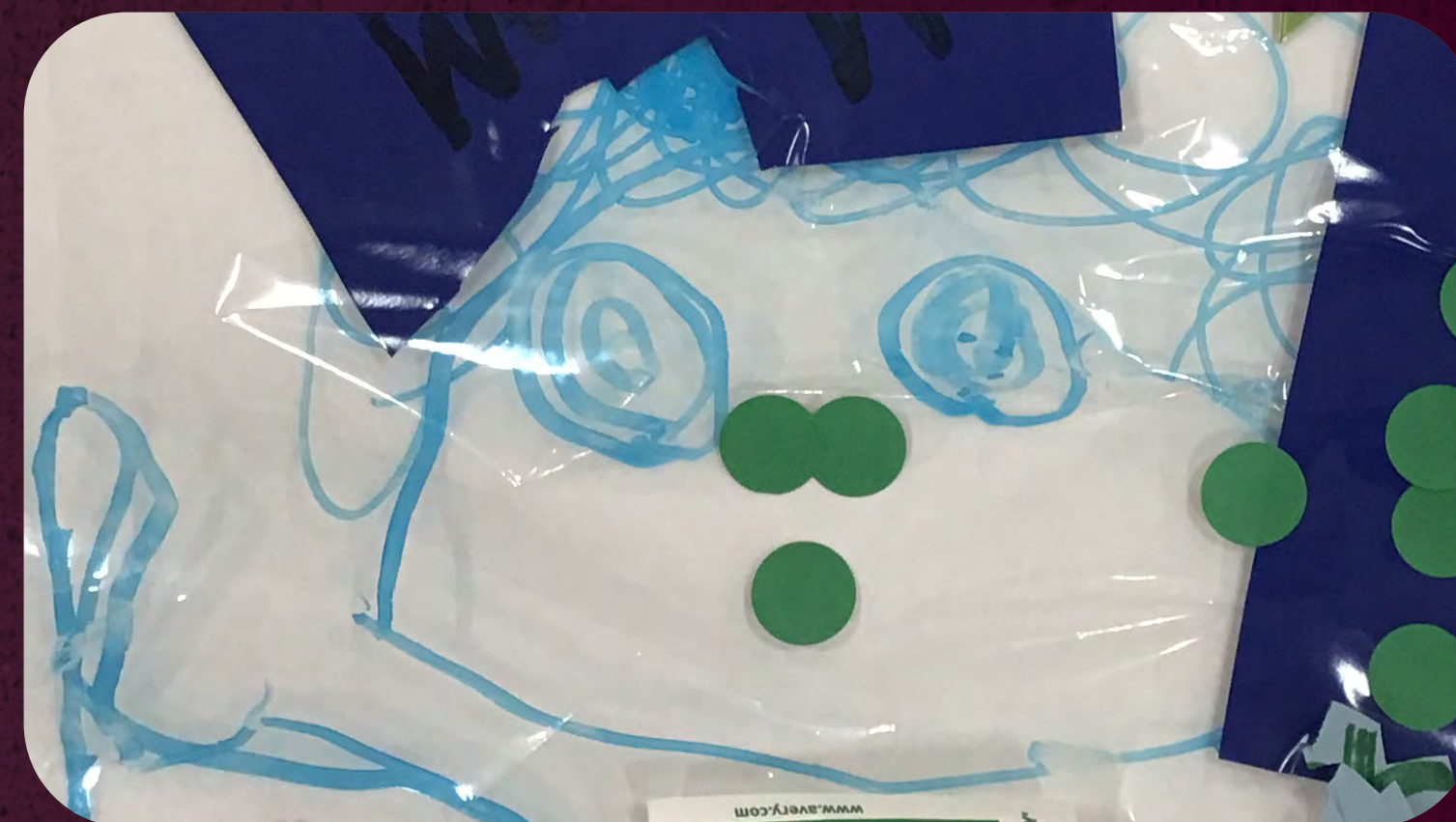
# People

## Staff

Vitek Wincza - CKA Founder and Artistic & Executive Director  
Victoria Long - CKA Program Manager  
Harold Sikkema - Communications Manager  
Sophie Morgan - Apprentice Coordinator

## Board of Directors

Gwen Cottle - Chair  
Marie Nash - Treasurer  
Margot Burnell - Secretary  
Samantha Walker - Member  
Shane Pennells- Member





# Supporters

CKA gratefully acknowledges the generosity of its supporters at every level. A special thank you to all the individual donors who support us through events and online giving. We always appreciate seeing our community grow to support access to arts for all.

## FOUNDING PARTNER



HAMILTON CONSERVATORY FOR THE ARTS

## GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

Funded by the  
Government  
of Canada

Financé par le  
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du Canada



Canada Council  
for the Arts

Conseil des arts  
du Canada



ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL  
CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO  
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MP Hamilton West

**Bob Bratina**  
MP Hamilton East

**Scott Duval**  
MP Hamilton Mountain

**Matthew Green**  
MP Hamilton Centre

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## COMMUNITY PARTNERS



Today's Family



**JAMESVILLE BENNETTO**  
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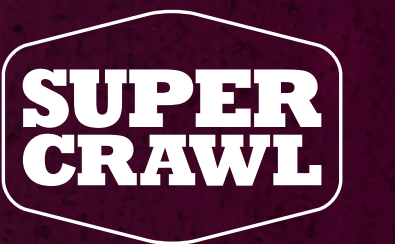
YMCA of  
Hamilton | Burlington | Brantford



**YWCA**  
HAMILTON



Ron Joyce  
Children's  
Health Centre



**Y.S.A.N.**  
Youth Serving Agencies Network



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**MOHAWK**







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Charitable Registration: #871120945RR0001