

Final Report for the Spring 2022 PEI Arts Grants



August 3rd, 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: 77
Number of projects funded: 16
Total amount requested: \$360,612.93
Total amount available to be awarded: \$50,000.00

By Discipline:

Visual Arts: 17
Interdisciplinary: 5
Film and Media Arts: 13
Music: 24
Writing and Publishing: 6
Theatre: 5
Dance: 2
Craft: 5

By Artist Type:

Established: 43
Emerging: 32
Amateur: 2

By Grant type:

Creation: 58
Dissemination: 10
Professional Development: 9

Successful Applicants

Monica Lacey

- **Visual Arts - \$2,500**
- Monica Lacey will participate in an Artist Residency and mentorship with Arts Letters & Numbers in Averill Park, New York, USA, during which she will develop a project involving site-responsive research and creation on the theme of Collaboration with Water.

Reequal Smith

- **Dance - \$2,000**
- Reequal Smith will be presenting her third full-length dance production “Journey to Paradise” featuring original choreography and live music with an amazing diverse ensemble. This is a one-night only, live indoor admission-by-donation performance debuting September 2022 in Charlottetown, PE. Journey to Paradise discovers and explores the misinterpretation of dark magic that breaks down the inner truth of soul searching. Leading to embodying a spiritual journey empowered by depths of exonerating white magic.

Dave Stewart

- **Film and Media Arts - \$1,500**
- “POSITIVE: WHEN HIV/AIDS HIT PEI” is a digital record of the experiences of two Islanders living with HIV/AIDS. This online piece documents an essential part of Queer, human, and Island history before it is forgotten.

Millefiore Clarkes

- **Film and Media Arts - \$7,000**
- The Web, a poem penned by Tanya Davis, is a call to humanity to raise our consciousness by the profound yet simple acknowledgement that we are all interconnected through a web of existence: plant, animal, mineral, dream, reality, future, past. The Web video poem will translate the stirring poetry into a lyrical dance video that visually expresses the message of the words. Choreographed and performed by Reequal Smith, Devon Ross, and Tanya Davis. Music and soundscape by Tanya Davis and Daniel Ledwell.

Adedotun Adedoyin

- **Film and Media Arts - \$5,000**
- Dotun Adedoyin will direct and film a feature length narrative style film, Rebirth, the story about redefining the black narrative, and the celebration of black culture, drawing on where we came from, where we are, and shaping a beautiful future ahead. Rebirth stands as a tribute to our ancestors, ourselves, and our future.

Kirstie McCallum

- **Visual Arts - \$2,500**
- Kirstie will develop a series of carefully researched botanical illustrations of local PEI wildflowers linked to their 2021-22 installation of a pollinator garden at Tea Hill provincial park. The new project, Entanglements, documents the care and research that went into the Pollinator Clock while expanding Kirstie's artistic practice in a new direction, with a focus on making mixed-media images that combine line art, photographs, water-based pigments, and detailed expressive drawing.

Yanan Liu

- **Music - \$4,000**
- Yanan Liu will record an album of Chinese folk songs. In this album, the artist will play the traditional music from their hometown with a new perception which is given by the 6 years of experience on Prince Edward Island. It is anticipated that the album will be ready for release in the winter of 2022.

Shane Pendergast

- **Music - \$1,500**
- Shane Pendergast will curate and host two "Jack Pine Folk Club" shows. Inspired by the folk coffeehouses of the 1960's, the events will feature performances from singer-songwriters, poets, and traditional musicians

Jordan Gallant

- **Crafts - \$2,500**
- This project is a development-based study on contemporary quilting in Prince Edward Island. It will investigate the Island's current quilting practices and work to contribute a collection of new generational works. A focus will be given to expanding the traditional craft's outreach and interest through the accessibility of smaller-scale works.

Tanya McCallum

- **Theatre - \$2,000**
- Tanya Nicolle MacCallum will produce a series of stand-up comedy shows, showcasing a variety of comedians from across Eastern Canada. These shows will take place at Upstreet Craft Brewing, under the name Patio Laughs. This will be an inclusive, 'Safer Space' series, which will feature a variety of comedians of different backgrounds, and walks of life. 19+ event.

Adam Hill

- **Music - \$2,500**
- Adam Hill will compose a concert length chamber suite and produce a performance of the work. The piece, entitled Hard Times Come Again, will consist of songs with lyrics constructed from Great Depression oral history and electro-acoustic interludes that feature recent interviews with young Island artists. Performed by two vocalists, acoustic and electric guitars, mandolin, piano, and string quintet, the piece will blend elements of classical and folk musics to create a hybridized musical language.

Donnalee Downe

- **Visual Arts - \$2,000**
- Funds will be used for the construction of curio cabinets and frames for a recently completed body of work. Selected works from the new collection will be exhibited as part of "Yield" (Eptek, July/Aug. 2022) with a solo exhibition (tbd) to follow.

Trevor Corkum

- **Writing and Publishing - \$3,500**
- Told from alternating points of view between two Island men, *Blooming Point* is a novel set in 1990s PEI that explores issues of consent, power, class, and sexual identity. In particular, the novel shines a light on how shame and secrecy among queer teens on the Island during this era contribute to vulnerability, alienation, and risk-taking.

Jeana MacIssac

- **Theatre - \$3,500**
- She Has The Tools Productions will be producing *Lobster in my Pocket*, the well-loved children's book written by P.E.I. author Deirdre Kessler, who has lovingly adapted the story into a children's play. This grant will allow all the performances to be Pay-What-You-Can and have an ASL interpreter at one of the shows. Theatre for Young Audiences is where children can experience their first live performances. These productions foster a love of the arts, reading, and creativity that will last a lifetime.

Tessa Rankin

- **Visual Arts - \$2,000**
- Tessa Rose Rankin is creating 10-15 pieces of artwork that focus on the emotions that accompany the experience of female infertility. The pieces will also explore the solace that nature may bring to one throughout this difficult experience. The artist uses pen and watercolour and employs a monoscenic narrative style. She hopes that the artwork will create a greater sense of empathy for those experiencing infertility, as well as foster a more open dialogue to shed light on a condition that can be both isolating and stigmatizing.

Sion Irwin-Childs

- **Interdisciplinary - \$6,000**
- *A Home in My Heart*: The purpose of this project is to generate, explore and document a body of photographic and movement-based work in response to explorations at a specific site between July 5th 2022 and February 27th, 2023.

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 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:

Damien Worth – Multi-disciplinary Artist

Élan Mackey – Dancer

Julie Bull – Multi-disciplinary Artist

Max Koughan – Songwriter/Musician

Renee Laprise – Visual Artist

Robert Tsonos – Artistic Director, Watermark Theatre

Timeline for Fall 2021 PEI Arts Grants:

April 13th: Call for applications/jury members open

May 11th : Deadline for applications

May 20th – June 22nd: Jury reviews applications

June 27th: Jury meets face to face for adjudication

June 28th: Results communicated to applicants