



Arts Connect – March 2014

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Clockwise from top-left, Martha Durdin, OAC Chair; Dave Levac, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario; Alan Walker, Ontario Arts Foundation; Theresa Tran and Jay Xie at the Arts Day at Queen's Park reception. (Photo: Bard Azima)

RECENT GRANT RESULTS

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

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Guests at the Arts Day at Queen's Park reception view the OAC 50th anniversary video, [Live Love Art](#). (Photo: Bard Azima)

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Mehdi Cayenne Club in performance at the 2014 Contact Ontariois. (Photo: Martin Arseneau)

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In the Wings: Message from Peter Caldwell, Director & CEO, on Approval of OAC's Strategic Plan, 2014/15 Operating Grants, Winding up the 50th and More

Dear Friends,

"Now is the winter of our discontent..." I wish I could continue on to say "made glorious summer," but, at time of writing, we are still in the grip of this seemingly endless winter. I hope that by the time you read this message, there will finally be signs of spring.

Arts Day at Queen's Park

On February 26, OAC hosted **Arts Days at Queen's Park**(AD@QP). I would like to thank the 60 plus arts representatives, some of whom travelled a great distance, for meetings with 55 MPPs, who were happy to meet with artists and other arts representatives to hear about the important contribution the arts make to their communities. Special thanks also to our provincial arts service organizations (the PASO coalition), who collaborated with us, as well as to the three national arts service organizations (Orchestras Canada, la Fédération culturelle

canadienne-française and CAPACOA) who assisted us.

AD@QP was a great success, including nearly 1000 Twitter posts and 82 pictures posted using #ArtsDayQP / #JourdartQP and variations. The day culminated in a reception attended by approximately 100 artists and arts-organization representatives and many MPPs. We were pleased that **Minister Michael Chan**, as well as the two Culture Critics, **PC MPP Laurie Scott** and **NDP MPP Paul Miller**, joined us to speak on behalf of public support for the arts through OAC.



Strategic Planning

OAC has moved into the translation and production stage of our new **strategic plan**. The core content of the plan has been approved by OAC's board of directors, and we are now working to flesh out the overall plan, including context and process, with a view to launching it in a few months. The new strategic plan will provide us with a long-term blueprint for OAC and will also require the development of a multi-year implementation strategy.

I would like to express special thanks to **Kathryn Townshend**, OAC's Director of Research, Policy & Evaluation, who has so capably led the strategic planning process for the past 18 months. She and OAC's Strategic Plan Steering Committee have spent many long hours on this. In addition to Kathryn and myself, the committee included Pat Bradley, Jim Grace, Kirsten Gunter, Bushra Junaïd, Michael Murray, Nina Small, Carolyn Vesely and Myles Warren. Thanks also to the rest of the OAC staff and board of directors, all of whom participated in planning sessions, and the approximately 2,000 members of the arts community who provided invaluable input by completing our comprehensive online survey, attending a full-day focus group and/or participating in the Equity Plan validation process.

I would also like to acknowledge the contribution of Consulting Matrix (Judy Wolfe, Principal) and Ginder Consulting (Jenny Ginder, Principal), who were very helpful to us in crafting and honing the strategic plan core content. I look forward to presenting the plan to you, and hearing your feedback, in the months ahead.

2014/15 Operating Grants

I'd like to thank our colleagues at the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport for assisting with our efforts to keep operating funding stable for yet another year! This is very good news for the nearly 575 arts organizations in every part of the province who receive operating funding from OAC. Thanks to the government's continued investment, we will be able to transition to our new strategic plan in the months ahead, knowing that **well-assessed organizations who receive operating grants will be maintained at the same level in 2014/15**.

You may recall that in 2013/14, we adjusted our operating assessment process to reflect an A, B, C or D ranking for all organizations that receive operating grants. Those that were ranked A or B had their operating grants maintained at the same level. Those that were ranked C saw small reductions. Those that were ranked D (equivalent to "below standard" in previous years) had significantly larger reductions. The reductions made to organizations that were not as well-assessed through the peer adjudication process allow for creative renewal and, specifically, to make room for new and emerging arts activity. **We will continue this process in 2014/15 for all organizations that are in the first year of their three-year operating grant cycle.**

Winding up our 50th Anniversary Celebrations

In April, we mark the end of a wonderful year of 50th anniversary activities. Many arts organizations used this opportunity to underscore the importance of public funding of the arts through the OAC by hosting special events, placing congratulatory ads on their websites or print publications, or by posting *Live Love Art*, OAC's 50th anniversary video. Perhaps no sector jumped aboard more enthusiastically than the classical music sector. And keeping pace with those special events was **David Parsons, OAC's Classical Music Officer**, who has attended and spoken at countless performances and events that were dedicated to the crucial support received from OAC over the past 10, 20, 30 or more years. Kudos and warm thanks to the many festivals, orchestras and choral groups who participated, as well as many the other organizations in other disciplines, for their warm support and encouragement. Here's to the next 50!

Introducing Nova

In addition to the strategic planning process, several other large initiatives have been taking place at OAC over the past year and are now starting to converge. Collectively, these initiatives will reshape what OAC does, and how we do it, in the years ahead. Among these is the Nova project, which is the new name for the system that OAC is developing for online grant applications. Among many improvements, Nova will allow organizations and individuals to apply online. You'll be hearing much more about this initiative later this year, and we will begin our first online grant applications in early 2015.

OAC Office on Bloor Street

Another major issue currently being worked on is OAC's office space. After 50 years located at 151 Bloor Street West, Toronto, OAC's lease will expire in 2016. A comprehensive space-planning exercise is underway that will explore new ways of working and, in particular, ways to save costs by reducing our current office footprint. Despite its Bloor Street location, OAC has always enjoyed relatively low rental costs, due to leases that were negotiated many years ago, before the Bloor Street West / Yorkville neighbourhood became what it is today.

We will explore all real estate options, ranging from staying at 151 Bloor to moving to another transit-accessible location in downtown Toronto. The move to online granting should also reduce the space needed to process paper applications and thereby mitigate rising rental costs. We will keep you informed as this unfolds.

Maybe Spring IS in the Air...

When I started writing this a few days ago, it was grey and very cold outside. Today, the sun is shining brightly and the temperature is almost up to zero! Here's hoping this upward trend continues.

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Arts Day at Queen's Park

On February 26, more than 60 arts community representatives met with 55 members of provincial parliament (MPPs) to speak about the importance of the arts in their communities and mark OAC's 50th anniversary year. The day of meetings culminated with a reception with MPPs in the legislature.



Michael Chan, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport. (Photo: Bard Azima)



Laurie Scott, MPP for Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock and Culture Critic. (Photo: Bard Azima)



Paul Miller, MPP for Hamilton East-Stoney Creek and Culture Critic. (Photo: Bard Azima)



Left, OAC board member, Verlyn Francis, in conversation with MPP Mitzie Hunter and Devon Ostrom. (Photo: Bard Azima)



From left, MPP Bill Walker, Heather Fullerton and David Adair. (Photo: Bard Azima)



A snapshot of guests at the Arts Day at Queen's Park reception. (Photo: Bard Azima)



From left, Shannon Litzenberger, Mathew Jocelyn and Michael Chan, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport. (Photo: Bard Azima)

[See more Arts Day at Queen's Park photos](#)

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Arts Organizations Note Canada's Anti-Spam Law – Effective July 1

Canada's new **Anti-Spam Legislation (CASL)** takes effect **July 1, 2014**. The law was created to stop unsolicited commercial electronic messages, the illegal alteration of data and to control unwanted program downloads onto people's computers. The new law will affect individuals and organizations involved in the [alteration of transmission data](#), the production or installation of [computer programs](#) and the distribution of [commercial electronic messages](#). **Any message with a purpose to sell, promote or advertise a product or service can be defined as a commercial electronic message.** This includes messages sent to emails, social networking accounts and text messages.

OAC will be sending out an e-blast later in April to request consent from everyone interested in receiving future OAC bulletins or e-blasts with information about OAC programs. We will provide more information about our email practices to ensure compliance with the new law.

Day-to-day communications are not covered by the new legislation, so routine emails to arts organizations, volunteers, staff or businesses can continue to be sent. In addition, there are a number of exemptions to CASL. For example, fundraising messages sent on behalf of registered charities are exempt, but any other revenue-generating email activity is subject to the new law. There are three main rules to follow under CASL. First, all commercial electronic messages must clearly identify the sender. Second, all messages must include a link that allows the recipient to unsubscribe and stop receiving such emails. Last, express or implied consent must be obtained before sending a message to a recipient. **If found in violation of CASL, individuals can be fined a maximum of \$1 million and businesses can be fined up to \$10 million.**

For more information about CASL, and for a full list of exemptions, [click here](#). Visit fightspam.gc.ca for detailed information.

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Application Support for Deaf Artists or Artists with a Disability

The OAC has dedicated resources to assist Deaf artists and artists with disabilities with the specific support they may need to complete an application. If you require this application assistance, please call or e-mail the program assistant in the arts program office responsible for

the particular program deadline (e.g. Visual Arts or Music) or e-mail info@arts.on.ca or telephone 416-961-1660 in Toronto or 1-800-387-0058 (toll free) if you live elsewhere in the province. Advance notice is required to obtain assistance in order to meet program deadline.

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New Law on Health and Safety Awareness Training for Workers and Supervisors Comes into Force on July 1

The Ontario Government has introduced [Occupational Health and Safety Awareness and Training](#) under the [Occupational Health and Safety Act](#) (OHSA). The legislation requires the completion of mandatory basic occupational health and safety awareness training for workers and supervisors. **The requirements will apply to all workplaces covered under the OHSA, regardless of workplace size or sector.**

Mandatory Training for Workers

The training program for workers must include instruction on:

- the duties and rights of workers, employers and supervisors under OHSA;
- common workplace hazards and occupational illnesses;
- the role of joint health and safety committees (JHSCs) and of health and safety representatives under OHSA;
- the roles of the Ministry of Labour, Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB), and Health and Safety Associations; and
- information and instruction requirements set out in the Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS) Regulation.

Mandatory Training for Supervisors

The training program for supervisors must include information on:

- the duties and rights of workers, employers and supervisors under OHSA;
- how to identify, assess and manage workplace hazards and the role of joint health and safety committees (JHSCs) and of health and safety representatives under OHSA;
- the roles of the Ministry of Labour, Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB), and Health and Safety Associations; and
- sources of information on occupational health and safety.

Exemptions

- Workers and supervisors who have previously completed a worker or supervisor training program do not have to be retrained if they can show proof of completion and if their current employer is able to verify that the training program covered the content required by the new regulation.
- A supervisor who already completed a basic occupational health and safety training program for supervisors before the regulation comes into effect does not have to complete a worker training program.
- The new regulation includes provisions that previously appeared in O. Reg. 780/94 (Training Programs).

Resources and Tools for Employers and Other Workplace Parties

The Ministry of Labour has created free training materials, such as printed workbooks and e-learning modules, that can be used to comply with the new requirements. For more information, please go to ontario.ca/learntoworksafe.

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The State of Blackness: From Production to Presentation: A day-long Conference

On February 22, artists, curators, cultural workers, educators and members of the public gathered at Harbourfront Centre to discuss artistic production and themes that relate to artistic representation in Canada's black communities. *The State of Blackness: From Production to Presentation* explored past, current and potential issues and touched upon ways to increase the visibility of works by black artists in Canadian cultural and educational contexts, as well as in broader society.

The conference was presented by OCADU Faculty of Art Innovation Fund and Harbourfront Centre in collaboration with the Ontario Arts Council and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. More information is available on the [conference website](#).

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Round Table of Culturally Diverse Francophone Writers

During last December's Salon du livre de Toronto, OAC's Franco-Ontarian Arts office hosted a lively discussion about the experiences of Ontario-based francophone writers of colour. Moderated by Ottawa writer Jean Fahmy, the panel featured Aristote Kavungu (Whitby), Monia Mazigh (Ottawa), Melchior Mbonimpa (Sudbury) and Angèle Bassolé Ouedraogo (Ottawa).

The panellists shared their perspectives on creating work, access to funding and getting published. They spoke as well of their experiences as newcomers to Canada and how their work crosses cultural lines to reach an audience. The round table discussion was hosted by the Ontario Arts Council in collaboration with Salon du livre de Toronto, the Association des auteures et auteurs de l'Ontario français (AAOF) and Regroupement des éditeurs canadiens-français (RECF).



Members of the panel on culturally diverse Francophone writers. From left, Aristote Kavungu, Monia Mazigh, Jean Fahmy (moderator), Melchior Mbonimpa and Angèle Bassolé Ouedraogo. (Photo: Ontario Arts Council)

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Mehdi Cayenne Club in performance at the 2014 Contact Ontariois. (Photo: Martin Arseneau)

IGNITE Ontario: New Program to Support Initiatives Around 2015 Pan Am/Parapan Am Games

A new provincial program has been launched to help organizations host celebrations and community engagement initiatives that promote the 2015 Pan Am/Parapan Am Games. [IGNITE Ontario](#) is part of the Ontario government's [Promotion, Celebration and Legacy Strategy](#) designed to bring the excitement and benefits of hosting the 2015 Games to Ontarians across the province.

To be eligible for IGNITE Ontario funding, initiatives must be designated by [TO2015 IGNITE](#) – a community partnership program enabling organizations to celebrate the Games and increase awareness of their initiatives. Once an initiative receives the TO2015 IGNITE designation, the organization can apply for IGNITE Ontario funding through [Grants Ontario](#).

[IGNITE Ontario](#) applications are due **May 5, 2014 at 5 p.m.** To learn more about the program and how to apply, please visit [Grants Ontario](#).

For additional information, contact Kamaljeet Singh, Senior Program Consultant at 416-327-3733 or email igniteontario@ontario.ca.

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Upcoming Symposium on Performing Arts in Rural Communities

From **April 24 to 27, 2014**, the Haliburton Highlands will host *SPARC: Symposium for Performing Arts in Rural Communities*. The conference is for arts professionals involved in the creation, production and presentation of performing arts in rural communities. The event is an opportunity to brainstorm on a range of topics that affect rural communities, such as access to resources, cultural tourism and audience development. SPARC is sponsored by the Arts Council–Haliburton Highlands, Conjurors of County Town, Highlands Summer Festival, Dusk Dances Haliburton, Forest Festival, Haliburton County Folk Society, Sticks and Stones Productions (formerly Highlands Media Arts) and Those Other Movies as well as the host facility, the Haliburton School of the Arts-Fleming College Campus.

More details are available on the [website](#). To register, [click here](#).

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2014 Contact Ontariois Highlights

Last January saw the 2014 edition of *Contact Ontariois*, an annual event organized by Réseau Ontario that **celebrates francophone artists and arts organizations. The Ottawa event attracted more than 57** francophone artists from across the country, and over 1,100 people attended the 27 public showcases and events.

Réseau Ontario 2014 Awards

A number of OAC-funded artists and arts organizations have recently received honours, including:

- *Coup de foudre* Réseau Ontario award: Stef Paquette
- *Coup de foudre* Salut! award – presented by les Éditions l'Interligne et la revue Liaison: Gabrielle Goulet ex aequo avec Joey Albert
- *Employé/e de l'année* award – presented by La Cité: Patrick Bourbonnais, du Mouvement d'implication francophone d'Orléans – MIFO
- *FrancoFlamme* award – presented by l'APCM and Théâtre Action: Conseil des organismes francophones de Durham
- *Vision Innovation* award – presented by RIDEAU and Réseau Ontario: Conseil des Arts de Hearst



OAC board member, Marie-Élisabeth Brunet shares a few words with Contact Ontariois attendees.
(Photo: Martin Arseneau)

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Webinar on Accessibility Requirements for Arts Organizations Now Online

Last October, we held a [webinar](#) to help arts organizations understand their obligations under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA). If you missed the presentation, **you can [view it here](#)**. For more information about AODA, visit the [AccessON website](#).

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Judith Forst Receives 2013 Oskar Morawetz Award for Excellence in Music Performance

The [Ontario Arts Council](#) announced opera singer and educator **Judith Forst** as the 2013 recipient of the [Oskar Morawetz Award for Excellence in Music Performance](#). The \$20,000 award was presented at the [Vancouver Symphony Orchestra](#)'s performance of *Beethoven's Ninth!* at the Orpheum Theatre.

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Previous OAC-Funded Award Nominees and Recipients

Congratulations to multidisciplinary artist [Kent Monkman](#) who is one of 14 recipients of the [2014 Indspire Award](#). Formerly the National Aboriginal Achievement Awards, the Indspire Awards recognize Aboriginal professionals and youth who demonstrate outstanding career achievement.

We would also like to acknowledge [Michel Pleau](#), who was named Canada's new parliamentary poet laureate. Pleau's work has been published by the OAC-funded publishing house Les Éditions David.

This year's list of Juno nominees includes a number of artists previously funded by OAC.

Congratulations and good luck to each one of these artists! The winners of the 43rd annual Juno Awards will be announced in Winnipeg on March 30, 2014.

- | | |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Serena Ryder• A Tribe Called Red• Basia Bulat• William Sperandei• Brandi Disterheft• William Carn and Tara Davidson of Carn Davidson 9• John MacLeod from John MacLeod's Rex Hotel Orchestra | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mike Downs• Phil Dwyer• Damien Robitaille• Kim Davis• David Francey• Justin Rutledge• The Strumbellas• David Buchbinder• Drew Gonsalves of Kobo Town• Lemon Bucket Orkestra |
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Staff Comings and Goings

Since our last issue, we have made a few staff additions. **Maya Bedward**, Outreach Assistant, **Caleigh Alleyne**, Communications Assistant, **Anna Gauchat**, Granting Support Assistant, **Caroline Cotter**, Visual Arts Program Assistant and **Rita Georgie**, IT Data Administrator, have all recently come on board. We wish each of them a hearty welcome.

Finally, a heartfelt congratulations to part-time contract staff member **Marnie Mandel** for her coordination of a successful Arts Day at Queen's Park.

Interested in working for OAC? Browse the [Work Opportunities](#) section on our website from time to time for job postings.

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