

This report chronicles the ArtsSmarts Nova Scotia projects that have taken place during the 2013 – 2014 school year.

### ArtsSmarts Exhibitions

**Exhibition and Project name:** *Our Identities, Our Stories, Our Land*

**School:** l'École Rose des Vents (Greenwood), l'École acadienne (Truro)

**Partners:** Greenwood Military Family Resource Centre, AGNS Western Branch (Yarmouth)

**Location:** Yarmouth

**Artist:** Francois Gaudet

**Grade:** 6

*Our Identities, Our Stories, Our Land* an exhibition of self-portraits produced by students at l'École Rose des Vents in Greenwood and l'École acadienne de Truro, in partnership with ArtsSmarts Nova Scotia/GénieArts Nouvelle-Écosse programs.

The students worked with Acadian artist François Gaudet, who guided them through an examination of their own identities and the creation of these self-portraits. They also visited Grand Pré, with students from l'École acadienne de Truro, to explore and connect with the culture of l'Acadie. L'Acadie is one of Nova Scotia's founding cultures and the spirit of Acadian culture and heritage is found in its historic sites, language, music, food and art.

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**Exhibition and Project name:** *The Plight of the Child Soldier - Innocence Lost*

**School:** Yarmouth Central School (Yarmouth), Barton Consolidated School (Barton)

**Partners:** The Roméo Dallaire Child Soldiers Initiative at Dalhousie University, Proof Media for Social Justice

**Location:** Yarmouth, Barton, Halifax

**Artist:** Linda Coakley

**Grade:** 5-6

*The Plight of the Child Soldier - Innocence Lost* - The Art Gallery of Nova Scotia partnered with *The Roméo Dallaire Child Soldiers Initiative* at Dalhousie University to present the exhibition, *The Plight of the Child Soldier - Innocence Lost*. Founded by retired lieutenant-general and celebrated humanitarian Roméo Dallaire, the Initiative is "a global partnership committed to ending the use and recruitment of child soldiers worldwide, through ground-breaking research, advocacy, and security-sector training".

For the exhibition, elementary students in grades 5 and 6 from Yarmouth Central School and Barton Consolidated School in Digby County worked with ArtsSmarts Nova Scotia theatre education artist Linda Marie Coakley. The students were guided by Coakley to respond dramatically to photographs of child soldiers. Lead by Coakley, the students chose photographs that held particular interest to them, then discussed their choices and wrote poems reflecting their thoughts and feelings. The exhibition was featured at both AGNS Western Branch in Yarmouth and AGNS Halifax.

**ArtsSmarts Nova Scotia Project Summaries**

**Project name:** *The Way Things Are; On the Streets of Lunenburg* Inspired by the work of Hendrika Sonnenberg and Chris Hanson

**School:** Lunenburg Academy

**Partners:** The Town of Lunenburg, Lunenburg Art Gallery

**Location:** Lunenburg

**Artist:** Andrew Maize

**Grade:** 7

**Project description:**

Artist Andrew Maize worked with 14 grade 7 students to design and build 4 life size objects from cardboard. The students examined works by Hanson and Sonnenberg and toured the streets of Lunenburg for inspiration. Four sculpture objects were chosen (scooter, fence, garbage receptacle and barricade) and the students built maquettes before completing their full size works. The finished works were installed in downtown for an opening event and two of the pieces were chosen for the Lunenburg Art Gallery’s student art exhibition in March.

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**Project name:** Equal Entitlement

**School:** Bayview Community School

**Partners:** Bayview Community School Home and School

**Location:** Mahone Bay

**Artist:** Reid Campbell

**Grade:** 8 & 9

**Project description:**

The purpose of our project idea is to create a short play, with music, which looks at the male and female tropes and stereo types portrayed in cultural industries such as books, films, or video games. The students will then question whether they reflect the reality of the world around us. From our discussions and workshops the students will develop scene ideas for a play to be shared with the school community.

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**Project name:** A View from my School

**School:** Gaspereau Valley Elementary

**Location:** Gaspereau Valley

**Artist:** Terry Drahos

**Grade:** P-5

**Project description:**

Each class will explore a series of small activities designed to heighten awareness of linear and atmospheric perspective, develop skills on how to create the illusion of perspective with paint, and the evolution and use of these techniques throughout art history. The smaller exercises were in preparation for “en plein air” painting, “A View from My School”. We will be painting with our backs to the school looking outward. Each class will be positioned at a different location around the school, so if you were to display all of the paintings together you would create a panoramic view of the surroundings.

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**Project name:**

**School:** Pictou Elementary School

**Location:** Pictou

**Artists:** Carolyn Vienneau

**Grade:** 4

**Project description:**

From Teacher Donna Beaton:

During the recent months there has been a rise of concern in a number of our schools, our communities as well as a vast amount of media coverage in which the focus has been on Bullying and Cyber bullying. It is my hope to foster positive self-image and acceptance. We are small community growing with many diverse and ethnic backgrounds. Developing tolerance and acceptance of others is crucial as differences are more evident and ever increasing within our small community in Nova Scotia. In grade four a major aspect of our Health program is dealing with fostering self-esteem and self-awareness for our feelings and emotions.

In order to address the issues mentioned above it was my desire to have the students participate in Mask Making. With the lessons from the Health program and with the lessons leading up to and during African and Mi’Kmaq Heritage Months (Social Studies) students were given a choice as to what kind of a Mask they would like to create. A cultural mask or a mask based on the image or emotion that the student feels best represents them self to the world. The masks of all the students were showcased in a presentation to pay tribute to these two important cultures through music and dance.

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**Project name:** New Media - New forms of Expression!

**School:** Petite Riviere Elementary School

**Location:** Petite Riviere

**Artist:** Ronnie Scullion

**Grade:** 4-6

**Project description:**

This project was intended to introduce students at Petite Riviere Elementary School to Video Game Design and Stop Motion Animation - two new forms of expression using New Media.

The Grade 4/5 class created Maze Games to depict "explorations" in Social Studies, e.g. Champlain's exploration and mapping of Nova Scotia, focusing on Green Bay area, nearby the school. The Grade 5/6 class created Animation as part of their Science – Life Studies, looking at reptiles, and other life forms that populate the Petite River (which runs by the school). In both groups, the students worked collaboratively in small groups of 3 or students each.

<http://www.artechcamps.com/education/featured-school-projects/>

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**Project name:** Musical Expressions!

**School:** Islands Consolidated School

**Partner:** Islands Consolidated Parents Group

**Location:** Freeport

**Artist:** Kadijah Photiades

**Grade:** P-12

**Project description:**

From Principal Paula Outhouse:

I am writing to you on behalf of Islands Consolidated School located in Freeport, Nova Scotia. Our school has 122 students from Primary to Grade 12. We live in a fishing community that lacks culture and the arts. Our rural, isolated school needs more cultural awareness as we live one hour and one or two ferry crossings from the nearest town and many of the students have never had an opportunity to engage in arts or culture of any kind. It is our goal to promote the arts in our school to stimulate the imagination, learn to problem solve, build self-confidence, and to nurture team building skills. Bringing culture into our school would largely impact the outcome of the lives of our students and help them to grow into functioning members of our community.

New ArtsSmarts Nova Scotia artist, Kadijah Photiades worked with the students at Islands Consolidated, teaching them drumming and how to collaboratively write chants, poems and songs.

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**Project name:** It's a Splash!  
**School:** Halifax West High School  
**Location:** Halifax  
**Artist:** Melissa Marr  
**Grade:** 10 & 11

**Project description:**

Artist Melissa Marr worked with students in the Visual Arts program, Science 10 and Oceans 11 on an "Art/Science fusion" project. The students researched local sea life and used it as the basis for a collaborative mural that has been installed in one of the main hallways of the school.

From Rosemarie Perry, the Visual Arts teacher:

The proposed space for the project is a huge stairwell that has natural light and travels from behind the cafeteria main floor (2<sup>nd</sup>) to the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor into the fine arts/technology hallway. The entrance to this space is often used by the public as performers, dancers, musicians, carry their instruments, props, 'gear' into this space to get to the Bella Rose Theatre, a civic space. Students also traverse this amazing but empty space every day to get to classes. It's simply a fabulous choice for a Visual Arts laboratory that allows the science curriculum to come to a new level of installation.

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**Project name:** Centre scolaire etoile de l'acadie  
**School:** Centre Scolaire et Communautaire Etoile De L'Acadie  
**Location:** Sydney  
**Artist:** Kent Sénécal  
**Grade:** 9

**Project description:**

Le projet ArtsSmarts/GénieArts de cette année fut orienté vers l'art de la parole et des arts actuels. Premièrement, nous avons formé des jeunes à l'art du SLAM et nous avons présenté une soirée en mars dernier dans le cadre de la semaine de la promotion de l'éducation en français. Plus de 65 personnes ont assisté à cet événement.

Par contre, la deuxième partie du projet était de travailler avec la classe de 9e année et l'artiste en arts visuels Kent Sénécal. Ensemble, ces derniers ont travailler sur un projet conceptuel d'installation. L'objectif principal de l'artiste était de faire découvrir les différentes facettes de l'art contemporain et actuel dans une perspective d'installation - qu'elle soit urbaine ou muséale.

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**Project name:** Frogstock  
**School:** Ecole Acadienne de Truro  
**Location:** Truro  
**Artist:** Hannah Minzloff  
**Grade:** 6

**Project description:**

Frogstock est une initiative ambitieuse qui rassemble des jeunes artistes dans un but commun: Leur permettre de profiter de formations de qualité auprès d'artistes professionnels et de performer dans le cadre d'une compétition de haut calibre. Durant quatre jours de formation, les jeunes participants ont suivi des ateliers en photographie et le tout a abouti sur une exposition devant leurs camarades, un public, un jury et des journalistes.

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**Project name:** How Does Your Garden Grow?  
**School:** Hebbville Academy  
**Location:** Hebbville  
**Artist:** Marla Benton  
**Grade:** P-5

**Project description:**

This project introduced students and teachers to the ceramic art, working with local potter, Marla Benton. The students created objects in clay, such as plants and insects, and added them to their school garden.

Teachers had students share stories and solicited conversations around the value and importance of living things by using stories such as The Giving Tree by Shel Silverstein and A Tree by Barbara Reid. A spring concert with a garden theme was presented to the school community that celebrated the "art-full" garden the students had created.

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**Project name:** Claymation Math Films  
**School:** Prospect Road School  
**Location:** Prospect  
**Artist:** Ronnie Scullion  
**Grade:** P-5

**Project description:**

Eleven classes, grades Primary to 5, created short Claymation films bringing some of their math curriculum outcomes to life. Each class participated in an in-class workshop designed around

math concepts they have been working on throughout the year with their teachers. The workshops culminated with a video presentation for the entire school.

From Joanna Mirsky Wexler:

For example, primary students animated numbers 0-10, making them dance before their eyes, Grade one students concentrated on numbers to 20, Grade two students developed “10” as a unit.

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**Project name:** *Heroes: Real or Imagined - Pop Culture Explored through the Lens of Annie Leibovitz*

**School:** Highland Park Junior High

**Partner:** BridgeCAT - Bridge Centre for Arts and Technology

**Location:** Halifax

**Artist:** Sue Siri

**Grade:** 8-9

**Project description:**

This year, students at Highland Park Junior High had an opportunity to explore and respond to the photography of Annie Leibovitz. This project was supported in partnership with the Bridge Centre for Arts & Technology (BridgeCAT), an alternative arts & technology training centre in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia.

Highland Park Junior High teacher Shea McKnight:

*Watching my students lend themselves to the lens, both in front of and behind, was utterly inspiring. The conversations between them, the friendships made, and the lessons learned were priceless. My students showed fearlessness and empowerment of which their photographs display. Highland Park Junior High is very proud of the accomplishments of these thirteen students.*

*Heroes: Real or Imagined - Pop Culture Explored through the Lens of Annie Leibovitz* featured 13 portraits photographed by the students. Working directly with professional photographer Sue Siri, the students explored pop culture and media literacy, and the roles heroes play in our lives. They also studied the use of lighting, posing and perspective in photography and visited the AGNS to view five Leibovitz photographs on display. The students’ photographs were exhibited at BridgeCat this spring and are now on display at the Blackwood Gallery at the Nova Scotia Department of Education.

**Project name:** Why Yarmouth Is Home

**School:** Split Rock Learning Centre

**Location:** Yarmouth

**Artist:** Gary Stewart

**Grade:** 10-12

**Project description:**

For this exhibition, Yarmouth area youth from a myriad of backgrounds and experiences explored their responses to the question, “Why Yarmouth is home”, and gave their answers in the form of art.

Art instructor Gary Stewart guided the participants aged 15 to 19 through the project, which was carried out at the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia’s Western Branch in Yarmouth, during the winter and spring of the 2014-2015 school year. The youth learned how to create murals; from the initial sketch of an idea to magnification techniques and developing a finished piece of large scale artwork. Their individual panels were fitted together to form a mural that makes a strong statement about the concept of “home”.