



# QAGGIAVUUT! NUNAVUT PERFORMING ARTS SOCIETY

## ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21

*April 1, 2020-March 31,2021*

**THE NUNAVUT PERFORMING ARTS THRIVE  
DURING THE PANDEMIC!**

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



# MEETING THE NEEDS OF NUNAVUT PERFORMING ARTISTS

*Qaggiavuut envisions a strong, growing  
Nunavut performing arts community.*

## OUR 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

## THE QAGGIAVUUT BOARD OF DIRECTORS OCTOBER 2020 - MARCH 2021

Based in Iqaluit, Qaggiavuut is governed by an elected Board of Directors appointed at the annual AGM in September.



Vinnie Karetak  
*Chairperson*



Rhoda Ungalaq  
*Vice-Chairperson*



Maxine Carroll  
*Secretary-Treasurer*



Marie Belleau



Derek Elias



Terrie Kusugak

# OUR LEADERSHIP

## THE QAGGIAVUUT BOARD OF DIRECTORS OCTOBER 2020 - MARCH 2021

Based in Iqaluit, Qaggiavuut is governed by an elected Board of Directors appointed at the annual AGM in September.



Terrie Kusugak  
*Chairperson*



Christine Tootoo  
*Vice-Chairperson*



Omanola Djalogue  
*Secretary-Treasurer*



Nobe Khumalo



Lois Suluk



Pallulaaq Friesen

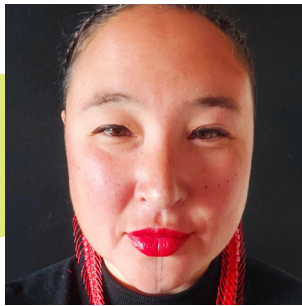


Derek Elias

# 2020-21 STAFF



Pitseolak Pfeiffer  
*Executive Director*



Laakkuluk Williamson  
Bathory  
*Artistic Director*



Ashley Savard  
*Qaggiq School Director*



Sim Knickelbein  
*Qaggiq Hub Director*



Seane D'Argencourt  
*Iqqanaijaat Coordinator*



Tooma Laisa  
*Children's Song App*



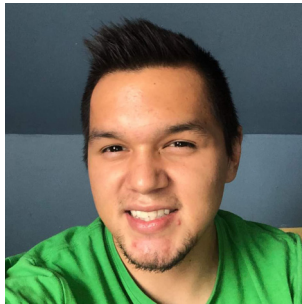
Mary Itorcheak  
*Summer Student*



Tristan Omik  
*Summer Student*



Mary Poisey  
*Summer Student*



Tommy Tugaq  
*Summer Student*



Looee Arreak  
*Qaggiq Festival Artistic  
Director*



Solomon Awa  
*Qaggiq Master Builder*

# IQQANAIJAAT HR Committee

In April 2020, the Iqqanaijaat Committee honed and approved Job Descriptions and ran competitions for new staff.

Seane D'Argencourt 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.



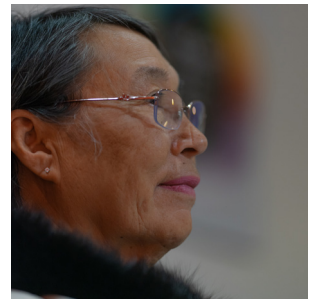
Seane D'Argencourt  
*Iqqanaijaat Coordinator*



Lori Idlout  
Legal Counsel



Vinnie Karetak



Rhoda Ungalaq



Terrie Kusugak



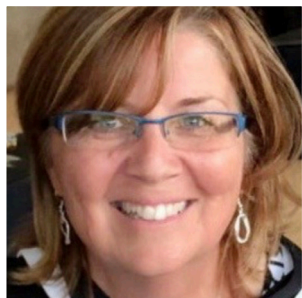
Derek Elias



Reneltha Arluk



Lori Marchand



Lind Trail

# 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 RELEASED APRIL, 2020



Kathleen Merritt

Coordinated by Kathleen Merritt, the Qagqig 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)

## KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- » Build a culturally & geographically Nunavut Community Hub with a focus on Inuit performing, visual and culinary arts
- » Qagqig Hub as a catalyst for city building and place making
- » Qagqig Hub will increase cultural tourism and economic development
- » \$45 million infrastructure investment
- » Partnerships between Qaggiavuut, Inuit organizations and all levels of government
- » Construct the Qagqig 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



**Feasibility Study**

**Overview**

The Qaggiavuut Society engaged Savira Cultural + Capital Projects to prepare a feasibility study for the Qagqig Performing Arts & Cultural Learning Hub.

**The Feasibility Study**

The study was conducted in three phases:

- Phase A:** Identification of Phase A (Initial) Programing (2019) with a focus on research and site selection.
- Phase B:** Identification of Phase B (Detailed) Programing (2019) with a focus on research and site selection.
- Phase C:** The goal of Phase C (Initial Report) was to identify the location of the hub and to identify the location of the hub and to identify the location of the hub.

**Timeline**

**Final Report**  
April 14, 2020

**Why conduct a Feasibility Study?**

Qaggiavuut engaged the services of Savira Cultural + Capital Projects to conduct a feasibility study for the Qagqig Performing Arts & Cultural Learning Hub. The study was conducted in three phases: Phase A (Initial Report), Phase B (Detailed Report), and Phase C (Final Report).

**Community Consultation & Needs**

Phase A of the study included a series of community consultations with Inuit organizations, community members, and the general public. The study identified the need for a culturally appropriate and accessible performing arts and cultural learning hub in Iqaluit.

**Key Factors for Success for Qagqig Hub**

The study identified several key factors for the success of the Qagqig Hub, including:
 

- Location:** The hub should be located in a central, accessible location in Iqaluit.
- Design:** The hub should be designed to be culturally appropriate and accessible.
- Partnerships:** The hub should be developed in partnership with Inuit organizations and the general public.
- Funding:** The hub should be funded through a combination of public and private sector funding.

**Key Findings**

- » **Nunavut is the only province/territory in Canada without a purpose-built performing arts space for the community.**
- » **Lack of Infrastructure:** The lack of infrastructure for performing arts and cultural activities is a significant barrier to the development of a performing arts and cultural learning hub in Iqaluit.
- » **Preferred Site Location:** The preferred site location for the Qagqig Hub is on Inuit Owned Land in Iqaluit.
- » **Design Recommendations:** The hub should be designed to be culturally appropriate and accessible.
- » **Large Venue / Theatre:** The hub should include a large venue/theatre for performing arts and cultural activities.
- » **Outdoor Performance Space:** The hub should include an outdoor performance space for performing arts and cultural activities.
- » **Economic Impact:** The hub is expected to generate an estimated \$45 million GDP contribution to Nunavut.
- » **Total Net Income:** The hub is expected to generate an estimated \$175.4 million in net income over a 20-year period.
- » **Partnerships:** The hub should be developed in partnership with Inuit organizations and the general public.
- » **Funding:** The hub should be funded through a combination of public and private sector funding.

**The Nunavut Agreement**

The Nunavut Agreement is a landmark document that established Nunavut as a territory of Canada. It is a key component of the Nunavut Agreement and is a key component of the Nunavut Agreement.

**Land Claims Agreement**

The Land Claims Agreement is a landmark document that established the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement. It is a key component of the Nunavut Agreement and is a key component of the Nunavut Agreement.

**Partnerships and Community Support**

The study identified the importance of partnerships and community support in the development of the Qagqig Hub. The study identified the need for partnerships with Inuit organizations and the general public.



## KEY FINDINGS OF THE FEASIBILITY STUDY

- » 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/ Offices/Dormitory/Outdoor Performance Space: 500-1000

## IMPLICATIONS OF THE PANDEMIC

The effects of the worldwide pandemic made fundraising for a performing space impossible during this fiscal year. Instead, Qaggiavuut retained donations from Canadians to commence work on the Qaggiq Hub when the world returned to indoor performances.

## NEXT STEPS

- » PARTNERSHIPS
- » RESEARCH & DESIGN
- » MARKETING & GOVERNANCE

# QAGGIQ FESTIVAL

Despite lockdowns throughout Nunavut during the pandemic, Qaggiavuut received permission by the Government of Nunavut's Department of Health to hold an ambitious outdoor festival in March, 2021. The festival was a resounding success, bringing together Inuit performing artists from across Nunavut for residencies, performances and children's programming.

Led by master iglu builder **Solomon Awa**, iglu builders and trainees worked for weeks to carve blocks and build a beautiful qaggiq. For centuries, Inuit have built a magnificent iglu in order to gather and celebrate life in story, song and drum dance. For all of the artists involved, this was the first qaggiq they had ever performed in and the experience was exhilarating!





Festival Artistic Director  
**Looe Arreak** coordinated more than 70 Inuit artistic performers from across the territory.



## AWARD OF EXCELLENCE IN THE NUNAVUT PERFORMING ARTS

Each year, Qaggiavuut honours Nunavut performing artists who have demonstrated exemplary contributions through their work and practice. This year we honoured Cape Dorset elders **Novalinga Kingwatsiak** and **Marjoriaq Quvianaqtuliaq** for their lifelong work to remember, share and teach traditional Inuit children's songs.



*Novalinga Kingwatsiak and Marjoriaq Quvianaqtuliaq accepting their awards.*



# 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.

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

## PISIIT COMPETITION

Qaggiavuut held an online competition to inspire the learning and sharing of pisiit using the Pisiit App.

## IMPLICATIONS OF THE PANDEMIC

In-person training in groups was not possible this year but opportunities to provide artists with space to train by distance was provided to individuals artists.



# OUR TEACHERS OF INUIT PISIIT



Miriam Aggluukaaq



Susan Avingaq



Madeline Ivalu



Francois Kaput



Sidone Nirlungayuq



Theresa Sikkuaq



Bernadette Uttaq



# INUIT THEATRE

## QUAMMA

Artistic Director, Laakkuluk Williamson Bathory and story keeper Vinnie Karetak, rewrote the Qaumma play about women's resiliency in order to perform it under Covid restrictions.

## AKIA

Tununiq Theatre Director, Sheena Akoomalik from Pond Inlet was provided with funding to write her play Akia. Her play tells the story of a modern-day female goddess of the sea battling pollution, ships and change in the Arctic ocean.

The play was rehearsed with actors in Pond Inlet and premiered in Iqaluit at the Qaggiq Festival. It has gone on to continue an artistic residency in Ottawa.



# CHILDREN & YOUTH PROGRAMMING

Qaggiavuut provides Nunavut children and youth with the Inuit performing arts.

We delivered children's performances despite the shutdown including youth workshops with the Iqaluit Youth Centre and the Qaggiq Festival.

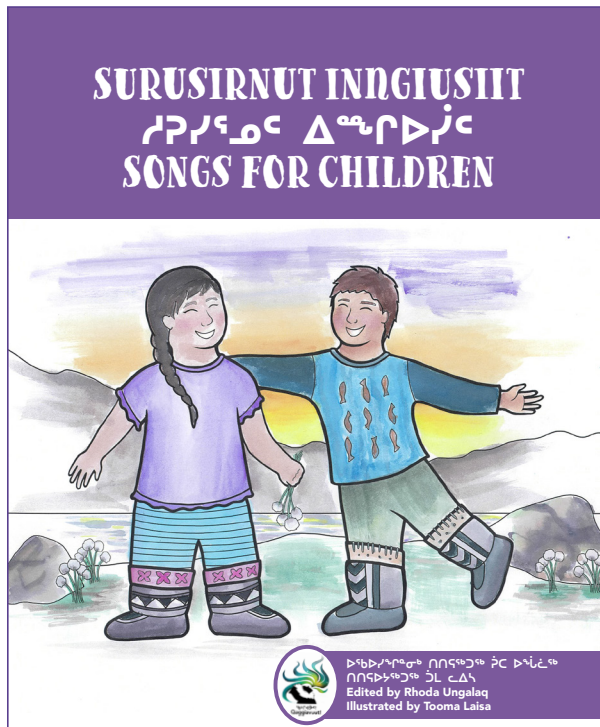




# SURUSIRNUT INNGIUSIIT

## ᐱᐱᓄᓄᐱᐱᓄᓄᐱᐱᓄᓄ SONGS FOR CHILDREN APP

Over 60 Inuktitut songs from all regions of Nunavut were documented in video and accompanied by a colouring song book. An innovative Surusirnut Inngiusiit App was designed to make the songs accessible across Nunavut.



Illustrated by Tooma Laisa  
ᐱᐱᓄᓄᐱᐱᓄᓄᐱᐱᓄᓄ ᐱᐱᓄᓄᐱᐱᓄᓄ

Transcribed by Rhoda Ungalaq  
ᐱᐱᓄᓄᐱᐱᓄᓄᐱᐱᓄᓄᐱᐱᓄᓄ ᐱᐱᓄᓄᐱᐱᓄᓄᐱᐱᓄᓄᐱᐱᓄᓄ

**Knowledge Keepers ᐱᐱᓄᓄᐱᐱᓄᓄᐱᐱᓄᓄ ᐱᐱᓄᓄᐱᐱᓄᓄ**  
Meeka Arnaqquq - ᐱᐱᓄᓄᐱᐱᓄᓄᐱᐱᓄᓄ  
Doris Angohiaktok - ᐱᐱᓄᓄᐱᐱᓄᓄᐱᐱᓄᓄᐱᐱᓄᓄ  
Looee Arreak - ᐱᐱᓄᓄᐱᐱᓄᓄᐱᐱᓄᓄ  
Susan Avingaq - ᐱᐱᓄᓄᐱᐱᓄᓄᐱᐱᓄᓄ  
Novalinga Kingwatsiak - ᐱᐱᓄᓄᐱᐱᓄᓄᐱᐱᓄᓄᐱᐱᓄᓄ  
Veronica Manilak - ᐱᐱᓄᓄᐱᐱᓄᓄᐱᐱᓄᓄ  
Qaunaq Mikigak - ᐱᐱᓄᓄᐱᐱᓄᓄᐱᐱᓄᓄ  
Marjoriaq Quvianaqtuliaq - ᐱᐱᓄᓄᐱᐱᓄᓄᐱᐱᓄᓄ  
ᐱᐱᓄᓄᐱᐱᓄᓄᐱᐱᓄᓄᐱᐱᓄᓄᐱᐱᓄᓄ  
Koonoo Tootoo - ᐱᐱᓄᓄᐱᐱᓄᓄ  
Zipporah Ungalaq - ᐱᐱᓄᓄᐱᐱᓄᓄᐱᐱᓄᓄ

**Videographers ᐱᐱᓄᓄᐱᐱᓄᓄᐱᐱᓄᓄᐱᐱᓄᓄ**  
Mark Apsland ᐱᐱᓄᓄᐱᐱᓄᓄ  
Vincent Desrosiers ᐱᐱᓄᓄᐱᐱᓄᓄ ᐱᐱᓄᓄᐱᐱᓄᓄ  
Rico Manitoᓄ ᐱᐱᓄᓄᐱᐱᓄᓄ  
Tristan Omik ᐱᐱᓄᓄᐱᐱᓄᓄᐱᐱᓄᓄ

**Researchers ᐱᐱᓄᓄᐱᐱᓄᓄᐱᐱᓄᓄᐱᐱᓄᓄ**  
Mary Itorcheak  
Vinnie Karetak - ᐱᐱᓄᓄᐱᐱᓄᓄᐱᐱᓄᓄ  
Rico Manitoᓄ - ᐱᐱᓄᓄᐱᐱᓄᓄᐱᐱᓄᓄ  
Annie Petaulassie - ᐱᐱᓄᓄᐱᐱᓄᓄᐱᐱᓄᓄᐱᐱᓄᓄ  
Mary Poisey ᐱᐱᓄᓄᐱᐱᓄᓄ ᐱᐱᓄᓄᐱᐱᓄᓄ  
Christine Tootoo ᐱᐱᓄᓄᐱᐱᓄᓄ ᐱᐱᓄᓄᐱᐱᓄᓄ

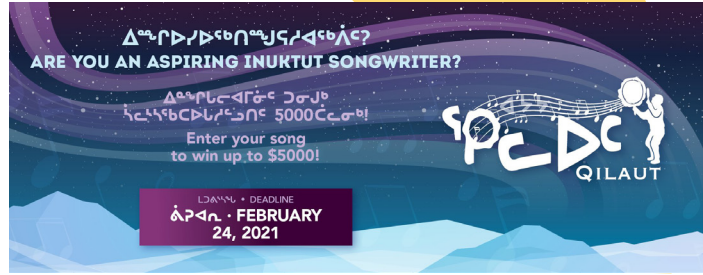
Graphic Design by Ali Hinch

# QILAUT COMPETITION

Qaggiavuut worked with the Government of Nunavut to hold an online competition for original Inuktut songwriting.

# CRISIS FUNDING FOR INUIT PERFORMERS

In early April, 2020 before federal funding kicked in, Qaggiavuut steered funds from an emergency campaign to over 50 Inuit artists who had lost income due to the pandemic.



Aasiva  
Pangnirtung



Alpha 5  
Naujat



Angela Amarualik  
Igloolik



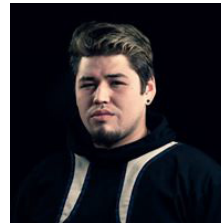
Brenda Anderson



Christina Tagoona  
Baker Lake



Joshua Haulli  
Igloolik



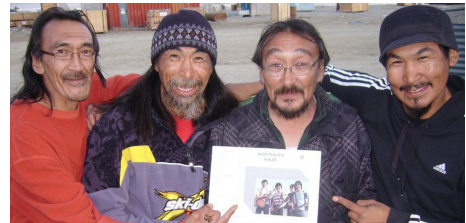
Keenan Carpenter  
Uluhaktok



Malaya Chapman  
Kujuaq



Mary Itorcheak  
Iqaluit



Northern Haze  
Igloolik

# 11 YEARS OF SUCCESS: OUR HISTORY

## 2019-2020

### ARTIST TRAINING

The Qaggiq School delivers programming in pisiit, playwrighting, movement, voice-body, choreography and performance skills.

### QAGGIQ HUB

The comprehensive study into the feasibility of the Qaggiq Hub, a performing arts and cultural learning space, is conducted under the leadership of Kathleen Merritt. A partnership with Centennial College led to the creation of a fundraising plan.



### ORGANIZATIONAL CHART REIMAGINED

A consultative form of decision making is designed, creating a team of 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.

### QAUMMA

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

### 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

### PISSIIT 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.

# 2018-2019

## 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.



# 2017-2018

## 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.



# 2016-2017

## 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://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.

# THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS

CANADA COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS

CANADIAN ARTS TRAINING FUND

QAUJIGIARTIIT

WOMEN AND GENDER EQUALITY CANADA

GOVERNMENT OF NUNAVUT

INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES AND CULTURE PROGRAM

MUSIC COUNTS

NATIONAL ARTS CENTRE

# Canada



Canada Council    Conseil des arts  
for the Arts      du Canada



NATIONAL ARTS CENTRE  
CENTRE NATIONAL DES ARTS

Canada is our stage. Le Canada en scène.







# LET'S BUILD A QAGGIQ!

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

Follow us on  
Facebook and Twitter:

**@QAGGIAVUUT**

Learn more about Qaggiavuut!  
and our artists at:

**WWW.QAGGIAVUUT.CA**