

Final Report for the Fall 2021 PEI Arts Grants



January 20th, 2022



Economic Growth,
Tourism & Culture

This funding program was designed to support the development of artistic practice of PEI artists through a competitive award system. The process for assessment is modeled after the best practice of using peer juries to select successful projects and award funding amounts. This round of funding competition was able to support 14 projects in total.

Stats:

Number of eligible applications received: 74

Number of projects funded: 14

Total amount requested: \$349,300.10

Total amount available to be awarded: \$50,000.00

By Discipline:

Visual Arts: 18

Interdisciplinary: 9

Film and Media Arts: 10

Music: 18

Writing and Publishing: 8

Theatre: 3

Dance: 1

Craft: 7

By Artist Type:

Established: 34

Emerging: 32

Amateur: 8

By Grant type:

Creation: 53

Dissemination: 12

Professional Development: 9

Successful Applicants

Colton Curtis

- **Theatre - \$4,500**
- Colton Curtis will develop a new interdisciplinary work titled “Forgive Me” featuring two actors. This work will be a hybrid of text and ballet, based on childhood journal entries, and explores the themes of queerness, religion, acceptance, and the relationship between a grieving mother and a coming out son.

Hans Wendt

- **Visual Arts, \$3,200**
- During the winter of 2021/22, Hans Wendt will produce eight to twelve large scale watercolour paintings for exhibition in London Ontario and Charlottetown PEI. The artist is inspired by Philip Guston, an abstract expressionist painter of the 1960's who famously stated that he was "sick of all this purity." The artist feels strongly about going back to some previous interest in the grotesque, in Bosch and Brueghel, humour and suggested narrative, or more broadly speaking, the work will be more personal and accessible.

Kirstie McCallum

- **Visual Arts - \$2,500**
- Kirstie McCallum will mentor with sculptor and designer Jody Racicot to develop an original design for the piece, Forest Chair, a work of living sculpture destined for the Glenaladale Sculpture Forest. This mentorship will support the artist in developing and building a unique design that supports artistic excellence and creative growth and development. The artist will build on this foundation when completing the living components of the sculpture and installs the final work in June 2022.

Ryan McCarvill

- **Film and Media Arts - \$700**
- Ryan McCarvill will take a series of online filmmaking workshops offered by the Liaison of Independent Filmmakers of Toronto in order to help produce a microbudget feature film on PEI in 2022.

Doug Dumais

- **Visual Arts - \$4,500**
- Doug Dumais will be working on a photographic narrative entitled "The Third Place" about the history and future of Prince Edward Island's libraries. The artist will spend one full day at each of PEI's twenty-five library branches, producing photographs and documenting the vital role that these spaces play in their respective communities.

Damien Worth

- **Visual Arts - \$4,000**
- Damien Worth will produce a new body of visual artwork that examines travel, transition, and (dis)location as subject matter. The artist will complete no less than eight individual works in a variety of media formats including: video, photographic document, two dimensional drawings and paintings, and multi-media installations.

Jenna MacMillan

- **Film and Media Arts - \$4,000**
- Jenna MacMillan will write the outline & first draft of a feature-length comedy screenplay, B-UNIT, the story of an aspiring filmmaker who manages to attract a Hollywood project to shoot in her small coastal town. The story centres around her race-against-the-clock journey to cobble together a multi-million-dollar film industry ahead of their arrival.

Scott Parsons

- **Music - \$6,000**
- Scott Parsons will record an album of songs telling the stories of PEI black history using traditional forms of music including blues, folk, and reggae. The project will celebrate the contributions of black Islanders that have been underrepresented in the past. Songs will be presented in different settings, such as a documentary for CBC and a stage performance. In addition to the music, there is a storytelling aspect which will be supported with a multimedia presentation including a slideshow featuring historical photographs of black Islanders.

Teresa Kuo

- **Film and Media Arts - \$5,000**
- Teresa Kuo will direct and animate a seven minute animated short film “Where my Branches Stem” on Chinese Canadian identity and culture for submission to film festivals by February 2023. The film tells the story of a young Chinese woman who is tired from her nine to five work life in the big city prompting her to move back home with her grandfather mending their relationship and her own sense of cultural identity.

Renee Laprise

- **Visual Arts - \$5,000**
- Renee Laprise’s goal in the next year is to focus on the theme of “humans reconnecting with nature.” The artist will create twelve finalized sketches for a new painting series that will have elements which are drawn from life using “life models” and from nature, en plein air, in all four seasons. It is anticipated that the paintings will be ready for exhibition in Spring of 2023.

Ryan Drew

- **Interdisciplinary - \$1,500**
- Ryan Drew will attend the upcoming International Conference on Creativity and Cognition in June. The theme Creativity, Craft, and Design is directly related to the artist’s career and study of art-based creativity. Ryan Drew hopes to gain a wealth of knowledge and

perspectives relevant to the artist’s professional career, ongoing doctoral studies, and capacity to support the local arts community.

Ariel Sharratt

- **Music - \$2,500**
- Ariel Sharratt will use the grant to tour Canadian music festivals to promote the new album Garbage Island. The artist will also create two music videos. This album, to be released in summer 2022, is the culmination of several years of writing and is loosely themed around a future where the Pacific Trash Vortex has become a solid landmass populated primarily by a colony of birds, and scattered human climate change refugees.

Tyler Landry

- **Visual Arts - \$2,600**
- Tyler Landry will create a graphic novel entitled Old Caves, about a middle-aged man living in the woods, dogged by an obsession with bigfoot. The project tells a story concerning the nature of obsession and the isolation that often contains it, embodied in vignettes from the life of a forest-cabin-dwelling middle-aged man dedicated to proving the existence of Bigfoot. The completed artwork is planned for release in the fall of 2022.

Sid Acharya

- **Music - \$4,000**
- Sid Acharya - The project, ‘PINKED.’, is an expressive story of Sid-A’s re-connection to their roots and ancestors - musically and spiritually - as well as their discoveries of acceptance and self-love. Production has already begun and the album is set for release in 2022.

Process for Selection of Grant Awards

The Director of Cultural Development oversees the administration of this funding program. The program used a “peer assessment” model where a jury of six peers reviewed all applications and then were brought together to assess each application on the following criteria:

Artistic Merit 25 points

Questions the artist(s) should be able to answer within this section:

Why do I/we make art? Why am I a musician/film-maker/visual artist etc?

What is my arts practice about (a general statement that speaks to an overarching vision?)

Where is this project situated within my practice and does it demonstrate growth of my practice?

Other things to consider - are the concepts in language that is understandable (not too jargon filled, academic)

Is this about business or about artistic merit?

Achievability 15 points

Does the artist(s) have a track record of successfully completing projects? Does the plan seem reasonable? Is their budget sufficient? Does the artist have a well thought out timeline?

Impact 10 points

This criteria relates to the impact for the PEI Arts community. Essentially the question is: Will the project contribute to PEI arts? It can be understood in many ways: growth of the individual artist/group, raising the profile of the artist within the community, contributing to the growth of the arts community, or raising the profile of PEI arts outside of the province.

Selection of Jury

Jury members were solicited from an open call for applications. Jury members represented a mix of disciplines and experience in the arts community. The jurors were:

Tanya Davis - Writing/music

Megan Stewart - Theatre

Reequal Smith - Dance

Richard Pellissier-Lush - Interdisciplinary

Max Knechtel - Multidisciplinary

Becka Viau - Visual art

Timeline for Fall 2021 PEI Arts Grants:

September 15th: Call for applications/jury members open

October 13th: Deadline for applications

October 18th – November 8th: Jury reviews applications

November 8th: Jury meets face to face for adjudication

November 9th: Results communicated to applicants