

Summary of Arts Associations presented at Connect: Networking Event for Business-Minded Artists

This document summarizes some of the arts associations presented at [Connect: Networking Event For Business-Minded Artists](#) on November 14, 2019. The event, organized by [YES Montreal](#), presented an opportunity for attendees to connect with business-minded artists while a panel of cultural workers offered resources and tips.

As an umbrella organization, ELAN shared the names of arts associations and service organizations mandated to facilitate networking and foster connection between artists. As a collection of staff working in various artistic fields, ELAN staff offered tips and tricks from their own disciplines as well.

There are many artist run centres, festivals, presenters, arts service organizations, community initiatives, etc. that work to bring artists together. This presentation did not attempt to compile them, but rather offered a **non-exhaustive list** of arts associations and umbrella organizations that are specifically mandated to facilitate networking. Often, these organizations include member directories with lists of affiliated artists and arts organizations - these are also worth consulting when looking for folks to connect with.

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Umbrella Organizations

1. English Language Arts Network (ELAN)
“[ELAN](#) is a meeting place for English-language artists and cultural workers of all disciplines from every region of Quebec, where they can share expertise and resources, build audiences and alliances, seek support, advocate for their interests, and make common cause with the Francophone arts community.”

- a. ELAN holds bi-monthly **Schmoozers**, which bring together artists of all disciplines and career stages in an informal setting. Schmoozers are mostly unstructured, with the exception of a **Minute Market**, in which ELAN members are welcome to share their upcoming projects and activities with an audience of arts lovers.
 - b. ELAN's [member directory](#) allows you to browse artists and arts organizations by discipline and region. Many artists include websites on their profile - learn about their work and connect with them!
2. Youth Employment Services Montreal (YES)

"**YES** is a non-profit, community-driven English language service provider that has been helping Quebecers province-wide find employment and start and grow businesses for over 20 years."

 - a. YES offers programming specifically for artists, which include workshops, one on one career counselling, mentorship, a yearly artist conference, and of course, **networking opportunities such as Connect: Networking Event for Business-Minded Artists.**
3. Diversité Artistique Montréal (DAM)

"**DAM**'s mission is to promote inclusion and cultural equity by supporting immigrant and racialized artists of all disciplines in the development of their careers. DAM strives to increase awareness of ethnocultural diversity issues as well as empower the community to address them."

 - a. As part of this mandate, DAM hosts **networking events and opportunities for introduction to creative associations.**

Dance

1. Regroupement Québécoise de la Danse (RQD)

"The **RQD** brings together individuals and professional organizations working in dance with the objective of contributing to the advancement of choreographic art and helping improve practice conditions in dance."

 - a. Once per year, the RQD hosts an Annual Meeting of members that spans over two days. Throughout the year, they also host regular **5 à 7's**.
2. Studio 303

"**Studio 303** supports live art, prioritizing the development of emerging practices in contemporary dance and interdisciplinary performance."

 - a. À Table is a **recurring networking event**, in which dance presenters sit at individual tables for about 3 hours and receive artists who wish to initiate, join or eavesdrop on conversations with them.

- b. Studio 303 also has a [directory](#) of other dance organizations, service providers, and presenters to connect with.

Tip: Every Friday, [Circuit-Est](#) opens their space and holds one-on-one meetings with community members. Drop in and meet their team, ask where to network, and stay up to date with events taking place in the dance community.

Film + Television

1. The Association québécoise de la production médiatique (AQPM)
“The [AQPM](#) advises, represents and accompanies independent film, television and Web production corporations whose productions, both French and English, are recognized in Quebec and at the international level.”
 - a. Their [list of members](#) and [list of partners](#) provide links to other organizations that might facilitate networking.
2. [Telefilm](#)
 - a. Directory for the Canadian Film, Television and Video Industry. It lists the names and contact information for more than 4,000 professional organizations.
3. Montreal Film Group
 - a. [The Montreal Film Group](#) is not an official artist association, but an online platform that was created specifically to address isolation in the Film + Television industry. It includes an extensive directory of [industry links](#) and [member links](#), as well as periodic networking events.

Tip: Film festivals function as an important networking space. Follow your favourites (or all of them!) online, volunteer, attend the workshops and networking events that are often programmed alongside screenings.

Interdisciplinary Arts

1. Regroupement des arts interdisciplinaires du Québec (RAIQ)
“[RAIQ](#) is a non-profit organization that brings together and represents companies, broadcasters and artists working in interdisciplinary arts in Quebec. Its mandate is to defend the professional interests and to improve the socio-economic conditions of its members. By initiating activities such as information, concertation, **networking**, promotion and professional development, the RAIQ is actively engaged in the advancement and the practice of inter-arts across Quebec.”

Literature

1. The Quebec Writer's Federation (QWF)

"The [QWF](#) provides English-language programs, services, opportunities, and community for aspiring, emerging, and established writers and the wider community."

 - a. Activities such as *Shut up and Write!* as well as workshops, mentorships, a [yearly book-fair](#) (in collaboration with AELAQ, below), and a [yearly awards gala](#) provide many spaces for connecting with other writers and literary arts lovers.
2. The Association of English Language Publishers of Quebec (AELAQ)

"[AELAQ](#) is a not-for-profit organization that advances the publication, distribution, and promotion of English-language books from Quebec. We support our member publishers through professional development seminars, advocacy, and marketing initiatives. Their [list of members](#) is a useful place to find English language publishers to connect with."

Tip: QWF and AELAQ's book-fair is a great place to meet published writers - consult a list of those who will be present [here](#). The fair also includes useful workshops and a wine + cheese for networking.

Tip: Literary festivals often draw international writers and include workshops, lectures, and other opportunities for gathering. Check out the [Blue Metropolis](#) or the [Salon du Livre](#).

Music

As I mentioned in my presentation, networking in the music industry seems to take place at festivals and shows rather than through associations and organizations. That said, here are a few associations that do exist:

1. La Société de musique contemporaine du Québec (SMCQ)
 - a. The [SMCQ](#) has a directory of contemporary composers, conductors, performers, and ensembles in Quebec.
2. Canadian Independent Music Association
 - a. Though they do not seem to host explicit networking events, the [CIMA](#) represents independent musicians who often work in isolation. Its membership includes record producers, record labels, recording studios, managers, agents, licensors, music video producers and directors, creative

content owners, artists and others professionally involved in the sound recording and music video industries - all of whom are listed in their [directory](#).

Tip: There are a ton of festivals that take place in Quebec, and if you're able, working door, volunteering to sell merchandise, and postering for shows can really help. Many of these, such as [POP Montreal](#), attract international industry professionals and therefore include networking events, workshops, and panels in their programming.

Theatre

1. The Quebec Drama Federation (QDF)

"The [QDF](#) exists to support English-language theatre companies, artists and their artistic expressions in Quebec. This support manifests itself through leadership, collaborations with partners and stakeholders in the community, promotion of the artists and companies, professional development and identification of the role of theatre in the community at large. It also provides resources and means through which success and recognition of English-language theatre companies and artists in Quebec, to the rest of Canada and on an international scale, is achieved."

- a. The QDF creates a network for its members and provides them with specialized resources to facilitate career and creative development in all aspects of theatre arts. **Workshops, trivia nights, and community conversations provide other opportunities to meet and connect.**

- b. The QDF website has a directory of English language theatre companies in Quebec - this is a great place to browse other organization's work.

2. The Professional Association of Canadian Theatres (PACT)

"[PACT](#) is a member-driven organization of professional Canadian theatres which serves as the collective voice of its members. For the betterment of Canadian theatre, PACT provides leadership, national representation and a variety of programs and practical assistance to member companies, enabling members to do their own creative work."

- a. PACT hosts various conferences and **remote ways of connecting**. Check out their networking page [here](#), and their list of members and other theatre companies [here](#). (Note* PACT represents theatre companies across the country, so not all of these are based in Quebec. However, their opportunities for teleconferencing and connecting online make it easier to network across provinces!)

***Tip:** In June, the Montreal Fringe Festival brings together the theatre artists through fun and informal social activities. Check out Fringe Park - ELAN usually uses this space to host a joint-Schmoosier with the Fringe.*

***Tip:** There are Facebook groups and meet-ups for film and television. ELAN's in-house film expert suggests [this one](#).*

Visual Arts

1. Regroupement des Artistes en Arts Visuels (RAAV)
 - a. The [RAAV](#) is the visual arts association for artists working in painting, illustration, sculpture, textiles, photography, etc. It provides professional development, advocates on behalf of visual artists, and hosts **networking events** for its members.

***Tip:** While there does not seem to be an equivalent association for English-language visual artists, there are many artist run centres that create space for skill- and space-sharing, public discussion, networking, and community building. As such, artist run centres have long been referred to as the "connective tissue" of the Canadian arts.*

2. The Artist Run Centres and Collectives Conference (ARCA)
 - a. [ARCA](#) is a federal organization that represents the provincial associations of artist run centres. They have an extensive [directory](#) that allows users to search for artist run centres based on location and discipline.
3. Le Regroupement des centres d'artistes autogérés du Québec (RCAAQ)
 - a. [RCAAQ](#) is the provincial association of artist run centres in Quebec, and lists artist run centres within the province.

***Tip:** Quebec is also home to multiple [arts hives](#). These informal, community spaces connect visual artists and build solidarity across geographic distance. They are also home to skill-sharing, community discussion, and artistic collaboration.*