



# QAGGIAVUUT! NUNAVUT PERFORMING ARTS SOCIETY

## ANNUAL REPORT 2019–20

*Working to strengthen, promote,  
advocate and create space for Nunavut  
and Inuit performing artists.*



# MEETING THE NEEDS OF INUIT PERFORMING ARTISTS

Qaggiavuut envisions a strong, growing Nunavut performing arts community.

## MISSION

Qaggiavuut will strengthen, promote, advocate and create space for Nunavut Performing Artists with a focus on Inuit.

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

**DECOLONIZATION**

**HEALING & WELLNESS**

**INUIT LANGUAGE & CULTURE**

**DIVERSITY & INCLUSION**





## THE GOALS OF QAGGIAVUUT

- » Build a space in Nunavut for the performing arts to be created, learned and presented
- » Develop and deliver performing arts training to artists and youth throughout Nunavut
- » Involve all Nunavut regions in Qaggiavuut programming
- » Provide artistic opportunities for Nunavut performing artists
- » Maintain the traditional Inuit performing arts
- » Nurture the creation of new Inuit performing arts work



# OUR LEADERSHIP

Based in Iqaluit, Qaggiavuut is governed by an elected Board of Directors and seeks the advice of Inuit artists and elders from Inuit Nunangat.

## THE QAGGIAVUUT BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2019-20



Vinnie Karetak:  
Chairperson (September,  
2019–March, 2020)



Rhoda Ungalaq:  
Chairperson  
(April–September, 2019)



Maxine Carroll:  
Treasurer



Kerri Tatuinee:  
Secretary



Marie Belleau



Terrie Kusugak



Derek Elias



Daniel Taukie

# A MESSAGE FROM THE QAGGIAVUUT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors of Qaggiavuut believes in the need for Inuit to be leaders in Inuit organizations as a way to advance Inuit self-determination.

We are proud to serve Qaggiavuut. Qaggiavuut has always been designed, nurtured, and governed by Inuit, to bring Inuit culture and society to the national and global stage and to build Qaggiq, a cultural hub in Nunavut. Qaggiavuut has created numerous opportunities for Inuit performing artists, established and emerging, to exercise and share their creative energies, identity, and passion as Inuit. We know that by creating space for Inuit artists to bring out their stories, we support a larger goal—that of contributing to a healthy society, where our struggles and hopes are addressed through artistic expression and performance, and we can relate to one another as a caring community.

Our work is grounded in Inuit values. We are particularly guided in what we do by *Tunnganarniq*: Fostering good spirits by being open, welcoming and inclusive and by *Inuuqatigiitsiarniq*: Respecting others, relationships and caring for people. We want to keep these values at the forefront as we all advance this important conversation in our society. Inuit self-determination, sovereignty, and decolonization cannot be achieved without staying true to who we are as a people. *Tunnganarniq* and *Inuuqatigiitsiarniq* are part of it, and we must go forward while practicing and embodying those values.

We therefore maintain and stand for a safe, inclusive society and work place—where Inuit can lead the way and where important discussions can happen in a respectful and safe manner on an ongoing basis. We strive to do this in various ways: an Inuit-led Board; programs focusing on supporting Inuit artists; a succession plan for the Executive Director position, an organizational chart based on collaborative decision-making by four directors; and a recruitment and selection process by our Inuit-led Iqqanaijaat Committee who successfully hired four Inuit Senior Directors for the 2020-21 year.

We take particular pride in the many accomplishments of this young organization, under the artistic leadership and teachings of the many esteemed and inspiring Inuit performing artists, Elders, and youth who have paved the way with their outstanding talent. We, as an all-volunteer Board formed by community members, remain in service of this growing organization and the Inuit performing artists across Nunavut and beyond that it continues to support. As a collective, we believe we are on a good path, but we know this would not be possible without the dedicated work and experience of our diverse staff and participants past and present. Mat'nalluavik!

*Vinnie Karetak, Chairperson  
On behalf of the Board of  
Directors of Qaggiavuut*

# 2019-20 STAFF



Ellen Hamilton,  
Outgoing Executive  
Director



Laakkuluk Williamson  
Bathory, Artistic Director



Kathleen Merritt,  
Qaggiq Hub Manager



Rico Manitok,  
Technical & Office Manager



Mary Itorcheak,  
Digital Media Intern



Tooma Laisa,  
Digital Media Intern



Tristan Omik,  
Digital Media Intern

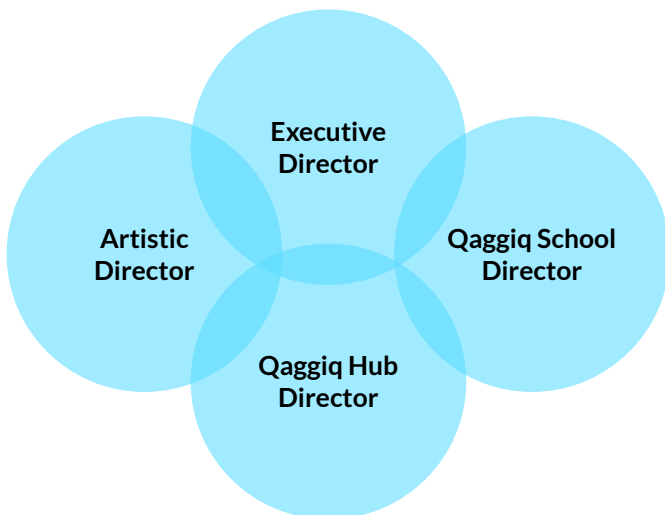


Mary Poisey,  
Digital Media Intern

# IQQANAIJAAT: REIMAGINING A MODEL OF CONSENSUS DECISION MAKING

In January, 2020, the Qaggiavuut Board of Directors and the Executive Director began the **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SUCCESSION PLAN**, designing an organizational model of consensus-style decision making that visualized 4 Senior Directors working together to make decisions and co-manage Qaggiavuut.

Seane D'Argencourt, a Psychology major at Carleton University, coordinated the 9-member Iqqanaijaat Committee which was made up of members of the Board of Directors and experts in Human Resources and Inuit and Indigenous arts managers.



Outgoing Executive Director,  
Ellen Hamilton



Incoming Executive Director,  
Pitseolak Pfeifer

# QAGGIQ: INUIT PERFORMING ARTS & CULTURAL LEARNING HUB

LET'S  
BUILD A  
QAGGIQ!

## THE QAGGIQ HUB:

- » PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATION SPACE FOR NUNAVUT ARTS WITH A FOCUS ON INUIT
- » TRAINING AND CREATION SPACE FOR PERFORMING & VISUAL ARTISTS
- » GATHERING & MARKET SPACE FOR ARTISANS, ARTISTS & HUNTERS
- » SPACE FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH TO EXPERIENCE & PARTICIPATE IN ARTS
- » EXHIBIT SPACE





# FEASIBILITY STUDY: JULY 2019 – APRIL 2020

The Qaggiq Hub Feasibility Study held widespread consultations across Nunavut and conducted international research into designing cultural hubs. View or download a copy of the Study from our website:

[www.qaggiavuut.com](http://www.qaggiavuut.com)

Third party consultants SAVIRA Cultural & Capital Projects worked with Project Manager Kathleen Merritt to build partnerships and gather research into building the Qaggiq. Kathleen and members of the Qaggiavuut Board of Directors held consultations with stakeholders in Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet, Cambridge Bay, at the Northern Lights Trade Show and met individually with partners throughout the process of gathering and synthesizing information. Compass Rose supported the Study with Government Relations expertise and renowned architect Donald Schmitt offered design advice.



Kathleen Merritt,  
Manager of the Qaggiq  
Hub Feasibility Study



## KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- » Build a culturally & geographically Nunavut Community Hub with a focus on Inuit performing, visual and culinary arts
- » Qaggiq Hub as a catalyst for city building and place making
- » Qaggiq Hub will increase cultural tourism and economic development
- » \$45 million infrastructure investment
- » Partnerships between Qaggiavuut, Inuit organizations and all levels of government
- » Construct the Qaggiq Hub on Inuit Owned Land in Iqaluit
- » Develop co-location strategy with the Nunavut Heritage Centre
- » Plan a Cultural District in partnership with Inuit organizations and the City of Iqaluit
- » Develop a tourism strategy in partnership with Indigenous Tourism Associations
- » Build a Capital Campaign with private and public sector funding

## KEY FINDINGS

- » Nunavut is the only province/territory in Canada without a purpose-built performing arts space
- » Economic impact of construction and first 5 years of operations: 40.9 million GDP
- » Total Net Income  
Year 1: \$ 86,927-Year 5: \$430,913
- » The Senate of Canada and the Government of Canada state that building infrastructure in the Arctic is the most important way of facing the challenges of the changing Arctic
- » The Qaggiq Hub will serve a broad range of local and territorial groups from the arts, culture, community, business and tourism
- » The preferred location is Inuit Owned Land near the Aqsarniit Hotel

## DESIGN RECOMMENDATIONS

**LARGE VENUE/THEATRE—**  
CAPACITY 200-350

**REHEARSAL/EVENT SPACE—**  
CAPACITY 50-100

**STUDIO SPACES, CAFÉ/  
KITCHEN, OFFICES, DORMITORY-  
RESIDENCES, OUTDOOR  
PERFORMANCE SPACE—**  
CAPACITY 500-1000

## NEXT STEPS

- » Research & Design
- » Marketing & Governance

## DIRECTOR OF THE QAGGIQ HUB

The Iqqanaijaat Committee working with the Executive Director and the Board designed a new Job Description and a competition process to hire a fulltime Director of the Qaggiq Hub for 2020.



Sim Knickelbein,  
Director of the Qaggiq Hub



# QAGGIQ SCHOOL OF PERFORMING ARTS: PROFESSIONAL ARTIST TRAINING

Since our inception, Qaggiavuut has provided skills training and support to Nunavut performing artists. In 2016 we won the Arctic Inspiration Prize for our Qaggiq Project to provide performing arts training and in 2018 we officially launched the Qaggiq School of Performing Arts. Our flexible model delivers one-week intensive courses and individual mentorship and brings together artists from Nunavut communities with performing arts professionals.

Programs include the Inuit-specific performing arts and universal performing arts training.

[The Qaggiq School](#) offers artist training and mentorship in:

- » Acting
- » Music
- » Movement
- » Storytelling/ Writing
- » Directing
- » Arts Management
- » Youth Programming
- » Technical Arts



## QAGGIQ SCHOOL 2019-20:

### APRIL

Pisiit with Igloodik elder Susan Avingaq and Copper Inuit knowledge keeper Julia Ogina and Jerry Puglik

### MAY

Mentorship in Playwriting at the Banff Centre

### JULY

Movement & Performance Skills with Indigenous Choreographer Carlos Rivera

### AUGUST

Voice-Body Connection with Jo Jo Rideout and Laurel Thomson from the National Theatre School of Canada

### OCTOBER

Choreography with Greenlandic Director & Dancer Vivi Sorrensen & Carlos Rivera Martinez

### FEBRUARY

Embracing Creativity with award-winning Inuk singer-songwriter Susan Aglukark and choreographer Shannon Litzeberger

Arts Marketing & Management with Centennial College graduate students

### JANUARY-MARCH

Video Editing With Iqaluit videographer Vincent Desrosiers

### NEXT STEPS:

Expand artist training to Nunavut communities





## DIRECTOR OF THE QAGGIQ SCHOOL OF PERFORMING ART

The Iqqanaijaat Committee, working with the Executive Director designed a job description and successful competition to hire Qaggiavuut's first Director of the Qaggiavuut School of Performing Art.



Ashley Savard, Director  
of the Qaggiq School  
of Performing Art



# INUIT THEATRE: QAUMMA

Under the leadership of Artistic Director, Laakkuluk Williamson Bathory, a creative team was assembled to write a new work of theatre inspired by Inuit women's resiliency. Qaumma begins rehearsals in the fall of 2020.



Laakkuluk Williamson  
Bathory, Artistic Director



Vinnie Karetak,  
Writer-Director



Christine Tootoo,  
Co-Writer



Charlotte Qamaniq,  
Co-Writer



Rico Manitok,  
Technical Director



# ARCTIC SONG

10 artists from the NWT and Nunavut collaborated on a new Qaggiavuut music production inspired by the drum songs of Inuit Nunangat. Arctic Song-Pisiit Nunattinniit honed performance skills and toured nationally and internationally between April to October, 2019.



# COVID & EMERGENCY FUND FOR NUNAVUT & INUIT ARTISTS

In March, 2020, facing cancellations of gigs and touring, Qaggiavuut established the Artist Emergency Fund and has since provided support to over 50 individual artists. We thank all who donated and continue to donate to the fund!

Please check out our [Red Wall Sessions](#) on our [YouTube channel](#)!







# CHILDREN & YOUTH PROGRAMMING

Qaggiavut provides Nunavut children and youth with the Inuit performing arts. We have delivered teacher training to Inuit artists and toured performance productions that provide workshops in acting, singing and drum dance.

## Natsinga

Knowledge Keeper: Qaunaq Mikigak  
Community: Cape Dorset  
Performed by : Tooma Laisa & Mary Itorcheak





# SURUSIRNUT INNGIUSIIT ᐱᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄ ᐱᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄ SONGS FOR CHILDREN

Over 60 Inuktitut songs from all regions of Nunavut were [documented in video](#) [accompanied by a colouring song book.](#)

ILLUSTRATED BY TOOMA LAISA  
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TRANSCRIBED BY RHODA UNGALAQ  
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**KNOWLEDGE KEEPERS:**  
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Meeka Arnaquq ᓄᓄ ᐱᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄ  
Doris Angohiaktok ᓄᓄᓄ ᐱᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄ  
Looee Arreak ᓄᓄ ᐱᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄ  
Susan Avingaq ᓄᓄᓄ ᐱᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄ  
Novalinga Kingwatsiak  
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Veronica Manilak ᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄ ᐱᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄ  
Qaunaq Mikigak ᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄ ᐱᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄ  
Marjoriaq Quvianaqtuliaq  
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Koonoo Tootoo ᓄᓄᓄ ᓄᓄᓄ  
Zipporah Ungalaq ᓄᓄᓄᓄ ᐱᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄ

SURUSIRNUT INNGIUSIIT  
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SONGS FOR CHILDREN



**VIDEOGRAPHERS: ᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄ:**  
Mark Apsland ᓄᓄ ᐱᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄ  
Vincent Desrosiers ᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄ ᐱᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄ  
Rico Manitoᓄ ᓄᓄ ᐱᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄ  
Tristan Omik ᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄ ᐱᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄ

**RESEARCHERS: ᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄ:**  
Mary Itorcheak  
Vinnie Karetak ᓄᓄᓄ ᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄ  
Rico Manitoᓄ ᓄᓄ ᐱᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄ  
Annie Petaulassie ᓄᓄᓄ ᐱᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄ  
Mary Poisey ᐱᓄᓄᓄᓄ ᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄ  
Christine Tootoo ᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄ ᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄ



# PISIIT APP

For more than three years, Qaggiavuut has engaged in research with Inuit knowledge keepers to document and share pisiit, the traditional songs of Inuit. During this past year we designed an innovative digital application for free download which shares the music teachings of 7 elders.

Download the Pisiit App:  
<https://pisiqsongbook.com/>



# 10 YEARS OF SUCCESS: OUR HISTORY

## 2019–20

### **QAGGIQ HUB FEASIBILITY STUDY**

The comprehensive study into the feasibility of the Qaggiq Hub, a performing arts and cultural learning space, is conducted and released.

### **ORGANIZATIONAL CHART REIMAGINED**

A consultative form of decision making is designed, creating a team of 4 Senior Directors who work together to lead the organization. The Executive Director Succession Plan leads to the hiring of 100% Inuit staff and mentorship of a new generation of arts leadership.

### **ARCTIC SONG MUSIC PRODUCTION TOURS NUNAVUT, CANADA & INTERNATIONALLY**

An ensemble of 10 Inuit artists from communities across Canada's Arctic create and tour a professional music performance revitalizing music from the Inuit timeline, pre and post colonization.

### **CHILDREN'S SONG PROJECT**

Two years of research culminates in a series of over 60 Inuktitut children's songs with an accompanying colouring songbook available for free download

### **PISIIT APP, TRADITIONAL INUIT SONGS**

Three years of research into traditional Inuit songs includes the design of an innovative digital application to share the teachings and music of knowledge keepers with a new generation of artists.

### **QAUMMA**

A new work of Inuit theatre is created, celebrating the resiliency of Inuit women



# 2018–19

10 YEARS  
OF SUCCESS:  
OUR HISTORY

## **QAGGIQ SCHOOL OF PERFORMING ARTS**

The Qaggiq Project formally changes its name to the Qaggiq School in order to coordinate the delivery of Inuit artist training.

Group training is held in acting, music performance, pisiit, drum dance and movement with experts in the performing arts.

## **TECHNICAL SKILLS MENTORSHIP**

Inuit artists are mentored by experts in the technical skills of lighting, live sound, sound recording, digital design, projection, camera, video editing, photography, stage management, makeup and costume design and arts management. Training includes practical application of skills during live performances.

## **INUIT THEATRE**

Kiviuq Returns, an Inukut theatre production based in Inuit legend, is re-staged for touring in Greenland, Iqaluit and a 28-show tour at the Tarragon Theatre in Toronto.

## **INUIT MUSIC**

Arctic Song artists showcase at the International Folk Alliance in Montreal and begin booking a tour of Nunavut, Canada and internationally.

## **INUIT PERFORMING ARTS YOUTH PROGRAMMING**

Artist-graduates of the Qaggiq School deliver performing arts programming to children and youth in communities across Nunavut. In Coral Harbour, children begin singing an ancient song from their community that had been lost.

## 2017–18

### **KIVIUQ RETURNS**

Kiviuq Returns is written and staged. It is created through collaboration with elders, writers and actors. Kiviuq Returns is staged at the Banff Centre, Alianait Festival, the Isabel Bader Centre and Harbourfront.

### **ARTIST TRAINING & CONSULTATIONS: ACTING & MOVEMENT FOR THEATRE, DIRECTING, STAGE MANAGEMENT**

Working with Martha Burns, Carlos Rivera and instructors from the National Theatre School of Canada, Inuit artists develop skills.

### **QAGGIQ HUB**

Qaggiavuut launches a fundraising campaign to build Qaggiq: an Inuit performing arts & cultural learning hub.

### **TEACHER TRAINING**

Training in youth facilitation of performing arts is offered to 10 new artists from the Kitikmeot and Kivalliq regions.

### **YOUTH PROGRAMMING: KIVIUQ RETURNS**

Kiviuq Returns tours Nunavut communities from all three regions, providing Inuit theatre and music workshops to over 5,000 children and youth.

### **PISIIT**

Qaggiavuut films Inuit elders across Nunavut singing the songs once banned during colonization and shares the meaning of these songs.

## 2016–17

### **STAFF**

The Board hires its first Executive Director and staff.

### **ARTISTS TRAINING & CONSULTATION**

The largest gathering of Inuit performing arts was held in Iqaluit to consult about the need for a dedicated space for artists to create, collaborate, train and present. Over 3 nights, 85 artists created a performance based on the legends of Kiviuq and performed the show to a packed house.

### **TEACHER TRAINING**

The first training program for Inuit artists interested in facilitating youth programming. Following the training, artists returned to their communities to deliver programming in throat song, guitar, drum dance, accordion and fiddle.

### **STRATEGIC PLAN**

The Board of Directors hammers out a Strategic Plan including a Mission and Guiding Principles grounded in the principles of decolonization, inclusion, Inuit culture and language, healing and wellness.

### **INUIT LEGENDS FILMED AND COLLECTED**

Qaggiavuut films Inuit elders from across Nunavut telling stories they are the memory keepers of.

## 2015

### ARCTIC INSPIRATION PRIZE

Qaggiavuut wins the Prize for its Qaggiq Project to train Inuit performing artists and provide youth with Inuit performing arts programming.

## 2014

### ARTIST TRAINING & CONSULTATIONS: SPOKEN WORD

Qaggiavuut gathers 40 Inuit performing artists and elders to build skills based in the Inuit storytelling tradition and contemporary spoken word performance.

## 2013

### ARTIST TRAINING: ACTING IN FILM

Qaggiavuut delivers training for Inuit actors to develop audition and acting skills with professional directors, acting coaches and casting agents.

Over 75 professional actor reels are developed for artist promotion to filmmakers.

## 2012

### ARTIST TRAINING & CONSULTATIONS: THE DRUM

The first Inuit Performing Arts Summit is held with 32 Inuit artists across Nunavut and stakeholders from the territorial government.

Qaggiavuut begins its tradition of delivering performing arts training and collaborative opportunities for Inuit artists.

## 2010

### INCORPORATION

The first Board of Directors incorporates as a non-profit society in Nunavut.

### ARTIST MAP

We create a website and identify Inuit performing artists, consulting them about their needs and digitally mapping them.

<https://qaggiavuut.ca/en/nunavut-performers>

## 2008

### FOUNDING

A group of performing artists and supporters meet in Iqaluit to advocate for a performing arts space.





# LET'S BUILD A QAGGIQ!

Nunavut performing artists  
need a space to create, train,  
collaborate and present!

  **@QAGGIAVUUT**

*Learn more about Qaggiavuut!  
and our artists at*  
**WWW.QAGGIAVUUT.CA**