Art City Report to Rotary Club of Winnipeg - ARTsquad, Summer 2026

Originally inspired by the Rotary Club of Winnipeg's Rotary Leadership Circle (RLC) program, Art City created the registered teen mentorship and leadership development program for participants aged 12 to 15, "ARTsquad." Initially offered in the summer months, ARTsquad's success and positive impact prompted Art City to adapt the program year-round. Now, during the school year, a selected cohort of applicants convenes each Saturday at Art City. In July and August, the program expands Mondays through Thursdays each week, outside in the Broadway Park. This summer ARTsquad was led by former ARTsquad participant, Maia-Star Johnson-Hallem with Marly Wesley and the program provided a paid mentorship opportunity for former ARTsquad member, Sahfera Woodrow.

In 2026, Rotary Club of Winnipeg supported ARTsquad in the amount of $3,500.

Here is a recap of the **summer ARTsquad program** activities:

July 2	Name Tags and Customizing Sketch Books These activities were designed to introduce returning members to new members, building a sense of belonging among the group. At the end of the day, new participant Annand said **"I love Art City."**
July 7	Zines and Comics Short for "Magazines" – zines are small, self-published booklets. Each member worked on their own zine and together they created a collaborative story and built an ARTsquad playlist for the summer. Previous ARTsquad participant Sahfera, engaged in her first shift as a Program Assistant for the ARTsquad program and all staff noted she was an amazing support.
July 8	Toy Hacking This workshop repurposes small plastic toys. ARTsquad members carefully take them apart, swap pieces and add new ones, resulting in the creation of strange, imaginative new objects. Participants started planning their end of year sale.

July 9	Stop Motion Animation The members created their own stop motion animations, these included elaborate storylines and postproduction such as sound effects.
July 13, 14	Shirk Art, Sculpey and Buttons The youth were engaged in creating projects for their art sale and the relaxed environment encouraged deep conversations.
July 15	Bear Clan Logo Restoration ARTsquad members restored the large plywood logo that hangs in front of the Bear Clan Patrol building on Graham. The sign was brought back to Art City where it was sanded, primed and painted to remove existing graffiti and recent damage.
July 16	MTYP Field Trip “Everyone enjoyed themselves and they were very polite during the show — during each interactive moment of the play they participated, everyone gasped during parts they didn't expect and laughed at funny parts.” – from the logbook entry
July 21	Build a Furry Friend The workshop involves sewing a customized stuffed animal. New sewers greatly improved by the end of the workshop.
July 22	Bear Clan Walk and Photobooth Planning ARTsquad joined Bear Clan Patrol on a walk to provide support to community members, handing out sandwiches and water. After the walk they planned a photobooth for a community art exhibition. **"I really like doing this."** - Annand **"It feels really good to help others."** - Elias
July 23	Mural for Art Sale: Under $100 Sale Participants created a collaborative mural/ photobooth for the *Under $100 Art Sale.*
July 27	Jewellery Jam Everyone engaged in art making today and one youth inspired the group with her detailed earrings and necklaces. **“I’d prefer this over anything else.”**

July 28	Tie dye Everyone made tye die shirts today. The logbook entry noted: **“Violet is so soft spoken, she does need someone to give her words of encouragement, but our older peers (Eva and Sam) have been so supportive towards her, and even offer ideas whenever she gets stuck.”**
July 29	Lino Cut Lino cutting is a printmaking process where an image is carved into a piece of linoleum. Ink is rolled onto the finished lino cut then pressed onto a surface to make a print.
July 30	Screen printing The participants created complex designs to screenprint on paper and tee shirts.
August 4	Mural and Open Studio The ARTsquad worked on finishing the mural for the *Under $100 Art Show*. One participant brought two friends who were an excellent addition to the group.
August 5 & 6	Soapstone Carving with Guest Artist Fred Spence Guest Artist Fred Spence led the ARTsquad in soap stone carving. Fred connected with everybody and was incredibly helpful. Facilitators noted how much they appreciated his time and dedication to the youth. Fred was explaining to Lucas not to be so hard on himself and asked him "Do you expect to go through life without making mistakes?". Which Lucas answered "Yes" to but Fred went on to tell him a story about how when he was carving the Charizard sculpture he brought, its tail was too short at first. The original tail ended up snapping off but that mistake gave him the opportunity to make a bigger and better tail. He told Lucas to have grace with himself. Fred shared many experiences about his life and told the group that the more you share your story the more you heal. “Fred is amazing!“
August 10	Ceramics The participants chose between creating artwork using air dry clay and ceramics to be fired in our kiln.
August 11 & 12	Open Studio Two days of choosing your own art adventure!

August 14 & 15	Under $100 Art Show Everyone was on their best behaviour for the exhibition and sale at Portage Place Mall. The youth toured the exhibition and sold their own artwork to visitors. The ARTsquad contributed a photo booth mural commissioned by the organizers.
August 17	Build a Furry Friend This classic Art City workshop involves creating a customized stuffed animal out of found pieces.
August 18	Field Trip to the Zoo “Everyone was in awe the whole time, “wow” was the word of the day.” – from the logbook entry
August 19	Bear Clan Walk and Costume Making / Sewing This was the second Bear Clan Patrol walk of the season. The Bear Clan leader complimented the group’s behavior twice.
August 20	Costume Making / Sewing Facilitators ran sewing machines to help youth make any costumes they could dream of.
August 24	Open Studio
August 25	Watergun Spray Paint Art A return of a favourite workshop from last year, waterpistols full of diluted paint were fired at a large canvas, creating a dynamic, collaborative abstract painting.
August 26	Sock Puppets Participant Kenzie thrives with sewing projects and had a wonderful time making puppets with friends today.
August 27	Field Trip to Grand Prix Described by everyone as a perfect way to end the summer. ARTsquad chose to go to Grand Prix Amusements where they raced cars, played games, and enjoyed lunch together. Kenzie described this summer with ARTsquad as **“the most eventful yet!”** Subsequently, ARTsquad members were provided their honorariums. Members who completed their full hours earned $200 each.
	Please view the selection of images included with this report

ARTsquad Summer 2026 Budget	
ARTsquad Summer 2026 REVENUE	
GRANTS	
Rotary Club of Winnipeg	**$3,500**
Winnipeg Foundation	$2,500
Siobhan Richardson	$750
Province of Manitoba Nutrition Grant	$750
United Way of Winnipeg	$1000
Manitoba Arts Council	$1000
City of Winnipeg	$1000
Green Team Wage Subsidy	$5,760
Canada Summer Wage Subsidy	$2,880
Graham C. Lount Family Foundation	$481
ARTsquad art sale	$728
TOTAL REVENUE	**$20,349**
ARTsquad Summer 2026 EXPENSES	
ARTsquad Coordinator Wages July/August	$6,785
ARTsquad Facilitator Wages July/August	$4,255
ARTsquad Program Assistant Wages July/August	$3,114
Honoraria to ARTsquad members	$1,900
Field trip (Zoo, Art exhibition & End of summer celebration)	$648

Supplies (specialized ARTsquad supplies such as used toys for toy hacking, printmaking supplies such as lino, air dry clay, mural paint, sketchbooks, socks for puppets, fabric dye & felt)	$751
Healthy Meal (over 532 meals served during ARTsquad programming)	$1,596
Guest Artist Fees	$1,300
TOTAL EXPENSES	**$20,349**
SURPLUS / DEFICIT	**$0**


BEAR CLAN
PATROL




BONE




SUMMER
GAME
WEST
BROADWAY
BIZ


BgStorBx
STORGE ONEMAN


PEN
ERA




Art