



ARTS NOVA SCOTIA

Annual Report 2015-16

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ANNUAL REPORT 2015-16

Art is an interaction. An exchange among equals: audiences, collaborators, supporters, and artists. It happens in the space between a creation and an observer, in the excitement among professionals working together on an idea or a technically demanding experiment, or through the passion generated by works and actions addressing crucial social issues. It is fluid, continuous and generative. You see it wherever people are exposed to accomplished works of professional art and design, in galleries, in theatres, in public and private spaces. What is unique about this kind of responsive exchange is that its dynamic changes with each iteration, reaction, inclusion or contemplation.

In many ways the core activity of a public arts funder is to prime and support the ability of artists to precipitate those interactions at home in Nova Scotia and build their careers to expand out of the province as well. It is not only by supporting the creation and presentation of new work, but also by helping artwork to be experienced, and artists to develop as professionals, that we set the stage for new interactions and reflections. To be effective, public Arts Councils must be in touch with artists and arts organizations, with the way in which they aspire to work, as well as with observers, arts professionals and other participants in the field. Prime among these participants are members of the public, who we know gain from experiences with and through the arts, and then feed back into the creative cycle of our provincial arts sector. In a recent study, the Government of Nova Scotia discovered that:

Nova Scotians are proud of where they live because of culture: 80% consider culture to be a key factor in the development of individual and community identity; 76% saw culture as helping to connect people from different communities and backgrounds; more than half agreed that culture provided them with opportunities for personal growth (55%) and self-expression (54%); and 69% agree that culture helps increase citizen engagement and participation.¹

Furthermore, the culture sector is a major economic driver in Nova Scotia, providing more than 14,000 jobs, developing skills among the broader population, and enhancing our lifestyles. In the most recent report from the Statistics Canada Culture Satellite Account, culture represents 2.7% of Nova Scotia's GDP or \$949 million, a significant contribution.² We at Arts Nova Scotia work to engage with artists, organizations, partners and public in the execution of our mandate and vision to champion the fundamental role of the arts for all Nova Scotians locally and globally. We recognize that, much like the creative interaction, how we execute our programs is also a continuous process. We question, research, consult and review. It is through such robust processes that Arts Nova Scotia programs have been recognized at home and across the country by our peers as successful in and for Nova Scotians. We are committed to our proven approach.

This past year, our staff, board and committees worked on a number of important initiatives that had great impact both internally and externally. Within our organization, we continue to manage hundreds of applications to our funding programs. Likewise, we developed key policies including a comprehensive

¹ <https://cch.novascotia.ca/stories/new-study-reveals-how-nova-scotians-interact-and-value-culture> and <https://cch.novascotia.ca/sites/default/files/inline/documents/culture-index-infographic.pdf>

² <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/160511/dq160511a-eng.htm>

code of conduct for our board, staff, and peer assessment committees. This year was a significant step forward in the development of the Creative Nova Scotia Awards Gala as a premier national event that celebrates high achievement in the arts in Nova Scotia. The highly innovative event at the new Halifax Central Library was hailed as a tremendous success by all who attended. We also work on joint committees and strategic initiatives with the Creative Nova Scotia Leadership Council (CNSLC). This past year, for example, the Status of the Artist Joint Committee developed research and a series of recommendations were adopted jointly by Arts NS and CNSLC to the Minister of Communities, Culture and Heritage about artist resale rights and the use of written contracts when engaging artists. Both organizations encouraged and supported the Minister in taking a leadership role on the national stage with regard to this matter. We continue to maintain strong communication networks with federal, provincial and municipal funders, including the Canadian Public Arts Funders, and our Atlantic partners.

We could do none of this if it were not for the dedicated people who work to make everything we do possible. The expertise provided by our volunteer board of directors during board meetings and committee work is essential to our success. We thank our continuing board members: Cory Bowles, Peter Dykhuis, Mhiran Faraday, Susan Hanrahan, Michel de Noncourt, Addy Doucette, Ashley Mackenzie and Shalan Joudry for their work and commitment, and welcome new board members Jack Chen and Shauntay Grant. We extend a special thanks to departing board members Candace Stevenson and Barbara Richmond. Candace was the first chair of Arts Nova Scotia, and spent her final year on the board as our liaison with the CNLSC. Barbara's expertise in the administration of arts granting processes has been immensely helpful in our ongoing professionalization and the redesign of our operating program.

We thank Arts Nova Scotia program officers, Peter Kirby and Enrique Ferreol, for their hard work expertly managing our project and operating grant programs. We are very happy to have had the services of Mireille Bourgeois and Timothy Ediger, who worked with Arts Nova Scotia on a short-term basis to help us get caught up with the demand for the Art Bank collection in government offices across the province, ensuring that we are providing multi-sited opportunities for arts interactions by the public. We thank Laura Patrick, Jasmine Flemming, Nicole Watkins Campbell and Rose Zack for their work in the execution of the Creative Nova Scotia gala. We are also pleased to acknowledge the logistics and administrative support we receive from the staff of the Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage: Kathy Rennick, Jaylene McEwan, Cheryl Thompson, Emily MacMillan, Debby Leblanc and Jennifer Parker. We extend particular thanks to Communities Nova Scotia Director Natasha Jackson, Culture and Heritage Development Program Director Craig Beaton, and the Executive Director of Culture and Heritage Development Marcel McKeough, for their partnership and support in service to the arts.

We acknowledge the continued support of the Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage, Minister Tony Ince, Deputy Minister Kelliann Dean, and those in the secretariat. 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.



Mary Elizabeth Luka
Chair, Arts Nova Scotia



Christopher Shore
Director, Arts Nova Scotia

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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: ANS 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.

Board Members 2015-16

Cory Bowles, Truro, Colchester County, is an internationally-recognized African Nova Scotian dancer, actor, filmmaker, educator and musician.

Michel de Noncourt, Antigonish, Antigonish County, is an Acadian-Francophone, bilingual visual artist, sculptor and educator.

Addy Doucette, Antigonish, Antigonish County, is the founder and former artistic producer of Festival Antigonish Summer Theatre, and has extensive experience and knowledge of live theatre in Nova Scotia.

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

Mhiran Faraday, Halifax, Halifax Regional Municipality, is currently Executive Director of Debut Atlantic and has previously worked with Symphony Nova Scotia and in the theatre sector.

Susan Hanrahan, Halifax, Halifax Regional Municipality, is Executive Director of the Nova Scotia Designers Craft Council.

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

Mary Elizabeth Luka (Chair), Halifax, Halifax Regional Municipality, is an arts management consultant, award-winning documentary producer and director in television and digital media, and a Banting Postdoctoral Fellow whose research concerns the creative economy and the culture sector.

Ashley McKenzie, Sydney, Cape Breton County, is a filmmaker 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.

Barbara Richman, Chester, Lunenburg County, is an established career arts administrator, consultant and former Executive Director of Strategic Arts Management, Symphony Nova Scotia and Halifax Dance.

Candace Stevenson, Halifax, Halifax Regional Municipality, is the retired Executive Director of Culture and Heritage with the former Department of Education and Culture.

Staff

Christopher Shore, Director

Peter Kirby, Program Officer

Enrique Ferreol, Program Officer

Financials

<u>Programs</u>	<u>Grants/Awards</u>	<u>Program Costs</u>	<u>Total</u>
Grants to Organizations & Small Groups	\$354,229	\$7,901	\$362,130
Grants to Individuals	\$626,519	\$15,198	\$641,717
Operating Assistance to Arts Organizations	\$1,344,000	\$3,533	\$1,347,533
Art Bank	\$41,390	\$2,101	\$43,491
Art Bank (Operations)		\$22,675	\$22,675
Artists in Schools	\$90,000		\$90,000
Portia White Prize	\$25,000	\$1,137	\$26,137
Grant Pré Prize	\$5,000		\$5,000
Lieut. Governor's Masterworks Award	\$50,000		\$50,000
Talent Trust	\$100,000		\$100,000
Confederation Center	\$10,000		\$10,000
NSCAD Gordon Parsons Scholarship	\$1,000		\$1,000
Sub-Total	\$2,647,138	\$52,545	\$2,699,683
<u>Support4Culture Programs</u>			
Arts Equity Program (includes \$75,000 from Canada Council for the Arts)	\$141,535	\$4,344	\$145,878
Atlantic Residency Program	\$6,426	\$323	\$6,749
Artsvest	\$100,000	\$1,211	\$101,211
Artistic Innovation Program	\$84,000		\$84,000
Creative Collaborations Program	\$227,300		\$227,300
Sub-Total	\$559,261	\$5,878	\$565,139
Subtotal Grants/Awards & Program Costs	\$3,206,399	\$58,423	\$3,264,822
Salaries		\$272,314	\$272,314
Arts Nova Scotia Operations		\$28,492	\$28,492
Total, Arts Nova Scotia	\$3,206,399	\$359,229	\$3,565,628

Arts Nova Scotia Board of Directors: Committees

Governance Committee

Members of the Governance Committee for the year 2015-16 included: Susan Hanrahan (Committee Chair), Michel de Noncourt, Cory Bowles, Shalan Joudry, Mary Elizabeth Luka (Arts NS Board Chair), and Christopher Shore (Director).

The Governance Committee is mandated to advise the Arts NS Board on matters relating to the Board's governance structure and processes, evaluation of Board effectiveness, recruitment, education and evaluation of Board members. It ensures appropriate policies are in place so that Arts NS follows ethical practice in management, administration, and program delivery. Membership on the Governance Committee is currently restricted to members of the Arts NS Board of Directors, but the committee may, at its discretion, consult with expert advisors from time to time as required. The Governance Committee liaises with other committees as required to exchange information and to collaborate on joint initiatives.

This past year the Governance Committee was actively engaged in the creation of a comprehensive new *Code of Conduct* policy. The new policy document sets the basic rules of conduct for board members, members of committees, staff, and peer assessment committee (PAC) members in order to maintain and build confidence in the integrity, objectivity and transparency of Arts Nova Scotia's processes and activities in the fulfillment of its mission.

The Governance Committee also worked this past year to identify and recruit new members for the Arts NS Board of Directors. Arts NS legislation dictates that our board must consist of no fewer than nine and no more than eleven members. Of the full eleven members, no more than eight can be appointed by the Minister of Communities, Culture and Heritage upon recommendation of the Arts NS nominating committee, and no more than three appointed by Governor in Council upon recommendation of the Minister. The membership of the Board must also reflect the diversity found within the Province's art community and, where possible, ". . . include representation from differing art disciplines, generations, and the Province's cultural mosaic including, but not limited to, representation from the African Nova Scotian, Mi'kmaq and Acadian communities and balanced representation between women and men." In addition to this, the Governance Committee, which serves as the nominating committee, also tries to ensure that the Province is represented geographically, and that board terms are staggered to ensure a mix of new and experienced board members.

This past year the Arts NS Board saw the departures of Candace Stevenson and Barbara Richman, which meant that we had to identify and recruit two new members for Ministerial appointment. Joining the Arts NS Board are:

- Jack Chen (Ministerial appointment), is a professional musician, teacher at Acadia University and Artistic Director of Inner Space Concerts.
- Shauntay Grant (Ministerial appointment), 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.

The committee would particularly like to recognize outgoing Arts NS Board members Candace Stevenson and Barbara Richmond for their insight, input, and guidance. Candace and Barbara were both on the founding board of Arts Nova Scotia and we are tremendously grateful for their contributions.

Program Committee

The Program Committee is mandated to assist staff with research, review, and the development of programs, processes and policies. It provides the Board of Directors with information and recommendations to support decision making around program policy and directions. The committee works with Board, staff and the artistic community to ensure relevant, effective and transparent programming and processes. It additionally liaises with other committees and stakeholders as required to exchange information and collaborate on joint initiatives.

Members of the Program Committee for the year 2015-16 included: Barbara Richman, (Co-Chair), Mhiran Danson-Faraday (Co-Chair), Ashley MacKenzie, Addy Doucette, Shalan Joudry, Mary Elizabeth Luka (Board Chair), Christopher Shore (Director) and Peter Kirby (Program Officer). Following the completion of Barbara Richman's term as a founding member of the Board of Directors, the committee was pleased that she agreed to continue to serve on the Program Committee as an external member, contributing her wealth of knowledge and expertise to the committee to the benefit of the arts community of Nova Scotia.

In 2015-16 the committee focused their work based on an ambitious committee work plan created in September and while there are items that will carry forward to 2016-17, a number of items were either completed or initiated throughout the year. The group met a number of times throughout the year both in person and by phone, focusing on the following:

- Equity Program analysis, which reviews and summarizes the results of program competitions since its inception in 2013 providing comprehensive information to assist with planning for the program's evolution and future.
- In-Kind Good & Services Policy, which provides guidelines for the inclusion of in-kind contributions and reporting for ANS funding programs. Our thanks to Leah Hamilton for her input to this policy.
- An ANS hosted Financial Reporting workshop for Annual Operating clients (Level 1 and Concerned Status) led by Leah Hamilton.
- The creation of the Peer Assessment Committee policy in conjunction with the ANS Code of Conduct, along with an early draft of a Peer Assessment Handbook. Policies and handbooks from other Canadian jurisdictions were reviewed and used as guidelines for the creation of a policy suited to ANS.
- Basic analysis and program descriptions for the ANS program synopsis pages
- Research was initiated on the review and expansion of the Fair Notice and Concerned Status policy for the operating program. This will formally provide guidelines for the jury around process and funding for clients on Concerned Status.
- ANS was approached by Nova Scotia publishers about the creation of a program specific to that industry. The committee is supporting the work of staff as they work with publishers and consult with other jurisdictions in the creation of a comprehensive funding program.

For the next year we anticipate that our focus will be on:

- Reviewing and updating the Operating Program as required for 2017 including finalizing the Fair Notice and Concerned Status Policy.
- Consultation to ensure that the language in the Operating, Grants to Individuals, and Equity Programs is consistent – which will be completed by staff at a convenient time.
- Working with the Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage to assist in their own review of their programs, and jointly assessing gaps and opportunities in the Nova Scotia arts funding environment
- Completing work on the Program Policies and Procedures manual with the finalization of the Handbook and Charge to the Jury.
- Exploration of ways to provide additional professional development opportunities for both organizations and individuals.
- Review of the Equity Program to determine a future path with reduced funding with the end of Canada Council's support.
- Develop new Art Bank policies and procedures to continue pursuing a purchase program that is aligned with a National standard of collections management.

The committee would particularly like to thank Christopher Shore, Peter Kirby, and the Board of Directors, led by Mary Elizabeth Luka, for the strong collaboration and thoughtful analysis of our work at each stage over the year.

External Relations Committee

This past year represented the second year of service by the ER Committee since its amalgamation with the Communications Committee. Committee Chair Peter Dykhuis and committee members Cory Bowles, Michel de Noncourt, and new Board member Ashley McKenzie, as well as ex-officio members Mary Elizabeth Luka (Board Chair) and Christopher Shore (Arts NS Director), continued to pursue outreach and communications issues facing ANS within the community external to itself and government.

One of the Committee's more significant engagements this past year was with the Department in rolling out the Stakeholder Workshops for the survey affiliated with the new Nova Scotia Culture Action Plan. Committee members participated in the pilot workshop hosted at the Nova Scotia Archives on 15 December that provided valuable feedback to the survey's architects. Thanks to a concerted effort, Board members were also able to represent ANS at almost all of the 12 'Culture Conversation' workshops that occurred in 7 regions of the province between 26 January and 18 February 2016.

As part of the activities for the very first Heritage Day, which took place on 16 February 2015, Nova Scotian school-aged children and youth were invited to submit designs to inspire the creation of a Heritage Day Flag. ANS helped to facilitate the competition's process and organized the panel that reviewed the submissions. In total, 240 drawings were received from 23 schools located across the province and five top designs were selected. These illustrations were then shared with the professional graphic artists at Sperry Design, who used the artwork as inspiration for the official Heritage Day flag. The final design was unveiled on 19 January 2016 by Tony Ince, Minister of Communities, Culture and Heritage, during a ceremony at Province House. Also in attendance were the five students whose illustrations provided the inspiration, their parents, MLA's, government officials, and the Director of Arts Nova Scotia.

One of the most emblematic and significant outreach vehicles of ANS is ensuring the presence of artworks from the Art Bank collections within governmental offices and public spaces. Due to delays in confirming the allocation of a fourth staff position to ANS, this program was suspended for the latter third of the fiscal year. A competition, however, for the new position of Assistant Curator and Outreach Officer began towards the end of the year with the position filled early in the new fiscal year.

The ongoing lack of the staff-based outreach position also meant that the ANS website and social media tools continued to function at a spare and instrumental level. In anticipation of filling the fourth staff position, the ER committee conducted a critical assessment of the current website and began to strategize about how the website could operate as more than just a business instrument, and focus on its capacity as a story-telling portal and outreach tool.

The Arts Nova Scotia relationship with sister arts councils is enhanced by the Director's leadership in the Atlantic Public Arts Funders (APAF) group, and an ongoing collegial relationship between committee members, ANS staff and Canada Council for the Arts staff. Additionally, the participation of the Board Chair and the Director's emerging leadership role at Canadian Public Arts Funders (CPAF) is a significant achievement for Nova Scotia.

There were three significant developments in the region where Arts Nova Scotia played a role in finding solutions to challenges in the sector. One was the ongoing transformation of the Prince Edward Island Arts Council, in a process of restructuring and about to take part in a culture sector strategy process. Arts NS monitored the situation, and supported the shift of pan-regional activity to other locations when the PEI Arts Council was unable to take on responsibilities. During a more dramatic development, Arts NS

issued a [public statement](#)³ in February 2016 about the potential funding cuts and changes to the New Brunswick arts granting structure, and worked to maintain open communication across the region as well as providing insights based on our own experience to all levels of personnel involved.

Finally, the Nova Scotia Government cuts and changes to the Nova Scotia Film and Television tax credit, equity investment program and the Film and Creative Industries Nova Scotia Agency reverberated throughout the cultural community all year, and into the coming year. Although some impact was felt in increased applications to Arts NS programs, the greater impact was through the sudden weakening of an important keystone in the creative economy of Nova Scotia, and of an important segment of the Canadian film and television industry, many of whose members overlap with Arts NS clients, culture organizations and service industries. Members of the Arts Nova Scotia board and staff worked hard to enable collegial discussions among government, culture sector, and film and television creative and financial leaders and workers.

There were over 170 events attended by board members and staff as representatives of ANS this past year. Of note was the participation of the ANS Chair and the Director and the Canadian Public Arts Funders AGM in Yellowknife in November 2015, and the several information sessions conducted by the program staff. In addition, Candace Stevenson ably represented Arts Nova Scotia on the Creative Nova Scotia Leadership Council this year, a position created by legislation that has been crucial in maintaining open communication among both volunteer boards and the Department.

In all, 2015-16 was a year that represented stability in outreach and communications, even with a number of unexpected developments. With a new staff person able to help the entire organization (Board and staff) expand its capacity for outreach and communication, Arts NS is poised to realize significant new growth potential in this area. The entire ER Committee warmly anticipates a year of effective outreach, engagement and discussion with the Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage, other government departments, and, most importantly, our artists and the Nova Scotian community beyond all of our institutional walls.

³ <https://www.facebook.com/ArtsNovaScotia.ArtsNouvelleEcosse/posts/805982816198250>

Creative Nova Scotia Gala Committee

(Arts Nova Scotia/Creative Nova Scotia Leadership Council Joint Committee)

The Creative Nova Scotia Gala is managed by Arts Nova Scotia through the Creative NS Gala Committee, comprised of Arts NS Director Christopher Shore, CNSLC board members Susan Tooke and Troy Greencorn, Arts NS board members Mhiran Faraday and Cory Bowles, and Rose Zack, an outside member of the cultural community.

The committee has been actively meeting throughout the year to oversee the management of the awards gala, as well as developing a long term strategy and plan for future years.

This year's theme, Art Out Loud, was a reflection of the award finalists and winners, who work tirelessly, sometimes against serious obstacles, dedicating their lives towards a career in the cultural industry. More than twenty talented artists participated in the evening's event at the Halifax Central Library, offering a series of collaborative artistic expressions that demonstrated the diversity of artistic vocation in the province. Visual, media, performance, light and sound, craft, and installations were all included to add to the vigour of the thematic, emphasizing that this was a celebration that Art is Out Loud.

Artistic Directors Mireille Bourgeois (IOTA) and Jeremy Webb (Off the Leash Creative) helped honour award finalists and winners whose actions speak louder than words by inviting a group of talented artists for a dynamic evening of live art. The cast included: Desiree Adams, Lukas Pearse, Arianne Pollet-Brannen, Leigh Ann Vardy, Lydia Zimmer, with video created by Cory Bowles. Installation artists included: Hannah Levin McGrath, and Annie Onyi Cheung. Emerging curators Mollie Cronin, Amanda Shore and Sara Roth, along with mentors Susan Hanrahan and James MacSwain were featured in the evening's programming through a screening of five video shorts, and a pop-up exhibition where audience members were able to purchase an original piece of art from a curated selection of four contemporary crafters' work. Cellist Benjamin Marmen created a dynamic musical quartet to fire up the audience. Micro-interviews with participating artists were released every few days leading up to the Gala event and published on: www.artns.ca, the Arts NS Facebook page and www.IOTAinstitute.com.

It was anticipated that upwards of 350 guests would attend, including winners and their guests. Initially, 250 free tickets were made available online with an additional 100 reserved for VIPs and other guests. This number also assured seating for all guests in Paul O'Regan Hall. The opening of the Eventbrite website garnered an overwhelming response and additional tickets needed to be added on several occasions, resulting in an oversold event. Based on past experience, we knew that a significant number of people would not attend, despite having reserved a ticket. With 434 available tickets reserved, the event was declared sold out. Added to the (100) reserved spaces from CCH, the event could have had over 500 attendees. The final guest count came in at the ideal number of 354 attendees, not including on-site teams and performers.

Feedback about the event was overwhelmingly positive. Increased publicity, social media presence and attendance at the event have all had the desired effect of raising the consciousness and positive impact the arts and culture community has on the province.

Status of the Artist Committee

(Arts Nova Scotia/Creative Nova Scotia Leadership Council Joint Committee)

Committee members: Susan Tooke, (Committee Chair, CNSLC), Christopher Shore, Director (Arts NS), Peter Dykhuis (Arts NS), Susan Hanrahan (Arts NS) Laurie Dalton (CNSLC).

Under the Status of the Artist Act, the Chairs of the Creative Nova Scotia Leadership Council (CNSLC) and Arts Nova Scotia share the responsibility to submit a joint report on the act to the Minister annually. The purpose of the act is:

1. For government to recognize and reaffirm the value and importance of arts and culture in Nova Scotia society.
2. To define what constitutes a professional artist.
3. To acknowledge government commitments to Nova Scotia artists.

Over the course of the year, members of a joint CNSLC/Arts NS committee met on three occasions in support of advancing the work of the Act. Whereas the act recognizes the artist's role in building the province's identity and culture, and the unique working conditions of artists, the committee's focus for 2015/16 was:

Written contracts for engaging artists

Written contracts are an effective means of providing a clear understanding of the business transaction when hiring artists. While written contracts are common in some artistic disciplines (e.g. music, theatre) they are not as common in visual arts. It was suggested by the Joint Committee at the January 22, 2016 joint meeting of Arts Nova Scotia and the Creative Nova Scotia Leadership Council that the current wording in the Status of the Artist Act be amended to require written contracts in the hiring of artists, using the Saskatchewan and Quebec legislation as its model. Instead, both bodies agreed that Marcel McKeough and Peggy Tibbo-Cameron will work with the Department's legal team to identify what should be required in hiring and contracting artists, including the relative advantages and specific language that would be required for amendments to the legislation or regulations under the Act.

Artist Resale Right

The Artist Resale Right (ARR) would provide visual artists with a royalty each time their work is resold publicly through an auction house or commercial art gallery. This would require an amendment to the Canadian Copyright Act (i.e. under Federal jurisdiction). Considerable research into the ARR reviewed by the Committee, including a proposal put forward by CARFAC, recommended that Canadian artists whose work resells for \$1000CAD or more would be eligible for a royalty of 5% of the sale-price of the art. The ARR would benefit all visual artists, but most especially indigenous artists, artists living in isolated communities and senior artists, whose art grows in value over time and in an international market. Canadian artists would also benefit from reciprocal arrangements with the 93 countries that have adopted ARR, should their work be re-sold in one of these countries. The Committee requested that both the Arts Nova Scotia Board of Directors and the Creative Nova Scotia Leadership Council recommend that the Minister introduce and support the Artist Resale Right proposal at the 2016 meeting of Federal, Provincial and Territorial (FPT) Culture Ministers. This recommendation was passed at the joint meeting held on January 22, 2016.

The committee looks forward to making further progress in support of the status of the artist in the upcoming year.

Arts Investment Committee

(Arts Nova Scotia/Creative Nova Scotia Leadership Council Joint Committee)

Committee members: Candace Stevenson (Committee Chair) , Mary Elizabeth Luka (Arts NS), Terrilee Bulger (CNSLC), Carol Beaton (CNSLC), Jamie MacLellan (CNSLC), Christopher Shore (Arts NS).

Arts Nova Scotia and the Creative Nova Scotia Leadership Council (CNSLC) have been working together to research and investigate new ways to support the arts and culture community in addition to the grant program structure. The committee is tasked with developing recommendations as to how investments in the Nova Scotia Arts Endowment Fund could be leveraged to support artists and arts and culture organizations in Nova Scotia.

The Committee conducted research into innovative ways that jurisdictions across the country and around the world successfully implemented programs to support arts and culture activities outside traditional funding programs. The committee identified four potential mechanisms for investing in the cultural sector that could function by using the endowment fund. The mechanisms included micro-loans for artists, comprised of low or no interest repayable loans for materials or small equipment (typically less than \$5,000); art purchase loans, which would provide interest free loans to residents of Nova Scotia who wished to purchase works of art; a crowdfunding infrastructure such as a website featuring a carefully selected number of adjudicated Nova Scotia arts and culture projects; and a potential arts endowment fund that could incentivize and match donations to an investment program where cultural organizations could benefit from a group endowment fund.

The committee developed a survey to determine the level of interest in the culture sector and potential participation with each of the four mechanisms. Distribution of the survey was delayed until after the completion of the extensive sectoral and public engagement initiated by the Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage towards the development of the Culture Action Plan. The committee is planning to re-evaluate its plans and initiatives this coming year.

How we make funding decisions for programs

Nationally and internationally, peer review is a well-established standard for assessing achievement and merit in the creative world and the humanities. It is a decision-making process used in medical and scientific research, in law, and in education. Arts Nova Scotia, like all other arts councils in Canada, uses peer review in the assessment of applications it receives for all its granting programs. The jury members are selected from a list of qualified artists or arts organizations provided through community consultation. These lists are reviewed annually to ensure broad community representation. Committee composition is sensitive to regional, gender, equity and cultural representation. A different jury is appointed for each competition. Juries are subject to conflict of interest policies. The names of juries are kept confidential until three months after a given grant deadline.

Jury 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, Equity Program, and the Nova Scotia Art Bank Purchase Program. They are also used for the following awards: Prix Grand Pré, Established Artist Recognition Awards, and Portia White Prize. Additionally, a jury committee for the Operating Grants to Arts Organizations program reviews all applications and makes recommendations for funding. These recommendations go to the Board of Arts Nova Scotia for final approval.

The following is a list of community members who participated on peer juries in 2015-16:

Afua Cooper	Dianne Milligan	Lori Burke	Shannon Webb-
Alan Collins	Dominic Desautels	Marie Cadieux	Campbell
Alexis Milligan	Douglas Bamford	MaryLou Martin	Sheilagh Hunt
Alfred Silver	Dustin Harvey	Matthew Collins	Simon Thibault
Andrew McLaren	Emmy Alcorn	Megan Matheson	Sophie Paskins
Anna Syperek	Erin Costelo	Meghan Hubley	Stephanie Clattenburg
Ardath Whynacht	François Gaudet	Mireille Bourgeois	Stephanie Domet
Ariella Pahlke	Gordon White	Nancy Price	Stephanie Yee
Ashley McKenzie	Jacqueline Steudler	Natalie Sappier	Stephanie Young
Barbara Pritchard	Jason Levangie	Pam Halstead	Steven Naylor
Brad Reid	Jeff Joudrey	Pasha Ebrahimi	Sultan Dharamshi
Bretten Hannam	Jeff Torbert	Paula Rockwell	Susan Goyette
Brian MacNevin	Jeremy Webb	Peter Labelle	Susan MacEachern
Bruce Campbell	Jessie MacLean	Robyn Badger	Sylvia Hamilton
Cavell Holland	Joan Bruneau	Ross Burns	Tessa Mendel
Charlotte Wilson-	John Plant	Ruth Marsh	Tim Callahan-Cross
Hammond	Jonathan Johnson	Sarah Wendt	Ursula Johnson
Christina McRae	Juanita Peters	Scott Burke	Veronique MacKenzie
Dan Bray	Larry Steel	Scott Sharplin	Walter Ostrom
Daniel MacCormack	Lee-Anne Poole	Sébastien Labelle	Yi Lee
Daniel MacNeil	Lisa Lipton	Seth Smith	Zachary Barkhouse

Programs

Grants to Organizations and Small groups

The program 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. Applicants may submit one application per grant per deadline.

Application Date by: March 15 / October 15 (each year)

Annual Budget: \$354,229

Applications received: 129

Applications funded : 74

Grants to Individuals

The program 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. To encourage equitable distribution of funds, artists can only receive one Creation Grant in a 12-month period.

Application Date by: May 15 / December 15 (each year)

Annual Budget: \$626,519

Applications received: 449

Applications funded : 126

Operating Assistance to Arts Organizations

The program is designed to enhance stability within established professional arts organizations that develop and sustain Nova Scotia's arts and culture community. 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 (each year)

Annual Budget: \$1,344,000

Applications received: 29

Applications funded : 27

Art Bank

Every year the Nova Scotia Art Bank adds to its collection through the Art Bank 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 (each year)

Annual Budget: \$41,390

Applications received: 101

Applications funded: 18

Artists in the Schools programs

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

The Nova Scotia Talent Trust

Arts Nova Scotia provides annual operating support to the Nova Scotia Talent Trust, a not-for-profit registered charity that 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

Arts Nova Scotia provides annual operating support to the Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia Masterworks Foundation to oversee and manage all aspects (nomination, application, jury process, promotion) 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

Prizes

Arts Nova Scotia is responsible for managing the jury processes and awarding the Established Artist Recognition Awards, the Community Arts and Culture Recognition Award, the Prix Grand Pré, and the Portia White Prize. This past year the Established Artist Recognition Award went to:

Barbara Pritchard
Susan Tooke
Suzanne Gauthier
Maria Osende
Shelley Thompson

The recipient of the Community Arts and Culture Recognition award went to:

Town of Antigonish

The recipient of the Prix Grand Pré was **Arthur Comeau (Alexandre Bilodeau)**.

The recipient of the Portia White Prize was **Walter Kemp**.

Mr. Kemp named **Opera Nova Scotia** as the recipient of the protégé award.

Arts Nova Scotia Support4Culture Programs

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

Arts Equity Funding Program

The Arts Equity Funding Program is a three-year pilot program jointly funded by Arts Nova Scotia and the Canada Council for the Arts that recognizes groups in the artistic community who have historically faced barriers to accessing funding support. Through a program of grants and capacity building activity, it is designed to serve professional artists who are Indigenous (Mi'kmaq as well as other First Nations, Metis and Inuit) culturally diverse (African-Nova Scotia and other visible minorities of African, Asian, Latin American, Middle Eastern and mixed racial descents) and artists who are Deaf, have disabilities or are living with mental illness.

Investment: \$150,000/year for three years.

Application Date by April 15 / September 15 (each year)

Applications received: 37

Applications funded: 17

artsVest

Arts Nova Scotia in partnership with Business for the Arts has introduced the artsVest program, which helps arts and culture organizations form sponsorship partnerships with the business community, by providing them with matching incentive funds, in-depth sponsorship training and community networking events.

Since the program launched in 2013, 54 organizations have developed 135 partnerships (91 were first time partners) raising more than \$479,000 in sponsorships.

Investment: \$100,000

Organizations: 34

Economic Impact: \$312,000

Atlantic Artist Residency Program

From 2014 to 2016 Arts Nova Scotia and the Atlantic Public Art Funders (APAF) partnered on an artist residency program. Artists from Nova Scotia could apply for a grant to cover a one-to-three month residency for a creation-based or professional development project in another Atlantic province. The exchange worked on a rotating basis. For 2014, Nova Scotia artists applied for residency opportunities in New Brunswick and New Brunswick artists applied for residency opportunities in Nova Scotia. In 2015 the exchange was with Prince Edward Island. In 2016 (the final year of the project) the exchange was with Newfoundland and Labrador.

Investment: \$6,426

Applications received: 6

Applications funded: 2

Artistic Innovation Program

As Arts Nova Scotia embarked on its program review of the operating grant program, the Artistic Innovation Program was designed as a short term plan to stimulate artistic excellence and start a new relationship between 26 core arts organizations and their publics. 16 of these clients can be categorized as artist-run organizations, while the other ten reflect a more traditional business structure. All of them depend on artistic excellence and audience engagement for success. Eligible organizations applied for one-time innovation grants with the requirement that the funds be used for growing opportunities for excellence in artistic development or for developing a new way to engage with their public.

Investment: \$84,000

Application Date by February 15 (each year)

Applications received: 17

Applications funded: 15

Creative Collaborations

The Creative Collaborations Program is an internal fund co-created by ANS in partnership with the Support4Culture Initiative 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 the special interest for that year. For example the 2015-2016 year focused on first time funded applications and projects that took place outside of metropolitan Halifax. While artistic excellence is remains the core of peer assessed evaluation, this internal fund can be used to augment success rates in disciplines or regions or within identified communities.

Investment: \$227,300

Applications funded: 34