

ELAN'S 2026

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

P A C K A G E



elan

english language arts network

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Land Acknowledgement

ELAN is an official minority language organization within a country that recognizes two languages as official. ELAN is located in Tiohtià:ke, the original name for Montreal in Kanien'kéha, the language of the Mohawk—also known as Mooniyang, which is the Anishinaabeg name given to the city by the Algonquin. While we are based in this city, our projects have also taken place in many regions across Quebec.

We acknowledge the colonial origin of English and French in Canada, and recognize that both languages benefit from official status throughout the land. The province that we know as Quebec is an amalgamation of the traditional territories of the Innu and Inuit nations, Algonquian nations, as well as the Mohawk nations of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy. Kanien'kéha and Anishinaabemowin are but two of the original languages of this province; Atikamekw, Cree, Inuktitut, and Innu-aimun are also among the many Indigenous languages spoken across Quebec as majority languages, all well before French and English.

ELAN acknowledges the important work being done by First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples to revive the traditional languages of these territories, and their advocacy for the official status of Indigenous languages.

Agenda 2026

22nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

August 17, 2026 – 5:00-7:00 PM

On Zoom:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/aBRtLeucRG6cdboihFsnJQ>

1. Welcome members and visitors – Angie Cheng

- 1.1 Zoom Housekeeping – Antonia Neatby
- 1.2 Appointment of minute-taker - Jessica Brown
- 1.3 Land Acknowledgement

2. Reading and approval of agenda – Angie Cheng

3. Reading of, correction to and approval of minutes from 2025 AGM – Angie Cheng

- 3.1 Matters arising from the minutes

4. President's Report – Angie Cheng

4.1 Presentation of board candidates and slate for elections

Ratification of slate

Presentation of Executive Committee

Ratification of the Executive Committee

- President
- VP
- Secretary

4.2 A message from Louise Abbott – Nick Maturo

4.3 Ratification of all acts and resolutions of the board 2025-26

5. Executive Director's Report – Miranda Castravelli

5.1 Looking ahead

5.2 Filet Social – Pascale Landry

6. Review of 2025-26 financial results – Miranda Castravelli

6.1 Approval of auditor for next year: DLS CPA

Ten-minute health break

7. Report on 2025-26 activities

7.1 Programming Report – Nick Maturo

7.1.1 Overview of operations – staffing announcements

7.1.2 Project updates – CDA Hub, FYPAG

7.2 Communications – Lauren Clinton & Margot Berner

7.3 Membership and Community Engagement – Antonia Neatby

7.4 Projects

7.4.1 ArtistsInspire Grants – Jean-Paul Osta

7.4.1 Québec Relations – Jean-Paul Osta

7.4.1.2 CHSSN Youth Mental Health Initiative - Sheron Edey

7.4.1.3 Trellis Micro-Grants – Fred Azeredo

7.4.1 Outreach/Spotlight – Fred Azeredo

7.4.1 Behind the Memories: Searching for Facts / What We Choose to Forget –

Guy Rex Rodgers

8. Questions

9. Farewell to departing board members – Miranda Castravelli

10. What's on & What's Next at ELAN 2026-27 – Fred Azeredo

11. Acknowledgement of ELAN's funders and partners – Miranda Castravelli

12. Adjournment of the 2026 AGM – Angie Cheng

Minutes from ELAN AGM 2025

ELAN 21st Annual General Meeting

August 11, 2025– 5:00-7:00 PM
On Zoom

In Attendance (online): Nancy A. Locke, Louise Campbell, Alex Gravenstein, Alida Esmail, Alyson Champ, Angie Cheng, Aoife Baldwin-Maher, Bettina Forget, Branden Desormeau, Brigitte Wellens, Carol Meindl, Catherine Savoie, Chris Dilworth, Darragh Mondoux, Edmund Nash, Eryn Dace Trudell, Guy Rodgers, J.P. Mortier, Jace Mac Rae, Jane Needles, Jenn Cooke, Jon Weisz, Katia Grubisic, Kuh Del Rosario, Lorraine O'Donnell, Louise Abbott, Luigi Buffone, Luz Garcia, Mario Clarke, Miranda Handford, Paulina Abarca-Cantin, Peter van Haaften, Quinten Sheriff, Rachel McCrum, Raf - Atelier Bon Train, Rahul Varma, Rhonda Morrison, Richard Austin, Roksana Bahramitas, Sandy Foote, Scott Leydon, Shakiya Williams Shreyasi Das, Susanna Tang, Teesri Duniya Theatre, Trina Slapcoff, Wendy Thomas, Yashowardhan Kauns, Zahra BuAli Zensa Media,

Staff (online): Miranda Castravelli, Nick Maturo, Deborah Forde, Fred Azeredo, Jessica Brown, Lauren Clinton, Francisco Gonzalez, Jean-Paul Osta, Antonia Neatby

IT Support: Andre Athanas

1. Welcome members and visitors – Deborah Forde

- 1.1 Land Acknowledgement
- 1.2 Appointment of minute-taker - Jessica Brown
 - Motion to approve: Deb Forde;
 - 32 voted yes; 0 voted no; 1 abstention

2. Reading and approval of agenda – Deborah Forde

- Motion raised to approve the agenda; seconded; motion approved
 - Motion to approve: Rachel McCrum; second: Darragh Mondoux
 - 31 voted yes; 0 voted no; 0 abstention

3. Reading of, correction to and approval of minutes from 2024 AGM – Angie Cheng

- 3.1 Matters arising from the minutes (only those present at last year's meeting)
 - Motion to accept: Jane Needles; second: Shakiya Williams
 - 18 voted yes; 0 voted no; 1 abstention

4. President's Report – Angie Cheng

- New ED this year; emergent needs:
 - Growing membership to be more inclusive and wide-ranging (DEI, accessibility)

- o Regional outreach
 - o Empowering community in Quebec
 - o Empowering members to action social responsibility initiatives in their area of work
 - o Technology and data
 - Want to equip our members to strive
- **4.1 Five Pillars for the year:** Changes to the by-laws (share pdf in chat)
- As a board, made small changes to by-laws, deeper changes coming up – will form a committee to review; updated the language (gender neutral pronouns, for example). Changes proposed:
 - o 5.1 Election term;
 - ♣ Wording clarification to avoid conflict of interest
 - ♣ Directors must support the mandate and act in the best interest of the community they represent
 - ♣ Motion to accept: Branden Desormeau; second: Jane Needles
 - ♣ 29 voted yes; 0 voted no; 2 abstentions
 - o 5.5 qualification of directors
 - ♣ Board members must demonstrate experience and connections to the community they represent, possessing other skills which may be an asset to the board (e.g. advocacy work, administrative skills, knowledge in relevant field).
 - ♣ Nomination process clarified – people can just submit CVs instead of being nominated
 - ♣ Misrepresentation is grounds for dismissal
 - ♣ makes things faster and easier, ensure people in those positions speak for the community and their own corner of art;
 - ♣ Motion to accept: Jane Needles; second: Rachel McCrum
 - ♣ 26 voted yes; 0 voted no; 1 abstention
 - o 5.10 eligibility
 - ♣ It's been noted that some of the requirements could be discriminatory for underprivileged and marginalized communities, limiting; this will be discussed but does not need to be voted on. Open to people to join committee to discuss.
 - ♣ No vote required
 - o 5.11 - obligations of the board
 - ♣ changes to ensure that the people involved have the time to commit to involvement;
 - ♣ want to change requirement that people on the board must sit on a committee

- ♣ want to give the opportunity to new or current board members to become ambassadors for these committees instead of sitting on them.
- ♣ Motion to accept: Jane Needles; second: Katia Grubisic
- ♣ 32 voted yes; 0 voted no; 1 abstention
- o 9.3 Treasurer
 - ♣ changing to be less hands-on, as it's currently too much for a volunteer to take on that kind of deep involvement/ day-to-day hand in the org's books; not fair to a volunteer to ask them to do that much work for free;
 - ♣ Instead, will provide visibility of bank account, finance expenses, quarterly reports, financial statements, agreements/contracts, etc., at any time; full transparency without requiring them to do the day-to-day work.
 - ♣ Motion to accept: Rachel McCrum; second: Paulina Abarca-Cantin
 - ♣ 27 voted yes; 0 voted no; 2 abstentions
- o 9.4 Secretary –
 - ♣ Similar changes to the treasurer; taking some of the work off the role; hoping to permit the secretary to use any technology tools to facilitate that job;
 - ♣ approval is faster and more efficient; AI is used as a facilitation, not as a replacement;
 - ♣ Motion to accept: Jane Needles; second: Branden Desormeau
 - ♣ 28 voted yes; 0 voted no; 1 abstention

→ 4.2 Presentation of board candidates and slate for elections (Deb)

- Explanation of board structure and nomination process (Deb)
 - o We have board members from regional and various arts category, in order to maintain representation
 - o Also, three sister organizations who have chair reserved for them on the board – mandated by the organization and will not be voting on them.
 - ☐ Two of the chairs have come up for renewal this year: Diara Mondou from Quebec Drama Federation; Katya Grubzik Quebec Writer's Federation
 - ☐ Welcome to our new partner representatives from QWF & QDF
- Ratification of slate (Deb)
 - o New board members: J.P. Mortier (music); Jon Weisz (Festivals & Events); Mario Clark (Corporate)
 - o Motion to accept the slate of nominees: Scott Leydon; second: Branden Desormeau
 - o 33 voted yes; 0 voted no; 0 abstention

- Renewal of the Executive Committee (Deb)
 - Treasurer – Leah Woolner;
 - motion: Shakiya Williams; second: Rachel McCrum
 - 29 voted yes; 0 voted no; 1 abstention

→ **4.3 Ratification of all acts and resolutions of the board 2024-25 (Deb)**

- First act: board voted to put 16,100 in restricted revenue; this is money CDAH raised themselves through billing and will be carried over and available to them.

5. Executive Director's Report – Miranda Castravelli

- Lots going on this year, two examples:
 - **Telefilm**
 - ♣ Join a committee with them, which they've agreed to, look at their data collection models to make sure they are accurate; we have commissioned a report, 'where are we now' with official minority legislation, actions that have been taken and that are pending, roadmap of things coming up;
 - ♣ A Q&A is coming up in the fall, potential for mobilization if needed
 - ♣ Signed telefilm agreement to make sure the agreements under the official language minority act are actually enforced by telefilm
 - **Town hall event**
 - ♣ had a great turnout; a lot of the attendees of this AGM were there;
 - ♣ got together to address funding issues, ways to make it easier to process applications, address questions of how things are getting approved or not, information about immigration status;
 - ♣ transcripts of the townhall are available;
 - ♣ more events like this will be coming up
- **Going forward**
 - Planning to diversify membership – other arts/groups we haven't worked with yet (circus, arts, dance)
- **Tech and data –**
 - internally and externally; make sure that we are based on is reality, Miranda has joined the board of mass culture (tech initiative out of Canada Arts Council building a massive dashboard to allow access to real data across the arts, to help with advocacy efforts)
- **Social responsibility –**
 - English language rights, artists rights, universal basic income; in communication with all the large French orgs
- **Professional Artist Development –**
 - Indie Montreal partnership, Y4Y

- **Regional Development –**
 - getting involved with orgs that are already in regional spaces and building projects; educational initiatives to expand into the regions (LEARN, Y4Y)
- **Final Comments:**
 - Done a lot of mobilization of communities; helping where we can; getting involved when we can; making connections;
 - ELAN has a huge reach/reputation, Miranda feels excited and privileged to take this to the next level, even in a time of challenge, uncertainty, a lot more demands.
 - Must be able to show impact, communication better, more frequently, with more professionalism and regularity – this has led to changes internally.
 - Hope everyone can see that these changes are necessary and that these growing pains will lead to the next phase of where the organization needs to be.

→ **5.1 Results of regional survey**

- ◆ People from all stages of career want to stay in their region to practice
- ◆ Need more and better spaces
- ◆ More paid work, more showcasing opportunities are the biggest demands
- ◆ Focus on Advocacy, building bridges, actual buildings,
- ◆ Miranda joined the board of Culture Montreal; CALQ
- ◆ Trying to mobilize some of the resources French artists already have to create more of a safety net for English artists

6. Review of 2024-25 financial results – Deborah Forde

- **Auditor's report not prepared;**
 - Bookkeeper finished the year, accountant got ready for audit, just waiting for auditor.
 - Numbers presented are as close to accurate as we could get them without the auditor.
 - When final package is available, it will be put online and notice provided to members
- **Revenues belonging to CORE:**
 - ELAN got bump in PCAH funding (25%)
 - Continue with our regular partnerships
 - Applied to the Broadcast participation fund and received funding
 - Membership income surpassed the level we projected from last year, due to fixing CRM issues
 - Earned revenues in interest, which ELAN cannot keep, will be put back into projects
 - Amortized deferred contributions – building of the CDAH studio, had to be amortized over several years (don't get those numbers until the auditor gets

us those numbers); won't change much in the budget when the numbers do come, because it is an offset

- **Project Revenue:**
 - Under the amount from the last year – there was an amount left over, funder allowed us to carry forward
 - CDAH has no income because there is no funding for that project
 - CDAH in the regions has funding and a supplement from PCH;
 - Work being done in 'CDAH' is now CDAH in the Regions because CDAH technically doesn't exist anymore
- **Trellis –**
 - more money going to artists
- **CSSHN –**
 - helping arts educators to build capacity around mental health
- **WWCTR –**
 - remembering English Quebecers
- **Expenses:**
 - Salaries have increased – making sure staff has living wage
 - Core expenses – salaries and expenses
 - Project expenses – lion's share of the money went directly into the program to benefit the community, artists and the arts community; projecting approx. 13,000 surpluses.

→ **6.1 Approval of auditor for next year**

- ◆ Deb recommends staying with same auditor; new auditor wouldn't know us.
 - Motion to approve DLSCPA SENCRL: Katia Grubisic; second: Mario Clarke
 - 33 voted yes; 0 voted no; 0 abstention

→ **6.2 Budget 2025-26**

- ◆ Designed budget to be as cost effective as possible while also allowing us to pivot if needed; based on the information we had at the time
 - Maintained funding from PCH, CCA, CALQ
 - Raise from CAM,
 - Renewed our funding with the SRQEA;
 - Educaloï small increase;
 - Interest revenues projected at \$4000 for this year
 - Membership projected at \$8000
 - will have funds for internships for arts administration
 - AIG small "raise" is a carry-forward
 - CDAH: money project earned last year and carried forward; supplement from heritage Canada
 - Microgrants: smaller amount this year;
 - Increase in staff salaries this year; communications department has a new permanent position; line item represents total from core funding

- AGM funds will be used – didn't use it originally because we weren't sure we would have it. Will use it for mixer opportunity.
- Travel costs low; bank charges high last year because of the bank system that was ripping us off, expect it to come down this year.
- Generally put more into a project than we get out of it (exception is CHSSN, to do with how the contract is written).
- Projecting zero deficit this year

7. Questions

- **Aren't we receiving \$40,000?**
 - Yes, at the time Deb created the budget the board had only approved \$30,000 but we do indeed have \$40,000
- **Miranda comment:**
 - Internal changes – trying to modernize payment systems, banking, internal processes, projects able to manage themselves, templating; want to do more with less time; facilitated with tech upgrades; prioritizing these things so that our foundation is solid
- **Advocacy expense is at 0?**
 - We got the broadcast fund last year, which is why it was so high then; this year it is about 5000, usually where we start the year, then, depending on need, will adjust. Have increased the amounts because advocacy is so important.
- **“There is funding for non-profit organizations in this era of sustainability .is there a way to make a project towards learning about zero carbon regulation for Canada by 2030 and to see how to save money for the organization or for artists in their processes, and work. For example, funding is available to make a building adapted to zero carbon. For example, some other organizations have locations in buildings.” (Trina)**
 - Yes; arts committing Creative Green art project. Special funding is available for non-profits to offset carbon costs; Miranda: TALQ has put together a sustainability study from English language community, looking at green subsidies – results to be revealed in September;
 - ELAN's green plan is also in place; using thermal energy from underground to heat – we're looking into it;
 - concerned with making our business models sustainable, too
- **“I have a question. I see a movement of discriminatory language from the Qc Premiere Legault. Minister Roberge got law 84 through and is quoted on CTV news as saying, “With bill 84, finally Canadian multi culturalism is for the dustbin of history.” Mr. Legault said in a CTV news article by Selena Ross that “All cultures cannot be equal.” Another person interviewed in English media said that Multi culturalism is an ideology and demeaned multi culturalism to**

promote a secular society (this gov has been a disaster at giving equal opportunities anywhere...especially at SODEC and CALQ that both have an epidemic of systemic racism there for decades). With all this said, is there anyone in the province that is addressing these derogatory comments towards English speaking, multi ethnics telling the gov that it is not ok to speak in such ways about society? Because this affects the arts industry in many ways, and the public's perceptions of local talent, their cultural backgrounds/perspectives?"

- We are aware, have filed a complaint with the Secretariat and a letter of concern,
- This is the start of an escalation process, and we've started the first round, waiting for the response back and will keep you posted;
- following this closely, have been advised by attorneys what the process is going to be and will be following up

Ten-minute health break

8. Report on 2024-25 activities

→ 8.1 Operations – Deborah Forde

- ◆ AGM gives us opportunity to do some recapping; focus this year was pursuing grants when our grants were up for renewal and have a new ED. Focused on:
 - Reflection – stopped some projects to reflect on what's working and what not; artist capacity clinics
 - Renewal – new people coming in
 - Reinforcement – communications department got the resources needed
 - Regional development
- ◆ Funders came through and renewed all funding and sometimes increased the funding level; special thanks to Heritage Canada who funded CDAH and Trellis microgrants
- ◆ Nick and Deb held things up until Miranda, our biggest cheerleader
- ◆ Fantastic year ahead!

→ 8.2 Communications – Lauren Clinton

- ◆ Keeping busy; outward and internal facing voice of ELAN; number of changes in terms of technology; grew the department to include Francisco as comms coordinator
- ◆ Continuing with project support, created a new process for onboarding project managers so that projects are a bit more autonomous in their comms creation and to reach a broader audience

- ◆ Worked with trellis and QR, internal campaigns and closely with Miranda – want to make sure we foreground advocacy in communications
- ◆ Been tweaking the definition and clarification of why to become a member (e.g. members-first access to workshops and events)
- ◆ New structure: coordinator and manager;
- ◆ Changes:
 - Gorgeous new visuals;
 - taking the time to do more automating and restructuring (e.g. having a form to submit to the newsletter);
 - trying to make regular communications more efficient, develop capacity to take on bigger campaigns,
 - in line with boards goal of diversifying;
 - taking time to spread the word about what we're doing, thinking about advocacy, sharing news, etc.
- ◆ Comms is for you!
 - A big part of what we do is support members in terms of sharing your news – have strong social media presence: higher followers on FB, more engagement on insta; share member events, calls for submissions, etc.
 - We have an event calendar; members can submit to have it automatically appear on the website;
 - We have monthly newsletter, member exclusive; good opportunity to share community news
- ◆ Please reach out if you have information to share with the community!

→ **8.3 Membership and Community Engagement – Antonia Neatby**

- ◆ Crazy year, got a lot done, lots of events
- ◆ Did a lot of capacity building for members (admin duties as a working artist, taxes, housing, etc.)
- ◆ Schmoozers, capacity building clinics – all well-attended and liked
- ◆ First schmoozer was in Chelsea, annual Fringefest schmoozer and Main Line theatre; CommUNITY arts open house
- ◆ Holiday party, grant-writing workshop/schmoozer
- ◆ Engaged in phone survey of AGM
 - Change in income status – lots of volatility for artists
 - For people who applied for funding, over half received funding (many from QR program)
 - Top two resources people used of are: event promotion and website
- ◆ If you have questions about how ELAN can help you, reach out!
- ◆ Membership satisfaction is high this year, but always room for improvement
- ◆ People want us to do more of what we are doing – connect with the community, get the word out

- ◆ Discipline-specific trainings, more granular training wanted

→ **8.4 Programs Overview – Nick Maturo**

- ◆ Director of programming is a new role – same as program director but bigger!
- ◆ Connections between ED and the departments/projects
 - more of a regular presence working with the core team and the project, channeling information between ED and team;
 - working with contractors: aligning on our goals, trouble-shooting, meeting regularly to follow up on things team is working on
 - provide additional support to ED on things like advocacy and outreach – dialogue days, networks events, partner orgs, AGMs.
 - Last year involved in implementing new structure, putting new systems in place; making more efficient processes
 - Integrating two new people in key roles – Membership and QR Coordinators
 - Focus on the final year of the CDAH projects
 - Onboarding new ED – really hit the ground running!
 - Projects vs. Core: core activities at the basis of what we do, but we are very broad; projects allow us to be focused and respond to specific needs, reach new groups, etc.
- 8.4.1.1 ArtistsInspire Grants: launched 2019, fixture; show how arts can be an asset to the learning process; work with over 130 artists
 - Renewed for another 4 years; stability of funding is great
 - Goal by 2028 is to reach 300 schools in the province, Indigenous and remote regional communities
 - Takes an active role in outreach and match-making in the program
 - Application for year 7 is already open – launching a new streamline application form soon!
 - Want to take the time to thank Government of Canada, teachers, artists, principals and our partners.
- 8.4.1.2 CHSSN
 - youth mental health program;
 - multi-year project; complimentary to AIG;
- 8.4.1.3 ArtEd
 - equip the AIG artists to feel more comfortable in the classroom with kids;
 - workshops (on mental health, neurodivergence, etc.) and podcasts;
 - able to work with 34 artists on fundamental and advance topics;
 - many of the artists were youth themselves;
 - Developed directory of artists working with older adults;
 - Created peer-learning environment
- 8.4.1.4 Thanks to outgoing contractors

- ☐ Several members of the AIG 2024 team aren't returning, special thanks to them. We made a decision to go on a different administrative direction, making sure we reach our targets. Hope to make this as smooth as possible!
- ☐ Welcome to the new AIG team (Quinten Sheriff, Jean-Paul Osta, Rain Huff)

✓ **8.4.2 CDAH in the Regions – Kym Dominique-Ferguson**

- CDAH & CDAH in the regions: since 2022 spot for digital grassroots and artistic needs; 2 studios (one large, one small)

✓ **8.4.3 Québec Relations – Jean-Paul Osta**

- Funding consultations remained highly popular
- New streamlined and strategic approach introduced this year
- Artist feedback remained overwhelmingly positive
- Vital gateway for both emerging and established artists
- Committed to building on this momentum

✓ **8.4.4 EDI(B) COP – Quinten Sheriff**

- Community of practice used to generate ideas and action items, conferences, getting leaders in EDI to speak with community
- Goal: to create a hub through communities of practice
- Created roundtables on:
 - ☐ Arts and culture
 - ☐ Regional ACH
 - ☐ Skills and Capacity development
- Collaborated with equality 360 – EDI fundamentals and leadership

✓ **8.4.5 Waves of Change: Reimagining Quebec – Guy Rodgers**

- Projects based on WWCTR and bill 101, post-Bill 96 – toured the film and had conversations about this
 - ☐ Working on a book based on the tour
 - ☐ Follows up on the themes of waves of immigration; ways immigration contributed to building Quebec
 - ☐ Project will be free; e-book, film, other media
 - ☐ Education research project that evolved out of the tour – timely to collect and make public the stories of people who lived through bill 101 – continues til nov 26, august will release preliminary report

✓ **8.4.6 Trellis Micro-grants – Deborah Forde and Fred Azeredo**

- Has had profound impact on the community
- Wide range of projects funded

- Round 1 and Round 2 of funding opened earlier this year
- Funding received with little notice, first round put together quickly, lower numbers of applicants; by round 2, word had spread and had huge increase in applications and disciplines applying
- Created discipline specific juries and jurors, anonymized the application
- Re-opening applications soon – September 1st! Sharing with newspapers and newsletters
- Project operated at arms-length, hence jury members; ELAN has no say in the final decision.

9. Farewell to departing board members – Angie Cheng

10. Report on current and planned activities 2025-26 – Miranda Castravelli

- post AGM schmoozer + thank you for member support
- Capacity building workshop on Aug 19th
- Keep and eye out for large-scale advocacy events: September 11 and 12

11. Acknowledgement of ELAN's funders and partners – Miranda Castravelli

12. Adjournment of the 2024 AGM – Angie Cheng

- Motion to adjourn: Aoife Baldwin-Maher; seconded: Darragh Mondoux; adjourned

ELAN Board Slate 2026-27

Candidates for 2026-27 ELAN Board Election

New Nominees to the Board:

Samantha Montolla-Heinz – *Music*

Chad Dembski – *Theatre*

Amanda Ibarra – *Visual Arts*

David Anderson – *Film/Video*

Sasha Kleinplatz – *Dance*

Partner Organization Representatives:

Antolina Ortiz – *Quebec Writers' Federation*

Jeremy Audet – *AELAQ*

Executive Committee:

Louise Abbott, *President*

Hugh Maynard, *Vice President*

Samantha Kaine, *Secretary*

Leah Evangelista Woolner, *Treasurer*

Board Resolutions 2025-26

Motion # 20250709-01

Motion to approve the revised budget for 2025-26

Motioned by: Blair Mackay

Second: Alexandra Fol

Carried

Motion # 20251110-01

Motion to mandate Miranda Castravelli to submit an application to the Department of Canadian Heritage and sign any documents related to the present application for its project entitled Tools of the Trade: Regional Digital Capacity-Building.

Motioned by: Darragh Mondoux

Second: Samantha Kaine

Carried

Motion # 20251110-02

Motion to mandate Deborah Forde to submit the digital grant application to the YES Community Opportunity Fund: Employment Service Support program for the project entitled Digital Literacy for Artists, and for Miranda Castravelli, Executive Director to sign any documents related to the said application.

Motioned by: Darragh Mondoux

Second: Samantha Kaine

Carried

Motion # 20260320-01

Motion to mandate Miranda Castravelli to submit grant applications and sign any related conventions, reports, and contracts of engagements on behalf of ELAN, for ELAN's fiscal year of 2026-27.

Motioned by: Louise Abbott

Second: J.P. Mortier

Carried

Motion # 20260320-02

Motion to mandate Nick Maturo to submit grant applications and sign any related reports, grants/conventions and contracts of engagements, for ELAN's fiscal year of 2026-27 upon the approval of Miranda Castravelli.

Motioned by: Mario Clarke

Second: Jon Weisz

Carried

Motion # 20260320-03

Motion to mandate Deborah Forde to submit grant applications, and related reports, as well as contracts under \$20,000, for ELAN's fiscal year of 2026-27 upon the approval of Miranda Castravelli.

Motioned by: Katia Grubisic

Second: Jon Weisz

Carried

Motion # 20260320-04

Motion to approve the budget for 2026-27.

Motioned by: Mario Clark

Second: Jon Weisz

Carried

Executive Report 2025-26

Fiscal Year 25-26 and Moving Forward

Miranda Castravelli, Executive Director - miranda.castravelli@quebec-elan.org

Our Community

As ELAN's Executive Director, I have the great fortune of getting to connect with every level of ELAN's operations. From the board to the team, the funders to our partners, to members I get to meet at events. And so I wanted to start out by taking a moment to recognize the incredible human collaboration that makes ELAN possible. ELAN is, after all, a network of people, and together, we are able to make incredible things happen in the arts community that we all value.

First, I'd like to thank each and every one of you for being here this evening, as we try a new format. I know it is not always easy to get onto a Zoom call at 5 a 7 time, and those who were here last year remember that it stretched on for over 3 hours, hopefully today's streamlined format will allow you to get back to your summer a bit earlier.

That being said, it means so much to us to see our members, partners, funders, and peers taking the time to support us tonight.

I'd like to especially thank the representatives from our two largest funders who are with us. In particular, I'd like to thank Danielle Azoulay and Lesley Bramhill from PCH who rolled up their sleeves and worked tirelessly, and have continued to work, alongside us to unravel the discrepancies between legacy systems and a new more cohesive structure. If anything got resolved in record time, we owe it to them. I'd also like to thank Lisa Short from the Secrétariat aux relations avec les Québécois d'expression anglaise (SRQEA) who is always our best advocate, and our staunchest supporter at the provincial level. It is directly thanks to her that ELAN is secure with provincial funding for another 3 years. This is a massive deal in these times of uncertainty, and we cannot express just how grateful we are to have local and personally invested representatives to make sure our work can continue.

Of course, we remain grateful as well to all our other funders, as well. Each piece of the pie allows us to reach more people and greater heights. They are: CALQ, Canada Council for the Arts, Conseil des arts de Montreal, CHSSN, Fondation Lucie et Andre Chagnon, Secretariat a la Jeunesse, Educlooi, PERT, Ministère de l'Immigration, de la Francisation et de l'Intégration, YES, Employment and Social Development Canada. Their support is a fantastic

example of how each contribution makes a tremendous difference. Thank you for believing in our mission, for trusting us, and for helping us to move mountains.

I'd also like very much to thank the leadership from other orgs who have reached out over the last year to offer partnerships, opportunities, support, and community. In particular, Sylvia Martin –Laforge of TALQ, Cathy Brown of RDN, Adrienne Winrow of Y4Y, John Buck at CEDEC, Nicholas Salter from PERT, Lori Schubert of QWF (though she is leaving us soon too) but we welcome Remy Attig as well, Kirwan Cox of the QEPC, Christine Truesdale of Learn, Paulina Cantin of Seniors Action Quebec, and most recently Pascale Landry of Compétence Culture, who you will hear from later this evening, and Emmanuelle Hebert of Culture Montreal who are both from prominent Francophone organizations because they know that all artists share a common purpose, to create, and for this, they need the environment to thrive. There are many more of you who have been wonderful community members, and with whom we are in talks for the year coming. The ones mentioned above are only the people who have directly signed on to projects with us, and in no way reflect the incredible value that all the members of this community bring.

I want to also take a moment to thank ELAN's team for all of their incredible hard work this past year. As our friends from other organizations know, a year in the life of a non-profit involves a lot of adaptation, quick changes, and patience. Day after day, behind the scenes, this team continues to show their investment in what we do here at ELAN. You will be hearing from most of them tonight at some point, as it is very important to let you, the members, know that everything we do here is a result of team effort. The ranks of ELAN are a shining example of hard work with dedicated people who truly care about serving the whole community to the best of our abilities. Our talented team is always behind the curtain pulling the levers for every micro-grant distributed, event promoted, workshop presented, or panel attended. Tonight, you get a peek behind at the wizards who untangle knots and make things flow. It is a truly dedicated group that I am incredibly proud to lead.

Lastly, it is imperative to also thank the Board of Directors, those leaving, those staying, and those soon to come. Let me remind you that these people are volunteers and always come with attention, diligence, and a tremendous willingness to help. Their eyes and ears inside each sector are invaluable; they help us to shape the strategic initiatives that address the needs of each community and discipline so that we can be more targeted and effective.

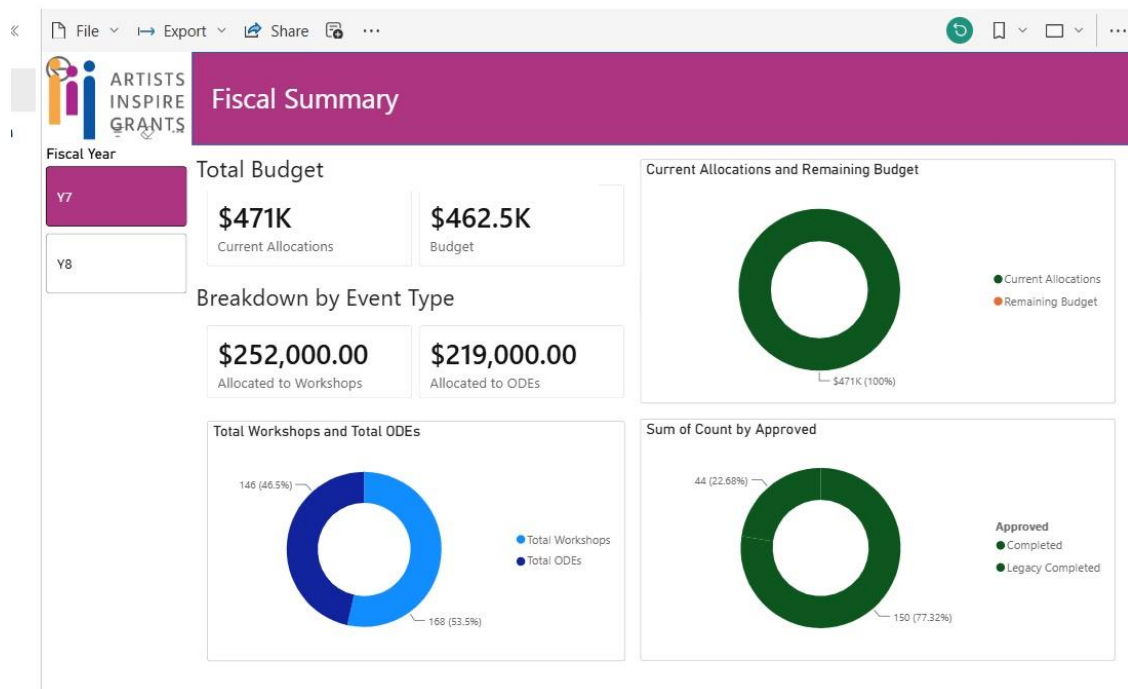
Chief among these, I want to thank Angie Cheng, our Board President, who has worked tirelessly to support ELAN these past 7 years. As you may know, the normal term limit is 6 years, except in the case of a president who can exceptionally stay on for an extra year. Angie

graciously agreed to do this, despite being an active leader in her own domain so that ELAN could have leadership stability. Angie, I know I speak for the whole team when I say we are so incredibly grateful for all you have done these past few years. I cannot thank you enough for all the tireless nights, weekends, and sometimes almost full-time work that comes with transition. We truly couldn't have gotten this far without your help.

Building Strong Systems

ELAN is 22 years old now, which is young in human years, but mature in organization years. A lot has changed in the world of administrative technology in the past 20 years, which means we were more than due for a period of updating systems and priorities to better fit with the present moment.

Over the past year, ELAN has focused heavily on upgrading our operational systems to work better for everyone. We tackled a massive 20-year digital archive cleanup to ensure our data is clean and uniform moving forward. We also launched a streamlined Trellis Micro-grant application platform to replace messy email submissions, and modernised our payments with direct deposit. While these back-end overhauls take immense time and effort, they eliminate tremendous amounts of manual work and will create a more reliable, predictable experience for our community.



We also streamlined the ArtistsInpire Grant application tool to make it more accessible to new Teaching Artists and schools, and we have already seen a huge increase in new teachers, and new schools who never accessed the program previously. The changes are still ongoing, as this is a massive project, but the initial results have allowed us to finally meet our targets for the first time in 6 years.

We recognize that with structural changes from legacy systems to new solutions like this come growing pains. We regret that this caused some difficulties for those artists who partially rely on us to help sustain them. But we also know it is important to be willing to make these changes Community which will make our operations smoother and more efficient in the long run, leading us to a future where friction is greatly reduced.

Outreach, Community Leadership, and Advocacy

Inside ELAN, we restructured the team to allow the executive to be more active in our advocacy, and to meet our growing communications needs. This year alone, we spoke at the Senate 3 times, the national assembly, and a vast number of public and privately organized consultations with members of government and institutions at all levels. It is important to note that not everyone who asks to speak gets accepted, but ELAN has been front and center at all the high-level policy discussions because we have come to be identified as responsible and thoughtful community partners.

The reason we do this is because this is where decisions are made. In order for us to make sure that English language artists are taken into account, we take our seat at the table with great seriousness. The CRTC, Telefilm, The OLMC team, the NFB, CALQ and Compétence Culture have all welcomed our input. This is where the future of the arts is being decided, and we are there to represent the community's interests.

We also have prioritized taking on more proactive outreach in underrepresented communities. As things become more concrete, you will see that we are looking to put people who are experts in roles of leadership, within the board, within the projects, and within each discipline to make sure that those in charge have the knowledge to use resources most effectively.

This year, and continuing until March 2028, ELAN's Executive Strategy involved 5 major pillars:

- Regional Development
- Diversifying Membership
- Technology & Data

- Social Responsibility
- Professional Artist Development

Aside from the coming plans I mentioned above, our programming has consisted of a number of specific initiatives to address these objectives. We are particularly proud of our growing relationship with organizations and communities outside of Montreal. We have also, through the regional round table, initiated a number of wide-ranging discussions on the needs outside of urban centers. We have begun outreach initiatives to work with Indigenous community members to see how we can meaningfully engage with local artists as you'll see in our Spotlight program. We have begun to offer workshops that identify and respond to needs of underrepresented community members and have ensured diversity in the people we are hiring to deliver this kind of programming as you can see in the Find Your Place and Grow Forum. This project alongside our ongoing work with Educaloï demonstrates an increased emphasis on professionalization-oriented skills development workshops and resources. From a technological standpoint, besides internal overhaul, we were also participants in the Banff National Summit on Artificial Intelligence and Culture. Each of these initiatives represents significant inroads made on behalf of our members.

What's Next?

Looking ahead, I am thrilled to be participating in the Social Safety Net project with Compétence Culture which you will hear more about later. As well, we are excited to announce that ELAN has plans to move our offices in the new year to a building which will allow us to share space with our peers working in the English arts and culture community. More on that in the new year!

Ultimately, our projects have continued to put money into artists' pockets, to generate opportunities for artists, to represent the stories of English-speaking Quebecers, and to expand on the ways in which we help our members to succeed in their work, and to have sustainable careers that allow us to protect our cultural identity.

Thank you all for being a part of this important moment in history and standing with us to show that we are stronger together, and that art does matter.

With that, let's move on to Compétence Culture.

Fillet Social - Compétence Culture

<https://competenceculture.ca/chantier-filet-social-culture/>



From words to action

The Social Safety Net in Culture Project, led by Compétence Culture, aims to strengthen the socioeconomic security of artists, artisans, and cultural workers through three pillars of social protection.

Presentation document
March 2026



2025-2026 Budget Report + Approval of Auditor



elan

english language arts network

ELAN - Financial situation as of March 31, 2026

Revenues	
Core funding	
PCH	211,250
CAC	48,500
CSJ	6,785
CAM	15,000
CALQ	90,000
EQ	19,495
Total:	391,030
Other revenues	
Ministry/Deputies	9,587
Table Ronde	9,411
Membership	9,422
Interests on savings	3,976
Other	16
Total:	32,411
Project funding	
PCH	
AIG	578,621
CDAH Regions	96,164
TMG	351,001
Secretariat Qc	
Qc Relations	285,639
WWCTF	61,793
Youth Employment Service	
FYPAG	9,364
Project partnership	
CHSSN	36,000
Educaloi	12,700
Other contributions	
CDAH Regions	19,054
Total:	1,450,336
Total:	1,873,778

Expenditures	
Core	
Human resources+ contracts	371,853
Honoraria	20,920
General operations	126,833
Total:	519,606
Projects	
Human resources + Contract	189,775
Contracted labour + Grants	1,061,021
General operations	107,355
Total:	1,358,151
Total:	1,877,757

Summary	
Total Revenues:	1,873,778
Total Expenditures:	1,877,757
Annual Deficit:	-3,980
2024-25 Accumulated Surplus:	58,583
Total Remaining Surplus:	54,603

ELAN Department Reports

Programming Report, 2025-26

Nick Maturo, Director of Programming – nick.maturo@quebec-elan.org

TOP STATISTICS:

- 2 project funding renewals
- 2 new sources of funding
- 5 advocacy activities to protect the interests of English-speaking artists

REPORT

In my role as Director of Programming, I'm in close contact with the heads of ELAN's two departments – Membership and Communications – as well the managers of our various projects, to make sure our programming both serves the needs of our members and fulfills the objectives we've agreed upon with our funders.

This year came with important renewals of funding and a couple of exciting new funding sources. In terms of renewals, we received an 18-month extension of our Éducaloi partnership to continue offering legal information workshops in the arts, funded by the Secrétariat aux relations avec les Québécois d'expression anglaise (SRQEA). We also received a 3-year renewal of our Youth Mental Health Initiative, which will allow us to continue to support the professional development of ArtistsInspire teaching artists. This year also marked the last year of extended funding from the Department of Canadian Heritage for the Community Digital Arts Hub, which allowed us to continue working towards the continued evolution and sustainability of the Hub. This included important work done a one-month summer closure period to revise the price structure to better offset operating costs while seeking to keep user fees as low as possible for those who need it most.

For new funding, the Provincial Employment Roundtable and the Government of Québec funded three schmoozers through the Circonflexe program, aimed at fostering bilingual networking opportunities and building French language confidence. Given growing requests from many of our members for this sort of linguistic support, we were extremely excited to schmoozer en français in Montreal, the Pontiac and Sutton.

Finally, in March, we received the fantastic news of significant new funding from YES's Community Opportunity Fund, which is funded by the Government of Canada's Enabling Fund for Official Language Minority Communities, for our Find Your Place and Grow project.

This intense project running March to June was designed specifically to support emerging BIPOC and 2SLGBTQIA+ artists, as well as regional artists and newcomers to Quebec, to better navigate the Quebec arts ecosystem and build sustainable careers. While March saw project team beginning to lay the groundwork for the project, the activities themselves took place after April 1 and will therefore be detailed in the 2026-27 AGM package. In the mean time, more details can also be found on the ELAN website.

This year saw several new faces joining the ELAN team. In the Communications Department, Margot Berner stepped into the role of Communications Coordinator. The same was true for ELAN projects, with Sheron Edey managing the CHSSN Youth Mental Health Initiative Project Manager, Quinten Sheriff (Project Manager) and Jean-Paul Osta (Capacity Development Manager) joining the ArtistsInspire Grants program, and Kym Dominique-Ferguson assuming the role of CDAH Project Manager. Onboarding was therefore a major priority early in the year, but these changes also provided ample opportunity to see these projects through new eyes and with fresh ideas.

In addition to working closely with the team, I also supported Miranda's advocacy efforts, given how many places she needs to be to advocate for the English-speaking community, and English-speaking artists in particular. This year, that looked like:

- Attending the launch of the Ville de Montréal's *Politique de développement culturel de Montréal 2025-2030*
- Co-presenting ELAN's Bill 1 brief with Miranda at the Assemblée Nationale
- Contributing to consultation sessions with Conseil des arts de Montréal to share the English-language arts community's perspective
- Meeting with Canada Council for a presentation on their Official Languages funding statistics, followed by a focus group to provide feedback on their Official Languages funding programs
- Serving as ELAN's staff liaison for the Arts & Culture Regional Roundtable to identify needs and challenges for regional artists

CURRENT/UPCOMING ACTIVITIES:

In typical ELAN fashion, the 2026-27 fiscal has already started off with a bang and a full slate of activities planned through March 2027, including:

- The Find Your Place and Grow project, running April-June 2026
- The conclusion of ELAN's Éducaloi webinar series in September

- The renewal of ELAN's core funding from the SRQEA, including the next phase of our much-loved Québec Relations funding assistance services and some great new resources for artists in Montreal and elsewhere in the province.

The new fiscal year will also see two significant changes the core staff, with Deborah Forde, ELAN's long-time Director of Operations, and Antonia Neatby, our Membership Coordinator, both moving on from us. We would particularly like to recognize Deborah's eight years of service to this organization and her dedication to our community during her time with ELAN. Eight years represents a significant chapter in any institution's history, and hers has spanned an important period of change and development for the organization. As Deborah steps into her next chapter, we thank her for the time she invested in ELAN's mission, and we wish her the very best in her future professional pursuits. For Antonia, though her time with the team was comparatively brief, she's brought a wonderful attitude and energy to the Membership department over the last two years and has been dedicated to serving our members in her role. We'll miss Deborah and Antonia's presence, and the team wishes them both all the best in what comes next for them. Looking forward, Fred Azeredo, who has done fantastic work as our Trellis Coordinator and in other community outreach efforts, will be moving into the role of Membership Coordinator starting in late-August and is poised to bring lots of new energy and ideas to connect with artists and support our members this year and beyond. So too is Li Li, a former member of ELAN's board, joining us as Senior Operations Supervisor to assist in staff oversight and HR matters. We're confident her previous experience with the organization will be helpful as we pursue a successful year to come.

Communications Department, 2025-26

Lauren Katherine Clinton, Communications Manager –

laurenkatherine@quebec-elan.org

Margot Berner, Communications Coordinator – margot.berner@quebec-elan.org

FUNDERS: ELAN Core Funding

TOP STATISTICS

- Instagram following grew 65% from last year!
- Reach has improved by 17.8%
- Launched a Membership Campaign Fall/Winter 2025
- Redesigned Advocacy Page on our website

- Designed Fundraising Campaign materials

This year was an exciting year in the Communications department because we have grown from a team of one to a team of two! Francisco Gonzalez-Rosas joined us as the Communications Coordinator before leaving for a CALQ Arts Residency in Berlin. We were excited to welcome the wonderful support and inspiration of Margot Berner to the position in late 2025. With the growth of the department, we have been able to undertake larger campaigns while ensuring that our vital day-to-day operations are still running. As you have probably noticed, Margot has brought a fresh voice to the newsletters and social media accounts. They have worked hard to help us share your member news and to ensure that you are connected to all of the new calls for submissions and job opportunities in the community.

This year we have also begun the process of working with Project Managers to ensure there is a cohesive vision for all communications coming from ELAN. We are continuing to sift through the website to ensure that it is easy for folks to find the news & resources you need. We have also redesigned our Advocacy page so that you can have a better idea of how (and where) our team is speaking up for the community.

As always, the Communications department continues to work closely with Membership to spread the word about events and activities in the community. We've enjoyed attending events and getting to meet the folks who make ELAN the network that it is.

Current Upcoming Activities

- We promoted an unprecedented number of events with the recent Find Your Place & Grow Forum. As a result of our new staffing, we were able to continue to offer our regular support and increase outreach. This yielded both a 53.1% increase in our reach, and a 13.7% increase in our following just between April 1st 2026 August 1st 2026.
- We have the pleasure of working with Aliya Adamjee as a Communications Assistant this summer
- With Aliya's help, we are updating the Community Resources Pages which we are hoping to relaunch this fall
- We are working on growing the new Spotlight Campaign highlighting Indigenous Artists
- Redesigns for project communications materials are underway, and a Project Page redesign is on the horizon for this fall.

FB:

<https://www.facebook.com/QCELAN>

Insta: @ELANQC

Membership Department, 2025-26

Antonia Neatby, Membership & Community Engagement Coordinator –

membership@quebec-elan.org

FUNDERS: PCH (core funding), Educaloi, PERT

TOP STATISTICS:

- 6 schmoozers
- 10 capacity building workshops
- 15 one-on-one sessions with IndieMontreal

This was a whirlwind of a year, chock full of projects and regional development. Continuing our project with Educaloi, we provided several legal information workshops to individuals and organizations. In collaboration with PERT's Circonflexe Mentorship Program, we delivered three schmoozers, one in Montreal and two in the regions, and strengthened our connections with our regional partners. We worked with IndieMontreal to deliver one-on-one sessions on web promotion for artists, and received extremely positive feedback from participants. In the coming months, we hope to revisit the most successful parts of our work this year, while also introducing more discipline-specific programming for our members.

CURRENT UPCOMING ACTIVITIES:

- Post-AGM schmoozer (September)
- Final Educaloi events
- Return of ACBCs

ELAN Projects Reports

ArtistsInspire Grants

Jean-Paul Osta, Project Manager – artistsinspiregrants@quebec-elan.org

Jessica Brown, AIG Project Coordinator & Promotion – jessica.brown@quebec-elan.org

Rain E. Huff, AIG Communications & Administrative Coordinator – rain.e.huff@quebec-elan.org

FUNDERS: Canadian Heritage (PCH)

TOP STATISTICS:

- Allocated **\$252,000 for Workshops & \$219,000 for One Day Events** for Fiscal Year 7
- Approx. **27,000 students** participated in ArtistsInspire from APR-25 until JUN-26
- **85 Artists and Arts Organizations** facilitated projects
- Renewed funding from PCH until 2028.

REPORT

The past year has been one of growth, resilience, and meaningful connection for the ArtistsInspire Grants program. At its heart, the program is about bringing artists and students together, creating opportunities for young people across Quebec to experience the transformative power of the arts. Every application, workshop, and partnership represents a chance to inspire creativity, spark curiosity, and build lasting relationships between schools and professional artists.

This year also marked an important period of change. We launched a new online application platform and embraced the challenges that come with building something better. Along the way, we listened to feedback, refined the system, developed new application guides and video tutorials, strengthened our communications, and improved internal processes to make the program more accessible and user-friendly for schools and artists alike.

Behind every grant is a story of collaboration. Teachers welcoming artists into their classrooms, artists sharing their passion and expertise, and students discovering new ways to express themselves and engage with the world around them. Those moments are what continue to drive this work and remind us why the program matters.

As we look ahead, we are excited to keep building on this foundation by expanding our outreach, strengthening partnerships, and continuing to evolve the program so that even more schools, artists, and students can benefit from these creative experiences. We are grateful to everyone who has been part of this journey and look forward to what we can accomplish together in the year ahead.

Current Upcoming Activities

- Launching a new multi-grant application cycle
- Continued improvements to the online application platform
- Expanded strategic outreach to schools and artists across Quebec
- Developing additional applicant resources and support materials

To stay on top of all upcoming ArtistsInspire events, please follow us on Facebook and Instagram at

FB: ArtistsInspire Grants
Insta: @Artistsinspiregrants

Québec Relations (QR)

Jean-Paul Osta, Project Manager - jean-paul@quebec-elan.org
Corey Gulkin, Funding Consultant - qr.consultant@quebec-elan.org

FUNDERS : Secrétariat aux relations avec les Québécois d'expression anglaise (SRQEA)

TOP STATISTICS (APR-25 until MAY-26):

- 140 one-on-one funding consultations
- 118 grant-writing referrals for one-on-one grant writing support
- Four workshops and one panel discussion with funding agents were delivered
- Approximately 120 artists participated in workshops and panels

REPORT

Québec Relations continues to help English-speaking artists better understand and access Quebec's arts funding landscape. Through free one-on-one consultations, grant-writing referrals, workshops, and practical resources, the program supports artists at every stage of their funding journey while helping remove barriers to provincial opportunities.

Over the past year, we continued providing personalized guidance to artists working across a wide range of disciplines, helping them identify funding opportunities, strengthen applications, and connect with experienced grant advisors. We also refined our consultation process, updated funding resources, and expanded our online tools to make support more accessible and easier to navigate.

Beyond the numbers, Québec Relations is about building confidence. Many artists come to us unsure of where to begin or whether they belong in the funding landscape. By offering practical guidance, encouragement, and individualized support, we help artists take that next step and feel empowered to pursue opportunities that can strengthen their creative practice and careers.

Looking ahead, we are excited to continue expanding access to funding support across Quebec, strengthen partnerships with arts organizations, develop new learning resources, and ensure that even more artists have the knowledge and confidence to access the public funding available to them.

CURRENT UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- Expanding funding consultations across Quebec
- Continuing workshops and information sessions
- Updating funding resources and online tools
- Strengthening partnerships with artists and arts organizations

CHSSN Youth Mental Health Initiative

Sheron Edey, Project Manager - sheron.edey@quebec-elan.org
Philippe Koffi, Mental Health Facilitator

FUNDERS: CHSSN (Community Health and Social Services Network), Secrétariat à la Jeunesse, Fondation Lucie et André Chagnon

TOP STATISTICS

- 15 teaching artists selected for participation
- 5 Facilitator Training Sessions over 5 months with 95% attendance
 - o 5 workshops + 1 'Ask Koffi' session for additional support

- 3 Podcasts with guests from the community

REPORT

The Youth Mental Health Initiative continues to provide important paid professional development to teaching artists working through the ArtistsInspire Grants program so that they can better support youth in classrooms across Quebec.

The selection of teaching artists entails outreach to 140+ artists, the email-based recruitment process, the three selection priorities (under 35, diverse disciplines, visible minorities), and the 15-artist training cap with future expansion plans clearly noted.

Outreach speaks to the networking events in Montreal and the regions and captures your insight about continuous networking being key for an English-language arts organization.

Youth Artist Engagement covers attendance, their facilitation role, and their podcast participation — including the callout about the podcast extending reach beyond the 15 trained artists.

Partners covers all six key stakeholder groups: Teaching Artists, ELAN ArtistsInspire, ELAN Membership, Arts Organizations, Community Organizations, CHSSN Partners, and Black Healing Centre.

Lessons

Learned

Based on the experience of this year's cohort and the level of interest generated through outreach, ELAN is committed to expanding its reach in the next program cycle.

Youth artists participated actively in the YMHI training sessions, which were well received with minimal absenteeism. Their consistent attendance reflects the relevance of the content to their lived experiences and the effectiveness of ELAN's outreach and selection process in identifying committed participants.

Podcast

Youth artists actively participated in the recording of the ELAN podcast series, contributing their authentic voices and perspectives to episodes covering topics drawn directly from the training content. Their involvement ensured that the podcast speaks to and from the lived reality of emerging artists navigating mental health challenges, making it a more credible and accessible resource for the wider ELAN community.

Creating the podcast as a complement to the training sessions was an effective strategy for reaching artists beyond the 15 supported through in-person training. Housing episodes on

the ELAN website ensures ongoing, self-directed access.

Gaps Identified During the Project

A dedicated, facilitated session with Philippe Koffi was held specifically to provide teaching artists with space to ask questions, share challenges, and support one another. This session proved invaluable — both as an opportunity for peer solidarity and as a mechanism for identifying the real gaps in practice that emerged from the training experience so that we can improve next year’s programming.

Trellis Micro-grants

Fred Azeredo (project coordinator) – fred.azeredo@quebec-elan.org

FUNDERS: Department of Canadian Heritage’s Official Languages Support Program

TOP STATISTICS:

- 695 applications across 3 rounds
- 53 projects funded across 3 rounds
- 44 jurors engaged across 3 rounds
- Combined 933 followers across Trellis socials
- 6 mainstream media appearances of project staff promoting Trellis

REPORT

This has been an *annus mirabilis* for Trellis Micro-grants. The project has grown and perfected in every way, building on the strong foundations laid in the first year.

A notable success of this year has been the project’s increased visibility. Unlike the first two rounds, this year’s launch garnered widespread media attention, including features in *The Gazette*, *Global News*, and multiple shows on CBC Radio. This high-profile publicity will not only boost this year’s very worthy projects, but also surely bring more interest to the grant itself when applications reopen.

Indeed, said interest was already sky-high. Round 3 received 370 applications, more than the first two rounds combined. Most of these were high-quality, interesting projects that fulfilled our mandate—there was also a record proportion of equity-seeking applicants, be they emerging, regional, or BIPOC artists. All of this made the selection of the final 15 recipients (4% of the total) a very challenging process.

Fortunately, our 27-strong jury was more than up to the task. This was our most diverse jury yet both in terms of experience and background, representing a wide swath of Quebec's anglophone artistic community. Together with the incredible artists and organizations funded (including new faces like Lee Pepper and Carolina Aguirre and returning recipients like Moe Clark and Arts Arundel), Trellis is expanding ELAN's reach and leaving an indelible mark on the province's artistic landscape.

CURRENT UPCOMING ACTIVITIES:

- Round 4 Juror callout: September 2026
- Round 4 application callout: October 2026

Outreach Project

Fred Azeredo (project coordinator) – fred.azeredo@quebec-elan.org

TOP STATISTICS:

- 4 Indigenous-led organizations open to nominating artists thus far
- 1 new ELAN Board member recruited via Outreach

REPORT

The Outreach Project is just getting started, yet it is already meaningfully expanding ELAN's connections in the Indigenous artistic community of Quebec. Wary of tokenism and false representation, we have proceeded thoughtfully and hope to earn the trust of Indigenous-led organizations by consistently showing up.

The coordinator has attended numerous events, from the Native Women Shelter's Spirit Walk to a QWF Lunch and Learn hosted by Suzanne Kepttwo to the Indigenous People's Day Concert at Centre SANAAQ. All of these have helped to build connections and demonstrate ELAN's commitment to listen, learn, and lend our aid where we can.

The project began with numerous consultations with Indigenous artistic community members to ask what ELAN could best do to advocate for their representation using our resources. The first step that emerged from these consults was the Spotlight Series, which will feature emerging Indigenous artists from various disciplines and backgrounds in our newsletter, website, and social media— using our wide reach to platform Indigenous arts, and celebrate emerging artists who are recognized by their peers for excellence in the arts.

Future plans include a September event around the time of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, to be co-produced with an Indigenous-led organization. We have also

welcomed a new board member through an Outreach connection: Amanda Ibarra from daphne arts centre.

CURRENT UPCOMING ACTIVITIES:

Spotlight Series: ongoing from August 2026

ELAN craft fair/long table: Fall 2026

Behind the Memories: Searching for Facts / What We Choose to Forget

Guy Rex Rodgers, ELAN Founder, Waves of Change Project Manager

Nadia Mytnik-Frantova

Ginette Guay

www.whatwechoose.ca

FUNDERS:

Le Secrétariat aux relations avec les Québécois d'expression anglaise

TOP STATISTICS (March 31, 2026)

- More than 300 former students filled out a survey about education prior to Bill 101
- More than 150 former students participated in personal interviews of 30 – 60 minutes
- First interim report (what happened prior to Bill 101) received media coverage with The Gazette, Walrus, Accenti and The Montrealer
- Second interim report (why students were turned away from French Catholic schools) received media coverage with The Gazette, La Presse, Radio Canada, Accenti, and The Montrealer
- QUESCREN invited us to make a presentation on the first two reports at the spring research conference at Concordia University.

REPORT

This project consists of two components

- 2) A book about touring the film What We Choose To Remember around Quebec for three years. The book was written, edited and prepared for publication (with ELAN as publisher) in the period prior to March 31. What We Choose To Forget was published on April 16 and the story of launch, promotion and touring will be reported next year.

- 2) A report on Education in Quebec prior to Bill 101. How many immigrant students were denied access to French Catholic schools – and why? The first interim report was published in September 2025. The first interim report was published in January 2026. The third interim report will be published in August 2026. The final report will be published in November 2026. Media interest in the research has been considerable, including francophone media. Coverage in La Presse and Radio Canada attracted several dozen immigrant who agreed to be interviewed about being the important complimentary experience of being accepted into French Catholic schools.

Book activities:

April 16, book launch in the Atrium of Montreal Arts Council

April 25, panel discussion at Blue Metropolis Literary festival. Moderator Anne Lagacé-Dowson. Panelists: Kim Thuy, Guy Rex Rodgers, Toula Drimonis, Francine Pelletier

May 14, lunchtime author conversation at Atwater Library

May 24, book launch at the Morrin Centre, Quebec City

June 11, book launch at 4Korners AGM in Deux-Montagnes

July 2, Montreal Review of Books Summer edition launch. Featured authors: Guy Rex Rodgers, Chanal Sutherland, Natalie Doonan

July 7, book launch at MWCN AGM in Ormstown

CURRENT UPCOMING ACTIVITIES :

- August, third report about language acquisition and transmission
- October, public meeting with former students sharing their stories
- November, final report will be published

Board & Staff 2025/26

Staff

To see the complete list of Staff & Board biographies, please visit the Team & Board page at www.quebec-elan.org.

Miranda Castravelli: *Executive Director*

Nick Maturo: *Director of Programming*

Deborah Forde: *Director of Operations*

Antonia Neatby: *Membership & Community Engagement Coordinator (Until Fall 2026)*

Lauren Katherine Clinton: *Communications & Outreach Manager*

Margot Berner: *Communications Coordinator*

Jean-Paul Osta: *Capacity Development Manager (QR & AIG)*

Andre Athanasiadis: *IT Coordinator & Consultant*

Fred Azeredo: *Trellis Micro-grants Coordinator. Outreach Coordinator. (Incoming Membership Coordinator fall 2026)*

Board 2025-26

Angie Cheng – *President (Dance)*

Louise Abbott – *Vice President (Writing/AELAQ)*

Leah Evangelista Woolner – *Treasurer (Music)*

Kuh del Rosario – *Secretary (Visual Arts)*

Peter Burton (*Music*)

Eryn Dace Trudell (*Dance*)

Dr. Alexandra Fol (*Music*)

Darragh Mondoux (*Theatre/QDF*)

Leah Evangelista Woolner (*Visual Arts*)

Mario Clarke (*Corporate*)

Miranda Handford (*Theatre*)

Katia Grubisic (*QWF / Writing / Literary Translation*)

Samantha Kaine (*Film/TV*)

Li Li (*Theatre, Past President*)

J.P. Mortier (*Music*)

Jon Weisz (*Arts Presenter*)

Shakiya Williams (*Writing / AELQ*)

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