

2025

ANNUAL REPORT

MACPHEE CENTRE FOR CREATIVE LEARNING

OUR YOUTH MATTER - THE ARTS MATTER - OUR COMMUNITY MATTERS

Our Mission

At the MacPhee Centre for Creative Learning, we empower youth to thrive through the Creative Arts in safe, inclusive, and supportive spaces. Our programs spark creativity, confidence, and wellbeing, helping young people explore, express themselves, and grow as leaders in their communities. Together with our community, we nurture empathy, resilience, and a future where every young person can reach their full potential through the transformative power of art.

- Inspiring youth
- Education as a foundation
- Compassion and nurturing
- Creative Learning
- Community and Mentorship

Our Values



Letter from ED/Chair

Dear Friends,

Every day, we see how access to creative learning helps young people express themselves, build confidence, and connect with mentors and peers in a safe, supportive space. Our programs go beyond skill-building - they foster resilience, belonging and a sense of connection that lasts well beyond our walls.

This year, youth engaged in programs ranging from Mini Makers Markets and Improv performances to Indigenous Arts and content creation workshops. Through these experiences, participants discovered new ideas, developed as creative leaders, and found a home in our community. These outcomes are made possible by our dedicated staff, facilitators, and community partners who bring every program to life.

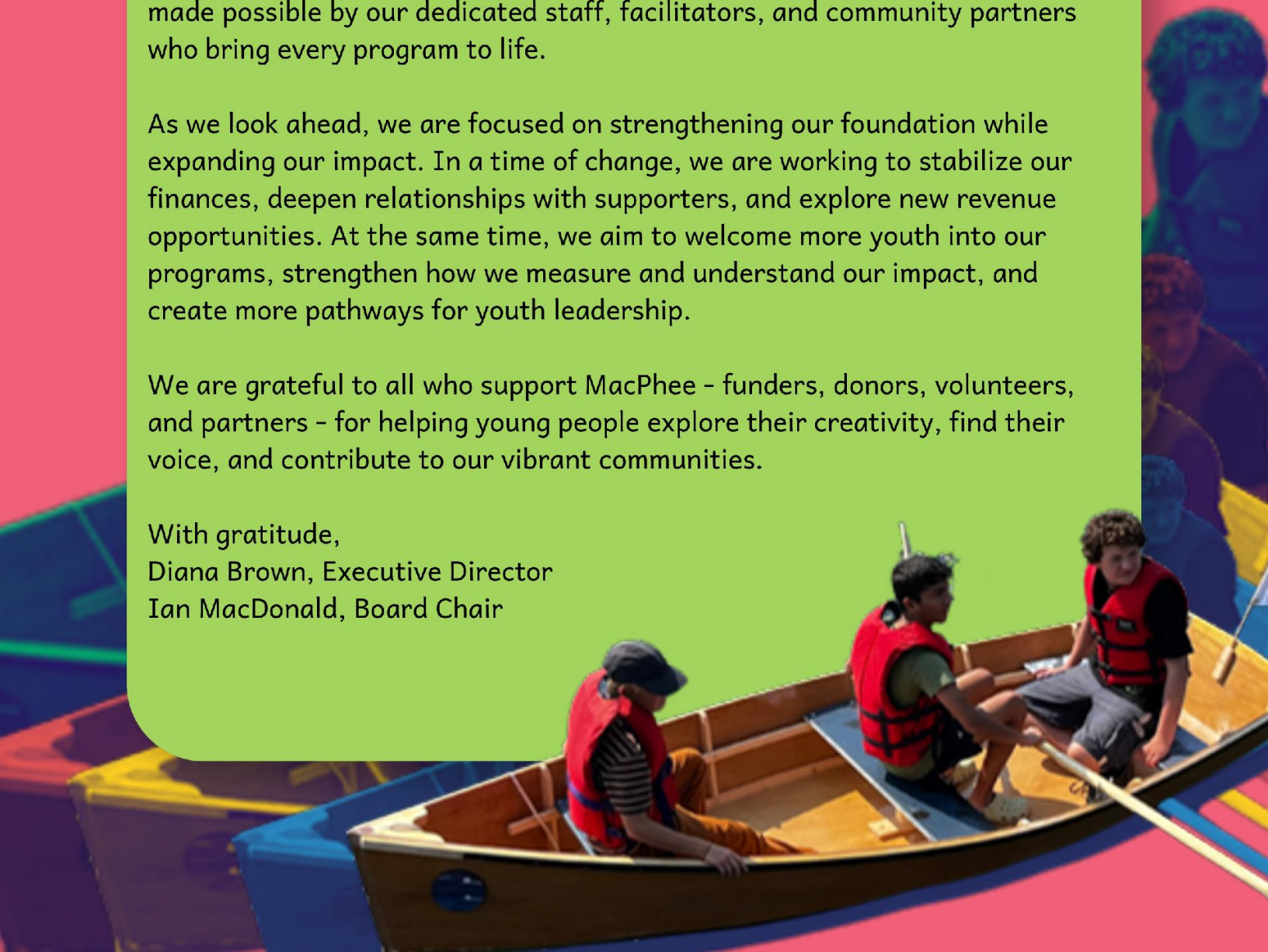
As we look ahead, we are focused on strengthening our foundation while expanding our impact. In a time of change, we are working to stabilize our finances, deepen relationships with supporters, and explore new revenue opportunities. At the same time, we aim to welcome more youth into our programs, strengthen how we measure and understand our impact, and create more pathways for youth leadership.

We are grateful to all who support MacPhee - funders, donors, volunteers, and partners - for helping young people explore their creativity, find their voice, and contribute to our vibrant communities.

With gratitude,

Diana Brown, Executive Director

Ian MacDonald, Board Chair



Our Youth Matter



Programs like those at the MacPhee Centre help young people develop artistic abilities as well as the confidence and life skills that support long-term wellbeing and engagement in their communities. For many young people, these programs provide one of the few consistent spaces in their lives where creativity, mentorship, and belonging come together.

The Arts Matter



Access to arts and creative learning gives young people opportunities to express themselves, build relationships with mentors, and experience a sense of belonging in a supportive environment. Research consistently shows that participation in the arts supports youth mental wellbeing, resilience, emotional expression, and social connection, while also strengthening skills such as collaboration, communication, and creative problem-solving.

Our Community Matters



Our work does not happen in isolation. We are part of a broader ecosystem of schools, artists, wellness practitioners, and community partners. Their collaboration, expertise, and support allow us to expand access to arts learning, create meaningful opportunities for youth, and strengthen the connections that make our programs possible.

Year at a Glance

80

Programs

580

Registrations

431

Sessions

857

Hours of programming

591

In-house hours

266

Outreach hours

04

Scholarships awarded

3120

Youth Engagements

246

Unique youth (in-house)

48

Facilitators

2589

Snacks Served

29

Locations

19

Program Partners

**NEW
ED**

Hired

**NEW
CHAIR
OF THE
BOARD**

Welcomed



Impact Stories

Every story is different. Every story matters.

Cherish first walked into our *Indigenous Arts* program, and by the end of that first class, she signed up for programs almost every day! She grew quickly into a creative youth leader in our community; and MacPhee just as quickly became a hub for her, where she could celebrate her Indigenous heritage while building friendships, confidence, and leadership skills. Cherish was awarded a scholarship, worked at the centre as our Summer Youth Leader, and even facilitated - teaching youth and staff how to create dream catchers, and showing the power of youth-led programming. From shy beginnings to performing on stage at an *Improv Festival*, Cherish's growth illustrates how MacPhee provides a safe, supportive community where young people can truly thrive.



"The kids loved attending. They enjoyed the variety of art, socializing with peers, and trying new things."
(parent)

"At MacPhee there's always someone to talk to or create with. Being here helped me realize it's okay to be myself."
(youth)

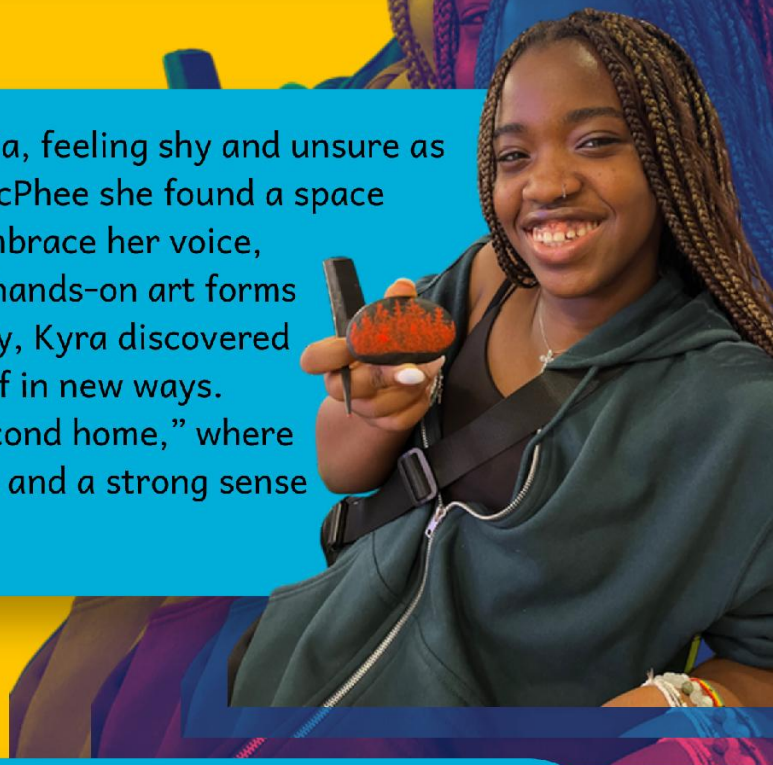
Olivia has a strong passion for food and cooking, but distance and scheduling challenges sometimes keep her from joining regular programs. But with flexible, one-on-one opportunities she was able to explore food systems hands-on, share our garden harvest with the community fridge, and connect her love of cooking to film-making, stop-motion animation, and polymer clay. MacPhee programs allow her to pursue her interests alongside school and athletics, and showed how personalized arts programming can nurture creativity, curiosity, and connection.





Maryam and her family came to MacPhee Centre as newcomers, unable to attend school due to immigration restrictions. Here, she found a welcoming community and became a leader in our *Intro to Content Creation* program, learning to tell and share stories with confidence. Through our programs, she gained skills and mentorship, caught up academically, graduated high school, and will begin a Bachelor of Science degree in 2026! Maryam's journey shows how accessible arts programs help young people overcome barriers and thrive.

Kyra joined us after moving from Nigeria, feeling shy and unsure as she adjusted to her new country. At MacPhee she found a space where she felt accepted - learning to embrace her voice, her accent, and her identity. Exploring hands-on art forms like woodshop, collage, and photography, Kyra discovered a love of creating and expressing herself in new ways. Today, she describes MacPhee as a "second home," where she has grown in confidence, creativity, and a strong sense of belonging.



Leo's journey with the MacPhee Centre began with curiosity that quickly grew into a passion for art. Through programs in sketching, photography, and painting, he not only supplemented his homeschool education but discovered a love of watercolour - now a key part of his portfolio. In a space where he felt accepted exactly as he was, Leo grew in confidence, and helped initiate our stop-motion animation program. He is now preparing to study at NSCAD with clearer vision of his future as an artist.



Program Highlights

We provide free, high-quality arts education and mentorship to young people in our community. Our programs help youth develop creative skills while building confidence, supporting mental health and wellbeing, and fostering meaningful connections. Every program offers a safe and supportive space for self-expression, collaboration, and growth - helping young people explore their creativity, envision future pathways, and contribute to vibrant, thriving communities.

"Being at MacPhee,
it's okay to be different."
(youth)

Visual Arts: Painting, Figurative Drawing, Photography, Zine-making, Fashion & Identity, Content Creation, Chill Crafts, Puppetry

Performing Arts: Breakdancing, Improv, Performance, Beatmaking, DnD

Leaderships & Life Skills: Art Entrepreneurship, Boat Crafts, Rope Crafts, Woodworking, Cooking, Technical Arts, Afterwords Street Team, Creative Writing, Garden Arts

Community / Identity Programs: BIPOC Supper Club, GSA (Gender and Sexuality Alliance), Prism: Pride, Indigenous Arts

Our dedicated facilitators and artists bring these programs to life, supporting youth to build confidence, explore their creativity, strengthen their mental health and wellbeing, and find a sense of belonging.

"I know the staff at
MacPhee understand
the importance of
nurturing creativity."
(youth)



Mini Makers Markets

Our Youth Mini Maker Market was piloted in the spring and so successful that we ran it again in the winter! Youth showcased and sold their art, celebrating skills they developed in our Art-Entrepreneurship and Zine-Making Programs. These programs gave youth the tools to find their audience and share their work with confidence. Along the way, they built creative business plans, collaborated with peers, and deepened their artistic practice - gaining real-world experience as emerging entrepreneurs in a public marketplace.



Improv

In partnership with Page 1 Theatre, Youth spent several weeks learning and playing from Improv artists, celebrating Queer lived experiences, and gaining hands-on performance experience. They collaborated with peers to develop hilarious and insightful performances and shared them with the broader community during an OutFest performance at the Bus Stop Theatre. The confidence, creativity, and pride these youth displayed throughout the program were truly extraordinary.



Community Partnerships

Collaboration is at the heart of our work.

MacPhee's work is strengthened through partnerships with artists, schools, and community organizations, helping us reach more youth and provide more diverse creative opportunities.

Arts & Cultural Partners

Afterwords Literary Festival, NSCAD, Page 1 Theatre, WFNS

Community & Social Service Organizations

Alderney Library, IWK- AIS & Garron Centre, Old School, Phoenix, Portauisque Community Centre, YMCA of Greater Halifax/Dartmouth, YWCA Halifax, IYS-NS

Education & Youth Partners

Churchill Academy, Francais Pour L'Avenir, HRCE (Auburn, Cole Harbour, Dartmouth, Eric Graves, Fairview, John Martin, St Agnes, Rocky Lake, Sackville, Woodlawn), NSCC, SchoolsPlus



Funding Partners

| | |
|---|---|
| McInnes Cooper Ecclesiastical | Community Foundation of Nova Scotia (The Big Sing Fund) |
| Watts Wind II Limited Partnership | The Windsor Foundation |
| Doane Grant Thornton | A Dollar a Day Foundation |
| Walmart Canada | Halifax Youth Foundation |
| Workers Compensation Board Nova Scotia | NSCC Foundation |
| Edwards Family Charitable Foundation | Government of Nova Scotia |
| Mental Health Foundation of Nova Scotia | Government of Canada |
| Community Foundation of Canada | Halifax Regional Municipality (Climate Action Fund) |
| RBC Foundation | |

Outreach Highlight: Phoenix

Through our continued partnership with Phoenix in Mulgrave Park, youth explored photography and storytelling in new ways. Summer photowalks along the Halifax waterfront built skills and confidence, leading to a paid opportunity to document the United Way Affordable Housing Symposium. Youth were supported with training and captured the event - earning enthusiastic feedback and a strong sense of pride in their work. We're excited to keep creating meaningful opportunities together!



**"The art programs
let me express what
I can't say."
(youth)**

We are grateful for the support of our funders, donors, volunteers, and community members who make this work possible.



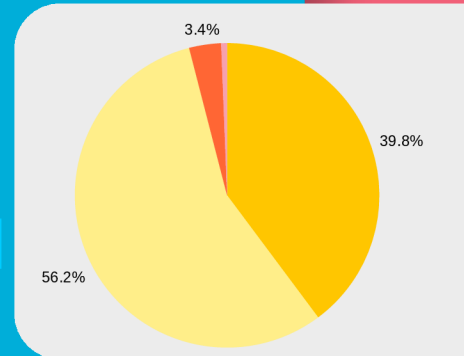
Finances

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

| | 2025 | 2024 |
|--------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| ASSETS | | |
| ● Cash | \$224,149 | \$138,089 |
| ● Cash - internally restricted | 316,442 | 308,009 |
| ● Accounts receivable | 19,104 | 222,579 |
| ● Prepaid expenses | 3,501 | 3,351 |
| | 563,196 | 672,028 |

Capital assets 742,395 769,794

\$1,305,591 \$1,441,822



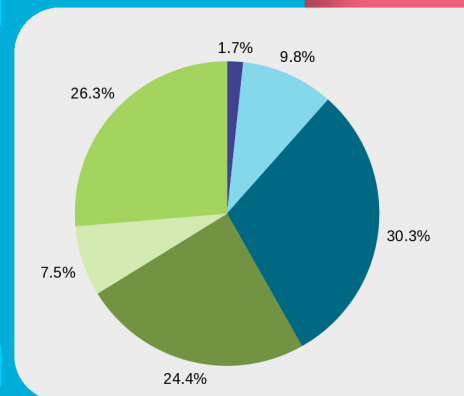
| | | |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| LIABILITIES | | |
| ● Accounts payable and accrued liabilities | \$21,957 | \$28,494 |
| ● Deferred revenue | 127,754 | 124,675 |
| ● Demand loan | - | 400,000 |
| ● Current portion of long term debt | 392,675 | - |
| | 542,386 | 553,169 |

Deferred capital grants 8,082 12,302

550,468 565,471

| | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| NET ASSETS | | |
| ● Internally restricted | 316,442 | 308,009 |
| ● Unrestricted | 97,039 | 210,848 |
| ● Investment in capital assets | 341,642 | 357,494 |
| | 755,123 | 876,351 |

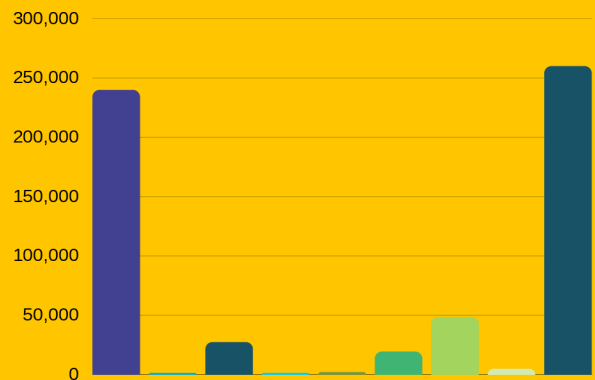
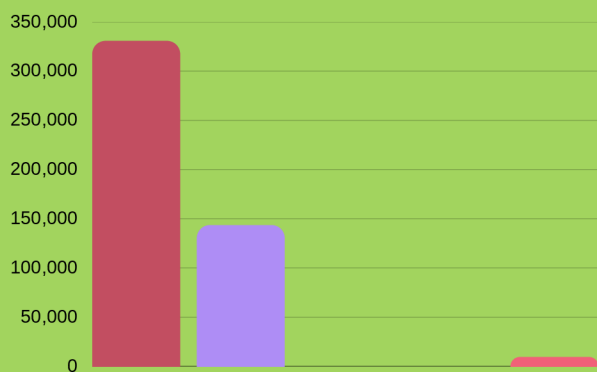
\$1,305,591 \$1,441,822



STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

| REVENUES | 2025 | 2024 |
|----------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Government grants | \$330,741 | \$327,926 |
| Donations and other grants | 143,564 | 194,239 |
| Fundraising | - | 949 |
| In-kind donations | - | 2,401 |
| Program and other revenue | 9,497 | 16,440 |
| | \$483,802 | \$541,955 |

| EXPENDITURES | 2025 | 2024 |
|----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Administration | \$239,963 | \$228,075 |
| Advertising and promotion | 1,497 | 682 |
| Amortization | 27,398 | 28,812 |
| Fundraising | 1,529 | 3,575 |
| Interest and bank charges | 2,036 | 1,854 |
| Interest on long term debt | 19,373 | 32,983 |
| Occupancy costs | 48,435 | 58,979 |
| Office | 4,838 | 9,587 |
| Program costs | 259,961 | 322,060 |
| | 605,030 | 686,607 |
| | \$(121,228) | \$(144,652) |



REVENUES

EXPENDITURES

Looking Ahead

At the MacPhee Centre, we know that creative learning is essential for youth wellbeing and community strength. Access to arts programs supports mental health, builds confidence, and strengthens social connection, while also developing skills like collaboration, communication, and creative problem-solving. As we look ahead to 2026, we are prioritizing the work that ensures we remain stable, responsive, and impactful for the youth and communities we serve.

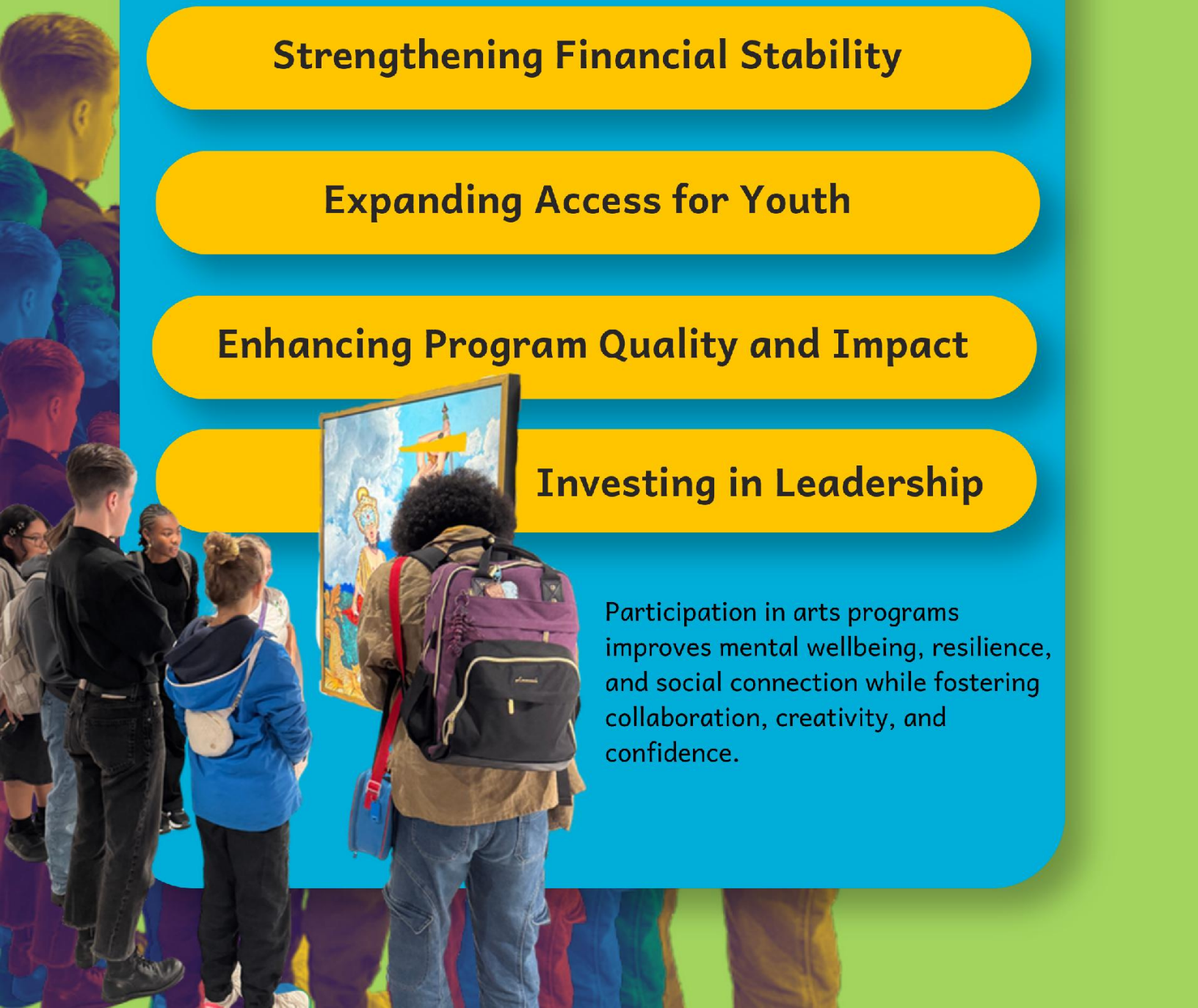
Strengthening Financial Stability

Expanding Access for Youth

Enhancing Program Quality and Impact

Investing in Leadership

Participation in arts programs improves mental wellbeing, resilience, and social connection while fostering collaboration, creativity, and confidence.



Be Part of the Impact

There are many ways to support youth at the MacPhee Centre and it's folks like YOU who help create these opportunities for young people to connect, create, and thrive. **Give Today.**



"For my daughter to try to figure out who she is in life, MacPhee Centre is her first really safe space."
(parent)

"Spaces like the MacPhee Centre are vital because they give young people the freedom to be themselves. It's amazing to see youth encouraged to create without limits."
(facilitator)

All Supporters

- Become a monthly donor
- Make a one-time gift
- Attend our events and bring your friends

Families & Youth

- Refer a youth to our programs
- Book a tour and visit the Centre
- Explore programs and get involved

Educators & Community Partners

- Bring youth in for field trip workshops
- Partner with us to deliver programs

Businesses & Organizations

- Book a creative arts team-building session
- Partner to support youth programming



Contact Us

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