



# Alberta Foundation for the Arts

## 2022-23 Annual Report

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*Alberta* 

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## Message from the Chair

The Alberta Foundation for the Arts (AFA) is the province's primary supporter of Alberta's artists and arts organizations, and we are proud to continue to drive the development, accessibility, and recognition of all art disciplines in every region of Alberta. We recognize the importance of prioritizing Alberta art, artists, and cultural materials through strategic allocation of provincial arts funding.

2022-23 was an eventful year for our organization and, indeed, Alberta's arts community at large. On June 14, 2022, Alberta removed all COVID-19 public health measures. The AFA recognized that we had to respond to new and different challenges during the sector's recovery compared to those during the height of the pandemic. We found spending efficiencies to manage growing funding demand as many of our clients and grant recipients saw increased levels of arts activities. The AFA's priorities were to continue to provide stable support for Alberta's arts organizations and to maintain funding levels for programs that support individual artists.

At the same time, the AFA was proud to celebrate a major milestone in our foundation's history. For fifty years, the AFA Art Collection has been collecting, preserving, and sharing artworks by Alberta artists. Our collection is the largest, most active, and one of the oldest of 16 provincially owned art collections. On September 29, we announced how we would celebrate our past by producing a documentary video series about the history of the AFA Art Collection, and how we would invest in our future by supporting Alberta artists through a one-time micro-grant program.

The AFA was also pleased to continue to support equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility (EDIA) in the arts and through the arts last year. We supported organizations in Alberta by focusing on pluralism/EDIA projects for the 2022-23 intake of the Organization Activation Projects grant program and approved more than \$242,000 in funding. As part of ongoing implementation of our pluralism policy, we look forward to continuing to highlight successes in our community.

Like many provincial organizations, we were saddened by the passing of the Queen in September, and we marked the sombre occasion by pausing all communications during the mourning period. The AFA was pleased, however, to select 15 recipients from our province's arts community to receive Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee Medals to recognize their contributions to Alberta.

And, finally, our board was renewed in March 2023 with new membership, for which I am proud and honoured to lead as the new Chair. Our sincere and heartfelt thanks to our outgoing members for their service to the AFA: former Chair Mary Rozsa de Coquet, Aleem Bharwani, Tom Jackson, and Richard Wong.

On behalf of the AFA board, I am pleased to present the 2022-23 annual report.

Sincerely,



Paul R. Baay, Chair  
Alberta Foundation for the Arts Board of Directors

## Overview

The AFA was established in 1991 as a public agency and a provincial corporation of the Government of Alberta. The AFA provides funding to artists and organizations, researches and promotes the arts and manages an extensive provincial art collection.

## Mandate

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

- To support and contribute to the development of and to promote the arts in Alberta,
- To provide persons and organizations with the opportunity to participate in the arts in Alberta,
- To foster and promote the enjoyment of works of art by Alberta artists,
- To collect, preserve and display works of art by Alberta artists, and
- To encourage artists resident in Alberta in their work.

In addition, the AFA is guided by direction included in Premier Danielle Smith’s letter to the Honourable Jason Luan, former Minister of Culture, on November 9, 2022, which directed the AFA to prioritize Alberta artists, art and cultural materials.

## Linkages to the Ministry’s Business Plan

AFA programs are linked to the following outcome articulated in the [Culture and Status of Women 2022-25 Business Plan](#).

**Outcome One:** Creative and cultural industries, civil society and Alberta’s heritage sector flourish and grow in an environment that stimulates innovation, investment and economic growth, with minimal red tape.

Specifically, the AFA worked on Key Strategy 1.3:

“Explore modern and innovative ways to celebrate our culture.”

The work of the AFA also contributed to the results of performance measure 1.a:

Performance measure 1.a: Percentage of Albertans attending and participating in events and organized activities.

## Board Governance

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

- Developing and implementing the AFA's strategic plan
- Allocating the annual budget
- Approving AFA funding and scholarships
- Approving and monitoring the acquisition, exhibition and preservation of works in the AFA collection

The board 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 members are appointed through Order in Council. On March 29, 2023, the government appointed Paul R. Baay as Chair.

- Paul R. Baay had served as Vice Chair since April 15, 2020, and assumed the acting chair position when former Chair Mary Rozsa de Coquet's term expired on January 10, 2023.

At the same time, the government appointed four new members and two previous members whose terms had expired. They are:

- Le Bo, Vice Chair
- Robert Fernandez
- Yasmin Jivraj
- Nabil Malik
- Sylvester Ndumbi
- Shana Yang

The AFA thanks all outgoing board members for their service to the board and acknowledge their significant contributions.

## Board Compensation Disclosure

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

## Membership



**Paul R. Baay**

*Chair, Calgary*



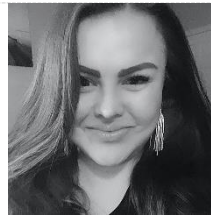
**Le Bo**

*Vice Chair, Calgary*



**Robert Fernandez**

*Edmonton*



**Andrea True Joy Fox**

*Lethbridge/Blood Tribe  
(Blackfoot)*



**Yasmin Jivraj**

*Edmonton*



**Nabil Malik**

*Fort McMurray*



**Melody McKnight**

*Red Deer*



**Sylvester Ndumbi**

*Calgary*



**Shana Yang**

*Calgary*



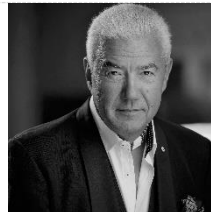
**Mary Rozsa de  
Coquet**

*Calgary (term expired  
January 10, 2023)*



**Aleem Bharwani**

*Calgary (term expired  
January 25, 2023)*



**Tom Jackson**

*Calgary (term expired  
January 10, 2023)*



**Richard Wong**

*Edmonton (resigned  
March 1, 2023)*

# Results Analysis

## Performance Measure Results

Results for performance measure 1.a from the [Culture and Status of Women 2022-25 Business Plan](#) are gathered through the annual Survey of Albertans on Culture.

In 2022-23, 70.3 per cent of adult Albertans attended arts activities or events.

## Core Businesses and Goals

AFA activities are developed through adherence to goals set out in the AFA 2019-22 Strategic Plan, as described below. This plan remains in effect until the next strategic plan is completed and approved by the Minister, as described in the AFA's [Mandate and Roles Document](#).

Finalized and approved in 2019, the Strategic Plan lays out how the AFA plans to encourage a healthy arts sector, build meaningful and reciprocal relationships with the arts community and harness the capacity of the arts to connect communities and be a catalyst for positive change. The plan affirms the AFA's commitment to promoting equitable access in the arts and to building relationships with Alberta's equity-seeking communities, particularly with Indigenous artists, culturally diverse and Francophone artists, as well as Deaf artists and those with other disabilities.

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

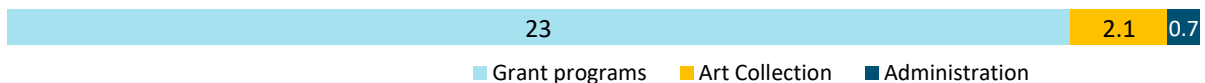
AFA's support for the arts is primarily driven by our granting programs. Operational grants provide ongoing support to organizations that create and provide access to art experiences and offer job opportunities for artists and cultural workers. Project funding is awarded to organizations and individual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

#### **Impact of Funding**

##### **AFA expenditures, 2022-23**

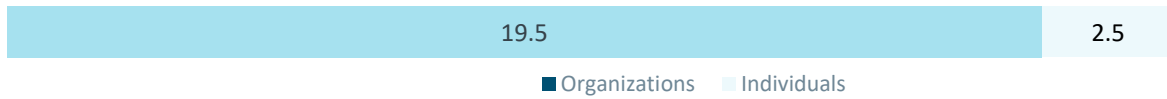
\$25,807,000

##### **AFA expenditure breakdown<sup>1</sup> (\$ in Millions)**

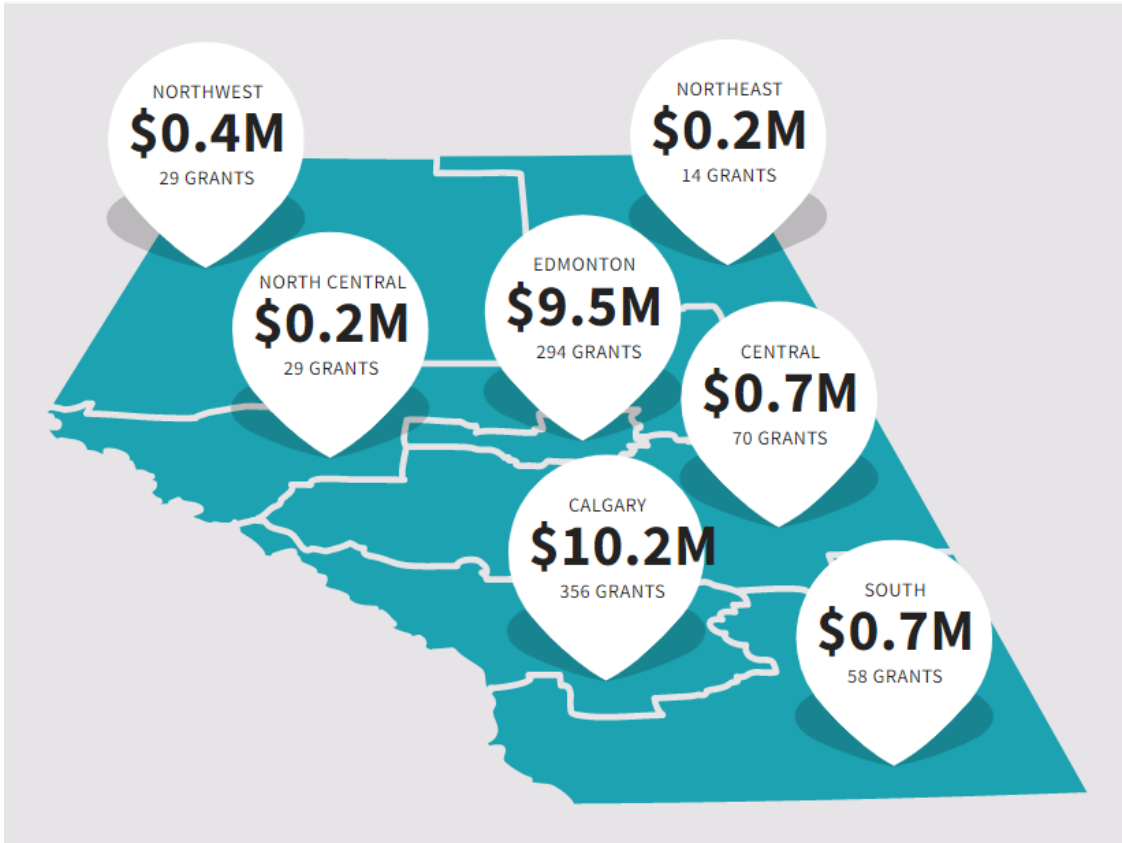


<sup>1</sup> Expenditures for each category include program support expenses.

Funding awarded by recipient type<sup>2</sup> (\$ in Millions)



Funding approved by region














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

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











### Funding awarded to organizations

\$ amount (grants awarded / eligible applications)

Professional Performing Arts		<b>\$8,652,933.00</b>	51/51
Community Support		<b>\$2,400,000.00</b>	139/139
Community Performing Arts		<b>\$1,691,000.00</b>	159/159
Public Art Galleries		<b>\$1,655,000.00</b>	17/17
Major Arts Presenters		<b>\$1,655,000.00</b>	17/17
Arts Presenting		<b>\$1,255,000.00</b>	151/151
Provincial Arts Service		<b>\$1,180,000.00</b>	8/8
Artists and Education		<b>\$433,052.27</b>	51/108
Summer Schools		<b>\$294,326.06</b>	6/8
Organization Activation Projects		<b>\$242,896.59</b>	14/44
Projects Development		<b>\$50,000.00</b>	1/1

### Funding awarded to individuals

\$ amount (grants awarded / eligible applications)

Music		<b>\$642,738.60</b>	68/317
Visual Arts and New Media		<b>\$529,295.94</b>	60/339
Film and Video		<b>\$428,259.55</b>	32/187
Literary Arts		<b>\$393,874.30</b>	34/202
Theatre		<b>\$182,624.46</b>	16/81
Dance		<b>\$163,233.13</b>	20/67
Indigenous Arts		<b>\$140,551.65</b>	11/55
Arts Awards		<b>\$7,000.00</b>	1/5

### COVID-19 and Arts Sector Recovery

On June 14, 2022, Alberta moved into the third of three phases to remove COVID-19 public health restrictions. Restrictions on public gatherings and other measures that most adversely affected the arts sector during the pandemic were lifted during 2022, and focus shifted towards recovery and renewal.

With the removal of public health measures, the AFA managed increased funding demand in 2022-23 as the sector returned to pre-pandemic levels of arts activities. The AFA worked to find efficiencies in its spending to ensure we could meet our priorities. This included cancelling funding opportunities that were suspended in 2021-22, including the Travel Grant for Individuals and

Ensembles, and the Cultural Relations project grant programs. Arts activities supported through these programs were supported through other AFA grants.

The AFA continued its policy of addressing organizations' eligible grant requests for future funding on a program-by-program basis. AFA operating grants are calculated based on financial information from previous fiscal years, which can include pandemic years. We continue to work within existing resources to provide stable support for Alberta's arts organizations.

### **Support for Organizations**

In 2022-23, the AFA delivered 386 operating grants and 223 project grants to diverse organizations across the province. These funding programs included the Organization Activation Projects Funding program. This project grant program is designed so that it may be adjusted from year-to-year to align with the board's strategic priorities.

This year the program provided funding to organizations to nurture inclusive citizenship and promote pluralism through artistic projects that recognize, respect and value difference in and through the arts. In 2022-23, the AFA provided 14 organizations with Organization Activation Projects grants totaling \$242,896.59.

One of the successful applicants was Calgary-based Trickster Theatre. Building on its unique Artist-in-Schools Residency Program, Trickster Theatre used this grant to launch an Emerging Indigenous Artist program: a project designed to include Indigenous perspectives within the theatre's practices.

Trickster Theatre's Emerging Indigenous Artist program was designed to create positions for two to three emerging Indigenous artists per year to be trained and mentored within the organization. Trickster Theatre has reported that their projects in Indigenous communities feature teams where 60 to 75 per cent of its team members are Indigenous artists. The company's goal was to create a new pathway between its organization and Indigenous communities.

Trickster Theatre used its AFA project funding to contract two individuals for 12 to 18 weeks during 2023. The company then made them core members of their organization, designating them as cultural liaisons on its projects and as key individuals when engaging with Elders and Cultural Advisors in schools and within various Indigenous communities.

Founder and Producing Director, David Chantler, notes, "Trickster Theatre works in Indigenous communities all over Alberta, and the funding provided to our Emerging Indigenous Artists program enabled us to bring a more culturally relevant team of artists to those projects."

### **Support for Individuals**

In 2022-23, the AFA provided 242 individual project grants to artists working in a variety of disciplines. As part of celebrations for the 50th Anniversary of the AFA Art Collection, we also established a special, one-time Micro-Grants for Visual Artists program. This program was administered through the AFA's Visual Arts and New Media Individual Project Funding grant.



**Figure 1. Wei Li, *Chilli Sauce*, 2023, archival digital print**



**Figure 2. Wei Li, *Cooking wine*, 2023, archival digital print**

The micro-grant provided up to \$2,500 to support a project that explored or engaged with the history and diversity of visual arts in Alberta or responded to our province’s visual culture and identity. The AFA awarded 21 micro-grants to individual artists in 2023. Two of those artists were Calgary-based artist, Wei Li, and Edmonton-based artist Heather Shillinglaw.

Since graduating from the University of Alberta in 2017, Wei Li has used her unique experience of being raised in China combined with her western education to create art that explores

the complexities of hybrid identities. Li described the difficulties of being an artist and how costly it can be to present high-quality work: “It’s expensive to be a full-time artist; to do all the framing and printing necessary to make your work look professional.”

Li used her AFA micro-grant to print her digital artwork with digital archive ink and to frame the work to elevate its presentation level in exhibitions. Her work was recently featured in a solo show at Harcourt House Artist Run Centre in Edmonton and will feature at The New Gallery in Calgary in 2025.

Li noted that her micro-grant helped her to present her artwork as a solo artist: “Without the grant, I believe I would have had to cut down the quality of my work to fit within my budget. But with the grant, I could get everything done in a professional manner.”

Raised in Cooking Lake, Heather Shillinglaw is a mixed media artist that graduated from the Alberta College of Art and Design (now the Alberta University of the Arts) in 1996. Shillinglaw received a micro-grant to support a self-directed residency at the Banff Centre for the Arts, in the Gerin-Lajoie studio, from January 22 to February 17, 2023.

Shillinglaw used her micro-grant to assist with the costs of attending the residency, including developing technical elements of her practice. For this project, Shillinglaw used sewing machines to create large mixed-media collages.



**Figure 3. Heather Shillinglaw’s studio set-up**



Figure 4. Heather Shillinglaw, *wawakesiwisakahikan – Elk Lake – (Lac La Biche)*, 2023

She was able to complete three art pieces during the residency and begin the early stages of a fourth artwork. This resulted in an average of one artwork per week, for a process which had used to take her one month per artwork.

Shillinglaw expressed appreciation for AFA grants she has received throughout her career, and the structure in which they are awarded. “Without the AFA I probably wouldn’t exist as an artist today. I can confidently say that as a practicing artist for 20 plus years. With the peer advisory that review the grants, it’s really important to have that recognition saying that ‘this artist is approved for this grant.’ It’s a very important aspect that shows the climate for the Alberta art community.”

## ***Core Business Two: Art Collection***

### **Acquisition value of AFA Art Collection as of March 31, 2023**

\$17,994,213

### **Number of artworks**

9,440

### **Acquisitions**

The AFA actively collects artworks that document the province’s significant visual artistic achievement over time through competitive purchase, curatorial purchase and donation programs. Each new acquisition is a valued cultural resource for Albertans, today and for future generations.

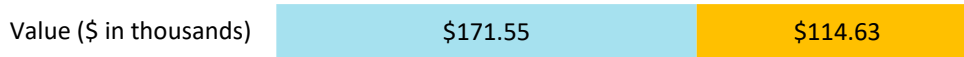
### **Value of new acquisitions, 2022-23**

\$286,180

### **Number of new acquisitions**

106

## New acquisitions, 2022-23

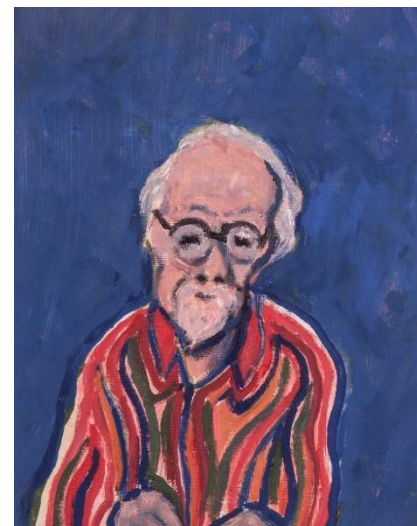


■ Purchases ■ Donations

### Art Acquisitions by Application

The Art Acquisitions by Application program is an annual competitive purchase program that acquires artworks created within the last five years by individual Albertan artists. In 2022-23, the AFA purchased 41 artworks by 32 artists through this program, including work by nine artists not previously represented in the AFA Art Collection.

Through the program, the AFA acquired Harry Kiyooka's painting, *H.K. Self Portrait*, in 2022. During the pandemic, when many Albertans could not gather in person, Kiyooka learned how to meet with his friends and colleagues through the online video conferencing platform, Zoom. Kiyooka took screenshots of his friends and then used the screenshots to paint a new series of small portraits. His self-portrait marked the beginning of the series.



**Figure 5. Harry Kiyooka, *H.K. Self Portrait*, 2019, oil on board**

Harry Kiyooka was born in Calgary in 1928. He taught at the University of Calgary for 27 years and retired as Professor Emeritus of Art in 1988. Kiyooka travelled and worked extensively in Europe, Japan and the United States, and he exhibited his artwork in many national and international exhibitions. Throughout his career, he served on local, provincial and national boards including the Royal Canadian Academy, the Alberta Society of Artists and the Alberta Art Foundation. In 2007, Kiyooka and his partner, artist Katie Ohe, launched the Kiyooka Ohe Foundation to which they donated their home, studios, property and extensive art collection to create the Kiyooka Ohe Arts Centre (KOAC).

The AFA was saddened to learn of Harry Kiyooka's passing on April 8, 2022.

## Curatorial Purchase

Annually, the AFA dedicates funding to purchase works of art that address specific gaps in its art collection not addressed through other acquisition programs. In 2022-2023, the AFA purchased three artworks by two Indigenous artists, Faye HeavyShield and MJ Belcourt. A 2019 report by curator Becca Taylor, the recipient of the AFA's Dr. Joane Cardinal-Schubert Fellowship for Indigenous Curators, identified these two artists as a priority for acquisition in the AFA Art Collection.

MJ Belcourt is a certified Native Art Instructor, curator and Indigenous artist residing in Edmonton on Treaty 6 territory. Her mixed Métis ancestry is Mohawk, Cree and French with family ties to the Michel Band and the community of Lac St. Anne. Through a desire to build a closer connection and understanding of her Métis

bloodline, Belcourt remains naturally drawn to the traditional Indigenous arts of her ancestors.

In 1988, Belcourt met her mentor and teacher, the late Métis Elder, Elsie Quintal of Square Lake from Northern Alberta. For four years she spent each fall at Quintal's home and under her tutelage, Belcourt mastered the art of tanning hides in the Cree tradition. Now, she works in a variety of Indigenous art forms including beadwork, porcupine quill, fish scale, moose and caribou hair and the art of creating natural dyes.

The AFA acquired two artworks from Belcourt, *First Fruits* and *Pass System*. Both are native tanned smoked moose hide pouches embellished with beading and other traditional decorative elements. *First Fruits* represents a tie to the artist's Haudenosaunee (Mohawk) people. The image of a wild strawberry, beaded in a raised couching technique, is a style of beading known to her ancestors. The wild strawberry, traditionally a women's fruit harvested in the springtime, figures prominently in the Indigenous first fruits ceremony.

The artwork *Pass System* references a period in history (1885-1951) when Indigenous peoples were required to carry identification and permit papers to travel beyond the reserve. The beaded pouch reflects the restraints upon Indigenous people captive in their own homeland, and through their resilience, the outcome is a functional aesthetic object embodied with cultural expression.



**Figure 6. MJ Belcourt, *First Fruits*, nd. smoked moose hide, glass seed beads**



**Figure 7. MJ Belcourt, *Pass System*, nd. smoked moose hide, glass beads, tin cones beads**

## Donations

The AFA considers offers of donations of artworks from artists, individual collectors, organizations and corporations as another mode of acquisition.

In 2022-23, the AFA received 62 donated artworks including a generous donation of 44 drawings and one lithograph by John Clark (1943 – 1989). Clark was a dedicated and highly skilled artist with a considerable talent for drawing. He always placed an emphasis on drawing, whether in a sketch or a finished painting. Several of the drawings included in the donation are preliminary studies for paintings held in the AFA Art Collection and they provide a direct link and conceptual understanding of his artistic process from drawing to the finished painting. The 45 artworks complement the existing holdings of John Clark's work in the AFA's collection.

Clark was born in Howden, Yorkshire, England and moved to Canada in 1978. As an artist and teacher, he had a major influence in Western Canada, and worked as a professor of painting at the University of Lethbridge from 1986 to 1989. His artworks have been exhibited nationally and internationally and are represented in private and public collections in Canada and the United Kingdom, including the Canada Council Art Bank and the Arts Council of Northern Ireland.



**Figure 8. John Clark, *Work Gloves*, 1983, charcoal on paper**

## Public Art Commission

In 2020-21, the AFA suspended application intake for the Public Art Commission program to conduct a scheduled review to evaluate its operation, impacts and outcomes. After a thorough review and analysis, the AFA chose to discontinue this acquisition program in 2022-23.

The AFA is proud to have supported nine commissions in four communities in Alberta through the program since 2014. All commissioned AFA artworks acquired through this program will remain in the care of the AFA in perpetuity and held in public trust for the people of Alberta.

## Artwork Loans

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

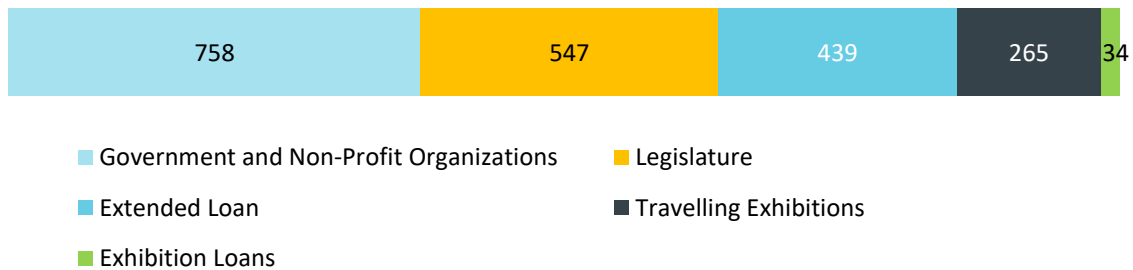
**Number of artworks on display, 2022-23**

2,043

**Percentage of collection on display**

21.6%

**AFA artworks on display by program 2022-23**



**Art Placement**

The AFA’s Art Placement program facilitates the display of artworks from the AFA Art Collection to foster public enjoyment. Eligible recipients for the Art Placement program include government, non-profit organizations and the Alberta Legislature.

The AFA installed *The Day Before Yesterday* by historic artist Janet Mitchell, R.C.A. (1912 – 1998) in the office of the Ministry of Community and Social Services, through the program. The large-scale painting reflects Mitchell’s signature impressionistic and spontaneous style, accentuated by a bright palette and a sense of playful whimsy. Working in watercolour, oil, acrylic, pen and ink,



**Figure 9. Janet Mitchell, *The Day Before Yesterday*, 1981, acrylic on linen**

Mitchell’s colourful paintings depict the Alberta landscape and city scenes often combined with floating figures and animals.

Mitchell was born in Medicine Hat and was, for the most part, a self-taught artist. She took evening classes at the Provincial Institute of Technology and Art (now the Alberta University of the Arts), attended seminars at the University of Saskatchewan and, in 1942, attended the Banff School of Fine Arts on a scholarship.



Janet Mitchell was an educator, mentor and important figure in the development of the visual arts in Alberta. In 1973, she offered a generous donation of more than 70 artworks (including her personal collection of Alberta artists and her own work) to the AFA's collection. This major donation was one of the original building blocks during the formative days of the AFA Art Collection.

## Travelling Exhibition Program

### Venues visited by travelling exhibitions, 2022-23

180

### Number of visitors

401,719

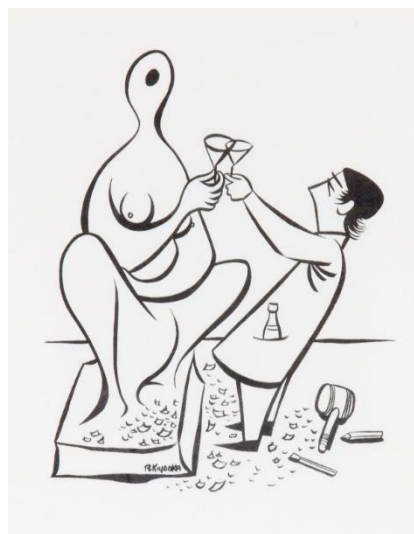
The AFA's Travelling Exhibition Program (TREX) strives to ensure every Albertan is provided with an opportunity to enjoy fully developed exhibitions in schools, libraries, health care centres and smaller rural institutions and galleries throughout the province. The program also offers educational support material for teachers to encourage visual arts exhibitions to be included in school curriculum. The program divides the province into four TREX regions, each with a regional partner, who coordinates and curates exhibitions from a variety of sources, including the AFA Art Collection.

In 2022-23, the Esplanade Arts and Heritage Centre Region 4 Southeast Manager/Curator Genevieve Farrell curated the TREX exhibition *Party On!* in recognition and celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the AFA Art Collection.

The exhibition presents a lively grouping of 15 AFA artworks by 14 Albertan artists. The following curatorial statement captures the celebratory essence of the exhibition: "Each artwork depicts a single moment of shared revelry and interconnectedness, scenes of musical performances, dancing, carnivals, community gatherings and shared festivities of food and drink, help mark this special occasion."

The limited-edition lithograph, *Untitled (Highlights, December 1951, Vol 5, No3)* created by historic artist Roy Kiyooka (1926 - 1994) was included in the Alberta Society of Artists' 1951 'Highlights Newsletter' for distribution among its membership. Kiyooka's playful cartoon style image depicts his mastery of drawing, while capturing a spontaneous narrative.

The exhibition, *Party On!* will travel throughout the province with the TREX program until August 2025.



**Figure 10. Roy Kiyooka, *Untitled (Highlights, December 1951, Vol 5, No 3)*, 1951, lithograph on paper**



**Figure 11.** Eva Heller, *Heat*, 1983, shaped tapestry, wool and cotton

### Exhibition Loans

The AFA frequently lends artwork to cultural institutions such as museums, art galleries, interpretive centres, archives and other collecting or exhibiting organizations for public exhibition.

The touring exhibition, *Prairie Interlace: Weaving, Modernisms and the Expanded Frame, 1960 – 2000* is a collaboration between University of Calgary’s Nickle Galleries and the MacKenzie Art Gallery in

Regina, Saskatchewan. The exhibition explores the popularity of innovative textile-based art production on the Canadian prairies throughout the second half of the twentieth century. With a focus on weaving and other interlace practices, such as rug hooking and crochet, the exhibition examines how artists of diverse backgrounds wove new histories of fibre during a period of intense energy and collective creativity. The AFA worked closely with the curators and loaned nine artworks, ranging in date from 1974 to 2000, for the duration of the tour.

Born in Poland, artist Eva Heller studied there and immigrated to Alberta in 1980. Her multi-component tapestry, *Heat*, is an ambitious, large-scale work spanning almost four meters in width. With a lack of studio space in her Lethbridge home, Heller adapted the bedroom to create the tapestry and dyed the wool in the kitchen.

Heller’s description of the inspiration for *Heat* points to her interest in translating impressions of nature into masterful abstracted tapestries: “Sunshine, grass of the prairies, summer heat...every winter I was waiting for a chinook and the first signs of spring.”

The exhibition will tour throughout the prairie provinces until 2024.

### Extended Loan

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

The new Mi’Kai’sto Red Crow Community College, located on the Blood Reserve in Southern Alberta, celebrated their official opening in October 2022. The state-of-the-art facility is a

specialized post-secondary institution designed to meet the needs of the Indigenous community. The facility features multiple art commissions, created exclusively by Blackfoot artists. The AFA loaned five artworks by two renowned Blackfoot artists, Adrian Stimson and the late Joane Cardinal-Schubert R.C.A. (1942 - 2009), to the college for long-term display.

Cardinal-Schubert was an artist, curator, writer, mentor and activist whose body of work addressed

Indigenous experiences and struggle for cultural autonomy. Cardinal-Schubert drew upon autobiographical references, the history of Western Colonialism and art history in a career that spanned over four decades.



**Figure 12. Joane Cardinal-Schubert, *Crowsnest Mountain and the Seven Sisters*, 1989, oil on paper**

The AFA loaned three artworks by Cardinal-Schubert, all in the medium of drawing, for prominent public display in the college library. The largest scale drawing, *Crowsnest Mountain and the Seven Sisters*, depicts a rich, atmospheric landscape with a silhouette of the iconic Seven Sisters and Crowsnest mountains. The foreground figures and animals, executed in the style of an ancient petroglyph drawing, provide an engaging narrative. The five AFA artworks will remain on display at the college for a minimum of five years.

## ***Core Business Three: Research and Communications***

### **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>, 2022-23**

129,233

#### **Users<sup>4</sup>**

81,933

#### **Community submissions for website newsfeed**

579

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

<sup>4</sup> Users are the individuals participating in website sessions.

During this period, we increased our engagement on the AFA's social media platforms. We continued to see steady growth on the AFA's Facebook and Instagram platforms and the AFA Newswire (our e-Newsletter). We maintained our standard level of engagement on Twitter despite a slight follower decrease when the platform's ownership changed hands.

- On Facebook, we attracted 363 new followers, totaling 8,165 followers overall, and received a total of 5,110 page visits.
- On Twitter, we saw a decrease of 64 Twitter followers compared to the previous year, totalling 3,641 followers.
- On Instagram, we added 461 followers, totaling 2,711 followers, and received total of 3,817 profile visits.
- We saw an increase of 118 subscribers to the AFA Newswire, bringing the audience subscription number to 1,579.

### The 50th Anniversary of the AFA Art Collection



Figure 13. AFA Art Collection 50th Anniversary Mosaic and Logo

In September 2022, the AFA marked the 50th Anniversary of the AFA Art Collection by announcing the production of a video series that promotes the AFA's Art Collection and the art and artists within Alberta. Beginning with a one-minute teaser trailer released on the anniversary date, September 29th, the video series is comprised of five separate videos each running approximately ten minutes in length. Each video focuses on a main theme, including:

- 'Building the Collection' documents the history and development of the AFA's art collection.
- 'Caring for the Collection' highlights the AFA's stewardship role in preserving and protecting artworks included in the collection.
- 'Sharing the Collection' explores accessibility and the myriad of ways the AFA Art Collection is shared with the public.
- 'Curating the Collection' focuses on the curation of some landmark AFA exhibitions and their ability to reach audiences on a provincial, national and international level.
- 'Diversifying the Collection' considers the ongoing evolution of the AFA Art Collection through a series of interviews with diverse artists practicing in a variety of media.

'Building the Collection' was released on World Art Day on April 15, 2023. The AFA continues to release videos and celebrate the collection's anniversary and sharing new videos throughout 2023.

### Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee Medals

In early 2023, the AFA was honoured to select 15 recipients from Alberta's arts community to receive Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee Medals.

While Alberta has no shortage of incredible individuals who have enriched Alberta and its arts sector with their dedication and mastery, the AFA was privileged to recognize 15 outstanding individuals for their contributions.

Two presentation ceremonies were held in Edmonton on January 30, 2023, and in Calgary on February 2, 2023, where the AFA presented the medals to the recipients.

The 15 recipients were:

- Jason Carter, Camrose
- David Chantler, Calgary
- Jean Grand-Maître, Calgary
- Natasha Deen, Edmonton
- Haysam Kadri, Calgary
- Claude Lapalme, Red Deer
- Maurice Lorieau, Calgary
- Dr. Jane Ash Poitras, Edmonton
- Vivek Shraya, Calgary
- Shelley Switzer, Edmonton
- Yves Trépanier, Calgary
- Terry Wickham, Edmonton
- Vicki Adams Willis, Calgary
- Marlon Wilson, Edmonton
- Michelle Wong, Calgary

### Arts Sector Donation Program

On June 10, 2022, the AFA launched the Arts Sector Donation Program. This program is designed to foster and contribute to the growth and development of the arts in Alberta by accepting cash



**Figure 14. Calgary ceremony, back row (from left to right): David Chantler, Jean Grand-Maître, Yves Trépanier, Jason Carter, Paul Baay (AFA Chair), front row (from left to right): Claude Lapalme, Vicki Adams Willis, Maurice Lorieau (missing: Haysam Kadri)**



**Figure 15. Edmonton ceremony, back row (from left to right): Vivek Shraya, Terry Wickham, Shelley Switzer, Marlon Wilson, Richard Wong (Former AFA Board member), front row (from left to right): Jane Ash Poitras, Natasha Deen and Michelle Wong**

donations from donors to support AFA programs and services. The program complements the Government of Alberta’s Creative Partnerships program.

As a provincial funding body, the AFA provides important support to the arts sector through its funding programs for individual artists, art acquisition, arts education and others. The Arts Sector Donation Program offers an opportunity to those who may be interested in supporting the sector through these programs and, in turn, potentially qualify for an official donation receipt. The AFA also encourages any donors who are interested in supporting specific arts organizations in Alberta to donate to them directly. The AFA did not receive any cash donations through the program in 2022-23.

### **Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Accessibility**

The AFA received the final report on implementing its Pluralism Policy from external consultants Parodos Social Marketing and Naheyawin in April 2022. Recommendations from the report are guiding the AFA in developing its policy implementation plan, evaluation plan and reporting strategy, as well as the next AFA Strategic Plan.

The 2022 cycle of the AFA’s Organization Activation Projects grant program focused on fostering pluralism in the arts and through the arts. In March 2023, the AFA approved more than \$242,000 to support pluralism projects being undertaken in Alberta (detailed above under “Support for Organizations”).

The AFA contracted a Calgary-based digital marketing agency, Northweather, to develop an ‘explainer video’ to describe how the AFA’s Pluralism Policy intends to address issues of equity, diversity, inclusion and accessibility throughout the organization, both in the arts and through the arts. The company has produced variations of the video to include American Sign Language (ASL) interpretation and audio description to increase their accessibility and will publish them in 2023.

- The AFA also published a resources page on its website with links to a variety of multi-media learning tools to provide the arts community additional opportunities for dialogue and deeper understanding.

### **Engagement**

The AFA engages in outreach with different facets of the broader arts community. Throughout the year, the AFA hosts granting information sessions to share tips and advice for preparing grant applications.

#### **Number of funding information sessions held, 2022-23**

**47**

#### **Attendees**

**731**



In October 2022, the AFA hosted engagement sessions to gather input and feedback from Alberta's arts community that could be used to inform the AFA's next three-year strategic plan. The AFA sought input from arts organizations, individual artists and Indigenous artists.

The AFA heard from 70 participants during seven virtual engagement sessions. Participants provided their input on the opportunities and challenges facing Alberta's arts community, on the role that the AFA should take to further equity, diversity, inclusion and accessibility in and through the arts, and on the AFA's priorities over the next three years. This input is essential in helping ensure that the AFA's next strategic plan is informed by and responsive to the sector.

## 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 2022-23 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](#).