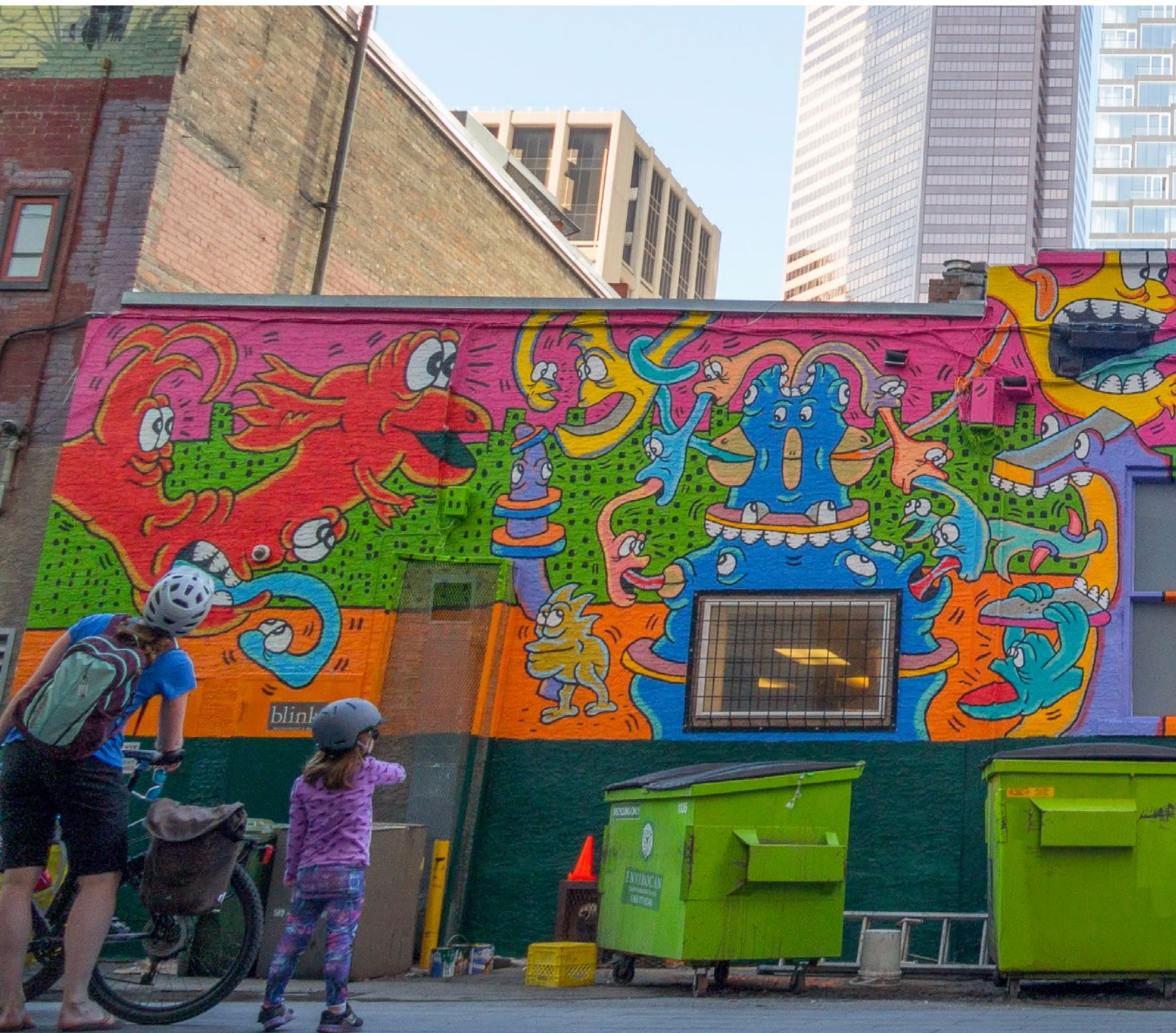


# REALIZING POSSIBILITIES

ACCOUNTABILITY & IMPACT REPORT | 2019







## Land Acknowledgement

Calgary Arts Development is situated on Treaty 7 Territory, home of the Kainai, Piikani, Siksika, Tsuut'ina, Stoney-Nakoda Nations and Métis Nation Region 3.

Acknowledging the traditional territories on which we gather has become a customary practice at Calgary Arts Development and an important step in our reconciliation journey.

More than just words to memorize and recite, the land acknowledgement is a way to remember and honour the First Nations of this land—the people who have been here for millennia.

In this spirit, we created a musical land acknowledgement to begin the 2019 Mayor's Lunch for Arts Champions, featuring Olivia Tailfeathers and the Grassland Singers, visual artist Mandy Stobo, and Calgary Arts Development President & CEO Patti Pon.

We believe that finding a personal connection is essential and we strive to communicate that personal meaning every time. Adding music and visual arts to the land acknowledgement at the Mayor's Lunch was a way to connect the meaning of our work to this land and the peoples who have lived here since time immemorial.

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# MESSAGE FROM DEAN PRODAN

Chair, Board of Directors, February 2013 – June 2019



Dean Prodan | Photo: Courtesy of Dean Prodan

My six years as the chair of the Calgary Arts Development board flew by. I joined at a transformative time in 2013, when Calgary Arts Development was just starting its work on the arts plan, which became *Living a Creative Life: an Arts Development Strategy for Calgary*. The strategy laid the groundwork for many of Calgary Arts Development's deep relationships with diverse groups who align their work in support of a vital, prosperous, and connected city through the arts. Since its launch the arts development strategy has gained more than 180 signatories, has had two baseline research reports published, has inspired a storytelling project with multiple ways of sharing stories of Calgarians who are living creative lives, and has encouraged civic partners and other organizations to include the arts and creativity in their strategic plans.

That first year of my tenure also saw a new focus on supporting individual artists, and equity-seeking artists and arts groups through our community investment programs. Over the past six years Calgary Arts Development has placed intentional focus on reaching, serving, and sharing resources with artists and communities that were previously underserved. Changing a system is a long-game strategy that happens over decades, not in a single year. Although there is still a long way to go, I am proud of the new granting streams that have been introduced—such as ArtShare for equity-seeking artists and arts organizations, the Original People's Investment Program for First Nations, Métis, and Inuit artists and arts organizations, and increased support for individual artists.

There have been so many more highlights since 2013. We saw the opening of a number of significant arts spaces in Calgary including Calgary Folk Festival's Festival Hall, Studio Bell, home of the National Music Centre, the Bella Concert Hall, the DJD Dance Centre, the Calgary Film Centre, cSPACE King Edward, and more. We celebrated a Year of Music in 2016. The arts sector endured an economic downturn with the help of some emergency relief and bridge funds from The City. We focused more attention and resources on research and impact, and we began serious, intentional work on right relations with Indigenous communities as well as starting to develop better strategies to

support equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility.

Things come in full circle. I joined the board during a year of transformational change and I completed my tenure during a year of transformational change. In 2019 our grant from The City went from \$6.4 million to \$12.4 million. This increase will go a long way toward fostering a more sustainable and resilient arts sector in Calgary as well as bringing an increased ability for arts-led city building for the benefit of all Calgarians.

It was a pleasure to serve as chair of the board for the past six years. As a born and raised Calgarian, I care deeply about my city. Arts and culture have always been part of my life and I enjoy having access to vibrant and diverse arts experiences in Calgary. Not only do I enjoy experiencing Calgary's arts scene with family and friends, but also as a businessman I see the value—the return on investment—the arts sector delivers to our city.

I thank all of the other volunteers I served with, the Calgary Arts Development staff led by President & CEO Patti Pon, and our shareholder—City Council. I wish you all the best in the years to come and can't wait to see how the arts will play an even greater role in a renewed vision and identity for our great city.

Dean Prodan  
Past Board Chair



# MESSAGE FROM BRIAN FRANK

Chair, Board of Directors, June 2019 – Present



Brian Frank | Photo: Courtesy of Brian Frank

I want to start my comments by thanking Dean Prodan, who was chair from 2013 to 2019, and by thanking Katherine Wagner, Tim Mah, and Rob Harding who also completed their time on the board in 2019.

Having lived in cities all over the world, I have seen how a healthy and vibrant arts community is the lifeblood of any city. And what I've come to learn is the overwhelming breadth and depth of our city's remarkable arts scene. It was eye opening to learn that Calgary Arts Development disburses grant investments to more than 170 nonprofit arts organizations and arts collectives, and hundreds of individual artists.

I believe that Calgary is an arts city. How do I know this to be true? I know because I could attend a different arts event every night of the year, and just scratch the surface of all our city has to offer. The variety of choices is abundant—traditional arts performances and new

forms of art, exhibitions, and events. Music, dance, theatre, opera, media and visual arts, literary arts, spoken word, Indigenous arts, cultural celebrations, festivals, installations, works by emerging artists, newcomer artists, arts for social change, for youth development and at-risk youth, arts for health and wellbeing, for creative aging, arts by the maker community, and on and on.

The arts provide economic and social impact and celebrate the diversity of our population. A vibrant arts scene encourages young people to stay in our city, and attracts new people and businesses. The arts bring people together and enable us to connect.

The arts matter from an economic perspective. For the small investment of about \$10 per Calgarian per year, the arts sector's contribution to the provincial economy was \$134M in Gross Domestic Product in 2018 (our most recent study). This happens via the people who do the work, then make purchases, and pay taxes. And the arts matter because of their social impacts by connecting us through telling and sharing our collective stories of celebration, loss, and redemption.

Calgary Arts Development acts as a strategic advisor to City Council and is an excellent steward of public dollars for the public good. The staff has deep expertise in running grant investment programs; they employ thoughtful, open, transparent processes; and they collect and share knowledge about Calgary's art sector.

Throughout 2019 we continued to foster our role as facilitator, connector,

collaborator, and supporter. Our impact research and data are being recognized by others as meaningful and constructive and we continue to be leaders in research. We practice right relations with Indigenous artists, leaders, and communities and we have been more intentional about equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility, not only in our own work but in the arts sector as a whole and in the relationships we foster.

The transformational increase to our budget in 2019 is enabling us to realize possibilities by providing much needed increased support to arts organizations that had experienced stagnant operating grants over the past decade. It is also opening our programs to new organizations, creating support for more equity-seeking artists, and helping us increase public awareness of what's on in Calgary's vibrant arts scene. In 2019 we distributed \$9,789,980 through our grant investment programs (a 102% increase over the 2018 total of \$4,868,255), which represented 81% of the total grant received from The City of Calgary. The rest was used for arts development programs (13%) and administration and overhead (6%).

A healthy, vibrant arts sector could be the way forward for Calgary, by contributing to a new economy, a vibrant city, and a city that includes everyone. Through the arts we can realize a renewed vision for Calgary.

Brian Frank  
Board Chair

# MESSAGE FROM PATTI PON

President & CEO



Photo Caption: Patti Pon  
Photo: Amy Jo Espetveid

2019 was a very significant year in our history. After presenting a case for an increased investment from The City of Calgary in 2018 we were rewarded with almost double the budget to distribute to the arts sector through our grant investment and arts development programs starting in 2019.

In this report you will find information about all of our programs and activities in 2019, you will meet our staff, and see a smattering of examples of the great work being done by our grant investees. We couldn't possibly include information about all of the artists, collectives, organizations, projects, and events, but we included links to many of them and selected a few stories to share that give a small glimpse into Calgary's diverse and vibrant arts sector.

Maximizing the impact of our budget increase was the main driving force of our work in 2019. A strong focus on our first priority area—fostering a sustainable and resilient arts sector—has a direct effect on the second priority area—arts-led city building. In the spirit of generosity, we

ensured the increase not only supported catch-up for those organizations who had been in our programs for years, but it also supported new organizations and artists, with a particular emphasis on equity-seeking artists and organizations.

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***It is important that the stories and faces of the organizations and individuals we invest in reflect the stories and faces of Calgary. And while we aren't there yet, we are getting closer; as you can see in the enthusiasm of the youth ensemble of the Calgary Chinese Orchestra (p. 23), the artistry of Sarb Akal (p. 38), the expression of Landon Krentz (p. 46), the vibrancy of the Ethnik Arts Festival (p. 52), the leadership of Toyin Oladele (p. 54) and the inspiration of our Artists as Changemakers (p.58) to create and realize possibilities.***

---

We were also able to focus on greater outreach into the community, and increased communications activity through a new information hub at [calgaryartsdevelopment.com](http://calgaryartsdevelopment.com) and a searchable events calendar [yycwhatson.ca](http://yycwhatson.ca).

One of the new programs in 2019 was the cultural activation fund, which emerged from City Council's motion in November 2018 for an additional \$1 million allocated to Calgary Arts Development with the intent to connect to economic and tourism indicators and outcomes. It provided a way to invest in opportunities that reached a broad cross-section of Calgarians and visitors to demonstrate that the arts are part of Calgary's DNA. Due to a variety of factors, including a \$410,000 cut from The City in July 2019,

the cultural activation fund ended up at \$663,665 which was still a significant amount to support arts-led city building.

At Calgary Arts Development we value people first. The majority of our funding (81% in 2019) goes directly to our city's arts sector through grant investment programs, which support people, productions, and projects. The arts sector employs a significant labour force with 10,705 arts workers and artists working in Calgary in 2019. And that doesn't even include the 25,670 people who contributed 566,803 hours volunteering their time for great arts and cultural causes.

Our artists matter. They create and share the stories that let me see myself in them and make me feel like I belong and am not just fitting in. We all belong in our communities and in our circles. We all have a purpose, and what we bring is who we are. During this chaotic and complex time we have found more and more Calgarians leaning on the arts to feel that they are connected and that they belong and it is for this reason that we have invested public dollars for decades.

I am blessed to work with an extraordinary team at Calgary Arts Development at both the staff and board levels. And along with Brian I add my sincere appreciation to our board members who moved on in 2019; as well as my sincere thanks to departing staff members for their contribution. It is our great privilege at Calgary Arts Development to steward public dollars for the benefit of the public good.

Patti Pon  
President & CEO



# ***ABOUT CALGARY ARTS DEVELOPMENT***

**A**s the city's designated arts development authority, Calgary Arts Development supports and strengthens the arts to benefit all Calgarians. We invest and allocate municipal funding for the arts provided by The City of Calgary and leverage these funds to provide additional resources to the arts sector.



The audience at the 2019 High Performance Rodeo | Photo: Elyse Bouvier





## OUR WHY:

**We believe that art infusing the lives of Calgarians has the power to build our city.**

## OUR VISION:

**A creative, connected Calgary through the arts.**

## OUR MISSION:

**We support and strengthen the arts to benefit all Calgarians.**

To deliver on our mission, we are:

- A connector, facilitator and collaborator
- A champion, supporter and amplifier
- An investor in artists and arts organizations
- A catalyst and opportunity-maker

**Equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility are core values at Calgary Arts Development. We honour these values by following three principles—nothing about us without us, one size fits one, and creating a virtuous cycle—and strive to embed these principles in all that we do.**

Visitors explore the first major fashion exhibition to ever come to Calgary, Christian Dior, at Glenbow | Photo: Mike Tan



In 2018, we presented a case to City Council for a transformational increase in arts funding to:

- Increase vibrancy throughout our city.
- Increase the economic impact of the arts and contribute to Calgary's economic diversity.
- Ensure access to more arts experiences for Calgarians.
- Better reflect Calgary's diversity advantage through the arts.

In November 2018, City Council approved a 93.75% increase to our grant, taking us from \$6.4M in 2018 to \$12.4M in 2019.

**So, what has this meant?**

## INCREASED VIBRANCY

More Calgarians attended arts activities in 2019 and an increased number of events were held in the city centre, contributing to a vibrant downtown.

	2018	2019	CHANGE FROM 2018
Total attendance in Calgary	2,949,196	3,184,474	+8%
Number of activities in city centre	39%	51%	+31%
Number of public activities	14,469	13,831	-4%

## ECONOMIC IMPACT AND ECONOMIC DIVERSITY

More jobs were created with more artists and arts workers finding paid work in Calgary.

	2018	2019	CHANGE FROM 2018
Total number of artists hired	8,524	9,820	+15%
Total full-time equivalent workers	716	885	+24%
Total revenue of arts organizations	\$125,619,842	\$132,450,827	+5%
Total direct economic output	\$125,144,955	\$131,364,317	+5%
Made in Calgary arts activities toured outside Calgary	1,231	1,258	+2%

## ACCESS TO ARTS EXPERIENCES FOR CALGARIANS

More people were involved in the arts in 2019, from volunteering to attending, and even though the number of arts activities for youth decreased, youth participation increased.

	2018	2019	CHANGE FROM 2018
Number of volunteers	23,494	25,670	+9%
Volunteer hours	488,524	566,803	+16%
Number of arts activities for youth	10,370	9,118	-12%
Attendance at education activities of children and youth	339,065	346,104	+2%*
Total attendance in Calgary	2,949,196	3,184,474	+8%

*\* Even though it is small, this is the first increase in attendance of children and youth in a long time. Attendance had been in decline since 2013.*

## REFLECTING CALGARY'S DIVERSITY THROUGH THE ARTS

There were significantly more activities engaging multicultural and Indigenous communities. The drop in activities engaging people with disabilities is due to clarity in the language used when organizations are reporting on who they are specifically serving. Meeting minimum access requirements are no longer sufficient to refer to programming as specifically serving a community.

	2018	2019	CHANGE FROM 2018
Activities engaging multicultural communities	3,249	4,743	+46%
Activities engaging people with disabilities	3,058	486	-84%
Number of activities engaging Indigenous communities	1,141	1,256	+10%
Activities engaging LGBTQ+ communities	775	555	-28%

2019 was the beginning of a new four-year strategic framework for this budget cycle (2019-2022), which has two PRIORITIES:

---

**1 *Fostering a sustainable and resilient arts sector through four focus areas:***

- Grant investment
  - Arts development
  - Knowledge, impact, and accountability
  - Awareness and connection
- 

**2 *Arts-led city building through three focus areas:***

- Vibrant downtown
  - Everyday creativity
  - Creative economy
-



# FOSTERING A SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT ARTS SECTOR

## FOCUS 1

### Grant investment

Develop comprehensive grant investment programs for arts organizations that provide:

- Operating
- Seed investment
- Risk investment
- Facility operating

Identify & reduce barriers to engagement with CADA's investment and arts development programs

Develop grant investment programs for artists that support:

- Creation
- Skills development (artistic & business)
- Research
- Experimentation

Acknowledge & support art & artists from diverse and equity seeking communities

## FOCUS 2

### Arts development

Continue to leverage investment in the sector with other partners

Strengthen artists & arts organizations through capacity building programs:

- Workshops
- Coaching

Create a digital strategy for the arts sector in Calgary

## FOCUS 3

### Knowledge, impact & accountability

Continue to collect data to communicate sector impact

Produce meaningful research for the arts sector

Have transparent open data & reporting practices

Provide strategic advice to our shareholder about the arts sector

## FOCUS 4

### Awareness & connection

Communicate information about and for the arts sector through:

- Digital platforms
- Social media
- SpaceFinder

Become the central info hub for the arts in Calgary

Convene & connect the arts sector on a sustaining basis

**Key partners** City Council, City of Calgary Arts & Culture, Alberta Foundation for the Arts, Canada Council for the Arts, Department of Canadian Heritage, the Calgary Foundation, Calgary Hotel Association

# *GRANT INVESTMENT PROGRAMS*

**I**n line with the 2004 Calgary Civic Arts Policy, Calgary Arts Development is responsible for establishing arts investment programs that strengthen Calgary's arts sector. We are required to invest a **minimum of 75% of the dollars** received from The City of Calgary directly into the arts community through grant investment programs, with most of the remaining funds used for arts development activities, and a small percentage for administration and overhead.

## What's exciting is that we invested 81% in 2019.

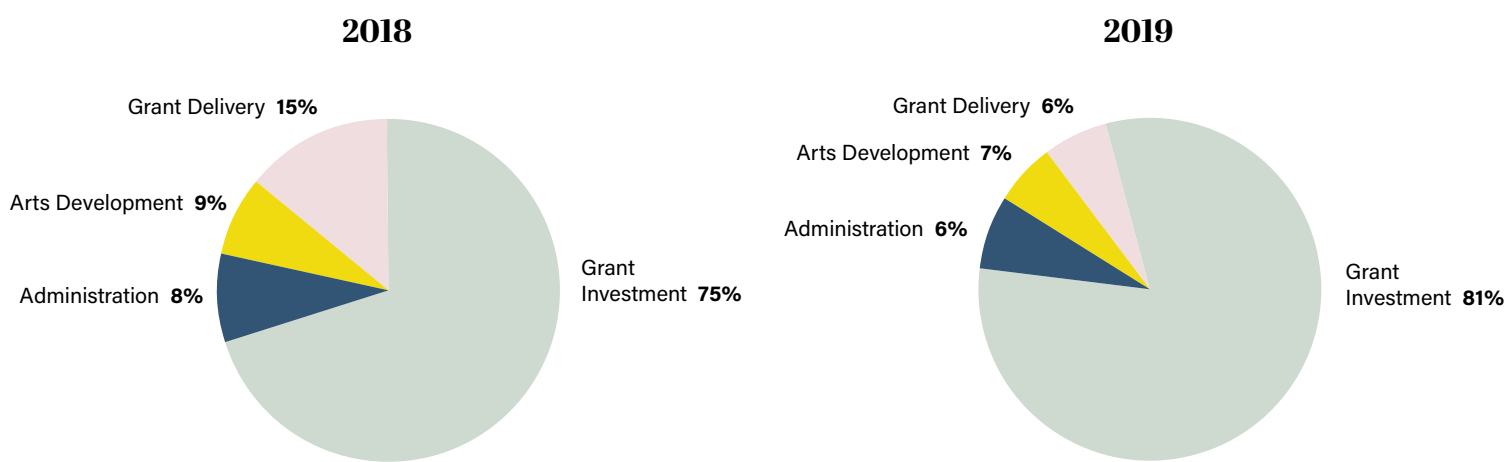
With our grant from The City having increased from \$6.4M in 2018 to \$12.4M in 2019, we were able to invest \$9,789,980 through grant investment programs (a 102% increase over the 2018 total of \$4,828,255).

This much-needed increase helped supplement operating grants to almost all of the organizations we fund through the Operating Grant Program with a one-time Operating Grant+ Program, as well as supporting individual artists, arts collectives, projects, and events through other granting programs. The increased funding brought us from \$6.5 per capita in 2015 to just under \$10 per capita in 2019, lifting

Calgary from the bottom of the pack to about the middle in comparison with other large cities in Canada. This is truly something to celebrate!

Overall granting went up significantly both in real dollars and as a percentage of our budget due to the increase, while administration and overhead went down as a percentage (from 8% to 6%).

Increased distribution of dollars requires more time, more hands, and more assessments, which means that program delivery costs also went up although the percentage of dollars spent on program delivery went down.



## MEET THE STAFF



Sara Bateman | Photo: Courtesy of Sara Bateman

### **Sara Bateman, Director, Community Investment & Impact**

When I started in January 2019, I had no idea of the whirlwind I was going to face. I started only two months after the transformational increase to Calgary Arts Development's budget and expectations were high. Learning and listening were the themes of the year as I sought to understand what and how we fund as well as to recognize and report on impact our grant programs are making.

When you learn something, you have to act and this past year required some tough decisions.

I approach my work from a systems-view with a long-term perspective by seeing the interconnections and opportunities within the arts eco-system. What I love about my job is seeing the possibilities within the sector as it is poised to really define Calgary and embed arts into our city's DNA.



Our approach to investment is broad, including direct monetary support through grant investments as well as fostering long-term resilience through capacity-building in the arts sector. We ran the following grant investment programs in 2019:

- Operating Grant Program (including Standard Operating Grant, Organization Access Program, and Operating Grant+ Program)
- Project Grants (Project Grant for Organizations and Project Grant for Individuals and Collectives)
- Individual Artist Grants
- Original Peoples Investment Program Grants
- ArtShare Grants

## HOW THE MONEY WAS ALLOCATED

Recognizing the transformative power of providing operating grants to arts organizations, a large percentage (74%) of our granting budget continues to be dedicated to the operating grant program.

However, feedback we have received through the years, and our own evaluation, has revealed a need for changes to the operating

grant investment model. There have been historical biases such as the size of a grant correlating directly to how long an organization has been in the program, and systemic exclusions such as processes and criteria that favour some communities and not others. The increase to our budget presented us with the opportunity to adjust programs in order to create a more fair and equitable competitive context with fewer barriers to accessing the funds.

In 2019, we launched a suite of funding programs with the intent to begin to address some of the challenges, biases, and barriers inherent to the operational funding model, as well as to recognize the broad diversity and contexts of our operating grant organizations. These programs were intended to create an opportunity for dialogue, learning, and conversations with the arts sector about how grant investments could best support their needs. We will continue to work to remove barriers and address inequities and power dynamics throughout the current four-year strategic framework in order to ensure the sector is accessible and works for all.

The goal of our grant investment programs is to foster a resilient and sustainable arts sector, ensuring that Calgary (known as Mohkinstsis in Blackfoot), is home to a vibrant arts community where all Calgarians have access to meaningful artistic experiences.

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## MEET THE STAFF

### *Lesley Hinger, Operations Manager*

I wear many different hats in my work, all of which support how the company operates. This includes managing the office, bookkeeping, human resources, government liaison, and supporting the board of directors. I'm also a composer and musician in my creative work outside of the office, and have many years of experience writing grants and working with local non-profit arts organizations, so I feel personally invested in the work that we do and the health of our arts community from a few different perspectives.

The most rewarding part of my job is the simplicity of sending money directly to an artist who really needs it, and knowing that those funds will play a part in helping them create something incredible.



Lesley Hinger | Photo: Courtesy of Lesley Hinger

## 2019 Grants: Artists, Arts Organizations & Collectives

2019 GRANT PROGRAM	# OF APPLICATIONS	\$ REQUESTED	# OF RECIPIENTS	\$ INVESTED	% OF \$ REQUEST FUNDED
Original Peoples Investment Program (OPIP)	44	\$403,387	41	\$389,442	96.5%
ArtShare	33	\$414,745	33	\$414,745	100%
Operating Grant (OG)	152	\$3,882,565	152	\$3,882,565	100%
OG+	126	\$5,314,154	126	\$3,120,646	58.7%
Individual Artist Program (IAP)	205	\$6,150,000	10	\$300,000	4.9%
Organization Access Program (OAP)	67	\$2,060,117	17	\$300,000	14.6%
Project Grant Organizations	61	\$903,166	17	\$247,244	27.4%
Project Grant Individuals and Collectives	173	\$2,559,937	34	\$530,009	20.7%
Cultural Activation Fund	18	\$663,665	18	\$663,665	100%
TOTAL	876	\$22,589,636	435	\$9,858,295	43.6%

## MEET THE STAFF



Van Chu | Photo: Courtesy of Van Chu

### Van Chu

As grants coordinator my main accountability is to support our community investment team to ensure investment agreements, payments, internal processes and general inquiries about our grant programs received from artists and organizations are managed and answered in a timely manner.

My time with Calgary Arts Development has only been a little under a year and I felt welcomed and enjoy being a part of the team. Everyone is super friendly, helpful, and supportive through my learning about the arts and culture sector. I love getting to know the local artists to hear about their stories and passion for what led them to where they are. They provide such inspiration and creativity to Calgarians to experience and I always look forward to seeing their end project put into action. I enjoy working with local artists and organizations I support on a daily basis especially in getting the funds into their hands so that they can start working and showcasing their amazing work to the community to enjoy.

# OPERATING GRANT INVESTMENT PROGRAMS

The intention of these programs is to provide arts organizations with a stable, predictable base of funding. Operational funding is the single largest investment made by Calgary Arts Development each year acknowledging that this type of support is a key driver for the success of the arts sector and its contribution to the vitality of the entire city.

There was an aspect of learning that we wanted to do this first year of our new budget cycle. The transformational aspect of the increased funding after years of stagnant dollars required us to take the first year to learn and grow with the sector. For example, with the completion in 2018 of the Cornerstone Program, we had originally intended to launch a new city builder program in 2019, but through conversations with our community, and available resources, it soon became clear that a different approach needed to be taken.

With our early learnings in 2019, and additional funds from The City, we ran three programs specifically for operational funding:

1. The Operating Grant Program (OG) – traditional, ongoing annual funding.
2. The Operating Grant+ Program (OG+) to strategically address challenges and opportunities that would create conditions for OG recipients to thrive
3. The Organizational Access Program (OAP) for new organizations who had never received operating grants in the past.

OG+ was a one-time program to enable organizations to address important opportunities through their work while remaining

resilient, adaptable and sustainable in the future. It focused on artistic impact, public impact, opportunity, planning, adaptability, and evaluation.

Eligible applications to Calgary Arts Development's grant investment programs are reviewed and approved by peer assessment committees made up of artists, arts workers, and community members who are chosen through public nominations and staff expertise. These committees reflect and respect the broad diversity of Calgary and its artistic communities, including but not limited to: artistic discipline, gender, sexuality, age, beliefs, nation, physical, neurological, and Mad identities. Peer assessment committees are expected to commit to Calgary Arts Development's Group Agreements. Equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility are given intentional consideration.

Calgary Arts Development is committed to open, fair, and transparent processes and works with applicants who experience barriers to accessing granting programs. Language translation, American Sign Language (ASL) and Braille translation, oral submissions, and physical access to meeting spaces are some of the accommodations offered.

The philosophy of the 2019 operating grant investment programs was that all organizations who received an operating grant in 2018 would receive that base amount in 2019 with the submission of their standard annual interim reporting in the first quarter of the year. Organizations wishing to access funds from the OG+ Program were required to submit an application. Applications were reviewed and discussed within the context of each organization's mandate by peer assessment committees, who then made funding recommendations to Calgary Arts Development.

The total amount invested through the 2019 OG Program was \$3,882,565 as base OG grants for 152 organizations and the total awarded through the OG+ Program was \$3,120,646 to 126 organizations (\$5,314,154 was requested).

## MEET THE STAFF

### Melissa Tuplin

As the Community Investment and Capacity Manager, I am focused on the design and evaluation of the grant investment programs. Every organization and artist we work with has a unique mandate, form of operations, and artistic processes. In order for organizations and artists to successfully contribute to a thriving arts sector and achieve their goals, grant investment programs must be relevant to them. The diversity of practice and perspective in our community is inspiring. With each iteration of investment programs we learn more about how the artistic community makes and shares their work, and endeavour to invest in the community through our programs in a way that matters.



Melissa Tuplin | Photo: Amy Jo Espetveidt





Volunteers printing the exhibition poster for A/P's 30th Anniversary Portfolio  
Exhibition: *FUTUROLOGY* | Photo: Alberta Printmakers

**Operating since 1989, Alberta Printmakers is a not for profit artist-run centre that inspires artistic growth and fosters community through a gallery and studio.**

Alberta Printmakers is dedicated to cultivating an inclusive space to learn about printmaking. They exhibit print-based media in their gallery space, artists have access to their studio space and equipment to create print-based works, and there are opportunities to purchase works in their print store. They also offer workshops, artist talks, free community events, and opportunities for artistic growth and development.

In 2019 they celebrated 30 years as a printmaking community in Calgary. To celebrate their rich history, and to foster an active future, they organized an editioned portfolio with the theme *FUTUROLOGY\** that displayed a broad variety of prints created by 25 artists selected by an expert jury.

*\*FUTUROLOGY... is the study of postulating possible, probable, and preferable futures, and the worldviews, and myths that underlie them.*

Source: [albertaprintmakers.com](http://albertaprintmakers.com)

OPERATIONAL FUNDING	2018	2019	CHANGE FROM 2018
Total number of organizations funded	153	169	10% increase
Operating dollars invested	\$3,958,560	\$7,303,211	84% increase

Even with the increase, demand for operating funds continues to outweigh the funding pools available.

## 2019 OG and OG+ recipients:

ARTS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS	OG	OG+ ONE-TIME ADDITIONAL FUNDING	TOTAL	CHANGE FROM 2018
<a href="#">Alberta Craft Council</a>	\$8,740	\$35,000	\$43,740	416% increase
<a href="#">Alberta Media Arts Alliance</a>	\$6,000	\$4,000	\$10,000	67% increase
<a href="#">Alberta Playwrights' Network</a>	\$11,000	\$10,000	\$21,000	91% increase
<a href="#">Alberta Printmakers</a>	\$17,500	\$10,000	\$27,500	57% increase
<a href="#">Book Publishers Association of Alberta</a>	\$4,050	\$5,000	\$9,050	123% increase
<a href="#">Calgary Society of Independent Filmmakers</a>	\$37,500	\$16,150	\$53,650	43% increase
<a href="#">Canadian Academy of Mask and Puppetry</a>	\$3,000	\$21,000	\$24,000	700% increase
<a href="#">Canadian Music Centre, Prairie Region Assoc</a>	\$15,500	n/a*	\$15,500	No change
<a href="#">CJSW 90.9 FM</a>	\$37,500	\$25,000	\$62,500	67% increase
<a href="#">Elephant Artist Relief (EAR)</a>	\$4,000	\$6,000	\$10,000	150% increase
<a href="#">Pumphouse Theatres</a>	\$39,130	\$35,000	\$74,130	89% increase
<a href="#">Quickdraw Animation Society</a>	\$42,500	\$31,000	\$73,500	73% increase
<a href="#">Stage Left Productions</a>	\$8,550	\$48,000	\$56,550	561% increase
<a href="#">Theatre Alberta</a>	\$12,400	\$8,000	\$20,400	65% increase
<a href="#">West Village Theatre</a>	\$7,000	\$16,500	\$23,500	236% increase
<a href="#">Writers Guild of Alberta</a>	\$6,000	\$5,000	\$11,000	83% increase

\*n/a = did not apply for OG+ funding

**Elephant Artist Relief Society (EAR)** provides practical resources to artists in the Calgary region in order to help sustain their well-being and livelihood and, in turn, contribute to a vibrant cultural sector.

As a unique service organisation, EAR builds creative capacity and fills a role not duplicated by any other agency. Originally dedicated to serving visual artists, the organization recently extended its programs to support artists of other disciplines, with intentions of meeting the broader community's needs for years to come. The society envisions a healthy arts community that ensures a continued rich cultural landscape for us all.

EAR came into being when a group came together to help a fellow artist with a health crisis. Since then, EAR has become evermore aware of how vulnerable artists are, when struck with an unexpected hardship. The average annual income for a visual artist, for example, is among the lowest in the country and access to extended benefits is rare.

To achieve its goals EAR offers emergency financial relief, referrals and resources on topics such as health and safety, fiscal management and taxes, as well as hosting career development and entrepreneurship workshops.

Source: [elephantartistrelief.com](http://elephantartistrelief.com)



**Stampede Breakfast | Photo: Courtesy of Elephant Artist Relief**



**Attendees of the Community Theatre Summit 2.0 | Photo: Allan Wilson**

**Attendees of the Community Theatre Summit 2.0** participate in a workshop with **Stafford Perry** from the **Calgary Centre for Sexuality**. The Summit was hosted by **Theatre Alberta** and **Calgary-ACTS**. **Calgary Arts Development President & CEO Patti Pon** also spoke at this conference.

**Theatre Alberta is a service organization that offers a wide range of programs and services to drama students, professional theatre artists, educators, and enthusiasts, as well as to schools, post-secondary institutions, and community and professional theatres.**

Services include a library with more than 21,500 titles; Artstrek—a summer school for teens; workshops; Hometown Series—a program of sending theatre professionals to teach in community; training workshops; online resources such as Alberta's premiere online theatre listings sharing service, Playbill—information on theatre productions across Alberta; Theatre Buzz—a monthly eNewsletter; and much much more.

Source: [theatrealberta.com](http://theatrealberta.com)



COMMUNITY (ALL)	OG	OG+ ONE-TIME ADDITIONAL FUNDING	TOTAL	CHANGE FROM 2018
<a href="#">Alberta Dance Theatre for Young People</a>	\$3,200	\$5,300	\$8,500	166% increase
<a href="#">Alexandra Writers' Centre</a>	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$10,000	100% increase
<a href="#">Alliance Française</a>	\$10,000	n/a	\$10,000	No change
<a href="#">Antyx Community Arts</a>	\$18,000	\$50,000	\$68,000	278% increase
<a href="#">Artpoint Gallery &amp; Studios</a>	\$4,500	\$7,500	\$12,000	167% increase
<a href="#">Brazilian Community Association of Alberta</a>	\$5,000	n/a	\$5,000	No change
<a href="#">Calgary Protospace</a>	\$3,600	\$3,600	\$7,200	100% increase
<a href="#">Calgary Young People's Theatre</a>	\$9,000	\$19,000	\$28,000	211% increase
<a href="#">Fire Exit Theatre</a>	\$4,000	\$6,785	\$10,785	170% increase
<a href="#">Footprints Dance Project</a>	\$2,300	\$16,400	\$18,700	713% increase
<a href="#">Front Row Centre Players</a>	\$7,600	\$10,000	\$17,600	132% increase
<a href="#">Gli Azzurri - Calgary Italian Dancers</a>	\$1,200	n/a	\$1,200	No change
<a href="#">Indefinite Arts Centre</a>	\$20,000	\$55,000	\$75,000	275% increase
<a href="#">Jeunesse Classique Ballet</a>	\$5,700	\$10,000	\$15,700	175% increase
<a href="#">Leighton Foundation and Art Centre</a>	\$16,500	\$12,000	\$28,500	73% increase
<a href="#">Loose Moose Theatre</a>	\$12,700	\$16,250	\$28,950	128% increase
<a href="#">Marda Loop Justice Film Festival</a>	\$3,000	\$12,000	\$15,000	400% increase
<a href="#">MomoMovement Dance Theatre</a>	\$6,000	\$13,750	\$19,750	229% increase
<a href="#">Morpheus Theatre</a>	\$9,500	\$6,000	\$15,500	63% increase
<a href="#">Silver Stars Musical Revue</a>	\$2,000	\$5,000	\$7,000	250% increase
<a href="#">Single Onion</a>	\$3,800	\$3,000	\$6,800	79% increase
<a href="#">Southern Alberta Woodworkers</a>	\$1,250	\$11,500	\$12,750	920% increase
<a href="#">StoryBook Theatre</a>	\$28,000	\$5,000	\$33,000	18% increase
<a href="#">Studio C, Prospect Human Services Society</a>	\$8,900	\$30,000	\$38,900	337% increase
<a href="#">Suzirya Ukrainian Dance Theatre</a>	\$2,000	\$12,000	\$14,000	600% increase
<a href="#">The League of Extraordinary Albertans</a>	\$2,800	n/a	\$2,800	No change
<a href="#">Three Left Feet Movement Creations</a>	\$4,500	\$14,000	\$18,500	311% increase
<a href="#">Tryzub Ukrainian Dance</a>	\$3,000	\$11,500	\$14,500	383% increase

**Antyx** is a community arts company that uses the arts and community development processes to create opportunities for youth to become more engaged in their community and experience increased community connection.

Their community arts strategy involves developing collaborative community arts projects that engage youth and communities. Projects are planned with community partners and direct input from youth. Past projects have included: community murals, performances of plays reflecting community issues, video, and music projects.

Antyx uses the arts to engage youth and spark their curiosity and commitment. Community arts projects provide opportunities for youth to make tangible contributions to their community and be recognized for those contributions. The arts open the door to self-reflection and self-expression, allowing youth to explore who they are and their place in the world.

Source: [antyx.org](http://antyx.org)



Youth participate in a program at the Central Library | Photo: Antyx Community Arts



**StoryBook Theatre has been part of the Calgary community, producing quality family theatre, for children of all ages since 1977. It was housed in a couple of different places over the years including the Pumphouse Theatre and the Community Arts Centre on the former Currie Barracks, before renovating an old community centre into the new Beddington Heights Theatre Arts Centre. This the new permanent home for StoryBook, housing all of their shows and programming.**

From its humble beginnings, StoryBook Theatre now produces multiple plays and musicals per season, offers year-round theatre schools, hosts a playwriting competition—including producing the play, creates original productions, and so much more.

StoryBook consistently sells out its shows, and has seen more than a million patrons enjoy high quality family programming, at affordable pricing. Over the years it has grown with the community, and today is Canada's largest volunteer-driven theatre for young audiences.

Source: [storybooktheatre.org](http://storybooktheatre.org)



StoryBook Theatre's Roald Dahl's *Matilda the Musical* | Photo: Benjamin Laird Arts & Photo



### The Marda Loop Justice Film Festival

presents some of the world's best documentaries on the issues that are important to us as individuals, Canadians, global citizens, and humans. These influential documentaries from international filmmakers have played to more than 30,000 people in the Calgary area and across Canada free of charge.

Since its start in 2006, the festival has grown 100%, from a three-day festival with two venues to a six-day festival in three venues. In addition to the annual festival, they also present justREEL, a year-round film series.

The documentaries presented were chosen from a submission pool of more than 500

filmmakers from over 100 countries. Every screening, whether it's a festival presentation or part of justREEL, includes a discussion with the filmmaker or experts on the film's topic. These conversations are lively, inclusive, and enlightening, occasionally charged or even contentious, but always thought-provoking.

In 2019, they screened 19 films in three different venues, served 4,274 attendees, presented 30 guest speakers, and hosted 21 vendors with the contribution of over 100 volunteers.

Source: [justicefilmfestival.ca](http://justicefilmfestival.ca)



Pamphlets for the Marda Loop Justice Film Festival | Photo: Chelsea Yang-Smith



Circus sessions with Allara Gooliaff on the trapeze | Photo: SV Photography

**Three Left Feet** is based on the Canadian Prairies. Our movement story is shaped by geography and our grassroots connection to the people who live here. Three Left Feet believes in working with professional artists who have a unique combination of passion, creativity, spark and dedication. Motivated by rhythms from all over the world, we encourage others to move with us and be moved by us.

Source: [threeleftfeet.ca](http://threeleftfeet.ca)

In 1974, seven dedicated individuals put together the framework for the **Tryzub Ukrainian Dance Ensemble** and Calgary's first prominent Ukrainian dance group was created. The Ensemble was named after the Tryzub ('trident' in English, pronounced tre-zoob), which is the national symbol of a free Ukraine. This ancient emblem has endured within the hearts of all Ukrainians as a symbol of honesty, health, power, and protection from evil. The objective of the Ensemble is to preserve and promote Ukrainian dancing and to spread this aspect of Ukrainian-Canadian culture within the multicultural community.

In response to interest from parents for a Ukrainian dance school that would prepare its students for direct progression into the ensemble, the Tryzub School of Ukrainian Dance was created in 1996. The school is comprised of 150 students enrolled in fundamentals classes, a junior performing ensemble, and adult classes.

Source: [tryzub.ca](http://tryzub.ca)



Dancers in traditional costumes perform | Photo: Tryzub Ukrainian Dance Society

COMMUNITY (MUSIC)	OG	OG+ ONE-TIME ADDITIONAL FUNDING	TOTAL	CHANGE FROM 2018
<a href="#">Adult Recreational Choir</a>	\$6,000	\$3,750	\$9,750	62.5% increase
<a href="#">Amici String Program</a>	\$5,000	\$1,800	\$6,800	36% increase
<a href="#">Calgary Bach Festival</a>	\$3,500	\$10,000	\$13,500	286% increase
<a href="#">Calgary Boys' Choir</a>	\$3,000	\$4,400	\$7,400	147% increase
<a href="#">Calgary Children's Choir</a>	\$3,600	n/a	\$3,600	No change
<a href="#">Calgary Chinese Orchestra</a>	\$2,500	\$8,000	\$10,250	310% increase
<a href="#">Calgary Civic Symphony</a>	\$11,000	\$37,500	\$48,500	341% increase
<a href="#">Calgary Concert Band</a>	\$2,250	n/a	\$2,250	No change
<a href="#">Calgary Fiddlers</a>	\$6,500	\$8,000	\$14,500	123% increase
<a href="#">Calgary Foothills Barbershop Chorus</a>	\$3,600	\$3,500	\$7,100	97% increase
<a href="#">Calgary Girls Choir</a>	\$14,000	\$7,000	\$21,000	50% increase
<a href="#">Calgary Korean Canadian Choir</a>	\$2,500	n/a	\$2,500	No change
<a href="#">Calgary Men's Chorus</a>	\$6,000	\$1,750	\$7,750	29% increase
<a href="#">Calgary Multicultural Choir</a>	\$3,500	n/a	\$3,500	No change
<a href="#">Calgary Renaissance Singers &amp; Players</a>	\$4,200	n/a	\$4,200	No change
<a href="#">Calgary Round-Up Band</a>	\$4,500	\$15,000	\$19,500	333% increase
<a href="#">Calgary Youth Orchestra</a>	\$12,000	n/a	\$12,000	No change
<a href="#">Cantare Children's Choir</a>	\$5,500	\$15,000	\$20,500	273% increase
<a href="#">EnChor Choral</a>	\$2,000	n/a	\$2,000	No change
<a href="#">Foothills Bluegrass Music Society</a>	\$2,750	n/a	\$2,750	No change
<a href="#">Harmony Guzheng Ensemble</a>	\$2,500	\$15,000	\$17,500	600% increase
<a href="#">Kantorei Choral Society</a>	\$6,000	\$18,000	\$24,000	300% increase
<a href="#">Mount Royal Choral Association</a>	\$6,500	n/a	\$6,500	No change
<a href="#">Music Calgary</a>	\$6,750	\$2,500	\$9,250	37% increase
<a href="#">Revv52</a>	\$7,000	\$10,000	\$17,000	143% increase
<a href="#">Rocky Mountain Concert Band</a>	\$1,200	n/a	\$1,200	No change
<a href="#">Savridi Singers</a>	\$2,000	n/a	\$2,000	No change
<a href="#">Spiritus Chamber Choir</a>	\$5,000	\$8,750	\$13,750	175% increase
<a href="#">The Festival Chorus</a>	\$7,500	n/a	\$7,500	No change
<a href="#">Westwinds Music</a>	\$5,000	n/a	\$5,000	No change
<a href="#">Youth Singers of Calgary</a>	\$19,500	\$25,000	\$44,500	128% increase





**The Calgary Chinese Orchestra promotes Chinese culture in Calgary. For the past 15 years, it has performed over 200 times, captivating audiences from different cultural backgrounds. It has over 15 amateur musicians with different backgrounds and music levels, and continue to welcome any amateur or professional musicians into its ever-growing orchestra.**

As of January 2018, we became part of the Mount Royal University Conservatory under the artistic direction of Jeffrey Chao and Jialia Li.

In 2019, Calgary Chinese Orchestra hosted a special holiday concert featuring young guest conductor Bang Zhang. The repertoire showcased his unique tastes in Chinese ensemble music and included classics like *Spring River in the Flower Moon Night*, *Dance of the Yao People*, and popular TV theme from *The Grand Mansion Gate* as well as some newly composed and arranged works.

Source: [calgarychineseorchestra.com](http://calgarychineseorchestra.com)

**Young members of the Calgary Chinese Orchestra | Photo: Courtesy of the Calgary Chinese Orchestra**



**Members of the Calgary Round-Up Band at McMahon Stadium | Photo: Courtesy of the Calgary Round-Up Band**

The **Calgary Round-Up Band** is one of Canada's oldest and finest junior high school marching band and performing arts ensembles. Founded in 1956 by the Calgary Police Service, the Calgary Round-Up Band has provided Calgary-area youth with training in both music and dance accompanied by a strong sense of self-discipline for over 50 years.

The band travels nationally or internationally each summer to promote its program and the city of Calgary. Additionally, the group performs annually in numerous events such as the Calgary Stampede Parade, Banff Canada Day Parade, and Music 'N Motion, a spring exhibition held annually in Calgary.

As a marching ensemble, Round-Up Band combines music with movement to produce an unforgettable experience for members and audiences alike. This program provides opportunities to develop musical skills in a unique, fun, and exciting performance-based atmosphere.

The field show is the primary focus of rehearsals throughout the year. It is the telling of a story conveyed by instrumentalists and dancers through the use of drill formations, music, and visual pageantry. Every year a new field show is performed, providing the students with an unforgettable experience that is uniquely personal.

Source: [roundupband.org](http://roundupband.org)





A casual Revv52 performance | Photo: Courtesy of Revv52

**Revv52 is a Calgary-based performance ensemble that entertains, inspires, and energizes its audiences with original productions of the most important and beloved songs in popular music. Revv52's mission is to expand the boundaries of choral music by showcasing quality and innovative musical experiences for our audiences, while nurturing a love of music and fostering a caring environment among our members.**

With over 50 singers representing all walks of life and professions—and a live band and crew of professionals that are the toast of our city—Revv52 is creating a buzz with its sold-out shows, and a community around the world through the internet.

Source: [revv52.com](http://revv52.com)

**Calgary's Folk Festival** is one of the most highly anticipated summer events. In addition to the summer festival, the Folk Festival Society also produces a winter festival—Block Heater; educational programming; and concerts at various venues across Calgary as well as in their own venue Festival Hall in Inglewood. The organization is powered by 2000 volunteers, governed by 13 volunteer board of directors, and a staff team of 13 oversees all operations.

Source: [calgaryfolkfest.com](http://calgaryfolkfest.com)



The lantern parade passes ATB Mainstage at the 2019 Calgary Folk Music Festival | Photo: Mike Tan



FESTIVALS	OG	OG+ ONE-TIME ADDITIONAL FUNDING	TOTAL	CHANGE FROM 2018
<a href="#">Calgary Blues Music Association</a>	\$43,200	\$14,000	\$57,200	32% increase
<a href="#">Calgary Folk Music Festival</a>	\$94,050	\$75,000	\$169,050	80% increase
<a href="#">Calgary International Film Festival</a>	\$74,000	\$50,000	\$124,000	68% increase
<a href="#">Calgary International Fringe Festival</a>	\$35,000	\$15,000	\$50,000	43% increase
<a href="#">Calgary Performing Arts Festival</a>	\$10,000	\$5,000	\$15,000	50% increase
<a href="#">Calgary Queer Arts Society</a>	\$26,000	\$40,000	\$66,000	154% increase
<a href="#">Calgary Reggae Festival</a>	\$18,810	n/a	\$18,810	No change
<a href="#">Caribbean Community Council of Calgary</a>	\$5,000	\$37,060	\$42,060	741% increase
<a href="#">Exposure: Alberta's Photography Festival</a>	\$25,000	\$20,000	\$45,000	80% increase
<a href="#">GlobalFest</a>	\$33,300	\$12,500	\$45,800	38% increase
<a href="#">Hispanic Arts Society</a>	\$18,000	\$20,000	\$38,000	111% increase
<a href="#">International Festival of Animated Objects</a>	\$4,100	\$15,000	\$19,100	366% increase
<a href="#">Sled Island</a>	\$66,000	\$70,000	\$136,000	106% increase
<a href="#">When Words Collide</a>	\$3,000	n/a	\$3,000	No change



Fringes are uncensored, non-juried theatre festivals, bringing together emerging and established artists alike to tell their stories on stage.

The first fringe started in Edinburgh, Scotland in 1947 and has grown into one of the biggest performing arts festivals in the world. The second-largest festival in North America is in Edmonton and draws nearly 800,000 attendees a year!

The **Calgary International Fringe Festival** started in 2006 as a place where artists are free to create without restrictions. It has grown into a dynamic nine-day festival, situated in the calendar between the Winnipeg Fringe and the Edmonton Fringe.

Source: [calgaryfringe.ca](http://calgaryfringe.ca)

Volunteers having fun | Photo: Courtesy of the Calgary International Fringe Festival

In the 1980s a group of individuals from the Caribbean community formed the CanCarib Association to educate the community about Caribbean culture. The association was eventually renamed The Caribbean Community Council of Calgary.

**Carifest** has grown year after year to become one of the city's largest festivals. Attendees such as the Prime Minister, dignitaries from other countries, and international artists have all travelled to take part in the festivities.

Carifest has totally raised the inquisitiveness of the community with more than 20,000 attending the parade and Sunshine Market in 2019 at Prince's Island Park.

Source: [carifestcalgary.com](http://carifestcalgary.com)



The audience at Carifest 2019 | Photo: Aran Wilkinson-Blanc



A piece by Elaine Weryshko at the Festival of Animated Objects | Photo: Courtesy of Elaine Weryshko

**The Festival of Animated Objects breathes life into stories and arouses our collective imaginations through the innovative and sophisticated art of storytelling through mask, puppetry, and animated objects.**

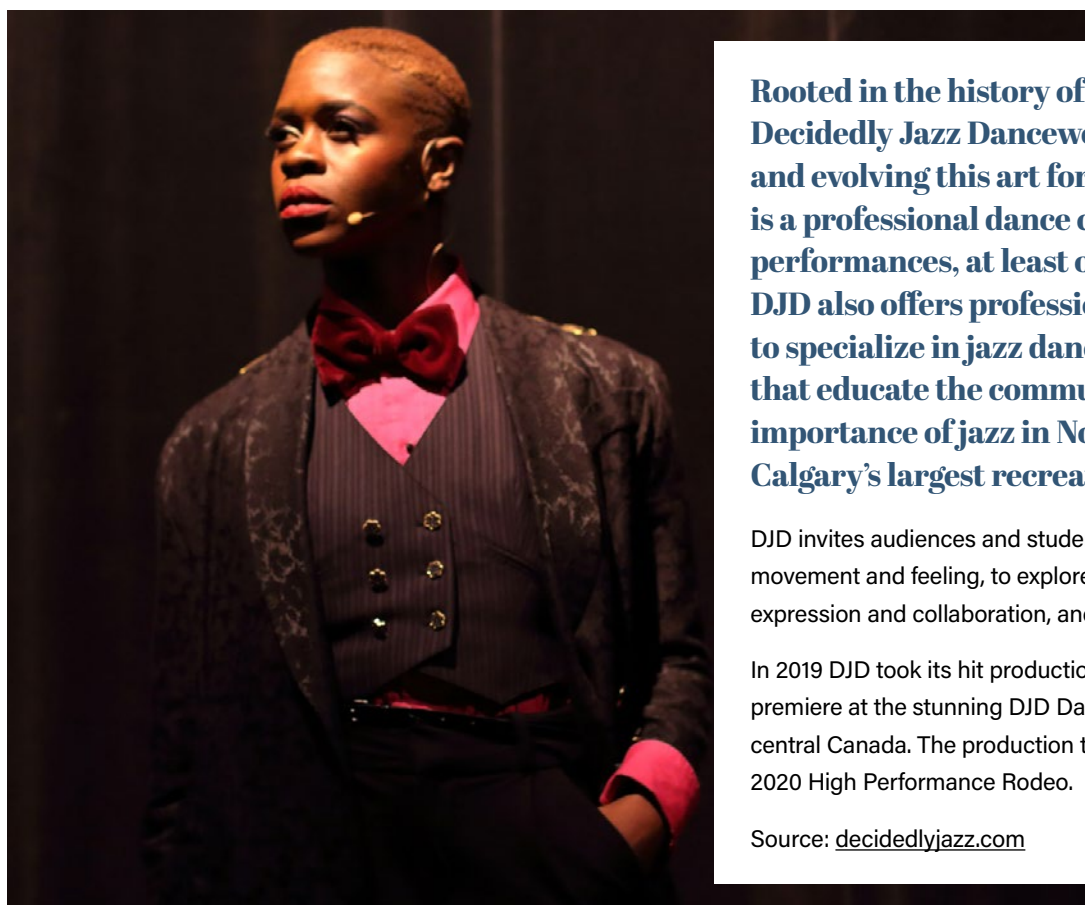
Every two years the Festival of Animated Objects awakens the inanimate and gives expression to the inert. From puppet shows to film screenings, gallery exhibitions to workshops, Calgary comes alive with original creations, mythical creatures, and curious beasts, objects and gadgets, and thingamajigs beguiled by puppet-masters and artists alike to stir your imagination.

The 2019 festival presented 58 performances, 17 films, three exhibitions, and four workshops in eight venues captivating over 23,000 Calgarians.

Source: [puppetfestival.ca](http://puppetfestival.ca)



PROFESSIONAL PERFORMING (ALL)	OG	OG+ ONE-TIME ADDITIONAL FUNDING	TOTAL	CHANGE FROM 2018
Acoustic Music Society of Calgary	\$3,000	\$4,000	\$7,000	133% increase
Alberta Ballet	\$213,180	\$40,000	253,180	19% increase
Calgary Animated Objects	\$48,000	\$9,500	\$57,500	20% increase
Calgary Opera	\$213,180	\$85,000	\$298,180	40% increase
Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra	\$303,050	\$125,000	\$428,050	41% increase
Calgary Pro Musica	\$15,000	\$8,000	\$23,000	53% increase
Classical Guitar Society of Calgary	\$6,000	n/a	\$6,000	No change
Corps Bara Dance Guild of Calgary	\$2,950	\$4,000	\$6,950	136% increase
Cowtown Opera	\$5,200	\$6,000	\$11,200	115% increase
Dancers' Studio West	\$27,250	\$20,000	\$47,250	73% increase
Decidedly Jazz Danceworks	\$95,000	\$70,000	\$165,000	74% increase
Early Music Voices Concert Society	\$5,800	\$8,000	\$13,800	138% increase
Fish Creek Concert and Cultural Society	\$3,325	n/a	\$3,325	No change
Foothills Brass	\$5,000	\$6,650	\$11,650	133% increase
Honens	\$65,000	\$30,000	\$95,000	46% increase
Instrumental Society of Calgary	\$3,000	\$7,000	\$10,000	233% increase
International Festival of Song & Chamber Music	\$7,410	\$4,500	\$11,910	61% increase
JazzYYC	\$7,000	\$40,000	\$47,000	571% increase
Kensington Sinfonia	\$7,300	\$7,000	\$14,300	96% increase
La Caravan Dance Theatre	\$3,000	n/a	\$3,000	No change
Land's End Chamber Music Society	\$9,000	\$5,250	\$14,250	58% increase
Luminous Voices	\$10,000	\$12,000	\$22,000	120% increase
New Works Calgary	\$7,000	\$3,500	\$10,500	50% increase
ProArts Society	\$4,500	\$6,000	\$10,400	131% increase
Soulocentric	\$4,600	\$5,400	\$10,000	117% increase
Springboard Dance Collective	\$29,000	\$85,000	\$114,000	293% increase
W&M Dance Projects	\$7,000	n/a	\$7,000	No change



**Rooted in the history of jazz dance and music, Decidedly Jazz Danceworks is constantly innovating and evolving this art form. DJD, a registered charity, is a professional dance company that creates original performances, at least one per year with live music. DJD also offers professional training to those wishing to specialize in jazz dance, outreach programs that educate the community about the history and importance of jazz in North American culture, and is Calgary's largest recreational dance school.**

DJD invites audiences and students to experience how jazz music shapes movement and feeling, to explore the connection between personal expression and collaboration, and to move.

In 2019 DJD took its hit production *Juliet & Romeo*, which had its world premiere at the stunning DJD Dance Centre in 2017, on tour to eastern and central Canada. The production then returned to Calgary to be part of the 2020 High Performance Rodeo.

Source: [decidedlyjazz.com](https://decidedlyjazz.com)

Natasha Korney in DJD's *Juliet & Romeo* | Photo: Noel Bégin



**The Calgary Philharmonic is a pillar of Calgary's vibrant arts community and since 1955, has grown to be one of Canada's most celebrated live music ensembles. Each Season, the orchestra presents classical masterworks, pop favourites, bold collaborations, and cutting-edge new works.**

**Conductor Karl Hirzer and the Calgary Philharmonic bring some holiday spirit to The Core Shopping Centre | Photo: Greg MacKay**

Led by Music Director Rune Bergmann, the Calgary Philharmonic consistently attracts world renowned guest artists and dynamic conductors.

The Orchestra welcomes over 100,000 visitors annually and thousands more through its live-stream initiative, which provides an immersive, digital concert experience for audiences around the world.

The Calgary Philharmonic performs in venues across the city, with its main concert series performed at its permanent home in Arts Commons' Jack Singer Concert Hall, one of North America's most acoustically acclaimed venues.

Source: [calgaryphil.com](http://calgaryphil.com)



**Kensington Sinfonia** is a professional music ensemble that covers a wide range of chamber music and string orchestra repertoire, from the Baroque to present day. The Sinfonia continues to expand and innovate in its programming and its presentation.

Kensington Sinfonia strives to provide high quality, innovative classical music with a focus on using local artists and creators. They are an audience-friendly ensemble that encourages people of all ages and backgrounds to experience classical music in a welcoming, relaxed setting.

One of its special series is the Village Sessions which take place at the taproom in Village Brewery. These concerts pair the Kensington Sinfonia String Quartet with Albertan artists from various genres.

Source: [kensingtonsinfonia.ca](http://kensingtonsinfonia.ca)



Kensington Sinfonia | Photo: Courtesy of Calgary Music Events

PROFESSIONAL PERFORMING (THEATRE)	OG	OG+ ONE-TIME ADDITIONAL FUNDING	TOTAL	CHANGE FROM 2018
<a href="#">Alberta Theatre Projects</a>	\$297,825	\$39,500	\$337,325	13% increase
<a href="#">Downstage Performance</a>	\$15,000	\$35,800	\$50,800	239% increase
<a href="#">Forte Musical Theatre Guild</a>	\$6,300	\$4,000	\$10,300	63% increase
<a href="#">Ghost River Theatre</a>	\$16,500	\$48,890	\$65,390	296% increase
<a href="#">Green Fools Theatre</a>	\$13,000	\$45,000	\$58,000	346% increase
<a href="#">Handsome Alice Theatre</a>	\$10,000	\$20,000	\$30,000	200% increase
<a href="#">Inside Out Integrated Theatre Project</a>	\$12,300	\$60,000	\$72,300	488% increase
<a href="#">Lunchbox Theatre</a>	\$65,000	\$35,000	\$100,000	54% increase
<a href="#">Making Treaty 7 Cultural Society</a>	\$30,000	\$50,000	\$80,000	167% increase
<a href="#">Old Trout Puppet Workshop</a>	\$35,000	\$10,800	\$45,800	31% increase
<a href="#">One Yellow Rabbit</a>	\$78,375	\$37,500	\$115,875	48% increase
<a href="#">Quest Theatre</a>	\$33,800	\$44,200	\$78,000	131% increase
<a href="#">Shakespeare Company</a>	\$4,800	\$25,000	\$29,800	521% increase
<a href="#">Swallow-a-Bicycle</a>	\$4,500	\$30,000	\$34,500	667% increase
<a href="#">Theatre Calgary</a>	\$303,050	\$70,000	\$373,050	23% increase
<a href="#">Theatre Encounter</a>	\$2,000	n/a	\$2,000	No change
<a href="#">Trickster Theatre</a>	\$11,500	\$20,000	\$31,500	174% increase
<a href="#">Verb Theatre</a>	\$5,000	\$12,054	\$17,054	241% increase
<a href="#">Vertigo Theatre</a>	\$102,000	\$104,000	\$206,000	102% increase
<a href="#">W.P. Puppet Theatre</a>	\$5,400	\$39,000	\$44,400	722% increase





Old Trout's *Ghost Opera* | Photo: Jessica Wittman, courtesy of the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity

*Ghost Opera* was a wildly dramatic re-imagining of an ancient Greek tale brought to you by Canada's masters of puppetry for adults—Old Trout Puppet Theatre—in partnership with Calgary Opera and Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity.

Combining a haunting score by celebrated composer Veronika Krausas, and the fantastical visual universe of the internationally renowned Old Trout Puppet Workshop, *Ghost Opera* was a musical spectacle that featured a cast of humans and puppets. In this production even the dead got to tell their side of the story.

*Ghost Opera* had its world premiere in Banff with subsequent performances at The GRAND in Calgary.

Source: [theoldtrouts.org](http://theoldtrouts.org)



Alberta Theatre Projects' 2019 production of *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* | Photo: Benjamin Laird Arts & Photo

Alberta Theatre Projects had a banner year in 2019 when they welcomed 600 new subscribers, enjoyed a 36.6% increase in total ticket sales, and broke all sales records to date with their holiday show *The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe*.

Source: [albertatheatreprojects.com](http://albertatheatreprojects.com)



**Downstage** produces theatre that creates conversation around current social issues. One of their projects in 2019 was *Safe Site*, a community-engaged project that explored access to public space, supervised consumption services, and adjacent communities. *Safe Site* was created and performed by community members who have various relationships to Calgary's only supervised consumption site. It included an eclectic mix of Song, Poetry, Story, Installation Art, and more!

This project was a collaboration between Downstage and the Calgary Public Library.

Source: [downstage.ca/safe-site](https://downstage.ca/safe-site)



*Safe Site* took place in six locations within Arts Commons | Photo: Katy Whitt Photography



**Theatre Calgary** was the first fully professional theatre company in Calgary. Its home is in Arts Commons, with its mainstage season presented in the Max Bell Theatre. Over the past 12 years, Theatre Calgary has engaged in national and international collaborations as well as developing new plays that has led directly to the world premieres of several new Canadian works on the Max Bell stage. The company also deepened its commitment to Calgary's theatre community, presenting an annual co-production in One Yellow Rabbit's High Performance Rodeo and producing Shakespeare by the Bow, Calgary's outdoor summer theatre festival starring emerging artists.

Source: [theatreocalgary.com](https://theatreocalgary.com)

The cast of *Noises Off* | Photo: Trudie Lee





Theatre Encounter's *Klimt's Playthings* | Photo: Val Duncan

**Theatre Encounter's mandate is to create expressive alternative productions of theatre's classic works with a focus on physical explorations and textual interpretations. Theatre Encounter enhances community development by artistic and social means through the essence of quintessential theatre.**

By reinventing classic texts through a modern Canadian perspective, with a strong emphasis on provocative language and embodying movement, Theatre Encounter offers Calgarians an alternative to the mainstream view of classic dramatic literature.

Source: [theatreencounter.com](http://theatreencounter.com)

PROFESSIONAL (PRESENTING)	OG	OG+ ONE-TIME ADDITIONAL FUNDING	TOTAL	CHANGE FROM 2018
<a href="#">Calgary Allied Arts Foundation</a>	\$2,000	\$4,000	\$6,000	200% increase
<a href="#">Calgary Cinematheque</a>	\$13,000	\$6,000	\$19,000	46% increase
<a href="#">Calgary Underground Film Festival</a>	\$30,500	\$15,000	\$45,500	49% increase
<a href="#">Contemporary Calgary</a>	\$18,000	\$150,000	\$168,000	833% increase
<a href="#">EMMEDIA</a>	\$38,000	\$25,500	\$63,500	67% increase
<a href="#">FreeFall Literary Society</a>	\$7,000	n/a	\$7,000	No change
<a href="#">Glenbow</a>	\$141,075	\$92,625	\$233,700	66% increase
<a href="#">Illingworth Kerr Gallery ACAD</a>	\$8,550	\$10,000	\$18,550	117% increase
<a href="#">Mountain Standard Time Performative Arts Festival</a>	\$17,250	\$14,445	\$31,695	84% increase
<a href="#">National Music Centre</a>	\$57,475	\$80,000	\$137,475	139% increase
<a href="#">Stride Art Gallery</a>	\$38,000	\$20,000	\$58,000	53% increase
<a href="#">The GRAND</a>	\$80,465	\$31,250	\$111,715	39% increase
<a href="#">The New Gallery</a>	\$38,500	\$28,000	\$66,500	73% increase
<a href="#">TRUCK</a>	\$45,000	\$30,767	\$75,767	68% increase
<a href="#">Untitled Art Society</a>	\$17,500	\$35,680	\$53,180	204% increase
<a href="#">Wordfest</a>	\$70,000	\$70,000	\$140,000	100% increase





**Collider artist-in-residence, Alberta Rose W./Ingniq in studio | Photo: Contemporary Calgary**

The former Centennial Planetarium, itself a significant work of architectural art, is being transformed into a world-class gallery for outstanding local, national and international contemporary art programming. Core to **Contemporary Calgary's** vision is to become a leading voice among arts institutions by embracing their values of being welcoming, inclusive, engaging, and relevant.

Beginning in June 2019, *Collider* is a peer-nominated artist residency program that has already engaged with 30 local artists. Taking a cue from particle accelerators, *Collider* serves as a catalyst for collaborative experimentation and discovery through a collision of ideas and actions. It employs a diverse nomination processes to invite artists to make Contemporary Calgary a studio and community hub.

Visitors to *Collider* will encounter a dynamic and vibrant space of creativity and collaboration in an open studio residency environment (including online) that showcases the extraordinary talent from our own backyard and around the world.

Source: [contemporarycalgary.com](http://contemporarycalgary.com)



### **One of the highlights of the year was the DIOR exhibit at Glenbow**

Drawn largely from the extensive fashion and textile collection of the Royal Ontario Museum, the exhibition included exquisite gowns and smart daytime apparel, perfumes, and accessories—all from the first 10 years of the House of Dior (1947 – 1957), when Christian Dior himself designed the pieces. It explored the construction of Dior's designs to understand how the House reinvented modern dressmaking by reviving forgotten historical skills and fusing them with unprecedented designs, cuts, and materials. It highlighted the artisans, designers, and manufacturers who pioneered new luxury products and the business models that help explain how, in 10 short years and only 22 collections, Christian Dior accounted for over five percent of all French exports and created a new ideal of femininity that appealed to fashionable women around the world.

Source: [glenbow.org](http://glenbow.org)

**Christian Dior exhibit at Glenbow | Photo: Mike Tan**

### Mountain Standard Time Performative

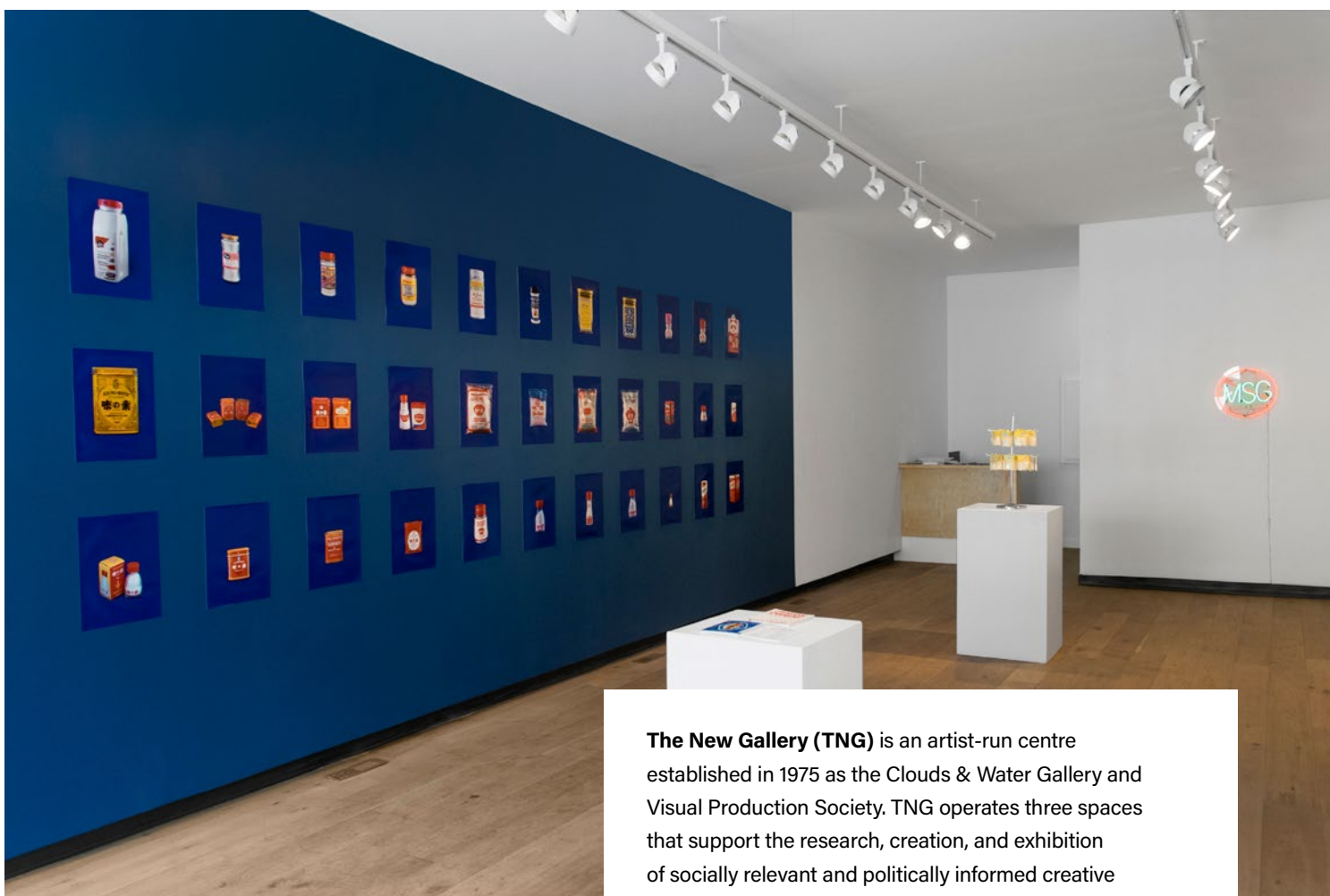
**Art** is committed to presenting embodied artworks works from a variety of disciplines that reflect current issues and practices in contemporary art. Through exhibitions, performances, workshops, and biennials, M:ST fosters the development of performative art practices among local, national, and international artistic communities. M:ST's role in presenting professional, high quality cultural experiences continues to grow, increasing opportunities for education and critical discourse surrounding contemporary performative practices.

Programming is free and open to the public.

Source: [mountainstandardtime.org](http://mountainstandardtime.org)



**2 cents cart by Teresa Tam, part of Fare Trade: A Fundraiser for Mountain Standard Time**  
Photo: David McGonigal



**Shellie Zhang's Accent | Photo: Courtesy of The New Gallery**

**The New Gallery (TNG)** is an artist-run centre established in 1975 as the Clouds & Water Gallery and Visual Production Society. TNG operates three spaces that support the research, creation, and exhibition of socially relevant and politically informed creative practices from artists at all junctures of their careers, while enabling a public engagement with artist-run culture and contemporary art. TNG's programming comprises a broad range of art and educational activities, including exhibitions, publications, residencies, offsite projects, and community collaborations that serve to invigorate audiences' experience of contemporary art and culture.

Source: [thenewgallery.org](http://thenewgallery.org)



**An Evening with Douglas Cardinal was co-produced by REDx Talks and d.talks and held on June 13, 2019 at the Contemporary Calgary's Centennial Planetarium. Following Douglas Cardinal's keynote presentation was an Intertribal by local aboriginal chef Shane Chartrand and following, a discussion in the round, an oral tradition.**

Source: [dtalks.org](https://dtalks.org)



d.talks at Contemporary Calgary | Photo: Jesus Martin Ruiz

## ORGANIZATIONAL ACCESS PROGRAM

The total awarded to organizations through the [Organizational Access Program](#) was \$300,000 to 17 organizations who had not previously received operating dollars from Calgary Arts Development. The OAP recipients will be brought into the Operating Grant stream in 2020.

### Recipients:

[Beltline Neighbourhoods Association](#)  
(\$15,000)

[Calgary Centre for Global Community/  
Humainologie](#) (\$15,000)

[Casa Mexico Foundation](#) (\$10,000)

[Chromatic Theatre](#) (\$15,000)

[Design Talks Institute](#) (\$15,000)

[East Side Dance Festival](#) (\$10,000)

[Evergreen Theatre](#) (\$20,000)

[Femme Wave](#) (\$30,000)

[Iniistsii Treaty Arts Society](#) (\$20,000)

[Indigenous Resiliency in Music](#) (\$30,000)

[Loft 112](#) (\$20,000)

[Lougheed House](#) (\$15,000)

[One Big Jam](#) (\$15,000)

[One Voice Chorus](#) (\$10,000)

[Sarab Akal Music Society of  
Calgary](#) (\$30,000)

[Calgary Jazz Orchestra](#) (\$15,000)

[Wild Mint Arts](#) (\$15,000)



A mural by Al Runt, part of the Beltline Urban Murals Project | Photo: Matt Greer

**The Beltline Urban Mural Project (BUMP) is a community-driven project to showcase art, promote Calgary, and transform the city into an inviting open air gallery. BUMP has curated a diverse portfolio of local, national, and international artists who have created eye-catching, inspiring and beautiful murals.**

Public art can enrich communities, create captivating places, celebrate diversity, challenge ideas, provoke discussion, and add beauty to the everyday.

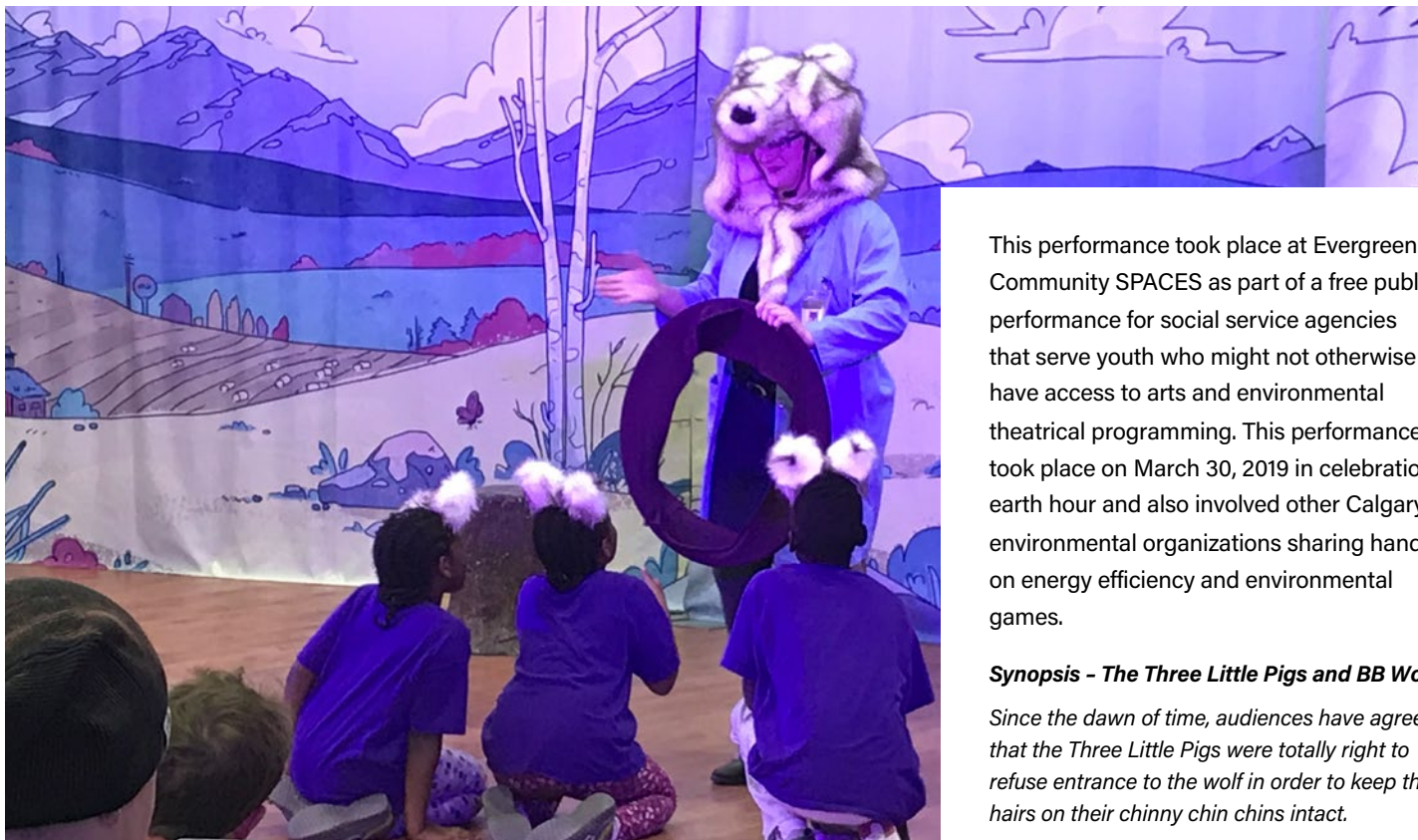
In 2019, 16 new murals were added and celebrated at the annual festival that includes free guided mural tours, artist talks, live music, and outdoor cinema.

Source: [yycbump.ca](http://yycbump.ca)

***"Funding from Calgary Arts Development took our grassroots organization to a place of sustainability where we were able to envision a stable future. As an organization that has been completely volunteer driven for four years, it was monumental for us to receive funding that meant every member of the festival committee could be paid for their contributions to the fifth year of the festival. As an organization that strives for equity in the arts, the ability to pay our committee helps us work toward that goal from a top-down level."***

-Kaely Cormack, Femme Wave





Student volunteers help BB Wolfe (Taryn Haley) in *The Three Little Pigs and BB Wolfe* | Photo: Christina Chase-Warrier

This performance took place at Evergreen Community SPACES as part of a free public performance for social service agencies that serve youth who might not otherwise have access to arts and environmental theatrical programming. This performance took place on March 30, 2019 in celebration of earth hour and also involved other Calgary environmental organizations sharing hands-on energy efficiency and environmental games.

#### **Synopsis - *The Three Little Pigs and BB Wolfe***

*Since the dawn of time, audiences have agreed that the Three Little Pigs were totally right to refuse entrance to the wolf in order to keep the hairs on their chinny chin chins intact.*

*But in this timely environmental twist on the classic tale, the huffing and puffing threatening houses isn't coming from a wolf. And the wolf is neither big nor bad, but rather brainy and bashful.*

*BB Wolfe is a climate scientist, tasked with getting three stuck in their ways little pigs to think and act with stewardship in mind while learning to embrace energy-efficient building practices for a changing climate.*

*Will they let her in?*

## **MEET THE STAFF**



Marta Ligocki | Photo: Courtesy of Marta Ligocki

### ***Marta Ligocki, Specialist, Arts Organizations***

I've always believed that the arts are the best tool for community building that we humans have access to. Whether it's in the theatre, gallery, or concert hall, each event is an opportunity to come together and celebrate what makes our city a vibrant place to live.

In my new role as Grants Specialist for Arts Organizations, I'm more excited than ever to develop deep relationships across the sector and understand how to help organizations succeed.

# PROJECT GRANT PROGRAMS

## ORGANIZATIONS

The Project Grant Program for organizations is intended to provide equitable access to one-time project funding to arts organizations not funded through the operating grant program. A project can include research, development, curation, exhibition, production or creation of work in any art form. It supports projects that exemplify what our artistic community has to offer and ensures citizens of Calgary continue to have access to meaningful, high-quality artistic experiences. Equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility are given intentional consideration.

PROJECT GRANTS - ORGANIZATIONS	2019
Total number of eligible applications	61
Total number of projects funded	17
The % of projects funded	28%
Total funds requested	\$903,166
Total funds awarded	\$247,244
The % of requested funds awarded	27%

### Recipients:

Bug Incision Presents, Bug Incision Presents Archival Project (\$6,224.13)

Alberta Association of Artist-Run Centres, AAARC National Conference (\$17,650)

Binhi Ng Lahi Philippine Folk Dance Troupe, Dance Recital - Ang BINHI (The SEED) (\$18,000)

Calgary Pride, Memorial Park Pride (\$20,000)

Chromatic Theatre, Gimme Chance, Leh (\$10,000)

East Side Dance Festival, East Side Dance Festival (\$10,000)

Evergreen Theatre Society, Rehearsals in Residence (\$12,500)

Facet Music, Song of the Phoenix 2020 Chinese New Year Concert (\$14,200)

Femme Wave, Femme Wave 2019 (\$19,000)

Major Matt Mason Collective, Premium Content (\$15,000)

Ribbon Rouge, Artist Listening Campaign (\$15,000)

Sarb Akal Music Society of Calgary, Indian Classical Music Festival Calgary (\$19,000)

The Women's Centre of Calgary, Women's Artist in Residence Program (\$10,000)

THIRD ACTION Film Festival Limited, 2020 THIRD ACTION Film Festival (\$11,000)

Thumbs Up Good Work Theatre Collective, Hucksterland development funds (\$9,650)

Wandering Spirit, History for the Future (\$20,000)

Woezo Africa Music & Dance Theatre, UNGANISHA: Explore. Connect. Dance. (\$20,000)

**Sarb Akal Music Society** of Calgary promotes local and international artists and upholds the integrity of Indian classical music in the world.

The society works towards maintaining and enriching music traditions by organizing musical concerts in Calgary and tutoring students of all ages, cultural and social backgrounds to learn and practice art of the Classical Music at its affiliated school "Academy of Indian Classical Music" or AICM.

The academy offers classes in Hindustani vocal, harmonium and voice, devotional music, tabla, and sitar. They also hosted a number of concerts in 2019 featuring guest artists from India as well as local musicians for an evening of music and dance.

Source: [sarbakal.com](http://sarbakal.com)

Flute Sisters **Debopriya Chatterjee & Suchisamita Chatterjee** with Tabla Mastero Pandit Subhanker Banerjee at Sarb Akal ICMF 2019 | Photo: Courtesy of Sarb Akal







Memorial Park Pride is a two day, multi-generational, inclusive, accessible and educational event kicking off Pride Week in Central Memorial Park, a prominent landmark in Calgary's queer history. This celebration includes performances from local artists, family-friendly activities hosted by community groups, and workshops as diverse as our community, all free to attend.

***"In providing a wide range of activities and artists narratives for the public to engage through the duration of this free accessible event, we were able to foster connectivity within the LGBTQ2S+ community and the broader public, while igniting opportunities for dialogue and learning. Opportunities such as this, provide the framework to support moving the social compass towards a city that is free from discrimination against gender identity, gender expression and sexual orientation."***

- From Calgary Pride , Memorial Park Ride (Parker Chapple)

Source: [calgarypride.ca](http://calgarypride.ca)

# INDIVIDUALS AND COLLECTIVES

The Project Grant Program for individuals and collectives is intended to provide one-time project funding to support artistic projects that exemplify what our artistic community has to offer and ensures citizens of Calgary continue to have access to meaningful, high-quality artistic experiences. A project can include research, development, curation, exhibition, production, or creation of work in any art form with a focus on artistic impact, public impact, and planning. Equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility are given intentional consideration.

PROJECT GRANTS - INDIVIDUALS & COLLECTIVES	
Total number eligible applications	173
Total number projects funded	34
% of projects funded	20%
Total funds requested	\$2,559,937
Total funds awarded	\$530,009
% of requested funds awarded	21%

**Demand for funds continues to outweigh the funding pools available.**

## Recipients:

Aaronvir Chatha, *Can't Be Bartered*:  
*A Hairy Documentary* (\$8,500)

Aimee-Jo Benoit, *BOJORNER* (\$10,000)

Alia Shahab, Mobile Artist Lab (\$20,000)

Alycia Pirmohamed, *How to Say Dark*  
(\$10,000)

AsimOverstands, *Coloured – Season 2*  
(\$20,000)

Barbara England, *L.o.v.e deconstructed*:  
an interactive performance for and  
within the community (\$14,750)

Baritone Madness, Baritone Madness –  
Canadian Jazz Festivals 2019 (\$5,000)

Brett Dahl, *Like Orpheus* – Dublin Tour  
(\$17,683.53)

Camille Pablo Russell, *Be Like a Buffalo*,  
*Face the Storm* Four animated film shorts  
with Elder Pablo Russell (\$17,100)

Elizabeth Stevens, *Call On Me* Music  
Video – Creation and Screening (\$9,444)

Eric Smith and Kyra Newton-Guy,  
Unifying Movement and Sound (\$18,035.95)

Hayward & Johnson, *Bodied Indivisible*  
(\$20,000)

Jessica McMann, Dance Film (\$20,000)

JiaJia Li, Chinese Bamboo Flute Studying  
(\$2,708)

Julya Hajnoczky, Residency and  
Exhibition, *Closer* at the Beaty  
Biodiversity Museum (\$17,182.40)

Kenna Burima, Singalongs for Elders  
(\$14,400)

Kristy North, PeiganNitssaakita'paispin-  
naan: We are Still In Control (\$7,000)

Leslie Bell, Serious Play (\$20,000)

Linnea Swan, New Group Work (\$20,000)

May Nyitrai, Artistic production and  
research for upcoming exhibition  
(\$20,000)

Mel Vee, *Black Kid Joy* (\$19,750)

Melanee Murray-Hunt, *The Invincible*  
*Trayvon Martin* Short Film (\$20,000)

Nicole Danielle Titter, *Among the Trees*  
(\$20,000)

Operation: Clean Slate Collective,  
*Operation: Clean Slate* (\$20,000)

Project InTandem, Project InTandem 2.0:  
Double-Bill Dance Production (\$20,000)

Rocio Graham, Ayatana Botanical Art  
Residency and collaborative project with  
the Calgary Women's Centre (\$6,880)

Sikolohiyang Pilipino: Artistic Branch,  
*Beautiful Child*: Interweaving connections  
between first and second-generation  
Filipino Canadians (\$20,000)

TENDR – Two Emotional Nobodies  
*Demanding Rights*, *en-gen-der* (\$6,575)

The Selkie Collective, Resiliency  
Anthology (\$15,000)

to the AWE, to the AWE 2019/20 Season  
(\$20,000)

UpRoot YYC, Decolonizing the Future  
(\$20,000)

Vicki Chau, *HEARTH OF THE LION*:  
A Celebration of Chinese Film, Food and  
Culture (\$20,000)

Vinson & Simon Chan, *Laika: The First*  
*Cosmonaut* (\$20,000)

Wilmer Aburto, *Discípulos de Amor*  
photography series and exhibition  
(\$10,000)

## MEET THE STAFF

### Taylor Poitras, Specialist, Individuals and Collectives Programs

I design and run the granting programs for individual artists and collectives. I also provide direct support to those applying. I love my role because it allows me to engage with artists one-on-one, to learn what they care about and why it matters to their communities. I believe artists are some of the most passionate people you'll ever meet.

Their work is deeply personal to them and they want to make sure it matters when it's done. Artists in community are going to be the ones using their artwork to affect change, educate, innovate, inspire, and improve the way we live.



Taylor Poitras | Photo: Courtesy of Taylor Poitras





Nicole Charlton-Goodbrand and Heather Ware in Barbara England's *L.O.V.E.deconstructed* | Photo: Maxim Ratnikov

**L.O.V.E.deconstructed** is a research project that relies on community participation at all levels of the creative process. The project culminated in a live performance at the new Central Public Library during Springboard Performance's Fluid Fest 2019.

A memory bank was created to include hundreds of intimate memories anonymously shared by individuals throughout the city. The research looks into the limitations of language as a way of transmitting memory. How do we experience intimacy? How do our bodies store intimate memories?

Through a process of reverse story-telling, the project reconstructed memories to create a new, shared experience that reflected the collective identity of the city.

Source: [springboardperformance.com/blog/lovedeconstructed](http://springboardperformance.com/blog/lovedeconstructed)



Sculptural botanical wall | Photo: Courtesy of Rocio Graham

**Rocio Graham** participated in the Ayatana Artists' Research Program as artist in residence in the Germinate research expedition. While at the immersive program Rocio explored opportunities to learn from and experiment with biology for work as artist in residence at the Women's Centre of Calgary. While at the Centre Rocio worked in community to plant the gardens and subsequently use plants from the garden to create a large scale installation of a sculptural botanical wall which was exhibited at the centre and at Beakerhead.

***"This grant allowed me to engage with the Women Centre's community in meaningful and engaging ways. The grant allowed me to explore new art mediums beyond my skill set while developing long lasting relationships with different underrepresented sectors of our Calgary community. It ignited a life commitment to an art practice focused in community."***

- Rocio Graham

Source: [rociograhamstudio.com](http://rociograhamstudio.com)



Brett Dahl and Kevin Jesuino in *Like Orpheus* | Photo: Jamie Vedres

***"Receiving the Individual Project Grant has had an incredible impact on me as an artist. The grant went directly to supporting the artistic fees and travel costs for touring my production of Like Orpheus to the International Dublin Gay Theatre Festival. Performing for a mostly queer audience and meeting other queer artists from around the world was simultaneously inspiring and affirming. It meant so much knowing we could pay artists their worth for the time put into this project and it was amazing to represent Calgary on an international stage, and even better to be recognized for our work by receiving two nominations for our work and winning the Hilton Edwards Award for Best Technical Production and Direction."***

- Brett Dahl





Wilmer Aburto's *Discípulos de Amor* - Altar 1 of 12 featuring David Nelson | Photo: Courtesy of Wilmer Aburto

**Wilmer Aburto** is a Calgary-based photographer born in Nicaragua who moved to Canada at the age of 10. With a passion for social advocacy and inclusivity he has led or been involved in projects collaborating with children, seniors, Canadian newcomers, individuals from disability and mental health communities, and LGBTQ youth.

His project *Discípulos de Amor* included the creation and exhibition of a series of photographic portraits encased in stand-alone Baroque-style altars with doors that open to reveal the portrait inside. By creating these stand-alone altars, the two-dimensional photographic work takes on a three-dimensional way of being exhibited. Each portrait becomes a photographic installation piece that considers the engagement of the audience in a new way.

This body of work has direct intention to capture the views, cultural competencies, and artistic practices of people of colour (POC), queer, and femme identities.

***"One of the main intentions with my grant project is to create more visibility of POC identities. Discípulos de Amor is a tool to counteract centuries of invisibility and institutional neglect. This is one way that I am using my voice and my own visibility to create a new narrative."***

Sources: grant application and final report

# INDIVIDUAL ARTIST PROGRAM

The intention of the 2019 Individual Artist Program was to test the impact of supporting the artist's overall practice rather than focusing investment on distinct project outcomes or artistic outputs. Removing financial barriers for artists to dedicate time, resources, and energy on their daily artistic practice creates the conditions necessary for the artist to create meaningful artistic work, experiences, and relationships within the city of Calgary. The criteria for the Individual Artist Program focused on artistic impact, public impact, innovation and learning, and planning, with equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility given intentional consideration.

There were 205 eligible applicants for this program and we were able to award a \$30,000 grant to 10 artists for a total of \$300,000, which was the same amount we invested through the Individual Artist Program in 2018. In 2019 we also granted \$500,000 to individual artists and collectives through the Project Grant Program (see [page 40](#)).

## Recipients:



Alana Bartol's *With A Finger To Her Lips* | Photo: blkarts.ca

## ALANA BARTOL

Through collaborative and individual works, Alana Bartol creates relationships between the personal sphere and the landscape, particular to this time of ecological crisis.

This photograph is part of a new body of work to be presented in a solo exhibition entitled *To Dig Holes and Pierce Mountains With A Finger to Her Lips* curated by Josephine Mills at University of Lethbridge Art Gallery in January 2021.



Clem Martini | Photo: Jayda Novak

## CLEM MARTINI

Clem Martini is an award-winning writer who has written plays, books, film and television scripts, and texts on playwriting.

***“The project I am developing has two prongs; to adapt for the stage my graphic memoir, The Unravelling, the narrative of which investigates and critiques the status quo of care for those with dementia and mental illness; and related to that, to craft a book that closely examines and chronicles the experience of an individual contending with a mental illness over the landscape of a lifetime.”***





Dwight Farahat | Photo: Wayne To

## DWIGHT FARAHAT

Spoken word artist Dwight Farahat, also known as Tribe.1491, is a member of the Siksika Nation who received a grant to record and create his inspirational hip hop album.



Elaine Weryshko | Photo: Melanie Gauer

## ELAINE WERYSHKO

***“I am a brain that is melted down into flesh, into blood, to bones, of guts and skin. I am a body of pleasure and tragedy, as are you—and I believe in that connection. I am Elaine, a physical theatre artist who creates to destroy. I manifest a style of theatre—which apart from being anarchistic and slightly chaotic, is essentially visual, epic and poetic. I am trying to work in a way that encourages the un-traditional, explores the surreal and celebrates the body as poet”.***



Jessie Short dressed as Louis Riel in their short film *Wake Up!* | Photo: Courtesy of Jessie Short

## JESSIE SHORT

Jessie Ray Short is an artist, filmmaker, and independent curator whose cross-disciplinary practice involves memory, visual culture, and Métis history. In the past 10 years, she has exhibited works in Canada and abroad at such venues as the Banff Centre for the Arts, M:ST Performative Arts Festival in Calgary, and the Wairoa Maori Film Festival in Wairoa, Aotearoa (NZ). Jessie holds an MA degree from Brock University with a focus on contemporary Métis visual culture.



Joshua Whitehead | Photo: Sweetmoon Photography

## JOSHUA WHITEHEAD

Joshua Whitehead (he/him) is a Two-Spirit, Oji-néhiyaw member of Peguis First Nation (Treaty 1). He is currently a Ph.D. candidate, lecturer, and Killam scholar at the University of Calgary where he studies Indigenous literatures and cultures with a focus on gender and sexuality.

Joshua worked on his forthcoming manuscript, *Making Love with the Land*, set to be published with Knopf Canada in 2021. The book details Indigeneity, mental health, and queerness within a series of creative nonfiction essays spanning from Alberta to Manitoba.



Julya Hajnoczky's *Larix laricina* | Photo: Julya Hajnoczky

## JULYA HAJNOCZKY

Calgary-based visual artist Julya Hajnoczky's work explores the critical issues of biodiversity loss and climate change, by working with like-minded institutions and people to translate traditional and scientific knowledge into accessible, intriguing, relevant, and impactful artwork.

***“This is one of the ten pieces that I exhibited at The Beaty Biodiversity Museum in Vancouver BC, from May 18 to November 10, 2019. The exhibition title was Closer and the other artist in the duo show was Katrina Vera Wong.”***



Landon Krentz | Photo: Zack T.

## LANDON KRENTZ

Landon Krentz's current project is *JESSE: An ASL Opera*, a workshop currently in development that explores the intersectionality of Deaf theatre, music, and opera.







Marshall Vielle | Photo: Jaime Vedres Photography

## MARSHALL VIELLE

*Where the Two-Spirit Lives* is one part memoir, one part Drag Extravaganza focussing on identity, self-advocacy, and the resurgence of traditional ways of knowing.



A piece by Teresa Tam | Photo: Courtesy of Teresa Tam

## TERESA TAM

***“As a Chinese Canadian, my practice re-creates and re-interprets familiar objects as a way to examine and share my racialized reality.”***

## MEET THE STAFF

### ***Sable Sweetgrass, Specialist, Indigenous Programs***

Oki! My name is Sable Sweetgrass and I am the Specialist for Indigenous Programs and the Coordinator of the Original Peoples Investment Program. The journey with Calgary Arts Development so far has been both inspiring and emotional. For decades I have worked within the Calgary/Mohkinstsis community, my home community, to improve the lives of Indigenous citizens of this city and Treaty 7 territory, particularly Indigenous youth and artists.

For the most part it has been an uphill battle with ignorance and institutionalized racism. Experiencing and being part of the learning and changes taking place at Calgary Arts Development when it comes to equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility has been so inspiring. I have seen up close and personal how arts funding has radically changed the opportunities and lives of Indigenous artists. I am so proud to be part of this amazing organization and team!



Sable Sweetgrass | Photo: Courtesy of Sable Sweetgrass

# ORIGINAL PEOPLES INVESTMENT PROGRAM

The [Original Peoples Investment Program \(OPIP\)](#) supports the preservation and revitalization of First Nations/Métis/Inuit (FNMI) art through arts-based projects and activities that are supported and validated by FNMI artists, community, Elders, and Knowledge Keepers.

The program development was led with the support and guidance of an advisory committee comprising artists, community members, Elders, and Knowledge Keepers representing the Blackfoot, Tsuut'ina, Stoney Nakoda, Métis First Nations in the Calgary, Mohkintsis region. The decision-making process was entirely FNMI led, with the committee including representation across nations and artistic or cultural practice.

OPIP is open to FNMI artists and collectives demonstrating a serious dedication to artistic practice and at all stages of

career, and FNMI-led organizations, all primarily practicing or operating in the Calgary area, working in any artistic discipline (traditional, contemporary or other). Applicants could request up to \$10,000 for their project in either the new voices (emerging) or next steps (more established) stream.

In 2019—the first year of this program—OPIP invested in 41 artists or projects (a 500% increase over the number of Indigenous artists and projects supported through our programs in 2018). The total amount invested was \$389,442. In 2018, without a specific program for FNMI artists, we only funded eight Indigenous artists or projects and because of this program we were able to reach the goal outlined in our case for support around increasing our investment to Indigenous artists.

## 2019 Recipients:

### NEW VOICES STREAM

Alberteen Spence, Oral Based Language project (\$5,500)

[Alexandra Manitopyes](#), *In the Land of the Rising Sun* film and photography (\$10,000)

Amy Hill, Cradleboard Project (\$10,000)

[Autumn Whiteway](#), *Reclaiming Our History* mixed media (\$10,000)

[Azby Whitecalf](#), *Whistleblower and the Memegwesi* children's storybook (\$6,151.65)

[Curtis Lefthand](#), *Hold Your Ground* - Indigenous Identity in Hardcore Punk project and podcast (\$10,000)

[Dwight Farahat](#), Writing and recording a hip hop album (\$10,000)

[Elijah Wells](#), 6 land portraits (\$10,000)

[Jason Gordon](#), *The Missing Rose* metal sculpture project (\$10,000)

Jonelle Belcourt, *Kohkum & The Hunt* film (\$10,000)

[Sam Bighetty](#), *Spiritual Journey Behind the Four Directions of Reconciliation* book illustrations (\$10,000)

[Staci Duchene](#), *The Stories are my Medicine* raised beadwork cloak (\$6,755)

[Stoney Nakoda AV Club](#), *Win'ge'he Ahiya (Raising a Song)* Musical Film (\$10,000)

### NEXT STEPS STREAM

[Adrian Stimson](#), Mohkintsis/Siksika - *Connecting through ART and The Land* artist workshop (\$10,000)

[Alyssa Duck Chief](#), *Ahkaapistootsi'pa* - Summer Art Project for youth - (\$10,000)

[Andrew James Stockell](#), *Black Guitars & Backward Hats* album (\$10,000)

[Andy Moro](#), *ROOM* (\$10,000)

[Angel \(Aubichon\) Sanderson](#), *Akam'askihy (Across The Land and Seas)* (\$10,000)

Berkley Brady, *Overland* film project development (\$10,000)

[Bucky Blaire Russell](#), Migration Festival (\$10,000)

[Camille Pablo Russell](#), *Be Like A Buffalo, Face the Storm Phase 1 - Four* animated film shorts with Elder Pablo Russell (\$10,000)

[Chantal Chagnon](#), Creating Community through the Heartbeat of Mother Earth collective (\$10,000)

[Cowboy Smithx](#), Elk Shadows workshop series (\$10,000)

[Glenna Cardinal](#), Indigenous Grandmothers library card picture project and ceremony (\$10,000)

[Indigenous Resilience in Music](#), The Indigenous Resilience in Music Season of Professional Development (\$10,000)

[Jared Tailfeathers](#), Instrument Making through Traditional Methods (\$9,835)

[Jessica McMann](#), Composition Project (\$10,000)

[Justin Many Fingers](#), *Niitsipowsiin* development workshop - a new performance exploring the living history of Blackfoot Sign Language (\$10,000)

[Kelli Rae Morning Bull](#), *Treaty Money* mini-documentary (\$10,000)

[Making Treaty 7 Cultural Society](#), Twin Spirited Celebration (\$10,000)

[Marcie Meguinis](#), Embroidery Art Showcase (\$9,400)

[Melrene Saloy](#), Indig Inc Tokyo trade mission (\$7,350)

[Sandra Sutter](#), *Cluster Stars* Outreach (\$10,000)

Sarah Houle-Lowry, Pawátamowin The Act of Dreaming installation (\$9,950)

[Seth Dodginghorse](#), *Nadisoni Cowa Gut'i* film project (\$10,000)

[Stacy Da Silva](#), Haute Natives burlesque dance (\$10,000)



Tamara Cardinal, *Mekinawewin: to give a gift* multimedia installation (\$10,000)

Tara Beagan, *Goal Keeper* play for young people (\$4,500)

Tracy Breaker, *Buffalo Spirit Expansion Project* beaded jewellery (\$10,000)

Trevor Solway, *Sandhills* film project (\$10,000)

Yvette Denby, *Carrying Forward Traditions* CD Project (\$10,000)



**Amy Hill created 10 pieces for her Cradleboard Project. She adds her name to a very short list of people making traditional cradleboards today. Honouring the role of women and the sacred nature of babies, Amy wanted to further develop her skills as a cradleboard maker, to one day teach the younger generation, and to keep the tradition going. The result was 10 beautifully hand-sewn, beaded and decorated cradleboards.**

Examples of Amy Hill's cradleboards |  
Photo: Courtesy of Amy Hill





**Yvette Denby** and her daughters recorded a CD *Carrying Forward Traditions* of beautiful Métis fiddle songs. The CD features 16 traditional songs that help carry forward the traditions of Métis music. It was released in conjunction with the 2019 Métis Local 87 Stampede BBQ to an appreciative crowd of more than 300 people. This recording shares the musicians' fiddle talent with the community and leaves a legacy of Métis music for future generations to listen to and enjoy.

**Yvette Denby and her daughters | Photo:**  
Courtesy of Yvette Denby

***"The grant meant I was able to record a CD, something I could not do without it. It impacted my family, as we were able to create a CD we've been wanting to do for a while, and our community, as we were able to share our Métis fiddle music to non-aboriginal and Aboriginal communities, schools, and so on."***

- Yvette Denby



**Andrew James Stockell** created and recorded his album *Black Guitars & Backward Hats* in 2019.

**Andrew James Stockell | Photo:** Courtesy of Andrew James Stockell



# ArtShare

Established in 2017, the ArtShare program continues to address the unique needs and contexts of artists and arts organizations who self-identify as equity-seeking. Equity-seeking artists and arts organizations experience a variety of barriers to access traditional grant funding streams. Barriers might include accessibility, language barriers, and biases embedded in program criteria and assessment processes that make it difficult to understand, unpack, and discuss specific cultural contexts, lived experiences of marginalization, or ways of knowing and sharing the impact of artistic work. To date this program has been maintained internally by community investment staff who work closely with potential applicants to develop project proposals, budgets, and reporting.

The ArtShare program is both an equity initiative and a learning tool for our organization to consider how we might make our programs more accessible and inclusive and to inform a more holistic vision of what community, art and culture look like. The intention of the program is to invest in artists and organizations in a more one-size-fits-one process, with the goal of getting artists or organizations to a place where they feel more confident and empowered when applying to our other grant programs. ArtShare uses a different application process; one that is created with the applicant in a way that makes the most sense for them, often with additional support and resources from staff to create a proposal (or application). The reporting process is also adapted to suit the applicant.

ArtShare	2018	2019	DIFFERENCE
Number of projects funded	25	33	32% increase
Total dollars invested	\$264,268	\$414,745	57% increase

## 2019 ArtShare recipients:

Allan Brent Rosales, Fourth Annual International Babaylan Conference (\$1,715)

Ami Kenzo, short film *Kalunga Line* (\$4,441.69)

Ashley Bedet, travel to Glasgow to do research for the *Three Body Problem Project* exhibition - a collaboration with Fionn Duffy (\$4,200.26)

Binhi ng Lahi Philippine Folk Dance Troupe Ltd., 2019 performances and costumes (\$20,008.97)

Tito Gomez, film production *The Love of Two Pilot Project* (\$10,000)

Coalition for Equal Access to Education, Deconstructing Racism as a Barrier to Quality Education (\$20,000)

D'Touch, Lanre Ajayi, Ethnik Festival of Arts and Culture 2020 (\$35,000)

Doremy Tyrell, in support of the production *Going Home* (\$10,000)

Edmonton Movie Club, India Film Festival of Alberta showcased in Calgary (\$12,574)

Elijah Wells, Animation creation & festival submission (\$15,300)

Faisal Iqbal, Poetry book development (\$12,350)

F.O.C.U.S. on Seniors, Access for seniors to Gutenberg The Musical & THIRDACTION Film Festival (\$2,479.40)

Indigenous Resilience in Music Society of Alberta, Isitsiipotaako 2019 vinyl release celebration and showcase (\$15,410)

Jacqueline Aquines, Inevitability: Queer Pinay/Pilipinx Representation in Canada-Photo book, exhibition and short film (\$10,230.97 + \$7,986.77)

Jana Brodtkin-Singh, creation of Underwater Portraits for exhibition at Studio C (\$5,000)

Janey Luc-German, development of Therapeutic Painting Workshop and Arts Therapy Training (\$10,100)

Landon Krentz, Deaf-led mentorship with Dawn Birley (\$3,000)

John Fredy Rivas Gomez, support of the production of *Highway 2* (\$20,000)

Kala Bhavan of Calgary, Dance drama *Yoddha: the Great Warrior* (\$12,000)

Karla Villanueva Danan, Pinay Power II Conference: *Celebrating Peminisms in the Diaspora* (\$960.26)

Kevin Allen of the Calgary Gay History Project, *Undetectable* - research and documentary project (\$20,000)

Korean Art Club, *ImagineAsian* art exhibition (\$9,350)

Loft 112, New Forum Magazine 2019 publishing and launch event (\$17,017.92)

Making Treaty 7 Cultural Society, MT7 & Arts Commons artist residency program (\$5,830)

Omatta Udalor, production of the film *The Trial of Miss Mudimbe* (\$20,000)

Rami Abdul Nour, creation of work for exhibition and connection with Calgary (\$10,000)

Raymond Jordan Johnson-Brown (SNAP), *50 Shades of Colour* project (\$9,500)

Seniors' Acting Lab, *More Than a Number* tour (\$6,678)

Sri Anagha Datta Society of Calgary, Natyanjali of Canada Dance Festival (\$44,715)

Toyin Lafenwa Oladele, Immigrant Council for Arts Innovation (ICAI) (\$25,517)

Wild Mint Arts, the presentation and documentation of *Nimihitowin!* in Invermere (\$3,380)

Woezo Africa Music & Dance Theatre Inc., *UNGANISHA* professional networking mixer (\$10,000)

Yang Yong An, creation of artworks and connection with Calgary (\$10,000)



**The inaugural Ethnik Festival of the Arts was a multi-dimensional, multi-cultural event presented during Black History Month in 2019.**

**Ethnik Festival of the Arts | Photo: Motif Photography**

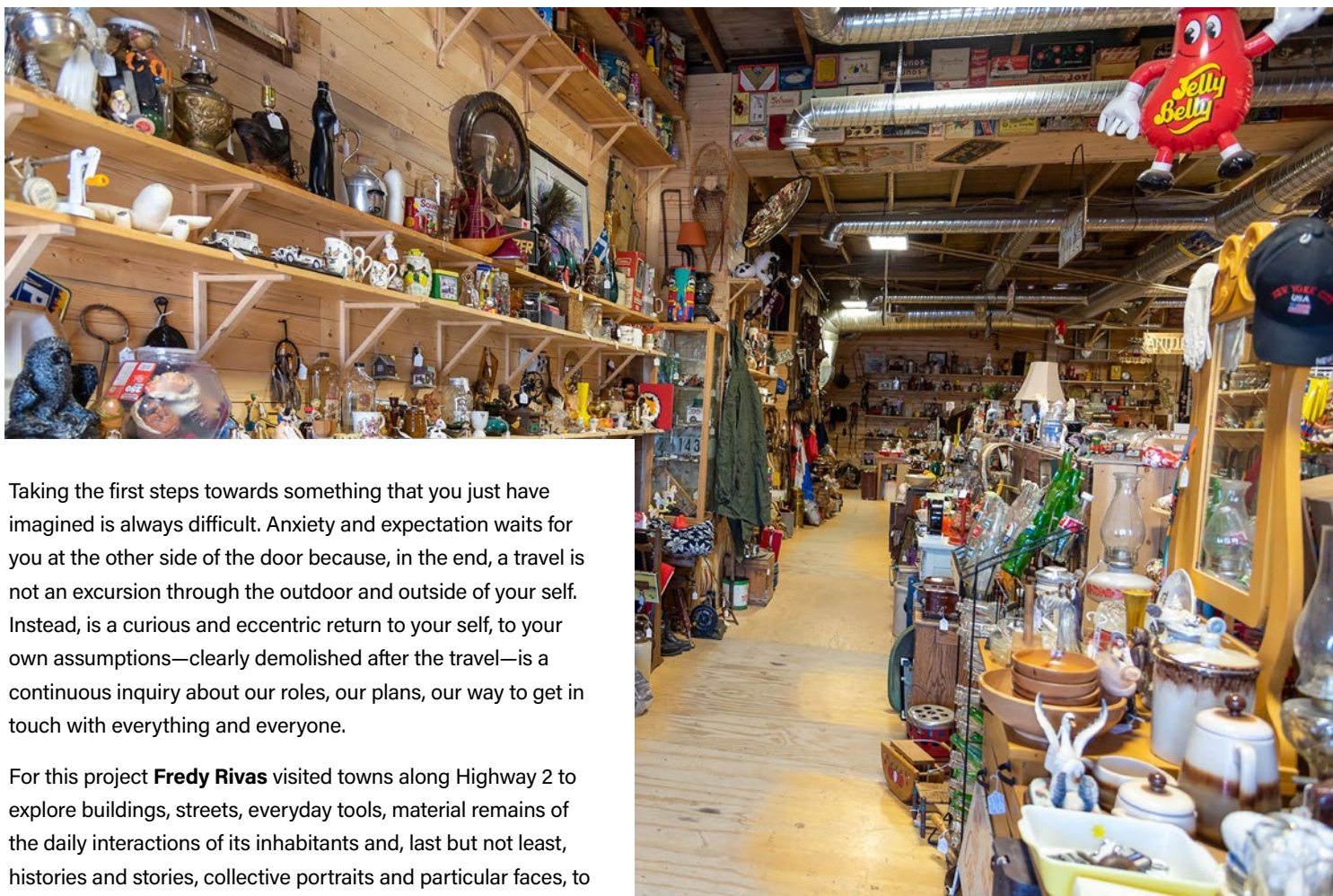


**Janna Brodkin-Singh** created a series of paintings using liquid acrylic paint that were exhibited at Studio C at cSPACE King Edward.

This was a new direction for Janna, who normally paints larger pieces; portraits on canvas. At this show she displayed smaller works of nature, landscapes, and flowers.

**Janna Brodkin-Singh at cSPACE King Edward | Photo: Courtesy of Janna Brodkin-Singh**





Taking the first steps towards something that you just have imagined is always difficult. Anxiety and expectation waits for you at the other side of the door because, in the end, a travel is not an excursion through the outdoor and outside of your self. Instead, is a curious and eccentric return to your self, to your own assumptions—clearly demolished after the travel—is a continuous inquiry about our roles, our plans, our way to get in touch with everything and everyone.

For this project **Fredy Rivas** visited towns along Highway 2 to explore buildings, streets, everyday tools, material remains of the daily interactions of its inhabitants and, last but not least, histories and stories, collective portraits and particular faces, to trace a poetical, empathetical description, of the very contours of Highway 2 peoples identities.

Source: [fredyrivas.ca](http://fredyrivas.ca)

**Fredy Rivas' Highway 2 | Photo: Fredy Rivas**

## MEET THE CONSULTANT



**JD Derbyshire | Photo: Courtesy of JD Derbyshire**

### ***JD Derbyshire MDES, Inclusive Designer in Residence***

In my work with Calgary Arts Development over the past four years we have been trying to bring the language and concepts of equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility into plain language and actionable items of change. We keep asking seemingly unanswerable questions; What does it mean to be fair? Who belongs and who doesn't? Are we the ones to be asking these questions? Do our programs and funding represent the full variety of people who live in Calgary? Who is at the table? Who isn't? How do we get them to the table? Do we even need a table? We make changes, some work, some don't. We make mistakes. We try to learn from them. We keep asking questions: What is working? What isn't? What do we know? What don't we know? Who do we need to ask? I love this work and Calgary Arts Development's commitment to stay in the grapple of problems looking for solutions. I know we will continue to leverage the imaginations of the staff and community members to collectively envision a speculative future for the arts that allows everyone to bring their full humanity to everything they do. And then as Calgary Arts Development has done all along the way, they will continue to find practical and meaningful ways to bring the imagined into the real.





**The Immigrant Council for Arts Innovation (ICAI) is an art council that strives to connect immigrant artists with the existing arts community in Calgary. ICAI is bridging the gap as a hub and platform where all immigrant artists can feel free and safe to create, connect and display their works in an environment that fosters support, connection and inclusion. It also encourages diversity of expression and culture in the arts.**

In November 2019, ICAI hosted a networking event called *Navigating through Canadian Cultural Identity and Arts*. This event focused on how local immigrant artists can successfully balance the demands of Canadian cultural identity and the arts.

Source: [icaionline.org](http://icaionline.org)

ICAI founder Toyin Oladele, Elder Treffrey Deerfoot, Cesar Cala, and ActionDignity's Marichu Antonio | Photo: Sam Obadero



# *ARTS DEVELOPMENT*

**A**lthough the lion's share of our funds go into grant investments, another way to foster a sustainable and resilient arts sector is through arts development strategies. These include activities and relationships that support our role as a connector, facilitator, collaborator, catalyst, and opportunity-maker. Things that fall under this realm include leveraging the resources we receive from The City, building greater capacity in the arts sector, and helping create strong connections between the arts and other sectors in our community.

# LEVERAGING RESOURCES

In 2019, most of our revenue (98%) came from The City of Calgary with 2% coming from other sources (\$240,536 as opposed to \$212,777 in 2018). We generated additional revenues primarily through event and program sponsorships.

The Mayor's Lunch for Arts Champions netted just over \$25,000 in 2019, which was redistributed to the arts community through grant investment programs. Sponsorships of the Mayor's Lunch totalling \$50,000 in 2019 included Strategic Group, Calgary Foundation, ATB Financial, Aspen Properties, Brookfield Residential, Calgary Flames Foundation, DIALOG, TD Bank Group, and University of Calgary.

Cultural Leaders Legacy Artist Awards are a legacy of Calgary 2012 with matching funds from seven Calgary benefactors in 2019: ATB Financial, Calgary Catholic Immigration Society, RBC, Sandstone Asset Management, Rozsa Foundation, Strategic Group, and Their Honours Doug and Lois Mitchell. The awards distribute cash prizes of \$5,000 each to seven artists or arts group recipients.

Calgary's Poet Laureate Program is funded by Poet Laureate Ambassadors, contributing \$10,000 over two years to a selected Calgary poet. Ambassadors for this program in 2019 included the Calgary Foundation, Calgary Chamber, and Brookfield Residential.

In 2019, SpaceFinder Alberta was supported by \$50,000 through a sponsorship from the Alberta Real Estate Board and a grant from Alberta Foundation for the Arts.

## artsvest ALBERTA

artsvest is Business for the Arts' national flagship program that works directly with small to mid-sized arts organizations, equipping them with in-depth training, tools and mentorship relationships. These components are thoughtfully created to build sustainable partnerships between arts and businesses

and to spark sponsorship opportunities. As an added incentive, artsvest participants can apply for matching grants—for every one dollar raised in sponsorship artsvest Alberta matches it with another dollar doubling their sponsorship opportunity.

In 2019 Calgary Arts Development renewed its support of artsvest Alberta committing \$75,000 to sponsorship matching funds for Calgary arts organizations over the next three years. With the 2019/20 program still in progress, artsvest continues to provide mentorship and training to 105 organizations in Alberta and 38 organizations in Calgary.

## CREATIVE CALGARY

We support the efforts of Creative Calgary, a non-partisan group of artists, arts organizations, and citizens at large who are committed to and advocate for a thriving arts sector with a positive public profile. Regular communications keep information flowing between our organizations to ensure we are in alignment with each other and support each other's work. Creative Calgary played an instrumental role in advocating for increased resources to the arts sector in 2018, when The City responded with a significant increase to our budget.

## CALGARY ARTS FOUNDATION

Calgary Arts Foundation is a new registered charity that was created to generate support for Calgary's arts sector. It is a separate entity from Calgary Arts Development but works closely with us to identify gaps in the sector that need support. Knowing that many non-profit arts organizations conduct their own successful fundraising activities, Calgary Arts Foundation will ensure that its efforts will not compete with the very sector it is here to support but, rather, will seek to find new support for the arts in our city.

## MEET THE ARTSVEST CONSULTANT



*Allison Moore*

artsvest stimulates investment in the arts through supporting the cultivation of relationships between arts organizations and the private sector. What I love about working with artsvest is how creative arts organizations utilize the sponsorship, marketing, and board governance training to build successful sustainable corporate sponsorships. Seeing the impact of how the matching incentive funding sparks new local business sponsorships supporting arts and culture grow into long-term partnerships with the private sector. And watching the creation of new supportive relationships between arts administrators and board members of small to mid-size organizations across our sector grow from our peer to peer networking and mentorship training sessions.

Allison Moore | Photo: Courtesy of Allison Moore



## THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIPS

Another way to leverage support and develop the arts sector is by ensuring that artists and arts champions are included in important strategies, conversations, and events in our city. Calgary Arts Development works hard to develop reciprocally beneficial relationships with orders of government, civic partners, organizations, foundations, associations, committees, and individuals in Calgary and beyond. We believe in collaboration with others to make this city a great place to make a living and to make a life.

Calgary Arts Development exists to support the arts sector for the benefit of all Calgarians. Relationships with **artists, arts collectives, arts organizations**, and all of the others who make up our arts ecosystem are of prime importance. In 2019 we were very intentional about moving away from a transactional and toward a more relational model with members of the arts sector. We did this work by honouring the values of deep listening, curiosity, and generosity.

Our relationship with **The City of Calgary** continues to be close and strong with particular emphasis on City Administration, City Council, the Office of the Mayor, and the department of Arts & Culture. Members of our staff participate in a number of committees and contribute to strategies such as the [Centre City Plan](#), the Winter Strategy, the [Council Strategic Initiatives Fund](#), and the [Creative Cities Summit](#) committee. We also participate in discussions about Public Art (which was put on pause by The City in 2019), and respond to issues concerning cultural spaces and infrastructure, and the civic arts policy when requested. Patti Pon participates on the Cultural Leaders Council in support of the [City of Calgary Cultural Plan](#) and also sits on The City of Calgary's advisory committee on Arts Commons.

At the invitation of the Mayor's Office, Patti Pon participated in a cross-sectoral community action on mental health

and addictions strategy session encouraged by The City's participation in the Bloomberg Harvard City Leadership Initiative. It was great to have someone representing the arts be part of such a diverse discussion. This aligns with what has been proven many times over, that artists are powerful agents of change and can make a difference in solving some of our city's most serious problems.

Our relationships with **civic partners** continue to get stronger. We communicate and collaborate regularly with many of our city's civic partners and support the strategies of Calgary Economic Development, Tourism Calgary, the Calgary Convention Centre, Arts Commons, and more. Many civic partners are also signatories to the *Living a Creative Life* arts development strategy.

**Relationships with educators** include meaningful interactions with the Calgary Board of Education, including participating on their Fine Arts Advisory Council; Calgary Catholic School Board, University of Calgary (U of C), Mount Royal University (MRU), Alberta University of the Arts (AUArts), SAIT, Bow Valley College and more.

Through Tri Level funding meetings, we are kept up to date with the priorities and strategies of our counterparts at [Canada Council for the Arts](#), [Canadian Heritage](#), [Alberta Foundation for the Arts](#), [Edmonton Arts Council](#), [Arts Council Wood Buffalo](#), the [Rozsa Foundation](#), [Calgary Foundation](#) and [Edmonton Community Foundation](#). These are valuable information-sharing meetings, which keep funders informed of funding trends, issues, and activities. We also maintain memberships and working relationships with [Grantmakers in the Arts](#), [Americans for the Arts](#), other civic arts funders across Canada and the US, the Network of Indigenous Funders, the [Calgary Local Immigration Partnership](#) (CLIP), and MUNArts (Municipal Arts Funders that are arms-length from municipal governments).

## MEET THE STAFF



Helen Moore-Parkhouse | Photo: Jen Festeryga

### ***Helen Moore-Parkhouse, Director, Communications & Engagement***

I came to Calgary Arts Development after working at a variety of arts organizations for over 30 years and was thrilled with the opportunity to work at a sector-wide level.

Why did I choose to work in the arts for my entire career? Because I believe our greatest gifts as human beings are our creativity and our empathy. Our ability to imagine something and then make it happen. Our ability to see things from another's perspective and feel what they feel. I love that Calgary's arts development strategy is called *Living a Creative Life*, and it's a privilege to be able to promote the important role the arts plays in our city and in our lives.

A partnership with Mount Royal University's Trico Changemakers Studio, the **Artist as Changemaker** program is now in its second year. The program is based on the hypothesis that inviting artists to work on a complex problem at the beginning of the process could yield powerful results and effect meaningful social change. After completing the Social Innovation Certificate Program at MRU, the artist cohort spent the next year exploring how they could deploy their new-found knowledge in creating change. They approached this work by exploring the question: "How might we build the capacity of artists to expedite meaningful social change?"

In year two of the partnership (2019), the artist cohort created a guided residency program as a small experiment with radical intent to test the impact of having a pair of artists involved in a project within three socially active organizations.

The artists who participated in the 2019 program were: Barbara Amos, Mina Baluyot, Kevin Jesuino, Tito Gomez, Skye Louis, Melanee Murray-Hunt, Katie Pearce, Sharon Stevens, and Mel Vee. The program was administered by Sally Njoroge. Each of the guided residency projects was given a budget of \$10,000 from the cultural activation fund to support the artists' work plus all materials.

- Trico Homes Residency - Barbara Amos and Sharon Stevens explored the idea of creative aging in place



**Artist as Changemaker Residency Program participants and partners**  
Photo: Mina Baluyot

- Action Dignity Residency - Skye Lewis and Mel Vee explored ways to address anti-racism, particularly among youth
- Calgary on Purpose Residency - Melanee Murray-Hunt and Tito Gomez explored how to create a shared story that transcends difference

A presentation of the experiments was hosted at MRU in early 2020. Follow-up data collection and evaluation will take place in 2020.

## TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

In October 2019, members of the Calgary Arts Development board and staff joined Calgary Foundation and Fort Calgary for an Active Reconciliation workshop in Banff. Led by Elders, Knowledge Keepers, and facilitators, the workshop dug into the question: *How might we engage and mobilize the work of truth and reconciliation in our personal lives, organizations and communities so that we can honour Indigenous peoples, move beyond token awareness toward action, and work to decolonize the systems we are a part of?* This was part of our ongoing work in developing right relations with Indigenous peoples.

Other activities promoting right relations included our annual staff planning day, which we held at Blackfoot Crossing, including an opening circle with an Elder, and a tour of the facility and grounds.

Members of Calgary Arts Development board and staff spent three days camping at Writing On Stone Provincial Park, hosted by Blackfoot Elder Randy Bottle (Saa'kokoto). The visit included sharing circles, learning opportunities, hikes, and interpretive walks. It was a powerful event that embodied the principles of right relations for the participants.

We continue as a learning organization to participate in workshops like the Land Acknowledgement workshop for Jane's Walks hosted by Calgary Foundation, Anti-Racist Organizational Change Training conducted by Community Wise, and Becoming an Ally: being an active bystander, hosted by the Centre for Newcomers.

## AISINNA'KIIKS

Originally created and developed by Making Treaty 7, the purpose of the dinner and dialogue series is to promote reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. In 2017 we partnered with the Calgary Board of Education to create our own series. It was guided by Elder Saa'kokoto (Randy Bottle), who gifted our Common Ground series the name Aisinna'kiiks, a Blackfoot word meaning those who record or those who draw.

In 2019, we gathered a steering committee comprising leaders from Indigenous, education and newcomer communities to co-create a new series for 2019/20 to make connections between Indigenous peoples, youth, artists and newcomers. Our first dinner took place on December 4, 2019 at Lester B. Pearson High School with more than 90 guests participating in conversations about reconciliation and right relations.

Eleven artists were commissioned to participate in the dinner series, which includes creating an artistic response to be presented back to the entire group at the last dinner in the series (in 2020). Each artist received a \$2,500 grant from the cultural activation fund to support their work including materials for this project.

### Aisinna'kiiks Artists:

Autumn Whiteway	Aya Mhana
Chantal Chagnon	Foon Yap
Ian Kroll	Nicole Tritter
Richard Duckchief	Rocio Graham
Sam Bighetty	Samuel Obadero



# WORKSHOPS & CAPACITY BUILDING

In conjunction with SpaceFinder AB and ArtsBuild Ontario, Calgary Arts Development staff hosted a series of workshops in the fall of 2019 designed to help venue owners, operators, and booking managers navigate the rental process. Sessions included *Best Practices for Managing Risk in Space Rentals*, *Space Rentals for Beginners*, and *Marketing your Space for Rental*.

Calgary Arts Development staff partnered with ATB The Branch for Arts and Culture to host a workshop in the fall of

2019 for grantees on taxes for artist grants. We also hosted the Dancers Transition Resource Centre's workshop on financial literacy for artists.

Calgary Arts Development staff were hosted by the Calgary Songsmiths in Spring 2019, and co-hosted by CARFAC Alberta and Elephant Artist Relief in Summer 2019 to give grant writing workshops.



Swallow-a-Bicycle Theatre's العكس / *The Opposite* | Photo: Lola Adeniran, Falanafoto

Estancia Investments Inc. owns and manages over 700,000 square feet of commercial and retail space in downtown Calgary, including the iconic midcentury modern Elveden Centre. Estancia contacted Calgary Arts Development, looking for ways that some of their unoccupied square footage in the Elveden Centre could support the arts community. After attending our workshops

and offering a tour of their buildings, Estancia decided to make space available for short-term arts uses. Meanwhile Swallow-a-Bicycle Theatre company was looking for a suitable site for their production of العكس / *The Opposite* with Kawlease ACT (Arab Canadian Theatre). Intentionally provocative, this interactive production aims to help Canadians feel what it means to be a refugee, what it means to

leave your country in a hard situation, to leave everything behind and start anew. Calgary Arts Development is proud to have helped Estancia support the arts community through use of their space, particularly for this timely, inclusive production by Swallow-a-Bicycle Theatre.

# *KNOWLEDGE, IMPACT & EVALUATION*



Kate Stevens performs at Off-Country | Photo: M Grondin Photo



# KNOWLEDGE AND RESEARCH

Calgary Arts Development draws on different kinds of research, gathering information and knowledge to fulfill our vision and mission. We gather and share information to strengthen the arts sector and build a great city. Our four main areas of work are:

## Program Evaluation:

- Data collection from applications and reporting of grant programs.
- Assessment of how well each program is achieving its goals.
- Determination of what is working and what is not working at a tactical level.
- Customization of programs or course correction.

## Impact Measurement:

- Demonstrates how the arts build a great city as reported annually through our Accountability Report.
- Demonstrates the value of the arts sector to our shareholder and the public.
- Demonstrates the intrinsic and instrumental benefits of arts investment in Calgary.

## Indicator Tracking:

- Collected and reported annually.
- Used to monitor performance against strategic framework and determine what we are doing and how much or well we are doing it.
- Collected through Calgary Arts Development processes and systems such as the grant interface, Google analytics, social media monitoring, grant applications, etc.

## Research:

- In-house research such as grant applications and grantee final reports completed on a project by project basis.
- Primary and secondary research, which is used to learn more about current trends relevant to the arts sector by collecting data that is useful to artists and arts organizations.

## MEET THE STAFF

### Greg Burbidge, Research & Policy Manager

In this role I'm responsible for the management of research and policy projects that support the indicators and outcomes related to Calgary Art Development's strategic plan. This work also includes supporting the development of data and evaluative tools for use by the arts community.

The opportunity to work in research and policy within the arts sector has never seemed more interesting or more vital. While working within what is often seen as a constrained system of resources, the ability to provide evaluation tools to explore program and project effectiveness is increasingly useful. On an exciting new front, access to free and publicly available research tools means the work we do can often be replicated by individual organizations and our peers in other cities, allowing them to build their capacity as well.

Doing this work is made easier by being centered in Calgary, one of the most volunteer-centric cities in Canada. We've been gifted by having many technical experts contribute their valuable time to us in building up this program.



Greg Burbidge | Photo: Courtesy of Greg Burbidge

## RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

### Calgarian Engagement Survey

Key to achieving our mission of supporting and strengthening the arts to benefit all Calgarians is an understanding of how the community perceives and engages with the arts.

In 2014, 2016, and 2018 Calgary Arts Development conducted a Calgarian engagement survey reporting Calgarians' overall engagement with the arts; type of engagement—either in observation, attendance or creation; perceptions, motivations, and interactions with arts and culture activities or organizations; and citizen perceptions of the benefits of the arts and culture sector to the city, their community or themselves. The most recent report, which was conducted in 2018 and published in 2019, found that 93% of Calgarians are engaged with the arts (up from 92% in 2016).

### Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in the Arts Census

In 2018, Calgary Arts Development released one of the first arts demographic census surveys in the country. The report served as a call to action for the sector to move to a state of greater equity for

under-represented groups through inclusive practices. Findings showed that the arts sector is less ethnically diverse than the population of Calgary with representation of visible minorities (15%) in the sector less than half the representation of visible minorities in Calgary (36%). It also demonstrated that Indigenous peoples showed extremely low rates of representation in the arts sector; that individuals who identify as Deaf/deaf or hard of hearing, with a disability or mental illness showed lower rates of representation compared to local or national statistics; and that there appeared to be a high degree of intersectionality within under-represented groups in the arts sector. These findings contributed to our efforts to improve on equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility in 2019.

### Arts Professionals Survey

In 2014 and 2017 Calgary Arts Development conducted an arts professionals survey to learn how art is made in Calgary and what the lifestyle patterns and living conditions are for those working in the arts. The survey asks questions related to individuals' careers, finances, health and wellbeing,

housing, spaces, and resources for artistic practice, perceptions, and participation in community, as well as basic demographics. The findings of the 2017 survey were published on January 3, 2019.

### Economic Impact of the Arts Study

In 2018, Calgary Arts Development hired KPMG to conduct an economic impact study of the 156 not-for-profit arts organizations that received support through our grant investment programs in 2017. The study confirmed that those organizations contributed \$134M in value added GDP activity for Canada, with the large majority (\$107M) occurring in Alberta; created 1,550 full-time equivalent jobs; and generated \$16.6M in revenues that contributed to the federal, provincial and municipal governments. The findings of this study were important to demonstrate the economic impact of the arts when we presented our case for support to The City for increased funding.

### Living a Creative Life Baseline Indicator Reports

*Living a Creative Life: an arts development strategy for Calgary*



includes success indicators for each focus area so that progress towards the strategy's outcomes can be tracked. These success indicators are systems-level measurements that are evaluated annually. The success indicator baseline reports provide baseline data for each indicator, using the most complete information available at the time. The original baseline indicator report was published in 2014 with an update conducted in 2019 and released in early 2020.

### Culture Track

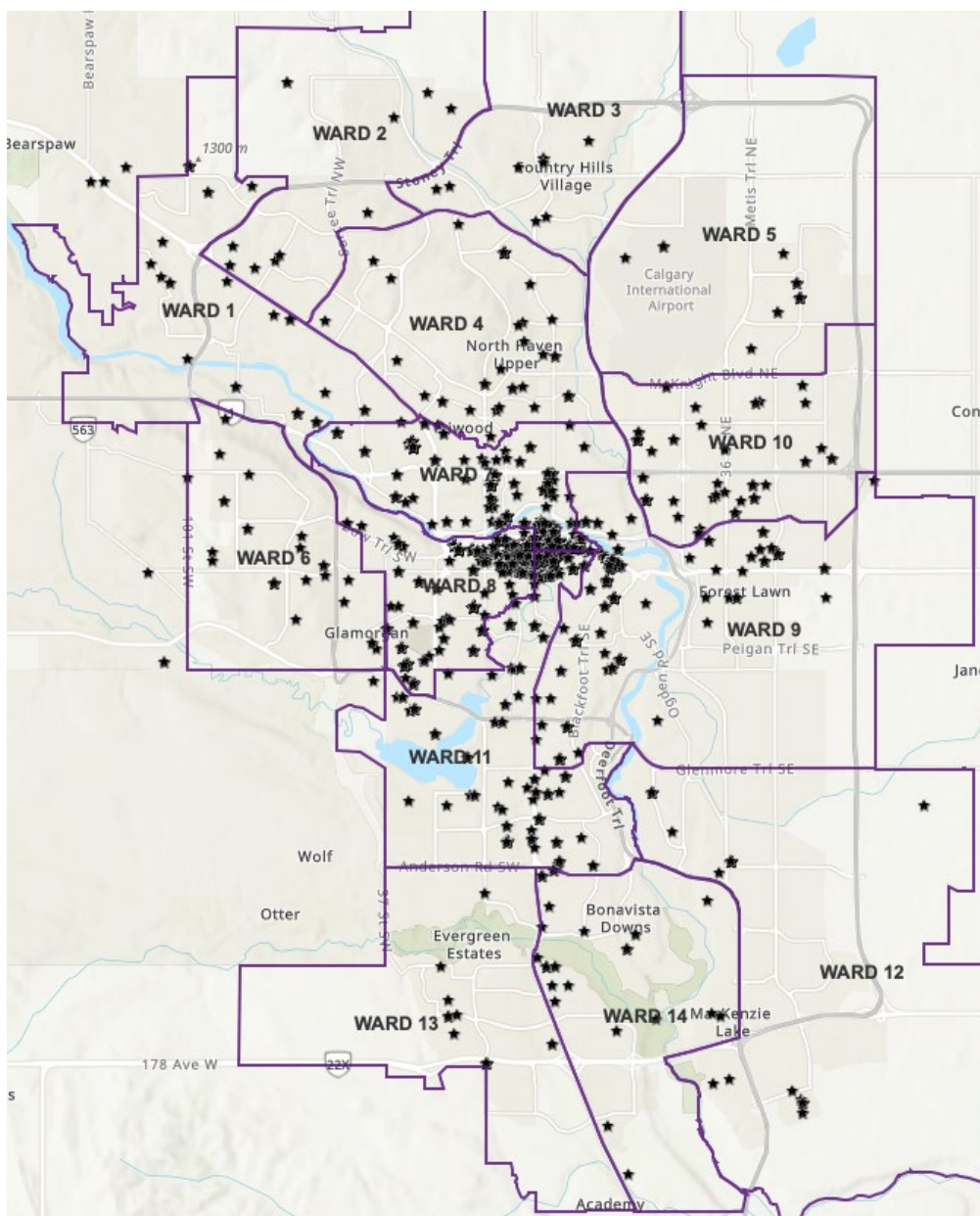
As reported in 2018, Calgary participated in a national survey about cultural consumers in Canada. In 2019 we participated in the release of data that broke down the differences between Montreal, Toronto, Calgary, and Vancouver. The study is a useful tool, particularly for marketing and development staff members of arts organizations in the Calgary arts sector.

### Vital Signs Report

Each year Calgary Foundation publishes the *Vital Signs* report, which shares the results of a citizen survey, where Calgarians weigh in on areas critical to quality of life. A signatory to the *Living a Creative Life* strategy, Calgary Foundation includes a section on arts in the report. In 2019 the key takeaway was that Calgarians believe in the arts but not all can afford them.

## ARTS ACTIVITIES WARD MAP

Each year Calgary Arts Development creates a ward map to show how much arts activity is provided by organizations that receive funding from Calgary Arts Development in each ward of our city. This map does not show all arts activities in each ward, only those by organizations receiving support from our grant investment programs.



# ***AWARENESS & CONNECTION***

**I**ncreasing awareness of the arts in our city has been a need since the inception of Calgary Arts Development and many efforts have been employed over the years to do just that. The following strategies and campaigns were undertaken in 2019.



# COMMUNICATIONS

## WEBSITE

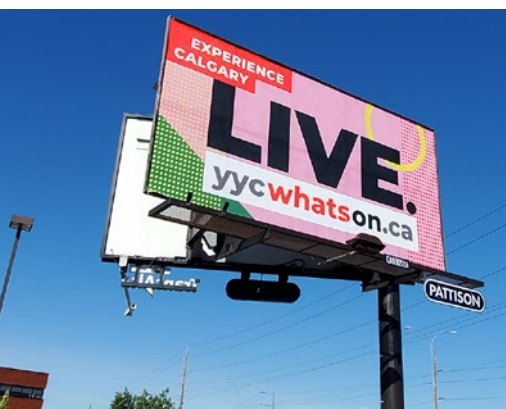
Integral to how Calgary Arts Development shares information, our website has been growing by leaps and bounds since its re-launch in 2016. In 2019, we implemented additional improvements to accessibility as well as completing a beta test to make the site more robust with the aim of becoming a central community information hub. This included the soft launch of a searchable community directory highlighting local cultural groups, arts organizations, community partners, artists, and spaces.

**The website generated the following activity in 2019:**

- 117,181 users (96,067 in 2018)
- 229,031 sessions (200,246 in 2018)

## EVENTS LISTINGS

Part of the Calgary Arts Development website, What's On In Calgary offers a listing of events, exhibitions, festivals, and performances in Calgary. In addition to being posted on our website, these listings are also promoted through a weekly newsletter and through social media.



YYC What's On billboard | Photo: Courtesy of GOOD Company

In 2019, *What's On* shared 392 stories including a weekly round-up of free events, a seasonal summary of upcoming festivals, a monthly story showcasing visual arts, 2,000 unique event listings, and 45 *Hot Ticket* productions. There were 12,920 unique visitors to the *What's On* landing page during the same period.

What's On also expanded this year to include a searchable events calendar that is shared both on [calgaryartsdevelopment.com](http://calgaryartsdevelopment.com) and [yycwhatson.ca](http://yycwhatson.ca)—a simplified and free events website highlighting Calgary arts and culture events. Operated by the team at Calgary Arts Development as a resource for our city's community of artists and presenters, it offers Calgarians a chance to experience Calgary live.

This new, complimentary, stand-alone website was launched September 1, 2019 and was supported with a rebranding of our Calgary Culture accounts on social media as well as an outdoor advertising campaign supported by Pattison Outdoor, an awareness campaign on Global TV, and an ad in Avenue Magazine.

**While still in beta testing, YYC What's On generated the following activity in 2019:**

- 1,418 users
- 2,156 sessions

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***January 2019 was designated Month of the Artist by the Province. Calgary Arts Development published stories about local artists in all wards of our city as a way to celebrate and honour artists during this month.***

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## CLASSIFIEDS

The Calgary Arts Development website hosts a sizable and popular classifieds section. This free service is an online venue for sharing announcements relevant to the arts sector such as job listings, volunteer opportunities, audition notices, calls for

## MEET THE STAFF

### ***Amy Jo Espetveidt, Content Manager***

Managing content for our online information hub is both a huge responsibility and honour. I love being able to find all the awesome things going on in our community and share it with the world!

From event listings to classifieds, publications to partnerships, stories to social media, this city's arts scene never ceases to amaze me. I'm always surprised to find how many innovative minds and accessible events there are and I love being able to share it all. It's a privilege to be able to amplify the local arts sector in the online sphere.



Amy Jo Espetveidt | Photo: Nick Heazell

submissions, educational opportunities, industry events, items for sale or wanted, requests for proposals, and notices of spaces available or wanted.

The classifieds fill an important communications niche for the arts community, and generated the following activity in 2019:

- 1,104 ads (976 in 2018)
- 39,142 visitors to the [classifieds landing page](#) (42,434 in 2018)
- 59,865 page views of the [careers and hiring landing page](#) (56,323 in 2018)

## NEWSLETTER

The Calgary Arts Development newsletter is sent out weekly to a mailing list that includes members of the sector, partners, and curious Calgarians. In 2019, the newsletter had an average of 3,916 subscribers throughout the year with a click rate of 9% and an open rate of 30%—all well above industry standards.

Each newsletter contains a summary of announcements, stories, events, contests, promotions, and a selection of the week's classifieds, making it an easy way to stay informed about both Calgary Arts Development's activities and those of the sector.

## SOCIAL MEDIA

Calgary Arts Development's social media accounts act as a way to supplement our website and drive traffic to other members of the arts community. We have an active following on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter, and use SoundCloud, YouTube, Medium, and LinkedIn to store and share information.

Social media generated the following activity in 2019:

- 5,335 followers with nearly 460,000 impressions on Calgary Arts Development's [Facebook page](#) (4,937 followers with nearly 445,000 impressions in 2018)
- 197 followers with 4,439 impressions on YYC What's On's [Facebook page](#) (launched September 2019)
- 24,572 followers with over 1,335,000 organic impressions on @CalgaryArtsDev's Twitter feed (industry focused) (24,013 followers with over 1,032,000 organic impressions in 2018)
- 34,865 followers with over 2,480,000 organic impressions on @CalgaryCulture's (rebranded to @YYCWhatsOn in September 2019) Twitter feed (34,278 followers with over 1,840,000 organic impressions on @CalgaryCulture's Twitter feed in 2018)
- 3,243 followers with 2,684 photos shared using #yycLCL on Instagram (2,478 followers with 2,176 photos shared in 2018)

## THE STORYTELLING PROJECT

An idea that came out of the Creative Calgary Congress in 2015, [The Storytelling Project](#) features a weekly story about someone in Calgary who is living a creative life.

Local arts writer Stephen Hunt conducts interviews and creates written stories about these creative Calgarians. In 2019, we ended our partnerships with Village Radio and Business on Camera, added a monthly in-house podcast hosted by Cherie McMaster featuring a conversation with a creative Calgarian, and created a partnership with local artist Lanre Ajayi to distribute *My City Speaks To Me* on our website. Throughout the year we shared eight written stories, 12 podcasts, and 16 videos through *The Storytelling Project*.

## MEET THE STAFF

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Kari Watson | Photo: Courtesy of Kari Watson

### *Kari Watson, Database Coordinator*

In 2019 Calgary Arts Development introduced a robust and accessible events calendar in order to help Calgarians discover the numerous and varied arts and culture events that happen in our city. Getting those events into the calendar is my job—a job I have been doing in various incarnations in Calgary for 25 years.

I am always amazed at how vibrant the city's arts scene is, and how much there is to do around town on any given day, and I love being able to share these events with the public. I like to think I have a symbiotic relationship with the arts: an organization puts on an event, I help to promote it through the calendar, more people attend the event, and the organization is then able to continue to create. Everybody wins!



# OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Each year we host two main community events—the Report to Community and the Holiday Open House—to provide updates on the work we are doing as well as an opportunity for people from the arts sector and our partners to get together, network, and celebrate. The 2019 Report to Community took place at the Big Secret Theatre and featured a panel discussion with Yvonne Chenier (IntegralOrg), Col Cseke (Inside Out Theatre), Charles Buchanan (Technology Helps), and Simon Mallett (Creative Calgary and the Rozsa Foundation), plus a presentation by Stephanie Jackman (Stormy Lake). The Holiday Open House packed the King Eddy on December 12 with guests enjoying food, refreshments, and music by Edward Mitchell (DJ Goodword).

## 6 DEGREES

The Institute for Canadian Citizenship, under the leadership of The Right Honourable Adrienne Clarkson and John Ralston Saul, hosts annual conferences titled *6 Degrees*. Calgary Arts Development supported a gathering they convened in Calgary in March 2019, supporting participation and performances by artists at the event. We were also able to introduce the work that we are doing with JD Derbyshire to a wider community. We have been asked by *6 Degrees* to continue our aligned work with them in Calgary and look forward to future collaborations.

## CALGARY POET LAUREATE PROGRAM

On July 26, 2011, City Council approved a motion to establish a Calgary Poet Laureate position, funded by Calgary Poet Laureate Ambassadors. Calgary Arts Development administers the program in conjunction with a volunteer selection committee who appoints each Calgary Poet Laureate for a two-year term. The Calgary Poet Laureate is intended to be an artistic ambassador for Calgary, presenting at civic events and producing literary works that reflect our city and its citizens.

2019 marked Sheri-D Wilson's second year as Calgary's fourth Poet Laureate. Sheri-D is an award-winning spoken word poet who has been instrumental in building the literary community of Calgary over the last several decades. Also an award-winning author, Sheri-D has been invited to perform all around the world; she is the author of nine collections of poetry, and was the founder of Calgary's Spoken Word Festival and the Banff Centre's Spoken Word Program. In 2019, Sheri-D was appointed one of Canada's highest honours, the Order of Canada, for her community leadership and contributions to the spoken word.

The program awards each Poet Laureate an annual honorarium of \$10,000, funded by a group of Calgary Poet Laureate ambassadors. 2019 ambassadors included the Calgary Foundation, the Calgary Chamber, and Brookfield Residential.



Sheri-D Wilson | Photo: Kimberley French

## MEET THE STAFF



Nick Heazell | Photo: Courtesy of Nick Heazell

### *Nick Heazell, Website Coordinator*

I do a number of things at Calgary Arts Development, one of which is graphics for our website in certain areas. Anything from infographics in reports, to campaign logos and some internal graphics. Being a graphic designer I love working on these, it's nice to play a small roll in making content more accessible with visual interest and breakdowns.

One of the main things I do is coordinate the classifieds we host, which are user-submitted by the artistic community. We host classifieds with many categories from announcements, educational opportunities, camps and calls for submissions all the way to employment opportunities.

I really appreciate being able to help get the word out for arts organizations and individuals regarding their opportunities. One of the categories I love posting the most is employment opportunities. I've created thousands of these over the years. I love contributing in some small way to help support people in the community with jobs and to assist the organizations that create them, all of which helps promote arts in our city.



Dave Kelly, The Hon. Lois E. Mitchell, Lieutenant Governor of Alberta, The Rt. Hon. Adrienne Clarkson, and John Ralston Saul | Photo: Benjamin Laird Arts & Photo

## MAYOR'S LUNCH FOR ARTS CHAMPIONS

The Mayor's Lunch for Arts Champions is an annual event organized by Calgary Arts Development and the Office of the Mayor that aims to celebrate and inspire both new and veteran arts champions to support Calgary's arts sector through investment, promotion and participation.

The sold-out event was held on March 13, 2019 at the BMO Centre, with 650 attendees. Proceeds from the 2019 Mayor's Lunch for Arts Champions contributed resources back into the arts sector through our grant investment programs. The 2019 event raised approximately \$25,000.

The event started with a [musical land acknowledgement](#) featuring Olivia Tailfeathers and the Grassland Singers, Calgary

Arts Development President & CEO Patti Pon, and visual artist Mandy Stobo. Hosted by Dave Kelly, the luncheon featured a conversation with distinguished panelists The Hon. Lois E. Mitchell, Lieutenant Governor of Alberta; The Rt. Hon. Adrienne Clarkson; and John Ralston Saul followed by remarks by His Worship Mayor Naheed Nenshi. For an hour before the lunch, youth artists (under age 21) entertained attendees as part of the Calgary Foundation Youth Arts Showcase including musicians, dancers, and visual artists.

Recipients of the Cultural Leaders Legacy Artist Awards were announced through [a video](#) featuring interviews with award-winners and sponsors. Each Legacy Award winner receives a \$5,000 cash prize, which is funded by a contribution from a local philanthropist or organization with equal matching money from a legacy fund of Calgary 2012. Recipients are selected by a jury of peers.

## MEET THE CONSULTANT



Cherie McMaster | Photo: Courtesy of Cherie McMaster

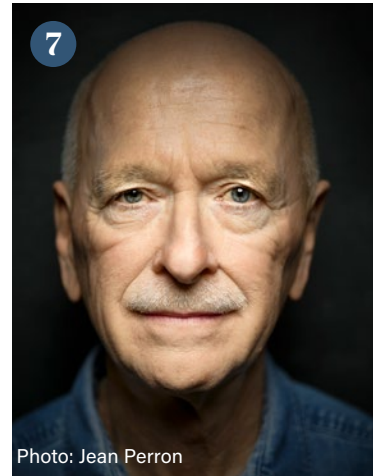
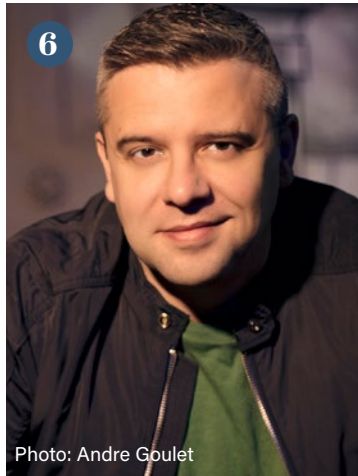
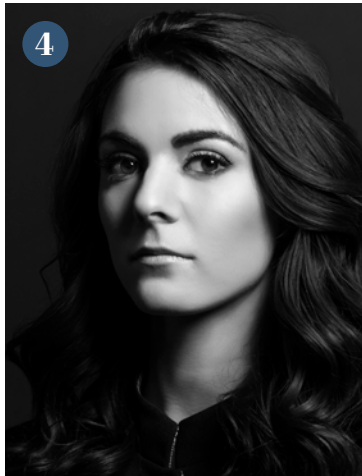
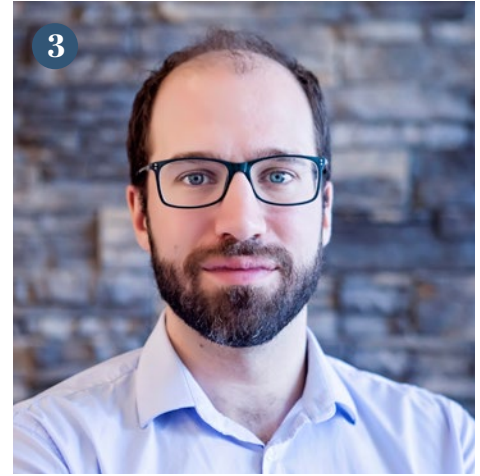
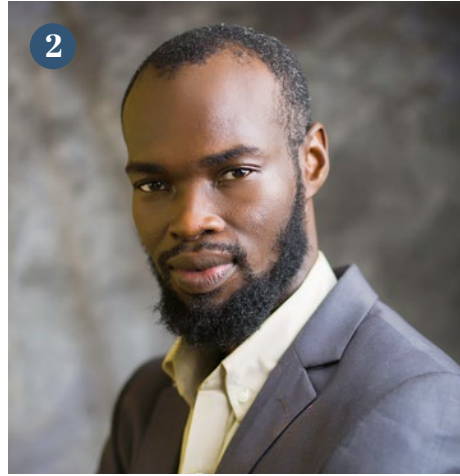
### *Cherie McMaster, Events Consultant*

I have the pleasure of producing celebrations, educational opportunities, community gatherings and occasions for artists and youth to be championed and present their work. These events are a chance for all Calgarians to come together to build community, share stories, learn from each other, celebrate artists and living creatively and highlight how the arts matter.

The arts bring us together—reflecting on our common aspirations and our unique expressions. It shows us a reflection of our society, the people that call Calgary home and the times in which we live. Providing opportunities for us to gather as a community to creatively highlight and celebrate this, is a great honour and privilege.



# 2019 CULTURAL LEADERS LEGACY ARTIST AWARDS



## 1 Vivek Shraya

### ATB Financial Healing Through the Arts Award

Visionary multidisciplinary artist Vivek Shraya creates films, books, and songs that explore and interrogate the complex effects of racism, homophobia, and transphobia on mental and physical health.

## 2 Samuel Obadero

### Calgary Catholic Immigration Society New Canadian Artist Award

Samuel Obadero is a skilled lifestyle photographer and a strong new voice for social advocacy in Calgary. His current project, *The Forgotten Ones*, gives voice to marginalized groups in Calgary through powerful imagery.

## 3 Peter Schryvers

### Mamdani Arts Leadership Award

Peter Schryvers is the driving force behind the Beltline Urban Murals Project. His work facilitating a dozen stunning murals in the Beltline has inspired and activated the neighbourhood.

## 4 Meghann Michalsky

### RBC Emerging Artist Award

Meghann Michalsky's emerging artist record demonstrates her prolific artistic output, her impressive motivation to growth and change, and her determined and productive investment in the Calgary community.

## 5 Bethany Yon

### Rozsa Foundation Emerging Arts Administrator Award

Bethany Yon has led the transformation of Cowtown Opera from a startup to a professional arts organization in under two years with her passion and talent.

## 6 JP Thibodeau

### SANDSTONE City Builder Award

JP Thibodeau has a passion for creating theatre magic. He is being recognized for his commitment to bringing the Calgary artistic community together to make vibrant and accessible theatre for young audiences.

## 7 George Webber

### Doug & Lois Mitchell Outstanding Calgary Artist Award

George Webber's breathtaking photography captures the soul of the prairies. From the haunting rooms of rundown hotels to disintegrating small town storefronts, Webber's images have been collected around the globe.

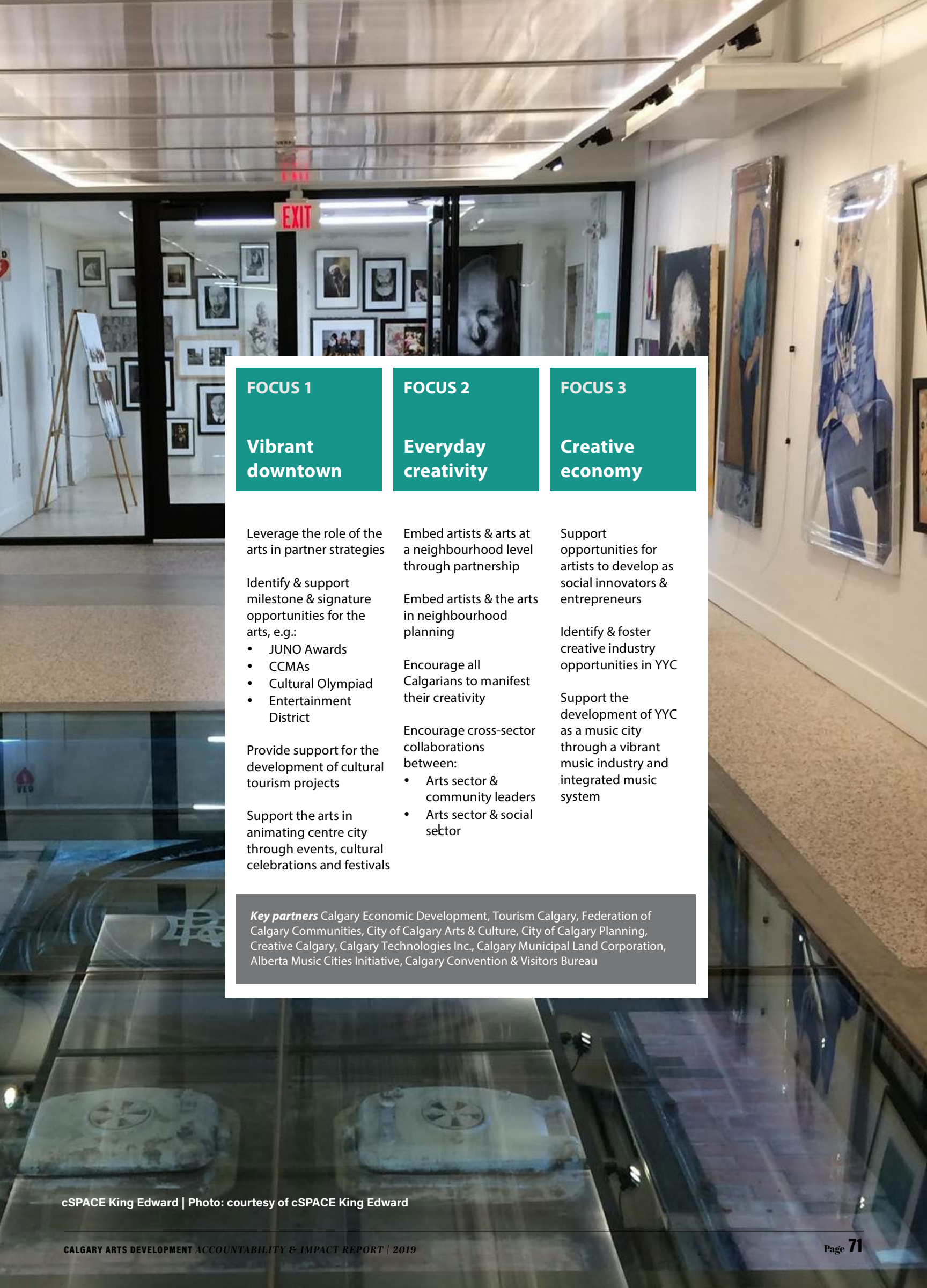


# ***ARTS-LED CITY BUILDING***



Weaving a wish into *Vital Lines* by Sabine Lecorre-Moore and Patria Lortie | Photo: Courtesy of Leighton Art Centre





### FOCUS 1

#### Vibrant downtown

Leverage the role of the arts in partner strategies

Identify & support milestone & signature opportunities for the arts, e.g.:

- JUNO Awards
- CCMAs
- Cultural Olympiad
- Entertainment District

Provide support for the development of cultural tourism projects

Support the arts in animating centre city through events, cultural celebrations and festivals

### FOCUS 2

#### Everyday creativity

Embed artists & arts at a neighbourhood level through partnership

Embed artists & the arts in neighbourhood planning

Encourage all Calgarians to manifest their creativity

Encourage cross-sector collaborations between:

- Arts sector & community leaders
- Arts sector & social sector

### FOCUS 3

#### Creative economy

Support opportunities for artists to develop as social innovators & entrepreneurs

Identify & foster creative industry opportunities in YYC

Support the development of YYC as a music city through a vibrant music industry and integrated music system

**Key partners** Calgary Economic Development, Tourism Calgary, Federation of Calgary Communities, City of Calgary Arts & Culture, City of Calgary Planning, Creative Calgary, Calgary Technologies Inc., Calgary Municipal Land Corporation, Alberta Music Cities Initiative, Calgary Convention & Visitors Bureau

# CULTURAL ACTIVATION FUND

In 2019, we experimented with a new cultural activation fund with the objective of being as adaptive as possible. The fund emerged from City Council's motion in November 2018 for an additional \$1 million allocated to Calgary Arts Development with the intent to connect to economic and tourism indicators and outcomes.

The cultural activation fund was governed through the following set of principles:

- To accelerate, amplify, and elevate ideas and initiatives already in the arts sector.
- To leverage large scale events like the Canadian Country Music Awards (CCMA), Grey Cup and others to bring a spotlight to Calgary's arts scene.
- To activate the downtown core in alignment with other civic priorities in a proactive manner.
- To connect to cultural, economic and tourism outcomes (aligning with creative economy strategies).
- To invest in opportunities that reach a broad cross-section of Calgarians and visitors alike to demonstrate that Calgary's DNA includes the arts.

In July of 2019 Calgary Arts Development received a \$410,000 cut to our budget, much of which came out of the cultural activation fund, since it hadn't yet been distributed. Even with the cut, a total of \$663,665 was disbursed to the following artists, organizations, and events through the cultural activation fund in 2019:

- ACCT Action Chinese Canadians Together Inaugural Leadership Summit (\$7,500)
- Aisinna'kiiks Artist Commissions (\$25,000)
- Alberta Ballet and Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra: Full Orchestra for The Nutcracker (\$50,000)
- Artists as Changemakers Residency Program (\$30,000)
- artsvest (\$37,500)
- Big Winter Classic (\$5,000)
- Canadian Maker Foundation (MakeFashion) (\$25,000)
- CARAS/Canadian Music Hall of Fame celebration (\$25,000)
- cSPACE Multi-Year Commitment (\$200,000)
- Coalition Music Mentorship Program \$7,515
- Glenbow Museum Indigenous Programming (\$25,000)
- GLOW Festival (\$50,000)
- Inventures\$ Artist Participation (\$5,000)
- National Music Centre Homegrown Country exhibit (\$50,000)
- West Anthem music asset mapping project (\$12,500)
- Off-Country Festival (\$26,150)
- Stage Hand Live and Unexpected (\$12,500)
- Theatre Calgary: tcEvolves Mentorship program (\$40,000)



A really really fun party... in the middle of winter!

The **BIG Winter Classic** is a four-day event featuring arts, music, and local beer. It's a way for Calgarians to celebrate year-round, not just in the fleeting summer months.

They take the best and funnest people in our city and put them in a room together to create, imagine, dream, drink and play, all in the dead of winter. Because we're Calgarians and dancing under patio heaters when it's -15C outside actually sounds perfect.

Calgary Arts Development supported the 2019 BIG Winter Classic through the cultural activation fund.

Source: [bigwinterclassic.com](http://bigwinterclassic.com)

BIG Winter Classic | Photo: Michael Grondin



# VIBRANT DOWNTOWN

Having a vibrant arts and culture scene helps make Calgary a magnet for talent—people want to live in a city that is vibrant and exciting, with lots of things to do. Being a centre for arts, culture and recreation contributes a strong sense of place, making Calgary an attractive place to live, work, play, and visit. Calgary's downtown continues to be the cultural heart of our city and in 2019 there were 12% more arts activities in the downtown core than in 2018, contributing to a vibrant downtown.

Events such as Glenbow's Free First Thursdays, productions by the resident companies of Arts Commons, cultural festivals on Olympic Plaza, events at the National Music Centre, the DJD Dance Centre, and on Music Mile and many other downtown venues engage thousands of Calgarians and create cultural vibrancy. Specifically during the cold winter months, events like the High Performance Rodeo, BIG Winter Classic, Block Heater, and the GLOW Winter Festival draw thousands of people out of their warm houses to the downtown core to experience one-of-a-kind performances and activities.

Calgary Arts Development is an active participant in conversations about centre city, including engagement sessions about the Rivers and Entertainment District hosted by Calgary Municipal Land Corporation (CMLC), participation in sub-groups as part of our role on the Calgary Economic Development Leadership Implementation team, and on the Place Committee focussed primarily on downtown vibrancy.

## SUPPORTING SIGNATURE EVENTS

In 2019 we supported the entertainment for the White Hat Awards, an event hosted by Tourism Calgary that celebrates

the hundreds of frontline hospitality workers who make Calgary such a welcoming city. We also partnered with many of our civic partner colleagues on Calgary's kick-off celebration for Stampede—First Flip.

In September 2019, Calgary was host to the Canadian Country Music Week, including the Canadian Country Music Awards. Through a grant from the cultural activation fund Calgary Arts Development supported one of the host committee's many successful initiatives—Off-Country—a three-day festival-style event that took place from September 5 to 7 on Music Mile. This complimentary programming celebrated all genres and styles of music that have been inspired by the same storytelling tradition as country music. Off-Country showcased over 70 acts in 40 free shows in 18 different venues all along the Music Mile in the



Off-Country poster | Image: Daniel Blais

neighbourhood of Inglewood and East Village with 100% of the funds invested by Calgary Arts Development going directly into the hands of artists. Most of the shows took place in the evening and were free to the public. Venues were thrilled with the increased crowds, energy and excitement on the Music Mile during Off Country, increasing their exposure to a wider audience and drawing new people to the mile.

Just in time for the 2019 Calgary Stampede and the Canadian Country Music Awards, **The National Music Centre (NMC)** installed a temporary exhibition at Studio Bell to celebrate Canada's unique contributions to country music.

Through explorations of songwriting, community, and international reach, *Homegrown Country* showcased some of Canada's top country talents and honoured the pioneers who paved the way for today's rising stars.

Exhibition highlights included Hank Snow's "Nudie Suit," Wilf Carter's cowboy boots and saddle, and other fun performance outfits from Shania Twain, Lucille Starr, k.d. lang, and Gordie Tapp. The exhibit also featured a selection of instruments from artists like Paul Brandt, Dick Damron, and Colleen Peterson.

NMC is much more than a museum. A registered charity and national catalyst for discovery, innovation and renewal through music, NMC is preserving and celebrating Canada's music story inside its home at Studio Bell in Calgary's East Village. With programming that includes on-site and outreach education programs, performances, artist incubation and exhibitions, NMC is inspiring a new generation of music lovers.

Source: [studiobell.ca](http://studiobell.ca)



*Homegrown Country* at the National Music Centre | Photo: Chad Schroter-Gillespie

Another signature event was hosted in Calgary in 2019—the Grey Cup. Through the cultural activation fund we supported a special edition Dave Kelly Live on Stampede Park as a pep rally to kick off Grey Cup week in Calgary. Our funds supported Calgary artists being featured at the event, and using this platform to amplify our city's cultural vitality.

## CIVIC INNOVATION CLASS

Calgary Arts Development partnered with Mount Royal University (MRU) on a class in civic innovation called Vivacity that had students from MRU, University of Calgary, and Ambrose University exploring how the arts can add vitality to Calgary's downtown core. The course was taught by Dr. Catherine Pearl and took place at the New Central Library.

Students focused on how we can contribute to creating a vibrant and sustainable creative and cultural economy in Calgary and how we might embed the arts in our city's DNA.

One of the assignments was to examine five exemplar cities, anywhere in the world, regarding their creative and cultural economy, its role, and contribution to city building and citizen engagement. The purpose of the assignment was to provide an opportunity for the students to reflect on where and how the cultural and creative economy intersects with a city's DNA.

Impressed with the students' work on this project, Calgary Arts Development sponsored a final report to share with the broader community.



GLOW Winter Festival | Photo: Kelly Hofer

## GLOW Winter Festival

### Explore. Interact. Illuminate

Embrace winter and get outdoors at GLOW—where the worlds of art, music and entertainment unite with Calgarians under the lights on Stephen Avenue.

This is a free family-friendly winter festival that celebrates the beauty of winter through live music, winter activities, outdoor lounges, and stunning lights that put a glow on Calgary's downtown core.

Calgary Arts Development supported the GLOW Winter Festival through the cultural activation fund.

Source: [glowyyc.com](http://glowyyc.com)

Signature events like the **Canadian Country Music Awards** put the eyes of the nation on our city and elevate Calgary as a music city. The 2019 CCMAs contributed an estimated \$9 million to the local economy. Overall attendance numbers were 10,100 tickets sold to the awards broadcast, 825 in attendance for the Legends Showcase, 700 in attendance for the Songwriters Series, and 500 in attendance for Top of the Country. In addition to these ticketed events, CCMA Fan Village hosted over 7,500 country music fans from September 6 to 8 with free performances by James Barker Band, MacKenzie Porter, Tim Hicks, and many others. To elevate official CCMA sanctioned events and maximize their impact on the city, Calgary's CCMA Host Committee organized several marketing and engagement activities including Off-Country, which was supported by Calgary Arts Development's cultural activation fund.



Sweet Barry Wine at Ol Beautiful Brewing Co. | Photo: Sebastian Buzzalino



# EVERYDAY CREATIVITY

Calgarians engage with the arts in many ways—by creating, participating, attending and sharing. Calgary Arts Development hosts and leads a variety of programs and initiatives that investigate, develop, promote, and celebrate arts engagement in our city, but the one that aligns best with Calgarians' everyday creativity is *Living a Creative Life: an Arts Development Strategy for Calgary*.

2019 was the fifth anniversary of the *Living a Creative Life* strategy. Over those five years the strategy has gained momentum, and at the end of 2019 there were 180 signatories,

who have adopted the vision of *Living a Creative Life* in their own strategies and plans. In order to reconnect with the arts community for the strategy's fifth anniversary, we partnered with Stormy Lake Consulting who led a community consultation that took place on June 3 at Fort Calgary with approximately 100 people taking part. The outcome of the dialogue was the articulation that *art reduces isolation* and that *art = belonging*. Stormy Lake's Stephanie Jackman gave a presentation of the engagement session at our Report to Community in June and we continue to find ways to share this message broadly.

## CREATIVE ECONOMY

### CALGARY'S CREATIVE INDUSTRIES ECONOMIC AND STRATEGIC IMPACT

Calgary Arts Development supported the work of Calgary Economic Development who commissioned a report by the Conference Board of Canada on *Calgary's Creative Industries Economic and Strategic Impact*.

In the report, Calgary was benchmarked against 11 other Canadian cities on five creative industry indicators—employment, revenues, GDP, labour income and labour productivity.

Although Calgary has a smaller share of creative businesses compared to other large Canadian cities, we ranked better in terms of creative businesses per capita and average annual growth in creative workers.

Creative industries also generate additional economic benefits as a key ingredient in quality of life and tourism. A vibrant creative industry attracts talent, companies, and business investment to Calgary.

### CALGARY AS A MUSIC CITY

Calgary is an emerging music city as evidenced by the amazing assets we have in our city such as *Studio Bell, home of the National Music Centre*; the *Bella Concert Hall*; the *Jack Singer Concert Hall*; the plethora of live music venues throughout the city and on *Music Mile*; large-scale festivals like the *Calgary Folk Music Festival*; rousing neighbourhood events like the *Parkland Summer Fest*; the multitude of music programming at the *Calgary Stampede*; and a community filled with talented musicians, singers, bands, music students, and enthusiastic and knowledgeable audiences. Calgary is one of the most successful places to host events like the JUNO Awards, Canadian Country Music Week, and other national signature events.

Calgary Arts Development is eager to support Calgary as a music city and in 2019, we supported a number of initiatives through the cultural activation fund.

## MEET THE CONSULTANT

### Kaley Beisiegel, Engagement Consultant

As the Engagement and Music Industry Consultant for Calgary Arts Development, I am inspired every day by the creativity that comes out of our city. As a professional musician myself, I have always been frustrated by false assumptions that you can't build an artistic career here. Having toured across Canada and performed internationally, there is no place I would rather live, work, and create. I feel extremely privileged and humbled in my work to advance Calgary as a creative and musical city. I hope to play a small part in harnessing Calgary's creative capital to be a catalyst for the innovation needed to create an even more equitable, inclusive, diverse, and resilient city.



Kaley Beisiegel | Photo: Michelle Spice Photography

## INNOVATION & ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION

Arts and artists play an important role in exploring innovation and expanding economic diversification in Calgary. Through the cultural activation fund, Calgary Arts Development supported artists participating at the 2019 Inventures\$ Conference. This included MakeFashion, a local maker group that has become known internationally for their innovations in wearable technology. The fund supported their project *The Future Reimagined through Art, Tech & Fashion*.

Through a sponsorship, Calgary Arts Development supported the Soul of the Next Economy forum at Ambrose University. The theme of the 2019 forum was Finding Opportunities in Uncertain Times. Our sponsorship ensured that artists were involved on the planning committee, and also by presenting, attending, and participating in the forum.

In 2019, we were excited to support Buds Collective's *Northern Reflections Window Exhibition*, which turns Calgary into an interactive urban art-walk during the holiday season, and gives Calgarians a chance to engage with amazing and unexpected immersive art experiences. Our sponsorship supported a window at Crabapple Clothing in Marda Loop.

## ECONOMIC VIBRANCY THROUGH A CULTURAL LENS

Calgary Arts Development, along with the Calgary Foundation, RBC, Trico Charitable Foundation, and the Chinatown Lions Club, sponsored the Calgary reception for the Action Chinese Canadians Together Inaugural Leadership Summit, which attracted 120 Chinese Canadian leaders from across the country to our city. Our sponsorship supported an all-Calgary artist showcase at the evening reception, including participation by Rozzie Lee, Jenny Li, Weyman Chan, Mei Lin Kong, Universoul Dance led by Goldie Wong, Rapper Mike To, work produced by filmmaker Gabriel Yee of 403K films, and the youth ensemble from the Calgary Chinese Orchestra conducted by JiaJia Li.

## JOB CREATION

The arts sector represents a large labour force with more than 11,800 Calgarians working in artistic occupations in 2019. And that doesn't even include the 25,670 people who contributed 566,803 hours volunteering their time for great arts and cultural causes.

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***With just a smartphone and the free app AUGLE, people can bring each window to life and see the augmented reality hidden within. In 2019 Calgary Arts Development sponsored local artist and animator Mike Hooves to create one part of this unique and engaging experience, that was painted on the front window at Crabapple Clothing Company in Marda Loop. Other stops in the exhibition included windows at the Cococo Chocolatiers, Calgary TELUS Convention Centre, Elveden Centre, Casa La Villita Puerto Vallarta, and East Village Calgary.***



# *ARTS SPACES*

**A**rts and culture infrastructure support the artistic and cultural aspirations of artists, the cultural sector and citizens. Arts and culture spaces are defined broadly, from creation space, meeting space, rehearsal space, production space, warehouse and storage space, and office space through to presentation, event, ceremonial, and performance space.

Arts and culture infrastructure can be purpose-built or renovated; it can be single use or multipurpose; it can be used full time or part time; it can be indoor or outdoor; it can be traditional or nonconventional.

The arts and culture infrastructure ecosystem supports all disciplines in the sector, including dance, film, literary arts, music, new media, theatre, and visual arts, as well as heritage and other cultural practices. It supports community and professional arts and culture and education.

Spaces can be developed and operated as for-profit or not-for-profit. Arts and culture spaces support the career trajectory of Calgary's artists and cultural workers and arts and culture organizations including incubator space for emerging practices and could include affordable housing or live-work spaces for artists and cultural workers and their families.

Appropriate, affordable, accessible arts spaces for all Calgarians continues to be a priority at Calgary Arts Development. Guided by the detailed recommendations and tactics outlined in the 2017 Arts and Culture Infrastructure Strategy *Building on our Momentum*, Calgary Arts Development has continued to work collaboratively with City departments and with other advocates for community creative space, while working to increase capacity for arts facilities managers through SpaceFinder Alberta and workshops.

## INCREASE VIBRANCY THROUGHOUT OUR CITY

Calgary Arts Development envisions a Calgary where arts and culture infrastructure supports the right of all citizens to live a creative life. Accessible, appropriate arts spaces play a huge role in increasing vibrancy throughout Calgary. One of the main recommendations of our 2017 spaces report, *Building on our Momentum*, is that neighbourhoods throughout the city are infused with creativity through accessible and vibrant spaces.

The recommendations and tactics outlined in the report guided our work related to arts spaces in 2019. The report examined achievements over the previous decade and included four main recommendations that reflected the current space needs and preferences of Calgarians to live creative lives, positioning Calgary to take advantage of future funding opportunities.

### Recommendations:

1. Ensure arts and culture infrastructure keeps up with demographic changes and population growth.
2. Infuse neighbourhoods throughout the city with creativity through accessible and vibrant spaces.
3. Protect and sustain our current arts and culture infrastructure.
4. Continue to invest in the creation of new arts and culture infrastructure.

The overarching consistent theme that emerged through public consultation was a desire to ensure accessibility to spaces, accessibility to programs, and accessibility to opportunities for creating and presenting work.

One way to ensure more access to arts experiences, is through short-term interventions near places where Calgarians live, work, shop and play. Beginning in 2019, The City made it easier to create short-term spaces all across Calgary, including artist studios, retail uses, and events. Arts organizations like Market Collective helped pave the way for this innovative amendment to the City Land Use Bylaw. Calgary Arts Development created two [fieldnotes](#) to guide would-be renters and building owners on how to harness this new opportunity for pop-up spaces.

To help Calgarians find these existing spaces in our community, Calgary Arts Development brought [SpaceFinder Alberta](#) to Calgary, partnering with the Alberta Real Estate Foundation, ArtsBuild Ontario, and Fractured Atlas (New York). SpaceFinder Alberta completed its third full year of operations in 2019. This online marketplace links organizations that have space to rent with those who need space. SpaceFinder is a proven technology at work in municipalities across North America. Useful for all Calgarians, SpaceFinder Alberta includes detailed search criteria that pinpoint features needed by artists and arts

## MEET THE CONSULTANT



Joni Carroll | Photo: Courtesy of Joni Carroll

### Joni Carroll, Arts Spaces Consultant

Working in arts spaces means working across the whole spectrum of how these spaces come to be used by Calgarians—including providing input on city planning policies and reports that incentivize increasing the number of arts spaces in our communities, sharing information to help with the creation of new space, collecting data about how these art spaces are used and how they benefit Calgarians, and delivering online platforms that help Calgarians connect with each other to find arts spaces to rent. Although there is nothing quite like the joy of playing matchmaker between Calgarians and the perfect space in their community, I love planting the policy seeds that eventually result in a new crop of arts spaces.



organizations. Calgary Arts Development continued to partner with Edmonton Arts Habitat in 2019. By year-end there were over 1,475 different venues featured on SpaceFinder Alberta, most of them in Calgary.

In addition to being a match-making service for renters and venues, SpaceFinder is also a database with built-in metrics reports (including rental rates, usage rates, user and venue data) that can be used by venues, analysts and policymakers. Uses for this data are varied and impactful; this data supports analyses such as cumulative numerical data about amounts of square footage of spaces per discipline, per geographic area, rates per square foot, etc., as well as the ability to view and analyze a variety of texts such as descriptions of spaces and booking policies.

The SpaceFinder Alberta data helps Calgary Arts Development identify gaps and opportunities for additional arts investment beyond spaces. For example, the data helps compare spaces in the neighborhoods to indicators around civic arts engagement, public art availability, and transit or accessibility. Additionally, because SpaceFinder includes for-profit spaces, it helps bridge the data to economic indicators around the creative industries to support Calgary Economic Development.

To investigate opportunities to create new spaces for arts and culture, Calgary Arts Development provided input to strategic plans and policies around arts spaces throughout 2019, including the amendment to the Land Use Bylaw for pop-ups and interim uses, the Downtown Strategy, and the City-led engagement for The Future of Stephen Avenue: Public Realm Plan and the Symons Valley Centre. Calgary Arts Development also provided input to senior planning staff on the draft Guidebook for Great Communities and on the inaction by the development community on cultural space density incentives in Calgary. As part of the Community Hubs Initiative (The City of Calgary, United Way, Rotary), we advocated for creative space in Calgary neighbourhoods.

## INTERACTIVE MAP

To take advantage of Calgary's diversity advantage, Calgary Arts Development created an interactive map to understand how existing arts and culture infrastructure correlates with demographic data. The mapping can be used to determine gaps in professional and non-profit arts spaces and culture, community and entertainment spaces that support living a creative life, backed up with up-to-date census data. The map is refreshed throughout the year and is being used by City staff and other cultural space advocates to inform their research.

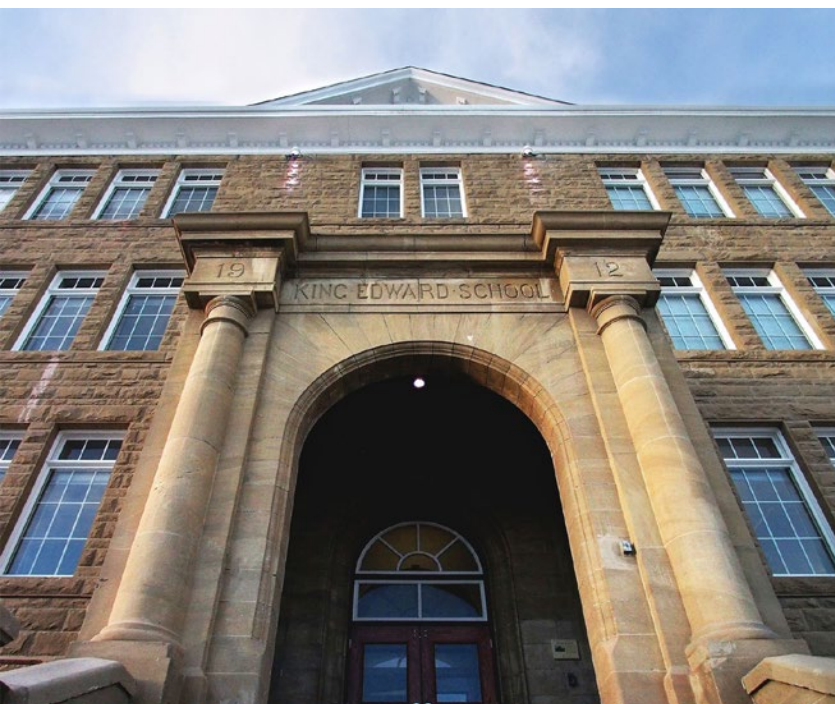


The 2019 edition of the contemporary art map | Image: Courtesy of the Esker Foundation

In 2019 Esker Foundation released its new edition of the contemporary art map.

***“The contemporary art map celebrates the important contributions that artist-run centres, commercial galleries, creative spaces, and institutions are making to the cultural life of Calgary. This free self-guided tour, designed for both visitors and locals, provides a comprehensive overview of Calgary’s diverse and vibrant contemporary art community and invites you to experience it firsthand.”***

Printed maps are now available for free at all 39 galleries and map locations, this is almost double the previous map which featured 21 galleries. Free copies can be picked up at Esker Foundation or at one of the museums, organizations, institutions, artist-run galleries, commercial galleries, or creative spaces listed on the map.



cSPACE King Edward | Photo: Courtesy of cSPACE King Edward

## cSPACE PROJECTS

cSPACE Projects was established in 2011 as a non-profit enterprise to develop a portfolio of community-based hubs for the creative and cultural sector to thrive across Calgary. cSPACE was created as a subsidiary of Calgary Arts Development in partnership with the Calgary Foundation to strategically address a critical demand for creation, production, presentation and rehearsal spaces that are affordable, sustainable and collaborative.

cSPACE King Edward opened in 2017 as their flagship project, delivering 47,500 sq. ft. of arts hub, innovative event venue and coworking space in Marda Loop. The 105-year-old King Edward School was restored with municipal heritage designation, and the facility is LEED Gold Certified for its energy efficient design.

The 6,500-sq.-ft. contemporary west wing includes the top-floor RGO Treehouse event space and coworking space on level three. The Sandbox has 20 flexible coworking desks for use by

freelancers, small companies, writers, designers, and non-profits working across sectors. The Treehouse is a highly adaptable event, meeting and conference space that supports community events, corporate launches, fashion and art shows, rehearsals, education seminars, artist discussions, and entrepreneurship training.

The 138-seat Studio Theatre supports multidisciplinary creative use. It has been a venue for dance, theatre, cinema, rehearsal, creation, and event use, demonstrating with success the intent of its multipurpose design. The theatre supports organizations ranging from Dancers' Studio West, Quest Theatre, Calgary Society of Filmmakers, Quickdraw Animation, and the two-week Fluid Festival by Springboard Performance to name a few.

The building has been 100% leased out since opening day and now averages 4,500+ visits to the facility weekly. Fully occupied with over 35 tenants ranging from individual artists and collectives to non-profits like Dancers' Studio West, Alexandra Writers' Centre, Rozsa Foundation, Quest Theatre, Alberta Craft Council, Alberta Magazine Publishers Association, and Studio C Collaborative Art Centre the space has become a vibrant community hub. A weekly Farmers and Makers Market, childcare facilities and a cafe add to the success of this community space. The historic hallways were transformed into gallery and event space that supports many artist exhibitions and community gatherings.

Three public art projects have been commissioned by cSPACE through a juried process. daniel j. kirk and Katie Green completed their *Imaginarium* project, stretched over four floors of a new glassed-in stairwell in 2017. *Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow* with its 105 suspended kinetic hour glasses was completed by Caitlind Brown, Wayne Garrett, and Lane Shordee in 2019. Completed in 2020 by the same artists, *After Image*, a monumental steel gateway replicating the historic school's entrance will create a dramatic entrance to the south park. In partnership with neighbour Rockwood Custom homes, a Poet's Walk was completed in 2019 and showcases three literary artworks including a land acknowledgement, a poem from former King Edward School teacher and one from Poet Laureate Kris Demeanor embossed in the landscape.

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***Calgary Arts Development envisions a Calgary where access to well-made, lively arts and culture spaces is available to all people, including those who are currently underserved.***





Inside Out Theatre's *Most Imaginary Worlds* | Photo: Mike Tan

**Inside Out Theatre** is a Deaf and disability theatre company that produces and presents plays created by artists with disabilities and their allies from their own theatre space in the Eau Claire Market. To further support the community, Inside Out makes their space available at low rates when not in use for their own productions. Calgarians have used SpaceFinder AB to find and book the Inside Out Theatre for meetings, rehearsals, special events, and of course performances.

Artistic Director Col Cseke notes:

***“Because our space is accessible, making it available to the community supports our mandate of giving equitable and dignified access to the arts for Deaf and disabled Calgarians. SpaceFinder AB helps us do that.”***



Olivia M. participates in Quest Theatre PD Day Camp Clowning with Hayley Klepper | Photo: Courtesy of Quest Theatre

**Quest Theatre** has been offering programming for young audiences for more than 25 years, including school tours and summer drama camps, but having their own home in cSPACE King Edward has changed the way they connect with the public. In 2019 they started running drama camps for kids ages 9-12 on selected PD days throughout the school year. Sessions included clowning, stage combat, mask and puppetry, song and dance, and improv, with the opportunity to participate in short performances on Saturdays for the cSPACE Farmers and Makers Market.

Every creative hub needs a poem about it. **cSPACE King Edward** took the one written for them by Calgary's first poet laureate, **Kris Demeanor**, and embedded it in steel along their internal 'street'. As a hard-surfaced extension of the park, this multi-use outdoor space is ideal for extending the capacity of events in the Studio Theatre or used by itself for accommodating tented events. Twinkle lights overhead, a treed boulevard and a sunken terrace surrounded by aspens—community happens here.



Side view of Poet's Walk | Photo: Courtesy of cSPACE King Edward

# GOVERNANCE

## OVERVIEW OF GOVERNANCE MODEL

Calgary Arts Development is governed by a board of directors, appointed by and directly accountable to its shareholder, The City of Calgary, via City Council. The board of directors governs lawfully, observing the principles of the policy governance model, with an emphasis on strategic leadership and clear distinction of board and CEO roles.

The board also identifies the principal risks of Calgary Arts Development's business, achieves a proper balance between risks incurred and potential returns, and oversees the development of policies and the implementation of appropriate systems to manage the risks.

In 2019, four board members completed their time on the board—Dean Prodan (Chair), Rob Harding, Tim Mah, and Katherine Wagner, and five new members joined—Brian Frank (chair), Caitlyn Ducasse (treasurer), Sophia Lebessis, Chima Nkemdirim, and Kathleen McNally-Leitch. There were nine regular board meetings and a two-day retreat, with an attendance record of 84%.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS COMMITTEES

The Calgary Arts Development board of directors carries out its responsibilities using the following committee structures. Each committee meets four times per year.

### Finance and Audit

The purpose of the finance and audit committee is to assist the board in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities by reviewing and making recommendations to the board regarding:

- Financial information, including audited financial statements, that will be provided to the board of directors and other stakeholders.
- The systems of internal controls.
- Internal audit processes.
- Investment management activities.

### Governance and Human Resources

The governance and human resources committee (GHRC) has three areas of responsibility:

- Governance matters, including management of the relationships between the board and the CEO and between Calgary Arts Development and the shareholder, all as defined in the policy manual approved by the board.
- Human resources policy development and oversight, including review of CEO hiring, performance evaluation, compensation, development, and termination.
- Board recruitment, development, and evaluation.

### Strategy and Public Policy

The strategy and public policy committee's mandate includes:

- Considering and making recommendations to the board of directors on matters affecting strategy and public policy within Calgary Arts Development's mandate.
- Providing guidance and evaluation to the board of directors for the development and evaluation of Calgary Arts Development's alignment with our mission and vision, and facilitates strategic planning process in coordination with the board.

## KEY POLICIES AND PROCESSES

### Board of Directors Policy on Conflict of Interest

A comprehensive policy exists for members of Calgary Arts Development's board of directors that sets the parameters around potential conflicts of interest. Calgary Arts Development aims to recruit board members whose professional reputations and work in the community will enhance Calgary Arts Development's impact. These individuals have a strong commitment to building the arts in Calgary, to making the arts central to the municipal decision-making process and to building relationships with other agencies from the public and private sectors.

Members of the board are conscious of the conflicts of interest that may arise in the normal course of business or as a result of a board member being connected to an organization that may receive direct or indirect benefits from the activities of Calgary Arts Development. Each board member shall disclose in writing all known real and potential conflicts upon appointment to the board and on an annual basis and otherwise in accordance with this policy.

### Granting and Resource Allocation Recommendation Processes

Program guidelines specifying objectives, decision-making processes and assessment criteria are designed for each arts investment program (including granting programs and recommendations to City Council on infrastructure investments). Along with program guidelines, Terms of Reference provide direction to arm's-length volunteer assessors who make recommendations to Calgary Arts Development.



# PEOPLE

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Barb Howard, Author

Brian Frank, Chair (as of June 2019),  
Former President & CEO, TimberWest  
Forest Corp.

Caitlyn Ducasse (as of April 2019,  
assumed the role of Treasurer in June  
2019), VP Finance & Administration,  
PK Sound Corp.

Chima Nkemdirim, (as of June 2019),  
Vice President, Government Relations,  
Shaw Communications

Dean Prodan, Chair (to June 2019),  
Independent Businessman

Donna Friesen, Community Leader

Evan Woolley, Councillor, Ward 8

Jeff de Boer, Artist

Katherine Wagner (to June 2019),  
Architect, DIALOG

Kathleen McNally Leitch (as of June 2019),  
Vice Chair, Big Rock Brewery

Rob Harding, CFO, Radicle (to March 2019)

Sophia Lebessis (as of June 2019),  
Owner, Transformation Fine Art

Stacy Petriuk, Partner, JSS Barristers

Susan Veres, Partner, Honeycomb  
Solutions

Tim Mah, Treasurer (to June 2019),  
Community Leader

## STAFF

Amy Jo Espetveidt, Content Manager

Gregory Burbidge, Research & Policy  
Manager

Helen Moore-Parkhouse, Director,  
Communications & Engagement

John Richardson (to September 2019),  
Research & Policy Coordinator

Jordan Baylon (to September 2019),  
Community Investment Manager

Kari Watson, Database Coordinator

Lesley Hinger, Operations Manager

Marta Ligocki (as of December 2019),  
Specialist, Arts Organizations

Melissa Tuplin, Community Investment  
& Capacity Manager

Nick Heazell, Website Coordinator

Patti Pon, President & CEO

Sable Sweetgrass, Specialist, Indigenous  
Programs

Sara Bateman, Director, Community  
Investment & Impact

Taylor Poitras, Specialist, Individuals  
& Collectives Programs

Trinh Dong, Digital Assistant  
(as of December 2019)

Van Chu (as of July 2019), Grants  
Coordinator

## CONSULTANTS

Amanda Germain, CA, Controller

Cherie McMaster, Events Consultant

JD Derbyshire, Inclusive Designer in  
Residence

Joni Carroll, Arts Spaces Consultant

Kaley Beisiegel, Engagement Consultant

## COMMITTEES, ASSESSORS AND VOLUNTEERS

Thank you to the many people who have  
given their time and expertise to our  
programs. We could not succeed  
without them.

### Board Committees

#### Strategy & Public Policy

Brian Frank (Ex-Officio)

Chima Nkemdirim

Donna Friesen (Chair)

Evan Woolley

Jeff de Boer

Susan Veres

Wil Knoll

#### Governance & Human Resources

Barb Howard (Chair)

Brian Frank (Ex-Officio)

Evan Woolley

Stacy Petriuk

Susan Veres

#### Finance & Audit

Brian Frank (Ex-Officio)

## MEET THE CONSULTANT

### *Amanda Germain, CPA*

Amanda Germain has a deep understanding of the finance implications in the not-for-profit arts sector and brings accounting expertise to her position as our Controller. Amanda's skills give our staff and board the assurance we need that our financial reporting and accounting practices are sound and undergo the appropriate due diligence.

Caitlyn Ducasse (Chair)

Karin King

Kathleen McNally Leitch

### **Mayor's Lunch for Arts Champions Volunteers**

Strategic Group employees

### **Cultural Leaders Legacy Artist Awards Juries**

Amanda Koyama

Anton DeGroot

Areum Kim

Brigitte VonRothermburg

Brittany Nickerson

Carol Shwartz-Kapuscinski

Cheryl Sung

Chris Cran

Clem Martini

Col Cseke

Daorcy Le Bray

Geraldine Ysselstein

Ghada Al Atrash

Jenna Rodgers

Jerrilynn Daniels

Jess Knights

Justine Vandergrift

Karen Ball

Karly Mortimer

Kerry Clarke

Lanre Ajayi

Mark Vazquez-MacKay

Mark Wold

Matt Blais

Michelle Brandenburg

Rose Brow

Rosemary Griebel

Sandi Sommers

Simon Mallet

Stephanie Bankzy

Stephanie Horner

Sunny Clark

Teresea Coulter

Wendy Passmore-Godfrey

Xstine Cook

### **Grant Program Assessors**

Allan Rosales

Amanda Foote

Ami Kenzo

Areum Kim

Boban Stojanovic

Brenda Lieberman

Callan Field

Caroline Loewen

Cesar Cala

Colin Dingwall

Curtis Lefthand

Dani Spady

Dawn Saunders

Djaka Blaise-Amare

Ellen Close

Elmira Sarreshtehdari

Emiko Muraki

Erin Jenkins

Fernando Cala

Jacquie Aquines

Javier Vilalta

Jennifer Duncan

Jennifer Mahood

Judy Lawrence

Kaely Cormack

Katie Sly

Kelli Rae Morning Bull

Laurel Green

Lisha Hassanali

Mark Hopkins

Marta Ligocki

Mel Vee Hudson

Michelle Brandenburg

Mina Baluyot

Miriam Fabijan

Mitzi Murray

Natasha Chaykowski

Nicole Westman

Oli Siska

Payal Patel

Raeesa Farooqi

Richelle Bear Hat

Ryan Reese

Terease Maillie

Thulasy Lettner

Vicki Chau

Vicki Stroich

Vipul Jasani

Willow Grier

Wunmi Idowu

Zoe Harrison

### **2019 OPIP Advisory**

Blair Russell

Cowboy Smithx

Glenna Cardinal

Jarret Tymen

Rose Heavyhead

Seth Cardinal Dodginghorse

Sophia Lebessis



# COMMUNITY SUPPORT

## 2019 PROGRAM PARTNERS

### CALGARY POET LAUREATE



### CULTURAL LEADERS LEGACY ARTIST AWARDS



Doug & Lois Mitchell



### MAYOR'S LUNCH FOR ARTS CHAMPIONS



Alberta University of the Arts

DIALOG

Aspen Properties

Kasian Architecture Interior Design and Planning Ltd.

Brookfield Residential

TD Bank Group

Calgary Flames Foundation

TELUS

CMLC

University of Calgary

### SPACEFINDER ALBERTA





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📷 [instagram.com/calgaryartsdev](https://instagram.com/calgaryartsdev)  
#yycLCL



Mark Kunji Ikeda in *Sansei: The Storyteller* at Lunchbox Theatre | Photo: Benjamin Laird Arts & Photo