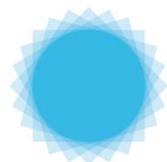


Achieving Impact through Public Funding to the Arts

**Canadian Public Arts Funders (CPAF)
2015 Annual General Meeting**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

November 11-13, 2015
Yellowknife, Northwest Territories



CPAF
Canadian
Public Arts
Funders

OPSAC
Organismes publics
de soutien aux arts
du Canada

BACKGROUND

The [Canadian Public Arts Funders \(CPAF\)](#) is a network that unites and serves the federal, provincial and territorial arts councils and equivalent public arts funders in Canada. There is a CPAF [member organization in each province and territory](#), and the member at the federal level is the [Canada Council for the Arts](#), which also provides the CPAF Secretariat.

CPAF member organizations convened in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, from November 11-13, 2015 for their Annual General Meeting (AGM), hosted by the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Northwest Territories Arts Council. Each CPAF AGM provides a forum for Board Chairs, other Board representatives, Directors, and Associate Directors from CPAF member organizations to discuss current issues facing public arts funders and to exchange knowledge amongst their peers.

The theme of the AGM in Yellowknife was *Achieving Impact through Public Funding to the Arts*. CPAF member organizations were asked to share initiatives on how they are working to deliver impact and value to the public and to discuss issues affecting support to the arts in Canada.

This executive summary summarizes the discussions that took place. For further information, please contact Melanie Yugo, Partnership and Networks Officer, Canada Council for the Arts, and CPAF Secretariat, at 1-800-263-5588, ext. 5144, or by email at melanie.yugo@canadacouncil.ca.

THEMATIC DISCUSSIONS

Through roundtable discussions and case study presentations, members spoke of policy alignment, new initiatives and changes to funding models that enable their organizations to address shifting art practices, increase accessibility and respond to realities of the digital economy.

CPAF member organizations have addressed accessibility and regional outreach in a number of ways. Public consultation that reaches out to indigenous cultures, newcomers and culturally diverse constituents has ensured that policies and programs are responsive and inclusive. These might include establishing deaf and disability arts as a priority area, opening a satellite council office or targeting arts activity that is demonstrated as vital to the community.

Transitioning from discipline-specific to non-disciplinary grant assessment, extending multi-year funding trajectories, implementing continuous intake or multi-disciplinary assessment are other member responses to emerging forms of artistic expression and new practices in art-making and management. Many funding agencies shared that the move to online granting processes requires significant internal change management and also shifts the nature of the relationship of the officer with the applicant.

CPAF member CEOs discussed the importance of the arts and creativity in areas such as wellness, the environment and economic sustainability as well as the need to ensure the case is made for investment within the political and public spheres.

Members suggested that CPAF organizations might work together beyond the sharing of practices, perhaps in the form of joint research and tools, such as videos or podcasts, or in the development of protocols for specific initiatives such as working with indigenous communities. The new CPAF communications toolkit – developed to assist members with their own communications strategies - is based on a culmination of points gathered from the 2014 AGM and the Strategic Communications Professional Development meeting held in June 2015.

Member organization CEOs also discussed developments in each jurisdiction and CPAF business items. Recommendations were developed regarding CPAF deliverables and activities for 2015-16 and a new approach to CPAF activities for 2016-17 and 2017-18. The new CPAF model proposes fewer national meetings, enhanced use of digital technology to facilitate exchange among members, and a larger CPAF meeting each year that could address cross-cutting themes, and include a wider diversity of staff from CPAF members and other organizations. The CPAF Steering Committee agreed to review the impact of the new approach on all CPAF members over the next two years.