



FONDATION
michaëlle jean
FOUNDATION



MICHAËLLE JEAN FOUNDATION
Transforming Lives. Revitalizing Communities.

ANNUAL REPORT
2015-2016

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A NEW BREATH

Dear friends,

For the Michaëlle Jean Foundation, this was a year of transition. We reviewed the work accomplished over the five years since the Foundation was founded in 2010. We observed how trial and error evolved into establishing solid programs, which have already proven their worth today. We completed this critical evaluation, as we began imaging our next five years of operation. We have since decided to continue implementing, throughout our country, our exhibitions and community forums known as 4th Wall (Make the Invisible Visible), which have been greeted with great enthusiasm since their inception, by our many partners, including Canada's leading art galleries and museums. Their success has been validated across the country, and they have managed to attract considerable interest abroad.

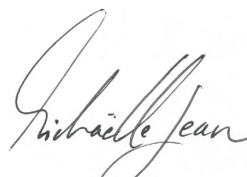
We have been able to measure the effect of the 4th Wall program on the young artists, featured in the exhibitions. They contributed significantly to its success by revealing to the general public societal issues of which many citizens are oblivious. By generating awareness, these exhibitions also became the focal point for public forums, during which young artists became community spokespersons, collaborating with decision-makers, politicians and businesspeople to develop action plans and ignite change. Several of these young leaders explained how, through this very encouraging program, they have been able to enhance the impact of their work, thanks to the financial support and capacity building offered by the Foundation. Our bursary programs have been a perfect complement to the 4th Wall program by augmenting its impact thanks to financial assistance for personal social innovation projects (TD Michaëlle Jean Bursaries) and cultural entrepreneurship initiatives (Young Arts Entrepreneur). Through these funding arrangements, we have succeeded in creating new jobs and providing new opportunities for disadvantaged youth in different parts of the country.

It seemed natural for us to present our programs evaluation at the end of 2015 during our third Power of the Arts National Forum. This Forum, which brings together the vital forces of Canadian society, was the perfect place to discuss at the national level how the arts can build a more inclusive and compassionate society. That same year, the involvement of the French and American embassies helped to draw international

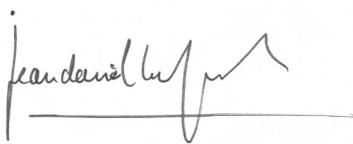
attention to our efforts to encourage more organizations to use the arts as tools for healing, mobilization and transformation. Significantly, the Foundation also co-hosted two 4th Wall exhibitions in Quebec City and Halifax, which allowed new audiences to discover the incredible talent and ideas of young people, generally excluded in urban centers and rural areas. Promoting social innovation has also been at the forefront of our activities: we selected a new cohort of young cultural entrepreneurs to whom we have provided financial support and mentors to launch or boost their cultural enterprises. Overall, our initiatives have demonstrated beyond any reasonable doubt that the arts are weapons of mass construction and that an increasing number of Canadians are aware and share our commitment to a more just world. We look forward to undertaking the next phase of our mission by learning from previous years in order to increase our commitment to youth and the arts, and, of course, to contribute to a more inclusive Canada.

This annual report demonstrates the many ways in which the youth we support transform lives and revitalize communities across the country. None of this would have been possible without your invaluable support. We sincerely thank you for participating in this movement for change. We look forward to continuing this work with you for many years to come.

Yours sincerely,



Her Excellency, The Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean
Secretary General of the International Organization of La Francophonie
27th Governor General and Commander-in-Chief of Canada
Co-Founder and Co-Chair of the Michaëlle Jean Foundation



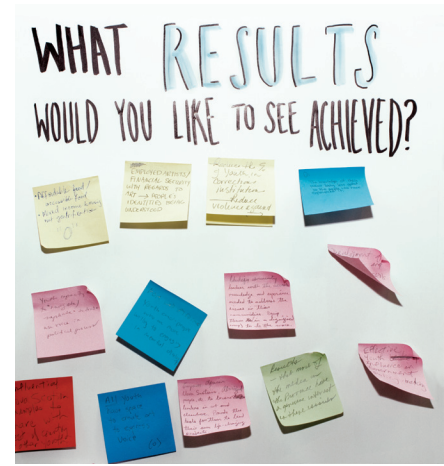
Monsieur Jean-Daniel Lafond
Filmmaker and Writer
Co-Founder, Co-Chair and Executive Director of the Michaëlle Jean Foundation



GIVING A PLATFORM TO UNDERSERVED YOUTH

YOUNG CANADIANS CONTINUE TO LEVERAGE THE POWER OF THE ARTS TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT ISSUES AFFECTING THEM. TO GIVE THEIR EFFORTS A BOOST, WE OFFER A NATIONAL PLATFORM THAT GIVES GREATER VISIBILITY TO THEIR TALENTS, EXPERIENCES AND CREATIVE IDEAS. IN ITS SECOND YEAR, OUR 4TH WALL: MAKE THE INVISIBLE VISIBLE PROGRAM SAW US WORK WITH MAJOR ART GALLERIES AND MUSEUMS IN NOVA SCOTIA, ONTARIO AND QUEBEC TO SPONSOR EXHIBITIONS FEATURING MORE THAN 100 EMERGING ARTISTS. IN TURN, 60,000 CANADIANS VISITED THE EXHIBITIONS, PARTICIPATED IN PUBLIC FORUMS ORGANIZED AROUND EXHIBITION THEMES. FUTURE EXHIBITIONS ARE SLATED FOR 2017 AND 2018 IN VANCOUVER, WINNIPEG AND OTTAWA.





Wow! Totally blown away by the Michaëlle Jean Foundation's 4th Wall Exhibition! I am so thankful that you have all come together to make this. It is so important that this art is supported by giving young people back the power to tell their own stories. It is truly a beautiful thing! Would love to get involved! Many thanks.
 — ANONYMOUS VISITOR AT THE ART GALLERY OF NOVA SCOTIA

Justice Exhibition Extended at the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia (May 6, 2016 to June 18, 2016)

The second Justice, Arts & Youth 4th Wall exhibition was held once again at the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia. The Michaëlle Jean Foundation joined with the Gallery and Youth Art Connection to enable 11 dynamic young creators, from a variety of backgrounds, to showcase artwork on the theme of justice. The exhibition transpired at a time in which the province was wheeling from an unanticipated spike in gun violence involving youth. Some of the artwork addressed themes of youth criminalization, violence and incarceration, while others addressed the rights of Indigenous peoples, Transphobia, and domestic partner violence. The exhibition kicked-off with a public forum in which over 150 participants, from sectors as varied as government, community, arts health, justice, and education, celebrated the featured artists and began laying the groundwork for a province-wide action plan to advance peace and justice. The exhibition attracted over 16,000 visitors.

J'habite la Ville Exhibition at the Quebec Museum of Civilizations (September 27, 2016, to November 1, 2016)

With much fanfare, September 27, 2016, saw the much anticipated opening of the J'habite la Ville 4th Wall exhibition. Featuring the artwork of three youth from Quebec City who have lived on the street, the exhibition caught the attention of media, the public, government officials and artists, who were drawn by this unprecedented opportunity to discover the perspectives of street-involved youth on the city they share. Over the course of four months, the young artists worked with students in Laval University's School of Architecture. What began as an exercise in team-building was quickly transformed into friendships and the articulation of a rich and sophisticated perspective on urban planning, the green economy, inclusion and the struggle against poverty. The exhibition was opened with a public forum, in which experts discussed the issues raised in the exhibition and proposed strategies to improve quality of life in Quebec City.



SUPPORTING SOCIO-CULTURAL INNOVATION

IN CANADA, THE CULTURAL INDUSTRIES ARE AN ENGINE OF ECONOMIC GROWTH. ACCORDING TO STATISTICS CANADA, THEY CHURN OUT 1 MILLION JOBS ACROSS THE COUNTRY AND BRING OVER \$55.4 BILLION TO OUR NATION'S GDP. THE MICHAËLLE JEAN FOUNDATION HAS SOUGHT TO MAKE ITS CONTRIBUTION TO THE CREATIVE INDUSTRIES THROUGH THE YOUNG ARTS ENTREPRENEUR PROGRAM. IT PROVIDES BUDDING ENTREPRENEURS FROM DISADVANTAGED BACKGROUNDS ACCESS TO FUNDING AND MENTORS TO KICK-START ARTS-BASED BUSINESSES. WITH SUPPORT FROM BMO AND CIBC AND A PARTNERSHIP WITH FUTURPRENEUR CANADA, THE PROGRAM IS TOUCHING THE LIVES OF YOUTH ACROSS THE COUNTRY AND CREATING JOBS.



2014 - 2016 Cohort of Young Arts Entrepreneurs Complete their Projects

1 Devon Fiddler

(Waterhen Lake First Nation and Saskatoon, Saskatchewan).

Since Devon Fiddler began with the program, her business SheNative Goods has taken off. Obtaining over \$90,000, in the first 10 months, her products and services have reached over 30,000 people in Canada and abroad. SheNative has also begun hiring staff, providing five contracts to young Aboriginal women, some who are low-income single mothers. Her business has been featured in the Michaëlle Jean Foundation's "Arts Save Lives" ad campaign, which appeared in Toronto Life, Fashion Magazine, Where Toronto and Ottawa Magazine.

2 Babby Rodriguez Palomo (Montreal, Quebec)

Babby Rodriguez Palomo has seen his business grow considerably since joining the entrepreneurship program. After rebranding, his printed and electronic magazine, Comunica Magazine, has amassed a monthly readership of 3,500 people. He has obtained a solid commitment from twelve companies that regularly purchase advertising space in the Magazine. Comunica Media's central role in providing topical and up-to-date information about Montreal's Hispanic community garnered the Premios Latin Award Canada 2015 for the best digital media company.

3 Ahmed Ali Mohamud (Edmonton, Alberta)

Ahmed 'Knowmadic' Ali is a Somali-born award-winning, full-time poet, writer, actor, comedian, speaker and youth worker. Since entering the Young Arts Entrepreneur program, he has registered his business, Breath in Poetry, completed its business plan, increased his client base from 60 to 4,184, and obtained contracts from the University of Alberta, school boards in Edmonton, as well as organizations in the United States, England, Wales and Sudan. As a result of his participation in the program, he has been appointed to the Board of Directors of the Edmonton Arts Council.

4 Aimee Baldwin (Kenora, Ontario)

After viewing her options, Aimee Baldwin decided to return to school to learn more practical skills useful for her new business. Once she completed an intensive course on pottery, taken during much of her first year in the young arts entrepreneur program, Aimee returned to Kenora to begin setting-up her business. She completed a business plan, expanded her client base, began renting a space, where she could offer courses and sell items. To date, she has sold approximately \$10,000 worth of product.





2015 - 2017 Young Arts Entrepreneurs Complete their First Year



Crystal Chan (Montreal, Quebec)

Crystal Chan is a writer and editor. Her work has appeared on CBC and in *Maisonneuve* and *Reader's Digest*. She edits the Quebec Writers' Federation's digital column. She tells stories in print and online – and she helps others tell theirs. Born in Hong Kong, Crystal grew up in Vancouver and lives in Montreal. She holds a BA with Honours in English: Cultural Studies and recently graduated from the Next Up leadership fellowship. After speaking minority languages all her life, and traveling to every Canadian province and territory as well as across the U.S. and parts of Europe and Asia, she's hooked on languages. Who aren't we hearing from? That's what Crystal had in mind when she founded her publishing press with the assistance of the Foundation. The press is multimedia, multiplatform, and multilingual, reaching and empowering isolated academics to disenfranchised minorities. It uses technology to magnify diverse ideas, and to offer multimedia solutions to cultural workers, policy-makers, and the business sector. To date, it has netted a gross revenue of \$13,500, involved over 7,000 people in her publications and activities, as well as provided new job opportunities to three young people.



Morad Saad Guzman (Toronto, Ontario)

Morad Saad Guzman, Founder and Creative Director for Golden Boy Music, has over 10 years of experience as a drummer, percussionist and performing artist. Morad is a self-taught acoustic guitar and keyboard player. He has performed in several rock, Latin and alternative bands, theatre groups and performing arts ensembles across the GTA, winning awards of excellence in Music at the Sears Drama Festival two years in a row. Morad also facilitates drum circles and workshops for schools, festivals and corporate events. The Foundation has helped him enhance Golden Boy Music: a community-based organization that provides a platform for students to learn, create, and share music in a safe, relaxed environment. Its mission is to empower and develop youth capacities as multi-disciplinary creators and leaders. The organization's vision is to educate young artists on how music relates to other disciplines in order to expand their creative outlook, promote originality and instill a desire to learn. With his performances and workshops, he has generated a gross revenue of \$50,685, seen his music reach over 300,000 people and created five new job opportunities.



Through the support offered by the Michaëlle Jean Foundation to Crystal Chan, we anticipate that these developments will increase our capacity to meet the rapidly changing marketplace for magazines. She is helping us deepen the position of the magazine as the 'go-to' resource for researchers and theatre practitioners by becoming a cultural and literary connector online through the creation of a digital hub that promotes interactive dialogue. The new online space she is designing will complement the print magazine.

— NIKKI SHAFFEULLAH, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, ALT.THEATRE



Andrea Niño (Montreal, Quebec)

Andrea is a Montreal-based choreographer and performer of Colombian origin. In 2009, she obtained a degree from the École de danse contemporaine de Montréal. Once she completed her studies in 2009, she devoted herself to studying Latin American social and traditional dances, African dance, drama and clown arts. Her eclectic and varied career led her to search for her identity as Mestiza and immigrant woman and to find her own position as a choreographer and performer. As a Young Arts Entrepreneur, she has established herself as a budding businesswoman with the opening of Studio D 325, a rental space for creating and teaching the arts. It has been designed to be accessible to Montreal's diverse artistic community, which often, particularly for the performing arts sector, have trouble accessing affordable practice space. In this, she has netted \$27,210 in profits from renting the studio to artists and instructors alike. Her studio has led to the creation of twenty new employment opportunities for young people.



Jesse Stong (Montreal, Quebec)

Jesse Stong is a graduate of Ryerson University (2004, Social Work) and the National Theatre School of Canada (2013, Playwriting). He worked with Buddies in Bad Times Theatre (Youth Assistant Director, 2005/2006) and the SKETCH art studio for street youth (2007). He was a columnist for fab magazine (2006/2007). His company Mister Jesse's Workshop is currently registered with the Quebec Repertoire and has toured innovative, interactive writing, performing and puppetry workshops across schools throughout the English Quebec School Boards. In 2015/16, Jesse has been bringing his company to the next level by developing engaging materials to guide teachers, creating online video content to share some of his most dynamic theatre activities, and organizing a national tour to deliver his workshops to youth across Canada. Since he began the initiative, his services have netted \$64,000, reached over 5,000 people in Quebec, and created one new job.



BUILDING CHANGEMAKERS

THE MICHAËLLE JEAN FOUNDATION IS COMMITTED TO PROVIDING MENTORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES TO YOUTH SEEKING TO SCALE UP THEIR COMMUNITY ARTS PROJECTS. THANKS TO THE SUPPORT OF TD BANK GROUP, THE TD MICHAËLLE JEAN BURSARIES ARE ENABLING YOUNG PEOPLE TO OBTAIN THE GUIDANCE OF MENTORS, AS THEY GAIN PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE WORKING ON ARTS-BASED PROJECTS THAT REVITALIZE UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES. DURING THIS FISCAL YEAR, FOUR BURSARY RECIPIENTS COMPLETED THEIR PROJECTS AND THREE NEW BURSARIES WERE AWARDED.

2015 Bursary Recipients Complete their Projects



Rihkee Strapp (Red Lake, Ontario)

Born in Red Lake Ontario, Rihke is a Metis from the Wolverine Clan. Her bursary enabled her to create a series of workshops designed to empower artists in Sault Ste. Marie and the Algoma district. Her ultimate goal was to build the capacity of underrepresented artists, and community organizers in Sault Ste. Marie and Algoma, in order to raise their socioeconomic status. The project helped youth build organizational skills, utilize future foresight tools, and communicate their ideas articulately. It provided them with access to new information about organizing and mentorship opportunities related to incorporating non-profits. It also built capacity around strategic planning, as well as creating a mission, vision, values, and objectives in preparation for a meeting with their Mayor. Significantly, it leveraged networks to obtain paid work for artist members, enabling them to perform in high school as part of a science odyssey. Ultimately, newfound confidence and skills were instilled among the participants who felt comfortable participating and engaging in events outside of the confines of the project.



Rebecca Roher (Toronto, Ontario)

Based in Toronto and working in the area of education, Rebecca used her bursary to establish an education program in public libraries across the city to initiate young people into writing and

cartooning. This entailed hosting 10 four-part hour-long workshops at Toronto Public Libraries in underserved communities all over Toronto, from September 2015 to May 2016. Participants made autobiographical comics about their own lives, reflecting on their memories and relationships with the library, as well as on fiction and fantasy comics. In so doing, her project introduced participants to services, collections and programs provided by Toronto Public Library and promoted library use: each participant either brought in their library card or was issued one upon registering for the workshop. Participants took out graphic novels at the end of the first workshop to discuss it at the second, and many ended up taking out graphic novels at sequential workshops.



Pascale Arpin (Iqaluit, Nunavut)

Pascale used the bursary to make Nunavut Youth Arts Month a platform to create opportunities for young Nunavummiut to be engaged in the arts at all levels: from coordination, facilitation, and participation. Her emphasis was on training new community coordinators and workshop facilitators in Iqaluit, as well as reaching out to and providing support for new community coordinators across Nunavut so that they would be able to take on the coordination and facilitation of Youth Arts Month activities both in Iqaluit and throughout the territory. The Foundation's support opened the door to the Nunavut Director of Tourism & Cultural Industries and the Department of Economic Development and Transportation to take the initiative to provide additional funding for her initiative.



2016 Bursary Recipients Get Started



1 Janine Janvier (Montreal, Quebec)

Janine Janvier is a passionate a photographer, videographer, graphic artist, evening host and even a gospel singer! She is the co-founder of a business event planning organization named 2011 PIC TON ART and was its communications officer for 2 years. Coordinator of the St. Michel Youth Forum since 2013, she has set up a drop-in project: Drop-in: Place aux 18-30 ans!, to help young people fulfill their dream of community space that reflects their needs and perspectives. With the help of the Foundation, she wants to bring the drop-in centre on the road, through a mobile centre that will help over 1,000 youth in Montreal's multicultural St. Michel district to develop greater resilience, social skills, employment skills and self-esteem.



2 Tabitha McDonald (Ottawa, Ontario)

Tabitha McDonald is a former Crown Ward and young adult from Ottawa, who transitioned out of government care without a permanent family. Tabitha now coordinates the Adoption Council of Canada's Youth Speak Out Program, so that youth in and from government care can share their stories, as experts, and can bring about a call to action on a national scale. Tabitha plans to connect with the youth and their professional adult supports in in six regions across Canada to coordinate and facilitate the use of digital storytelling in their advocacy and educational pursuits to help empower young people involved in the Adoption Council of Canada.



3 Shira Taylor (Toronto, Ontario)

A theatre artist and advocate for social justice in public health in Toronto, Shira Taylor created SExT: Sex Education by Theatre, which empowers youth for whom sexuality is a taboo to reflect on and challenge their realities on issues related to sex, sexuality, and sexual health. With the help of the Foundation, Shira has brought SExT to wide audiences in Toronto and working towards program sustainability and expansion. She has partnered with the Flemingdon Health Centre to train youth in these communities as peer educators through theatre. In the age of cyberbullying, sexting and rape culture, SExT gives youth a platform to have their voices heard through the creation of skits, songs, poems, raps and dances that reflect their experience and culture.



4 Chu Zang (Toronto, Ontario)

Chu Zang, 28, is an artist specializing in comics, pottery, and drawings. She is interested in elevating the hustle of many artists in her community, as she shares and empathizes with their struggles. For her project, Chu will support the Where Are You From Collective (WAYF Collective), an art-based, anti-oppression and activism program for Asian-identified youth. From an anti-oppression perspective, the Collective works to empower Asian youth to develop critical art practices and build activist spaces that challenge dominant culture after decades of collective silence. Its mission is to celebrate Asian identities and achievements, build capacity for Asian-identified youth, and connect diasporic Asian communities so that they can create intentional dialogue that disrupts status quo. The other members of the Collective include: Karla, Rain and Effy.



GATHERING AROUND THE POWER OF THE ARTS

THE MICHAËLLE JEAN FOUNDATION DOUBLED DOWN ON ITS COMMITMENT TO ENGAGE ALL SECTORS OF CANADIAN SOCIETY TO RECOGNIZE AND MAKE FULL USE OF THE TRANSFORMATIVE IMPACT OF THE ARTS AND CULTURE. THE THIRD POWER OF THE ARTS NATIONAL FORUM, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH CARLETON UNIVERSITY'S FACULTY OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES, GATHERED CLOSE TO 300 RESEARCHERS, BUSINESS LEADERS, LEGAL EXPERTS, POLICYMAKERS, URBAN PLANNERS, ARCHITECTS, YOUTH, HEALTH PRACTITIONERS, ARTISTS, AND OTHER INDUSTRY LEADERS FROM ACROSS CANADA. IN ADDITION, THE FOUNDATION CHOSE TO PARTNER WITH THE FRENCH AND AMERICAN EMBASSIES TO SEE MAJOR SPEAKERS AND PERFORMERS SHARE THEIR BEST PRACTICES AROUND USING ARTS TO IGNITE SOCIAL CHANGE.





Thanks to the Michaëlle Jean Foundation's backing, I feel very lucky to be part of the Drop-in. It is an enriching experience through which I have made beautiful friendships. What I enjoy is seeing young people are as involved in different activities as they are in the organization itself. In addition, we are team that, despite our differences, is very tightly-knit. Through the drop-in, I learnt an enormous amount about my society and, most importantly, about myself. I hope that the experience of the other members is as enriching as mine has been, and that many more will have this same opportunity.

— LYNE SAIGHI, MEMBER OF DROP-IN ACTION COMMITTEE

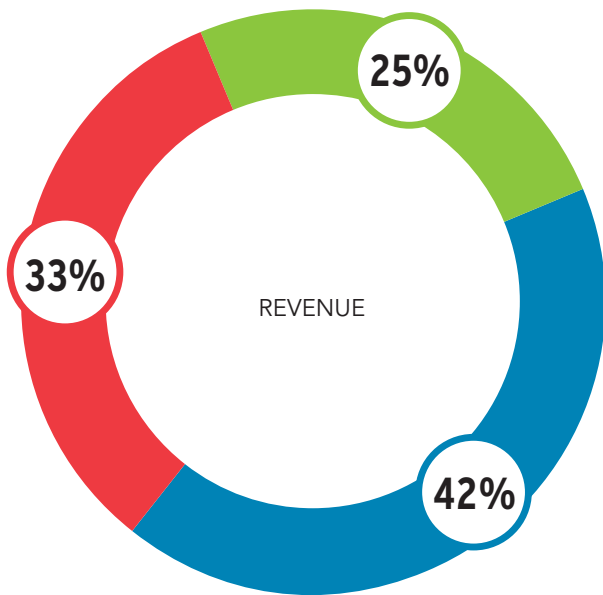
With the theme “Sustaining Social Change,” the event help to consolidate the Pan-Canadian and multi-sector network of researchers, practitioners and organizations that had begun making the National Forum a rallying point for their cause. They spoke with passion about the ways in which they have been using and enhancing the action plan for national, regional and local initiatives using the arts to improve quality of life. Keynote speakers included US Ambassador Bruce Heyman and his wife Vickie Heyman, French award-winning artist Jali, Ottawa-based muralist Kalkedan, and many more. The plenary sessions also allowed the Foundation to profile its young arts entrepreneurs as well as the artists and groups involved in the groundbreaking Scratch & Mix exhibition, which celebrated the artistry of Black youth from the Greater Toronto Area. A post-Forum survey revealed that over 80% of participants thought the Forum was well-organized and provided ample communications opportunities. The vast majority plan to attend next year.

For the fifth year, the Foundation continued its “Arts Saves Lives” public awareness campaign with St. Joseph Communications. Ads, placed in Toronto Life, Where Toronto, Ottawa Magazine and Fashion Magazine, told the story of young people whose lives were saved by the arts and are being supported by the Michaëlle Jean Foundation. Over 200,000 Canadians were exposed to their stories and became acquainted with the ways in which the arts can positively impact people’s lives.

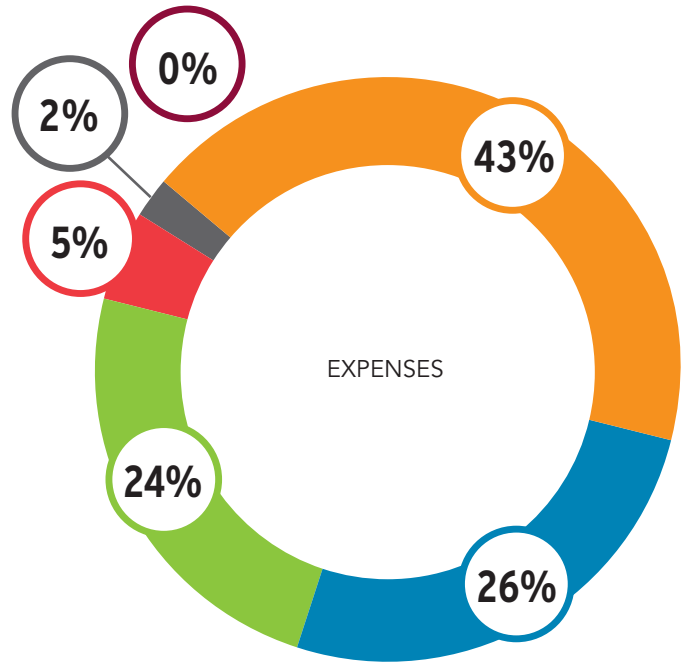
Reports on the activities of the Foundation were broadcast and written in media outlets that annually reach 1 million Canadians. The Winnipeg-based company Bison Transport, continued sending an 18-wheeler tractor trailer, blazoned with “Arts Save Lives” artwork, across 100,000 kilometers of roads in Canada and the US.



FINANCIALS YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2016



■	Grant-Department of Canadian Heritage
■	Donations-Private sector
■	Investment Income and Other



■	Programs	■	Development
■	Administration	■	Professional fees
■	Communications	■	Other

A FEW NUMBERS

300,000

Across Canada, over 300,000 people were engaged in and reached by the youth community arts projects spearheaded and funded by the Michaëlle Jean Foundation. People attended performances, visited arts exhibitions, participated in public forums, and took part in regional and national events.

over 200,000

Thanks to the support of St. Joseph Communications, over 200,000 people had an opportunity to learn about the ways in which the Michaëlle Jean Foundation is helping to empower young people whose lives are being transformed by the arts.

10 million people

More than 10 Canadian and American cities, collectively representing populations of over 10 million people, were visited by our Arts Save Lives tractor trailer, provided by Bison transport.

reaching 1 million

A variety of national and regional print, radio, television, and electronic media have enabled us to reach over 1 million people, by profiling individuals and events associated with our programs.

OUR FRIENDS AND BENEFACTORS

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS, CORPORATIONS, FOUNDATIONS AND AGENCIES WHOSE GIFTS, MADE TO THE FOUNDATION BETWEEN OCTOBER 1, 2015, AND SEPTEMBER 30, 2016, ALLOWED US TO CHANGE THE LIFE COURSE OF YOUTH AT RISK.

Donors of \$200 and more

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