

# ***Final Report for the Fall 2022 PEI Arts Grants***



**December 20th, 2022**

---



Economic Growth,  
Tourism & Culture

This funding program was designed to support the development of artistic practice of PEI artists through a competitive award system. The process for assessment is modeled after the best practice of using peer juries to select successful projects and award funding amounts. This round of funding competition was able to support 13 projects in total.

### Stats:

Number of eligible applications received: 76

Number of projects funded: 13

Total amount requested: \$353,448.83

Total amount available to be awarded: \$50,000.00

Percentage representing funded proposals: 14%

Percentage representing proposals that did not receive a grant: 86%

### By Discipline:

Visual Arts: 16

Interdisciplinary: 8

Film and Media Arts: 11

Music: 15

Writing and Publishing: 14

Theatre: 4

Dance: 4

Craft: 4

### By Artist Type:

Established: 33

Emerging: 39

Amateur: 4

### By Grant type:

Creation: 54

Dissemination: 13

Professional Development: 9

## Successful Applicants

### *Hans Wendt*

#### **\$5,000 – Visual Arts**

Hans Wendt will create a new body of paintings that will explore the struggle between ideas about painting and personal expression. His work will be exhibited at the Michael Gibson Gallery and the Toronto Art Fair in 2023.

### *Nancy Cai*

#### **\$6,500 – Interdisciplinary**

Nancy's project will center PEI oral history and traditional folklore in a full-colour, middle-grade adventure graphic novel. *Sorcha and the Wizard's Ring* follows a young girl navigating the world of Island Folklore and all its wonders -- and dangers -- as she finds a new side to the home she's always known.

### *Lawrence Maxwell*

#### **\$1,500 – Writing and publishing**

Max will create a poetry book entitled, "Collection Plates & Slot Machines." This collection will feature one hundred original poems selected from his unpublished catalogue, of which he's been writing for the past year, as well as others he will create during a writing period in December.

### *Elizabeth Iwunwa*

#### **\$6,000 – Writing and publishing**

Elizabeth Iwunwa will trace the evolution of Black music in Prince Edward Island from its roots as a simple means of expression, to its function as a salve against racial injustice, and as a tool of belonging and community-building. Highlighting the contributions of Black people to PEI's cultural landscape across several generations will unearth a more accurate story of the Island's past with a view to cultivating a sense of belonging, legitimacy, and awareness within the Black Islanders and Black musicians living in PEI today. This project will examine what it means for Black people in PEI - whether foreign-born or descendants of enslaved persons - to make music. It will consider themes such as the transplanting of cultures, the role of organised religion, racism and racialisation, expansion of genres, and music-making as a signifier of inclusion. This project tackles the problem of documenting Black achievement and history in PEI, particularly, within the arts.

### *Bren Simmers*

#### **\$4,000 – Writing and publishing**

Bren intends to write a collection of poetry based on process-based experiments informed by contemporary poetic practices (erasure, cut-ups, sensory logs, daily poems, dice rolling, English-to-English translation, etc.). By inviting risk and restraint into her work, she will subvert habitual ways of constructing a "poem," allowing for fresh possibilities to enter her writing.

### *Jacques Arsenaault*

#### **\$2,000 – Music**

Jacques will be doing a mentorship in Acadian traditional music with Emmanuelle LeBlanc.

### *Ariana Salvo*

#### **\$2,500 – Writing and Publishing**

Ariana Salvo will complete her novel *Oranges Taste Like Freedom*. This is a work of literary fiction about a Greek Cypriot woman and Turkish Cypriot man who discover the journal of a Holocaust survivor who was incarcerated in a Jewish internment camp in Cyprus after her ship to Palestine was intercepted by the British. Joining forces, the two uncover the story of the 52,000 Jews who were imprisoned on their island between 1946 and 1949. In the process they realize that the version of the truth upon which their identity rests is one constructed by outsiders, and that if they want a future that is not defined by division, they are going to have to rewrite their history themselves.

### *Aaron Comeau*

#### **\$3,000 – Music**

Aaron will compose a large body of new musical works on the piano, documenting the process extensively. This project will explore & develop the improvisation / composition process in great depth.

### *Melissa Mullen*

#### **\$2,500 – Film and media arts**

Melissa has written the first draft of a feature length screenplay entitled *Still Dancing*. The proposed project is to work with acclaimed screenwriter/mentor Cynthia Whitcomb for roughly three months this winter to take the script to its next level.

### *Lucus MacDonald*

#### **\$8,000 – Crafts**

Lucus will be hand carving 40 unique interference wave patterns onto hand planed walnut wood. These wall hangings will depict the vibrational waves observed on the ceiling, made by sunlight reflecting off of water in a frying pan that had been left to soak. With this project he wishes to capture the ephemeral beauty hidden in these transient moments that catch us off-guard

### *Lauren Jean Lawlor*

#### **\$4,500 – Theatre**

Lauren Jean will be writing a play script, *CHEESESTRING*, exploring the challenges that come with queer dating in rural communities and of dating with a trauma history..

### *Chloe Dockendorff*

#### **\$2,000 – Dance**

Chloe Dockendorff will attend Canada's Ballet Jörgen's 6-week Junior Company program. She will work with international instructors and choreographers to develop technique, artistry, and maturity in her dancing; and she will gain experience through learning and performing company repertoire.

### *Ashley Cao*

#### **\$2,500 - Dance**

Ashley will create a dance piece "Same Moon Bright Moon", this dance expresses the day of the year when the moon is the largest, roundest, and brightest, which is the Mid-Autumn Festival in China and is also close to Thanksgiving in Canada, People in different places bathe in the same moonlight and share the joy of harvest. The dance is a fusion of Chinese classical dance and international ballroom dance, integrating elegance, serenity, liveliness, and freedom. An endowment show is planned for September 2023 at the Charlottetown Indoors.

## **Process for Selection of Grant Awards**

The Director of Cultural Development oversees the administration of this funding program. The program used a "peer assessment" model where a jury of six peers reviewed all applications and then were brought together to assess each application on the following criteria:

### *Artistic Merit 25 points*

Questions the artist(s) should be able to answer within this section:

Why do I/we make art? Why am I a musician/film-maker/visual artist etc?

What is my arts practice about (a general statement that speaks to an overarching vision?)

Where is this project situated within my practice and does it demonstrate growth of my practice?

Other things to consider - are the concepts in language that is understandable (not too jargon filled, academic)

Is this about business or about artistic merit?

### *Achievability 15 points*

Does the artist(s) have a track record of successfully completing projects? Does the plan seem reasonable? Is their budget sufficient? Does the artist have a well thought out timeline?

### *Impact 10 points*

This criteria relates to impact for the PEI Arts community. Essentially the question is: Will the project contribute to PEI arts? It can be understood in many ways: growth of the individual artist/group, raising the profile of the artist within the community, contributing to the growth of the arts community, or raising the profile of PEI arts outside of the province.

### *Selection of Jury*

Jury members were solicited from an open call for applications. Jury members represented a mix of disciplines and experience in the arts community. The jurors were:

Reequal Smith – Dancer/choreographer and creator of Oshun Dance Studio

Pan Wendt – Curator of the Confederation Centre Art Gallery

Patricia Bourque – Visual Artist

Shawn Hogan – Comedian and Executive Director of the PEI Writers' Guild

Monica Lacey – Visual Artist

Shane Pendergast – Musician

### *Timeline for Fall 2022 PEI Arts Grants:*

September 14th: Call for applications/jury members open

October 31st: Deadline for applications (extended due to Hurricane Fiona and death of Queen Elizabeth)

November 1st to November 28th : Jury reviews/scores applications

November 30th : Jury meets face to face for adjudication

November 30th : Results communicated to applicants