



## Embargoed Release

February 7, 2019

**EMBARGOED UNTIL FEBRUARY 11, 2019, 8 PM MST:**

### **Edmonton Arts Council Celebrates 26 Artists with the Cultural Diversity in the Arts and Edmonton Artist Trust Fund Programs**

The Edmonton Arts Council will be announcing the 26 recipients of the 2018 Cultural Diversity in the Arts grants and Edmonton Artist Trust Fund awards at the annual Winter Social on Monday, February 11, 2019.

You are invited to join us at the Winter Social for a photo opportunity. Interviews with select artists can be arranged after, but not during, the Winter Social.

The formal programming of the event will include greetings from Councillor Scott McKeen and Noel Xavier of the Edmonton Community Foundation. The evening will also feature live music performed by Miss Rae and the Midnight Ramblers and short films of the recipients by Cineflair Productions. The videos can be made available to you, by request, on February 11, but are embargoed until 8:00 pm MST on February 11, 2019.

When: Monday, February 11, 6:30 to 9:00 pm. Formal programming to take place 7:15 pm - 8 pm.

What: Awards presentation and reception, media photo opportunity

Where: Old Timers' Cabin (9430 Scona Road)

Information about the Edmonton Arts Council's grants and award programs can be found at: [grants.edmontonarts.ca](http://grants.edmontonarts.ca)

### **Recipients of the 2018 Cultural Diversity in the Arts grant:**

Adam Bentley is a filmmaker and screenwriter who will develop his screenplay *For Rose*, a feature film about a Holocaust story with an Edmonton connection.

Adnan Elladen is a visual artist developing an exhibit comprised of installation pieces that combines architecture, automotive, and engineering designs.

Chris Chang-Yen Phillips is writing and illustrating a graphic novel about evolution.

Elsa Robinson is creating an interactive, mixed-media art installation that will explore the idea of cultural inheritance and knowledge.

Heather Hatch is a filmmaker creating a short documentary and animated film about her relatives in Haida Gwaii.



Huai-Yang Lim is curating a visual art exhibition about Asian identities in Canada, comprised of artwork from eight artists.

Hunter Cardinal wrote and performed the play *Lake of the Stranger*, based on a Cree story.

Ibrahim Cin, together with Beth Wishart MacKenzie, is creating a short film, *The Final Exam*, based on a personal experience in Turkey.

Kaleb Belcourt is a musician creating a seven-song EP that will combine jazz, electronic, and Indigenous elements.

Kathryn Gwun-Yeen Lennon is writing a book of poetry in English and Chinese, and illustrating the poetry with block prints.

Lana Whiskeyjack is a visual artist creating a series of oil paintings called “wawihisiyiho,” or “present your best self.”

Liz Pomeroy is a musician, known as 0Stella, creating an EP with songs that blend alt-rock and Irish traditional music.

Maryam Zarei is a filmmaker who created a short film, *Mag-Ralen*, that will have its premiere at *Berlinale 2019*, the Berlin International Film Festival.

Mehdi Rezanian is recording an album of *gushes*, melodic units in Iranian traditional music.

Mohamed Ali is developing a comedy performance about his experience as a refugee for the Edmonton International Fringe Festival.

Morteza Abedinifard is a musician creating an album of polyphonic compositions based on Persian classical music.

### **Recipients of the 2018 Edmonton Artists Trust Fund award:**

Allison Tunis is a contemporary visual artist and is currently the Artist in Residence for Harcourt House Artist-Run Centre, where she is developing mixed-media paintings for an interactive installation that will deconstruct the language around “fat” bodies.

Andrea House is a singer-songwriter that blends folk, jazz, pop, and R and B, and is working on a number of collaborations, a new album, and songwriting.

Anna Marie Sewell was Edmonton’s fourth Poet Laureate (2011 - 2013) and is the co-creator of *Reconciling Edmonton*, a multi-media installation that honours the seven generations since the signing of Treaty 6.

Karimah is a singer and songwriter who collaborates with other artists to create immersive, multi-disciplinary performances that address mental health, abuse, and human rights.



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Chris Szott is a foley artist who creates and re-produces sounds for movies, television shows, and live theatre. Szott received an Edmonton Music Award in 2014.

Dana Wylie is a singer-songwriter and musician who has been performing for over 20 year and is exploring music-theatre hybrid performances.

Darrin Hagen is a writer and playwright whose work addresses justice and equality for the LGBTQ community. Hagen was Edmonton Public Library's Writer in Residence in 2018.

Nisha Patel is a spoken-word poet working on her debut book of poetry. Nisha was Artist in Residence at The Nook Café in 2018 and is the Producer of Edmonton Poetry Festival.

Sebastian Barrera is a multi-disciplinary artist who runs CreArt Edmonton, a group that provides free art activities, mentorship, and programming to communities in Edmonton.

Yong Fei Guan is a visual artist and illustrator who explore multi-cultural identity, politics and their relationship to the environment in her work.

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

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