



# 2025 Canadian Arts Summit

Arts Forward | Avançons les arts

# **Summary Report**



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# 2025 Canadian Arts Summit Overview



From April 3 to 5, 2025, <u>Business / Arts</u>, in partnership with the <u>Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity</u> and the <u>National Arts Centre</u>, hosted the Canadian Arts Summit, an annual national conference for executive leadership in the arts sector. For over 20 years, the Summit has gathered senior arts leaders, including artistic directors, executive directors, and volunteer board chairs from Canada's largest arts institutions. It brings together leading voices from across Canada and around the world to help shape the future of the arts in Canada.

The 2025 Summit included the addition of a *Rapporteur*, whose role was to observe, witness and reflect back to the delegation the key findings and prominent lines of inquiry. Vanessa Porteous, performed this inaugural role.

The National Arts Centre (NAC), Canada's bilingual, multidisciplinary home for the performing arts, hosted the Summit for the first time. As host partner, NAC welcomed delegates and shaped the artistic programming, which included a performance of *Old Photographs* by Christos Hatzis, a presentation on *Draw Me Close* by David Oppenheim, and a performance by Kellylee Evans, as well as optional evening programming on NAC stages including *Trident Moon* and *The Royal Winnipeg Ballet's Jekyll and Hyde*.

<u>ART+PUBLIC UnLtd</u> returned to lead programming in 2025, with a creative and innovative approach that encouraged active engagement from delegates and arts leaders throughout the Summit.

The 2025 Summit welcomed 13 leaders in the Emerging Leadership Program — outstanding arts, culture, and heritage professionals from across Canada, nominated by Summit delegates. The program launched at the Summit and offers mentorship, networking, and peer learning throughout the year.

The 2025 Summit welcomed 180 leaders from across Canada and abroad.



# There is **Power in Partnership**



The Canadian Arts Summit continues to be a collective effort.

Thank you to all of the partners and supporters for making this gathering possible.

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# 2025 Steering Committee



The Canadian Arts Steering Committee establishes and oversees the vision, mission, values, programming direction and long-term strategic priorities of the Summit.



Carole Beaulieu
Chair, Board of Trustees,
Canadian Museum of History
& Canadian War Museum
Committee Co-chair



John G. Hampton
Executive Director & CEO,
The MacKenzie Art Gallery
Committee Co-chair



Jean-François Bélisle
Director & CEO,
The National Gallery of Canada
Committee Member



Anne Chafe
CEO,
The Rooms
Committee Member



Monica Esteves
Executive Director,
Canadian Stage Company
Committee Member



Robert J. Foster, C.M.

Board Chair,
Business / Arts

Committee Member



Sarah Garton Stanley

VP of Programming,

Arts Commons

Committee Member



Paul Larocque
President & CEO,
Arts Umbrella
Committee Member



# 2025 Steering Committee





Chris Lorway
President & CEO,
Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity
Committee Member



Lori Marchand
Managing Director,
Indigenous Theatre,
National Arts Centre
Committee Member



Bruce Munro Wright O.B.C.

Board Member,

MOCA Toronto

Committee Member



Kondwani Mwase
Executive Director,
Audience Engagement,
National Arts Centre
Committee Member



Alisa Palmer
Artistic Producer,
Vita Brevis Arts
Honorary
Committee Member



Aubrey Reeves
President & CEO,
Business / Arts
Committee Member



Mark Williams
Chief Executive Officer,
Toronto Symphony Orches-

Committee Member



Mark Wold

Dean of Arts & Leadership,
Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity

Committee Member





# A Message from the Co-Chairs

The 2025 Canadian Arts Summit brought us together at a time of both pressure and possibility. Under the theme **Arts Forward | Avançons les arts**, we gathered to reflect on the role of the arts in shaping the future of Canada and our responsibility, as leaders, to respond with conviction and collective action.

Together, we affirmed the central role of the arts in building community, strengthening identity, and contributing to a more connected and resilient Canada. Through thoughtful dialogue and working sessions, we considered how to lead with intention, support our teams, and reflect the values and diversity of Canadians within our institutions. The Summit reinforced our shared goals to centre artists, serve our communities, and emphasize the social, economic and cultural value of the arts in Canada.

Thank you to all who made this year's Summit possible. We look forward to continuing the work together.



Carole Beaulieu

Chair, Board of Trustees
Canadian Museum of History
& Canadian War Museum
Committee Co-chair



John G. Hampton

Executive Director & CEO
The MacKenzie Art Gallery
Committee Co-chair

# 2025 Canadian Arts Summit Programming Vision



# **Arts Forward | Avançons les arts**

The 2025 Canadian Arts Summit was designed to catalyze the arts sector with a strong, future-focused vision. Building on the energy and themes from 2024, including cross-sectoral collaboration, insights from other industries, innovative funding models, and the role of the arts in fostering a thriving cultural landscape, the Summit seized the unique opportunities presented by its time and place. Held in Ottawa just weeks before a federal election, the Summit embraced the political moment and integrated advocacy throughout the program. Over three days, delegates worked to identify priorities, strategize, and support meaningful action to advance the arts and position them at the forefront of Canadian communities.

Programming featured panel discussions, workshops, peer-to-peer sessions, artistic performances, and networking opportunities. The keynote and panel sessions fostered open dialogue on pressing issues, responding in real time to a rapidly shifting political landscape. Delegates engaged in three peer-to-peer sessions, which led to a sector-wide call to action and a communiqué for government. A rapporteur was invited to observe the discussions and synthesize the key themes that emerged throughout the event.



"This year's theme, Arts Forward or Avançons les arts, speaks to the role we must play in shaping this moment. The arts are where we define who we are. They are a powerful force for social, cultural, and economic well-being — woven into the very fabric of this nation. They bring people together, tell our most compelling stories, and foster cohesion in an increasingly complex world. As we come together for this Summit, guided by a rich program exploring economic, political, and cultural considerations, we have a unique opportunity to shape the path forward."

# **Program Overview** with Reflections



The following section provides an overview of the 2025 Canadian Arts Summit program, with high-level synthesis of the formal sessions. It is our aim to communicate the main takeaways and highlights of the various conversations throughout the Summit to enable further discussion and inform future programming.

# Day 1 | Thursday, April 3, 2025

The first day of the 2025 Canadian Arts Summit foregrounded a key programming principle — fostering time for meaningful networking. Following a series of welcome lunches hosted by the National Gallery of Canada and the Canadian Museum of History, the event opened with the first peer-to-peer session, designed to create space for open conversation and relationship-building.

#### Peer-to-Peer Session #1: Creating Connections

Delegates were grouped by executive role — artistic directors, executive directors, and board chairs — to reflect on their shared leadership experiences and connect with their peers in a focused setting. This session encouraged delegates to exchange perspectives on common challenges and opportunities for collaboration. Participants were asked to consider what they hoped to gain from and contribute to this year's Summit. The session set the tone for open dialogue and mutual learning. Following the discussions, delegates reconvened in the plenary space for the official opening of the Summit.







# Opening Remarks

#### Christopher Deacon, President and CEO, National Arts Centre

As host partner of the 2025 Summit, Christopher Deacon welcomed the delegation to the National Arts Centre and opened the gathering by posing a timely question: What can we do for Canada at such a challenging time for our artists? He emphasized the power of collaboration, the importance of creation, and the need to work together across the country to share stories that reflect Canada's values of empathy and care.

#### Aubrey Reeves, President and CEO, Business / Arts

John G. Hampton

Building on Christopher's message, Aubrey Reeves spoke about the importance of dialogue and centering the Canadian values of inclusion, diversity, and welcome in the conversations and outcomes of the Summit. "Now is the time to invest in Canadian culture," she urged, calling on the sector to come together with purpose. Aubrey also introduced the 2025 cohort of the Emerging Leaders program, welcoming the next generation of senior arts leaders to the Summit.



and **John G. Hampton** welcomed delegates by situating the Summit within broader national conversations. Reflecting on a decade of Truth and Reconciliation and current questions of sovereignty, they described this moment as a generational opportunity — with Indigenous identity and leadership at its heart. They reminded the room that it is our collective spirit that will shape the future.



Carole Beaulieu



## Welcome by Elder Claudette Commanda

**Elder Claudette Commanda** welcomed the delegation to the National Arts Centre with a prayer and reflection. She encouraged attendees to honour the past while looking ahead to future generations, reminding everyone of the importance of intergenerational responsibility and care.



"Art is Power; the most powerful tool for education."

Elder Claudette Commanda

## Keynote conversation: Art and Social Cohesion, a presentation by Shanta Thake in conversation with Chris Lorway

As we look to position the arts at the forefront of our communities, the 2025 keynote explored the relationship between the arts and social cohesion. **Shanta Thake, Ehrenkranz Chief Artistic Officer, Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts** shared her approach to her work with the Lincoln Centre in New York City specifically during the rapidly changing landscape of Covid-19.

In conversation with *Chris Lorway, President and CEO, Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity,* Thake described how the pandemic changed the way that institutions think about their audiences as well as their surrounding communities. With her leadership, the Lincoln Center shifted the Centre's investment towards local artists, and audiences who had previously been left out or overlooked by making spaces free for all to enter, and creating usable outdoor space.







Her approach also included looking closely at the history of the Lincoln Centre, and its complex relationship with the local marginalized communities at its doorstep. Thake described how important collectivism is to an arts centre, and took the approach of centering social cohesion as a safety net during troubled times for the many surrounding communities she sought to serve.

Shanta Thake challenged the delegation to think about social cohesion as a loosely woven web of connection, rather than a tightly knit and clearly defined community. This approach creates greater space for inclusion and creatively enables opportunities through connections.

"We went from thinking about social cohesion as a tightly woven blanket to one of a safety net."

Shanta Thake







# Day 2 | Friday, April 4, 2025



#### Panel #1: This Is Now: A Call To Action for the Arts

The second day of the Summit began with a central question: What does the arts and culture sector need to hear right now? From politics and funding to leadership and audience engagement, each speaker offered a ten-minute address as a call to action, followed by a moderated discussion with **John G. Hampton, Executive Director and CEO, MacKenzie Art Gallery.** 



Address #1, Follow the Money: Cameron Bailey, CEO, Toronto International Film Festival.

**Cameron Bailey** opened with a quote from All the President's Men: "Follow the money." Framing his talk around this phrase, Bailey posed a series of deliberate questions, urging delegates to reflect on the tension between perceived and actual needs. He encouraged organizations to examine the trade-offs they are willing to make for financial stability — and to remain clear about their core purpose through turbulent times.



"What compromises are you willing to bake into the foundation of your organization to secure long term money that will make your organization stable over time?"

Cameron Bailey

Address #2, In Times Like These: Christy Coleman, Executive Director, Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation.

**Christy Coleman** emphasized the importance of empathy and dialogue across difference. Drawing on her leadership of Civil War museums in the U.S., she described how listening to communities, even in moments of deep division, is key to building shared understanding and collective progress.





"I go into community and I say, What do you need? How can I help you tell your story? What resources do you need?"

Christy Coleman



Address #3, Successional Planning During a Cultural Crisis: Aaron Marquise, Deputy Director of Circus Arts Programming and Development, TOHU

**Aaron Marquise**, focused on the impact of succession planning during crisis. He underscored how leadership transitions, when unprepared for, can compromise resilience — and how forward-thinking planning enables organizations to thrive under pressure.



"If we wait until we are in crisis mode to think about who is in charge, it is already too late."

Aaron Marquise

# Performance: Old Photographs by Christos Hatzis

Following a powerful introduction to the Summit, the delegation was invited to move to the Susan Glass & Arni Thorsteinson Staircase of the NAC to experience a compelling live performance of musical trio **Andrew Burashko**, **Emily Kruspe and Julia MacLaine**, in their performance of Canadian composer **Christos Hatzis'** composition *Old Photographs*. This piece originates from the multimedia music theatre work *Constantinople*, which premiered in 2000.











On the second day of the Summit, the Delegates had the opportunity to participate in the following workshops:

#### Impact Investing and the Arts

Facilitated by *Upkar Arora, Chair, Why Not Theatre, David Maggs, Arts and Society Fellow, Metcalf Foundation, and Michael Trent, Director of Performing Arts, Metcalf Foundation.* 

In this workshop, delegates were invited to participate in an exploration of alternative revenue models for arts and culture in Canada, focusing on impact investing.

#### **Embodied Leadership**

Facilitated by Shannon Litzenberger, Artist-Researcher-in-Residence at Creative Community Commons, School of Cities, University of Toronto.

In this workshop, delegates were invited to participate in an action-based, collaborative workshop that modeled generative ways of relating and creating. Grounded in values of inclusion, generosity, and care, this workshop aimed to expand capacity to observe, create, navigate systems, and build resilience.

#### Make the Case: Advocating for Arts Investment

Facilitated by Hilary Martin, Project Lead, Make the Case.

In this workshop, the delegates were invited to participate in a demonstration and collaborative walkthrough of 'Make the Case', a project currently in development by Culture Days and Business / Arts. Delegates contributed to in-progress cases which advocate for the value of arts and culture and support increased investment in the sector. This project is supported by the Canada Council for the Arts.





#### Draw Me Close - Artist Presentation

The afternoon's presentations opened with an artist talk from VR Artist, **David Oppenheim** speaking about his theatrical and VR work, 'Draw Me Close', a collaboration with artist Jordan Tannahill which pushed audiences to build empathy through a familial visual experience.

## Current State of Affairs with Sean Casey

**Sean Casey, Managing Director, PAA Advisory | Conseils,** offered an up-to-the-minute snapshot of Canada's political landscape in the midst of the federal election, including polling data and insight into how each party is currently positioned on arts and culture. He emphasized the need for strategic engagement and education. Now is the time to ensure the arts are on the political agenda.



## Panel #2: Advocacy Right Now

This session expanded the conversation to the broader context in which arts advocacy is unfolding — politically, socially, and economically. Drawing on experience from outside the arts sector, panellists explored trends that shape public sentiment and influence advocacy strategy. This session was moderated by **Alexandra Badzak**, **Director and CEO**, **Ottawa Art Gallery**.

**Ihor Korbabicz, President, Abacus Data** opened with insights drawn from data that reflect a growing scarcity mindset — shaped by inflation, housing insecurity, and the lingering impact of the pandemic. These forces have contributed to shifting political attitudes in Canada and abroad.





"If you look at data around adult Canadians who've had some experience with arts organizations — whether attending galleries or public performances — that's over 9 in 10 Canadians. It's an incredibly high touch point."



**Ihor Korbabicz** 

**Lisa Samson, Principal, StrategyCorp Inc.** encouraged delegates to position the arts as a "port in the storm" — a place of stability and connection. She stressed the value of meeting communities where they are and building bridges across perspectives.



"Who can you bring to the table that's not from your point of view?"

Lisa Samson

In conversation with **Alexandra Badzak**, the panel examined how the arts can help shape a nuanced Canadian identity — one that resists stereotypes and reflects the country's evolving values. The speakers underscored the need for collaboration, innovation, and an outward-looking approach to advocacy.

"I think this is an opportunity to step back — let's learn what other sectors are doing, what's working, and what we can bring into our work, because we do have work ahead."

Alexandra Badzak





#### Peer-to-Peer Session #2: Ideas to Action

For the second peer-to-peer session, delegates were grouped according to the size and type of their organization — large organizations, medium and small organizations, board chairs, and foundations, government, and funders. Each group worked collaboratively to test the viability of putting an idea into action in service of the arts and culture sector. Using the filters of relevance, viability, timeliness, and feasibility, they selected an idea and mapped out a series of steps, ranging from individual efforts to collective action.





#### Evening Performance by Kellylee Evans



Following the peer-to-peer sessions, delegates moved into the Peter A. Herrndorf Place to see *Kellylee Evans*, a Juno Award-winning, four-time Juno nominated singer, songwriter and motivational speaker. Evans provided an incredibly vibrant and lively performance, using her improvisational vocal style which embodies jazz, soul, pop, and hip-hop, and brought the delegates to their feet!

# Day 3 | Saturday, April 5, 2025

# Performing Arts Tax Credit: Overview and Impact

In this short presentation, Anita Gaffney, Executive Director, Stratford Festival and Tim Jennings, Executive Director and CEO, Shaw Festival, shared their progress in advocating for a performing arts tax credit in Canada.







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#### Panel #3: Strategies for Resilience

The final panel of the Summit addressed the ongoing challenge of diversifying revenue generation. Panellists explored strategies that promote research and development while encouraging greater risk tolerance. Leaders from both the arts and business sectors shared innovative approaches to long-term sustainability, drawing on insights across industries. Moderated by **Simon Mallett, Executive Director, Rozsa Foundation**, the conversation centred on building resilience and sustaining growth.



Simon Mallett

**Zita Cobb, Founder and CEO, Shorefast**, opened with the story of her return to Fogo Island and the founding of Shorefast, a transformative social enterprise strengthening economic and cultural resilience on Fogo Island, Newfoundland. She emphasized the importance of place-based, asset-driven community development and asked: How do we get people to recognize the value of the arts as a community asset?



"Art is Culture; Culture is a human response to place."

Zita Cobb

**Sean Dennie, Director of Space Development, cSPACE**, spoke about creating opportunities by activating underused spaces in downtown Calgary. His work focuses on making space for artists and organizations — often through meanwhile leases that benefit both the arts and developers.





"The question ultimately became how do we remain relevant? How do we deploy our social capital? How do we use our leverage to keep on pushing forward."



Sean Dennie

Xavier Roy, Senior Vice President, Member Engagement and Advancement, Canadian Chamber of Commerce, reflected on his journey from musician to business leader, and the importance of framing the right questions for arts organizations to ask themselves — and their stakeholders.



"We keep repeating patterns and traditions in our business models that we've inherited because we're in survival mode in the arts, we sometimes don't take enough time to think about what are the truly important questions and after that, where do we go from there?"

Xavier Roy

The discussion also addressed concerns about the density of the arts ecosystem. How do we stay relevant, act as good neighbours, and make room for one another? The panellists considered how collective approaches and shared infrastructure can provide support, visibility, and space for growth — even in times of uncertainty.



## Arts & Culture Benchmark: Understanding your Data

Jill Robinson, CEO, TRG Arts and Eric Nelson, Vice-President, Global Partnerships, TRG Arts, introduced their newly available Arts & Culture Benchmark, a data-driven tool and shared how arts organizations can use this information to inform strategy and strengthen performance.







#### Peer-to-Peer Session #3: Calls to Action

For the third and final peer-to-peer session, delegates were asked to reflect on their 'calls to action' for the sector. The groups were broken down once again by executive role. Below are the summaries of their calls to action, which are intended to guide direction and action out of the Summit, back into the sector:

#### **Calls to Action from the Artistic Directors Peer Group:**

- Recognize this moment as a critical opportunity to reflect on who we are as a sector and as a nation, and to define the role of the arts in shaping Canada's identity.
- Treat problems as entry points for action. In every challenge lies an opportunity for innovation, collaboration, and leadership.
- Stop seeking validation and start showing up with confidence. Engage politicians and decision-makers as partners in building a better future.
- Position the arts as essential to a healthy society, working in tandem with sectors like education and health rather than in competition with them.
- Re-centre the status of the artist in our national conversation. Artists are a vital resource and must be supported, valued, and protected as part of our communities.

#### **Calls to Action from the Executive Directors Peer Group:**

- Recognize the power of collective action and ensure our value is both deeply felt in the communities we serve and clearly demonstrated through data.
- Make sure our organizations understand their place in community and remain responsive to local needs and challenges, which are also our opportunities.
- Take risks together, knowing it is better to act collectively and imperfectly than to do nothing at all.
- Align around a single message a "moonshot" that expresses a bold mission, shared vision, and common values, with the artist at the centre.
- Use data and case studies to communicate this collective message and show that art is essential to everyday life and worth fighting for in real and meaningful ways.





#### **Calls to Action from the Funders Peer Group:**

- Continue to explore ways to grow the funding pie by looking beyond traditional models, including impact investing, tax credits, and a 1% federal allocation for the arts.
- Support ongoing advocacy efforts that demonstrate the value and necessity of the arts to decision-makers.
- Keep artists at the core of our shared vision for the sector, recognizing their role in shaping strong, creative communities.
- Respond to the energy in this moment by shifting the focus from urgency to opportunity and building from a place of strength.
- Move forward with confidence and clarity, reinforcing the power of the arts through sustained and strategic investment.

#### **Calls to Action from Board Chairs:**

During their peer-to-peer sessions, the Board Chairs developed a *communiqué* that has since been shared with media, government, and the public. It affirms the need for an unequivocal commitment to the sector as Canada's arts and culture are fundamental to our national identity, unity and sovereignty.

Excerpts include the following calls to action:

- Commit unequivocally to a thriving, robust Canadian arts and culture sector as essential to our national story and shared future.
- Approve the proposed \$140 million increase to the Canada Council for the Arts as a demonstration of federal leadership and support for the sector.
- Increase investment in museums, galleries, festivals, and other cultural initiatives, aligned with economic growth and adjusted for inflation.
- Ensure that all party leaders seeking public trust and office explicitly support sustained investment in Canadian arts and culture.

Read the communiqué here.





#### **Closing Reflections**

To conclude the proceedings, **Vanessa Porteous**, **the Summit Rapporteur**, gave an address to the delegation which wove together the different themes she had observed over the course of the three days.

Read the Rapporteur Report here.



"If art is power, and art is our blessing, how will you look after your power, as the world tumbles and reverses course, upending all our assumptions, all our professional and personal experience, How will you look at your power? Cultivate it, live it, stand in it, take your place. Use it. Spend it. Reckon with it. Share it. How will we continue to share our blessing, the urgent, life-giving, necessary blessing of art with our communities? Thank you for letting me listen in to your conversation this weekend. It's been an honour."

Vanessa Porteous

Michelle Chawla, Director and CEO, Canada Council for the Arts offered closing remarks on behalf of the Canada Council, acknowledged the power and privilege of the room, and the importance of using this in a way that serves everyone and emphasized Canada Council support.

"The arts need to be at every single table."

Michelle Chawla







#### Optional Programs

The 2025 Summit included a variety of optional programs for delegates. These program pieces were developed in close collaboration with program partners at the NAC and affiliates.

#### Evening Reception, Trident Moon, and optional programming at the Summit lounge

The opening night included a dinner reception and socializing, followed by *Trident Moon*, a compelling co-production between NAC English Theatre and Crow's Theatre, Toronto, in the Azrieli Studio. The Summit Lounge at the upper level of Forty One Restaurant in the Lord Elgin Hotel offered delegates a semi-private space to meet and continue conversations with fellow attendees.

#### Royal Winnipeg Ballet's Jekyll and Hyde

Delegates had the opportunity to attend *The Royal Winnipeg Ballet's Jekyll and Hyde*, a classical and contemporary dance piece exploring the human psyche, or return to the Summit Lounge for post-event conversations.

#### Indigenous Art Walk

Early risers greeted the day with a walk and talk through downtown Ottawa as well as the NAC itself from an Indigenous perspective while exploring the social, political and cultural history of this land through architecture, landscape, monuments and art. Led by Jaime Morse, Owner of Indigenous Walks.

#### **Meditation Room**

Throughout the Summit delegates were provided with a quiet space to relax and recharge. This was made possible by Sun Life, Mental Health in the Arts Partner.





## **About Business / Arts**

Business / Arts is a national charitable organization that shows the power of partnership between business and arts. Our mission is to champion business investment in the arts and build strong, lasting partnerships between the arts, business and government in Canada.

Business / Arts is uniquely positioned to bring together business, private patrons, government and the arts, all in the service of supporting the growth of Canada's arts sector. We focus on three main objectives, which are relevant to the business, arts and government sectors, individually and collectively.

#### To convene and lead

Business / Arts will source opportunities to bring together organizations and people to support the arts sector, locally and nationally.

## To support and facilitate

Business / Arts facilitates the sharing of much-needed information and resources across the arts sector, from our smallest community groups to our largest national organizations, and engages our key audiences across business and government.

## To share, amplify and advocate

We recognize and celebrate partnerships between business and the arts, profiling exceptional leadership in the business and arts community, sharing research, and providing a platform for innovative discussion and exchange of ideas.

www.businessandarts.org





# **About Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity**

Founded in 1933, Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity is a learning organization built upon an extraordinary legacy of excellence in artistic and creative development. What started as a single course in drama has grown to become the global organization leading in arts, culture, and creativity across dozens of disciplines. From our home in the stunning Canadian Rocky Mountains, Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity aims to inspire everyone who attends our campus — artists, leaders, and thinkers — to unleash their creative potential.

## **About the National Arts Centre**

The National Arts Centre (NAC) is Canada's bilingual, multi-disciplinary home for the performing arts. The NAC presents, creates, produces, and co-produces performing arts programming in various streams — the NAC Orchestra, Dance, English Theatre, French Theatre, Indigenous Theatre, and Popular Music and Variety — and nurtures the next generation of audiences and artists from across Canada. The NAC is located in the National Capital Region on the unceded territory of the Anishinabe Algonquin Nation.

# **About the Canadian Arts Summit**

In 1998, The Council for Business and the Arts in Canada (now Business / Arts) and the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity invited the board chairs, executive directors and artistic directors of 20 of Canada's largest arts organizations to a "Summit". That first Summit was predicated upon the belief that these influential leaders – volunteers, artists and managers – could, by working together, better support Canadian artistic aspirations.

The Canadian Arts Summit has since grown to become a national leadership forum that enables nuanced and candid discussions on the complex issues facing the arts and culture sector in Canada. Together, we explore practical solutions, embrace the positive changes currently underway, and consider how we can advance into the future.

