



ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

**Creative Community
Impact Association
(CCIA)**

Building Connection and Change Through Art

creativecommunityimpact.ca | [@creativecommunityimpact](https://www.instagram.com/creativecommunityimpact)

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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Looking back on our first year, I feel so grateful for the people who helped bring Creative Community Impact Association to life.

Our inaugural year was about building from the ground up. We listened to our community, built new partnerships, tried new ideas, and created space for people to come together through creativity.

Along the way, we learned more about what people value, what helps them feel welcome, and how creative spaces can build connection and belonging.

None of this would have been possible without our board, community partners, supporters, and the people who showed up, participated, shared their ideas, and helped shape CCIA.

Thank you for being part of our first year and for believing in the power of creativity to bring people together and strengthen our communities.

I'm proud of what we've built together and excited to keep creating opportunities for people to connect, learn, and create.

With gratitude,

Jacquelyn Miccolis

Founder & Executive Director

Jacquelyn Miccolis



OUR MISSION & VALUES

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Mission: To empower communities, organizations, and leaders across Canada to harness creativity as a catalyst for connection, inclusion, and lasting social change.

Values:

- Creativity • Collaboration
- Inclusion • Collective Care
- Gentle Advocacy

Vision: A Canada where creativity strengthens communities, amplifies underrepresented voices, and inspires collective action.



COMMUNITY-INFORMED PROGRAMMING

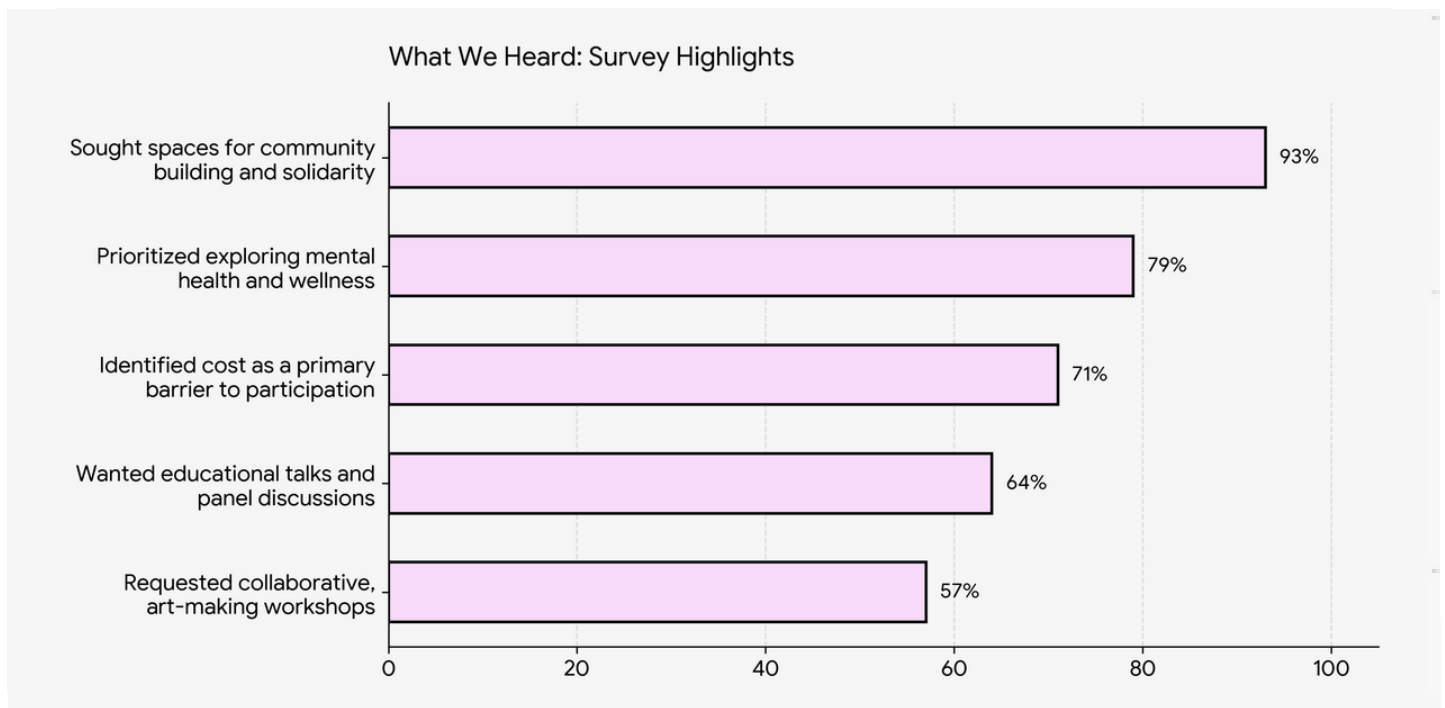
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Driven by Our Community

Before launching our first year of free programming, we started by listening. Community input helped us understand what mattered to people, what they were looking for, and what barriers they faced.

What We Heard: Survey Highlights

The message was clear: people wanted opportunities to connect, support their wellbeing, learn together, and create with others. Cost was also a significant barrier.



How We Responded

Free by Design

All programming was offered at no cost.

Connection at the Centre

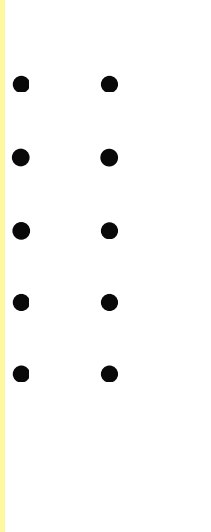
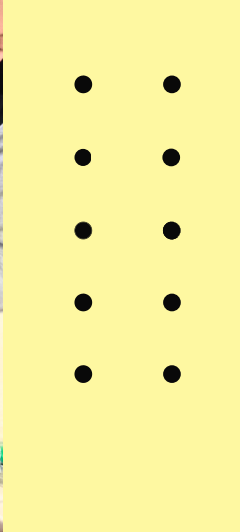
We created welcoming spaces for connection and belonging.

Learning Through Creativity

We made space for shared learning and conversations about issues that matter.

Creating Together

We brought people together through collaborative, hands-on creative experiences.



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YEAR AT A GLANCE

- 11 community program sessions delivered
- 234+ participant engagements through intentionally small, accessible creative spaces
- 12 community partnerships built
- 4 core program streams established





KEY PROGRAMS OVERVIEW

Our programs are organized into four core streams:



Creative Connections: Arts-based experiences that foster connection, storytelling, and belonging.



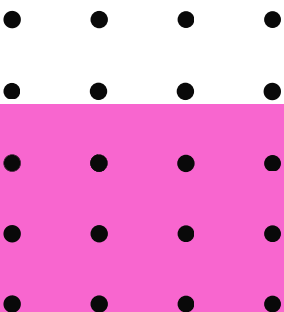
Inclusive Arts Practice: Learning opportunities exploring accessibility, equity, and inclusion in the arts.



EcoArts Labs: Creative experiences connecting art, sustainability, and environmental stewardship.



Pride Pedagogy: 2SLGBTQIA+-centered programming exploring identity, culture, and social change through creativity.



IMPACT STORIES

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“I love CCIA! As a newcomer to Halifax, I had been seeking opportunities to connect with community in a meaningful way. CCIA’s regular programming allowed me to discover places, learn, and form new friendships. Sharing stories with others while navigating life in a new city and province has been a wonderful way to help me build a sense of belonging. I am so grateful to have been welcomed into these spaces and look forward to attending future events.”

— **Gloria Bernal**, CCIA Participant
(Shared with permission)



RESULTS & METRICS

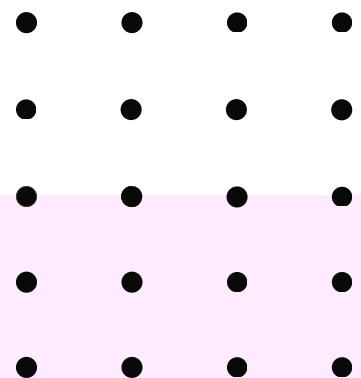
Strong community demand: All registration-based, in-person sessions reached capacity, demonstrating strong interest in accessible, creative community experiences.

Meaningful engagement: Many participants returned for multiple offerings, reflecting ongoing connection and sustained interest in our programming.

Local and national reach: Connected with communities in Kijipuktuk (Halifax), rural Nova Scotia, and across Canada through in-person and virtual programming. This included facilitating a workshop at the Roots & Resilience Gathering in Debert, NS, supporting creative connection within BIPOC and racialized communities.

Sector engagement: Brought together arts organizations from across Canada for a virtual workshop on writing for accessibility in the arts.

Accessibility in practice: Reduced barriers through free programming, wheelchair-accessible venues, accessibility information, live auto-captions, ASL interpretation, accessible film subtitles, and inclusive facilitation.





PARTNERS

We thank our partners:

Halifax Public Libraries, Visual Arts Nova Scotia, Access Art Alliance, The Q Creative Network, EnsembleCo, Patagonia Halifax, National Canadian Film Day, REEL Canada, National Film Board of Canada, Open Book Coffee, Trident Café & Booksellers, and Mirror Form Photography.





COMMUNITY SUPPORTERS

We're grateful to the businesses and organizations who strengthen our work through in-kind donations.

- Patagonia Halifax
- Scotiabank Centre
- Neptune Theatre
- Ambassatours Gray Line



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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Our first year was about more than delivering programs. We also showed up in arts, cultural, and community spaces that reflect our values, building connections and learning alongside the people and organizations already doing this work.

OUTFest 2026 Launch

Celebrated Atlantic Canada's queer performing arts community while connecting with local 2SLGBTQIA+ artists, audiences, and community members.

ReVamp 2025

Joined a community gathering featuring panel discussion, food, and music, creating opportunities to connect with Black changemakers and community members.

It's About Time: Dancing Black in Canada Reception

Honoured Black Canadian dance histories through an evening of exhibition, storytelling, poetry, music, and live performance.

Atlantic Canada Cultural Showcase

Celebrated the region's diverse cultural expressions through the work of Indigenous and Black artists, cultural practitioners, and local artisans.

We All Meet at Food (Nocturne)

Participated in a collaborative dinner bringing together food, storytelling, artists, and community connection.

Creative Nova Scotia Awards

Connected with Nova Scotia's arts community while celebrating creative excellence and cultural leadership.

Gritty to Pretty 10-Year Celebration (DHBC)

Celebrated a decade of placemaking and community-focused initiatives in downtown Halifax.

KNOWLEDGE-SHARING

Queer Brunch Podcast

Participated in a panel discussion hosted by Antoine Elhashem exploring queer representation, visibility, and community.





Building on the momentum from our first year, we continue to expand accessible creative opportunities that bring people together, strengthen communities, and support inclusive arts and culture.

Our Focus for Year Two:

Expanding Community Programming: Offering free, accessible arts experiences that cultivate connection, continuous learning, and meaningful participation.

Strengthening Accessibility & Inclusion: Deepening our commitment to inclusive practices that reduce barriers and create welcoming spaces for diverse communities.

Advancing Research & Knowledge Sharing: Growing our participatory, arts-based research practice to better understand the impact of creative work on community wellbeing and contribute to broader conversations in the cultural sector.

Growing Partnerships & Connections: Cultivating relationships with organizations, cultural networks, and community partners to expand collaboration and shared impact.

Building Long-Term Sustainability:

Strengthening our organizational foundation through diversified fundraising, corporate partnerships, and community support.



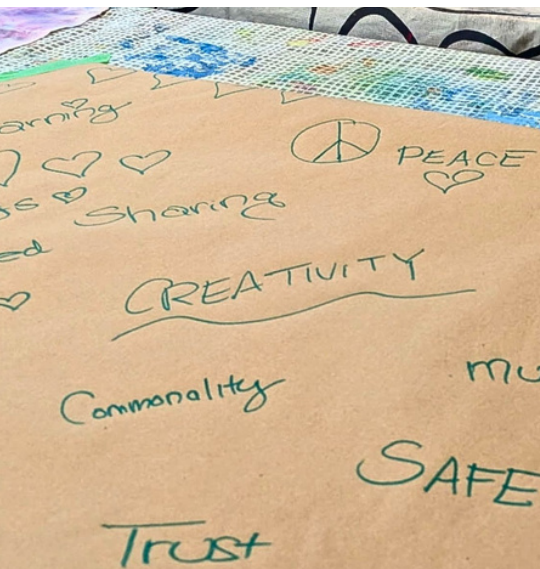
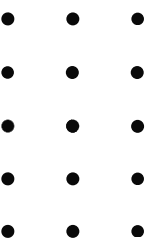


Creativity Creates Change



When people come together, creativity becomes a catalyst for connection, belonging, and collective action.

Join us as we continue building more accessible, inclusive spaces where communities can connect, create, and imagine what's possible.



Kjipuktuk (Halifax), Nova Scotia

Learn more:

creativecommunityimpact.ca

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