

**Media Advisory  
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**Edmonton invests in diverse collaborations through Community Arts**

*Edmonton...* An outdoor mural engages the community surrounding a south side church, a theatre project explores eight unique communities, and Indigenous youth express themselves through performance with the guidance of professional Indigenous artists. These are just a few of the 11 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.

"Art can give communities a voice or act as a crucial form of expression. Art lets a community remember its history, celebrate its present, and imagine its future. Art can both reflect and define a community," said Craig Stumpf-Allen, Edmonton Community Foundation Director of Grants and Community Engagement. "The Edmonton Community Foundation, through the Lee Fund for the Arts, is proud to partner with the Edmonton Arts Council to support this vital program."

The 11 community arts projects range in discipline, including visual art, film, theatre, storytelling and poetry, and serve diverse Edmonton communities, such as refugees, Aboriginal peoples, and oil workers. The projects bring together professional artists with Edmontonians who may not otherwise actively engage in the arts, encouraging communities to tell their stories while developing their artistic talents.

"Enthusiasm for collaboration and inclusiveness is essential to community arts," said Paul Moulton, Executive Director of the Edmonton Arts Council. "Artists committed to working together with communities bring awareness to social issues and empower the communities involved."

Projects invested in through the 2015 Community Arts Project grant include Future Visions at FAVA, a three-week video production intensive workshop for at risk youth to create their own individual artistic video works. **The Future Visions films will be premiered 1:00pm this Wednesday, October 28, at the Stanley A. Milner Library.**

Other upcoming Community Arts projects to look out for include:

- A parade of large-scale puppets and lanterns November 21, 2015 and February 14, 2016. These collaborative pieces are being created by the Quarters Arts Society community members with Lori Gawryluik, Cindi Zuby and Lynette Maurice. Drop-in and participate Mondays (12:30-3:30pm) and Wednesdays (6:30-8:30pm).

- Coming in the Spring of 2016, Theatre Yes presents *Viscosity: Intimate Encounters with Big Oil*. This performance installation takes audiences on a ride through Alberta's turbulent oil industry, featuring stories collected via interviews with the men and women on the front lines of big oil.
- *THIS IS YEG: New plays for a Changing City* tells the stories of eight distinct and diverse Edmonton communities and will be presented by Workshop West Playwrights' Theatre April 21-26, 2016.
- Rising Sun Theatre Society and SKILLS Society are developing an interdisciplinary theatre piece, *Around the World with Rising Sun*. Catch their performance at the Nina Haggerty Centre for the Arts in May 2016.
- Local artists Amy Loewan, Lewis Lavoie and Phil Alain are collaborating with Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church and community members in the creation of a mural, to be unveiled September 2016.
- Becoming Edmonton is an oral history project sharing the stories of those arriving to the city. Jason Gondziola is collaborating with the New in Town Aboriginal Welcome Service, Bent Arrow Traditional Healing Society, Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers, and Edmonton Multicultural Coalition.
- Boyle Street Community Services youth are working along side Taro Hashimoto in the creation a shot film. This mentorship project introduces the participants to the tools of film production so they can develop projects on their own.
- La Cite Francophone and Alberta Aboriginal Arts are collaborating with local Indigenous artists in the research and re-creation of a truer "First Meeting" between Alberta's First Nations people and the French Voyageurs in the River Valley.

Earlier this year, Alberta Aboriginal Performing Arts Association presented *Soar 2015*, and Boyle Street Education Centre students created their own photo/poetry books through the 2015 Community Arts grant program.

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](http://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 EAC works to increase the profile and involvement of arts and culture in all aspects of our community life.

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