2020/21

Annual Report

Here for our artists.
No matter what.

NATIONAL access ARTS CENTRE

Message from the Chair of the Board of Directors

It's hard to reflect on the past year without mentioning the devastating impacts that COVID-19 has had on all of us. Though it has been an incredibly challenging year for so many reasons, I am tremendously proud of all that our organization has accomplished. More than that, I have witnessed a renewed focus on our community of artists – who need our support now more than ever before – as well as a relentless pursuit to showcase and celebrate our artists' creativity in new and exciting ways.

This Annual Report will mark the last year that I will sign off as Board Chair of this extraordinary organization. As the new National accessArts Centre continues to walk its bold, audacious path, I look forward to continuing my contributions as Past Chair, supporting and advocating for the work of the Centre and that of our artists.

My first interaction with what was then known as the In-Definite Arts Society was in 1985. In my roles as a studio facilitator, then board member, and now serving as chair for the past four years, I have always believed in the creative potential of our artists – and that our organization needed to play a key role in tapping into that potential. We've demonstrated that and then some – particularly in the past four years – with our organization's remarkable growth and its rapidly expanded opportunities being extended to our artists.

Seeing this evolution in our organization, and playing a part in its leadership, has been one of the greatest joys and honours of my life. For that, I would like to thank the entire NaAC community – artists, family members, advocates, friends, and fellow board members – for this opportunity to serve.

Yours sincerely,

Jeff de Boer

Chair, Board of Directors
National accessArts Centre

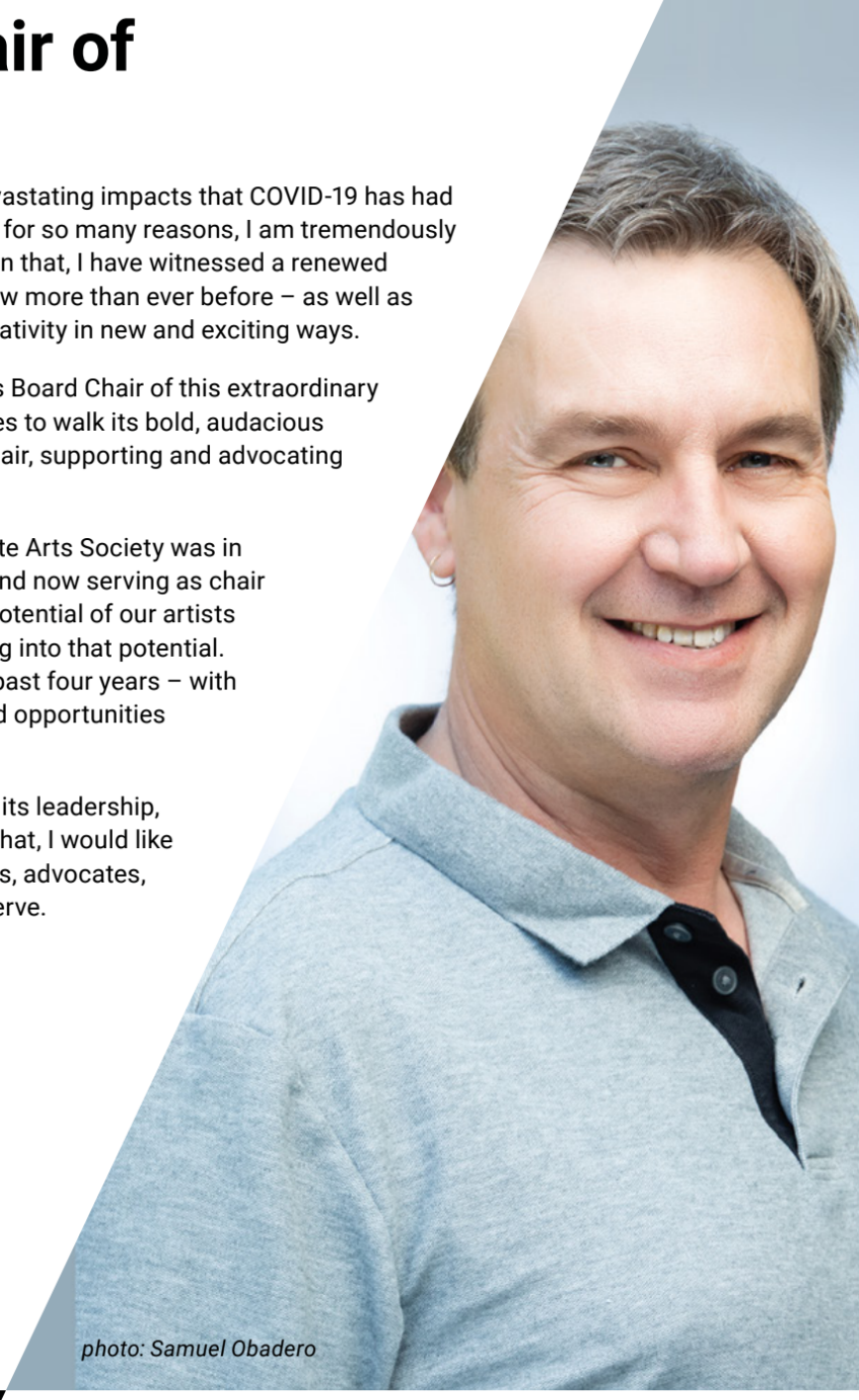


photo: Samuel Obadero

NATIONAL accessARTS CENTRE

Message from the President and CEO

PIVOT. ADAPT. DIGITIZE.

These are just some of the words that organizations have used to respond to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Certainly, they can be used to describe our operations since the initial shutdown of March 2020.

But I think I have an even better word to describe our organization's response: push.

We've pushed our boundaries around how we design our programs in ways that are relevant and responsive to our artists' needs. Rather than simply a transition to digital, our team has delivered close to 3,500 artist supply kits to our community of artists. When our artists expressed difficulty in communicating via Zoom, our facilitators used more traditional methods – assisting our artists over the phone or sending comprehensive guides and feedback via snail mail. This has led to more than 95% of our artist community being engaged and connected through our organization over the course of this pandemic.

With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, we also facilitated important conversations around the sustainability of our broader disability-serving arts sector. We pushed aside any attachment to legacy and saw that we could realize a brighter future ahead by coming together. In November 2020, armed with a new strategic plan – Reset. Refocus. Reimagine. – and banding together with sister disability arts organizations Momo Movement and Artistic Expressions, a new organization was born: The National accessArts Centre (NaAC), Canada's first multidisciplinary disability arts organization.

At the time of writing, most of the world is still grappling with the pandemic though there seems to be some light at the end of this long tunnel. No matter the circumstance, the NaAC is committed to pushing even more boundaries – both in the digital space and in our physical space as we begin the plans to build our new NaAC facility – because our artists deserve nothing less.

Our resiliency and growth during COVID-19 is proof that this is possible, but this could not have happened without the generosity and support of our funders, donors, volunteers, and advocates – as well as the extraordinary hard work and dedication of our staff. Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Jung-Suk (JS) Ryu

VISION + MISSION

VISION.

Communities across Canada recognize, celebrate, and proactively include the talents and skills of artists with disabilities.

MISSION.

Providing artistic training, creation, exhibition, and presenting opportunities for artists with disabilities, and sharing the power of their creativity through local and global partnerships and advocacy that opens doors for their inclusion in our arts and culture ecosystem.

202021

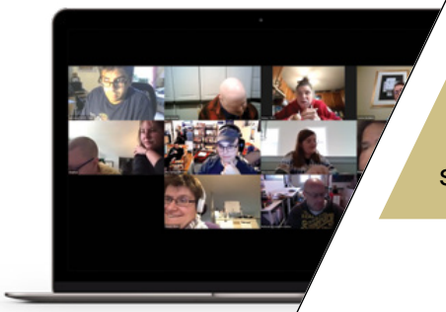
ARTISTIC TRAINING | CREATION | PRESENTING + EXHIBITIONS | SHARING

MILESTONES

MARCH 2020

Indefinite Arts Centre closes its studio due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

APRIL 2020



Within two weeks of the shutdown, the Centre introduces “IAC + You,” a suite of programs and supports for our artist community during the pandemic, including four daily studio sessions via Zoom, artist prompts, studio visits, and workshops.

IAC begins the delivery of its “flux kits,” filled with art supplies and materials to keep our community of artists engaged.

With funding from Canada Council for the Arts, IAC partners with Calgary-based digital agency to begin developing artjourney, the world’s first accessible art sharing platform.

MAY 2020

CEO JS Ryu publishes an op-ed in the Calgary Herald, titled *The future of the arts will look different; so should funding for arts infrastructure.*

With support from the McConnell Foundation, the IAC begins to develop a framework for discussing a potential acquisition of sister disability arts organizations Artistic Expressions and Momo Movement.

JUNE 2020

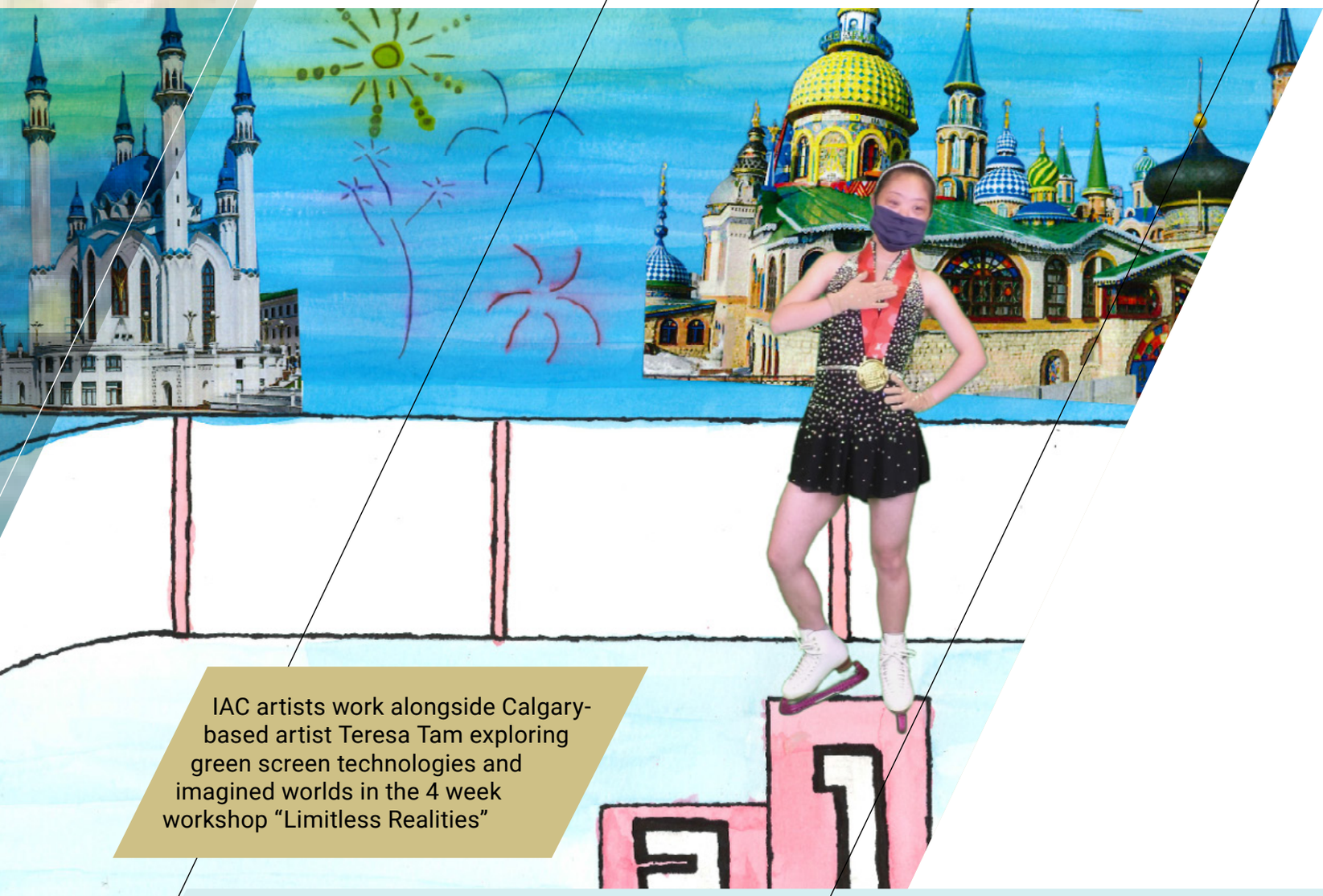
IAC in partnership with the Stride Gallery opens *We're Here, All Together Still*, showcasing the works of David Oppong and Adeel Sadiq who have each reflected on the new realities of COVID-19

IAC commissions local photographer Neil Zeller – who has gained notoriety for his "porchraits" initiative during COVID-19 – to take "porchraits" of artists on their porches at their homes.

IAC's artists develop artworks in response to a call by the Peter Lougheed Hospital to help brighten the walls of its temporary COVID-19 patient wing.

AUGUST 2020

IAC launches its Virtual Performance Artist-in-Residence (AiR) program, featuring Alberta-based performance artist Emily Promise Allison.



IAC artists work alongside Calgary-based artist Teresa Tam exploring green screen technologies and imagined worlds in the 4 week workshop “Limitless Realities”

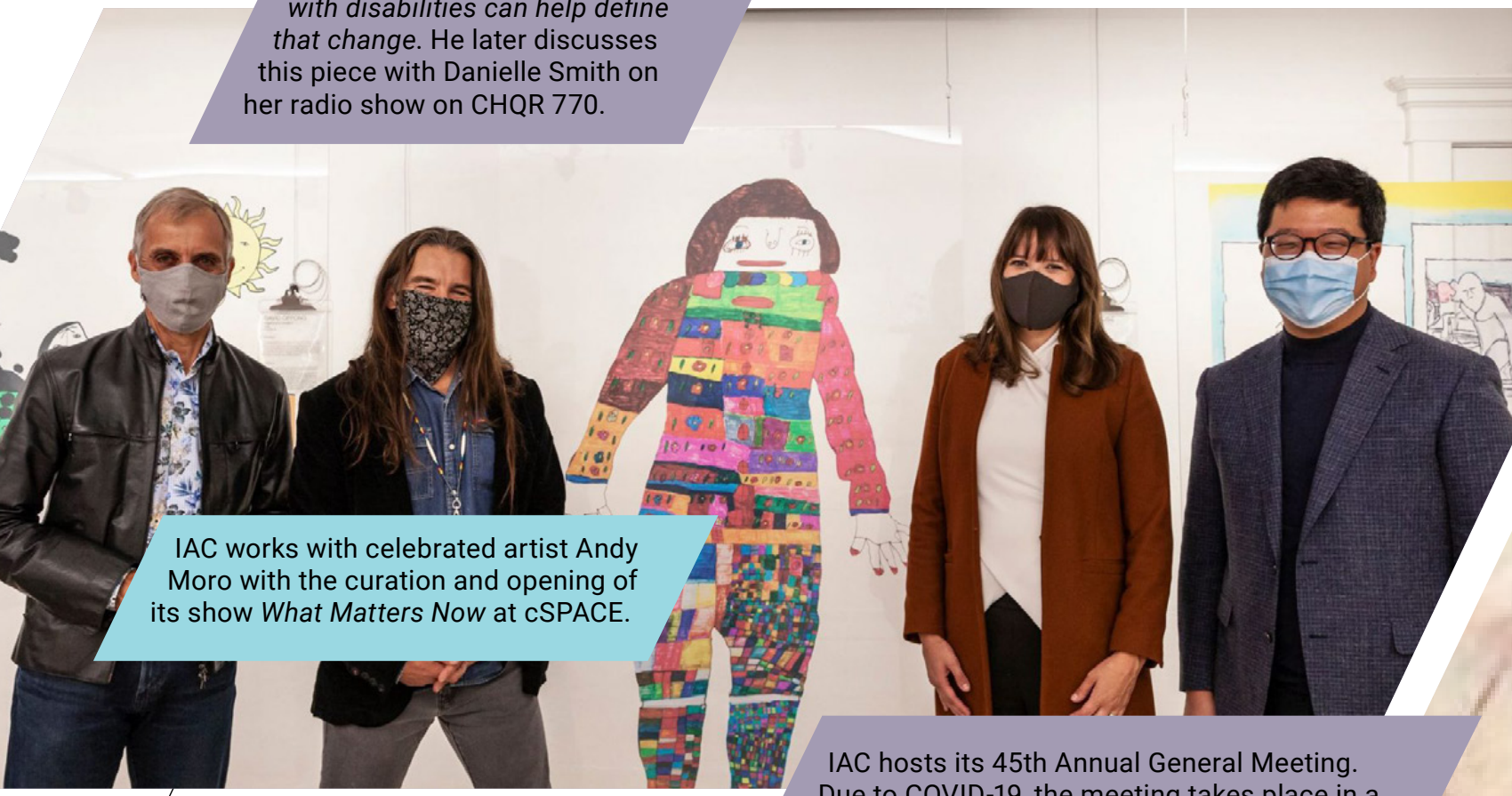
IAC artist Ray Wang’s new work is included in the *6ft Closer YYC* exhibition at the new Central Library exploring the impact of social distancing on artists and our creative connections.

SEPTEMBER 2020

IAC reopens its studio in a phased approach. 60 artists as part of Phase I are welcomed back to work in a safe, socially distanced environment.

IAC continues to deliver its popular Art in the Dark workshop series, led by artist Andrew Harding who shares his experiences as a visual artist with vision loss.

CEO JS Ryu publishes an op-ed: *Change is coming, but Albertans with disabilities can help define that change*. He later discusses this piece with Danielle Smith on her radio show on CHQR 770.



IAC works with celebrated artist Andy Moro with the curation and opening of its show *What Matters Now* at cSPACE.

IAC hosts its 45th Annual General Meeting. Due to COVID-19, the meeting takes place in a "drive-in" format. The following-day, IAC hosts a community movie night showcasing Kusama: Infinity, an award-winning documentary about world-renowned artist Yayoi Kusama.

IAC and the Flux Kit program are featured in Living a Creative Life web series by Calgary Arts Development.

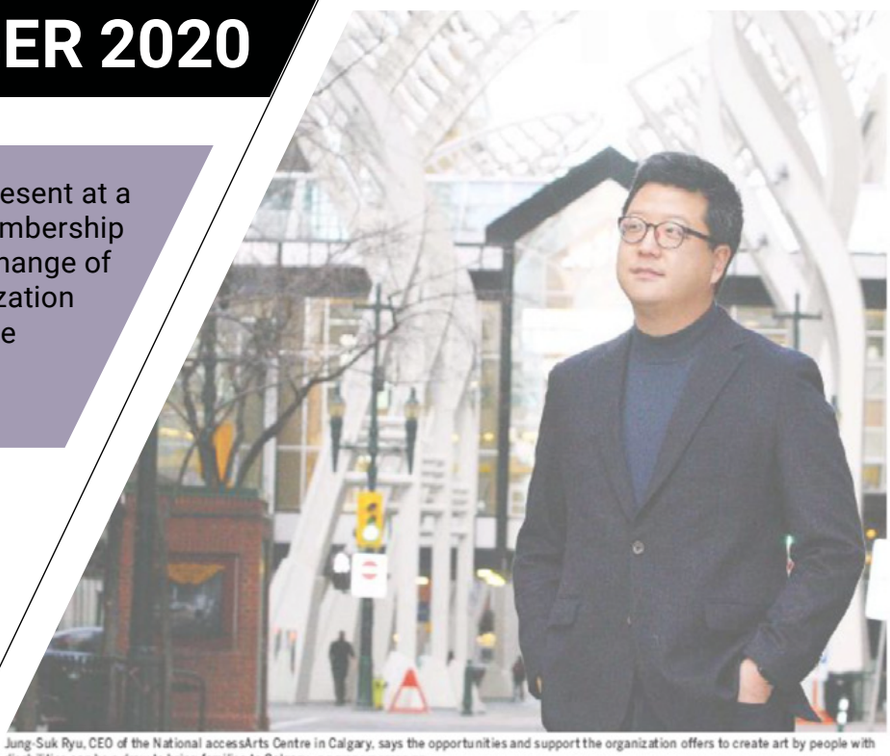
OCTOBER 2020

IAC concludes its acquisition process with Momo Movement and Artistic Expressions. The latter two organizations' boards agree to dissolve their organizations and transfer their assets to the IAC organization. As part of this process, IAC welcomes Talia Potter as its first Manager, Performing Arts.

NOVEMBER 2020

All IAC artist members present at a special meeting of the membership unanimously approve the change of the legal name of the organization from The In-Definite Arts to the National accessArts Centre effective immediately.

NATIONAL accessARTS CENTRE



Jung-Suk Ryu, CEO of the National accessArts Centre in Calgary, says the opportunities and support the organization offers to create art by people with disabilities can be a draw to bring families to Calgary. BRENDAN MILLER

Disability arts organization looks to rebranding for national presence

On November 2, the Indefinite Arts Centre unveils its new brand and identity as the National accessArts Centre, along with its new ambitious strategic plan – *Reset. Refocus. Reimagine.* The Calgary Herald, Global Calgary, CTV Calgary, Canadian Art, CHQR 770 all cover this story.

The NaAC welcomes visual artist, community organizer and social activist Nura Ali for the "Belonging in Literary Arts" residency, who works alongside artists in the studio to create a publication exploring anti-blackness through poetry and print making.

Artist Carlan Savage-Hughes leads artists in a self-publishing and zine making workshop "Spiraling Narratives."

The NaAC closes its doors due to the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. All of its programs move back online, via mail, or via telephone.

25 artworks are featured in the "Limitless Realities" exhibition at the ATB Cultural Centre Branch on Steven Ave.

DECEMBER 2020

Bolstered by support received by the Calgary Foundation, the NaAC unveils its new suite of visual and performing arts programs for 2021/22.

WATCH

The NaAC has delivered more than 2,000 flux kits to its community of artists.

The Esker Foundation profiles the work of 8 NaAC artists in their In Common series.

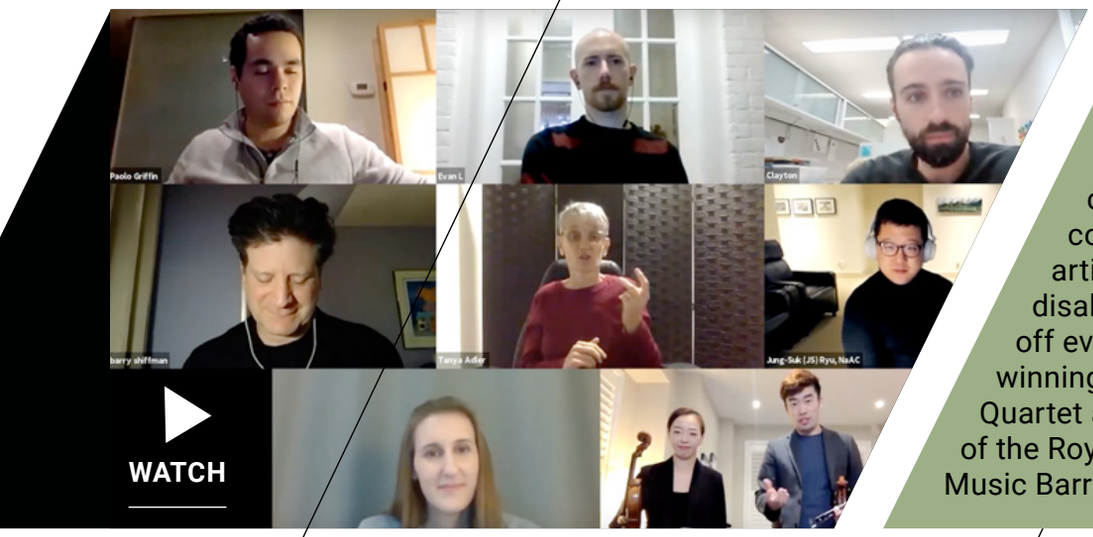
OTHER IMAGE

Mayor Nenshi presents Calgary's Accessibility Awards by handing out works by NaAC artist Adeel Sadiq to winners.

JANUARY 2021

IAC's artists develop artworks in response to a call by "Midnight in Space" is launched as the NaAC's first online exhibition in partnership with Studio C. This group exhibition was curated by NaAC's own Michelle Bennie who took part in our first curatorial mentorship program, which pioneers new approaches to exhibition creation.

Led by sister disability arts organization BEING Studio based in Ottawa, invited NaAC artists participate in an online forum for artists with developmental disabilities titled Artist Connect.



Led by Toronto-based Xenia Concerts and funded by the Canada Council for the Arts, the NaAC launches sound. colLAB, the first music composition project for artists with developmental disabilities. A project kick-off event features the award-winning Rolston String Quartet and Associate Dean of the Royal Conservatory of Music Barry Shiffman.

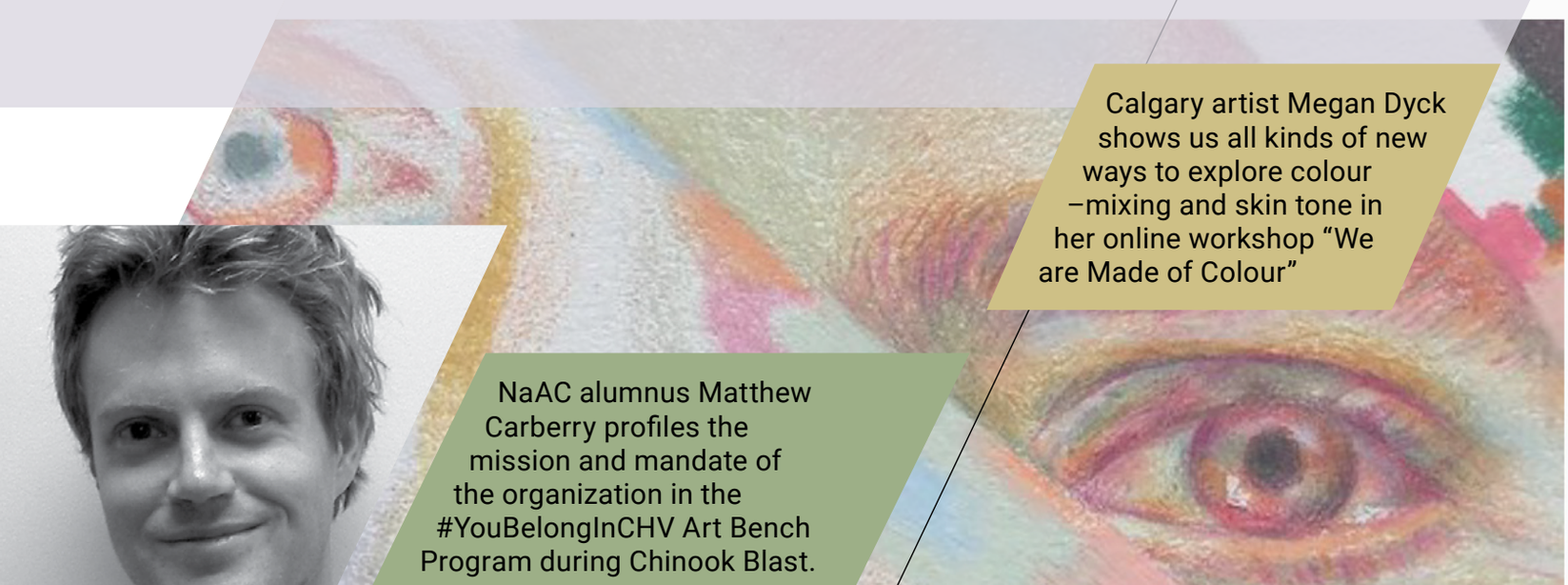
Calgary artist Skye Louis explores natural dye making in online workshops with NaAC artists.

NaAC offers it's very first dance program, Latin and Lines, exploring Latin inspired movements coupled with line dancing techniques, led by long-time Momo facilitator Chawna Exner and Calgary-based Mitch Graham.

FEBRUARY 2021

Following almost 12 months of delivering online programs, the NaAC responds to artist and family members' feedback on how to better deliver facilitated support using online tools such as Zoom. A new program direction is unveiled for its visual arts participants.

The NaAC and the City of Calgary jointly announce a new home for the organization to be located at 2140 Brownsea Drive NW. The City commits $2.5 million towards the retrofits and repairs to accommodate NaAC artists and programs. The Calgary Herald, CTV Calgary, Global Calgary, Livewire Calgary, CHQR 770 cover this story.



Calgary artist Megan Dyck shows us all kinds of new ways to explore colour –mixing and skin tone in her online workshop "We are Made of Colour"

NaAC alumnus Matthew Carberry profiles the mission and mandate of the organization in the #YouBelongInCHV Art Bench Program during Chinook Blast.

MARCH 2021

WATCH

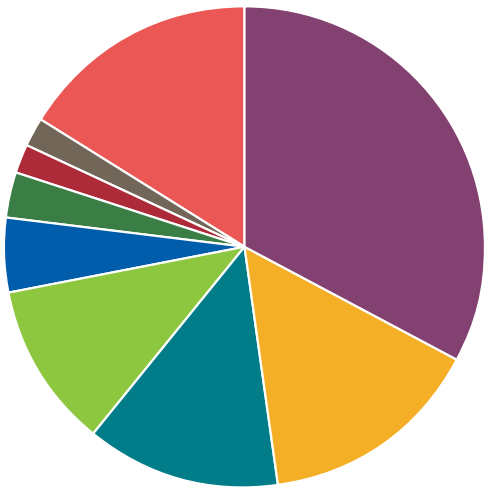
Global Affairs Canada confirms the acquisition of 13 NaAC artist works to be part of its permanent collection, marking the first time that the federal government has partnered with a disability arts organization to showcase works as part of its cultural diplomacy strategy.

Well known Canadian disability artist Cindy Baker shows artists how to silk screen from home in an online workshop.

Intro to Accessible Movement begins lead by disabled dancemaker, performers and facilitator Harmanie Taylor.

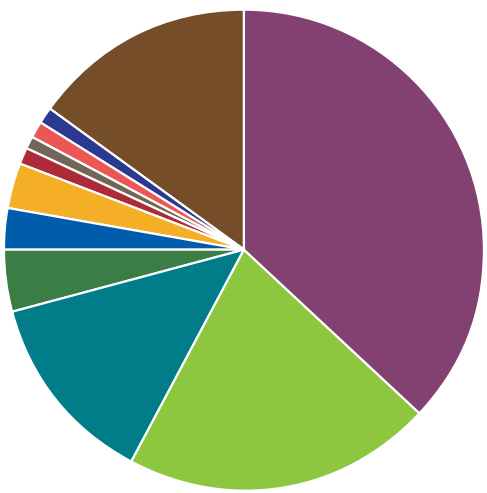
2020/21 Financials

Despite the ongoing challenges of COVID-19, the NaAC once again experienced substantial growth, with a 20% increase in revenues compared to 2019/20, and a total growth of 60%+ increase over four years. Note that these figures at the time of writing do not reflect the approved financial statements which will require member ratification and board sign-off. To view our audited financial statements, please visit accessarts.ca/about.



Operational Revenues: $1.46M

Government of Alberta – PDD	33%
Grants	15%
Donations	13%
Calgary Arts Development	11%
Alberta Foundation for the Arts	5%
Canada Council for the Arts	3%
Artist Fees + Material Sales	2%
Art Sales + Exhibitions	2%
Amortization	16%



Operational Expenses: $1.47MM

Direct Service + Program Delivery	37%
Administrative + Community Wages	21%
General Administration	13%
Marketing + Travel	4%
Projects	3%
Facility Maintenance	3%
Fundraising	1%
Exhibitions	1%
Capital Planning	1%
Community Programming	1%
Amortization	15%

Funders

OPERATIONAL PARTNERS:

Government of Alberta
Calgary Arts Development
Alberta Foundation for the Arts

PROJECT PARTNERS

Canada Council for the Arts
Calgary Foundation
Global Affairs Canada
Rozsa Foundation
Sinneave Foundation

$20,000+

Benefaction Foundation
Ron and Melissa Wigham

$10,000-$19,999

Hotchkiss Family Foundation
Michael and Renae Tims

$1,000-$9,999

Anonymous
ATB Financial
Cenovus Energy
Executive Millwork Inc.
Gerald and Barbara Chipeur
Paypal Giving Fund
The Winnipeg Foundation

$1-$999

Adam Hoffman
Adeel Sadiq
Alondra Hunt
Andre Giesbers
Andrew Butt
Andrew Harding
Ann Lumsden
Anndee King
Annice Pendrel
Anonymous x 24
Antonina D'Abadie
Arley Cocks
Asma Essid
Barb English
Barbara Beck
Beverly Parker
Bow Valley Credit Union
Brad Malazdrewicz and Lauren Wigham
Brittany Orlita
Calgary Foundation
Carla Leoppky
Carmen Gittens
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Carson Harding
Cathy Peplinski
Chalmbers Heritage Conservation Ltd.
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Dan Mcdermid
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Debbie Switzer-Cook
Dell and Lauren Pohlman
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Donna Clement
Elizabeth Hall-Findlay
Emily Scherman
Erica Chan
Erin Peplinski
Extreme Quality Restoration Ltd.
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Judy Gayton
Juice Imports
June Derhak
Jung-Suk and Nari Ryu
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Kara Tersen
Karen Johnson Diamond
Karen Perasalo
Kate Price
Kelly Schmitt
Ken Hughes
Ken Regan
Kim Collins
Kirk Stensrud
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Kristine Thomson
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Lisa Cooke
Lori McLellan
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Marshall Wigham
Martha Hall Findlay
Mary Jane Cryderman
Melissa Wigham
Melody Poon
Michael and Raechel Kim
Michael Evans
Michelle Ying
Mike and Kelly Mannix
Mingxia Li
Myrla Sadiq
Nancy Hunt
Nicole Kaczkowski
Nicole Robbins
Pansy Angevine
Pat Desaulniers
Paypal Giving Fund
Pete Lendl
Rhodri Meredith
Riaz Mamdani
Richard Cooke
Richard Einarson
Richard Link
Robert Roach
Sallie Szanik
Sam Komolafe
Sheldon Fuchs
Simon Mallet
Sonya Regehr
Steven Rocha
Susan Hupman
Teresa Dias
Todd Hirsch
Tyson Henderson
Valerie Edwards
Valerie Hazle
Walter Kozak
Wendy Hunt

Board+Staff

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Secretary-Treasurer

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(until April 2020)

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John Stinson

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Kate Price

Lisa Cooke

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(until November 2020)

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Cailyn Thistle
Studio Facilitator

Carlos Arteaga
Studio Facilitator

Chawna Exner
Performing Arts Facilitator

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Coordinator, Programs and Exhibitions

Faiza Benazir
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Heather Jones
Manager, Operations

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Studio Facilitator

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Coordinator, Artist Services

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Talia Potter
Manager, Performing Arts

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