

Art of the Possible



Talent Trust

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The 75th Anniversary Campaign for the artists funded through
the Nova Scotia Talent Trust

Without belief, there is nothing.

No matter how much talent you have. No matter how much work you put in. No matter how much dedication drives you. No matter how much love surrounds you. It's just not enough.

You need to believe.

And in order to believe, sometimes you need to know someone believes in you.

Even at his young age, gifted Nova Scotian pianist Devin Huang knows this in his heart.

Donors to the Nova Scotia Talent Trust know it too. Their donations funded two NSTT summer study scholarships for Devin.

These scholarships go a long way toward helping ensure Devin's talent is nourished with excellent tutelage. And maybe as important, it helps Devin believe in himself, by knowing someone believes in him, and his future as an artist.

"Thank you for your generosity.

With the scholarship from the Talent Trust, I will be able to focus on my studies. Your continued support motivates me to work hard and achieve my goals."

Devin Huang, classical piano



Sooner or later, every emerging artist faces a critical crossroad.

Pursuing her passion led textile artist and Governor General's Award winner Sandra Brownlee on a long and circuitous road.

Following self-supported studies at NSCAD University and in Finland, she established her own local studio and taught weaving part-time.

Graduate level art education seemed beyond reach, until a scholarship from the Nova Scotia Talent Trust supplemented funding she received to attend the prestigious Cranbrook Academy of Art in Michigan.

Sandra currently teaches, and operates a studio in Halifax, and exhibits her work nationally and internationally to wide acclaim.

"The scholarship was a huge boost for me, not just financially but in terms of the morale boost, as well.

It came just when I needed it the most.

It was thrilling, and it made what I was doing seem more real, and viable.

It put me on a really good path."

Sandra Brownlee

textile artist
scholarship recipient
1980



photo: Aaron McKenzie Fraser

NSTT is entering its 75th year of fueling the dreams of emerging Nova Scotian artists. And we're just getting started.

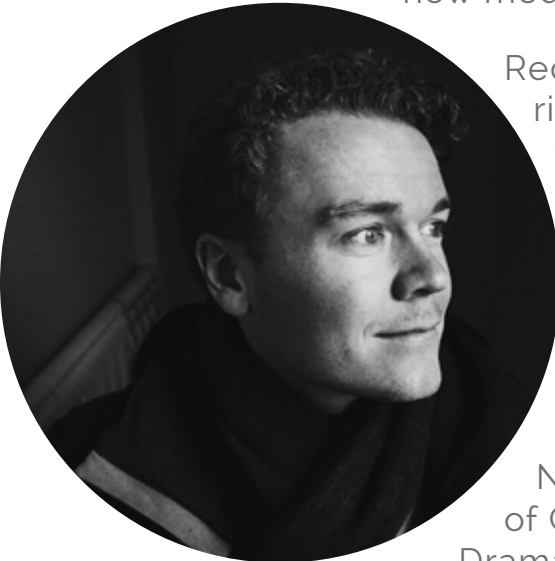
Since 1944, generous Nova Scotians have expressed their belief in Devin, Sandra, and over 1,000 other talented, aspiring artists through their support of the Nova Scotia Talent Trust.

The Talent Trust was established by a small group of individuals to further the career of iconic Nova Scotian contralto Portia White.

Now in its 75th year, NSTT is a registered charity funded by government, corporations, foundations, and private donors, with the exclusive aim of propelling the next generation of Nova Scotia's artists.

For the vast majority of emerging artists in our province, support from the Talent Trust is their only potential source of non-repayable funding.

Since its establishment, the Talent Trust has contributed over \$2 million directly toward difference-making scholarships and prizes that support and encourage emerging artists in music, voice, dance, circus arts, film, new media, theatre, visual arts, fine arts, and literary arts.



Recipients are chosen through a competitive and rigorous juried selection process. Funding supports their studies in a variety of settings, including summer festivals and instructional programs, professional arts training institutions, university programs, and private instruction.

These programs are in Canada, the United States, and Europe, and include prestigious institutions such as the National Ballet School of Canada, the National Theatre School of Canada, the Art Institute of Chicago, NSCAD University, the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts, the New England Conservatory of Music, and McGill University.

Many recipients of NSTT scholarships and awards have established successful careers in the arts at home and abroad. Up to 80% pursue their art form either full-time or part-time after completing their studies.

[Isaac Fresia, architecture](#)

photo: Haley MacPhee

Supporting the Talent Trust is a vote of confidence in Nova Scotia's future.

Success holds the power to transform.

In 2016, culture contributed \$874 million to Nova Scotia's economy, and provided 13,719 jobs across the province. That's an impressive 13% growth in the overall culture sector in the five years leading up to 2016, and it mirrored a 12% increase in culture jobs during the same period of time.

Our province's cultural character holds at its heart the gifted Nova Scotian artists whose talents enrich the communities in which they live, work, and practice their art.

And beyond what we understand to be Nova Scotia's arts economy, we see the innate creativity, innovation, expressiveness, resourcefulness, and talent of our artists propagating the business environment all around us.

Our role at NSTT is to perpetuate transformative success, one artist at a time. To help fill the pipeline for the next cultural wave.

To elevate artists. To support them through their growth and help them flourish.

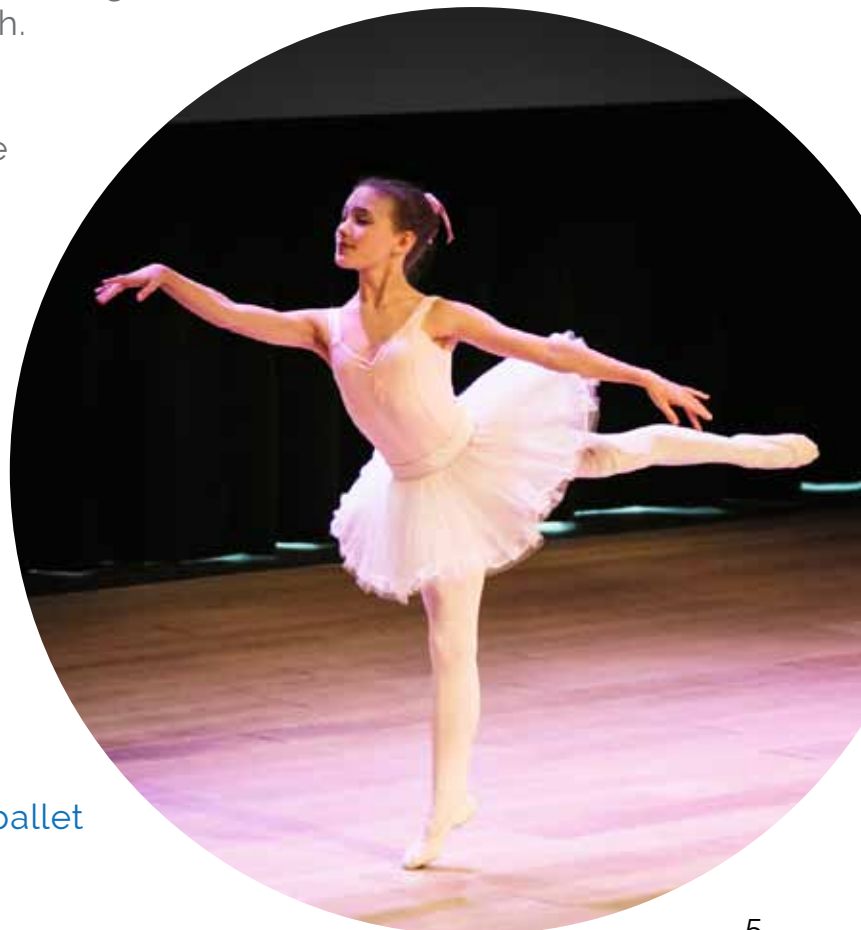
To help them see, seek, and reach their full potential. To give credible validation of their talent: validation they can leverage to help them connect with their next opportunity.

We believe an artist's success can be both personally transformative and more broadly contagious.

And we believe Nova Scotia will reap the inevitable rewards of investments in the art of the possible.

Maggie Oates-Johnson, ballet

photo: Megane Jansen



Your support can make an indelible mark.

In 2018, NSTT saw an increase of more than 25% in the number of qualified, promising emerging artist applicants who merited funding consideration. Fall applications were up by more than 40%. This increase reflects what we witnessed over the last number of years: a growing trend in the financial need of artists, and an opportunity for us to increase our impact.

As we approach our 75th anniversary in 2019, our aspiration is simple: to double the amount of financial support we direct annually to emerging Nova Scotia artists.

PRIORITY	ANNUALLY	TOTAL \$ ANNUALLY	CUMULATIVE OVER 5 YEARS
Scholarships	30 @ \$2,500 each	\$75,000	\$375,000
	25 @ \$1,000 each	\$25,000	\$125,000
Named Awards	5 @ \$10,000 each	\$50,000	\$250,000
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		\$150,000	\$750,000

Government funding supports our modest administrative overhead which enables us to direct all private donations toward scholarships and special awards for emerging artists.

Our philosophy, put into practice, is accountability to donors and transparency to stakeholders.

Michael Hirschbach,
circus arts and theatre
scholarship recipient 1984

photo: Grim Photography



In brief

FINANCIALS

Annual operating budget = \$150,000

Value of annual artist scholarships and special awards = \$113,000

Revenue from government = 2/3

Value of endowment = \$60,000

NOTABLE ALUMNI

Gordon Murray, harpsichord

Barbara Hannigan, soprano

Don Allison, actor

Peggy Mahon, singer/actress

Jean Edmonds Hancock, painter

Shauntay Grant, author

Dale Kavanagh, classical guitarist

Alexis Milligan, actress/director

Pamela Ritchie, jewellery

Sarah Orenstein, actress

Colleen Wolstenholme, visual artist

MORE RECENT RECIPIENTS

Ian Parsons, dancer

Jane Archibald, soprano

Anne Marie Woods, actress

Maureen Hull, poet

Denise Djokic, cellist

Heemin Choi, violinist

Bretten Hannam, filmmaker

Luciana Fernandes, director

INVESTMENT IN ARTISTS

Average scholarship = \$1,000

Number of annual scholarships = 49-54

Average named award = \$1,500

Number of annual named awards = 14

SUPPORTERS

Hon. Myra Freeman, Hon. Patron

Craig Foundation

RBC Foundation

Janice and Brian Flemming

Ninette Babineau

Marion Quinn

Tietje Zonneveld

Susan and Ron Mitton

2011 Canada Games Legacy Fund

Creative Nova Scotia Leadership Council

Dalhousie Music in Medicine Program

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Executive Director



Believe in the Creativity
of Nova Scotians.

nstalenttrust.ca