

2021 Edmonton Arts Council - Investments in Organizations - Overview

The Edmonton Arts Council's work is guided by *Connections & Exchanges: A 10-Year Plan to Transform Arts and Heritage In Edmonton*. The Ambitions, Aims and Actions outlined in the plan are driving the EAC's approach and decision-making in the renewal and retooling of its investment programs.

The EAC Board is committed to supporting the arts community in these uncertain times through targeted investments. The EAC will make investments to sustain operations, foster artistic and organizational resilience and facilitate dialogue to build organizational innovation and readiness for a gradual return to a wide range of artistic activities.

As the EAC builds structures and makes investment decisions for organizations, we are guided by the following Aim from Book 4 of *Connections & Exchanges*: *New and existing arts and heritage organizational capacity enables innovation and builds resilience in the sector.*

The work to build new investment and support structures was underway before the COVID-19 pandemic. That work has been disrupted, as has the work of the organizations that produce and present arts and festivals in our community.

In response to the current need to balance stability and flexibility, as well as looking forward to the future envisioned in *Connections & Exchanges*, the Edmonton Arts Council's plan to support organizations for 2021 is based on three pillars:

- Sustain Investments for the immediate, short term support of organizations to help maintain their existing capacity.
- Activate Investment to support organizations striving to build resilience through relevant activity, including programming in 2021 when possible.
- Invent and Adapt Tools, resources, and potential investments to enable innovation around organizational structures, governance, and business models for the future.

The Sustain and Activate pillars are both related to investments in organizations in the short and medium-term.

The Invent and Adapt pillar will require the active engagement of organizations with the Edmonton Arts Council through meetings, virtual events, and shared work over the coming months and years.