ACAP 2025 – Early Intake Approved Grant Summaries

Algoma Writer's Collective: Fresh Eyes - Small Project

Dates of Activity: November 2024 – May 15, 2025
Audience Ages: 0-75+
Number of Audience Members: 501-1000
Focus: Literary Arts

AWC's proposed 'Fresh Eyes - Sault Ste Marie 2025' project ('Project') is a unique Sault creative community undertaking. A select team of eight accomplished photographers will 'shoot the city, turning their lenses and imagination loose across the Sault over a five day period (May 7 through 11, 2025). The photographers will regularly upload their work over this period to Project HQ, a publicly accessible hotel conference room.

Commencing Project Day 2, the public (including any Sault residents, elementary / secondary school groups, Sault College and Algoma University students, and City visitors alike) can visit Project HQ free of charge to view the photographers' work in progress. We anticipate that with Project Day 5, there will be several hundred fresh Sault images on display at Project HQ.

Further, anyone visiting Project HQ wishing to comment on any of the images displayed will have an opportunity to make a personal entry in the Project Diary, where these comments will form part of the Project record. The eight photographers will be available at different times through Project Days 2 through 5 at Project HQ to chat with the public, discuss their work, and generally explain how and why the artist has captured a particular Sault scene or landmark. We envisage a powerful, interactive, and highly informative / educational experience for all Project HQ visitors.

Also commencing on Project Day 2, the eight selected writers will begin their review of our photographers' posted work. Each writer will ultimately craft their unique individual 'take' on what the photographers have individually or collectively captured. These writers will also be available at different times from Project Days 2 through 5 to fully engage with the public. The writers and photographers will reflect the diversity of our contemporary society (the Project will also include Indigenous creative talents).

DJ Seith -Loop Sessions SSM - Small Project

Dates of Activity: January - December 2025
Audience Ages: 0-59 years old
Number of Audience Members: 1-50 per event
Focus: Performing arts, media arts

Loop Sessions SSM is a series of events organized by DJ Seith and Konaphan, occurring every three months and are community-building events that offer young artists and producers the space to come together and participate in a group beat making session and music showcase.

The way they work is: At the beginning of the event, a DJ is set up in one corner of the space with a station set up for sampling records. Producers come in and connect with the DJ to obtain snippets of sound from the selected records and then set up small workstations of their own in the space to spend the next 5 hours working with the sound clips to create an original composition. All participating artists will be working using headphones to minimize spatial disruption while they create. At the end of the session, everyone gets together and shares their work in the space over the speaker. Following the session, all of the submissions get collected and shared online as a playlist.

These events are designed to happen in spaces as business operates with little interruption as they occur, with a typically small number of people participating in the event itself. The goal in hosting these beat making sessions is to provide an outlet for youth to create, share, and connect with one another. The participants these events will support will primarily be an intersection of beat makers of varying skill levels, indigenous urban youth (16-35) and allies.

The dates for 2025 will be *February 13th, May 8th, August 14th, and November 13th*, and will occur from 11AM to 6PM at Home Bakehouse and Cafe in Downtown Sault Ste. Marie.

Joseph Schlapsi - Matthews Keeper - Small Project

Dates of Activity: January 2025-December 2025
Audience Ages: 0-75 years of age
Number of Audience Members: 2500+ viewers
Focus: Film, Media Arts

The project the applicant has proposed is a 15-minute high-concept horror short film, Matthew's Keeper, centered around a haunting tale of childhood trauma and malevolent forces. The story follows an elderly man, Matthew, as he nostalgically recounts his childhood to his granddaughter. However, the friend he spoke of with fondness was not another child, but a monstrous creature - one that manipulated him into horrific acts. This twist-driven narrative will explore the psychological impact of trauma, loneliness, and the manipulation of vulnerable minds by ancient, malevolent forces.

Michael Naphan – Creaturehood - Small Project

Dates of Activity: January 2025-November 2025
Audience Ages: 19-59
Number of Audience Members: 2500+
Focus: Film, Media Arts

This project in its fullest is a series of five (minimum) short films (30 sec - 2 mins each) edu-tainment video series. They are hosted and narrated by an animated moose of my own creation (who first appeared in my 2009 short film 'XING'), voiced by me, and accompanied by various motion graphics and animation. Each video's topic is a resolution of understanding our place on the Tree of Life, the Earth, the universe and existence. It will be told with wit and humour, and

always with an eye toward how our future as a species depends on greater cooperation and understanding of ourselves.

What will be delivered as a part of possible ACAP funding will be the FIVE animated shorts uploaded to Facebook, Instagram, TikTok and YouTube accounts.

Rebeka Herron - Otterly Adorable -Small Project

Dates of Activity: Late 2024- March 31, 2025
Audience Ages: 0-18 years old
Number of Audience Members: 2500+ viewers
Focus: Film, Media Arts

The applicant will be creating an animated short film about an otter pup who gets tangled in a pop can ring while in the river. An older otter helps him out and gives him lunch. After they eat, they go out to the river to pick up the garbage. They find a bird littering and explain to them why it's not a good idea to litter.

Local actors will voice the characters, work with Parka Pictures, a POC owned local post-production house to record the voices, do the final mastering, and sound design. Sault College graduate Joseph Schlapsi (disability, gender diverse) will be animating the project.

This project will continue to help the applicant grow as a director and build more to my animation directing portfolio.

Sarah Skagen - She -Phase II - Small Project

Dates of Activity: January 2025 – 2026 for Phase III
Audience Ages: Ages 19-75+ years old
Number of Audience Members: 101-250 + 251-500
Focus: Performing Arts with a Visual Art Promotional piece, exhibit space TBD (Copies of Phase I promotional photos are enclosed)

"She" is a deeply personal and socially resonant exploration of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV), seeking to bring visibility to the often-hidden scars that IPV leaves on individuals and communities. As both the writer and director, *She* has been crafted to not only tell the stories of survivors but to foster empathy and initiate critical conversations around these painful, transformative experiences.

This play interweaves the voices of those who have navigated IPV, offering a powerful, collective narrative that transcends the immediate impact of abuse, addressing how it permeates lives, affects families, and disrupts workplaces. The goal is to create a safe space for these stories, enabling audiences to connect emotionally, recognize the pervasive nature of IPV, and be moved to consider their role in supporting survivors. The production of She is as much about healing and empowerment as it is about awareness. It is a small but meaningful step toward

challenging the stigmas surrounding IPV and mental health, and I hope it leaves an indelible mark on those who experience it.

She, written by Sarah Skagen, is a play that confronts the complex impacts of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) through a collection of intertwined narratives based on real-life experiences. The work is grounded in the voices and stories of women who have survived IPV, examining the enduring effects it has on their mental health, relationships, and sense of self. The goal of *She* is to shed light on the invisible scars left by such trauma, challenging the audience to understand how IPV affects individuals and the communities around them. Skagen emphasizes that the performance serves not only as a vehicle for awareness but also as an invitation to support survivors and deepen empathy toward those affected by IPV.

She is a project that we are working on in three phases, and any funds provided will support its current state, which is Phase II. The initial writing did not have a great flow and was repetitive. We have done a full edit and intend to have a show which will include more stage direction and visual appeal. A portion of the proceeds from this Phase will assist us in publishing the rights for this version and to fund local artists to write music for the musical version which we hope to release by Summer of 2026.

Tania Daigle - Planet Nova - Short Film Project- Small Project

Dates of Activity: January-December, 2025
Audience Ages: Audience Ages 0-18 years old
Number of Audience Members: 2500+ viewers
Focus: Film, Media Arts, Animation

Planet Nova is a CG short film project about an astronaut named Marshmallow and their co-pilot, Berry the engineer, about a thrilling space adventure. When their ship collides with a meteorite, they crash land on a lush, mysterious planet. Stranded, they must explore this new world to find the resources needed to repair their ship. Along the way, they encounter the Novarians, a fascinating mushroom-based species who speak Anishinaabemowin. With their new friends, Marsh, Berry, and Nova embark on an exciting journey, uncovering stories, teachings, secrets and the history hidden deep within this planet. Securing funding will help us create a short film heavily inspired by Anishinaabe stories and language while. As an indigenous individual I see a huge need for more digital media to showcase the language and stories of our people. In producing this film, we are creating media arts for children to be introduced to these concepts in a more modern way.

Sault Blues Society -Sault Blues Society events and presentations 2024/2025 - Community Events

Dates of Activity: 2025 - year
Audience Ages: 0-75+ years of age
Number of Audience Members: 251-500 people per event

Focus: Performing Arts - Promote and present local, national and international award-winning blues musicians to perform in various venues within the city of Sault Ste Marie and provide various musical workshops.

The Sault Blues Society (SBS) is an incorporated not for profit group of Blues fans and musicians who work to keep the Blues happening in and around the Northern Ontario city of Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario Canada. We do our best to promote ALL Blues performances that happen in or near the Soo, and we also attempt to host 3 or 4 of our own featured events each year. We also Endeavor to present and or support at least one Blues music based fundraiser in each calendar year hiring our great local musicians to be presented at the fundraiser. Every year we attempt to recognize one of our local Blues musicians at one of our featured presentations with the "Dedicated to the Blues Award" for their personal contributions in assisting the SBS with our musical presentations.

Shows:
1. Blues, Brews and BBQ - Nov 9th, 2024
2. Steve Strongman Show - Nov 17th, 2024
3. Take 5 Blues for Food - Dec 5th, 2024
4 & 5. Blues for Food - Dec 6-7, 2024 (Fri & Sat)
6. Bon Soo - February 13th, 2025
7. TBD - Soo Blaster - Spring 2025
8. Rotaryfest Friday Night Blues - July 2025

The group has outlined in detail their plans for upcoming performances across the 2025 season.

Haus of Gore Drag Collective -Series of Drag Events - Cultural Diversity

Dates of Activity: February – December 2025
Audience Ages: Ages 0-75+
Number of Audience Members: Audience 50-250 per event
Focus: Through drag make up and costuming (visual art) our performers bring their musical lip syncing performance to life. Additionally, they engage in storytelling and audience engagement during show hosting, story times, and other events.

February 18 – Scarlet Affair – HIV fundraising stigma reduction show; 19+ audience; funds raised go to local HIV organization or community member living with HIV; would like to bring in out of town headliner to perform alongside local performers; out of town performer to encourage crowds and bring new artistic work to city for inspiration and connections with local performers

July 11 – Pride show; all ages with adult accompaniment (ages 13-15+ rating); plan to open at least 2 amateur spots, ideally one would be a youth

October – Drag Me To Hell (DMTH) – 19+ competition show; contestants are given an overarching theme and then have to prepare a “glam”, “filth”, and “horror” number touching on the theme; prize includes crown, title, and small cash prize; aims to push performers to try new

things and be creative; often see stunts, special effects, etc.; performances that don't often fit on traditional drag stage; our biggest audience show of the year usually

December – Holiday show – all ages portion earlier in evening followed by 19+ show; plan to open at least 1 all ages amateur spot and at least 1 adult, ideally a youth will take the all-ages spot

By purchasing our own basic lighting and improving our sound equipment we can ensure adequate sound and lights for the events without spending repeatedly on expensive DJ services (we have a couple performers who to multi tasks for us when we can access equipment). By funding these shows through grants we can improve show quality, keep ticket costs reasonable, and utilize ticket sales from these to fund smaller pop-up shows throughout the year. We also hope to work towards sustainability that allows us to provide the atmosphere and quality our audiences and performers deserve and fair payment towards our performers who have mostly volunteered for the last few years.

Algoma Conservatory of Music - Operating Grant - Algoma Conservatory of Music

Dates of Activity: 2025 Season
Audience Ages: 0-75+
Number of Audience Members: 2500+
Focus: Performing Arts Presentation, Music Education

To maintain and develop our distinctive heritage building at 75 Huron Street as a regional Music Education, Performance and Recording Centre - and to offer quality and excellence in Music Education programs, Concert Series with a variety of music genres and professional audio and video recording services.

Through this we strive to offer music lessons on all instruments and voice for all age groups, a variety of music ensembles including youth orchestras and choirs, an extensive concert series of more than 30 events per year in our performance venue - THE LOFT, featuring local, regional and touring Canadian and international artists, workshops with the touring artists, and professional recording services to assist in developing the careers of local and regional artists, as well as touring artists.

The Algoma Conservatory of Music has just completed the purchase of the heritage building at 75 Huron street and the development of a distinctive new performing arts and recording venue - THE LOFT. This was a $3,000,000 renovation project with the assistance of Canadian Heritage, FedNor, NOHFC and many generous contributors. This now establishes an outstanding regional music education, performance and recording centre - something quite unique and exceptional for a community of our size. Coming out of Covid we are now expanding all programming. This season will feature more than 30 concerts, including classical, jazz, singer/songwriters and world music. The outstanding acoustics and professional audio and video capabilities of The

Loft and the adjoining recording studio are making this a hub for regional and local artists, as well as for touring artists coming to perform and record. We also offer a variety of workshops with the touring artists each season.

We are also now expanding our music education programs with additional instructors and programs - including, a new junior youth orchestra, 3 new choirs with Denine Williams from Korah Collegiate and group guitar classes with Greg MacLachlan. There are several hundred music students that come for lessons every week. They include group introductory classes for young children, youth orchestras and choirs, and private lessons on all instruments and voice. There are 19 teaching studios and classrooms that are utilized for these programs. In addition, through an annual lease arrangement, Algoma University rents shared use of this exceptional facility from the Conservatory, for Algoma University Music Department classes - and they plan to develop new programs utilizing The Loft recording studio. While Algoma Conservatory is affiliated with Algoma University, the Conservatory is a fully separate non-profit, charitable organization - with its own Board of Directors.

Thinking Rock Community Arts Operating Funding 2024-2025 – Operating

Dates of Activity: 2024-2025 Operations
Audience Ages: 0-75+
Number of Audience Members: 251-500 people/viewers
Focus: We are a multi-disciplinary, community-engaged arts organization. We deliver several streams of programming that complement and support larger multi-year projects.

Based in Thessalon, Algoma District, Northern Ontario, we co-create art with and for the people living along the North Shore of Lake Huron, from Genaabaajing (Serpent River First Nation) to Baawaating (Sault Ste. Marie) and all points in between. We're a team of artists, cultural workers and community members of Indigenous, Newcomer and settler descent who co-create spaces for dialogue, mutual understanding and artful social change through multidisciplinary, multi-generational, cross-cultural community arts projects.

Through our free and inclusive artistic programming, we invite people of all Nations, ages, abilities, backgrounds and identities to join us in playing, making and dreaming about this special place we call home – as it was, as it is, and as it might yet be. We learn more everyday about what that invitation, the spaces we hold together, and the ways we show up for each other can and must look like, and we bring this growing understanding to our work.

We believe that if Central Algomans of Indigenous, Newcomer and settler descent co-create community arts projects and presentations, then we'll build relationships across cultures and communities, and that opportunities to live, work and play in the arts will increase across the region. Ultimately this will lead to more inclusive, vibrant and resilient communities across Algoma.

Sault Symphony Orchestra -SSO Season 2025 – Operating

Dates of Activity: March 2025-December 2025
Audience Ages: Audiences: 0-75+ years of age
Number of Audience Members: 1001-2500 Audience members
Focus: The Sault Symphony Orchestra focuses on classical orchestral music, emphasizing performing arts excellence and community engagement. Through diverse programming, educational outreach, and collaborations, the SSO aims to inspire appreciation for music while fostering cultural enrichment within Sault Ste. Marie and its surrounding areas.

The Sault Symphony Orchestra (SSO) is dedicated to enriching the cultural landscape of Sault Ste. Marie and its surrounding communities through the transformative power of music. Our mandate is to provide high-quality orchestral performances, foster a love for classical music, and promote music education. The SSO aims to achieve several key objectives: Community Engagement, Music Education, Artistic Excellence, Cultural Collaboration.

Piecing It Together Shows - Seed Funding

Dates of Activity: January 2025-December 2025
Audience Ages: Audiences Age: 0-75
Number of Audience Members: 1001-2500
Focus: Live music and performing arts with openness towards and occasional inclusion of other art forms

Piecing It Together Shows wishes to incorporate as a nonprofit and continue the work of Nicole Dyble and their former business, Dryer Fire, presenting small and medium size culturally diverse, accessible, and sustainable live music programming featuring and supporting local and touring artists.

Piecing It Together Shows wishes to incorporate as a nonprofit and continue the work of Nicole Dyble and their former business, Dryer Fire, presenting small and medium size culturally diverse, accessible, and sustainable live music programming featuring and supporting local and touring artists.

Dyble will take on the role of Executive / Artistic Director of the organization and recruit 3-5 individuals to become board members. An effort will be made to recruit a diverse board with youth, LGBTQ2S+, and BIPOC representation. To make board positions accessible to those often excluded from such opportunities, honorariums will be offered to the board. These honorariums will be reflected in the organization's bylaws which will be guided by a consultant, mentors, and legal council, and will not be equivalent to the pay of a regular, ongoing employment position. Together with the board, consultant, and legal council, the Director will go through the process of incorporating as a nonprofit. The Director will also establish the organization's brand and online presence, drawing from the experience and assets established by Dryer Fire.
In addition to further establishing this new organization, PITS will run 6 small live music events at various venues in Sault Ste. Marie and a day long festival in Leeburn, Ontario, featuring a

diverse selection of local and touring artists with a focus on BIPOC, LGBTQ2S+ representation and drawing on the contacts and booking history established by Nicole Dyble and Dryer Fire over the past decade. These events will be executed by Dyble with the help of volunteers and sometimes with the aid of hired contractors and community partners. Venues will be determined based on affordability and accessibility, in addition to appropriateness for performance by the respective artist(s). Shows will be presented for a nominal admission fee or free of charge depending on funding.

PITS receives booking requests from artists throughout the year and will program events based on these requests in addition to doing targeted outreach to book artists from equity deserving groups.

Venues / organizations worked with in the past include: The Speakeasy at Algoma University/ Algoma University Student Union, Sault Ste Marie Downtown Plaza, The City of Sault Ste Marie, Downtown Association of SSM, Sault Ste Marie Museum, The Whisky Barrel, Peace Restaurant / Village Media, Case's Music, The Fraternal Order of Eagles, and Broers Jansen. PITS wishes to maintain working relationships with these entities.

Black Fly Jam - Black Fly Jam Presents: -Large Project

Dates of Activity: Starts January 26, 2025- November 23, 2025
Audience Ages: 0-75 years old
Number of Audience Members: 1001-2500 viewers
Focus: Black Fly Jam is a 'not for profit' community events organization, presenting professional touring alternative and acoustic original live music concerts and performing arts for audiences in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. (Performing arts include original music, genres such as alternative, acoustic, roots, traditional, ethnic and contemporary singer/songwriter, literary readings, poetry) Heritage and Literary Arts include related master classes and makers workshops in music - as well as independent authors and film screenings.

Their mandate is to present and facilitate world class performance and education of contemporary musical arts, within an intimate and convivial concert setting.

Goals include creating "value added" opportunity for performers and audience. With additional available funds we have security for guaranteed fees, which includes extended days of performance for other audiences (schools, special needs housing or satellite communities), and/or creative workshops and seminars for disciplines like songwriting, instrumentation, or seminars in music production or engineering.

- Primary audiences are guaranteed a professional performance, with the comfort and intimacy of top notch facilities, with interaction and social time with fellow concert attendees as well as the performer.
- We often co-present with other NFP organizations to raise awareness and funds for their projects.

- This includes partnering with our new venue to increase their capacity to teach audio-visual recording
- arts.
- Their objective is to deliver these goals with consistency through financial security and yearly planning to build our audience, community and opportunity.

Bawating Babes and 2 Spirit Organising Committee - Bawating D.R.A.G (Drag Research And Glamour) - Major Cultural Celebrations, Cultural Diversity, Community Events Grant

Dates of Activity: March 2025-2026
Audience Ages: 0-75 years of age
Number of Audience Members: 1-50, 51-200
Focus: They are a multi & interdisciplinary collective. They include themes and genres into each show and performance lineup. All of the cast are performance artists with a mix of artistic abilities, including sewing, hair and wig artists, costume design, makeup, interior decor, lighting design, setlist stylings, event organising, and poster graphic design, etc.

Bawating Babes is a 2Spirit|Indigenous led drag and burlesque troupe in Bawating/Sault Ste. Marie. We are a creative collective of drag, burlesque artists with a mix of First Nation, Métis and allied performers. Theodore Syrette aka Bette U. Wanna of Batchewana, is the house mother/creative director.

Bawating D.R.A.G. will deliver 4 workshops on performance skill building, for folks interested in drag and burlesque arts. This project will also include 4 seasonal drag shows, beginning March 2025; during 2Spirit Awareness Week. The other remaining shows would be one during the 2Spirit Organizing Committee's PRIDE Week Celebration in June. The Pride Cruise and After Party in the fall. And a winter gala or New Years Eve Party in December.

The four workshops to be delivered for anyone to apply for, will be on the following topics:
- Persona & Character Development & Drag Makeup 101 by drag artist Bobby Hudon Pharaoh Moans
- Hosting and MC 101 by Denise McLeod aka Madam Odemiin Surprise
- Burlesque and Go-Go Dancing by TBD
- Dance and movement by Skye Stewart

This project will help cover the following:
- Out of town guest rates, accommodations and travel costs (3 out of town guests)
- Performer honorariums
- Workshop attendee honorariums
- DJ and Photography honorariums
- Printing and Graphic Design
- Light catering or food and drink provision for workshops and shows

- Venue rentals

The objectives of this project will be to deliver 2SLGBTQQIA+ and Indigenous inclusive led events and workshops for the general public throughout the year of 2025. Engage community members who are interested in getting involved in the growing drag community of Bawating and surround area. This project will also build and strengthen relationships and current and new community and funding partners. Funding also allows Bawating Babes shows to be cost friendly, for community members with financial barriers. Making our shows accessible for as many of the 2Spirit LGBTTQQIA+ and allied audiences alike.