

MABELLEarts UNLOCKS THE CREATIVE POTENTIAL OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD



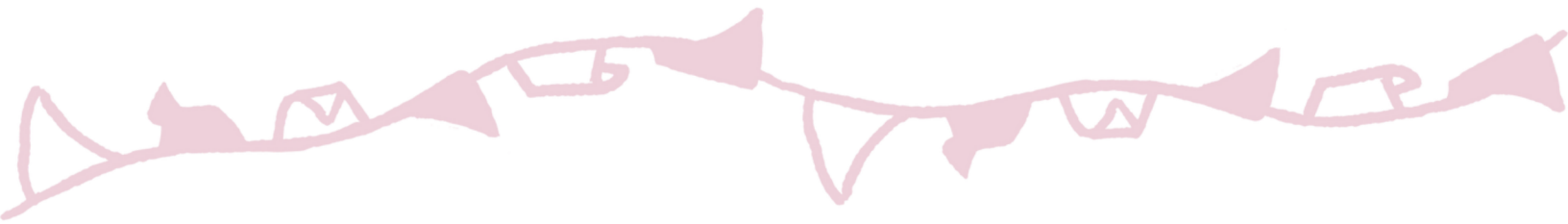
# MABELLEarts

## 2023 IMPACT REPORT

IN A CONTEXT OF RAPIDLY SHRINKING  
GREENSPACE, MABELLEarts PUNCHES WAY  
ABOVE OUR WEIGHT TO DELIVER THE SOCIAL  
+ PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE LOW-INCOME,  
RACIALIZED COMMUNITIES DESERVE.

SHEILA DEVATA-CHOCHINOV,  
Chair, MABELLEarts Board of Directors





Dear Friends and Co-conspirators,

On the other side of a pandemic that was a portal, our little band of artists, pirates and change-makers is setting sail for transformative impact on Mabelle Avenue, while keeping our eyes trained on the horizon of a big city and world. This year, together with thousands of residents, partners, architects and artists we broke ground on a new vision for MABELLEpark - the creative heart of our neighbourhood. It is our most substantive project to date, and I couldn't be prouder.

The new MABELLEpark is an active and communal reimagining of what parks can do and be. It will be among the first parks in Canada designed to respond to the unique needs and desires of residents living together in a high-density, low-income tower community. It's been developed with our COVID experience in mind, allowing our Park to serve many purposes as community needs evolve and change. Subtle interventions contribute to community climate readiness, positioning us well for an uncertain future.

MABELLEpark has always been the place where our community meets. Where we sink our hands into the earth, plant seeds and imagine something new. MABELLEpark is a place where we can ask big questions: who are we and who can we be? What kind of world do we want to live in? What are we uniquely positioned to do and how will we do it?

We are so grateful to you, our funders and partners. Many of you have believed in the vision of MABELLEpark from the very beginning. You've been with us every step of the way. We're so proud to share this year's Impact Report with you - a snapshot of the year that was, by the numbers. At MABELLEarts, we believe that numbers matter. Numbers help us determine if we're making the impacts we know we're capable of. But sometimes, an impact is so big, that one is enough - is beautiful and worth pausing and reflecting on. Thanks for taking the time to reflect with us on the many and the one of MABELLEarts and thank you for being one of the many who help make MABELLE beautiful.

Big Love,

**Leah Houston**  
Executive Director,  
MABELLEarts



# SOMETIMES ONE IS (MORE THAN) ENOUGH



# 1

one-of-a-kind & once-in-a-lifetime  
beautifully designed & community-  
powered **park & clubhouse.**

As Canada responds to a generation-defining housing crisis, investing in social infrastructure is more important than ever. How will we live together in denser, urban places? How do we build new relationships with our neighbours - the relationships we'll need to respond to future challenges? COVID taught us that communities need strong connections and shared places to respond when times get tough.

We know that new, wicked problems will come. When they do, MABELLEpark will serve as a place to respond as well as a place to build the relationships that make responding possible. Our unique governance model offers over-stretched municipalities a road map to sharing the load of the critical animation, maintenance and care that amplifies the value of these spaces.



# 1 giant little girl brought her powerful story to Mabelle Avenue.

When Luminato invited us to host this big little girl on Mabelle Avenue, we were overjoyed. *Little Amal* has come to represent the struggle of displaced children and their families fleeing war, violence and economic dislocation across the world. *Walk With Amal* on Mabelle Avenue reminded us of the power art has to tell difficult stories and transform pain into a shared vision for a better world. It also reminded us that Mabelle Avenue is an ideal stage for world-class, community-engaged performance.

**12 partners.**

**32 artists.**

**700+ neighbours from Mabelle Avenue and beyond took part.**





# 1

## new town square in the heart of Mabelle Avenue.

It's early days, but check out *The Patch* - our incubator for all our microbusiness explorations and site for future newcomer artist residencies. This initiative is fueled by 1 critical partnership with North America's second-largest housing provider - Toronto Community Housing Corporation - who continues to believe in the art that builds community. Keep your eyes out for new updates on *The Patch* as a new cycle of community-based social infrastructure development takes root on Mabelle Avenue.



# AND SOMETIMES ONE'S NOT NEARLY ENOUGH



This year, thanks to the power and commitment of our neighbours, we began to transform our COVID food bank into a deeply affordable produce market and community product incubator. The MABELLEmarket is ninety percent community-run and provides employment opportunities and training to local residents. Together we are affirming our commitment to mutual aid, by co-creating a food security response that centres community control and economic opportunity.

- 10,740** servings of local produce in the hands of individuals and families thanks to buying power made possible by our friends at FoodShare.
- 2648** pounds of fresh produce sold at a subsidized price at the MABELLEmarket.
- 80%** MABELLEmarket cost recovery thanks to our community opening their wallets.
- 13** residents take part in low-barrier employment opportunities.



Welcome to the Neighbourhood continued to transform the settlement sector, bringing together newcomer artists, community arts organizations and settlement agencies across the GTA. We launched Welcome to the Neighbourhood during the pandemic, pivoting our programs to take place online; 2023 marked the first full year of entirely in-person programming, and the impact it has had on newcomers and racialized artists has been profound.

## \$209,495 supported...

- 440** newcomers find connection through community arts-engaged practices and programs.
- 38** artists, including 21 newcomer artists, providing employment opportunities during a time of unprecedented upheaval in the arts sector.
- 10** newcomer artists to receive experiential employment training to accelerate their careers in the community arts sector.



**\$1,223,418** invested into programming and operational capacity.

**\$2,925,766** raised towards the transformation of MABELLEpark.



# OUR FUNDERS

ArtworxTO: Toronto's Year of Public Art 2021-2022

Balsam Foundation

Canada Community Revitalization Fund

Canada Council for the Arts

Canadian Heritage

Canadian Red Cross

Catherine Donnelly Foundation

City of Toronto

Cultural Human Resources Council

Daily Bread Food Bank

Ecclesiastical Insurance

Economic Social Development Canada

Immigration Refugees Citizenship Canada

John & Pat McCutcheon Foundation

Metcalf Foundation

Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility

Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport

Minto Communities Management Inc.

Ontario Arts Council

Ontario Trillium Foundation

Otto & Marie Pick Foundation

Peter Gilgan Foundation

Rotary Etobicoke

TD Bank Group

The Co-operators

The McLean Foundation

The United Way Greater Toronto

Toronto Arts Council

Toronto Arts Foundation

Toronto Pearson Airport

Work In Culture



# OUR PARTNERS

Arab Community Centre of Toronto

Art Ignite

Arts4All

Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture

COBS Bread

Community Arts Guild

COSTI

CultureLink

Davenport-Perth Neighbourhood  
and Community Health Centre

Desar Construction Studio

Evergreen

FoodShare

Global Medic

Haven on the Queensway

Humber Valley United Church

Islington United Church

Jumblies

Kiwanis Club of Kingsway Humber

LAMP Community Health Centre

Levitt Goodman Architects

Luminato

Montgomery's Inn

Muse Arts

Monumental

Newcomer Women's Services Toronto

OddSide Arts

Park People

Rexdale Community Centre Support Services

School Grown Farms: Burnamthorpe C1

Settlement Assistance and Family Support Services

Shadowland Theatre

SHIFT Landscape

SUR Gallery

Tangled Arts

Teknion

Toronto Community Benefits Network

Toronto Community Housing Corporation

Toronto District School Board

University of Toronto Temerty Faculty of Medicine

Community-Based Service-Learning Program

Working for Change

Village of Islington BIA

