

Annual Report 2021



manitoba showcase

learn • book • collaborate

OCTOBER 25-30th

5 Day Digital
Showcase & Conference

5 days, 34 artists, 150 delegates
Featuring some of the best Canadian
visual and performing artists.

Connects Manitoba
presenters and galleries to artists.
Engages over 150 attendees to
exchange ideas and
develop relationships

- 14 performing artist showcases: Theatre, Dance, Music, Variety
- 10 emerging performing artist showcases
- 4 exhibitions: Visual art showcase
- 3 collectives: Visual art pitches
- 9 webinars
- 1 Contact room – presenters meeting artists

The Manitoba Arts Network connects, showcases, and promotes visual and performing artists with rural communities across MB.

We are a member-driven, not-for-profit, provincial arts service organization for performing and visual arts organizations in rural Manitoba. We support and strengthen arts organizations by fostering a collaborative arts marketplace and ecosystem that is vibrant, sustainable and resilient.

We increase access to the arts by connecting visual/performing artists to rural communities:

1) Digitally

- MB Showcase - 9 webinars, 9 pitches, 14 performing artist showcases, 10 emerging performing artists, 6 visual art exhibition pitches, 3 performing arts organization pitches, and 150 delegates.
- 7 exhibitions - 4 touring exhibitions, RAMP, 5 Regional Juried Art Shows, and MB Rural & Northern Juried Art Show (50 artists, 5 regions).

2) Touring and Block Booking Programs

- 30 bookings for 4 visual art exhibitions: Rosemary Dzus - *Raven Life*, Kathleen Shellrude - *Forest Royalty*, Frost Shield Kerfuffle - *Revolting*, Gerry Ruecker - *Undiscarded: ReForm/ReFunction*
- Indigenous Touring Program – 47 concerts
\$150,000 from Canadian Heritage, Canada Council and MAC
 - Indigenous Summer Tour - 15 concerts
Desiree Dorion, Rhonda Head & 5 emerging artists
 - Indigenous Celebration Tour – 21 concerts (fall 2022)
 - Indian City (Vince Fontaine)
 - Low budget Rock Star – emerging artist alumni
 - Brandi Vezina – emerging artist alumni
 - William Prince concerts - 9 concerts (last 3 turned into a 1 digital concert for all)
 - Mattmac digital concert In partnership with Killarney Turtle Mountain
 - Double the Trouble concert in partnership with Minnedosa performing Arts committee
- Concerts in Care - 3 summer/fall outdoor concerts
- Block Booking - more cancellations than rescheduling
 - Leaf Rapids
 - Manitoba Chamber Orchestra, 4 concerts Spring 2022
 - Prairie Debut's Bouey-Doucet, 3 concerts Spring 2022

Low Budget Rock Star



3) Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Initiatives

- RBC Emerging Artist Mentorship Program - 9 artists (4 Indigenous, 2 black and 2 LGBTQ+ artists).
- Indigenous Rural Art Mentorship Program (IRAMP) - 4 Indigenous visual artists, exhibit at AGSM.

"To be honest I joined this group because I wanted to learn, not because I had a lot of personal expertise in this area, and I've learned a lot! ... Thanks so much for making this happen – I'm really excited about being able to use these surveys with our community!" Audience Insights project



• **Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Initiatives Continued**

- 6 Indigenous artists
- 4 Black artists
- 2 People of colour artists
- 1 Artist living with a disability
- 1 Francophone artist
- 1 Theatre company
- 1 Dance company



Yung Gio - Emerging Artist

We help rural arts organizations & artists increase skills, knowledge, & capacity:

A) *To diversify and improve the quality of programming presenters can offer to their audiences.*

20 webinars & group discussions on:

- embracing digital tools and optimizing operations
- diversity, equity, and inclusion
- collaborative communities

176 attendees/views

B) *Professional development to further practical presentation knowledge*

- **Audience Insights Research Project** - funded by CAPACOA and MB Arts council to develop 20+ survey monkey templates to support a variety of programming to be used by all members. The virtual member info clinics completed summer/fall 2022.
- **Joint Marketing Initiative** - a webinar to determine how members could work jointly on marketing and what tools were needed. Canva poster templates and social media templates were designed as a result. A Canva "how to" webinar was delivered. Manitoba Arts Council funding awarded to continue this initiative in 2022-23.

We facilitate connections between all players in the arts eco-system:

- **MB Showcase** – 4 events, 155 Attendees
- **MB Rural and Northern Art Show** - 56 artworks, 6 regions
- **Prairie Debut** - Collaborative Communities project 3 members
Breaking down silos & building regional relationships
- **Creative Manitoba** - workshops at MB Showcase
- **Manitoba Music** - RBC Emerging Artist program
- **Mentoring Artists for Women's Art** - Indigenous Rural Art Mentorship program
- **Arts & AccessAbility Network Manitoba** - workshops at MB Showcase & Curated Artist List
- **Manitoba Craft Council** - workshops for members & Curated Artist List



"It has been an incredible opportunity playing within a variety of Manitoba Indigenous communities. My band and I love the community gigs; they're heart felt and fun. We had amazing experiences and would like to thank you for the opportunities. We look forward to continuing working with you and are grateful for the work you do for Manitoba artists." **Brandi Vezina (Emerging Artist Alumni)**



Advocacy - over recent years.

- *Provincial*
 - Covid emergency funding over 2 years distributed by MAC as the sustainability fund.
 - New arts funding 100 million over three years including 34 million in 2022-23 that will be distributed by the province.
 - MAC – feedback from Members on the new operating grant.
- *Federal*
 - Through our membership with CAPACOA we collectively advocated for the 10% Canadian Heritage increase over 3 years and covid emergency funding.

We champion digital platforms to promote artists & member events:

- Member tools & Resources shared folder on our google drive
- Studies/reports, organizational policies, social media content calendar template, advocacy starter guide, grant tracking sheet template
- 2022 excel media – 195 print and radio contacts
- Canva shareable poster and social media poster templates
- Public Place Network - livestream & pay per view channel for members digital content
- 7 exhibitions hosted on our online art gallery
- 67 artists applied to “I want to Showcase”, a national online application

We raise awareness and increase the profile of rural arts:

- Facebook Followers: 3019 total / 502 new
- YouTube Subscribers: 287 total / 22 new
- Instagram Followers: 1400 total/ 128 new
- Twitter Followers: 887 total / 24 new
- 5 Print articles



Brandi Vezina

Impact

*Thank you for choosing us to be part of the Celebrations Tour. It was great to perform in the First Nations communities. It was a lot of fun. **Vince Fontaine - Indian City***

I cannot urge you enough to attend the Showcase, regardless of where you are now in your programming. There are so many resources, information, ideas that you will gain by being there (aside from networking with other arts folks who can help you).

There are funders who attend and this gives you one on one time with them to pick their brains and find out what you might be able to apply for to get started, improve, or maintain your organization.

Killarney Turtle Mountain Arts Council

*I have very much appreciated the support I have received from MAN. During the intense and chaotic time of Covid, this organization adapted its reach very quickly to provide ways for artists to continue to generate income and remain active in the arts community via Zoom workshops, interviews, and presentations. Thanks, Manitoba Arts Network! **Rosemary Dzus, Raven Life - touring exhibition 2021-22.***



Impact

I am grateful to have had the opportunity to participate in Manitoba Showcase as a Showcasing artist. The opportunity to showcase has given me access to a network of presenters across Manitoba, and led to our upcoming tour in 2023!

The opportunity to network and present my music to Manitoba arts organizations was invaluable and I would recommend showcasing to other artists who would like to bring their shows to Manitoba in the future.

Now, more than ever, us artists need these essential opportunities to build up our networks, and rebuild our national tours to be able to grow our business. **Chris McKhool, Sultans of String, 2021 Showcase artist**



"We spent a lot of time just talking about what a Showcase Conference (once booked) is like, and how to best answer these questions to show the showcase adjudicators that you have the ability to deliver the product they are looking for. By the end of the mentorship, each mentee felt like they had a better understanding of what the Showcase conference and application process would be like and which pieces... to include in an actual application."

"With the help from this mentorship, artist Laura Lucas has booked a few shows at the end of this year as well as planning a casual online streamed show." **Grace Hrabi, Casati, 2021 RBC emerging artist mentor**

It was an awesome evening the comments I was given were very positive people really enjoyed the evening we need to do this more! So special. Thanks for making this event come true. **The Pas Arts Council - William Prince Concert**

During the Indigenous Summer tour an additional date was added and it was my home Nation of Pine Creek First Nation. That was probably the most incredible news I could have had over the last two years of my life. I have never played or performed in my home community before. This along with the additional locations were very warm and welcoming to us. The long absence of the ability to perform in public returned with such an inspiring and lifting force for me personally. I feel I have grown and gained a lot from the tour. It has motivated me as an artist and I believe others like myself could succeed so much more with this experience on their music resumes. It was an honour to have this opportunity and I hope they keep the funding in place for the new emerging artists in Manitoba to have this as well. **Kristan McKay**



Rhonda Head, Desiree Dorion,
Becky Lou & Kristen McKay

MAN is a valuable resource for rural arts organizations. True to their name, their strength is networking! They support artists, arts organizations and other stakeholders sharing information, coordinate initiatives of shared benefit, and provide a "go-to place" to help source answers to problems and/or questions.
Birtle Centre for the Arts

