



2018

ANNUAL REPORT



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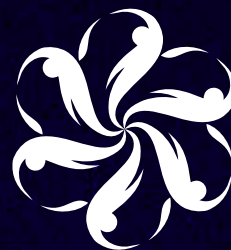


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ARTS COUNCIL WOOD BUFFALO

Mission

Arts Council Wood Buffalo supports the growth and success of the arts.

Vision

The arts are integral to a remarkable quality of life.

Values

- › ACWB is a supporter of all artistic disciplines.
- › ACWB is the voice that advocates for our region's arts, municipally, provincially, and federally.
- › ACWB sets the standard for how the arts are valued in the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo.
- › ACWB empowers individuals and organizations to produce arts in our region.

Strategic Priorities

1. The arts community is connected and has the resources needed to thrive.
2. The arts is recognized as essential in creating a balanced community.
3. The Arts Council is an influential voice for the arts.

2018 Board & Staff

Board of Directors

Dave Boutilier	Chair & Director – Theatre
Hanna Fridhed	Vice Chair & Director – Community (until June 2018)
Cathy Steeves	Director – Community (from June 2018)
Sarah Neiman	Treasurer & Director – Music (until June 2018)
Mike Jones	Vice Chair (from December) & Director – Music (from June 2018)
Carmen Wells	Secretary & Director – Metis (until June 2018)
Treasure Cooper	Director – Metis (from June 2018)
Tito Guillen	Director – Video/Filmmaking/Photography (until June 2018)
Fazle Quasha	Treasurer (from December) & Director – Video/Filmmaking/Photography (from June 2018)
Julia McDougall	Director – First Nations
Florence Weber	Director - Business/Industry/Non-Profit (until December 2018)
Scott Meller	Director - Business/Industry/Non-Profit
Erin Stinson	Director – Visual Arts (until December 2018)
Britany MacDonald	Director – Dance (until June 2018)
Alexandra Durocher	Director – Dance (from June 2018)
Patricia Budd	Secretary (from December) & Director - Literary

Staff

Liana Wheeldon	Executive Director
Diana Moser	Programs & Partnerships Manager
Christina Rolufs	Communications & Engagement Manager
Hanna Fridhed	Engagement Coordinator (from August 2018)
Sharon Heading	Arts Recovery Project Coordinator (from August 2018)
Hope Nokohoo	Summer Student (July & August 2018)





Message from the Mayor

Momentum. It's the theme of this year's Arts Council Wood Buffalo Annual Report and I think the team at ACWB couldn't have picked a better way to describe the year they had in growing and enhancing arts and culture in our region.

On behalf of my Council colleagues, our municipal staff and all our residents, I want to express our appreciation to Chair Dave Boutilier and the rest of ACWB Board of Directors for their vision and advocacy for arts and culture. You are making a difference for our community and we're proud to be a strong partner and supporter of ACWB.

To Executive Director Liana Wheeldon and the wonderful team at ACWB: Thank you for working hard every day to make our region an even more vibrant and dynamic community and a better place to call home. We look forward to your collaboration on the Municipality's Culture Master Plan and to continued success with all your programs and initiatives including the Arts in Recovery Project.

We also commend your relocation to the Keyano College Theatre and Arts Centre – we know this will allow for greater growth for arts and culture while making your work more inclusive and accessible to residents. In times of challenge, we need to come together as a community and support each other and this partnership demonstrates the values that make us proud.

Congratulations on another great year and here's hoping this is only the beginning for ACWB as you make impressive strides in developing arts and culture. Fostering arts and culture is a priority for us and we again thank you for all that you're doing in building momentum in which we can all share.

All the best,

Don Scott, QC
Mayor
Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo

THANK YOU FOR ALL THAT YOU'RE
DOING IN BUILDING MOMENTUM IN
WHICH WE CAN ALL SHARE.





Message from the Board

It's hard to catch a comet in a butterfly net.

When an object is flying through the heavens at a million miles an hour, it can be hard to recognize the details. The intricate beauty that is created as friction carves the object, melting away the non-essentials and picking up new strong elements, ensures that only the strongest components of its core remain. The heat created solidifies this core, and overall, the object is stronger with each obstacle it passes through. Meanwhile, all we see down here on earth is a streak in the night sky, an object that we trust with our most special wishes.

In 2018, ACWB was a bright light for artists in a (sometimes-dark) sky, shooting across the horizon for all to see and wish upon. The Arts Recovery Project is now in full swing, and input from around the region showed us that artists play an integral role in building and maintaining a community. This, along with being named as a partner in the RMWB's newly adopted Culture Master Plan, allows us to keep lighting the way for artists of all types as we move forward into 2019 and beyond.

2018 was also a year of strengthening our core, as the board and staff sat together and recrafted our values, mission, purpose, and objectives; essentially asking ourselves if we still are who we were, and if we needed to change to meet the demands of the community who we represent. This resulted in some changes, and I am proud to say that we are in the final stages of becoming a registered charity, which will open the doors to a world of new opportunities for our region.

There are no signs of our momentum slowing down in 2019 either. Our Creative Connections initiative, increased consultation requests, and higher attended Business of the Arts events keep us fueled as we continue to rocket across the sky, allowing our region to look up and see that tail of light, knowing full well that our core, like our resolve, is made of pure steel.

Dave Boutilier,
Board Chair & Theatre Director
Arts Council Wood Buffalo



In 2018, the arts gained momentum in our region in many ways:

- The Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo (RMWB) highlighted supporting arts and culture in its 2018-2021 strategic plan and named Arts Council Wood Buffalo (ACWB) as a partner in the development, implementation, and evaluation of an Arts and Culture Master Plan for the region.
- ACWB hosted an Arts Tour for the newly elected Mayor, five Council Members, and key administration staff from the RMWB, highlighting successes and opportunities for the arts in our region.
- The RMWB's Public Art Committee unveiled its first public art piece, 'Reflections on the River'.
- Syncrude and Suncor donated a monument to Keyano College in celebration of the resiliency of our community with a piece created by artist Jeff de Boer called 'The Pillars of Wood Buffalo'.
- The Social Sustainability Plan was released, and highlights "further develop culture and arts" as one of the five priorities to support in moving social sustainability forward.
- The Alberta Drama Festival Association held the One-Act Play Provincial Showcase in Fort McMurray for the first time in ten years.
- ACWB held its third annual Wood Buffalo Excellence in Arts Awards with a record number of nominees and attendees.

This is only a small sampling of the successes of individual artists and arts organizations in our region.



Message from the Executive Director

For Arts Council Wood Buffalo, we celebrated our sixth year of incorporation and welcomed new Board Directors to continue the work of many of the founding Board Directors whose service tenured out in 2018. We were able to add a new permanent staff member to support our advocacy and membership services, and were successful in achieving funding for a contracted staff member to support artists in returning to their pre-wildfire artistic capacity.

Arts Council strengthened its connection to the arts community by moving offices into Keyano Theatre & Arts Centre. This move situates us in the heart of the ACWB-named 'Arts District', connecting us to the heritage, culture, and arts situated in this section of downtown Fort McMurray, and making us more accessible to artists and the community in general.

ACWB membership had an almost 25% increase over 2017 and a further 30% increase in the consultation services we offer for artists, arts organizations, business, industry, and government. Thank you to our volunteer board, our membership, and the community for all of the support!

It would not be possible for us to offer our programs and services without the operational support of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo and the Alberta Foundation for the Arts – a heartfelt thank you to these organizations! Support of recovery of the arts sector post-wildfire from the Canadian Red Cross, starting in 2018 and continuing into 2020, is also much appreciated.

Liana Wheeldon
Executive Director
Arts Council Wood Buffalo



ARTISTS ARTISTS ARTISTS ARTISTS ARTISTS ARTISTS ARTISTS

Membership Program

The ACWB membership is one of ACWB's staple programs enabling the arts community to be connected and have the resources needed to thrive. Under the new guidance of the Engagement Coordinator Hanna Fridhed, the program grew 25% from 2018 with a steady uphill climb into 2019. Evaluating the member's benefits used in 2018, we can confidently say artists are very active in our community. Over 30% more benefits were utilized in 2018 from 2017 with ACWB staff conducting roughly 2 one-on-one consultations (1 hour +) each week. Benefits that were most utilized by ACWB members in 2018 were one-on-one consultations and advisory services, marketing and promotions, and event discounts.

We look forward to 2019 where we will be evaluating the program to further align with the current needs of our arts community. Stay tuned for new member exclusive benefits and promotions!





Business of the Arts

The Business of the Arts program offers local artists an opportunity to build their capacity to compete and thrive by providing them with the resources they need to flourish as entrepreneurs as well as artists and to create a sustainable living from their artistic practice.

Art Submissions 101

A workshop facilitated by Erin Stinson of Studio Stinson, on how to create a strong submission to an artist call and best represent yourself as a visual artist using the tools you already have. Topics included basic ways to photograph 2D/3D artwork, tips on writing a great artist biography and artistic statement, and advice on making a compelling submission to the 2018 FuseSocial Timeraiser artist call.

Making It in Music

Arts Council Wood Buffalo partnered with 91.1 The Bridge and Shaw TV Fort McMurray to create a pilot video for a new series "Making it in Music". The pilot episode featured a panel discussion with jazz musicians A/B Trio, hosted by Diana Moser and presented by The District Recording Studio. The video is a resource for musicians who are interested in touring, professionalism, and marketing their band.

Basic Bookkeeping for Artists

This was a workshop introducing the basics of bookkeeping for artists, facilitated by Kristine Baans. Participants learned about the allowable expenses that reduce income, if GST is applicable, different methods of record keeping, and reporting income and expenses on tax returns.

Know Your Rights - Intellectual Property, Copyright & Contracts

This was a pair of workshops facilitated by Martin Kratz, a Calgary based lawyer who specializes in intellectual property. Participants learned about intellectual property and what it means for their artistic practice, how copyright affects artists, and about best practices for artist contracts that protect artists and respect the other party.

Marketing & Promotions Using Swag

Facilitator Julie Rowe (author and crafter) led participants through a lively discussion and make-and-take workshop on how to create and effectively use swag as part of an artist's marketing plan. Topics included swag's role in an artist's marketing plan, determining your budget, picking the right category of swag, what the promotional companies can do for you, what you can do for yourself and what to do with swag once you have it.



Wood Buffalo Excellence in Arts Awards

The Wood Buffalo Excellence in Arts Awards is an annual program that recognizes and celebrates excellence in various areas of the arts and builds awareness of the incredible contribution artists make to Wood Buffalo. The "Buffys" invest in the future of our growing arts community by supporting our most exceptional artists through appreciation and employment opportunities through the event showcase which connects artists to the wider community.

The 2018 Wood Buffalo Excellence in Arts Awards: Midnight with Warhol was a resounding success! On October 20, 2018, our community experienced the colourful artistic and cultural movement of the late 1960's and early 1970's, inspired by the ever-enthralling Andy Warhol. Returning for the third time, the 2018 Wood Buffalo Excellence in Arts Awards was the biggest event yet! Bringing the festivities back to the Suncor Energy Centre for the Performing Arts, the main show took place in a larger hall ("The Factory"), with the pre- and post-show celebrations held in the Black Box Theatre ("The Studio"). Expanding with more stages, featuring more performers, and celebrating more nominees than ever, Midnight with Warhol was a night not to be missed!

Recipients received a cash prize and a hand crafted award by local artists Claire Antoine and Sonia Burke-Smith.



Award Recipients

Arts Administration - Theresa Buller
Arts Education - Jennifer Barr
Creative Collaboration - Forever Forest
Dance - Shweta Suthar
Fine Craft - Ekaterina Petukhova
Indigenous Arts - Shawn McClure
Literary Arts - Dawn Booth
Media Arts - Tito Guillen
Ken Flaherty Music Award - Jay Chinn
Rising Star - Cash Finch
Theatre - Justin Shaw
Visual Arts - Liam Renner
Arts Champion - Mike Moore
Lifetime Achievement - David Ball



2018 ANNUAL REPORT



WOOD BUFFALO
EXCELLENCE IN ARTS
AWARDS



30

**PAID PERFORMERS
& EXHIBITORS**

ARTISTS



14

VOLUNTEERS



14

AWARDS PRESENTED

66

**AWARD
NOMINEES**



288

AUDIENCE MEMBERS

15

**EVENT
SPONSORS**



6

**COMMISSIONED
ARTISTS**



COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY

community

COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY



Communications

2018 was a momentous year for the communications within Arts Council Wood Buffalo. We continued to be present in the community by attending, having booths at and speaking at several events, including Métis Days, India Film Festival of Alberta, and FuseSocial's Timeraiser. Online communications expanded with new social media platforms and new marketing partnerships to lengthen our reach and grow our networks, including a partnership with Wood Buffalo Media Group. The partnership allowed ACWB and WBMG to expand each organization's social media followers and give benefit to the community with a Wood Buffalo Media video package.

As the communication initiatives grew, so was the apparent need to expand the team. In August 2018 ACWB welcomed Hanna Fridhed as the new Engagement Coordinator. With Hanna's knowledge of online engagement, extensive participation and leadership in the local arts scene and passion for our area, the communications and ACWB membership has grown immensely. We look forward to new initiatives and continued growth in 2019.

Communication Goals

In order to keep the momentum going, and to expand the growth and reach of ACWB, a social media strategy was created. Social media can be a fantastic tool to connect with our members and the community at large, spread awareness about our programs and projects, connect artists with opportunities, and to feature local artists. To implement this strategy and to further support our arts community, new initiatives were developed, including the Artist Spotlight, of which the primary focus is highlighting the Wood Buffalo artists and their work.



Arts District

In August, 2018, ACWB moved location to Keyano Theatre & Arts Centre. To launch the announcement, ACWB coincided the move with the announcement of ACWB's new self guided arts tour "The Arts District". After recognizing the area as rich in arts, culture and history, ACWB developed a map, identifying the diversity of the area which include historical landmarks, arts based businesses, public art, murals, theatre space, a recording studio, live music venues and more. Arts Council Wood Buffalo now lives in Keyano Theatre & Arts Centre in the heart of Fort McMurray's Arts District.



Communications Continued

YMM Magazine

A new partnership with Balsom Communications allowed ACWB to write articles showcasing our local artists, specifically an article highlighting the accomplishments of Indigenous artists in Wood Buffalo. Accompanying the article, local artists' artwork were professionally photographed and featured on the cover and inside Volume 6, Issue 4, "The Indigenous People of Wood Buffalo".



Atkinson: Artwork by the artist, Liana Wheldon. (Photo: Richard Baldonado)



Left: Rose by Treasure Cooper. Part of the TOTAL Aboriginal Interpretive Trail. Above left: Eagle by Jessica Powder (Photo Richard Baldonado). Above right: White Buffalo Calf Woman by Claire Antoine (Photo Richard Baldonado).



Committees

Arts Council Wood Buffalo participates in many community committees to ensure the arts are fairly represented and best practices in working with artists are followed. In 2018, ACWB participated in: Tri-level Meetings which brings together Municipal, Provincial, and Federal funding and arts organizations; RMWB 10 Year Culture Strategic Plan Advisory Committee; Mayor Advisory Council on Youth; the Wood Buffalo Community Foundation Grants Committee; the Social Sustainability Stewardship Committee; Fort McMurray Urban Market Committee, and Wood Buffalo Culture Days organizing committee.



Partnerships

Fort McMurray International Airport

ACWB worked with the Fort McMurray International Airport to complete an Arts & Culture Strategic Plan that will guide the airport's arts planning for current and future arts initiatives. The plan identifies three goals to accomplish: create a sense of place in the airport, promote the arts in Wood Buffalo to people who frequent the airport, and increase foot traffic to the airport and businesses within the airport. ACWB supplied an overview of the Wood Buffalo artist landscape and worked with the airport to identify arts initiatives and activities the airport can work towards in the next 5 years.

Fuse Social, Timeraiser

ACWB partnered with FuseSocial in making this event meaningful for visual artists, to ensure the arts are fairly represented, and that best practices are followed. ACWB worked with FuseSocial to assist with the artist calls and selection, installation of the exhibition, and the public event at the MacDonald Island Community Gallery.

First Annual Local Authors Book Fair

ACWB partnered with literary artist Patricia Budd and Coles, the Book People to present Fort McMurray's first Local Authors Book Fair. Local authors were on-site in the centre of Peter Pond Mall to showcase and sell their work. There was a diversity of genres including children's books, science fiction, historical fiction, medical drama, mystery, and zombie fiction. NorthWord was also in attendance promoting the local publication and published small literary works from people in the north.



WBFB Empty Bowls Festival

ACWB Buffalo partnered with the Wood Buffalo Food Bank to plan, organize, and execute the annual Empty Bowls Festival. This included the promotion of artist performer and vendor calls, an advisory position on the planning committee, and event management.



Partnerships Continued

Fort McMurray Tourism

ACWB worked closely alongside Alberta Tourism, Fort McMurray Tourism, and Fort McMurray Heritage Society to facilitate an Experiential Tourism workshop. Entrepreneurs, Artists, business representatives and tourism operators attended the event to learn about the Alberta tourism market and how including experiences into their product or service, with an emphasis on utilizing arts and culture experiences, can attract tourism and new business. Local artist Treasure Cooper was hired to facilitate a beading exercise during the workshop.



Alberta Drama Festival Association's One Act Play Provincial Festival

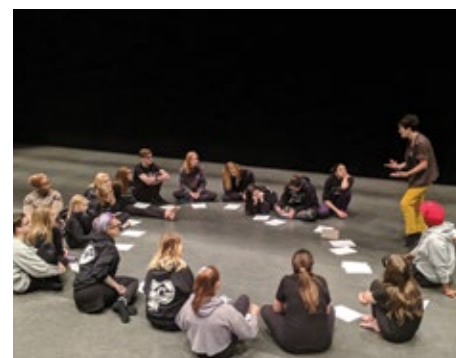
ACWB partnered with the Alberta Drama Festival North Zone representative and organizing committee to present the ADFA Provincial One Act Play Showcase at the Keyano Recital Theatre. ACWB also organized the participant workshop "Puppetry of the Person" facilitated by local puppetry artist Ekaterina Petukhova of Pink Whale Theatre. ACWB was pleased to partner with the ADFA North Zone in welcoming theatre artists from all over the province to our community for the first time in 10 years.



Theatre Creation workshop: Passionate Playmaking Through Documentary & Dance

Students in the PEAK Athletic Academy Dance program joined members of The Ghomeshi Effect team in this workshop about using found stories and found movement to create a piece of theatre that is truthful, thought-provoking, and responsive to the world we live in.

The Ghomeshi Effect is a documentary dance-theatre performance that tackles sexual violence in Canada, particularly how it is handled in the legal system, through an edited series of documented interviews, and uses dance to inform and interrogate the language used in the discussion of sexual violence. Waypoints presented The Ghomeshi Effect in honour of Family Violence Prevention Month and partnered with ACWB to offer the workshop in order to give artists and performers a space to engage in difficult conversations, while using the arts to inspire impactful change.



Suncor Student Art Awards

The Suncor Student Art Awards and Kim Jenkins Student Art Scholarship are a collaboration between Suncor Energy, Arts Council Wood Buffalo, Fort McMurray Public School District, and Fort McMurray Catholic School District. The purpose of the program is to increase the reach and impact of artwork created within the school system and to build the confidence of emerging artists to exhibit their work.

Throughout the year, Suncor hosts three student art exhibitions: one for Public High Schools, one for Catholic High Schools, and one for Jr. High Schools from both districts. Awards are selected through Suncor employee voting. The Kim Jenkins Student Art Scholarship is given to a Grade 12 student pursuing Visual Arts or Design at the Post-Secondary level the following year whose work in the annual QUAD High exhibition at the MacDonald Island Community Art Gallery shows the most promise. The scholarship and two additional prizes are awarded through a professional visual artist jury. In June Suncor hosts a reception for the award winners and program stakeholders where the awards are distributed.



Kim Jenkins Student Art Scholarship - Kaitlyn Vandenbilche
QUAD High Exhibition
1st place - Kyla Cardinal
QUAD High Exhibition
2nd place - Camryn Hannigan

Public High Schools
1st - Farah Sadek
2nd - Heta Patel
3rd - Abigail Everson
4th - Hyeqa Amhad
5th - Arianne Darveau & Jasmine Bunch

Catholic High Schools
1st - Sion Kurnianto
2nd - Natalie Farahani
3rd - Alexis Farandatos & Cameron Shea
4th - Amy Munoz
5th - Ashton Gonyou

Joint Junior High Schools
1st - Tija Polley
2nd - Madison Organ
3rd - Liv Zubel

BUILDING THE CONFIDENCE
OF EMERGING ARTISTS TO
EXHIBIT THEIR WORK.



Arts Recovery

Arts Recovery Working Group

In 2017, key stakeholders in the arts community formed a working group chaired by Arts Council Wood Buffalo to evaluate the needs of artists and arts organizations in our region after the 2016 Horse River Wildfire. With funding from the Edmonton Community Foundation, the Arts Recovery Working Group hired a consultant to conduct a needs assessment through community engagement events and one-on-one interviews. The consultant then created the Post-Wildfire Arts Recovery Strategic Plan from the research findings.

With support from the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo, ACWB hosted three full-day, professionally facilitated wellness sessions geared to artists, and free for participants. These sessions were held in Fort McMurray at the Golden Years Society downtown, the Radisson Hotel in Gregoire, and the Best Western Hotel in Taiganova Crescent. The strong turnout for these sessions further highlighted the need for a focus on recovery in the arts community.

Arts Recovery Project

ACWB was successful in its application for funding to the Canadian Red Cross in support of implementing the Post-Wildfire Arts Recovery Strategic Plan and the Arts Recovery Working Group unanimously decided to hire the consultant that created the plan to be the Project Coordinator. Sharon Heading joined ACWB in August of 2018 on a two-year contract to conduct further research supporting the strategic plan, including outreach to rural communities, creating opportunities for collaboration

between artists, and opportunities for the community at large to engage with the arts. Starting in August of 2018, Sharon's initial focus was meeting with potential partners, stakeholders and artists, particularly in the rural and Indigenous communities. The Arts Recovery Working Group was also expanded to include the Multi-Cultural Association and Athabasca Tribal Council.

The first rural engagement was held in Fort Chipewyan where



Sharon attended the elders Christmas party as a guest and hosted a community arts event. Surveys were collected from local artists at the event giving Arts recovery insight into the needs of the Fort Chipewyan arts community. The conversations and survey information will also help form a blueprint for successful future engagements in Rural and Indigenous communities and creating culturally appropriate wellness activities with them.



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Advocacy

Alberta Branded

In 2018, the office of Tany Yao, MLA Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo, helped Arts Council Wood Buffalo strengthen our arts community's connection to the Alberta Legislative Assembly by initiating the planning of a workshop to encourage visual artists in our region to participate in the Alberta Branded annual showcase call to 2D & 3D Artists. This showcase presents new artists exploring new themes and perspectives. The gallery store, located in the Legislative Assembly Visitor Centre, features hand-made, original artwork created by Alberta-based artists and artisans for showcase and sale.

Linda Frena, Supervisor Retail Services, facilitated two workshops to inform participants about best practices regarding the application process, one held in the McMurray Métis Boardroom and one at Keyano Theatre & Arts Centre. Several Wood Buffalo artists were selected to exhibit in the 2018 showcase and invited to be part of the ongoing roster of featured artists in the retail store.

Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo Mayor & Council Arts Tour

After being named a strategic partner in the RMWB's 2018-2021 Strategic Plan, ACWB took the opportunity to host an arts tour for Mayor and Council. As art guides we showcased arts venues and organizations, and updated them on what's happening in the arts community. The tour also gave ACWB valuable time with Mayor and Council to discuss current gaps and opportunities for the future. Thank you to the venues and key stakeholders in the arts community who assisted us on the tour!

The Arts Tour stops:

- The Redpoll Centre Public Art Commission - a partnership with ACWB, Alberta Foundation for the Arts and the Regional Recreation Corporation of Wood Buffalo. Artwork "Boreal Forest Stories" and "Butterfly Effects" created by Lucie Bause.
- Macdonald Island Park Visual Arts program and Dance Academy.
- Suncor Energy Centre for the Performing Arts theatre and performing and visual arts programs.
- Sneak peek of The District Recording Studio.
- Behind the scenes look at Keyano Theatre & Arts Centre.



Advocacy Continued

artsVest - Business of the Arts

artsVest is Business for the Arts' national flagship program. It works directly with small to mid-sized arts organizations, equipping them with in-depth training, tools and mentorship relationships. These components are created to build sustainable partnerships between arts organizations and businesses to spark sponsorship opportunities. Participants in artsVest can also apply for Business for the Arts to match each dollar raised in sponsorship, doubling their sponsorship potential for the term of the program. ACWB helped artsVest / Business for the Arts to connect with several organizations in our community, helping to build their capacity and connect them to a broader arts and business community.

Alberta Winter Games

February 16-19, 2019 the RMWB hosted approximately 3000 athletes, coaches and officials from across the province, who competed, learned, and shared the experience of a lifetime. The 2018 Alberta Winter Games was managed by the 2018 Wood Buffalo Alberta Winter Games Host Society, made up of a board of directors, staff, organizing chairs, and volunteers. Arts Council Wood Buffalo partnered with the Host Society in making this event meaningful for the community, visitors, and the athletes. ACWB was involved at both the director and organizing chair level to ensure the arts were represented and best practices were followed.

AWG Director of Culture, Ceremonies, Protocol – Diana Moser, ACWB Programs & Partnerships Manager
AWG Organizing Chair of Arts & Culture Programming – Liana Wheeldon, ACWB Executive Director



Thank You!!

Arts Council Wood Buffalo acknowledges the 2018 operational support of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo and Alberta Foundation for the Arts.



REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY
OF **WOOD BUFFALO**



Alberta
Foundation
for the **Arts**

Arts Council Wood Buffalo would also like to thank our partners, donors, contractors, volunteers, and supporters who helped us support the growth and success of the arts in 2018.



COVER ARTWORK BY:

Sedef Uzer Prakash

"BLEND"
**Watercolor + Acrylic
Markers on Bristol Paper**

Artist Biography:

Sedef Uzer Prakash is a Turkish Graphic Artist and curator residing in Fort McMurray, Alberta.

Growing up in Istanbul provided Sedef with constant inspiration and she was continually influenced by its bountiful culture. Sedef was always interested in the arts and expressed it through multiple disciplines.

At a young age, Sedef's talents were recognized by her late father who inspired her towards a career in design. For over 13 years, Sedef has worked worldwide as a graphic designer from Turkey to the United Arab Emirates to Canada where she currently resides.

Coming across the artwork of Japanese artist, Kris Goto, while on a trip to Hawaii, Sedef's passion for illustration was rediscovered. This encouraged her to pick up her tools once again after many years of working in the corporate world.

Currently, she is working as a curator at Regional Recreation Corporation of Wood Buffalo and upgrading her education at Toronto Film School. Sedef continues to seek out her creative endeavors.



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