



ARTS COUNCIL
WOOD BUFFALO

PROGRAMS REPORT

2021

STENZCO

01. OVERVIEW

02. CREATIVE CONNECTIONS & BUSINESS OF THE ARTS

- 03. it's past midnight somewhere — Q&A Livestream
- 04. The Artrepreneurship Series - Spring 2021
- 05. MMIWG2S+ — Community Awareness Event
- 06. The Artrepreneurship Series - Fall 2021
- 07. Artist Residency Showcase

08. ART OF CONVERSATION

- 09. Art of Conversation — TELUS Documentary
- 10. Art of Conversation — Virtual Exhibit
- 11. Art of Conversation — Bridging the Age Gap

12. BUFFYS 2021

- 13. Theme Selection
- 14. Nominations
- 15. Artist Hires
- 17. Performances
- 20. Judging & Award Recipients
- 22. Buffys 2021 Statistics
- 24. Buffys TELUS Documentary

25. ARTIST IN RESIDENCY

26. Carla White

27. Sparking Creativity

28. Indigenous Artist in Residency Recruitment

29. Heather Morigeau

30. ALBERTA CULTURE DAYS

31. Timeline of Events

35. COLLABORATIONS & PROJECTS

35. Pride YMM

35. ArtsVest

36. Art Gallery of Alberta Roundtable

36. Alberta Foundation for the Arts Roundtable

36. NorthWord Magazine

37. PROGRAMS IN THE MEDIA

40. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



2021

WE CE NZ LA G A T A



156 artists recruited throughout 2021's programming.



35 individual programs offered to artists and members of public.



Over \$105,000.00 paid out to local artists through ACWB programming.



160 unique artists nominated or self-applied through the Buffys.



Over 20,500 views of ACWB programs-generated video content.



27 organization collaborations on various programs in 2021.

OVERVIEW

Arts Council Wood Buffalo offers a variety of programs that build the capacity of local artists to compete and thrive, enabled by collaborations between artists, arts organizations, non-profits and industry, and through municipal, provincial and federal advocacy for our region's arts community.

In 2021, Arts Council focused on delivering programs in a way that showcased how artists could be main players in contributing to general well-being of a community. The Wood Buffalo region has gone through a number of tragedies in recent years, from the wildfire, to the flood and the pandemic. Arts Council's programming proved that the Arts have been a constant in helping people commemorate those tragedies, articulate them, or be a part of the recovery process.



CREATIVE CONNECTIONS & BUSINESS OF THE ARTS



Creative Connections focuses on artistic practice, creative work, and networking — by artists for artists.

It helps artists develop skills relevant to their discipline, feel more confident in their artistic practice and creative work, and connect with leaders and others in their disciplines. ACWB fosters meaningful partnerships with local and visiting artists and arts organizations to help present their own vision.

The Business of the Arts learning series offers local artists an opportunity to build their capacity to compete and thrive. The goal of the 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. The program offers a variety of learning opportunities through online resources, workshops, and sessions on various business-related topics that are specific to artists' needs.





FEB
29



WATCH THE LIVESTREAM 

it's past midnight somewhere — Livestream Q&A

ACWB Programs Manager Luay Eljamal hosted contemporary poet Jamal-e-Fatima, and mixed-media artist Hira Noor in an online discussion surrounding their debut collection of poetry called “it’s past midnight somewhere.” The virtual Q&A dove deep into who Jamal and Hira are as artists, what the poems and illustrations they have created mean to them, and what their artistic process has been like. There were also opportunities for attendees to submit their own questions, which were answered by the artists. Arts Council created custom videos to help bring the poetry to life, as well.

Goals

- Increased awareness for Jamal and Hira as artists in the community.
- Increased awareness for and sales for poetry collection “it’s past midnight somewhere”.
- Opportunity for artists and publish to learn about the impact literary arts have on a community, through Jamal and Hira’s artistic process.
- Increased awareness and user base for ACWB Marketplace, where the book can be purchased.

Arts Council Strategic Priority

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

Statistics



1,264 views accounting for **30%** of our online audience in 2021.



Recruited **2 artists** — one literary and one visual arts.



*"Thank you to everyone who tuned in from near and afar to [our] Livestream tonight hosted by Arts Council Wood Buffalo. You made the experience larger than life for which I will be eternally grateful."
- Jamal-e-Fatima*

APRIL

29

TO

JUNE

03



WATCH THE WORKSHOP SERIES



The Artrepreneurship Series — Building Your Business (Spring 2021)

Arts Council partnered with Community Futures Wood Buffalo as hosts for the program, which was powered by Project Gazelle. We offered a 6-week “Building your Business” workshop series in Spring 2021.

This program served to empower participants to formalize their artistic practice by building their skills in the areas of entrepreneurship, creating a business plan, understanding cash flow, and pitching their ideas with confidence. The program also encouraged artist retention in the Wood Buffalo region at a time when many have been leaving to pursue a career in regions that offer more support and infrastructure for artists. The program was open to local participants, as well as participants from across the province (as mandated by our partnership with Project Gazelle) to attend, bringing more attention to ACWB and the programs that we run within our region.

To encourage attendance across the series, we offered full refunds and a certificate of completion to those who attended 100% of the workshop series.

Goals

- Increased knowledge of entrepreneurial & branding concepts.
- Increased confidence in employing entrepreneurial & branding concepts.
- Increased number of local artists using Arts Council's online marketplace platform.

Arts Council Strategic Priority

- Arts community has resources needed to thrive.
- Arts community has resources needed to thrive.
- Arts community has resourced needed to thrive.
- Arts are recognized as essential in creating a balanced community.

Statistics



20 attendees
accounting for **48.7%** of
our program
participants in 2021.



Attendees by Self-Identification
Female - 18 attendees
Male - 2 attendees
Indigenous - 3 attendees
Immigrant - 1 attendee
Newcomer - 1 attendee



Attendees by Age Range
Child (0-17) — 1 attendee
Adult (25-64) — 19 attendees



"The information was easy to follow... it's the application that will be tricky! Really appreciate how generous they are offering follow up support."
- Participant Feedback



MAY
5



WATCH THE BROADCAST 

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Girls, Women and Two-Spirit+ People — Community Awareness Event

Community members were invited to participate in Red Dress Day on May 5th as a day of action and awareness for Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls & Two-Spirited+ (MMIWG2S+). The event was live-streamed on numerous Facebook pages throughout the community. It included a live panel discussion from local advocates, which viewers were able to participate in virtually, as well as an announcement of various Red Dress Day events and resources within our region. The goal of the day is to create awareness, as well as to educate the community on the ongoing crisis of MMIWG2S+.

The event streamed directly to the following Facebook pages: Pawamiw Creative, Nistawayou Association Friendship Centre, Pride YMM, Centre of Hope, Athabasca Tribal Council and Arts Council Wood Buffalo. It was subsequently shared from those pages 71 times.

Although this project didn't directly align with Arts Council's Strategic Priorities, it did align with our [Diversity and Inclusion statement](#), made on June 18, 2020:

Priorities from Arts Council's Statement of Solidarity

- Support and show solidarity for Black and Indigenous artists.
- Acknowledge the trauma that has and is experienced by all BOPIC, LGBTQ2S+ and persons with disabilities.
- Recognize that intergenerational trauma is real and commit to being part of the change needed to achieve justice and equality.
- Show that the arts are a powerful tool to educate, and give a voice to those affected by the struggles of institutionalized discrimination.



Statistics



2,894 viewers accounting for **70%** of our online audience in 2021.



"There were great questions in the comments and the reactions during the broadcast showed that people were understanding and connecting with what was being said. The stats show that we have a greater impact when we work together." - Joanne Meredith (Balsom Communications)

SEPT

WATCH THE WORKSHOP SERIES



22

TO

NOV

03

The Artrepreneurship Series — Maintaining Your Business (Fall 2021)

Arts Council partnered with Community Futures Wood Buffalo as hosts for this renewed program, which was powered by Project Gazelle. We offered a 6-week “Maintaining your Business” workshop series in Fall 2021.

This program served to empower participants to formalize their artistic practice by building their skills in the areas of marketing essentials, strategic planning, proposals, and knowing their value. The program also encouraged artist retention in the Wood Buffalo region at a time when many have been leaving to pursue a career in regions that offer more support and infrastructure for artists. The program was open to local participants, as well as participants from across the province (as mandated by our partnership with Project Gazelle) to attend, bringing more attention to ACWB and the programs that we run within our region.



Goals

- Increased knowledge of entrepreneurial & branding concepts.
- Increased confidence in employing entrepreneurial & branding concepts.
- Increased number of local artists using Arts Council's online marketplace platform.

Arts Council Strategic Priority

- Arts community has resources needed to thrive.
- Arts community has resources needed to thrive.
- Arts community has resourced needed to thrive.
- Arts are recognized as essential in creating a balanced community.



NOV
08

WATCH THE BROADCAST 

ARTIST RESIDENCY SHOWCASE

Arts Council Wood Buffalo hosted a free virtual showcase event featuring current and past artists from Artist in Residency and the brand-new Suncor Indigenous Artist Program.

We welcomed artist Heather Morigeau to our region for the first iteration of the Suncor Indigenous Artist Program from October 26 - November 17, 2021.

Heather was joined by Carla White, our Fall 2020 resident artist, for a live-stream Q&A and conversation about their experiences in the Artist in Residency program. Following the live-stream Q&A session, we aired the premiere of *Sparking Creativity*, a short documentary about tragedy and the healing power of art, featuring Carla White.



Artist in Residency SHOWCASE

Live Q&A
&
Documentary Launch
'*Sparking Creativity*'

November 8, 2021 6:00PM



Statistics



800 views of the Artist in Residency showcase on YouTube and Facebook.



7 artists involved in the creation of the Artist in Residency Showcase and *Sparking Creativity* documentary.

ART OF CONVERSATION

Statistics



23 Seniors or Elders
registered in the 2021
edition of Art of
Conversation.

Following the success of 2020, “The Art of Conversation” continued into 2021 as a collaborative project for Artists and Seniors in the Wood Buffalo community by Arts Council Wood Buffalo and St. Aidan’s Society. Wood Buffalo artists of various disciplines in the local community have been engaging in phone conversations with Wood Buffalo’s isolated Seniors and Elders. They then create new pieces of art, using that conversation as their muse. Arts Council then purchases those art pieces from the artists and gifts them to the Seniors or Elders with whom they were made.



22 artists
commissioned
through the 2021
edition of Art of
Conversation.

The COVID-19 pandemic has sent the Wood Buffalo community into quarantine, further isolating our seniors and resulting in a loss of income for local artists. Outreach workers for St. Aidan’s Society report an increased need for psychosocial support for the senior populations in our community as a result of the quarantine. “The Art of Conversation” aims to commission local artists to offset experienced loss of income, and to provide seniors an opportunity to engage in conversation to offset the experienced isolation.



Over \$15,000 paid
through Artist
commissions in this
project in 2021.

Goals

Arts Council Strategic Priority

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased opportunities for Seniors to socialize with artists. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arts are recognized as essential in creating a balanced community. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased opportunities to pay local artists. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arts community has resources needed to thrive. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased awareness of local artists and the work that they do. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arts are recognized as essential in creating a balanced community. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased awareness of the arts' role in supporting isolated persons in quarantine. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arts are recognized as essential in creating a balanced community. |



CONNECTING LOCAL ARTISTS WITH SENIORS AND ELDERS



ARTS COUNCIL
WOOD BUFFALO



St. Aidan's
Society

MAY
19

ART OF CONVERSATION — TELUS DOCUMENTARY



**Over 700
views of the
documentary
on YouTube
and Facebook**



A TELUS Documentary spotlighting the Art of Conversation initiative was released to the public on Facebook and YouTube on May 19, 2021 to coincide with the announcement of the 2021 iteration of the Art of Conversation initiative.

The Documentary was fully-funded by TELUS, and involved collaborating with Bamboo Shoots, a third-party hired by TELUS, who came to Wood Buffalo from Calgary to document the story.

The interview featured artists Liam Renner, Shauna Murray, and Cory Huber, as well as Seniors Libby Farrell and Rudy Loy. Executive Directors Liana Wheeldon (Arts Council) and Luana Bussieres (St. Aidan's Society) were also featured.



Historic Trinity, NFLD
by Colleen Cameron for
Mildred Gosse



Scheveningen Beach
Marina Francis for Astrid
Dézèntjé

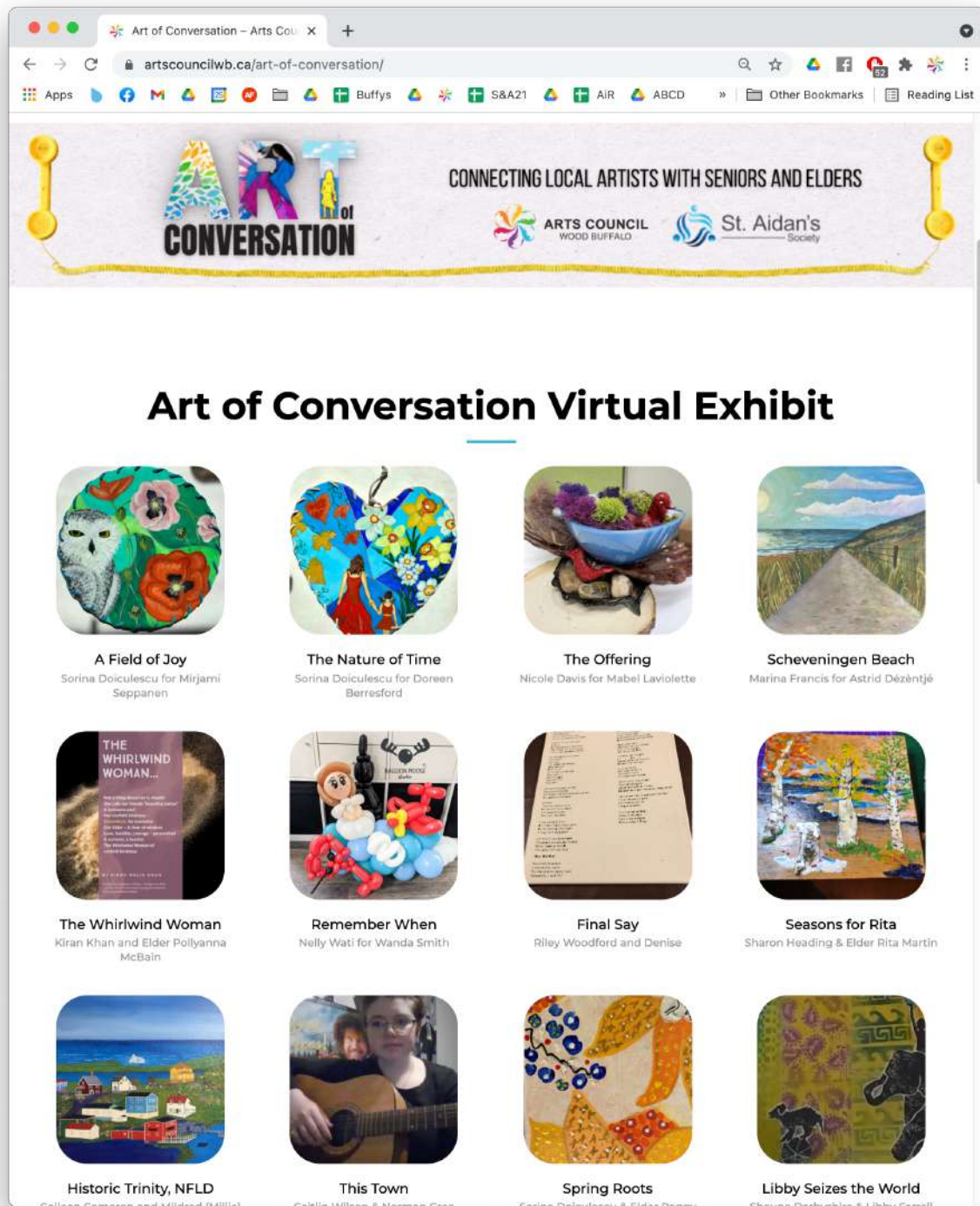


Love Heals All
Matthew Marcel for
Beverly Tourangeau

MAY
19

ART OF CONVERSATION — VIRTUAL EXHIBIT

Commemorating the Art of Conversation initiative, Arts Council created an online virtual exhibit to document all the art that was created by artists for Seniors or Elders. Each art piece highlighted the Artist's Name, Senior or Elder's Name, Artform, as well as a brief description of how the final piece was inspired by their conversation. [The virtual exhibit can be viewed online here.](https://artscouncilwb.ca/art-of-conversation/)



JULY
15
TO
SEPT
24

ART OF CONVERSATION — BRIDGING THE AGE GAP WITH DIANNE PERRY

The “Bridging the Age Gap” subprogram provided opportunities for youth who may need more guidance to interact with Seniors through the Art of Conversation program, with the support of local Interdisciplinary Artist, Dianne Perry. Perry, who acted as a “Teaching Artist”, supported two to three young artists in a group as they learned to express their craft with their partnered Senior, creating lasting connections with them. She raised the young artists’ awareness of the value that Seniors bring to our community and also supported their skill development in multiple artistic disciplines, allowing the youth and Seniors’ individual passions to lead the creative process. The creations were completely their own, flavoured by the storytelling and experiences that the Senior or Elder shared with them. Emphasis was placed on ensuring that the Seniors were made a part of the creative process, as long as they agreed to it.



The Offering
by Nicole Davis for Mabel
Laviolette



Remember When
by Nelly Wati for Wanda Smith



A Field of Joy
by Sorina Doiculescu for
Mirjami Seppanen



"I thought I was doing it to support the artists, not realizing how much I would gain from the discussions and the resulting poetry. I probably wouldn't have signed up in normal times, but in the early self-isolation times of spring 2020, and with so many of my friends and relations still working/teaching from home and with limited time to offer me, the chance to meet an artist for a chat was very appealing."
- Hope (Participating Senior)

BUFFYS 2021



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

Goals

- Raise artist's profiles and engage Wood Buffalo residents with the arts in our region.
- Connect Artists to each other.
- Celebrate artists' value in the community.

Arts Council Strategic Priority

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



"...a dazzling evening of bright lights and laughter, brought crackling with electricity into your homes in full-sensational colour, thanks to LUMA!"

JANUARY 25 THEME SELECTION

Every year, Arts Council selects a theme for the Arts Awards in an attempt to educate the public on the different arts movements of the past, as well as to establish a visual language for the Awards Showcase itself. The theme is typically announced at our AGM every year, and following tradition, Arts Council prepared a video reveal for this year's theme, which was:



Following last year's success, the 2021 Buffys Awards Showcase was scheduled to be delivered as another cinematic experience on October 16, 2021.

Our theme leaned into "film"—seeing as this was the medium through which this year's Buffys were presented—and it recognized Technicolor as the most widely used colour process in the early to mid 1900s, during the Golden Age of Hollywood



Buffys 2021 Theme Reveal Video

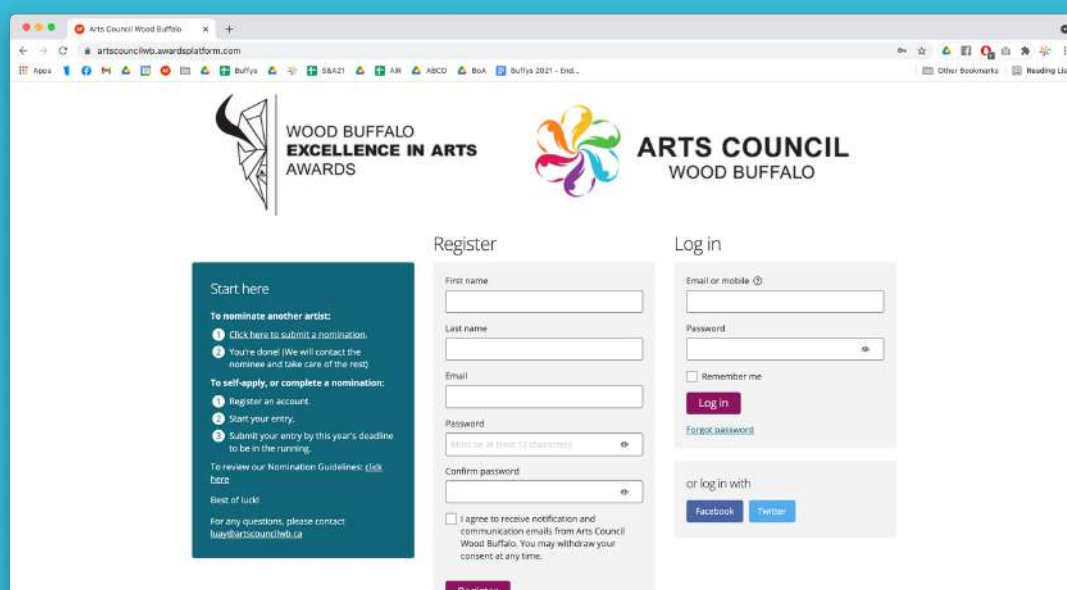


JULY 30 NOMINATIONS

Arts Council opened Buffys Nominations on February 16, with nominations closing on July 15 and self-applications due on July 30.

Public nominations were collected through an online Google Form, and nominated artists' support materials were collected through our online portal powered by cloud-based software *Awards Force*.

Awards Force allowed us to create context-specific fields — it also allowed nominees to recall previous entries, save as they go, export for personal use, and provided guiding questions to aid in the creation of the artistic statements.



Statistics



NOMINATIONS

Arts Administration	10
Arts Education	18
Craft	11
Creative Collaboration	13
Dance	14
Indigenous Arts	18
Literary Arts	10
Performing Arts	12
Media Arts	12
Music	10
Rising Star	10
Visual Arts	23



COMPLETED ENTRIES

Arts Administration	4
Arts Education	13
Craft	7
Creative Collaboration	8
Dance	8
Indigenous Arts	12
Literary Arts	7
Performing Arts	6
Media Arts	9
Music	5
Rising Star	8
Visual Arts	13



160 unique artist-nominees



91 complete entries submitted through Awards Force



7 artists started self-applications; **2 artists** saw them to completion.

APRIL
30

ARTIST HIRES

Arts Council hired a team of artists to bring this year's Buffys broadcast to light, paying more artists than ever before. The team comprised of a Creative Team, Videography Team, Performers, and Crafters.



CREATIVE TEAM

STEVE REEVE - M'GUPHYNN MEDIA

Screenwriter / Director of Buffys Narrative

CAT HARE

Illustrator

LUAY ELJAMAL

Project Manager

RAILI BOE

Set Designer

WILL COLLINS

Marketing & Publicity

VIDEOGRAPHERS

MATT LORENZ

Videographer

BENJA BERTEIG - BERTEIG IMAGING

Videographer (Shortlist Videos)

NEVILLE VIDEO PRODUCTIONS

Videographer (Shortlist & Performance Videos)

RICHARD BALDONADO

Videographer (Award Creation Video)

TWISTED GEARS PRODUCTIONS

Videographer (Shortlist & Performance Videos)





CHARACTER ACTORS

HELEN KILLORN
Nat Valens

TIM HEGGIE
Hue Slider

T.J. CARABEO
Eddie Gilder

BRANDON FOLMER
Luma



DIANNE PERRY
Tessa Vibrance

WILL COLLINS
Indigo Wescott

NICOLE DAVIS
Ethel

KELLI STEWART
Lucy

MICHELLE PLOUGHMAN *Award Creation*

The 2021 Buffy Awards were handcrafted by the local pottery wizard, Michelle Ploughman, also known as the Saltwater Potter.

Ploughman created 14 vases that were individualized for each award category, and were inspired by the Boreal Forest.

The awards embody poplar trees and showcase the flora and fauna of the region with intricately painted details and a beautiful glazed finish.



PERFORMANCES



"BLACK PAINT" by Xach Edward & Meghan Whitmore

Spoken Word Performance Video

Black Paint was a spoken word "love-song" performance by Xach Edward and Meghan Whitmore and their family, which involved the creation of an original painting.



**8 ARTISTS INVOLVED IN
THE CREATION OF THIS VIDEO**

[WATCH THE VIDEO](#)



"JINGLE DRESS DANCE " by Fort Chipewyan Jingle Dancers

Indigenous Jingle Dance Performance Video

Jingle Dress Dance highlighted an Indigenous Elder sharing the importance of the Jingle Dance tradition with youth, who then performed together against the beautiful landscape backdrops of Fort Chipewyan.



**12 ARTISTS INVOLVED IN
THE CREATION OF THIS VIDEO**

[WATCH THE VIDEO](#)





"KING OF LIFE 2: THE DEVI" by the Divine Group of India

Indian Dance-inspired Video

King of Life 2: The Devi, was a sequel to a similar performance video which premiered at Buffys 2020. It told the story of a Flower Goddess who longed to experience life as a human, and featured a storyline that was communicated through interpretive traditional Indian dance.



**35 ARTISTS INVOLVED IN
THE CREATION OF THIS VIDEO**

[WATCH THE VIDEO](#)





"THE SHARTIST" by Erica Moeskau

Comedy Sketch

The Shartist followed the hilarities and harsh realities of being a new mother, who struggled to create an original comedy set that stayed true to PG-13 restrictions.



**4 ARTISTS INVOLVED IN
THE CREATION OF THIS VIDEO**

[WATCH THE VIDEO](#)



"SALTY SEA" by Dan Tulk

Music Video

Salty Sea was a music video supporting original music by local musician, Dan Tulk. The video was a technical feat, being recorded in one long take on Fort McMurray's downtown core.



**11 ARTISTS INVOLVED IN
THE CREATION OF THIS VIDEO**

[WATCH THE VIDEO](#)



OCTOBER
16

JUDGING & AWARD RECIPIENTS

Arts Council enlisted the support of 6 provincial artists and arts leaders to engage in the adjudication of each shortlisted Buffys nominees.

ADJUDICATORS

BARBARA MAH

*Alberta Foundation for
the Arts*

VICTOR STEEL

*University of Alberta
Faculty of Education*

AYLA STEPHEN

Rozsa Foundation



**MITCH
MERCREDI**
Indigenous Artist

**MICHAEL
MANKOWSKI**
Film Professional

NOLA ANTONY
Dance Professional

AWARD RECIPIENTS

ARTS ADMINISTRATION

Diane Schuldt-Zundel

ARTS CHAMPION

Andrew Pottie

ARTS EDUCATION

Cathy Larson

CRAFT

Simon Budd

CREATIVE COLLABORATION

*Land Acknowledgement Video by
Wood Buffalo 2023 Arctic Winter Games*

DANCE

Hanna LeVoi

INDIGENOUS ARTS

Amy Keller-Rempp

LITERARY ARTS

NorthWord Magazine

MEDIA ARTS

Matthew Lorenz

MUSIC (KEN FLAHERTY)

Shantelle Davidson

PERFORMING ARTS

Theatre; Just Because

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

*Joey Dulosong
(Joey D)*

RISING STAR

Diya Hiltz

VISUAL ARTS

Rob Hickey

BUFFYS 2021 STATISTICS



104 artists involved in the creation of Buffys 2021



91 complete entries submitted through Awards Force



\$59,260.00 paid out to artists for the creation of Buffys 2021



7 artists started self-applications; **2 artists** saw them to completion.



160 unique artist-nominees



3,616 views of Buffys 2021 as of October 25, 2021.

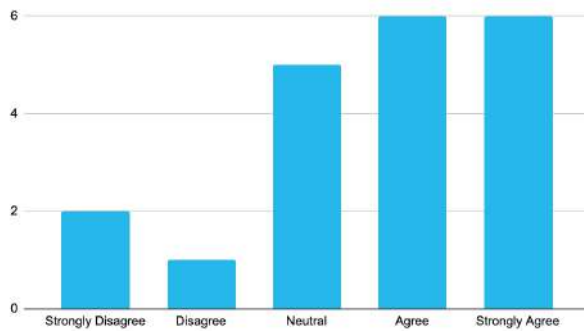
WATCH THE
BROADCAST



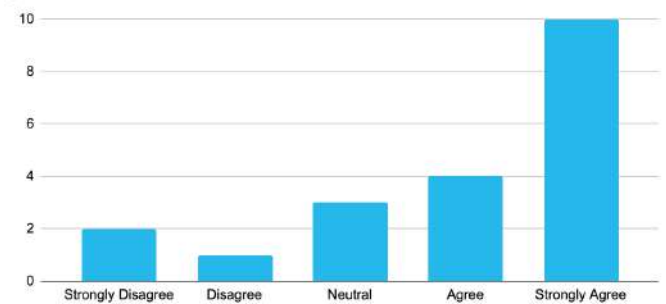
2021 POST-BUFFYS SURVEY RESULTS

Arts Council conducted a post-event survey, which was sent out to Buffys nominees, shortlisted artists and award recipients on November 19, 2021. Twenty-one individuals responded to the survey, and the results are summarized below.

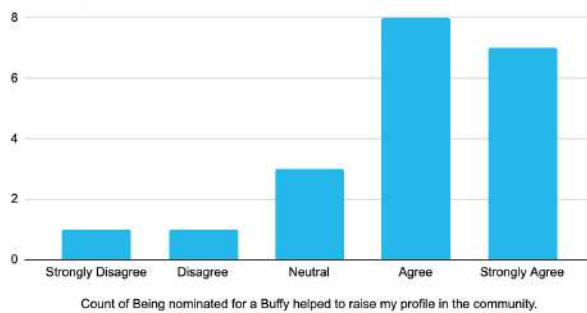
The nominations process was easy to understand.



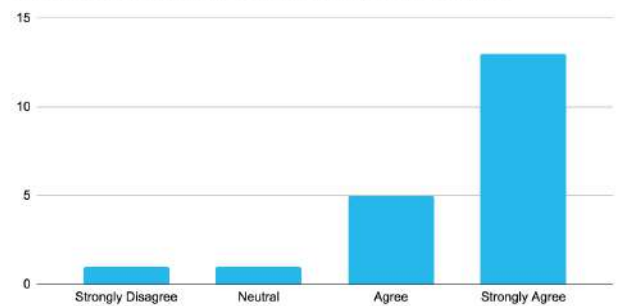
The nominations process helped me reflect on my artistic practice.



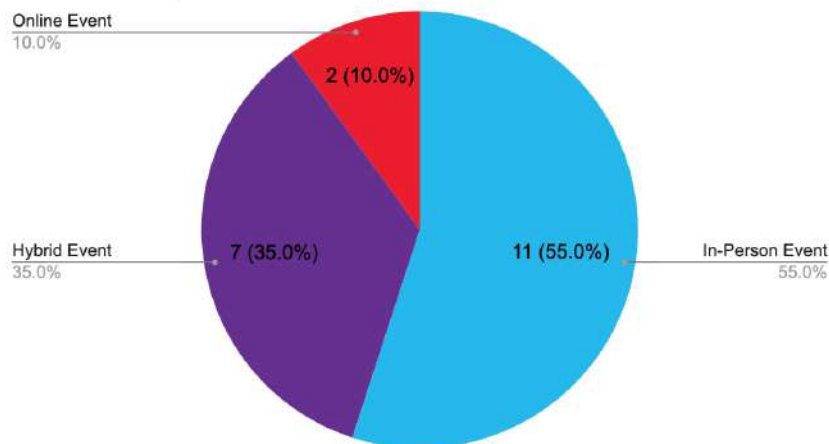
Being nominated for a Buffy helped to raise my profile in the community.



Introducing shortlist videos this year was worthwhile.



What would you like the Buffys to look like in the future?



Survey Comments and Suggestions

Survey respondents were given an opportunity to provide written comments and/or suggestions, if they wished. All responses are provided below.

"Hybrid Event is great so that you can share the experience with your close family and friends in the comfort of your own home, however nothing beats an in person, gala style event. Great work Arts Council. Your themes each year are very creative."

"What a waste of time!"

Note: This comment came from an anonymous respondent who was nominated for an award, but did not make the shortlist in their award category, which might explain their frustration.

"I enjoyed the shortlist videos during the event"

"It was fantastic!"

"Filling out the information for the nomination process was very lengthy. I think if there could be a way to short it would be helpful. I was thrilled to be nominated though. Thank you so much. "

"Keep the shortlisted videos! It was an amazing feature to understand why the artists were nominated and provided a more in-depth look at arts as whole in the region."

"Nominees should be informed of the person who nominated them. It helps to gather testimonials."

Note: Arts Council currently asks all nominators whether they prefer to remain anonymous or to have their name shared with nominees at their request.

"Good job this year!"

"Amazing work from arts council team. Always an honour to be a part of."



BUFFYS TELUS DOCUMENTARY

Following the success of the Art of Conversation documentary, TELUS hired film production company Bamboo Shoots to collaborate with Arts Council on a documentary examining the process behind the creation of Buffys 2020.

The documentary included behind-the-scenes elements of Buffys 2021, and involved interviewing past Buffy-recipients and ACWB Staff. The documentary helped to promote Arts Council's activities on a national level.

This documentary has not yet been released to the public.



ARTIST IN RESIDENCY



The Artist in Residency 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 in a variety of ways, showcase their work through a final event and, most importantly, spend time mentoring a select group of emerging, established and professional artists from our region. The program is open to artists in any discipline.

Goals ACWB Strategic Priority

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CREATION — Support incoming artist in the creation of new work, inspired by their time spent in the Wood Buffalo region. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arts community has resources needed to thrive. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NETWORKING — Help local and non-local artists network with one another, motivating them to stay current in terms of what is happening in the arts world on a local to national level. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arts community has resources needed to thrive. • Arts Council Wood Buffalo is an influential voice for the arts. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MENTORSHIP — Further develop local artists' growth through mentorship opportunities that the Artist in Residence can provide (i.e. workshops). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arts are recognized as essential in creating a balanced community. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • INNOVATION — To inspire innovation for local and non-local artists, through exposure to new perspectives, artistic ideas and techniques that the Artist in Residence can bring to our region and can learn from. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arts community has resources needed to thrive. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AWARENESS — Bring awareness of Fort McMurray Wood Buffalo among non-local artists, motivating creative reflective and artistic production, inspired by our unique region and its people, landscape, infrastructure, culture and heritage. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arts are recognized as essential in creating a balanced community. • Arts Council Wood Buffalo is an influential voice for the arts. |



AUG
2020

TO

FEB
2021



RESIDENCY WITH CARLA WHITE

This iteration saw playwright Carla White engaging as the Fall 2020 Artist in Residence, and supported White in developing a script dramatizing the events, demographics, learnings and community building that arose out of the 2016 Horse River Wildfire.

Arts Council commissioned Dramaturg, Camille Gingras, and Director, Louise Casemore, to support White with her project, as well as videographers from M'Guphynn Media, who compiled her residency into a documentary.

The project ended in a private virtual reading of White's final script, as well as a Wit, Wisdom and Writing workshop for the local public. Director Casemore also hosted a directing workshop titled "Making It Weird: Creating Outside of the Box."



Statistics



ARTISTS HIRED

Literary Artists	1
Media Artists	5
Performing Artists	8



14 participants attended White's "Wit, Wisdom and Writing" workshop



\$24,410.00 was paid to **artists** who were involved in the residency



13 participants attended Casemore's "Making It Weird: Creating Outside the Box" workshop



NOV
8

"SPARKING CREATIVITY" DOCUMENTARY

Documentary following Carla White's journey.

Arts Council commissioned videographers from M'Guphynn Media to compile Carla White's residency into a 40-minute documentary called *Sparking Creativity*. The documentary premiered on November 8, as part of the Artist in Residency Showcase, which featured a Q&A Session with Carla White and Fall 2021 Resident Artist Heather Morigeau. M'Guphynn also provided a paid internship opportunity to young filmmaker Devki Patel, through this project.



WATCH THE
DOCUMENTARY





MAY
07
TO
JULY
31



INDIGENOUS ARTIST IN RESIDENCY RECRUITMENT

The ACWB Indigenous Artist in Residency 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. Suncor has sponsored this year's Indigenous Artist in Residency Program, giving the opportunity to showcase unique and talented Indigenous peoples traditional art forms. This opportunity allows an Indigenous artist from outside of our community to work with multiple First Nation communities in the Wood Buffalo region offering workshops that helped pass on traditional teachings. This opportunity exposed our local arts community to the broader arts community on a provincial scale. Our local artists benefited through learning from a practiced Indigenous artist who is from outside of our region.

Arts Council has welcomed proposals from Indigenous artists residing across Canada with the help of new Indigenous Programs Coordinator Nick Vardy, who ensured that our recruitment process was equitable and accessible for all. Arts Council shortlisted three artists, inviting them to present and ask us questions — and selected Heather Morigeau to be our Fall Indigenous Artist in Residence from October 25 to November 17, 2021.

Goals	Target(s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Passing of traditional knowledge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities for both Heather and participants to pass on traditional knowledge and technique(s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The creation of at least one (1) completed resin and/or pine-needle woven art piece • Creating opportunities for Heather to explore and connect with the land. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A final art piece created with materials from the Wood Buffalo region. • Heather Morigeau will be introduced to various First Nations communities in the Wood Buffalo region • Heather Morigeau will collect various materials from the land to create final art piece
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heather Morigeau presents three workshops for members of the local and rural communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One pine-needle workshop in Fort Chip • One pine-needle weaving workshop in Anzac (Janvier invited) • One resin-casting workshop in Fort McMurray

OCT
26
TO
NOV
17



INDIGENOUS
ARTIST

RESIDENCY WITH HEATHER MORIGEAU

Heather Morigeau is an award-winning Indigenous artist, who came to our region from Calgary for the first iteration of the Suncor Indigenous Artist Program (a component of the Artist in Residency program), and created art and shared her expertise and experiences from October 26 to November 17, 2021.

During her residency, she held a series of workshops, including resin casting and pine needle basket weaving. This was the first time that the resident artist was able to teach workshops for multiple communities, including Fort Chipewyan, Janvier, Anzac and Fort McMurray.

Morigeau's contemporary expression of traditional Indigenous arts focuses on encapsulating Indigenous teachings and medicines. Her practice embodies her own healing journey from addiction, mental illness and colonialism.



When she wasn't focused on planning and delivering workshops, Morigeau developed a series of Aurora Borealis resin art on canvas. Her goal was to create art inspired by the natural beauty of the region.

On her last day, Morigeau presented her final creations to the public at a small open house held in her temporary studio space at Keyano College. Visitors dropped by to see her artwork and hear about her experiences as the artist in residence.



22 attendees participated
in workshops hosted by
Morigeau.



3 workshops hosted in
Fort McMurray,
Anzac/Janvier and Fort
Chipewyan.



ALBERTA CULTURE DAYS

Arts Council Wood Buffalo acted as fiscal agent for the provincial Alberta Culture Days, which took place during the entire month of September.

Events were hosted all over the region and were free to attend

Alberta Culture Days
September 2021

Discover • Experience • Celebrate



Statistics



1,134 participants joined in on the Alberta Culture Days celebrations.



Arts Council partnered with **18 organizations** for Alberta Culture Days events.



\$17,352 was paid to artists involved in bringing Alberta Culture Days celebrations to life.



18 separate events or programs were hosted for Alberta Culture Days events, with funding support from Arts Council Wood Buffalo.



100 artists were employed for Alberta Culture Days.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

SEPT 1 - 30

HERITAGE VILLAGE VIRTUAL TOURS

M'Guphy Media partnered with the Fort McMurray Heritage Society, the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo and Arts Council Wood Buffalo on a project to help citizens of the RMWB learn about our region's rich history through the Heritage Village Trading Post and Trapper's Cabin.

HARVEST MOON MASQUERADE CAFE ONLINE

Online videos shared across social media, mainly on Facebook and YouTube. This event was intended to run in person, but was switched to online. 630 views.

SEPT 1 - 30

SEPT 11

PLAYWRITING FOR ADULTS

Participants worked collaboratively to create and develop their own playwriting skills in this engaging and exciting workshop offered by Theatre; Just Because.

INTRODUCTION TO SET DESIGN WORKSHOP

Hosted by Arts Council Wood Buffalo, Set Designer Raili Boe taught the fundamentals behind set design and staging vocabulary in an entertaining and participatory way. Participants were invited to assist with creating this year's Wood Buffalo Excellence in Arts Awards broadcast.

SEPT 11



FRIENDS OF THE
 Suncor Energy Centre
 for the Performing Arts



INTRO TO SET DESIGN WORKSHOP WITH RAILI BOE

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11 | 1-4PM



SUNCOR ENERGY CENTRE FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

SEPT 11

WOOD BUFFALO DANCE SHOWCASE

To celebrate Alberta Culture Days and the return of in-person performances, the Fort McMurray Dance Association presented the Wood Buffalo Dance showcase to display the region's immense talent and diversity in dance.

EXPLORE BALLOON ART: BALLOON WORKSHOP

A basic balloon twisting/decor event. In class, participants learned two balloon animals and one mini-sculpture, and every participant received balloons and a pump to take home.

SEPT 12

SEPT 12

ME, MYSELF AND SIF: A STAGED PLAY READING

Theatre; Just Because offered two staged play readings by two local playwrights and performed by local actors. This play was written by Samson Nand.

LOCAL PLAY READING

ME, MYSELF AND SID

WRITTEN BY SAMSON NAND

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12TH | 7PM - 9PM | FREE | SUNCOR ENERGY CENTRE FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

Alberta Culture Days
September 2021
Discover • Experience • Celebrate

Alberta

Theatre:
Just Because

ARTS COUNCIL
WOOD BUFFALO

REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY
OF WOOD BUFFALO

PRIDE OF THE
Suncor Energy Centre
for the Performing Arts

WILD & FREE SOLO EXHIBIT OF ROSALIE BRYANTON

An exhibit of artwork created by a local Elder and artist, who had passed away. The exhibit was hosted in a local art gallery and featured online.

SEPT 12 - 27

SOUND DESIGN BASICS FOR FILM

Hosted by Steve Reeve from M'Guphynn Media, the Sound Design Basics for Film workshop covered the various uses of dialogue, score, and sound effects in film, including sound mixing and ADR (automatic dialogue replacement). Participants were invited to put what they learn to use, in a hands-on opportunity to be a part of creating the 2021 Buffys broadcast.

SEPT 16



SOUND DESIGN BASICS FOR FILM

WITH M'GUPHYNN MEDIA



M'GUPHYNN MEDIA

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16 | 6-8PM
SUNCOR ENERGY CENTRE FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

SEPT 18

MASK MAKING WORKSHOP

A workshop designed to help expose participants to masks from different cultures, including local Indigenous cultures.

ROCK THE RAILS

Skateboarding / BMX contests for ages 11 & under, 12-17 and 18+. Live Music. Food trucks. Local vendors and BMX demos.

SEPT 18

SEPT 24

EMBRACE: A STAGED READING

Theatre; Just Because offered two staged play readings by two local playwrights and performed by local actors. This play was written by Ashley Makey.

PLAYWRITING 101 FOR YOUTH

For those with oodles of playwriting experience, to those just starting out, participants worked collaboratively to create and develop their playwriting skills in this engaging and exciting workshop offered for youth by Theatre; Just Because.

SEPT 25

SEPT 25-27

AN ODE TO HUMANITY MUSICAL RECITAL

A song and Dance Ensemble Performance by the Fort McMurray Bengali Association.

AN AFTERNOON WITH SHAKESPEARE

Parr Academy of Vocal Arts hosted "An Afternoon with Shakespeare!" The students performed scenes from several Shakespearean plays. The students ranged in age from 6 to 16 and were excited to breathe life into these timeless characters.

SEPT 26

SEPT 27-29

THE WORLD EATS IN WOOD BUFFALO

The Multicultural Association of Wood Buffalo hosted a virtual multicultural cookery event. All dishes were created and filmed locally and shared on Facebook. Contest winners received a copy of "McMurray Metis' Kokum's Cookbook: Volume 1."

STARS OF THE OILSANDS ROTARY MUSIC FESTIVAL

The Stars of the Oilsands Rotary Music Festival was an evening concert featuring amateur performers in piano, speech, voice, strings and music composition. The line-up featured talented individuals aged 4 to 28, who excelled as part of the 2021 Oilsands Rotary Music Festival.

SEPT 29-30

SEPT 30

INDIGENOUS CULTURAL SHARING

Indigenous Culture sharing of Drumming and Singing and a fireside creative chat with a collaborative art piece being created for a rural community centre.

COLLABORATIONS & PROJECTS

Every year, Arts Council is approached with opportunities to collaborate with other groups on projects that fall outside of the programs that are currently on offer. Depending on staff-capacity, Arts Council may or may not agree to participate in these projects. Arts Council prioritizes collaborating on projects that support our mandate, mission and vision, and only when collaborators assure us that all artists involved will be paid and credited appropriately for their work. The following are summaries of such collaborations that Arts Council took part in in 2021.

PRIDE YMM FESTIVAL 2021

In 2021, Pride YMM were seeking support in engaging more artists to support their festival celebrations in the form of a marketplace, as well as performers and artists for their events. They identified that they struggle to recruit enough performers and artists for the event and Pride YMM has also identified that they struggle to recruit enough performers and that coordinating them is often a hassle. Arts Council agreed to partner with Pride YMM for a 2 year-period, where we would support them in recruiting artists and coach them to become self-sufficient in finding their own artists in future. This collaboration was initially under the "Programs" portfolio when Pride was scheduled to take place in June 2021, but when the pandemic pushed the events to September, it was moved under the Communications portfolio. ACWB was awarded with a Pride YMM Leadership Award for our efforts.



artsvest Matching Sponsorship Program

In 2021, Programs Manager, Luay Eljamal, and Partnerships Manager, Sharon Heading, participated in *artsvest*, a training opportunity geared towards helping organizations improve their ability to raise money through sponsorships. Trainings sessions included Sponsorship Basics, Pandemic Recovery Solutions, Cause Marketing, Building a Social Media Strategy, and How to Build a Sponsorship Report. The program promised Arts Council up to \$2,000 in matching dollars for money raised through sponsorships in 2021. Arts Council raised \$13,250 eligible dollars for the Buffys, and submitted the same to artvest for matching dollars. Artsvest has since let Arts Council know that they were able to raise the amount guaranteed amount of matching dollars, but at the time of writing, we are uncertain what this amount will be.

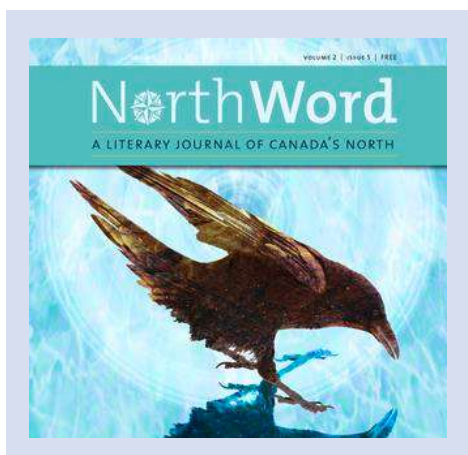




Arts Council Wood Buffalo Programs Manager, Luay Eljamal, and Executive Director, Liana Wheeldon, were invited to join the Art Gallery of Alberta's Board of Directors, management and Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee at a roundtable designed to **Art Gallery of Alberta Roundtable** to explore how we can improve in their organization, both past and present, and within the visual arts and museum sectors more broadly. Arts Council participated in two roundtable sessions and shared what we do to make the arts accessible for all in our region and how the Art Gallery of Alberta may follow suit. We were offered a \$200 honoraria for our time in this project.

Alberta Foundation for the Arts Roundtable

Arts Council Wood Buffalo Programs Manager, Luay Eljamal, and Executive Director, Liana Wheeldon, were invited to join the Alberta Foundation for the Arts to support in the collection of research for the implementation of their new pluralism policy. They reached out to Alberta-based artists and arts organizations to discuss the opportunities and barriers that we may have experience in terms of accessing AFA funding. We engaged in discussions related to pluralism (overcoming racism, sexism, ageism, ableism, etc), so that we could help AFA put their best foot forward to open more doors for all Albertan artists.



NorthWord Magazine

Arts Council Wood Buffalo Programs Manager, Luay Eljamal, was approached to run the virtual launch of NorthWord Magazine's Spring 2021 Edition, Guest Edited by Florence Weber. Seeing as we ran their Fall 2020 launch, Arts Council opted to help coach them in running their own launch, so that they may be more self-sustainable in the future. NorthWord agreed, and Eljamal engaged in a 2-hour session, passing on all information they would need to run a successful event on their own. NorthWord has since hosted two of these launch events independently without Arts Council's support.

PROGRAMS IN THE MEDIA

Arts Council has caught the attention of mainstream media numerous times for programs that ran in 2021. Click on the links below to preview these. Some of these articles were published in 2020 for programs that ran in 2021.

NOV
28

["Seniors and local artists connect through 'The Art of Conversation'"](#)

Fort McMurray Today - November 28, 2020

DEC
10

["The Art of Conversation" — Dr. Chandip Kaur on Breaking Stereotypes](#)

YMM Magazine - December 10, 2020

DEC
10

["2020's Best in Entertainment"](#)

YMM Magazine - December 10, 2020

DEC
20

["Arts Council Wood Buffalo launches virtual art exhibit"](#)

Fort McMurray Today - December 20, 2020

JAN
02

["Seniors and artists team up for Fort McMurray art project"](#)

CBC News - January 02, 2021

MAY
19

["Art of Conversation TELUS Documentary"](#)

TELUS — May 19, 2021

APR
06

["Registration now open for The Artrepreneurship Series — Building Your Business"](#)

YMM Magazine — April 06, 2021

JUNE
8

["Call for Submissions \(Fort McMurray\): Suncor Indigenous Artist Program"](#)

Theatre Alberta - June 8, 2021

JUNE
11

["Arts Council renews program partnering local artists with seniors and elders"](#)

Fort McMurray Today - June 11, 2021

OCT
15

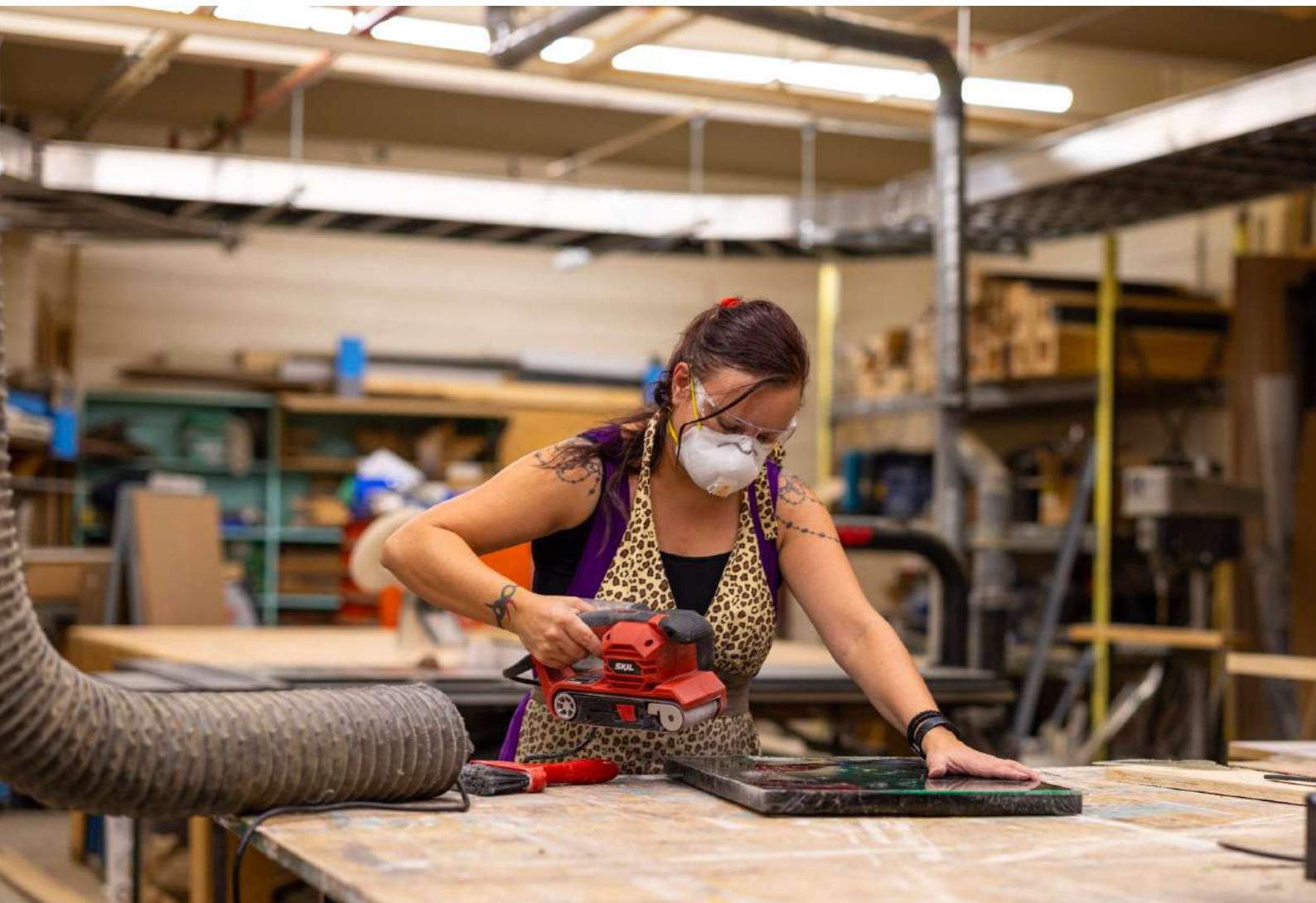
"Buffys on Fort McMurray Matters"

Mix 103,7 - October 15, 2021

OCT
26

"Buffys awards returns to celebrate arts and culture scene in Fort McMurray Wood Buffalo"

Fort McMurray Today - October 26, 2021



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Arts Council Wood Buffalo's programs were made possible thanks to support from local businesses, organizations and donors this year:



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