



Alberta Foundation for the Arts  
**2017-18 Annual Report**

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*Alberta* 

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## Message from the Chair

For more than 25 years, the Alberta Foundation for the Arts (AFA) has served as the Government of Alberta's primary supporter of artists and arts organizations. Our support helps ensure that the arts continue to be an essential contributor to the quality of life of Albertans.

In 2017-18, funding for the AFA was increased by \$5 million for a total of \$31.6 million. This increase represents our government's commitment to supporting Alberta's arts community, in spite of economic challenges caused by the steep decline in oil prices.

In response, the AFA Board of Directors developed a budget to support greater access, excellence, and sustainability of the arts sector. Arts organizations received greater support to assist with the challenges from the economic downturn and individual artists and organizations seeking project funding were given a greater chance of receiving support. In result, the total number of grants we provided increased by 18 per cent from 2016-17 due to the increase to our budget allocation.

The AFA cares for the largest and most active provincial public art collection in Canada, valued at more than \$16 million. We acquired 126 new artworks into the AFA Art Collection this year, helping us celebrate and preserve works by visual artists in Alberta. We are also committed to sharing our treasure of artworks with Albertans, with more than a quarter of our entire collection on display last year.

The AFA seeks to promote engagement with the arts across the province. We were thrilled to partner with Alberta Culture Days for its 10th anniversary, and to continue promoting access to the arts for youth in First Nations and Métis communities through our partnership with the Alberta's Future Leaders program.

On behalf of the AFA Board of Directors, I am happy to share the results of a remarkable year of growth.

I am pleased to present the AFA 2017-18 Annual Report.

**Original signed by Liam Oddie**

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 and Tourism, the Alberta Foundation for the Arts is guided by the objectives found in the [Alberta Foundation for the Arts Act](#).

## Linkages to the Ministry's Business Plan

The Alberta Foundation for the Arts programs are linked to the following outcome articulated in the Culture and Tourism 2017-20 Business Plan:

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

Specifically, the AFA worked on Key Strategy 1.4:

- "Provide additional funding for artists and arts organizations to support greater access, excellence and sustainability for the arts in Alberta, and lead the provincial role in Canada's 150th anniversary."

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

- Performance measure 1.d: 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 operate 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



**Christine Sokaymoh Frederick**

Vice Chair, Edmonton



**Aleem Bharwani**

Calgary



**Jane Edmundson**

Lethbridge



**Candace Hook**

Grande Prairie



**Ava Karvonen**

Edmonton



**Jamie Leong-Huxley**

Calgary



**Cameron McCormick**

Edmonton



**Scott McTavish**

Calgary



**Christy Morin**

Edmonton



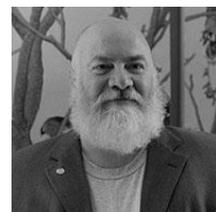
**Luca Petryshyn**

Edmonton



**Holly Turner**

Edmonton



**Ian Warwick**

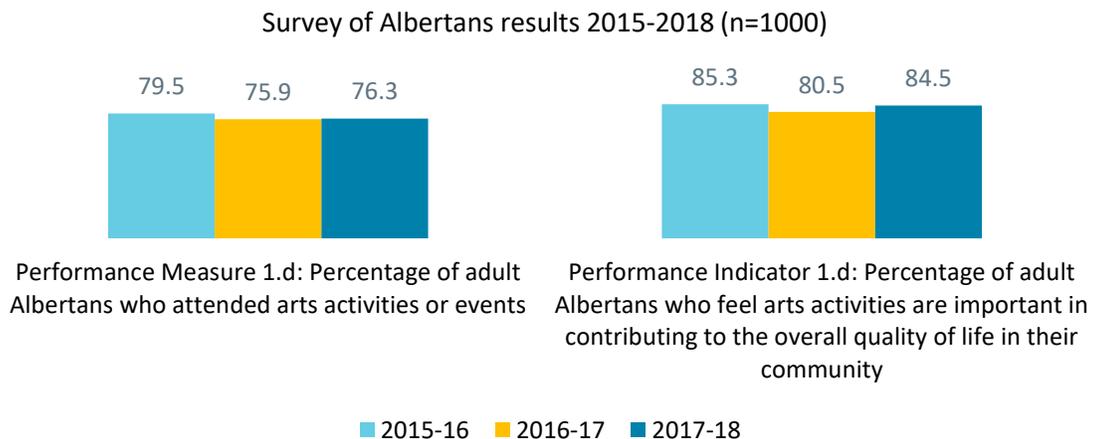
Red Deer

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

# Results Analysis

## Performance Measure and Indicator Results

Results for the Culture and Tourism 2017-20 Business Plan performance measure and indicator are gathered through the annual Survey of Albertans on Culture and Tourism. The results from 2015-18 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 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

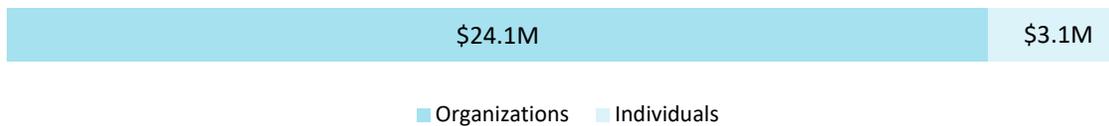
### AFA expenditures 2017-18

\$31,733,216

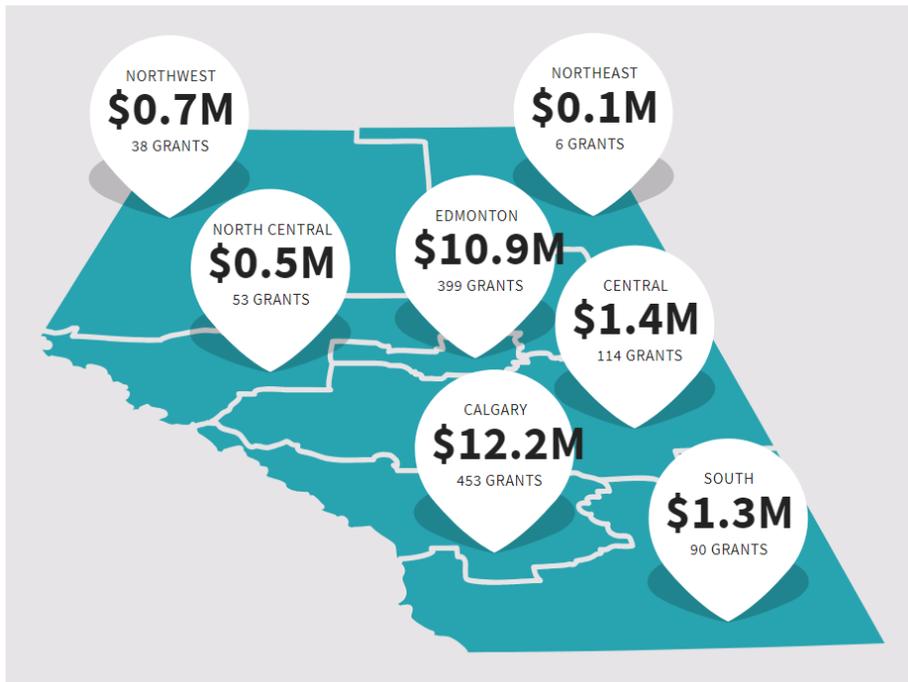
### AFA expenditure breakdown<sup>1</sup>



### Funding awarded by recipient type<sup>2</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 include program support expenses.

<sup>2</sup> Funding awarded does not include program support expenses.

## Funding awarded to organizations

\$ amount (grants awarded / eligible applications)

Professional Performing Arts		<b>\$8,631,999.98</b>	51/51
Community Support		<b>\$2,600,000.01</b>	128/128
Arts Presenting		<b>\$2,454,250.00</b>	177/177
Community Performing Arts		<b>\$1,941,000.00</b>	193/193
Public Galleries		<b>\$1,878,449.00</b>	18/18
Major Arts Presenters		<b>\$1,600,747.60</b>	13/13
Provincial Arts Service		<b>\$1,180,000.00</b>	8/8
Cultural Industries Operating		<b>\$1,156,000.00</b>	33/33
Artists and Education		<b>\$936,353.60</b>	137/137
Arts Projects		<b>\$706,693.51</b>	45/96
Cultural Industries Support		<b>\$405,000.00</b>	4/4
Summer Schools		<b>\$397,790.00</b>	5/6
Cultural Industries Projects		<b>\$103,562.00</b>	7/20
Projects Development		<b>\$50,000.00</b>	1/1
Cultural Relations		<b>\$44,369.75</b>	3/3

## Funding awarded to individuals

\$ amount (grants awarded / eligible applications)

Music		<b>\$759,084.33</b>	95/329
Visual Arts and New Media		<b>\$746,495.46</b>	71/259
Film		<b>\$458,829.31</b>	37/145
Theatre		<b>\$321,461.15</b>	37/113
Dance		<b>\$292,312.00</b>	40/101
Literary		<b>\$275,414.89</b>	31/120
Indigenous Arts		<b>\$174,533.09</b>	17/45
Cultural Relations		<b>\$26,272.00</b>	3/9
Arts Awards		<b>\$10,000.00</b>	2/4

Funding for the AFA was increased by \$5 million in 2017-18. This increase was distributed with the goal of increasing grant funding for as many stakeholders as possible. In total, 1,112 arts organizations and individual artists received AFA grant funding last year. This represents an increase of 18 per cent from 2016-17.

- **Support for Organizations:**

In 2017-18, overall support for organizations was increased by \$4.2 million. This support is intended to provide stability and address the challenges faced by many organizations due to the economic downturn.

One example of increased support is the Organizations: Arts Project (OAP) program. This program provides support for leadership development, capacity building and partnerships. Support for this program nearly doubled in 2017-18. The Bissell Centre in Edmonton received OAP funding for 2017-18 to scale up a drumming program and provide hands-on workshops at their facilities. These workshops aim to engage community in learning Indigenous drum making and drumming and will support participants in performing songs at the Bissell Centre and to other audiences.



**Figure 1. Drumming workshop at the Bissell Centre, recipients of 2017-18 Organizations: Arts Project grant.**

- **Support for Individuals:**

In 2017-18, funding support for individuals was increased by \$0.5 million, giving applicants a greater chance of receiving support.

Sara Hahn from Calgary received a Music Individual Project grant in 2017 to record her first solo album. Sara has been the Principal Flutist of the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra for more than 10 years. She has performed live as an orchestral musician, soloist, and chamber musician nationally and internationally through her career. The album centres on a piece entitled “I close my eyes in order to see” that was written for her by local Calgarian composer Arthur Bachmann. The album is scheduled for release in September 2018, and Albertans can view the debut single on the PARMA Recordings YouTube Channel at [youtu.be/75weJaeT-4s](https://youtu.be/75weJaeT-4s).



**Figure 2. Sara Hahn, recipient of Music Individual Project grant.**

## 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, 2018

\$16,370,749

### Number of artworks

9,049

- **Acquisitions:**

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

### Value of new acquisitions 2017-18

\$1,306,927

### Number of new acquisitions

126

### New acquisitions 2017-18

Value (thousands)	\$1,250.6	\$56.4
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Number of pieces	84	42
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■ Purchases ■ Donations

### Art Acquisition by Application

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



Figure 3. Craig Le Blanc, *Shell*, 2013, fibreglass

Acquisitions in 2017-18 included Edmonton based artist Craig Le Blanc's large-scale wall sculpture, *Shell*, 2013. The vehicle in *Shell* is symbolic of emotional barriers erected by masculine individuals. Through this work, the artist challenges ideas of masculine power suggesting strength in vulnerability. Craig Le Blanc was not represented in the AFA collection prior to this acquisition.

### Donations

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

In 2017-18, the AFA received a donation of 22 artworks from the estate of Fort MacLeod artist Irene McCaugherty (1914 – 1996). The donation included watercolour paintings created during the last years of the artist's life. The artist was primarily self-taught and documents southern Alberta's history of ranching, homesteading and rodeo. Her signature panoramic format is derived from the shape of the windshield on a pickup truck.



Figure 4. Irene McCaugherty, *Left Behind*, 1986, watercolour on paper

### 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 of art becomes a part of the AFA permanent art collection.

In 2017-18, MacEwan University unveiled an installation funded by the Public Art Commission program at the newly constructed Allard Hall in downtown Edmonton. Brenda Draney's installation *Trapline* features a tracing of a bronze "trapline" adhered onto the concrete floor, a suspended large wooden upside-down cabin, and three paintings that line one wall of the atrium. The multimedia installation was inspired by visits to a relative's trapline near Draney's home community of Slave Lake. Brenda Draney is a Cree artist from Sawridge First Nation and a MacEwan alumna.



Figure 5. Brenda Draney, *Trapline*, bronze, red birch veneer, steel, plywood, MDF, oil on linen

### Curatorial Purchase

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

In 2017-18, the AFA acquired six artworks by Alex Janvier, a prominent Indigenous artist from Cold Lake First Nations. The curatorial purchase included the large-scale painting *O'Kanada*, 1992, which was included in the major national retrospective travelling exhibition *Modern Indigenous Master*, organized by the National Gallery of Canada and touring across Canada in 2016-18.



Figure 6. Alex Janvier, *O'Kanada*, 1991, 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, Traveling Exhibitions and Exhibition Loans programs.

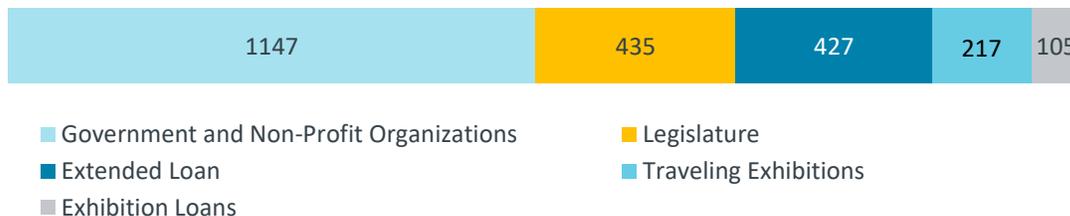
**Number of artworks on display 2017-18:**

2,331

**Percentage of collection on display:**

25.8%

**AFA artworks on display by program 2017-18**



### 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.

One work installed by the AFA in 2017-18 was *Funny Wheels/Edmonton Street Performers Festival* by David Carels. The image features a performer entertaining a crowd at the annual Edmonton Street Performers Festival in 1999.



**Figure 7. David Carels, *Funny Wheels/Edmonton Street Performers Festival*, 1999, Silver gelatin on paper**

### Extended Loan



**Figure 8. Peter Hide, *Malevich Extended*, 1990-1995, mild welded steel (rusted, painted, varnished)**

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 commission for a building.

An example of a work installed by the AFA in 2017-18 was the sculpture *Malevich Extended* by Peter Hide outside of MacEwan University's new building, Allard Hall. Measuring at 8.25 metres (27 feet) and weighing in at nearly 4,500 kg (10,000 lbs), it is the largest piece in the AFA collection. The sculpture was acquired in 2014 through a generous donation from the artist. Peter Hide is a renowned Edmonton-based artist and professor at the University of Alberta. His work is influenced by the CN train yard located near his studio.

### Traveling Exhibitions

#### Venues visited by travelling exhibitions 2017-18:

183

#### Number of visitors:

523,570

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

One of the 2017-18 AFA TREX exhibitions was *Mittenism and the Quest for Empathy*, curated by the Esplanade Arts & Heritage Centre in Medicine Hat. This exhibition features a recent acquisition of etchings and lithography prints by renowned interdisciplinary artist



**Figure 9. Rita McKeough, *Cookie*, *In the Night!!!*, 1981, etching and lithography on a paper**

Rita McKeough. Early in her career, the artist created artworks featuring inanimate objects to examine the complex emotion of empathy. The series of artworks have a childlike appearance, tinged with a quirky and sometimes dark absurdity. This exhibition will travel throughout the province for a period of three years.

### *Exhibition Loans*

The AFA frequently loans artwork to bona fide cultural institutions for public exhibition.

The AFA loaned 15 artworks to the Nickle Galleries, University of Calgary, from September 21 – December 16, 2017 for the retrospective exhibition *The Writing on the Wall: Works of Dr. Joane Cardinal-Schubert*. The exhibition included works from public and private collections and is scheduled to travel across Canada until the end of 2019. Joane Cardinal-Schubert was an influential Kainai (Blackfoot) artist who represented Indigenous experiences and histories through multi-media, visual, and installation art.



**Figure 10. Joane Cardinal-Schubert, Rider, 1986, oil and graphite on canvas**



**Figure 11. April Dean, Ill Equipped & Unprepared, 2013, archival inkjet print on clear film**

In collaboration with the Friends of University Hospitals, McMullen Gallery, the AFA loaned 21 artworks for the exhibition *This Art Makes Me Feel* from October 7 – December 3, 2017. The exhibition marked the 30-year partnership between the AFA and McMullen Gallery. April Dean's artwork, featured here, is from her "Wet T-shirt Series" and juxtaposes fine art and advertising. The image depicts an x-ray-like transparency portraying our inner thoughts and vulnerability. April Dean is an Edmonton based artist and the Executive Director of the Society of Northern Alberta Print-Artists (SNAP), a non-profit and artist-run centre in Edmonton.

## ***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 Indigenous youth’s artistic development through the Alberta Future Leaders program.

**Number of funding information sessions held 2017-18**

21

**Attendees**

461

Alberta Culture Days is an annual three-day celebration that takes place during the last weekend of September. This event is part of the national Culture Days movement that invites communities to celebrate their culture, showcase local artists, and provide access to cultural activities.

In 2017-18, the AFA launched a pilot project focused on providing funding to Alberta’s Future Leaders (AFL) sites to host a Culture Days event in their community. Nine sites involved in the Alberta’s Future Leaders program were granted a one-time \$4,500 grant for a total of \$40,500 in funding. Beyond funding, there was also a component of relationship building and outreach to better understand the needs of Indigenous communities. Staff attended celebrations hosted by iHuman Youth Society, Driftpile First Nation, Sucker Creek First Nation and Gift Lake Métis Settlement.



**Figure 12. Drumming workshop held at Bushe River Dene Tha' First Nation for 2017 Culture Days.**

*Alberta’s Future Leaders*

**Number of arts workshops held 2017-18**

156

**Attendees**

7,228

The Alberta’s Future Leaders (AFL) summer program provides art, sports, recreation, and leadership opportunities to empower youth who live in First Nation and Métis communities in Alberta. Partner communities host two trained mentors who run youth-focused activities and trips from May to August for three consecutive years.

The AFA hires Indigenous artists to deliver 2-3 day workshops in AFL communities. In 2017-18, Indigenous rapper Drezus, was hired to deliver a music workshop for youth in Tallcree First Nation. As Tallcree is a very isolated community, the opportunity for youth to learn from a well-known and accomplished Indigenous artist was unique. During the workshop, youth were involved in songwriting, performing and filming a music video for their song “The World is Ours”. This song speaks about growing up in an isolated community and the long journey to pursue your dreams.

The AFA also coordinates Arts Week, a retreat in Edmonton where youth from AFL communities are able to participate in workshops with artists and showcase their work. During Arts Week, Drezus brought youth to his recording studio and professionally recorded a song written with the youth. Drezus coached the youth in performing their own lyrics and also performed for the track. Recording and working in the studio with Drezus was a dream come true for the youth.

*“The highlight of the trip was seeing all the fabulous Indigenous artists... The youth could really identify with the[ir] stories, histories, and challenges.”*

**-Jess Ford, AFL mentor**



**Figure 13. AFL youth and mentors in studio with Indigenous rapper, Drezus.**

## 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>3</sup> 2017-18

118,074

### Users

69,600

### Community submissions for website newsfeed

540

### Online engagement 2017-18<sup>4</sup>



<sup>3</sup> Website sessions refers to the number of times a site was visited by individual users.

<sup>4</sup> Average reach refers to the average number of users reached per unit of published content.

As part of its 25th Anniversary celebrations, the AFA recognized 25 Influential Albertan Artists whose work and practice has had substantial impact on the development and evolution of the Alberta arts community. As part of this recognition, these Influential Alberta Artists were each asked to nominate an emerging Albertan artist under the age of 25 to receive a \$2,500 Young Artist Prize.

On June 19, 2017, the AFA recognized and introduced the recipients of these prizes at a public event held at the Federal Building in Edmonton. The Honourable Ricardo Miranda, Minister of Culture and Tourism, and Liam Oddie, AFA Chair, hosted the announcement, which was streamed live through the AFA's Facebook page, and live-tweeted through AFA's Twitter feed.

- **Research**

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

#### *Culture Satellite Account*

Statistics Canada's Culture Satellite Account (CSA) creates reliable economic figures that are nationally comparable. The CSA measures the economic importance of culture in the Canadian economy in terms of output, gross domestic product (GDP) and employment. As part of the Canadian Public Arts Funders (CPAF), the AFA collaborates with federal, provincial, and territorial arts councils as well as other equivalent public arts funders to assist in generating culture data. The CSA is an example of the productive outcomes of such national collaboration.

**Alberta Culture GDP 2016:**

\$5.3 Billion

**Alberta Culture Jobs 2016:**

57,816

During the 2017-18 fiscal year, Statistics Canada released CSA economic data for the Canadian arts and culture sectors from 2010-16, 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.



**Figure 14. Twitter announcement for Young Artist Prize recipients.**

## 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 2017-18 Annual Report](#).

## Social Media Contact Information

Keep up-to-date with AFA 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](#).