



# ARTS NOVA SCOTIA

Annual Report 2016-17

## **ARTS NOVA SCOTIA**

### **ANNUAL REPORT 2016-17**

For Arts Nova Scotia, the heart of creative expression is found through the work of the professional artist and arts organizations we aim to support. When the ecosystem changes, we pay attention to what is needed to thrive in such new conditions. This year saw the launch of a comprehensive new approach and structure at the Canada Council for the Arts that require renewed equity and audience outcomes by Nova Scotian artists and organizations, as well as striking new professional opportunities for artistic work in the digital environment. Joining several other provincial and territorial counterparts, the Government of Nova Scotia introduced its first Culture Action Plan in early 2017, after two years of consultation, including with Arts Nova Scotia. The CAP is a comprehensive strategy focused on celebrating and sharing our culture, our creative sector, and our diverse communities, through cross-cutting initiatives that can break down silos in government policy, regulation and budgeting and activity. In many ways, the launch of both the new structure at Canada Council and the provincial plan indicates a growing awareness of the importance of arts and culture in a 21<sup>st</sup> century society. While there are six organizing principles for Canada Council and, similarly, six main themes to the Culture Action Plan, the heart of each is about how to generate creativity and innovation in our communities, in how we see our worlds, and in how we express ourselves. It is through our artists and arts organizations that Arts Nova Scotia can envision success for the ambitious goals of the provincial Culture Action Plan as well as the restructuring of Canada Council, and ultimately for the betterment of all Nova Scotians.

This past year, our staff, board and committees worked on a number of exciting initiatives that had great impact both internally and externally. We successfully launched a new program for Nova Scotia Publishers that provides support for innovative author-centred projects for the enhancement of the literary arts. We have laid the groundwork for the evolution of our responsive Arts Equity program that will see the elimination of application deadlines this year. And we are working with our Atlantic Partners on the third Atlantic Indigenous Artist Symposium (Petapan 3) with a goal of establishing an Atlantic Indigenous Artist Service Organization. And we refreshed the considerable day-to-day work that is required to sustain the Nova Scotia culture sector. Within our organization alone, for example, we continue to manage hundreds of applications to our existing funding programs, supporting artists and art organizations who create works for the people of Nova Scotia as well as people around the world.

This year we continued raise the profile of artists in Nova Scotia through the Creative Nova Scotia Awards Gala as a premier national event that celebrates high achievement. The gala is one of several joint committees and strategic initiatives with the Creative Nova Scotia Leadership Council (CNSLC), while others involve ways to activate Status of the Artist legislation and ground-breaking arts investment strategies. We continue to maintain strong communication networks with federal, provincial and municipal funders, including the Canadian Public Arts Funders, the Cultural Human Resources Council, and our Atlantic regional 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, committee work and through their presence at events across the province and internationally is essential to our success. We thank our continuing Board members: Cory Bowles, Jack Chen, Peter Dykhuis, Addy Doucette, Shauntay Grant, Mhiran Faraday, Ashley McKenzie and Shalan Joudry for their work and commitment. We extend a special thanks to departing Board members Susan Hanrahan and Michel de Noncourt. Both Susan and Michel were members of the first Board of Directors. Michel has served on several key committees and was instrumental in the creation of the Arts Nova Scotia website. Susan has distinguished herself as Chair of the Governance Committee and her leadership was central to the establishment of a comprehensive matrix and professional practices for our Board recruitment requirements and for the Arts Nova Scotia code of conduct policy.

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 were also very happy to welcome Mireille Bourgeois and, subsequently, Lauren Williams to the team this year bringing a wealth of expertise to our Art Bank Program and our outreach activities. We thank Laura Patrick, 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 Culture and Heritage Development Program Director Craig Beaton, Director of Events Stacey Jones-Oxner, 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's Kelliann Dean and Tracey Taweel, 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

## Table of Contents

<b>ARTS NOVA SCOTIA</b> .....	<b>1</b>
ANNUAL REPORT 2016-17 .....	1
MISSION.....	4
BOARD MEMBERS 2016-17.....	5
STAFF.....	5
FINANCIALS.....	6
ARTS NOVA SCOTIA BOARD OF DIRECTORS: COMMITTEES .....	7
<i>Governance Committee</i> .....	7
<i>Program Committee</i> .....	8
<i>External Relations and Communications Committee</i> .....	9
<i>Creative Nova Scotia Gala Committee</i> .....	11
<i>Status of the Artist Committee</i> .....	12
<i>Arts Investment Committee</i> .....	12
HOW WE MAKE FUNDING DECISIONS FOR PROGRAMS .....	14
PROGRAMS .....	15
<i>Grants to Organizations and Small groups</i> .....	15
<i>Grants to Individuals</i> .....	15
<i>Project Grants for Publishers (New)</i> .....	15
<i>Operating Assistance to Arts Organizations</i> .....	15
<i>Art Bank</i> .....	16
<i>Artists in the Schools programs</i> .....	16
<i>The Nova Scotia Talent Trust</i> .....	16
<i>The Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia Masterworks Award</i> .....	16
<i>Prizes</i> .....	16
ARTS NOVA SCOTIA SUPPORT4CULTURE PROGRAMS.....	17
<i>Arts Equity Funding Program</i> .....	17
<i>Artistic Innovation Program</i> .....	17
<i>Creative Collaborations</i> .....	17

## **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 2016-17**

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

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

**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.

**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.

**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 *Werewolf* garnered international attention and won awards at the Atlantic Film Festival and the Canadian Screen Awards.

## **Staff**

**Christopher Shore, Director**

**Peter Kirby, Program Officer**

**Enrique Ferreol, Program Officer**

**Mireille Bourgeois, Assistant Curator (Art Bank) and Outreach Officer (on leave)**

**Lauren Williams, Assistant Curator (Art Bank) and Outreach Officer (term)**

## Financials

<u>Programs</u>	<u>Grants/Awards</u>	<u>Program Costs</u>	<u>Total</u>
Grants to Organizations & Small Groups	\$354,000	\$8,191	\$362,191
Grants to Individuals	\$642,587	\$15,231	\$657,818
Operating Assistance to Arts Organizations	\$1,344,000	\$1,305	\$1,345,305
Project Grants for Publishing Program	\$150,000	\$883	\$150,883
Art Bank	\$39,589	\$752	\$40,341
Art Bank (Operations)		\$17,097	\$17,097
Artists in Schools	\$90,000		\$90,000
Portia White Prize	\$25,000	\$479	\$25,479
Grant Pré Prize	\$5,000	\$125	\$5,125
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
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$2,811,176</b>	<b>\$44,063</b>	<b>\$2,855,239</b>
<b><u>Support4Culture Programs</u></b>			
Arts Equity Program (includes \$75,000 from Canada Council for the Arts)	\$149,898		\$150,006
Artsvest	\$100,000		\$100,000
Artistic Innovation Program	\$84,000		\$84,000
Creative Collaborations Program	\$216,000		\$216,000
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$549,898</b>		<b>\$550,006</b>
Subtotal Grants/Awards & Program Costs	\$3,361,074	\$44,063	\$3,405,245
Salaries		\$284,527	\$284,527
Arts Nova Scotia Operations		\$28,416	\$28,416
<b>Total, Arts Nova Scotia</b>	<b>\$3,361,074</b>	<b>\$357,006</b>	<b>\$3,718,080</b>

## **Arts Nova Scotia Board of Directors: Committees**

### ***Governance Committee***

Members of the Governance Committee for the year 2016-17 included: Susan Hanrahan (Committee Chair), Michel de Noncourt, Cory Bowles, Shalan Joudry, Mary Elizabeth Luka (Arts Nova Scotia Board Chair and current Interim Committee Chair), and Christopher Shore (Director).

The Governance Committee is mandated to advise the Arts Nova Scotia Board on matters relating to the Board's governance structure and processes, and acts as the Nominating Committee in regard to evaluation of Board effectiveness, recruitment, education and evaluation of Board members. The Governance Committee ensures appropriate policies are in place so that Arts Nova Scotia follows ethical practice in management, administration, and program delivery. Membership on the Governance Committee is currently restricted to members of the Arts Nova Scotia 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.

The Governance Committee worked this past year to identify the demographic and skill requirements for the Arts Nova Scotia Board of Directors and to recruit new members to fulfil those requirements. 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 will 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 Order in Council (OIC) upon recommendation of the Minister, traditionally also based on recommendations by the Arts Nova Scotia Governance Committee. 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 Nova Scotia Board saw the departures of founding Board members Susan Hanrahan and Michel de Noncourt as of March 31, 2017. In addition we had three board members who were completing their terms of service. These three board members reoffered for a second term, which meant that we had to identify and recruit two new members for recommendation by the Arts Nova Scotia Governance Committee for Ministerial approvals. For the first time, Arts Nova Scotia actively sought public submissions of interest through a social media campaign as well as identifying specific potential candidates for recruitment who have already exhibited the skills and embodied the demographic mix required. The three reoffering board members and the two new candidates were submitted for consideration in the fall of 2016 and January of 2017 respectively. The following three existing board members reoffered for a second term:

- Peter Dykhuis (OIC appointment), is the Director/Curator of the Dalhousie Art Gallery and is also an internationally exhibiting visual artist and critical writer.
- Mhiran Farady (OIC appointment), is the Executive Director of Debut Atlantic and has previously worked with Symphony Nova Scotia and in the theatre sector.
- Ashley McKenzie (Ministerial Appointment), is a Nova Scotia filmmaker based in Sydney filmmaker whose film *Werewolf* has garnered international success.



Unfortunately, process at the Executive Council Office for vetting Board candidates under the Agencies, Boards and Commissions regulations was not completed until just prior to the launch of the provincial election. The election and subsequent short legislative session has meant that there has been a delay in the appointment of the two new members. Although we anticipate their appointment shortly, we look forward to working with the Minister and Deputy Minister of Communities, Culture and Heritage and other Nova Scotia Government officials as required to ensure that the appointment process can be completed in a more timely fashion in future.

The committee would particularly like to recognize outgoing Arts NS Board members Susan Hanrahan and Michel de Noncourt for their expertise and guidance. Susan and Michel were both on the founding board of Arts Nova Scotia and were instrumental the establishment of the organization and its continued growth. We are tremendously grateful for their contributions.

### ***Program Committee***

Members of the Program Committee for the year 2016-17 included: Mhiran Danson-Faraday (Chair), Ashley MacKenzie, Addy Doucette, Shalan Joudry, Jack Chen, Barbara Richman, (Past Chair & external member), Mary Elizabeth Luka (ex-officio) Christopher Shore (Director) and Peter Kirby (Program Officer).

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.

In 2016-17 the committee focused their work based on a committee work plan created in September. The group met a number of times throughout the year both in person and by phone, focusing on the following:

- The creation of a Concerned Status policy for the Operating Grants to Arts Organizations (<https://artsns.ca/grants-programs/grants/operating-grants-arts-organizations>) which formally provides process and guidelines for the Peer Assessment Committee with regards clients on or recommended for Concerned Status.
- The creation of a Project Grant for Publishers (<https://artsns.ca/grants-programs/grants/new-project-grants-publishing>). Staff worked tirelessly to create a program specific to the publishing industry that continues to reflect the values of Arts Nova Scotia. The inaugural deadline was January 15 and grants were processed, assessed, and awarded prior to end of the fiscal year. The deadline for 2017-18 is September 15, 2017.
- Staff undertook a review of all program guideline documents to ensure consistency in language and format resulting in clean, uniform documents for all ANS granting programs.
- Determined a course forward, revised priorities, and change of structure (year-round intake) for the Equity program given the reduced funds available with the non-continuation of the Canada Council in the program.

For the next year it is anticipated that the focus will be on:

- Completion of the Peer Assessment Handbook.
- Several topics for discussion and exploration including:
  - Communities Culture and Heritage's Cultural Innovation Fund
  - Process, policy, and vision surrounding clients on a Memorandum of Understanding
  - Art Bank Guidelines
  - Operating clients – feedback and outreach

The committee would like to thank Barbara Richman for her continued dedication and invaluable contributions as well as the Board of Directors for their insightful comments and guidance.

### ***External Relations and Communications Committee***

Members of the Creative NS Gala Committee for the year 2016-17 included: Peter Dykhuis (Chair), Cory Bowles, Michel de Noncourt, Mary Elizabeth Luka (ex officio), Ashley McKenzie, and Christopher Shore (ANS Director).

The 2016-2017 year was marked by a significant boost in the ability of the External Relations and Communications Committee (ERCC) to extend their outreach into the external community with the hiring of the first staff member with a role dedicated to outreach. Committee Chair Peter Dykhuis and committee members Cory Bowles, Michel de Noncourt, Ashley McKenzie, as well as ex-officio members Mary Elizabeth Luka (Board Chair) and Christopher Shore (ANS Director) were able to liaise with newly created Assistant Curator and Outreach Coordinator, initially Mireille Bourgeois (currently on leave), and subsequently, Lauren Williams (term), to establish areas for increased public outreach and engagement, particularly through the Nova Scotia Art Bank and the Arts Nova Scotia website and social media accounts.

A significant development in the 2016-2017 environment was the creation and launch of the Government of Nova Scotia's Culture Action Plan (CAP), which Arts Nova Scotia Board members had engaged with at a planning stage the previous year through "Culture Conversation" workshops. In fact, Arts Nova Scotia had at least one board member attend almost all of the workshops that were held across the province. The Premier officially launched the plan in February at an event that brought together external community members from across the province at an event at Pier 21. ANS had a strong presence at the event with staff and Board members in attendance. As well, there was a dedicated display area for the preview of the 2016 Art Bank acquisitions, which served as a backdrop for media interviews following the launch. ANS plans to continue engaging the arts community with the Culture Action Plan throughout 2017-2018 to ensure that the government is aware of artists' needs and how the CAP can be used to the benefit of all concerned.

With the hiring of a dedicated staff position, the Art Bank resumed operations at full capacity. Upwards of 50 installations and deinstallations were completed across the province. With many installations requiring preliminary or follow up site visits, ANS is frequently a visible presence in many government buildings. There continues to be a healthy interest in the program across government departments, resulting in a waiting list that staff dedicates ongoing time to addressing. The Art Bank program is a cornerstone of the ANS outreach strategy as it creates awareness of contemporary artists living in Nova Scotia by featuring their artwork prominently throughout government offices and agencies at all levels, reaching diverse members of the public as well as politicians, civil servants and service providers.

This year marked a significant increase in social media reach for Arts NS. In addition to reminding the community of upcoming awards deadlines, social media has allowed ANS to feature funded projects as well as take part in discussion of the art world-at-large. Facebook followers increased by 55% from 820 to 1272 with significant increases during a 1000-follower goal campaign and coverage leading up to the Creative Nova Scotia Awards Gala. There was an approximate increase of 41% in Twitter followers between September 2016 (when statistics were first recorded) and March 2017, bringing the total from 364 to 613. This was the first year that ANS used Instagram, with approximately 350 followers at the end of the reporting period. ANS has used Instagram to highlight more informal “behind-the-scenes” content, particularly in regard to Art Bank operations. Best practices are employed with social media, including retweeting and sharing the social media outputs of other arts councils, related research, artists and arts organizations.

ANS worked in collaboration with Communications Nova Scotia to expand the audience of the November 2016 Creative Nova Scotia Awards gala by including online viewers. A moment of measured success with ANS social media was the livestreaming of the winners of the Lieutenant Governor’s Masterworks Award and the Portia White Prize on the ANS Facebook page and the Government of Nova Scotia Facebook page. Overall, 4,880 people were reached on the ANS page and 3,499 people on the NS Government page for a total of 1600 views.

The ANS website functions as the most reliable source for up-to-date information on ANS programs. The new staff position allows for the maintenance of consistent information across all pages and a quick turnaround on the creation and modification of content. The front page of the website can be quickly changed to include banner images of upcoming deadlines or recent events. To broaden awareness of the diversity and breadth of funded applications, a section was created to list and congratulate successful applications..

Arts Nova Scotia continues to maintain positive relationships with sister arts councils through the Director’s leadership in the Atlantic Public Arts Funders (APAF) group and the participation of the Board Chair and the Director’s leadership role at Canadian Public Arts Funders (CPAF). Moreover, ANS board members and staff remain in close contact with Canada Council for the Arts. In September, Board members and staff met with Director and CEO Simon Brault and his staff for a discussion of council’s new funding model while he was in Halifax as the keynote speaker at the Prismatic Arts Festival.

Although it is difficult to account for every event attended in the past year by the Chair, Director and Board members as representatives of ANS, a rough tally yields a minimum of at least 200 occasions when someone affiliated with ANS was present at local, national and international cultural events.

Overall, 2016-2017 was a year of growth in ANS outreach capacity. The ERCC would like to recognize the outstanding work of Mireille Bourgeois as the first Assistant Curator and Outreach Coordinator for ANS and of Lauren Williams while Mireille has been on maternity leave. The ERCC looks forward to building upon this momentum in the upcoming year to expand and develop opportunities for increased outreach, engagement and discussion throughout the Government of Nova Scotia and the Nova Scotian arts community at large.

### ***Creative Nova Scotia Gala Committee***

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

Members of the Creative NS Gala Committee for the year 2016-17 included: Susan Tooke (CNSLC), Troy Greencorn (CNSLC), Rose Zack (CNSLC), Mhiran Faraday (Arts NS), Cory Bowles (Arts NS), Christopher Shore (Arts NS Director). The committee also included Kate Kawalchuk, an outside member of the cultural community, recruited for her event management expertise.

The Creative Nova Scotia Gala is managed by Arts Nova Scotia with the help of the Creative Nova Scotia Gala Committee. 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.

The 2016 Creative Nova Scotia Awards Gala - RESPONSE TIME – brought together a diverse group of curators who helped Artistic Director Ken Schwartz select peers to artistically respond to the body of work created by the award winners. The curatorial team was Alan Syliboy, Ian Funke-McKay, Shelley Fashan, David Clark, Sue Goyette and Sara Hartland-Rowe. Artistic Director Ken Schwartz then chose his responders and provided them with the background of the artist to whom they would respond. The result was 90 minutes of amazing visual, poetic, and performance based responses. In keeping with the theme, the responders were not part of the printed program, but instead a web link of their biographies went live post-event. The response team included Dustin Harvey, Paula Rockwell, Gillian Clark, Shauntay Grant, Sara Coffin, MAJE, and Shalan Joudrey.

The artistic responses celebrated the original creations and created new ones that paid tribute in the form of inspiration and creation. Award winners were honoured by the response concept. A benefit of this year's event was the network that was created between the artists involved, building an immediate legacy for those who participated and attended. Presentations were made this year in French, English with Mi'kmaq spoken as well.

An increased presence on social media and additional attention to the corresponding websites resulted from the ongoing work of newly appointed Arts Nova Scotia outreach officer, Lauren Williams, as well as contributions by volunteers and other staff. The involvement of staff from Communications Nova Scotia (CNS) allowed for a streamlined approach to communication and promotion, consistent with government priorities and the overall goals of the Gala itself. For example, CNS created a video of the event, which shared the awards experience with people unable to attend at the venue (6400 views). Primary channels for promotion of the event included the Arts Nova Scotia ([www.artsns.ca](http://www.artsns.ca)) and Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage (<https://cch.novascotia.ca/>) websites, Twitter feeds, Instagram accounts, and Facebook pages. For the first time, the awards portion of the event was posted on Facebook Live, which was very well-received reaching over 8300 people.

More than 220 people attended the event, held at the Halifax Central Library for the second year in a row, and feedback about the event was positive. The increased social media presence, including the creation and circulation of the video, and mobilizing traditional publicity on social media have raised the event's profile, with over 250,000 impressions across all platforms.

### ***Status of the Artist Committee***

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

Members of the Status of the Artist Committee for the year 2016-17 included: Susan Tooke (CNSLC-Chair), Laurie Dalton (CNSLC), Peter Dykhuis (Arts NS), Susan Hanrahan (Arts NS), Christopher Shore (Arts NS). The committee is thankful for the expertise and assistance provided by outside community volunteer Dary Jessome, legal counsel for Emera Energy, who joined the committee, adding legal expertise to the group.

Members of the Status of the Artist joint committee of Arts Nova Scotia and Creative Nova Scotia Leadership Council work to advance the *Status of the Artist Act*. The 2012 *Act* acknowledges “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 recognizes “the indispensable role in fostering and nurturing a healthy and vibrant artistic culture.”

#### **Health and Safety:**

As many artists have studios in or attached to their homes, it is important to examine ways to protect the health and safety of the artist and their households. Artists are often self-employed with limited access to social safety nets. In the upcoming year the committee looks to build relationships with health and safety experts in order to best address related issues.

#### ***Artists Municipal Tax Exemption Act: An Act to Exempt Artists from Business Occupancy Tax and Commercial Property Tax:***

The Committee has identified tax exemption for artists for further study and recommendations. Whereas Provincial legislation provides for Municipalities to extend tax exemptions to artists the committee looks to identify what municipalities have made use of the *Artists Municipal Tax Exemption Act*, and speak to other municipalities about the *Act* and its implementation.

#### **Zoning By-laws and the Arts:**

Artists are taxed as businesses in Halifax and other municipalities in Nova Scotia. As such, application of zoning regulation for businesses could prevent artists from home-studios and activities conducted in residential settings. As many artists cannot afford a separate studio for creation of the work this issue is of concern to the committee. The committee looks to continue to discuss this issue with advocates of artist friendly zoning, affected artists and regulators.

With the release of the Culture Action Plan as well the development of Status of the Artist Legislation in a number of other provinces in Canada, the committee anticipates the investigating potential new amendments that might make the legislation even stronger.

### ***Arts Investment Committee***

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

Members of the Program Committee for the year 2016-17 included: Mary Elizabeth Luka (Committee Chair), 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 three potential mechanisms for investing in the cultural sector by making use of the funds held in an endowment trust at the province for the support of professional artists and arts organizations. One mechanism included micro-loans for artists, comprised of low or no interest repayable loans for materials or small equipment (typically less than \$5,000). Another comprised art purchase loans, which would provide interest free loans to residents of Nova Scotia who wished to purchase works of art. Lastly, a crowdfunding infrastructure was researched, which would incorporate a website featuring a carefully selected number of adjudicated Nova Scotia arts and culture projects.

In addition, over the last five years, various approaches to growing the existing arts endowment fund have been investigated thoroughly, with the goal of incentivizing endowment donations to cultural organizations. While still using the current administrative structure, composed of supervision by the Arts Nova Scotia Director and the use of the Province of Nova Scotia's investment management best practices, it had been hoped that the endowment fund would become jointly held with cultural organizations (rather than simply provincially-held). The mechanism would be built through an investment program where cultural organizations could solicit matching donations up to a certain level, leverage other government endowment funding programs, and pool their funding in the existing endowment fund. Unfortunately, there is little interest from matching private donors or other government levels, nor is there a current capacity among the group of organizations that could benefit most to focus on endowment fundraising.

With the creation and release of the Province's Culture Action Plan the committee is re-evaluating its plans and initiatives. The committee will engage the cultural community to explore ways to develop mechanisms that align with opportunities presented by the Culture Action Plan.

## **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, Project Grants for Publishers, 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 2016-17:

Alex McLean	Eluned Jones	Kerry Kavalo	Raoul Manuel Schnell
Alexander MacLeod	Erinn Beth Langille	Koumbie Traore-	Rebecca Rose
Alexis Cormier	Fenn Martin	Thomason	Rebecca Silver Slaytor
Amanda Rhodenizer	Francois Gaudet	Kye-Yeon Son	Robin Metcalfe
Amy Melmock	Gloria Wesley	Laura Forrester	Sarah Maloney
Andrew McLaren	Hannah Guinan	Leslie Lowe	Seth Smith
Arthur Bull	Jacinte Armstrong	Margaret Legere	Shehab Illyas
Becka Barker	Jack Wong	Maria Osende	Simon Docking
Belinda Ferguson	Jacques Mindreau	Mark Adams	Solomon Nagler
Carole Langille	Jaime Forsythe	Martha Cooley	Steven Naylor
Charles Doucette	Jan Peacock	Martine Durier-Copp	Suzanne Gauthier
Claire Mallin	Janice Leonard	Mary-Colin Chisholm	Tara Reddick
Daniel Boos	Jim MacSwain	Melanie Colosimo	Theo Pitsiavas
David Diviney	Joanne Miller	Mitchell Wiebe	Tim Callahan-Cross
Dawn Shepherd	Jordan Farmer	Natasha MacLellan	Timothy Crofts
Don Brownrigg	Karen Valanne	Nate Crawford	Veronique MacKenzie
Donald Sedgewick	Kathryn MacLellan	Paul Emile Comeau	Wesley Colford
Elizabeth Eves	Ken Shorley	Peter Togni	Winston DeGiobbi

## **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: \$354,000

Applications received: 126

Applications funded: 60

### ***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 / November 15 (each year)

Annual budget: \$642,587

Applications received: 459

Applications funded : 110

### ***Project Grants for Publishers (New)***

The Project Grants for Publishing Program is 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: January 15

Annual budget: \$150,000

Applications received: 22

Applications funded: 17

### ***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: 27

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: \$40,000

Applications received: 105

Applications funded: 16

### ***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:

**Bonnie Baker**

**Christian Murray**

**Jacinte Armstrong**

**Francois Gaudet**

**Mark Hopkins**

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

**Town of Lunenburg**

The recipient of the Prix Grand Pré was **Fabien Melanson**

The recipient of the Portia White Prize was **Gerry Granelli**.

Mr. Granelli named **1313 Music Association** 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 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: 48

Applications funded: 21

### ***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, 84 organizations have developed 197 partnerships raising more than \$748,000 in sponsorships.

Investment: \$100,000

Organizations: 30

Value of sponsorships developed: \$267,594

### ***Artistic Innovation Program***

When Arts Nova Scotia embarked on its review of the operating grant program, the Artistic Innovation Program was implemented as a short-term plan to stimulate artistic excellence and start a new relationship between 26 core arts organizations and their publics. Of these, 16 clients operate as artist-run organizations, while the other ten reflect a more traditional business structure. Each depends on artistic excellence and audience engagement for success. Eligible organizations apply for one-time innovation grants by articulating how they will grow 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: 16

Applications funded: 14

### ***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 2016-2017 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: 33