



20
20

*Annual
Report*



ARTS COUNCIL WOOD BUFFALO

Cover Artist

CARMEN WELLS ARTIST STATEMENT

My work varies from detailed realistic to semi-abstract, and focuses on nature. I mostly work in acrylic, pencil and charcoal. For painting, my style is a wet-on-wet technique, flooding the area first, then dropping in the colour. I will move the canvas or paper to move the colour and hold it in a position until it dries a certain way. The hard watermark, and the bleeding together of the colours are a lot of my focus; loose, whimsical, messy and full of colour - just like life. I am forever trying to capture the beauty that I see; vibrant and forever changing, and we can only hope to see the grace before it fades, or changes.

The open call of Arts Council Wood Buffalo for the annual report was growth. It is not often I paint people into my work, but this subject is about people and the land. I feel as an artist and person, I am always growing and learning. I have been trying to get more in touch with the traditional ways of knowing as a Métis person. Learning traditional medicines and ways of knowing is a slow process but I am learning more and more each harvesting year.

Two years ago, I received a gift of traditional tobacco seeds. I thought it would be wonderful to grow my own tobacco, to hand it out to Elders if they did a prayer or needed it for their own use. I wanted to put my love of the Elders from my community, and my love of tradition into the tobacco plants. This painting reflects that idea. As Elders say, everything is connected, and you can connect to something else on this Earth. I feel that your love and your intent can be "grown" into a plant, or your intentions can be known to the land, you can connect with everything around you. This is me and my foster guy planting the tobacco, with the intent of showing my respect to Elders and the land. Needless to say, I was able to successfully grow the tobacco, but I had trouble with harvesting properly, and it didn't work out. I saved the seeds from the plants and will plant again this year and try again. Growing and learning as I go.

*Remember this year to spend more time outside
and walk barefoot to connect with the land.*

Growth

Our region has seen an incredible amount of change over the past few years, but “Growth” always follows change. In 2020, many artists focused on growth by finding new ways of performing through virtual platforms; other artists came together in new ways to create their art, while many adapted by focusing on professional development and growth as artists.

ACWB also focused on growth by expanding the team from three to eight staff members. While the Fort McMurray team began planting seeds for an Arts Incubator in the downtown area, two new Rural Arts Support Liaisons extended the branches of our arts network into Fort Chipewyan and Janvier.

The seeds planted in 2020 have begun to sprout. As we move into 2021 and beyond, the arts community continues to grow into a fertile garden of collaboration, community and creativity.





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 the unceded land of the 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.

Table of contents

page 2 Messages
page 5 2020 at a Glance
page 7 The Path to Recovery
page 10 Arts Programming
page 14 The Buffys
page 17 Communications

page 19 Exploring Arts
page 21 Advocating for the Arts
page 22 Thank You
page 23 Board of Directors and Staff

Message from The Mayor



I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to Arts Council Wood Buffalo (ACWB) on their incredible growth and success in 2020.

While the year was filled with unique challenges, it also provided opportunities for reflection, innovation and transformation. Arts Council Wood Buffalo members responded to the impacts of the global pandemic by finding new platforms for their art, discovering fresh ways to collaborate with others, and adding new branches to the region's growing art network.

As you'll see in the pages ahead, the theme of this year's report is "Growth" and it captures not just the mission of ACWB, but the momentum that the arts community is building across the region. Key highlights include setting the groundwork for an arts incubator in downtown Fort McMurray; introducing the Art of Conversation, an exciting new collaboration with the St. Aidan's Society; shifting the Artist in Residency program to a virtual series; the addition of two new full-time Rural Arts Support Liaisons, located in Fort Chipewyan and Janvier; the third year of the Arts Recovery Project, featuring virtual workshops and the launch of the Marketplace online e-commerce platform; the free livestream Virtual Guitar Pull concert in partnership with Friends of Suncor Energy Centre for the Performing Arts (FoSECPA) and Country 93.3; and the fifth annual Wood Buffalo Excellence in Arts Awards which provided a virtual cinematic experience for viewers across the region and country. Together, these dynamic initiatives nurtured a diverse range of arts and culture, facilitated expansion of artists' audiences and networks, and fostered a deep sense of community.

Each year, ACWB supports the development and success of the region's thriving arts community. By showcasing the incredible artistry and talent of local members and providing opportunities for all residents to explore local art and culture, ACWB demonstrates the vital role art and artistic expression play in the region's quality of life.

Once again, congratulations on your impressive success in 2020 and thank you for everything you do to support artistic growth, achievement and pride in Fort McMurray Wood Buffalo. Above all, thank you to members of the arts community for sharing your passion and creations with the people of our region.

I wish you continued growth and success in the year ahead.

All the best,

Don Scott, QC
Mayor



Message from The Board



I'm writing this late. Two extended deadlines late. Problem is, I don't know what to say. Then, a loved one sent me this:

"It is my hope that in the time ahead, we remember the power of music, song, dance, and word, and take the necessary steps to protect the places that artists and cultural workers need to bring their work to us, as we seek to renew and sustain our lives together." – Michael D. Higgins

2020 was a year that started with a Wildfire a world away that was, pardon the pun, too close to home. It continued with a flood that was... well... very close to (read: inside my) home and ended with a series of very nasty political protests with our closest foreign neighbor. Also... apparently there was a pandemic. I almost missed that because I didn't leave my home for about 6 months. To say it was a low point, would be putting on kids gloves, but, as usual, Art helps heal. We tuned to TV Shows as Movies became unavailable. Books and baking replaced commuting and co-mingling, and we all learned about Zoom.

As artists ourselves, the staff and board of ACWB were quick to adapt to the new reality of doing business, and our programming was altered to compensate for the world changing around us. We paired up some of our community's elderly with younger artists to create a series of conversations that turned from stories told into beautiful works of art. We hired two additional staff, extending our reach into the northern and southern rural communities. These Rural Arts Support Liaisons are critical components of our business, as we have mandated ourselves to foster Arts growth in ALL of Wood Buffalo, not just Fort McMurray.

I would also like to take the time to thank everyone who made the 2020 Buffys happen. Since we couldn't hold a live gala, and we weren't going to cancel our premier event of the year, we did what most artists were doing and moved online. We filmed a feature length production of our awards over a few months and streamed the final product online in October. Normally, we have around 500 people in attendance, but with this shift in dynamic, we had over 14,000 streams of the 5th annual Buffys.

In closing, I want to acknowledge the hard work of our staff who shifted and pivoted when they needed to, and like graceful dancers, didn't miss a step, even when the choreography changed at the last-minute multiple times. Their dedication to the arts in this region has no limits, and if you run into them, let them know just how important they are to us all.

Looks like I found some words after all.

Dave Boutilier

Board Chair and Director of Theatre



Message from the Executive Director



Arts Council Wood Buffalo has been on an accelerated growth path since its incorporation in 2012, quickly moving from an operational to governance board, to hiring its first staff member in 2014, to its current staff of eight, housed in Keyano Theatre & Arts Centre.

In 2020, ACWB was able to strengthen delivery of our core programs and services while the team launched several new initiatives to raise the profile of the arts in our region. ACWB also grew in reach with the addition of new staff dedicated to supporting the growth and success of the arts in our rural communities.

Despite the setbacks of 2020 – continued economic uncertainty, a global pandemic, and catastrophic flooding in Fort McMurray – ACWB Board and Staff delivered all planned proprietary programs and services, quickly growing our knowledge of online platforms, and adapting programs to suit the needs of the analogue to the tech-savvy. ACWB supported a number of partnership initiatives to bring local art into residents' homes through virtual platforms, and set a new bar of quality for its annual Wood Buffalo Excellence in Arts Awards (the Buffys!).

As we continue to navigate our strange new reality, the importance of art becomes even more apparent. Connecting residents of Fort McMurray Wood Buffalo through shared virtual experiences and broad opportunities to engage with the arts provided a much-needed relief from the stress of the day-to-day while planting the seeds of future innovation. In the words of poet and theologian Thomas Merton: "Art enables us to find ourselves and lose ourselves at the same time."

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 – a heartfelt thank you to these organizations! ACWB appreciates the support for recovery of the arts sector post-wildfire from the Canadian Red Cross, starting in 2018 and continuing through 2020. To our sponsors, donors, and volunteers, thank you for being Arts Champions.

Liana Wheeldon
Executive Director



2020 at a glance



Marketplace

Shop and Sell
Local Arts & Craft



artscouncilwb.ca/marketplace



2020

by the numbers

317

LOCAL ARTISTS HIRED

70

ARTISTS, ELDERS & SENIORS
COLLABORATING

14,000

BUFFYS REACH

328

ARTIST & COMMUNITY
CONSULTATIONS

22

UNIQUE PROGRAMS

789

PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

222

MEMBERS

12

PARTNERSHIPS



The path to recovery



2020 was a groundbreaking year with respect to the Arts Recovery Project. Funded by the Canadian Red Cross, the goal of the Arts Recovery Project was to contribute to healing the arts community, so artists could fully engage in their creative work following the 2016 wildfire. After completing the first phase of the Project, which included engaging with local artists and creating a work plan, Sharon Heading (Special Projects Coordinator) was ready to move into the second phase.

Sharon's focus in the second phase was to expand Arts Council's support into the rural and Indigenous communities. She started creating the framework for filling in the missing gaps as identified by artists throughout the engagement process. Empowering artists and providing post-disaster support for artists proved to be more timely than we imagined. The onset of COVID-19 combined with a one in 100-year flood in Fort McMurray's downtown pushed artists to their limits, but the arts community stepped up with energy and imagination.

To keep the Arts Recovery Project on track, Sharon began the work to translate recovery workshops and programs into virtual presentations. The Getting to Sold workshop series was created to help artists take their arts and craft from a hobby to market. Originally, the Getting to Sold workshops were to be delivered in person in both urban and rural communities, and were to culminate in a pop-up market where participants would have an opportunity to try out their new skills. However, due to COVID-19 quarantine restrictions, the workshops were delivered via Zoom over a series of two weeks. The workshops were well attended and well received, but there was still a challenge: rural artisans often do not have internet access or the technology to take advantage of online workshops. To address this issue, Arts Council created a Getting to Sold manual that outlined the learnings from the workshops. A local artist was engaged to design and illustrate the manual, which resulted in a workbook that can support future workshops and is available for communities where technology is a challenge. The manual was printed and distributed to folks without access to the internet. Access the manual at artscouncilwb.ca/artist-toolkit.

To ensure that artists still had the opportunity to practice the new skills learned from the Getting to Sold workshops, Arts Council created an online version of a pop-up market called Marketplace. Available for free to active members of Arts Council, Marketplace is embedded in Arts Council's website and artists now have an opportunity to showcase and sell their products as well as learn and grow as entrepreneurs: artscouncilwb.ca/marketplace.

Rural Arts Support



Another goal of the Arts Recovery Project was to engage the rural and Indigenous communities in a more meaningful way. Following engagement with artists, it became clear that the needs of the rural communities were different from the urban needs. To learn more about how to address these needs, Sharon began creating partnerships and building relationships within the rural and Indigenous communities. As a result, ACWB was successful in securing funding for two Rural Art Support Liaisons (RASL), with one RASL living and working in Fort Chipewyan, and a second RASL living and working in Janvier and Conklin.

The first RASL staff on board was Donna Aubichon in Fort Chipewyan. The work she was doing in the community quickly came to the attention of the local Indigenous leadership. The resulting excitement and community response has been fabulous, resulting in partnerships with Métis and First Nations organizations to present a virtual jigging contest. In addition, ACWB partnered with the Nunee Health Clinic to offer a mask-making workshop and a beaded, sage-filled heart for Heart Month in February. Donna also teaches traditional craft once a week in the community school.

In addition, several Elders were partnered with artists for Art of Conversation, and for the first time, Indigenous artists were acknowledged and celebrated in Fort Chipewyan during Buffys 2020 with a community recognition event, which included a number of nominees and an award recipient from the community.

RASL south started a little later than north. Finding the right fit for the community was essential, and eventually Jules Nokohoo, a long-time member of this strong Dene community, joined the Arts Council family. Jules started with Arts Council in the middle of the pandemic, but has managed to make some significant progress despite the limitations of engaging with the community with restrictions in place. He started by connecting through the local school system, and has provided sketch books and projects for 65 students in both Janvier and Conklin.

In addition, students participated in winter count projects, a traditional form of recording activities, in Conklin and a nature-based drawing project in Janvier. Jules and Janvier Sekweha Youth Centre are planning a post-pandemic partnership involving Elders storytelling.



Arts Incubator

One of the most exciting projects for Recovery in 2020 has been the Arts Incubator Feasibility Study, including public engagement to learn more about what the community would like to see in an arts incubator for Fort McMurray Wood Buffalo. We learned that the lack of arts infrastructure in the region has had a profound impact on local artists and working to fill this gap is the natural next step in ACWB's continued support of the growth and success of the arts in Wood Buffalo.

We were able to secure federal grant funding through the Investment Readiness Program (IRP), which was then used to complete the study on the realities of creating an arts incubator in the downtown core of Fort McMurray. The study was completed by Akron Engineering, who did a thorough job of evaluating the project, and we learned that an arts incubator is not only feasible, but is supported by many in the community and aligns with many strategic priorities for organizations across the region. Arts Council is now moving on to the next step of developing a business and funding plan.

Overall, we had a productive year despite tremendous challenges. We are proud to say that programming not only continued, but thrived in the face of disaster.

Read more about the Arts Incubator at artscouncilwb.ca/arts-incubator.

AKRON
Engineering



Art of Conversation

Art of Conversation was a collaborative project by Arts Council Wood Buffalo and St. Aidan's Society that engaged Artists, Seniors and Elders in the Wood Buffalo region. From May to December 2020, artists engaged in conversations over the phone with Seniors and Elders. The artists created new pieces of art using that conversation as their muse. Arts Council then purchased those art pieces from the artists and gifted them to the Seniors and Elders with whom they were made.

Seniors and Elders were given the opportunity to receive a complimentary art-making kit with professional materials that they could use to create new pieces of art themselves. This came with a handbook outlining each material, and how it is typically used in the arts world. In December, Arts Council launched a virtual exhibit documenting all the art pieces that were created through this project: artscouncilwb.ca/art-of-conversation.

- 32 Unique Artists
- 36 Seniors and Elders

Disciplines represented

- Craft Artists
- Literary Artists
- Media Artists
- Music Artists
- Visual Artists



Helping artists grow

Business of the Arts is a program that builds the capacity of local artists through mentorship and workshops designed to build the skills needed to compete and thrive in the arts.

Making It In Music Series



Making It In Music, an ongoing Business of the Arts offering, provided two discipline-specific opportunities in 2020. The first brought pianist and composer Denis Nassar to our region in partnership with The District Recording Studio. Denis' songwriting workshop hosted artists of all ages and stages in their career.



For the second offering, ACWB, in partnership with the Fort McMurray Public and Catholic School Districts, hosted the Modern Times Trio in our community. The musicians spent time in five separate schools over two days working with students and introducing them to the possibility of music as a career. The Trio performed several concerts while in Fort McMurray, and ACWB Communications Coordinator Will Collins interviewed the Trio and local musician, Dan Gillies, about their careers, paths to success, and words of advice for emerging and professional musicians. This interview is available on Arts Council's YouTube channel at bit.ly/ACWBMakingItInMusic.



Creating Together



Creative Connections is a program that encourages entrepreneurship and skill-building, and is artist-driven with support from Arts Council staff.

Music Master Classes

ACWB supported the Fort McMurray Music Teachers Association in facilitating the Music Master Classes. These three days of lessons and recitals offered unique learning experiences for students and teachers, otherwise unavailable in our community.

India Film Festival

The India Film Festival, presented as a drive-in-movie experience at MacDonald Island Park, was held over three days, highlighting the best of international film, and offering a showcase of culture.

Alberta Culture Days

In addition to supporting the planning of Alberta Culture Days as a member of the Community Planning Committee, Arts Council served as the fiscal agent for this event in partnership with the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo. Individual artists and groups such as the Boreal Artist Institute, Nistawoyou Friendship Centre, Theatre; Just Because, the Multicultural Association of Wood Buffalo, and the Fort Chipewyan Heritage Society each presented various workshops, arts performances, and cultural teachings, free for the community to enjoy. The Oil Sands Discovery Centre offered free admission during Alberta Culture Days. Learn more about Alberta Culture Days celebrations and how to be involved as an artist or volunteer by visiting rmwb.ca/culturedays.



Pathways Exhibition

Keyano Theatre & Arts Centre partnered with ACWB to present 'Pathways,' a visual arts exhibit and culture walk, which highlighted the public art situated on the Keyano College campus. This weekend event also showcased some of Keyano's permanent archived art collection, local emerging and established visual artists' work, and live performances of dance and music.

Virtual Guitar Pull

Around the Campfire: Music Stories & Songs

This program was a free night of music live streamed straight into people's homes, presented by the Friends of the Suncor Energy Centre for the Performing Arts (FoSECPA), in partnership with Arts Council Wood Buffalo and Country 93.3. Local singer-songwriters Eva LaPrairie, Shantelle Davidson, Dan Gillies, Max Noseworthy, Aaron Deslandes, and Mychela performed in a Nashville-style traditional guitar pull, sharing stories about their songs, their playing style, and engaging with the virtual audience in between performances of their original music. The presentation was hosted by Dan Gillies and Mike Jones and brought in over 6,000 views on the night it premiered. Watch the Guitar Pull at bit.ly/2020GuitarPull.

NorthWord Magazine

22nd Issue Launch

Arts Council Wood Buffalo partnered with NorthWord to virtually launch their 22nd Issue titled Anomaly, guest edited by Hanna Fridhed. The launch was live streamed to the Arts Council and NorthWord Facebook pages, and included 28 artists, some of whom shared live readings of their work, as well as musical performances.

Theatre; Just Because

Workshop Series

The TJB Workshop Series focused on empowering local artists to take ownership of their work, develop their skills, and explore new ways of creating theatre. Support from Arts Council Wood Buffalo ensured that the registration fee was kept low. This series will continue to run in 2021.



The Buffys

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 contributions artists make to Wood Buffalo. Also known as “The Buffys,” this program is an investment 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 2020 Wood Buffalo Excellence in Arts Awards: Midnight Steampunk was created as an online cinematic experience in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. October 17 marked the premiere of the 5th annual Buffys through a free broadcast that was viewed 14,000 times on both Facebook and YouTube. Artists, art groups, supporters, and award nominees were all highlighted throughout the 2-hour event, which celebrated 86 nominees through 14 award presentations, and 6 performance videos.

A watch party was also organized in Fort Chipewyan, where Elders and award nominees were invited to view and celebrate the event in a socially distanced setting.

The 2020 Buffys can be viewed on our YouTube channel at bit.ly/Buffys2020.



Arts Administration
 Arts Education
 Craft
 Creative Collaboration
 Dance
 Indigenous Arts
 Literary Arts
 Media Arts
 Ken Flaherty Music Award
 Rising Star
 Theatre
 Visual Arts
 Arts Champion
 Lifetime Achievement

Kimberly Brice
Ashley Brockway
Lyndsay Faye Dolanksy
Athabasca Tribal Council (ATC) Cultural Festival
Krista Oviatt
Beverly Tourangeau
Therese Greenwood
All Imaginary
DJ Qpid
Jane Gibson
Camryn Hannigan
Crystal Mercredi
Florence Weber
Tantoo Cardinal

**86 AWARD
NOMINEES**

**14 AWARDS
PRESENTED**

**14,000
VIEWS**

**80 COMMISSIONED
ARTISTS**

6 VOLUNTEERS

**8 EVENT
SPONSORS**



Communications

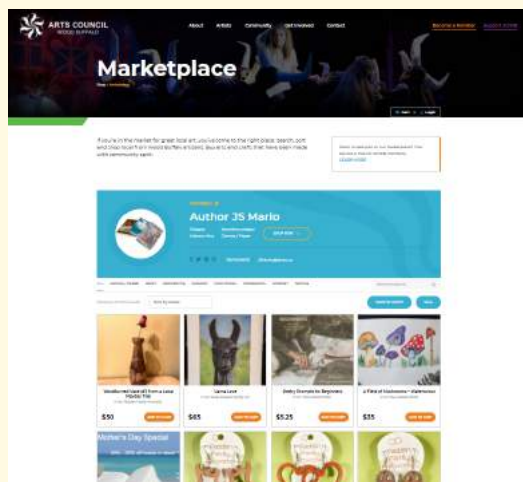
This year, ACWB Communications saw a lot of growth with brand new staff and the return of veteran staff – mixing new perspectives with history and experience. We saw a steady increase in our social media followers and engagement, especially on Facebook and Instagram. We also saw more activity than ever on our LinkedIn and YouTube accounts.

One of our biggest communications milestones for 2020 was the launch of our new website. Photos of local artists are featured throughout, and the website has even better functionality, so we can share more news, resources, calls and opportunities. The new website also allows for more member participation through our improved Artist Directory and brand new Marketplace, where members can sell their arts and craft – and everyone can shop and support the arts.

We also began working on our new CRM (Customer Relationship Management system), so we can stay in touch with you more effectively, while keeping you up to date on your membership and all the benefits that come with it.

Even though we weren't able to get out into the community and engage with you as much as we would have liked, we were still able to connect through online events, programs, meetings, and performances.

Many of you gave us your feedback on the Arts Incubator facility that we aim to create at the former Landmark Cinema building in downtown Fort McMurray. Our public engagement campaign for this project ran for three weeks, and was very successful with over 400 responses to the survey, and dozens of conversations with local artists, residents and stakeholders.



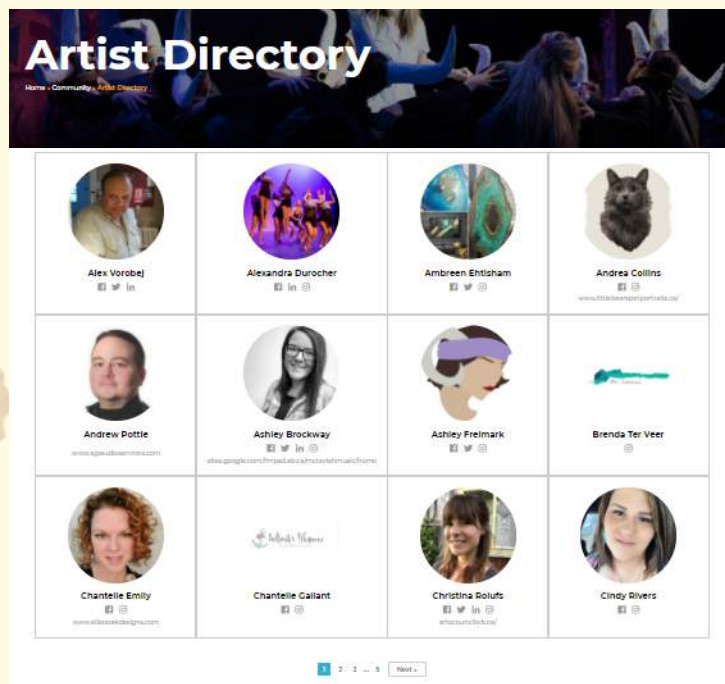
Membership

The ACWB Membership Program is a crucial connection for many local artists to opportunities, community, and support, as art is a powerful tool for maintaining emotional and mental well-being.

When the pandemic began in our region, the decision was made to extend all active memberships until November 2021 free of charge.

We continue to work to ensure that the arts are accessible and barrier-free, and that anyone in the region can be a part of our local arts network and the unified voice for the arts in Wood Buffalo. To help reach this goal, we have created a Membership Bank, containing a number of free 1-year memberships for residents in Wood Buffalo who face barriers to becoming a member. Learn more about becoming a member and the benefits at artscouncilwb.ca/membership.

At the end of 2020, ACWB had 222 active members and continues to grow.



Exploring Arts



The ACWB Artist in Residency & Mentorship Program (AiR) program follows the traditional residency model, in which non-local or local professional artists spend time creating work inspired by the environment, culture and people of Wood Buffalo. These Residency artists will engage with the community, showcase their work through a final event, and most importantly, spend some time mentoring emerging, established, and professional artists from the region. The program is open to artists in any discipline. Visit artscouncilwb.ca/artist-in-residency for more details.

There are many benefits with this type of program, including bringing new perspectives, techniques, and networking opportunities to our arts community, and giving non-local artists a new lens on the Wood Buffalo region.

Winter - Michelle Thorne

Performing Arts

Hosted from March - April 2020, this iteration saw theatre director Michelle Thorne engaging as the Winter Artist in Residence, and aimed to support her journey as she directed a community theatre run of *The Great Gatsby* at Keyano Theatre & Arts Centre. Though the theatre run was cancelled in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Thorne continued to offer a 4-week program, "Directing from Script to Stage," for local theatre artists.

Workshop elements included script analysis, design concepts and collaborations, stage management, auditions, casting, marketing and publicity, and culminated in a project where participants created their own Director's Proposal by the end of the workshop series.



Fall - Carla White

Literary Arts

Hosted from August - December 2020, this iteration saw playwright Carla White engaging as the Fall Artist in Residency, and aimed to support White in developing a script dramatizing the events, demographics, learnings, and community-building that arose out of the 2016 Horse River Wildfire. Arts Council recruited a Dramaturg and Director to support White with her project, as well as videographers from M'Guphynn Media, who compiled her residency into a documentary ("Sparking Creativity").

The project ended in December with a stage reading of White's final script, as well as a Writing and Publishing workshop for the local public.



Photo: M'Guphynn Media



Photo: M'Guphynn Media



Photo: supplied

Advocating for the Arts

Arts Council Wood Buffalo Board of Directors and Staff are committed to creating a remarkable quality of life in our region and raising the profile of the arts by serving as board members of other organizations and on a number of community and Council-appointed Committees.

Staff Community Service

- Alberta Culture Days Community Planning Committee
- Alberta Drama Festival Association Provincial Board Directors
- Friends of Suncor Energy Centre for the Performing Arts Board Directors
- FuseSocial Executive Director Mentorship Program (Mentor)
- Interagency Committee
- Public Art Committee – Chair (Council-appointed)
- RMWB Culture Master Plan Implementation Advisory Committee – Chair
- Social Sustainability Plan Stewardship Committee
- Theatre Alberta Board Directors
- Theatre; Just Because - Artistic Director
- Waterfront Development Advisory Committee – Chair (Council-appointed)
- Wood Buffalo Community Foundation Grants Committee

Board of Directors Community Service

- 2022 Arctic Winter Games Welcome/Send-off and Legacy Trail Committees
- Athabasca Tribal Council Cultural Festival Planning Committee
- Athabasca Tribal Council Prevention Unit Program Developer – Leadership Coach
- Dance Safe Alberta Fort McMurray Dance Association
- Food Festival Committee – Volunteer Management
- Pride YMM – Chair
- PRISM (Suncor 2SLGBTQ+ Employee Network) – Communications Lead
- Regional Advisory Committee for Inclusion & Diversity – Vice Chair

ACWB also participated in the Tri-Level Meetings which bring together Federal, Provincial, and Municipal arts funders to share emerging issues, opportunities, and strategies to better serve arts, culture, and heritage organizations and artists.

Typically held quarterly, in 2020 the committee voted to hold monthly meetings through a virtual platform to ensure timely dissemination of information on health and safety, financial support opportunities, and share best practices to support artists and arts-serving organizations during the COVID-19 global pandemic.

Thank you



REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY
OF WOOD BUFFALO



Alberta
Foundation
for the Arts

Alberta



Government of Canada's
New Horizons for Seniors Program

Canada 

Board & Staff

Board of Directors

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

Staff

Liana Wheeldon	Executive Director
Luay Eljamal	Programs Manager
Christina Rolufs	Communications Manager
Will Collins	Communications Coordinator
Hanna Fridhed	Engagement Coordinator
Sharon Heading	Arts Recovery Project Coordinator
Donna Aubichon	Rural Arts Support Liaison North
Jules Nokohoo	Rural Arts Support Liaison South
Ashlee Solecki	Junior Communications Coordinator (Fixed-Term Position)
Geoff Jones	Artist in Residency Program Coordinator (Term position funded by Government of Alberta)



ARTS COUNCIL
WOOD BUFFALO

WWW.ARTSCOUNCILWB.CA