

Inspired

Report to the Community 2016



BANFF
CENTRE
FOR ARTS AND
CREATIVITY

Your Support At Work

In the last year:

4,000+

Artists and Leaders
attended programs

900+

Artists scholarships
awarded

700+

Individual Donors
contributed

\$2.3 million

Given in artist scholarships

7

New endowments
created

Image: Banff Townsite,
photo by Paul Zizka

Dear Arts Lover,

In an ever-complicated world we are increasingly seeing the globe recognizing Canada’s strength and leadership in taking creative approaches to change, diversity, reconciliation, immigration, environmental issues, and arts and culture.

This is the backdrop for Banff Centre’s commitment to arts and creativity. Artists help us make sense of our world—they tell our stories, offer different perspectives and show us new and powerful ways to see and understand the world—you help us do this and we are very thankful.

Your support is key to Banff Centre’s 2015-16 year of strategic planning and evolution of our organization. That is why we are proud to now be Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity, with arts at the core of what we do. You’ve most likely seen the announcement of Banff Centre’s new five year strategic plan, *The Creative Voice*, which truly brings to life the mission of Banff Centre and our dedication to artist education and creation. We’re pleased to share with you a copy of *The Creative Voice* included here.

It has been a tremendous last year as we welcomed thousands of artists and leaders to campus to learn, to create and realize their creative potential. As a result of your dedication to Banff Centre, artists and leaders have seen truly inspirational support. Without your help artists would not have time and space to learn, to create, to advance their careers and the cultural fabric of Canada, and truly the world, would not be as rich. You make this happen and for this we are forever grateful.

In this last year Banff Centre has seen faculty members from all across the world join the finest emerging and established artistic talents for training programs. From the accomplished director Paul Curran in our summer Opera program, the *New Yorker’s* Nick Paumgarten



for our Literary Journalism residency, to pianist Lisa Moore with our Banff Musicians in Residence, the wealth of artistic talent your support has helped provide for artists is outstanding. We also welcomed the annual TEDSummit conference and its 1,000 delegates, and hosted a groundbreaking Truth and Reconciliation Summit in the fall.

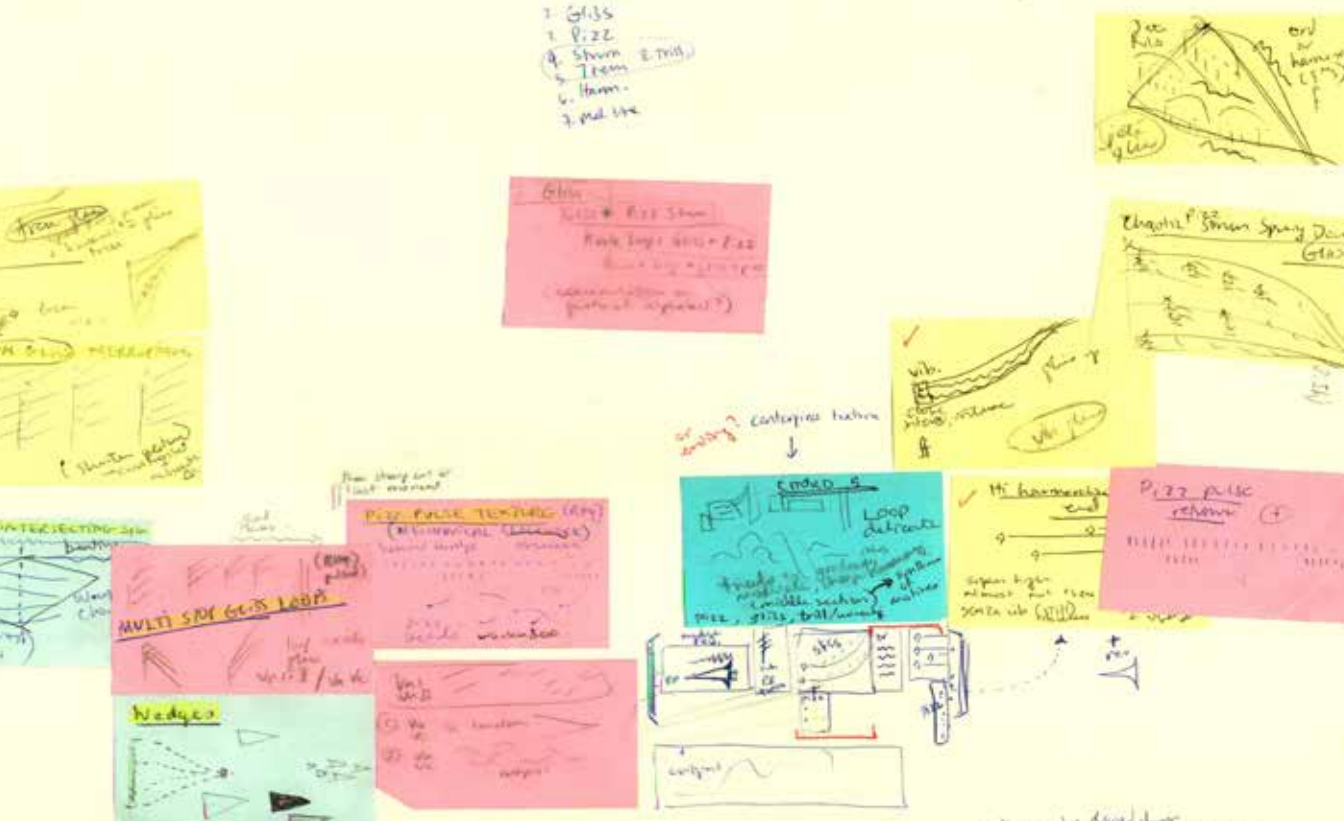
What you’ll find in these pages of *Inspired* is a glimpse into some of the outstanding work that has been underway throughout our artistic and leadership programs this last year.

I am excited to share with you that starting from next summer *Inspired* will evolve from a once a year publication to a bi-annual magazine dedicated to sharing stories of artists, leaders, the significant impact your support provides and the inside scoop on upcoming events, festivals and behind-the-scenes program events.

I look forward to sharing this new publication with you in the spring of 2017. Until then, I hope to see you on our fair campus in the Canadian Rockies.

Best,

Janice Price
President & CEO
Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity



Composer Zosha Di Castri on BISQC’s Canadian Commission Prize

Getting to know Zosha Di Castri and her work, *Quartet No. 1*

The 12th Banff International String Quartet Competition (BISQC) took place in September 2016 and saw 10 quartets from around the world compete in five rounds with the Rolston String Quartet winning first place. As part of BISQC, Banff Centre co-commissions a Canadian composer to create a new string quartet for the Canadian Commission round. This year, Banff Centre co-commissioned alumna Zosha Di Castri, who first came to Banff to study with John Adams in 2010 for the Composer Residency, to create this new work. Sincere thanks go to all BISQC supporters and donations in honour of R.S. Williams & Sons who generously supported the Canadian Commission round. This is a story about the creation of that piece.

Early on in Zosha Di Castri’s process of writing the Canadian Commission for BISQC 2016, she wrote down a note in her sketchbook: “Is it possible to write a piece where, if it’s heard 10 times back to back by 10 different groups, you hear something new and unique each time?”

Her piece, *Quartet No. 1*, is a response to that question. “I think that this is a really unique experience as a composer to not only hear the premiere of your work, but hear so many different interpretations back to back.”

A co-commission between Banff Centre, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and Americas Society, *Quartet No. 1* kept the musicians on their toes. With pages of performance instructions and many extended techniques, the piece can be dizzying to look at on paper, but Di Castri knew that competitors at this high level would be up to the task.

“The Canadian Commission round is a way to distinguish between the groups. It is important that it be a challenge,” she says. “This piece demands that the musicians bring their own creativity to their interpretation.”

And the 10 quartets responded beautifully, demonstrating personality and flare with each back-to-back performance. The Rolston String Quartet, who would go on to win top prize at the competition, even managed to break a string in the middle of its vigorous performance. And many of you witnessed the outstanding performance by the Tesla Quartet, who won the Canadian Commission Prize.

Banff Centre values the ability to commission work from talented artists like Zosha, and without the support of our generous BISQC donors, this new work wouldn’t have been possible.





Toward Reconciliation

Banff Centre's Nexen Chair in Indigenous Leadership explains what reconciliation means to him

In October 2016 Banff Centre held a powerful Truth and Reconciliation Summit to play our part in an important national conversation and to live up to our Strategic Plan, one pillar of which is continuing to be a centre of excellence for Indigenous programs. Thank you to the Government of Alberta, Suncor Energy Foundation, Calgary Foundation, Nexen Energy ULC and to the many other supporters of our Indigenous Leadership programs, for making this Summit possible and helping us to work toward these important goals.

John Borrows is living the legacy of Tecumseh.

Banff Centre's Nexen Chair in Indigenous Leadership is the great-great-great-nephew of the Shawnee Chief and iconic Canadian folk hero who walked across North America to bring a message of unity and reconciliation. Borrows sees many parallels between his own life and that of his ancestor.

"Tecumseh was taking ideas from home and seeding them in other places, getting people's views about them, and spreading those ideas," says Borrows. "But then he would, of course, learn in all these other places, and he would bring those ideas back home."

As a legal scholar and storyteller, Borrows travels to share the stories of his people, gathers information, and brings that knowledge home. "My life is actually replicating the life of my ancestors," he says. "There's an important part of that legacy that's entangled with my life."

Borrows believes that all of our lives are interwoven with the past—he calls this notion "entanglement" and it's a concept that can help us better understand reconciliation. "To be alive is to be entangled in relationships not entirely of our own making," says Borrows. There are countless ways in which we are entangled that we have no control over, like being a descendent of Tecumseh, or experiencing

the intergenerational trauma caused by residential schools. These entanglements impact us not only as individuals, but also as nations, peoples and species, and present themselves in patterns.

He explains the importance of recognizing and re-weaving those patterns to participate in reconciliation. "We leave behind residential schools, we leave behind forced assimilation, we leave behind notions that one group is superior to other groups, but at the same time we move forward the teachings that are best from the various worlds interacting together. Reconciliation reveals opportunities for Indigenous and non-Indigenous people by pulling on the best of what they have to offer."

During Banff Centre programs, Borrows draws on the Wise Practices model which considers context when sharing the successes of Indigenous communities, which Nexen believes is fundamental. "At Nexen, we believe that investing in the needs and aspirations of Aboriginal communities is an important part of being a responsible operator," said Brian Humphreys, Vice President, External Relations. "When we support initiatives like the Nexen Chair in Indigenous Leadership, we help to maximize the potential of communities, which in turn benefits us all."

Borrows, who is Anishinaabe and a member of the Chippewa of the Nawash First Nation in Ontario, and who has been nourished by his own connection to Tecumseh, knows that entanglement and the connection to our past can strengthen us as individuals and as a people. As we move toward reconciliation, we must find ways to weave together the best from our past and present to create positive entanglements for the next generation.

Banff Centre is committed to exploring and taking part in reconciliation, and part of that commitment included hosting the sold out Truth and Reconciliation Summit, held at Banff Centre October 29 and 30. At the Summit, leaders like Dr. Marie Wilson, Commissioner of the federal Truth and Reconciliation Commission, spoke to members of Banff Centre and the local community about how we can respond to the commission's 94 calls to action and help make reconciliation a reality in our communities.

Image: John Borrows, photo by Jessica Wittman

“

We move forward the teachings that are best from the various worlds interacting together. Reconciliation reveals opportunities for Indigenous and non-Indigenous people by pulling on the best of what they have to offer.”

– John Borrows



In the Artist's Studio

Bold and exciting work from three visual artists who visited Banff Centre in 2016

Support to remove financial barriers for artists is crucial to helping them develop and reach to the next level in their careers. It allows them the time and space they need to experiment with new forms, and dive deep into their artistic practices. Thanks to the generous support of donors these three visual artists were recipients of scholarships that allowed them to create meaningful work during their stay at Banff Centre. These are stories of their time here.

Anne Macmillan

This Halifax-based animator and visual artist was the inaugural winner of the Emerging Atlantic Canada Artist residency, funded by the Hnatyshyn Foundation with the support of the Harrison McCain Foundation. During her fully-funded eight-week stay this summer at Banff Centre, Anne created a stunning 10-minute animated video and will be embarking on several national speaking engagements about her project and her time at Banff Centre.

Tiziana La Melia

Artist, writer and 2014 RBC Canadian Painting Competition winner Tiziana La Melia received the Bakstad Stone Family Endowment scholarship for her enrolment in the program, Critical Art Writing Ensemble II this spring. In the program, headed by Andrew Berardini, participants learned to explore art writing as an aspect of literature, and together created a short publication called "Room with a Review."

Evan Halter

Painter Evan Halter received full funding for the Still Alive residency through the Jim Dinning and Evelyn Main Scholarship for Visual Arts. The program was a contemporary exploration into the still life genre, and Halter spent the six weeks reading critical theory, taking workshops and creating new works that expand the definition of the genre.

Image: Banff Centre Visual Arts Open Studio, photo by Rita Taylor

“

This residency provides support for me at a crucial point in my art career as a new graduate. Here I am supported to use art as a means to process and understand my surrounding environment, as both a reflection of the world, and a projection of myself. Thank you so much.”

— Anne Macmillan



Faculty and designer Liz Vandal helps a Designing for Dance participant pin a garment, Photo by Katy Whitt



Dancers from the Creative Gesture dance residency interact with Alexander Polzin's set design, Photo by Donald Lee

Designing for Dance

Photos from a new creative residency that carefully considers every element of a dance performance

The Designing for Dance residency was possible due to the generous support of Andrea Brussa. The program took designers from all disciplines and focused their sensibilities on creating for the stage. Headed by the 2016 Andrea Brussa Master Artist, visionary designer, painter and sculptor Alexander Polzin, participants worked with costume, lighting, set and more to consider the performance holistically, and to help bring the choreography to life, thereby furthering our institutional goal of advancing artistic learning.



Some of Alexander Polzin's design work on the international stage, *Sotelo: El público*, Teatro Real, Madrid, 2015, Photo by Javier de Real



Designing for Dance residents work directly with dancers to create costumes that move beautifully, Photo by Katy Whitt



Photo by Katy Whitt



Photo by Katy Whitt



Summer Classical Music 2017: A Sneak-Peek

Meet our new summer music Co-Artistic Directors and learn what they have in store

Each summer, Banff Centre welcomes hundreds of musicians from around the world to its classical music programs. As the backbone of Banff Centre's music programs, Classical Music continues to be a critical part of our training programs throughout the year including the summer, where we see musicians from across Canada and the world travel to Banff to learn and hone their skills. Newly appointed Co-Artistic Directors of Summer Classical Music, Claire Chase and Steven Schick, have designed a suite of programs for summer 2017 that focuses on music from the renaissance through to present day and teaches today's classical musicians the skills they need to succeed as performers. Banff Centre is proud to be able to support these musicians, none of which would be possible without the dedicated support of donors like you. Thank you.



Greetings,

As supporters of Banff Centre we're excited to share with you our plans for the Summer Classical Music Programs. For more than 80 years music at Banff Centre has meant honouring the past and preparing for the future. With residency programs dedicated to the highest standards of chamber and solo playing and a faculty of passionate and accomplished interpreters, generations of young musicians have opened their minds and sharpened their skills at Banff Centre. It is our pledge to continue that distinguished lineage, and to add to it.

In many ways, you'll find our ideas familiar. We'll honour our musical roots with an abiding commitment to the performance and study of great music through programs including Master Classes. The program will unfold in five chapters over the course of the summer, building on the existing concepts we've seen studied at Banff Centre for decades. This summer, however, contemporary composers will factor into each program as faculty, making the summer a focus on the masters both old and new, in both learning and performance.

First is the 21st Century Ensemble, followed by a program on Chamber Music. A summer music favourite, Roots and Rhizomes, the percussion residency founded in Barry Shiffman's tenure, returns in July, overlapping with the Piano-Composer collaborations program. The summer will cap off with a program dedicated to Improvisation.

You can also expect special focus on Gesualdo, Bach, Scriabin, Stravinsky, and George Crumb along with a full residency built around performances of and reactions to Beethoven's youthful Septet, Opus 20. And you'll experience music that will be made in Banff and heard for the very first time here in this beautiful place.

Through our own work and through cross-disciplinary collaborations with other Banff Centre artists along with an abiding respect for the natural and cultural heritage of this part of Canada, we will bring Banff to the world and the world—in all of its richness, promise, and complexity—to Banff.

Yours sincerely,

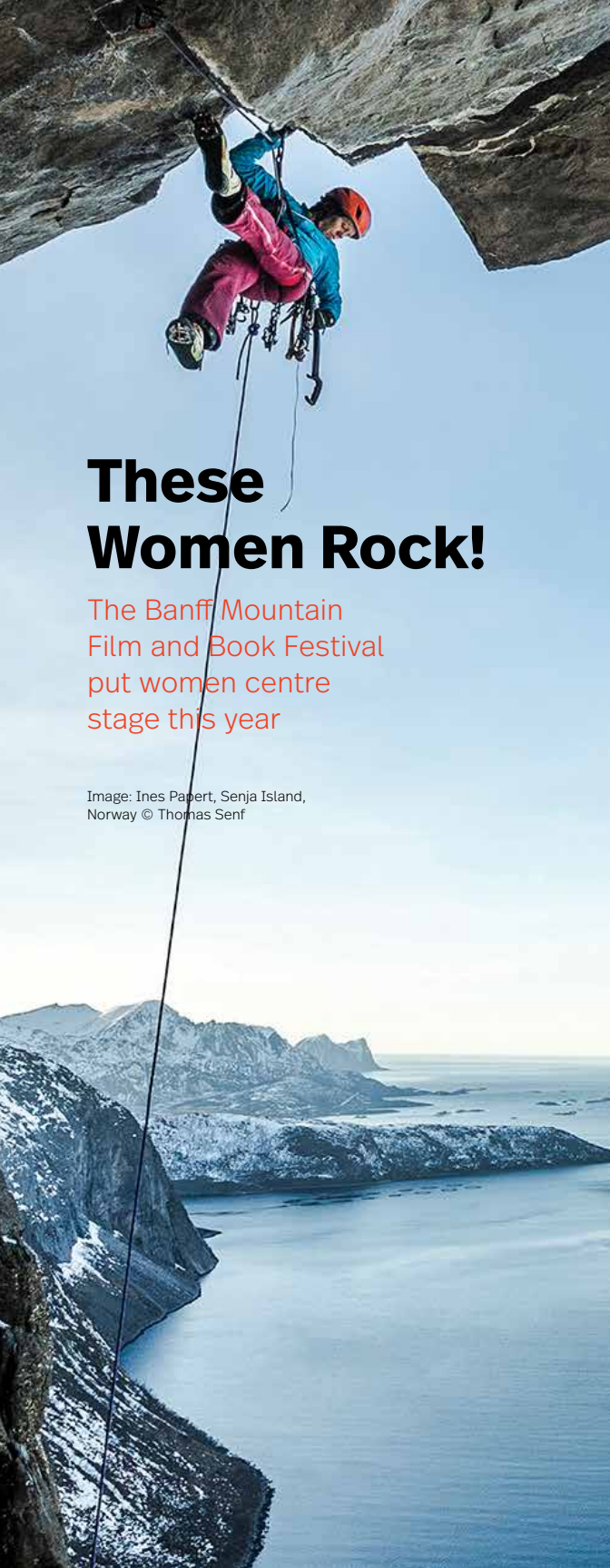
Claire Chase and Steven Schick

Classical Music will feature the following program themes:

- The 21st Century Ensemble
- Chamber Music
- Roots and Rhizomes
- Piano-Composer collaborations
- Classical Improvisation

And this summer Banff Centre is pleased to welcome you to campus for many exciting public performances, including an opening concert featuring Steven and Claire Sunday, June 18, 2017, featured faculty performances on Tuesdays, and participant concerts in our much-loved Music for a Summer Evening series in Rolston Recital Hall on Fridays and Saturdays.

Image (Left to Right) Photo by Rita Taylor; Photo by Laura Vanags



These Women Rock!

The Banff Mountain Film and Book Festival put women centre stage this year

Image: Ines Papert, Senja Island, Norway © Thomas Senf

Women ruled the main stage this year at the 41st Banff Mountain Film and Book Festival, an internationally-renowned celebration of mountain arts and culture taking place over nine epic days on campus. We screened 96 films, including 47 premieres, hosted topical panels with authors and adventurers, and got to spend time with the stars of adventure sports right here on our campus. These three women, who spoke and presented films on our stages, blew us away with their fearlessness and talent.

Lynn Hill

Dubbed “a living legend,” American climber Lynn Hill is known as the first person to complete a free ascent of famous climb “The Nose” in Yosemite National Park. Her book, *Climbing Free: My Life in the Vertical World*, details her exciting life on the wall.

Catherine Destivelle

A celebrated rock climber and mountaineer, Catherine Destivelle has completed death-defying solo winter ascents of some major mountains, including an 11-day first ascent of the West Face of Les Drus in Chamonix. The French alpinist was the subject of Rémy Tezier’s, *Beyond the Summits*, which won best feature-length mountain film at the 2009 festival.

Ines Papert

A fierce competitor and four-time ice climbing world champion, Ines Papert is a master of mixed climbing. In 2003 she became the first woman to complete an M11 ascent on the infamous Colorado climb, “Mission Impossible,” one of the most difficult mixed routes in the world.



If These Walls Could Talk

Lloyd Hall, our beloved artists’ residence, is getting a facelift for 2017

Over the past 50 years Lloyd Hall has been a place for artists to meet, retreat, and to enjoy the space they need to get creative and advance their craft. Now it’s getting a much-anticipated revival that has the whole campus buzzing. Banff Centre wishes to better serve its artists and leaders, and this total renovation and redesign to one of the oldest and most integral buildings on campus will do just that. This work will bring the building up to the peak of modern functionality, and showcase Banff’s iconic mountain views. Starting spring 2017, artists can look forward to a sleek sanctuary that builds on the outstanding legacy of the building. Here’s a brief history of the building through the years.

Image: Student artist working outside on a balcony at Lloyd Hall, 1972, Banff Centre Archives

Years of note:

1967	Lloyd Hall is constructed as the residence space for artists that it remains today
1972	Banff legend and filmmaker Eddie Hunter opens a pizza parlour in a lower-floor den, serving food to artists, staff and conference delegates
1996	The third floor lounge becomes an Aboriginal Arts Cultural space
2010	The Paul D. Fleck Library and Archives moves out of Lloyd Hall, where it had resided since 1979, into the third floor of Kinnear Centre for Creativity and Innovation
2016	Banff Centre rebrands, creates a new strategic plan and renovations begin on the building
Spring 2017	Unveiling of the modern residence, designed with the comfort of guests in mind

Banff Centre Team

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As of October 2016

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Larry Fichtner (Vice Chair)
Eric Harvie
Janice Price
Elmer Hildebrand O.C.
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Judith LaRocque
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Leadership (until March 2016)
Bruce Byford, Vice President,
Administration & CFO
Michael Code, Vice President, Operations
Lisa Cooke, Vice President,
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Neil Johnston, Vice President, Development
Valerie Kapay, Vice President,
Human Resources
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& COO (until July 2016)
Carolyn Warren, Vice President, Arts
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BANFF

**CENTRE
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Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity
is generously supported by many
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and foundations.

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the Canada Arts Training Fund and
the Canada Arts Presentation Fund.



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