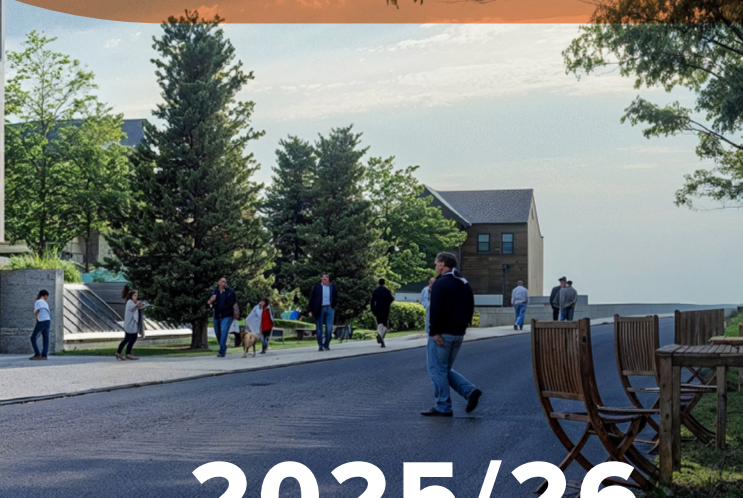




CONFEDERATION CENTRE OF THE ARTS
CENTRE DES ARTS DE LA CONFÉDÉRATION



Cast of *Tell Tale Harbour* at The
Charlottetown Festival (2025).
Photo: Louise Vessey



2025/26 ANNUAL REPORT

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MESSAGE FROM THE CEO AND BOARD CHAIR

Established as a memorial to commemorate the 1864 Charlottetown Conference, the Confederation Centre has evolved into an important space for learning how this nation was formed, and how Canada continues to evolve. Exploring our experiences through the arts and with conversation, the Confederation Centre is more than a venue. It's where Canada connects.

With strategic planning for the next five years complete, the Arts Academy and the Palmer Canadian Leadership Institute opened, and the renovation project on time and on budget, 2025/2026 has been a historic year for the organization and for Canada. These new initiatives will engage broader audiences through performing and visual arts, and through convening for important conversations, reflecting our vibrant, rich cultural communities, ensuring accessibility, and representing our shared voices.

We would like to express our gratitude to the hundreds of artists, staff, patrons, donors, sponsors, volunteers, and partners who bring the Centre to life. The arts play a crucial role in uniting Canadians, challenging us, and helping people understand others' experiences. As we move forward through this next chapter, the Confederation Centre of the Arts is committed to ensuring the long-term viability of the Centre and its impact on strengthening an evolving Canada, for its growing role in the world.



Steve Bellamy
Chief Executive Officer

Robert Sear
Chair, Board of Directors



This ambitious renovation project is the culmination of years of strategic planning and community engagement. Guided by voices from a broad representation of stakeholders, including Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities, we have refined our priorities and are committed to promoting our cultural heritage and connecting more deeply with Canadians of all walks of life.

For more information, visit:
confederationcentre.com/project



- **712**
annual members



- **\$126,820**
donations to the Gallery*



- **2,252**
individual donations
to the Centre



- **\$4,384,694**
total donations
to the Centre**

*includes in-kind artwork donations

**including capital campaign donations.

PHOTOS:
Million Dollar Quartet.
Photo by: Louise Vessey
Dance Umbrella Year End Showcase.
Photo by: Louise Vessey
Confederation Singers.
Photo by: Louise Vessey.
Art Gallery Summer Opening.
Photo by: Louise Vessey



Board members receive a tour of the renovation project, July 2025.

THANK YOU

The generosity and philanthropic leadership of our community form the foundation of everything we do at the Confederation Centre of the Arts. Your support makes it possible for artists to explore new ways of connecting with audiences, for arts education programs to thrive, and for live performances to return to our stages. As a valued supporter, you play a vital role in our success and belong to an extraordinary community of philanthropists committed to creating meaningful impact in Prince Edward Island and across Canada through the arts. Thank you for standing with the Centre and for choosing to be a true champion of the arts.

VICE REGAL PATRONAGE

The Confederation Centre of the Arts is honoured to hold the viceregal patronage of Her Excellency the Right Honourable Mary Simon, Governor General of Canada.

Through this longstanding Canadian tradition, the Governor General formally recognizes institutions of national significance. For the Confederation Centre, it affirms our role as a living monument to Confederation and a vital cultural hub in the heart of Charlottetown. Governor General Simon has been a steadfast champion of Canadian arts, culture, and reconciliation, and we are proud to carry this distinction on behalf of all Canadians.



Photo credit: Sgt Johanie Maheu, Rideau Hall © OSGG, 2021

ANNUAL DONORS 2025-26

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List current as of March 31, 2026

ON STAGE

46,494

patrons attended

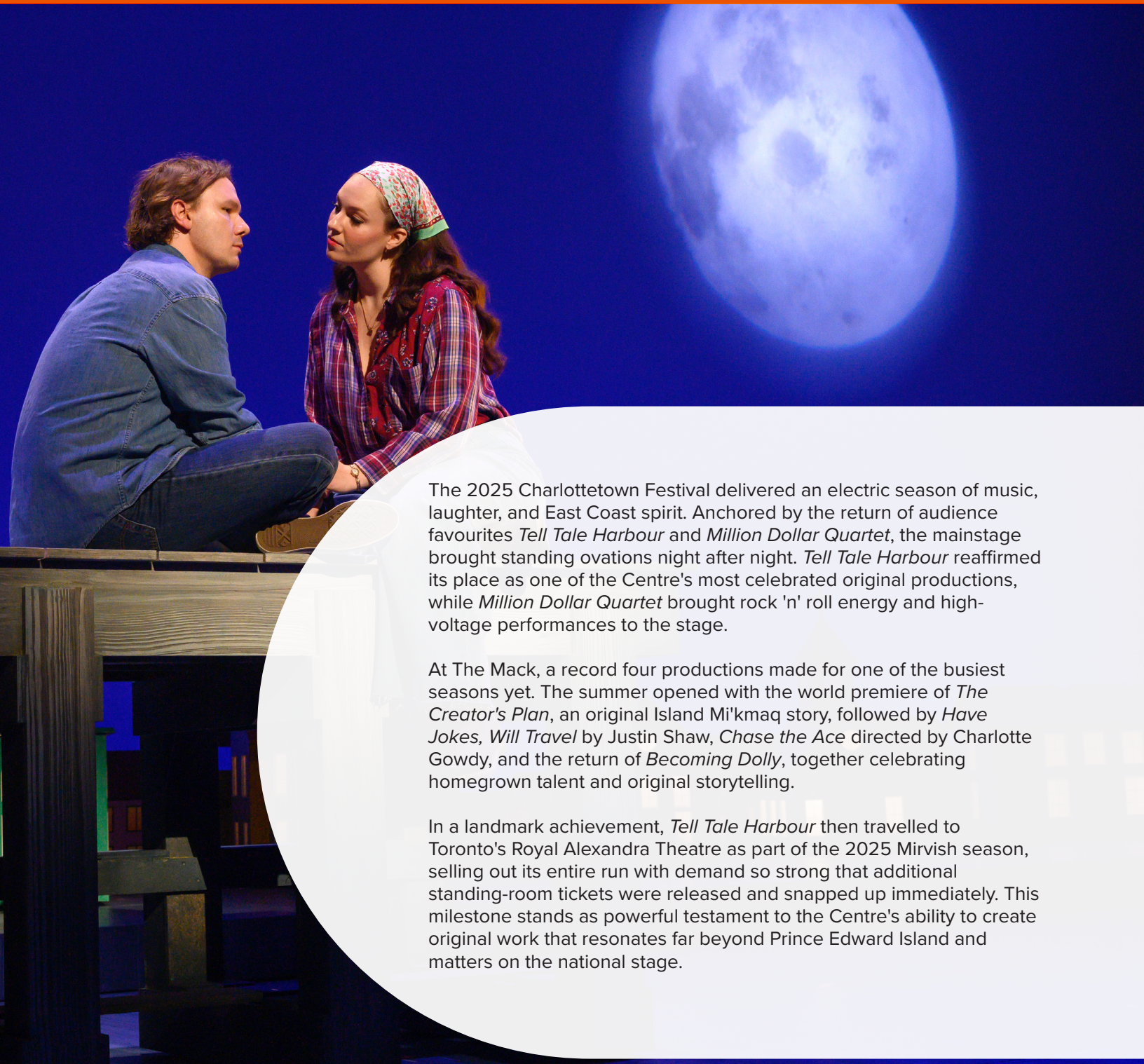
The 2025 Charlottetown Festival



11,029

Patrons attended

LIVE @ the Centre



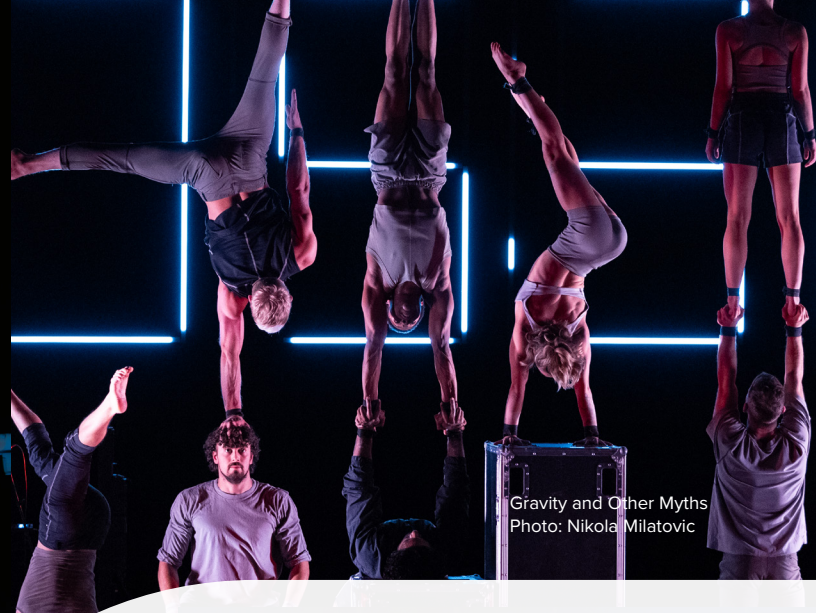
The 2025 Charlottetown Festival delivered an electric season of music, laughter, and East Coast spirit. Anchored by the return of audience favourites *Tell Tale Harbour* and *Million Dollar Quartet*, the mainstage brought standing ovations night after night. *Tell Tale Harbour* reaffirmed its place as one of the Centre's most celebrated original productions, while *Million Dollar Quartet* brought rock 'n' roll energy and high-voltage performances to the stage.

At The Mack, a record four productions made for one of the busiest seasons yet. The summer opened with the world premiere of *The Creator's Plan*, an original Island Mi'kmaq story, followed by *Have Jokes*, *Will Travel* by Justin Shaw, *Chase the Ace* directed by Charlotte Gowdy, and the return of *Becoming Dolly*, together celebrating homegrown talent and original storytelling.

In a landmark achievement, *Tell Tale Harbour* then travelled to Toronto's Royal Alexandra Theatre as part of the 2025 Mirvish season, selling out its entire run with demand so strong that additional standing-room tickets were released and snapped up immediately. This milestone stands as powerful testament to the Centre's ability to create original work that resonates far beyond Prince Edward Island and matters on the national stage.



Jacob James in *Chase The Ace*
Photo: Jamie Kronick.



Gravity and Other Myths
Photo: Nikola Milatovic



Matt Andersen

LIVE @ the Centre presented an eclectic season of music, dance, comedy, and more throughout 2025/26. Acts included Phil Collins & Genesis tribute artist Martin Levac, comedian Tom Papa, blues legend Colin James, beloved Maritime artists the Ennis Sisters and Cape Breton's iconic Men of the Deeps, singer-songwriter Matt Andersen, and acrobatic theatre company Gravity & Other Myths, alongside cherished holiday programming and celebrated local ensembles the Confederation Singers and Confederation Youth Chorus.



Creator's Plan
Photo: Simon Reid

COMMUNITY



Confederation Centre On Stage Holiday Party



1,842

**students at Arts
Discovery Days**



\$38,500

**in-kind donations
made through the
Lou MacEachern
Community
Partnership Program**

The Centre's mandate stems from, and was thoughtfully created to be, community first. Opening the doors for more people to experience and access the arts is at the root of the Confederation Centre of the Arts and this year was a tremendous and unifying year. We believe in community engagement and opening our doors for more people to experience and access the arts.

Over the last year, the Charlottetown Festival donated over \$10,500 in ticket value to local community groups for fundraising initiatives and initiated five not for profit and/ or society appreciation nights for groups like Big Brothers, Big Sisters and the Early Childhood Association of Prince Edward Island.

In November, Arts Discovery Days welcomed Grade 8 students from four schools outside the Charlottetown area, including groups travelling from as far as Miscouche and Souris. This provided an opportunity for the Heritage Coordinator to pilot a new interactive learning activity: The Great Canadian Bargain: The Charlottetown Conference of 1864.

The **Lou MacEachern Community Partnership Program** continued to allow 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. Organizations who benefitted from the program included: 100 Women Who Care, United Way of PEI, and the PEI Symphony Orchestra



Bertram Brooker *Cabbage & Pepper* (detail), 1937, oil on canvas, Purchased, 1973



15,803

visitors to the Gallery

VISUAL ARTS

The Confederation Centre Art Gallery presented a season of exhibitions that affirmed the Gallery's commitment to both regional voices and national conversations.

Jerry Evans: Weljesi presented the first major survey of Evans' iconic prints, paintings, projections, and video portraiture. One of Newfoundland and Labrador's most significant visual artists, Evans has devoted more than three decades to the preservation, reclamation, and continued growth of Indigenous communities. Rooted in Indigenous concepts of cyclical time, storytelling, and beauty, the exhibition questioned the very format of the traditional retrospective.

Undergrowth, curated by Christiana Myers and supported by the RBC Foundation, highlighted the work of nine emerging artists from Atlantic Canada, surrounding visitors with drawing, sculpture, textiles, installation, and virtual reality, and blurring the boundaries between ecology, storytelling, and technology.

Sarah Maloney's Pleasure Ground: A Feminist Take on the Natural World, co-curated by Jennifer Matotek and Laura Ritchie, brought the work of nationally recognized sculptor and textile artist Sarah Maloney, RCA to Charlottetown. Working across media from embroidery to bronze, Maloney challenges assumptions about craft, artistic labour, and "women's work," drawing attention to the value systems that shape what is celebrated, collected, and preserved.

The year also brought significant national recognition to work originating at the Gallery. The retrospective *Erica Rutherford: Her Lives and Works*, featuring over 100 pieces by the late Island artist, continued its national tour, opening at the National Gallery of Canada in June 2025 before travelling to The Rooms Provincial Art Gallery in St. John's that November. Organized by Confederation Centre Art Gallery in collaboration with the National Gallery of Canada and curated by Pan Wendt, the exhibition surveys the remarkable career of Rutherford, one of Canada's first openly trans artists. The accompanying publication earned further recognition when it won both the PEI Book Award and the Best Atlantic Non-Fiction Book Award.

The Gallery's national presence extended further still with Confederation Centre of the Arts serving as an institutional partner for Canada's participation in the 61st International Art Exhibition at La Biennale di Venezia. Gallery Director Pan Wendt also served on the six-person artist selection committee that chose Abbas Akhavan to represent Canada at the 2026 Biennale, placing the Gallery at the centre of Canada's most significant contribution to the international contemporary art world.



Kathleen Daly, *Untitled (Young Man & Landscape)*, oil on canvas, 96.5 x 83.8 cm, CAG 94.5.60

DIVERSE VOICES

The Art Gallery exhibited *Hidden Blackness: Edward Mitchell Bannister (1828–1901)*, which told the story of an artist whose remarkable journey from humble origins in New Brunswick to international recognition stands as a testament to artistic conviction in the face of adversity. Curated by David Woods and organized by the Owens Art Gallery, Mount Allison University in partnership with the Black Artists Network of Nova Scotia, the exhibition drew from major institutional collections including the Smithsonian American Art Museum and the Beaverbrook Art Gallery, and marked the first major presentation of Bannister's work in Canada.

There is a significant number of newcomer children in the **Youth Chorus**, and it is wonderful to see the growing diversity of PEI being reflected in our education programs. To better serve newcomer families, we are in discussions with Immigrant and Refugee Services Association PEI (IRSA) to learn best practices in communicating with families where English is not a strong or spoken language.

LIVE @ the Centre programmed *Bear Grease: The Musical*, a show that reimaged the iconic 1971 musical *Grease* through a bold, comedic Indigenous lens, infusing history, hip-hop, and comedy.



Youth Chorus perform at the annual spring concert.
Photo: Simon Reid



The Nutcracker: Remixing the Magic.
Photo: Anna Wansbrough

ARTS ACADEMY

This year marked a significant milestone as Arts Education transformed into the Confederation Centre Arts Academy, elevating visual and performing arts programming across Charlottetown.

The Arts Academy hit the ground running with sold-out musical theatre and improv workshops throughout the winter, developed in collaboration with the Theatre department. Community engagement flourished through the Choral Workshop Series, highlighted by a standout November performance: the Confederation Singers joined the PEI Legion Choir and PEI Regimental (RCAC) Band for Voices of Remembrance: A Choral Tribute to Legacy and Community, commemorating Remembrance Day and the 100th anniversary of the Royal Canadian Legion. The evening wove together poetry, letters, and personal reflections into a moving tribute to service and sacrifice.

The year closed on a high note with *The Nutcracker: Remixing the Magic* in December 2025, bringing over 100 students and instructors to the Sobey Family Theatre. The production blended Tchaikovsky's classic score with hip-hop, contemporary, and jazz movement, and delivered strong results with combined ticket sales reaching 136% of target.



• **46,132+**
training hours provided



• **260**
students in dance



• **505**
participants in camps
and classes



• **2,519**
students visited the Centre
with their schools



• **93**
choristers in choral music
programs



Symons Medalist, author Miriam Toews in conversation with students at a post-lecture fireside chat.

HERITAGE

The 21st annual Symons Medal Lecture and Presentation took place on October 3, 2025, and remained one of the Centre's most celebrated fall events. This year's edition honoured beloved author Miriam Toews, who joined veteran broadcaster and past Symons medallist, Shelagh Rogers, onstage for an intimate conversation. The event continues to exemplify the spirit of inter-departmental collaboration at the Centre.

Heritage Tours drew strong attendance throughout the season, bolstered by an ongoing partnership with the cruise port. Collaboration between Arts Academy and Heritage remained a departmental priority, with the most exciting result being the inaugural Spooky Walk on November 1. Building on the Heritage Players' Ghost Tour, the event offered a family-friendly evening rooted in PEI folklore, brought to life by costumed performances from dance umbrella's Performance Group and the Confederation Singers. Demand far exceeded expectations, with capacity expanding from 25 to 75 participants across two sold-out iterations. Given its enthusiastic reception, the Spooky Walk is expected to become a recurring fixture on the Centre's calendar.



948

tickets booked for the
Symons Medal Presentation
and Lecture



3,164

Heritage Tour
attendees



CORPORATE PARTNERSHIPS



\$413,897
in sponsorship
investment

Sponsors, donors, volunteers, patrons, and government funders continue to passionately support the Centre, which enables us to make a meaningful impact on the Island and across Canada through the arts.

Behind every program, performance, and experience we offer is a community of dedicated corporate partners. We are honoured to acknowledge the organizations and people, such as our, volunteers, donors, government funders, and patrons, support helps bring the arts to life on the Island and across Canada.

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THE CHARLOTTETOWN FESTIVAL PRODUCTION SPONSORS

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TD Ready Commitment

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Pepsico
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Sydney Boutique Inn & Suites
The Buzz
Welcome PEI
Vogue Optical

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RBC Financial Group

CHORAL MUSIC SPONSOR

Maritime Electric



SHARED VOICES



PROJECT COSTS

\$65M

Construction

\$5M

Sustainability

\$1.5M

Cost of Campaign

\$71.5M

TOTAL COST

The Confederation Centre of the Arts is undergoing its most ambitious transformation since its founding in 1964. This fiscal year marked a significant inflection point, with the public re-launch of the Shared Voices Capital Campaign through targeted news releases and marketing initiatives. These efforts have built considerable momentum and set the stage for the campaign's next phase: meeting the fundraising goal and public opening of the South Pavilion.

The Palmer Canadian Leadership Institute was formally introduced, establishing a dedicated national venue for dialogue on the defining issues facing Canada. The Institute honors the legacy of the late James (Jim) Palmer, a respected lawyer, civic leader, and champion of public policy, national unity, and Canadian institutions.

In parallel, the Arts Education department was rebranded as the Confederation Centre Art Academy, reflecting the organization's commitment to elevating and expanding its educational programming.

The Shared Voices Capital Campaign is funded in part by the Government of Canada and the Province of Prince Edward Island, and is championed by Honorary Chairs Cynthia Dale, Alan Doyle, Col. Chris Hadfield, Peter Mansbridge, Cassie Campbell-Pascall, and Lloyd Robertson.

As of March 31, 2026, the Centre has secured 96% of its campaign goal. The Development Department is actively pursuing the remaining 4%, which is considered achievable within the next fiscal.



CONDENSED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION (AT MARCH 31)

(in thousands of dollars)	2026	2025
ASSETS		
Cash	21,910	13,637
Accounts Receivable	3,014	1,844
Inventory and Prepaids	307	336
Longterm Note Receivable	3,420	-
Capital Assets	64,775	46,170
	\$ 93,426	\$ 61,987
LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCES		
Bank Advances	-	1,140
Accounts Payable and Accruals	7,526	3,265
Deferred Revenue	2,151	1,343
Capital Fund	81,828	54,974
Cultural Development Fund	434	434
Operating Fund	1,487	831
	\$ 93,426	\$ 61,987



Jerry Evans: Weljesi exhibition (2025)

2025-26

CONFEDERATION CENTRE OF THE ARTS

CONDENSED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Completed audited financial statements of the Fathers of Confederation Buildings Trust for the year ended March 31, 2026 are available on the website www.confederationcentre.com

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS (AT MARCH 31)

(in thousands of dollars)	2026	2025
REVENUES		
Programming	4,023	4,121
Commercial	981	1,147
Fundraising and Development	4,385	3,980
Investments and Other Revenues	255	253
Public Sector Grants - Operating	6,838	6,529
Public Sector Grants - Capital	21,481	13,680
	\$ 37,963	\$ 29,710
EXPENSES		
Programming	6,896	7,146
Commercial	760	816
Fundraising and Development	869	661
Building Operations	4,885	4,983
Administration and Other Expenses	1,810	1,468
	\$ 15,220	\$ 15,074
EXCESS REVENUES (EXPENSES) BEFORE OTHER INCOME	\$22,743	\$ 14,636
OTHER INCOME		
Gain on sale of capital assets	4,768	-
EXCESS REVENUES (EXPENSES)	\$ 27,511	\$ 14,636
NET REVENUES (EXPENSES) ALLOCATED TO:		
Operating Fund	657	215
Capital Fund	26,854	14,421
	\$ 27,511	\$ 14,636

CENTRE DES ARTS
DE LA CONFÉDÉRATION



CONFEDERATION
CENTRE OF THE ARTS

2025/26 ANNUAL REPORT

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