



## Lyndsay Amato (she/they)

### Biography:

Lyndsay was born in Whitehorse, Yukon, on the territory of Kwanlin Dun. She is a member of the Carcross\Tagish First Nation. She spent her childhood days growing up in Carcross on the beach of Bennett wondering about the stars and the water, surrounded by the mountains and the traditional land of the Tagish and Tlingit people. She also has Blackfoot (Siksika, Southern Alberta), Cree (Southern Saskatchewan), Italian and English in her ancestral roots. Lyndsay also helps organizations design educational programs that are inspired by indigenous history for youth to strengthen their interest in First Nations' knowledge and history, arts, media and theatre. She works across Turtle Island, telling the importance of living with curiosity and respect as guiding principles for success while navigating the challenges of intergenerational trauma.

### ***Tell how your experience, skills and background would contribute to the SAA and why you are interested in sitting on the SAA Board of Directors:***

I am from the north and have a unique story of reconnecting with my culture from a town that was completely devastated by being the location of the notorious Choutla Residential School in the Yukon. Through this experience, I have the skills of resilience and adaptability. I am also educated on the rights of Indigenous people in Canada: UNDRIP, Self-Governance, Together Today for Our Children Tomorrow, TRTC: Calls to Action and various other impactful political movements that have helped to lead towards more Indigenous sovereignty in Canada.

I have a diploma in Early Childhood Development, a certificate in Education Assistance, and various other trainings in the same field to increase my knowledge of working with youth with various traumas and special needs. I have had the honour of learning alongside all ages, from pre-natal to Elder. I truly believe in lifelong learning, caring for the whole child and the ecological systems theory. Not only do I believe in all of this, I educate and inspire this type of curiosity in those around me. I have a unique way of being able to connect with and teach youth due to my ability to be vulnerable and playful. I am also extremely passionate about being on the land and helping people become more comfortable with the idea of learning how to create art with natural + sustainable materials (specifically with children, but I can adapt to any group).

I have 20 years of experience from a northern Indigenous radio station called CHON-FM - Northern Native Broadcasting Yukon (Fun fact: It's the birthplace of APTN!). I did not attend broadcasting school. I grew up at the station and learned hands-on experience from the people around me and gained some really incredible skills, like the ability to be a very confident public speaker when I know what I am talking about. I am quick to learn technology. I can create an onboarding procedure and training plan for new employees. I am also very witty and knowledgeable about music. I became very skilled at becoming aware of what's happening in and around the community, and especially attuned to what's happening in the rural communities. Because of my ability to teach, be vulnerable and curious and have really strong values, I gained some really awesome interview experiences while maintaining my integrity and determination to provide something meaningful to my community. I was able to interview amazing people like Loretta Todd, Cheryl Foggo, Adam Beach and many others.



## Kelsey Ford (she/her/elle)

### Biography:

Kelsey Ford is a Canadian artist and printmaker working out of Saskatoon, SK, on Treaty 6 Territory. She received her B.F.A. Honors with a minor in French from the University of Saskatchewan in 2019. Kelsey works primarily in serigraphy but also enjoys working in textiles to create mixed-media pieces and larger installations. Her work often amalgamates repurposed or used materials with more modern mediums through collage techniques. By combining traditional and modern structures, Ford hopes to draw new parallels and comparisons between past and present.

### ***Tell how your experience, skills and background would contribute to the SAA and why you are interested in sitting on the SAA Board of Directors:***

My name is Kelsey Ford, and I am a Canadian artist and printmaker based in Saskatchewan on Treaty 6 Territory. It brings me great joy to be applying as a Board Member for the Saskatchewan Arts Alliance. I believe that my education, personal artistic experience and my involvement in various artist organizations has prepared me to contribute effectively to the Saskatchewan Art Alliance Board of Directors and aligns with the SAA's mission.

Currently, by day I am an International Admissions Officer for the University of Saskatchewan. In the evening, I spend my time volunteering for two arts organizations, working alongside a collective, and maintaining my personal practice.

I completed my BFA Honors with a French Minor at the University of Saskatchewan in 2019, which refined my artistic skills and instilled in me a deep appreciation for the arts and what they provide to the larger community. As an artist, I understand the challenges of a creative career and am committed to supporting fellow artists' growth. Since graduating from the BFA program, I have sat on 4 Boards, both art and non-art-related, produced a Saskatchewan-wide Artist Feedback Survey with the assistance from SK Arts, continued my artistic practice both solo and as a founding member of Biofeedback Collective, and have been an advisor and consultant to non-arts related organizations to advocate for paying CARFAC fees to artists.

One of my notable accomplishments is my work with Nuit Blanche Saskatoon. Since 2019 I've taken on roles such as Fund Development Chair and Communications Chair, and I'm now the upcoming Board Chair for the 2024 year. In the time that I have been on the Board, I have seen the festival double in both the number of artists and the overall budget. This experience has developed my organizational, fund development and leadership skills, which I believe would benefit the SAA.

I'm also actively involved with Saskatchewan Printmakers since its rebirth in 2022, and this year I am serving as Vice Chair. This role has helped me connect with the artistic community across Saskatchewan and advocate for printmakers. My dedication to building a strong network aligns with the SAA's current and upcoming goals. I've also previously served on the PAVED Arts Board of Directors, gaining insights into the administrative aspects of an artist-run center.

My personal art practice keeps me connected to artists' challenges and aspirations. Additionally, my involvement with the Biofeedback Collective demonstrates my ability to collaborate across disciplines and contribute to innovative initiatives. As a collective, we recently partnered with The Gallery / Art Placement in Saskatoon for a year-and-a-half-long project titled The Community Project. The goals of this were to create programming for artists by artists that reconnected the community post-COVID. In total, we held 13 artist talks, a month-long studio residency with 25 participating artists, several open-discussion events and a critique.

Overall, my experience, leadership roles, and commitment to artists' development make me a valuable candidate for the SAA Board of Directors. I'm passionate about fostering a thriving artistic community in Saskatchewan and am eager to contribute to the Saskatchewan Arts Alliance's mission and future success.



## Carla Harris (they/she)

### Biography:

Carla Harris (they/she) is a disabled, mad queer enby writer, performer and interdisciplinary artist from Treaty 4 territory, living in Regina, Saskatchewan. They have performed in Verses Festival in Vancouver (2016), the Saskatoon Poetic Arts Festival (2018), and at the Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan's Annual Poetry Soirée of 2022. They released their first chapbook, *Obtain No Proof with Dis/ Ability Series* of Frog Hollow Press in 2020, with publications in *Write Magazine* (2023), *The Humber Literary Review* (2023), *The Leslie Strutt Chapbook with League of Canadian Poets* (2022) and *The ANTILANG* (2021). Harris teaches creative improvisation and is working on their first play and their first book of poetry in unconfined #CripTime.

***Tell how your experience, skills and background would contribute to the SAA and why you are interested in sitting on the SAA Board of Directors:***

Harris has served as a disabled advocate for safe access to education and employment, arts, culture & community engagement in Saskatchewan. Harris has published op-eds on diversity barriers and intersectionality in the *Writers Union of Canada's Write Magazine* (2023), with *Sask Arts Alliance* (2022) and the *Women For Saskatchewan* campaign (2021) and interviews in *The Briar Patch*, *CBC Saskatchewan*, *Global Regina*, *CTV Saskatchewan* and *Kindred Cities*.

Harris served as a diversity advocate on the *National Council of The Writers Union of Canada* (2021-2023), as a board member with *Sage Hill Writing Board of Directors* (2018-Present), on the *Listen to Dis' Voice Board of Directors* (2015-Present), *Regina Folk Festival Board of Directors*, (2018-2020). They focus on addressing access barriers that impact non-dominant culture artists and non-dominant culture audiences. Because being able to afford to view & take part in art is the only way new inclusive artists will have a full opportunity to grow.



## Danica Lorer (she/her)

### Biography:

Danica Lorer from Treaty 6 Territory has been struck by lightning, a moose, a rogue semi-tire, vehicles, and the odd strange idea. She is an oral storyteller, freelance writer, face and body painter, poet, event organizer, volunteer, workshop facilitator, arts advocate, and the host of Saskatoon's literary arts program 'Lit Happens.' She has had short stories and poems published in various literary magazines and anthologies. In 2019/2020, she was one of the resident artists for the City of Saskatoon's Bunkhouse Project at the Forestry Farm Park and Zoo. She works part-time as a program guide at Remai Modern. Her projects have been supported by SK Arts and the Canada Council for the Arts. Danica believes in the power of story, of listening and telling.

***Tell how your experience, skills and background would contribute to the SAA and why you are interested in sitting on the SAA Board of Directors:***

I am a professional working artist and advocate for the arts. Actively involved in national, provincial, and local organizations, I am primarily involved in the literary arts but also participate in arts programming and engagement in other forms. I have been a professional oral storyteller for more than twenty years. I believe in the power of creativity and the power of the arts to connect individuals and communities. In my experience, art succeeds when it is part of our everyday life and when it has the opportunity to create and strengthen relationships. In recent years I have been becoming more proactive in creating more accessible projects for audiences and artists.

I believe I would be a good fit for the board and that my experience would benefit the organization. I am a patron of the arts in many styles and learn quickly. I have excellent written and oral communication and presentation skills. I have successfully applied for and reported on grants and funding as an individual and for organizations. My experience includes working with boards, including four years on the board of the Saskatchewan Writers' Guild, as an employee in arts and cultural organizations, on committees, as a volunteer, organizing events, and other administrative duties. As a working artist and an arts admin worker, I'm able to see things from several different creative angles. In 2019 I received the Saskatchewan Writers' Guild's Hyland Volunteer Award.

I am a lifelong learner with creative problem-solving skills, and work well independently and as part of a team.



## Daniel Parr (he/him)

### Biography:

Daniel Parr received an English degree from the University of Regina in 2008 and has dedicated his adult life to the arts community in Saskatchewan. With over 15 years of experience as a program manager for SaskBooks, he has travelled the length and breadth of the province (and beyond) promoting Saskatchewan publishers and books. Six years sitting on the board of the Saskatchewan Book Awards, three as the Chair, provided further opportunities to champion books. Experience with serving on juries and advisory groups rounds out his experience of the arts ecology of the province.

***Tell how your experience, skills and background would contribute to the SAA and why you are interested in sitting on the SAA Board of Directors:***

I have had the privilege of working with SaskBooks for over fifteen years, and during that time, I have had the opportunity to get down to the nuts and bolts of how a non-profit organization is run. Naturally, this work has provided lots of training in arts administration, including budgeting and financial management and the delivery of programming. However, one of the biggest assets that experience has provided with respect to the Saskatchewan Arts Alliance is knowledge of working for a non-profit board of directors; having learned from knowledgeable people allowed me to not only know what to expect as a board member but to know what kind of board member I wanted to be.

I first had the opportunity to put this knowledge to use on behalf of the Saskatchewan Book Awards, where I served on the board for six years. During this time, I had the opportunity to further develop my hands-on arts administration skills. Some notable experiences at the SBA included jury recruitment and management, staff recruitment and retention, and final reporting. I participated in the LifeCycles Program on behalf of the Saskatchewan Book Awards, which I would later go on to undertake on behalf of the Saskatchewan Arts Alliance as well.

I think the arts are a critical component of a healthy society and a necessary part of everyday life, and I have always valued the advocacy work that the Saskatchewan Arts Alliance does, which is why I was originally moved to join the board. I have served on the board of the Saskatchewan Arts Alliance for six years as well, and it has been an exciting time. Since then, I have been involved in numerous provincial advocacy initiatives and been part of the process of personnel changes. One of the exciting developments and demonstrations of leadership of the Saskatchewan Arts Alliance as an organization was a change to allow honorariums for board members - the proposed update to the bylaws under consideration is the natural extension of this work, and it proposes a very bold vision for arts governance in the province. I'm excited about the possibilities on offer, and I would like to allow my name to stand for a final two-year term in order to see the process through and provide some continuity and corporate memory as we chart this invigorating change.

Thank you very much for considering me.



## Kayla Rourke (she/her)

### Biography:

Kayla Rourke is an arts management professional, arts educator, and artist! She has a B.Ed in Arts Education from the University of Regina, a diploma in Arts and Cultural Management from MacEwan University, and an MA in Arts, Festival and Cultural Management from Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh. She has worked in the industry for over ten years doing all sorts of odd jobs - setting up huge festival tents in the dog days of summer, to teaching about Picasso, to marketing a small music festival - and now is currently the General Manager for the Nutrien Children's Festival of Saskatchewan. She loves to create, support others in their quests to create, and is a total nerd when it comes to arts management. She's also a regular nerd who loves the Legend of Zelda, Dungeons and Dragons, and Star Wars. She has a puppy named Artemis, who is an excellent small pal. You can ask to see pictures, it's totally worth it.

***Tell how your experience, skills and background would contribute to the SAA and why you are interested in sitting on the SAA Board of Directors:***

Supporting and advocating for art and creativity is my passion. I believe that art is for all, creativity is a fundamental part of our humanity, and the opportunities to create are integral to individuals, communities and society as a whole. My personal belief system initially led me to obtain my undergraduate degree in Arts Education, believing wholeheartedly in the power children have in shaping and forming the world. I believe that a love of art starts very early, and all children should believe that they are capable of creating and feel confident finding a form of creativity that serves to fulfill them. I have been working in the Arts and Culture industry for just over ten years. Though I did work within the school systems for a few years, my passion has always driven me back to the Arts and Culture sector. I pursued a diploma in Arts and Cultural Management from MacEwan University and went on to complete an MA in Arts, Festival and Cultural Management in Edinburgh, Scotland. After completing this degree, I have now started as the General Manager at the Nutrien Children's Festival of Saskatchewan.

I believe my skills and experience would be an asset to becoming an SAA board member because I have over ten years of experience working in various roles across the Arts and Culture sector, as well as in many cities and organizations around Saskatchewan! My experience covers orgs in Saskatoon, Regina, Moose Jaw and Swift Current and the theatre, festival, visual art, music and film industries!

My broad range of experiences has given me a great variety of perspectives on the unique challenges facing different sectors, both locally and internationally. I believe this wide range of perspectives is an asset on the board. I am also incredibly passionate about the arts and would love the opportunity to add my voice to the work that the SAA does for the Arts and Culture sector in Saskatchewan.



## Zoë Schneider (she/her)

### Biography:

Zoë Schneider (she/her) is a practising visual artist and the Visual Arts Program Manager at the Organization of Saskatchewan Arts Councils. Schneider lives and works in Regina, Treaty 4 Territory, Saskatchewan, Canada.

Schneider holds an MFA from the University of Saskatchewan (2018) and a BFA from the Alberta University of the Arts (2009). In Canada, Schneider has exhibited in Regina, Saskatoon, Estevan, Guelph, Mississauga, Lethbridge, and internationally in Denmark, Germany, and the United States. Schneider's first international solo exhibition will take place in Pittsburgh, PA, in the Fall of 2024. Schneider is a contributing author in the text 'Casual Encounters'—Catalyst: Cindy Baker for Noxious Sector Press, 2021. Schneider is the 2021 recipient of the Visual Award for Female Artist, Jane Turnbull Evans

Fund from the Saskatchewan Foundation for the Arts and has received multiple artist grants from SK Arts. Schneider has served on the CARFAC-SASK and Curtain Razors board of directors.

### ***Tell how your experience, skills and background would contribute to the SAA and why you are interested in sitting on the SAA Board of Directors:***

My passion for fostering relationships, creativity, and community in the arts has been the driving force behind my twelve-year career in arts and culture administration. I believe that the arts play a vital role in nurturing healthy, happy, and thriving individuals and communities. My experience and skills make me a strong candidate for the Saskatchewan Arts Alliance (SAA) Board of Directors, and I am excited to contribute to its mission.

In my current role as the Visual Arts Program Manager at the Organization of Saskatchewan Arts Councils, I have developed a unique skill set that I believe would benefit the SAA. I specialize in conceptualizing and executing touring exhibitions, involving collaboration with diverse vendors, creatives, and independent contractors. Over the past eleven years, I have managed the complete life-cycle of visual arts exhibitions, from curatorial vision and artist selection to logistical details, including contract development, promotion, and tour scheduling. This experience has led to the successful development of 72 touring exhibitions, viewed by over 350,000 visitors across Saskatchewan. Moreover, I have applied evidence-based strategies, such as trend analysis and stakeholder feedback, to boost visitor engagement by 45% since the beginning of my tenure.

I oversee and administer a grant program for Arts Council members that is designed to facilitate high-value arts programming in rural communities. In the past, I have introduced streams of eligible activities that center and prioritize youth, succession planning, and Indigenous-led and/or partnered programs. My ability to adapt and innovate became particularly evident during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. I transitioned the visual arts programs to an online format and created the Micro Grant, which sustained stakeholder engagement and continues to serve as a valuable resource for Arts Council communities. Additionally, my financial acumen is underscored by my role in budget development, monitoring, and reporting, contributing to the financial sustainability of our organization.

I am deeply motivated by the opportunity to contribute to the SAA's mission of advancing the arts in Saskatchewan. As a practising artist and arts administrator, I understand the challenges and issues affecting our community; I have firsthand experience navigating educational institutions, funders, and exhibiting institutions. I believe that artists play a vital role as workers who contribute to the ecology of Saskatchewan, and am committed to advocating for our interests. The Rural



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Artist Working Group has particular interest for me as I have worked extensively with rural communities and organizations in my role at OSAC, giving me insight into the unique challenges and opportunities in rural communities.

In terms of personal successes, I take great pride in the impact of the touring exhibitions I've curated and managed. These exhibitions have brought diverse and enriching artistic experiences to our region and engaged numerous artists in meaningful work.

In summary, my career in arts and culture administration has equipped me with the skills, passion, and strategic thinking needed to contribute effectively to the SAA Board of Directors. I am dedicated to the belief that the arts are essential to the well-being of individuals and communities, and I am eager to leverage my experience to support and advance the arts in Saskatchewan through my potential role on the SAA Board.