

Luay S. Eljamal

CONTACT INFORMATION

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CAREER SUMMARY

Grants Management — streamlining grant management processes, ensuring transparent and accurate support for the individuals and organizations of the artistic community.

Arts & Culture Management — Managing business and non-profit operations, exercising agility in leading teams to meet project goals on time, within budget, and in accordance with predetermined expectations

Diversity, Inclusion and Anti-Racism advocate — nurturing and educating on the importance of an inclusive culture and positive sense of community to bring together Indigenous groups, immigrants and marginalized members of society

Technically-minded Theatre Artist — skilled at theatre writing, directing and digital performance, incorporating audiovisual technologies into various performances and community events.

EDUCATION

Master of Arts with Distinction	Brunel University London	Contemporary Performance Making
Bachelor of Arts*	University of Alberta	Drama
Bachelor of Education*	University of Alberta	Drama & Communication Technology
Project Management	University of California, Irvine	

*Studied concurrently

SELECT WORK EXPERIENCE

Mar 2023 - Present **Arts Development Consultant**, Full-time, Gov't of Alberta, Edmonton AB

- Supporting arts organizations with applications to the Government of Alberta's Capital Planning fund
- Leading an internal review of policies and procedures to enhance Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Accessibility-forward practices at the AFA
- Providing in-depth consultative services and analysis on AFA policies and funding guidelines to artists, arts organizations, and other external and internal clients
- Supporting grants management processes to ensure funding is allocated to artists and arts organizations efficiently, transparently, accurately and in accordance with policies and standards
- Developing tools and communications to facilitate grant application submissions and advice clients of policies and guidelines, including delivery of public workshops and programming
- Researching, recruiting, and moderating expert panel adjudications on the deliberation and assessment process to inform funding recommendations
- Preparing and finalizing formula-funded and expert panel recommendations for committees and AFA Board approval.
- Executing and completing all stages of the grants management process in alignment with standard operating procedures

Mar 2020 - Mar 2023 **Programs Manager**, Full-time, Arts Council Wood Buffalo, Fort McMurray, AB

- Working with local municipality to develop and launch guidelines for annual Arts, Culture & Heritage Grant
- Planning development, delivery, and evaluation of the organization's programs to support current artists' needs and the org's strategic direction
- Managing the delivery of grants/funds to individual artists and arts groups of various artistic disciplines
- Representing Arts Council Wood Buffalo in partnership opportunities with artists and stakeholders
- Creating and managing an annual budget for each program area, creating systems to aggregate and analyze financial and statistic data
- Ensuring timely and on-brand marketing of development programs in collaboration with communications department
- Identifying and evaluating risks associated with program activities and taking appropriate action to control the risks
- Reporting evaluation findings to the Executive Director and recommending changes to enhance programs

- Apr 2019 - Oct 2022 **Founder & Artistic Director**, Part-time, Symmetree Theatre, Fort McMurray, AB
- Director of new theatre company, which aims to share stories about marginalized members of society, where the conflict does not stem from the fact that they are marginalized
- Jan 2018 - Mar 2020 **Programs & Communications Manager**, Full-time, Multicultural Association of Wood Buffalo, Fort McMurray, AB
- Developing programs and coordinating events, drawing in an average increase of 114% in public participation
 - Maintaining programming plan that aligns with the organization's strategic plan
 - Applying for, managing and reporting on grants, securing over \$200,000 on an annual basis
 - Participating in working groups and committees
 - Representing the association at various events
 - Communicating with administration, finance, and stakeholders as to the budget and general developments of each program
 - Facilitating Cultural Awareness Training workshops for local municipal departments, businesses and non-profits
 - Collaborating with community organizations to plan and organize different programs
 - Hiring program coordinators and finding volunteers and facilitators
- Sep 2016 - Sep 2017 **Performing Arts Instructor**, Part-time, Jigsaw Performing Arts Schools, London, UK
- Teaching groups of children aged 5-18 singing & drama classes
 - Tailoring lessons to each age group in order to ensure material is challenging, yet attainable
 - Writing report cards with individual comments for each student
 - Preparing presentable material for parents to witness children's growth
 - Learning students' passions and altering instruction to suit their individual learning needs
 - Establishing a coherent and consistent branding strategy to use with all materials, including a redesign of organization's website.
- Aug 2013 - Sep 2014 **Multicultural Resident Assistant**, Full-time, University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB
- Living with, managing and supporting the integration of 28 international students in Canada, fostering responsible social interactions
 - Developing an inclusive culture and positive sense of community

- Maintaining an environment conducive to students' academic success and personal development
- Managing and facilitating intercultural programs and supporting residents' needs on an individual and community level
- Received 4 awards: Leadership Society, Dedication to Community, Global Heart and Global Education

Jun 2012 - Aug 2015 **Performing Arts Instructor**, Full-time (Spring & Summer) / Part-time (Fall & Winter) Strathcona County, Sherwood Park, AB

- Teaching drama, improvisation, video production and voice to children aged 6 to 19
- Mediating and resolving conflicts between students and parents
- Ensuring students were consistently engaged
- Preparing presentable material for parents to witness child

Feb 2015 - May 2015 **Drama and English Teacher**, Full-time, École Paul Kane High, St. Albert, AB

- Teaching drama and English to years 10, 11 and 12; approximately 30 students in each class
- Mentoring students and chaperoning a one-act high school drama festival, offering creative and directorial advice to students where necessary
- Lesson planning and unit planning for upcoming classes
- Creating and administering various assessments, with rubrics handed out in advance, so that students understood the learner outcomes they were expected to demonstrate

ARTISTIC EXPERIENCE

Writing

2021 **Amalgamation (Issue #24)**, Guest Editor, NorthWord
 2021 **Looking to the Past to See the Future**, Guest Writer, Theatre Alberta
 2021 **Symmetries Do Not Exist**, Poet, Queering Activism in Wood Buffalo
 2020 **Freeing Heaven's Secrets**, Playwright, Symmetree Theatre
 2008 **Jason Love - The Eternal Sphinx**, Children's Book, Luay Eljamal

Select Directing Experience

2022 **Misery**, Keyano Theatre
 Fort McMurray, AB
 2019 **Freeing Heaven's Secrets**, Symmetree Theatre
 Fort McMurray, AB

- 2018 **Sexy Laundry**, Keyano Theatre
Fort McMurray, AB
- 2017 **Where in the World is Nina Santiago**, Jigsaw Performing Arts School
London, UK
- 2016 **Proud**, Finborough Theatre
London, UK
Assistant Director to Jonny Kelly,
- 2014 **Freeing Heaven's Secrets**, Symmetree Theatre
Edmonton, AB
- 2013 **Young Frankenstein The Musical**, University of Alberta Students' Union
Edmonton, AB
- 2012 **Seussical the Musical**, University of Alberta Lister Hall Students Association
Edmonton, AB
- 2012 **The Marriage Proposal**, University of Alberta
Edmonton, AB
- 2010 **The Insanity of Mary Girard**, Cheepiyak Theatre
Provincial Tour: Edmonton, Red Deer, and Fort McMurray, AB

Producing Experience

- 2022 **Connection to Land Video Series**, Symmetree Theatre
Film series inspired by three indigenous artists' own connection to the land
Fort McMurray, AB
- 2022 **Wood Buffalo Excellence in the Arts Awards: Future Midnight**, Arts Council Wood
Buffalo
Public gala-style event recognizing 36 nominees in 14 arts award categories.
Fort McMurray, AB
- 2021 **Wood Buffalo Excellence in Arts Awards: Midnight in Technicolor**, Arts
Council Wood Buffalo
*2-hour broadcast recognizing 36 nominees in 14 arts award categories, produced
during COVID-19 pandemic.*
Fort McMurray, AB
- 2020 **Wood Buffalo Excellence in Arts Awards: Midnight Steampunk**, Arts
Council Wood Buffalo
*2-hour broadcast recognizing 36 nominees in 14 arts award categories, produced
during COVID-19 pandemic.*

2020 **Sparking Creativity**, Arts Council Wood Buffalo
45-minute documentary following emerging playwright Carla White as she drafts a play about the 2016 Fort McMurray Wildfire.

2019 **Freeing Heaven's Secrets**, Symmetree Theatre
Fort McMurray, AB

Select Acting Experience

2020 **Flashdance the Musical**, C.C., Keyano Theatre
Director: Karen Towsley
Fort McMurray, AB

2014 **Welcome to Thebes**, Polykleitos, University of Alberta
Director: Jane Heather
Edmonton, AB

2012 **Ragtime**, Ensemble, Two-One-Way Tickets to Broadway
Director: Barbara Mah
Edmonton, AB

2012 **NINE**, Ensemble, University of Alberta
Director: Kristin M. Finlay
Edmonton, AB

2010 **Spring Awakening**, University of Lethbridge
Director: Jay Whitehead
Lethbridge, AB

2010 **High School Musical**, Zeke, Keyano Theatre
Director: Julie Funk
Fort McMurray, AB

2009 **Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat**, Joseph, Cheepiyak Theatre
Director: Terri Mort
Fort McMurray, AB

2009 **Seussical The Musical**, Horton, Keyano Theatre
Director: Andrea Boyd
Fort McMurray, AB

2009 **Grease**, Roger, Keyano Theatre
Director: Andrea Boyd
Fort McMurray, AB

Select Audiovisual Design Experience

2023 **RENT**, Swamp Rat Experience
Video Design
Fort McMurray

2022 **Misery**, Keyano Theatre
Sound & Video Design
Fort McMurray

2021 **Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls & 2-Spirit+ Livestream**,
Arts Council Wood Buffalo
Video Design
Fort McMurray, AB

2021 **it's past midnight somewhere**, Arts Council Wood Buffalo
Video Design
Fort McMurray, AB

2021 **Around the Campfire: Music, Story, Song**, Arts Council Wood Buffalo
Video Design
Fort McMurray, AB

2019 **Freeing Heaven's Secrets**, Symmetree Theatre
Sound Design
Fort McMurray, AB

- 2017 **Lottery**, Fictive Theatre
Sound Design
London, UK
- 2017 **Quarter Life Crisis**, Yolanda Mercy
Projections & Sound Design
London, and Edinburgh, UK
- 2016 **The Slave**, East of West Theatre
Sound Design
London, UK
- 2016 **The Oracle**, Brunel University
Projections & Sound Design
London, UK
- 2016 **Symmetree Doesn't Exist**, Brunel University
Projections & Sound Design
London, UK
- 2015 **Hunter—Hunted**, Brunel University
Projections & Sound Design
London, UK
- 2010 **The Insanity of Mary Girard**, Cheepiyak Theatre
Sound Design
Provincial Tour: Edmonton, Red Deer, and Fort McMurray, AB
- 2008 **Wanda's Visit**, Cheepiyak Theatre
Sound Design
Provincial Tour: Edmonton, Red Deer, and Fort McMurray, AB

WORKSHOPS & TALKS

2023 - 2024 Grant Writing Workshops for Theatre & Indigenous Artists

2-hour workshops delivered to the public to build artists' grant writing capacities.

- 2021 **Allyship**
 Panel discussion coinciding with Truth and Reconciliation Day, to share personal views on indigenous issues and how to be a meaningful ally to Indigenous populations on in Nistayowou and Turtle Island.
- 2018 - 2020 **Cultural Awareness Training**
 4 hour workshop geared towards corporate HR managers, government departments, school teachers and social profits with the goal of increasing cross-cultural awareness, knowledge of cultural differences, understanding differences in team styles, and improving knowledge of religions in the Wood Buffalo community
- 2018 **Technology & Culture**
 A presentation on the effect technology and the arts can have on identity and community formation, giving participants the tools they needed to create new technologies with cultural impact.

SERVICE, LEADERSHIP AND VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

- 2021 - 2023 **Theatre Alberta**
 Board Member
 Edmonton, AB
- 2021 - 2023 **Regional Advisory Committee on Inclusion, Diversity and Equity (RACIDE),**
 Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo
 Committee Member
 Fort McMurray, AB
- 2020 - 2021 **Friends of the Suncor Energy Centre for the Performing Arts (FoSECPA)**
 Board Member
 Fort McMurray, AB
- 2020 **Alberta Foundation for the Arts,**
 Expert Panel Juror
 Edmonton, AB

2018 - 2020 **Newcomer Interagency Network**
Steering Committee Member
Fort McMurray AB

2012 - 2014 **University of Alberta, International House**
Council Member
Edmonton, AB

GRANTS AND AWARDS
(Total Granted = \$546,800.00)

Creative

2023 **New Horizons Grant for Seniors**, Government of Canada
\$26,000 to Arts Council Wood Buffalo
Awarded for the development of arts workshops for Seniors in the Wood Buffalo area.
Fort McMurray, AB

2022 **Best Play**
YMM Magazine (Best of YMM)
Fort McMurray, AB

2022 **Alberta Culture Days Grant**, Government of Alberta
\$8,000 to Arts Council Wood Buffalo
Awarded for the development of Alberta Culture Days activities in Wood Buffalo.
Fort McMurray

2021 **Digital Now Grant**, Canada Council for the Arts
\$50,000 to Symmetree Theatre
Awarded for the production of a digital video-performance series on the importance on Land Acknowledgements, lead by Indigenous voices to premiere in October 2022.
Fort McMurray, AB

2019 **Wood Buffalo Excellence in Arts Awards: Theatre Category** (Shortlisted)
Arts Council Wood Buffalo
Fort McMurray, AB

- 2019 **Explore and Create - Concept to Realization Grant**, Canada Council for the Arts
 \$25,800.00 to Luay Eljamal
To stage original sound-art play Freeing Heaven's Secrets for presentation in Fort McMurray, and formalize new theatre collective: Symmetree Theatre in November 2019.
 Fort McMurray, AB
- 2021 **Community Grant**, United Way Fort McMurray Wood Buffalo
 \$143,000 to Multicultural Association of Wood Buffalo
To fund the development of three programs designed to support newcomers to Canada: Cultural Awareness Training, English Language Learners Assistance, Cross-Cultural Parenting
- 2020 **Community Grant**, United Way Fort McMurray Wood Buffalo
 \$146,000 to Multicultural Association of Wood Buffalo
To fund the development of three programs designed to support newcomers to Canada: Cultural Awareness Training, English Language Learners Assistance, Cross-Cultural Parenting
- 2020 **Human Rights Project Grant**, Alberta Human Rights Commission
 \$27,000 to Multicultural Association of Wood Buffalo
To fund the development of an Immigrant Advisory Table, which built cultural group capacity with the opportunity to proactively engage with the community and reduce discriminatory barriers.
- 2019 **Community Grant**, United Way Fort McMurray Wood Buffalo
 \$120,000 to Multicultural Association of Wood Buffalo
To fund the development of three programs designed to support newcomers to Canada: Cultural Awareness Training, English Language Learners Assistance, Cross-Cultural Parenting
- 2016 **Deutsche Bank Award for Creative Enterprise (Shortlisted)**
 Deutsche Bank
 London, UK
- 2010 **Outstanding Student Director**
 AHSDFA
 Red Deer, AB

2010 **Outstanding Sound Design**

AHSDFA

Red Deer, AB

2010 **Outstanding Ensemble**

AHSDFA

Red Deer, AB

2010 **Outstanding Lighting Design**

AHSDFA

Red Deer, AB

2010 **Outstanding Production Concepts**

AHSDFA

Red Deer, AB

Leadership

2022 **Excellence in Social Innovation** (as Arts Council Wood Buffalo)

Heart of Wood Buffalo by FuseSocial

Fort McMurray, AB

2020 **Top 50 Under 50**

Your McMurray Magazine

Fort McMurray, AB

2019 **LGBTQ2+ Artist Leadership Award**

Pride YMM Committee & Oil Royals

Fort McMurray, AB

2014 **RLPA Leadership Society Award**

Residence Life Professional Association

Edmonton, AB

2014 **Dedication to Community Award**

Residence Services, University of Alberta

Edmonton, AB

2014 **Global Heart Award**
International House, University of Alberta
Edmonton, AB

2014 **Global Education Award**
International House, University of Alberta
Edmonton, AB

Academic

2014 **Jason Lang Scholarship**
\$1000
Government of Alberta
Edmonton, AB

2010 **University of Toronto Book Award**
University of Toronto
Toronto, ON

2010 **Robert W. Prather Award**
Fort McMurray Public School District
Fort McMurray, AB

2010 **Dedication to Community Award**
Residence Services, University of Alberta
Edmonton, AB