



# ARTS NOVA SCOTIA

Annual Report 2017-18

# ARTS NOVA SCOTIA

## ANNUAL REPORT 2017-18

Information comes in many forms. In our growing digital age, we have more access to more information and it is becoming increasingly challenging for us to process it in any meaningful way. We must learn to filter, contextualize and understand. Artists have always played a central role in society in terms of reframing and challenging assumptions, championing new voices, and providing us with ways of dealing with complex issues. Now more than ever we need to have access to relevant artistic works. We need our arts organizations to be strong and dynamic. We need our artists to have opportunity to build their practice. We need opportunities to experience artistic works and to engage with others in dialogue. Arts Nova Scotia continues to champion the fundamental role of the arts in Nova Scotia and to continue to support and develop a thriving and diverse professional arts community for the benefit of all Nova Scotians

This past year, the Arts Nova Scotia staff, board and committees continued to work on a number of exciting initiatives to further support the creation, production/presentation of art by Nova Scotian artists. This past year saw the continued development of a new program for Nova Scotia Publishers that provides support for innovative author centered projects that open the door for new voices to emerge. We continue to work with our Atlantic Partners on the third Atlantic Indigenous Artist Symposium (Petapan 3), scheduled for June of 2019, with a goal of establishing an Atlantic Canadian Indigenous artist organization.

This year we continued to celebrate Nova Scotia artists and their work through the Creative Nova Scotia Awards Gala as a premier national event that celebrates high achievement in the arts. We were very pleased to present for the first time the Indigenous Artist Recognition Award, which went to Todd Labrador. The Gala Committee is one of three joint committees along with the Status of the Artist committee, exploring new ways to activate the Status of the Artist legislation, and the Arts Investment Committee that we share with the Creative Nova Scotia Leadership Council (CNSLC). We continue to maintain strong communication networks with federal, provincial and municipal funders, including the Canadian Public Arts Funders, and our Atlantic Regional partners.

We could do none of this if it were not for the dedicated people who work to make everything we do possible. The expertise provided by our volunteer board of directors during board meetings, committee work, and through their participation at events provincially, nationally and internationally is essential to our success. We thank our continuing board members: Jack Chen, Peter Dykhuis, Shauntay Grant, Mhiran Faraday, Ashley McKenzie, Nancy Noble and Shalan Joudry for their work and commitment. We extend a special thanks to departing Board members Cory Bowles, Addy Doucette, and Mary Elizabeth Luka. Both Mary Elizabeth and Cory were members of the first Board of Directors, serving on several key committees, and were instrumental on the program committee and gala committee. Mary Elizabeth has distinguished herself as a board member then as Chair of the Board. Her leadership was central to the establishment of Arts Nova Scotia as a dynamic arts funder with a national reputation for good work.

We thank Arts Nova Scotia staff Peter Kirby, Enrique Ferreol, Mireille Bourgeois, and Lauren Williams for their hard work expertly running operations and programs. We would like to recognize the special contribution of Peter Kirby to the arts community as he announced his retirement this past year. His dedication to arts and artists in Nova Scotia is unparalleled and he will be missed as a valued colleague.

We are also pleased to acknowledge the logistical and administrative support that we receive from the staff of the Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage: Kathy Rennick, Jaylene McEwan, Cheryl Thompson, Emily MacMillan, Debby Leblanc and Jennifer Parker. We extend particular thanks to Culture and Heritage Development Program Director Craig Beaton, Director of Events Stacey Oxner, and the Executive Director of Culture and Heritage Development Marcel McKeough, for their partnership and support in service to the arts.

As Chair, I would personally like to thank Christopher Shore for his dedication to Arts Nova Scotia during a key transitional period. In December of 2017 Christopher assumed the position of Director of Programs for the Culture and Heritage Development Division on a term position. During the final months of this year, Christopher met the demands of both jobs as we began the process of hiring a new Director.

Beginning in January, a process was initiated to hire a new Director of Arts Nova Scotia. Fittingly, this occurred parallel to the retirement and replacement of key founding members of the Board of Directors and signalled the strong presence of a second generation of Nova Scotians dedicated to the robust growth of Arts Nova Scotia.

Together, we acknowledge the continued support of the Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage, Minister Leo Glavine, Deputy Minister Tracey Taweel, and those in policy and corporate services. Finally, and foremost, we acknowledge and thank the people of Nova Scotia, whose commitment to and interaction with arts and culture here and around the world is vital to the cycle of creation that is at the centre of what we do.



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Peter Dykhuis  
Chair, Arts Nova Scotia

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## **Mission**

Arts Nova Scotia champions the fundamental role of the arts.

## **Vision**

Arts Nova Scotia envisions a thriving and diverse professional arts community celebrated at home and abroad for breaking new ground, ensuring equity and achieving a high level of artistic excellence.

## **Values**

***Discovery:*** Arts Nova Scotia is committed to fostering a culture of discovery and innovation within the arts.

***Artistic Practice:*** Arts Nova Scotia supports freedom of expression and excellence in artistic practice and creative endeavor.

***Equity:*** Arts Nova Scotia ensures equity is a core value for Nova Scotia by embracing social, cultural and regional diversity.

***Diversity:*** Arts Nova Scotia encourages diversity of practice within and across art forms, at all stages of professional development.

***Participation:*** Arts Nova Scotia encourages access to and engagement with the arts for all Nova Scotians.

***Advocacy:*** Arts Nova Scotia advocates for greater support and resources for and with the arts community.

***Partnership and Collaboration:*** Arts Nova Scotia engages in consultation and information sharing. We actively collaborate and partner with the arts community, our peers and the public.

***Accountability and Transparency:*** Arts Nova Scotia is open, fair and transparent. We make decisions grounded in best practices, peer assessment, and research, and manage our resources wisely and ethically.

***Excellence:*** Arts Nova Scotia provides the highest quality service in support of artistic excellence.

## **Board Members 2017-18**

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

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

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

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

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

**Francois Gaudet, Clare, Digby County**, is a highly-respected Acadian- Metis multimedia artist dividing his time between Halifax and Clare.

**Shauntay Grant, Halifax, Halifax Regional Municipality**, is a multidisciplinary artist whose practice includes creative writing, music, and theatre, and her homegrown artistic practice embraces African Nova Scotian folk tradition as well as contemporary approaches to literature and performance.

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

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

**Ashley McKenzie, Sydney, Cape Breton County**, is a filmmaker whose film *Werewolf* garnered international attention and won awards at the Atlantic Film Festival and the Canadian Screen Awards.

**Nancy Noble Halifax, Halifax Regional Municipality**, is the Director and CEO of the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia with over 25 years managing museums across Canada.

## **Staff**

**Christopher Shore, Director**

**Peter Kirby, Program Officer** (retired June 2017)

**Enrique Ferreol, Program Officer**

**Mireille Bourgeois, Program Officer**

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

## Financials

| <u>Programs</u>                            | <u>Grants/Awards</u> | <u>Program Costs</u> | <u>Total</u>       |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| Grants to Organizations & Small Groups     | \$344,000            | \$8,291              | \$352,291          |
| Grants to Individuals                      | \$631,724            | \$13,186             | \$644,910          |
| Operating Assistance to Arts Organizations | \$1,344,000          | \$5,206              | \$1,349,206        |
| Project Grants for Publishing Program      | \$139,800            | \$1,403              | \$141,203          |
| Art Bank                                   | \$40,620             | \$1,196              | \$41,816           |
| Art Bank (Operations)                      |                      | \$17,757             | \$17,757           |
| Artists in Schools                         | \$90,000             |                      | \$90,000           |
| Portia White Prize                         | \$25,000             | \$1,875              | \$26,875           |
| Grant Pré Prize                            | \$5,000              | \$600                | \$5,600            |
| Lieut. Governor's Masterworks Award        | \$50,000             |                      | \$50,000           |
| Talent Trust                               | \$100,000            |                      | \$100,000          |
| Confederation Center                       | \$10,000             |                      | \$10,000           |
| NSCAD Gordon Parsons Scholarship           | \$1,000              |                      | \$1,000            |
| <b>Sub-Total</b>                           | <b>\$2,781,144</b>   | <b>\$49,513</b>      | <b>\$2,830,658</b> |
| <b><u>Support4Culture Programs</u></b>     |                      |                      |                    |
| Arts Equity Program                        | \$72,797             |                      | \$72,797           |
| Artistic Innovation Program                | \$84,000             |                      | \$84,000           |
| Creative Collaborations Program            | \$291,000            |                      | \$291,000          |
| <b>Sub-Total</b>                           | <b>\$447,797</b>     |                      | <b>\$447,797</b>   |
| Subtotal Grants/Awards & Program Costs     | \$3,228,941          | \$49,513             | \$3,264,086        |
| Salaries                                   |                      | \$293,538            | \$293,538          |
| Arts Nova Scotia Operations                |                      | \$15,457             | \$15,457           |
| <b>Total, Arts Nova Scotia</b>             | <b>\$3,228,941</b>   | <b>\$388,509</b>     | <b>\$3,587,450</b> |

### **2017-18 Travel Expenses**

Arts NS Director – \$3781.66

Arts NS Chair - \$1743.00

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

### ***Governance Committee***

Members of the Governance Committee for the year 2017-18 included Mary Elizabeth Luka (Chair to December 2017)), Peter Dykhuis (Chair January-March 2018), Nancy Noble and Christopher Shore (Director).

The Governance Committee is mandated to advise the Arts Nova Scotia Board on matters relating to the Board's governance structure and processes, and acts as the Nominating Committee. The Governance Committee ensures appropriate policies are in place so that Arts Nova Scotia follows ethical practice in management, administration, and program delivery. It ensures appropriate policies are in place for the selection, evaluation, compensation and succession of ANS management. The Governance Committee serves as the Nominating Committee, thereby ensuring, on a continuing basis that the Board of Directors is composed of qualified and skilled persons capable of, and committed to, providing effective governance leadership to ANS. The Governance Committee liaises with other committees as required to exchange information and to collaborate on joint initiatives.

Arts NS legislation dictates that our board must consist of no fewer than nine and no more than eleven members. Of the full eleven members, no more than eight will be appointed by the Minister of Communities, Culture and Heritage upon recommendation of the Arts NS Nominating Committee, and no more than three appointed by Order in Council (OIC) upon recommendation of the Minister, traditionally also based on recommendations by the Arts Nova Scotia Governance Committee. The membership of the Board must also reflect the diversity found within the Province's art community and, where possible, ". . . include representation from differing art disciplines, generations, and the Province's cultural mosaic including, but not limited to, representation from the African Nova Scotian, Mi'kmaq and Acadian communities and balanced representation between women and men." In addition to this, the Governance Committee also tries to ensure that the Province is represented geographically, and that board terms are staggered to ensure a mix of new and experienced board members. Applications are made through the Agencies, Boards and Commissions (ABC) website.

In 2017, Ashley McKenzie renewed her term; Nancy Noble and François Gaudet were appointed to the Board. In March 2018, three board members retired from the Board of Directors: Mary Elizabeth Luka, Cory Bowles and Addy Doucette. Shalan Joudrey agreed to renew for a second term.

### ***Program Committee***

Members of the Program Committee for the year 2017-18 included: Nancy Noble (Chair, as of Nov. 2017) Mhiran Faraday (Chair to Oct 2017), Ashley MacKenzie, Addy Doucette(ex-officio), Shalan Joudry, Jack Chen, Barbara Richman (external member), Christopher Shore (Director).

In November 2017, the committee re-wrote its Terms of Reference. Its mandate is to provide the ANS Board and staff with information, review and recommendations of programming, processes and policies. It provides the Board of Directors and staff with information and review of assessment processes, and recommendations concerning proposed assessment processes. The committee works with Board, staff, and the artistic community to ensure relevant, effective, and transparent programming and processes. It additionally liaises with other committees and external stakeholders as required to exchange information, and to collaborate on joint initiatives as required.



In 2017-18 the committee focused their work based on a committee work plan created in September. The group met a number of times throughout the year both in person and by phone, focusing on the following:

- A decision was reached to not renew our partnership with Business for the Arts to continue the *ArtsVest* program. The \$75,000 was re-allocated to Creative Collaborations for this year only.
- To review and assess the Art Bank acquisitions eligibility guidelines and related policy with special focus being given to applications from commercial galleries and artist representatives.
- To complete the Peer Assessment Committee Handbook.
- Continue ongoing intake for applications to the Arts Equity program. The program opened its eligibility from exclusively emerging artists to all artists who have historically faced barriers to accessing funding, with a priority to emerging artists.
- Staff continued to work on the program guidelines with edits and adjustments.
- Arts NS is participating in a national program, initiated by the Canadian Public Arts Funders in the coming year to hire an Emerging Indigenous Arts Administrator.

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

- Developing policy regarding cultural appropriation
- Developing new criteria in our applications and Terms and Conditions regarding a “no tolerance” policy toward sexual harassment and creating safe workplaces for organizations who receive funding support.

### ***External Relations Committee***

Member of the External Relations Committee for 2017 were Peter Dykhuis, Cory Bowles, Ashley McKenzie, as well as ex-officio members Mary Elizabeth Luka (Board Chair) and Christopher Shore (ANS Director). The committee continued to liaise with the Assistant Curator and Outreach Coordinator position to establish areas for increased public outreach and engagement, particularly through the Nova Scotia Art Bank and Arts Nova Scotia website and social media accounts.

Arts NS staff and board members hosted four community outreach events 2017-2018. This included a public meeting at the Coady Institute in Antigonish. Arts NS Director Chris Shore and board chair Mary Elizabeth Luka hosted a conversation about the province’s newly released Culture Action Plan. Board member Ashely Mackenzie hosted an information session in Sydney. Program Officers also hosted an information session in Inverness at the Inverness County Centre for the Arts to coincide with the closing night of the Art Bank Unveiling Exhibition. Finally, Arts NS hosted information sessions in Southwestern Nova Scotia in the beginning of November. This included a French language information session hosted at the Université Sainte-Anne and English language session at the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia Yarmouth Branch. In preparation for this, Arts NS was able to have outreach materials translated into French for the first time.

Art Bank staff made over 50 visits to installation sites across the province for both new installations, refreshed installations, deinstallations and site maintenance. In addition to regular visits within the HRM, the Art Bank visited sites in Kentville, Pictou, Stellarton, Truro and Shubenacadie. The Art Bank hosted a successful exhibition and opening of the 2017 Art Bank Acquisitions at the Inverness County Centre for the Arts in Cape Breton in September. The opening was well attended with over 30 people in

attendance. Through these activities that Art Bank has continued to stimulate public awareness and appreciation for contemporary art created by Nova Scotians.

Arts NS continued to grow its social media following in 2017-2018. Facebook followers have nearly doubled in the past years from 820 total followers in in Spring of 2016 to 1586 in Spring of 2018. Twitter followers have continued to grow, up 35% to a total of 830. Instagram has had the greatest increase in the past year up 200% to a total of 1050. After recognizing the increased opportunities for engagement over Instagram, Arts NS experimented with a paid promotional post for the February 2018 Art Bank deadline. While there was not a noticeable increase in applications for the Art Bank, there we gained 111 followers during this period, an increase of 13%. Overall, we recognize that social media continues to be an important and useful tool in communicating with our community.

Following the success of the 2016 Creative NS Gala livestream, Arts NS livestreamed the announcement Lieutenant Governor's Masterworks Award and the Portia White Prize at the 2017 Creative Nova Scotia Gala. A total of 4008 people were reached from the ANS page.

Arts Nova Scotia benefits from reciprocal relationships with other Canadian arts councils through the Director's leadership in the Atlantic Public Arts Funders (APAF) group and the participation of the Board Chair and the Chris Shore's leadership role at Canadian Public Arts Funders (CPAF). October of 2017 saw the convergence of both of these groups for a joint meeting, which happened in tandem with the 2017 Creative Cities Summit in Halifax. The joint meeting and summit allowed for extended networking opportunities for board and staff with arts and culture professionals from across the country.

### ***Initiatives and Outreach Committee***

Members of the Initiatives and Outreach Committee for the year 2017-18 included: M.E. Luka (Chair), Cory Bowles, Jack Chen, Peter Dykhuis, Mhiran Faraday, Ashley McKenzie, Nancy Noble Ex-officio: Christopher Shore (Director).

The Initiatives and Outreach Committee was struck in November 2017. It replaces the former External Relations and Communications Committee that was previously responsible for shaping and defining internal and external working relationships between Arts Nova Scotia and the Government as well as communication strategies aimed at the arts community and the general public.

In 2016, Arts Nova Scotia realized the much-desired addition of a fourth staff position, the Assistant Curator and Outreach Officer. Numerous communications and outreach tasks of the former Committee were represented in the job description of this new staff position.

With a stable and high-functioning full staff complement in place, the newly formed Initiatives and Outreach Committee is tasked to map the current cultural terrain and pursue the development of high-level initiatives that support future growth of Arts Nova Scotia and heightening the relevance of its services to the province.

The committee's mandate is to develop strategic initiatives for consideration by the Arts Nova Scotia Board of Directors, relevant to a dynamic and healthy arts community in Nova Scotia, including the Minister of Communities, Culture and Heritage, and related Department staff, and related councils such as the Creative Nova Scotia Leadership Council (CNSLC). It will enhance and develop high-level partnerships, build bridges and networks of support for the arts in Nova Scotia, including in the arts

community and related professional environments as well as the general public, including initiatives and outreach outside of the province.

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

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

Members of the Creative NS Gala Committee for the year 2017-18 included: Susan Tooke (CNSLC), Laurie Dalton (CNSLC & Masterworks), Rose Zack (CNSLC), Mhiran Faraday (Arts NS), Cory Bowles (Arts NS), Christopher Shore (Arts NS Director). The committee also included Kate Walchuk, an outside member of the cultural community, recruited for her event management expertise.

The Creative Nova Scotia Gala is managed by Arts Nova Scotia with the help of the Creative Nova Scotia Gala Committee. The committee has been actively meeting throughout the year to oversee the management of the awards gala, as well as developing a long-term strategy and plan for future years. The 2017 Gala received artistic direction from Lindsay Ann Cory and Michael McCormack, with INTERPLAY as the underlying curatorial theme. INTERPLAY transformed the new Discovery Centre into a space where guests were given the chance to play, interact with, workshop, participate in, affect, and explore.

Installations and performances included: **Fenn Martin** - The Cosmic Ghetto Scythors (performance outdoors that made its way inside), **Nick Iwasko** (created a projection on the outside face of the building), **Ian Funke-McKay** - Fate's Four Favours & Projections (sculptures throughout venue, projection pieces just passed the entrance), **Ryan Josey** - November, November (A large flag/quilt draped from the Level 2 stair landing), **Nelson MacDonald** and **Melissa Kearney** - it is what it is (slide show featuring post-industrial Cape Breton), **Lou Sheppard** - Tide Phase Baxter's Harbour, May 01-24, 2017 (inside elevator, visuals and sound representing tides), **Lindsay Dobbin** - Sky Sound (multimedia piece inside projection dome), **Helah Cooper** and **Hannah Levin** - SWITCHES + LINKS (live performance with video and interactive play), as well as **Annie Onyi Cheung** - cable knots club (artistic knotting using old electronic cables). **Brave Space** also created an interactive mural entitled INTERPLAY. On-stage, we welcomed **DJ High Fantasy** (Caleb Latreille) as well as **Andre Fenton** (spoken word artist) and **Cavell Holland** (dancer). The awards were presented by a group of three individuals from **Youth Art Connection** (YAC). This collaboration saw **Rebecca Moore**, **MAJE** (Michael Earl), and **Cavell Holland** tag-team the various speaking components so as to ensure a forward moving momentum was maintained throughout the awards presentation. This was a unique opportunity to champion emerging and pre-emerging artists in our community.

An exciting development with the 2017 Gala was the introduction of two new award categories: Emerging Artist Recognition Award and Indigenous Artist Recognition Award. These two new award categories help extend Arts Nova Scotia and the Creative NS Gala's reach into the arts community by highlighting groups that had not previously been represented at the awards. Interest in the Indigenous Artist Recognition Award was especially high on social media, with the Facebook announcement of Todd Labrador as the inaugural winner reaching 11.7K people, garnering 908 post-clicks and 942 reactions, comments and shares.

Following the event were several news reports highlighting both new awards, a CBC Nova Scotia Article titled "Canoe builder named Creative Nova Scotia's Indigenous Artist of the Year" gained the largest amount of attention when the Canada Council tweeted about it. The original tweet from Canada Council was "liked" 126 times and retweeted 60 times. While, 320 guests were ultimately welcomed through the

doors of the Discovery Centre, undoubtedly the awards had an impact on many more individuals on a local, provincial and national level leading up to and following the event.

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

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

Members of the Status of the Artist Committee for the year 2017-18 included: Peter Dykhuis (Arts NS) – Chair, Laurie Dalton (CNSLC), Virginia Stephen CNSLC and Christopher Shore (Arts NS).

Members of the Status of the Artist joint committee of Arts Nova Scotia and Creative Nova Scotia Leadership Council have worked for the past few years to advance both the spirit and legislated content of Nova Scotia's *Status of the Artist Act*. The 2012 *Act* acknowledged "the artist's role in building the Province's identity and culture and the enhancement that art brings to the Province's social and economic well-being." As part of the act, the department and government recognized "the indispensable role in fostering and nurturing a healthy and vibrant artistic culture."

Since its inception in 2012, committee members have explored multiple strategies to animate the *Status of the Artist Act* into viable, real-world actions that would benefit the lives of creative producers within the province. These have included advocacy for the adoption of the Resale Right to visual artists that would grant negotiated percentages of the value of all future re-sales of artwork after the initial purchase from out of an artist's studios. Also explored were issues of health and safety as it impacted artists at their place of employment and/or creation whether these were home studios or collective rehearsal halls or sites of public presentation. Past scrutiny as well analyzed the *Artists Municipal Tax Exemption Act: An Act to Exempt Artists from Business Occupancy Tax and Commercial Property Tax*.

In the early months of 2018, committee members shifted in focus from individual support of micro issues of 'the artist' to the macro focus on the nurture and growth of 'cultural hubs' and communities. Indeed, conceptually, the *Status of the Artist Act* gained new traction in concert with the 2016 publication of the Department's *Cultural Action Plan* wherein artistic and creative practices were framed as the primary generators of 'cultural action' in the province.

Using the framework of cultural hubs within the province, whether these were in the North End of Halifax, the burgeoning Holy Angels complex in Sydney, Lunenburg as a UNESCO-identified town site, or the rapidly expanding Parrsboro Creative enterprise, committee members posited that front-end investments by government through, for example, municipal tax benefits on production/presentation facilities, provincial sales tax rebates, medical health support, etc., , would stimulate economic and cultural growth for multiple clusters whether identified by geo-political region, cultural affiliation, or even specific architectural places. Discussion is underway with staff members from the Departments of Municipal Affairs and Communities, Culture and Heritage and we are cautiously optimistic that existing Status of the Artist legislation will help to catalyze dynamic, cultural and social change within the province of Nova Scotia.

## **How we make funding decisions for programs**

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

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 Small Groups, Project Grants for Publishers, Equity Program, and the Nova Scotia Art Bank Purchase Program. They are also used for the following awards: Prix Grand Pré, 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.

The following is a list of community members who participated on peer assessment committees in 2017-18:

|                  |                  |                      |                     |
|------------------|------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Adam Tragakis    | Erin Wunker      | Mary-Colin Chisholm  | Sarah MacCulloch    |
| Alasdair MacLean | Fabien Melanson  | Meghan Hubley        | Scott MacMillan     |
| Andrea Boyd      | Garry Williams   | Melanie Colosimo     | Sebastien Labelle   |
| Andrew Chandler  | Greg Morris      | Michael Bishop       | Shandi Mitchell     |
| Andy MacLean     | Janice Jackson   | Michael Earle        | Simon Thibault      |
| Anne MacMillan   | Jason Levangie   | Michael Lake         | Steven Naylor       |
| Ann-Marie Kerr   | Jennifer Overton | Michael McPhee       | Steven Peters       |
| Barbara Butler   | Jessica Korderas | Nadine Belliveau     | Sue Goyette         |
| Bob Bauer        | Kate Inglis      | Nancy Oakley         | Susan Tooke         |
| Brian MacNevin   | Ken Schwartz     | Natalie Robicaud     | Susanna Chui        |
| Colleen MacIsaac | Lindsay Dobbin   | Natasha MacLellan    | Terri Whetstone     |
| Dawn Shepherd    | Louise Pentz     | Nelson MacDonald     | Tessa Mendel        |
| Derek Charke     | LuLu Healy       | Rebecca Welter-Nolan | Tom Ryan            |
| Dian Day         | Marcel Kerkhoff  | Rhonda Baker         | Tyler Leblanc       |
| Donald Sedgwick  | Marie Cadieux    | Ryan Gray            | Ursula Johnson      |
| Dozay Christmas  | Marilyn McAvoy   | Sara Coffin          | Veronique MacKenzie |

## **Programs**

### ***Grants to Organizations and Small groups***

The program supports artistic development through three categories of funding. It assists with the production of a specific work or program for presentation to the public, the commissioning of new work and professional development for organizations. Applicants may submit one application per grant per deadline.

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

Annual budget: \$354,000

Applications received: 124

Applications funded: 58

### ***Grants to Individuals***

The program supports the creation of new works by professional artists in all disciplines including fine crafts, literary, visual, media and performing arts. It also promotes a broad understanding and appreciation of art and artists through professional development, creation and presentation of work. Individual artists may submit one application per grant per deadline. To encourage equitable distribution of funds, artists can only receive one Creation Grant in a 12-month period.

Application date by: May 15 / November 15 (each year)

Annual budget: \$631,700

Applications received: 403

Applications funded: 107

### ***Project Grants for Publishers***

The Project Grants for Publishing Program is designed to stimulate literary arts' production, dissemination, and commissioning. These project grants will be used to support developmental artistic activities and audience or community engagement initiatives. This program is designed to assist in the growth and development of the publishing field and the exploration of new models of publishing activity.

Application date by: January 15

Annual budget: \$150,000

Applications received: 20

Applications funded: 17

### ***Operating Assistance to Arts Organizations***

The program is designed to enhance stability within established professional arts organizations that develop and sustain Nova Scotia's arts and culture community. Support is provided to organizations that produce or present artistic performances and events involving professional artists. Such organizations are fundamental to the vitality and long-term health of the arts and cultural life in Nova Scotia.

Application date by: February 15 (each year)

Annual budget: \$1,344,000

Applications received: 27

Applications funded: 27

### ***Art Bank***

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

Application date by: January 15 (each year)  
Annual budget: \$40,000  
Applications received: 129  
Applications funded: 26

### ***Artists in the Schools programs***

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

Annual budget: \$90,000

### ***The Nova Scotia Talent Trust***

Arts Nova Scotia provides annual operating support to the Nova Scotia Talent Trust, a not-for-profit registered charity that provides scholarships to Nova Scotians who demonstrate exceptional potential and commitment to become established artists in their chosen fields. Applicants of any age may apply but support is given to those who are not yet established in their fields and who are undertaking programs of study which will advance their artistic development and who are pursuing career paths that can lead them to become established artists.

Annual Budget: \$100,000

### ***The Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia Masterworks Award***

Arts Nova Scotia provides annual operating support to the Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia Masterworks Foundation to oversee and manage all aspects (nomination, application, jury process, promotion) of this award. First presented in 2006, this \$25,000 annual award looks to recognize, reward and encourage excellence in all creative media and to highlight works that have a strong connection to Nova Scotia in the context of national and international achievement. The award is presented at the Creative Nova Scotia Awards Gala.

Annual budget: \$50,000

### ***Prizes***

Arts Nova Scotia is responsible for managing the jury processes and awarding the Artist Recognition Awards, the Community Arts and Culture Recognition Award, the Prix Grand Pré, and the Portia White Prize. We introduced new awards: 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; and The **Indigenous Artist Recognition Award** recognizes artists of Indigenous backgrounds who have emerged from their initial training and development to become recognized, established artists in Nova Scotia.

This past year the Established Artist Recognition Awards went to: **Jerome Blais, Kim Morgan and William Robinson**  
Emerging Artist Recognition Awards went to: **Jason Crocker and Heather Young**

The Indigenous Artist Recognition Award went to: **Todd Labrador**

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

The recipient of the Prix Grand Pré: **Ronald Bourgeois**

The recipient of the Portia White Prize: **Susan Gibson-Garvey.**

Susan Gibson-Garvey named **Visual Arts Nova Scotia** as the recipient of the Protégé prize.

### **Arts Nova Scotia Support4Culture Programs**

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

### ***Arts Equity Funding Program***

The Arts Equity Funding Program helps emerging and established professional artists from designated communities who have historically faced barriers to accessing funding support. Designed to support artistic growth, development, production and dissemination, the initiative is available to the following designated communities of artists:

- Indigenous (Mi'kmaq as well as other First Nations, Metis and Inuit)
- Culturally diverse (African-Nova Scotian 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.

Investment: \$75,00/year

Application date by: ongoing intake

Applications received: 20

Applications funded: 14

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

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

Investment: \$84,000

Application date by: February 15 (each year)

Applications received: 16

Applications funded: 12

### ***Creative Collaborations***

The Creative Collaborations Program is an internal fund co-created by ANS in partnership with the Support4Culture Initiative that looks at underserved areas within its granting programs. The program is integrated into the peer assessment process for the grants to individuals and the grants to organizations and small groups competitions based on the special interest for that year. The 2017-2018 year focused on first time funded applications and projects that took place outside of metropolitan Halifax. While artistic excellence remains the core of peer assessed evaluation, this internal fund can be used to augment success rates in disciplines or regions or within identified communities.

Investment: \$291,000

Applications funded: 37