

ARTS NOVA SCOTIA ANNUAL REPORT

2023-24



FRONT COVER:

Sorrel Van Allen, *Swarm*, 2022, 8 × 19 × 8 cm

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Core and Support4Culture

Land Acknowledgment

Arts Nova Scotia supports the arts across Mi'kma'ki, the unceded and unsurrendered, traditional territory of the Mi'kmaq people.

Arts Nova Scotia recognizes the Treaties of Peace and Friendship, and we aim to use them as a guide for our interactions with the land and with the people of this land as well to inform how we develop and implement our programs and policies.

Message from the Chair

Arts NS had something important to celebrate this past year.



Following many years of community-based advocacy and extensive consultations, Arts Nova Scotia received a significant increase to its budgetary allocation to assist with a doubling of funding towards operating support for organizations.

This positive news came at a moment when Arts Nova Scotia was simultaneously re-envisioning how it supported organizations, revising its strategic directions and equity framework, and developing new programs which addressed some of the many changes that were being demanded by our community.

In the fall of 2023, we consulted extensively with the community—both existing clients and organizations who had the potential to receive support in the future—engaging in a conversation around what core support could and should look like in the future.

The feedback we received was thoughtful, detailed and the result of experiences both within and outside the existing program. This information, along with consultations with our colleagues across Turtle Island, has resulted in two new programs which have the potential to support many new organizations and, in the future, better respond to the changing artistic landscape of the province. Rather than simply reinforce the status quo, these new programs aim to plan for- and facilitate-change.

By the start of 2024, these new programs had their first intake of applications. No doubt we will learn a great deal from this initial process, and our programming will remain flexible enough to respond to improvements in the future.

I want to express, on behalf of the board of Arts Nova Scotia, deep appreciation for the work of staff on these new initiatives, including Senior Program Officer Lauren Williams and Director Briony Carros. It's an important moment in the history of funding for the arts in our province, and their leadership has been key in the success of these initiatives thus far.

I would also like to thank departing board member Melissa Labrador for all her hard work, insight and support during her time on the board of Arts Nova Scotia. Wela'lin Melissa.

And to the entire staff of Arts Nova Scotia, who work incredibly hard to ensure that the cultural life of Nova Scotia is a thriving and vibrant one, my profound thanks. Your efforts make a significant difference to so many people.

Wela'lioq!



Ken Schwartz, Chair



Hannah Epstein, *Sneak*, 2020, 96 × 89 cm

Director's Report

Briony Carros

This year has been one of significant growth, resilience, and creativity in our arts community. Despite the challenges posed in a post-pandemic climate, the dedication and innovation of our artists has persevered. This report aims to highlight our achievements, challenges faced, and the path forward as we continue to champion the arts in Nova Scotia.

In our tenth year, the government announced a doubling of our Operating Assistance support to organizations. This boost in funding provided a backdrop to conversations with community about the future of core support and how we could re-imagine this support in a more equitable and sustainable model. These sessions re-affirmed to us the impact to convene, discuss strategies and work together towards collective solutions. As well, we understand Arts Nova Scotia can take on an expanded role to support the creative community beyond funding.



These past few years, we have witnessed fast-paced growth of the sector. It is full of new ideas, voices and generations creating and presenting their work in Nova Scotia. This signals a bright light to the future of the arts, but one that also needs to be nourished and sustained. This growth has resulted in a record-high volume of applications. While we have been successful in re-directing funds to our highly subscribed grant programs, we continue to work on more permanent solutions.

For example, Support 4 Culture funding has been crucial to increase success rates for projects from first-time applicants and projects outside of the Halifax Regional Municipality. As well as securing additional funding to Arts Equity Program.

I would like to express my thanks to our Board of Directors, chaired by Ken Schwartz, whose collective knowledge provides a direct line into the pulse of the community. They represent different community voices providing unique insights and input to our programs and they are committed to do better for the artists in this province.

I am also incredibly grateful to my colleagues, the staff at Arts Nova Scotia, Enrique, David, and Lauren, for their collaboration and care of the artists and arts organizations. I'm thankful for their ability to work as a team to address issues and support each other. I would also like to thank the team at the Culture and Heritage Division for their partnership and support. And lastly, thanks to our Grants Management team, who supports many aspects of the lifecycle of our grants. The approach in our department has always been collaborative but there is an increased effort to pool our resources to ensure we are supporting the sector to the best of our abilities.



Takashi Hilferink, *Single Family Shack*, 2021, 91.5 × 122 cm

By the Numbers & the Process

1108 applications received	277 projects funded	79 peer assessors	23 peer assessment meetings	44 supported organizations
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15% increase in applications from 2022/23

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

2023-24 PAC Members

Adam Myatt	Jamie Kronick	Lorna Kirk	Peter Sarty	Riley Reign
Gracia Isabel Gómez Cantoya	Laura Caswell	Pamela Juárez	Tara Francis	Tori Flemming
Lance Simpson	Nick Dourado	Stephanie Yee	Christopher Webb	Erica Meus-Saunders
Nancy Oakley	Shauntay Grant	Carole Langille	Kate Grey	Kayza Degraff-Ford
Sara MacCulloch	Augusto Enriquez	Jennifer King	Mary-Colin Chisholm	Melinda Spooner
Aiden Gillis	Jay Dahl	Lydia Zimmer	Rebecca Wolfe	Robin Metcalfe
Induk Lee	Letitia Fraser	Patrick Wu	Tessa Mendel	Vivian Zhou
Lara Lewis	Nicola Davison	Steven Peters	Cooper Lee	Fabien Melanson
Natalie Abdou	Sonia Chow	Carrie Allison	Bombardier	Kiana Josette
Sarah Graham	Bailee Higgins	Juanita Peters	Kate Houston	Michael R. Denny
Andrew Quon	Jeff Miller	Mallory Amirault	Megan Matheson	Rooks Field-Green
Jaime Jacques	Lindsay Ruck	Peter Dykhuis	Richie Wilcox	Zoe Leger
Laura Carmichael	Odessa Spore	Sue Goyette	Timothy Crofts	Gillian Seaward-Boone
Natasha MacLellan	Stephanie Rybczyn	Cathy Porter	Donald MacLennan	Koumbie
Seán Maheux Galway	Ben Stone	Kamilah Apong	Kawama Kasutu	Nancy Kenny
Annie Valentina	Jenna Marks	Marissa Sean Cruz	Megan Wennberg	Sabine Fels

Featured Projects

Dalhousie Art Gallery *Indigenous Butterfly and Pollinator Garden: Bench Commission*

The Dalhousie Art Gallery commissioned James and Cheryl Walsh to create benches for the Butterfly Garden site on the Dalhousie Campus. The benches are constructed out of live-edge maple slabs and feature intricate wood-burned drawings by Cheryl Walsh of pollinators and native plants. English and Mi'kmaw words appear next to these depictions. Small objects including sea glass, porcupine quills, and dried flowers, are embedded with clear epoxy resin in the cracks of the slabs. A welcoming ceremony for the benches was included as part of Dalhousie's Mawio'mi events on the 18th of October. Mi'kmaq filmmaker Catherine Martin, Director of Indigenous Community Engagement at Dalhousie, led a group of children over to the Garden where she spoke about the benches, introduced the artists, and sang a welcoming song. The Garden was established in the Spring of 2021 as part of the exhibition "Plant Kingdom" curated by Frances Dorsey. At the centre is a glyph named "jiksituinen", which translates into English as "listen to us" and was designed by Mi'kmaw artist and scholar Michelle Sylliboy.



Catherine Martin leading a group of children through the garden for the welcoming ceremony. Photo courtesy of Dalhousie Art Gallery.

Miya Turnbull *Ladder*

The 20-minute dance performance project called *Ladder* is a collaboration between Turnbull (visual artist and mask maker), with assistance from Emiko Agatsuma (Butoh dancer, teacher and choreographer) and Hitoshi Sugiyama (musician specializing in Shinobue (Japanese flute), Taiko (drums) and electronic music). Turnbull combines mask making and performance along with Emiko's talents to create a dance piece. The resulting performance continues Turnbull's exploration of Japanese heritage, traditions and bridge a gap between cultures.



Images from the performance, *Ladder*.
Top left: Photo by Brent McCombs.
Top right and bottom: Photo by Dario Lozano-Thornton.

Wonder'neath Art Society *Sím Residency in Korpúlfsstaðir*

Melissa Marr (co-Director) travelled to Iceland to focus on screen printing research, development and its relationship with socially engaged practice. Marr participated in a group exhibit and gave a public artist talk alongside other international resident artists to local audiences.

The residency provided an opportunity to discuss respective organizational funding structures, development strategies and programming. She also visited Íslensk Grafík (The Icelandic Printmakers Association) to explore their equipment, systems and especially their screenprinting setup and exhibition space.



Left: Documentation of Rangárþing ytra (Southern Iceland) site specific performance in collaboration with Karen Stentaforð. Photo credit: K.Stentaforð.
Right: Melissa Marr, Griefworks, Print-based, mixed media exploration in April 2023.

SPOTLIGHT: Community Input

Peer Assessment Survey – April 2023 (78 responses)

Purpose:

To better understand the strengths of the process, as well as areas that may need improvement.

Key Findings:

While there were drawbacks identified to meeting online, 80% of respondent supported us continuing this practice. Advantages include: no travel/commute, assessors are comfortable in their own space; disadvantages include: No ability to socialise with other artists and too many online meetings.

Areas for improvement include: compensation, communication about how to become a peer assessor,

Overall, respondents agreed that the process is fair and unbiased and we should continue using as a decision-making tool.

Arts Equity Program Survey – March 2023 (78 responses)

The survey was sent to 161 people and organizations, comprising of all participants in the program from 2020 to 2023. The survey asked questions regarding demographic information, number of times applied and funded, knowledge of other Arts NS programs, and subjective questions about various aspects of the Arts Equity Program. This survey will help to inform our process when reviewing the Arts Equity program in 2025.

Highlights:

70% of respondents have been funded through the AEF	78% have applied to other funding program at Arts NS	68% have applied to other arts funding organizations	70% stated that the grant amounts offered were enough to fulfill their projects. However, the Special Travel grant should be increased.
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Other suggestions included funds to support research and exploratory projects and well as more supports for grant writing and a streamlined application.

Re-Envisioning Operating Assistance

The 2023-2024 provincial budget included a \$1.4 million increase to Arts Nova Scotia's budget for operating grants. With this increase, Arts Nova Scotia committed to reviewing the Operating Assistance to Arts Organizations fund to ensure it remains responsive to community needs and supports the long-term sustainability of the sector. Previously, the structure of the operating assistance program did not allow for meaningful changes in funding levels for established organizations or the welcoming of new and emerging organizations.

A public feedback survey was circulated throughout October 2023 and three targeted facilitated group discussions took place in November 2023. Six key themes that came out of those engagements, highlighting areas of community consensus and potential for change.

- **Access and Equity** - create a program that is open and accessible for new organizations.
- **Community and Collaboration** - incentivize mentorships and shared service models.
- **Funding and Distribution** - prioritize equity-deserving groups and support growth/increased costs.
- **Optimizing Processes** - accountability to be aligned with size and scope of organization. Streamline process through a digital portal and align with other funders.
- **Values and Evaluation** - new areas identified for assessment
- **Opportunities and other considerations** - how can Arts NS support organizations in their work beyond funding.



Rebecca Fisk, *Oreo Girl*, 2021, 101.5 × 76 cm

Full report can be found [here](#).

Climate Change And Environmental Sustainability Questionnaire

Purpose:

To understand what the current impacts of climate change are in the Nova Scotia arts sector, we developed a questionnaire in tandem with our Operate program application. The information will establish a baseline of understanding and guide how we may evaluate practices and create policy for the future. We received 44 responses.

Key Findings:

- **Extreme weather identified as major threat.**
- **There is work in progress.** 34 organizations identified tangible actions they are taking for environmental sustainability or mitigate the effects of climate change.
- **Over the next 2 years, 32 organizations said they were planning for action on sustainability or mitigating the effects of climate change.**
- **Supports are needed.** Funding, training and resource sharing.
- **Barriers to moving ahead include:** Funding/costs, engagement of community, capacity and expertise
- **How can Arts Nova Scotia help?** Act as intermediary with government supports, emergency/additional funds, facilitate information exchange between organizations, develop list of



Louis-Charles Dionne, *Manila Legal Folder (no. 6)*, 2020, 24 × 37.5 × 0.5 cm

Mi'kmaq Arts Program



Michelle Roy *L'Nu Prom Gowns*

Roy designed one-of-a-kind L'nu prom gowns. Her intention is to create formal wear not currently available at retailers for Indigenous youth to wear at the graduations, taking pride in their culture, tradition and histories. The designs feature Mi'kmaq petroglyphs embroidered onto the gowns as well each gown has a matching necklace and earring set.

shalan joudry (in collaboration with Sarah Prosper) – *Winter Moons*

Winter Moons is a story performance about L'nu women holding and taking care of a fire ember throughout a harsh winter, weaving in aspects of Mi'kmaq legends, culture and livelihoods pre- European contact. After an initial development and research phase, joudry created an hour-long cultural musical dance theatre piece crafted for fireside sharing in the round. The project gives embodiment, voice, and physical expression to our pre-European contact history.

"Winter moons is more than a creation of a show. It is the reclaiming of our L'nu women stories, generations of ceremony, and the continuation of life, from the givers of life. We tell a movement that is created by those women, who continue to fight for these ceremonies, that go through the harsh cold winters to come out with wisdom that is even seen in our dreams." – Sarah Prosper on Winter Moons



Photo credit: Dan Froese
Cultural guidance by Wapna'kikewi'skwaq
(Women of First Light).
Performed by Charlotte Bernard, Lara
Lewis, I'thandi Munro and Sarah Prosper.

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of Arts Nova Scotia oversees all aspects of the agency's programs and has responsibility for allocating the annual budget. The Board reports directly to the Minister of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage through meetings and through the presentation of the annual report. Members of the Board for 2023-2024 are as follows:

Trevor Gould, Paqtnkek Mi'kmaq Nation. For over 30 years, he has been traditional singer and dancer as well as a theatre playwright/performer. More recently, Trevor's artistic practice has expanded to include filmmaking. He created/directed the award-winning short film, *Apajsimik*.

Melissa Kearney, Sydney, CBRM, is the Programming Coordinator at Eltuek Arts Centre in Sydney, Unama'ki (Cape Breton Island). She received a BFA from NSCAD University in 2006 and remains a practicing artist.

Melissa Labrador (until January 2024), Wildcat Community, Queens County, is a Mi'kmaq Artist and Apprentice Birch Bark Canoe builder from the Wildcat Community (until January 2024)

Sarah O'Toole, Antigonish, Antigonish County, is a creative collaborator and community developer living in Antigonish with her spouse and three children. She works with community stakeholders to centre the role of artists and creative expression in community life.

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

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

Laura Teasdale, Antigonish, Antigonish County. Laura made her start with Theatre/Festival Antigonish then studied at Concordia in Montreal. She worked in Quebec for 27 years as a successful actor, musician, cartoon voice, playwright, director and clown before returning home in 2018 to be with her parents.

Staff

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

Briony Carros, Director

Enrique Ferreol, Senior Program Officer

Lauren Williams, Senior Program Officer

David Goudie, Program Officer

Cat Hutt, NS Art Bank Loans Coordinator (Contract)



Mike Kasongo, *Resilience*,
2021, 101.5 × 76 cm

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

Committed to fostering a culture of discovery and innovation within the arts.

Artistic practice

Supports freedom of expression and excellence in artistic practice and creative endeavor.

Equity

Ensures equity is a core value for Nova Scotia by embracing social, cultural and regional diversity.

Diversity

Encourages diversity of practice within and across art forms, at all stages of professional development.

Participation

Encourages access to and engagement with the arts for all Nova Scotians.

Advocacy

Advocates for greater support and resources for and with the arts community.

Partnership and collaboration

Engages in consultation and information sharing. We actively collaborate and partner with the arts community, our peers and the public.

Accountability and transparency

Open, fair and transparent. We make decisions grounded in best practices, peer assessment, and research, and manage our resources wisely and ethically.

Excellence

Provides the highest quality service in support of artistic excellence.

STRATEGIC ACTIONS 2023-24

Anti-Oppression

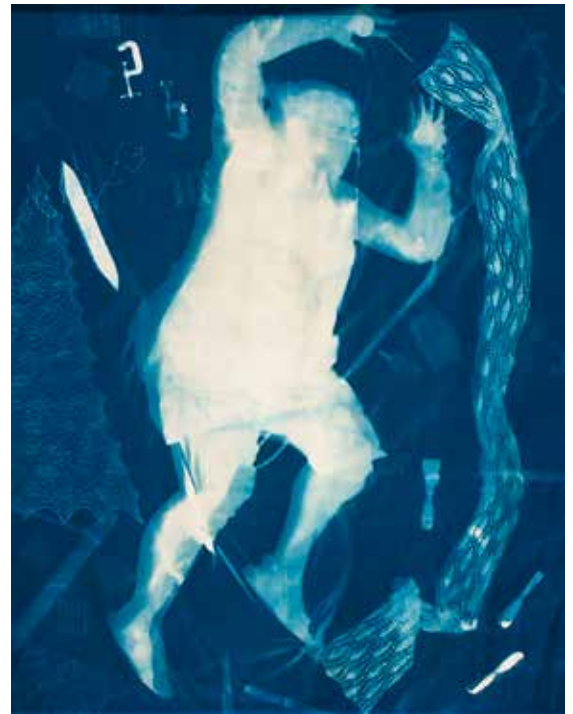
- Developed an Equity Framework, outlining the context and supports the application of equity. The framework will be reviewed by the Board on an annual basis to ensure it is achieving structural changes and stated outcomes.
- Incorporated new self ID forms across all programs to identify and designate funds to priority groups and artists.

Value of the Arts and the Artist

- Re-designed the Operating Assistance program to better reflect today's community and ways that organizations or groups work.
- Successful in doubling funding for the Operating Assistance program.
- Joined CADAC (Canadian Arts Database) to align ourselves with other arts funders in the collection of data and financial information. By participating in CADAC, Arts Nova Scotia can report on the health of Nova Scotian organizations and the impact of the arts in our communities. It also allows users to have access to their own historical data and comparative reports to similar organizations.

Climate Change and Sustainable Practices

- In tandem with our Operate program intake, we requested organizations fill out a questionnaire to understand what the current impacts of climate change are in the Nova Scotia arts sector. This information will provide a baseline to guide how we may evaluate practices and create policy for the future.
- We continue to work with national organizations such as Creative Green Tools and SCALE/LeSaut (Sectoral Climate Arts Leadership for the Emergency) to develop resources and collaborate on initiatives for the NS arts sector.
- We are working in collaboration with the Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage to advance actions to assist the sector in adapting and meeting climate mitigation goals.

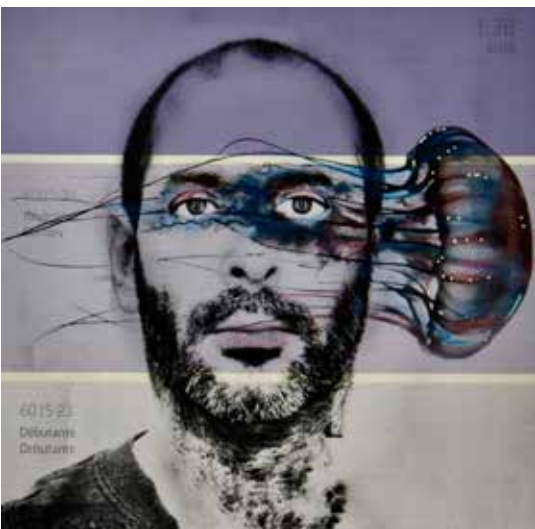


Bonnie Baker, *Knitter, Printmaker*
(*still, Standing, still*), 2021, 213 × 152.5 cm

2023 Nova Scotia Art Bank Acquisition

Since 1975 The Nova Scotia Art Bank Program has encouraged the development of artistic excellence, and stimulated awareness of visual arts and fine craft among Nova Scotians and visitors. This has been accomplished through the acquisition, development, maintenance and display of a working collection of professional, contemporary Nova Scotian art. Works are added to the collection annually through a peer selection jury, composed of established artists, who review all applications and select works to purchase based on artistic merit. The current acquisitions are on exhibition at the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia.

Artist	Title	Date	Dimensions	Medium
Bonnie Baker	Knitter, Printmaker (still, Standing, still)	2021	213 × 152.5 cm	Cyanotype on cotton sateen cloth
Hannah Epstein	Sneak	2020	96 × 89 cm	Acrylic, wool, burlap
Ruth Marsh	Gut Flora, 360 View 02	2022	76 × 135 cm	Metallic print
Sorrel Van Allen	Swarm	2022	8 × 19 × 8 cm	Recycled sterling silver, recycled 24 karat gold foil
Carrie Allison	Pleasure Moon Yellow I	2022	18 × 18 × 3 cm	Rabbit fur, Charlotte beads, wood
Cecil Day	Cranberries and Pitcher Plants	2020	54 × 74.5 cm	Etching on zinc plate
Francois Gaudet	Débutante - Debutante	2023	15 × 13 cm	Photography, colour pencil, laser print on paint chip
François Gaudet	Bel Canto	2023	15 × 13 cm	Photography, laser print on paint chip
Jessie Fraser	218 Windmill Road	2020	62 × 153 cm	Jacquard weaving, noil silk and cotton
Kaas Ghanie	Breathless Vase 2	2023	16 × 9.5 × 2 cm	Cone 04 ceramic
Louis-Charles Dionne	Manila Legal Folder (no. 6)	2020	24 x 37.5 x 0.5 cm	Spanish Crema Marfil marble
Luke Fair	A Sunset for Monet	2021	61 × 46 cm	Oil on mylar
Mike Kasongo	Resilience	2021	101.5 × 76 cm	Oil on canvas
Rebecca Fisk	Oreo Girl	2021	101.5 × 76 cm	Acrylic on canvas
Shauna MacLeod	Protection	2022	23.5 × 28 × 28 cm	Earthenware, glaze, porcupine quills
Steph Kincade	MicroWorlds 8	2021	25 × 25 cm	Cotton, glass, stone, aluminum, acrylic, jute and unknown materials
Takashi Hilferink	Single Family Shack	2021	91.5 × 122 cm	Ink, oil and silver leaf on canvas



TOP L to R: Jessie Fraser, 218
Windmill Road, 2020, 62 x 153 cm;
 Carrie Allison, *Pleasure Moon*
Yellow I, 2022, 18 x 18 x 3 cm

MIDDLE: Kaas Ghanie, *Breathless*
Vase 2, 2023, 16 x 9.5 x 2 cm

BOTTOM L to R: Francois Gaudet,
Débutante - Debutante, 2023,
 15 x 13 cm; François Gaudet,
Bel Canto, 2023, 15 x 13 cm

Creative Nova Scotia Awards 2023

The 2023 Creative Nova Scotia Awards was produced by live art company HEIST at Alderney Landing Theatre in Dartmouth, NS on the evening of Friday, November 3. The annual art party brought together and honoured artists from all over the province. The ceremony was co-hosted by dancers Sarah Prosper and Jordan Farmer.

Presented by Arts Nova Scotia and the Creative Nova Scotia Leadership Council, the Creative Nova Scotia Awards celebration is an annual event that celebrates excellence in artistic achievement, notably in the announcement of the major award, the Portia White Prize, along with the winners of the Creative Community Impact Award, the Prix Grand-Pré, the Established Artist, Emerging Artist, Black Artist and Indigenous Artist Recognition awards. Collectively, the awards are worth \$75,000.

Heist produced video profiles in partnership with Duane Jones (Art Pays Me podcast) and Keke Beatz for each award winner. Videos can be viewed on the [Arts Nova Scotia YouTube Channel](#).



2023 Creative Nova Scotia Award Winners. Photo: Kelly Clark

Awards/Prizes

Emerging Artist Recognition

Marissa Sean Cruz, Koumbie, Lydia Zimmer

Established Artist Recognition

Garry Williams, shalan joudrey

Indigenous Artist Recognition

Nancy Oakley

Black Artist Recognition

Jah'mila

Creative Community Impact Award

African Nova Scotian Music Association

Prix Grand-Pré

P'tit Belliveau

Portia White Prize

Juanita Peters

Protégé Prize

Andre Fenton



Top Left: Mo Phung and Mo Drescher installation. Bottom Left: Andre Fenton (Protege Prize) and Juanita Peters (Portia White Prize). Right: Nancy Oakley installation. Photos by Kelly Clark.

FINANCIAL

Financial Report

PROGRAMS	GRANTS/AWARDS	PROGRAM COSTS	TOTAL
Grants to Organizations & Groups	\$481,506.00	\$12,249.00	\$493,755.00
Grants to Individuals	\$894,708.72	\$36,966.00	\$931,674.72
Operating Assistance and One-Year Sustain	\$2,583,980.00	\$2,355.61	\$2,586,335.61
Artists in Communities	\$251,942.53	\$2,419.59	\$254,362.12
NS Art Bank			
Art Bank Purchase	\$28,637.00		\$28,637.00
Art Bank (Operations)		\$20,263.70	\$20,263.70
Prizes			
Arts Endowment Fund Awards	\$45,000.00		\$45,000.00
Portia White Prize	\$25,000.00	\$984.00	\$25,984.00
Grand Pré Prize	\$5,000.00		\$5,000.00
Annual Agreements			
Artists in Schools	\$105,000.00		\$105,000.00
Talent Trust	\$115,000.00		\$115,000.00
NSCAD Gordon Parsons Scholarship	\$1,000.00		\$1,000.00
Confederation Centre for the Arts	\$10,000.00		\$10,000.00
Sub-Total	\$4,546,774.25	\$75,237.90	\$4,622,012.15
SUPPORT4CULTURE PROGRAMS*			
Access Support Supplement	\$13,993.50		\$13,993.50
Artistic Innovation Program	\$79,000.00		\$79,000.00
Arts Equity / Mi'kmaq Arts Program	\$415,291.33		\$415,291.33
Creative Collaborations Program	\$264,870.84		\$264,870.84
Sub-Total Support4Culture	\$773,155.67		\$773,155.67
Sub-Total all Grants/Awards & Program Costs	\$5,319,929.92	\$75,237.90	\$5,395,167.82
PROGRAM COSTS			
Salaries and Benefits		\$424,551.44	\$424,551.44
Telecommunications		\$2,817.80	\$2,817.80
Arts Nova Scotia Operations		\$23,250.53	\$23,250.53
TOTAL – ARTS NOVA SCOTIA	\$5,319,929.92	\$525,857.67	\$5,845,787.59

General Travel	\$2,265.01
Out of Province	\$847.32
Mileage	\$519.80
Total Travel	\$3,632.13

PROGRAM SUMMARY

As the provincial funding agency, Arts Nova Scotia provides support to professional artists, arts organizations, arts education programs, and a several important arts awards and prizes. This significant investment in artists and cultural infrastructure encourages creative, healthy and prosperous communities across the region.

ARTISTS IN COMMUNITIES

Supports organizations, groups, and individuals to develop and carry out community-based arts projects. Communities can be geographically based (people who live in the same neighbourhood or region). They can be based on shared interests or a shared workplace. They can be based on a shared culture or a shared aspect of identity.

Application date: October 1/ March 1

Applications received: 56 | Applications funded: 20

GRANTS TO INDIVIDUALS

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

Application date: May 15 / November 15

Applications received: 606 | Applications funded: 116

GRANTS TO ORGANIZATIONS AND GROUPS

Supports artistic development through the production of a specific work or program for presentation to the public, the commissioning of new work and professional development for organizations.

Application date: March 15 / October 15

Applications received: 161 | Applications funded: 53

OPERATING ASSISTANCE FOR ARTS ORGANIZATIONS

Designed to enhance stability within established professional arts organizations Support is provided to organizations that produce or present artistic performances and events involving professional artists. Such organizations are fundamental to the vitality and long-term health of the arts and cultural life in Nova Scotia. In 2023-24, we also provided all supported organizations with a one-time top up to their annual funding.

Organizations supported: 27

ONE-YEAR SUSTAIN PROGRAM

Created in response to the increase to our budget for Operating Assistance, the one-year sustain program allowed organizations who were not currently receiving support to apply for operating funds in anticipation of a new program being launched in 2024.

Organizations supported: 17

NOVA SCOTIA ART BANK

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

Application date: February 15

Artworks submitted for purchase: 100

Number of works purchased: 18

ANNUAL INVESTMENTS

ARTISTS IN THE SCHOOLS

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

NOVA SCOTIA TALENT TRUST

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

SUPPORT4CULTURE

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

MI'KMAQ ARTS PROGRAM

The Mi'kmaq Arts Program supports the development and continuation of Mi'kmaq art forms in the territory of Mi'kma'ki (Nova Scotia). Arts Nova Scotia recognizes the specific needs and practices of the Mi'kmaq arts community and acknowledges a separate funding program is required.

Application date: September 15 | Applications received: 51
Applications funded: 20

ACCESS SUPPORT

Access Support is a supplement to a project grant that funds individual applicants who self-identify as Deaf, having disabilities or living with mental illness, as well as groups and organizations who want to increase the accessibility to their presentation/ production for audience and/or participants. This supplementary grant provides a contribution towards costs for specific services and supports required to carry out a project funded by Arts NS.

Applications funded: 8

ARTS EQUITY INITIATIVE

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

Application date: September/April 15 | Applications received: 106
Applications funded: 29

CREATIVE COLLABORATIONS

An internal fund that looks at underserved areas within its granting programs. The program is integrated into the peer assessment process for the grants to individuals and the grants to organizations and groups competitions based on strategic priorities identified by the Board. We continue to focus on first time funded applications and projects that take place outside of metropolitan Halifax. While artistic excellence remains the core of peer assessed evaluation, the fund can be used to augment success rates in disciplines or regions within identified communities. We were able to fund an additional 26 projects through this fund.

ARTISTIC INNOVATION

The Artistic Innovation Program is a project grant (up to \$7500) available to organizations receiving Operating Assistance to Arts Organizations in Group 2 and 3 to carry out new initiatives. It encouraged exploration, experimentation, adaptation, and the development of new ways of working that will help to foster resilience in the Nova Scotian artistic community.

Applications received: 14 | Applications funded: 11



Ruth Marsh, *Gut Flora, 360 View 02*, 2022, 76 × 135 cm

2023/24



Luke Fair, *A Sunset for Monet*, 2021, 61 × 46 cm



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