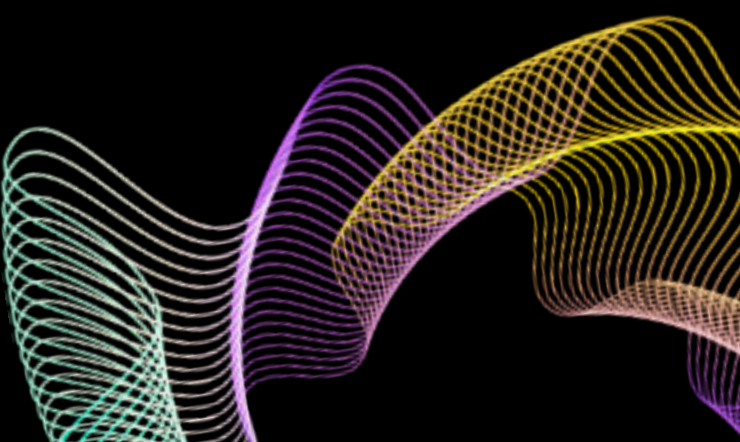


CREATIVE
NOVA SCOTIA
AWARDS —
2024



WE ARE IN MI'KMA'KI

Pier 21 is located in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People. This territory is covered by the "Treaties of Peace and Friendship" which Mi'kmaq, Wəlastəkwiyyik (Maliseet), and Passamaquoddy Peoples first signed with the British Crown in 1726. The treaties did not deal with surrender of lands and resources but in fact recognized Mi'kmaq and Wəlastəkwiyyik (Maliseet) title and established the rules for what was to be an ongoing relationship between nations. We want to acknowledge the people who were here before. And who are still here.



MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

On behalf of the Province of Nova Scotia, welcome to the 19th Annual Creative Nova Scotia Awards Celebration. These awards are a recognition of excellence and a celebration of our artists. We applaud the many and varied contributions of our artists whose talents add immeasurably to Nova Scotia's rich cultural heritage and its economic vitality. Thank you for inspiring future generations of artists and creators, ensuring arts and cultural activities thrive as our creative economy continues to grow.

Congratulations to all award recipients.

Sincerely,



Honourable Timothy Halman, M.L.A.
Minister of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage.



MESSAGE DU MINISTRE

Au nom de la Province de la Nouvelle-Écosse, je vous souhaite la bienvenue à la 19e célébration annuelle des Prix pour la création en Nouvelle-Écosse. Ces Prix reconnaissent l'excellence et célèbrent nos artistes. Nous applaudissons les contributions nombreuses et variées de nos artistes, dont le talent contribue grandement au riche patrimoine culturel et à la vitalité économique de la Nouvelle-Écosse. Merci d'inspirer les générations futures d'artistes et de créateurs, et de faire en sorte que les activités artistiques et culturelles florissent dans notre économie de la création en pleine croissance.

Félicitations à tous les lauréats et lauréates.

Recevez mes plus cordiales salutations.



L'honorable Timothy Halman, député
Le ministre des Communautés, de la Culture, du Tourisme et du Patrimoine

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRS

Welcome to the The 2024 Creative Nova Scotia Awards -
an evening to celebrate how artists in Mi'kma'ki /Nova Scotia inspire us,
challenge us, and enrich our lives in so many ways.

At a moment of genuine upheaval around the world, artists are simultaneously under threat and deeply important to the fabric of our society. The ability of the artist to approach and reveal the greater truth in any situation is an incredibly powerful tool, and one that can be threatening to those dedicated to maintaining the status quo. The capacity for art to bypass dangerous rhetoric and help us to imagine change—to feel hope for our future—is just one of the things we are celebrating tonight.

Those honoured this evening work in different disciplines and are sharing unique and individual perspectives with the world. Bringing them all together in one place tonight helps us to understand how inspiring the artistic ecosystem is in Nova Scotia—how all these individual journeys are woven together into something surprising, dynamic, and strong.

Congratulations to all of tonight's winners. Thank you for challenging us to see our history and our present more clearly, and for helping us to dream of a better future—as only an artist can do.

Ken Schwartz, Chair, Arts Nova Scotia
Craig Mercer, Chair, Creative NS Leadership Council

MESSAGE DES PRÉSIDENTS

Bienvenue aux Prix Creative Nova Scotia 2024 - une soirée pour célébrer la façon dont les artistes de Mi'kma'ki/Nouvelle-Écosse nous inspirent, nous mettent au défi et enrichissent nos vies de plusieurs façons.

À l'heure de véritables bouleversements à travers le monde, les artistes sont à la fois menacés et profondément importants pour le tissu social. La capacité de l'artiste à aborder et à révéler la vérité la plus profonde dans n'importe quelle situation est un outil incroyablement puissant, qui peut être à la fois menaçant pour ceux qui se consacrent au maintien du statu quo. La capacité de l'art à contourner les rhétoriques dangereuses et à nous aider à imaginer le changement - à ressentir de l'espoir pour notre avenir - n'est qu'une des choses que nous célébrons ce soir.

Les artistes honorés ce soir travaillent dans différentes disciplines et partagent avec le monde des points de vue uniques et individuels. Réunir tous ces artistes nous permet de comprendre l'inspiration qui anime l'écosystème artistique de la Nouvelle-Écosse. Nous voyons comment ces parcours individuels s'entremêlent pour donner naissance à quelque chose de surprenant, de dynamique et de puissant.

Félicitations à tous les gagnants de ce soir. Merci de nous avoir poussés à voir notre histoire et notre présent plus clairement, et de nous avoir aidés à rêver d'un avenir meilleur, comme seuls les artistes peuvent le faire.

Ken Schwartz, Président, Arts Nova Scotia
Craig Mercer, Président, Creative NS Leadership Council

ORDER OF CEREMONY

Introduction

Welcome - Aaron Prosper

Emerging Artist Recognition Awards

Performance - Jah'Mila

Prix Grand-Pré

Creative Community Impact Award

Black Artist Recognition Award

Established Artist Recognition Awards

Performance - Anna Quon

Indigenous Artist Recognition Award

Portia White Prize

Performance - Alan Syliboy

PRESHOW ARTIST SHOWCASE

IVAN FLORES - PRESHOW ARTIST



Ivan Flores (he/they) is an award-winning textiles artist whose work weaves together themes of identity and emotion, reflecting their journey as a queer, Afro-Latino, second-generation immigrant. Originally from Wawiiatanong (born in Dearborn, MI and raised in Windsor, ON), Ivan pursued his interest in textiles at NSCAD University in Kijipuktuk, earning a BFA in Textiles / Fashion. Now back in Wawiiatanong, Ivan's artistic exploration continues to be rooted in personal experiences that shape their perception of the spaces they find themselves in. Currently, he is an MFA Fiber candidate at Cranbrook Academy of Art. Ivan has employed processes of dyeing, silkscreen printing, sewing, embroidery, digital audio manipulation and sculpting in their work, but at the end of the day, Ivan just really loves weaving.

Photo credit: Wiebke Schroeder

LOU SHEPPARD - PRESHOW ARTIST



Lou Sheppard works in interdisciplinary audio, performance and installation based practices. Their work focuses on climate crisis, loss, queer bodies and ecologies, responding to the material and discursive histories of sites, bodies and environments. Lou has created commissioned works for galleries and sites across Canada, including The Banff Centre, at The Art Gallery of York University, The Confederation Centre for the Arts and the Toronto Biennial, as well as internationally, at Kumu Kunstmuuseum in Estonia, in the Antarctic Biennial, and at Titanik Gallery in Finland. Lou has participated in numerous residencies, including the International Studio Curatorial Program in Brooklyn, NY, La Cité des Arts in Paris, and as participant and faculty at The Banff Centre. He has been longlisted for the Sobey Art Award in 2018 and 2021, and was one of 25 winners in 2020. Lou is a settler on the traditional and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq in Mi'kma'ki/Nova Scotia.

Photo credit: Samson Learn

KRISTA-LEIGH DAVIS - PRESHOW ARTIST



Krista-Leigh Davis is a visual artist working in video, animation, and sculpture, living between Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in territory (Dawson City, Yukon) and K'jipuktuk (Halifax, Nova Scotia). Her practice is a space where dirt, bones, and jars of microscopic algal communities meet costumes, wigs, and jars of glass glitter. Where queerness, the Wild and relationships in the natural world guide artistic explorations. In this space, Davis hopes to uncover creative, even fantastical strategies to shift human and non-human relationships towards an ecologically just world. Davis' work has been exhibited at festivals and galleries internationally, including a recent solo show at The Blue Building, and a work featured on the National Arts Centre's Kipnes Lantern for Capital Pride, 2024.

Photo credit: Krista-Leigh Davis

ELLEN GIBLING - PRESHOW ARTIST



Ellen Gibling is a harpist based in K'jipuktuk/Halifax, Nova Scotia. She holds a BMus in classical harp performance from McGill University, and an MA in Irish traditional music performance from the University of Limerick. Her solo album *The Bend in the Light* (2022) has been described as "bold and beautiful" (Celtic Life International) and "enchancing" (Folk London). The album garnered Ellen nominations at the Canadian Folk Music Awards and the Music Nova Scotia Awards. As a classical harpist, Ellen has played with Symphony Nova Scotia and the National Youth Orchestra of Canada, and has premiered new chamber and orchestral works. As an improviser and traditional musician, she is a member of many ensembles, including New Hermitage, The Bombadils, The Heavy Blinkers, and Many Worlds. Ellen has taught at the Maritime Conservatory of Performing Arts, Acadia University, the Canadian International Summer Harp Institute, and the Huron Harp Festival.

Photo credit: Jamie Kronick

PRESHOW ARTIST SHOWCASE

PAULETTE MELANSON - PRESHOW ARTIST



Paulette Melanson is an abstract painter living in Lunenburg. She was born in the Acadian village of Scoudouc, NB and moved to Halifax in 1985 for work. She has taken courses at the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design and at the Montreal Visual Arts Centre where she painted under the guidance of Harold Klunder. Melanson holds degrees in science and education. Melanson describes her process as an unconscious exploration of materials that eventually emerges into themes. Throughout the process she remains completely detached from the outcome; an automatism type process that goes on for extended periods of time until she finds meaning in the layers of paint. Melanson has had numerous solo shows in Halifax, Truro and Lunenburg. Her work is in public collections: the Canadian Embassy in Paris, France and the Nova Scotia Art Bank as well as in private collections: Canada, USA, UK, Denmark and Taiwan.

Paulette Melanson est une peintre abstraite qui vit à Lunenburg. Elle est née dans le village acadien de Scoudouc, au Nouveau-Brunswick, et a déménagé à Halifax en 1985 pour son travail. Elle a suivi des cours au Nova Scotia College of Art and Design et au Centre des arts visuels de Montréal où elle a peint sous la direction de Harold Klunder. Melanson est titulaire de diplômes en sciences et en éducation. Melanson décrit son processus comme une exploration inconsciente des matériaux qui finit par déboucher sur des thèmes. Tout au long du processus, elle reste complètement détachée du résultat ; un processus de type automatisme qui se poursuit pendant de longues périodes jusqu'à ce qu'elle trouve un sens dans les couches de peinture. Melanson a présenté de nombreuses expositions individuelles à Halifax, Truro et Lunenburg. Ses œuvres font partie de collections publiques : l'ambassade du Canada à Paris, en France, et la Banque d'art de la Nouvelle-Écosse, ainsi que des collections privées : Canada, États-Unis, Royaume-Uni, Danemark et Taïwan.

Photo credit: Paulette Melanson

AWARD SHOW ARTISTS

JAH'MILA - HOST



Meet Jah'Mila, Juno-nominated reggae singer hailing from Kingston, Jamaica, who now calls Nova Scotia home. A beacon for Jamaican music and culture in Atlantic Canada, Jah'Mila's music embodies the spirit of traditional Jamaican roots reggae music, infused with light elements of jazz and soul. Her journey has led her to tour with renowned reggae acts like The Wailers, Black Uhuru, and Groundation to name a few. She has also collaborated with the National Arts Centre Orchestra, Toronto Symphony Orchestra and the Symphony Nova Scotia honing her skills as a vocalist and a cultural reggae ambassador along the way. Her Juno nominated debut album, "Roots Girl," released in 2022, is a spirited collection of reggae songs that not only honors her cultural roots, but also serves as a platform for social advocacy. Through her music, she champions a vision of a more inclusive, diverse, and supported arts community. With the unwavering support of her musical team, Jah'Mila stands poised to light up every stage, continuing to captivate hearts and share her music and culture all across the world!

Photo credit: Yvonne Stanley

ANNA QUON - AWARDS SHOW PERFORMER



Writer and emerging filmmaker Anna Quon has worked in the not-for-profit sector for more than two decades, except for several years as a freelance journalist. Mad, mixed-race and middle-aged, Anna has loved writing since she was a child, but depression, psychosis and perfectionism blocked her way for many years. In her mid 30's Anna began to create poetry again, which she self-published in a number of small chapbooks before writing a novel, a dream since her high school days. Her first traditionally-published poetry chapbook *Body Parts* was released in 2021 by Gaspereau Press and her latest novel *Where the Silver River Ends* found a home with Invisible Publishing in 2022, making a trilogy with her first two novels *Low* (2013) and *Migration Songs* (2009). Anna is the current Poet Laureate for Halifax.

Photo credit: Anna Quon

ALAN SYLIBOY - AWARDS SHOW PERFORMER



An established Mi'kmaq artist, Alan Syliboy's work is influenced by the indigenous Mi'kmaq rock drawing and quill weaving traditions. Working in acrylic and mixed media, Alan creates vibrantly coloured images exploring the themes of family, searching, spirituality, struggle, and strength. Alan Syliboy grew up believing that native art was generic. "As a youth, I found painting difficult and painful, because I was unsure of my identity." But his confidence grew in 1972 when he studied privately with Shirley Bear. He then attended the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, where 25 years later, he was invited to sit on the Board of Governors.

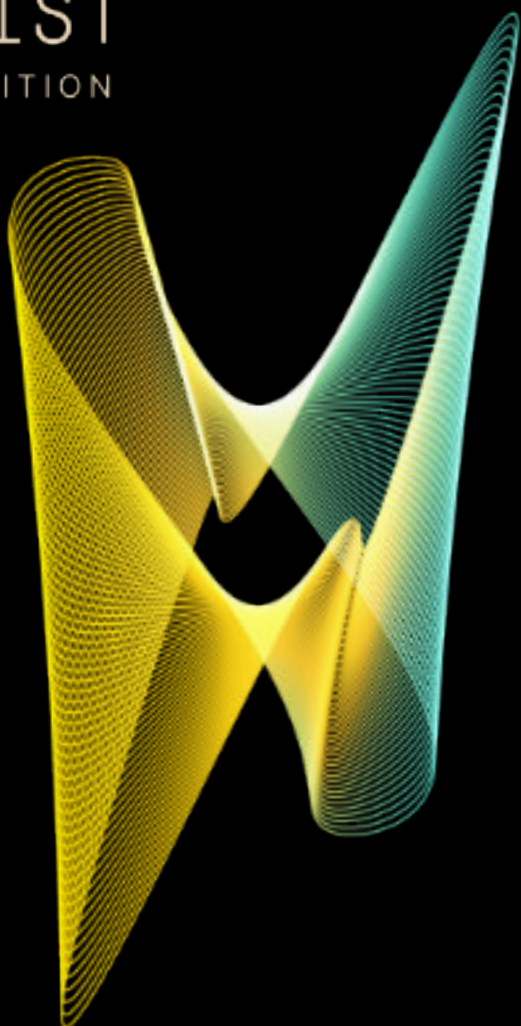
Syliboy looks to the indigenous Mi'kmaq petroglyph tradition for inspiration and develops his own artistic vocabulary out of those forms. His popularization of these symbolic icons has conferred on them a mainstream legitimacy that restores community pride in its Mi'kmaq heritage. Alan is also an acclaimed musician. Alan Syliboy and the Thundermakers are an award-winning Canadian Indigenous Rock and Spoken Word group out of Mi'kma'ki.

Blending genres from rock, jazz, improvised experimental, spoken word and ambient orchestral music, the Thundermakers maintain a foothold in the past, while always pushing towards a better future for Indigenous Peoples everywhere. Alan is the recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award from Nova Scotia Tourism, a Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal, and an Honorary Doctorate from STFX University. Alan still lives and works in Millbrook, NS, where he was born and raised. He creates his art in his studio in Truro, NS.

Photo credit: Alan Syliboy

EMERGING ARTIST

RECOGNITION
AWARD



The Emerging Artist Recognition Award recognizes artists of any age who are in the early stages of their professional career, have completed specialized training, and have presented their work publicly.

Recipients are chosen for their excellence in artistic achievement, momentum for the future, professional recognition, and provincial and national recognition.

The award carries a cash value of \$5,000.

EMERGING ARTIST

RECOGNITION
AWARD



JACK WONG

Jack Wong was born in Hong Kong and raised in Vancouver. In 2010, he left behind a life as a bridge engineer to pursue his Bachelor of Fine Arts at NSCAD University; he continues to live and work in Kjiipuktuk/Halifax. As a children's author/illustrator, Jack seeks to share his winding journey with young readers so that they may embrace the unique amalgams of experiences that make up their own lives. Jack's debut picture book, *When You Can Swim*, received a Boston Globe-Horn Book Award and a Governor General's Literary Award, and was a finalist for the Ezra Jack Keats Award. His second picture book, *The Words We Share*, received Atlantic Book Awards' Ann Connor Brimer Award and was shortlisted for the Ontario Library Association's Blue Spruce Award. His other titles include *All That Grows* (Groundwood Books), and forthcoming titles from Scholastic and Abrams Books for Young Readers.

Photo credit: Nicola Davison

EMERGING ARTIST

RECOGNITION
AWARD



KAASHIF GHANIE

Kaashif Ghanie, or Kaas, is a first-generation mixed Guyanese Canadian Muslim born in London, Ontario the traditional territory of the Anishinaabek, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak and Attawandaron nations. Ghanie is a Beal-art Alumni and completed a bachelor's degree in Ceramics and a Minor in Art History at NSCAD University in Kijipuktuk/Halifax in 2016. Post-graduating, he completed the Centre for Craft AIRCRAFT Residency (2017-2018), the CEEDS Business program (2019), CFAT Mentorship scholarship (2019-20) and Canadian Clay and Glass Gallery TD Residency (2024). These experiences have helped him launch his contemporary ceramic artistic practice and his co-owned and operated functional pottery business, KG Ceramics. Ghanie is one of the two ceramic artists working and operating in the ceramic studio at the Wonderneath Art Society in Kijipuktuk/Halifax.

Photo credit: Kate Grey

EMERGING ARTIST

RECOGNITION
AWARD

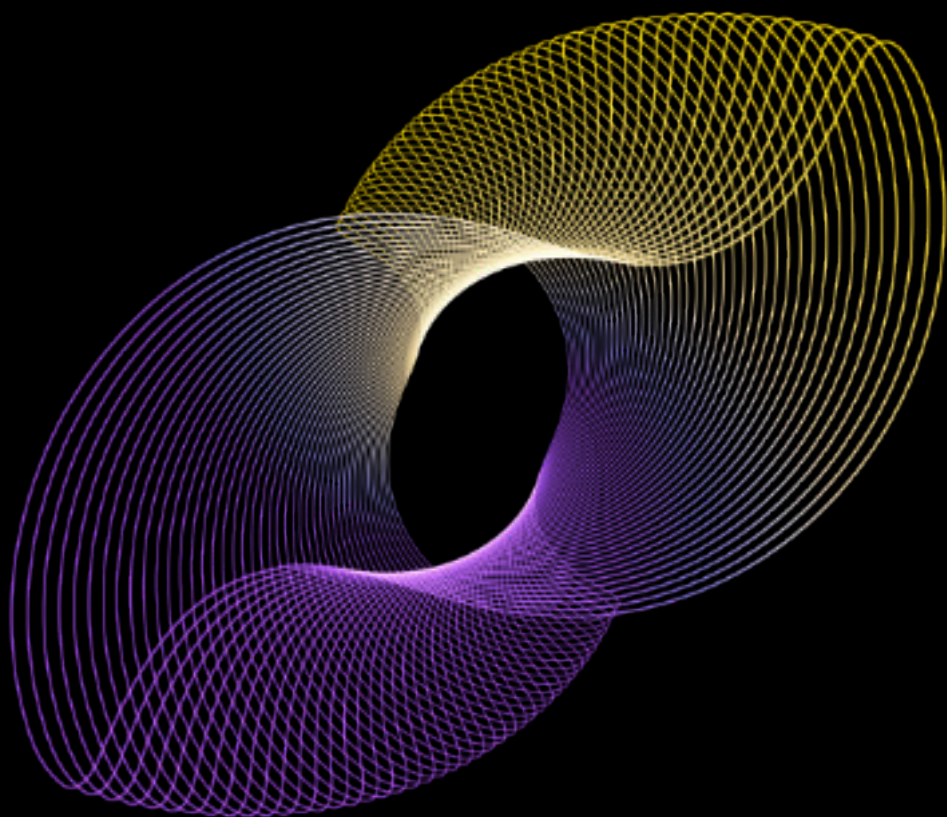


LUX GOW-HABRICH

Lux Gow-Habrich (星尘) is an interdisciplinary visual artist of mixed, second-generation Chinese and German heritage. They blend movement, craft and creative community practices to redefine our understanding of art and cultural praxis as sacred remedial forces that can deeply transform and mend. Lux's interest in the body as archive, cultural objects and commemorative practices weave together complex diasporic experiences of loss and belonging, and embodied hybridization in blood and spirit - to unearth individual and collective untold stories and unspoken legacies of disabled, queer grief and empowerment. Committed to developing inclusive creative platforms, and reimagining cultural futures, Lux's practice is an expression rooted in relational and access dreaming. She has participated in a variety of residencies focused on process and experimentation, collaborating with fibre and clay of the land to honour relationships with these ancient materials. They have exhibited work across Turtle Island and received numerous provincial and federal grants.

Photo credit: Kitt Neville

PRIX GRAND-PRÉ



The Prix Grand-Pré recognizes Nova Scotia's creative and interpretive artists working in any medium whose work reflects Acadian cultural values, while demonstrating excellence and originality. Each year an established creative or interpretive artist, or artistic group, working in any medium will be awarded a prize of \$5,000.



ROBERT DEVEAUX

Robert Deveau from St-Joseph-du-Moine is both a Cape Breton-style fiddler and a folklorist passionate about traditional Acadian songs.

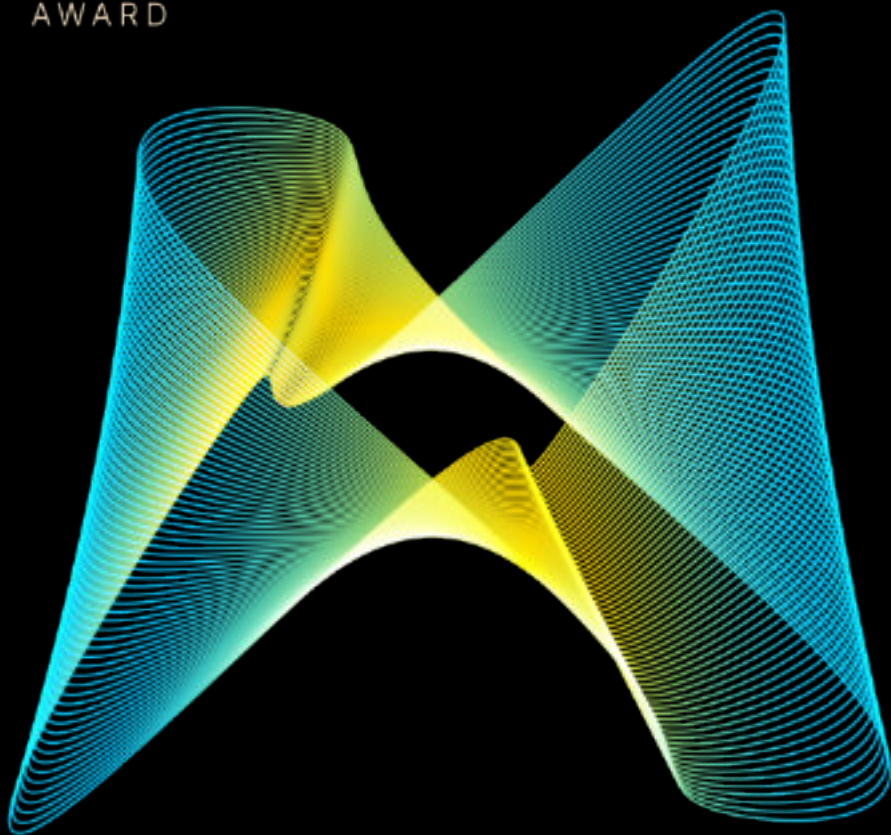
He played in Grand-Pré beginning with "Le Théâtre des Moineaux" in 1993, with "La Revue Musicale Acadienne" in 1998, at the commemoration ceremonies of the Order of the Deportation of September 5, 2010 and with "Les Zorvenants" at the celebrations of peace and friendship with the Mi'kmaq people in 2017 and again in July 2023 for a celebration of Acadian violin players for Journées Acadiennes de Grand-Pré. From 2005 to 2012 he was a part of the music program at the Fortress of Louisbourg National Historic Site performing 18th Century French music in period costume.

He has in his discography with the duo Boulerice-Demers from the Montreal region, namely "Art Populaire", an album with 11 old French songs dating back to the 18th century in a very traditional style, on musical instruments.

Photo credit: Corey Katz Photography

CREATIVE COMMUNITY IMPACT

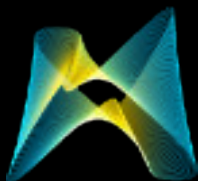
AWARD



Arts Nova Scotia and the Creative Nova Scotia Leadership Council recognize that artistic and cultural expression are fundamental to the collective well-being of Nova Scotians. Programs that encourage artistic and cultural development help to build creative communities that foster innovation, generate social change, and nurture cultural diversity. The Creative Community Impact Award recognizes an organization or program that has made a positive impact on a community through arts and culture. The award carries a cash value of \$10,000.

CREATIVE COMMUNITY IMPACT

AWARD



The Writers' Federation of Nova Scotia (WFNS) is an arts service organization founded on a collaborative philosophy: writers helping writers. This philosophy informs a complete cycle of development programming and a wide array of professional services that support the craft of writing, the business of being a writer, and the promotion of Nova Scotia writers as integral to the province's cultural life and creative economy.

WFNS has over 700 annual members, at all career stages, who are engaged in a diverse range of forms, genres, and writing practices. The mission of WFNS is to foster creative writing and the profession of writing in the Province of Nova Scotia; to provide advice and assistance to writers at all stages of their careers; to encourage greater public recognition of writers and their achievements; and to enhance the literary arts in our regional and national culture.

BLACK ARTIST

RECOGNITION
AWARD



The Black Artist Recognition Award recognizes artists who are members of the historical Black communities of Nova Scotia and the wider African Diaspora within the province, who have emerged from their initial training or gained experience to become recognized, established artists amongst their immediate communities and Nova Scotia. The award carries a cash value of \$5,000.



TARA LYNN TAYLOR



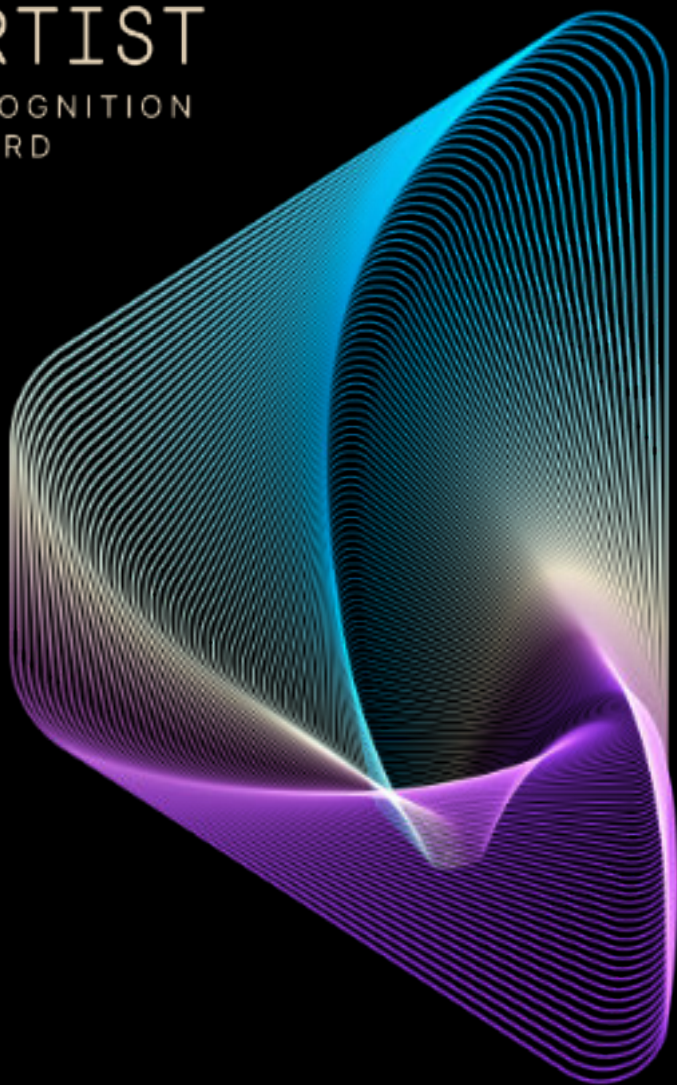
CBC Information Morning Cultural Columnist for the ArtnSoul Report; musical theatre Playwright/ Director / Animator / ACTRA Maritimes member/ Playwrights Guild of Canada Member; Talent Ambassador for the Healthy Tomorrow, Foundation; Owner - the Braiding Lounge Salon; Festival Director - Emerging Lens Cultural Film Festival; Chair - Union of Black Artists Society; PERFORM NS Member; Theatre NS member; Former Co-Chair - Women in Film & Television; Board Member - Black Women Film! Canada; Recipient of the ANSMA Industry Development Award for her body of work in presenting musical theatre and film; Original staged works, *Viola: the Musical*, *Hood Habits* and *Love, Peace and Hairgrease* co-produced with Eastern Front Theatre, nominated for Outstanding Production at the Robert Merritt Awards.

Tara has been recognized as one of the top Canadian English Theatre playwrights to watch in SHIFTER Magazine in the Innovators - Icons in 2022-2023 and the featured playwright of the month in the Playwright Guild of Canada's online publication in November 2023.

Photo credit: Matthew Dixon

ESTABLISHED ARTIST

RECOGNITION
AWARD



The Established Artist Recognition Award recognizes artists who have emerged from their initial training and development to become recognized, established artists in Nova Scotia. Recipients are chosen for their excellence in artistic achievement, momentum for the future, professional recognition, and provincial and national recognition. The award carries a cash value of \$5,000.

ESTABLISHED ARTIST

RECOGNITION
AWARD



TIM CROFTS

Tim Crofts is a creative artist, improviser, musician, and pianist located in Kijipuktuk, Halifax, Nova Scotia. A true 21st century pianist, Crofts is known for a unique sound and approach to the piano through the use of extended techniques, found objects, and piano preparations.

Tim specializes in creative improvisation and collaboration and has performed and recorded in a wide variety of improvised contexts with suddenlyLISTEN, Upstream, and Symphony Nova Scotia. These include the premiere of Tim Brady's Concerto for Improvised Piano, "If You Remove Me From the Hinge, We Can Swing Freely on the Breeze" for 7 pianos, and the upcoming release of "Flickering Cotillion" with Sam Shalabi and Norm Adams.

Crofts has also performed with Joe Maneri, George Elliott Clarke, Julian Priestler, Jerry Granelli, Gerry Hemingway, Susan Alcorn, and Lori Freedman. Tim has toured the country on multiple occasions as a soloist and in ensemble.

Photo credit: Tim Crofts

ESTABLISHED ARTIST

RECOGNITION
AWARD



SUSANNE CHUI

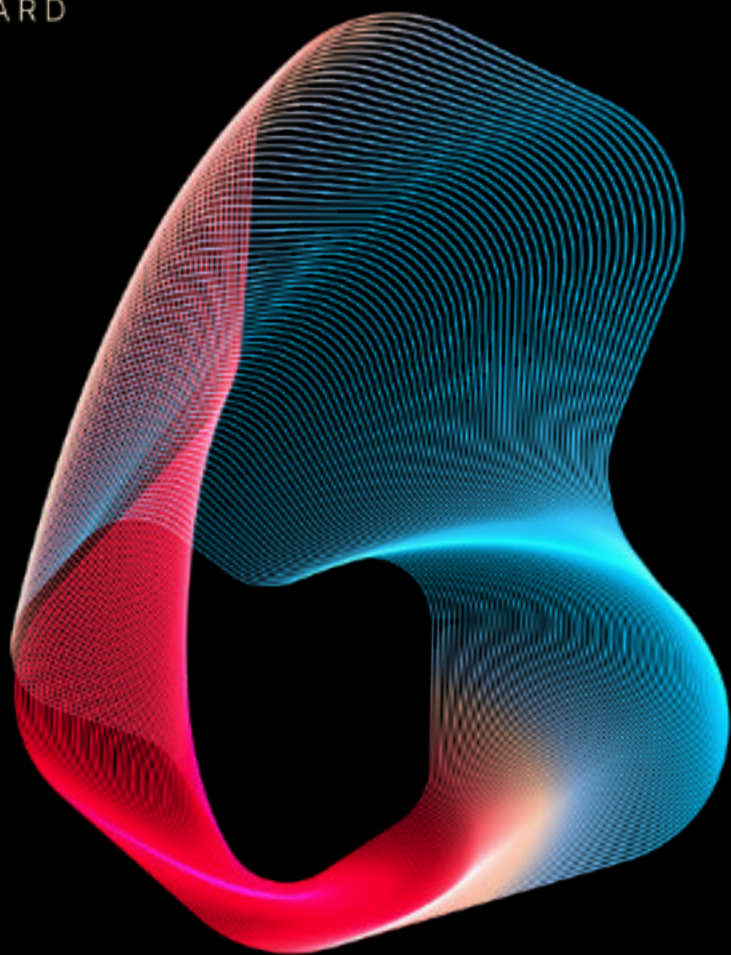
Susanne Chui is a mother of two, an award-winning dance artist, and Co-Artistic Director of Mocean Dance. Her artistic practice, rooted in sensing and responsiveness, draws inspiration from the world's aliveness and intrinsic creativity.

As a performer, Susanne has worked for over 25 choreographers from across the country, and her dancing in Mocean's *Canvas 5 x 5*, by Tedd Robinson, earned her the 2016 Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia's Masterworks Award. Susanne collaborates across disciplines, and she's a member of Becoming Old Growth collective with musician Erin Donovan and poet Basma Kavanagh. A passionate improviser, her practice is deeply influenced by working with the late Jerry Granelli for nearly a decade through the Creative Music Workshop, where she is a faculty member. Her most recent work, *Where Dance and Music Meet*, featured 19 performers in a dynamic play of spontaneous composition.

Photo credit: James MacLean

INDIGENOUS ARTIST

RECOGNITION
AWARD



The Indigenous Artist Recognition Award recognizes artists who are Indigenous (Mi'kmaq as well as other First Nations, Métis, and Inuit) who have emerged from their initial training and development and are active in the Nova Scotian/Mi'kma'ki arts community. The award carries a cash value of \$5,000.

INDIGENOUS ARTIST

RECOGNITION
AWARD



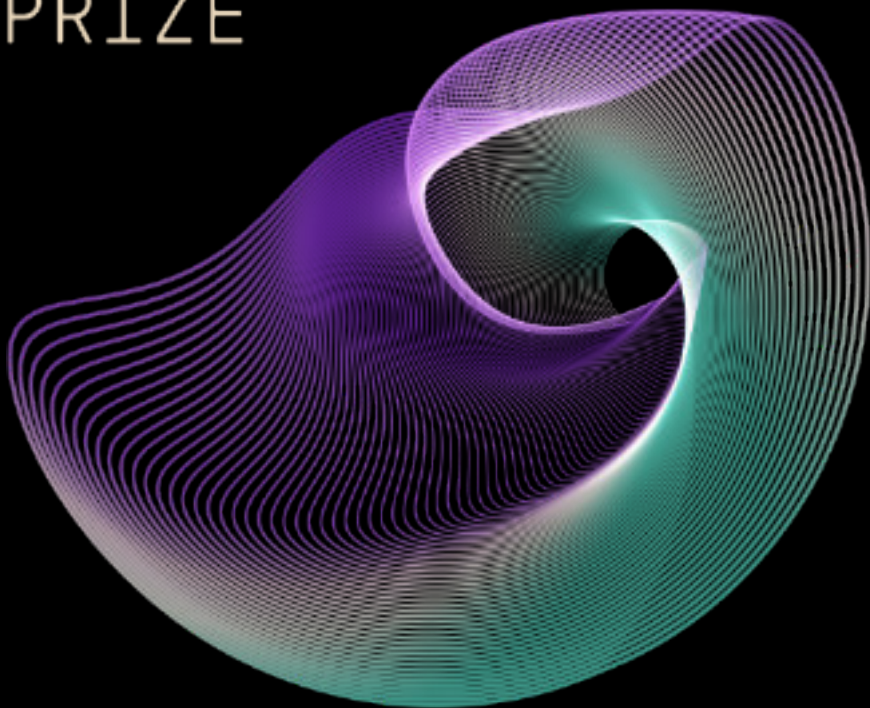
STEPHANIE JOLINE

Stephanie Joline is an award-winning Indigenous filmmaker based in Halifax. Her mother is Inuit from Labrador, her father is French Acadian from the south shore of Nova Scotia. Some of her credits include films *Night Blooms* (2022), *Play Your Gender* (2016), and the CBC documentary series *Women of This Land* (2024) which she created as well as directed and co-produced. In 2022 she won a Canadian Screen Award for best directing in the factual television category.

This year, she was chosen to take part in The Warner Brothers Discovery Access x Canadian Academy Directors Program. She is an active member of The Atlantic Filmmakers Cooperative, Women in Film and Television Atlantic, Screen Nova Scotia and the Academy of Canadian Cinema and Television. She also contributes to the community by teaching film classes, mentoring emerging filmmakers and serving as the Directors' Caucus Representative for DGC Maritimes.

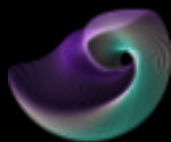
Photo credit: Dee Dee Morris Photography

PORTIA WHITE PRIZE



The Portia White Prize recognizes an outstanding professional Nova Scotian artist, who has attained mastery and recognition in their discipline and has made a significant contribution to the province's cultural life over a sustained career. The primary recipient will receive \$18,000 and a certificate of recognition. A secondary recipient, who is an emerging Nova Scotia artist or a Nova Scotia cultural organization selected by the primary recipient, will receive \$7,000 and a certificate of recognition.

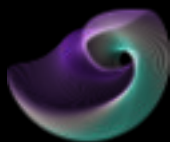
PORTIA WHITE PRIZE



This prize is named for Portia White, an extraordinary contralto who was born in 1911 in Truro, Nova Scotia. Without any doubt, she is the foremother of contemporary Canadian female singers of any genre. A trailblazing artist, she began her career as a teacher in all Black, segregated schools in the Halifax area, including in Africville and Beechville. Her hard work, dedication and stunning stage presence endeared her to critics and audiences alike. Portia White rose through adversity to achieve international acclaim as a classical singer as she toured extensively across North and South America and the Caribbean. Portia White became a source of pride for Nova Scotians and all Canadians.

**Text provided by Nova Scotian filmmaker Sylvia D. Hamilton whose documentary Portia White: Think On Me explored the life of Portia White. Hamilton received the Portia White Prize in 2002.*

Photo by Yousuf Karsh



ALAN SYLIBOY

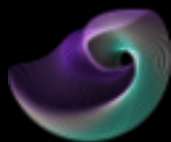
An established Mi'kmaq artist, Alan Syliboy's work is influenced by the indigenous Mi'kmaq rock drawing and quill weaving traditions. Working in acrylic and mixed media, Alan creates vibrantly coloured images exploring the themes of family, searching, spirituality, struggle, and strength. Alan Syliboy grew up believing that native art was generic. "As a youth, I found painting difficult and painful, because I was unsure of my identity." But his confidence grew in 1972 when he studied privately with Shirley Bear. He then attended the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, where 25 years later, he was invited to sit on the Board of Governors.

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Photo credit: Alan Syliboy

PORTIA
WHITE
PRIZE



PORTIA WHITE PROTÉGÉ



NOVA SCOTIA INDIGENOUS
TOURISM ENTERPRISE NETWORK

The Nova Scotia Indigenous Tourism Enterprise Network (NSITEN) is a volunteer based, not for profit cultural tourism organization working to support the growth of authentic and cultural tourism businesses and community enterprises in Nova Scotia.

PRODUCTION TEAM

HEIST - EVENT PRODUCER



As a leading live art company in Kijipuktuk/ Halifax and beyond, we are committed to playful queer work that is innovative and genre-bending. Our organization has a clear and strong commitment to diversity within culture, abilities, and gender. Since our inception in 2016, HEIST has been nominated for over twenty Theatre Nova Scotia Awards and has been awarded eight of them, including Outstanding Production in 2022 with our show *Frequencies*. HEIST was also a finalist for the Nova Scotia Masterworks Prize in 2021 with their original show *The Princess Show*. HEIST has toured work across the country, been a part of the National Arts Centre season and was featured at Spotlight Canada in Edinburgh in 2022. HEIST is comprised of its three core members - Richie Wilcox, Aaron Collier & Sylvia Bell. [@liveheist](#)

DON BROWNRIGG - PROGRAMMING DIRECTOR



Don Brownrigg has worked across music, theatre, puppetry, and arts administration, and is a dedicated champion of Eastern Canadian art. A passionate advocate for inclusion, diversity, and belonging, his work is shaped by his experiences within the 2SLGBTQIA+ and

Mad Arts communities, approaching each project with empathy, curiosity, and a deep passion for creative expression. He has toured North America, Europe, and Asia, gaining critical acclaim and earning community respect along the way. As an artistic producer, Don has collaborated with the National Arts Centre, Global Affairs Canada, and the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity, and has held leadership roles with Halifax Pride, JazzEast, and the Atlantic International Film Festival. Don is focused on uplifting artistic perspectives and fostering a healthier arts community. He strives to create spaces for creativity, connection, and meaningful expression, leaving a lasting impact on the communities he serves.

Photo credit: Declan Watson

CATARINA CICCONE - PRODUCTION ASSISTANT



Catarina (she/her) is an actor, teacher and co-founder of Merry Time Music Co., a community minded music school based in Kijipuktuk's North End. Catarina's performance highlights include Jules in *Bend It Like Beckham: The Musical* (North American Premier), Me-Ouch in *Massive Monster Mayhem* (Nickelodeon US), and she was pretty gosh darn excited to sing the national anthem for the Toronto Blue Jays at the Rogers Centre! As a dedicated voice & piano teacher, Catarina celebrates the individuality of each of her students and empowers them to build confidence and agency in their musical journey. Catarina can also be found working behind the scenes and is thrilled to be back with Heist as a production assistant for the 2024 CNS Awards!

Photo credit: James Arthur MacLean

OLIVIA RANKIN - STAGE MANAGER



Olivia is a stage and production manager and arts administrator based in Kijipuktuk / Halifax. In addition to her work as an independent theatre artist, she is the Company & Operations Manager at 2b theatre company. In 2022 Olivia received

Theatre Nova Scotia's Merritt Award for Stage Management. She has supported a number of world premieres and new works, as well as managed award-winning productions and tours across Canada. She has worked with Eastern Front Theatre, Neptune Theatre, 2b theatre, Mulgrave Road Theatre, Ship's Company, Shakespeare by the Sea, Matchstick Theatre, Kick at the Dark Theatre, Caravan Farm Theatre, Festival Antigonish, Villain's Theatre, and many others. Olivia grew up in Vernon, British Columbia on the land of the Syilx people of the Okanagan Nation.

Photo credit: Kat Jones

KEKE BEATZ - FILM PRODUCER



Born Margeis Williams from North Preston, Nova Scotia is an Artrepreneur in Music & Entertainment who founded, owns & operates KekeBeatz Films, a company specializing in Multimedia arts. During the early 2010s, Keke founded his Recording Studio. From here he began to record with local artists, ranging from beginners to renowned veterans of the industry & also being known for being a safe space where the youth can go to record and stay out of the streets. While continuing to record for many at his studio, the film side began flourishing more where keke would do music video content for his High school friends during 2010-2013, from there his audience & clientele for KBF was growing outside of his home town, later peaking interests of work with Networks & Co such as Nationwide News outlets, Pineapple Express Media, branding his Artist spotlight series, CLEVER & Youtube channel "KekeBeatzTV", collaborating with HEIST & many more.

Photo credit: Meghan Tansey-Whitton

DUANE JONES - INTERVIEW/PODCAST HOST



Vere "Duane" Jones Jr. is an award-winning conceptual artist, designer, host and founder of clothing brand and podcast, Art Pays Me. His diverse creative practice includes visual identity design, fashion, traditional works on canvas and recently, a 12,000 square foot mural across 3 basketball courts for the Uniacke Square community in Halifax's North end. As an artist, he is fascinated by how visual language is used to shift cultures and change or reinforce prevailing beliefs. Allowing the concept to dictate the medium, his work often employs, symbolism, colour and typography to elicit audience responses - an interest ignited while studying at Bermuda College, NSCAD University and Dalhousie University. Duane is a strong advocate for the creative industry and was recently voted co-chair of the Canadian Art Foundation, a national organization devoted to increasing exposure for Canadian visual art and artists across the country and world. [@artpaysme](#) and [@vereduanejones](#).

Photo credit: Stephanie Lane

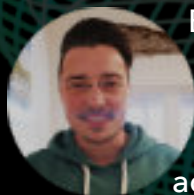
MARGOT DURLING - GRAPHIC DESIGN



After 20+ years as a Creative Director working behind a desk/mask, Margot is now living as an independent artist in Punamu'kwati'jk, Dartmouth. Their award-winning body of work focuses on public art, playgrounds, monuments, community activism, and neurodivergence. Their sculpture 'Chosen Family' on the Halifax Commons celebrating trans liberation, queer kinship, and gender expression has been exhibited at the National Arts Centre and Halifax Mural Festival. Honoured in another life as one of Canada's Top 100 Most Powerful Women, Margot's background in medical design (NSCAD) and industrial design (Germany) led to a career in architecture. Before leaving corporate life in 2022, they led an international team to become runner-up for Canada's 2SLGBTQIA+ National Monument design competition. Margot is now returning to their fabrication, metalsmithing and woodworking background to complete the trifecta and build artworks from vision, to prototype, to reality.

Photo credit: Matt Horseman

BLAZE FRASER - SOCIAL MEDIA



Blaze is a queer, white settler living in Taqamiku'jk/Parrsboro and is dedicated to developing space and resources for artists to support art creation, development, and performance. Specializing in financial arts administration and project management, they are the current General Manager of Ship's Company Theatre and Admin Assistant with HEIST. Blaze also has experience working in restaurant administration & operations management, event management in the tech sector, and project advising.

Photo credit: Blaze Fraser

COLLEEN ARCTURUS MACISAAC - PROGRAM DESIGN



Colleen Arcturus MacIsaac (they/them) is a multidisciplinary artist. They hold a MFA from NSCAD University, and a Bachelor of Media Arts in Animation from Emily Carr University. The artistic producer of The Villains Theatre, they have a daily art practice at [@quietprocess](#). Their illustration and graphic design work is at [@littlefoibleart](#).

Photo credit: Shila Leblanc



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Trevor Gould
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Liliona Quarmyne
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Enrique Ferreol
David Goudie
Lauren Heaslip
Lauren Williams (on leave)

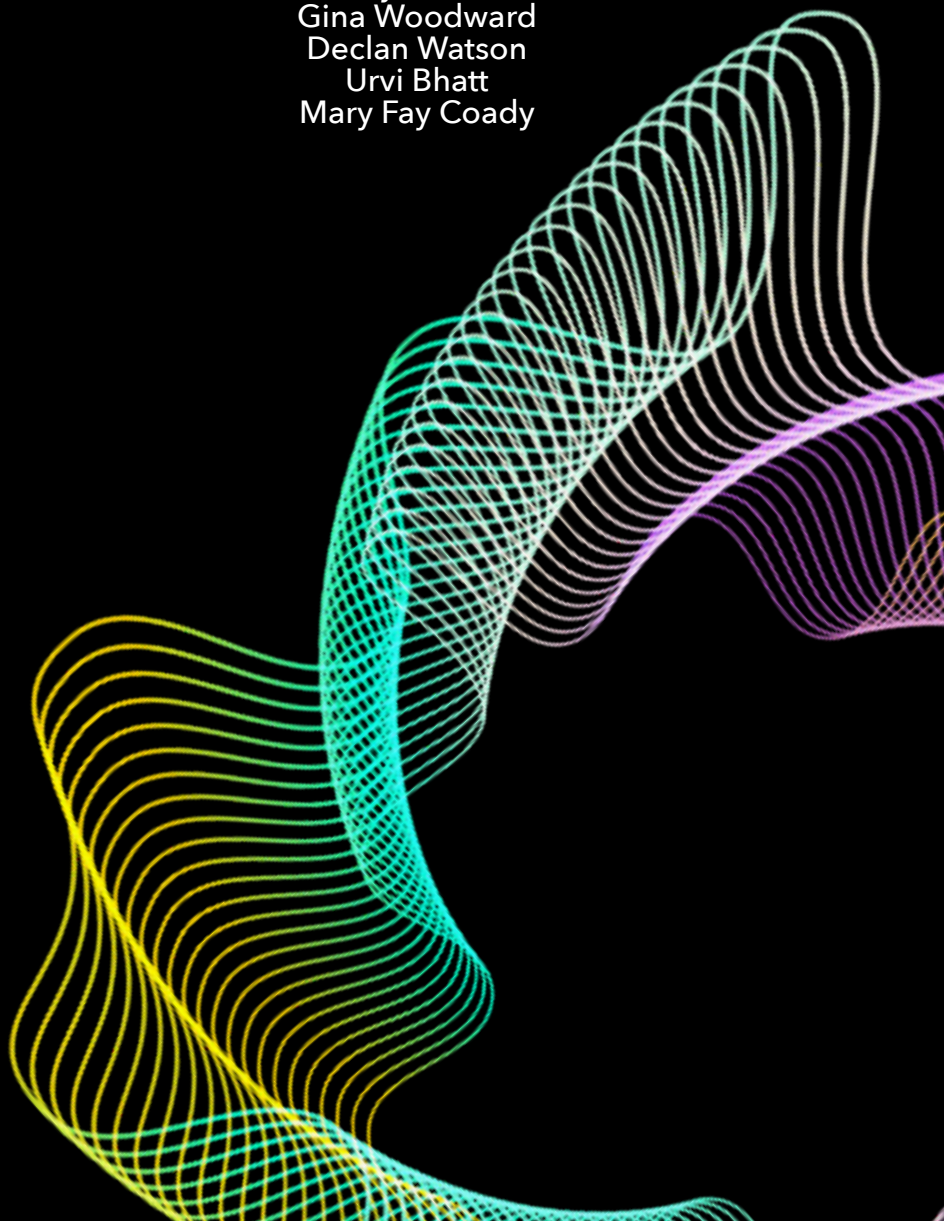
CREATIVE NS LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

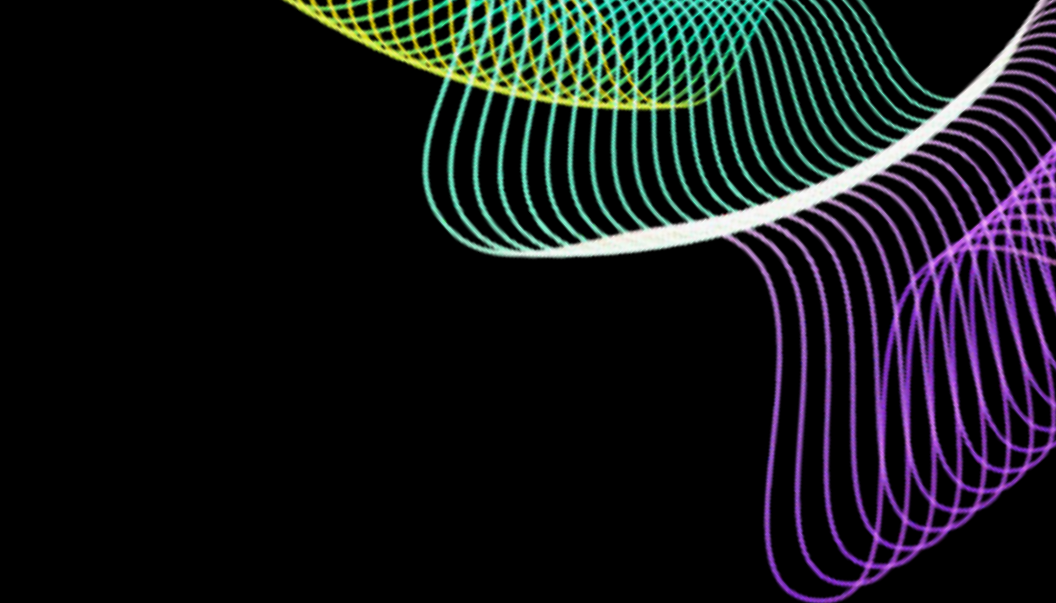
Craig Mercer
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Kelly Jerrott
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THANK YOU

Pier 21
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Video Difference Art Hub
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Tanya Beers
Gina Woodward
Declan Watson
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Mary Fay Coady





Go to artsns.ca
for more information on the
Creative Nova Scotia Awards
and how to nominate someone
for an award.