

A photograph of four potted plants arranged in a row against a light gray background. From left to right: a green cholla cactus in a silver metal bucket, a blue cholla cactus with yellow spines in a white ceramic pot, an aloe vera plant in a white ceramic pot, and a green succulent in a silver metal bucket.

ELAN

Sustainable Arts in Action

Sustainability Program 2030

Why

Cultural Sector Embracing Climate Action

Funders and institutions are encouraging eco-conscious practices (green touring, low-waste events). Tools like Creative Green Tools are becoming standard.

Sustainability in Funding Criteria

More grant applications require or reward environmental and social responsibility, including economic resilience and equity.

Digital Delivery to Lower Emissions

Hybrid and digital-first services help reduce travel-related emissions and support rural/remote communities.

Green Literacy & Inclusion

Climate education is expanding to include marginalized voices and community arts—empowering orgs like ELAN to lead from the ground up.

Transparency & Reporting Expectations

Even small nonprofits are increasingly expected to track and communicate sustainability outcomes—voluntarily or through soft funding requirements.

Roadmap -----

DEFINE

1. Assess needs, expectations, priorities;
2. Set vision, goals, framework;
3. Design tools, templates

DELIVER

1. Pilot new tools, activities;
2. Train staff and engage members
3. Communicate to partners, members, funders

ACTIVATE

1. Track actions, results
2. Share progress
3. Adjust, improve based on impact and feedback

ELAN today

Environmental Practices

- Office **to be** equipped with LED lighting for energy efficiency
- Waste management and recycling practices in place
- Water and heating included in low-impact leased space

Materials & Promotion

- Occasional printing of promotional materials
- Identified need for recycling education in Quebec
- Exploring eco-friendly giveaways and cardboard membership cards

Program Development Foundations

- Sustainability planning aligned with CALQ expectations
- Developing event and project sustainability checklists
- Commitment to digital-first practices and internal awareness building

Tools & Innovation

- Recommendation to use of Creative Green Tools Canada for emissions tracking
- Recommendation to adopt Microsoft Copilot for paperless workflows

VISION 2030



By 2030, ELAN will be a leading force in building a **sustainable, inclusive, and bilingual** arts ecosystem in Quebec — empowering English-speaking artists with the knowledge, tools, and community to thrive responsibly.

We envision a future where sustainability is embedded across all artistic practices, and where ELAN is a trusted resource for low-carbon creativity, cultural equity, and artist resilience.

GOALS

- 🌱 ELAN is recognized by CALQ* and peers as a model for eco-responsible cultural service delivery.
- 🌱 80% of active members use ELAN's sustainability tools (checklists, training, templates, preferred sustainable suppliers).
- 🌱 All resources are available in English and French to serve minority and newcomer artists.

* Major grant-giving bodies for the arts sector:

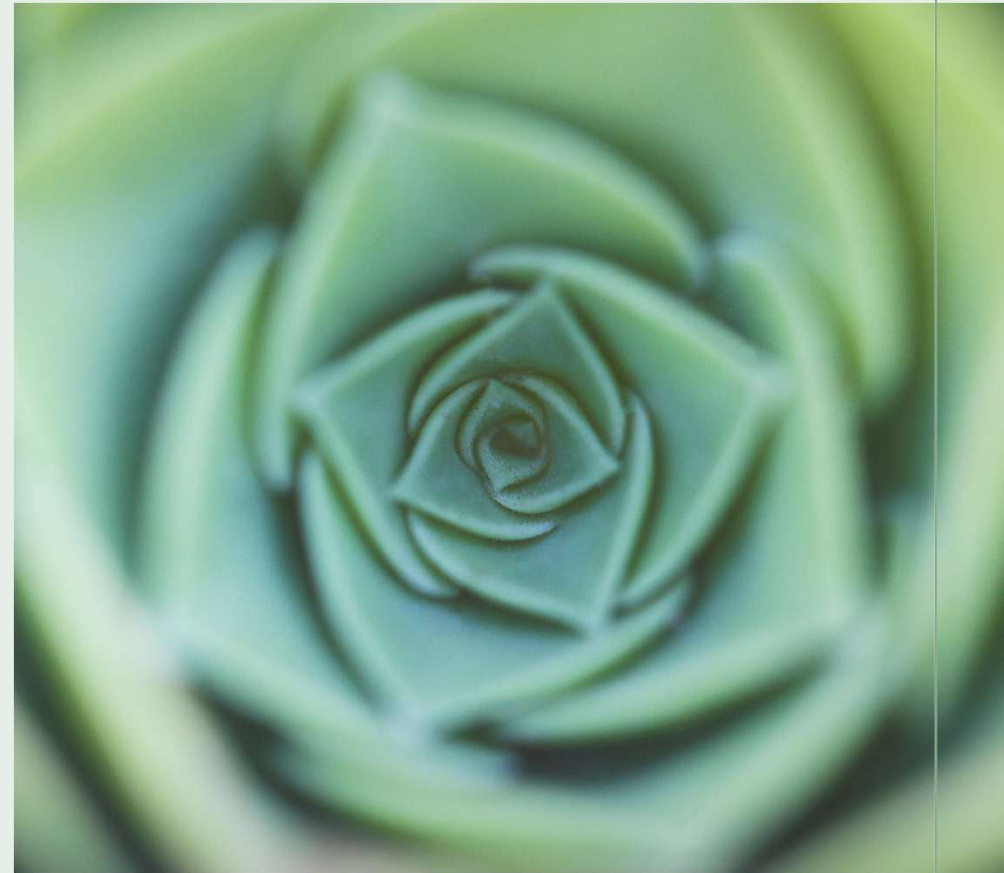
CALQ (Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec), **SODEC** (Société de développement des entreprises culturelles), **Canada Council of the Arts**, **Artist' Foundation**

Sustainability Program Framework

Pillars	Sustainability Program Framework				
	Operational Sustainability	Sustainable Services and Programs	Education and Culture	Digital Innovation and Efficiency	Reporting and Transparency
	Objectives	Objectives	Objectives	Objectives	Objectives
Actions	Improve environmental and resource efficiency within ELAN's office and events. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue using LED lighting and energy-efficient equipment in leased space Create a digital-first policy: minimize print materials; when printing, use FSC-certified cardboard or recycled paper Annual review of office supply procurement: prioritize eco-certified and local vendors Waste & recycling signage in office and events (align with Recyc-Québec guidelines) 	Embed sustainability principles into the core services offered to artists. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Checklist for Events (new template): includes location accessibility, zero/low-waste catering, digital invites, carbon-neutral transportation tips Checklist for New Projects: sustainability impact section (energy, transport, diversity, materials) Integrate sustainability lens into capacity-building workshops (e.g., "Green Touring", "Eco-marketing", "Sustainable Branding for Artists") Encourage grant applicants to include sustainability in their project proposals (this helps with CALQ and other funders) Membership card: switch to recyclable cardboard or digital format (with optional opt-in for physical version) 	Inspire and equip members with sustainability knowledge. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publish quarterly tips: "Sustainability for Artists" (e.g., how to dispose of art materials, recycle, tour responsibly) Webinars or panels during ELAN events about environmental sustainability in the arts Launch a "Green Artist of the Month" spotlight Include a short sustainability orientation in member onboarding 	Leverage digital tools to reduce waste and improve productivity. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote Microsoft Copilot for administrative efficiency and paperless workflows Encourage remote access for services and hybrid event options to reduce travel-related emissions Digital archive of all reports, guides, and templates Create a "Sustainability Resource Hub" on ELAN's website with templates and tools 	Show leadership through documentation and tracking progress. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use Creative Green Tools to track emissions (estimate Scope 1, 2, and some Scope 3) Annual Sustainability Report: include actions, highlights, metrics, and member engagement Publish a visual one-pager version for stakeholders and funders (e.g., CALQ) Include sustainability section in all new grant applications and funding reports

Position statement

“ELAN is Quebec’s leading English-language arts service organization embedding sustainability into every step of the artistic journey—empowering creators with bilingual tools, green knowledge, and decentralized access to grow resilient, responsible business.”



Who we are and how we are different now...

Next steps



Roadmap -----

DEFINE

1. Assess needs, expectations, priorities;
2. Set vision, goals, framework;
3. Stakeholder mapping
4. Design tools, templates

DELIVER

1. Pilot new tools, activities;
2. Train staff and engage members
3. Communicate to partners, members, funders

ACTIVATE

1. Track actions, results
2. Share progress
3. Adjust, improve based on impact and feedback

Canada benchmarking

Organization	Location	Type	Sustainability Actions	Unique Strength
Conseil des arts de Montréal	Quebec	Public arts funder & promoter	Support creation, innovation, accessibility; strengthen culture of philanthropy; leadership role in arts ecosystem	Vision 2025 includes reviewing practices in six areas: sustainable transportation, digital economy, sourcing local eco materials, waste, HR & finance. They aim to integrate eco-criteria into 100% of programs and reduce carbon footprint by 2030.
MAI (Montréal, arts interculturels)	Quebec	Artist incubator & presenter	Cultural equity focus, some low-impact logistics	Focus on social sustainability (cultural equity, inclusion); less environmental formalism but supports low-impact logistics and community-rooted programming
Eastside Arts Society	Vancouver	Visual arts org	Zero waste events, bike-friendly tours, local production	Well-known green festival (Culture Crawl). Produces award-winning research on studio displacement ("A City Without Art?"); advocacy in Eastside Arts District to prevent artist displacement and support sustainable creative spaces.
La Machinerie	Montreal	Shared services & tools for artists	Promotes sustainable administration, online tools	Operational efficiency and artist entrepreneurship
ArtsPond	Toronto	Social innovation in arts	Digital innovation, remote delivery, some green values	Emphasis on co-creation and digital access

Global benchmarking

Organization	Country	Focus Area	Sustainability Actions	Why It's Relevant to ELAN
Julie's Bicycle	UK	Sustainability in Arts	Creative Green Tools, policy work, training	Service-based, tools & advocacy
DutchCulture	Netherlands	International cultural cooperation	Guidance on sustainable international arts projects	Strategic + funding focus
HIAP	Finland	Artist residencies	Low-carbon travel, eco-materials, local collaboration	Ecological residencies & programming
Kulturtanken	Norway	Arts education for youth	Local artist use, digital programs	Access & sustainability in education
Konsträmjandet	Sweden	Art access in rural areas	Climate-aware exhibitions, social inclusion	Network-driven, grassroots approach
On the Move	EU	Cultural mobility network	Green touring guides, eco-conscious mobility	Free resources for sustainable art touring

Organization	Country	Focus Area	Sustainability Actions	Why It's Relevant to ELAN
ArtPlace	USA	Creative placemaking	Community-driven, sustainable design focus	Intersection of art, community, sustainability
COAL	France	Art & ecological transition	Residencies, awards, environmental themes	Strong climate & art policy connection
DutchCulture	Netherlands	International cultural cooperation	Guidance on sustainable international arts projects	Strategic + funding focus
HIAP	Finland	Artist residencies	Low-carbon travel, eco-materials, local collaboration	Ecological residencies & programming
Kulturtanken	Norway	Arts education for youth	Local artist use, digital programs	Access & sustainability in education
Konsträmjandet	Sweden	Art access in rural areas	Climate-aware exhibitions, social inclusion	Network-driven, grassroots approach
On the Move	EU	Cultural mobility network	Green touring guides, eco-conscious mobility	Free resources for sustainable art touring

Key expectations of Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec:

- Grant Use Report is mandatory within 3 months of project completion. Optional environmental impact summaries can strengthen future eligibility.
- Environmentally Responsible Production Grants support projects that minimize waste, emissions, and environmental impacts.
- CALQ promotes local sourcing, resource pooling, low-impact touring, and digital dissemination as eco-responsible practices.
- Applicants are encouraged to include eco-conscious elements in budgets and impact sections (e.g., recycled materials, green travel, digital delivery).
- No standardized eco-reporting form, but arts organizations may voluntarily include sustainability metrics or statements.
- Projects aligned with CALQ's sustainability vision can stand out in peer-review scoring on relevance and structuring effect.

Thank you

Natalia Tymoshenko
Sustainability & ESG Expert
Montreal, QC
ntymoshenko@gmail.com
Cell 514 234 8358