



— 2017 —
ANNUAL
REPORT

COVER PHOTOGRAPH BY:

Stacey Northcotte

"Layers"
Digital Photography

Artist Biography:

Stacey Northcotte began her career as a professional photographer in 2008 at the age of 17. Though best known professionally as a commercial and portrait photographer, Stacey enjoys spending her free time shooting creative portraiture and fine art photography. Stacey uses photography as a means of self-expression and as a channel in which to invite others to view the world as she does.

Artist Statement:

Layers portrays that even though it may not be "together", we can build, stack and balance layers to create something whole.

The artistic diversity in our region is a thing that I find truly astounding, but what really stands out about the arts in Wood Buffalo is the incredible support that the local artists give and provide to each other.

There is a strength to our arts community that I believe is special and unique to Wood Buffalo.

- Stacey Northcotte, Photographer



Mission

Arts Council Wood Buffalo champions investment in the arts in the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo.

Vision

The arts are valued and integral to a remarkable quality of life.

Values

- › Courage and Integrity
- › A Culture of Creativity
- › Best Practices within the Arts
- › Engagement in the Arts
- › Responsible Representation
- › Collaborative Leadership
- › Stewardship

Goals

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

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2017 Arts Council Board and Staff



Message from the Mayor

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Arts Council Wood Buffalo (ACWB) on your continued success in 2017 and for serving as an important advocate for the arts in our region. The theme of this year's report, "Balancing Act," captures the sense of change that characterized 2017 for the organization, arts community, and so many of us in Wood Buffalo. It also reflects the strength of the community and the special contributions that art makes to our quality of life.

There were many important developments at ACWB in 2017. Major milestones included the beginning of Liana Wheeldon's tenure as Executive Director and, of course, ACWB's fifth birthday. 2017 also marked the second year of the Annual Wood Buffalo Excellence in Arts Awards. Once again, this sold-out event firmly placed the spotlight on the outstanding talent in our region and the accomplishments of the wider arts community. Another key development was the creation of the Arts Recovery Working Group (ARWG). Working with Keyano Theatre & Arts Centre and Suncor Energy Centre for the Performing Arts, ACWB is the lead institution in providing direction and guidance to the Wildfire Recovery Taskforce to support the recovery of the arts community.

I want to thank you for your tremendous efforts in building momentum for the arts in Wood Buffalo. Arts and culture are integral to creating a sense of belonging and community, and fundamental to the development of a healthy, thriving community. As a strong voice for the region's arts community, you not only showcase our diverse artists, but the remarkable accomplishments and contributions of the greater arts community. In the process, you help build a vibrant region we are proud to call home.

I wish you continued success in the year ahead.

All the best,

Don Scott
Mayor
Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo



Message from the Board

2017 has come and gone, and with it so much has happened in the Wood Buffalo arts community. 2018 is already shaping up to be a stellar year for the arts, making it difficult to look back at what we accomplished when we are continuously drawn forward in anticipation of what is yet to come.

As an over-arching body that serves to promote and link the diverse art disciplines, their practitioners, and works of art to the community of Wood Buffalo, the staff and board of ACWB spent 2017 hard at work doing just that. From our 2nd annual Excellence in Arts Awards (The Buffys), our involvement in the Arts Recovery Working Group, the massive amount of artist consultations, and our Business of the Arts workshop series, the staff and board of ACWB continue to be proud to connect the people of Wood Buffalo to our local artists, and our local artists to the world.

While 2017 brought a lot of change to the local arts community, ACWB was able to steer straight and true thanks to the efforts of Diana Moser who stepped up to the role of Interim Executive Director until the permanent posting of Liana Wheeldon in April. This leadership from within allowed ACWB to accept some new challenges from the community, such as taking on a large leadership role with the 2018 Alberta Winter Games and participating in committees for IgNight, WinterPlay, and the Urban Market, among others. Despite all the challenges 2016 brought, ACWB was the first arts group in the province able to successfully complete a Public Arts Commission Project Grant from the Alberta Foundation for the Arts.

Personally, I'll always remember 2017 as the year of the "New Normal" in Wood Buffalo, as everyone turned to one another post wildfire and asked: "What do we do now?" This uncertainty was met by the arts community with open arms as we collectively offered up our dances, our paintings, our comedy, and our music, and replied: "We heal". With that, we look forward to 2018 with eyes wide open and an optimistic view of what artists can do for the Wood Buffalo community as we continue this journey into the "new normal" hand in hand.

Dave Boutilier,
Board Chair



Message from the Executive Director

For Arts Council Wood Buffalo, 2017 was a balancing act in a number of ways. ACWB maintained the high quality standard of programs and services we deliver while navigating a number of changes that determined our 'new normal'.

Arts Council did not lose ground through the transition to a new Executive Director and the addition of a new permanent staff member. We weathered uncertain economic times and sought new ways to sustain our organization financially. ACWB advocated for the arts in our region while connecting with a new Mayor and Council, and the many committed community members that bravely put themselves in the race to fill those roles.

It was also a year of defining who Arts Council Wood Buffalo is and what our priorities should be. We spent time listening to members of the arts community, and community at large, as well as our various partners, about what their needs are for support from, and for, the arts. The staff worked to balance our desire to meet all those needs with the reality of the capacity of a three-person team. Making a commitment to understand and stay focused on our Mission and Vision will enable Arts Council to continue its sustainable growth as we enter our sixth year in operation, as well as support the arts community in achieving its goals and fulfilling its needs.

ACWB celebrated the arts community with the second annual Wood Buffalo Excellence in Arts Awards. The awards program and artist showcase expanded in 2017 to include a new category: Lifetime Achievement. The number of nominees doubled from the inaugural event in 2016 and tickets sold out as quickly as the first year, emphasizing the interest in, and need for, celebrating the arts and artists in our region.

Looking back at all that was accomplished in 2017 makes us even more excited for the growth Arts Council Wood Buffalo will continue to experience in 2018 and beyond. In 2017, we welcomed new board members and saw an increase of over 40% in our membership. Thank you to our volunteer board and our membership for all of your support!

I would also like to thank the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo and the Alberta Foundation for the Arts for their operational support of Arts Council Wood Buffalo. Without champions for the arts such as these, it would be impossible for ACWB to continue meeting the needs of our growing arts sector.

Liana Wheeldon
Executive Director

ARTS COUNCIL WOOD BUFFALO

2017 Year In Review

2017 continued to establish Arts Council Wood Buffalo as an influential voice for the arts in our region. We saw an increase not only in our membership, but also in the requests for our consultative services provided to business, industry, and the community at large. We strengthened existing partnerships and created new ones. We increased the number of Business of the Arts workshops conducted for our region's artists and arts organizations and saw the second year of our Wood Buffalo Excellence in Arts Awards & Showcase, ensuring the arts community is connected and has the resources needed to thrive.

ACWB worked with a number of community committees and has been instrumental in planning the inclusion of arts and culture for the 2018 Wood Buffalo Alberta Winter Games. In the subsequent pages of this report, we will highlight the accomplishments of our projects, programs, and partnerships, and how ACWB worked to ensure that the arts are recognized as valuable and integral to a remarkable quality of life in our region.

The Wood Buffalo arts community has never been more vibrant. It appears to be growing in every discipline, continually creating new artist opportunities and it's exciting to be a part of.

- Lucas Seaward, Visual Artist



44
VOLUNTEERS

7

COMMITTEE
INVOLVEMENT



7
PARTNERSHIPS

4

ARTS TOURS



14
AWARDS
PRESENTED



162
MEMBERS

19 WRITTEN
PUBLICATIONS



6
BUSINESS OF THE ARTS
WORKSHOPS

BōA
BUSINESS OF THE ARTS

*We never used to consider the artists.
Arts Council Wood Buffalo has put that
forward and made people think.*

- Loraine Humphrey, Manager,
Suncor Energy Centre for the Performing Arts

Communications

ACWB utilizes several online tools to communicate with members, stakeholders, artists, and community members, keeping the community up to date on what is happening in the arts community. ACWB provides Members with exclusive access to monthly eNewsletters with ACWB specific news, arts events, artist calls, educational development, and funding opportunities.

New features, including Artist Calls and the Arts Impact Measurement Report, were added to the ACWB website to provide artists easy access to arts opportunities and resources.

ACWB used social media, specifically Facebook and Twitter, as a successful tool to keep the community engaged with up to date information on arts events, artist calls, artists opportunities, helpful resources, and reminders of ACWB specific happenings and benefits. Social media stats indicated our audiences engage most with information and posts related to specific individuals in our arts community.

ACWB continues to write monthly articles featuring ACWB members who are doing amazing things in our community through its partnership with snapd Wood Buffalo's "Centre Stage with Arts Council Wood Buffalo." Articles written in 2017 covered a variety of disciplines and featured locally owned Campbell's Music, independent theatre company Theatre; Just Because, ACWB Board Director - Community, literary artist and theatre performer Hanna Fridhed, musician and multimedia artist Cory Huber, and musician and arts educator Dan Tulk, to name a few.

Executive Director Liana Wheeldon took over the YMM Arts column with the Fort McMurray Today to write monthly articles advocating for the arts and bringing forward important issues in the arts. Her articles have opened up new dialogue and important debates in our community.

Suncor Student Art Awards

The purpose of the program is to increase the reach and impact of artwork created within the school system, build the confidence of emerging artists to exhibit their work, and engage Suncor employees with visual art. Throughout the year, Suncor hosts three student art exhibitions at their Business Centre: one for Public High Schools, one for Catholic High Schools, and one that includes the Suncor employee voted favourite High School pieces from the first two exhibitions as well as the work of Junior High students from both districts. The program also includes the Kim Jenkins Student Art Scholarship, a \$1500 award given annually to a Grade 12 student pursuing Visual Arts or Design (or similar field) at the post-secondary level upon graduating. Suncor hosted a reception on June 27, 2017 at the Business Centre to recognize the winners of the 2017 Suncor Student Art Awards program prizes. ACWB is grateful to Suncor for their continued dedication to ensuring that the arts community has the resources needed to thrive.



Award Recipients

Kim Jenkins Student Art Scholarship:

Recipient: Angelica Garcia
1st Runner Up: Emily Bartlett
2nd Runner Up: Athena Wyse



Public High Schools:

Sylvie Kavanagh
Shania Waterman
Christopher Rose
Hyeqa Amhad
Bailey Haas



Catholic High Schools:

Amy Munoz Morales
Richelle Stewart
Angelica Garcia
Olivia Heskett
Amy Janes



Junior High Schools:

Bridget Fecteau
Camryn Hannigan
Carissa Fortin
Kirsten Tulco

Boards, Committees & Advocacy

ACWB sat on several boards and committees as the arts representative, ensuring the arts had an influential voice in the community. In 2017, ACWB sat on the National Aboriginal Day (currently National Indigenous Peoples Day) organizing committee, Alberta Culture Days (ABCD) organizing committee, the municipally run Urban Market Community Committee, the Sport Tourism Committee, and the Tourism Asset and Inventory Committee.

In addition to the boards and committees, ACWB regularly attended community meetings, discussing new and upcoming ACWB events and initiatives, as well as events and initiatives from partnering organizations and artists. These meetings include RCOM (Rural Communities Outreach Meetings) and InterAgency Meetings for non-profits.

ACWB was involved in organizing and attending several “Culture Booths” through its involvement in the Culture Network. The booths that were set up at the Spring Trade Show and Hues for Humanity event gave arts & culture organizations a platform to be face to face with community members and talk about opportunities to engage with the arts.

Fort McMurray Urban Market Community Committee

ACWB was a founding member of the Fort McMurray Urban Market Committee and served as the liaison for the entertainment for the event. In addition to committee duties, ACWB partnered to deliver the Maximizing the Market workshop, sourced, scheduled, and set up entertainment for the full 2017 season, and promoted artists and market days through ACWB’s various social media platforms.





National Indigenous Peoples Day

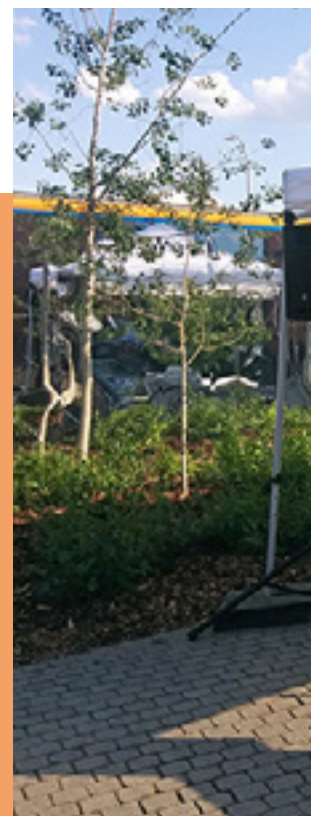
As part of the organizing committee for the 2017 National Aboriginal Day, ACWB acted in an advisory role to help source artists and arts activities. Although the day was dampened by rain, it did not dampen the spirits of the community! All residents were invited to enjoy live entertainment by traditional dancers and drummers, a talking stick exercise, traditional artisans handmade goods, and children's activities.



Wood Buffalo Alberta Culture Days Committee

Arts Council Wood Buffalo sat on the Alberta Culture Days organizing committee to help steer discussion and grow our municipal involvement in this provincial program. ACWB hosted a booth at the Urban Market, informing attendees about the three day cultural event and about the organizations involved.

Boards, Committees & Advocacy Continued



2018 Wood Buffalo Alberta Winter Games

From February 16th – 19th, 2018 the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo will host approximately 3000 athletes, coaches and officials from across the province, who will compete, learn, and share the experience of a lifetime. The 2018 Alberta Winter Games is managed by the 2018 Wood Buffalo Alberta Winter Games Host Society, which is made up of a board of directors, staff, organizing chairs, and volunteers. Arts Council Wood Buffalo is pleased to partner with the Host Society in making this event meaningful for our community, visitors, and the athletes. ACWB is involved at both the director and organizing chair level to ensure the arts are represented and best practices are followed. Activities in 2017 leading up to the Games included board meetings to set strategy and fiscal responsibility, organizing chair recruitment, and portfolio planning. The 1 year out event was held in February 2017, Diana participated in the July 1 Canada Day parade as part of community engagement with the Games, and both Diana and Liana helped make the September 150 Days Out event a success.



AWG Director of Culture, Ceremonies, Protocol –
Diana Moser, ACWB Programs & Partnerships Manager

AWG Organizing Chair of Arts & Culture Programming
– Liana Wheeldon, ACWB Executive Director



Arts Recovery Working Group

Arts Council Wood Buffalo, in partnership with Keyano Theatre & Arts Centre, Suncor Energy Centre for the Performing Arts, and the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo, formed the Arts Recovery Working Group (ARWG). This group, chaired by Arts Council's Executive Director, spearheaded a research project into the post-wildfire recovery needs of the arts sector in our region. The research project was generously funded by the Edmonton Community Foundation and allowed the group to create a strategic plan to initiate healing of the artists in our region.

Through a consultant hired by the ARWG, we were able to speak individually and in groups, to artists, arts organizations, arts administrators, teachers, and community members about the barriers to recovery the arts community is facing.

Due to the wildfire in 2016, many artists lost their studio workspace, bodies of work, supplies, and motivation to continue their artistic practice. The community at large has turned to artists for assistance with recovery, however the artists are finding it difficult to move forward in order to give back to the community. 100% of the people surveyed all indicated an urgent need for creative process incubation and opportunities to connect with each other and the community at large.

Using this research project, and other data gathered regarding post disaster recovery, the ARWG plans to seek funding in support of implementing the Post-Wildfire Arts Recovery Strategic plan in 2018/19. Leveraging local partnerships, we propose to create opportunities for artists to collaborate and heal through their arts, enabling the arts community to begin returning to their full creative capacity, and build resiliency and sustainability in the community.



Words In Motion

Words In Motion is a literacy program put on by the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo to promote an appreciation for the art of poetry. All ages and skill levels are invited to try their hand at writing poetry for submission. Arts Council Wood Buffalo partnered with the municipality to host poetry writing workshops led by Dr. Ryan Cox and served as an advisor and adjudicator in selecting the featured entries.

Partnerships

2017 Wood Buffalo Timeraiser

Arts Council Wood Buffalo was proud to partner with FuseSocial on their sixth annual Timeraiser - The Silent Art Auction With A Twist. This great project pays artists fair market value for their original artwork and allows community members to bid on the artwork in exchange for volunteer time instead of money. Described as “part volunteer fair, part silent art auction, and part night on the town”, the event is a way for people to find causes and for agencies to connect with skilled volunteers. All while supporting and showcasing local artists! The auction event gala evening featured local performance artists who entertained guests while the silent auction occurred. The ‘budding artist’ category, in its second year, provides experience and exposure to artists between the ages of 12 to 17 as they explore their journey into the art world. ACWB assisted with the artist call creation, coordinating adjudication, serving in an advisory capacity on best practices, and supporting the auction event gala.



Photography by



Photography by Greg Halinda



Wood Buffalo Food Bank Visual Artist Calls

The Wood Buffalo Food Bank (WBFB) celebrated a major anniversary in 2017 – the 25th anniversary of the Syncrude Corporate Challenge Food Drive. The WBFB hired a historian to write a book to commemorate the anniversary. ACWB consulted with the WBFB and administered an artist call to create artwork for the cover of the book. The original commissioned artwork remains at the WBFB, a limited number of prints were created and distributed to select stakeholders, and a certain number of books were given to partners, volunteers, etc. The work of Alberta artist BJ Sosa was selected. ACWB also administered an artist call in for a mural to cover the c-cans the WBFB has permanently installed on their property. Local artists Liam Renner, Sonia Burke-Smith, and Ruth Perry were chosen and created unique eye-catching murals.



by Greg Halinda



Wood Buffalo Food Bank Empty Bowls Festival

On September 10, 2017 ACWB partnered again with the Wood Buffalo Food Bank to present the Empty Bowls Festival. The event was a family-friendly celebration of local talent in visual and performing arts and fine crafts that drew the community together, brought awareness to local hunger issues, and raised funds for the Wood Buffalo Food Bank. Guests purchased a hand-crafted bowl made by the Fort McMurray Potter's Guild and made their way around the festival sampling creations from several different stations hosted by local eateries. ACWB assisted the Food Bank in coordinating the vendors in the artist marketplace as well as displays and demonstrations of live arts and fine crafts, music and improv performances. The event was again a huge success as a fundraiser for the Food Bank and as a beloved festival, demonstrating the important place of the arts in creating community.

*Support your local
arts community.*

Go to shows, buy the arts and crafts that intrigue you, practice your art. We have world class talent here, and if we don't support it we will lose it. Be an ambassador for your arts community, be proud of what they create, and show the world. That appreciation and exposure tells a far greater story for our community than the media will, and shows the world that we are more than the sum of our parts. Support your local arts community.

- Scott Meller, ACWB Director - Music

Membership Program

Arts Council Wood Buffalo's member program stayed strong in 2017 with 162 Individual, Organizational and Friends memberships.

Statistics show a major increase in members utilizing their benefits, from 22 in 2016, to 179 in 2017. In addition to member benefits, 59 non-members utilized ACWB services. Main benefits include consultations, advisory, artist opportunities, promotion, event discounts and letters of support. The statistics also show that in 2017, 41% of members utilized their member benefits an average of 2.6 times each.

The Local Business Discount Program expanded to include 2 new business partners, snapd Wood Buffalo and Wood Buffalo Media Group, totaling 8 local businesses providing a variety of incentives to ACWB members.

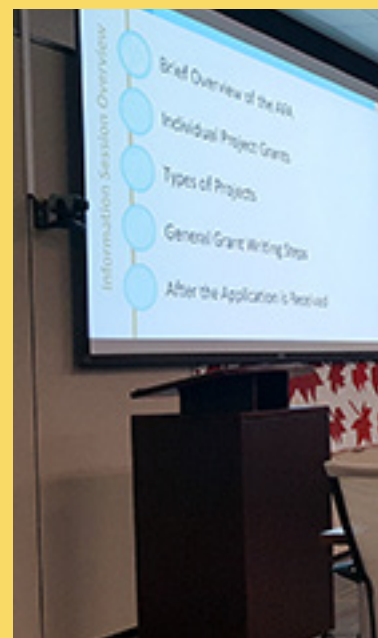
The membership program is a valuable tool for ACWB to advocate on behalf of the arts community. As the membership grows, ACWB uses these numbers to show how many individuals and groups in our community consider the arts to be essential for a remarkable quality of life. Arts Council membership not only benefits the individual or organization directly through a wide variety of member benefits, it also aids the community as a whole by providing tangible numbers and statistics that ACWB uses to advocate for the arts in our community, municipally, provincially, and federally.



Business of the Arts Program

The Business of the Arts learning series offers local artists an opportunity to build their capacity to compete and thrive. The goal of this program is to provide local artists with the skills they need to flourish as entrepreneurs as well as artists; and to create a sustainable living from their artistic practice.

Over the past few years ACWB has been listening to our members and artists in the community on what struggles they have and areas where they want learning opportunities. ACWB was excited to offer our 2017 Business of the Arts workshop series, focusing on helping artists and arts organizations in various stages of their development reach their next step! Artists are unique and ACWB worked with specialists in the creative industry to share relevant and impactful information in these workshops.



Business Literacy for Artists

This all day workshop was full of insightful information to help artists and arts organizations understand some of the basic financial and legal topics they deal with in their everyday business practice.

Cherlyne Knox of Artbooks
Accounting Literacy for Artists: Accounting Basics

Martin Kratz, Q.C.
Legal Literacy for Artists: Intellectual Property Law & Contractual Terms

Staci Millard
Organizational Types for Arts-Based Business: For Profit and Non Profit Structures



Insurance for Artists

Insurance for Artists was a workshop presented in partnership with the Insurance Bureau of Canada that went over the basics of insurance as well as artist specific topics such as home-based businesses, materials/equipment, and performances.



Engaging Your Online Audience

Engaging Your Online Audience was a pair of workshops that went over two key areas of online marketing – Crowdfunding and Social Media, facilitated by Nancy Kenny. Nancy is an actor, writer, producer, arts marketing and social media professional.

Crowdfunding

In this introduction to crowdfunding, artists gained a better understanding of what it is, what funding portals work best for their needs, the pros and cons, how to set themselves apart, and how to develop their web presence and harness social media for a successful campaign.

Social Media

This workshop gave artists practical tools and ideas for using their website, newsletters and social media platforms to grow their online presence.

Investment and Support for Artists

Investment & Support for Artists was a workshop with an in depth look into the Alberta Foundation for the Arts funding opportunities, insightful information on how to gain sponsorship for arts initiatives, and a bonus presentation on the Canada Council for the Arts funding model.

Charmaine Hammond

The Secret of Sponsorship

David Folk

Alberta Foundation for the Arts (AFA)

Funding Opportunities

Heather McAfee

Canada Council for the Arts (CCA)

New Funding Model

Maximizing the Market

ACWB presented this session as part of the Business of the Arts series and an initiative of the Urban Market Community Committee, in partnership with the Fort McMurray Urban Market and the Wood Buffalo Artisans. Markets are great places to showcase and sell your art, grow your audience and customers, and network with fellow artists. Whether you're a crafter, visual artist, musician, or street performer, markets can be a valuable part of your business. But how do you maximize the market to work for you? ACWB, FMUM, and WBA discussed the requirements, best practices, and considerations to make your market experience successful. Topics covered included: registration and insurance, venue and event logistics, developing your product, impactful displays, and the market environment.

Wood Buffalo Excellence in Arts Awards

Arts Council Wood Buffalo hosted the second annual Wood Buffalo Excellence in Arts Awards on October 21, 2017 at the Suncor Energy Centre for the Performing Arts. The Arts Awards, aka “The Buffys”, is an annual program that will continue to recognize the achievement and accomplishments of the arts in the region year to year, invest in the future of the growing arts community, and allow artists to compete and thrive within the region and even beyond the borders of Wood Buffalo. The focus of the Arts Awards is to celebrate the achievements of local artists through an artist showcase and to place tangible value on the essential role the arts play in creating a balanced community. ACWB's mandate is to the champion investment in the arts in our region, and the program does just that. The 2017 Arts Awards connected the general public with the arts in an inclusive event that showcased all artistic disciplines. The sold out “Midnight Speakeasy” 1920s themed showcase event included a visual art display, stand-up comedy, dance, film, song, poetry, improv, flow arts, and a multi-talented emcee. The audience was made up of members from all facets of the community, not just the arts.

The Arts Awards is also an opportunity to connect with many generous volunteers in the community. In all, 16 people acted in volunteer roles ranging from setup to serving whiskey paired to complement the visual art on display. Once again several guests helped to clean up after the event was over, their enthusiasm is greatly appreciated!

Awards were presented to 14 local artists who have shown outstanding achievement and accomplishment in the arts. 12 of the categories were open to nominations from the community, while the Arts Champion and Lifetime Achievement recipients were chosen by the ACWB board of directors. The Arts Champion award acknowledges an individual, small business, corporation, social profit, or foundation which has strengthened arts and culture in Wood Buffalo through their support and commitment to the sector in the past year. The Lifetime Achievement award recognizes the long-standing and significant achievements of an artist over the course of an entire career. Each award was hand crafted by local woodworking artists KG+e.

ACWB thanks the 2017 Arts Awards sponsors, the team at SECPA, various partners, all the artists, the volunteers, ACWB staff and board, and of course, the Wood Buffalo community.

Presenting Sponsors – Bear Scare, Suncor, Spotlight Performance Wear, McMurray Métis, REMAX Fort McMurray, Flett Manning Moore
Entertainment Sponsors – Birdsong Connections, MLAs Brian Jean and Tany Yao

Media Sponsors – Balsom Communications, Harvard Broadcasting

Supporting Sponsors – Amazon Springs, Boston Pizza, Wood Buffalo Brewing Company, Points North Gallery

Award Recipients

Art Administration

Fort McMurray Filmmakers Association

Arts Education

Terri Mort

Creative Collaboration

Wood Buffalo Productions & St. Aidan's Society

Dance

Melinda Richter

Fine Craft

Betty John Blanchard

Indigenous Arts

Treasure Cooper

Literary Arts

Kiran Malik Khan

Media Arts

Sanjay Patel

Music

Dan Tulk

Theatre

Scott Weber

Visual Arts

Graham Whatmough

Rising Star

Camryn Hannigan

Arts Champion

Alan Roberts

Lifetime Achievement

Peter Ellis

70 AWARD
NOMINEES



15
EVENT SPONSORS



14
AWARDS PRESENTED



200
AUDIENCE MEMBERS

7 COMMISSIONED
ARTISTS



12
VOLUNTEERS

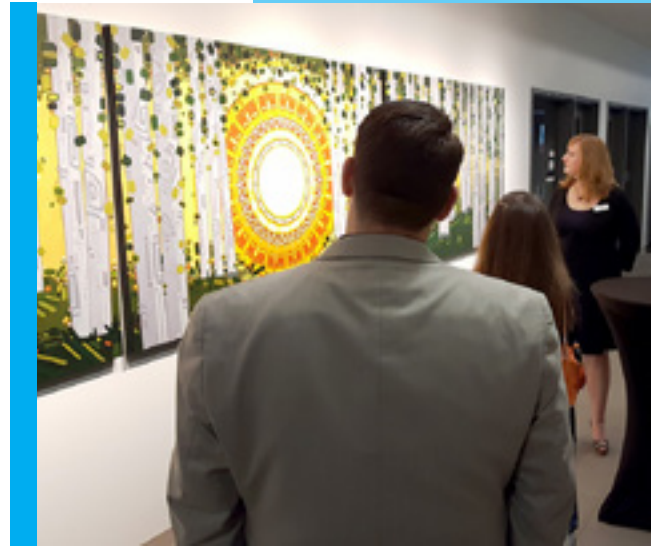


32
PAID PERFORMERS
& EXHIBITORS

Advocating on a Provincial Level

The Redpoll Centre Public Art Piece

The Redpoll Centre Public Art Commission project created an original piece of public art now exhibited in The Redpoll Centre at Shell Place in Fort McMurray, AB. ACWB received funding for the project through the Alberta Foundation for the Arts (AFA) Public Art Commissions grant and Albertan artist and former Fort McMurray resident, Lucie Bause, was chosen to create the new artwork. The artwork commemorates the opening of The Redpoll Centre, a shared social profit workspace managed by the United Way of Fort McMurray, and reflects the values of collaboration, innovation, creativity, courage, and integrity. The artwork was officially unveiled on September 29, 2017 during Alberta Culture Days, an annual province-wide celebration of arts and culture through events, exhibitions, performances, and much more. Though the artwork is on display at The Redpoll Centre, it is part of the AFA's provincial collection, a distinguished group of 2D and 3D art pieces by Albertan artists spanning decades.





Meeting with Alberta Minister of Culture and Tourism

ACWB staff and board had the opportunity to meet with Ricardo Miranda, the Minister of Culture and Tourism. Minister Miranda was given a tour of The Redpoll Centre, (the shared social profit work place hosted by United Way), the public art commission piece created by Lucie Bause and housed at The Redpoll Centre, and had a meaningful discussion about the needs of the arts community and for arts infrastructure to benefit our region.



Tri-Level Conference

ACWB is invited to advocate for the arts in our region with Provincial and Federal government stakeholders. As part of the Tri-Level conferences that take place in different areas of Alberta, ACWB has the opportunity to share successes and opportunities from our arts community. The conferences bring together the Alberta Foundation for the Arts, Canada Council for the Arts, Calgary Arts Development, Edmonton Arts Council, ACWB, and various representatives from different government departments. The 2017 meetings also brought Indigenous artists to the table to share their thoughts on Truth and Reconciliation and ongoing challenges within and out of their communities.

Thank You

Arts Council Wood Buffalo acknowledges the 2017 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 all our partners, donors, contractors, volunteers, and supporters who championed investment in the arts in 2017.

2017 Board & Staff

Board of Directors

Erin Schwab	Chair & Director – Visual Art (until March 2017)
Nola Antony	Vice Chair (until March 2017), Chair (March to October 2017) & Director – Dance (until October 2017)
Dave Boutilier	Vice Chair (March to October 2017), Chair (from October 2017) & Director – Theatre
Theresa Wells	Vice Chair (October to December 2017) & Director – Literary (until December 2017)
Sarah Neiman	Treasurer & Director - Music
Carmen Wells	Secretary & Director - Métis
Julia McDougall	Director – First Nations
Hanna Fridhed	Director – Community
Tito Guillen	Director – Video/Filmmaking/Photography
Florence Weber	Director - Business/Industry
Michael Durocher	Director - Business/Industry (until June 2017)
Scott Meller	Director - Business/Industry (from June 2017)
Erin Stinson	Director – Visual Arts (from June 2017)
Britany MacDonald	Director – Dance (from December 2017)

Staff

Liana Wheeldon	Executive Director (from April 2017)
Diana Moser	Programs & Partnerships Manager (from May 2017)
Christina Beckman	Communications & Engagement Manager (from May 2017)





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