

Media Release
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 22, 2013

Community Arts Program emphasizes collaboration, inclusiveness and diversity

Edmonton... A theatrical exploration of gender-based violence and survivorship among first generation Canadian women, a literary workshop to create and compile a book of stories in Spanish and English, and a collaborative project pairing print artists with people with developmental disabilities. 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.

“Community arts projects pair a professional artist with people who may not otherwise actively engage in the arts, allowing these communities to tell their own stories while developing their artistic talents,” said Paul Moulton, Executive Director of the Edmonton Arts Council. “Collaboration and inclusiveness are essential to community arts, in order to create awareness of social issues and empower the communities involved.”

The eight projects range in discipline and include visual art, literature, theatre and animation, and serve diverse communities such as at-risk youth, seniors, newcomers to Canada, French and Spanish speakers and people with developmental disabilities.

“Receiving funds from this program has allowed the collective of artists with developmental disabilities to explore aspects of the arts that exceed and enhance the scope of the regular studio activities here at the Nina” said Paul Freeman, Artistic Director of the Nina Haggerty Centre for the Arts. “For example, a past collaboration project at the Nina Haggerty revealed strengths in the collective that will now be explored in our upcoming short film/animation project.”

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). The program invests in projects that are described as collaborations between professional artists and a distinct community. Applicants can be individuals, organizations or groups that define themselves by geography, tradition, culture or spirit.

“Edmonton Community Foundation is proud to be involved in the Community Arts Program, which supports artistic endeavours at the most local of levels and engages Edmontonians in their community through telling their own stories,” said Craig Stumpf-Allen, Director of Grants and Community Engagement, Edmonton Community Foundation. “The Community Arts Program crosses traditional sector boundaries and demonstrates the power of the arts in supporting community development and building a strong, vibrant city.”

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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