



2019 Annual Report



COVER ARTIST

Liam Mojique Legault



About the Artist

Liam Mojique Legault is an award-winning artist and entrepreneur originally hailing from Vancouver, B.C., Canada. He has created and exhibited his bold, often chaotic works throughout Canada, the U.S., and Europe, from small towns to cultural meccas like Los Angeles, London, and Paris. Initially a graffiti artist, Legault has gone on to produce large-scale murals, mixed-media prints, and a vast portfolio of fine art. His style draws inspiration from street art, pop art, and abstraction, including hard edge painting and gestural mark making, with compositions that are clashing and random yet utterly intentional—and perfectly balanced.

Cover artwork and design elements

"Salute the Youth" by Liam Mojique Legault

www.cultluxury.com



ARTS COUNCIL WOOD BUFFALO

MISSION

Support the growth and success of the arts.

VISION

The arts are integral to a remarkable quality of life.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Arts Council Wood Buffalo celebrates and supports diversity. We are committed to showing respect for all, encouraging open collaboration and communication, and creating an inclusive environment, free from barriers and discrimination. We welcome the unique contributions each individual brings in terms of education, opinions, and culture, and we do not discriminate, or tolerate discrimination by others, based on race, religion, beliefs, colour, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or expression, age, veteran status or status as a differently-abled individual, among other things. We also welcome LGBTQIA2S+, First Nations, Métis Nations, Inuit, and Multicultural groups and individuals.

Arts Council Wood Buffalo recognizes that we live, work, and create on the ancestral territories of the Dene, Nêhiyawak, and Métis Nations, and other First Nations peoples. We are all treaty people together in our collective home within the boundaries of Treaty 8. We would also like to recognize the traditional knowledge holders and Elders who are still with us today, and those who have gone before us.

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Thank you
Board of Directors & Staff



Message from the Mayor

Congratulations to Arts Council Wood Buffalo (ACWB) on your success in 2019 and thank you for everything you do to support artistic growth and achievement in our region.

True to the theme of this year's report, "Making Noise," ACWB used its voice to attract attention and support in 2019, building on the success of previous years. Major highlights include becoming a registered charity; acquiring the Artist in Residency (AIR) program from the Municipality; introducing the new Creative Connections program; celebrating the second year of the Arts Recovery Project; hosting the 4th annual Wood Buffalo Excellence in Arts Awards; and welcoming representatives from several provincial and national arts councils as first-time hosts of the Tri-level Meeting. ACWB also presented the Arts Recovery Project and the State of the Arts in Wood Buffalo at the Canadian Network for Arts & Learning's Creative Convergence Conference Winnipeg.

With each year, ACWB makes greater strides in advancing the development of, and opportunities for, local artists. In the past year, the number of ACWB memberships reached an all-time high while the Wood Buffalo Excellence in Arts Awards received a record number of nominees and broader community recognition and support than in previous years. It's exciting to see growing momentum in the region's vibrant arts community. A thriving arts and culture scene is vitally important to quality of life and this will continue to benefit our region for years to come.

Once again, congratulations on your success in 2019 and thank you for the many contributions you make to life in Wood Buffalo. Thank you for your continued advocacy efforts on behalf of our diverse artists and for helping to showcase their contributions and accomplishments, not just here in the region but at the provincial and national level. Above all, thank you for supporting the growth and development of arts and culture for the benefit of all residents in our region.

I wish you every success in the year ahead.

All the best,

Don Scott, QC
Mayor

Message from the Board

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we are truly proud of the accomplishments of the whole Arts Council Wood Buffalo team in 2019.

We achieved our charitable status in June, opening new opportunities for our continued growth. The Arts Recovery Project connected us with rural communities in a way we had not been able to achieve previously. Our fourth annual Wood Buffalo Excellence in Arts Awards saw more nominees, audience members, and artists hired than ever before. We were invited to speak on behalf of the region's arts community municipally, provincially, and federally through a number of meetings and conferences, sharing insights into the breadth and diversity of the talent to be found in Wood Buffalo. We signed an historic Memorandum of Understanding with the Multicultural Association of Wood Buffalo (MCA), enabling our organizations to strengthen our services to the community, and launched our Artist in Residency Program in conjunction with the MCA's Human Rights Day celebrations.

Any one of these accomplishments on their own would be worth making noise about. That we can claim them all is a true testament to the passion and commitment of the Board, and in particular, the hard work and dedication of staff: Executive Director, Liana Wheeldon; Programs Manager, Diana Moser; Communications Manager, Christina Rolufs; Arts Recovery Project Coordinator, Sharon Heading; and, Engagement Coordinator, Hanna Fridhed.

We look forward to making even more noise in 2020 as we continue to support the growth and success of the arts, and sing the praises of our artists, arts groups, and organizations at the top of our lungs!

Dave Boutilier,
Board Chair



Message from the Executive Director

We saw many advancements in the arts in our region in 2019, including the adoption of the Wood Buffalo Culture Plan by the Mayor and Council as a guiding document; ownership of the Artist in Residency Program moving from the RMWB to Arts Council; ACWB achieving its charitable status in June; and, Mayor and Council demonstrating their confidence in ACWB by approving a budget increase for 2020, allowing us to expand to better meet the needs of the community. The Wood Buffalo region was selected as a Feature Celebration Site for the ten-year anniversary of Alberta Culture Days, and September 27 - 29 of 2019 were further recognized with a Mayoral Proclamation. ACWB is proud to support this three-day event as the fiscal agent and member of the Culture Days Community Planning Committee.

The call for the arts to be integrated more broadly in our region continues to grow. In 2019, more organizations than ever before approached us for assistance in connecting with the arts. ACWB staff averaged over 30 consultations and referrals per month in 2019, with both Members and Non-Members. We also saw a 35% increase in our Membership, and an increase specifically in business members.

In addition to connecting arts to the community, Arts Council staff delivered 20 workshops, events, and partnership activities in 2019 as part of regular programming, as well as the fourth annual Wood Buffalo Excellence in Arts Awards with a record number of nominees and broader community recognition and support than any other year. The Arts Recovery Project allowed us to spend time in some of the rural communities, where we hosted additional events and programs, as well as in Fort McMurray. ACWB Board and Staff look forward to continuing to support the growth and success of the arts in the broader region in 2020.

Thank you to our volunteer board, our membership, and the community for contributing to a remarkable quality of life for everyone in our region. 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 – we offer a heartfelt thank you to these organizations. We also appreciate the support from the Canadian Red Cross for the recovery of the arts sector post-wildfire starting in 2018 and continuing into 2021.

Liana Wheeldon
Executive Director

2019

Year in Review

Arts Council Wood Buffalo works diligently to make sure different levels of government and the community are aware of ACWB's programs and services, and that the arts remain at the forefront of their thoughts. Never before have the arts had such a spotlight in the Wood Buffalo region!

Thanks to the artists, arts groups, and organizations making their passion for the arts heard in our region. They're raising their voices, highlighting the importance of making the arts prevalent and available for generations to come.

"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



Communications

With an expanded Communications team and an Engagement Coordinator on deck, ACWB had a reach like never before. Our social media platforms saw significant growth in followers and engagement. ACWB is currently active on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, and YouTube. Our team interacted with the community to help them find and learn about the arts in our region through our presence at markets, festivals, and expos. ACWB was also present at many arts-based events, supporting the local arts community and highlighting the events and artists on social media for everyone to see.

ACWB's brand had a 'facelift', with an updated logo and launch of new branding material. The new cohesive look will boost our organization's brand recognition within our community and with our colleagues and stakeholders throughout the province and country. The new brand also conveys our professionalism, creativity, and dedication, while the colours promote a sense of inclusivity of all people, cultures, ages, and artistic disciplines.

Membership

2019 was an exciting year for our membership. We continue to dedicate ACWB staff time and resources to assisting members to grow and succeed through artist consultations, promotions, advice, referrals, opportunities, and more. ACWB's membership grew steadily, nearing 200 members at the end of 2019. With this growth comes greater support for artists and new advocates for the arts in the region. ACWB uses the membership statistics to provide concrete evidence when advocating on behalf of the artist community to different levels of government and other agencies.

13
**ARTICLES WRITTEN
FOR PUBLICATION**

194
MEMBERS

118
**PAID EXHIBITOR
& PERFORMER
OPPORTUNITIES**

19
PARTNERSHIPS

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 with appreciation and employment opportunities through the event showcase which connects artists to the wider community.

The 2019 Wood Buffalo Excellence in Arts Awards: Midnight Coffeehouse was a resounding success. October 19 marked the annual Buffys, a cool and classy evening that celebrates local artists and showcases the diversity of the arts community in our region. Artists, art groups, supporters and – of course – those nominated for an award, gathered at the Suncor Energy Centre for the Performing Arts (SECPA), which was transformed into the weird and wonderful artistic era of the Beat Generation. The 2019 Buffys was a showcase of the arts, celebrating over 75 nominees through 14 award presentations, and several live performances in two locations within SECPA. The Black Box Theatre, renamed “The Club” and decorated to be more intimate, hosted the pre- and post-show performances and festivities, while the gymnasium was transformed into “The Coffeehouse,” a place where great minds came together to connect and share. The space was alive and buzzing with things to see, hear, and eat. Guests even dressed in the funky style of the beatniks, berets included.

Throughout the evening, guests were treated to the abundance of our community’s talent. The diverse and uniquely collaborative performances included dance, comedy, flow arts, spoken word, pantomime, and multiple musical genres. Special behind-the-scenes video shorts gave guests a glimpse into the artistic process of getting ready for the awards event. The Buffys continue to be a place for artists to experiment and perform in ways one often can’t see elsewhere.

WOOD BUFFALO
EXCELLENCE IN ARTS
AWARDS

2019

In Review

81 AWARD
NOMINEES



6 COMMISSIONED
ARTISTS



Award recipients

Arts Administration	Sheri Donovan	Media Arts	Steve Reeve
Arts Education	Kelli Stewart	Ken Flaherty Music Award	Chris Pottie
Craft	Ashley Laurenson	Rising Star	Natalie Farahani
Creative Collaboration	Simma Downe	Theatre	Zachary Barrett
Dance	Nikita Proulx	Visual Arts	Ruth Perry
Indigenous Arts	Bernadette Dumais	Arts Champion	Rick Kirschner
Literary Arts	Theresa Wells	Lifetime Achievement	Valerie Gondek



Recipients were given a cash prize and an award handcrafted by local artist Sedef Uzer Prakash.

Business of the Arts

The Business of the Arts (BoA) 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 create a sustainable living from their artistic practice.



FACTOR Funding 101

FACTOR (The Foundation Assisting Canadian Talent on Recordings) is a public/private partnership that supports the production of sound recordings by Canadian musicians and helps Canadian music companies make recordings available to a wider public. ACWB and FACTOR hosted a helpful grants webinar for musicians and recording artists. FACTOR gave information about their funding opportunities that can finance recording, touring, music videos, and everything in between.

Working Artist 101

ACWB facilitated a crash course in building a solid foundation for artistic enterprise including tips, tricks, and takeaways. Topics for the Working Artist 101 workshop included administrative and financial basics, building a portfolio, pricing, and promotion.

Canada Council for the Arts Info Session and One-on-Ones

In partnership with Keyano Theatre & Arts Centre, ACWB hosted the Canada Council for the Arts for a free information session about their funding programs. The session provided an overview of grants available to artists working across artistic fields of practice. Several artists also met one on one with Canada Council program officers to discuss their needs in more detail.

Making it in Music - Alberta Music

ACWB hosted Alberta Music for a three-day visit for local musicians to connect with Alberta Music and learn about making it in music. The visit featured three opportunities: a recorded interview, an Evening with Alberta Music information session, and drop-in sessions. Musicians learned about Alberta Music and the basics of the music industry in Canada such as grants, how to register songs with SOCAN, and information on conferences and festivals. Alberta Music also met with several musicians, promoters, and venues during their visit.

Thank you to Carly Klassen from Alberta Music for sharing your knowledge and learning about our music community, and thank you to all the local musicians that came out!







Headshot and Artwork Photography

Arts Council Wood Buffalo presented a new-member-exclusive addition to the Business of the Arts program – headshot and artwork photography services.

Artist portfolios are vital to landing commissions, booking gigs, or selling work. These portfolios are often one of the only ways people can learn about who an artist is and what they have to offer. Putting their best face forward with a professionally photographed headshot, and if they're a visual artist, showcasing pieces in high quality photographs is almost as good as the real thing.

Photography services were provided by Crystal Mercredi of Life and Portraits. Mercredi is a local award-winning photographer who is accredited by the Professional Photographers of Canada, recognized by The National Association for Professional Child Photographers, and the Accredited Professional Newborn Photographers Internationale, as well as a proud ACWB member.

Recognizing that the cost of professional photography services can be a barrier, Arts Council was able to offer the sessions at a substantially subsidized rate for the artists, while paying Crystal her regular full studio session fees.





Creative Connections



Creative Connections (C²) is a new program that focuses on artistic practice, creative work, and networking – by artists, for artists. The goals of C² include helping artists develop skills relevant to their discipline and creative work, feel more confident in their artistic practice, and connect with each other and leaders in their disciplines. ACWB develops meaningful partnerships with local and visiting artists and arts organizations to present the program. In 2019, ACWB supported learning and engagement opportunities hosted by independent arts organizations through the C² program: the annual Fort McMurray Music Teachers Association piano master classes in February; and the Fort McMurray stop of the India International Film Festival of Alberta in June.

One-Act Theatre 101

ACWB partnered with the Alberta Drama Festival Association (ADFA) North Zone to present a workshop aimed towards individuals or theatre groups who were interested in submitting a production to the 2019 ADFA North Zone One-Act Theatre Festival. Topics included what the festival is and how it works, how to apply, how to produce a play and more. Participants also had an opportunity to ask questions of a panel consisting of the ADFA North Zone representative Hanna Fridhed, as well as previous participants.

The ADFA is a non-profit umbrella organization for adult community drama activity in the province of Alberta since 1967. Ten different regions of the province each organize an annual Regional One-Act Theatre Festival where local theatre artists are given the opportunity to independently produce and showcase their work. From these festivals, one production is chosen by an adjudicator to represent each region at the annual Provincial One-Act Theatre Festival.

Eduarts Hub

Presented by the Canadian Network for Arts & Learning in partnership with ACWB, the Eduarts Hub brought together arts and learning practitioners from Fort McMurray for a three-part networking session that included a joint panel discussion between local and Edmonton-based arts educators and instructors, an exploration of programs and projects taking place in schools and community, and a focus group discussion to help guide the development of Canada's Map of Arts & Learning.

Ballet Jörgen Master Classes

ACWB partnered with Keyano Theatre and Canada's Ballet Jörgen to present ballet master classes in addition to their performance of Coppélia. The classes were taught by members of the Ballet Jörgen company. One was for ages 11-13 and the other for ages 14+. Several dance students from multiple studios participated in this development opportunity.

Making It In Music: The District Recording Studio Open House

ACWB partnered with The District Recording Studio for an open house that included studio demos, performances, networking, and a learning opportunity with Canadian musician Trevor McNeven.





Suncor Student Art Awards

Kim Jenkins Student Scholarship

The Suncor Student Art Awards and Kim Jenkins Student Art Scholarship were 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 was 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 hosted three student art exhibitions: one for Public High Schools, one for Catholic High Schools, and one for Jr. High Schools from both districts. Awards were selected through Suncor employee voting. The Kim Jenkins Student Art Scholarship was 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 were awarded through a professional visual artist jury. In June, Suncor hosted a reception for the award winners and program stakeholders where the awards were distributed.

2019 was the last year of the program, and Arts Council is tremendously grateful to Suncor for championing all the artists that participated over the past five years.

2019 Award Recipients

Kim Jenkins Student Art Scholarship -
Mikyla Cardinal

QUAD High Exhibition 1st place -
Christopher Rose

QUAD High Exhibition 2nd place -
Yuliana Muñoz

Public High Schools

1st - Ben Thomas
2nd - Bryan Abraham
3rd - Hyeqa Ahmad
4th - Aliah Arcilla
5th - Erina Amin

Catholic High Schools

1st - Amber Brown
2nd - Yuliana Muñoz
3rd - Amy Muñoz
4th - Kate Braun
5th - Devki Patel

Joint Junior High Schools

1st - Belle Reid
2nd - Marco Rizzuto
3rd - Jenna Legate

MACOY

The Mayor's Advisory Council on Youth (MACOY) is a long-running program that works to empower and engage youth in the RMWB both actively and inclusively to make a significant difference in their community. ACWB's partnership with the 2019-20 cohort includes mentoring the Arts & Culture Community Action Group as they work towards a concrete goal.

Tri-Level Meetings

ACWB is very honoured to be included in the Alberta Tri-Level Meetings, which bring together arts funding organizations from the Municipal, Provincial, and Federal levels. Alberta Foundation for the Arts introduced ACWB to the table in 2014 to further support our organization and funders with our remote region.

In May 2019, Arts Council Wood Buffalo hosted the Tri-Level Meeting in our region for the first time since the meeting's inception. The night before our full-day meeting, we hosted a meet and greet for the community with the support of Keyano Theatre & Arts Centre. Keyano's Rehearsal Hall was transformed into a casual networking environment with a variety of performers on hand including, the Janvier Dene Drummers, Diane Pare, Dan Gillies, and Paul Cooke. Artists, arts groups, industry, business, and community-at-large all came together to meet, share, make connections, and remove the perceived barrier of unapproachability with the arts funders.

Thank you to Canada Council for the Arts, Canadian Heritage, Alberta Foundation for the Arts, Calgary Arts Development, and Edmonton Arts Council for spending this time in Fort McMurray.



Arctic Games Bid Tour

Leveraging our successful positions as Chair and Director for the 2018 Wood Buffalo Alberta Winter Games, ACWB once again represented arts and culture, serving as part of the organizing committee for the bid to obtain the 2022 Arctic Winter Games for our region. As Co-Chair for Arts & Culture with Alan Roberts of Keyano Theatre & Arts Centre, ACWB helped infuse the arts into the bid tour plan, served on the sub-committee, which planned the tour-day route and activities, and participated with all events on the tour day itself.



Wood Buffalo Culture Plan

In 2018, the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo (RMWB) invited Arts Council to participate in the creation of the Wood Buffalo Culture Plan for our region.

Executive Director, Liana Wheeldon, was involved from the beginning as part of the committee reviewing Request for Proposal submissions, and assisting in the selection of the consultant hired by the Municipality to execute creation of the plan.

The Culture Plan Community Committee, with ACWB serving as the Chair, met monthly throughout the preparation of the plan to review progress, ensure broad engagement with stakeholders, First Nation, and Métis communities, and keep the interests of our local artists, artisans, arts groups, cultural teachers, and performers at the forefront.

The Wood Buffalo Culture Plan was presented to Council May 14, 2019, and was adopted as a guiding document by Mayor and Council with a provision to sustainably resource and deliver on the vision and goals of the Plan. Arts Council continues to support the RMWB as the Chair of the Wood Buffalo Culture Plan Implementation Advisory Committee, made up of community members and organizations from across our region.



Other Committee Service

Arts Council Wood Buffalo participates in many other community committees to ensure the arts are fairly represented and best practices are followed when working with artists. In 2019, ACWB also participated on the Wood Buffalo Community Foundation Grants Committee; Social Sustainability Stewardship Committee; Fort McMurray Urban Market Committee; Wood Buffalo Food Bank Association Empty Bowls Planning; and Wood Buffalo Alberta Culture Days Community Planning Committee.

Multicultural Association of Wood Buffalo

In Fall of 2019, the Board and Staff of the Multicultural Association of Wood Buffalo (MCA) and Arts Council Wood Buffalo came together to sign a Memorandum of Understanding. This document outlines an agreement by our two organizations to support the initiatives of each, strengthen our services to arts and culture, and eliminate duplication of services.

While our organizations have always worked closely together, formalizing the partnership sends a strong message of support to our community region-wide. ACWB is proud to be associated with the MCA, and we look forward to the ongoing growth and evolution of our partnership.





Arts Recovery Project

A lot happened within the Arts Recovery Project in 2019. Arts Recovery Project Coordinator, Sharon Heading, was able to distill all the information gathered in the community engagement sessions and surveys in 2018 and apply that knowledge to delivering meaningful events and programs geared to reinvigorating strong artist networks.

The Arts Match networking event, initiated to support some of the goals of the Arts Recovery Project, is so popular that it has become a staple of Arts Council programming and the model is being followed for other social-profit agencies and business events. We are seeing more and more that the arts are being incorporated into local projects, and ACWB is being sought out as a partner, change-maker, and innovator.



The Arts Recovery Project, funded by the Canadian Red Cross, has enabled ACWB to expand its reach into the rural communities of Anzac, Fort McKay, and Fort Chipewyan, presenting workshops, community engagement, and providing paid work opportunities for artists. Minister of Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women, Leela Aheer was so inspired by the work of Sharon and the Arts Recovery Project that she commissioned artwork from local Indigenous Elders to be given as gifts to her colleagues.

Arts Council Wood Buffalo was asked to host a tour for the Provincial Planners Conference to learn about the significance of Arts Recovery in the overall post-disaster recovery process. While touring the city, Arts Recovery Project Coordinator spoke to them about our community's recovery, arts as an economic driver, and how the arts contribute to building communities. Creative Convergence, the International Conference for Arts Educators, was hosted in Winnipeg, Manitoba in 2019, and ACWB was invited as a guest presenter. The theme for the conference was the power of the arts to heal post natural or financial disaster. Our presentation on the Arts Recovery Project and its support from the Canadian Red Cross has already forged opportunities for future collaborations.

In 2019, Arts Council acquired the Artist in Residency Program from the RMWB. In December, ACWB Program Manager, Arts Recovery Project Coordinator, and the Multicultural Association (MCA) of Wood Buffalo partnered to present Human Rights Day and Artist in Residency, featuring Indigenous author Wayne Arthurson. Wayne was the keynote speaker at the MCA Human Rights Day celebration and spent a week in our rural and Indigenous communities speaking to Elders, youth, and other community members. While gaining inspiration to apply in his work, Wayne read passages from his writing and conducted one-on-one appointments with writers and aspiring writers in our region. These opportunities for shared knowledge and experience are some of the most valuable to our arts community.

We are excited to be moving into the final stages of the Arts Recovery Project with great lessons learned, and we're on track to meet our goals in 2020. It is a very exciting time to see that Arts = Community.



Thank you

Arts Council Wood Buffalo acknowledges the 2019 operational support of the Regional Municipality of Wood, Alberta Foundation for the Arts, and the Canadian Red Cross.



Arts Council Wood Buffalo would also like to thank all our partners, donors, contractors, volunteers, members, and supporters who championed investment in the arts in 2019.

2019 Board and Staff

Board of Directors

Dave Boutilier	Chair & Director – Theatre
Mike Jones	Vice Chair & Director – Music
Jes Croucher	Treasurer & Director – First Nations (from June)
Patricia Budd	Secretary & Director – Literary
Matt Salem	Director – Video/Filmmaking/Photography (from June)
Alexandra Durocher	Director – Dance
Treasure Cooper	Director – Metis
Julia McDougall	Director – First Nations (until June)
Sara Loutitt	Director – Visual Arts (from June)
Cathy Steeves	Director – Community
Scott Meller	Director – Business/Industry
James Hine	Director – Business/Industry (from June)

Staff

Liana Wheeldon	Executive Director
Diana Moser	Programs Manager
Christina Rolufs	Communications Manager
Hanna Fridhed	Engagement Coordinator
Sharon Heading	Arts Recovery Project Coordinator

Arts Council Wood Buffalo Board and Staff, present and past, would like to say a special ‘thank you’ to Diana Moser. Diana joined ACWB in 2014 as a contractor and we quickly recognized the need to bring her in as a permanent staff member. In her tenure, Diana served under many different job titles and descriptions, including managing programs and communications as one portfolio, and helming ACWB as the Interim Executive Director from October 2016 through early 2017.

Diana contributed so much to the culture of our organization and created many programs with the best interest of the artists of our region in mind. Perhaps her greatest ACWB legacy is the Wood Buffalo Excellence in Arts Awards. This dynamic celebration of our arts community has grown in size and professionalism year over year and is looked to as an inspiration by organizations across Canada.

Diana’s incredibly curious and creative mind is a gift that Arts Council is proud to have been a recipient of and we wish her all the best in her new adventures furthering her professional and artistic practice in Ontario and wherever her travels take her.



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