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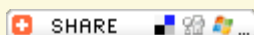
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Arts Connect - Fall 2010



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Digital artist Jennifer LaFontaine (standing) helps participants refine their stories on-screen. (Photo courtesy of the Toronto Centre for Digital Storytelling)

Dates to Remember

- [Click here for upcoming program deadlines](#) including [Compass](#), [Popular Music](#), [Word of Mouth](#) and the new programs for francophone visual artists, [Artistes visuels et des métiers d'art](#), [Arts visuels. arts médiatiques et métiers d'art](#)
- **December 1, 2010** : Nomination deadline for the [2011](#)

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- **December 3, 2010:** [Special deadline for northern writers](#)
- **January 17, 2011:** New deadline for the [Chalmers Professional Development Grants](#) program. Results will be announced by May 1, 2011 latest.
- **May 2, 2011:** [Deadline to apply to Ontario's International Cultural Initiatives program](#)



Actors from The Stratford Festival give a sword fighting demonstration during the kickoff event for Culture Days at Yonge-Dundas Square in Toronto. (Photo: Kirsten Gunter)

Recent Results

Grant results are mailed once decisions are made, approximately four months after the deadline. They are posted on the website one month after that, listed by deadline date. [Click here for a listing of grant recipients](#)

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Photos and Videos

Culture Days in action: View [photos](#) and [videos](#) from the inaugural weekend of national arts activities.



Artist Emmy Pantin, right, assists a participant in the story development of the "Journeys to Health" digital storytelling video at Four Villages Community Health Centre in Toronto. (Photo courtesy of the Toronto Centre for Digital Storytelling)

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OAC creates dedicated Media Arts Office

The Ontario Arts Council is pleased to announce the creation of a dedicated Media Arts Office under the leadership of **Mark Haslam, Media Arts Officer**. Ontario's independent media arts community has grown significantly over the past decade, and has seen the emergence of a provincial arts service organization for the sector. OAC's new office will align programs for media arts organizations with recent program changes in the Media Arts section at the Canada Council for the Arts.

The Visual Arts Office is still led by **Carolyn Vesely, Visual Arts Officer**, and **Lisa Wöhrle, Associate Visual Arts and Crafts Officer**. The new Media Arts Office will collaborate closely with the Visual Arts Office, reflecting the complementary practices within the two communities. Some programs will be renamed and refocused. Details will be available in the early months of 2011.

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English-speaking artists from National Capital Region now eligible for OAC grants

OAC has changed its application policy to include English-speaking applicants living in Quebec's National Capital Region. Until recently, only French-speaking National Capital Region applicants could apply for OAC support. To be eligible, applicants must be recognized as Ontario artists and contribute actively to the artistic life of Ontario. Artists who seek assistance from the Quebec government for the same projects are not eligible.

The National Capital Region in Quebec includes all the municipalities of Cantley, Chelsea and Pontiac and a portion of the municipalities of l'Ange Gardien, La Pêche, Notre-Dame-de-la-Salette, Val-des-Monts and the City of Gatineau.

For details about the geographic area included in the National Capital Region, please refer to our [boundaries map](#) 

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Most Ontarians believe arts are important to quality of life

The Ontario Arts Council released the findings of [The Arts And The Quality Of Life: The Attitudes Of Ontarians](#) , a commissioned survey conducted by Environics Research Group.

The findings show that a large majority of Ontarians believe the arts are important to the quality of life in their community and in their personal lives. The research also indicate how strongly these positive attitudes are.

The OAC commissioned a similar survey in 1994. The new survey shows that the proportion of Ontarians with positive views on the arts and quality of life has generally increased since 1994.

Quick Facts

- 95 percent of Ontarians say that the arts enrich the quality of their lives
- 89 percent believe that if their community lost its arts activities, people living there would lose something of value
- 81 percent of Ontarians think that the arts are important to their quality of life
- 95 percent believe that the success of Canadian singers, writers, actors, painters and other artists gives people a sense of pride in Canadian achievement
- 81 percent of Ontarians agree that the government should spend public dollars to support the arts

[Read the press release](#)

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Arts organizations to comply with government's Accessible Customer Service Standard by 2012

By **January 1, 2012** , all Ontario businesses and not-for-profit organizations with at least one employee must comply with Ontario's [Accessible Customer Service Standard](#) . Organizations with more than 20 employees must report on their compliance with the new standard.

Requirements include:

- developing customer-service policies and procedures for serving people with disabilities
- training staff and volunteers to serve people with disabilities
- allowing customers to bring service animals into a business
- accepting feedback from customers with disabilities and responding or taking action on complaints
- communicating with customers in a way that takes into account their disability

The government developed online tools to help organizations meet the new standard including webinars, FAQs and more. To learn about the Accessible Customer Service Standard, visit www.ontario.ca/AccessON

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\$27 million Arts Investment Fund

In late October, OAC mailed out copies of a Transfer Payment Agreement and program guidelines for the [\\$27 million Arts Investment Fund](#) to all eligible operating organizations. Payments will be disbursed after the agreements are signed and returned to OAC. The deadline to return the forms and the project plan is **December 23, 2010** .

About the Arts Investment Fund

- The Ontario government recently launched a new three-year [\\$27 million Arts Investment Fund](#) to strengthen not-for-profit arts organizations that receive operating grants from the Ontario Arts Council (OAC).
- OAC is complementing the government's significant support with an additional \$1.1 million over three years for English- and French-language book and magazine publishers in Ontario. Publishers includes for-profit entities that are not eligible for the Arts Investment Fund.
- The \$27-million fund will be paid out over three years, \$11 million in 2010-11, \$10 million in 2011-12 and \$6 million in 2012-13.

[Read the press release](#) and the [backgrounder](#) for more information about the Arts Investment Fund.

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Two new pilot programs for francophone visual arts in Ontario

As previously announced, OAC has launched **two three-year pilot programs** to address the needs of francophone visual artists, arts organizations and collectives in Ontario.

The application deadline for the two programs this year is **November 30, 2010** . The program deadline may change in 2011.

About the new programs

- [Francophone Visual and Craft Artists](#) (information in French only) will offer support toward the time and materials necessary to create new work, continue work in progress or to explore new techniques.
- [Francophone Visual, Media Arts and Craft Projects](#) (information in French only) will provide support for exhibitions, film/video screenings, catalogues, publications, directories, lecture series, artists' talks, artist residency programs offered by an organization and more.

Media Artists

Francophone media artists will continue to be served by OAC's [Avance médias](#) program (information in French only).

[Read the press release](#)

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Journeys to Health, One Video at a Time: OAC's Artist in Residence (Health) pilot program

July 5, 2010: Women gather at the Four Villages Community Health Centre to watch stories unfold on the big screen. But these are no Hollywood films: the women are watching short videos they made themselves, videos about their journeys to health.

They never aspired to be videographers. These women came to Four Villages, in Toronto's Junction neighbourhood, to access various programs and for community support. Four Villages provides primary health care services and programs, treatment, prevention of illness, health promotion and capacity building. The community health centre has two locations in west Toronto and serves a diverse population that includes isolated seniors, lower-income families and newcomers from Latin America, Asia and Eastern Europe.

With help from artists in residence Emmy Pantin and Jennifer LaFontaine, from Toronto's Centre for Digital Storytelling, the women use video editing software and voice-over narration, family photos, drawings and other materials to craft simple but moving videos. The videos are three to five minutes long and describe some of the challenges the women have faced in their lives. [Read more](#)

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While-You-Write Support through Writers' Reserve

Last year, OAC increased regional support to writers by directing a small amount of additional funding from the [Writers' Reserve](#) Program to 12 literary organizations throughout Ontario. These organizations regularly act as third-party recommenders in this program: they directly receive applications, then forward grant recommendations to OAC for authorization and payment. The additional funding encouraged them to focus a portion of their recommendations on writers living and working outside of Toronto.

OAC also focused increase support to northern writers by adding a special deadline to the [Writers' Works in Progress](#) program. The deadline (January 25, 2010) attracted 58 applications from Ontario's three northern regions. Compare this to the average number of northern applications the program gets each deadline: 2 to 3. Ten grants were awarded for a total of \$92,400 to help northern writers complete literary works in progress.

The result was an overall increase in regional grants and an increase in the dollar amounts awarded -- fifty-four more regional grants in 2009-2010 than in 2008-2009. Even though OAC allocated only \$63,840 to the regional recommenders, an extra \$110,364 in funding was granted to artists in the northern regions in 2009-2010, suggesting that focused funding can have a significant multiplier effect on the numbers and quality of applications.

The impact of the Writers' Reserve program goes beyond numbers

At the heart of all the OAC's literature funding is the support for great Canadian writing. Last year, Ontario poet Karen Solie won both the Griffin Prize and the Trillium Book Award for Poetry in English for her collection of poems, *Pigeon*, published by House of Anansi Press. The writing of *Pigeon* was supported by a number of different Ontario book and magazine publishers through the Writers Reserve program.

Another recent success story is young adult fiction novelist Allan Stratton, whose book *Chanda's Secrets* was produced as the film *Life, Above All*.

At the 2010 Cannes Film Festival, the film was presented in the *Un Certain Regard* program, and won the *François Chalais* award. *Life, Above All* also headlined at the Toronto International Film Festival and has

been selected as South Africa's official entry for the foreign film category at the 2011 Academy Awards. Stratton met his publisher, Ontario's Annick Press, through the Writers' Reserve program.

OAC spoke with **Rick Wilks** from Annick Press to get his perspective on the impact of the program for both publishers and writers. His remarks:

Creating fruitful connections between writers and publishers

"At the very least, this program creates bonds and links—and helps create a literary community. We depend on a healthy writing community and it contributes to that."

"If we didn't have this program available, I don't know that we would have met Allan. Maybe there would have been some serendipity in bringing us together, but the Writers' Reserve program was the obvious way for us to meet... I really credit the program for bringing us together."

The program puts a spotlight on local writers

"The program gives Ontario's literary industry a real benefit. The application process alone puts us in touch with new writers. After a deadline, we went through the applications to see how many writers we heard of, and found that the majority of the writers that applied were new to us."

Writers get to explore their creative potential

"The Writers' Reserve program is great for both publishers and writers because it allows publishers to sponsor a writer's work, and in return, the writer can afford to take the time to write. And the program opens up opportunities to work with professionals who are open to ideas—even trying a new genre. It gives writers a chance to push their boundaries beyond what they sometimes intend in their submissions."

Helps literary organizations nurture talent

"Through this program, publishers get to support and encourage writers regardless of the outcome. Although we get more applications than we can support, there is tremendous benefit for everyone involved. Publishers get to survey what writers are out there and build an awareness for their work. Even if a writer doesn't end up on an organization's publishing list, they can perhaps work together in the future. Nurturing talent is as important as finding people to add to our publishing roster."

For more information

John Degen, Literature Officer, 416-969-7438

Toll free 1-800-387-0058 extension 7438, jdegen@arts.on.ca



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OAC holds first Twitter Q&A

On October 20, 2010, OAC organized a Twitter chat session during the International Festival of Authors to share information about OAC programs available to Ontario literature professionals around the province. For more than two hours, OAC and other Twitter users exchanged tweets with Literature Officer John Degen, who posted information about his programs. John discussed program criteria, how funding is allocated and more. Based on the positive response and requests from Twitter users for similar OAC online events, OAC hopes to host more Twitter chats in the future. Follow OAC on Twitter at http://twitter.com/oac_cao

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Fast approaching: Nomination deadline for the 2011 Premier's

Awards for Excellence in the Arts

The deadline for the [Premier's Award for Excellence in the Arts](#) is just around the corner. If you know an artist or an arts organization that would make an excellent candidate for this award, please submit a nomination **by December 1, 2010**. The Premier's Awards for Excellence in the Arts recognize long-time outstanding achievements and contributions to arts and culture in Ontario. There are two categories, each valued at \$50,000, one for an individual artist and one for an arts organization.

[Download the nomination guidelines and nomination form](#), or request a hard copy of the nomination guidelines and nomination form. Phone 416-961-1660 extension 6666, toll free 1-800-387-0058 extension 6666, or e-mail info@arts.on.ca

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Special deadline for northern writers

OAC has added an extra deadline to the [Writers' Works in Progress program](#) (WIP). The new deadline is designed to increase the number of applications from English-language writers who live and work in Ontario's northern regions.

The deadline is December 3, 2010.

PLEASE NOTE:

- Writers who **applied** for the June 15, 2010, regular WIP deadline **are eligible** to apply for the northern deadline. Writers who have already been funded through the June 15 deadline are not eligible.
- Northern writers who have sent an application for the October 15 deadline may ask to have their application transferred to the northern competition. Writers **may not** have an application in both the October 15 and December 3 deadlines.

By adding the deadline, the OAC hopes to address some particular challenges northern writers face:

- higher costs for equipment, training, materials and travel
- limited access to non-governmental sources of revenue
- fewer opportunities for professional development
- difficulty networking with a community of writers and publishers

Eligibility

- Only professional writers from the northeast, northwest and far north regions are eligible to apply to this deadline. See [OAC's maps of geographic regions](#) to locate your area.
- Please see the [Northern Competition Guidelines](#) for applications and program-specific information. In these guidelines, you'll also find the Literature Office's definition of "professional writer."
- Only English-language applications will be accepted for this program. For French-language programs, [click here](#).

Results will be announced and grants will be awarded before the end of **March 2011**.

About the Writers' Works in Progress

The Ontario Arts Council's Literature Office created the [Writers' Works in Progress](#) program (WIP) as a "buying-time" grant for professional writers engaged in book-length literary projects. Over the years, the WIP program has supported many established and emerging Ontario writers and has provided the financial footing for many a published book.

Please spread the word about this deadline dedicated to English-language writers who live and work in Ontario's north.

For more information

Helen Floros, Literature Program Assistant, 416-969-7440
Toll free 1-800-387-0058 extension 7440, hfloros@arts.on.ca

John Degen, Literature Officer, 416-969-7438
Toll free 1-800-387-0058 extension 7438, jdegen@arts.on.ca

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Deadline to apply to Ontario's International Cultural Initiatives program

The Ontario government's [International Cultural Initiatives \(ICI\)](#) program provides support for initiatives that will help Ontario artists, arts organizations and industry organizations gain access to the international marketplace and develop new business opportunities. Applicants have until **May 2, 2011**, to apply. For information about the Ministry of Tourism and Culture's International Cultural Trade and Promotions Portfolio, visit www.ontario.ca/intlculture

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OAC hosts Canadian Public Arts Funders meeting

From September 21-23, 2010, OAC hosted the Canadian Public Arts Funders (CPAF) professional development meeting. Executive directors and several staff of provincial and territorial arts councils from across Canada met in Toronto. The theme for this meeting was partnerships. Members discussed partnerships with arts service organizations and non-arts sectors, as well as intergovernmental partnerships. They concluded the meeting with a discussion of best practices and CPAF's role in fostering partnerships.

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2010 Ontario Dance Platform, a celebration of dance in Ontario

Canadian and international arts presenters, choreographers, dancers and dance companies immersed themselves in a dynamic showcase of Ontario's dance scene for three days in September. Ontario Dance Platform was an exciting opportunity to experience a diversity of Ontario dance artists working in traditional, classical and contemporary dance styles.

Networking opportunities for both artists and presenters abounded. And the workshops helped participants build on their core competencies. The touring workshop alone drew representatives from more than 20 dance companies.

For many, the benefits of Ontario Dance Platform were immediate. Several dance artists received

engagement offers, including an invitation to an international hip hop festival in London, UK. For all presenters, the event resulted in an enhanced understanding of the range of styles and genres of work produced in the province. Ontario dance artists learned a variety of skills including how to pitch their work effectively. Overall, Ontario Dance Platform resulted in a renewed sense of pride and a greater awareness of professional dance in Ontario.

The event was organized by **Community Cultural Impresarios** (CCI) Ontario's Presenting Network and funded in partnership with the **Canada Council for the Arts**.

About Ontario Dance Platform

Ontario Dance Platform is a new initiative of OAC's **Ontario Dances**, a funding program launched in 2008 to encourage Ontario arts presenters to incorporate more live dance performances in their communities and to increase the number of Ontarians engaged and interested in dance.

For more information, please contact Myles Warren, Dance Officer, 416-969-7422, toll free 1-800-387-0058 extension 7422, mwarren@arts.on.ca

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2010 Colleen Peterson Songwriting Award

[Lynne Hanson](#) is the 2010 recipient of the Colleen Peterson Songwriting Award for her song "[Rest of my Days](#)."

The award was presented during the [Ontario Council of Folk Festival](#)'s 24th annual conference gala dinner on Saturday, October 16, 2010.

[Read the press release](#)

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Staff Comings and Goings

We are very pleased to announce that **Eleanor Albanese** will be joining us as **Interim Associate Arts Education Officer** while **Christina Akrong** is away on maternity leave. We also welcome **Cathryn Gregor** as **Arts Investment Fund Manager**. Cathryn will work with recipients of the Ministry of Tourism and Culture's three-year Arts Investment Fund.

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