

ACAP Late/Second Intake 2025 Application Synopses – Successful Applicants

1. **Applicant Name:** Centre Francophone de Sault-Ste.-Marie
Project Name: Festival des Franco-Ontariens/Franco-Ontarian Festival
Amount Granted: \$5,000
Grant Stream: Community Events Grant
Project Details: On September 25th, Franco-Ontario Day, we will invite all local French and French immersion schools in Sault Ste. Marie to participate in a flag raising at the Civic Centre. If funds and opportunity allows we would like to have some activities planned for the kids at Clergue park afterwards. This event is important to instill pride in the culture and show that they are an important part of the community.

On September 28th they will be hosting a celebration of Franco-Ontarian day which will include dinner and a show. This event is an important opportunity to celebrate the Franco-Ontarian culture and provides an opportunity to share and connect cultural values with the community at large. It is also an opportunity to share with newcomers to the Sault.

2. **Applicant Name:** The Klub Community Centre
Project Name: We Matter: Embracing Joy – The KLUB's Pride Festival 2025
Amount Granted: \$6,000
Grant Stream: Cultural Diversity Grant
Project Details: The "We Matter: Embracing Joy" Pride Festival, hosted by The KLUB, will be a dynamic celebration of 2SLGBTQIA+ strength, resilience, and joy, held at the fully accessible Downtown Plaza in Sault Ste. Marie. This event will be the first local Pride festival to incorporate accessibility features such as ASL interpretation, sensory-friendly spaces, adaptive equipment, and accessible seating, ensuring inclusivity for everyone.

The festival's primary goal is to celebrate 2SLGBTQIA+ identities through a variety of performances and cultural activities, including live music, drag performances, spoken word, and youth-led story time. Young people will play a key role in leading and shaping the event, contributing to the festival's focus on empowerment and resilience.

In addition to performances, the festival will feature an art tent, where participants can engage in creative expression, as well as a diverse range of activities such as an obstacle course, a water feature, a jungle gym, games, and hair braiding stations. Vendors and service providers will offer a variety of goods, services, and information to attendees. There will also be food vendors and a photo booth, creating opportunities for fun and connection.

The festival will focus on community engagement and allyship, fostering an inclusive environment where everyone can participate, celebrate, and learn. With its first-ever inclusion of accessibility features, gender-inclusive washrooms, and cultural representation, the festival will be a significant step toward creating an accessible, welcoming space for all members of the community.

3. **Applicant Name:** Sault Ste. Marie Chamber of Commerce
Project Name: 17 North: Northern Ontario Music Conference & Showcase Series
Amount Granted: \$6,000
Grant Stream: Large Project Grant Stream
Project Details: Year 1 – ThinkTank Conference (September 2025)

The entertainment industry in Northern Ontario faces a significant challenge: a shortage of qualified crew and staff for events, concerts, and productions. Industry professionals at all levels report ongoing difficulties in finding skilled workers, while artists and their teams often lack the necessary knowledge to navigate the business side of their careers.

The ThinkTank Conference will serve as a critical first step in addressing these gaps. By bringing together key industry leaders, we will identify the most pressing workforce challenges and explore practical solutions to strengthen the regional talent pipeline. This event will provide valuable data and insights that will directly inform the development of training programs and resources in Year 2.

Key Objectives for Year 1 include: assessing workforce gaps, industry collaboration, development of data-driven strategy.

4. **Applicant Name:** Sault Community Theatre Centre
Project Name: The Sault Community Theatre Centre's 35th Anniversary Celebration
Amount Granted: \$5,900
Grant Stream: Large Project Grant
Project Details: The Sault Community Theatre Centre has reached its 35th Anniversary operating in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. We will invite all members of the community to come to this celebration occurring on September 27th 2025 at 7 PM to 10 PM to participate in the commemoration of Theatre.

The celebration will feature many organizations and groups within Sault Ste. Marie and surrounding areas, such as the City of Sault Ste. Marie, ADSB, Dance Studios, Theatre Groups, Performers, Artists, and the business community, who have historically utilized the theatre for their own cultural and arts celebrations over the past 35 years. We wish to acknowledge and share their accomplishments along with our own on the anniversary celebration. We will collaborate with the Art Council of Algoma, the Sault Ste. Marie Chamber of Commerce, the Culture Centre (Anishnaabe).

The goals of this event are as follows:

Acknowledge the growth of the SCTC and its importance in our community by displaying historical documentation (Museum and Heritage Artifacts) throughout the 35 years. This includes a plan to present a series of editorials through social media, our website and other media. During the event there will be a display of various visual displays (posters, Gallery wall, Souvenir Program, outreach materials), a film/video celebrating all aspects of the theatre and theatre community (individuals involved- past and present, footage of previous events, costumes, and news stories through the years), and highlight our 35th years of performing arts and services.

5. **Applicant Name:** Algoma Arts Festival Association

Project Name: Algoma Fall Festival 2025

Amount Granted: \$7,000

Grant Stream: Operating

Project Details: The Algoma Fall Festival (AFF) will celebrate its 53rd season in October 2025, offering a vibrant and eclectic lineup of live music, visual art, cultural exhibitions, and national presentations. This annual event, set against the backdrop of autumn's rich colors, will bring a diverse cultural experience to the Algoma region.

Securing ACAP funding will help overcome a significant challenge: providing the necessary resources to secure and promote top-tier entertainment well in advance, enabling new partnerships and collaborative tourism initiatives that were not previously possible.

With ACAP support, we can ensure that the 2025 Festival features comprehensive marketing, publicity, and world-class programming, all underpinned by a strong sales and sponsorship strategy. This will make it possible for this key Northern Ontario event to be a success.

The 2025 Festival will present approximately 8 ticketed events and 4 free events, including musical performances, artistic displays, and the return of a beloved speaker series, bringing authors and poets to the Algoma region. These events will be held throughout October 2025 at various venues across the city.

The AFF Association will also continue its commitment to delivering the Festival of Learning, an extensive regional arts outreach and educational program. In partnership with both the public and separate school boards, this initiative engages approximately 5,000 students annually through workshops, performances, and other learning and development opportunities. Supported in part by the ADSB and HSCDSB, this program has a positive impact on students across the entire Algoma region.

6. **Applicant Name:** Over the Rainbow Children's Entertainment

Project Name: Over the Rainbow 2026

Amount Granted: \$6,000

Grant Stream: Operating

Project Details: Over the Rainbow Children's Entertainment works throughout the year planning what productions we will bring to Sault Ste. Marie. We start with a wish list chosen by each of the Northern Presenter communities. Then Zoom meeting discussions shortens the list. Ontario Presents negotiates on our behalf with the artists for dates to do the presentations and fees required by the artists. As a group we all get the same discounts. Ontario Presents also provides us with training and opportunities to travel to different Children's Festivals to help with the selection process. Two members of our committee have been chosen to travel this year. Tasia Gordon is going to Thunder Bay for training in promotion of the series and succession planning, and Sarah Butler is travelling to Vancouver to attend a International Children's Festival to assist the Northern Youth Presenters group with selecting performances.

Our choices for 2025/26 season include: Silly Billy, The Greatest Robot Ever, Somebody Loves You Mr. Hatch, Lotus Wight, and Chris McKhool is one of Canada's hottest musicians for young people.

7. **Applicant Name:** Friends of Ermatinger Clergue NHS

Project Name: Fall Rendezvous 2025

Amount Granted: \$6,000

Grant Stream: Operating + Major Cultural Celebrations

Project Details: The Fall Rendezvous festival is a 4-day festival being held from September 24 to 27, 2025, with no admission fee. The festival relates to significant historical milestones and the people involved, while connecting people, sharing knowledge and creating experiences through celebration.

It is planned for 30 to 40 heritage performers, artists, and artisans (including Indigenous storytellers and artisans) to gather to engage visitors (local & tourists) in face to face activities, demonstrations, and performances, depicting the historical people, places, and life of early 1800's Sault Ste. Marie.

2025 plans are proposing to include an enhancement of the program which will include the addition of a Scottish Highland flair (as the history of the fur trade included Scottish partners with the Ermatinger's). Pipe bands, highland dancers, and theatrical performances are all in the proposed program content and could include another 100 heritage arts performers.

8. **Applicant Name:** Living History Algoma

Project Name: Moments in Algoma 2025

Amount Granted: \$5,825

Grant Stream: Large Project + Operating Grant

Project Details: Living History Algoma is the non-profit organization that has under its umbrella - Oral Histories Sault Ste. Marie. Annual projects involve the collection of interviews with subjects that have roots in Sault Ste. Marie. Oral histories rely on volunteers to coordinate and conduct the interviews, however, the videography and slating for website inclusion takes expertise and time, along with the coordination and packaging of the final package. These honourariums are one of the main expenses in our Project budget for 2025.

Our second focus for 2025 is to begin another Moments in Algoma PSA documentary movie. With the release of LeBreton Ross and soon to be completed Anna McCrea, we are including a 3rd documentary as part of the Project costs for 2025. Costs associated with all of the partnering arts (script, casting, filming, editing, directing, costuming) are all part of the project total.

LHA has provided evidence of having organizational & financial health to carry out these goals. Preserving heritage through the oral histories or through the documentary films are vital and relevant to the cultural merit of Sault Ste. Marie. Our unique contribution to our heritage preservation and our ability to follow through on our service projects have allowed LHA to maintain its mandate.

9. **Applicant Name:** Musical Comedy Guild

Project Name: Musical Comedy Guild 2025/6 Season

Grant Stream: Operating

Amount Granted: \$5,000

Project Details: The Musical Comedy Guild of Sault Ste. Marie found its new home in the Fall of 2023.

Assistance from the City would provide a stable year during which time we can rebuild our financial situation with ticket sales from two successful, large scale musical productions and providing excellent musical theatre entertainment for the good citizens of Sault Ste. Marie and area. We would like to use this potential support to enable us to focus our financial resources on the quality and scale of our productions this season while not having to worry about operating costs such as rent, utilities and insurance. With the exception of royalty payments, all costs associated with the production of theatre performances is kept locally.

10. **Applicant Name:** Sault Film Festival

Project Name: Sault Film Festival 2025-2026 Year

Amount Granted: \$5,000

Grant Stream: Operating + Community Events

Project Details: Summer Screenings is 3 nights in August, family event held at Bellevue Park, last year we took over for Shadows of the Mind. We had a great turnout and this year have added a 3rd screening. We will be asking residents via poll which movies they would like to see this summer.

Film Festival - this is our annual film festival where we celebrate Sault filmmakers, Northern Ontario filmmakers and this year international filmmakers. We will be hosting the festival at the Sault Museum this year. We invite high schools, Sault College students and the general public to attend this 3-day festival. This year will mark our 6th festival. We will be hiring a mixture of young professionals and seeking volunteers.

Workshops - offer film and television entry level 1-3 days courses for locals interested in employment in the film industry with industry professionals. We will be hiring Sault graduates to help record the sessions.

11. **Applicant Name:** Sault Malayalee Association

Project Name: Aaravam 2025 - Onam Festival Celebration

Amount Granted: \$5,900

Grant Stream: Small Project + Community Events Grant

Project Details: Aaravam 2025 is set to be a grand, one-day celebration of Onam, the most significant and vibrant festival of Kerala, at the Marconi Cultural Hall in Sault Ste. Marie. This cultural festival will bring together the Malayalee community and friends of all backgrounds to celebrate the rich heritage and traditions of Kerala through various cultural expressions and activities. The event will be a blend of traditional performances, festive games, delicious Kerala cuisine, and an overarching theme of gathering and friendship.

The Onam festival is a time of unity, joy, and festivity, and Aaravam 2025 will reflect these values. The festival will feature a variety of dance performances, including the traditional Kathakali, Mohiniyattam, and Thiruvathira, as well as folk music and instrumental performances that represent Kerala's artistic diversity. It will also showcase traditional Onam games, such as Vadamvali (Tug-of-War), Uriyadi (Pot-breaking), and Kulukalli (balloon bursting).

Additionally, the event will provide an authentic taste of Kerala through traditional Onam Sadhya (feast), offering a rich variety of Kerala's classic dishes served on banana leaves. The food will be an integral part of the festival, offering a glimpse into the state's culinary culture.

The festival is more than just a cultural event; it aims to foster community bonding, create friendship among participants, and encourage the preservation of cultural heritage. With such an event, we aim to integrate newcomers into the community and create lasting memories of shared cultural experiences.

12. **Applicant Name:** Annie King

Project Name: Exhibition assistance for Fragile Beauty

Amount Granted: \$2,090

Grant Stream: Small Project

Project Details: Annie is requesting funds to create and prepare my work to present in Fragile Beauty (Trio art exhibition).

As independent artists, the three of us have, over the years and decades produced solid bodies of work, each in a distinctive style and in a variety of media. We have, in our individual practices, overlapping motifs and concerns, centered on the natural world and in particular, the threats imposed on our environment by climate change. Our exhibition includes sculpture and painting, multimedia works, ceramics and a natural specimen collection. We have taken as a starting point work that we have independently created but that revolves around butterflies, moths and small birds. Eschewing the trap of facile prettiness that each subject engenders in popular culture, we have instead investigated, among many other things, the existential threat that faces, in a microcosm, our chosen subjects, but in a macrocosm, all humanity and the planet itself.

There is also in our work a thread of celebration of the wonder of nature, the instinctive drive that informs the behaviour of all life at a deeply unconscious level; the metamorphosis and cycle of migrations of the monarch butterfly, the attraction of the moth to light, the collective murmuration patterns of the starling and the dazzling colour patterns and luminescence of butterflies, moths and birds.

Michael Burtch's art combines the human form with butterfly wings, suggesting the interrelationship and interdependence of all living creatures. The sculptures are in high relief and are wall mounted. Annie King explores life, death and rebirth through both her sculpted collages and crystal-clear starlings, each individually cast and hung from above, to gently sway in air currents.

Gordon Burke's ceramics celebrate the natural beauty of the butterfly and his butterfly collection represents specimens from around the globe makes it unique.

13. Applicant Name: Christopher Shoust

Project Name: A Splash of Colour (working title)

Amount Granted: \$2,300

Grant Stream: Small Project Grant

Project Details: This project will be a short film, between 10 and 25 minutes, depending on the amount of funding acquired. The storyline can be adapted to meet and not exceed the expenses of the crew and work needed for it.

The entire crew represent traditionally underrepresented groups within the arts and especially film, with the star role being a local, indigenous musician.

The storyline of the film is that a character arrives from another place and brings colour to a black and white place. Through film editing, the film will be shot in black and white but this 'outsider,' will add colour to certain parts of each scene of the film

through colourization effects. Almost like a magic trick, he will introduce colour to something that is drab, depressing or without a lot of hope in each scene. This plays on many themes; diversity, cultural awareness, and uniqueness. Through a working relationship between indigenous and non-indigenous artists, this film will also provide cross-cultural exchange.

14. **Applicant Name:** Goldie Barzan

Project Name: Micro Galleries of the Soo

Amount Granted: \$2,265

Grant Stream: small project grant

Project Details: We propose the installation of three Micro Galleries in public spaces across the city, transforming urban environments into dynamic hubs of artistic expression. These miniature art installations, similar in size to Little Free Libraries, will invite passersby to engage with diverse, thought-provoking art. Each Micro Gallery will feature an exhibition by artists: Goldie and Aryo Barzan, Andrea Pinheiro, and Keith Nadjiwon. These artists bring unique cultural perspectives, creating an opportunity for the community to experience a wide range of artistic expressions.

The Micro Galleries will be small, freestanding structures, each housing an art installation that reflects the artist's individual style. These galleries will be placed in highly visible, accessible public spaces, ensuring that they are available to everyone. Just as Little Free Libraries provide access to books, these galleries will make art accessible in engaging ways, encouraging spontaneous interactions with creativity. It should be noted that while Little Free Libraries are openable and allow for book exchanges, our Micro Galleries will be closed boxes for viewing only.

15. **Applicant Name:** Grocer 4 Good

Project Name: The Courage to Create: A Workshop for New Writers

Amount Granted: \$2,090

Grant Stream: small project grant

Project Details: As an amateur writer living in Sault Ste. Marie, Eden Watson has experienced first-hand the struggle to find a writing group, a local workshop or a writer's retreat. Writing can be a lonely endeavour, not having contacts to discuss roadblocks or exchange knowledge, can hinder or stop the writing journey. The workshop aims to inspire the would-be writers to muster the courage to just get started. This workshop will enhance access to the knowledge within the community, provide aspiring writers with a network and guidance to advance their creative writing.

The goal of this workshop is to inspire our emerging literary artists in the community to cultivate conviction in their abilities as creative writers. While this will be an all ages event, there will be a particular focus on encouraging youth (16-25 years old) to take part in a creative, encouraging and community-driven event. Participants will

develop their creative courage in a collaborative and welcoming atmosphere. The workshop will include short writing exercises, a mini lesson, a dedicated block of creative writing time, and discussion of practical tips to maximize their ongoing creative practice. Writers will have the opportunity to discuss barriers to writing and connect with the other attendees in a meaningful and collaborative way.

16. Applicant Name: Isa Michaud

Project Name: Kaatr Koor | Four Hearts | Quatre coeurs

Amount Granted: \$2,375

Grant Stream: Small Project Grant

Project Details: Kaatr Koor | Four Hearts | Quatre coeurs will be a two-person media exhibition presenting 8 short films. Nadine Arpin's films are "Payhoo" (4 minutes) 2021, "cadèwaštèya ~ with a good heart" (3 minutes) 2025, and "La Daans di Morr" (2 minutes) 2023. Their fourth film will be created during the next year and will be premiered together with Isa Michaud's three short films, "Bruine" (1:36, 2023), "Espace Pleural" (2:20, 2024), and "Images Parentales" (1:46, 2023.) Similarly, Isa's fourth film will also be created next year and premiered alongside Nadine's work.

The installation will consist of three projections on the three 10' x 11' gallery wall areas at Galerie Sans Clous (GSC.) There will be a soundtrack combining the 8 films' soundtracks playing in a loop in the space via a sound system. The northern wall will feature the 4 films by Nadine Arpin, the southern wall will feature the 4 films by Isa Michaud, and on the eastern wall, both artists' films will be projected together. Their combined work explores themes of identity, memory, love, the Michif and Québécois languages. During the third week of March, Arpin will provide an art talk at the Visual Arts Program at Algoma University and a meet and greet at GSC's space in collaboration with Michaud.

17. Applicant Name: John-Paul Chalykoff

Project Name: Anishinaabemowin Album / CD Launch Performance

Amount Granted: \$1,980

Grant Stream: small project grant

Project Details:

Depending on success of application, and time of granting, I will be aiming for a late-June or mid-September 2025 launch event in Sault Ste. Marie, ON of the album that I am currently in the process of completing. This activity would be the culmination and celebration of completion of an Ontario Arts Council - Northern Arts Projects funded project, "New Songs in Anishinaabemowin," which is a soon to be completed album of new and original songs in Anishinaabemowin, recorded at The Loft in Sault Ste Marie, ON. The Loft is a significant location in Sault Ste Marie's history. It is very close to the location where the Robinson Huron and Robinson Superior treaties were signed in 1850, as well as a living memory of Francis H. Clergue's contribution

to the development of Sault Ste Marie as we know it. Recording and performing in that space feels like a mixing of past and present.

The work is meant to share Anishinaabemowin with everyone. The songs were written in a way to be fun for all ages, whether they be young children, adults, or elders. It is open for everyone, Indigenous and non-Indigenous, and overall anyone who is interested in learning and having fun with the language. Anishinaabemowin is the original language of Baawiting (the place of the rapids), the Algoma region, and beyond.

Sharing the language, and making it a fun experience for all is a goal and objective. For many, the primary exposure of language today is now through classes in elementary, secondary, and post-secondary schooling. It's important for the language to be used in as many spaces as possible. More exposure to the language, and bringing it into living, breathing spaces is a primary objective. It helps to keep a language alive, relevant, while also normalizing its use when we hear it and use it outside out classroom settings.

18. **Applicant Name:** Josh Norling

Project Name: Josh Norling Quartet (Debut Album)

Amount Granted: \$2,300

Grant Stream: small project grant

Project Details: In my career as a performing musician, I have worked with many other bands and artists, having participated in the creation of close to 30 albums as a supporting musician but have never released an album solely of my own music under my own name. I want to present my music to a wider audience through local and online distribution. My recording project will allow me to present a polished representation of my work and abilities, and it is my hope that having a record of my own compositions will be the start of a new portfolio of work that can assist me in acquiring even more work as a composer and a performer.

In the modern world of digital music distribution, our art is more readily available throughout the world through platforms such as Apple Music, Spotify, Youtube, and various other streaming services and social media platforms. I have a distribution deal in place already with the online company Distrokid for placement of the album onto streaming services, but physical copies of the album are also necessary to sell and this process can become expensive.

19. **Applicant Name:** Matt Warnock

Project Name: Second Annual Jazz Guitar Summit

Amount Granted: \$2,430

Grant Stream: Small Project

Project Details: In the close of my artist statement, I described my formative experiences in the Sault as having prepared me to succeed beyond the Sault. With

this project, I invite my website member-learners to meet my home community and all it has to offer. Participants in the first annual Jazz Guitar Summit in 2024 were blown away by the Sault's warm welcome, beautiful landscape, tourism, and small businesses.

MWG members from all over the world will gather in Sault Ste Marie for 3 days and nights of jazz guitar workshops, performances, celebration, and tourism. Hosted at the Algoma Conservatory of Music, I will lead the workshops along with Algoma University alum and jazz guitarist Jake Valois as a skilled workshop assistant. I invite Algoma University's music students (all instruments welcome) to join in the free workshops. The daytime workshops will culminate in two public events: a Friday concert at the Loft, and a Saturday concert and meet-and-greet at the Sault Ste Marie Museum.

The goals and objectives of this project are directly tied to its three primary audiences: the Sault community, Algoma University music students, and MWG Members. First, this project seeks to show Sault residents that jazz lives in the Sault. You don't have to be in Toronto or Montréal to experience high-quality, vibrant jazz.

20. Applicant Name: Michael Burtch

Project Name: Fragile Beauty

Amount Granted: \$1,185

Grant Stream: Small Project Grant

Project Details: Michael Burtch, Annie King and Gordon Burke each have a distinctive style and have produced solid bodies of work in a variety of media. In their individual practices they have overlapping motifs and concerns, centered on the natural world and in particular the threats imposed on our environment by climate change. Their exhibition includes sculpture, painting, multimedia works, ceramics and a natural specimen collection. These funds will be used to exhibit a new show and body of work that will eschew the trap of facile prettiness that each subject engenders in popular culture. They will explore the threat that faces their chosen subjects through this exhibition.

21. Applicant Name: Skye Smith

Project Name: "L"

Amount Granted: \$2,360

Grant Stream: Small Project Grant

Project Details: I am proposing to remount L with a smaller cast and a Northern Ontario tour in mind. This remounted performance will produce a show that can be easily set up and taken down. With this in mind, we can perform at numerous venues across Northern Ontario at established festivals. For the original performance of L, I commissioned local artist, Chris Moore, for the set design. I will once again bring him on board to consider any changes that will need to be made with a tour in mind. Michael Burtch has agreed to mentor me on the project and be a

part of the rehearsal process. His wealth of knowledge and interest in dance theatre has given me inspiration for future projects.

My first intention with the performance of L was to celebrate a collective of women dancers who all reside in Sault Ste. Marie. From all different cultures and ages, and with transwomen representation, L demonstrated modern feminism. With recent threats and attacks to body autonomy south of the border and a resurgence in a hierarchal control over women's bodies, I'll be focusing my rewrite of L to demonstrate the disastrous effects of civilization if we continue to perpetuate the origin story and continue to look at women as "helpmeet". My take on the creation story demonstrates that we must look at this origin story with a grain of salt, and my research indicates the silencing of women in the bible perpetuates the patriarchy to continue to do so.