

# Luay S. Eljamal

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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## CAREER SUMMARY

**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

2019 - 2020      **Project Management**      University of California, Irvine

2015 - 2016      **Master of Arts (with Distinction)**      Brunel University London  
Focus: Contemporary Performance Making  
(Writing, Directing & Digital Performance)

2010 - 2015      **Bachelor of Arts**      University of Alberta  
Focus: Drama

2010 - 2015      **Bachelor of Education**      University of Alberta  
Focus: Drama Education & Communication Technology

## SELECT WORK EXPERIENCE

- Mar 2023 - Present **Arts Development Consultant**, Full-time, Gov't of Alberta, Edmonton, AB
- 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 adjudication 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
- Planning the development, delivery, and evaluation of the organization's various programs for participants aged 7 to 80, including Indigenous artist-in-residence, excellence in arts awards, and business of the arts programming
  - Managing the transition of our flagship event from in-person to online, resulting in a 900% increase in audience participation
  - Managing an annual budget for each program area, and creating systems to aggregate and analyze financial and statistic data
  - Developing new programs and initiatives to support current artists' needs and the strategic direction of ACWB
  - Identifying and evaluating risks associated with program activities and taking appropriate action to control the risks and keep staff and public safe
  - 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
  - Reporting evaluation findings to the Executive Director and recommending changes to enhance programs

- Apr 2019 - Present **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
  - Reporting to 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 recruiting 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
- 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
- Lesson 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

- 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**, Symmetry Theatre  
*Film series inspired by three indigenous artists' own connection the land.*  
Fort McMurray, AB
- 2022 **Wood Buffalo Excellence in 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**

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**

- 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 - 2023 **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 = \$511,800.00)

### Creative

- 2023 **New Horizon's 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 **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, AB
- 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**

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**

2010 **University of Toronto Book Award**

University of Toronto

Toronto, ON

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