



## SKETCH Q&A

**What's SKETCH?** SKETCH is a non-profit charitable organization in Toronto that creates opportunities for young people (ages 16-29), living homeless or on the margins, coming from across Canada, to *experience the transformative power of the arts*. Youth come to SKETCH to paint, record an album, get a hearty meal, learn to beat box, design t-shirts, build furniture or train in community arts leadership to launch their own creative projects and enterprises.

**The impact?** Since its conception in 1996, SKETCH has engaged over 10,000 young people supporting them to discover their creative potential, and skills and capacities, leading to enhanced health and wellbeing, increased connections to employment and informal and formal education opportunities and overall increased sense of agency and purpose in building community.

**Who comes to SKETCH?** Young people navigating poverty, living homeless or on the margins, between the ages of 16-29 come to create at SKETCH. There are inequities in society often determined by dominant systems, that can push or leave young people to places of vulnerability, risk, compromised health, disadvantage and inequitable access to resources, opportunities and social networks. That's what marginalization means to us.

**Why do they come to SKETCH?** Youth come to SKETCH because it's an inclusive, safe space; because there's always good food and good company to encourage them to participate in the arts. They return frequently to, develop their leadership and self-sufficiency in the arts, potentially offering them new career connections and also to engage in social change projects through the arts.

**How do youth create at SKETCH?** Youth can participate in 3 ten-week sessions and summer intensives, in the arts disciplines of their choice. We have studios dedicated to visual arts, movement and theatre, industrial arts, enviro and culinary arts, screen-printing, ceramics, music recording, and digital arts. It's all in one space called *SKETCH's Studio Hub*. Youth not only get to hone their techniques in a discipline, but engage in mentorships, collaborations, workshops, exhibition and vending opportunities, field trips, and can learn about issues in social justice and

community arts.

**What do participants get out of SKETCH participation?** A real boost in self-concept and esteem; mastering art skills; creating a body of work; access to gigs, jobs, paid commissions, revenue through sales; and leadership opportunities in creative enterprise and community development.

**How many people have gone through SKETCH since it was founded?** 10,000 young people since 1996.

**How many participants engage with SKETCH every year?** Over 850/year. In 2016 there were over 1700 engaging in all activities and events over the year.

**How do young people find out about SKETCH?** Word of mouth, and SKETCH's community partners—of which we have over 200!—refer young people all the time.

**Who founded SKETCH, where, and when?** Phyllis Novak, with a core group of then street-involved young people, founded SKETCH in Toronto in 1996. Originating in the Queen Street West neighbourhood, SKETCH first laid its roots in a storefront at Queen and Dovercourt, then moved to King and Brandt, out into community and now finally at Artscape Youngplace, on Shaw street.

**Who's on the SKETCH Team?** Young people, volunteers, and staff, who are artists, arts educators, community activist, and social workers. SKETCH is governed by a Board of Directors of caring community and business representatives.

**Who Funds it all?** A collection of generous, passionate individuals, corporations, and a number of grants from Foundations, and Government.

**Is SKETCH a registered Canadian Charity?** Yes, but we go by "community-arts enterprise," rather than "charity."

**Why the Arts?** Young people living on the margins often seek alternatives to traditional forms of education, therapy and skill building that allow them to determine the pace of their own development. Working in the arts elevates a sense of self, strengthens resilience and invigorates the desire and capacity to learn more. The arts are accessible, breakdown barriers and reduce isolation. They offer coping skills as well as provide a development playground to find out what you're good at and what you want to work on. The Arts also a potential career paths for young people and definitely a great way to express stories, experiences and get involved in community culture.

**Where is SKETCH located?** SKETCH's Studio Hub is at 180 Shaw Street, Lower Level; our Admin Hub is upstairs at suite 201.

Phone 416.516.1559 • Fax 416.516.6286 • info@sketch.ca • www.sketch.ca  
180 Shaw Street, Suite 201, Toronto, ON M6J 2W5



**What does SKETCH strive to raise annually to engage young people in the arts?** \$2 million offers employment and programming for over 850 young people.

For media inquiries, please contact SKETCH Executive Projects Associate, Hayley Hoskins, at 416-516-1559 ext. 2601 or email [hayley@sketch.ca](mailto:hayley@sketch.ca).

