



CULTURAL CAPITALE
CAPITAL CULTURELLE
of CANADA du CANADA



building connections

Edmonton Cultural Capital of Canada 2007

I am proud to have been the Chair of Edmonton's 2007 Cultural Capital of Canada Steering Committee for the past year and a half. That program has been successful in so many ways and promises much for the future of the arts and culture in our city and, we trust, all Canadian cities.

Cultural Capital is not an easy concept to grasp. It is about artistic wealth and adventure, civic participation, pride and money, but a city must not be blinded by the competitive marketplace ideology of our times and too readily attach a false status and even empty bragging rights to being named Cultural Capital of Canada. Stepping away from this hope of adoration and envy enhances the honour that comes with the designation. It is something the city of Edmonton will treasure for many years and we happily join the company of all past recipients of this award while we look forward to more and more Canadian cities being similarly recognized.

In Edmonton we learned the key to the Cultural Capital of Canada program is to fit it exactly to our city and our community. In this respect, the Cultural Capital of Canada program offers great flexibility as, at its heart, it is steadfastly attached to the principle of municipal cultural development.

We had definite ideas for development in arts and culture in our city — ideas that just needed more funding and ambitions that would directly support our emerging artists and build connections between professional artists and the many communities of interest, place, and heritage in Edmonton. It was on this basis that the City prepared its application to the Cultural Capital of Canada program and when it was announced that Edmonton had been chosen as one of the 2007 Cultural Capitals of Canada, we were both thrilled and ready to go.

Now, as Executive Director of the Edmonton Arts Council, I look ahead and anticipate an invigorating ride as all the momentum and energy released by the Edmonton 2007 Cultural Capital of Canada program joins the incredible artistic soul of this city.

I sincerely thank the Government of Canada for developing and keeping the Cultural Capital of Canada program. May all Canadian cities eventually profit from it in the same way we in Edmonton have in 2007.

John Mahon, Executive Director,
Edmonton Arts Council and Chair,
Edmonton Cultural Capital Program
Steering Committee.

A speech I read once by Ben Cameron, Executive Director of the Theatre Communication Group, described how a Harris Poll had asked respondents, "If your house is on fire, what's the first thing you'll grab when you run out the door?" The overwhelming answer: family photographs. Mr. Cameron then added, "I say to you, the arts ARE our family photographs."

From this Cultural Capital Year the murals of Ian Mulder, the plays Scythe and Swallow, the collection of poetry Eyeing the Magpie, the Songs from the Avenue, the film Struggle to Survive are some of our newest family photos. The Cultural Capital Year has produced a new collection of family photographs, and I am proud to share some of them with you here.

The Cultural Capital program encompassed a Poetry Festival, three symposia, a Speakers Series, grants for individual artists, a program for community arts, the New Year's celebration, and it contributed to the Cultural Plan for Edmonton through the Cultural Inventory Project. Many of the components from this year will continue to grow and develop as additions to Edmonton's family photo album, to be cherished as memories of our year as Cultural Capital of Canada.

Linda Huffman,
Executive Producer



The Edmonton Poetry Festival

Poetry has the power to connect Edmontonians with themselves, with each other, and with their city. The third week of September was proclaimed Poetry Week as the Poetry Festival presented the many projects created throughout the year.

Audience member, Honour Songs:
Beautiful work. I'm inspired by your strength, courage, and conviction as well as the love found within your words and images. Thanks for giving your voices to us so that others can find the strength to share their own.

Honour Songs

Highlights included:

Honour Songs: celebrating the contributions of Aboriginal women, past and present. The show blended poetry, movement, chorale work, song, and spoken word to bring life to the highly charged poetic text. Another dimension of Honour Songs was an installation of shawls based on the poems, illustrating the encompassing, warm, practical and lovely nature of women's work.

Poets Across Borders: pairing English-speaking poets with different cultural groups to create poems in many languages that were translated and presented during the festival.

Rhythm of the Heart: helping young people realize the empowering force of artistic expression. The project involved 18 young people and produced 9 video poems

Catherine Owen on Rhythm of the Heart:

I relearned a tougher lesson: art is no saviour. It won't prevent anyone, on its own, from taking drugs, running away, going crazy. But it IS a companion, sometimes a guide. Art provides a channel, validation and catharsis for a turbulent existence. It hints at the hope of a more fully alive mode of being. Time and again when I asked these young women what they wanted their art to affect in the world, they said: To wake people up. To help them see. Hear. And act to change things.

The School Project: eight schools and 2300 students participated in nearly 40 events, featuring 25 poets both local and national.

Stand-Up Poets: six street performers took to street corners downtown over the lunch hour. With sandwich

boards, portable sound systems, and the Festival's signature red berets, they engaged the public with poems ranging from popular classics to contemporary Canadian works.

Web based Anthology: available to all as an ongoing legacy of the Poetry Festival, the anthology captures the spirit and work created by the artists throughout the year.

Language is our Skin *(excerpt)*

Language as new skin
Undress with wonder

**Language is a baby
Learning to walk continents**

Waltz sounds against my bones
Dancing words in unknowing frequencies.

**Language is a sheet fluttering
Incubating a new friend's warmth**

Language is our skin
Unveiling smiles tears

**Language is a mother spilling
Comfort into all the words babies reach for**

Silence laughter sadness joy
Anger, peace, light and shade
Shed masks
Stripping poems from our skin

Weaving them between the threads

By Rusti Leahy & Therezinha F. Kennedy



The Exploration Grants Program

This program supported the work of individual artists and artistic collaborations in all arts disciplines. 282 applications were received, 34 grants were awarded. All the projects explored new and dynamic ways of expanding their art form and reaching out to new audiences.

Patron Saints of Modern Times - Laura O'Connor

Grants Awarded:

Mohammed Al-Nassar (Literary Arts)

To produce a book of poetry and launch a website that will showcase collections of poems written in English and Arabic \$13,000

Tania Alvarado (Dance)

laFura, a full length choreography \$10,000

Terrance Armstrong (Literary Arts)

Echoes from the Alley, a book with 20 first-person accounts of homelessness on the streets of Edmonton \$18,000

Jalal Barzanji (Literary Arts)

A memoir of his years in prison in Iraq and his years in exile \$8,000

Will Bauer (Multi Media)

River, a 3D interactive, online portrait of Edmonton \$20,000

Jennifer Berkenbosch (Visual Arts)

Radiant, a series of 25 paintings to be installed on the exteriors of buildings along 118 Avenue \$18,100

Wes Borg (Media Arts)

8th Funniest, a multi-media performance \$15,000

Amber Borotsik (Dance)

Scythe, a full-length dance theatre production exploring the issue of rural de-population \$15,500

Laura O'Connor, grant recipient:

Not only do I feel more connected with the Edmonton Arts community, I feel like I have something to offer it as well.

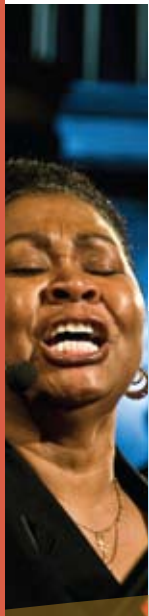
Anna Mioduchowska, grant recipient:

I was introduced to new artists and their work, and to organizations of which I was completely unaware. Since the project involved not only poets, but visual artists and musicians, we were able to broaden our audience beyond the usual poetry lovers.





Junetta Jamerson of the Black Pioneer Heritage Singers, grant recipient: *The Exploration Grant has opened up a new world of opportunities and experience for me. It has allowed me to surround myself with some of the best professionals here in town to fulfill my vision of a recording of the music of Edmonton's historical black community. This is a huge step as it not only brings the chance to connect with Edmonton audiences in a new way but when the CD is done, we'll be able to share this bit of Alberta's history with listeners the world over.*



Jocelyn Brown (Literary Arts)
AlbertaVoce, to research and begin a book about Edmonton 1933-1945 with a focus on Margaret Crang \$23,000

Jessica Carmichael (Theatre)
Ministry of Love, a stage adaptation of George Orwell's 1984 \$15,000

Marty Chan (Theatre)
The Forbidden Phoenix, workshop and staged reading \$25,000

Eric Cheng (Theatre)
Willkommen in Spreepark, a musical theatre production transforming a performance space into an interactive amusement park \$22,000

Dave Clarke (Theatre)
The Edmonton Museum of Malls, to research and develop the script for a multi-media performance about the history and culture of Edmonton shopping malls \$13,000

Eva Colmers (Film)
A Thousand Words, a short film of written images from the streets of Edmonton – signs, graffiti, t-shirts – edited into a visual blank verse poem \$14,200

Kyla Fischer (Visual Arts)
The Current, a series of printworks incorporating photo-etching and woodcut techniques \$10,455

Glen Halls (Music)
Explorations Concert Series, a series of concerts with the Edmonton Creative Musicians' Collective featuring new compositions and freely improvised music \$25,925

Junetta Jamerson (Music)
Ain't That Good News, a concert and live recording of The Black Pioneer Heritage Singers \$10,000

Ted Kerr (Visual Art)
Towards Seeing Everything, using art to represent and create conversation around the role and impact of non-profits as well as an exploration of how non-profits contribute to culture \$10,000

Leslea Kroll (Theatre)
Swallow, a social satire on global warming, gullibility and the decline of the Ivory Gull \$15,000

Michelle LaVoie (Visual Arts)
For the creation of images combining printed digital media with traditional printmaking techniques \$10,000

Anna Mioduchowska (Literary arts)
Eyeing the Magpie: Five Takes in Black and White, an illustrated book of poetry and a staged celebration of poetry and its sister art forms. \$10,000



Towards Seeing Everything - Ted Kerr

Amin Amir Mohamed (Visual Art)
A series of oil paintings exploring the culture of Somalia \$7,500

Ian Mulder (Visual Art)
State of the Art, a workshop series and competition to look in on, and check out, the state of Graffiti and Street Art in Edmonton \$22,000





Kristine Nutting (Theatre)

Pig, a cross-discipline theatrical event \$13,000

Kathy Ochoa (Dance)

Dance Innercity, two performances in Louise McKinney Riverfront Park of an eclectic mix of dance performance \$23,000

Laura O'Connor (Visual Arts)

Patron Saints of Modern Times, the creation of a series of photo-illustrations \$10,000

Monica Pitre (Visual Art)

The Billboard Project, the creation of site-specific images to be translated onto billboards \$8,478

Don Ross (Music)

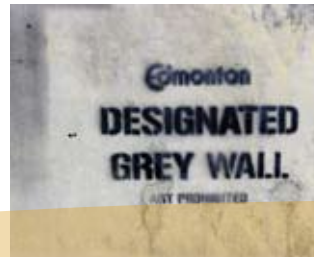
The End of Time Project, a multimedia performance of Olivier Messiaen's Quartet for the End of Time \$27,169

Annette Schouten Woudstra (Literary Arts)

Towards the creation of a new narrative manuscript inspired by the Keiskamma Art Project \$10,000

Shabnam Sukhdev (Media Arts)

Veiled Voices, an audio-visual exploration profiling East Indian Women, unveiling their core identity, candidly revealing their personality, and celebrating their unique cultural character \$28,840



Mark Templeton (Media Arts)

Surrounding Sight and Sound, six short films exploring the interpretation of environment through visual and audio mediums \$20,237

Linda Turnbull (Dance)

Masking, the creation of a 30 minute solo dance work \$14,500

Marlon Wilson (Music)

Griot, a musical project giving voice to Edmonton's growing African and Caribbean community while exploring traditional West Indian/ Caribbean music \$17,735

Beth Wishart-MacKenzie (Media Arts)

Unforgotten, a documentary film portrait about a colourful and aging cowboy \$16,000

Exploration Grants

Jury Members:

Dave Baker
Sandra Bromley
Linda Cameron
Shreela Chakrabartty
Jennifer Faulkner
Tim Folkmann
Tom McFall
Meiko Ouchi
Steve Pirot
Linda Rubin
Jan Selman
Katherine Shute
Sheri Somerville
Katherine Thompson





The Forbidden Phoenix - Marty Chan

What You Need To Know

by Marty Chan and Robert Walsh from
The Forbidden Phoenix

*I have never felt this way
Don't know how to share the sky
I, I've always flown
So alone, but I can't deny
That you have changed my life forever
Is it wrong to want to be together*

*What you need to know
Burns in my heart, pulls me apart
It's what I have to say
I must find a way
I must find a way to tell you
What you need to know*

Ken's Piano

by Cory Vanderjagt from Scythe

*Spiral down to my roots
Where's my drive to succeed?
Nothing flowers so true
As humble as broken seed*



Scythe - Amber Borotsik



The Community Arts Project, Cultural Collaborations

— *Voices Less Heard*

This program partnered local community groups with professional artists for the purpose of the artistic exploration and creative presentation of community issues, heritage, and aspirations. Twenty-six community arts projects were funded; virtually all the creative disciplines were represented — video, theatre, and music to name a few.

Songs and Stories of our Filipino Grandmothers

GeriActors and Friends: a presentation — through theatre and an installation — of stories, images and issues about aging, by an intergenerational group of seniors and students
SAGE (Seniors Association of Greater Edmonton) and GeriActors
Awarded \$15,000

The Not So Comic Book: the production of a comic book highlighting young workers' concerns
Industrial Workers of the World and Memi Von Gaza
Awarded \$18,000

The Story That Brought Me Here: an anthology of writing by Edmonton authors and poets who write in languages other than English
Linda Goyette and Edmonton Public Library
Awarded \$6,000

Bissell Centre Murals Project: a collaboration between mural artist Ian Mulder and community members in the development of a visual story of life in the Bissell Centre community
Bissell Centre and Ian Mulder
Awarded \$10,000

Seeing Ourselves In the City: Youth Aboriginal Mural Project: a collaboration between Pedro Rodriguez and a senior Aboriginal artist to mentor young Aboriginal artists
Asokan and Pedro Rodrigues
Awarded \$8,000

Veiled Voices: a documentary film unveiling the core identities of East Indian women residing in Edmonton, addressing their thoughts and views, needs and requirements
Multi Cultural Handicrafts Training and Friendship Society and Shabnam Sukhdev
Awarded \$24,230

Making and Performing Our Stories: a documentary film recording the play and the process of developing the play created by individuals with developmental disabilities
Rising Sun Theatre, SKILLS and Gerry Potter
Awarded \$19,290

Association La Girandole: Franco-Albertan legends portrayed through dance
La Girandole and Zehpyr
Awarded \$12,500





From the Cultural Collaborations project: Brown Bag Ballads

Storyteller: Naty (Mexico)

Poet: Alyssa Hudson

Cold Comfort

*My heart is mercury —
Quick Silver sliding and squishing
Through cracks and into crevasses
From my land to yours.
Flowing and floating across and around
And above and amongst
The glacial blocks of Canadian frost.*

*When you pour mercury into an ice cube tray
And put it in the refrigerator freezer
In attempt to preserve it
The mercury doesn't become solid
The way that water does.
It takes the illusion of a liquid summer with it
Wherever it goes.
And so I, hailing from a wave of unending heat,
Will never freeze, even now
Even when the sterling silver faces of my new community
Open their arms and let me in.
I walk into the middle
Of a house of holiness
Of an edifice of education
Of a construction called Canada
And I am changed,
But I hold on to my liquid summer shell —
Soft and without edges.*

*And in the solid sea of frozen faces,
With the warmest smiles I have ever felt,
I am invited into the coldest kindness
And greeted into the globe
Of the frostbitten fingertips
And welcomed to the wedding
That signifies the synchronicity that our burns betray.*

*The community consumes the cold;
It stands the snow while it begrudges the below-zero
degree;
It curses the cool wind, and applauds its arctic fortitude;
And I join it,
Embracing my environment.*

*And some days I get lonesome,
Because two can never touch flesh to flesh.
Mittens and scarves and snowsuits
Keep us at a cloth-thin distance.
But when we're in the streets,
Or at a bus stop,
Or in a hockey arena,
Or just out in the air,
We huddle together and share
The warmth of our bodies
And the heat of our hearts.*



Au bout de conte – Trad'badour: performance and CD
ACFA regionale d'Edmonton with Roger Dallaire and Daniel Gervais
Awarded \$7,500

AlterNatives: A Traditional and Contemporary Aboriginal Craft Exhibit: works and narratives by Aboriginal Artists and Elders mentored by the Alberta Craft Council Gallery
Alberta Native Friendship Centre and the Alberta Craft Council
Awarded \$20,000

Tales from the Inside Out: Edmonton Moving Ahead
Program: a performance piece from people living with mental illness
Mental Health Association of Edmonton, Jan Henderson and Sherry Paran
Awarded \$3,200

Celanese Workers Commemoration Project: a collection of stories to preserve the history of the communities built by the workers of the Celanese Plant
Alberta Labour History Institute
Awarded \$10,000

From the Caribbean to Alberta, Carving a Tile Within the Mosaic: a project to map and record the immigrant experiences of peoples from the Caribbean through the production of a script based on the oral histories generated through interviews
The Living History Group (Council of Canadians of African and Caribbean Heritage) and Pat Darbasie
Awarded \$20,000

Piece by Piece: a project about the workers in Edmonton's GWG garment factory — songs based on interviews with women who worked at the factory
Catherine Cole and Maria Dunn
Awarded \$20,000

The World of Story Project: giving voice to common folktales shared around the world in over 30 languages, building intercultural understanding and ways of knowing through the arts
Mennonite Centre for Newcomers
Awarded \$20,000

Songs on the Avenue: working with artists in the Alberta Avenue area to collect historic material for use in songs, stories, poetry, and artwork for a CD and booklet
Scott Peters and Arts on the Avenue
Awarded \$20,000

Voices from the Darkness Moving to Light: art bringing awareness to eating disorders
Society for Assisted Cooperative Recovery from Eating Disorders (SACRED), Mary Joyce and Bob Chelmick
Awarded \$10,000

Art for the Chinese Library: art classes and workshops creating artworks for the new Chinatown Chinese Public Library
Chinatown Multicultural Centre and Xin Yu Zheng
Awarded \$5,765

Songs and Stories of Our Filipino Grandmothers: original stories with music and mime
Changing Together: A Centre for Immigrant Women and Christine Oro
Awarded \$10,000

One Heart, One Voice: fifteen artists working with the Nina Haggerty Centre, giving access to immigrant artists
Multicultural Health Brokers and the Nina Haggerty Centre
Awarded \$21,300

Struggle to Survive: a short dramatic film of refugee youth experiences
Catholic Social Services and Taro Hashimoto
Awarded \$20,000

Brown Bag Ballads: creating an original evening of poetry and song from diverse cultures
Mennonite Centre for Newcomers, Diane Ellery and Alyssa Hudson
Awarded \$7,700

Exposure: Queer Arts and Culture Festival: providing workshops and mentoring to emerging queer artists
Exposure Steering Committee and Todd Janes
Awarded \$11,130

Machos: Journey to Self Discovery with Immigrant Men: a documentary film on the male immigrant experience
Edmonton Immigrant Men Support Network Society and Shabnam Sukhdev
Awarded \$25,385

The Workus Project: creating a mobile visual and audio installation of workers' experiences
Alberta Worker's Health Centre and Memi Von Gaza
Awarded \$20,000

On Institutionalized Aboriginal Women in Edmonton: developing a play about Aboriginal women's experiences in prison
Old Earth Productions
Awarded \$20,000

Assessment Panel Members:

Catherine Cole
Nigel Darbasie
Maria Dunn
Amy Fung
Ann Goldblatt
Jim Gurnett
Brenda Jones
Val Kaufman
Oliver Kamau
Suzanne McLeod
Jan Selman
Shelaine Sparrow
Jessie Shen



*The World of
Story Project*



Speakers Series

The Speakers Series presented nationally- and internationally-known speakers ranging from England's John Holden who gave an inspiring talk about the importance of arts and culture in the political spectrum, to award-winning Canadian author Yann Martel.

Capacity crowd for Yann Martel

Glen Murray, former Mayor of Winnipeg, Chair of the National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy, known for his vision of building culturally dynamic urban centres. "Culture plus place equals wealth creation." "If you have the right infrastructure, as well as the knowledge economy that includes universities, libraries, art galleries, interesting environments, and access to nature — all of those livability factors — all of that goes into making a city highly desirable."

Roberta Brandes Gratz, award-winning journalist and urban critic, lecturer and author of *The Living City: Thinking Small in a Big Way*, and *Cities Back from the Edge: New Life for Downtown*. "A distinction must be made between downtowns rebuilt and downtowns reborn."

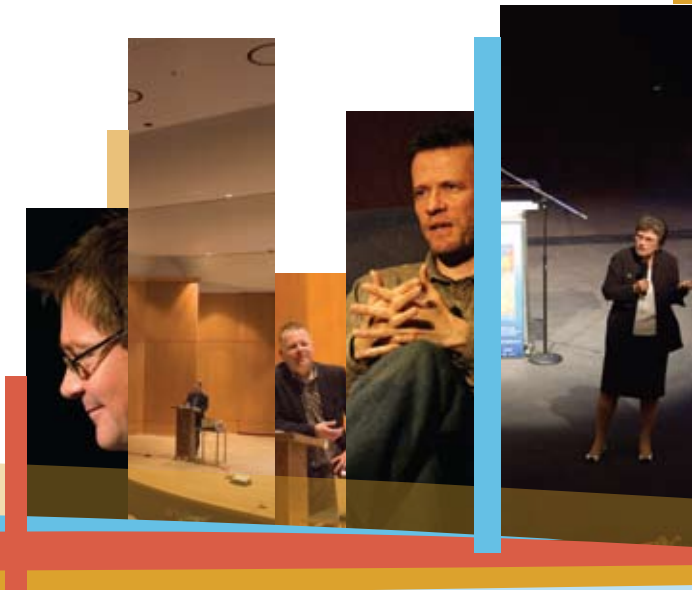
Tim Jones, CEO of Toronto Artscape. Mr. Jones' career has involved discovering how to marshal people, resources and momentum around ideas that make the arts more sustainable and cities more livable. "My work is focused on unlocking the creative potential of people and places. I view artists, designers, and creative entrepreneurs as powerful agents of change."

John Holden: "Culture can be an ambassador for Canada. It's playing a much, much bigger role in international relations these days. Everywhere around the world, people are understanding just how central culture is becoming to a lot of political, social, and economic issues. It's not peripheral, as it was seen in the 20th century."

Yann Martel drew a standing-room-only crowd of over 600 fans to hear him discuss the *Active Artist*.

What a great evening! Congratulations to everyone involved in bringing Yann Martel to Edmonton. It was tremendously uplifting to listen to the thoughtful insights of such a gifted writer. And what a thrill to see such a turn out.

Many thanks & best wishes,
audience member



Symposia

Three symposia were held exploring connections between the arts and other areas important to community.

Community Arts Celebration & Symposium

The Word! Symposium, produced in partnership with Grant MacEwan College, took place September 21 & 22 in the Muttart Hall. The two-day event featured 35 presenters and artists appearing in 4 panels and 2 performances. Word! offered diverse perspectives on the written and spoken word. Each panel featured 3 or more presenters and artists, shining light on various facets of a particular theme. Featured speakers included Nobel Laureate and poet Roald Hoffmann, American “standup poet” Jack McCarthy, and award-winning Canadian poets Anne Simpson and George McWhirter.

The Art and Science Symposium, produced in partnership with the University of Alberta, took place November 9 & 10 in the Bernard Snell Hall at the Walter C. Mackenzie Health Science Centre. The two-day event featured 15 presenters and artists appearing in 3 panels and 1 keynote address, alongside an exhibition of 20 visual artists. The Keynote Speaker was American physicist and author Dr. Alan Lightman, and featured speakers included Dr. Alan Bleakley from England and Ellen Dissanayake from Washington.

Thank you, thank you, thank you! Thank you for transforming a brave idea into an unforgettable community arts celebration.

The writers in The Story That Brought Me Here project loved the experience, and asked me to pass on their appreciation. I don't think we can begin to measure what this event meant to the participants, nor can we guess the enduring connections created among artists in just two days.

Best wishes....
Linda Goyette
The Story That Brought Me Here

The Community Arts Celebration and Symposium was held March 15 & 16 in the Winspear Centre. Over 2 days, 241 artists and community participants were presented in workshops, performances, exhibits, and a mainstage showcase.

There were 2 symposium discussions featuring 7 guest speakers and 2 moderators, and 5 knowledge circles featuring 40 people in “peer to peer” learning. The scope of the Community Arts Celebration incorporated many art forms, many points of view, many methods of presentation — in short, it reflected the diversity of artists and community members it showcased. 33 countries of origin and 26 languages were represented during the event.



An excerpt from: “At the Crossroad of Science and the Arts”

ALAN LIGHTMAN
Keynote Speaker for the Art & Science Symposium

There is another common ground for the physicist, scientist, and artist that I want to mention which is something very dear to me, it's a most extraordinary experience and it is a creative moment. I personally write in two places. In summer I write on a little island in Maine, and from my house on a hill, I can look out and see the ocean all around me. I can see a pine needle path that goes down to the dock at the water; that's the view from my writing desk. And the other place I write, most of the year, is a little room attached to the garage at my house in Massachusetts. There, that little room, is the size of a large closet and it has no windows and when I look up from my writing desk there I see a plaster wall about six inches in front of my nose. Both of these two places can serve me equally well as a writer, because after about fifteen or twenty minutes I am completely lost in that imaginary place that I am trying to create. It's a place without ego, it's a place where I lose all sense of my body, I lose all sense of time, and I don't know where I am. I am just in that pure, creative space — it's where I become a pure spirit, I feel like I meld with all the other spirits that I've created. And I'm sure that many of you have also experienced this creative moment.

I've experienced exactly the same feeling as a scientist. And I want to describe very briefly a creative moment I had, and my first creative moment as a scientist. I find that painters, novelists, musicians, and actors tend to often talk about their creative experiences, but scientists rarely do. My first creative moment as a scientist happened when I was a graduate student and I was working on a research problem that had something to do with gravity. After an initial period of a few months of hard work, I had succeeded in writing down all the equations that I needed to solve. This was a theoretical problem, but I hit a wall. There was a known result at the halfway point — of course the final result was not known, which is why I was working on the problem — but there, my result at the halfway point, was different. So I knew I was making a mistake on this research problem, but I couldn't find the problem and I kept going over and over the equation, checking it, twenty or thirty pages of calculations, and I began sleeping in my graduate student office.

I just wanted to congratulate everyone who was involved with bringing Yann Martel to Edmonton and allowing us the pleasure and privilege of 'meeting' him in person the other evening. It was indeed memorable.

I would like to add that I was also able to go to the Arts and Science Symposium on November 9th and 10th. Congratulations again on inviting Alan Lightman who was absolutely the perfect keynote speaker for this event, being deeply engaged with formal science earlier in his life and now having crossed the boundary between the two solitudes into the arts and pursuing a literary career. I do hope that the Edmonton Cultural Capital Project 'lives long and prospers' and brings us more such mind- and soul-enriching events.

Thank you all.
audience member

There was a cot in there. I put cans of tuna fish in a drawer of my desk. And I couldn't find my mistake. And this confusion and failure went on for months, and then I remember one morning, a Sunday morning, I woke up at about 5 AM and I couldn't sleep, and I felt extremely excited. I felt that something was happening in my head about some mysterious thing, and I woke up thinking about my science problem and seeing it in a way I never had before. The physical sensation was that my head was lifting off my shoulders and I felt completely weightless. I also had a sensation of rightness, of being certain that I was right even though I didn't know how I'd come to this moment.

The physical analogy that I found best describes this feeling of weightlessness and power when you're having a creative moment, is when you are sailing in a round bottom boat. I'm a sailor. And if you have a round bottom boat there is a phenomena, which, if the wind is strong, the boat can actually lift up on top of the water and all of the resistance due to the drag of the water disappears and the boat just goes skimming across the top of the water like a skipping stone. You feel like suddenly all the resistance is gone and this big hand has just grabbed hold of the mast and yanks you forth. It's the most amazing experience.

When I woke up that morning, years ago, thinking about my research problem, I felt like I was in that round bottom boat, skimming the water. With these sensations, I tiptoed to my kitchen table, I was in my apartment on Sunday morning, not at my graduate office, and I sat down at my table and a little light was beginning to

come in the window by this time, and I was oblivious to everything, but I did realize I was alone and I did realize that I didn't want any help. That's another aspect of the creative moment: that you are alone with the thing, you are alone on the problem and you don't want any help. You feel like you've got it in yourself somewhere.

I began working on my problem and after a while, I had solved my research problem. I was seeing it in a way that I never had before. I went out of the room feeling stunned and powerful. I heard a noise on the wall and looked up and saw a clock on the wall and it was 5 PM. The time had just completely passed.



Cultural Inventory

Sync, by Jim Ruxton and Camille Turner

The objective of the Cultural Inventory was to document the full breadth of Edmonton's diverse cultural resources. In partnership with the Heritage Community Foundation the process involved:

- The examination of relevant studies and the creation of discussion papers on key issues.
- Individual and organizational surveys to obtain both quantitative and qualitative data. These surveys will be used as benchmarking tools into the future.
- Creating a searchable database of cultural organizations and institutions

From the discussion paper entitled "Edmonton: A New Urbanism":

"The new city is not only creative, it is also green and sustainable, equitable and enlightened. It values its historic buildings and protects the environment. It has design guidelines to ensure that historic buildings from past ages are preserved and that new buildings are not only functionally excellent but also a contribution to the life of citizens. In a sense, we are experiencing a kind of 21st-century age of enlightenment where it is all of us who have the power to change our cities and lives rather than enlightened despots."

Adriana A. Davies, Ph.D.
Editor-in-Chief, Heritage Community Foundation



Nightworks



Nightworks was comprised of two projects: one held on Family Day and one held on New Year's Eve. Our year as Cultural Capital started on the Family Day weekend in 2007 through a partnership with both Family Day at City Hall and The Silver Skate Festival in Hawrelak Park. These events highlighted and announced our designation as the Cultural Capital of Canada.

To mark the end of Edmonton's Cultural Capital year, a family focused celebratory event took place on New Years Eve in partnership with Events Edmonton. It featured 4 venues, including a large outdoor stage in Churchill Square showcasing some of Edmonton's finest musicians performing in minus-20-degree weather, and concluded with a spectacular fireworks display. Over 50,000 Edmontonians took in the evening activities.



Edmontonians value arts and culture:

90% Think it is important for Edmonton to have a strong arts & culture community

89% Believe Edmonton is a culturally vibrant city.

87% Believe arts and culture plays a positive role in bringing together Edmonton's different cultures

86% Feel the arts positively contribute to the City of Edmonton's image

85% Agree arts and culture contribute to our quality of life in Edmonton

77% Think a strong arts and culture community helps Edmonton attract newcomers

Edmontonians participate in a breadth of arts and cultural activities, and nearly everyone (93%) recalls attending at least one arts and cultural activity or event in the past year, with the average attending five different types of events during the last 12 months. Specifically, respondents reported participating in the following categories of activities:

- 67% Attended a festival
- 56% Enjoyed free public art
- 55% Attended live theatre
- 55% Attended a museum
- 51% Attended a multicultural performance or concert
- 46% Visited an art gallery or visual arts display

The 2007 Cultural Capital designation is expected to have positive impacts for the City and for individuals:

82% Feel it will make Edmonton a more creative community

80% Believe it will allow art to be created that otherwise wouldn't be

73% Predict it will increase their awareness of arts and culture activities in Edmonton

From the Benchmark Survey - Legér Marketing

Steering Committee:

- John Mahon (Chair), Edmonton Arts Council
- Kathy Barnhart, Community Services
- Colleen Burton-Ochocki, Community Services
- Marleen Kankunnen, Community Services
- James MacDonald, Associate Artistic Director, Citadel Theatre
- Robert Moyles, Corporate Communication
- Candice Stasynec, Office of the City Manager
- Brad Stromberg, Mayor's Office
- Keith Turnbull, Edmonton Arts Council

Community Partners:

- Edmonton Journal
- CBC
- Pattison Outdoor Advertising
- University of Alberta
- Grant MacEwan
- Sutton Place Hotel

Budget:

Federal Government	2,000,000
City of Edmonton	667,000
In Kind	322,751
Other Revenue	16,489
Total	\$3,006,240

Staff:

- Executive Producer
Linda Huffman
- Financial Officer
Al Rasko
- Communications and Marketing Director
Christina Tozer
- Administrative Assistant
Crystal Seuter
- Poetry Festival Artistic Director
Alice Major
- Symposium and Speaker Series Coordinator
Pamela Anthony
- Explorations Program Coordinator
Alison Turner
- Community Arts Coordinator
Don Bouzek
- Outreach Coordinator Community Arts
Pat Darbasie
- Symposium and Speaker Series Assistant
Margaret Smith
- Marketing Assistant
Leon Boychuk
- Grants Administrator
Jana O'Connor

Photographer Credits:

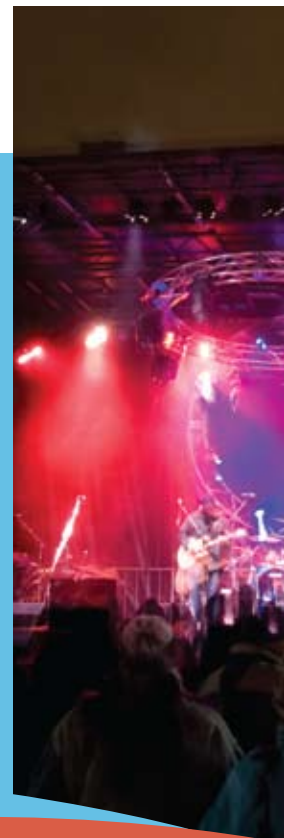
Official photographers for the Edmonton Cultural Capital Program were Marc J. Chalifoux and Jay Procktor.

Struggle to Survive images courtesy Gronith Films and Multimedia Inc.

Scythe images by Ian Jackson of Epic Photography.

State of the Art - Ian Mulder





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arts
council

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