

ARTS NOVA SCOTIA ANNUAL REPORT

2024-25



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Core and Support4Culture

FRONT COVER:

Nancy Oakley, *Anko'taskik (protected)*, 2024, 36 × 36 cm

Introduction

Arts Nova Scotia acknowledges that our work takes place across Mi'kma'ki, the traditional territory of the Mi'kmaq people. We recognize the Treaties of Peace and Friendship, signed between the Mi'kmaq and the British Crown in the 1700s. These treaties affirm enduring relationships and responsibilities, and we are committed to upholding their spirit through our programs, policies, and partnerships.



Killa Atencio, *Shaping History I - Circles and Cycles*, 2023, 24.5 × 34 × 0.5 cm

Director's Report

Briony Carros

2024-2025 was a year of meaningful change for Arts Nova Scotia. Building on last year's historic funding increase, we advanced our aim to make funding more equitable, inclusive, and responsive to the evolving needs of our community.

We marked the first full cycle of our newly launched Operate programs, developed through extensive community consultation and guided by our commitment to anti-oppression and sustainability. These programs were designed not only to support a broader and more diverse range of organizations, but also to challenge the status quo and foster innovation across the province's arts ecosystem.



FROM RIGHT TO LEFT:
Sarah O'Toole,
Liona Quarmyne,
Laura Teasdale,
Ken Schwartz and
Briony Carros.

Another significant milestone this year was the 50th anniversary of the Nova Scotia Art Bank. To mark the occasion, Arts Nova Scotia undertook a strategic purchase focused exclusively on acquiring works by African Nova Scotian and Mi'kmaq artists. This initiative directly responded to findings from a 2020 review, which highlighted the underrepresentation of these communities in the provincial collection. The strategic purchase begins to

address this gap and honours the artistic legacies and contemporary contributions of these communities across Mi'kma'ki/Nova Scotia.

As we reflect on the past year, this report highlights examples of artists and organizations whose creative processes ripple outward, generating meaningful and lasting impacts in their communities. These stories exemplify how public investment in the arts—aligned with Arts Nova Scotia's mission to foster excellence, innovation, and access—translates into vibrant and healthy communities.

To sustain and expand this impact, Arts Nova Scotia remains committed to directing funds to our highly subscribed grant programs. Support4Culture funding has been critical in increasing success rates for projects from equity-deserving artists, first-time applicants, and artists and/or organizations based outside the Halifax Regional Municipality. This support has also been vital for our targeted programs, including the Mi'kmaq Arts Program and the Arts Equity Funding Initiative. We are grateful for this partnership and look forward to deepening connections.

Our work is strengthened by the guidance of the Board of Directors. As members of the community, they bring unique insights and a shared commitment to doing better for artists across the province. I am deeply grateful for their support and dedication to our staff and the sector. I would also like to acknowledge the service of Ken Schwartz, Chair (until November 2024), whose collaborative spirit and dedication has steered our achievements in a positive direction.

TOP: Performance by Jessica Winton, Sally Morgan and Ruth Douthwright of the sense archive, recipient of Grants to Organizations and Groups. Photo by Chris Langesten

BOTTOM: Detail from Alan Syliboy, *Fast Runner—study 01*, ca. 2007, Collection of the Nova Scotia Art Bank

Economic Impact Arts and Culture in Nova Scotia

Cultural sectors significantly influence local economies by creating employment opportunities and boosting tourism.

In 2023, arts and culture sector contributed \$1.18 Billion to the provincial GDP.*

Job Creation

Arts and culture provide diverse job opportunities, enhancing workforce skills and ensuring economic stability in communities. Nova Scotia saw a 16% increase in core cultural jobs, from 2010 to 2023.

The culture sector created 13,973 jobs.*

Economic Growth

Investing in culture cultivates innovation and creativity, leading to sustainable economic development and increased revenue generation.

Growth has been steady post-pandemic, demonstrating recovery and resilience in the sector.

*Statistics Canada, Provincial and Territorial Indicators, 2023.

Finally, I want to express my heartfelt appreciation to my colleagues at Arts Nova Scotia—Enrique, David, Lauren Williams, and Lauren Heaslip—for their unwavering dedication, thoughtful collaboration, and genuine care for the artists and arts organizations we serve. Their teamwork, empathy, and resilience have been invaluable. I also extend sincere thanks to our partners at the Culture and Heritage Division for their ongoing support and shared commitment to the arts. A special acknowledgment goes to the Grants Management team, whose behind-the-scenes efforts are essential to every stage of the grant lifecycle. While collaboration has always been a cornerstone of our department's approach, this past year saw a renewed and intentional effort to pool our collective resources and expertise. Together, we are shaping a future where the arts are not only supported but celebrated as essential to the life and identity of Nova Scotia.

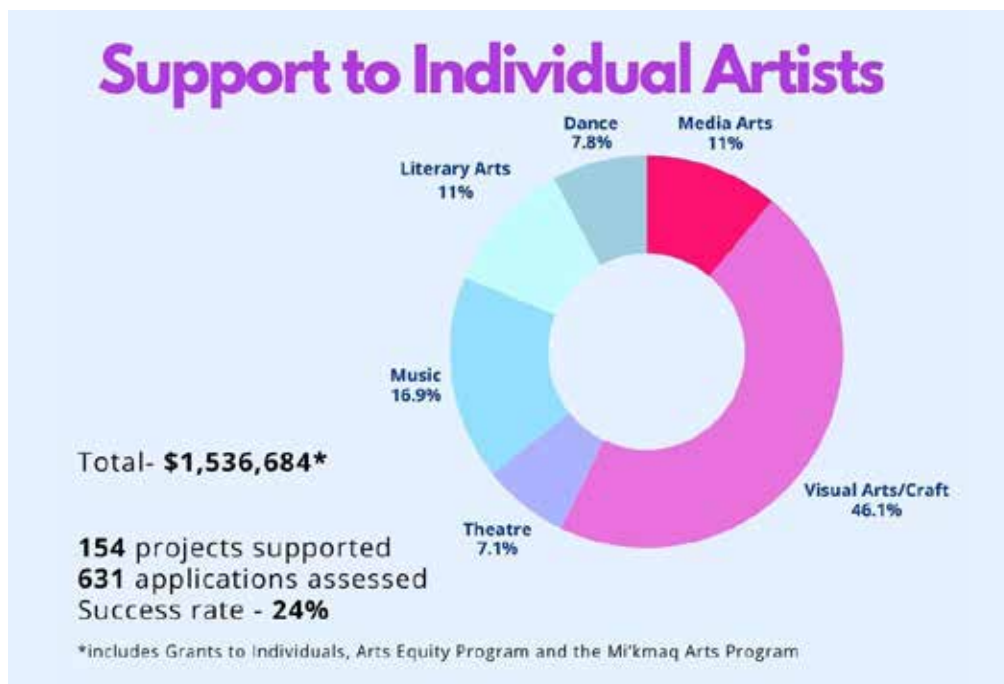


Alex Balkam, *Waisisk at Sporting (Animals at Sporting)*, 2023, 137 × 152 × 10 cm

By the Numbers & the Process

<div>\$5.66M</div> <div>Total grants</div>	<div>1095</div> <div>applications received</div>	<div>351</div> <div>projects funded</div>	
<div>85</div> <div>peer assessors</div>	<div>27</div> <div>peer assessment meetings</div>	<div>49</div> <div>supported organizations</div>	<div>79</div> <div>First-time funded applicants</div>

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.



2024-25 PAC Members

Aaron Prosper	Francois Gaudet	Kayza DeGraff-Ford	Melissa Marr	Sara Caracristi
Amy Brandon	Franziska Glen	Killa Atencio	Michele King Slattery	Sarah Brooks
Ashley McKenzie	Garry Williams	Kirsten Taylor	Mindy Moore	shalan joudry
Ayoka Junaid	Gillian Smith	Kristi Ferrier	Mireille Bourgeois	Sheilagh Hunt
Basma Kavanagh	Hannah Guinan	Lalie Douglas	Mitra Mansouri	Solomon Nagler
Becka Barker	Heather Jessup	Lara Lewis	Mo Glitch	Spencer MacKay
Calla Lachance	Isaiah Farahbakhsh	Lindsay Kyte	Mo Phung	Stephanie Yee
Christine Wu	Jay Crocker	Lisa Theriault	Mohammad Sahraei	Steve Farmer
Claire Horn	Jazz Keillor	Logan Robins	Nicola Miller	Susan Tooke
Coral Maloney	Jennifer Farrell	Lucie Chan	Nicole Jordan	Tatyana Ranaivo
Cory Lavender	Jody Lyne	MacKenzie Greenwell	Raeesa Lalani	Theresa Meuse
Dian Day	Josh Owen	Marc-André Charron	Ray Cronin	Therese Cruz
Dion Kaszas	Juanita Peters	Marla Benton	Rose Meuse	Tyler Simmonds
Elsa Pihl	Julie Robert	Mary Fay Coady	Ryan David Allen	Violet Pask
Emily Falencki	Kamilah Apong	Maureen Batt	Ryan Wilcox	Wanda Graham
Fiona Ryan	Karen Bernard	Meg Hubley	Tonya "SamQwan"	Winston DeGiobbi
francesca ekwuyasi	Kate Walchuk	Melanie Colosimo	Paris	Zachary Gough
				Zorica Markovich



Lorne Julien, *Eagle with wings around the medicine wheel*, 2023
35.5 × 35.5 × 1.5 cm

SPOTLIGHT: OPERATE

In 2024, the budget for operating assistance program doubled to \$2.8M. Through a public process, Arts NS restructured this program to better align with sector needs. The total number of organizations supported went from 27 to 49 organizations. 27% of the new organizations supported are outside of HRM.

- **21** organizations supported in **Activate** (2-year cycle)
- **28** organizations supported in **Sustain** (4-year cycle)

ACTIVATE

This program provides administrative support to artist-driven organizations and collectives who may be working in a shorter-term capacity. This program is also suitable for newer organizations and organizations who have smaller administrative capacity or are building their administrative capacity. The program supports the natural ebb and flow of creation, presentation and research and can provide some financial stability to foster artistic growth and development.

Music in Communities (Canning)

The Music in Communities Co-op was formed in June 2019 to promote music literacy, present great live music, support under-represented voices, and strengthen communities through shared musical experiences. They present live music in the form of one-time events and on-going series, in different venues and communities throughout Nova Scotia.



LEFT: Youth Open Mic Night. RIGHT: Canning Kitchen Party



SUSTAIN

This program is designed to enhance stability within established arts organizations that develop and sustain Nova Scotia's arts community. Support is provided to organizations that produce or present artistic performances and events involving professional artists.

Highland Arts Theatre (Sydney)

Highland Arts Theatre, or "The HAT", opened in 2014 as a performance venue in downtown Sydney, formerly the home of St. Andrew's Church. The HAT now provides a year-round, professional theatrical presence in Cape Breton, producing and presenting quality productions with a special emphasis on Cape Breton artists, stories, and songs.



ABOVE: From the production "Overdue" by Lindsay Thompson, February 2024
Directed by Rachael Murphy
Photo Featuring: Veglia Hogan and Robyn Lee Seale
Photo credit: Corey Katz



LEFT: From the production "Mimikej" by Sarah Prosper and Shawnee Paul, March 2024
Directed & Choreographed by Sarah Prosper
Photo Featuring: Sarah Prosper
Photo credit: Corey Katz

Featured Projects

GRANTS TO INDIVIDUALS

Susanne Chui

Fade to White is an exploration of Susanne's mixed Chinese-Caucasian identity, delving into the stories and experiences of her late father (a Chinese immigrant) and her experience as a second-generation Canadian. This grant supported the first period of project development, including interviews with family members, research into Chinese history, a Body Mythology process and rehearsals that culminated in a work-in-progress studio showing.

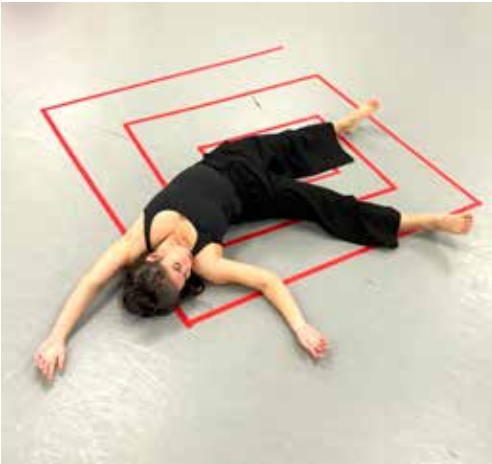


Photo credit: Chris Spencer-Lowe

Noella Murphy

Noella created a new theatre piece, *Flower Bed* – a play combined with an art installation, based on her personal struggles with chronic pain, navigating the health care system, and being an official medical mystery. While the play deals with difficult subject matter, she uses her experience as a clown and performer to come at it from a new lens – specifically to find the humour and absurdity in it all.



Photos courtesy of Noella Murphy



ARTISTS IN COMMUNITIES

Mo Glitch

From the description of *Out of Line* at the Khyber Centre for the Arts: "Resulting from a group of trans artists gathering for monthly sessions, the preparation for this exhibition was a space of unfolding, unexpected collaborations, and generative debris. Play becomes a method to weave humor into survival and exploration. Curiosity leads them towards detritus and residue, entertaining what is left behind, what refuses to be discarded, and what lingers. These artists attend to scraps, fragments, and margins not as peripheral, but as central".



Photos courtesy of Mo Glitch



Odessa Spore and Joy Pennick

What Me Do You See Behind the Mask? was a program to deliver community mask-making workshops to independent seniors and new immigrants. Through this opportunity, participants experienced skill building through play, peer support through community and positive mental health outcomes through artistic self expression. This program acknowledged that we all construct a public face or mask to share with the world, while keeping our inner identity safely hidden from view. Participants were invited to investigate this outside & inside identity through the creation of these self-portrait masks.



Photos courtesy of Odessa Spore and Joy Pennick



MI'KMAQ ARTS PROGRAM

Eva Nicolas

Eva Nicolas is a Wabanaki L'nu Mi'kmaq artist from We'koqmaq First Nation. Eva received support to create *The Enchanted Collection of the Wabanaki People*. A series of drums inspired by the many enchanting characters in Mi'kmaq oral history and legends such as the Wutlatmuj,

little people, fairies such as Migamewesoo and Pamola, Protector of the Mountain. Eva aims to share knowledge and traditional stories through this whimsical body of work.



Photo by Adam Hill

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 2024-2025 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, *Apajasimik* (ended Sept 2024).

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 (term ended Nov 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 (2nd term ended Nov 2024).

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 (2nd term ended Nov 2024).

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 (on parental leave June 2024 – July 2025)

David Goudie, Senior Program Officer (July 2024 – June 2025)

Lauren Heaslip, Program Officer (Term Sept 2024 – June 2025)

Cyd Sparrow, NS Art Bank Loans Coordinator (Contract)

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.

ACTIVITIES

Nova Scotia celebrates 50th anniversary of the Nova Scotia Art Bank with strategic purchase to strengthen the representation of African Nova Scotian and Mi'kmaq artists in the collection

For 50 years the Art Bank has collected artworks by Nova Scotian artists through a peer assessment process. Over 800 artists have benefited from having their work recognized by peers, earning an income from the sale of their work, and building an exhibition history.

While the collection is one to be proud of, the Art Bank recognizes that it also reflects the barriers to participation that African Nova Scotian, Mi'kmaq and other BIPOC artists have historically faced and as a result, these communities are not well represented in the collection. A 2020 review of the Art Bank recommended a strategic purchase take place to counteract this disproportionately low representation.

This year the Art Bank Purchase program was open exclusively to artists who are African Nova Scotian and/or Mi'kmaq. These two communities have been made a priority in this first strategic purchase, in recognition of their profound historical and contemporary artistic impact here in Mi'kma'ki/Nova Scotia.



Boma Nnaji, *Eddie Carvey*, 2023, 122 × 91.5 × 1.5 cm

Artist	Title	Date	Dimensions	Medium
Alex Balkam	Waisisk at Sporting (Animals at Sporting)	2023	137 × 152 × 10 cm	Oil on canvas
Allen Crooks	WONDER	2018	40.5 × 50 cm	Darkroom: silver gelatin print
Boma Nnaji	Eddie Carvey	2023	122 × 91.5 × 1.5 cm	Acrylic on canvas
Buffy Googoo	Nikmaq (our family)	2023	91.5 × 107.5 × 4.5 cm	Oil on canvas
Daramfon Morgan	Moonlight Stories	2023	61 × 101.5 × 4 cm	Acrylic paint on digitally printed satin canvas
Daramfon Morgan	Pisces - Under Water	2024	61.3 × 61.3 × 4 cm	Oil paint on digitally printed satin canvas
Gloire Aelfaz	Lucid Dream	2023	76.5 × 101.5 × 4 cm	Oil and acrylic on canvas
Ibe Ananaba	What Does the Future Hold 1	2023	61.5 × 91.5 × 2 cm	Acrylic on canvas
Kayza DeGraff-Ford	Twilight Rider	2021	91.5 × 123.5 × 4.5 cm	Oil on canvas
Killa Atencio	Shaping History I - Circles and Cycles	2023	24.5 × 34 × 0.5 cm	Czech seed bead size 10 on Velveteen, embossed copper
Lorne Julien	Eagle with wings around the medicine wheel	2023	35.5 × 35.5 × 1.5 cm	Acrylic on canvas
Nancy Oakley	Anko'taskik (protected)	2024	36 × 36 cm	Smokefired clay with sweetgrass and black ash basket attached
Nancy Oakley	Tea Star	2024	36 × 39 cm	Smokefired clay with sweetgrass and black ash basket attached
Rebecca Fisk	Mirror, Mirror or Blackface	2022	76 × 102 × 2 cm	Acrylic on canvas
Sylvia Hamilton	Memory Work: The Wait and On the Atlantic Like They Were	2024	92 × 71 cm	Photography



Nancy Oakley, *Tea Star*, 2024, 36 × 39 cm



TOP LEFT: Gloire Aelfaz, *Lucid Dream*, 2023, 76.5 × 101.5 × 4 cm

TOP RIGHT: Allen Crooks, *WONDER*, 2018, 40.5 × 50 cm

BOTTOM LEFT: Buffy Googoo, *Nikmaq (our family)*, 2023, 91.5 × 107.5 × 4.5 cm

BOTTOM RIGHT: Kayza DeGraff-Ford, *Twilight Rider*, 2021, 91.5 × 123.5 × 4.5 cm

Creative Nova Scotia Awards 2024

The 2024 Creative Nova Scotia Awards was produced by live art company HEIST at Pier 21 in Halifax/Kjipuktuk on the evening of Sunday, November 3. The annual art party brought together and honoured artists from all over the province. The ceremony was hosted by Juno-nominated, reggae singer, Jah'Mila.

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 | Art Pays Me](#)) and Keke Beatz for each award winner. Videos can be viewed on the Arts Nova Scotia [Facebook page](#).



2024 Creative Nova Scotia Award Winners. Photo by Kelly Clark.

Awards/Prizes

Emerging Artist Recognition

Kaashif Ghanie, Lux Gow-Hubrich, Jack Wong

Established Artist Recognition

Susanne Chui, Tim Crofts

Indigenous Artist Recognition

Stephanie Joline

Black Artist Recognition

Tara Lynn Taylor

Creative Community Impact Award

The Writers' Federation of Nova Scotia

Prix Grand-Pré

Robert Deveaux

Portia White Prize

Alan Syliboy

Protégé Prize

NSITEN (Nova Scotia Indigenous Tourism Enterprise Network)



TOP LEFT: Kaashif Ghanie and Lux Gow-Habrich (Emerging Artist Recognition). **BOTTOM LEFT:** Alan Syliboy (Portia White Prize) and Robert Bernard (NSITEN – Portia White Protégé) **RIGHT:** Krista Davis performance. Photos by Kelly Clark.

FINANCIAL

Financial Report

PROGRAMS	GRANTS/AWARDS	PROGRAM COSTS	TOTAL
Grants to Organizations & Groups	\$502,460	\$11,730	\$514,190
Grants to Individuals	\$694,930	\$38,360	\$733,290
Operate (Activate/Sustain)	\$2,774,810	\$5,026	\$2,779,836
Artists in Communities	\$233,342	\$4,785	\$238,127
Prizes/Awards	\$75,000	\$1,386	\$76,386
NS Art Bank			
Art Bank Purchase	\$34,925	\$2,274	\$37,199
Art Bank (Operations)		\$19,155	\$19,155
Annual Agreements			
Artists in Schools	\$135,000		\$135,000
NS Talent Trust	\$115,000		\$115,000
Confederation Centre for the Arts	\$10,000		\$10,000
Sub-Total	\$4,575,467.00	\$82,716.00	\$4,658,183.00
SUPPORT4CULTURE PROGRAMS			
Access Support Supplement	\$9,558		\$9,558
Arts Equity Program	\$324,429	\$10,154	\$334,583
Mi'kmaq Arts Program	\$143,697		\$143,697
Creative Collaborations Program	\$609,796		\$609,796
Sub-Total Support4Culture	\$1,087,480.00	\$10,154.00	\$953,937.00
Sub-Total all Grants/Awards & Program Costs	\$5,662,947.00	\$92,870.00	\$5,612,120.00
PROGRAM COSTS			
Salaries and Benefits		\$438,977.00	\$438,977.00
Telecommunications		\$3,885.00	\$3,885.00
Operations		\$60,667.00	\$60,667.00
TOTAL – ARTS NOVA SCOTIA	\$5,662,947.00	\$596,399.00	\$6,115,649.00

General Travel	\$925
Out of Province	\$1,464
Total Travel	\$2,734.00

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 by: October 1/ March 1

Applications received: 64 | 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 by: May 15 / November 15

Applications received: 601 | Applications funded: 122

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 by: March 15 / October 15

Applications received: 163 | Applications funded: 42

OPERATE SUSTAIN

Organizations supported: 28

OPERATE ACTIVATE

Organizations supported: 21

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.

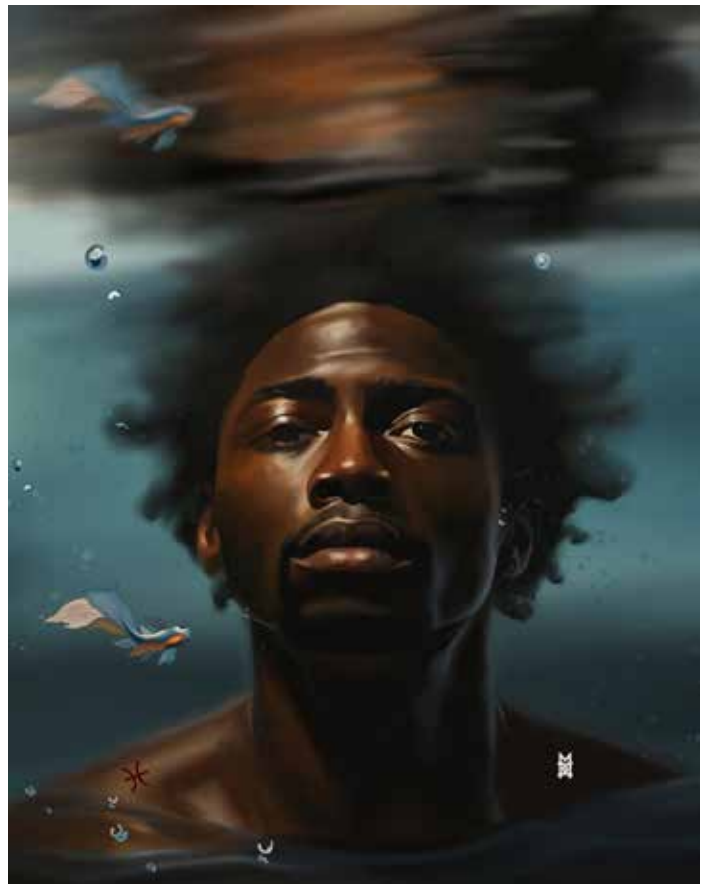
Application date: April 15 (this year only)

Artworks submitted for purchase: 121

Number of works purchased: 14



Daramfon Morgan, *Moonlight Stories*, 2023
61 × 101.5 × 4 cm



Daramfon Morgan, *Pisces - Under Water*, 2024
61.3 × 61.3 × 4 cm

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.



Rebecca Fisk, *Mirror, Mirror or Blackface*, 2022
76 × 102 × 2 cm

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. The following programs are supported through this fund.

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 new funding program is required.

Application date: September 15 | Applications received: 25
Applications funded: 16

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: August/February 15 | Applications received: 130
Applications funded: 37

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. Our strategic priorities include equity-deserving artists, 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 support an **additional 57 projects** through this fund.



Sylvia Hamilton *Memory Work: The Wait and On the Atlantic Like They Were*, 2024, 92 × 71 cm

2024/25



Ibe Ananaba, *What Does the Future Hold 1*, 2023, 61.5 × 91.5 × 2 cm



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