

18/19

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ARTS NOVA SCOTIA  
ANNUAL REPORT

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# ARTS NOVA SCOTIA

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## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Peter Dykhuis



As I enter my second year as Chair of the Board, it gives me great pleasure to share with you an overview of all of the positive stories in and about Arts Nova Scotia. It has truly been a remarkable year of progress while finding the right balance between growth and stability.

I would like to again personally thank former Director Christopher Shore for his continued dedication to Arts Nova Scotia during a key period of transition. In December of 2017 Christopher assumed the position of Director of Programs for the Culture and Heritage Development Division on a term position. Through the final months of 2017-18 and into the current year, Christopher met the demands of both jobs while we went through the process to hire a new Director. We were most pleased to welcome Briony Carros in April of 2018 into the Director's position – and then marvelled at how seamlessly she 'took the baton' from Christopher and continued on with the mission at hand.

As you will read in the following pages, Briony and the talented and dedicated staff members, Enrique Ferreol, Mireille Bourgeois, and Lauren Williams, in concert with the board, have adopted a new Strategic Direction with the focus on three levels of accessibility: cultural, physical, and programming accessibilities. Interwoven with this are new policies that address issues of cultural appropriation, establish Indigenous arts protocols, build respectful workplaces, and new language was developed about the review and reversal of grant decisions.

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We continue to work with our colleagues at the Creative Nova Scotia Leadership Council (CNSLC) on three joint committees: Creative Nova Scotia Awards Gala, Status of the Artist and the Arts Investment committees. We also maintain strong communication networks with federal, provincial and municipal funders, including the Canadian Public Arts Funders, and our Atlantic Regional partners.

We could do none of this if it were not for the dedicated people who work to make all that we do possible. The expertise provided by our volunteer board of directors during board meetings, committee work, and through their participation at events provincially, nationally and internationally is essential to our success. We thank our continuing board members: Jack Chen, Mhiran Faraday, François Gaudet, Melissa Labrador, Ashley McKenzie, Liliona Quarmyne, Nancy Noble and Ken Schwartz. Although we are sad to see them depart, our eternal thanks extend to departing members Shauntay Grant and Shalan Joudrey. It has been a truly rewarding experience to work with such dedicated people who have such strong creative and intellectual chemistry.

We are also pleased to acknowledge the logistical and administrative support that we receive from Chelsea Prime and the staff of the Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage. We extend particular thanks to Executive Director of Culture and Heritage Development Marcel McKeough, for their partnership and support in service to the arts.

Together, we acknowledge the continued support of the Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage, Minister Leo Glavine, Deputy Minister Tracey Taweel, and those in policy and corporate services. Finally, and foremost, we acknowledge and thank the people of Nova Scotia, whose commitment to and interaction with arts and culture here and around the world is vital to the cycle of creation that is at the centre of what we do.



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## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Briony Carros

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I am in the fortunate position to come into an organization that has had great leadership, prioritizing the health and vibrance of the arts sector. It is my intention with the support of the Board of Directors to continue to build on this legacy. I've had the privilege of being a member of the arts community in Nova Scotia for over 20 years, but I have to say it's really been the past 5 - 7 years where I've noticed a real shift in not only the level of activity but the increase of capacity and maturity of artists and arts practice that live here. A causal relationship can probably be linked to the establishment of Arts Nova Scotia. Our role has been a stabilizing force in arts funding at a provincial level, however I think we are now poised to take it to the next step. Arts Nova Scotia is setting the groundwork to support artists and arts organizations for many years to come. This does not come without asking some serious questions about what it means to be a public arts funder, who we serve and who feels left out of the current model we operate within.

Our goal is to be responsive to developments in the arts and continue to support organizations, individuals and projects. We will also seek new ways to reach beyond those who have already been successful. The rural and small centers have re-emerged in the cultural landscape and communities have embraced the arts as integral to their well-being. Community-based arts and social practice are coming to the forefront and taking its place firmly in contemporary practice, no longer relegated to the outer edge. As well, many organizations are questioning how they continue to make relevant, engaging work in an ever-changing world. How to both be responsive

and innovative yet providing a stable base for creation. Arts Nova Scotia can be both a catalyst and facilitator for those conversations, ensuring artists can work, create and present in this province for many years to come.

I'm grateful to Christopher Shore and Peter Dykhuis as well as Enrique, Mireille and Lauren at Arts Nova Scotia for their guidance, patience and professionalism during this transition. I have felt very welcomed by the Board and the arts community in my new role and hope to spend more time exploring the province, getting to performances and events throughout the year. We are embarking on some new initiatives this year that have been a direct result of the strategic discussions initiated by both board and staff. We look forward to expanding the framework for those conversations and bringing them to the community in the upcoming year.

Photo next page

Alan Syliboy, media projection from 2018 Creative NS Gala.



## BY THE NUMBERS

781 applications received  
265 projects funded  
80 peer assessors  
27 peer assessment meetings  
31 supported organizations

Peer Assessment Committees review applications and make final decisions on which applications receive support. They are used for the following programs: Grants to Individuals, Grants to Organizations and Small Groups, Project Grants for Publishers, Equity Program, Artistic Innovation and the Nova Scotia Art Bank Purchase Program. They are also used for the following awards: Prix Grand Pré, Community Arts and Culture Recognition, Artist Recognition Awards and Portia White Prize. Additionally, peer assessment committees review all applications for the Operating Grants to Arts Organizations program and make recommendations for funding. These recommendations go to the Board of Arts Nova Scotia for final approval.

### 2018-19 Peer Assessment Committee Members

Abena Beloved • Carmen Lee • Jim Morrow • Robin Metcalfe  
• Abena Tuffour • Carol Bruneau • Juanita Peters • Ronald Bourgeois • Adele McFarlane • Carol Langille • Julia McMillan • Ruth Marsh • Alexis Cormier • Carrie Allison • Julian Covey • Sara MacCulloch • Amy Brandon • Catherine Banks • Julie Scriver • Shelley Thompson • André Fenton • Cecil Day • Kaashif Ghanie • Shevy Price • Andrea Boyd • Christina Murray • Keelin Jack • Simon Docking • Angela Henderson • Christopher Spencer-Lowe • Ken Shorley • Simon Mutabazi • Anita Gao-Lee • Cory Lavender • Keonté Beals • Simon Thibault • Ann Verrall • Dawn George • Kim Morgan • Sobaz Benjamin • Anne Macmillan • Denise Comeau • Koumbie Traore-Thomason • Sophie Paskins • Annie Chong • El Jones • Lindsay Dobbin • Susan GibsonGarvey • Arianne Pollet-Brannen • Elizabeth Eve • Lisa Phinney-Langley • Susan Hanrahan • Ariella Pahlke • Georgia Skinner • Lydia Zimmer • Tamar Dina • Arielle Twist • Ian Colford • Mary Fay Coady • Theresa Meuse • Barbara McLean • Jacob Sampson • Matt Robinson • Tim Callahan-Cross • Barbara Pritchard • Jacques Mindreau • Maureen Batt • Tori Flemming • Basma Kavanagh • Jamie Bradley • Melissa Marr • Walter Forsyth • Brendan Melchin • Jay Crocker • Peter Togni • Wesley Colford • Bretten Hannam • Jesse MacLean • Robert Drisdelle

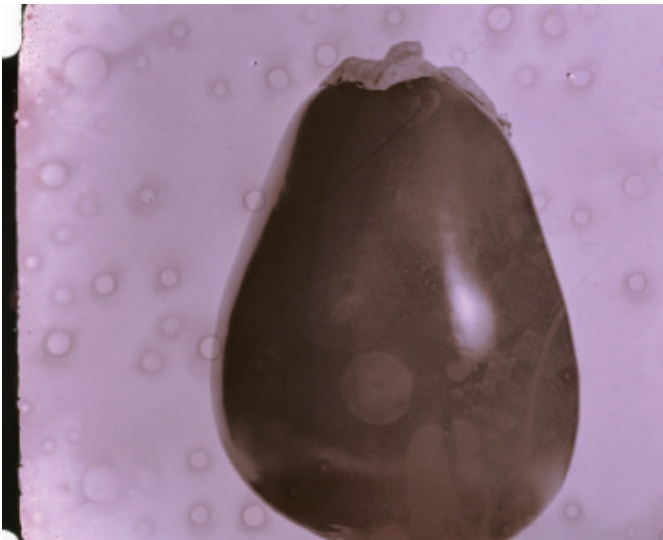


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## FEATURED PROJECTS

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### THE CREATION OF ANTHOLOGY FOR FRUITS AND VEGETABLES



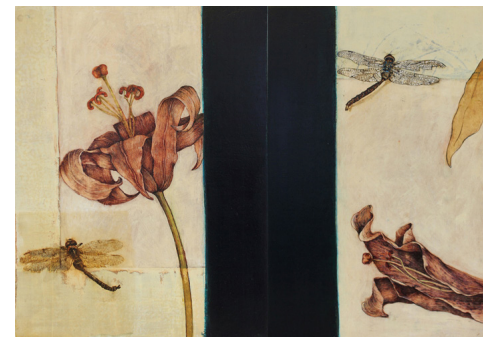
With the assistance of a Creation grant from the Grants to Individuals program filmmaker Dawn George completed The creation of Anthology for Fruits and Vegetables a film that visually reveals the individual characteristics of a variety of plants, as well as the “filmic” qualities each plant imprints on the film stock. The artist developed the film for each fruit and vegetable using a “tea” made from boiling down each respective plant. This tea was then combined with a mixture of vitamin C and washing soda, in a specifically measured, timed, and temperature monitored recipe for each plant; then used an eco-reversal process recipe was made from vinegar and hydrogen peroxide to eco-process the film again in the “eco-tea-developer” to obtain the final positive image for each plant.



### CIRCUS ARTS MENTORSHIP IN MONTREAL

Circus artist Dawn Shepherd, through an Arts Equity Travel Grant, attended the Completément Cirque International Circus Festival in Montreal complimented by master classes with ongoing mentor, elite aerial trainer, Genevieve Bessette. This activity provided multiple opportunities to network with other artists from the international, contemporary circus community, and to increase technical skills

Susan Wood, *The Whir of Wings and the Scent of Lilies*, ink, watercolor, collage on paper mounted on board, 40.6 x 223.5cm, 2016. 2018 NS Art Bank Acquisition







## MOCEAN DANCE AT THE ICE HOT NORDIC DANCE PLATFORM

With the assistance of a professional development grant, Mocean Dance's Susanne Chui and Sara Coffin (Co-Artistic Directors) traveled to Reykjavik, Iceland from December 10- 16, 2018 to attend the Ice Hot Nordic Dance Platform. The event brought together nearly 500 dance artists and arts professionals from 43 countries for five days of performances, workshops, roundtables, and networking events.

## REMEMBERING SUSAN WOOD

Susan Wood was born in Saint John, NB. and grew up in Amherst, NS. She attended Mount Allison University (BFA 1976), participated in the Banff Winter Studio Program (1976-1977) and received an MFA from The University of Calgary in 1981. Susan moved to Halifax in 1989 and began teaching at NSCAD University in 1990. She participated in numerous group exhibitions across Canada and in Finland, Germany, Scotland and Iceland, and also had a number of solo exhibitions including her nationally touring Devil's Purse, Dress Drawings and Taxonomies. She was a member of the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts and was a recipient of grant awards from the Canada Council, the Newfoundland and Labrador Arts Council and the Nova Scotia Arts Council. She has been purchased by the NS Art Bank since 1991 and the collection owns 17 of her works including the most recent



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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors of Arts Nova Scotia oversees all aspects of the agency's programs and has responsibility for allocating the annual budget. The Board reports directly to the Minister of Communities, Culture and Heritage through meetings and through the presentation of the annual report. Members of the Board for 2018-2019 are as follows:

Jack Chen, Halifax, Halifax Regional Municipality, is a professional musician, teacher at Acadia University and Artistic Director of Inner Space Concerts.

Peter Dykhuis (Chair), Halifax, Halifax Regional Municipality, is the Director/Curator of the Dalhousie Art Gallery and is also an internationally exhibiting visual artist and critical writer.

Mhira Faraday, Halifax, Halifax Regional Municipality, is a Nova Scotia-based Arts Administrator currently working with the Banff Centre. Previously, she was Executive Director of Debut Atlantic and has worked with Symphony Nova Scotia and in the theatre sector

François Gaudet, Halifax, Halifax Regional Municipality, is a visual artist whose practice is rooted in his Acadian heritage.

Shauntay Grant, Halifax, Halifax Regional Municipality, is a multidisciplinary artist whose practice includes creative writing, music, and theatre, and her homegrown artistic practice embraces African Nova Scotian folk tradition as well as contemporary approaches to literature and performance.

Shalan Joudry, Bear River, Annapolis County, is a published poet, performer, storyteller, and works as a cultural interpreter and community ecologist.

Melissa Labrador, Wildcat Community, Queens County, is a Mi'kmaq Artist and Apprentice Birch Bark Canoe builder from the Wildcat Community

Ashley McKenzie, Sydney, Cape Breton County, is a film maker whose film Rhonda's Party was named as one of Canada's top 10 shorts at the Toronto International Film Festival and won CBC's Short film faceoff.

Nancy Noble, Halifax, Halifax Regional Municipality, is the Director and CEO of the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia with over 25 years managing museums across Canada.

Liliona Quarmyne, Halifax, Halifax Regional Municipality, is a Ghanaian/Filipino choreographer, dance, actor and facilitator whose work draws from her eclectic background and explores the intersections of art and social justice.

Ken Schwartz, Canning, Kings County, is the Artistic Director of Two Planks and a Passion Theatre and the co-founder of the Ross Creek Centre for the Arts.

## STAFF

Arts Nova Scotia is managed by a professional staff who works closely with the administration team of the Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage to deliver all programs and services.

Briony Carros, Director

Enrique Ferreol, Program Officer

Mireille Bourgeois, Program Officer

Lauren Williams, Assistant Curator and Outreach Officer

Carrie Allison, Indigenous Arts Administrator (Sept 2018- March 2019)

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## Mission

Arts Nova Scotia champions the fundamental role of the arts.

## Vision

Arts Nova Scotia envisions a thriving and diverse professional arts community celebrated at home and abroad for breaking new ground, ensuring equity and achieving a high level of artistic excellence.

## Values

**DISCOVERY:** ARTS NOVA SCOTIA IS COMMITTED TO FOSTERING A CULTURE OF DISCOVERY AND INNOVATION WITHIN THE ARTS.

**ARTISTIC PRACTICE:** ARTS NOVA SCOTIA SUPPORTS FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND EXCELLENCE IN ARTISTIC PRACTICE AND CREATIVE ENDEAVOR.

**EQUITY:** ARTS NOVA SCOTIA ENSURES EQUITY IS A CORE VALUE FOR NOVA SCOTIA BY EMBRACING SOCIAL, CULTURAL AND REGIONAL DIVERSITY.

**DIVERSITY:** ARTS NOVA SCOTIA ENCOURAGES DIVERSITY OF PRACTICE WITHIN AND ACROSS ART FORMS, AT ALL STAGES OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

**PARTICIPATION:** ARTS NOVA SCOTIA ENCOURAGES ACCESS TO AND ENGAGEMENT WITH THE ARTS FOR ALL NOVA SCOTIANS.

**ADVOCACY:** ARTS NOVA SCOTIA ADVOCATES FOR GREATER SUPPORT AND RESOURCES FOR AND WITH THE ARTS COMMUNITY.

**PARTNERSHIP AND COLLABORATION:** ARTS NOVA SCOTIA ENGAGES IN CONSULTATION AND INFORMATION SHARING. **WE** ACTIVELY COLLABORATE AND PARTNER WITH THE ARTS COMMUNITY, OUR PEERS AND THE PUBLIC.

**ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY:** ARTS NOVA SCOTIA IS OPEN, FAIR AND TRANSPARENT. **WE** MAKE DECISIONS GROUNDED IN BEST PRACTICES, PEER ASSESSMENT, AND RESEARCH, AND MANAGE OUR RESOURCES WISELY AND ETHICALLY.

**EXCELLENCE:** ARTS NOVA SCOTIA PROVIDES THE HIGHEST QUALITY SERVICE IN SUPPORT OF ARTISTIC EXCELLENCE.



Photo top left

Still from Theatre Baddeck's Pocket Rocket by Lea Daniel & Gary Kirkham, Sept 14 - Sept 6, 2018.

Photo middle left

Cecilia Concerts presents singer/songwriter, Pierre Lapointe, in collaboration with 2018/19 Musician-In-Residence, pianist Philip Chiu, and cellist, Cameron Crozman

Photo right

Robyn Lee Seale performs in Highland Arts Theatre's "The Penelopiad," photo by Chris Walzak



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## STRATEGIC DIRECTION

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### Accessibility as a Conceptual Framework

The Board of Directors are at the beginning stages of crafting a framework to set the direction of Arts Nova Scotia over the next 5 years. This past September, discussion about next steps lead to a facilitated session with board and staff in November. This work is ongoing and iterative but we want to ensure that decision-making is guided by some overarching principles. The main concept we are working with is Accessibility; however it is an expanded definition of the term. The following is a starting point to develop a framework, by no means is it conclusive or comprehensive.





### 1. Cultural Accessibility

- To honour and respect the process of restoration and reconciliation within the 12,000-year Mi'kmaq presence on this territory.
- To respect the cultural complexities of all past 'new comers' from other continents and welcome recent 'new-comers' to Nova Scotia.
- To recognize geo/political accessibility within the province.

### 2. Physical Accessibility

- To develop a nuanced and comprehensive understanding about what constitutes 'physical abilities' within the cultural spectrum of creative people and society.
- To support and build bridges for those within our

communities who face challenges of physical mobility, sensorial and/or intellectual engagement, and other social encumbrances that range from child-care to elder-care.

### 3. Programming Accessibility

- Considering the issues articulated above, it behooves Arts Nova Scotia to rejig its public applications portals and pathways to accommodate the diversity of cultural activity in Nova Scotia.
- An overhaul of the application criteria and procedures should begin from an artist-centric POV that permits for a range of cultural expressions including, for example, hybrid and/or textual and image and video/time-based applications.



## ARTS NOVA SCOTIA/CREATIVE NS LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

### STATUS OF THE ARTIST

Committee: Peter Dykhuis (Arts NS) – co-Chair, Laurie Dalton (CNSLC) - co-Chair, Virginia Stephen (CNSLC) and Briony Carros (Arts NS).

Members of the Status of the Artist committee have worked for the past few years to advance both the spirit and legislated content of Nova Scotia's Status of the Artist Act. The 2012 Act acknowledged "the artist's role in building the Province's identity and culture and the enhancement that art brings to the Province's social and economic well-being." As part of the act, the department and government recognized "the indispensable role in fostering and nurturing a healthy and vibrant artistic culture."

The purpose of the Status of the Artist Act is:

- To create context for government to recognize and reaffirm the value and importance of arts and culture in Nova Scotian society;
- To define what constitutes a professional artist;
- To acknowledge government commitments to Nova Scotian artists.

The Status of the Artist Committee reviews the Status of the Artist Act and seek ways for implementation of its guidelines and strengthening its content. Committee members explore multiple strategies and real-world actions that would benefit the lives of creative producers within the province. These include advocacy for monetary benefits but also the generation of social and cultural benefits.

#### Action Plan for 2018 – 19

The Committee is exploring ways to "honour, foster, and nurture a culture that includes healthy and vibrant mature and elder artists." Mounting medical and sociological evidence reveals that mature and elder members of society who keep physically, mentally active and socially engaged live longer, healthier lives. Most creative people, from all fine art disciplines, have decades-long careers that continue on after age 65 – and often blossom for years to come. In discussion with the Department of Seniors and aligning with their strategic action plan, the committee has identified three priorities to explore further:

1. Value the social and economic contributions of older adults
  - a. Most creative people from all fine arts disciplines, have decades -long careers after 65.
  - b. Mentorships and Lifelong Education - many mature and elder artists are effective communicators and educators with decades of experience – continuing to be active as workshop and seminar leaders, their creative knowledge will be shared with younger generations.
2. Support aging in place, connected to community life.
  - a. Opportunity to expand Creative Hubs in both urban and rural settings.
  - b. Co-housing developments for creative communities.
3. Promote healthy, active living
  - a. Changing the language from "Seniors Care" to Elder Life. Older artists to be recognized as Provincial Living Treasures

Considering the spirit of the Status of the Artist Act (which is provincial legislation), financial support allocated up front that provide benefits for mature and elder artists will generate cost savings and income in the future – while nurturing new and respectful ecosystems for aging populations. Through cultural growth and destination marketing, municipal communities will see economic developments. The province itself will also take a leadership role in Western culture as we rethink and revision what it means stay vital as creative and productive people as we age. And younger generations will have new, positive role models to aspire to.

Sara Caracristi, *Anticipation*,  
Acrylic & polyurethane on canvas  
over panel, 61 x 76cm 2018.  
2018 Art Bank Acquisition.



## NEW POLICIES

### CULTURAL APPROPRIATION

Arts Nova Scotia staff and assessors adhere to the Nova Scotia Human Rights Act. Assessors are asked to consider who is telling whose story and who is developing and sharing cultural expressions and knowledge from any community, particularly historically underrepresented and racialized groups or individuals. Assessors may consider the impact of the artistic work in the context of historic or continuing barriers faced by the applicant and the communities engaged by or reflected in the work, when accessing opportunities for producing and participating in the arts.

### INDIGENOUS ARTS PROTOCOLS

In 2016, Canada formally endorsed the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The Declaration affirms that Indigenous cultural knowledge is the intellectual property of Indigenous peoples, and its use is controlled by Indigenous peoples. When considering applications from Indigenous peoples and/or incorporating Indigenous cultural knowledge, assessors are asked to consider whether appropriate protocols regarding that material and its use are being observed as part of the proposed project. Since each community will have different approaches to protocols and use of materials, assessors should look for evidence that the applicant has meaningfully engaged with appropriate elders, community leaders or knowledge keepers.

### RESPECTFUL WORKPLACES

Arts Nova Scotia believes there is no place for harassment, sexual misconduct or abuse of power in any workplace. All successful grant recipients must sign an agreement that sets out general terms and conditions of the grant. This agreement includes a declaration section that confirms that the grant recipient will abide by all applicable municipal and provincial legislation, including but not limited to that relating to employment standards, occupational health and safety, and human rights. The declaration also includes a commitment to provide safe working conditions and to foster a workplace free from discrimination, harassment and sexual misconduct. Failure to meet the terms and conditions of the grant may lead to a review and reversal of a grant decision.

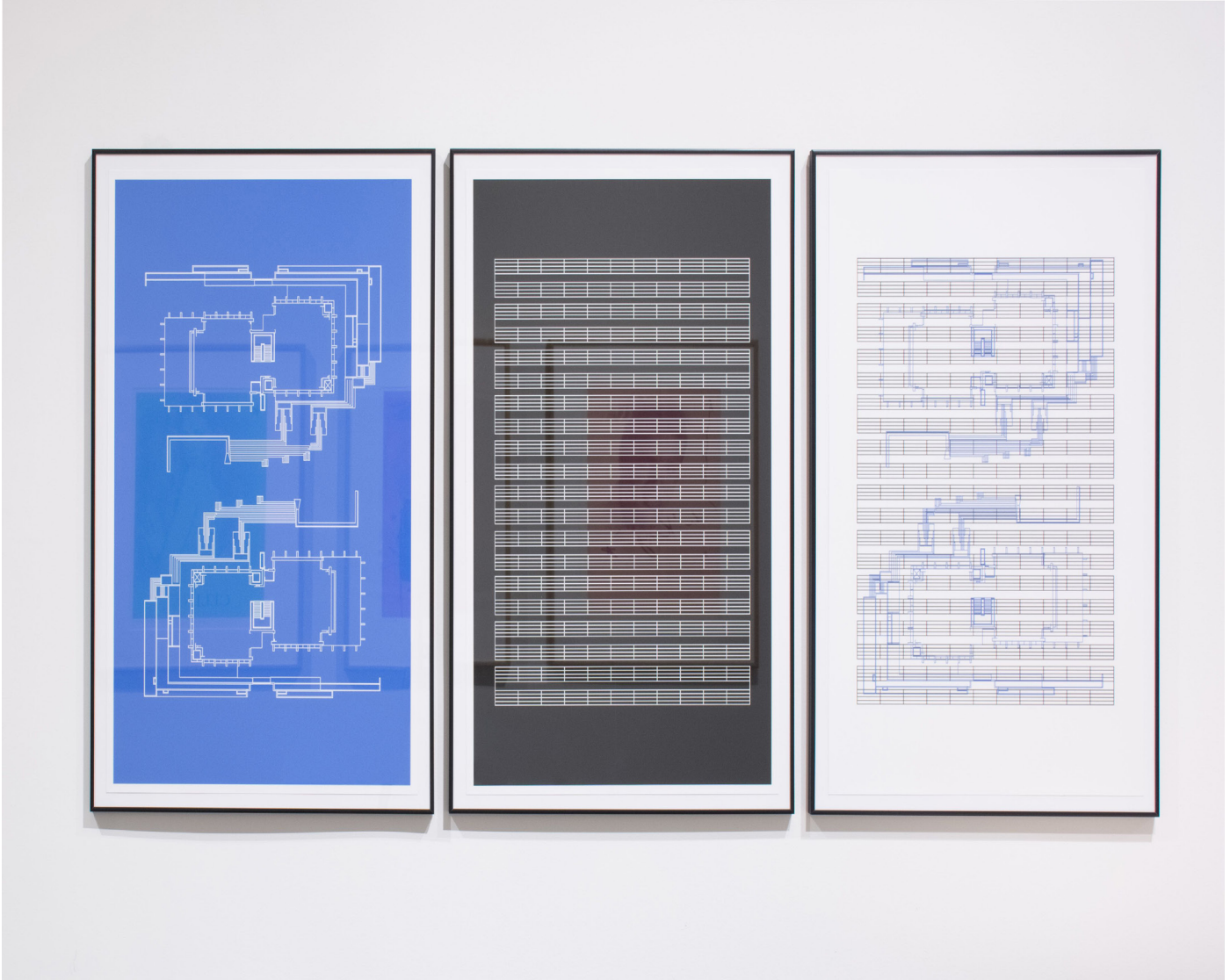
Organizations that receive Operating Assistance may be placed on Concerned Status where there are concerns about their organizational health. These concerns may include a failure to provide a working environment free from discrimination, harassment and sexual misconduct.

### REVIEWING AND REVERSING GRANT DECISIONS

Funding decisions of Arts Nova Scotia are final. Decisions cannot be appealed unless evidence suggests that significant procedural flaw occurred during the assessment process. Arts Nova Scotia retains the right to cancel any grant previously awarded. Arts Nova Scotia may initiate a process to review and potentially reverse a grant decision where there are serious concerns about the recipient or the funded activities. Examples of serious concerns include failure to meet the terms and conditions of the grant, failure to comply with legal obligations, and misrepresentation and risk of insolvency.

## NEW ACQUISITIONS:

Arts Nova Scotia manages the Nova Scotia Art Bank. Every year the Art Bank adds to its collection through the Art Bank Purchase Program.



Anke Fox, *Underneath*, Handwoven leno, ondule, hand-dyed kat, 100% linen, 178 x 55cm, 2017

Charley Young, *Pilot*, Graphite colored pencil and frottage on drafting film, 50.8 x 148.6cm, 2018

Dean Brousseau, *The Unexpected Inevitable*, Archival ink on watercolour paper, 25.4 x 38.1cm 2017

Deb Kuzyk & Ray Mackie, *Pigeon Jar, Thrown*, sculpted porcelain, underglass, mother of pearl, 47 x 26cm, 2014

Frances Dorsey, *Beleaguered and Prevailing Moons*, Used linen tablecloths, natural dyes, 125 x 300cm, 2016

Jessica Korderas, *The News*, Epoxy resin, illustration board, acrylic paint, graphie, watercolour pencils, mylar, 15.25 x 14 x 6.35cm, 2017

Julie Wagner, *Synergetic Mass*, Clay, burlap, fishing line, 128.92 x 128.92 x 45.72cm, 2016

Kim Morgan, *Blood Galaxy*, Digital print, black and white on glossy photo paper, 122 x 244cm, 2017

Maria Doering, *Insightful*, Linocut and embroidery on fabric, 31 x 31cm, 2017



Su Rogers, *Musn't Touch It (1000 year fishing spree)*, Found vintage wooden medicine cabinet reworked, glass latex paint, cut copper tacks, copper tape, acrylic paint, tencilled letters, flashlight bulb, reproduction vintage file label holder, vintage type font on label, 53 x 26 x 15cm, 2017

Nancy Price, *Four Block*, Digital silk (satin) print, 230 x 96cm, 2015

Renate Deppe, *Untitled, No. 5*, Photograph - archival ink on watercolour paper, 27.94 x 50.80cm, 2017

Renate Deppe, *Untitled, No. 11*, Photograph - archival ink on watercolour paper, 27.94 x 50.80cm, 2017

Samantha Kinsley, *Evidence of Action: Snarl (1 of 2)*, Intaglio print on paper 15.25 x 15.25cm, 2016

Samantha Kinsley, *Evidence of Action: Snarl (2 of 2)*, Intaglio print on paper, 15.25 x 15.25cm, 2016

Samantha Kinsley *Evidence of Action: Weight (Buying three)*, Ceramic vessels 10 x 15 x 15cm, 2016

Samantha Kinsley, *Ins & Outs (1 of 2)*, Pinpricks in paper, 62 x 99cm, 2017

Samantha Kinsley, *Ins & Outs (2 of 2)*, Pinpricks in paper, 62 x 99cm, 2017

Sara Caracristi, *Anticipation*, Acrylic & polyurethane on canvas over panel, 61 x 76cm, 2018

Sara Caracristi, *Super Hero*, Acrylic & polyurethane on canvas over panel, 40.5 x 40cm, 2018

Steve Farmer, *Refine*, Archival Ink Jet Print, 60 x 89cm, 2015

Susan Wood, *The Whir of Wings and the Scent of Lilies*, Ink, watercolor, collage on paper mounted on board, 40.6 x 223.5cm, 2016

**PHOTO BELOW:** Tyshan Wright *Gumbe II*, Wood, goat skin, natural beads, Kente cloth, 52.7 x 34.9 x 34.9cm, 2017.

**PHOTO LEFT:** William Robinson, *Brutalist Song II - Killam Memorial Library Building*, Colour ink jet prints, matte, Hahnemuhle 100% cotton photo rag paper 101.6 x 86.36cm 2016 .



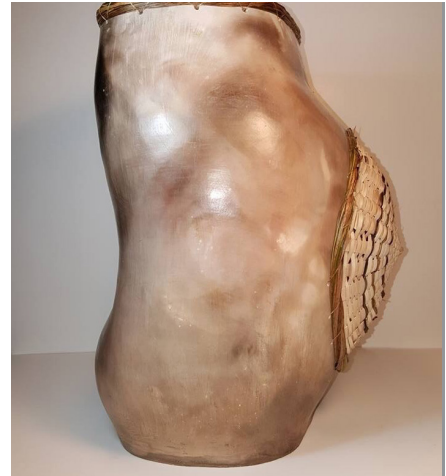
## INDIGENOUS ARTS ADMINSTRATOR REPORT SUMMARY

Arts Nova Scotia is taking steps make lasting and meaningful commitments to reconciliation. The Truth and Reconciliation Report can provide a solid ground for understanding the impacts of colonialism on Indigenous peoples and help further understanding to enable commitment to Indigenous communities.

In September 2018, Carrie Allison was hired to come up with a soft plan to increase Indigenous participation in Arts Nova Scotia's programs. Carrie started with getting a lay of the land, asking questions such as: How is Arts Nova Scotia structured? How are grant decisions made? Who makes them? What is the current status of Indigenous participation within Arts Nova Scotia's programs, and further within Communities, Culture, and Heritage. How are our programs helping or hindering the professional development, practice, and production of Indigenous arts within the province of Nova Scotia? And further are we, as a government funding body, doing all we can to address systemic misrepresentation within government funding streams? These questions provoke us to think about how we define art as a government funding body and how that definition differs from an Indigenous idea of art.

Arts Nova Scotia in collaboration with Atlantic Public Arts Funders have facilitated Indigenous Atlantic Arts symposium, Petapan: First Light, with the intention of building strong community connections and the hope of establishing an Indigenous artist run centre (or perhaps more than one). This initiative is a great example of work currently being done in Atlantic Canada but we need to do more. Through this model we can start taking steps towards building long lasting relationships that extend provincial colonial borders and prioritize Indigenous communities.

Arts Nova Scotia aims to make space for indigenous specific funding. Nova Scotia has one recognized Indigenous nation, the Mi'kmaq. As the Nova Scotia Culture Action Plan states "We need to do more to acknowledge and embrace the significance of Mi'kmaq culture... we must promote and preserve this culture while simultaneously taking steps to enrich and maximize it."



### WHAT HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED:

- Looking and critiquing current programs that are open to Indigenous artists through both Arts Nova Scotia and Communities, Cultures, and Heritage.
- Research about Indigenous specific funding in other provinces – common approaches/threads
- Establishing Indigenous connections within the Atlantic region - Petapan

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- Hire a full time Mi'kmaq Arts Administrator to continue working with communities
- Create Mi'kmaq specific funding
- Establish a Mi'kmaq advisory council – Elders, Knowledge Keepers, and Mi'kmaq artists
- Art Bank Mi'kmaq specific acquisition for 2020, along with a commitment to purchase Mi'kmaq art work for the next 5 years
- Community engagement - hire student every summer to attend and promote Mi'kmaq programs in communities,.
- Continue supporting Petapan and any programming that comes out of the symposium

Photo left page  
Nancy Oakley, vase  
with basket, 2017.

Photo right page  
Liliona Quarmyne  
performing at the  
2018 Creative NS  
Gala.



## CREATIVE NOVA SCOTIA AWARDS GALA

Presented by Arts Nova Scotia and the Creative Nova Scotia Leadership Council, the Creative Nova Scotia Awards Gala is an annual event that celebrates excellence in artistic achievement, notably in the announcements of two major awards, the Portia White Prize and the Lieutenant Governor's Masterworks Award. Winners of the Prix Grand Pré, the Established Artist, Emerging Artist and Indigenous Artist awards and the Community Arts and Culture Recognition Award are also honoured. Collectively, the awards are worth \$95,000.

Eryn Foster served as artistic director for the 2018 Creative Nova Scotia Awards Gala. Eryn's curatorial theme was *Flow*, exploring the concept of water as a metaphor for artists and artistic creation.

From the Artistic Vision: When we think about the region of Nova Scotia, we think about a physical landscape that is abundantly gifted with multiple and diverse bodies of water. Surrounded by over 7000 km of coastline, this province is also dotted with more than 3000 freshwater lakes and is engraved with hundreds of river systems, streams and watershed environments. Our aquatic infrastructure is one that is complexly interconnected and also vital to the health and wellbeing of all of those who inhabit the region.

At this moment in time, water is an especially topical subject as we universally and locally grapple with issues of its protection, usage, ownership, conservation, and how we can ensure its long-term health and survival. In so many ways, water is the most essential life-giving resource within our natural environment. Without all of the things it abundantly gifts us, we would not survive long without it.

Much like the water that surrounds us, artists are an equally vital and essential resource within our province's social and cultural ecosystem. Artists are in many ways akin to a body of water. Like a reservoir or lake, they hold and shape the spaces that contain creative ideas and production. They also sustain and nourish our creative communities. Without artists, we would have a landscape deplete of our most essential life-force and energy. And like water, we must do our best to ensure the health, strength, and vitality of our province's artists and our artistic culture. We also must do our best to recognize, support and celebrate those artists who have contributed their time, talents and expressions to our collective creative reservoir.



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## AWARDS PRIZES

### 2018 Recipients

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Arts Nova Scotia is responsible for managing the jury processes and awarding the Artist Recognition Awards, the Community Arts and Culture Recognition Award, the Prix Grand Pré, and the Portia White Prize. In 2017, we introduced new awards: The Emerging Artist Recognition Award recognizes artists of any age who are in the early stages of their professional career, have completed specialized training, and have presented their work publicly; and The Indigenous Artist Recognition Award recognizes artists of Indigenous backgrounds who have emerged from their initial training and development to become recognized, established artists in Nova Scotia.

#### Community Arts and Culture Recognition Award Town of Shelburne

##### Established Artist

anna sprague  
Sara Coffin  
Derek Charke

##### Emerging Artist

Anne Macmillan  
Stephanie Clattenburg

##### Indigenous Artist

Rebecca Thomas

##### Prix Grand Pré

Claude Chaloux

##### Portia White Prize

Ronald Bourgeois

##### Portia White protégé

La Société Saint Pierre



Photo top  
Robin Metcalfe  
presenting Ronald  
Bourgeois with the  
Portia White prize

Photo below  
Rebecca Thomas  
performance at the  
Creative NS Gala

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## FINANCIAL REPORT

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Programs	Grants/Awards	Program Costs	Total
Grants to Organizations & Small Groups	\$435,550	\$7,195	\$442,745
Grants to Individuals	\$632,075	\$16,298	\$648,373
Operating Assistance to Arts Organizations	\$1,323,980	\$22,164	1,346,144
Project Grants for Publishing Program	\$72,500	\$547	\$73,047
Art Bank	\$40,040	\$1,011	\$41,051
Art Bank (Operations)		\$16,995	\$16,995
Artists in Schools	\$90,000		\$90,000
Portia White Prize	\$25,000	\$1,808	\$26,808
Grand Pré Prize	\$5,000	\$830	\$5,830
Lieut. Governor's Masterworks Award	\$50,000	\$317	\$50,317
Talent Trust	\$100,000		\$100,000
Confederation Center	\$10,000		\$10,000
NSCAD Gordon Parsons Scholarship	\$1,000		\$1,000
Sub-Total	\$2,785,145	\$67,165	\$2,852,311
Support4Culture Programs			
Arts Equity Program	\$144,281	\$6	\$144,287
Artistic Innovation Program	\$82,500	\$0	\$82,500
Creative Collaborations Program	\$201,935		\$201,935
Sub-Total	\$428,716	\$6	\$428,722
Sub-Total Grants/Awards & Program Costs	\$3,213,861	\$67,171	\$3,281,032
Salaries		\$363,051.94	\$363,051.94
Arts Nova Scotia Operations		\$15,635.55	\$15,635.55
<b>TOTAL - ARTS NOVA SCOTIA</b>	<b>\$3,213,861</b>	<b>\$445,859</b>	<b>\$3,659,720</b>

General Travel	\$3,362
Out of Province	\$2,915
KMs Travelled	\$183
<b>Total Travel</b>	<b>\$6,460</b>



## PROGRAMS

As the provincial funding agency that provides support to professional artists, arts organizations, arts education programs, and a several important arts awards and prizes, Arts Nova Scotia offers a wide variety of investment opportunities.

### GRANTS TO INDIVIDUALS

Supports the creation of new works by professional artists in all disciplines including fine crafts, literary, visual, media and performing arts. It also promotes a broad understanding and appreciation of art and artists through professional development, creation and presentation of work. Individual artists may submit one application per grant per deadline.

Application date by: May 15 / November 15  
Annual budget: \$632,700  
Applications received: 387  
Applications funded: 116

### GRANTS TO ORGANIZATIONS AND SMALL GROUPS

Supports artistic development through three categories of funding. It assists with the production of a specific work or program for presentation to the public, the commissioning of new work and professional development for organizations.

Application date by: March 15 / October 15  
Annual budget: \$425,000  
Applications received: 142  
Applications funded: 67

### PROJECT GRANTS FOR PUBLISHERS

Designed to stimulate literary arts' production, dissemination, and commissioning. These project grants will be used to support developmental artistic activities and audience or community engagement initiatives. This program is designed to assist in the growth and

development of the publishing field and the exploration of new models of publishing activity.

Application date by: September 15  
Annual budget: \$78,500  
Applications received: 18  
Applications funded: 9

### OPERATING ASSISTANCE FOR ARTS ORGANIZATIONS

Designed to enhance stability within established professional arts organizations. Support is provided to organizations that produce or present artistic performances and events involving professional artists. Such organizations are fundamental to the vitality and long-term health of the arts and cultural life in Nova Scotia.

Application date by: February 15  
Annual budget: \$1,324,000  
Applications received: 28  
Applications funded: 25

### ART BANK

Every year the Nova Scotia Art Bank adds to its collection through Purchase Program. Artists are invited to submit their works for consideration. Pieces that are acquired become part of a working collection. They are maintained, loaned out and displayed in government offices and agencies. The program raises awareness of artists and their works and stimulates interest in visual arts and craft.

Application date by: January 15  
Annual budget: \$40,000  
Applications received: 119  
Applications funded: 29

Photo this page

Sydanie performs at the Seahorse Tavern, Obey Convention XI, 2018.



## ANNUAL INVESTMENTS

### ARTISTS IN THE SCHOOLS

Arts Nova Scotia provides support to four artists in the schools programs (Perform, PAINTS, WITS, and Arts Smarts) that are designed to bring professional artists together with students and teachers across Nova Scotia to expand and explore creativity, self-expression, and critical thinking through artistic practice.

Annual budget: \$90,000

### NOVA SCOTIA TALENT TRUST

NSTT provides scholarships to Nova Scotians who demonstrate exceptional potential and commitment to become established artists in their chosen fields. Applicants of any age may apply but support is given to those who are not yet established in their fields and who are undertaking programs of study which will advance their artistic development and who are pursuing career paths that can lead them to become established artists.

Annual budget: \$100,000

### THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF NOVA SCOTIA MASTERWORKS AWARD

The LG Masterworks Foundation oversees and manages all aspects of this award. First presented in 2006, this \$25,000 annual award looks to recognize, reward and encourage excellence in all creative media and to highlight works that have a strong connection to Nova Scotia in the context of national and international achievement. The award is presented at the Creative Nova Scotia Awards Gala.

Annual budget: \$50,000

#### Photo this page

Liu Fang performs at Fort Massey Church, Obey Convention XI, 2018.

#### Photo back page

Ryan Josey's installation November, November at the 2018 Lumjere Art at Night Festival in Sydney, NS.

## SUPPORT4 CULTURE

Support4Culture is designed to encourage excellence in the arts, grow the culture sector and foster innovation. Arts Nova Scotia will benefit from this partnership between the Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage and the Nova Scotia Provincial Lotteries and Casino Corporation.

## ARTS EQUITY INITIATIVE

Designed to support artistic growth, development, production and dissemination, the initiative is available to the following designated communities of artists: Indigenous (Mi'kmaq as well as other First Nations, Metis and Inuit); Culturally diverse (African-NS and other visible minorities of African, Asian, Latin American, Middle Eastern and mixed racial descents); Artists who are deaf, have disabilities or are living with mental illness.

Application date by: September/April 15

Annual budget: \$143,300

Applications received: 46

Applications funded 18

## CREATIVE COLLABORATIONS

An internal fund that looks at underserved areas within its granting programs. The program is integrated into the peer assessment process for the grants to individuals and the grants to organizations and small groups competitions based on a special interest for that year. The 2018/19 year focused on first time funded applications and projects that took place outside of metropolitan Halifax. While artistic excellence remains the core of peer assessed evaluation, the fund can be used to augment success rates in disciplines or regions within identified communities.

Annual budget: \$203,000

Applications funded: 32

## ARTISTIC INNOVATION

The Artistic Innovation program was implemented as a short-term plan to stimulate artistic excellence and start a new relationship with the core art organizations and their publics. Eligible organizations apply for one-time innovation grants, articulating how they will grow opportunities for excellence in artistic development or for developing a new way to engage with their public.

Application date by: February 15

Annual budget: \$82,500

Applications received: 13

Applications funded 11





# 18/19

1741 Brunswick St., 3rd Floor  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
Mailing address:  
PO Box 456, Station Central  
B3J 2R5  
Find more information: <http://artsns.ca>

**Arts**  
NOVA SCOTIA  
NOUVELLE-ÉCOSSE