



State of the Arts...

Activation Conference

Official Program

Table of Contents

Schedule.....	2
Teach-In: From theory to practice, reclaiming Indigenous narratives within colonial spaces. .	4
Presented By Nadine St Louis.....	4
Recent distinctions and Associations	5
Morning Break Out Sessions.....	5
SESSION 1A: Crossing the Sectors in the Arts: Connecting the dots - panel with 3 artists	5
Facilitated by Kristelle Holliday	5
SESSION 1B : Artists and Identity.....	6
Facilitated by Himmat Shinhat	6
SESSION 1C: Funding Outside the Boxes.....	8
Presented by Guy Rodgers	8
Afternoon Break Out Sessions	9
SESSION 2A: Arts and Accessibility	9
Facilitated by Malek Yalaoui	9
SESSION 2B: Well-Being of the Artist: Playing for Wellness.....	10
Co-facilitated by Lisa Ndejuru and Joliane Allaire	10
SESSION 2C: Connecting Arts & Education: ELAN’s Strategies & Initiatives	11
Presented by: Christie Huff	11
Facilitated by: Denis Piquette	11

Schedule

- 8:00 Registration
- 8:30 Critical Conversation Circles and Registration Continues
Join a circle of like-minded participants to discuss a critical topic in the arts (topics to be announced prior to the conference)
- 9:00 Welcome and Thanksgiving Opening by Tewenhni'tó:ken Sharrow
- 9:15 Commitment Challenge for the day - setting the tone
- 9:25 Minute Market with arts organizations – Quebec Drama Federation, Quebec Writers' Federation, Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec, Made in Estrie and more
- 9:35 Interactive networking activity - *Who is in the room?*
- 9:45 Teach-in: From theory to practice, reclaiming Indigenous narratives within colonial spaces by Nadine St Louis
- 10:45 Question/Answer and reflections
- 11:05 Coffee break**
- 11:20 Break out sessions**
1A: Crossing the Sectors in the Arts: Connecting the Dots by Kristelle Holliday
1B: Artists and Identity by Himmat Shinhat
1C: Funding Outside the Boxes by Guy Rodgers
- 12:35 Lunch (Vegan Lunch provided by the [Hive Cafe](#) - Gluten-free options upon request)**
- 1:00 Funder speed dating; Lunch continues

Funder participants include: Conseil des arts de Montréal and Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec

1:15 Welcome back and summary of morning activities

1:25 ELAN History - Bettina Forget ELAN Board President

1:35 ELAN Minute Market

Learn how ELAN's projects are shaping the State of the Arts!

1:45 [State of the Arts - Public Experts Projects \(SOTAPEP\) Pitches](#)

Which 4 projects will receive \$1500?

2:35 Interactive networking activity

Who do you need to connect with?

2:45 Coffee break

3:00 Break out sessions

2A: Arts and Accessibility by Malek Yalaoui

*2B: Well-Being of the Artist: Playing for Wellness by Lisa Ndejuru and
Joliane Allaire*

*2C: Connecting Arts & Education: ELAN's Strategies & Initiatives
by Christie Huff*

4:15 Summary of the day - *Where do we go from here?*

4:45 Thanksgiving close

5:00 Activation continues in your communities

Teach-In: From theory to practice, reclaiming Indigenous narratives within colonial spaces.



Presented By Nadine St Louis

Engaging ethically with First Nations, Metis and Inuit artists is about moving forward within a respectful, egalitarian and participatory process. *From theory to practice* is a conversation looking at how to shift social structures of “us” and “them”, looking at history as narrative and reclaiming Indigenous voices in colonial spaces.

Cultural protocols will also be central to understanding how to navigate within relationships with Indigenous artists and collaborative projects. Indigenous consent and voices, for intellectual and cultural contributions, are central to the process of decolonizing how we engage with Indigenous artists, their stories and cultural values.



Nadine St-Louis is a social and cultural entrepreneur with Mi'kmaq, Acadian and Scottish roots with more than 25 years of experience in management, community development and governance. She has earned recognition in cultural, social and political circles, and has become an important leader in the development of an Indigenous economy through arts and culture in Quebec, Canada and abroad.

A graduate of Concordia University with a Bachelor's degree in Film and English Literature, Nadine St-Louis pursues a master's degree in art history at the Université de Montréal and is now in the process of completing an MBA certificate at HEC Montréal.

*In 2012, she founded **Sacred Fire Productions**, a non-profit Indigenous cultural organization and launched in 2015 the **Ashukan Cultural Space**, the first cultural and economic incubator*

in the heart of Old Montreal giving to more than a hundred artists an exhibition, sales and professional development space.

Recent distinctions and Associations

- *Women of Distinction Award, Art Culture and Design - Women's Y Foundation (2018)*
- *Research Committee Member of the new UNESCO Chair for First Nation's cultural transmission as an empowerment dynamic for healthy and sustainable communities (2018)*
- *Member of the Indigenous Innovation Initiative (2018)*
- *Member of Alliances & Resistance Collective (2018), a group made up of researchers, academics, artists and Quebecois leaders engaged in best practices for emancipatory and inclusive social and cultural transformations.*
- *Marcel Côté Award for Leadership in Public Policy, Canada's Public Policy Forum (2017)*
- *Member of the Advisory Committee for the new Québec's cultural policy (2017)*

Morning Break Out Sessions

SESSION 1A:

Crossing the Sectors in the Arts: Connecting the dots - panel with 3 artists



Facilitated by Kristelle Holliday

An artist allows us to perceive an emotion, a feeling, a story and much more. This interaction has always been at the base of arts appreciation, but it is increasingly clear that to maximize the vast potential of the power of the arts, we need to find other ways in which to reach out and contribute to Quebec society. Whether this is through the fields of

arts and science, arts and health, arts and entrepreneurship, arts and democracy or even through connecting the metropolises and the regions. There is huge untapped potential to develop new collaborations, seek out new investment and make exciting, innovative art. This panel discussion will look at 3 current examples of reaching beyond the norm, explore and build on potential ideas and create a space whereby people can find common ground.



*Kristelle Holliday is the Executive Director and Co-artistic Director of the **Théâtre des Petites Lanternes** in Sherbrooke. In her artistic practice, she works closely with artists and communities in order to co-create large-scale outdoor theatre performances inspired by the beauty, poetry and emotion of the surrounding landscape. As an engaged member of the Quebec arts community, she is also committed to building bridges between the French-speaking and English-speaking arts world, is actively engaged in discussions around representation and takes a leading role in the conversations around socially engaged art and arts and health. She was named a Quebec Fellow for the International Society of the Performing Arts (ISPA) 2019–21 Fellowship Program.*

SESSION 1B :

Artists and Identity

Facilitated by Himmat Shinhat

This interactive workshop will help artists explore and investigate their individual identities through a series of exercises, including the creation of a personal identity map. As well, participants will identify shared identity elements that could support a sense of community and possible collective identities.



The workshop will also provide information to participants on ongoing work in the arts and culture sector with respect to diversity, inclusion and related issues.



*Himmat is an artist-composer-musician and currently a member of the board at **Montreal Arts Interculturels**, an organization that acts as a presenter, a mentor and as a centre for dialogue and exchange as pertaining to cultural and racial diversity, and to hybrid, convergent forms of artistic and cultural expression. Himmat is also a founding member of the Montreal Asian Heritage Festival, now known as **Festival Accès-Asie**, a thriving and inclusive annual event in Montreal, and presently sits on the Board of Directors for the festival.*

*In addition to being an artist, Himmat recently concluded a 30-year long career as a senior Public Servant. His experience includes policy and operations at **IRCC** (Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada), both at National Headquarters in Ottawa and in the Quebec/Eastern Regions. He has held a variety of positions with the department as a director and as a senior policy analyst in the areas of refugee protection, humanitarian considerations, stakeholder relations, citizenship, and multiculturalism. Most recently, in 2016, as Director, Outreach, he was assigned to support the Special Coordinator, Syrian Refugee Resettlement in support of the government's commitment to resettle refugees affected by the conflict in Syria.*

*Himmat's last assignment before he left IRCC was that of **Chair, IRCC Positive Space Network**. In this regard, he led the roll out of this federal initiative at IRCC, which included the development and delivery of training sessions, awareness raising, guest lectures and other activities to improve workplace inclusion, respect and security for LGBTQ+ members of the Public Service.*

SESSION 1C: Funding Outside the Boxes



Presented by Guy Rodgers

Many artists and arts organizations are familiar with the main funding bodies (Canada Council for the Arts, Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec, and Conseil des arts de Montréal) and their programs. These are all highly competitive funding sources. Sometimes a better option is to reduce the competition by creating larger events involving more partners. These are more complex to assemble, and harder to manage, but the extra effort can pay off 'bigtime'. This session will begin with a series of concrete examples of projects that benefitted from thinking outside the usual boxes, and a couple of opportunities that were lost by not daring to take bigger risks. Later, the floor will be open to participants to brainstorm their dream projects and explore possible ways to bring them to life. This is a session for people who want to be as creative in their grant writing as they are in their artistry.



*A graduate of the playwriting program at the **National Theatre School of Canada**, **Guy Rodgers** has worked in film and television, and specialized in writing large scale multimedia productions for museums and special events across Canada, as well as the US, Europe and the Middle East. A long-time arts activist, Guy Rodgers was founding Executive Director of the English-Language Arts Network.*

Afternoon Break Out Sessions

SESSION 2A:

Arts and Accessibility

Facilitated by Malek Yalaoui



Accessibility can sometimes be reduced to a buzzword but ultimately, it's about being able to welcome all the people we care about, because we believe that diversity makes our work and our communities stronger. How do we begin to think about and do this work? Join us for an interactive and informative workshop as we explore these questions together.



*In 2016, **Malek Yalaoui** co-founded **SistersInMotion MTL** with a vision to create spaces that support and celebrate women and femmes of colour. Very quickly, it became clear that accessibility had to be at the heart of that vision. Since then, Malek and her team have been on a mission to set the standard for accessible events in Montreal. This work has proven the power representation has to lift up under-served communities and, as such, Malek uses social and independent media to highlight both her own voice and the voices of other marginalized folks. She can be heard weekly on the *Chai Chats* podcast or found hosting the open mic *Poetry Nite* at *Kafein*. A survivor and speaker, the sole purpose of Malek's work is to heal herself and her community.*

SESSION 2B:

Well-Being of the Artist: Playing for Wellness



Co-facilitated by Lisa Ndejuru and Joliane Allaire

Many of us have reported feeling overwhelmed, overworked, scared, vulnerable, and constantly on the verge of burn-out. Where are we stuck? Where is there movement and energy? In this session we'll learn some ways to play together, to listen and care for each other, and share our stories.

Joliane Allaire has focused much of her research on L'équipe d'intervention théâtrale Mise au jeu and more specifically on how to use theatre practice to support the work of community organizations as well as how to use theatre techniques as pedagogical tools in education settings. For the last decade she has evolved with the Living Histories Ensemble where she explores intersections of Playback Theater, Theater for the Oppressed, Theatre for the Living and Developmental Transformation. Joliane is a registered social worker working with youth and their families in clinical as well as in high school and elementary settings where she uses arts and games to allow for dialogue and change. She also teaches in Concordia University's Department of Applied Human Sciences.



Lisa Ndejuru is a psychotherapist, psychodramatist and theatre practitioner. Her research - creation explores survival and life, stories and silence, persecution, genocide, war and dislocation through deep listening, storytelling and play. Lisa is a founding member of the Living Histories Ensemble; an improvisational community theater troupe specialized in work with post trauma audiences. The troupe's extensive experimentation with storytelling, play and improvised theatre in emotionally sensitive settings

aims for individual and collective meaning-making and empowerment in the aftermath of large-scale political violence. Lisa is completing her doctoral thesis at Concordia University.

SESSION 2C:

Connecting Arts & Education: ELAN's Strategies & Initiatives

Presented by: **Christie Huff**

Facilitated by: **Denis Piquette**



Wondering what ELAN has been doing to support its network of arts organizations and artists to connect with schools? What obstacles have been identified and how are we working strategically to address them? (i.e. getting artists from Quebec's English-speaking communities into the Culture in the Schools Repertoire program). Learn about ELAN's overall strategy to connect Arts and Education and its current initiatives. As we launch into a new phase of developments thanks to the Government of Canada's Micro-Grant program, we ask the public to share your creative ideas about how schools can be encouraged to access the diverse communities of Quebec artists who are qualified to work in educational settings.



*Christie Huff helps organizations in the arts, community and education sectors to align with the needs of the people they aim to serve to achieve measurable social impact. Her goal is to empower the people she works with to approach their challenges as collaboratively as possible so that their change efforts may be successful and sustained. Before completing her Master's degree in Human Systems Intervention (2012, Concordia), she had undergraduate degrees in economics and commerce, a Certificate in Adult Training & Development (OISE), and experience working with for-profit, government, and non-profit organizations and social enterprises. Christie currently oversees ELAN's strategic approach to connecting Artists with Educators through the **ACE Initiative** and the soon-to-be launched **Micro-Grant program**.*

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