



**CARFAC**  
ONTARIO

## 2023 Ontario Pre-Budget Consultations

Peter Bethlenfalvy  
Minister of Finance  
c/o Budget Secretariat  
Frost Building North, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
95 Grosvenor Street  
Toronto, Ontario  
M7A 1Z1

***Delivered by email***

**Submitted by:**

Canadian Artists Representation/les front des artistes canadiens (CARFAC) Ontario  
414-401 Richmond Street West  
Toronto, Ontario, Canada  
M5V 3A8

**Contact:**

Jason Samilski  
Managing Director  
[jason@carfaontario.ca](mailto:jason@carfaontario.ca)

THE **VOICE** FOR PROFESSIONAL ARTISTS

---

414-401 Richmond Street West, Toronto, ON M5V 3A8  
416-340-8534  
[www.carfaontario.ca](http://www.carfaontario.ca)



**CARFAC**  
ONTARIO

February 10th, 2023

Canadian Artists' Representation/Le front des artistes canadiens (CARFAC) Ontario is the association of visual and media artists in Ontario. We serve as a voice for the province's 7000 visual artists, including approximately 700 members. We believe that artists, like professionals in other fields, should be paid fairly for their work at all stages of their careers. We educate the visual arts community about artists' legal and economic rights, we provide a range of services tailored to the unique needs of artists, and we actively contribute to the development of cultural infrastructure for the benefit of artists and all Ontarians who engage in the arts.

For Ontario to continue to generate the powerful economic impacts of the arts and culture sector, CARFAC recommends that the Government of Ontario in its 2023 budget:

**Sustain the 2022 level of investment in the Ontario Arts Council (OAC) at \$65 million**

Founded in 1963 by Progressive Conservative Premier John Robarts, the Ontario Arts Council's work touches all almost all of Ontario's cultural economy which, in 2019, contributed \$28.7 billion to the provincial GDP. This includes \$5.5 billion GDP contribution from arts education, performing arts, festivals, original visual art, craft, books, and sound recordings—sectors that are heavily supported by the OAC. In 2021-22, OAC made investments in all 124 Ontario ridings through 2,665 grants to individual artists, and 1,050 grants to organizations.

The arts sector is grateful for the additional investment of \$5m to OAC's general grant in 2022, which, per OAC's projections has the potential to generate an additional \$79m in revenues, along with 4800 new jobs. As such, we highlight that sustaining this funding can result in significantly more economic growth. In addition to its direct GDP contribution, the arts and culture sector plays a central role in driving tourism and enhancing local business, as well as creating jobs, with over 300,000 Ontarians currently employed in the sector.

Ontario cannot afford to fall behind. Previous governments have not pursued the economic impact directly associated with investment at the OAC, with the Council's general grant from the province remaining at or around \$60m since 2009; and these annual investments have not reflected population growth or inflation. While Ontario is home to approximately 42% of Canada's artists (almost twice as much as any other province), between 2016 and 2022 British Columbia and Quebec have more than doubled their investments in their provincial arts councils. During this challenging time, sustaining a \$65m general grant for the OAC represents an effective strategy to stabilize, and protect, the arts and culture sector's economic impact.

CARFAC Ontario is available to consult with the Government of Ontario in regards to this recommendation, and on other arts and culture investments that Ontarians will be eager to see in the 2023 provincial budget.

Sincerely,

Jason Samilski, Managing Director, CARFAC Ontario | [jason@carfacontario.ca](mailto:jason@carfacontario.ca)

**THE VOICE FOR PROFESSIONAL ARTISTS**