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**Item No. 9.1.3**  
**Grants Committee**  
**June 21, 2021**

**TO:** Chair and Members of Grants Committee

**SUBMITTED BY:** [REDACTED] Original Signed  
Denise Schofield, Executive Director, Parks & Recreation

[REDACTED] Original Signed  
Jacques Dubé, Chief Administrative Officer

**DATE:** May 18, 2021

**SUBJECT:** **Regional Special Events Grant Report 2021/2022**

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**ORIGIN**

Applications received pursuant to Administrative Order Number 2014-021-GOV – Respecting Regional Special Events Grants.

**LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY**

*Halifax Regional Municipality Charter*  
Section 79A

- (1) Subject to subsections (2) to (4), the Municipality may only spend money for municipal purposes if
  - (a) the expenditure is included in the Municipality's operating budget or capital budget or is otherwise authorized by the Municipality

*Administrative Order Number 2014-021-GOV: Respecting Regional Special Events Grants*  
Respecting Regional Special Events Grants Amendment #2, approved by Halifax Regional Council on April 20, 2021.

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Grants Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council:

1. Approve 41 Event Grants for a total of \$188,225 as identified in Table 1 from the approved 2021/2022 Operating Budget – C760 Community/Civic Events; and
2. Approve 15 Event Grants for a total of \$200,000 as identified in Table 2 from the approved 2021/22 Operating Budget – C764 Cultural Development funded from the 2021/2022 Community and Events Reserve Q621.

## **BACKGROUND**

This report outlines the recommended Regional Special Events Grant Awards for the 2021/2022 funding intake. All Regional Special Events Grant recommendations are governed by Administrative Order 2014-021-GOV (AO), Respecting Regional Special Events Grants. There is one intake per year in which staff undertakes the grant application and evaluation process as outlined in the AO. This regional event grant report is considered by the Grants Committee for recommendation to Regional Council.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **Regional Events AO**

The AO on Regional Special Event Grants establishes consistent and equitable funding for community and cultural events and includes four funding programs:

- Community Celebrations – Provides support for small scale community events that are organized primarily for the benefit and enjoyment of residents, coincide with a community gathering or civic holiday, and are free to the public to attend.
  - Maximum grant award in this program is \$1,000.
- Established Community Festivals – Provides support for existing community events that are organized primarily for the benefit and enjoyment of residents, are accessible to the public with free or low-cost activities, have been in existence for a minimum of three consecutive years, and have a minimum budget of \$10,000.
  - Maximum grant award in this program is \$25,000.
  - Option to provide up to three years of sustainable funding.
- Significant Anniversaries – Provides support for community events organized around major quarterly significant anniversaries (25<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup>, 75<sup>th</sup>, etc.) that celebrate HRM's heritage and community and have a minimum budget of \$7,500.
  - Maximum grant award in this program is \$10,000.
- Cultural Events & Showcases – Provides support for arts and culture festivals that program strong cultural content, further the disciplines of literary, media, performing and visual arts, are accessible to the public with free or low-cost activities, have a minimum budget of \$50,000, and further the principles and objectives of the HRM Cultural Plan.
  - Maximum grant award in this program is \$60,000.
  - Option to provide up to three years of sustainable funding.

### **Three-year sustainable funding**

The AO for Regional Special Event Grants provides the ability to award up to three-year funding to organizations under the Established Community Festivals and Cultural Events & Showcases programs. In 2019, Regional Council approved funding in these two programs awarding the full budget for the 2019/2020, 2020/2021 and 2021/2022 fiscal years.

### **COVID-19 Event Cancellations and Postponements and Approach to Funding**

The impacts of COVID-19 continue to impact the ability to host in-person festivals and events. Many event organizers and cultural organizations, the majority of who are volunteers, have spent the past months revising event plans and budgets to move forward, only to have to redesign the programs as impacts from COVID-19 evolve and there continues to be many unknowns. All the not for profit event and cultural organizations remain reliant on municipal funding to sustain their event programs while concurrently managing operations and creating and implementing a recovery plan for future.

Therefore, for 2021 to provide support to festivals and events as they adapt to the effects of COVID-19 and at the same time provide public benefit to help restart events as restrictions are eased, it is recommended that funding be awarded to events delivered under the following scenarios:

- Live, in-person events which meet current public health guidelines that need support to adapt to welcome audience's safety;
- Hybrid events that have both an in-person opportunity to attend and offer an online, virtual, or digital opportunity to engage with the event; or
- Digital/Virtual events where there is an intention to return to a live event format to maintain audience engagement that promote Halifax Regional Municipality to an online audience.

Further, if an event does not take place, no funding will be released.

#### Community Celebrations

In 2020/2021 Council approved funding to twenty-one (21) Community Celebrations. Due to COVID-19 and citing concern for the safety of the public and event volunteers, seventeen (17) of the twenty-one (21) organizations cancelled their events. Organizations were notified that if events were cancelled, no funding would be released. The three events that did take place received the full grant amount and submitted final reports for the 2020 event. One organization received funding for their event but in the end, it did not occur. The organization is permitted to apply these funds towards the 2021/2022 event.

#### Significant Anniversaries

No applications were received in 2020/2021 for community events celebrating a quarterly significant anniversary.

Due to the public health restrictions on in-person gatherings and the administrative strain on volunteers and not for profit organizations to accommodate event occurrences under evolving conditions, the opening of the 2021/2022 Community Celebrations and Significant Anniversaries program intakes has been moved to August 1, 2021. Notification of this change is found on the HRM Culture & Events Grants webpage and former clients have been advised by email.

#### Established Community Festivals

These events are in year three of a three-year funding cycle. In 2020/2021 seventeen (17) of the forty-four (44) approved Established Community Festivals moved forward with hosting a virtual, hybrid and/or small in-person event following the Public Health & Safety Guidelines at the date of the event. Two (2) event organizers declined the grant due to minimal costs to host a small, virtual event. Twenty-five (25) of the forty-four (44) events were cancelled due to COVID-19. No funding was released if events were cancelled.

At the time of writing this report, three 2021/2022 Established Community Festivals have cancelled due to impacts from COVID-19. As a result, no funding is recommended for those events. As shown in Table 1, funding for the remaining forty-one Established Community Festivals is recommended to host hybrid, virtual or in-person events following Public Health & Safety Guidelines at the date of the event.

#### Cultural Events & Showcases

These events are in year three of a three-year funding cycle. In 2020/2021 many of these events transitioned to virtual programs, and some postponed to later in the year resulting in thirteen (13) of the fifteen (15) approved Cultural Events & Showcases hosting a virtual, hybrid and/or small in-person events following the Public Health & Safety Guidelines at the date of the event. Two (2) of the fifteen (15) events were cancelled due to COVID-19. No funding was released if events were cancelled.

As shown in Table 2, funding for the fifteen (15) Cultural Events & Showcases is recommended to host, hybrid, virtual or in-person events following Public Health & Safety Guidelines at the date of the event.

Table 1: Established Community Festivals					
		Year in Funding Cycle	2019/20 Grant	2020/21 Grant	2021/22 Proposed Grant
1	Afrifest	3	\$3,500	\$0*	\$3,500
2	Animation Festival of Halifax	3	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
3	Atlantic Flamenco Festival	3	\$2,000	\$0*	\$0*
4	Bluenose Ability Arts & Film Festival	3	\$2,500	\$0*	\$2,500
5	Canada Day in Beaverbank	3	\$4,500	\$0*	\$4,500
6	Caribbean Diaspora Multicultural Celebration	3	\$1,500	\$0*	\$1,500
7	Christkindlmarket Festival	3	\$250	\$250	\$250
8	Cole Harbour Harvest Festival	3	\$6,500	\$0*	\$6,500
9	Diwali Carnival - Festival of Lights	3	\$2,500	\$0**	\$2,500
10	East Coast Kite Festival	3	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
11	Eastern Passage Cow Bay Summer Carnival	3	\$6,500	\$6,500	\$6,500
12	Emerging Lens Cultural Film Festival	3	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
13	Fire and Water Festival	3	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$3,500
14	Gottingen Festival	3	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
15	Great East Dartmouth Community BBQ	3	\$1,000	\$0*	\$1,000
16	Halifax County Exhibition	3	\$25,000	\$0*	\$25,000
17	Halifax Greek Fest	3	\$5,000	\$0*	\$5,000
18	Hydrostone Christmas Tree Lighting	3	\$1,000	\$0*	\$1,000
19	India Fest	3	\$4,000	\$0*	\$4,000
20	Keloose	3	\$4,500	\$0*	\$4,500
21	Lake and Shore Days	3	\$4,750	\$0*	\$4,750
22	Lake Echo Community Boil and Blast	3	\$1,000	\$0*	\$1,000
23	Light Up Bedford Parade	3	\$5,000	\$0**	\$5,000
24	Mother Goose Festival	3	\$2,000	\$0*	\$2,000
25	Newcomers Welcome BBQ	3	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$3,500
26	North End Annual Summer BBQ	3	\$1,000	\$0*	\$1,000
27	Northern Lights Lantern Festival	3	\$4,000	\$0*	\$0*
28	North Preston Days	3	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000
29	Patriot Days	3	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000
30	Quinfest: Family Fun Day	3	\$1,500	\$0*	\$0*
31	Re-Jigged Festival	3	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
32	Sackville Snow Days	3	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
33	School Farm Day	3	\$525	\$0*	\$525
34	Spryfield Days Festival	3	\$750	\$750	\$750
35	Spryfield Santa Claus Parade	3	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$3,500
36	St. Patrick's Day Parade	3	\$750	\$750	\$750
37	Switch Open Street Sundays	3	\$12,000	\$0*	\$12,000
38	Tallahassee Days	3	\$6,500	\$6,500	\$6,500
39	Taste of East Preston	3	\$1,000	\$0*	\$1,000
40	The Chronicle Herald Holiday Parade of Lights	3	\$25,000	\$0*	\$25,000
41	Trunk 7 Music Festival	3	\$3,200	\$0*	\$3,200
42	Ward 5 Summer Party	3	\$1,500	\$0*	\$1,500
43	Waverley Gold Rush Days	3	\$4,000	\$0*	\$4,000
44	Word on the Street Halifax	3	\$6,500	\$0*	\$6,500
<b>Total Established Community Events</b>			<b>\$195,725</b>	<b>\$59,250</b>	<b>\$188,225</b>

\*event cancelled

\*\*virtual event organizer declined grant

<b>Table 2: Cultural Showcases &amp; Events</b>					
		<b>Year in Funding Cycle</b>	<b>2019/20 Grant</b>	<b>2020/21 Grant</b>	<b>2021/22 Proposed Grant</b>
<b>Tier 1</b>					
1	AfterWords Literary Festival	3	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000
2	Atlantic Jewish Film Festival	3	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000
3	FrancoFest	3	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000
4	Halifax Independent Filmmakers Festival	3	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000
5	Peggy's Cove Area Festival of the Arts	3	\$3,500	\$0*	\$3,500
6	Mayworks Halifax Festival	3	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000
7	Stages Theatre Festival	3	\$3,500	\$1,250	\$3,500
<b>Tier 2</b>					
8	Halifax Fringe Festival	3	\$17,000	\$17,000	\$17,000
9	Halifax Pride Festival	3	\$34,000	\$34,000	\$34,000
10	Mosaic Festival of Arts & Culture	3	\$10,000	\$5,000	\$10,000
11	Nocturne: Art at Festival	3	\$45,000	\$45,000	\$45,000
12	Nova Multifest	3	\$10,000	\$5,000	\$10,000
13	Every Seeker (formally OBEY Convention)	3	\$6,000	\$0*	\$6,000
14	Prismatic Arts Festival	3	\$30,000	\$15,000	\$30,000
15	Scotia Festival of Music	3	\$25,000	\$12,500	\$25,000
<b>Total Cultural Showcases &amp; Events Funding</b>			<b>\$200,000</b>	<b>\$150,750</b>	<b>\$200,000</b>

\*event cancelled

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

All Established Community Festivals recommendations can be accommodated in the approved 2021/2022 operating budget for Community/Civic Events, account C760-6933.

### **Budget Summary: Community and Events Reserve, Q621**

Projected Net Available Reserve Balances (as of Jan.31/21)	\$ 682,657
Contribution 2021/22	\$ 940,000
Withdrawals 2021/22	<u>\$ (1,117,000)</u>
Total Projected Net Available Reserve Balances	<b>\$ 513,757</b>

All Cultural Events & Showcases recommendations are subject to availability of Community & Events Reserve, Q621 funds. These grants are processed through operating account C764–Cultural Development.

Community and Event Reserve, Q621 is used to provide funding to attract and host exceptional large – scale sporting and tourism events that create significant economic impacts, promote Halifax as a multi – experiential event destination and attract tourists to HRM for multiple day visits. Reserve is also to provide funding to community non–profit and public institutions in support of major capital initiatives by facilitating the development of significant community infrastructure in order to realize tangible cultural, sectorial and economic impacts. Funding to the reserve is 40% of Marketing Levy from Hotel Sales, and transfers from operating budget. Withdrawals are for supporting events that support tourism and economic development, cultural / heritage projects, significant community infrastructure and public art. **The recommended allocation of grants does not have a negative impact on the reserve as this allocation is within the 2021/22 approved withdrawals from reserve.**

There are no outstanding funds owing to the municipality by any of the recommended applicants.

### **RISK CONSIDERATION**

There are no significant risks associated with the recommendations in this Report. The risks considered rate Low. To determine this, consideration was given to financial and reputational risk.

### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Information regarding program eligibility, application timelines, and applicant timelines are posted on the HRM website. Communication is ongoing with event clients on the status of events.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

No environmental implications were identified.

### **ALTERNATIVES**

The Grants Committee may choose to recommend that Regional Council amend the amount of any event grant in accordance with 2014-021-GOV within the budget capacity of C760 and Q621.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment 1: 2020/2021 Regional Special Events Grant Program Final Reports

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A copy of this report can be obtained online at [halifax.ca](http://halifax.ca) or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210.

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**Regional Special Events Grant  
2020/2021 Event Program Final Reports**

The following information is based on a review of the 2020/2021 final reports that are submitted to staff post event. As per Section 32 of the AO it states that "Successful applicants are required to complete a final report within 120 days of the conclusion of the event describing the impact of the funding received from the Municipality".

## **ESTABLISHED COMMUNITY FESTIVALS**

### **1. Event: Afrifest**

Cancelled due to COVID-19.

### **2. Event: Animation Festival of Halifax**

**Date of the event:** Spring & Summer 2020

**Summary:** Due to COVID-19 the festival went online. Sixty participants viewed online screenings on five Fridays in May. Fifty persons participated in a takeaway workshop in partnership with Wonder'neath's Open Studio and was also available online. A dozen participated in a collaborative animation project (AniJam). Another fifty people participated in a postcard activity where participants created and coloured postcards and the festival filmed the collection and released short videos in the winter of 2020.

### **3. Event: Atlantic Flamenco Festival**

Cancelled due to COVID-19.

### **4. Event: Bluenose Ability Arts & Film Festival**

Cancelled due to COVID-19.

### **5. Event: Canada Day in Beaver Bank**

Cancelled due to COVID-19.

### **6. Event: Caribbean Diaspora Multicultural Celebration**

Cancelled due to COVID-19.

### **7. Event: Christkindlmarket Festival**

**Date of the event:** December 5-23, 2020

**Summary:** The Christkindlmarket Festival was originally scheduled for one weekend in December, however due to COVID-19 restrictions the festival pivoted to an online market. From December 5-23 the market offered a full variety of online sales and activities including authentic German vendors, farmers, artisans and crafters. Outdoor festival programming pivoted to an illumination of the entire site.

### **8. Event: Cole Harbour Harvest Festival**

Cancelled due to COVID-19.

### **9. Event: Diwali Carnival - Festival of Lights**

Due to COVID-19, organizers declined the grant and hosted a very small event with minimal costs.

### **10. Event: East Coast Kite Festival**

**Date of the event:** September 1-13, 2020

**Summary:** The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Kite Festival was held at Citadel Hill with a team of over 40 volunteers who successfully ran the festival from 10am-8pm, following all public health restrictions for an outdoor gathering while enlightening people about the significance of kites in various culture. Due to COVID-19 workshops were not possible, however the East Coast Kite Festival was able to display 50 large kites to lift the spirit of residents and visitors in challenging times.

**11. Event: Eastern Passage Cow Bay Summer Carnival**

**Date of the event:** August 2-9, 2020

**Summary:** Due to COVID-19, the Carnival switched to an online version, offering take out and drive by events that followed the public health restrictions. The annual car show altered their programming and held a successful drive through parade style with seventy entries. The sandcastle contest was opened for a week to submit a digital copy of a sandcastle creation. The contest resulted in thirty entries, each containing three-four members per entry. The carnival also changed their programming and offered a take-out option for a breakfast and supper.

**12. Event: Emerging Lens Cultural Film Festival**

**Date of the event:** June 10-13, 2020 (virtual), October 7-9, 2020 in person

**Summary:** Emerging Lens Cultural Film Festival celebrated a decade of programming in 2020. The chosen films were screened for three nights at various locations; Pier 21, Bus Stop Theatre and the North Branch Library. All screenings were well attended, and several local emerging performers were featured throughout the festival.

**13. Event: Fire and Water Festival**

**Date of the event:** October 2-3, 2020

**Summary:** The Fire and Water Festival took place along the Alderney Landing Waterfront where 5,000 attendees were entertained in a COVID compliant setting with music, storytelling, art and dance performances. This year there was twenty performances that celebrated our roots in Africa, Asia, Europe, South America, Australia and North America.

**14. Event: Gottingen Festival**

**Date of the event:** July 19, 2020, August 30, 2020, September 26, 2020

**Summary:** Three mini "Taking BLK" Gottingen Festivals were hosted which gave many local black artists an opportunity to showcase their skills during a particularly challenging year for the arts community. Three different locations of alternating performances were used to add ambiance to the street. The main location was the outdoor front entrance of North Branch Memorial Library on Gottingen Street. Also, the outdoor area of a Gottingen Street business, Altereagos and The Local were used as the additional locations.

**15. Event: Great East Dartmouth Community BBQ**

Cancelled due to COVID-19.

**16. Event: Halifax County Exhibition**

Cancelled due to COVID-19.

**17. Event: Halifax Greek Fest**

Cancelled due to COVID-19.

**18. Event: Hydrostone Tree Lighting**

Cancelled due to COVID-19.

**19. Event: India Fest**

Cancelled due to COVID-19.

**20. Event: Keloose**

Cancelled due to COVID-19.

**21. Event: Lake and Shore Days**

Cancelled due to COVID-19.

**22. Event: Lake Echo Community Boil and Blast**

Cancelled due to COVID-19.

**23. Event: Light Up Bedford Parade**

**Date of the event:** November 22, 2020

**Summary:** Pivoted to a Santa drive by with no municipal costs. Organizers declined grant.

**24. Event: Mother Goose Festival**

Cancelled due to COVID-19.

**25. Event: Newcomers Welcome BBQ**

**Date of the event:** Unknown

**Summary:** Unknown. Final report has not been submitted. Staff is working with event organizer to complete final reporting requirements prior to releasing any future grant.

**26. Event: North End Annual Summer BBQ**

Cancelled due to COVID-19.

**27. Event: Northern Lights Lantern Festival**

Cancelled due to COVID-19.

**28. Event: North Preston Days**

**Date of the event:** Unknown

**Summary:** Unknown. Final report has not been submitted. Staff working with event organizer to complete final reporting requirements prior to releasing any future grant.

**29. Event: Patriot Days**

**Date of the event:** June 27-30, 2020

**Summary:** Due to COVID-19 restrictions, Patriot Days changed their program to safely host a drive-in movie held over four nights. Each screening was limited to 100 vehicles. Graduation celebrations for Sackville schools were also incorporated.

**30. Event: Quinfest: Family Fun Day**

Cancelled due to COVID-19.

**31. Event: Re-Jigged Festival**

**Date of the event:** October 23-25, 2020

**Summary:** ReJigged 2020 was a fully online event. Tune Maker's Concert was livestreamed and featured four Nova Scotian artists. The Gala concert invited artists from all over the world to submit a recorded performance and fifteen artists were showcased. 'An Evening With' concert starring Jenn Butterworth from Scotland was added to the festival. The performance was pre-recorded and aired to close the festival. Educational workshops were offered online in fiddle, whistle, Appalachian dance, sean nos dance, mandolin and several other instruments, all were well attended.

**32. Event: Sackville Snow Days**

**Date of the event:** February 12-15, 2020

**Summary:** Sackville Snow Days looked much different this year by providing self-guided, DIY and virtual events for attendees to enjoy safely from their own family bubbles. Activities offered included a coloring contest, or a snowman competition inviting children to submit an individual coloring page, or close friends and family to safely gather to make a snowman. Winners received a gift card from a local business. A virtual puppet show and concert was offered, as well as a scavenger hunt to complete within family bubbles with clues posted online.

**33. Event: School Farm Day**

Cancelled due to COVID-19.

**34. Event: Spryfield Days Festival**

**Date of the event:** August 29, 2020

**Summary:** Spryfield Days Festival looked much different this year offering a stationary Car Show and self-distancing, strawberry shortcake social. Five hundred participants staggered throughout the day came outside to enjoy this community festival while maintaining public health restrictions.

**35. Event: Spryfield Santa Claus Parade**

**Date of the event:** December 20, 2020

**Summary:** Due to COVID restrictions, parades were not permitted therefore Spryfield "Santa and Mrs. Claus" drove around the community of Spryfield and surrounding communities in a Christmas themed decorated convertible wishing residents happy holidays as they passed through.

**36. Event: St. Patrick's Day Parade**

**Date of the event:** March 14, 2021

**Summary:** The St. Patrick's Day Parade organizers could not host an in-person event this year due to global pandemic restrictions, therefore produced a virtual celebration of Irish in NS. The 56 minutes video celebrated past St. Patrick's Day Parades, as well as the history, cooking, language and culture of the Irish mixed throughout. The video had 1600+ online views.

**37. Event: Switch Open Street Sundays**

Cancelled due to COVID-19.

**38. Event: Tallahassee Days**

**Date of the event:** August 21-23, 2020

**Summary:** This year, Tallahassee Days organizing committee downsized their festival due to the public health restrictions. Friday of the festival volunteers offered a takeout lobster dinner that 140 residents enjoyed. Throughout Saturday and Sunday, 460 attendees enjoyed a community BBQ, live entertainment and online games, while staying within public health restrictions.

**39. Event: Taste of East Preston**

Cancelled due to COVID-19.

**40. Event: The Chronical Herald Holiday Parade of Lights**

Cancelled due to COVID-19.

**41. Event: Trunk 7 Music Festival**

Cancelled due to COVID-19.

**42. Event: Ward 5 Block Party**

Cancelled due to COVID-19.

**43. Event: Waverley Gold Rush Days**

Cancelled due to COVID-19.

**44. Event: Word on the Street Halifax**

Cancelled due to COVID-19.

**CULTURAL SHOWCASES & FESTIVALS**

**1. Event: AfterWords Literary Festival**

**Date of the event:** September 30 - October 4, 2020

**Summary:** The virtual festival began with a cabaret-style event featuring the artists and authors from Conundrum Press's Nova Graphica, a volume of illustrated histories of Nova Scotia. On Thursday evening, Colleen Murphy was in conversation with the Governor General award-winning playwright, Keith Barker; and then Stephanie Domet hosted a panel discussion with speculative fiction authors. Friday evening consisted of a poetry panel with Luke Hathaway in conversation with various artists about writing and

mentoring. On Saturday, Evelyn White spoke with various Giller-prize nominated novelists. All workshops were fully attended. The festival highlight was on Sunday when CBC IDEAS producer Mary Lynk hosted a 90-minute conversation with New York Times best-selling author, Roxane Gay. This conversation was broadcast to an international audience on IDEAS on November 17. Due to all events were hosted virtually, rather than in-person, AfterWords Literary Festival welcomed audiences from Egypt, Nigeria, the UK, and all across Canada and the US reaching a larger audience than in previous years.

## **2. Event: Atlantic Jewish Film Festival**

**Date of the event:** November 19-22, 2020

**Summary:** The 7<sup>th</sup> annual AJFF was virtual this year and was a success as the virtual component attracted a much larger audience. Ten films were screened totaling 1,029 views over the duration of the festival. AJFF were the first non-profit organization to use the Cineplex platform for a virtual film festival.

## **3. Event: FrancoFest**

**Date of the event:** November 2-8, 2020

**Summary:** FrancoFest hosted a hybrid event offering both online and in-person activities at Alderney Landing Theatre, the Bus Stop Theatre, and Cineplex Parklane. The festival held an evening celebrating bilingualism, community and LGBTQIA+ groups in the form of a cultural trivia & show, hosted by a francophone Drag Queen from Halifax. Another highlight was the documentary "L'histoire d'Africville compte" on the history of Africville. This book launch event was originally to be held during the Francofest dates (November 2020) but due to the pandemic it was postponed and adapted to a documentary format about Africville and its history. The documentary was presented in February 2021 throughout the Conseil scolaire acadien provincial schools and to the community.

## **4. Event: Halifax Independent Filmmakers Festival**

**Date of the event:** November 12-15, 2020

**Summary:** The Halifax Independent Filmmakers Festival moved to an online event with a line-up of award winning Canadian and International films. The festival expanded its programming this year due to the online format to include eleven screening slots (up from the usual nine). Screenings included a blend of feature films, shorts programs and a fourteen hour-long feature film extravaganza from Argentina, LA FLOR. For the first time in the festival's history, HIFF had an open call for Canadian shorts in addition to the usual call for Atlantic Canadian shorts.

## **5. Event: Peggy's Cove Area Festival of the Arts**

Cancelled due to COVID-19.

## **6. Event: Mayworks Halifax Festival**

**Date of the event:** May 1-29, 2020

**Summary:** For the first time Mayworks Halifax Festival 2020 had no live attendance, only digital events. The festival's digital program included film screenings, music playlists, podcast recordings, an online call-in talk show, an online sing-along, a virtual art gallery and two audio walking journeys. Mayworks Halifax Festival 2020 was extremely successful as attendance was 200% higher than in previous years, due to the ease of attendee's ability to view virtually.

## **7. Event: Stages Theatre Festival**

**Date of the event:** July 6 – August 26, 2020

**Summary:** Due to the pandemic restrictions, Stages Theatre reprogrammed the event to include a series of workshops that would take the community behind the scenes of productions. Each company got to highlight their artists and work, while delving into specific element or theme of their production. Sessions were broadcast Wednesday and Friday nights from July 8 to August 26, 2020. Stages Theatre Festival was successful in bringing people virtually together to share different perspectives with audience members, engage in a new way, and create interest and excitement in Atlantic Canadian theatre.

### **8. Event: Halifax Fringe Festival**

**Date of the event:** September 1-30, 2020

**Summary:** To follow public health restrictions Halifax Fringe hosted weekly virtual Writers Rooms where local writers would sign on and write together in silence providing a routine for attendees and a sense of community. A reading group 'The Artist's Way' was launched that met weekly to go through the exercises in the book. All Fringe activities were organized solely on a volunteer basis.

### **9. Event: Halifax Pride**

**Date of the event:** July 16-26, 2020

**Summary:** The COVID-19 crisis required organizers to re-imagine Pride Festival and moved forward to host online events that provided opportunities for education and entertainment, and also hosted a in person, physical Festival Site on Citadel Hill that followed public health and safety protocols. The Festival Site offered a variety of events focused on active living, including a number of yoga classes, hip hop dance lessons, aerobics, and a 5km run in the north end. For the first time in its history, the Festival Site also featured a teepee that served as a Two-Spirit gathering space. New in 2020, Halifax Pride partnered with Bus Stop Theatre and the 'Pride Studio' was formed where various online shows and livestream events were presented on topics of interest to the 2SLGBTQ+ community.

### **10. Event: Mosaic Festival of Arts & Culture**

**Date of the event:** September 19, 2020

**Summary:** While maintaining health and safety protocols, Mosaic Festival of Arts & Culture hosted 10 performances on the Halifax Waterfront. New this year organizers developed and livestreamed the event so attendees could safely watch from the comfort of their homes. A total of 2,303 people attended the live event scattered throughout the day, while the online portion of the totaled 600 viewers.

### **11. Event: Nocturne: Art at Festival**

**Date of the event:** October 12-20, 2020

**Summary:** Due to COVID restrictions on gathering limits, Nocturne organizers made the decision to move forward with a hybrid festival that would have a strong focus on virtual content and prioritize physically distant or passive projects in physical spaces, as well as shifted from a 1-day event to a week-long event. Multiple locations were used, at the Halifax waterfront, Halifax Commons, Bus Stop Theatre, Halifax Central Library, Dalhousie University, Halifax Seaport, Anna Leonowens Gallery, Art Gallery of Nova Scotia and Halifax Public Gardens. Not only did attendance numbers increase, more time was spent at each individual project visited. The festival opened with three Mi'kmaq artists whose work was on display for the entire week in passive physical locations around the city. The projects rolled out throughout the week, either passive, in-person events, or online like the panel discussion with Dr. Ingrid Waldron and artists/elder combos which focused on environmental racism and artistic activism.

### **12. Event: Nova Multifest**

**Date of the event:** June 27, July 4, July 11, July 18 and July 25, 2020

**Summary:** Nova Multifest organizers pivoted to a 100% virtual event this year due to public health restrictions hosting four, one hour shows and finishing the festival with a six hour show on July 25. Nova Multifest 2020 was a successful digital festival that reached an audience of 53,994 viewers.

### **13. Event: OBEY Convention (Every Seeker)**

Cancelled due to COVID-19.

### **14. Event: Prismatic Arts Festival**

**Date of the event:** September 17-20, 2020

**Summary:** Prismatic Arts Festival hosted live in-person events keeping within the public health restrictions at the time of the event. Live performances were hosted at The Carleton or Grand Parade Square. On September 17, 'Jah'Mila and Owen O'Sound Lee' performed a sold-out show at the maximum capacity of seventy, and on September 19 'Shifting Verse and Eastern Owls' performed live in front of an audience of 234 (maximum outdoor capacity allowed was 250 with room for volunteers). Prismatic also conducted the annual TALK series online titled 'Voices We Need to Hear: Indigenous Artists and Artists of Colour'. The series took part over five conversations with twenty panelists from across Canada and had 175 attendees.

One of the successes for Prismatic in 2020 was supporting artists who had not performed for many months. Prismatic programmed and paid over twenty-four individual artists.

**15. Event: Scotia Festival of Music**

**Date of the event:** May 25 – June 7, 2020

**Summary:** This year's festival was held online. In addition to archival video, two concerts from the Peggy Corkum Music Room were livestreamed, and one from the home of cellist Cameron Crozman in Montreal. The 2020 online festival, Scotial Distancing, was the result. Every night at 7:30pm between May 25 and June 7, the festival shared a mix of broadcast-quality livestreamed performances, archived videos of performances from past years, and videos and interviews recorded by guest artists in isolation. Each nightly "episode" was premiered live on Facebook and YouTube and are archived for subsequent viewing.