

# Edmonton Arts Council – 2009 Cultural Diversity in the Arts Awards

## Recommendation:

That Community Services Committee recommend to City Council:

That the 2009 City of Edmonton Cultural Diversity in the Arts Program award recommendations, as outlined in Attachment 1 of the January 13, 2010, Edmonton Arts Council Report 2010EAC002, be approved.

## Report Summary

**A total of \$90,000 is recommended in support of the 2009 Cultural Diversity in the Arts awards.**

## Report

- At the December 2008, City Council Budget meeting, City Council approved \$100,000 to the 2009 Edmonton Arts Council budget to fund the City of Edmonton Cultural Diversity in the Arts Awards.
- Nominations were accepted at the Edmonton Arts Council up to 4:30 p.m. on October 1, 2009. Twenty-two nominations were received.
- An assessment committee was appointed by the Edmonton Arts Council Board.
- Of the 22 nominations, two were considered ineligible. Nominees were determined to be ineligible if they had received a grant or other support from the Edmonton Arts Council, or were in general, already

connected to the established arts community.

- The Committee considered the eligible nominations and made recommendations to the Edmonton Arts Council Board on funding.
- The Edmonton Arts Council Board approved the attached recommendations at their January 13, 2010, meeting.

## Justification of Recommendation

The recommendations are made in accordance with Bylaw 14157 and Policy C211F.

## Attachment

1. 2009 City of Edmonton Cultural Diversity in the Arts Program: Program Summary and Award Recommendations

## 2009 City of Edmonton Cultural Diversity in the Arts Program: Program Summary and Award Recommendations

### Program Summary

#### Purpose

The Edmonton Arts Council believes that diversity is a source of strength and vitality in the arts, and recognizes the need to support and reflect the contributions of artists from varied cultural backgrounds. Our goal is to be inclusive of and responsive to communities and artists that might not be currently connected with or have access to the Edmonton Arts Council or the established arts community. Priority will be given to artists who have never received funding through the EAC.

This program will provide up to 12 awards of \$7,500 to encourage and support Edmonton artists from ethnically diverse cultural backgrounds, and to engage those artists in the broader Edmonton community. The Cultural Diversity in the Arts Program was initiated in 2008 as an annual program under which individual artists that meet the eligibility criteria can be nominated for an award by any person in the general community. Self-nominations are accepted. Organizations are not eligible.

#### Eligibility

A person is eligible to be considered for a City of Edmonton Cultural Diversity in the Arts Award if she or he is:

- an Edmonton resident since at least January 1, 2009
- eligible to work in Canada
- 18 years of age or older
- dedicated to devoting herself or himself to her/his artistic activity
- working in any artistic medium including but not limited to dance, theatre, music, literary arts, storytelling and other oral traditions, fine craft, media arts or visual arts.

The program will provide awards to artists:

- who are, or aspire to be, excellent artists. "Excellence" may be verified by a favorable assessment of the artist's work by peers, by past awards, by academic qualifications, or by community and public recognition.
- from ethnically diverse cultural backgrounds who are not yet familiar with Edmonton's established arts institutions and/or artist support programs
- who are dedicated to pursuing their artistic endeavors while living in Edmonton

#### Award Recommendations

The Committee makes award recommendations based on its assessment and evaluation of each nomination. In the opinion of the Committee, the applications below rated highly on the evaluation criteria and the Committee chose to allocate an award of \$7500 to each of the following artists:

**Valerie Mason-John:** Originally from Sierra Leone, Valerie is a writer and performance artist and became a permanent resident in December 2008.

**Reni Ferreira:** Born in Brazil, Reni began training in the Afro-Brazilian art form of Capoeira at the age of 8. He arrived in Edmonton in 2001.

**Chika Udok:** Born in Nigeria, Chiko has been a practicing artist for the past 10 years, and has a degree in Fine & Applied Art. She has lived in Edmonton for the past two years.

**Jinzhe Cui:** Jinzhe has resided in Edmonton since the end of 2007. She is an experimental artist & photographer from China, where she received a Masters Degree in Art at the Dalian Polytechnic University

**Punita Choham:** Born and raised in India, Punita came to Edmonton in 2002 to continue to pursue visual art professionally.

**Tsehay Debebe:** Born in Hagar Mariam, Ethiopia, Tsehay has been singing and dancing since 1998 and has lived in Edmonton for 2 years.

**Gordana Zivkovic:** From Serbia, Gordana received her BFA and MFA in visual arts at the Belgrade Faculty of Arts and has lived in Edmonton since 2007

**Iryna Karpenko:** Born in Kyiv, Ukraine, Iryna graduated with honors from the Children Fine Art School, then the Kyiv College of Industrial Arts, & the Ukrainian Academy of Fine Art & Architecture. Iryna moved to Edmonton in 2004.

**Emeterio Mance:** Emeterio is a visual artist originally from the Philippines, and has lived in Edmonton since 2001.

**Ana Aloy Mora:** Born in Barcelona, Spain Ana graduated from the art program at the Escuela Superior de Bellas Artes San Jorge Universidad de Barcelona. She came to Edmonton in 2004

**Edward Porper:** Originally from Russia, Edward is a writer and translator who received his BA in Language and Literature from Haifa University in Israel, and has lived in Edmonton for 2 years

**Jaama Jaamac:** Jaama is a documentary filmmaker who came to Edmonton from Somalia in 2005