

Media Release
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City of Edmonton invests in 10 projects to pair artists with diverse communities

Edmonton... A video production workshop for at-risk youth, an artist residency in the inner city focused on self-expression through hip hop, and an interactive theatre project pairing persons with developmental disabilities with professional theatre, dance and music artists. These are just a few of the projects the Edmonton Arts Council, the City of Edmonton and the Edmonton Community Foundation have recently invested in to support collaborative and inclusive community art-making.

"The Community Arts program allows communities of all kinds to create and be reflected in the art around us. It ensures that the diversity and dynamism of our City is echoed in our artistic creations," said Craig Stumpf-Allen, Director of Grants and Community Engagement, Edmonton Community Foundation.

Community arts projects pair professional artists with people who may not otherwise actively engage in the arts, allowing these communities to tell their stories while developing their artistic talents. The ten projects that received grants yesterday range in discipline and include visual art, film, theatre and music, and serve diverse communities such as Aboriginal, Somaliland and Sudanese youth, and people with disabilities.

In one project, the Film and Video Arts Society of Alberta (FAVA) will run a three-week production workshop designed for at-risk youth. Participants will be guided in the creation of their individual artistic video works, which will then be premiered to an audience of family, peers, street youths, students and community workers. FAVA has run the successful *Future Visions* program for 10 of the last 11 years, but recently lost primary funding. With the Edmonton Arts Council and the City of Edmonton's recent investment, they will be able to continue with the program.

"This program helps young at-risk artists develop creative filmmaking skills and resources, while emphasizing the importance of good communication, cooperation and life skills," Dave Cunningham, Executive Director of FAVA has stated.

In another project, local DJ and b-boy dancer Matt Wood aka Creeasian—who also hosts our weekly CypherWild in Churchill Square—will take residency in the Boyle Street Education Centre, helping the youth there to develop skills in music, production, recording and promoting, with the ultimate goal of releasing a collaborative Boyle Street Education Centre mix tape.

The Community Arts Program is funded through the City of Edmonton Community Investment Program and the Edmonton Community Foundation (through The Lee Fund for the Arts). For more information on the Community Arts Program or the Edmonton Arts Council, please visit edmontonarts.ca

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The Edmonton Arts Council is a not-for-profit organization that supports and promotes the arts community in Edmonton. The Edmonton Arts Council works to increase the profile and involvement of arts and culture in all aspects of our community life.

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