



# MEDIA RELEASE

Aurora Cultural Centre | For Immediate Release: 2021-01-15

## Kaleidoscope in the Schools Pilot Year Success

Aurora Cultural Centre program brings fully-funded arts experiences to local schools

**Aurora, ON:** The Aurora Cultural Centre is pleased to release [Kaleidoscope in the Schools: Final Report 2019-2020](#). The report summarizes the lead-up and pilot year of this innovative program built by the Centre. Funded in part with a \$30,000 Seed grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) in 2019, "KITS" is a full-service arts program delivering a series of in-school professional performing arts program to all Aurora students in publicly-funded schools, from Junior Kindergarten to Grade Four. Thanks to the financial support from OTF and additional funding partners, this program was offered no charge to the schools and families.

"I'm very excited that Kaleidoscope in the Schools has been a part of our public education system this past year. With the help and funding from the Ontario Trillium Foundation through the Aurora Cultural Centre, children in our public schools have had the amazing opportunity to take part in these professional performing arts programs, and I'm incredibly proud of the work that has been accomplished through this initiative," said Michael Parsa, MPP for Aurora-Oak Ridges-Richmond Hill.

The Centre built the program under a methodology that focused on **The Journey of the Child**. This includes multiple intentional steps: teacher arts integration professional development workshops delivered by arts facilitators, in-class activities ahead of the show based on study guides, the professional performance, post-show small group workshops with the performing artists, and in-class activities. The intent is that students return to their home setting with an enthusiasm for what they have experienced, giving them agency within the home setting that arts activities are valued. Finally, students and their families are encouraged to seek out other arts experiences – either at the Centre or beyond into the wider community.

Executive Director Suzanne reports on the program's first year success. "The KITS pilot program in our Aurora community was highly successful, and received clear and positive feedback. This included information about student experiences that described their learning and creative initiatives that resulted from the program. Teachers reported multiple impacts, including new approaches to arts integration applicable to the broader curriculum, and enhanced knowledge supporting specific arts curriculum needs. We are delighted that our stakeholders continue to look for ways to continue to implement this program into the future, and to help us grow so we can deliver to those who do not have access to the arts in greater York Region."

The pilot year of Kaleidoscope in the Schools was made possible through the Seed Grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation. The Aurora Cultural Centre acknowledges and appreciates this foundational support. Additional financial supports were provided by the Town of Aurora, Founding Donors Jan Oudenes and Isobel Ralston, and private donors.

The Ontario Trillium Foundation is an agency of the Government of Ontario, and one of Canada's leading granting foundations. OTF awarded \$115 million to 644 projects last year to build healthy and vibrant communities in Ontario. For more information, please visit: [www.otf.ca](http://www.otf.ca)

-30-

For complete information about Kaleidoscope in the Schools, please visit [www.auroraculturalcentre.ca/kaleidoscope-in-the-schools](http://www.auroraculturalcentre.ca/kaleidoscope-in-the-schools)

To arrange an interview with Suzanne Haines, Executive Director, please contact:  
Jane Taylor, Communications & Events Manager | [janetaylor@auroraculturalcentre.ca](mailto:janetaylor@auroraculturalcentre.ca)