



Arts Connect – June 2014

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View of participants at OAC's professional development workshop on mentorships. (Photo: Caleigh Alleyne)

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.](#)

DATES TO REMEMBER

- [Upcoming Program Deadlines](#)



David Liss, Artistic Director & Curator, addresses a group of visual arts professionals from northern Ontario during a site visit to the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCCA) organized by OAC. (Photo: Caroline Cotter)

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OAC PODCASTING

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Anne Villeneuve, winner of the 2014 Ruth and Sylvia Schwartz Children's Book Award in the Children's Picture Book category, signs copies of her book, *Loula Is Leaving for Africa*, for members of the award jury. (Photo: Shoshana)

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In the Wings: Message from Peter Caldwell, Director & CEO, on Nova, Revised OAC Logo, Farewell to Aengus and More

Dear Friends –

The provincial election is now behind us. We will soon be sending congratulatory messages to all returning Members of Provincial Parliament (MPP), and messages of welcome and introduction to all newly elected MPPs. As soon as they've had time to settle into their offices, we will share information with new and returning MPPs about the important work being done by Ontario's arts community in each riding and throughout the province, and the support provided by the Ontario Arts Council (OAC). In the meantime, work continues on several fronts.

One of my colleagues frequently says "we're getting into the weeds" when we're planning large projects and find ourselves bogged down with small details. As you know from our previous newsletter, OAC is involved with several very large projects: the new multiyear strategic plan, the Nova IT project and planning for a new office space in early 2016. Given that summer's almost here, let's think of it as OAC nurturing its flower beds. There are no weeds here!

Nova

The biggest and most complex of our major initiatives is Nova, our new online granting system. Dapasoft, the company developing Nova, has almost completed the product design phase. With

more than 60 funding programs to accommodate, the many OAC staff who are involved with various aspects of the project have had their work cut out for them. In fact, they have been working hard for many months now to outline the hundreds, or possibly thousands, of requirements that must be met to make the online process work well for Ontario artists and arts organizations as well as for OAC jurors, advisors and staff.

Where are we now?

Over the summer, we will start migrating data to Nova and then begin internal testing. This process will involve most OAC granting staff, and we will also invite some external applicants to assist us in the testing phase.

One of the trickiest elements of moving to a new system is managing the transition. To mitigate the inconvenience for applicants, we will have an extensive overlap period, during which we will be working with both systems simultaneously.

This fall, we will determine which OAC programs will be the first to go online. This staged approach will then begin in January 2015.

While we are not there yet, the new system will eventually mean significant savings on postage and paper and physical delivery, not to mention time, for OAC applicants, peer assessors and staff. Please stay tuned for future developments.

Fall launch for strategic plan

We will launch OAC's new strategic plan in fall 2014. OAC staff are currently working on the operational implications of the plan, so that when we unveil the broad goals and strategies that form the plan, already approved by the OAC board of directors, we will also be able to share some of the anticipated implementation strategies and timing. We'll share more details on the strategic plan launch in the September newsletter.

Revised OAC logo

To coincide with the end of our 50th anniversary year, we have updated our normal (non-50th) logo to include the tagline "an Ontario government agency," the use of which is now specifically required by the Government of Ontario. This is the only version of the logo available to acknowledge OAC's support in your programs and other publicity materials. Please do not delete this tagline when acknowledging OAC's support, and please be sure to reproduce the logo at a size where the tagline will be legible. ***Use of the OAC logo, including the Government of Ontario tagline at a legible size, is a requirement of all OAC grants.*** I also want to thank those of you who marked OAC's 50th anniversary year, the celebrations of which officially ended on April 26, 2014. I believe that your collective efforts to highlight the importance of public funding to the arts in our communities had a very positive impact.

Farewell Aengus

Finally, I would like to salute and thank Aengus Finnan, OAC's Touring and Audience Development Officer, who has accepted the position of Executive Director of [Folk Alliance International](#) (FAI). The lure of returning to the music fold was too great for Aengus to resist, and he has now moved to Kansas City, Missouri, where the organization and its annual conference are located. We will all miss Aengus's passionate commitment to Ontario artists, but we know he will continue to be a proud advocate in his new sphere. In the meantime, we welcome back Jessica Deljouravesh from maternity leave. As Cross-Sectoral Associate Officer, she will be handling the touring and audience development responsibilities in the interim.

All the best for a fantastic summer.

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Theatre Connects Focuses on Audiences this Fall

Professional theatre in Ontario has evolved quite differently in English- and French-speaking communities over the past 40 to 50 years. While francophone theatre companies established and kept up a tradition of touring to mid-sized Ontario communities, many English-language theatre companies became building-based in larger urban centres and focused on local audiences.

A year ago, OAC launched Theatre Connects, an audience development pilot project for both language communities that is modelled on OAC's successful dance counterpart, Ontario Dances. Theatre Connects is OAC's effort to conduct some theatrical matchmaking between theatre companies and arts presenters around the province. To this end, we enlisted partners, Ontario Presents (formerly C.C.I.) and Réseau Ontario. Shortly after, an OAC jury selected arts presenters in Kingston (Grand Theatre), Milton (Milton Centre for the Arts), North Bay (Capitol Centre) and St. Catharines (Brock Centre for the Arts) to book anglophone theatre companies and arts presenters in Hamilton (Centre français Hamilton), Hearst (Conseil des arts de Hearst), Kingston (Centre culturel Frontenac) and Oshawa (Conseil des organismes francophones de la région de Durham) to book French-language theatre companies. According to Aengus Finnan, OAC's former Touring and Development Officer, the project has a number of interesting components: "The pilot makes it possible for the presenters to see a range of theatre companies, styles and productions, and discuss a collective approach to bringing the selected plays to each of their communities, coupled with audience development activities."

For the francophone pilot project, a community-based animator was hired in each location to plan and coordinate audience-development activities specific to each presenter. For the English-language theatres, one animator has been hired to work with all four presenters to develop a common yet flexible model. This varying approach echoes the differences between the two theatre worlds and their touring realities.

"It is up to the animator, working with each company and presenter, to develop activities for the audience that can enrich their relationship between the work, the company and the discipline of theatre," added Aengus. "Fortunately for this directed activity, we have two very experienced coordinators working with the theatre companies – Judy Harquail with Ontario Presents and Denis Bertrand with Réseau.

From September to early 2015, the eight presenters have booked the following OAC-funded productions:

- *Love Is in the Birds*, Théâtre du Trillium: Hamilton, September 24, 2014; Oshawa, September 25, 2014; Kingston, September 27, 2014; Hearst, March 14, 2015.
- *Il (deux)*, Théâtre du Nouvel-Ontario and Théâtre de la Vieille 17: Hearst, October 30, 2014; Kingston, November 7, 2014; Oshawa, November 8, 2014. *La cadence du conteur*, Créations in Vivo: Kingston, May 2015.
- *Brimful of Asha*, Why Not Theatre: North Bay, October 21, 2014; Milton, October 23, 2014; London, October 28 to November 2, 2014; St. Catharines, November 5, 2014.
- *The Double*, Theatre Run Canada: St. Catharines, January 18, 2015; London, January 20 to 25, 2015; North Bay, January 28, 2015; Milton, January 30, 2015.
- Volcano Theatre toured *Beautiful View* in March 2014 and Créations in Vivo toured *La cadence du conteur* to Oshawa earlier in June 2014.

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Canadian Anti-Spam Legislation (CASL) Comes into Force

On July 1, [Canada's Anti-Spam Legislation](#) (CASL) will take effect. The new law will have a significant impact on the activities of individuals and organizations that send electronic messages intended to **sell, promote or advertise a product or service**. Under CASL, these types of messages are defined as commercial electronic messages (CEM) and cannot be sent without

the **implied** or **express** consent of the recipient. There are, however, a number of key exceptions to the law. For example, fundraising messages sent on behalf of registered charities are exempt. For details relating to charities visit the [Imagine Canada](#) website, and for a full list of exemptions [see here](#).

Even though the email activities of the Ontario Arts Council (OAC) are not bound by CASL, OAC has chosen to comply voluntarily. As a first step towards CASL compliance, we have sent a message asking contacts in our database whether they want to continue receiving OAC communications by email.

About CASL

CASL was created to curb unwanted program downloads onto computers, stop the illegal alteration of data and to protect Canadians from [spam](#) messages. The penalty for violating CASL is substantial. If found in violation of CASL, **individuals can be fined a maximum of \$1 million and businesses can be fined up to \$10 million**. [Click here](#) to learn more about CASL or visit [fightspam.gc.ca](#).

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Culture Days Celebrates 5th Anniversary

In five short years, Culture Days has grown to over **1,500** activities presented each year to nearly **500,000** people in Ontario. **This year's Culture Days weekend will take place on September 26, 27 and 28, 2014**. The event is a unique opportunity to experience interactive activities that invite the public to participate "behind the scenes" – and to discover the world of artists, creators, historians, architects, curators and designers at work in their community. Free to the public, this hands-on arts weekend is not to be missed.

In 2013, nearly **1,000** Ontario artists, arts and cultural organizations and community groups volunteered to share their love of culture with an enthusiastic public in **175** cities and towns across the province. With new communities joining the movement each year and special anniversary projects in the works, 2014 promises to be the biggest and best Culture Days to date!

Registration is now open. To register a Culture Days activity or to see who has already joined the movement, visit www.on.culturedays.ca.

For more details about Ontario Culture Days announcements please visit www.on.culturedays.ca. You can also connect on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Flickr](#) and [YouTube](#).

For more information about Culture Days in Ontario:

Aubrey Reeves

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416-646-7469

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Ontario Culture Days is supported by the Ontario Arts Council and the Government of Ontario in recognition of Celebrate the Artist Weekend.

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Live Love Art Video Wins Interview Category of PR Daily's 2013 Video Awards

We are delighted that OAC's [Live Love Art... Vive l'amour de l'art...](#) video has been awarded [PR Daily's 2013 Video Award](#) for [Best Interview Video](#)!

While OAC initiated the video to mark our 50th anniversary, the credit for its success goes to filmmaker **Gloria Ui Young Kim** and those who worked with her, as well as the many artists, arts organization leaders and volunteers who spoke so eloquently about the importance of the arts on camera. Their sincere and moving words contributed to its success.

Live Love Art was up against some stiff competition for the inaugural year of the awards. PR Daily's 22 award categories received **nearly 300** entries from companies around the world. In early May, a panel of judges narrowed the submissions down to a list of five finalists in each category, from which the winners were recently selected.

According to PR Daily, *Live Love Art's* "exhilarating presence on YouTube serves to publicize the good works of the council and the various artistic enterprises within the province, not only to its neighbors, but also to the world, making Ontario an artistic destination."

Please share this exciting news with your networks and on social media. It will extend the visibility of our extraordinary arts community.

Thank you again to all who took time out their busy schedule to help us create *Live Love Art* and provide a legacy work for OAC's 50th anniversary.

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Let's Talk Mentorship! OAC Professional Development Workshop

On March 13, 2014, OAC collaborated with the [Toronto Arts Council](#) and [WorkInCulture](#) to host a professional development workshop on best practices for arts mentorships. Close

to 90 participants attended Let's Talk Mentorship to hear stories about a range of topics, such as mentoring across cultures, navigating power dynamics as well as fundraising and financing for mentorships. The event also touched upon a variety of mentorship models – namely artist-to-artist, organizational and intergenerational mentorships.

There were many special moments throughout the day, including a performance by members of UNITY and a moving keynote address by Aboriginal artist and elder Duke Redbird.

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View of participants at an OAC professional development workshop on mentorships. (Photo: Caleigh Alleyne)

Gathering of Northern Visual Arts Professionals at OAC

The great distances between communities in northern Ontario make it difficult and expensive for arts professionals in the north to get together for networking or professional development. In late March, OAC hosted a group of administrators, directors and curators from the north to attend presentations and visit a range of art venues, including the Power Plant, Art Gallery of Ontario, Artscape (Koffler Gallery and Hallway Galleries), SKETCH Toronto and the Museum of Contemporary Canadian Art. This gathering provided a welcome opportunity for participants to connect with their colleagues across the province and share best practices over three days.

Participants

- Lucille Atlookan, Studio Coordinator, Neechee Studio, Definitely Superior Art Gallery
- Karen Bachmann, Director/Curator, Timmins Museum: National Exhibition Centre
- Miranda Bouchard, Curator, Art Gallery of Algoma
- Alex Maeve Campbell, Gallery Officer, W.K.P. Kennedy Gallery
- Holly Cunningham, Managing Director, Near North Mobile Media Lab
- Alana Forslund, Interim Executive Director, Community Arts & Heritage Education Project
- Sharon Godwin, Director, Thunder Bay Art Gallery
- Jasmina Jovanovic, Director, Art Gallery of Algoma
- Lora Northway, Community/Youth Outreach Administrator, Definitely Superior Art Gallery



Zhe Gu, OAC Visual Arts Officer, left, in conversation with NAME at a site visit to VENUE. (Photo: Caroline Cotter)

- Maureen Steward, Executive Director Curator, Temiskaming Art Gallery
- Karen Tait-Peacock, Director, Art Gallery of Sudbury
- Clayton Windatt, Executive Director, White Water Gallery

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Christi Belcourt Receives 2014 Ontario Arts Council Aboriginal Arts Award

Visual artist and author [Christi Belcourt](#) is the 2014 recipient of the [Ontario Arts Council \(OAC\) Aboriginal Arts Award](#). Created in 2012, this award celebrates the work of Aboriginal artists and arts leaders who have made significant contributions to the arts in Ontario.

The OAC Aboriginal Arts Award also honours the next generation of artists: each year, the award recipient is invited to nominate an emerging Aboriginal artist to receive a \$2,500 prize. Belcourt has selected visual artist and dancer [Jaime Koebel](#) as this year's emerging Aboriginal artist.

The \$10,000 prize will be presented to Christi at the [Art Gallery of Ontario](#) (AGO) exhibition [Before and After the](#)



Christi Belcourt, pictured with her

[Horizon: Anishinaabe Artists of the Great Lakes](#) on Wednesday, July 30. The event will also include the unveiling of a new work commissioned from Belcourt by the AGO. The public is welcome to attend the event, during which admission to the AGO will be free. [Read more](#)

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Theatre Designer Karyn McCallum Receives 2014 Pauline McGibbon Award

Set, costume and projection designer [Karyn McCallum](#) is the recipient of the 2014 Pauline McGibbon Award. It was presented at the Dora Mavor Moore Awards news conference at the Sony Centre for the Performing Arts on June 2. Over the past decade, McCallum has designed for theatres all across Canada, ranging from major regional theatres to small experimental theatre cooperatives.

Her recent design credits include *Leading Ladies* (Persephone Theatre, Saskatoon), *Flesh and Other Fragments of Love* (Tarragon Theatre, Toronto), *Henry and Alice* (Theatre North West, Prince George, B.C.), *The Secret Mask* (Great Canadian Theatre Company, Ottawa), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Canadian Stage, Toronto) and *Creation* (National Arts Centre, Ottawa). [Read more](#)

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Karyn McCallum with Steven Davidson, Deputy Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport, at the 2014 Pauline McGibbon Award presentation. (Photo: Anne-Marie Krytiuk)

2014 Recipients of the Ruth and Sylvia Schwartz Children's Book Awards

Loula is Leaving for Africa by Anne Villeneuve and *The Unlikely Hero of Room 13B* by Teresa Toten were this year's winners of the Ruth and Sylvia Schwartz Children's Book Awards. Both authors received their awards at a special presentation held at Aldergrove Public School on May 20.

The award recipients were chosen by two juries of young readers from Aldergrove P.S. – five students in grades 3 and 4 selected the recipient of the Children's Picture Book Award, and five students in grades 7 and 8 selected the recipient of the Young Adult / Middle Reader Award.

Each student individually read all of the books under consideration and then worked together with their group to reach consensus and decide



Anne Villeneuve, winner of the 2014 Ruth and Sylvia Schwartz Children's Book Award in the Children's Picture Book category, signs copies of her book, *Loula is Leaving for Africa*, for members of the award jury. (Photo: Shoshana

on a winner. This process makes the Ruth and Sylvia Schwartz Children's Book Awards a unique literary award in Canada. [Read more.](#)

[View photos of the award presentation.](#)



Teresa Toten poses with this year's jurors as they hold up copies of her book.
(Photo: Shoshana Wasser)



Anne Villeneuve with members of the jury that selected her winning book. (Photo: Shoshana Wasser)

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Call for Artists and Performers for TO2015

The Toronto 2015 Pan Am/Para Pan Am Games Organizing Committee (TO2015) is looking for artists and performers to participate in the upcoming games in 2015. Artists and arts organizations in music, theatre, dance, spoken word, visual arts, fashion and literature as well as sports-related performance are invited to sign up for upcoming paid and volunteer opportunities on the [TO2015](#)

[website.](#)
[Read more](#)

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Canada Post Announces Relief Measures to Address Impact of Postage Rate Increases

Canada Post is providing temporary postage discounts until December 31, 2014, and has made two permanent changes to its minimum volume requirements. These measures were introduced to assist small businesses and charities impacted by the company's recent postage rate increases.

Temporary postage discounts for stamps and meters

- *Stamps:* Organizations that hold a **VentureOne card** will receive a five per cent discount when they buy a minimum of 300 stamps in coils of 100 or more in a single transaction.
- *Meters:* Organizations using postage meters will receive a five per cent rebate on their first-class postage purchases up to a maximum of \$250. Details are currently being finalized and will be communicated at a later date.

Details regarding the permanent reductions to minimum volume requirements

- *Incentive Machineable Lettermail:* The minimum volume threshold to access Incentive Machineable Lettermail, a category of first-class mail reserved for bulk customers, will be reduced from 5,000 pieces to 1,000 pieces.
- *Addressed Admail:* The minimum volume threshold to access Machineable Addressed Admail, a category of mail reserved for promotional content, such as fundraising appeals, will be reduced from 1,000 pieces to 500 pieces.

Changes to Canada Post operations

In December 2013, Canada Post released a **Five-point Action Plan** that announced measures to restructure its operations, including rate increases for first-class post and the elimination over time of door-to-door mail delivery. The recent relief measures were announced following widespread concerns raised by charities and small businesses. To learn more about the implications of the postage rate increases on Canadian charities, visit the [Imagine Canada](#) website.

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Why Theatre? Video Celebrates Love for Theatre

OAC Theatre Officer Pat Bradley is among a number of theatre professionals featured in an entertaining video produced for Theatre Ontario by Elley-Ray Hennessy, Gregory More and Stephanie Lynn Robinson. Each speaker recounts the many reasons why theatre is integral to the well-being of society. Check out the video on the [Theatre Ontario website](#).

OAC-funded 2014 Juno Award Winners

Congratulations to the winners of the 43rd annual Juno Awards.

- Serena Ryder – Artist of the Year and Songwriter of the Year
- Mike Downes – Traditional Jazz Album of the Year for *Ripple Effect*

- Justin Rutledge – Roots & Traditional Album of the Year: Solo for *Valleyheart*
- The Strumbellas – Roots & Traditional Album of the Year: Group for *We Still Move on Dance Floors*
- A Tribe Called Red – Breakthrough Group of the Year
- David Buchbinder – World Music Album of the Year for *Walk to the Sea*

This year's list of [Juno nominees](#) also included a number of artists previously funded by OAC.

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OAC-funded Aboriginal Writer Shortlisted for First Nation Communities Read Prize

Congratulations to writer and illustrator **Rene Andre Meshake** whose book *Moccasin Creek* was one of five books shortlisted for the [First Nation Communities Read](#) (FNCR) competition, an annual reading program launched in 2003 to promote literacy across Aboriginal communities. Each year, selections alternate between children's books and books for adults and young adults. [Read more.](#)

Franco-Ontarian Author Paul-François Sylvestre Becomes a Knight in the Order of La Pléiade

Paul-François Sylvestre has been appointed to the order of **La Pléiade** in recognition of his outstanding efforts to protect and advance the rights of francophones. Paul-François Sylvestre is a Franco-Ontarian author, gay rights activist and past OAC employee. Congratulations on this achievement!

The order of **La Pléiade** was created in 1976 by the [Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie](#). It is an order of the [Organisation internationale de la francophonie](#) that recognizes the exceptional accomplishments of individuals who reflect the organization's principles and promote the French language at home or abroad.

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Flexible Workspaces Available for Artistic Projects

Pay-as-you-go access to artist workspaces is now available at Toronto's [Artscape Youngplace](#). The membership-based service is accessible online 24 hours a day and provides discounted rental rates for workspaces and studios. These spaces are ideal for local, visiting or touring artists looking for a temporary place to work while in Toronto.

Flex Workspaces are semi-private partial studio spaces for artistic projects that give artists a place to call home for a few hours, days, weeks or months. These spaces are ideal for visual arts, writing, designing, planning, model-making, sewing and other creative endeavours.

Artscape Youngplace also has 1,000 square feet of private **Flex Studios** that can be used for meetings, retreats, workshops, classes, fundraisers, exhibitions and more. Visit the [Artscape Youngplace](#) website for details.

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Staff Comings and Goings

Jessica Deljouravesh, **Cross-Sectoral Associate Officer**, and Christina Akrong, **Associate Arts Education Officer** and **Northern Arts Program Officer**, have returned from maternity leave. Welcome back! Maura Broadhurst, who was filling in for Christina, will stay on as **Interim Associate Arts Education Officer** in support of AIR (Education) and Arts Education Projects. Thank you Maura!

We would also like to celebrate **Outreach Assistant Maya Bedward**, who is among the first recipients of the Michaëlle Jean Foundation's [Young Arts Entrepreneur](#) funding program. For the next two years, Maya, who is a filmmaker and community artist, will have access to seed funding as well as arts and business mentorship to build her company, Third Culture. Yay Maya!

And finally, our sincere congratulations to **Aengus Finnan, Touring and Audience Development Officer**, who left OAC at the end of May to become the Executive Director for Folk Alliance International. We wish Aengus all the best and will miss his calm and collegial presence at OAC.

Interested in working for OAC? Browse the **Work Opportunities** section on our website from time to time for job postings.

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