



MUSE ARTS

ANNUAL REPORT

2023





ABOUT US

MUSE Arts is an artist-run, community arts organization focused on creating spaces and engaging communities meaningfully and actively in hands-on, high-quality arts education integrated to issues of social justice.

Our organization also supports emerging artists from equity-seeking groups to showcase their work and access opportunities for professional development.

We aim to:

- Foster and build a connection among artists and other community partners to promote art work and art education that engages communities in issues of Social Justice and Community and Peace Building.
- Increase the visibility of newcomer and refugee artists in the artistic scene in Canada.
- Promote international cooperation among artists and engage in cultural and artistic knowledge and skill exchanges. Engage artists in local, national, and international opportunities that promote professional development in their individual practices and in community-engaged arts.

Charitable name: Sick Muse Art Projects

**Charitable Registration Number:
709133672RR0001**

OUR WORLD OF A THOUSAND COLOURS



- Overview:

This program aims to engage the younger artists-in-the making in our communities in exploring their creativity and celebrating their unique gifts and talents. It's a program that brings every year visual art workshops to kids living at different shelters and transitional housing in Toronto.

In 2023, we were able to run three in-person versions of this program, with a total of **36 in person workshops**..

Besides facilitating these workshops in places like Women'sHabitat, Red Door Shelter, Romero House, Birkdale Residenceand other Temporary Refugee Reception Centres in Toronto throughout the year, we also offered these sessions at MUSE Arts Creative Lab during the summer.

Funders: Canada Council for the Arts, Ontario Arts Council and Toronto Arts Council

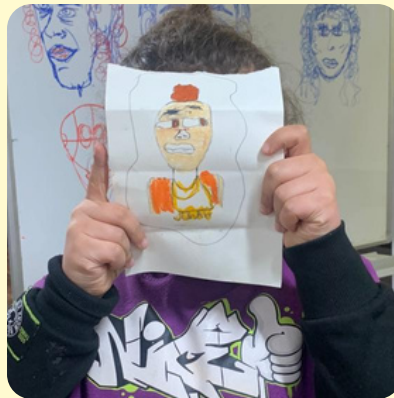
OUR WORLD OF A THOUSAND COLOURS

Romero House



OUR WORLD OF A THOUSAND COLOURS

Birkdale Residency



OUR WORLD OF A THOUSAND COLOURS

Crowne Plaza



TIES TO COMMUNITY ARTIST SPOTLIGHT



Overview:

Since 2020 we have used online platforms to showcase the work of talented immigrant , newcomer and refugee musicians. Our winter programs are special because it offer programming to community members who are at home or cannot travel to our in-person gathering.

2023 was very especial as we got to work with new talents, some of who had just arrived to the country, others who have been here for some time , had not worked with us. We love the multiple opportunities this space creates: In addition to offer musicians' exposure, it also becomes a space of connection and friendship,

Funder: FACTOR Canada



TIES TO COMMUNITY ARTIST SPOTLIGHT



TIES TO COMMUNITY HOLISTIC WELLNESS

Overview:

Artistic Holistic Wellness an online space created to explore the holistic powers of Music. Once again, Music is at the centre of MUSE Arts programming during the winter months and this program proved to be successful given the amount of interaction in our social media platforms

Funder: FACTOR Canada

Successes:

- We reached over 500 people through this series. The conversations had 80 views on Youtube, and 407 views on Facebook.
- The artists who were part of these conversations were artists who had not worked with MUSE Arts before.



ARTISTS HOLISTIC WELLNESS

how music can be used as a medium of expression, and how it creates and empowers communities. We will explore holistic healing through music, community empowerment, emerging artists, music through generations, and the future of music



The power of Music
with Samer Ajaj



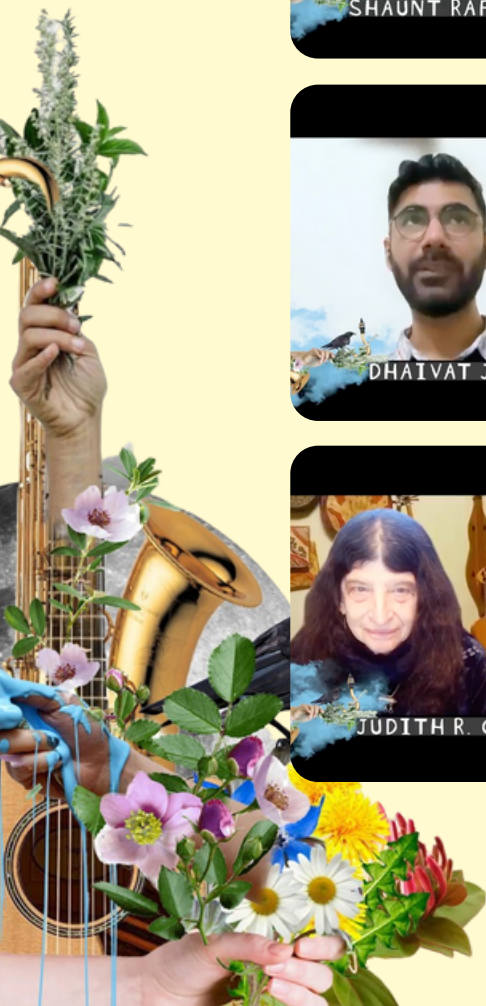
The Future of Music
with Shaunt Raffi



Music as a Holistic Practice
with Dhaivat Jani



Music through generations
with Judith R. Cohen



ARTIST WELLNESS

Overview:

In 2023 we hosted our third edition of Artists Wellness, this in partnership with StreetArToronto. The monthly panels were hosted online and in-person. These panels aimed to explore the work of Mural Artists, putting special attention to International experiences and opportunities. Important conversations around Mental Health, Safety and Collaboration took place.

We were able to reach visual artists through the following panels:

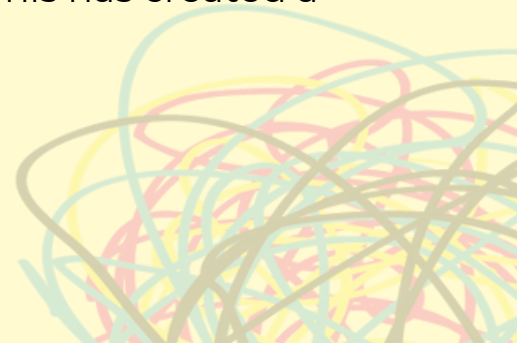
- Expanding Mural Careers: Exploring National and International Commissions
- Expanding Mural Careers: Working Safely Abroad
- Knowledge Sharing and Mentoring

Funders: City of Toronto

This third edition evidenced the dedication both organizations have towards each other and left the door open for a fourth edition in 2024. We successfully hosted the first in person panel during our HAPPENING Multicultural Festival.

The planning of these events has ran without major inconveniences as both teams seem to be on the same page when it comes to the objectives of the program. This has created a positive synergy between them.

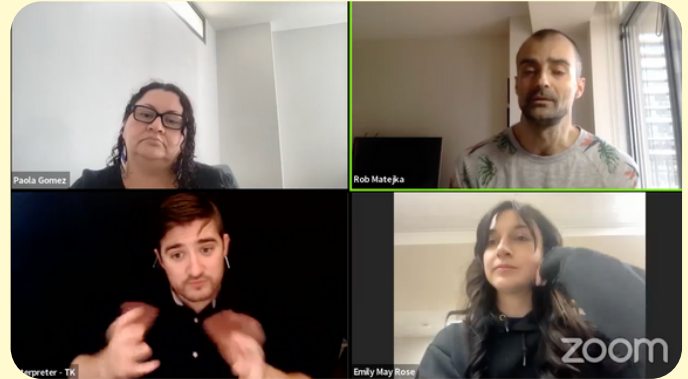
Partners: StreetArt Toronto



ARTIST WELLNESS



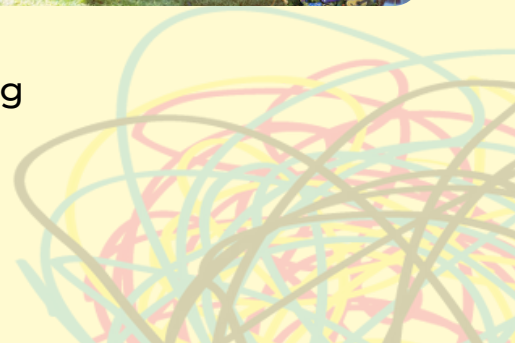
Expanding Mural Careers: Exploring National and International Commissions



Expanding Mural Careers: Working Safely Abroad



Knowledge Sharing and Mentoring
In person session



CREATIVE LAB



MUSE Arts wanted to create a space for emerging artists from equity-seeking groups to showcase their work, access opportunities for professional development, and to engage with communities. With the support of the community. In celebration of Toronto Newcomer Day and during HAPPENING Multicultural Festival, the doors of MUSE's first physical space opened.

Programming:

Muse Arts Creative Lab hosted part of our yearly programming. There were several programs running throughout the summer.

These were:

- Círculo de Conversaciones Sororas
- Our World of a Thousand Colours
- Smarts: In Harmony
- Cine Muse
- Intro to Poster Design for Youth
- English learning classes
- Co-working speace
- Bracelet making drop in
- Writer's circle
- Embroidery circle
- Open Mics
- My Senses: Sensory Play for Toddlers
- Journaling workshops
- Kids Crafting Sessions
- Oil Pastel Drawing sessions
- Storytime for Toddlers
- Acrylic Painting Workshops

Several programs were ran in the space and this allowed the Lab to have a constant flow of members of the community and artists during the summer.

CREATIVE LAB



HAPPENING

May 1st - 31st



HAPPENING gave space to embrace the cultural richness of our city, while creating professional development opportunities for artists. It offered a platform for organizations to connect, and form meaningful collaborations.

Events:

- 3 Poetry Nights
- 6 knowledge sharing workshops
- 2 Artists in Conversation
- 1 Art build (Crochet community event)
- 1 online Seminar
- 1 Networking event for artists and organizations
- 1 Dance and performance night
- 2 Music Nights
- 1 Full day Festival (which contained 10 music and dance presentations)

Social Media:

- 290 new Instagram followers by the end of the festival

Artists Involved:

- 115 immigrant, refugee and newcomer artists hired

Funders: Canada Council for the Arts

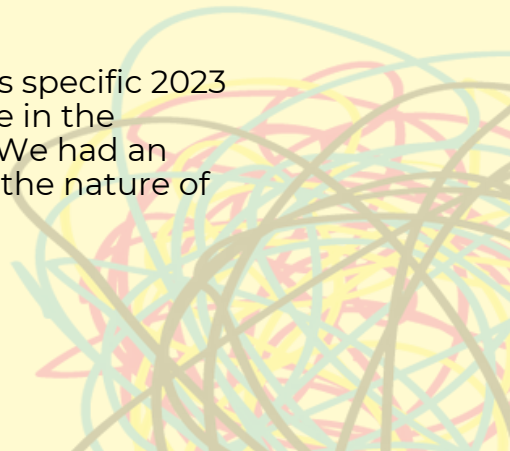
Partners: Creato, StreetArt Toronto

Sponsors: El Sazón Mexicano

Vendors: 15 vendors throughout the 3 main activation days

Successes:

- MUSE Arts provided consistent programming and artistic performances throughout the whole month on May.
- MUSE Arts was able to nurture new and old relationships with the community members and artists of the sector.
- The Festival was a meeting point for the community. This specific 2023 edition gave us the opportunity to establish our presence in the community by bringing high quality events to the park. We had an increase of attendance and community engagement as the nature of the activities gave more visibility to our programming.



HAPPENING

May 1st - 31st



HAPPENING

May 1st - 31st



VISUAL POETRY



Overview:

This was an interactive program, where MUSE Arts, in partnership with ClicClac Collective worked side-by-side with dynamic groups of youth exploring photography, self-expression, and life skills. This program had in person and online components, which all concluded with a powerful exhibition of the youth's work.

The program had two editions, one in partnership with Birkdale Residency and Radisson Toronto East Hotel. There was a total of 24 in person workshops.

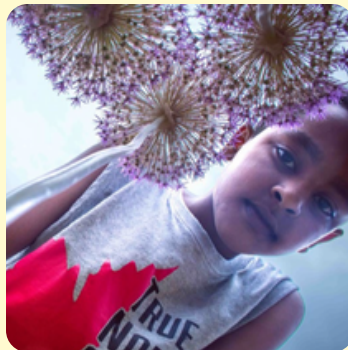
Facilitators: 3

Participants: 25

Used art forms: photography, mixed media

Partners: COSTI, Clic Clac Collective

Funders: Toronto Arts Council (Newcomer and Refugee Engagement Program)



MEMORY AND WISDOM

Overview:

For the past three years, we have partnered with the Davenport-Perth community to deliver programs that recognize seniors' skills and abilities, as well as to foster space for the development of new skills.

Throughout 22 in-person workshops, we supported seniors' well-being by creating space for creativity and leadership. We promoted conversations about mental health and healthy lifestyles, while fostering a sense of community.

Funders: Government of Canada through its New Horizons for Seniors Program.



COMMUNITY ARTS RESIDENCY

Overview:

During 2023, MUSE arts was able to successfully run two cultural residencies: one in Colombia and one in Zimbabwe.

- The first one ran from Mar 22nd - Mar 28th (Quindío, Colombia)
- The second one ran from Dec 1st - Dec 13th (Gutu, Zimbabwe)

The two residencies engaged with over 40 artists from Colombia, Canada, Guatemala, Chile, Jamaica and Cuba.

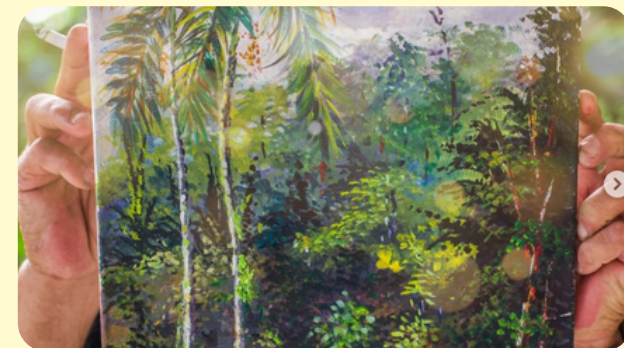
Both residencies impacted several communities in various towns of el Quindío, Colombia and Gutu, Zimbabwe by carrying out several art workshops in schools and other community spaces. Within the residencies, there was a strong youth mentorship component, where professional artists shared knowledge with young aspiring artists.

One of MUSE Art's biggest achievements was having its first ever residency in Africa.



COMMUNITY ARTS RESIDENCY

Mar 22nd - Mar 28th
(Quindío, Colombia)



COMMUNITY ARTS RESIDENCY

Dec 1st - Dec 13th
(Gutu, Zimbabwe)

