

A person in traditional Inuit clothing, including a parka and patterned leggings, is shown from the side, holding a large, dark, oval-shaped drum. They are standing on a snowy, uneven surface. In the background, a small, snow-covered village is visible under a pale sky. The entire image has a blue tint.

QAGGIAVUUT!

NUNAVUT PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE

ANNUAL REPORT 2021-22

April 1, 2021 – March 31, 2022



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Qujannamiik!



Our Vision

Our Mission

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

Our Guiding Principles

- Decolonization
- Healing & Wellness
- Inuit Language & Culture
- Diversity & Inclusion

Our Goals

- 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



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

Our Leadership

The Board of Directors

October 2021 – March 2022

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



Lois Suluk
Chairperson



Pallulaaq Friesen
Vice-Chairperson



Cheick Cisse
Treasurer



Omanola Djalogue
Secretary



Susan Avingaq
Board Member



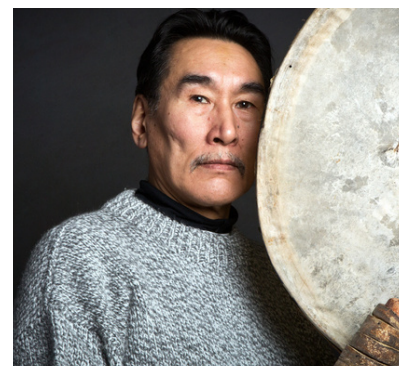
Nobe Khumalo
Board Member



Aïda Maigre-Touchet
Board Member



Jacapoosie Tiglik
Board Member



Natar Ungalaaq
Board Member

Our Leadership

The Qaggiavuut Staff

October 2021 - March 2022



Looee Arreak
Executive Director



Eunice Arreak
Financial Officer Intern



Ali Hinch
Communications Manager



Mary Itorcheak
Office Manager

A Note on Staffing

In the later half of 2021, it became apparent to Qaggiavuut's Board of Directors that something was amiss and there were growing concerns that the current Executive Director, was unable to fulfil the duties of the position. The Board immediately formed an HR Committee to complete a review and the Chairperson appointed Looee Arreak as Acting Executive Director in the meantime. After the completion of the Committee's review, the Board voted unanimously in a vote of non-confidence and terminated the Executive Director's contract. The Board then offered Arreak the Executive Director position on a 1 year contract.

Let's Build a Qaggiq!

Nunavut Needs:

- 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

Our Progress

Since launching our fundraising campaign to build a Qaggiq in 2017, Qaggiavuut has:

- Raised over \$500,000 in private donations
- Researched and consulted for years to complete the feasibility study into a Nunavut performing arts and culture centre
- Continued consultations with Inuit artists, elders, and stakeholders that have been ongoing since 2009
- 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
- Released the feasibility study in April 2020

Moving Forward

Qaggiavuut hopes that after being thrown off track by the effects of the ongoing global pandemic, to continue our fundraising efforts to complete our goal of \$1,000,000.00 raised.



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 Gjoa Haven elder, Miriam Aglukkaq. Miriam Aglukkaq lives in Gjoa Haven and was born in 1937 in the Uqsuutituuq area, remembering and sharing the traditional songs and stories of the Netsillik dialect.

Among her accomplishments, Miriam was the principal storyteller/writer of Kiviuq Returns, an Inuktitut play produced by Qaggiavuut and recently



Miriam Aglukkaq with her award

co-wrote the Inuktitut version of the play The Breathing Hole with playwright Colleen Murphy and has taught pisiit (drum songs) for decades. This is also the first year Qaggiavuut updated the award, moving away from the plaque to a beautiful custom-made ulu. The ulu comes with a custom laser-etched Qaggiavuut logo and a matching stand with a bilingual award plate.

"SHE IS ALWAYS READY TO SHARE HER KNOWLEDGE IN THE HUMBLE WAY TAUGHT TO HER BY ELDERS. SHE IS PROUD OF BEING A STORYTELLER AND A SINGER AND IS A LIVING LIBRARY OF INUKTUT PERFORMING ART"
- LOOEE ARREAK, QAGGIAVUUT'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Qaggiq School

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.



Solomon Awa teaching one of the youth participants at the workshop

Drum Making Workshop in Iqaluit

In November 2021, Qaggiavuut worked with local drum maker, Solomon Awa, to teach Inuit youth how to make a qilaut, an Inuit drum. The workshop was held with support from Inuksuk High School in Iqaluit who allowed us to use their school's workshop space. Over the course of five days the three youth participants completed the building of the qilaut, gaining valuable hands-on education about an important cultural instrument.

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Performing Artists took part in Artistic Training through Qaggiq School's programming in 2021-22.



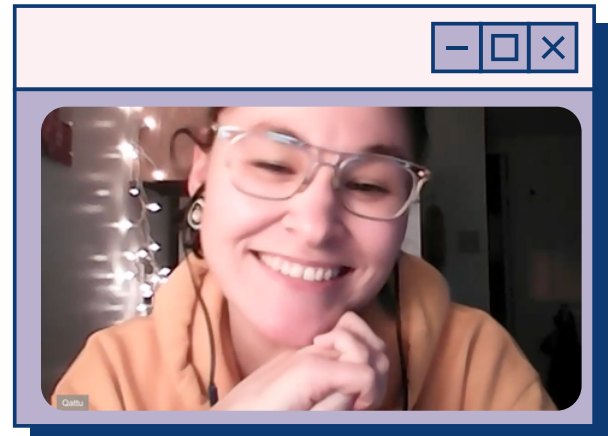
Online Training

In-person training in groups was not feasible for large portions of this year because of restrictions caused by the ongoing pandemic.

Qaggiavuut decided to try their hand at online learning and held their first throat singing courses online using Zoom at the beginning of 2022.

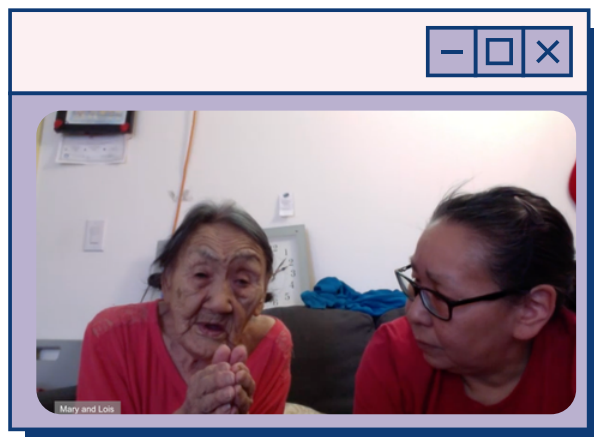
Online programming in Nunavut is not as accessible compared to the rest of the country. Nunavut is the only province or territory without a fibre network, subsisting on pricy satellite and mobile data connections with low bandwidths. Qaggiavuut supported both the instructors and participants by providing financial support towards the cost of their internet usage from participating in the courses.

Inuit logged in from the Kivalliq Region, Qikiqtaaluk Region, Nova Scotia and Quebec to participate!



Throat Singing Solo?

Above: Charlotte Carleton, professionally known as Qattu, joined from her home in Ottawa to teach young Inuit how to throat sing. Carleton is a member of the band Silla and Rise and took her experiences as a professional throat singer isolated during the pandemic to show how to practice throat singing, traditionally a two-person style of singing, by oneself.



Knowledge from the Source

Left: Arviat Elder, Mary Anowtalik and Qaggiavuut's Chairperson, Lois Suluk, taught students from Mary's home. They demonstrated Qatsivaq, a unique form of throat singing from Mary's region.

Honour of the Drum

Qaggiavuut held an advanced course in qilaut drum dancing techniques over the weekend March 25-28, 2022, bringing together masters to teach a new generation of aspiring qilaut drum dancers from Nunavik, Labrador and all regions of Nunavut. The participants put in incredible work honing their skills, spending hours with the instructors to expand their knowledge and share their own regional experience with the qilaut. A final presentation to their friends and families on the Sunday night of the course demonstrated the strong bond and skills the group had formed through the workshop. The course was held in the Banquet Hall at the Aqsarniit Hotel in Iqaluit.

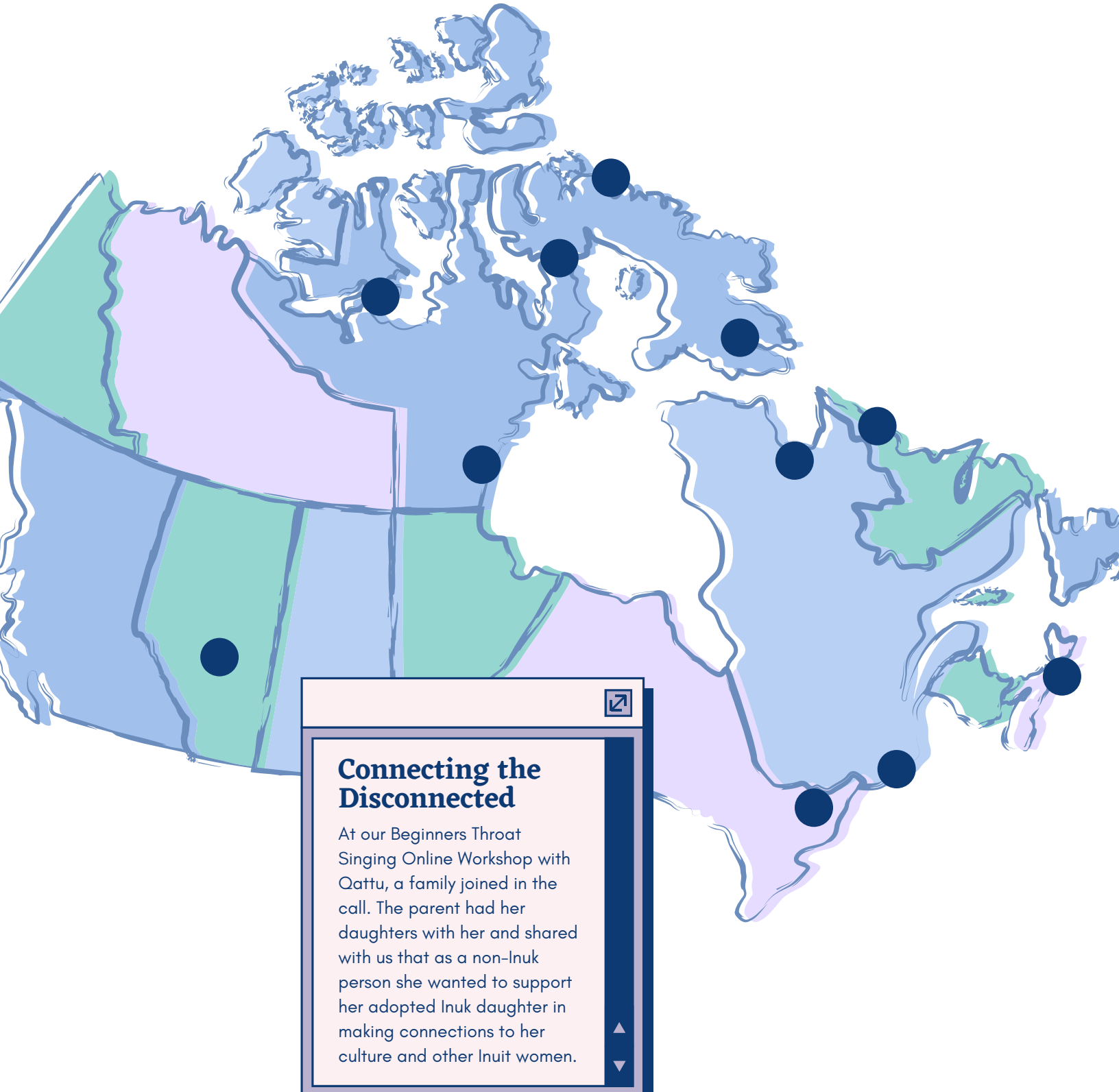
Master instructors included Lamech Kadloo from The Tununiq Theatre Group and Igloodik drum dancer Pakak Innuksuk. Knowledge keepers included Susan Avingaq and Madeline Ivalu.

Internationally acclaimed filmmaker, Zacharius Kunuk presented archival films he produced with North Baffin elders and spent part of the weekend holding discussions Avingaq and Ivalu on the history and significance of the qilaut. Kunuk made a 20-minute film covering the weekend with Qaggiavuut and is available to stream on IsumaTV and on Qaggiavuut's Youtube Channel.



Artistic Training's Reach

Through two in-person training workshops and online throat singing programming Qaggiavuut was able to bring training to Inuit from across Canada in 2021-22.



Uplifting Performing Artists

Qaggiavuut strives to be a resource for both performing artists and those who seek out their talents. We continued this year to update and maintain our Artist Directory on our website, as the experience and accolades of Nunavut artists grow! This past year, Qaggiavuut was also able to connect several artists to performance opportunities.

Arctic Blue with Peter Mansbridge

In the fall of 2021, Qaggiavuut was approached by the production team of *Arctic Blue with Peter Mansbridge* to film performing artists as part of the documentary's segment on Nunavut's arts & culture. Qaggiavuut hired three performers, including Leanna Wilson and Allasua Hanson, and filmed them near Rotary Park in Iqaluit. The full documentary is available on CBC Gem.



Arctic Inspiration Prize Ceremony

In early 2022, Qaggiavuut was asked to curate performers for the Arctic Inspiration Prize's 10th Anniversary Award Ceremony. As winners of the 2016 prize, Qaggiavuut jumped at the opportunity to support the Arctic Inspiration Prize in finding Nunavut performers for this special event.

We connected them with Julia Ogina and Huqqulaaqatigiit Drum Dancers of Cambridge Bay. Ogina opened the ceremony with her granddaughter by performing the lighting of the qulliq. The Huqqulaaqatigiit Drum Dancers closed the ceremony with their performance. The ceremony was streamed live online and is available on CBC Gem and ATPN Lumi.



Katuarpalaaq Festival

Qaggiavuut partnered with the Katuaq Cultural Centre to send six Nunavut performers to Nuuk, Greenland for their “Katuarpalaaq”, a Drum Dance Festival that ran from March 21st to 25th, 2022.

Lead by Tooma Laisa, the performers, Keenan Carpenter, Jerry Laisa, Shelton Nipisar, Sandi Vincent and Leanna Wilson, developed and rehearsed their presentation and performances out of the Qaggiavuut office for a month before their trip to Nuuk. The Nunavut artists gave presentations for the Canadian portion of the seminars to share how Inuit in Canada use the drum for dancing. They also attended seminars hosted by groups from Greenland and Alaska. The seminars had a mix of presentations, discussions and hands-on teaching. A public workshop was held where the citizens of Nuuk learned how to drum dance from the Nunavut team.

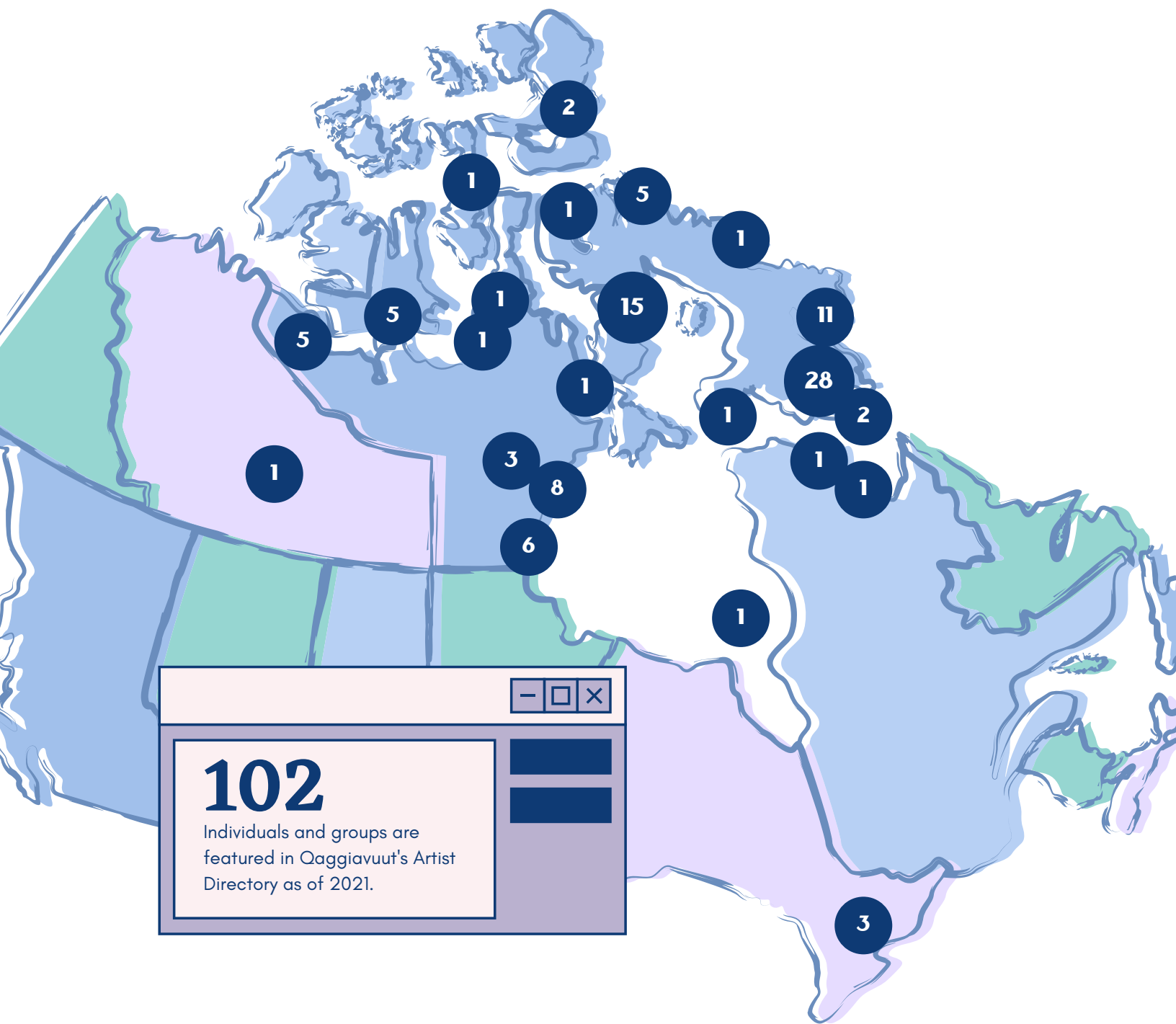
In 2021, Inuit drum dancing and singing were inscribed on UNESCO’s representative list of Intangible Cultural Heritage, which are elements of nonphysical intellectual wealth that should be protected and promoted. Katuarpalaaq was a celebration of this important step in maintaining Inuit culture and heritage.

Katuaq (“Drumstick” in Greenlandic) is a cultural venue for Greenland that has been in operation since 1997. It is Greenland’s primary space to exhibit Greenlandic culture of theatre and the arts. Qaggiavuut is grateful for this connection to Greenland’s Cultural Centre for this and future creative partnerships.



Artist Directory

Qaggiavuut's Artist Directory is an always growing resource of the performing arts industry in Nunavut. As part of our vision to support performing artists artistic and economic opportunities, the directory is a free online representation for performing artists who may not have the means to have a professionally designed website for themselves. The Contact Form system allows Qaggiavuut to assist in connecting those seeking out performing artists who may not have access to the internet or need assistance in translation. In 2021-22, the Contact Form system was used 45 times to contact artists in the directory for opportunities including: speaking at events, performances and casting calls.



13 Years of Successes

2020-2021



Qaggiq Hub Feasibility Study Released

Coordinated by Kathleen Merritt, the Qaggiq Hub Feasibility Study held widespread consultations across Nunavut and conducted international research into designing cultural hubs.

Pisiit Competition

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

Iqqananijaat HR Committee

The Iqqananijaat Committee honed and approved Job Descriptions and ran competitions for new staff.

Surusirnut Inngiusiit Songs for Children Website

An innovative Surusirnut Inngiusiit Website was designed to make the songs accessible across Nunavut. Over 60 Inuktitut songs are accompanied by an interactive colouring page for children to digitally colour while singing along.

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.

Inuit Theatre

Qaumma

Laakkuluk Williamson Bathory and 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.

2019-2020



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.

Artist Training

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

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 to a new generation of artists.

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 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.

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.

Inuit Music

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

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.

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

**Inuit Theatre**

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

Teacher Training

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

Qaggiq Hub

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

Artist Training & Consultations

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

Pisiit

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

Youth Programming

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

2016-2017

**Artist 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.

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.

Staff

The Board of Directors hires it's first Executive Director and staff.

Inuit Legends

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

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.



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

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

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 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

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








2008

Founding

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



Our Goals for 2022-23

As part of our overall Operating Plan for 2022-23, Qaggiavuut hopes to continue to grow performing arts training across all disciplines as part of our Qaggiq School of Performing Arts. In the preservation of Inuit culture, Qaggiavuut is looking to spend this fiscal year making a robust standard for recording and archiving all aspects of Nunavut's performing arts. Qaggiavuut also plans to support and coordinate public performances and theatre productions to create more opportunities for performing artists who have been effected by COVID-19 restrictions.



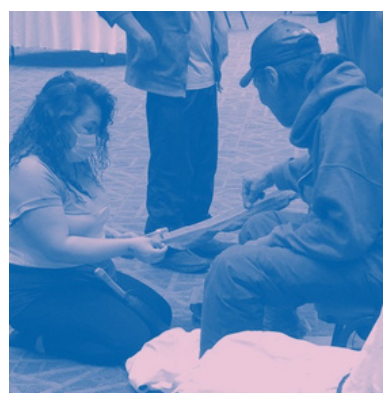
Expand the Board's Representation

Qaggiavuut's Board of Directors should be representative of the population it serves. We hope to increase representation of Inuit and expand the number of regions represented on the Board.



More Training in All Regions

Creating strong connections across the Inuit Nunangat is integral to providing programming catered to each region. We've been contacted by members of the Kitikmeot Region and Nunavik seeking out performing arts training and workshops. Qaggiavuut plans to decentralize its programming and bring training directly to communities.



Encouraging Artist Mentorship

Nunavut's performing arts community is across a vast territory, Qaggiavuut hopes with Artistic Training and our new Artists-in-Residence program that we can strengthen the connections between artists to create a supportive and collaborative environment to uplift young and emerging artists.

Qujannamiik!

Qaggiavuut would not be able to provide programming for Nunavut's performing artists without the support from our volunteers, donors and, our territorial and national partnerships.

Your continued support will allow us to grow our breadth of programming, our reach and to build Nunavut's first dedicated performing arts centre!



Canada Council
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Conseil des arts
du Canada



**NATIONAL ARTS CENTRE
CENTRE NATIONAL DES ARTS**

Canada is our stage. Le Canada en scène.

Canada 

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