Philanthropy and the Arts Convening

Banff Centre | Leadership, Convening and Summits

April 6 - 9, 2026

BANFF
CENTRE FOR ARTS AND CREATIVITY

Welcome.
Bienvenue.
Oki.
Aba Wath Tech.
Gwanistłi Naniya.

Founded in 1933, Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity is a learning organization built upon an extraordinary legacy of excellence in artistic and creative development. What started as a single course in drama has grown to become a leading global organization in arts, culture, and creativity across dozens of disciplines. From our home in the stunning Canadian Rocky Mountains, Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity aims to inspire everyone who participates in our programs – artists, leaders, and thinkers – to unleash their creative potential and realize their unique contribution to society through cross-disciplinary learning opportunities, world-class performances, and public outreach.

We recognize, with deep respect and gratitude, our home on the side of Sacred Buffalo Guardian Mountain. In the spirit of respect and truth, we honour and acknowledge the Banff area, known as “Minihrpa” (translated in Stoney Nakoda as “the waterfalls”) and the Treaty 7 territory and oral practices of the Îyârhe Nakoda (Stoney Nakoda) – comprised of the Bearspaw, Chiniki, and Goodstoney Nations – as well as the Tsuut’ina First Nation and the Blackfoot Confederacy comprised of the Siksika, Piikani, and Kainai. We acknowledge that this territory is home to the Shuswap Nations, Ktunaxa Nations, and Métis Nation of Alberta, Rockyview District 4. We acknowledge all Nations who live, work, and play here, help us steward this land, and honour and celebrate this place.

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The *Philanthropy and the Arts Convening* is generously supported by Ian and Judy Griffin

Philanthropy and the Arts

About this Convening

This is not a conference. It is a carefully curated space for candour, shared reflection, and honest conversation about the future of philanthropy and the arts in Canada.

This invitation-only gathering brings together senior leaders from across Canada's arts and philanthropic ecosystem – CEOs, executive directors, board leaders, fundraising professionals, and donors – not to hear presentations, but to think together. Across three days, participants will examine the real tensions in how we fund, govern, and sustain the arts: where philanthropy shapes artistic direction, where current models feel strained, and where new possibilities may be waiting.

At the heart of the Convening are three case studies from major Canadian arts organizations – not polished success stories, but candid accounts of difficult decisions, live trade-offs, and unresolved questions. These serve as shared working material for the conversations that follow.

The strength of this Convening depends not on institutional polish – it depends on intellectual honesty. We are grateful you are here to bring both.

Thank you for joining us as we shape the next chapter of arts philanthropy.

Chatham House Rules:

When a meeting, or part thereof, is held under the Chatham House Rule, participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any other participant, may be revealed.

Convening Schedule

Monday, April 6, 2026

Welcome Reception and Registration	4:30 - 6:00 pm	PDC 103
Informal Dinner	6:00 - 7:30 pm	Vistas

Tuesday, April 7, 2026

Buffet Breakfast	7:00 - 8:45 am	Vistas
Welcome	9:00 - 9:20 am	Kinnear Centre (KC) 303
Keynote Address and Dialogue | Nancy Adler *Finding Beauty in a Fractured World* *Art Inspires Leaders – Leaders Change the World*	9:20 – 10:45 am	KC 303
Break	10:45 – 11:00 am	KC 300
Presentation + Dialogue | Kelly Hill *Arts Philanthropy: Context, statistics, and seeds for the future*	11:00 am – 12:15 pm	KC 303
Lunch	12:15 – 1:15 pm	Vistas
Case Study Presentations and Q&A Case Study #1 | Steve Bellamy Confederation Centre of the Arts Case Study #2 | Tim Jennings, Cindy Mewhinney, Kimberley Rampersad Case Study #3 | Alex Sarian Werklund Centre	1:15 – 2:45 pm	KC 303
Break	2:45 – 3:00 pm	KC 300
Philanthropy in Practise | Juniper Locilento Sarah Palmer, Mark Werklund, Jim Burton, Heather Edwards	3:00 – 4:00 pm	KC 303
Keynote | Candace Wasacase *Reciprocal Allyship: Indigenous Ways of Knowing & the Future of Philanthropy*	4:00 – 5:00 pm	KC 303
Break	5:00 – 6:00 pm	
Dinner + Evening Provocation | Gil Garratt *Philanthropy, Canadian identity, and Cultural Sovereignty*	6:00 – 7:30 pm	KC 303

Wednesday, April 8

Buffet Breakfast	7:00 - 8:45 am	Vistas
Day 2 Welcome - Recognizing Insights	9:00 – 9:15 am	KC 303
Provocation + Dialogue | Krishan Mehta *Philanthropy, Power and Social Change*	9:15 – 10:30 am	KC 303
Break	10:30 – 10:45 am	KC 300
Governance + Philanthropy Panel | Krishan Mehta Participants | Dan Mathieson (Confederation Centre of the Arts), David Smith (Werklund Centre), Susan St. Amand (Shaw Festival)	10:45 – 11:55 am	KC 303
Lunch	12:00 – 1:00 pm	Vistas
Discussions: Cases, Dynamics, and Personal Experience	1:00 – 2:10 pm	Breakout Rooms
Break	2:10 – 2:25 pm	KC 300
Peer Conversations	2:25 – 3:35 pm	Breakout Rooms
Ideas Harvest | Kathy Arney	3:35 – 4:30 pm	KC 303
Reception	4:30 – 5:30 pm	KC 305
Dinner	5:30 – 7:30 pm	Vistas

Thursday, April 9th

Buffet Breakfast	7:00 - 8:45 am	Vistas
Dialogue | *Stewardship, Authority, and Responsibility*	9:00 – 10:30 am	KC 303
Break	10:30 – 10:45 am	KC 300
Ideas – Action – Commitments | Kathy Arney	10:45 – 11:45 am	KC 303
Closing Remarks | Chris Lorway	11:45 – 12:00 pm	KC 303

End of Philanthropy and the Arts Convening

Optional Lunch	12:00 – 1:30 pm	Vistas

Biographies

Nancy J. Adler

S. Bronfman Professor Emerita in Management, McGill University



Nancy J. Adler consults and conducts research on global leadership, cross-cultural management, and the arts and leadership. She has authored more than 150 articles, written and edited ten books, and produced several films. Her *International Dimensions of Organizational Behavior* book has more than a half million copies in print in multiple languages.

Dr. Adler consults with major global companies and government organizations on projects worldwide. She is a Fellow of the Academies of Management and International Business and has received numerous international awards. Canada honored Nancy as one of the country's top university professors and inducted her into the Royal Society of Canada.

Nancy is also a visual artist and has been an artist in residence at Banff Centre as well as serving on Banff's Leadership Advisory Board. Her art exhibition, *Reality in Translation: Going Beyond the Dehydrated Language of Management*, received worldwide press attention. Her paintings, monotype prints, and ceramics are held in private collections worldwide.

Kathy Arney

Convening Lead and Chief Encouragement Officer, KEA Canada



Kathy Arney is Convening Lead for the Philanthropy and the Arts Convening at Banff Centre and Founder of KEA Canada, a national advisory practice that helps social purpose organizations build the financial confidence and revenue strategy needed to fully fund their missions.

A Chartered Professional Accountant with more than two decades of experience in philanthropy and nonprofit leadership, Kathy works with arts organizations, Indigenous-led initiatives, environmental groups, and community charities across Canada. Her work focuses on helping leaders connect mission, strategy, governance, and revenue so organizations can move beyond scarcity and build sustainable impact.

Kathy previously held senior advancement and executive roles at Queen's University, UBC Okanagan, Carleton University, and The Banff Centre. Through KEA Canada, she now supports organizations with strategic planning, revenue strategy, leadership coaching, board development, and facilitation.

She serves on the national Board of the Canadian Association of Gift Planners and holds a CPA designation, a Master Financial Advisor–Philanthropy (MFA-P) designation, and an ARCT in piano performance.

Steve Bellamy

CEO, Confederation Centre of the Arts



For 30 years, Steve Bellamy has worked as an entrepreneur, executive administrator, music producer, and educator. Currently CEO at Confederation Centre of the Arts in Charlottetown, Steve was previously the Founder and President of Addo Records music company, and dean for the School of Creative and Performing Arts at Humber College in Toronto. He is a graduate of UPEI (BMus), McGill University (MMus), and the Queen's School of Business (Advanced Executive Management).

As an engineer and music producer Steve has recorded more than 200 commercial albums for many record labels, including his own Addo Records distributed by Universal Music Canada. He has worked with hundreds of leading classical and jazz musicians including Anton Kuerti, James Ehnes, Tafelmusik, Joe Lovano, Kenny Wheeler, Dave Holland, Mike Downes, Jerry Granelli, Kirk MacDonald, Dafnis Prieto, and Dave Douglas. His recordings have won six JUNO awards and dozens of nominations.

As an executive leader, Steve is passionate about Canada, the arts, civic engagement, and good governance. Steve has served on the faculties of McGill University, the University of Hartford, The Banff Centre, and Humber College. He is currently leading a $70 million rejuvenation project at the Confederation Centre in Charlottetown. He serves on several boards and is a recipient of the King Charles III Coronation Medal for contributions to Canada.

Jim Burton

President and CEO, James A. Burton & Family Foundation



James (Jim) Burton is an accomplished Canadian entrepreneur, business strategist, and philanthropist. As founder and longtime Chairman of PPI, a national professional firm - Jim transformed the life insurance industry in Canada by championing more personalized, client-focused planning. He helped shift life insurance from a transactional product to a key instrument in long-term wealth planning, retirement readiness, and estate preservation. Under Jim's leadership, PPI became one of the country's most respected independent life insurance marketing & distribution firms, recognized for its innovation, trustworthiness, and professional integrity. Notable roles throughout his career include Founding Chairman of the Conference for Advanced Life Underwriting (CALU), and founding Chair of Family Enterprise Canada, and the Family Enterprise Foundation.

After the successful exit from this independent business, Jim has turned his full attention to philanthropy, guided by a strong belief that this is "his time" to give back with focus, humility, and lasting purpose. He established the James A. Burton & Family Foundation in 2018 to reflect his values and his family's commitment to education, health, well-being, environmental stewardship, and community vitality.

Jim's approach to philanthropy is strategic and collaborative. He listens first. He prioritizes long-term solutions over quick wins. He believes that real change comes from working with others who are equally committed to making a difference and putting in the time and effort to do it well.

Today, Jim remains the guiding force behind JABFF, ensuring that its work is both thoughtful and practical. He believes that philanthropy should be personal, purposeful, and built to last. By involving his children and grandchildren, he is shaping a legacy through a shared purpose, that places generosity, accountability, and service at its core, spanning generations.

Heather Edwards

Partner, Adara Venture Capital



Born and raised in Calgary, Heather Edwards earned a master's degree in Political Science and worked for 12 years in Ottawa as a Director of Communications (Revenue, Fisheries and Oceans, Energy) under the government of The Right Honourable Jean Chrétien. She is a co-author and editor and has produced several award-winning arts documentaries. She is a partner at Adara Venture Capital whose focus is investing in primarily western Canadian life-science startups. Heather works closely with not-for-profit organizations of all kinds (animal welfare, children's health, women's shelters) and currently runs a major private foundation that fosters excellence and innovation in music and the arts through collaborative events.

Heather has served on several boards, including the Honens International Piano Competition, the CNIB, and the Calgary Humane Society, and currently sits on the National Arts Centre Board of Trustees (Ottawa) and the Royal Conservatory of Music (Toronto).

Heather lives in Calgary and is a proud single mom to a 20-year-old son, Adam, and a dog, Dash. The three spend many of their days rock climbing and enjoying the outdoors.

Gil Garratt

Artistic Director, Blyth Festival



Gil is a playwright, actor, director, and dramaturge who has worked across Canada and abroad. From regional mainstages, to experimental backspaces, from outdoor amphitheatres, to a converted rutabaga factory, Gil's career as a theatre maker has been dedicated almost exclusively to the development of new plays.

Gil has been the Artistic Director of the Blyth Festival, in Blyth Ontario, since 2014. An influential new play development centre, Blyth Festival has been producing nothing but Canadian plays since 1975. To date, plays that began in Blyth have been produced in 30 countries worldwide and have been translated into dozens of languages.

Gil is a graduate of the National Theatre School's Playwriting Program, and holds an Hon BA from the University of Waterloo, a Masters in Theatre and Performance Studies from the University of Guelph, and quit a PhD at UofT to move to a farm and raise children, goats, and chickens.

Kelly Hill

President, Hill Strategies Research



For 29 years, Kelly Hill has provided research insights into the Canadian arts community. Since starting Hill Strategies in 2002, Kelly has been on a mission to find, analyze, and explain Canadian arts statistics. Currently, he publishes his Statistical insights on the arts series at statsinsights.ca.

Tim Jennings

Executive Director/CEO Shaw Festival



A respected and awarded performing arts manager celebrating his 41st year of continuous work in the live arts, Tim Jennings is a passionate social advocate known for his creativity, financial acumen, leadership skills and energy. He joined the Shaw Festival as its executive director in the fall of 2015.

Following his initial career in technical theatre and production management, Mr. Jennings moved into producing full time in 1999 and has held executive leadership roles at Toronto's Roseneath Theatre, Seattle Children's Theatre and the Tony Award-winning Children's Theatre Company of Minneapolis (CTC) – the world's leading family theatre - as well as producing and touring theatre and other live arts to over 40 countries, every province and every state.

During his time at these organizations, Mr. Jennings increased revenues, built endowments, created new business alliances to enhance the reputation and scope of the companies, improved artist and artisan working conditions and supported the visionary work of his artistic partners.

In addition to his management accomplishments, Mr. Jennings has taught Theatre Production and Arts Management at several universities, has served on more than a dozen industry boards, including the Theatre Communications Group (TCG) – the national organization for the American theatre – where he held the position of Treasurer for seven years - and was a founding member of TCG's Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Institute (established in 2013). He is board member of Ontario Culture Days, and is a member of several regional and industry tourism task forces. He regularly advises on arts and culture tourism across North America.

Mr. Jennings was honoured with the 2024 Spirit of Niagara award for business leadership, and the Shaw was honoured for outstanding leadership in Equity, Diversity, Access and Inclusion efforts by the Canadian Association of Fundraising Professionals.

Mr. Jennings continues to steadfastly lead the Shaw Festival, alongside Artistic Director Tim Carroll, while advocating for supports from all levels of government and society for the arts, culture and tourism industries and their workers.

Daryl Kootenay

Co-Lead, Moving Mountains Initiative



Daryl Kootenay is a Traditional singer, dancer, artist, & facilitator. Daryl is married to his beautiful wife Ariel Crawler and together they have 4 beautiful children (Nakoda, Marazu, Hashke, & Wagiya) from the Stoney Nakoda Nation of Treaty 7 in southern Alberta. Daryl is also a part of the Dine (Navajo) Nation in New Mexico from his father's heritage.

After graduating high school Daryl travelled globally to volunteer his time in countries such as Africa, Peru, and Nicaragua working in cross cultural community based programs with Canada World Youth (CWY) for many years. He was then a delegate for his nation and CWY at the World Conference of Indigenous Peoples (Sept 2014), The Permanent Forum on Indigenous Rights (UNPFII 2017), at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City. Daryl successfully continues to lead and work with intergenerational indigenous leaders, activists and researchers in the journey to attend and effectively participate at the UNPFII. This work continues to bring Daryl around the globe to work and advocate for indigenous rights and recognition. He has the tremendous honour of being awarded the Governor General's "Sovereignty's Medal" in June 2017 for his work. Daryl alongside his wife Ariel were both recognized as the Alberta's Council for Global Cooperation's Top 30 under 30 in 2019.

Daryl has actively volunteered in his community of Mini Thni (formerly Morley) Alberta, in a variety of roles which includes co-founding the Stoney Nakoda Youth Council in 2014 and Co directing the Intergenerational Mini Rhrpa Collective. Daryls more recent roles locally and globally are Co-Convener for the Min Ki Wakan World Indigenous Peoples Summit, Co founder of Bald Eagle Consultation, Faculty member at the Banff Centre for Indigenous Leadership, former North American Focal Point for the Global Indigenous Youth Caucus to the United Nations, a Co founder and served as Co executive director for the National Youth Charity known as the Howl Experience for 3 years And most recently completed the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Indigenous Fellowship program 2025 in Geneva Switzerland.

Juniper Locilento

MPNL, CFRE, CEO NAC Foundation



Juniper Locilento is a thought leader in fundraising, philanthropy, and non profit leadership. She serves as CEO of the National Arts Centre Foundation, where she leads philanthropic strategy and guides the $100M Next Act Campaign to strengthen national support for Canadian performing arts.

Her career includes senior fundraising roles across the arts, healthcare, human services, food security, and philanthropic consulting. An opera singer by training, she holds a Master of Philanthropy & Non Profit Leadership from Carleton University and is a Certified Fundraising Executive.

Juniper has serve on multiple boards for the Association of Fundraising Professionals, taught in the Fundraising Management Program at Toronto Metropolitan University, and contributes nationally through mentorship, conference presentations, advisory and governance roles.

Chris Lorway

President and CEO, Banff Centre



Chris Lorway is the President and CEO of Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity. Chris brings senior leadership experience across a broad range of artistic disciplines in both Canadian and international contexts. Well-positioned to strengthen Banff Centre's position as Canada's creative leader in arts, leadership, and convening, Chris has a proved record as a global influencer in arts and culture.

Chris is a Canadian citizen, born and raised in Cape Breton, and comes to Banff Centre from his recent position as both Executive and Artistic Director at Stanford Live in California. His artistic and community programs draw on the breadth and depth of Stanford University to connect performances to the significant issues, ideas, and discoveries of our time in a season featuring over 200 performances and events across four primary venues.

Prior to his role at Stanford Live, Chris was Director of Programming and Marketing at The Corporation of Massey Hall and Roy Thomson Hall, where his focus was on developing a cohesive brand identity for the institution and ensuring that programming in the halls reflected the diversity of the city of Toronto.

Prior to that position, he was the inaugural Artistic Director of the Luminato Festival, where he commissioned or co-commissioned nearly 50 new works from Canadian and International artists.

Before his return to Canada in 2007, he was a consultant in the United States with AMS Planning and Research and AEA Consulting. These two roles offered him detailed insight into the governance and operations of major cultural organizations, including Carnegie Hall, New York City Center, Jazz at Lincoln Center, the Edinburgh International Festival, the Royal Shakespeare Company, the West Kowloon Cultural District and San Francisco Opera.

Prior to his consulting experience, he worked for Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, where for two seasons he was part of the Lincoln Center Festival team. It was there he was introduced to some of the world's top artists and companies. He also had roles in marketing and development at Lincoln Center and worked on the first phase of the $1.5 billion campus redevelopment project.

Dan Mathieson

Governor, Confederation Centre of the Arts



Dan Mathieson is the former five-term Mayor of Stratford, Ontario, where he served on municipal council from 1995 to 2022 and helped guide the community's growth as a leading Canadian arts and culture destination.

Throughout his public service career, he has held leadership roles on numerous boards in municipal affairs, healthcare, law enforcement, and the cultural sector, including the Stratford Festival and other not-for-profit and educational institutions.

Dan brings deep experience in governance, philanthropy, and community-building, and is pleased to contribute these perspectives to the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity's discussions on philanthropy and governance as a representative of Charlottetown's Confederation Centre of the Arts, a national hub showcasing the best in Canadian visual and performing arts.

Krishan Mehta

PhD, Vice-President, Advancement, Toronto Metropolitan University



Dr. Krishan Mehta is the Vice-President, Advancement at Toronto Metropolitan University, where he champions philanthropy, alumni relations, and high-impact strategic engagement. A distinguished leader with a 25-year trajectory across higher education and marketing, Krishan's career is defined by his previous roles at the University of Toronto and Seneca Polytechnic, where he drove institutional growth and community connection.

Passionate about philanthropic education, Krishan serves as the Academic Coordinator of the Fundraising Management Program at the G. Raymond Chang School of Continuing Education and faculty for Carleton University's Graduate Program in Philanthropy and Nonprofit Leadership. His expertise is anchored in his doctoral research from the University of Toronto, which pioneered insights into the philanthropy of immigrants and diaspora communities -- work that continues to influence giving trends.

A globally recognized strategist and frequent keynote speaker, Krishan has earned numerous national and international accolades for his fundraising leadership. He is an advocate for sector innovation and mentorship, dedicated to growing a more robust and inclusive culture of giving across Canada and abroad.

Cindy Mewhinney

CFRE, Director of Advancement, Shaw Festival



As a seasoned fundraiser with more than 25 years of experience, Cindy leads strategic growth at the Shaw Festival, having raised more than $170 million across multiple sectors throughout her career. Holding a CFRE designation and a degree in music, she previously spearheaded successful fundraising programs at United Way Niagara and the Niagara Children's Centre.

At Shaw, she helped lead an increase in annual giving from $6 million to $16.7 million over the past decade, while guiding the organization to 77% (so far) of its $150 million major expansion **All.Together.Now.** Campaign goal.

Recognized with honours such as the Lorna Somers Legacy Giving Award and as a two-time Paul Harris Award recipient, Cindy is deeply committed to community engagement and volunteerism as expressions of shared values. Her expertise in partnership development, legacy giving, community building, and philanthropic strategy helps drive transformational change.

Sarah Palmer

Chawkers Foundation, Palmer Family Foundation (Confederation Centre for the Arts)



Sarah is a Director with the Chawkers Foundation and with the Palmer Family Foundation. In addition, she serves on the Board of the Alberta Ballet Company and on the Advisory Council of the University of Calgary's School of Public Policy. Sarah has served on a number of not-for-profit boards in Director, Chair, and membership roles. These include Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative; the Calgary Foundation, Arts Committee; the Environmental Law Centre; and the Calgary Institute for Humanities, Advisory Committee at the University of Calgary.

Sarah obtained her Bachelor of Laws, LL.B. degree from Dalhousie University and practised law for over 15 years. She also graduated from the Director's Education Program with an ICD.D designation from the University of Toronto's Rotman School of Management.

Sarah is a consultant in environmental law and policy. She provides strategic advice to non-profit organizations on policy analysis, government relations, fundraising, and finding practical, collaborative solutions.

Kimberley Rampersad

Associate Artistic Director, Shaw Festival



Kimberley Rampersad is a Canadian theatre artist, born and raised in Treaty 1 Territory, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

As an actor she has appeared in various theatres across Canada including Mirvish, RMTC, Stratford and Shaw. She is a recipient of a Maud Whitmore Scholarship (Charlottetown Festival), a Guthrie Award (Stratford Festival), and was inducted into Rainbow Stage's Wall of Fame as a performer in 2018.

She was engaged as the associate choreographer for *Hairspray – The Musical* (NETworks) for the North American and Asian tours for four seasons. Her work as a choreographer has been recognized with two Dora nominations for *Passing Strange* (Musical Stage/Obsidian) and *Seussical – the Musical* (YPT), respectively and an Evie Award in 2019 for *Matilda – The Musical* (Royal MTC/Citadel/Arts Club).

As a director, Kimberley was featured in the New York Times in July 2019 for directing a full-length production of *Man and Superman* at the Shaw Festival. Other directing credits include *Routes* (MTYP), *hang* (with Philip Akin, Obsidian), *How Black Mothers Say I Love You* (GCTC) (2018 Prize Rideau Award – Outstanding Production) and *The Color Purple* (Neptune and Citadel/ Royal MTC) which received Sterling and Merritt Awards for Outstanding Direction and Productions amongst others. She was the recipient of the 2017 Gina Wilkinson Prize for an emerging female director (Ontario Arts Foundation).

Beyond the stage: Kimberley completed her dance teacher certification through the Royal Winnipeg Ballet and was on faculty them for four years; she was a full-time dance clinician with the Winnipeg School Division for six years, including co-contributing to writing the dance curriculum for the Province of Manitoba's Department of Education; and she holds a Bachelor of Arts degree, majoring in Political Science, from the University of Manitoba.

She is currently the Associate Artistic Director of the Shaw Festival in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario.

Alex Sarian

President & CEO, Werklund Centre



Alex Sarian is the President & CEO of Werklund Centre (formerly Arts Commons) in Calgary, home of the Werklund Centre Transformation–one of the most significant cultural infrastructure projects in Canadian history.

Since beginning his tenure in 2020, Alex has advanced sweeping institutional change while maintaining the performance and reliability of one of Canada's largest arts centres. Under his leadership, the organization has secured more than $500 million in capital and endowment funding, stewarded a historic $75 million philanthropic investment that led to the Centre's renaming, and established the Werklund Centre Foundation to strengthen long-term financial resilience.

Prior to Calgary, Alex spent two decades in New York City, holding senior leadership roles at Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, where he managed major portfolios and led an international consulting practice advising cultural and civic institutions in 15 countries across five continents. He is the bestselling author of *The Audacity of Relevance*, which examines how public-facing institutions can strengthen trust and legitimacy in a rapidly changing world. In 2024, he was recognized by The Globe and Mail as one of Canada's most influential arts leaders and was a 2022 recipient of Calgary's 40 Under 40 award.

He serves on boards and advises organizations working at the intersection of technology, philanthropy, education, cultural diplomacy, and urban development. Alex speaks nationally and internationally on institutional leadership, cultural infrastructure, and how relevance can restore trust in public institutions.

David G. Smith

Board Chair, Werklund Centre



David G. Smith served as Chief Executive Officer of Keyera Corp. from 2015 until his retirement in 2020 and was a senior executive with Keyera since the company's inception in 1998. Mr. Smith has more than 38 years of experience in the energy industry in Canada. He began his career with Imperial Oil Limited in 1982 and joined Gulf Canada Resources Limited in 1991.

Mr. Smith holds a Bachelor of Mathematics degree from the University of Waterloo, a Master of Business Administration degree from Harvard University and the ICD.D designation from the Institute of Corporate Directors. He has served as a Werklund Centre Board member since 2015 and became Chair of the Board in 2022. Mr. Smith is also a director of Business / Arts.

Susan St. Amand

President and CEO, James A. Burton & Family Foundation



Susan St Amand is President and CEO of the James A. Burton & Family Foundation and Founder of The Sirius Group Inc., based in Ottawa. With more than 30 years of experience advising enterprising families, she is a trusted authority on family enterprise governance, continuity planning, and strategic philanthropy.

A member of an entrepreneurial family herself, Susan has a deep understanding of the challenges and responsibilities facing family-owned businesses. Her work focuses on helping families and their enterprises plan for long-term sustainability, with a particular emphasis on empowering the next generation.

Susan serves as the inaugural Gordon Family Executive in Residence in Family Enterprise at the Telfer School of Management and is Entrepreneur in Residence at the University of Ottawa's Family Enterprise Legacy Institute (FELI), where she helped develop the Institute's foundational governance framework.

She is the immediate Past Chair of Family Enterprise Canada (FEC) and has chaired more than six boards while serving on over two dozen others, including the Ottawa Community Foundation, the Ottawa International Airport Authority, the Royal Ottawa Foundation for Mental Health, CALU, the Institute of Corporate Directors Ottawa Chapter, and a privately held steel company. Susan is also a founding member of the Women for Mental Health campaign at the Royal Ottawa Centre for Mental Health.

Susan brings disciplined rigour to all aspects of her work. She sees collaboration as central to success and is known for building strong, results-oriented partnerships across sectors. Committed to lifelong learning, she regularly contributes to professional associations, speaks at conferences, and is sought after for expert commentary in the media.

Philanthropy is a core value for Susan. Whether through direct support, board leadership, or building capacity in others, she is deeply committed to strengthening community and helping those in need.

Candace Wasacase

CEO, Kahkewistahâw Economic Management Corporation



Candace is a citizen of the Kahkewistahaw First Nation and CEO of Kahkewistahaw Economic Development Corporation. As an entrepreneur and advocate she has led some of Saskatchewan's most iconic builds. Recently recognized by the Canadian Society of Landscape Architects for her work on the renewal of Wanuskewin Heritage Park and the development of the Gordon Oakes Red Bear Student Center on the U of S campus. She is the past Chair the UNESCO Ready Campaign for Wanuskewin Heritage Park. Indigenous philanthropy is at the heart of her approach and believes in the principles of good relations and reciprocity.

Mark Werklund

Chair, Werklund Foundation



Mark Werklund is a sculptor who earned his Bachelor of Fine Arts from the Alberta University of the Arts in 2016. In 2017, he and his wife, Lori, relocated to the Okanagan, where Mark maintains an independent art practice and remains actively engaged in the region's arts community. Alongside his creative work, Mark is deeply involved in philanthropy and governance. He serves as a trustee on several Werklund Family Trusts and as a director of Werklund PTC Inc. He is also a Director of the Bluenose Trust and the Amity West Foundation, and serves as Chair of the Werklund Foundation. Through these roles, he has helped support a wide range of charitable initiatives, including the Calgary Arts Academy, WE Charity, the Young Alberta Book Society, and Youth and Philanthropy Initiative (YPI).

For nearly three decades, Mark has volunteered with organizations focused on creativity, community engagement, and youth development. His involvement has included the East Calgary Youth Art Project, Wildflower Arts Centre, Two Wheel View, the Kidney March, Protospace Calgary, Empowering Minds, and TELUS Spark. More recently, he has volunteered with the Ignite the Arts Festival in Penticton and has served for the past two years as a juror for EMMEDIA's Particle + Wave Media Arts Festival.

Since settling in the Okanagan, Mark and Lori have continued their commitment to community involvement, supporting local initiatives such as Auger Lake and volunteering with CritterAid.

Mark Wold

Executive Director, Leadership, Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity



Mark is the Executive Director, Leadership, at Banff Centre. In this role he oversees the Leadership programming at Banff Centre, including Indigenous Leadership, Cultural Leadership, and a suite of Convening activity that includes summits, think-tanks and thought leader gatherings that inform the renewal and relevancy of Banff Centre's core Leadership and Arts programs.

Mark is an experienced leader and administrator with 25 years' experience in the post-secondary, arts, culture and leadership development sectors.

Throughout his career Mark has regularly collaborated with influential leaders, artists, artistic directors and curators, along with senior administrators, faculty, production teams, architects, designers, national arts and culture partners, provincial and federal government agencies, donors, elders, and local audiences and community members.

He has led the design, implementation, and evaluation of numerous program planning processes, change management processes, has overseen several capital and infrastructure development projects, and has been a negotiator on many multi-party projects and collective bargaining agreements.

Born and raised in Alberta, Mark is a member of several national and international leadership and education networks, has served on numerous artist awards juries, and has attended leading festivals and exhibitions across North America, in Europe, and in Africa.

Thank You

The Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity is honoured to have gathered such remarkable colleagues for this Convening. Our deepest gratitude goes to the organizations listed here – and to the extraordinary individuals behind them: the board members and governors who champion the arts with courage; the donors and philanthropists whose generosity makes the possible real; the fundraisers and development professionals who build the relationships that sustain our sector; and the executives, presenters, panelists, and facilitators who brought their hard-won wisdom and their willingness to ask – and sit with – the most important questions. This Convening belongs to all of you.

The Azrieli Foundation

Blyth Festival

Business / Arts

Calgary Arts Development

Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra

Canada Council for the Arts

The Citadel Theatre

Confederation Centre of the Arts

Fogo Island Arts

James A. Burton & Family Foundation

KEA Canada

MacKenzie Art Gallery

McGill University

Metcalf Foundation

National Arts Centre Foundation

National Gallery of Canada Foundation

National Theatre School of Canada

Palmer Family Foundation

Realize Capital Partners

Royal Ontario Museum

The Rozsa Foundation

Shaw Festival Theatre

Toronto Arts Foundation

Toronto Symphony Orchestra

Touchstone Exploration

Werklund Centre

Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies

Participant Code of Conduct

Respect and safe work practices

- Participants are expected to show respect for the rights and the safety of all members of the Banff Centre community, and act in a responsible manner within and outside of the Banff Centre community.
- Program participants are expected to maintain an appropriate standard of conduct in keeping with existing Banff Centre policy.

Inclusion

- Banff Centre makes every attempt to ensure that no participant, employee, or guest is discriminated against on the grounds of race, national origin, colour, creed, religious affiliation, age, physical ability, gender, or sexual orientation. Accordingly, all participants are required to abide by the Centre's Safe Disclosure Policy (which includes the Anti-Harassment Policy).

National Park

- As with all visitors to Banff National Park, and in keeping with the expectations and mandate of Parks Canada, all Banff Centre guests and participants are required to avoid environmentally sensitive areas located near the campus and respect their presence within Banff National Park.

Meals

Banff Centre features three food outlets offering a variety of options for eat-in and takeaway dining.

Vistas Dining Room

Please note: Meals at Vistas are covered by your Convening Registration Fee. Please show your name tag upon arrival at the restaurant.

Delicious and creative buffet dining seating up to 350 guests.
Breakfast: 7:00 a.m. – 9:30 am
Lunch: 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 pm
Dinner: 5:30 – 7:30 pm

MacLab Bistro

Features healthy, creative comfort food inspired by fresh local ingredients.
Daily: 11:00 a.m. – 11:00 p.m.

Le Cafe

Le Café offers grab-and-go breakfast, sandwiches, fresh juices, quick snacks, and specialty coffees from Banff Roasting Co
Daily: 7:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Leadership Department Supporters

Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity is home to one of Canada's most relevant and recognized Leadership and Indigenous Leadership programs. Support from **individuals, corporations, and foundations** provides access for leaders who want to spark new ideas, approaches, stories, and networks that will help transform their organizations and communities.

We celebrate and deeply appreciate the commitment to developing leadership capacity across Canada demonstrated by the following generous supporters who provide **key programming and scholarship support**.

Leadership and Indigenous Leadership Programming is supported by the Allard Foundation Endowment, the Canadian Pacific Hotels Endowment, the Devon Canada Corporation Endowment, the Eldon and Anne Foote Fund Endowment, the EPCOR Scholarship Endowment for Not-for-Profit Leaders, the John Labatt Limited Endowment, the Macquarie Group Foundation Endowment, the Peter Lougheed Leadership Institute Endowment, the PricewaterhouseCoopers for Not-for-Profit Leaders Endowment, many individual supporters, and the following key funders.

Contact Us

To discuss your role in supporting Banff Centre, please contact:

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Funders

Government Supporters

Alberta Government

Peter Lougheed Leadership Initiative was made possible by funding from Alberta Advanced Education

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$100,000+ Supporters

Ian and Judy Griffin

$20,000+ Supporters

Susan and David Targett

$10,000+ Supporters

Bird Construction Company Limited

Right Relations Agreement

Love

Approach the conversation, each other, and the community from a place of love and caring.

Respect

Be open and listen to each other as we explore a conversation that is greater than all of us as individuals. Contribute to a respectful environment at all times.

Humility

Acknowledge that the struggle in reconciliation is different for everyone, use your best judgment and approach each interaction with kindness.

Courage

To acknowledge this is not an easy conversation and to explore truths in an open space – it is okay to make mistakes.

Wisdom

Being open to learning, listening to each other, and contributing our thoughts helps to build collective wisdom and grow from this experience.

Honesty

Taking the time to reflect on individual experiences together and honouring the silence as people consider the questions asked.

Truth

Approach with an open mind what lies beneath the surface–speak your truth with an open heart.