

# QAGGIAVUUT! NUNAVUT PERFORMING ARTS

*Working to strengthen, promote, advocate and  
create space for Nunavut performing artists  
with a focus on Inuit culture.*



# MEETING NEEDS OF INUIT PERFORMING ARTISTS

Qaggiavuut is a not-for-profit dedicated to strengthening and advocating for Nunavut's performing artists through professional arts training, collaborative opportunities and professional performance production. Our programs revolve around arts partnerships, arts education, creation of Inuit performing arts work and developing an Inuit performing arts pedagogy that supports the creative practices of Arctic performing artists from across Canada.

Since 2008, Qaggiavuut has been the voice for Nunavut's performing artists, with a focus on meeting the needs of Inuit performing artists throughout the territory, Canada and the circumpolar world. Based in Iqaluit, the Qaggiavuut Society is governed by a nine-member board of directors with an advisory council of performing artists from outlying communities and all three regions of Nunavut. Qaggiavuut also consults regularly with an Inuit elders advisory committee to ensure protocols, procedures and programming reflect Inuit culture.

After years as a volunteer-run organization, Qaggiavuut won the Arctic Inspiration Prize in January 2016 for its Qaggiq Project. Qaggiavuut has leveraged the Prize to build its capacity and deliver programming that strengthens the Nunavut performing arts through training, advocacy and creation. Projects undertaken this past year alone include:

- **artist skills development**
- **artist promotion and marketing**
- **connecting artists to economic and artistic opportunities**
- **performing arts programming for children and youth**
- **preserving and maintaining the Inuit performing arts at risk**
- **creating new performance work**

Since April 2016, Qaggiavuut has provided programming and support to more than 300 Inuit performing artists and 5000 Nunavut children and youth. Qaggiavuut continues to create new initiatives and opportunities for performing artists.

Since its inception, Qaggiavuut has also advocated and consulted on the need for a Nunavut performing arts space to present and teach the performing arts. On July 1, 2017 Qaggiavuut announced its fundraising campaign to build Qaggiq: Nunavut Performing Arts & Creative Learning Hub. Since then, we have raised over \$50,000 in private donations, formed a Friends of Qaggiq Advisory Committee of leaders in Canadian culture and garnered support across Canada for Qaggiq. Qaggiavuut has preliminary architectural drawings donated by the renowned architect Donald Schmitt and a comprehensive Business Plan on the costs of building and operating Qaggiq. Construction of the Qaggiq will begin July 2019.

Over the next year, Qaggiavuut will be securing project management, materials and engineering and construction contractors for the build, in addition to establishing programming and 20-year scheduling of Qaggiq with a focus on Inuit performance and the education of artists and youth, cultural tourism, and arts skills and professional training.

Qaggiavuut envisions Qaggiq will be a space to professionally create and present the performing arts in Nunavut and will also house the Qaggiq Performing Arts School, delivering performing arts training to artists, children and youth.

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# QAGGIAVUUT'S GUIDING PRINCIPLES

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

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



# OUR GOALS



1

## RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FOR NUNAVUT PERFORMERS.

We connect performing artists with information and training to increase their exposure and have built a digital cultural map of Nunavut's performing artists and arts technicians.

2

## SUPPORT, PROMOTION AND MARKETING

of established and emerging Nunavut performing artists to help them build skills and access artistic and economic opportunities.

3

## Development of new PERFORMING ARTS WORK.

4

## DOCUMENTING AND TEACHING

traditional Inuit stories and songs.

5

## ADVOCATING TO BUILD

a Nunavut Performing Arts Space.

6

## DEVELOPMENT AND DELIVERY

of Inuit-specific pedagogy and program models for training performing artists and youth.





# OUR WORK

## INNOVATIVE DELIVERY AND TRAINING

**INUIT-SPECIFIC PERFORMING ARTS PEDAGOGIES** for training performing artists, children and youth were developed and delivered.

**TRAINING** Inuit performing artists as **TEACHERS OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH**.

**RESEARCH** including the mapping of Nunavut's established and emerging performing artists, filming and documenting Inuit performing arts at risk and supporting and working with Inuit 'knowledge keepers'.

## UNIQUE HANDS-ON PERFORMING OPPORTUNITIES

Qaggiavuut is systematically **RECORDING, FILMING AND PRODUCING** Inuit performing artists and creating documentaries and master classes on an ongoing basis.

**PERFORMING ARTS TRAINING WORKSHOPS** were delivered to hundreds of artists to build skills in acting, contemporary music, traditional drum dance techniques and traditional Inuit songs (pii-siq). Artists are connected to professionals in the field as managers and agents. Training workshops and programs are held throughout the year for musicians, traditional performers, actors and dancers.

Qaggiavuut has delivered Inuit performing arts programming to **5000 CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN 12 COMMUNITIES** throughout Nunavut and the country.

Qaggiavuut has initiated mentorship of Inuit youth in the **TECHNICAL PERFORMING ARTS** including lighting, projection, sound, music design, editing, directing, stage management and costume, makeup and set design.





## WORLDWIDE EXPOSURE

**MULTIPLE PARTNERSHIPS** were made between Qaggiavuut and Inuit organizations, governments at all levels, private sector and non-profit organizations in order to increase collaboration, information sharing and program effectiveness.

The **INUIT WORLD STAGE** program is based in research, curating a pilot group of 24 established Inuit performers and providing them with promotion, marketing and training to increase their economic and artistic opportunities.

**24** established Nunavut artists were supported with promotion, mentorship and opportunities to expand their work and increase the reach of their creations. **ALL ARTISTS DOUBLED THEIR INCOME AND TIME** spent working in the arts in the second year of the project. A new group of 20 emerging Inuit artists is now being supported and will be added to the previously curated group. Members of the curated group are facilitating workshops and training.

A major support to Nunavut performing artists is Qaggiavuut's collaboration with other organizations including the Folk Alliance International (who Qaggiavuut is working with to plan an Inuit performing arts showcase at a global Indigenous music and dance summit in February 2019), the Juno Awards, Alianait Festival, National Arts Centre, National Theatre School of Canada, Harbourfront, Banff Centre, Lark Productions, Stratford Festival, Canadian Embassies in Europe, Dubai, China, CBC Television, Canadian Arts Presenters, Canadian Stage, Rhombus Media and Isuma TV. Qaggiavuut joined Heritage Minister Joly in the first Canada-China Creative Industries Trade Mission in April 2018 and is working to arrange Inuit performing arts tours to China for circus, theatre and music.

Qaggiavuut supported 10 Inuit musicians to create professional applications and submissions to festivals across Canada, competitions and showcases including the JUNO's, Folk Alliance International, Folk Music Ontario, Reddi Reddi Festival, Indigenous Music Awards, Canadian Folk Music Awards and the Banff Centre Programs.

# OUR SUCCESSIONS TO DATE

## 300

**Nunavut performing artists** have received professional management tools, promotion, legal and business information on art management, promotion and marketing.

## 65+

**performing artists in Nunavut** received direct employment as a result of participating in Qaggiavuut's performing arts training programs.

## 5,000

**Nunavut children and youth** received Inuit performing arts programming.

## 24 INUIT YOUTH & ADULTS

were trained in Theatre Skills including acting, directing, choreography, stage management, lighting, sound, digital design, costume design, makeup, live sound and tour management.

## 11 INUIT YOUTH

trained and mentored in technical performing arts.

## 17 ELDERS

earned incomes as resource creators and arts teachers/facilitators.

## 20 VIDEOS

of traditional songs and stories were filmed and produced in Inuktut as teaching resources for years to come in the Inuit performing arts.

## THE PISIIT

**(traditional songs)** are seeing a revitalization due to our work and Qaggiavuut plans to continue to broaden its reach by creating a digital teaching tool for pisiit.

## CREATION OF THE FIRST

professional Inuktut-language theatre production, **Kiviuq Returns** in 2017. The production will continue to tour nationally and internationally in 2018 and 2019.



# OUR IMPACT

## STRENGTHENING NUNAVUT PERFORMING ARTISTS

Our programs support Arctic communities by enabling Inuit artists to create and access opportunities and develop Inuit culture and language through arts programming. We partner with organizations to promote performance and exhibition of new works both live and on digital platforms, and educate youth and community in the arts through outreach programs. Our work to support 24 established artists resulted in a doubling of income for all artists involved.

In 2017, Qaggiavuut's theatre production *Kiviuq Returns* was the first professional Inuit-language theatre production to tour in southern and northern Canada. *Kiviuq Returns* has been requested to perform in Greenland, Toronto and China in 2018-19, providing significant employment to over 20 Inuit artists.

Since 2016, Qaggiavuut has successfully brought over \$1 million annually to the Nunavut economy that would otherwise not have been accessed.

## ARTS TRAINING

Qaggiavuut programs address issues of artist isolation, limited training and lack of a performing arts infrastructure and provide a strategic plan to train Inuit artists and technicians for employment in the performing arts, all levels of education and in the cultural tourism sector.

## SUICIDE & RISK PREVENTION

Research conducted throughout the world indicates that regular exposure to the performing arts is a key to building resiliency and a sense of belonging, identity and life meaning. Creative thinking, honed through the arts, is a primary skill in basic problem solving and helps people to generate plans when they are overwhelmed. The communities targeted by Qaggiavuut have the highest number of youth suicide rates in Canada, an epidemic caused, at least in part, by a sense of isolation and a paucity of hope.

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# WHAT'S

## NUNAVUT'S FIRST PERFORMANCE & CULTURAL LEARNING HUB

To further training opportunities and exposure for students and artists, Qaggiavuut aims to begin constructing Qaggiq, Nunavut's only professional performing arts space, in 2019. The facility will include a fully-equipped theatre, multi-use rehearsal and learning spaces, visual and artifact display, Inuit culinary arts program and public gathering spaces.

Despite the richness of the Inuit artistic heritage, Nunavut is the only territory/province in Canada without a performing arts space. A Nunavut Performance & Cultural Learning Hub— where stories, contemporary music and theatre, traditional drum and dance performances will be created and presented — is crucial to maintaining Inuit culture and language and to empowering Inuit, especially youth, through artistic expression.

Qaggiavuut is currently leading a campaign and partnerships to ensure the success of this project. Mentorship and training positions for Inuit are built into the entire project— from construction of the building to performance to the technical fields of the performing arts.

The Qaggiq (Performance & Cultural Learning Hub) will be an institute of training and programming for the Inuit performing arts and arts technicians and managers.

As a cultural hub, Qaggiq will draw Inuit artists from across Canada to collaborate, train, teach and present. It will also return to Arctic communities strengthened artists, technicians and artistic performances. Children and youth from all Nunavut communities will be able to participate in Inuit performing arts programming at Qaggiq, both live and through broadcasts of performances and master classes.



# NEXT



## CANADA'S FIRST INUIT PERFORMING ARTS SCHOOL

Qaggiavuut is working on partnerships to further develop the Qaggiq Performing Arts School in order to deliver flexible and meaningful training to Arctic performing artists. Partners include the National Theatre School of Canada, the National Theatre School of Greenland, York University, Nunavut Sivuniksavut, Pirurvik Centre, the National Arts Centre and the Banff Centre for Arts & Creativity. The Qaggiq School will begin delivering programming in 2018 with our partners. It is based on 7 programs and 34 courses in theatre, music, dance, technical arts, writing, directing and arts teaching.

## QAGGIAVUUT'S INUIT THEATRE COMPANY

In 2018, Qaggiavuut announced its first Artistic Director of Inuit Theatre and Laakkuluk Williamson Bathory is now creating plans for staging and performances in 2018-2019.





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Qaggiavuut!

Learn more about Qaggiavuut! and our artists at

[WWW.QAGGIAVUUT.CA](http://WWW.QAGGIAVUUT.CA)

