



CONFEDERATION  
CENTRE OF THE ARTS

# **CENTRE'D** **with your SUPPORT**

FATHERS OF CONFEDERATION BUILDINGS TRUST | **ANNUAL REPORT**

**2021-22**

# LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

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Chair, The Friends

**Ms. Sylvie Leblanc**  
Regional Program Director,  
Canadian Heritage Regional Office

# MESSAGE FROM THE CEO AND CHAIR OF THE BOARD

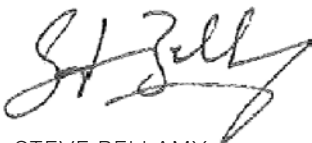
As we complete the third year of the 2019-24 Strategic Plan, we are also completing another year navigating a pandemic. We are grateful for the ongoing support of the community that has allowed us to maintain operations through most of the year. We are appreciative of the local government for keeping us safe, to the federal government for their timely rollout of financial support, and we are grateful to you—our audiences, annual members, major gift donors, and sponsors—without whom we could not explore the many stories and perspectives of an evolving Canada.

This past year has presented numerous challenges, but also several opportunities to progress in strategic planning, capital infrastructure, and diverse programming. There have been vast improvements to IT infrastructure and several facilities projects. We have moved forward on partnerships with diverse communities and taken action on truth and reconciliation. Reduced audience sizes did not prevent us from presenting The Charlottetown Festival last summer, and dynamic concerts throughout the year, as well as arts education, and heritage programming. Our accelerated move into the digital world has greatly increased our capacity to produce professional video and engage with patrons and students remotely.

We remain committed to our Strategic Plan and our three pillars of Artistic Excellence, Engaged Diverse Communities, and Organizational Sustainability. The goals and objectives of that plan laid an important road map for positioning the institution not only as a memorial to the Founding Fathers, but as an organization that celebrates Canadian identity in many ways.

We'd like to express our gratitude to the hundreds of artists, staff, patrons, donors, sponsors, and partners who bring Confederation Centre of the Arts to life. We believe that through excellence in arts and heritage programming, we can help build understanding and shared knowledge about an evolving Canada.

Thank you, and welcome back!



STEVE BELLAMY  
Chief Executive Officer



ROBERT SEAR  
Chair, Board of Directors



# CENTRE'D thanks to you

*Secret Codes* installation of quilts from Black communities in Nova Scotia.

**14,020**  
visits to the  
art gallery

an increase of 73% over  
the previous fiscal year

**\$194,219**  
donations to  
the art gallery

including in-kind artwork  
donations

# THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING CONFEDERATION CENTRE OF THE ARTS

The support and philanthropic leadership of our community of supporters is foundational to all that we do at Confederation Centre of the Arts. Your generosity provided opportunities for artists to find new ways to connect you to the arts, continue arts education programs both online and in-person, and return to our stages for live performances. As a supporter, you are vital to the success of all that we do and are part of an extraordinary community of philanthropists dedicated to making a meaningful impact in Prince Edward Island and across Canada through the arts. Thank you for continuing to support the Centre and for choosing to be an arts champion.

The 2021 – 2022 season demonstrated the continued resilience of audience members, sponsors, staff, volunteers, donors, and supporters through a year of many questions and few certainties. Your support helped us to quickly navigate programming in an ever-changing landscape and keep artists employed throughout it all.

**1,903**  
**individual**  
**donations**  
**to the Centre**

**1,200**  
**donations**  
**made by**  
**ticket buyers**

**\$469,636**  
**in total**  
**donations**  
**to the Centre**

## CONFEDERATION CENTRE OF THE ARTS

# MEMBERS 2021-22

### FOUNDERS' CIRCLE

**\$10,000+**

The Joan & Regis Duffy Foundation  
Sean Finn & Nicole Bélanger  
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L.W. (Lou) MacEachern  
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### PRODUCER'S CIRCLE

**\$5,000-\$9,999**

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David Gauthier & Laurie Burdett  
Bob & Kim Sear  
Eric T. Webster Foundation

### DIRECTOR'S CIRCLE

**\$2,500-\$4,999**

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**\$1,000-\$2,499**

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# THANKFUL FOR THE CONTINUED SUPPORT

Lucille Hogg  
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In memory of Francis & Berthe Blanchard  
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Sandy Hermiston  
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Edward MacDonald and Sheila Lund

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Joan MacDonald  
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Amy MacFarlane  
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Dr. Debbie MacLellan  
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T.A. MacPherson  
Rachel McDearmid  
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Robert & Margaret Morrison  
Wendy Munro  
Joseph Murphy  
Lynn Murray  
Edith Nicholson  
Eric Pass  
Graham & Marilyn Peck  
Scott Perry  
Greg & Dianne Peters  
George & Patricia Piercey  
Bill Prowse  
Brian Prowse  
Peggy Reddin  
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Dr. Leith Thompson  
Glenn & Susan Trueman  
Ben Versteeg  
Allison Weeks  
Velvet Wood  
Nora Wotton  
Kevin Yarr & Susan Brown  
Sharon & Dario Zannier



**15,125**

patrons attended

**The Charlottetown Festival**



# CENTRE'D ON STAGE

After shifting to digital last year, live theatre returned for The 2021 Charlottetown Festival. Despite the complications of rehearsing with pandemic protocols and having reduced capacity, the joy of creating was vital and fulfilling for our team. The programming this year stayed local and focused on stories from the Atlantic region, reminding us how many great stories come from just next door.

*Between Breaths* was a profound play from Newfoundland and Labrador inspired by the life experience of Dr. Jon Lien, who rescued over 500 whales over his career.

*Dear Rita* was an inspiring new production celebrating the life and songs of one of the Maritimes' most fierce and iconic songwriters, Rita MacNeil.

*OLD STOCK: A Refugee Love Story*, starring East Coast sensation Ben Caplan, told the true story of Jewish Romanian refugees in 1908 meeting at Halifax's Pier 21 as they await entry into Canada.

The Outdoor Amphitheatre hosted diverse new productions, including *Voices of Resilience* by The Mi'kmaq Heritage Actors. It was a wonderful opportunity to listen to stories, learn songs, experience the teachings of, and watch the beautiful traditional dances of the Mi'kmaq people. The second show in the Amphitheatre was *Street Fusion*, an energetic show with Urban and Caribbean music and dance, fused with traditional Island steps.

**LIVE @ the Centre** persevered through ever-changing public health guidelines to present an eclectic season of music, dance, comedy, and more. Acts included musicians Bahamas, David Myles, and Wesli, as well as performances from Ballet Kelowna, Barely Methodical Troupe, and The Debaters Live on Tour.



A great variety of musicians, dance, comedy and more for LIVE @ the Centre. Pictured: David Myles, Bromance, and Wesli.

**8,607**  
**Patrons attended**  
**LIVE @ the Centre**



# CENTRE'D ON COMMUNITY

*Fairy Tails* exhibition  
from spring 2022.

Your support enabled us to produce and present free multidisciplinary programming in the gallery and on stage. We believe in community engagement and opening our doors for more people to experience and access the arts.

**370**

**complimentary tickets  
given to frontline workers**

**665**

**tickets booked for the  
Symons Medal Lecture**

**FRONTLINE & CENTRE** was established as a tribute to Islanders who, despite the incredible risk, have kept our province running through the pandemic. Complimentary seats were reserved at each performance during the LIVE @ the Centre season for frontline workers. This is our way of saying thank you for their continued bravery, dedication, and public service.

The **CONFEDERATION CENTRE ART GALLERY** continued to have admission by donation and featured several exhibitions from established and emerging artists. Highlights of the year included *BGL: Two Thumbs Up Arts and Crafts* from the legendary artist collective BGL, *A Life's Work: Canadian Artist Robert Harris (1849 – 1919)*, and *Fairy Tails* – an exhibition from 11 artists who explored the wondrous in nature by reconsidering the role of animals in storytelling. The Gallery also offered **Bilingual Family Sundays** with free, hands-on art activities for families.

**THE FRIENDS OF CONFEDERATION CENTRE** hosted **Art Lotto**, a fundraiser to support Island artists, as well as arts education programs at the Centre. A unique piece from an Island artist was raffled off each month. This initiative highlighted emerging artists, promoted the incredible talent on Prince Edward Island, and helped fund arts education programs.



Mme Louise Arbour, recipient of the 2021 Symons Medal. Photo: Louise Vessey.

Music filled the open air with the **CONFEDERATION BRASS** as they continued the tradition of live outdoor concerts, twice daily, on the front plaza of the Centre. They successfully overcame the challenges of performing together, outside, and in a safely distanced fashion.

The 2021 **SYMONS MEDAL LECTURE** was held both online and in-person at the Centre. The in-person event reached full capacity, with 665 free tickets booked by the public. With a combination of wisdom, charm, and dry humour, Mme Louise Arbour was an unforgettable speaker. A post-lecture Fireside Chat for students was held exclusively on Zoom to allow for attendees from across the country.



CONFEDERATION CENTRE OF THE ARTS  
CENTRE DES ARTS DE LA CONFÉDÉRATION

# Arts in **COLOUR**

**Stories from Black Island Artists**

Panel facilitated by  
Evelyn Bradley,  
Beyond the Brim

**FREE**  
IN-PERSON EVENT

The  
**mACK**

**FEBRUARY 25 @ 7PM**  
FIRST COME · FIRST SEATED

# CENTRE'D ON DIVERSE VOICES

During Black History Month, the Centre hosted *Arts in Colour: Stories from Black Island Artists*. This panel discussion featured Black artists from theatre, music, dance, visual arts, and media arts who shared their experiences and stories of working in Prince Edward Island. The event was moderated by diversity, equity, and inclusion consultant Evelyn Bradley of Beyond the BRIM Consulting.

Choices in production personnel and creative artists are being defined by our new learnings in diversity practices. Dawn Ward joined the performing arts team as associate artistic director, bringing an important new voice to the table. She is a Bahamian choreographer who has been working on building diverse dance teams in Charlottetown since she got to Prince Edward Island.



A new **BACKSTAGE TRAINING PROGRAM** was launched to educate the next generation of people interested in working behind the scenes. This paid opportunity gave participants hands-on training from highly accomplished industry professionals in a variety of production departments, including lighting, props, carpentry, sound, stage management, and wardrobe. Supported by SkillsPEI, the program was a success and proudly achieved gender parity.

The arts education program dance umbrella welcomed many newcomers to P.E.I. including refugees from Iran, and immigrants from Mexico, Brazil, India, China, and more. The dance umbrella production of *The Nutcracker* featured the most diverse cast that the program has ever seen and featured many newcomer students.

The unpredictable tourism season meant a slow summer for historic walking tours, but it allowed for the team to continue research and development into updating the program. Starting in 2022, the guides will be known as the **HERITAGE PLAYERS** and present several new tours that expand on Island history beyond Confederation.

The **CONFEDERATION CENTRE ART GALLERY** exhibited a large group portrait by Inuit artist Bronson Jacque. The impactful piece commemorated missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls, and engaged many visitors from the Indigenous community and beyond.

*The Secret Codes: Quilts From and Inspired by Nova Scotia's Black Communities* was also exhibited in the Gallery. Curated and circulated by the Black Artists Network of Nova Scotia, this exhibition focused on the ways that quilts have functioned as utilitarian and decorative objects, as documentary records of family history, and as a celebration of Black culture.



Mural by Bronson Jacque

dance umbrella performance of The Nutcracker. Photo by Darrell Theriault.



# CENTRE'D ON ARTS EDUCATION

Despite ever evolving health restrictions, the dance and visual arts programs were able to continue providing classes in-person and online. Arts education programs will expand their digital offerings as a permanent option to continue engaging those who face barriers to physical program access.

The Centre's dance umbrella program was recently approved for a \$15,000 grant in partnership with the PEI Alliance for Mental Wellbeing. This grant will support three new dance programs: Inclusive Dance, My Parent & Me, and post-natal yoga.

**186**  
students  
in dance

**\$15,000**  
awarded to support  
new dance programs  
in 2022-2023

**150**  
participants  
in visual art  
camps

In collaboration with Ballet Kelowna, the Centre hosted a Masterclass for dance students from across P.E.I., allowing them to engage with professionals in an intimate setting. The Ballet Kelowna performance also had a post-show Q&A, which had an extremely engaging round of questions from the Island's local dance community.

The **CONFEDERATION SINGERS** and the **CONFEDERATION CENTRE YOUTH CHORUS** continued in a digital format, producing 20 engaging video presentations for Remembrance Day, Christmas, and spring. The Confederation Singers were joined by Lawrence Park Community Church Choir (Toronto) and First Baptist Church Choir (Halifax) for a unique video presentation.



dance umbrella performance of The Nutcracker. Photo by Darrell Theriault.



Photo: Simon Reid

# CENTRE'D ON PARTNERSHIPS

A new partnership program launched at Confederation Centre of the Arts to make facilities more accessible to a variety of local organizations. The **Lou MacEachern Community Partnership Program** allows a diverse cross-section of local organizations whose goals and objectives are aligned with those of the Centre to have better access to the Centre's facilities and resources.

The Centre has partnered with five organizations for the new program: Mi'kmaq Heritage Actors, Black Cultural Society, United Way of PEI, Art In The Open, and the P.E.I. Symphony Orchestra. The program is supported by a \$200,000 donation from long-time Centre supporter Lou MacEachern.

**\$271, 625**  
in corporate  
and sponsorship  
investments

**575**  
members



Sponsors, donors, volunteers, patrons and government funders continued to rise to the occasion to assist the Centre during a season of uncertainty and cancellations. As we reworked programs, support from the entire community became vital to the Centre, allowing us to continue operating and make a meaningful impact on P.E.I. and across Canada through the arts.

Many patrons donated the cost of tickets for cancelled shows, and donors and members continued to support the Centre philanthropically. Sponsors stood by their commitments, and funding partners at the municipal, provincial, and federal levels came forward with various programs to keep the Centre operating.

With the many reductions in programming capacity, we were overwhelmed with continued support and flexibility of our partners.

## 2021-22 FUNDING PARTNERS

Government of Canada

Province of Prince Edward Island

City of Charlottetown

Arts Nova Scotia

National Arts Centre

Additional core and project based funding delivered through various programs and agencies.

## 2021-22 ARTWORK DONATIONS

Alex Bobak

Victor Cicansky

Anna Karpinski

Michael Liu

Landon MacKenzie

Rita and Stewart MacRae

Catherine Miller

Graeme Patterson

Carole Sabiston

Dennis and Nell Smith

Jake Werner

Estate of Margaret Susan Whiteside

Eun-Mee Yang

## Confederation Players

CN

## Summer Amphitheatre Programming

TD Ready Commitment

## Charlottetown Festival Title Sponsor

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## Charlottetown Festival Production Sponsors

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## Charlottetown Festival Performance Sponsors

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## Confederation Centre Art Gallery

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RBC Foundation

## Choral Music

Maritime Electric

## Arts Education

BMO Financial Group

Hyndman & Company Limited

## Official Suppliers

Office Interiors

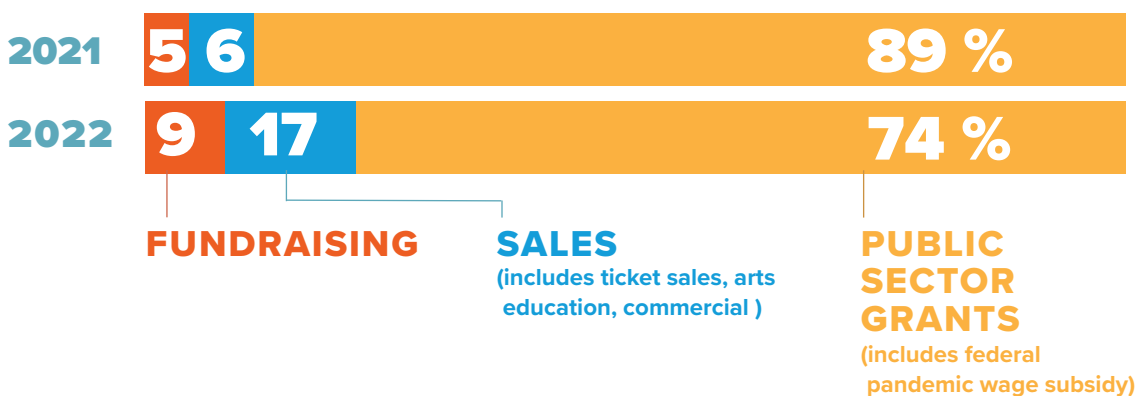
Pepsico

## 2021-22 CONDENSED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### CONDENSED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION (at March 31)

(in thousands of dollars)	2022	2021
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Cash	2,684	1,029
Accounts Receivable	1,696	2,460
Inventory and Prepays	280	185
Capital Assets	34,362	34,777
	<b>\$ 39,022</b>	<b>\$ 38,451</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; FUND BALANCES</b>		
Bank Advances	1,186	2,593
Payables and Accruals	1,358	1,252
Deferred Revenue	1,877	829
Long Term Debt	23	37
Capital Fund	32,605	32,086
Cultural Development Fund	513	500
Operating Fund	1,460	1,154
	<b>\$ 39,022</b>	<b>\$ 38,451</b>

### ANNUAL OPERATING REVENUE BY SOURCE (%)



Complete audited financial statements of the Fathers of Confederation Buildings Trust for the year ended March 31, 2022 are available on the website

**CONDENSED STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS** (for the year ended March 31)

(in thousands of dollars)	2022	2021
<b>REVENUES</b>		
Programming	1,128	185
Commercial	371	329
Fundraising and Development	1,616	641
Investments and Other Revenues	153	106
Public Sector Grants - Operating	7,397	8,865
Public Sector Grants - Capital	618	1,500
	<b>\$ 11,283</b>	<b>\$ 11,626</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Programming	4,565	3,314
Commercial	272	340
Fundraising and Development	274	217
Building Operations	4,033	3,810
Administration and Other Expenses	1,301	1,043
	<b>\$ 10,445</b>	<b>\$ 8,724</b>
<b>EXCESS REVENUES (EXPENSES)</b>	<b>\$ 838</b>	<b>\$ 2,902</b>
<b>NET REVENUES (EXPENSES) ALLOCATED TO:</b>		
Operating Fund	1,106	2,707
Capital Fund	(281)	195
Culture Development Fund	13	–
	<b>\$ 838</b>	<b>\$ 2,902</b>



**Programming activity continued to be limited due to the pandemic, which affected the sources of operating revenue. We are grateful for the additional government support that enabled the Centre to continue to operate.**



CONFEDERATION  
CENTRE OF THE ARTS

145 Richmond Street  
Charlottetown, PE C1A 1J1

**[confederationcentre.com](http://confederationcentre.com)**



**2021-22**