



Alberta Foundation for the Arts

# 2018-19 Annual Report

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Alberta

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## Message from the Chair

The Alberta Foundation for the Arts (AFA) has been dedicated to supporting the development of the arts in Alberta for nearly three decades. We are incredibly proud to do this work on behalf of Albertans through our granting programs, art exhibition programs, and management of an extensive provincial art collection, the largest provincial art collection in Canada.

For 2018-19, funding for the AFA remained steady, allowing us to continue providing consistent and reliable support to individual artists and organizations. The AFA provided 760 grants to organizations and 369 grants to artists from across the province working in a variety of fields.

We have seen great results this year with one of our new grant programs, Major Arts Presenters. This program was launched in 2016 and supported strong growth for organizations like the Calgary International Film Festival, Edmonton International Film Festival and Metro Cinema Society.

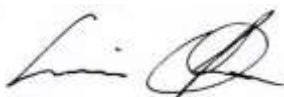
Eighty-three artworks were added to the province's art collection, which is now valued at more than \$16.6 million. The artworks came to us through the Art Acquisitions by Application program, donations from the public, curatorial purchase, and the Public Art Commissions program. Many of the artworks acquired were by artists not yet represented in the collection.

In March 2019, a work by Alex Janvier, renowned Denesuline artist from the Cold Lake First Nations, was installed at the Royal Alberta Museum in Edmonton. The monumental painting, titled *O' Kanada*, was acquired by the AFA in 2017. I encourage Albertans to experience this incredible work for themselves – in the free-admission area on the second floor of the museum, directly across from the Manitou Stone.

In 2018-19, we were able to upgrade the AFA's virtual museum (eMuseum) to provide curators and the public with better online access to the AFA's artworks. The upgrade allows visitors to create their own galleries of artworks from the collection. They can also submit their gallery to AFA staff to obtain more information about their selected works. This is another way the AFA can share the province's treasure of artworks with Albertans.

The previous year saw many successes, and on behalf of the AFA board of directors, I am pleased to share these results in the 2018-19 Annual Report.

Sincerely,



Liam Oddie, Chair  
Alberta Foundation for the Arts

# Overview

## Mandate

The Alberta Foundation for the Arts encourages and supports the arts as a significant contributor to quality of life in Alberta.

The AFA was established in 1991 as a public agency and a provincial corporation with a mandate to support and contribute to the development of the arts in Alberta. We provide funding to artists and art organizations to encourage the growth and development of the arts sector. We also promote the arts and manage an extensive provincial art collection featuring work from artists all over the province.

Reporting to Alberta's Minister of Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women, the AFA is guided by the objectives found in the [Alberta Foundation for the Arts Act](#).

## Linkages to the Ministry's Business Plan

Alberta Foundation for the Arts programs are linked to the following outcome articulated in the Culture and Tourism (now Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women) 2018-21 Business Plan:

**Outcome One:** Vibrant, active communities and diverse cultural opportunities enhance Albertans' quality of life.

Specifically, the AFA worked on Key Strategy 1.2:

- "Provide support for artists and arts organizations to promote access, excellence and sustainability for the arts in Alberta."

The work of the AFA also contributed to the results of performance measure 1.c and performance indicator 1.d:

- Performance measure 1.c: Percentage of adult Albertans who attended arts activities or events
- Performance indicator 1.d: Percentage of adult Albertans who feel arts activities are important in contributing to the overall quality of life in their community

## Board Governance

The AFA Board of Directors encourages and supports Alberta's arts community by:

- allocating the annual budget
- approving AFA funding and scholarships
- approving and monitoring the acquisition, exhibition, and preservation of works in the AFA collection
- developing and implementing the AFA's strategic plan

The board of directors operates under a code of conduct that reflects a commitment to the AFA's values and provides a framework to guide ethical conduct in a way that upholds the integrity and reputation of the agency.

## Board Compensation Disclosure

The AFA publishes the [names and compensation of Board members online](#) as required per the *Public Sector Compensation Transparency Act*.

## Membership

**Liam Oddie**

*Chair, Calgary*



**Luca Petryshyn**

*Vice Chair, Edmonton*



**Aleem Bharwani**

*Calgary*



**Jane Edmundson**

*Lethbridge*



**Candace Hook**

*Grande Prairie*



**Ava Karvonen**

*Edmonton*



**Jamie Leong-Huxley**

*Calgary*



**Nabil Malik**

*Fort McMurray*



**Cameron McCormick**

*Edmonton*



**Scott McTavish**

*Calgary*



**Christy Morin**

*Edmonton*



**Holly Turner**

*Edmonton*



**Ian Warwick**

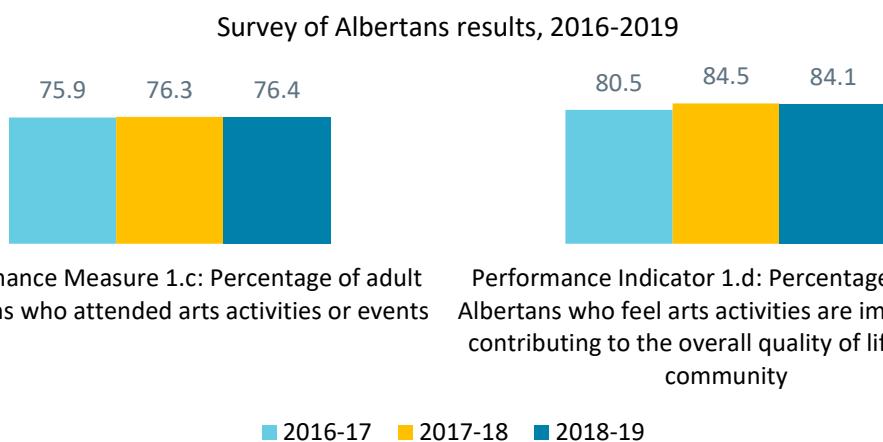
*Red Deer*

Vacancies for the AFA board are posted on the [Board Recruitment Web Portal](#).

# Results Analysis

## Performance Measure and Indicator Results

Results for the performance measure and indicator from the Alberta Culture and Tourism 2018-21 Business Plan are gathered through the annual Survey of Albertans on Culture and Tourism. The results from 2016-19 are as follows:



## Core Businesses and Goals

AFA activities are developed through adherence to goals set out in the [AFA 2015-18 Strategic Plan](#), as described below. In 2019, the AFA will release a new strategic plan for 2019-22.

### ***Core Business One: Funding***

- **Goal:** Support arts that encourage excellence, provide public access, build capacity and strive for sustainability.
  - Promote AFA programs to provide access to arts support.
  - Encourage and support best practices for artists and arts organizations.
  - Adapt to the changing arts ecology by encouraging innovation and sustainability.
  - Respond to the changing needs of the arts community through continuous evaluation.

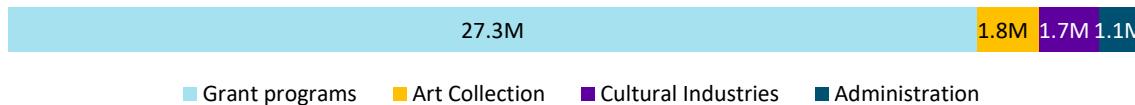
AFA's support for the arts is primarily driven by our granting programs. Operational grants provide ongoing support to organizations that provide access to art experiences and create job opportunities for artists and cultural workers. Project funding is awarded to organizations and individual artists primarily through an expert panel adjudication process.

## Impact of Funding

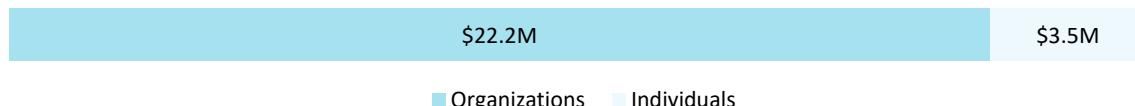
### AFA expenditures, 2018-19

\$31,733,116

#### AFA expenditure breakdown<sup>1,2</sup>



#### Funding awarded by recipient type<sup>3</sup>



#### Funding approved by region



Interested in exploring our data? More details are available on our [Impact of Funding](#) page and on [open.alberta.ca](http://open.alberta.ca).

<sup>1</sup> Expenditures for each category include program support expenses.

<sup>2</sup> Funding awarded to Cultural Industries of \$1,666,000. Cultural Industries grant programs were administered by the Department of Culture and Tourism and grant disbursements were approved by the Minister of Culture and Tourism. The Board had no involvement or oversight of this program.

<sup>3</sup> Funding awarded does not include program support expenses.

## Funding awarded to organizations

	\$ amount (grants awarded / eligible applications)
Professional Performing Arts	\$8,674,358.63
Community Support	\$2,600,000.00
Arts Presenting	\$2,361,750.00
Public Art Galleries	\$1,995,931.42
Community Performing Arts	\$1,741,000.00
Major Arts Presenters	\$1,636,887.35
Provincial Arts Service	\$1,180,000.00
Artists and Education	\$877,667.95
Organizations Arts Projects	\$594,586.57
Summer Schools	\$379,410.70
Cultural Relations	\$90,800.00
Projects Development	\$50,000.00
Indigenous Arts Projects	\$0.00
	0/1

## Funding awarded to individuals

	\$ amount (grants awarded / eligible applications)
Music	\$962,913.52
Visual Arts and New Media	\$640,406.06
Film and Video	\$475,605.55
Literary Arts	\$442,969.19
Indigenous Arts	\$313,420.33
Theatre	\$298,902.56
Dance	\$275,640.76
Travel Grant	\$43,538.61
Cultural Relations	\$16,280.00
Arts Awards	\$10,000.00
	2/5

Funding for the AFA remained steady in 2018-19. In total, 1,097 organizations and individual artists received AFA grant funding last year through 1,129 grants.

### Support for Organizations:

In 2018-19, support for organizations helped provide stability and consistent funding. Seven-hundred-and-sixty grants were provided to organizations across Alberta.

A key funding program to highlight for 2018-19 is Major Arts Presenters. Launched in 2016, this program provides funding in three-year cycles for major presenters, enabling organizations to expand their programming and reach. WordFest, a literary festival in Calgary, is now able to offer free, year-round programming. The program has helped organizations like the Calgary International Film Festival and the Edmonton International Film Festival achieve a steady increase in film submissions and audiences in recent years. The Major Arts Presenters grant provided stable funding to these organizations to manage and sustain their growth.



**Figure 1. A standing ovation at the Edmonton International Film Festival screening**  
**Image credit: Emily Welz**

### Support for Individuals:

In 2018-19, the AFA's support for individuals remained strong, providing 369 grants to artists working in a variety of fields.

One of those artists is Christina Cuthbertson, an independent curator and writer from Lethbridge. Cuthbertson was the recipient of the International Studio and Curatorial Program (ISCP) Residency in New York Funding. This grant supports the development of visual and new media artists and curators by providing funding for a three-month residency at the ISCP in Brooklyn. For Cuthbertson, the residency has been invaluable. She notes that participating in a well-respected residency program has been a great career building opportunity, expanding her professional network of international artists and other curators.

*"The best parts of this experience have been meeting artists and curators through ISCP and elsewhere in the city, the opportunity to become acquainted with the New York art scene, and the chance to dedicate time and energy into my practice as an independent curator and writer."*

Christina Cuthbertson



**Figure 2. Christina Cuthbertson, ISCP Residency in New York Funding recipient**  
**Image credit: Rod Leland**

## Core Business Two: Art Collection

- **Goal:** Foster appreciation and awareness of Alberta's visual arts through the AFA collection.
  - Invest in a collection that reflects the excellence of Alberta artists.
  - Safeguard the collection by prioritizing sustainability and adhering to current professional management standards.
  - Support and encourage programming that makes the collection appropriately accessible.

The AFA collects, manages and shares the largest provincial art collection in Canada.

### Value of AFA collection as of March 31, 2019

\$16,635,749<sup>4</sup>

### Number of artworks

9,129

#### Acquisitions:

The AFA acquires artwork to support steady and diverse art collection growth.

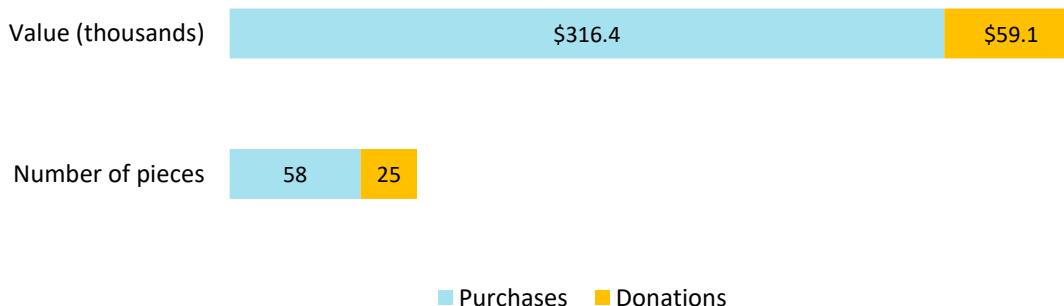
### Value of new acquisitions, 2018-19

\$375,530

### Number of new acquisitions

83

#### New acquisitions, 2018-19




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<sup>4</sup> The AFA collection had three dispositions (removal of work from the collection) during 2018-19 valued at \$110,900.

### Art Acquisitions by Application

The Art Acquisitions by Application (AAA) program is a competitive program dedicated to the purchase of new Alberta artwork from individual artists.

Acquisitions through the AAA program in 2018-19 included 43 artworks by 19 artists, seven of whom were not previously represented in the AFA Collection. Acquisitions included two fibre artworks by Edmonton-based artist Allison Tunis.

Through its mastery of cross-stitch and embroidery, Tunis's art focuses on cultural stereotypes of femininity, body image, social aesthetics, gender norms and ingrained biases towards marginalized persons. The artwork shown in Figure 3 will travel for the next three years in *Women X Women*, an exhibition developed for the AFA Travelling Exhibition Program (TREX).



Figure 3. Allison Tunis, *Sam*, 2017,  
embroidery on cloth

### Donations

The AFA encourages artists, individual collectors, organizations and corporations to donate works of art.

In 2018-19, the AFA received a generous donation from artist Kenneth HouseGo of four sculptures, including the artwork shown in Figure 4. HouseGo is an installation and mixed-media artist whose work includes sculpture and painting. The donated works bring together a variety of media including painted wood, metal and found objects. HouseGo explores the idea of memory and connects each material to a story about a person or place. This donation includes work featured at the Art Gallery of Grande Prairie's retrospective exhibition, *Ken HouseGo: Beacon*.



Figure 4. Kenneth HouseGo, *Pioneer*, 2015, mixed media

## Public Art Commission

The Public Art Commission program assists not-for-profit organizations to commission a specific public art project, with the intent that the final work becomes part of the AFA permanent art collection.



**Figure 5. Jason Carter, *Crusaders of the Land*, 2018-19,  
acrylic on board**  
Photo courtesy of the artist

In 2018-19, the Portage College Museum of Aboriginal Peoples' Art and Artifacts installed a work at its Lac La Biche campus supported by the Public Art Commission program. Jason Carter's *Crusaders of the Land* (Figure 5) consists of three acrylic paintings on birch board that depict the Northern Lights and the landscape of Lac La Biche. This work reflects the natural environment surrounding the college. Carter is a contemporary Indigenous artist from Little Red River Cree Nation who works in sculpture, painting, illustration, installation and graphic design. *Crusaders of the Land* is one of three Public Art Commissions being installed at Portage College.

## Curatorial Purchase

Each year, the AFA dedicates funding to purchase works of art that address specific gaps in the collection that could not be addressed through other acquisition programs.

In 2018-19, the AFA acquired nine artworks through the Curatorial Purchase Program. The purchase of two paintings from the estate exhibition of Edmonton artist Doug Jamha (1952–2017) marks a significant addition to the representation of the artist's dedicated career.

Jamha's preferred subject matter was the female figure, and he described his work as "painting the relationship between me (the artist) and the model."

These new acquisitions are the first figurative works by the artist in the AFA collection.



**Figure 6. Doug Jamha, *Rebecca #1*, 1992,  
acrylic on canvas**

## Artwork Loans

The AFA shares artwork locally and abroad by working with our partners to exhibit, tour and place work in public spaces. Artworks are shared through the Art Placement, Travelling Exhibitions and Exhibition Loans programs.

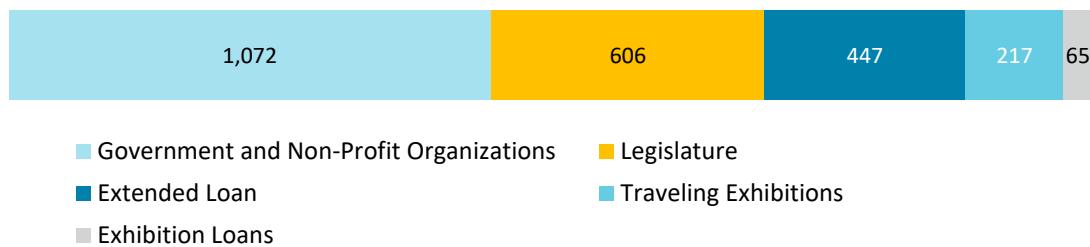
### Number of artworks on display, 2018-19:

2,407

### Percentage of collection on display:

26.4%

### AFA artworks on display by program 2018-19



## Art Placement

The AFA Art Placement program facilitates the display of artworks from the collection to foster public enjoyment of Alberta artwork. There are two types of eligible recipients for art placement services: government and non-profit organizations, and the Alberta Legislature.

*Caribou Hotel* (Figure 7) by Ted Harrison (1926–2015) was installed in the legislature in 2018-19.

Harrison's signature style uses vibrant colours within solidly outlined areas. *Caribou Hotel* was part of a series of four Harrison prints that AFA received in 1997 from Alberta House London, which featured Alberta artists from 1948-1995.



Figure 7. Ted Harrison, *Caribou Hotel*, 1982, serigraph on paper

## Extended Loan

An extended loan is a long-term loan of artwork from the AFA collection to an external client. Extended loan projects are generally site-specific, large-scale artworks that require special infrastructure or arrangements, such as a work especially commissioned for a building.

In 2018-19, the painting *O'Kanada* (Figure 8), by influential Indigenous artist Alex Janvier, was installed in the Royal Alberta Museum. This large-scale work is displayed in the free-admission area of the museum across from the Manitou Stone.



**Figure 8. Installation of Alex Janvier's *O'Kanada*, 1991, acrylic on canvas**

## Travelling Exhibitions

### Venues visited by travelling exhibitions, 2018-19:

178

### Number of visitors:

633,355

The AFA's Travelling Exhibition (TREX) program includes exhibitions in schools, libraries, health-care centres, and smaller rural institutions and galleries throughout the province.

In 2018-19, the Art Gallery of Grande Prairie curated the TREX exhibition *Arthur Nishimura: Mythical Landscapes*. This exhibition features 20 photographs in the traditional silver gelatin-based photographic process. *Mythical Landscapes* depicts a variety of urban and natural landscapes photographed on multiple continents, spanning 17 years of production. Nishimura is known for his expressive, black-and-white photographs of landscapes and everyday settings. This exhibition will travel throughout the province for a period of three years.



**Figure 9. Arthur Nishimura, *Street from Nanton (Late afternoon, looking North)*, 1996, silver gelatin on paper**

## Exhibition Loans

The AFA frequently lends artwork to cultural institutions for public exhibition.

The exhibition, *Before Digital: Post 1970 Photography in Alberta*, featured 21 artworks from the AFA collection. Curated by Mary-Beth Laviolette and organized by Contemporary Calgary, the exhibition focuses on the history, development and evolution of photography in Alberta. The exhibition was on display at the Illingworth Kerr Gallery at the Alberta University of the Arts, January 15 - March 16, 2019. Photographs by John Fukushima were among the works featured in the exhibition.

Fukushima's photographs portray survivors of the internment of Japanese-Canadians who were living in the area of Raymond, Alberta in the 1970s.



Figure 10. John Fukushima, *Mr. Tsumagari, Raymond, Alberta, 1977*, silver gelatin on paper

## Core Business Three: Research and Communications

- **Goal:** Facilitate opportunities for Albertans to value and engage in the arts.
  - Collaborate with, and provide information to, related agencies and institutions to promote the value of the arts in Alberta.
  - Widely share the value of the arts.
  - Celebrate Alberta artists as cultural ambassadors.

## Engagement

The AFA is engaged in outreach with different facets of the broader community. Our activities range from hosting granting information sessions for artists to supporting the artistic development of Indigenous youth through the Alberta's Future Leaders program.

### Number of funding information sessions held 2018-19

30	
Attendees	

430

In 2018-19, the AFA launched the Dr. Joane Cardinal-Schubert Fellowship for Indigenous Curators. This one-time fellowship was designed to support the growth and development of curatorial talent in Alberta and enhance representation of Indigenous artists in the AFA collection. The fellowship brought a new perspective to art acquisition at the AFA and built on previous work undertaken by Dr. Joane Cardinal-Schubert, who worked with the AFA in 2008 and 2009 on a similar initiative.

The recipient of the 2018 fellowship is Becca Taylor. Taylor reviewed the current holdings in the collection and conducted outreach with Indigenous artists across Alberta to identify potential works to be acquired in alignment with the AFA Collection Development Plan.

Taylor recommended works by 11 artists for acquisition; nine of whom are not currently represented in the collection. Taylor also provided recommendations based on discussions with artists for ongoing relationship building to ensure the AFA collection reflects the diverse works of Indigenous artists in Alberta.

### **Alberta's Future Leaders**

#### **Number of arts workshops held, 2018-19**

174

#### **Attendees**

1,617

The Alberta's Future Leaders (AFL) program collaborates with Indigenous communities to offer a summer youth program. Host communities invite AFL to learn about their culture and history, and to facilitate meaningful, positive experiences for youth. Youth are engaged through arts, sports, recreation, leadership and cultural activities facilitated by mentors living and working in each community from May to August.

The AFA hires Indigenous artists to deliver workshops in AFL communities and coordinates Arts Week, which is a retreat held in Edmonton that includes arts workshops by Indigenous artists, presentations and the Evening of the Arts showcase. The Evening of the Arts is a public event featuring an art exhibition and performances by youth who participate in the program.



**Figure 11. Becca Taylor, recipient of the Dr. Joane Cardinal-Schubert Fellowship for Indigenous Curators**  
Image credit: Kate Witt Photography

The 2018 Evening of the Arts showcase, *Voices of the North*, was held at the Kaasa Gallery at the Northern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium. Arts Week participants noted how moving it was to see the talent of all the youth who presented their work at the showcase. Tia Isadore Badger, an AFL participant from Driftpile Cree Nation, was one of the artists featured. She presented a fashion show featuring a collection of ribbon skirts (Figure 12), which were modelled by youth and AFL program mentors, and displayed in the gallery.

*"Tia has made many comments to us about how 'dope' it is that her artwork is on display. She shared photos on Facebook and told people how proud she was of herself, which was very nice to see because her talents should not go unrecognized or unappreciated."*

Jess Ford, AFL mentor



**Figure 12. Tia Isadore Badger from Driftpile Cree Nation shown wearing one of her designs at the Voices of the North showcase**

## Communications

The AFA uses a variety of tools to connect with stakeholders, disseminate information about programs and promote awareness of the arts community.

### AFA website sessions<sup>5</sup>, 2018-19

107,714

### Users

58,865

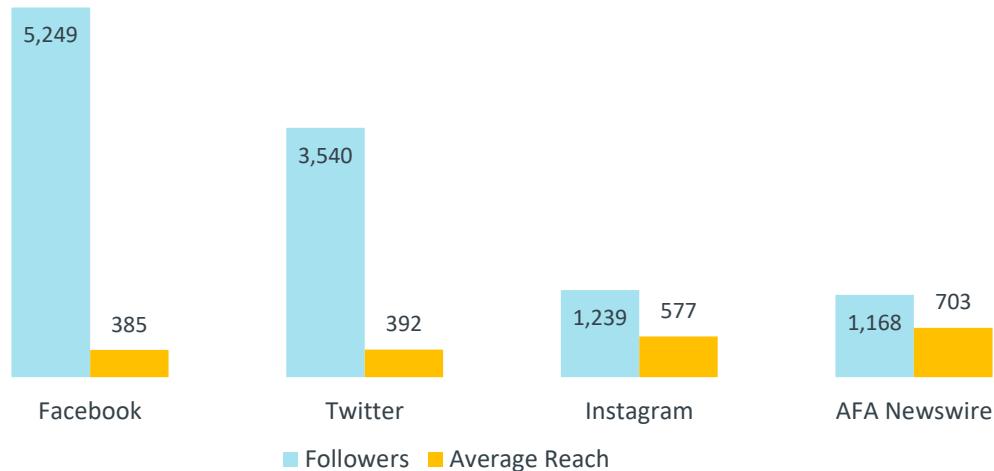
### Community submissions for website newsfeed

579

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<sup>5</sup> Website sessions refers to the number of times a site was visited by individual users.

### Online engagement, 2018-19<sup>6</sup>



### eMuseum

The AFA Virtual Museum, also known as eMuseum, was launched in 2014. The website offers public access to digital images and information for works in the AFA art collection.

AFA upgraded the eMuseum platform in 2018 from version 4 to version 5. The new version offers greater flexibility for the public to find information through more searchable options, and emulates the look and feel of a gallery. One of the most engaging features of eMuseum 5 is the option for curators and members of the public to build and retrieve their own online “galleries” of AFA artworks then submit them to AFA staff for additional information.



**Figure 13. AFA Virtual Museum, eMuseum 5**

<sup>6</sup> Average reach refers to the average number of users who see a unit of published content (i.e. a facebook post, tweet, Instagram post, newswire).

## Research

The AFA participates in efforts to evaluate the impact of arts and culture in society through specialized research projects.

Statistics Canada's Culture Satellite Account measures the economic importance of culture in the Canadian economy in terms of output, gross domestic product (GDP) and jobs. It creates reliable economic figures that are nationally comparable. As part of the Canadian Public Arts Funders, the AFA collaborates with federal, provincial and territorial arts councils, as well as other equivalent public arts funders, to help provide culture data. The Culture Satellite Account is a great example of how productive national collaboration can be.

**Alberta Culture GDP, 2017:**

\$5.3 Billion<sup>7</sup>

**Alberta Culture Jobs, 2017:**

53,739

During the 2018-19 fiscal year, Statistics Canada released economic data from the account for the Canadian arts and culture sectors for 2017 through the [Provincial and Territorial Culture Indicators report](#). This data highlights the crucial role of arts and culture in our society beyond their intrinsic value, through contributions to the national economy and workforce.

## Note on Financial Statements

In accordance with 9(4) of the [Fiscal Planning and Transparency Act](#), financial statements are available in the [Ministry of Culture and Tourism 2018-19 Annual Report](#).

## Social Media Contact Information

Keep up to date with Alberta Foundation for the Arts programs and initiatives by [signing up for the AFA Newswire](#), or connect through [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) or [Instagram](#). You can also browse or share community news, events or arts opportunities on the [AFA website news feed](#).

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<sup>7</sup> Due to improvements in the methodology of gauging the impact of film and video production, the 2018-19 estimate for culture GDP is not comparable to prior releases.