



# QAGGIAVUUT! INUIT PERFORMING ARTS

2018–19 REPORT

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



# MEETING THE NEEDS OF INUIT PERFORMING ARTISTS

Qaggiavuut is a non-profit, charitable society dedicated to strengthening and advocating for Inuit performing artists through professional multi-disciplinary arts training, collaborative opportunities and professional performance production.





## OUR HISTORY

Since 2008, Qaggiavuut has been the voice for Inuit performing artists. Based in Iqaluit, Nunavut, Qaggiavuut is governed by a 9-member Board of Directors with an advisory council of Inuit artists and elders from Inuit Nunangat.

After years as a volunteer-run organization, Qaggiavuut won the Arctic Inspiration Prize in 2015 for the Qaggiq Project, now known as the Qaggiq School, to train artists and provide youth with performing arts programming in the Arctic. Qaggiavuut has leveraged the Prize to build its capacity and deliver programming that strengthens the Inuit performing arts through training, advocacy and creation.

**INUIT ARTIST  
TRAINING**

**CONNECTING INUIT  
ARTISTS TO ARTISTIC  
& ECONOMIC  
OPPORTUNITIES**

**INUIT PERFORMING  
ARTS PROGRAMMING  
FOR CHILDREN  
AND YOUTH**

**MAINTAINING INUIT  
TRADITIONAL SONGS  
AND STORIES**

**CREATING NEW INUIT  
PERFORMANCE  
ART WORK**



# OUR WORK

## QAGGIQ SCHOOL OF PERFORMING ARTS: INUIT ARTIST TRAINING

Since our inception, Qaggiavuut has provided skills training and support to over 300 Inuit performing artists. In 2012, we officially launched the Qaggiq School and began accepting students as part of our professional Inuit performing arts training. Our flexible training brings together Inuit artists and performing arts professionals to learn from one another.

Programs include innovative training in Inuit-specific performing arts including traditional Inuit music (pisiit), throat song, storytelling and drum dance from all regions, as well as contemporary performing arts.

The Qaggiq School offers artist training in:

**ACTING**  
**MUSIC**  
**MOVEMENT**

**STORY**  
**DIRECTING**  
**ARTS**  
**MANAGEMENT**

**YOUTH**  
**PROGRAMMING**  
**TECHNICAL**  
**ARTS**



## DIGITAL LEARNING

Qaggiavuut is systematically recording, filming and producing **MASTER CLASSES** with Inuit performing artists and elders, to ensure Inuit artists throughout the country have access to training.

We developed the **PISIIT APP**; an interactive digital application to teach traditional Inuit music (pisiit). Elders teach the meaning, protocols and terminology of ancient Inuit songs and the app allows interactive learning without having to access the internet.

THANKS:

Canada



Canada Council  
for the Arts

Conseil des arts  
du Canada

# TECHNICAL ARTS

Technical arts are taught through mentorship by experts in the technical skills of:

- lighting
- live sound
- sound recording
- digital design
- projection, camera
- video editing
- photography
- stage management
- makeup
- costume design

Training includes practical application of skills during live performances.

THANKS:

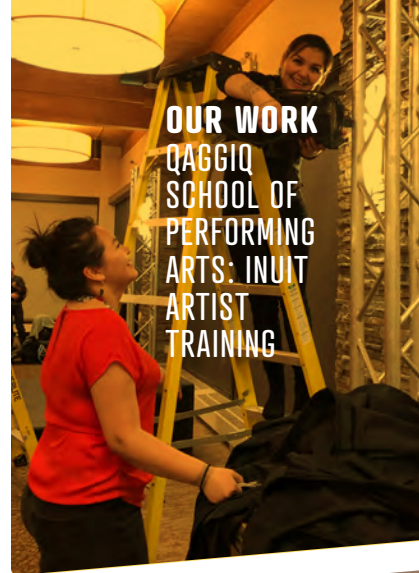


Canada Council  
for the Arts

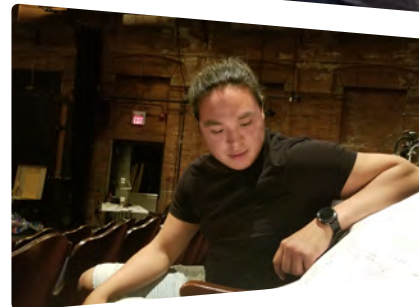
Conseil des arts  
du Canada

Canada

**buddies**  
IN BAD TIMES THEATRE



OUR WORK  
QAGGIQ  
SCHOOL OF  
PERFORMING  
ARTS: INUIT  
ARTIST  
TRAINING



**OUR WORK**  
QAGGIQ  
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## PISIIT COURSE

Qaggiavuut has filmed over 20 knowledge-keepers of pisiit, the ancient Inuit songs banned during colonization. In August, 2019 we delivered the first-ever Pisiit Course as part of the Qaggiq School, bringing together 32 artists to learn from 7 esteemed elders.



## YOUTH PROGRAMMING

Over 5,000 children and youth in Arctic communities have participated in our Inuit performing arts programming. This year, artists from Arctic Song trained in youth facilitation skills with Apathy is Boring. They travelled to communities throughout Nunavut to build resiliency and confidence through Inuit music and to return drum songs to youth.

ARVIAT



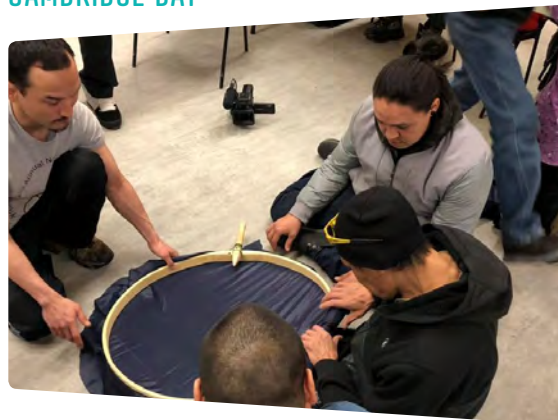
GJOA HAVEN



CORAL HARBOUR



CAMBRIDGE BAY



THANKS:



**APATHY  
IS BORING.**  
Connect, Educate  
and Activate.

TALOYOAK



OUR WORK  
QAGGIQ  
SCHOOL OF  
PERFORMING  
ARTS: INUIT  
ARTIST  
TRAINING



## ACTING

Qaggiavuut's Artistic Director, Laakkuluk Williamson Bathory trained artists in acting for theatre in Iqaluit and Toronto, including a collaboration with teachers and students at the National Theatre School of Greenland.

THANKS:



**Nunatta Isiginnaartitsarfia**  
The National Theatre of Greenland



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du Canada





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## MUSIC PERFORMANCE

Courses in drum dance, voice and movement were held in Iqaluit and at the National Theatre School of Canada with expert instructors and artists from across Inuit Nunangat.



THANKS:



NATIONAL ARTS CENTRE  
CENTRE NATIONAL DES ARTS  
Canada is our stage. Le Canada en scène.

Canada



NATIONAL  
THEATRE  
SCHOOL  
OF CANADA



# QAGGIAVUUT'S GUIDING PRINCIPLES

All programming developed and delivered by Qaggiavuut meet the four principles that ground our Strategic Plan:

1. INUIT CULTURE & LANGUAGE
2. DECOLONIZATION
3. DIVERSITY & INCLUSION
4. HEALING & WELLNESS





# OUR GOALS

- 1 DEVELOP AND DELIVER INUIT-SPECIFIC SKILLS TRAINING TO PERFORMING ARTISTS
- 2 BUILD QAGGIQ: INUIT PERFORMING ARTS & CULTURAL LEARNING HUB
- 3 DEVELOP NEW INUIT PERFORMING ARTS WORK
- 4 DOCUMENT AND TEACH TRADITIONAL INUIT PERFORMING ARTS
- 5 SUPPORT AND PROMOTE ESTABLISHED AND EMERGING INUIT PERFORMING ARTISTS
- 6 DELIVER INUIT PERFORMING ARTS PROGRAMMING TO YOUTH
- 7 INTEGRATE WELLNESS INTO ALL OUR PROGRAMMING



# OUR WORK

## QAGGIQ HUB: INUIT PERFORMING ARTS & CULTURAL LEARNING

- Training of Inuit artists
- Professional presentation of the Inuit arts

Qaggiavuut advocates and consults about the need for Qaggiq, an Inuit performing arts and cultural learning hub—a space to train Inuit artists and present the Inuit performing arts professionally in Canada’s Arctic.

**FEASIBILITY STUDY:** In February, 2019 Qaggiavuut held an RFP competition to study the feasibility of a performing arts and cultural learning hub in Iqaluit. We are excited to be working with Savira Cultural & Capital Projects to build partnerships and gather research into building Qaggiq!

Since launching our fundraising campaign in 2017, Qaggiavuut has:

- **Raised over \$500,000 in private donations**
- **Held 10 YEARS of consultations with Inuit artists, elders, stakeholders**
- **Formed the FRIENDS OF QAGGIQ, an advisory committee of Canada’s cultural leaders**
- **Obtained preliminary DRAWINGS OF THE QAGGIQ from Diamond Schmitt Architects**
- **Developed a BUSINESS PLAN by Colliers Project Management**
- **Issued an RFP FOR A FEASIBILITY STUDY into the Qaggiq Hub and selected a firm**
- **Received support at ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT, including the City of Iqaluit, Indigenous MPs, Government of Nunavut, Government of Canada and Senate Committees**



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# INUIT WORLD STAGE

THANKS:

Canada

RIDDU RIBDU  
FESTIVÁLA

TARRAGON  
EDUCATION

FOLK ALLIANCE  
INTERNATIONAL

Qaggiavuut, in partnership with governments, the private sector and other non-profits, is dedicated to producing and promoting Inuit performing arts work for export to national and international markets.

Our two professional productions, *Kiviuq Returns* and *Arctic Song* are showcasing nationally and internationally and we have partnered with many festivals, venues and theatres. Both *Kiviuq Returns* and *Arctic Song* have had great critical acclaim including features in the *Globe and Mail*, *The Guardian*, *CBC Radio Q* and *CBC TV*.

# 10 YEARS OF SUCCESS: OUR HISTORY

## 2018-19

### 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

*Kiviug 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

## **KIVIUIQ RETURNS**

*Kiviuiq Returns* is written and staged. It is created through collaboration with elders, writers and actors. *Kiviuiq 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: KIVIUIQ RETURNS**

*Kiviuiq 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 it's 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://www.qaggiavuut.ca/en/nunavut-performers>

**2008 FOUNDING**

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

# OUR SUCCESSSES

**20+**

**ELDERS** are consulted and hired as facilitators:  
**QAGGIQ SCHOOL OF PERFORMING ARTS**

**300**

Inuit performing artists train and receive support in performing arts programming:  
**QAGGIQ SCHOOL OF PERFORMING ARTS**

**5,000**

**CHILDREN AND YOUTH** received Inuit performing arts programming

**50+**

**VIDEOS** of songs, stories, dances and theater are produced as master classes

**100**

**INUIT PERFORMING ARTISTS EMPLOYED IN THE PERFORMING ARTS**

**30+ INUIT**

mentored in the **TECHNICAL ARTS**

**KIVIUQ RETURNS:**

**INUKTUT-LANGUAGE THEATRE PRODUCTION WRITTEN, STAGED AND PERFORMED BY INUIT ARTISTS AND ELDERS**

**ARCTIC SONG:**

**INUKTUT MUSIC ENSEMBLE WEAVES INUIT DRUM AND SONG TRADITIONS FROM ALL REGIONS OF INUIT NUNANGAT**

**PISIIT APP**

**INUKTUT DIGITAL TRAINING RESOURCE** using **CUTTING EDGE TECHNOLOGY** to teach ancient songs in the Inuit tradition

Research into traditional  
**INUIT CHILDREN'S SONG BEGINS**

**NEW WORKS**

of Inuit theatre and a throat song festival are planned

**QAGGIQ HUB:**

A vision for an Inuit performing arts and cultural learning hub

# OUR IMPACT

## STRENGTHENING INUIT PERFORMING ARTISTS

**TRAINING:** The Qaggiq School of Performing Arts addresses issues of artist isolation, limited access to training opportunities and the lack of a professional performing arts infrastructure in the region. We provide a strategic plan to train Inuit artists and technical artists.

**A BEACON OF HOPE:** Research indicates regular exposure to the performing arts builds resiliency and a sense of belonging, identity and life meaning in youth at risk.

Creativity, honed through the arts, is the primary skill in critical reasoning, emotional self-regulation and problem solving. Qaggiavuut programming targets the communities with the highest rates of suicide in Canada.

**INUIT LANGUAGE & CULTURE:** There is no more effective means of building a language than through music and storytelling.

**ECONOMIC STRENGTH:** Since 2016, Qaggiavuut has brought over \$1 million per year in arts funding to the economy, providing employment and income to over 50 Inuit artists, technicians, arts managers and elders.





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Qaggiavuut!

# LET'S BUILD A QAGGIQ!

Inuit artists need a space to create,  
train, collaborate and perform!



@QAGGIAVUUT

Learn more about Qaggiavuut!  
and our artists at  
[WWW.QAGGIAVUUT.CA](http://WWW.QAGGIAVUUT.CA)

