

DAREarts reports record growth for 2017

The DAREarts Foundation held its annual general meeting Jan. 9, marking the 21st year of achievement by this growing, national, youth-serving charity.

In 21 years, more than 200,000 children have been empowered by DAREarts, either directly or through a young leader. The kids rise to the challenge of discipline, action, responsibility and excellence (DARE): the values that form the framework of all DAREarts' creative workshops and leave these kids with a life path.

DAREarts Chairman Tarik Muzaffar, managing director and global head of financial institutions and global transaction banking with TD Securities, reported that, for the fiscal year that ended July 31, revenues of \$1,021,073 increased 43 per cent over the previous year, while expenses were kept to \$846,830. This record support allowed the charity to build sustainability within its structure and programs.

The Chairman thanked the corporate, foundation, government and individual supporters, plus directors, staff, teachers, artist-educators and 182 volunteers for their support that ranged from funding to giving personal time.

DAREarts' national supporter is Northbridge Insurance. Its lead supporters are Anne Livingston, Baton Rouge, Scotiabank, TD Bank Group, Bank of America Merrill Lynch plus the Province of Ontario government support through ONT150 ? Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport and the Ontario Arts Council.

DAREarts Founder and President Marilyn Field detailed the charity's national impact, from Vancouver, Toronto, remote northern First Nations, Marten Falls, Webequie, Attawapiskat and Neskantaga, and from Montreal to Halifax, where DAREarts reached a total 10,053 children in underserved communities.

Looking ahead, Muzaffar and Field noted that DAREarts will continue to build sustainable capacity as the charity works towards its goal of empowering another 50,000 children through a revenue goal of \$5 million by 2021.

Field shared her vision for DAREarts' third decade.

?The collective voice of our youth from all cultures will be the legacy of DAREarts,? she said. ?More young people will connect across Canada as they define their purpose, mobilize their passions and speak up to ignite positive change.?