

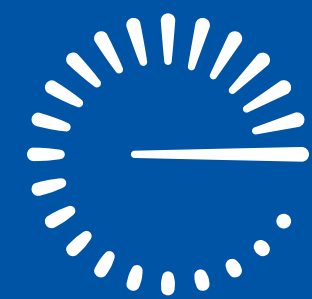


15



elan

english language
arts network



Letter from the President

The first ELAN AGM 15 years ago was an effervescent, social affair. There was excitement in the room, a feeling of anticipation; it felt as though we were launching a rocket into space.

I remember being there, clutching a plastic cup of red wine, and having the sense that I was seeing the start of something big. Everyone “sort of” knew each other, so we took the opportunity to discover our peers as conversations were struck up, business cards were swapped, and creative collaborations sketched out. Many artists, especially those in non-performing disciplines such as visual arts and writing, tend to stay inside their creative bubbles, and here, suddenly, we were given a space to mingle and exchange ideas. At this first ELAN AGM, strangers became friends, and since then a myriad of creative collaborations and projects have germinated and come to fruition.

I trace ELAN’s success to its core characteristic: everyone involved in working with ELAN is an artist. From the indefatigable Guy Rodgers, who writes multimedia shows and plays the guitar, to the ELAN staffers, who are choreographers, musicians, and actors aside from project managers, and the dedicated board who all are either practicing artists or cultural workers—everyone at ELAN is an active member of the creative community. ELAN is an organization for artists, by artists, and as a result, our projects and advocacy work address the real needs of our community.

Now, at our 15th anniversary, we come together again to mingle and to celebrate ELAN. Our circle of friends and collaborators has grown, and I look forward to many more exciting projects and collaborations.

Bettina Forget
Board President



2005



2018

Letter from the Executive Director

ELAN was inspired by the successful models of the Québec Drama Federation (QDF) and the Québec Writers’ Federation (QWF), which had both taken root in the previous century in volatile, at times hostile, linguistic conditions. Having been actively involved in the creation of both QDF and QWF, I can testify that ELAN came into this world under much more favourable circumstances than its predecessors. When ELAN was founded a decade after the second referendum, many people were looking for ways to do things differently. Far more than half the Anglos in Québec were comfortably bilingual and almost a third of us were in romantic relationships with Francophones. This might have been an adaptive survival strategy, but it was working. We were a long way from the two solitudes that had kept Québec divided for centuries.

Slowly at first, but steadily, ELAN brought together artists in Montréal, and in many regions of Québec, helping them connect with one another, with audiences and with funders. Then ELAN connected with French-speaking artists in Québec and in minority language communities across Canada—also collaborating closely with partners specializing in inclusion, notably Diversité Artistique Montréal and Vision Diversité. After surviving a couple of near-death incidents during its first decade, ELAN has steadily attracted members, partners and resources that make it possible to do things we could only dream about fifteen years ago. This booklet is a tribute to many of the people who have contributed to make ELAN a thriving reality.

Guy Rodgers
Founding Executive Director



2004



2018

Thank You

Since its foundation in 2004, the **English Language Arts Network (ELAN)** has served as a platform for thousands of English-language artists of all disciplines from across Québec to share expertise and resources, build audiences and alliances, seek support, and make common cause with the Francophone arts community.

We would like to thank all our past and present members for your trust and support!



Quebec Arts Summit (2004).

About

ELAN (English Language Arts Network) is a not-for-profit organization that connects, supports, and creates opportunities for Québec's English-speaking artists and arts communities. ELAN members are individuals and organizations from a wide array of artistic disciplines, cultural and geographic backgrounds, and linguistic and cultural communities. Together this network reflects an evolving Québec identity and celebrates the province's cultural, artistic, and social diversity.

Mandate

The English Language Arts Network (ELAN) connects artists, cultural workers, and arts organizations from all disciplines and regions of Québec, fostering a strong community for members.

A non-profit organization, ELAN promotes the vitality of Québec's English-speaking artistic community, and supports its members with direct services and benefits, as well as through mobilization and representation.

ELAN makes common cause with the French-speaking cultural community to champion the multifaceted benefits of culture, and the interests of cultural workers. ELAN encourages an evolving Québec identity that includes artistic, cultural, and social diversity.

2004-2007



Ian Ferrier, QWF president;
Peter McFarlane, QAS publicist;
Guy Rodgers, QAS Honorary Chair.



Nadia Myre speaking at the Québec Arts Summit.



2006 AGM at Kola Noté. ELAN President Susie Arioli with CALQ CEO Yvan Gauthier.



Significant projects and milestones 2004-07: Québec Arts Summit, first website, first strategic plan, membership fees (\$30) introduced for professional members in 2007, Minority Anglophone Artists Project (MAAP) and Artists' Services Kit (ASK).

Message to delegates at Québec Arts Summit 2004 from Honorary Chair, Guy Rodgers:

“All of the delegates to this Summit have been identified by their peers as people with ideas, energy and a track record of making things happen. What comes out of this Summit is up to us.”

ELAN's initial part-time staff were Guy Rodgers and Nadia Myer. They were both subsequently inducted into l'Ordre des arts et des lettres du Québec: Guy in 2015 and Nadia in 2019.

The MAAP 1 project surveyed the needs of Visual Artists and created the Arts Services Kit (ASK), which was added to ELAN's new website. An initial list of artists was developed through the personal contacts and research of the survey team, and consisted of roughly 650 names of individuals, and another 300 names of organizations related to the visual arts in Québec.

Strategic Plan 2007: ELAN will take a leadership role in exploring identity issues raised at the Québec Arts Summit *How do English-speaking artists see themselves? How does the English-speaking community at large see them?*

ELAN's board and staff at 2007 strategic planning session.
Front row: Anna Fuerstenberg, Kate Wisdom, Paulina Abarca.
Back row: Dimitri Nasrallah, Jane Needles, Sandra Belanger, Lori Schubert, Monica Majewski, Chuck Childs, Guy Rodgers, Ian Ferrier.

2008-2010

Significant projects and milestones 2008-09: MAAP 2, launched Schmoozers, produced Art Storm at Sala Rossa, made first CRTC interventions, moved offices from the Lachine Canal Complex to 460 Ste-Catherine West, and celebrated 5th AGM.



MAAP II project team: Sarah Wendt, Louise Campbell (who became ELAN's vice-president in 2018), Simon Wayland, and Jon Lindhorst.

Art Storm (at the Sala Rossa, November 2008) was an ambitious board-driven showcase for the multidisciplinary talents of ELAN's members.



Board members Chuck Childs (President), Tim Brady and Frank Opolko singing happy birthday at ELAN's 5th anniversary party. Five cakes were followed by a sweet selection of members' performances.

“ELAN can serve the Anglophone musical community by helping artists be aware of grants that are available to them and by providing a network of other like-minded artists to collaborate with. It could also provide ways of helping musicians promote themselves effectively to English and French audiences.”

MAAP 2 survey of Dancers and Musicians



ELAN's 5th anniversary in 2009 was also celebrated at the Sala Rossa.

2010-2011



Schmoozer at Bily Kun: Sandra Belanger, Lindsay, Erin, Valerie Buddle (who became ELAN's Vice President in 2015), and Stephanie.



RAEV production team: Guy Rodgers, Geoff Agombar, Anne Clark, Jessica Lemus-Coto, Julia Kater, Tenyah McKenna.

Significant projects and milestones 2010:

Produced **Recognizing Artists, Enfin Visibles!**, inaugurated regional **Schmoozers, mentorship and language exchange** programs, established **Arts, Culture and Heritage Working Group**. ELAN developed community connections via collaborations with the **Québec Community Groups Network (QCGN)**, and a seat on the board of **Culture Montréal**.

ELAN's first Schmoozer took place in a heated room among the ghosts of Empress Theatre (NDG), on a freezing February evening. Schmoozers moved every month around the Plateau, City Centre and Old Montréal, organized by pro-schmoozer Marilyn Casselman.

The inaugural meeting of the **Arts, Culture and Heritage Working Group** brought together 25 community members from all disciplines and 25 federal bureaucrats from the Department of Canadian Heritage, Canada Council, CBC, NFB, and Telefilm. **The Working Group's objectives were:**

1. To provide an opportunity for a dialogue between the English-Speaking Community in Québec and key federal institutions in the Arts, Culture and Heritage Sector;
2. To share information on issues faced by the English-Speaking Community in Québec and best practices in federal institutions.

Recognizing Artists, Enfin Visibles! (RAEV) was launched at Eastern Bloc.

RAEV featured three online components:

- **150 short bios** forming a family portrait of English-speaking artists.
- **Video profiles** spotlighting 24 RAEV artists discussing their work and their lives as English-speaking artists in Québec.
- **Feature-length articles** profiling the rarely-told history of Québec's English arts through the 20th and 21st centuries. The essays were also published by Guernica Editions as *Minority Report: An Alternative History of English-Language Arts in Québec*.

2011-2012

Significant projects and milestones 2011:

State of the Arts consultation with members and co-production of musical comedy with POP Montréal at the Outremont Theatre, **ACCORD** project with regions, **Becoming an Artist: a Montréal How To, Milestones Celebration, Community Broadcast and Media Strategy**, and the **Montréal, Métropole Culturelle Forum**.



State of the Arts community consultation, Sept 22-23, at the Société des arts technologiques (SAT).

ELAN's **Milestone Celebration** was held at the offices of le Conseil des arts de Montréal to celebrate significant community anniversaries:

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| 40 years | Black Theatre Workshop |
| 30 years | Geordie Productions, Teesri Duniya Theatre |
| 25 years | Montréal Serai |
| 20 years | Choeur Maha, Fringe Festival, The Other Theatre |
| 10 years | Pop Montréal, Porte Parole, Expozine/Distriboto |



Co-production with POP Montréal of musical comedy 'The Season' by So Called at the Theatre Outremont.



Becoming an Artist: A Montréal How-To.

2012-2013

Significant projects and milestones 2012: ACCORD year 2, **Made au Québec**, **Community TV** consultations, and completion of 2014-2019 **Strategic Plan**.

The **ACCORD** (Arts & Community Culture On-the-Road) project created an inspirational workshop series for the staff of Regional Associations from the Eastern Townships, West Québec, Québec City, Rouyn-Noranda, the Gaspé, and communities along the Saint Laurent from Rimouski on the south shore to Baie-Comeau on the north shore—as well as communities along the Labrador coast and the Magdalen Islands. The ACCORD project also produced 26 artistic events around the province that sent 111 artists to perform for 6,500 audience members in rural and remote communities.

ELAN added **Minute Markets** to monthly Schmoozers.

Media were of particular concern to artists as weekly cultural magazines *Mirror*, *Hour*, *Ici* and finally *VOIR* shut their doors, and mainstream media (CBC and *The Gazette*) were cut back. ELAN's board created a **Media Committee** to examine the existing media landscape, looking for ways to connect a variety of non-traditional media sources (blogs, online services) with audiences.



ACCORD workshops at Centaur Theatre with participants from every corner of Québec.



Sample of Made au Québec media coverage.

The launch of ELAN's **Made au Québec** aggregation website received unprecedented media coverage: *La Presse*, *Le Devoir*, Radio Canada (3 different programmes), *The Gazette*, CBC Radio, *Huffington Post*, and the cover story of *VOIR*, as well as four columns in *VOIR* devoted to English-speaking artists in specific disciplines. Made au Québec negotiated media sponsorships and co-promotion deals with *VOIR* and *Urbania* magazine.

2013-2014

Significant projects and milestones 2013: **YEAH!** Resource Centre, CBC 'Getting Media Attention' workshop, **Digital Shift** Study, intervention for **Bill 14** (the Parti Québécois' proposed revision of Bill 101).



ELAN's new Program Manager, Amy Macdonald, and YEAH! Project Manager, Jesse Stong.

ELAN began 2013 with less project funding than necessary to maintain full-time salaries for two employees, so hours were reduced to 60% on April 1. By June, ELAN was reduced to a summer student and a part-time Executive Director. Full staffing was restored in August when additional project funding was secured. Core funding from the Department of Canadian Heritage was stabilized and increased for 2014-16.

The **YEAH (Youth, Education, Arts, Health)** online resource centre project developed a list of 12 issues facing youth in English-speaking communities of Quebec (ESCQ). Artistic resources in all of these areas were identified and mobilized. The YEAH! Resource Centre was particularly appreciated in regional communities.

- 12 Issues Facing ESCQ Youth**
1. Boredom & Isolation
 2. Mental Health
 3. Self Esteem
 4. Community Engagement
 5. Bullying & Discrimination
 6. Physical Well-being
 7. Intellectual Challenges
 8. Drugs & Alcohol
 9. Drop-out Prevention & Education Re-integration
 10. Sexual Health & Safety
 11. Suicide Prevention
 12. Other Risk-taking Behaviours

Digital Shift project manager Richard Burnett surveyed artists, arts organizations, publicists and journalists, and hosted two focus group sessions to seek solutions for artists, arts organizations and their audiences to adapt to the "Digital Shift" from "Old Media" to "New Media." Existing technology was too expensive in 2013 to be viable.



Bill 14 Op Ed in the *Montréal Gazette*.

Bill 14 was the Parti Québécois' proposed revision of Bill 101. ELAN made interventions in the media and at the National Assembly. The Parti Québécois lost the 2014 election before the Bill was voted into law.

2014-2015



Arts Alive! Québec community leaders from Hudson, Huntingdon, Wakefield, Québec City and Knowlton planning productions and promotions for the following summer.

Significant projects and milestones 2014:

Arts Alive! Québec set-up phase, Visual Arts Market Access, TicArtToc's Made au Québec edition with Diversité Artistique Montréal, ELAN's 10th Anniversary and the Wonder Wall.



Cover of TicArtToc - Made au Québec edition.



Visiting Curators speaking to artists at Parisian Laundry.

ELAN helped edit and curate the fourth issue of DAM's (Diversité Artistique Montréal) quarterly magazine **TicArtToc**. The issue took its name from ELAN's Made au Québec website and explored the contemporary reality of being an English-language artist in Québec, and the places where French and English connect in Montréal. The launch event at Théâtre Sainte-Catherine featured lively theatrical animation by Promito Playback.

The **Visual Arts Market Access** project brought three curators from New York City and Boston to Montréal to visit 15 artists' studios and engage in a panel discussion at OBORO, and a Schmooszer at Parisian Laundry.



President, Bettina Forget, and Executive Director, Guy Rodgers about to cut 10th anniversary cake.

10th Anniversary Celebrations

included joint Schmooszers with QWF, Fringe, Montréal Film Group and McGill Schulich School of Music, three legacy panels, and a 10th Anniversary Celebration & AGM at Eastern Bloc which featured projected photo archives of the first 10 years.



Wonder Wall manager Daphné Lorian showing off photos of 10th Anniversary guests.



ELAN members at 10th Anniversary.

2015-2016

Significant projects and milestones 2015:

Arts Alive! Québec, Visual Arts Market Access II, Performing Arts Market Access Strategy, MATv launch 20%, NFB collaboration agreement, CBC 'Getting Media Attention' workshop.



Arts Alive! Québec partners from Hudson, Huntingdon, Knowlton, Québec City, Wakefield and the West Island launching the new project at Rialto Theatre press conference.

Arts Alive! Québec

Each region chose to present artists and activities specific to the area's existing talent and audiences.

Hudson's 4-day event included visual arts, puppets, theatre, poetry, film and music.

Québec City held a Friday evening concert, a Saturday afternoon Arts Fair and a Saturday evening concert.



Arts Fair at Morrin Centre, Québec City.

The **West Island** held a music concert Friday night, an arts fair with workshops on Saturday afternoon, and a performing arts program on Saturday evening.



Amos Joannides performing in Knowlton.

Knowlton held a music concert Friday night, an arts fair with workshops on Saturday afternoon, and a Celtic music and dance concert Saturday evening. There was also a film on Sunday.

Huntingdon held a music concert on the first Saturday evening, and an Arts Fair on the Sunday, which included a morning gospel performance, visual arts, crafts, children's entertainment and music. The second weekend featured Friday and Saturday dance performances that followed a two-week residency.

Wakefield's 4-day event included visual arts, theatre, film, music, and workshops.

Beginning in fall 2015, Videotron devoted 20% of the budget and programming on MATv, its community television station, to English-language content. This was the result of several years lobbying CRTC and Vidéotron. This new platform for filmmakers was the result of several years of ELAN's advocacy in broadcasting and community television alongside community groups and artists working in the field.



ELAN consultations regarding community television with Vidéotron

Visual Arts Market Access II

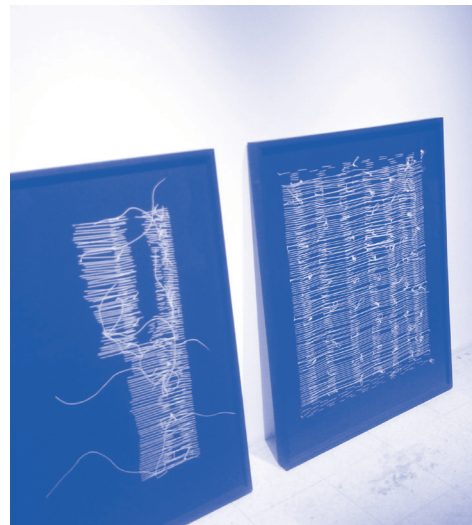
Four curators and gallerists from New York visited 13 studios in Montréal and devoted a day to visiting four studios in the Eastern Townships. Participating artists reported gaining a better sense of New York's art world, increased confidence in their own work, and a useful understanding of their work within a broader artistic context. The visiting curators and gallerists engaged in a lively panel discussion and Q & A at the Phi Centre, where they offered insight into their work and selection processes, and answered specific questions from artists in the audience.



Visual arts panel discussion at Phi Centre.



Visiting curators touring artist studios.



"Orison" prints by Nadia Myre.

Performing Arts Market Access Strategy

Canada Council funded ELAN to identify effective ways to help English-speaking performing artists in Québec tour, showcase, and export their work, both nationally and internationally. Project Managers Emilia Alvarez and Brenda Rooney conducted 110 in-depth interviews with performers and with arts producers, managers, and agents in dance, theatre, and music. Their report revealed key career goals and aspirations, barriers and opportunities, and gaps in professional knowledge, which enabled ELAN to apply to Canada Council for funds to implement the report's recommendations, including training workshops, robust administrative resources, showcases and special events.



Signing the first collaboration agreement between NFB, ELAN and QPEC.

"This agreement demonstrates the NFB's leadership in supporting English-language culture in Québec, from Montréal to regions like the Côte-Nord, the Eastern Townships and the Gaspé Peninsula. It also matches what the NFB already has in place for the French language minority outside of Québec, strengthening our commitment to official language minority communities across Canada."

Claude Joli-Coeur

Government Film Commissioner and Chairperson
of the National Film Board of Canada

2016-2017

Significant projects and milestones 2016: Arts Alive! Québec II, Visual Arts Market Access III, Performing Arts Market Access, Career Labs, Art-Communities-Education (ACE), ARTS2U research phase.



Durham County Poets on the grounds of Grove Hall, Huntingdon.

Arts Alive! Québec II

For the 2016 edition of Arts Alive! Québec (AAQ), six hardworking community partners produced local festivals, with ELAN providing administrative and promotional support coordinated by Project Manager Elsa Bolam. Hands-on arts and crafts workshops for all ages — new in 2016 — proved popular and would be included in future editions of AAQ.



Hudson Music Festival and Hudson Opera presenting musical cabaret "Berlin to Broadway".



Project managers introduce visiting curators and gallerists.



Panel discussion at Parisian Laundry.

Visual Arts Market Access III

The 2016 edition brought two curators and art experts from New York and one from Toronto—a highly useful market for Québec English-speaking artists. The curators conducted studio visits in Montréal and with artists from the year's target region of West Québec. A panel discussion and reception at Parisian Laundry allowed over 75 artists and curators to learn about the curators' work, ask questions, and network.

Performing Arts Market Access

Based on recommendation from the Performing Arts Market Access Strategy, Emilia Alvarez was hired as Project Manager to produce showcases and book events, assisted by Mariam Assaf. June Park, who developed ELAN's popular **Cultivate** grant writing workshops, was hired as Project Manager for the workshops and administrative resources. Both teams had devised critical paths and work plans for the project, which would be delivered over the next 20 months.

After years of conversations with educators, school boards and CLC staff, ELAN identified Christie Huff as a key education partner and we worked closely together to devise an innovative project. The **ACE JAM** brainstorming event at the Centre Culturel Georges Vanier gathered 54 artists, educators, and administrators to develop ideas for pilot projects.



ACE JAM brainstorming arts & education ideas: Denis Piquette, Katie Green, Deborah Forde.

2017-2018

Significant projects and milestones 2017:
Arts Alive! Québec III, Performing Arts Market Access, Art-Communities-Education (ACE),
 new **operating funding**, new **staff** and new **office**.



Performance of Jerome K. Jerome's "Three Men in a Boat" in Wakefield.

2017 was Canada's 150th anniversary and ELAN was granted a sizeable budget for the 3rd edition of **Arts Alive! Québec**. Anne Clark took over as Project Manager from Elsa Bolam.



Visual artist Lisa Kimberley Glickman enjoying a performance by the Jabbour String Trio at St-John Fisher school in Pointe Claire.



DJ workshop in Pointe-Claire.



Arts Alive! Québec canoe workshop at Kateri School in Kahnawake.

Five **ACE Test!** projects were completed and celebrated in Vaudreuil-Dorion, the Eastern Townships (Knowlton and Sutton), the Lower North Shore (Harrington Harbour and Chevery), Montérégie (Cedar Street Elementary in the Richelieu Valley, St. Lawrence Elementary in Candiac with Kateri School in Kahnawake, and Saint-Lambert). The projects were developed in close consultation with Project Manager Christie Huff, and Jennifer Cooke and Paula Knowles.

Performing Arts Market Access

Emilia Alvarez and Mariam Assaf arranged a music showcase in June at Northside Festival (NYC) with Ought, Men I Trust, Common Holly, and Elle Barbara's Black Space. The event was sold out and created a solid buzz. June Park organized a wide variety of workshops in Montréal and the regions, as well as individual consultations.



Poster for ELAN showcase at Northside Festival Brooklyn, NY.



Naima Phillips (Membership Services Coordinator), Amy Macdonald (Program Manager), Sufia Duez (Communication Coordinator), Guy Rodgers (Executive Director).

ELAN's Digital Solutions research project, managed by Dan Webster, surveyed artists, arts organizations, publicists, journalists, media specialists and technical specialists, and hosted two focus group sessions.

ELAN moved into larger offices at 460 Ste-Catherine West, and core staff doubled in 2017.

Significant projects and milestones 2018: Arts Alive! Québec IV, Performing Arts Market Access, ACE 2.0, Québec Relations, Career Labs, 5th full-time position.



LP Camozzi performing in Morrin Centre Library, Québec City.

Arts Alive! Québec IV

The fourth edition of AAQ worked with the regional partners in Hudson, Huntingdon, Knowlton, Wakefield, and Québec City. Instead of a single event on the West Island of Montréal, four libraries offered readings and music: Baie d’Urfé, Beaconsfield, Brossard, and West Montréal.



Deepti Gupta performing in Wakefield.



Community dancing in Wakefield.



Andrew Tay at Fierce Festival Showcase (England).

Performing Arts Market Access

ELAN sent three music groups to Halifax Pop Explosion in October for a Québec Showcase.

As part of **CINARS** in November, Emilia Alvarez and Mariam Assaf arranged a theatre and dance showcase with three companies. ELAN rented a booth at CINARS to promote Québec’s English-speaking artists and allow some of them to visit the CINARS events. ELAN produced a booklet featuring more than 50 artists to distribute to national and international bookers.

June Park organized a wide variety of workshops in Montréal and the regions, as well as individual consultations.



June Park’s grant writing workshop in Québec City.



Music Panel at Le Gesù.

2019-2020

Significant projects and milestones 2019: State of the Arts, AIG, ACE 2.0, Québec Relations, 15th anniversary at the Rialto Theatre.

State of the Arts

Project Manager Farah Fancy designed State of the Arts to include speed-dating with funders, and break-out sessions on: The Well-Being of Artists, Artists in Schools, Artists and Identity Politics, Funding, Accessibility in the Arts, and Connecting Across Sectors and Regions. This community consultation aimed to better understand how we as artists, cultural workers, arts organizers, funders, and audiences are all connected, and how we can help each other strengthen our arts community together through thoughtful collaboration and meaningful exchanges.



ELAN's board at 2018 AGM: Karen Cho, Fortner Anderson, Paul Bracegirdle, Bettina Forget, Keith Henderson, Helen Simard, Kalina Skulska, Patrick Lloyd Brennan, Roger Sinha, Kristelle Holliday, Kakim Goh.



Guy Rodgers receiving funding for the Québec Relations project with Ministers Kathleen Weil, Isabelle Melançon, David Birnbaum, and William Floch, director of the Secretariat for Relations with English-speaking Québécois.

Québec Relations

ELAN received a 3-year grant to develop a project initially entitled: Un Nouvel Élan Pour les Artistes Anglophones du Québec (A New Momentum for Québec's English-Speaking Artists). The Québec Relations project aims to connect provincial funding bodies with English-language artists and cultural organizations in need, to improve access to resources and support at the provincial level. This project is funded by the Government of Québec's Secretariat for Relations with English-Speaking Québécois.

Career Labs

During five workshops, mid-career and established artist leaders shared lessons from their experience, followed by discussions.



Moe Clark presenting Risk and Resilience: Living Artistically with Yourself and with Others.

ArtistsInspire Grants (AIG)

ELAN Québec, in partnership with LEARN, officially launched ArtistsInspire Grants (AIG) in May 2019. AIG is a micro-grant program to fund artistic and cultural activities in 300 official-language minority schools throughout the province of Québec. Each school is eligible to receive \$1500 for each of the next four years.

“The ultimate goal of the program is that through the hands-on creative experiences that artists facilitate, teachers, students and community members in the province are inspired to develop their creativity capacity in ways that lead to individual and community outcomes for learning, wellbeing and socio-economic development.”

Christie Huff

Lead Consultant, ELAN’s Art/Ed Initiatives

ELAN’s Newest Staff Members



Emily Enhorning
Membership Services Coordinator



Lital Khakin
Communications Coordinator
during Sufia Duez’s maternity leave



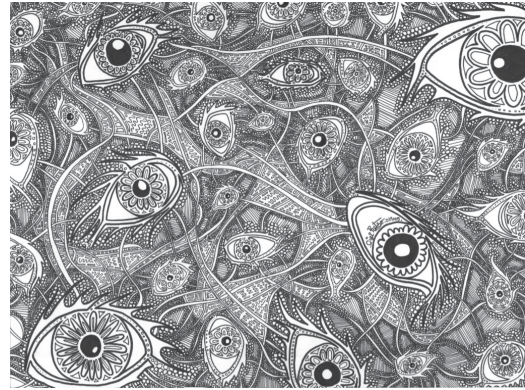
Deborah Forde became ELAN’s
5th full-time staff member as
Administration Manager



Member Contributions



Caroline Donati
Sunset Symphony, 2017
oil on canvas
30" x 15"



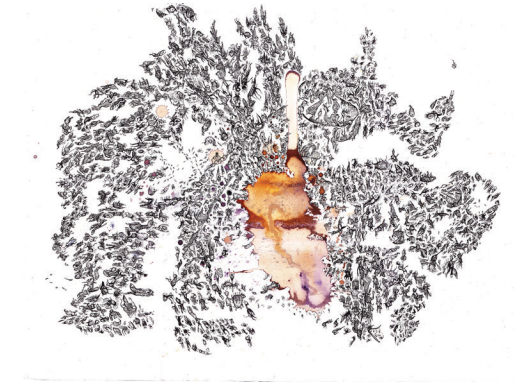
Gigi Retzo
Discussing Variables, 2019
China ink
9 x 12 inches



Erik Nieminen
Abstract Paradise, 2017
Oil on linen
130 x 170cm



Alyson Champ
The Cotswold Sheep from the Rare Beasts Project
Painted paper and gold leaf collage on panel
30 x 24



David Mutnjakovic
For all the Unborn Dreams, 2018
Pen & Ink & Water Color on Handmade Coldpress Paper
30" x 22"



Ezra Soiferman
Extending and Orange Branch, May 2018
Photography



Glenna Tissenbaum
Mardi Gras Madness, 2018
Acrylic
24" x 18"



Shelley Freeman
Deep-rooted Series #7, 2019
Oil on panel
18" x 18"



Marianne Shaker
To the Spirit of Natashquan, 2019
Mixed media; Oil paint, photography
40" x 24"

woman

Caile Donaldson

when I was seventeen walking out of the Midtown Motel
in a polyester dress
on my way to the bank in charge of my life on Main Street
did I hold the secret of the next decade inside me
the way females hold the eggs of their daughters
becoming mothers the second they're conceived

when I was thirty and not sure if it was biology or society or destiny or boredom
in a nice shirt
on the way to a poetry class to learn how to write
did I hold the secret of mortality inside me
only because I was tired and could
visualize my skeleton from the aching of bones

blade

seeley quest

i walk in and she's alone. It's late at night and dead quiet. She's been looking in a mirror, mulling over shaving. i slowly come close, stand right in front of her, hold her gaze, and take the razor without a word. Her chair's on a step, so when she sits the top of her head comes just to my larynx. i reach from behind her to dip in the bowl of fine lather there and smear the first fingerful of cream across her jaw and up her cheekbone. It is like meringue. i watch her close her eyes a moment as i smooth my hand down through bristle, caressing over to her ear, then across her upper lip with the lightest of glides. i see the marks my fingers leave in the cream, all across her face, and she sees me seeing. i grasp the old-fashioned razor, and in the first moment of touch press it just lightly against her cheek, wait, so she feels it. Then i slowly draw the blade down. i can hear the slight scrape past each pore, the rasp of cutting each coarse hair. The only other sounds are the tick of the clock and breath, our measured inhales and exhales. i press evenly across every stroke and never draw blood. She turns her head slightly to look at me, sparing nothing in that moment, then, brave, slowly tips her head back to rest against my chest. Her eyes are closed and neck stretched out, admitting me in at her most vulnerable part. i pause with the edge on her skin. First i press against the ends of the bristle so gently they bend but don't slice. She flinches, then holds her breath. i place one hand on her brow. At last and most deliberate, with the other i start my stroke up her throat.



Tamsin Horsfall
the race
acrylic
3' x 4'



Kathryn Gabinet-Kroo
Messenger to the Mortal World, 2017
Oil and acrylic on paper, laminated on wood panel
30" x 22"

Advocacy

Over the years, ELAN's members have consistently rated Advocacy as one of our most valued member services, although the benefits are mostly indirect and long-term. ELAN advocates for Québec's English-speaking artists in several different arenas.

Official Languages Advocacy

ELAN's main funding source has been the Department of Canadian Heritage, under provisions of Canada's Official Languages Act. ELAN is frequently invited to Ottawa for consultations with Parliamentary Committees and the Senate Standing Committee. In collaboration with *la Fédération culturelle canadienne-française* (FCCF), ELAN ensures that arts and culture are well represented as important elements of community vitality.

The Official Languages Act celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2019 with year-long, cross-country consultation, seeking ways modernize the Act. ELAN was actively involved in consultations in Ottawa and Montréal.

Arts Advocacy

The Canada Council for the Arts meets with ELAN's Board of Directors to discuss funding programs and community needs. CEO Simon Brault met twice with ELAN's board to discuss concerns about the implementation of the New Funding Model in 2017-18.

Le Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec (CALQ) and *le Conseil des arts de Montréal* (CAM) consult ELAN about issues and priorities for the English-speaking community of Québec, and ELAN makes written interventions on policy consultations. ELAN was the major English-language intervener on Québec's revised Cultural Policy in 2017.



NFB agreement renewal in 2019 with Kirwan Cox (QPEC), Claude Jolicoeur (NFB), Bettina Forget (ELAN), Guy Rodgers (ELAN).

ELAN works with Canada Council, CALQ and CAM to organize information sessions and grant writing workshops for English-speaking artists.

In 2010, ELAN collaborated with the Department of Canadian Heritage to organize an annual Arts, Culture and Heritage Working Group meeting with federal departments and agencies, including Canada Council, Telefilm, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC), and the National Film Board of Canada (NFB).

In 2018, ELAN received funding from the Secretariat for Relations with English-speaking Québécois. One component of this new Government Relations project is to establish an Arts, Culture and Heritage Working Group at the provincial level with participation from CALQ, SODEC, the Ministries of Culture and Education, and Télé-Québec.

- 2018** As of December 2018, ELAN sits on the Culture Montréal diversity policy working group. When Québec's new Cultural Policy was released in April 2018, ELAN worked with three Ministers of Culture and their staff to ensure that English-speaking artists would be recognized and supported.
- 2017-18** In 2017-18, ELAN partnered with DAM to promote and analyze the results of their independent commission on systemic racism.
- 2016** ELAN gathered community feedback for Québec's 2016 Cultural Policy Review, which went largely unnoticed in English media.

Broadcasting and Production Advocacy

Since 2008, in collaboration with Kirwan Cox, who became Executive Director of the Québec English-language Production Council (QPEC) after serving several years on ELAN's board of directors, ELAN has made dozens of interventions to the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC), regarding broadcast policy and broadcasters' licence renewals.

In December 2010, *Montréal Gazette* columnist Brendan Kelly raised the issue of regional reflection on national television in his article *Montréal is Missing from the Programming Map*. Brendan began: "When was the last time you saw a television series set in Montréal on CBC, CTV or Global?" Nothing had been produced since *Urban Angel* in 1991-92.

"After years of decreasing production, no less than eight different TV dramas were in production this year. Six were funded by CMF's [Canada Media Fund] Anglophone Minority Incentive and two from regular CMF funds. The combined budgets of these productions was over \$85 million and an additional \$10 million was being spent on documentaries. These productions provided work for directors, writers, actors, set and costume designers, and all of the other skills required for television production."

A Short History of Broadcasting Advocacy, published by ELAN (2016).



Kathleen Weil announcing the Secretariat for Relations with English-speaking Quebecers' new funding (2017).



Simon Brault, CEO of Canada Council speaking to ELAN.

In 2015, ELAN and the Québec English-language Production Council (QPEC) signed a landmark collaboration agreement with the National Film Board of Canada.

ELAN successfully lobbied Vidéotron to reallocate 20% of the funding and airtime on its MATV community channel to English-language production. This has provided work and creative opportunities for dozens of people and has empowered our community to share stories that have been equally popular with English- and French-speaking viewers.

In 2018, ELAN joined a community media consortium with three community media partners (two representing radio, TV and newspapers in minority French-language communities across Canada, and the Québec Community Newspapers Association). ELAN is filling a gap by representing English-language community radio in Québec, with assistance from Hugh Maynard.

Community Advocacy

ELAN became a member of the Québec Community Groups Network (QCGN) in 2006, and held a seat on the board for several years. ELAN collaborates closely with QCGN in many interventions in Ottawa. More importantly, ELAN works closely with QCGN and its members to ensure that community leaders appreciate the value of arts and culture as vectors of community vitality, positive identity, and youth retention.



Public hearings on Quebec's renewed Cultural Policy (2016).



Guy Rodgers with Mélanie Joly, Minister of Tourism, Official Languages and La Francophonie, and QCGN members during 50th anniversary review of the Official Languages Act.

Membership

ELAN was informally created at the Québec Arts Summit November 25-27, 2004 and formally incorporated April 29, 2005.



ELAN members with board director Kakim Goh at 2018 AGM.

Almost three dozen artists and cultural workers immediately joined ELAN, and a dozen of those people became actively involved. Signing up the next three dozen members was hard work. Although membership was free, ELAN did not have much to offer by way of services. The first projects involved research and, although the data collected was valuable, it had little direct or immediate impact for prospective members. ELAN began to build a community of members with the introduction of Schmoozers, a popular and low-budget way to connect artists across disciplines, neighbourhoods and regions.

ELAN's most popular artistic disciplines are Visual Arts, Literature, Theatre, and Music & Sound. The smallest membership categories are Circus Arts and Comedy.

“Since its establishment, ELAN has helped me to forge connections and in other ways supported me as an individual artist and as the president of Studio Georgeville, an artist-run cultural centre in the Townships. At the first ELAN conference in 2004, I met the publisher who issued my book “The Heart of the Farm”. At a subsequent conference, I met the director of a film festival in Wakefield—the first festival to screen “Nunaaluk: A Forgotten Story”, a documentary that I made about the forced relocation of an Inuit settlement in northern Quebec.”

Louise Abbott
Visual Artist

2006

150 members

2007

800 members

2008

1,300 members

2009

To generate revenue, and demonstrate community support, a membership fee of \$30 for professional members was introduced January 1.

2018

Fee changed to Pay-What-You-Can so that cost would not be a barrier to ELAN membership.

2019

Most ELAN members are located in Montréal, followed by Montérégie, Townships and West Québec.



Isabelle Shi, Amy Macdonald, Jennifer Broydell, Sufia Duez, Emily Enhorning, Guy Rodgers.

Make the Most of Your Membership!

Support Arts Advocacy!

ELAN regularly meets with government and community leaders about issues concerning funding, market access, and diversity. Membership is a direct way to build relationships with us, help us to accurately represent your needs, and shape policy.

Participate in the governance of ELAN

- Join a Committee
- Vote at an Annual General Meeting
- Run for the Board of Directors

Have your voice heard

- Share your artistic needs through surveys, focus groups, and community conversations
- Talk to us about your advocacy and community building work— we might be able to support you!

Access Useful Resources!

ELAN works to provide workshops, events, and other programs that directly respond to member needs. We strive to make these accessible for all, but members are always the priority when capacity is limited or special opportunities arise.

Examples of past member-exclusive opportunities include:

- Workshops with the CBC on “Getting Media Attention”
- One-on-one grant writing consultations
- Members also receive a monthly, exclusive newsletter with first notice of job opportunities and other news

Build Community!

- Attend one of our Schmoozers: a free, bi-monthly hangout for artists to meet
- Attend member-exclusive workshops and events
- Find and connect with other ELAN members by visiting and adding your profile to our online member directory, or by sharing your events in our Community Calendar

Share your work!

Members can share their news and events for promotion in ELAN’s networks, which include:

Newsletters

Sent to over 2500 subscribers monthly

Social Media

Including Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram

Minute Markets

A chance to present your work in 60 seconds or less at one of our Schmoozers

Have your work featured on *Artists Illuminated*

A blog dedicated to sharing the stories of those who make up ELAN

Pay-What-You-Can

Our model for ELAN Membership is Pay-What-You-Can, which we hope will make membership more inclusive and accessible for everyone. If you are unable to pay a fee you are still very much welcome to join ELAN’s community of members!

An astounding majority of our members voted in favour of ELAN’s Pay-What-You-Can model at our 2017 Annual General Meeting!

Your membership fees help ELAN:

- Finance our work advocating for English-speaking artists
- Provide useful low or no-cost workshops and events
- Promote members’ work
- Develop new projects, and more!

Team

President

Bettina Forget

Vice President

Louise Campbell

Treasurer

Kristelle Holliday

Secretary

Karen Cho

Directors

Fortner Anderson

Purna Bhattacharya

Paul Bracegirdle

Patrick Lloyd Brennan

Kakim Goh

Keith Henderson

Li Li

Lori Schubert

Helen Simard

Roger Sinha

Kalina Skulska

Executive Director

Guy Rodgers

Administration Manager

Deborah Forde

Program Manager

Amy Macdonald

Communications Coordinators

Sufia Duez

Lital Khaikin

Membership Services Coordinator

Emily Enhorning

Special Projects Facilitator

Jennifer Broydell

Research Coordinator

Nick Maturò

Membership & Communications Assistant

Camille Horrocks-Denis

AGM Communications Assistant

Yonger Xie

IT Coordinator and Consultant

Andre Athanasiadis

Finances

Claire Robitaille

Translators

Florence Vallières

Geneviève Letarte

Project Managers

Christie Huff (Arts & Education)

Paula Knowles (Arts & Education)

Farah Fancy (State of the Arts)

Anne Clark (Arts Alive! Québec)

Dan Webster (Digital Solutions)

June Park (Arts Alive! Québec)

ELAN 15 Special Projects

Booklet Design

Huot & Vallentin

Brochure Design

Stranger Familiar

Art & Literature Contributors

Alyson Champ

Caroline Donati

Shelley Freeman

Kathryn Gabinet-Kroo

Tamsin Horsfall

Ceilidh Michelle

David Mutnjakovic

Erik Nieminen

seeley quest

Gigi Retzo

Marianne Shaker

Ezra Soiferman

Glenna Tissenbaum

15th AGM Performers

Greg Selinger & Travis Knights

Irem Bekter

TITTERS (Janis Kirshner & Laura Mitchell)

Carolyn Fe

Kevin Harvey & Durham County Poets

Andrea Peña and Artists

Video Production

Roger Sinha

Yonger Xie

Photography Credits

Anne Clark (p. 18)

Kinga Michalska (cover, 5, 21, 23, 29)

Julia Stringhetta (p. 18)

Nasuna Stuart-Ulin (p. 27, 38, 39)

Manuel Vasson (p. 25)

Sister Organizations



[aelaq].org

Affiliations



Deals & Discounts Partners

Agora de la danse

alt. theatre magazine

BandZoogole

Centaur Theatre

CLC Montréal Language School

C Magazine

Cultural Human Resources Council (CHRC)

Drawn & Quarterly Bookstore

Eastern Bloc

Express Voice Studio

Frame & Canvas

French Consultations with Jessica Valmé

MainLine Theatre

Montréal, arts interculturels

Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec

Musicians of the World Symphony Orchestra (MWSO)

Orchestre Classique de Montréal

Orchestre Symphonique de Laval

Rubiks

Segal Centre

Select par Stéphane

SpotEv

TOHU



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