

Iris Karuna

Contact 441 Westmoreland Ave N, First Floor, Toronto, ON, M6H 3A6
iris.karuna@gmail.com 647-218-1773

About Me As a young professional with significant experience in children's arts education, I am an organized and adaptable problem-solver with strong creative vision.

I am skilled at producing tangible outcomes in the form of visual and written output, and my past personal and professional experiences allow me to lend unique perspectives to my current endeavours.

I am a motivated, reliable, and engaged worker, as evidenced by my long-term employment with the Avenue Road Arts School. My concurrent study of Child and Youth Care Practice and Horticultural Therapy demonstrates my deep engagement with the ultimate wellbeing of children, youth, their communities, and our world.

Relevant Experience

Child & Youth Care Intern, Green Thumbs Growing Kids In Process

- Bridge the knowledge gap between those just learning to facilitate, and experienced staff, during planning and implementation of garden-based programs for school-aged children.
- Work closely with Executive Director (Sunday Harrison), Administrative Coordinator (Sumaya Nakibuuka), and Garden & Food Educator (Hilda Nouri), as well as Community Worker interns to implement garden-based programs with Community Partners and Partner Schools
- Emphasis on collaborative leadership, communication and networking, community outreach, managerial and coordination skills, systems management, and professional writing.

Child & Youth Care Intern, Dovercourt Boys & Girl's Club 2018

- Design developmentally appropriate Child & Youth Care (CYC) and Horticultural Therapy (HT) activities for club members of varying ages, from 4-6 year old "Tots" to 11-14 year old "Rangers".
- Work closely with Senior Afterschool Program Coordinator (Marco Severino), Teaching Garden Coordinator (Arielle Bruce) and Summer Camp Coordinator (Cassandra Vuylsteke) to implement CYC and HT activities across After-School and Summer Camp programs.
- Emphasis on creative vision and flexible problem-solving, as well as CYC relationship building, implementing HT tools for emotional awareness, and "life space interventions"

Instructor, Avenue Road Arts School 2009-2017

- Prepare lesson plans and teaching strategies for specified age groups, lead art activities, delegate tasks to assistants and volunteers, interface with parents and guardians
- Foster an open, adaptable, and learning-oriented atmosphere
- Emphasis on facilitation, communication, problem-solving, behaviour management, organization, and multitasking skills

Board Member, Centre 3 for Print and Media Arts 2013-2017

- Attend monthly meetings, keep track of current, new, and upcoming projects, monitor application of policy, analyze community relevance of programs, and ask difficult questions regarding representation and diversity
- Work independently to carry out assigned tasks and meet hard deadlines, collaborate with fellow board members to come to mutually respectful decisions
- Emphasis on collaborative decision-making, long-term strategic planning, contextual analysis, and maintenance of best practices

- Urban Farm Volunteer**, Harlem Grown 2016
- Clear vacant land, create and weigh compost mash from community scraps, harvest, weigh, and tally seasonal crops, collaborate with other volunteers, and field questions from neighbourhood children
 - Work independently to carry out assigned tasks, strive to make teamwork possible amongst strangers
 - Emphasis on open-mindedness, teamwork, flexibility, and short-term goal setting

- Intern**, RxArt 2015
- Design and update company materials for print and web. Maintain CRM databases and social media accounts, producing original content as needed. Write and edit artist biographies, assist in event planning and production, interface with clients, associates, and artists
 - Work independently to carry out assigned tasks and meet hard deadlines, collaborate and delegate toward increased productivity
 - Emphasis on design and social media, strategic planning, multitasking, teamwork, and organizational skills

Education **Child and Youth Care (Advanced Diploma)**, George Brown College In Process

Support at-risk children, youth, and families in their individual, environmental, systemic and relational contexts, by way of therapeutic counselling skills and an anti-oppressive framework.

Horticulture Therapy Certificate, New York Botanical Garden In Process

Apply the scientifically supported benefits of using plants and plant-related activities to reach cognitive, physical, psychological, and social goals across a variety of populations.

BFA Printmaking, Ontario College of Art & Design (OCAD) University 2013

Explore creative and technical possibilities across lithography, serigraphy, relief printing, and book arts, while developing the skills required for working in a shared space.

Certifications **Standard First Aid Certification** Until April 29, 2021

Adult, Infant, and Child CPR and AED (Level C) Until April 29, 2021

Understanding and Managing Aggressive Behaviours (No Containment) Until October 14, 2019

Working Together: Ontario Human Rights Code and the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act As of May 8, 2018

Worker Health and Safety Awareness in 4 Steps As of April 9, 2018

Unique Skills

- Fluent in both English and French (as a second language), with strong written and oral communication skills.
- An intuitive and willing learner, unafraid to ask for assistance, or to receive appropriate performance feedback
- Confident in Adobe Creative Suite, Google Suite, Microsoft Office, Salesforce, and MailChimp, and well-versed in social media tools such as Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter
- Comfortable working independently, as part of a team, directly with clients, or behind the scenes