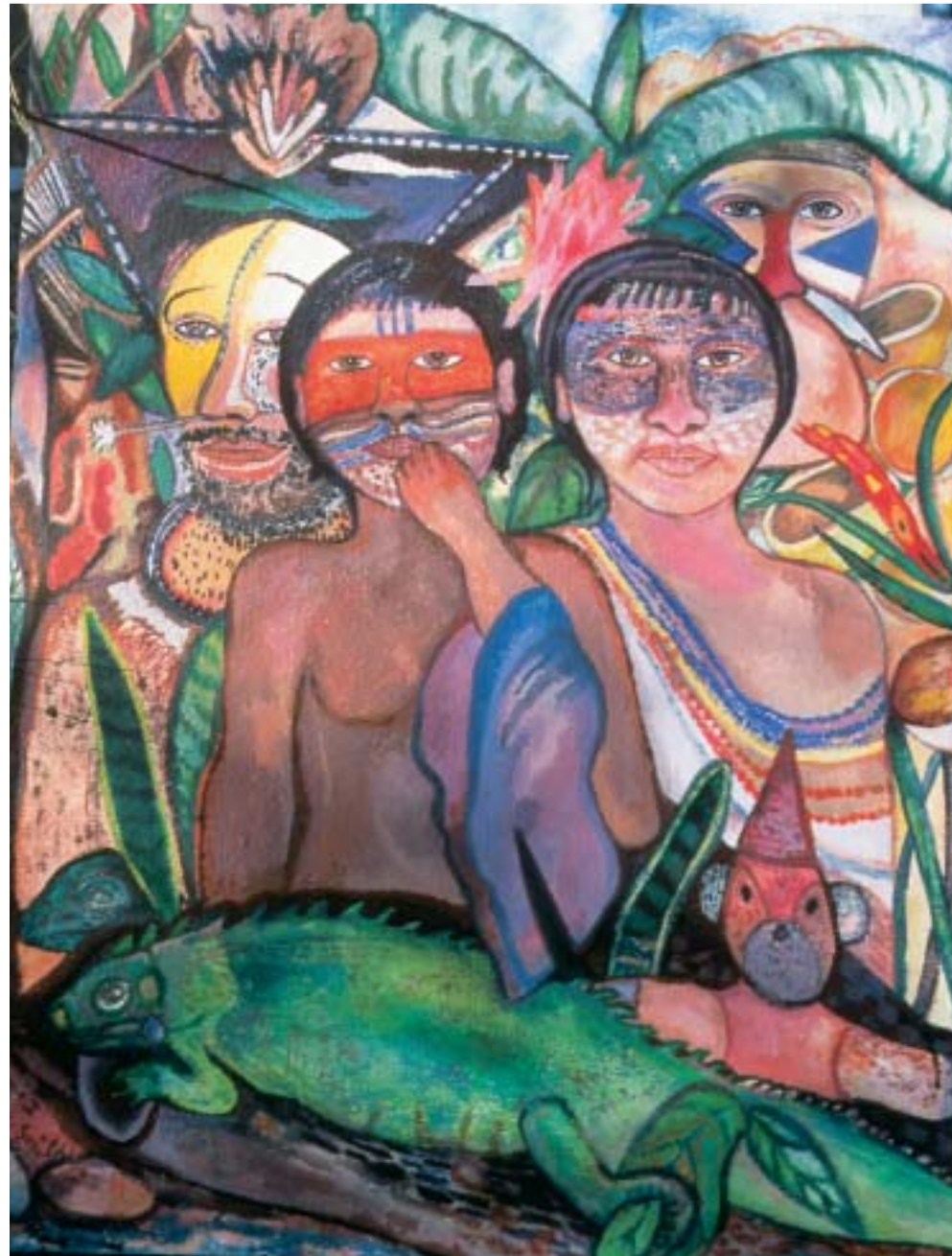


THE A RT OF CHANGE

2002 | 2003 MANITOBA ARTS COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT



Faces of the Amazon, ELIZABETH ANN SMITH

THE ART OF CHANGE

2002 | 2003 MANITOBA ARTS COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT



Moonscape, ELIZABETH ANN SMITH

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The Manitoba Arts Council provides funds to professional Manitoba artists and arts organizations. It is an arms-length agency of the Government of Manitoba and is funded by the Department of Culture, Heritage and Tourism.

Manitoba
Culture, Heritage
and Tourism





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September 15, 2003

Honourable Gary Doer,
PREMIER AND PRESIDENT OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Dear Sir,

In accordance with the provisions of An Act to Establish the Manitoba Arts Council,
I present this report on behalf of the members of the Manitoba Arts Council, covering
the activities of the Council from April 1, 2002 to March 31, 2003.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in red ink, appearing to read 'Judith N'.

DR. JUDITH FLYNN, CHAIR

MISSION

The mission of the Manitoba Arts Council is to promote, preserve and support the arts as central to the quality of life of all the people of Manitoba.

VISION

To be a responsive, efficient and transparent agency in promoting, supporting and advocating for the arts in all their diversity, to all Manitobans.

VALUES

The Manitoba Arts Council values:

- Fairness, objectivity, equity and transparency in its decision-making.
- Education and training in the arts, enriching the mind and spirit and ensuring the continuing contribution of the arts into the future.
- Artistic culture representative of the diverse population of Manitoba.
- The individual artists as central to the successful development of the arts.
- Innovation, creativity and risk-taking in the achievement of artistic excellence.
- Consultation, inclusion and collaboration to ensure access to and participation in the arts.
- The involvement of artists and arts professionals in the assessment and adjudication of arts activities as vital to a healthy and productive arts community.
- Sound governance and financial management, active community relations and communication.
- Respect in our relationships within the workplace and the community.

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Passage Through The Garden II, CHRISTOPHER FINN

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR



THE THEME OF THIS YEAR'S REPORT, THE ART OF CHANGE, WAS NOT CHOSEN LIGHTLY; IT WAS SELECTED TO REFLECT, AS ACCURATELY AS WE CAN, WHAT HAS TAKEN PLACE IN THE YEAR 2002 - 2003 AND WHICH WILL CARRY FORWARD INTO THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE.

The Council, now into their third year, has matured to the point where they have the depth of experience to examine and review, in a thoughtful way, the policies and programs of Council, along with the mission, vision, values and goals.

We have added four new Council members — Keith Berens, Robert Freynet, Lucien Loiseau and Ian Ross — to replace members who departed in the previous year, and Michael Lawrenchuk who retired in this past year. The new members and the renewal of the existing Council's term means we will be able to continue in the direction we have identified in the past years of being more culturally inclusive; of consulting with our communities; of fostering arts education; and of effective board governance and communications.

We will be able to see the longer-term results of the initiatives introduced last year (Community Connections, dedicated aboriginal arts programs), and we will be able to further our work. To that end, Council has been reviewing funding to organizations to determine necessary changes to address today's realities. Similarly, funding to individuals is being looked at with an eye to revisions. Our French Language Working Group is developing a consultation process with the Franco-Manitoban art community, and a new Aboriginal Arts Working Group has been formed to provide direction related to programs and policy, and will also conduct public consultations.

We now have a council member sitting as liaison on the Alliance for Arts Education in Manitoba Committee. Our original Artists in the Schools Working Group, developed to review the AIS program, has expanded its mandate to include arts education generally.

The Manitoba Arts Council has been increasingly seeking out partnerships with arts organizations, government institutions and other arts funders across the province, Canada and beyond. This will allow us to share ideas and best practices and to jointly achieve what individually we may not otherwise be able to.

Our mission, vision and values are being reviewed to ensure they still reflect who we are and what we aspire to be in the community. Our goals, and therefore our strategic plan, are also up for review, and as "living documents" they too must clearly state what we intend to accomplish, how, and when. We are endeavoring to make our goals more quantifiable to allow for more accurate reporting of our achievements.

We are in ongoing discussions about advocacy for the arts and how to mount a focused campaign to promote the value and the role the arts play in the lives of all Manitobans. With tangible measures of the personal, social and economic impact of the arts, we may be able to make a stronger case for increased support to the arts.

We continue to ask our elected Arts Advisory Panel for input and reaction from the arts community to the ideas we are formulating around change. This is a cooperative process and we will be bringing new models to the community for review before implementation. We will pilot and adjust programs until they are appropriately fine-tuned. Our goal is to create policies and programs that the arts community has had a strong hand in developing.

Manitoba has an arts community that is the envy of many other provinces. The Manitoba Arts Council and staff are initiating changes that I believe will surpass the goal of maintaining what we already have, and will propel us into an even richer arts environment than we experience today.

A handwritten signature in red ink that reads "Judith N".

DR. JUDITH FLYNN, CHAIR

REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

THE 2002 - 2003 YEAR CAN BEST BE SUMMARIZED IN ONE WORD: CHANGE. WITHIN A TWELVE MONTH PERIOD, THE MANITOBA ARTS COUNCIL HAS EXPERIENCED SIGNIFICANT PHYSICAL CHANGE, PERSONNEL CHANGE, AS WELL AS POLICY AND PROGRAM REVIEW.

The prospect of change is exciting and challenging, albeit sometimes unsettling. It implies uncertainty and risk because the results of a change-management process cannot always be fully predicted in advance. As we've found out, one seemingly small change can cause a much larger ripple effect impacting upon everything we do. Implementing effective, meaningful change truly is an art and must be tackled with passion, knowledge, compassion, patience and an open-mind.

In the summer of 2002 the changes to our physical premises were completed. We now have a more space-efficient and inspiring work environment for our staff. We changed our personnel throughout the fall and winter and welcomed five new staff — Marian Butler, Program Consultant; Louise Cormier, Receptionist/Communications Assistant; Sue Hemphill, Program Consultant; Dana Mohr, Manager, Communications; and Joan Thomas, Program Consultant — replacing staff who moved on to pursue other opportunities, both professional and personal. We also hosted two student interns, Kate Thompson from the University of Waterloo Cultural Management Program, and Lindsay Roberts from the Red River Community College Creative Communications Program. With a change of personnel come new ideas, new competencies and new energy.

The title of our Program Officers was changed to Program Consultant to better reflect the role of liaison and consultant they are now playing within the arts community in Winnipeg and throughout the entire province. We have also changed internal administrative roles, functions and procedures to create more efficiencies and to better serve our clients' needs.

Our method of communicating with our clients and the public is changing. We are utilizing the website increasingly to disseminate and to receive information from you. We are committed to consulting with the full diversity of our communities (ethno-cultural, aboriginal, francophone, rural, northern) on an ongoing basis. We are committed to being as transparent as possible about everything we do, most especially during the program redevelopment and policy review/revision process we are currently in the midst of.

We have also adjusted some of the grants many of you are familiar with. We revamped the Major Arts Grant and turned it into a multidisciplinary competition instead of the previous discipline-specific model. We also introduced the Arts Award of Distinction, fully detailed on pages 14 and 15.

All the changes in the past year, and those that still lie ahead, are a result of closely listening to what the arts community has been saying and to our desire to be as efficient and as responsive as we can be. Change is by necessity a work-in-progress — it takes an increased time commitment of all involved and it requires enormous stamina. I can honestly say our staff and Council have been single-mindedly committed to these changes. Throughout all of the change, however, we have also been actively working towards the achievement of our four main goals of encouraging artistic excellence, promoting the arts, supporting cultural diversity and increasing arts education. When you read pages 8 to 11 you will see the tremendous progress we've made in these priority areas.

With all that has changed, some things, however, have not, and will never change. Our commitment to artistic excellence in all the arts, our commitment to a grants program that meets the needs of the unique community it serves, and our commitment to our mission to promote, preserve and support the arts as central to the quality of life of all the people of Manitoba, all remain overriding and steadfast goals for the Manitoba Arts Council and staff.



DOUGLAS RISKE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

GOAL:

ENCOURAGE ARTISTIC EXCELLENCE

TO ENCOURAGE ARTISTIC EXCELLENCE BY PROVIDING EFFECTIVE SUPPORT TO THE PROFESSIONAL ARTS COMMUNITY IN MANITOBA.

OBJECTIVES FOR 2005/2006

A) MAC has completed a full revision of all annual/operating policies involving the community in both the design and implementation of all changes which include: a holistic, weighted assessment process; equitable funding structure; measurable standards and outcomes; links to arts education and community connections initiatives; stabilization initiatives; multi-year funding agreements; and the role of the artist.

➤ **ACTIONS TAKEN TO APRIL 2003:**

A Funding to Organizations Working Group was established to review background research, case studies and other Council policies with an aim to developing a policy review process, including the redesign of programs through internal review and assessment as well as community consultations. Major issues were identified at the November strategic planning retreat for Council and staff. Options for policy outcomes and assessment methodology are being discussed.

Council has been working with community partners in supporting a change process at the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra.

Council continues to work with Arts Stabilization Manitoba with a Council representative on the board.

B) MAC has implemented policies to ensure support for professional Manitoba artists at all stages of their careers including: the revised Major Arts Award; increased assistance to individuals to improve access to rural and northern Manitoba; and, new programs addressing the continuum of funding artists from emerging to senior, developed after consultation with the community.

➤ **ACTIONS TAKEN TO APRIL 2003:**

The first Manitoba Arts Council Arts Award of Distinction, a lifetime achievement award, was announced and presented and the multi-disciplinary Major Arts Awards were delivered.

C) MAC has in place a continuing assessment of the short and long-term impact of support to individuals on the artist and the community.

➤ **ACTIONS TAKEN TO APRIL 2003:**

Council's Working Group on Funding to Individual Artists is in the process of assessing programs with expected recommendations and adjusted policies for 2004/2005.

D) MAC has completed a review of the Peer Assessment Process and is implementing recommendations after consultations with the community.

➤ **ACTIONS TAKEN TO APRIL 2003:**

Working groups on Funding to Individual Artists and Funding to Organizations are preparing recommendations on the timing, scope and nature of the review.

E) MAC has established policies to ensure efficient, accurate program delivery of all Council programs with the maximum number of dollars designated for the creation and production of art.

➤ **ACTIONS TAKEN TO APRIL 2003:**

MAC meets with an elected Arts Advisory Panel twice a year to determine effectiveness and impact of programs on the community.

MAC continues to refine the delivery process (along with server and hardware upgrades) for all grants and awards with pilot "e-granting" projects forecasted for 2003/2004.

Administration is working with clients to standardize the use of electronic exchange of data and information.

Management and Program Consultants have committed to the amalgamation of Professional Development and Short Term Travel grants in all disciplines by the spring of 2004.

“CREATIVITY IS ALLOWING ONESELF TO MAKE MISTAKES.
ART IS KNOWING WHICH ONES TO KEEP.”

- S C O T T A D A M S

GOAL: PROMOTE THE ARTS

TO ACT AS A COMMUNITY LEADER IN PARTNERSHIP WITH OTHERS IN PROMOTING THE ROLE OF THE ARTS FOR THE BENEFIT OF MANITOBANS.

OBJECTIVES FOR 2005/2006

A) Level of awareness and profile of professional artists and arts organizations increased in communities throughout Manitoba.

➤ **ACTIONS TAKEN TO APRIL 2003:**

MAC Program Consultants from all disciplines and key staff have been visiting clients in communities throughout the province. MAC's annual retreat, held each year in a different community, was held in Gimli and included a community reception.

An advocacy plan has been drafted and submitted to Council for discussion. It has been assigned to the Arts Education Working Group for review and consideration.

MAC is working with the Department of Culture, Heritage and Tourism, the Manitoba Foundation for the Arts, and the Winnipeg Art Gallery to merge the MAC Art Bank and the Manitoba government art collection to better serve the artists and communities of Manitoba.



B) Increased active support for arts-related activity throughout Manitoba and expanded cultural tourism.

➤ **ACTIONS TAKEN TO APRIL 2003:**

A new, expanded website was launched with increased capabilities to promote arts activities in Manitoba through a Calendar of Events.

MAC is exploring its role in building support for the arts through partnerships with the provincial departments of Industry, Trade and Mines; Culture, Heritage and Tourism; Aboriginal and Northern Affairs; as well as Canadian Heritage.

C) Increased media coverage about the arts throughout the province.

➤ **ACTIONS TAKEN TO APRIL 2003:**

Press release distribution list has been expanded to include community groups and organizations as well as specialty media outlets.

D) MAC's website is the major link between Manitoba artists and communities and MAC.

➤ **ACTIONS TAKEN TO APRIL 2003:**

MAC's website was dramatically revised and has become a primary resource tool for those seeking grant information, arts event information and general arts information. New functions for the website are under discussion and review for appropriateness and value to audiences served.

La Traversée, MARCEL GOSSELIN

GOAL: SUPPORT CULTURAL DIVERSITY

TO PROVIDE LEADERSHIP IN SUPPORTING ARTISTIC EXPRESSION AND ARTS EXPERIENCES REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ETHNIC AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY OF THIS PROVINCE.

OBJECTIVES FOR 2005/2006

A) Council's programs represent the demographic, cultural, intellectual, social and spiritual diversity of the province.

ACTIONS TAKEN TO APRIL 2003:

MAC is developing a process to compile statistics concerning the use of programs by various demographic groups in order to incorporate into the program/policy recommendation and review process.

B) Aboriginal artists and arts organizations have access to MAC programs which are designed to meet the specific needs of the artist and the community.

ACTIONS TAKEN TO APRIL 2003:

A working group has been established to advise Council on policy options and directions. MAC introduced three programs for aboriginal artists and arts organizations. Aboriginal artist access to all MAC programs is being monitored. A Canadian meeting of funders of aboriginal artists and arts organizations was held in Winnipeg (hosted by MAC and the Canada Council for the Arts) to discuss future directions and key issues. Plans are being developed for continued community consultation workshops to further determine aboriginal artists' and arts organizations' needs.

C) MAC has complementary programs designed to serve the needs of the multi-cultural professional arts community.

ACTIONS TAKEN TO APRIL 2003:

A French Language Working Group has been created to review services to the Franco-Manitoban arts community. A community consultation plan is being developed.

A community consultation, in partnership with Canadian Heritage, was developed for ethno-cultural artists and arts organizations to assist Council in the creation of new programs and/or revisions to current programs.

D) MAC has a continuing program designed to meet the needs of professional artists and arts organizations in northern and rural communities.

ACTIONS TAKEN TO APRIL 2003:

The Community Connections program announced its first grant recipients.

The Program Consultants for Community Connections and Aboriginal Arts have been active on committees exploring the needs of rural and northern communities.

An Artist-in-the-Community program is planned for delivery in 2003 - 2004.

E) MAC has a system in place for tracking applications to ensure increased and improved access for all diverse communities in the province.

ACTIONS TAKEN TO APRIL 2003:

Research is in progress to determine how to request, receive and track information while integrating all necessary personal information confidentiality requirements.

“THE ART
OF A PEOPLE
IS A TRUE MIRROR TO THEIR MINDS.”

- JAWAHARIAL NEHRU

GOAL: INCREASE ARTS EDUCATION

TO INCREASE OPPORTUNITIES FOR AN EXPANSION OF ARTS EDUCATION, WHICH WILL ENCOURAGE A DIVERSITY OF ARTS EXPERIENCES.

OBJECTIVES FOR 2005/2006

- A) MAC provides lifelong learning in the arts by providing support and leadership in arts education through ensuring arts education experiences are available throughout the province on a regular and timely basis.**

ACTIONS TAKEN TO APRIL 2003:

MAC is supporting the initiatives of the Alliance for Arts Education in Manitoba.

MAC is involved with the Arts and Cultural Industries team and Labour Force Development, as well as the Cultural Management Program being instituted by the University of Winnipeg and the province's universities.

- B) All students in Manitoba schools are ensured a strong education in and through the arts.**

ACTIONS TAKEN TO APRIL 2003:

The Artists in the Schools (AIS) program was reviewed to ensure it meets Council's objectives in terms of clarity and realization of purpose, communities served, effectiveness and monitoring/evaluation processes. Recommendations of the review are being incorporated into program policies and guidelines.

A proposal has been developed with the Manitoba Department of Education and Youth to become a partner in the national ArtsSmarts Program of the McConnell Foundation.

- C) MAC organizational operating policies emphasize comprehensive arts education programs and initiatives as essential criteria in assessing arts organizations.**

ACTIONS TAKEN TO APRIL 2003:

Council's working group on Funding to Organizations is incorporating criteria related to arts education in revised policies and guidelines.

“THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE FUNDING TO HAVE STORY TELLER JAMIE OLIVIERO VISIT ÉCOLE RIVER HEIGHTS SCHOOL. MY DAUGHTER, A GRADE 8 STUDENT, ENJOYED HIS SESSIONS VERY MUCH. PROBABLY ONE OF THE YEAR'S HIGHLIGHTS!”

- P A R E N T



Untitled, G. N. LOUISE JONASSON

MAJOR ARTS AWARD RECIPIENTS



WANDA KOOP VISUAL ARTIST

Wanda Koop's distinguished career spans three decades and she is regarded as one of our country's most inventive artists. Long recognized as an important painter, she has become increasingly known for her poetic video work.

The Major Arts Grant will allow Wanda to create six large-scale drawings that will eventually become the core of her next installation; her source of inspiration coming from observation of popular culture, and the natural and industrial worlds.

Wanda Koop has over 50 solo exhibits to her name throughout Canada, Great Britain, Brazil, Japan,

Italy, China, India and the U.S.A; her work is included in several private and museum collections including the National Gallery of Canada; and she has been the recipient of numerous national and international awards and honours including: the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal, the Japan Fund Award, a Doctor of Letters Honouris Causa (University of Winnipeg), the Manitoba Arts Council Foundation's Innovations Award in Art Creation, and both Canada Council and Manitoba Arts Council "A" Awards.

Prolific in her art, Wanda is equally respected for her community work, particularly the founding of the Art City Project in 1997, an



Wanda Koop: 88 Recent Paintings

art centre in Winnipeg that provides an opportunity for inner-city youth-at-risk to work with contemporary visual artists.



REVA STONE VISUAL ARTIST

The Major Arts Grant will further Reva Stone's upcoming work, *Imaginal Expression*, in which she continues her exploration into issues surrounding technology's reconfiguration of the human body. This interactive installation/website uses images derived from scientific imaging technology to explore actual and virtual bodies as they intersect with actual and virtual space.

The grant will also be applied to the completion of *sentientBody*, which explores the shifts in the stability of our own increasingly technologized bodies and to *Carnevale 3.0*, which features a fleshless, robotic alternative to organic embodiment.

Reva's career spans 18 years, and her work has been shown in major centres in Canada. In the



Carnevale 3.0 (2000 - 02) Interactive Robotic Sculpture

last year and a half, she has exhibited *Carnevale 3.0* at the Banff Centre for the Arts and also at the Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal. She received an honorary mention

for the work at the VIDA 5.0 Art and A-Life competition in Madrid, Spain, and she was invited to exhibit it at *Atomica*, the first American biennale of electronic art.

Reva has recently been a mentor with the *Crossing Communities Art Project*, working with girls and women in conflict with the law, as well as mentoring two emerging Manitoba visual artists through the *Mentoring Artists for Women's Arts Centre (MAWA)* this fall. For many years she also participated in the *Manitoba Arts Council's Artists in the Schools Program*. She currently serves on the programming committee of *Video Pool, MAWA* and the *Send and Receive Festival of Sound*.



DAVID BERGEN AUTHOR

Three novels, at least 15 short stories ("How can *n* men share a bottle of vodka?", winner of the Canadian Literary Award, Fall 2000; "Life Before Nietzsche", *Toronto Life*, Summer 2000; "Lucy in the Sky", *Saturday Night*, October 1999 to name a few), and numerous travel articles are only a few of the many highlights of Winnipeg author David Bergen's career.

The rights to his latest novel, *The Case of Lena S.*, published in September 2002, have recently been sold in France, and it was short-listed in October 2002 for the prestigious *Governor-General's award*.

This past year David shared his knowledge with aspiring and emerging writers through the

Writer-in-Residence position at the *Winnipeg Centennial Library*. He also recently participated in a number of high-profile literary events including, "North American Voices", a literary conference in Paris that included Margaret Atwood, Richard Ford and Russell Banks; "Étonnants Voyageurs", another writing conference in Paris; as well as a reading in New York hosted and organized by the *Canadian Consulate*, also featuring Ann-Marie MacDonald, Elizabeth Hay and Timothy Taylor.

The Major Arts Grant has been awarded to David to support his work on his current novel entitled, *In a Dark Wood*, the story of a young man and woman looking for their father, a Vietnam war veteran who settled in Canada.



See the Child, Book Jacket

INCENTIVE INITIATIVES

2002 - 2003 MARKS THE THIRD YEAR THE MANITOBA ARTS COUNCIL HAS BEEN ABLE TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL ARTS ORGANIZATIONS WITH INCENTIVE INITIATIVES. THIS ADDITIONAL MONEY BASED ON 5% OF THEIR ANNUAL OR OPERATING GRANT ALLOWS THEM TO UNDERTAKE SPECIAL PROJECTS, MANAGEMENT OR ADMINISTRATIVE STRATEGIES THAT WILL BENEFIT THEM IN THE LONG TERM.

HERE ARE A FEW EXAMPLES OF HOW INCENTIVE INITIATIVES WERE USED IN 2002 - 2003.

Ace Art used their Incentive Initiative of \$4000 towards the contracting of a Managing Editor and Designer for their annual journal, Paperwait. This allowed existing staff to focus on their regular programming and administrative tasks while affording the contracted team valuable professional experience. In the process Paperwait received a refreshing new look and higher production values.

The **Brandon Chamber Players** used their \$750 Incentive Initiative for the purchase of two display ads in the Brandon Sun to compensate for a season brochure being sent out in the fall, rather than in the spring. This timing change had a negative impact on subscriber sales, but by placing two ads Brandon residents were reminded of the availability of tickets.

Groundswell paired their Incentive Initiative of \$1900 with a grant from Canada Council to produce and present outreach concerts, in particular a concert featuring the work of young composers, the performance of new music by young performers, and the mentorship of a young composer and choreographer working together for the first time. Their goal is to encourage those who attended outreach concerts to take in their main stage concert series as well.

Le Cercle Molière has put their Incentive Initiative of \$7550 towards providing additional support and resources to their administrative team as they concentrate their efforts on the preparation of a comprehensive project proposal to build a new theatre.

Prairie Theatre Exchange used their Incentive Initiative of \$14,350 towards two key activities: addressing staffing issues to continue their tradition of maintaining long-term, dedicated employees, and the hiring process of a new Artistic Director who, thanks to the award, was able to spend some transitional time with the PTE.

Shakespeare in the Ruins took advantage of their \$1975 Incentive Initiative to commission original music for their MacBeth for Schools project. While SIR's productions have often featured music, this will be the first time a show has been conceived with music as a fundamental aspect of the production's artistic genesis.

The **Winnipeg Jewish Theatre**, with their Incentive Initiative of \$2745, was able to cover the extra, unexpected costs of producing the musical, Yiddle with a Fiddle. Miklat, a comedy that takes place in Israel during the time of the Gulf War, was considered inappropriate programming given the world events of spring 2003.

TRIP Dance applied their \$1025 Incentive Initiative towards the costs of mounting a fundraising campaign to support creation. The campaign was very successful, resulting in over \$11,000 in individual and foundation donations. Fundraising revenues from these private sources are critical to the company's success.

The **Royal Winnipeg Ballet** was able to use their \$35,000 Incentive Initiative towards the hiring of the position of Ballet Master for the company. The incumbent brings much needed international experience to the Royal Winnipeg Ballet's artistic team.

Prairie Fire Press has benefited from their Incentive Initiative of \$3500 to provide resources to their Operations Coordinator to bolster their subscriptions renewals acquisition program, resulting in higher than projected renewals. A portion of the grant was also applied to a fall fundraising event.

The **Association of Manitoba Book Publishers** put their \$1825 Incentive Initiative towards staff professional development throughout the year, including the Arts and Culture Industry Development's professional development day; a tri-provincial forum on publishing in Saskatoon; as well as the Association of Canadian Publishers AGM in Toronto.

For a full list of all the organizations that received Incentive Initiatives please see the Grants Listing on page 49.

ARTS AWARD OF DISTINCTION



LESLEE SILVERMAN, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR OF THE MANITOBA THEATRE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE SINCE 1982, HAS BEEN NAMED THE FIRST RECIPIENT OF THE MANITOBA ARTS COUNCIL ARTS AWARD OF DISTINCTION. THIS \$30,000 AWARD IS PRESENTED ANNUALLY TO RECOGNIZE THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF ARTISTIC EXCELLENCE AND DISTINGUISHED CAREER ACHIEVEMENTS BY A PROFESSIONAL MANITOBA ARTIST.

Reception Speech Excerpts:

JUDITH FLYNN, MANITOBA ARTS COUNCIL, CHAIR

...Initiating new awards can be a bit tricky. You never know how the community will respond or what nominations you'll get. But I'm delighted to report that the Manitoba arts community has warmly welcomed the award, and that both the number and the quality of the nominations we received were outstanding. As you can imagine, selecting the first recipient for the Award of Distinction placed a very heavy responsibility on the jury. It was told that the award is intended to recognize the highest level of artistic excellence and career achievements by a Manitoba artist. Well, even a cursory glance at Leslee's career and work would be enough to suggest the appropriateness of the jury's choice.

... MTYP's productions not only reflect, but could be said to help shape, the lives of their young audience members. The shows are remarkable, not just for their entertainment value, which is considerable, but for the issues they raise. There's no passive spoon-feeding for MTYP audiences. The kids are challenged, made to think and to look at the world from new and different angles.

... When we announced that Leslee Silverman would be the first recipient of this award, the reaction from the community was overwhelmingly positive. That in itself is enough to tell us what an impact she has made upon her colleagues, not only in Manitoba but beyond our provincial borders. The day after the announcement, flowers, phone calls and emails of congratulations flowed in from all across the country.

... The freedom an award of this size can give an artist is invaluable — it gives time, that most precious of commodities, to expand one's horizons, to take a concentrated or extended break from the work routine, or to embark upon a long-contemplated new project. It gives the artist freedom to renew creative energies, to entertain new ideas, visions and dreams.

... We'd like this award to be seen as the Manitoba Arts Council's way of thanking our artists for their contributions and of reminding them how much we appreciate and value them, their work and their devotion to their art and to our community.

... Leslee, we are very proud to name you as the first recipient of the Manitoba Arts Council Arts Award of Distinction. You've set a formidable standard for future recipients and we applaud each and every one of your accomplishments. And we are certain you have really only just begun!

NANCY ALLAN, MLA, ST. VITAL; LEGISLATIVE ASSISTANT TO THE MINISTER OF CULTURE, HERITAGE AND TOURISM, THE HONOURABLE ERIC ROBINSON

What an honour it is to be here today on behalf of Minister Eric Robinson to participate in this most deserving presentation.

... The new Manitoba Arts Council Arts Award of Distinction is a truly significant award in terms of the honour it is intended to bestow upon its recipients. This award is an extremely effective way of letting artists know that Manitobans appreciate the hard work and the contributions they have made to the arts, primarily in Manitoba, but also in Canada and the world. Just being nominated for this award is a great honour because nominees must be professional Manitoba artists and nominations are accepted only from members of the Manitoba arts community. Hence, all 13 artists who received nominations for this year's award can be extremely proud to have earned the respect of their peers. ... I congratulate them all.

... And of course, I congratulate the winner of Manitoba's first Arts Award of Distinction, Leslee Silverman, Artistic Director of the Manitoba Theatre for Young People since 1982. An actor, director and producer, Leslee has shown us all that she cares deeply about helping to shape the lives of young people by introducing them to the theatre experience. She is a pioneer who is known widely for her dedication and artistic vision, and she is someone who richly deserves our respect and appreciation. I am proud and extremely pleased that Leslee's career contributions are being recognized and celebrated with this inaugural Award of Distinction. I think Leslee's will be a difficult act to follow, but not an impossible one. Manitoba boasts many world-class professional artists whose contributions enrich the lives of all citizens and who are definitely deserving of such an honour.

LESLEE SILVERMAN, RECIPIENT, ARTS AWARD OF DISTINCTION

When I was in the shower this morning, I tackled the age old problem of how small the word thank you is when the thanks I feel for this honour is so big. And then I thought of two things I could share with you that might help.

*The first is historical, going back to being a theatre brat at the old Manitoba Theatre School on Portage East where we had the privilege as students of being backstage to see Martha Henry prepare for *The Three Sisters*, as well as the many other “All-Stars” of the Canadian stage. John Hirsch would come over and talk to our classes, not about technique or acting so much but about the philosophy of the theatre. One of the many things he said that has certainly stayed with me my whole life is: “Many people believe that theatre belongs to other people of another class or another generation. But that is an accident of history. Theatre belongs especially to you, especially to the young.”*

... The other thought I wanted to share is the description on a napkin, that architect Dudley Thompson and I came to describe as a pivotal moment in shaping the design of the new theatre at the Forks. We were struggling with the concept of the reconfigurable theatre — the size of it — at the Foon Hai restaurant over one of the thousands of lunches, dinners and breakfasts we shared. This is what the napkin says: “Size of stage? Small enough for kids to be so close that they can see the whole society, and just big enough to be filled by a single gesture.” And truly, the single gesture moments are my absolute favourite in theatre, and in life.

*Last week, during our production of *The Red Balloon*, ... there is just such a moment. After the bully deliberately breaks the balloon, there is a profound silence in the audience, so loud it is audible. From youngest to oldest, we all viscerally understood that second of deliberate cruelty, and afterwards, we experienced communally the redemption of the child who was, thankfully, not consumed by hate for the enemy but found a way to literally rise above it.*



CanWest Global Performing Arts Centre, home of MTYP

So I offer this single gesture, the small, utilitarian word thanks in the old and venerable sentence from Shakespeare: “For this relief, much thanks”, hoping it conveys so much more, hoping it conveys my appreciation to everyone here — the committee that selected me and the wonderful theatre family who nominated me — and hoping you will all understand how deeply I believe this is not an individual award.

All this happens because of the large, unruly and extraordinary community who make it happen — artists, production crews, administrative staff... MTYP has been created by thousands and thousands of caring adults whose energy, intelligence, passion and talent have generated firstly, a people’s theatre and in particular, a young people’s theatre. Indeed, they have seen the task as a sacred responsibility and have given much to make sure it happened. On their behalf, and of course with my own gratitude, I thank you for the recognition it brings to the work we do for young people in the place we live.

“...I CANNOT EXPRESS ANY DISAPPOINTMENT THAT MY NOMINATION WAS NOT ACCEPTED. I CAN EASILY IMAGINE THE NAMES OF THE OTHER MANITOBA ARTISTS WITH TRULY INTERNATIONAL REPUTATIONS. I WILL BE AMONG THE FIRST TO CONGRATULATE THE FORTUNATE WINNER. I HOPE IN THIS FIRST YEAR OF THE AWARD THAT MANY ARTISTS RENOWNED IN THEIR FIELDS AND THEIR COMMUNITIES WERE NOMINATED. ...THIS AWARD IS A HIGHLY LAUDABLE ACTIVITY OF THE MANITOBA ARTS COUNCIL.”

- ARTS AWARD OF DISTINCTION NOMINEE

INTO THE COMMUNITIES

IN 2001 - 2002 IT WAS DETERMINED THE MANITOBA ARTS COUNCIL HAD TO BETTER ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF A VARIETY OF ARTISTS WORKING OUTSIDE OF THE WINNIPEG REGION. AS A RESULT, IN 2002 - 2003 MAC STARTED TO MAKE SIGNIFICANT INROADS INTO THE ABORIGINAL AND RURAL COMMUNITIES THROUGH THE COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS PILOT PROGRAMS AS WELL AS THREE ABORIGINAL ARTS PROGRAMS: CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT; MENTORSHIP, TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT; AND TRAVEL GRANTS. (SEE GRANTS LISTINGS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.) HERE ARE A FEW EXAMPLES OF RECENT INITIATIVES FUNDED UNDER THESE PROGRAMS.

George Foy, an Ojibway painter, has created for many years, but despite the positive feedback he received from family and friends, as well as professional artists, he never saw his art as more than a hobby. With a large family to support maintaining his existing career was his primary responsibility. Recently, George visited the Western Manitoba Regional Library in Carberry and was asked to exhibit his work. George, at last believing himself to be an artist, accepted. "The task...is my step towards a new future. I will create my art and I will show it to the world and I know it's good." George received a Creative Development grant and his career as an emerging artist has been launched. "I submitted paintings to the Manitoba Arts Council for approval of a grant. Six professional artists looked at my art and said I had what it takes to succeed."

With an artist-in-residence project developed through a Community Connections grant, the **Gimli Art Club** was able to bring in the professional assistance of painter Luther Pokrant to work with a group of eight emerging artists — the "Gimli Group of Eight". Many of the group are self-taught and Luther's training and mentorship will provide critical feedback and an academic balance to their creative endeavors. The community as a whole will benefit as Luther will teach advanced art techniques to the art club, who will then teach Gimli area residents. The residency will culminate with a public art show and artist talks. The club believes this initiative will further enhance Gimli's image as a highly creative and artistic community.

Riel Benn, only 22 years old, has been exhibiting since the age of 18. In the past year he has received a Short Term Project grant, a Visual Arts "C" grant to work on "Just my Imagination" and an Aboriginal Travel grant. Traveling throughout Saskatchewan and Alberta, Riel made significant contacts with galleries and curators, he met with corporate and private art collectors, and he was able to discuss collaborations with potential business and promotional partners. His travels generated positive advertising and his discussions have already shown very tangible results. Currently Riel's work hangs in private and gallery collections throughout Europe, New Zealand, Australia, the USA and Canada. "My passion dictates a lifelong commitment to this purpose."

In Carman the **Rural Art Mentorship Program** has been filling a void in the public school system. As division high schools have dropped arts curriculum, students with an interest in the arts have had no opportunity for in-school training. In 2002 - 2003 with a Community Connections grant, an increasing number of students were mentored by skilled artists. "We feel the program has been very successful because the students are gaining art-making skills and an appreciation of art. They have become more aware of art in their own lives... It has also been valuable for giving meaningful employment for local artists."

Irvin Head, master carver, was invited to showcase at the 2002 North American Indigenous Games in Winnipeg. Given the distance and the cost to travel from Cranberry Portage, Irvin received an Aboriginal Travel grant. While at the games, Irvin gave daily carving demonstrations and he networked with businesses and associations who had expressed interest in his work. The end result of this showcase was many gallery requests to show his art, as well as an invitation to travel to Switzerland. "Organizations such as yourself is what is needed by the Aboriginal community in the quest to become accepted and appreciated in the world of art. Your assistance was a definite asset."

MAC FACTS

- The Manitoba Arts Council was established by the Arts Council Act of 1965 “to promote the study, enjoyment, production and performance of work in the arts.”
- The Manitoba Arts Council has 15 members, appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council.
- The Manitoba Arts Council (MAC) employs 18 staff.
- MAC administers 30 different grant programs for individual artists and 17 grant programs designed for arts organizations.
- In 2002-2003 MAC received 126 requests from first-time individual artist applicants, not including requests for student bursaries.
- From September 2002 to June 2003, 181 Artist in the Schools short and long-term residencies were held by 47 artists. The total number of schools visited in Winnipeg were 69, and 112 schools outside the perimeter benefited from the AIS program. In total 29,029 students took part in the AIS program.
- In its inaugural year, the Manitoba Arts Council Arts Award of Distinction received 13 nominations from the arts community, representing all disciplines.
- In 2002 - 2003 MAC received 476 applications from individuals and awarded 314 grants. A total of \$936,544 was allotted to individual projects.
- MAC's annual operating budget for 2002 - 2003 was \$8,192,300. Seventeen percent (17%) was allocated to administrative and council expenses and 83% went directly to funding individual artists and arts organizations.
- In 2002 - 2003 MAC awarded a total of \$5,025,215 in annual operating funding towards 49 professional arts organizations, large and small.
- Of the individual grants awarded in 2002 - 2003, 94% were awarded to artists residing in Winnipeg and 6% to artists beyond the perimeter.
- In 2002 - 2003 the pilot Community Connections program, developed to reach out to rural artists and arts organizations, received 37 applications and awarded 11 grants for a total of \$70,872.

The Legend Of The Fish People, DAVID MORRISSEAU



- In 2002 - 2003 the Aboriginal Creative and Development Projects; Mentorship, Training and Development; and Travel grants funded a total of 40 aboriginal artists (17 of whom were rural based) to a total of \$133,557.
- The monthly average number of visitors to our website was 3964, the most popular day for visiting the website was Monday and the most downloaded file has consistently been guidelines for writers. Each month approximately 40 arts events are listed on MAC's calendar of events.
- In 2002 - 2003 MAC employed 118 jurors and assessors representing 7 provinces and over 30 Canadian cities including: Montreal, Vancouver, Halifax, Regina, Saskatoon, Edmonton, Calgary, Waterloo, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ottawa, Toronto, Winnipeg, Dauphin, Brandon, Stonewall and Leaf Rapids.
- In 2002 - 2003 the Bridges Fund, established in 1999, allotted \$640,105 towards the following programs: Arts Incentives, Management and Governance Program, Community Connections Pilot Program, Aboriginal Arts Programs, Arts Education, Arts Stabilization and Advocacy initiatives.

HOW COUNCIL WORKS

The Board of the Manitoba Arts Council consists of 15 members, appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council. They are responsible for developing policy and approving the expenditure of funds that support Council's mandate and reflect the public trust.

The mandate of Council was established in 1965 by the Arts Council Act. The Act requires Council "to promote the study, enjoyment, production and performance of work in the arts."

Council makes its funding decisions at arm's-length from the provincial government and the arts community. The relationship is balanced with

ongoing consultations with the arts community in order to respond effectively to changes in the arts community and to make well-informed decisions.

The Executive Director of the Council oversees the operation of Council and ensures that the policies of Council are implemented. There is a staff of 18, including six program consultants who manage the granting process and act as liaison between the arts community and Council. The consultants also provide assessments and reports to the Council committees for their consideration. Another key role for consultants is helping applicants to understand the granting process.

THE PEER ASSESSMENT PROCESS

The Council makes every effort to operate in an objective, transparent and equitable fashion. A key principle in achieving that goal is to make decisions at arm's-length from the government and from the arts community. At the same time, Council is accountable for how it makes those decisions. It must continually balance the need to support artistic expression while ensuring the money is spent effectively.

Every year, the Council receives over 800 applications and awards over 500 grants. To ensure that its limited financial resources are used wisely and that decisions are made fairly and objectively, Council uses peer assessment as a cornerstone of the granting process.

The main criterion for determining which applications are funded is artistic merit. Several other criteria, such as vitality, originality, relevance, creativity, novelty and experimentation as well as technical and professional expertise, are also used to assist peers of the applicants in making an objective decision.

Peers are defined as qualified artists or arts professionals with expertise relevant to the applications under consideration.

THE COUNCIL USES THE PEER ASSESSMENT PROCESS IN THREE WAYS:

- 1** Juries award grants to applicants to specific deadlines and programs.
- 2** Assessors review specific applications and provide recommendations to Council.
- 3** Advisory panels meet with Council to discuss trends and concerns in the discipline.

Jury and assessment panel recommendations are forwarded to Council for ratification.

Council members, staff, jurors and assessors are all required to abide by a Code of Ethics and a Confidentiality policy as part of Council's objective in maintaining an impartial, transparent granting process.

COUNCIL & STAFF

MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

Judith Flynn, CHAIR

Coralie Bryant, VICE-CHAIR

Keith Berens

Jan Brancewicz, Brandon

Liz Coffman

Robert Freynet, Ste. Anne

Suzanne Gillies

Teresa Hudson, Thompson

Michael Lawrenchuk (to November 2002)

Lucien Loiselle

Roger Neil, Brandon

Brian Peel

Addie Penner

Pam Rebello

Ian Ross

Derek Smith

STAFF

Douglas Riske, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dana Mohr, MANAGER, COMMUNICATIONS

Debra Solmundson, MANAGER, FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

Grace Thrasher, COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER (to October 2002)

Miriam Baron, PROGRAM CONSULTANT (Music, Touring, Competition & Prizes, Student Bursaries)

Marian Butler, PROGRAM CONSULTANT (Visual Arts)

Jazz de Montigny, PROGRAM CONSULTANT (Aboriginal Arts)

Louise Fiset, PROGRAM OFFICER (to April 2002)

Sue Hemphill, PROGRAM CONSULTANT (Access and Community Development)

Richard Holden, PROGRAM OFFICER (to October 2002)

Susan Israel, PROGRAM CONSULTANT (Dance, Theatre, Artists in the Schools)

Mark Morton, PROGRAM OFFICER (to July 2002)

Joan Thomas, PROGRAM CONSULTANT (Literary Arts, Film and Video)

Georgie Aldrich, PROGRAM ASSISTANT

Joan Colnett, DATABASE ADMINISTRATOR

Louise Cormier, RECEPTIONIST/COMMUNICATIONS ASSISTANT

Joel Crisp, NETWORK ADMINISTRATOR

Catherine Elchuk, SENIOR PROGRAM ASSISTANT

Pat Ihme, PROGRAM ASSISTANT

Valerie Rentz, PROGRAM ASSISTANT

Shirley Ruhr, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

Lisbeth Savard, RECEPTIONIST/COMMUNICATIONS ASSISTANT (To August 2002)

Elly Wittens, ACCOUNTS ADMINISTRATOR



See Whose Face It Wears, SHEILA SPENCE

COMMITTEES & WORKING GROUPS OF COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Coralie Bryant

Liz Coffman

Judith Flynn, CHAIR

Brian Peel

Teresa Hudson

FRENCH LANGUAGE
WORKING GROUP

Lucien Loiselle

Robert Freynet

Roger Neil

Derek Smith

ABORIGINAL ARTISTS
WORKING GROUP

Keith Berens

Suzanne Gillies

Teresa Hudson

Ian Ross

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Judith Flynn

Lucien Loiselle

Brian Peel, CHAIR

Addie Penner

Derek Smith

INDIVIDUAL ARTISTS
WORKING GROUP

Jan Brancewicz

Robert Freynet

Suzanne Gillies

Teresa Hudson

Pam Rebello

Ian Ross

MANITOBA FOUNDATION FOR
THE ARTS REPRESENTATIVE

Pam Rebello

AUDIT/FINANCE/HUMAN
RESOURCE COMMITTEE

Coralie Bryant, CHAIR

Jan Brancewicz

Judith Flynn

Addie Penner

Derek Smith

ARTS EDUCATION
WORKING GROUP

Keith Berens

Coralie Bryant

Liz Coffman

Addie Penner

Pam Rebello

ARTS ADVISORY PANEL
REPRESENTATIVES

Jan Brancewicz

Judith Flynn

Teresa Hudson

Addie Penner

INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

Coralie Bryant

Bill Cessford (Appointed by Lieutenant-Governor-in-
Council)

Judith Flynn

Derek Smith, CHAIR

FUNDING TO ORGANIZATIONS
WORKING GROUP

Coralie Bryant

Liz Coffman

Lucien Loiselle

Roger Neil

Brian Peel

Derek Smith

ARTS STABILIZATION
MANITOBA INC.
REPRESENTATIVE

Derek Smith

ALLIANCE FOR ARTS
EDUCATION IN MANITOBA
REPRESENTATIVE

Coralie Bryant

ART BANK WORKING GROUP

Jan Brancewicz

Suzanne Gillies

Roger Neil

Brian Peel

ARTS ADVISORY PANEL

ONGOING INPUT FROM THE MANITOBA ARTS COMMUNITY IS IMPORTANT FOR COUNCIL TO ENSURE THAT IT IS EFFECTIVELY MEETING THE NEEDS OF PROFESSIONAL ARTISTS AND ARTS ORGANIZATIONS. THIS PAST YEAR, COUNCIL ESTABLISHED A NEW MULTIDISCIPLINARY ADVISORY PANEL, ELECTED BY THE ARTS COMMUNITY.

THE PANEL MEETS TWICE A YEAR TO:

- Provide a forum for open discussion and exchange of ideas, alerting Council to major issues, concerns and opportunities in the arts.
- Encourage communication and foster partnership.
- Provide a link back to the community when members report back to their respective disciplines.
- Provide broad and direct knowledge of the arts community.

PANEL MEMBERS

INDIVIDUAL ARTISTS REPRESENTING THE FOLLOWING DISCIPLINES OR REGIONS:

Stephanie Ballard, DANCE

Pat Carrabre, BRANDON

Allan Chapman, NORTHERN/ABORIGINAL ARTISTS

Fay Jelly, VISUAL ARTS

Alan Lacovetsky, VISUAL ARTS

Robyn Maharaj, WRITING AND PUBLISHING

Michael Matthews, MUSIC

Erika MacPherson, FILM AND VIDEO

Jamie Oliviero, ARTS EDUCATION

Lora Schroeder, THEATRE

ORGANIZATIONS REPRESENTING THE FOLLOWING DISCIPLINES:

Moti Gharib Shojania, Manitoba Chamber Orchestra, MUSIC

Victor Jerrett Enns, Winnipeg Film Group, FILM AND VIDEO

Randy Joynt, TRIP Dance, DANCE

Vera Lemecha, MAWA, VISUAL ARTS

Irène Mahé, Théâtre du Grand Cercle, THEATRE

Michelle Peters, Association of Manitoba Book Publishers,
WRITING AND PUBLISHING

Steven Schipper, Manitoba Theatre Centre, LARGE ORGANIZATIONS

Andris Taskans, Prairie Fire, WRITING AND PUBLISHING

Faye Thomson, School of Contemporary Dancers, ARTS EDUCATION

It's A Jungle Out There II,
SHIRLEY BROWN

