

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Recent Changes to the Lieutenant Governor's Awards and to the Creation Program

(April 12, 2018 – Fredericton, NB) – The New Brunswick Arts Board (**artsnb**) announces the following changes to the Lieutenant Governor's Awards for High Achievement in the Arts (LGA) and to the Creation program.

The Lieutenant Governor's Awards for High Achievement in the Arts were established in 2009. They are designed to recognize artists who have distinguished themselves by the excellence of their achievements and their contribution to the arts in New Brunswick. Each year, an award is conferred in each of the following three categories: Visual Arts (architecture, fine craft, media arts, photography, and visual arts), Performing Arts (dance, music, theatre and circus), and Literary Arts (writing and storytelling). Celebrations surrounding the awards culminate in a prestigious gala hosted by the Lieutenant Governor of New Brunswick at Old Government House in early November.

After careful analysis and reflection, the Board has elected to reduce the monetary value of each of the three LGA awards to \$5,000. Part of these funds will be used instead to enhance and better promote the celebrations, events and performances surrounding the LGA. A large portion of the funds will also be used to increase the number of Category A grants offered through the Creation program. Category A grants target artists who have reached a superior level of achievement and who have contributed to their discipline at the national or international level. These grants, which can reach a value of up to \$15,000, allow senior artists to undertake creative projects of relatively large scale.

These changes will ensure that the funding usually allocated to the LGA continues to support creative excellence at the highest level, and that the achievements of the LGA laureates are cast in an even brighter light.

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The New Brunswick Arts Board is an arm's length arts funding agency with a legislated mandate to facilitate and promote the creation of art as well as administering funding programs for professional artists in the province. Most of the funding for these programs is provided through the province's Arts Development Trust Fund and by the Department of Tourism, Heritage and Culture.