

## Spotlight on Doing More for the Edmonton Arts

What would Edmonton be without the Folk Fest? The Opera, Symphony, and Citadel Theatre make our long winters brighter. Edmonton has a vibrant, rich cultural scene and endowment funds help these organizations invest in their future.

Thanks to the Canada Cultural Investment Fund – Endowment Incentives (CCIF), donations to ECF’s endowment funds in support of arts organizations go much further. Matching funds of up to one dollar for every dollar raised from private donors is provided to create or contribute to endowment funds.

The CCIF program was designed to encourage donors to contribute to

endowment funds for professional arts organizations. This is ensuring Canadian culture is alive and well, forever.

An endowment gives the organizations greater capacity for artistic expression by supporting their long-term stability.



Photo by: Nanc Price. Courtesy of Opera NUOVA

Each year ECF and the arts organizations submit joint applications to access these funds. Last year ECF partnered with these organizations to match donations in endowments:

- Edmonton Opera**
- Opera NUOVA**
- Edmonton Symphony Orchestra**
- Edmonton Folk Music Festival**
- Richard Eaton Singers**
- Alberta Baroque Ensemble**
- Citadel Theatre**

If you would like to know more about this program or would like to make your donation go farther contact:  
[donorservices@ecfoundation.org](mailto:donorservices@ecfoundation.org).



For change of address please advise:  
Edmonton Community Foundation  
9910-103 Street NW  
Edmonton, Alberta  
T5K 2V7



Martin Garber-Conrad

## CEO Message

Welcome to the spring edition of *InTouch*. There’s already a lot going on this year at ECF, so we’ve increased the size of the newsletter to cover it all!

As it is Canada’s Sesquicentennial, we highlight the final round of *Community Fund for Canada’s 150th* grants on pages 4 and 5. We’ll be seeing these projects come to life over the anniversary year.

ECF’s contribution to the Canada-wide celebration is “High Level Lit: musings on YEG for Canada 150.” Authors with ties to Edmonton will pen their contributions for an anthology that will be published by *Eighteen Bridges* magazine. We are also partnering with LitFest to bring four salons with authors talking about their writings. We hope you will join us at some of the salons and enjoy the finished anthology. Get all the details on page 6.

The Shift Lab invites you to participate in the “community campfire” as

discussed on page 7. This is an opportunity to help end racism in our community.

Upcoming student awards are profiled on page 5. If you know someone pursuing post-secondary education, you will want take a look at what is available.

We also highlight the Canada Cultural Investment Fund, which is available to match donations to endowments for arts organizations. Learn how to make your donations go farther on page 8.

“The Show Must Go On!” We talk to Edmonton Opera’s General Director Tim Yakimec about the Understudy Program, which helped make that possible.

Finally, we are working toward another great Annual Meeting. Our keynote speaker, Mary Walsh, is an actress, comedian, and social activist who will give us a lighthearted look at Canada’s first 150 years. I look forward to seeing you there on Wednesday, June 7 at the Westin Edmonton. Thank you!



## HOLD THE DATE!

### Edmonton Community Foundation’s Annual Meeting

Wednesday, June 7, 2017  
11:50 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

The Westin Edmonton  
10135 100 Street NW



### Guest speaker: Mary Walsh

Mary Walsh, comedian, social activist, and former star of “This Hour Has 22 Minutes” will take a lighthearted look at community in Canada, what the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Confederation means to her, and how she sees Canada’s future.

Please RSVP your attendance:

[Annualmeeting@ecfoundation.org](mailto:Annualmeeting@ecfoundation.org)  
or 780.702.7628

## Feature Story: The Show Must Go On!

Written by Elizabeth Bonkink,  
communications advisor

When a lead in the Opera has to bow out at the last minute, after months of rehearsals, and at risk of letting down her fellow actors ... what can be done? Call in the understudy!

And, thanks to ECF's Foundation Directed Initiative (FDI) "Understudy Program," Edmonton Opera (EO) was able to pull off Elektra with critical approval.

Mark Morris, Edmonton Journal's Opera reviewer said of Catherine Daniel, mezzo-soprano, "Stepping in as an understudy can make a singer's reputation, and that may well be the case here."

Tim Yakimec, general director of EO, said that Daniel took it on herself to prepare for the role and had performed in smaller roles. "She learned the parts from a coach before she even got here."

"This is the stuff movies are made of; the understudy steps into a role and soars! She bit it off and made it her own," said Yakimec. And he called the role "challenging as heck."

A week before the show, the performer who was to play Klytämnestra, the title character's mother, had to leave due to health issues. "She was relieved to know Daniels could step in. It was a wonderful solution," said Yakimec.

Daniel was also a past recipient of ECF's Winspear Fund Scholarships for Advanced Classical Music.



CATHERINE DANIEL AS KLYTÄMNESTRA IN EDMONTON OPERA'S PRODUCTION OF ELEKTRA.

The only other opera in Canada with an understudy program is Toronto; therefore it is difficult for young Canadian artists to gain experience. This provides a valuable opportunity,

### What is an FDI?

**Foundation Directed Initiatives** invest in new and ongoing high priority charitable projects by offering multi-year funding to selected agencies.

Agencies cannot apply for FDI funding. FDIs are chosen through a rigorous, internal process that complements ECF's Community Grants Program.

not only for the Opera, but also the singers.

Yakimec calls the program 'a bridge' between training and the professional world. "It allows them to move from paper study to working with a director, conductor, and coach."

The FDI is for \$50,000 each year for three years, which allows EO to engage understudies for the principal roles in each major production. Funding pays for salaries and coaching for the understudies. Yakimec said, "This has made us look at funding this program ongoing. It is valuable to us and to the singing community." Understudies also perform at community events in the city.

Continued on page 3.

## Spotlight on Shift Lab



Please join ECF and Skills Society Action Lab for our third community campfire!

Over the past few months, the Shift Lab has been investigating the areas where racism and poverty intersect, particularly as they relate to housing. We have developed three different prototypes (small projects to test solutions) to try to address some of these issues. Now, we want to take these prototypes to the community to find out how we can make them better.

### This is where YOU come in:

This is your chance to provide your thoughts on what we've done and where we should go from here. Join us for an engaging afternoon to find out what the Shift Lab has been up to, hear some pitches about the prototypes, and think about how to make our community a better place.

Best of all, though there won't be an actual fire, we will have tasty snacks and cake.

### Want to take part?

Tuesday, April 18, 2017  
4:30 to 6:30 p.m.  
ECF Offices  
[9910 103 Street]

Register on Eventbrite by entering this web address:

<http://bit.ly/2nSNvY7>

### Haven't been to ECF before?

- ECF is wheelchair accessible.
- There is limited tandem parking available on site.
- Please note that you CANNOT access ECF via 103 St.
- Use the Slatter Way entrance between 103 St. and 104 St. off of 100 Ave., across from the Freemason Hall.



### Need a speaker for your group?



ECF has many qualified speakers available for presentations.

### Please contact us!

To book:

•For **charitable giving, starting a fund or taxation** topics: Kathy Hawkesworth at [khawkesworth@ecfoundation.org](mailto:khawkesworth@ecfoundation.org)

•For **Vital Signs report** topics: Elizabeth Bonkink at [ebonkink@ecfoundation.org](mailto:ebonkink@ecfoundation.org)

Or phone 780-426-0015.

## Feeding hungry minds.

You can't think about learning when the only thing on your mind is how empty your stomach is. We started our fund at Edmonton Community Foundation (ECF) to ensure that children have the opportunity for a meal.

*ECF is helping us with educating children one lunch at a time.*

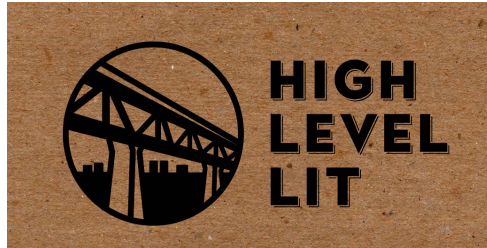
David Dickinson & Colette Mandin



**Give. Grow. Transform.**

Call 780-426-0015 or visit our website [www.ecfoundation.org](http://www.ecfoundation.org)

## Spotlight on High Level Lit



**High Level Lit: musings on YEG for Canada 150** is a collaboration between ECF, LitFest, and *Eighteen Bridges* to bring together a unique group of literary contributors to mark Canada's sesquicentennial. This project will feature writers with Edmonton ties from all walks of life, a series of salons with the writers, and an anthology of their work.

"We have this great community of writers who either lived here or still live here," says Fawnda Mithrush, LitFest's executive director. The 12 hand-picked notable writers from the community will include:

- memoirist **Myrna Kostash**,
- newspaper columnist **Paula Simons**,
- former poet laureate **Anna Marie Sewell**,
- **Rollie Pemberton** (also a rap musician known as "Cadence Weapon"),
- **Darrin Hagen**, playwright and actor (well-known a drag performer "The Edmonton Queen"),
- Giller Award-winning novelist **Lynn Coady** (a former Edmontonian who now calls Toronto home),

- Edmonton-born comedian **Bruce McCulloch** of Kids in the Hall fame,
- **Nasra Adem**, Edmonton's Youth Poet Laureate,
- **Malcolm Azania** (AKA Minister Faust),
- **Jalal Barzanji**, Kurdish poet, author, and a former Edmonton Writer-in-Exile
- Award-winning food culture writer **Jennifer Cockrall-King**,
- **Richard vanCamp**, author and story teller.

Curtis Gillespie, editor of *Eighteen Bridges*, explains that the anthology will explore aspects of Canada's 150th as it relates to Edmonton, but writers will choose how they interpret the theme. "We wanted to make it open-ended and leave it up to the ingenuity of the people on board," says Gillespie. Submissions may be of any genre (including nonfiction, fiction, and

poetry) and may or may not involve historical elements.

### The salons

The project also involves four events in which writers read or speak about their work. The first salon took place on March 1st. But watch for upcoming salons in June, September, and culminating during LitFest, in October.

### The anthology

The anthology will launch at the final salon during LitFest and published by *Eighteen Bridges*.

Gillespie hopes the project provides an outlet for the "huge diversity of voices" in Edmonton and draws attention to the strength of its arts community: "For a city of our size, we punch well above our weight, culturally." And with the city evolving so rapidly, he hopes readers will come away with a deeper understanding of Edmonton.



## The Show Must Go On continued...

Founded in 1963, EO gives voice to opera in Edmonton and throughout northern Alberta. In addition to producing operas, Edmonton Opera offers high-quality education programs and contributes to the versatile culture and arts scene in Edmonton.

EO is thriving in Edmonton with a new building on 152 Street and 128 Ave. The production department moved there in 2012, and administration,

rehearsal and box office followed in 2016. The space saves about \$100,000 to \$140,000 a year.

Additionally EO is proving that arts do produce jobs. Yakimec said, "The opera employs up to 200 people per show."

Their next production *Les Feluettes (Lilies)* will take place on October 21, 24, and 27 at the Jubilee Auditorium.



## Light a Candle for Canada

The City's Canada 150 Celebration Committee invites you to join the celebration and "Light a Candle for Canada" to support leaving memorable legacy projects in the community. These projects are community gifts that will be enjoyed for many years and include:



CANADA 150  
1867-2017

- **Canada 150 Mosaic Mural** – are tiles painted by Edmontonians result in a unique mural created by Edmonton-area artists as part of a national project that creates murals in 150 communities.
- **Paint the Rails** – will engage young artists to transform Edmonton's LRT stations into works of art that express the diverse histories of Edmonton and Canada.
- **Canada 150 Tree Planting** – will help grow the urban forest canopy! Community volunteers will work with the City to plant trees in the fall of 2017 including Canada 150 commemorative trees. Park sites and dates to be announced.

**A \$15.00 contribution lights 10 "virtual" candles!** Your contribution will light 10 symbolic candles, from which all proceeds will go toward ensuring an enduring legacy in the community.

**Edmonton's Canada 150 website:** [www.edmonton.ca/Canada150](http://www.edmonton.ca/Canada150)

A \$15.00 contribution lights 10 candles! Donations will be collected by Edmonton Community Foundation. Donations can be made online or by mail. The campaign runs until **July 1**.

## Spotlight on Canada 150 Grants

ECF presents the final round of grants from the *Community Fund for Canada's 150th* — an initiative involving the Government of Canada, Community Foundations of Canada, and ECF.

**Arabian Muslim—** *Canada 150 Diversity Carnival* (\$15,000)

A carnival in northwest Edmonton on June 25 to engage diverse communities in a family-oriented celebration.

**Arts on the Ave—** *Kaleido 2017: Tawakin Village*, (\$10,000)

A component of KaleidoFest, Tawakin Village promotes artistic and cultural diversity by inviting Aboriginal elders, artists, storytellers and performers to share their work and traditions.

**Association des juristes d'expression française de l'Alberta—** *150 Years Worth Debating: The Competition* (\$15,000)

A French debate competition for youth will promote better understanding of Canadian values, history, the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, the "fait français," and access to justice.

**Creating Hope Society of Alberta—** *The Full Circle of Reconciliation* (\$15,000)

A series of conversations to engage Indigenous and non-Indigenous Canadians in reconciliation at the time of Canada's 150th.

**Council for the Advancement of African Canadians in Alberta—** *Dialogue of Drums within the Canadian Mosaic* (\$15,000)

A cultural extravaganza during AfroFest featuring drummers and dancers from African, Indigenous, Chinese and Scottish communities, celebrating Canada's growing diversity and the strength that emerges from it.

**Edmonton and Area Land Trust—** *Celebrate 150 Acres of Canada's Natural Heritage* (\$9,460)

Volunteer-led nature walks in the greater Edmonton area will encourage awareness of the region's natural areas.

**[E4C] Edmonton City Centre Church Corporation—** *Youth Cultural Arts Project* (\$15,000)

A city-wide celebration of diverse cultures for and by youth. Various multicultural groups will share a spot in the circle and share song, dance,

fashion, music, traditional games, language/storytelling, workshops, and art.

**Edmonton Public Library Board—** *EPL Canada 150 Book Festival: Celebrating Alberta Writing* (\$9,450)

A two-day festival showcasing Alberta writers and publishers to build awareness and pride in our community.

**Edmonton Space & Science Foundation—** *Canada 150 TWOSE Innovation Festival* (\$13,000)

A series of events to celebrate Canadian achievements designed to inspire the next generation of Canadian scientists, engineers, and technologists.

Continued on page 5.



**THE WELL ENDOWED PODCAST**

**Community Discourse.**

It's good to be well endowed.

**TheWellEndowedPodcast.com**

Find us on iTunes and Google Play

Canada 150 Grants continued.

**The NorQuest College Foundation—** *Citizenship and Canadian Values* (\$15,000) A lecture series to encourage participation from a variety of groups to inspire learning and build community, citizenship, and civil society.

**John Humphrey Centre for Peace and Human Rights—** *Paint the Rails: Reconciliation* (\$15,000)

In partnership with ETS, the organization will work with local artists to "paint the rails," turning LRT stations into artistic histories of our city.

**Kompany Theatre Artists Society—** *A Royal Canadian Moose Birthday* (\$15,000)

A theatrical celebration of Canada's 150th for young audiences and their families to tour the greater Edmonton area over the summer of 2017.

**Nina Haggerty Centre for the Arts—** *Diverse-city* (\$15,000)

A group of artists with disabilities and emerging artists will create original art that captures the inspirational stories they would like to include in the

Canada 150 conversation. **Red Road Healing Society—** *Mitakuye Oyasin - "We are all Related"* (\$15,000)

A pow-wow to embrace global Indigenous peoples and celebrate Canada's integration with Canadian and global Indigenous peoples.

**Robertson-Wesley Music Society—** *Canadian Albertan and First Nations Composers Tour* (\$12,450)

Five local groups will present concerts featuring Albertan, Canadian and Indigenous composers and performers.



## Spotlight on Student Awards

ECF has many student awards that are under-subscribed. For information on how to apply for these awards please visit: [ecfoundation.org](http://ecfoundation.org)

### May 15 Annual Deadline

#### Awards for Students Experiencing Financial Need

- For students in financial need who attended school in Edmonton at some point between kindergarten and Grade 12.
- Applicants only apply once to be considered for three awards. These include:
  - Rose Margaret King Merit Awards
  - Don Howden & Jane Squire Howden Awards
  - Teri Taylor-Tunski Awards.

#### Alexandra M. Munn Scholarships and John & Andrea Wallin Awards

- For Edmonton-area students ages 11

to 15 who demonstrate outstanding talent in classical music.

### May 31 Annual Deadline

#### Nancy Fairley Scholarship

- For Edmonton public or Catholic students enrolled in an International Baccalaureate (IB) program in their final year of high school. Nominations must come from their IB English 30 teacher.

#### Don and Norine Lowry Awards for Women of Excellence

- For women of all ages pursuing studies in the fields of water, power, finance, accounting, energy, safety, healthcare, or community relations.

### June 15 Annual Deadline

#### Community Scholarships

- For students from Edmonton or Northern Alberta in financial need who have a history of community involvement or leadership.

### August 31 Annual Deadline

#### Al Maurer Awards

- For public service employees working in Edmonton who demonstrate excellence and commitment to their profession.

#### Charmaine Letourneau Scholarships

- For Deaf or hard of hearing students who are residents of Alberta.