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artsnb announces the laureates of the 2024 Lieutenant Governor's Awards for High Achievement in the Arts

Fredericton, September 25, 2024 – The New Brunswick Arts Board (**artsnb**) is proud to announce the laureates of the 2024 Lieutenant Governor's Awards for High Achievement in the Arts. The 2024 laureates are **Phil Comeau, Valerie Sherrard, Marshall Button, and Tara Francis.**

On November 8, 2024, alongside the Lieutenant Governor of New Brunswick and presenting partner UNI Coop ration financi re, artsnb will celebrate the artists who will be receiving the four (4) awards for High Achievement in the arts: the Visual Arts Award, the Literary Arts Award, the Performing Arts Award, and the inaugural Indigenous Artist Award.



PHIL COMEAU

2024 Visual Arts Award's Laureate

Phil Comeau is a documentary and fiction filmmaker whose work has been screened at film festivals around the world, winning over 700 awards. A key figure in Acadian cinema, Phil Comeau's films bear witness to contemporary Acadie. Examining history, culture, and identity, his work is a remarkable fresco, tracing the resilience and emancipation of a people. His independent film, *Belle- le en Acadie*, has earned him a Guinness World Record for the most awards won by a documentary. Phil Comeau lives in Moncton, New Brunswick.



VALERIE SHERRARD

2024 Literary Arts Award's Laureate

Valerie (Russell) Sherrard is a celebrated author of children's and young adults' literature. Her work has been recognized on national and international levels and has been translated into several languages. She has won or been shortlisted for more than fifty awards, including the Governor General's Literary Awards, the TD Children's Literature Award, the Canadian Library Association Book of the Year for Young People, the Geoffrey Bilson Award for Historical Fiction, the Ann Connor Brimer Award, and many others. Valerie works and lives in Miramichi, New Brunswick.



MARSHALL BUTTON

2024 Performing Arts Award's Laureate

Actor, director, and playwright Marshall Button has been an independent theatre professional for more than 44 years. His best-known creation *Lucien* premiered at Theatre New Brunswick in 1986. The five full-length *Lucien* plays have been performed more than 2,500 times internationally, and in every Canadian province.

Marshall has been recognized by the Order of New Brunswick and the Order of Moncton, and has received an honorary doctorate from St Thomas University. He lives and works in Moncton, New Brunswick.



TARA FRANCIS

2024 Indigenous Artist Award's Laureate

Tara Francis is a Mi'kmaq visual artist from Elsipogtog First Nation. A master of traditional Mi'kmaq porcupine quillwork, she is a multidisciplinary artist whose work also includes surface design and painting. Drawing from her spiritual and artistic journeys, Tara's work incorporates the connection she maintains to her ancestry. Tara is dedicated to preserving and revitalizing the traditional art of porcupine quillwork, and has also shared the tradition by teaching throughout Atlantic Canada and Maine. Her work has been included in public and private collections around the world. She lives and works in Shediac and Fredericton, New Brunswick.

About the awards

The Lieutenant Governor's Awards for High Achievement in the Arts are designed to recognize the outstanding contribution of New Brunswick artists. These four awards recognize and reward artists who have distinguished themselves by the excellence of their achievements. Awards of \$20,000 are conferred every two years. Funding for the Lieutenant Governor's Awards for High Achievement in the Arts is provided by the Arts Development Trust Fund and sponsors. artsnb has received additional funding this year from the Secretariat of Official Languages of New Brunswick to promote the Lieutenant Governor's Awards for High Achievement in the Arts. More information on these awards, past and current laureates is available on our [website](#).



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.

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