



**Senior Artists' Research Project**  
c/o Dancer Transition Resource Centre  
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## **MANDATE FOR NEW ORGANIZATION IN SUPPORT OF SENIOR ARTISTS**

The organization is being established by the arts and cultural community to assist senior artists, whose contribution to the culture and economy of Canada is profound, to live out their senior years in dignity and respect.

### **Background**

In 2006, a group of artists' associations and individuals came together in response to the growing awareness that senior Canadian artists are experiencing significant challenges. Before they could develop the programs and services to respond to these challenges, they realized they needed quantitative data. In 2009, they launched the Senior Artists Research Project (SARP), a three-year project which is investigating the circumstances, situation, needs and interests of Canadian senior artists, looking at what services are presently available to them, and examining relevant international models. The research confirmed that senior artists experience challenges in the areas of finances, housing, health/isolation and career, some of which are shared by other seniors, and some of which are unique to artists.

The next step in the process is the launch of the new organization.

### **Mandate**

As a potentially registered charity, the organization exists to support professional senior artists. To qualify for services, an individual must be at least 65 years of age and must have been a professional artist for at least ten years.<sup>1</sup> At its discretion, the organization may extend its support to professional artists who are 55 years of age or older, if their needs are directly related to the challenges experienced by their more senior colleagues.

Initially, the organization will work to support senior artists in the areas of Finances, Housing, Career and Health/Isolation. It will do this in the following ways:

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<sup>1</sup> Professional artist will be defined as in the 1986 Canadian Artists' Code

### **SARP Steering Committee:**

The Actors' Fund of Canada - ACTRA - Actra Fraternal Benefit Society - American Federation of Musicians, Canada - Canadian Actors' Equity Association - Canadian Artists' Representation (CARFAC) - Canadian Music Centre - Cultural Careers Council Ontario - Dancer Transition Resource Centre - Directors Guild of Canada - PAL Canada Foundation - Royal Canadian Academy of Arts - Union des artistes - Writers Guild of Canada - The Writers' Union of Canada - Carol Anderson

Joyanne Sidimus, Project Director - Celine Marks, Administrator - Garry Neil, Consultant

1. Collect, update and disseminate information about services, programs, measures and systems that exist to support senior artists. These may be relevant to all Canadian seniors or just to members of the artistic community.
2. Identify new services that will assist senior artists, in areas where they are presently underserved. Examples include:
  - Finances. Tax clinics, financial seminars, and support to collect royalties and residuals.
  - Housing. Individual and collective support services to find appropriate housing in each community, “home share” program for senior artists, and new cooperative housing solutions.
  - Health/Isolation. Volunteer practitioners to provide services free or at low cost, community volunteers, connections with the Artists’ Health Centre and community care centres.
  - Career. Subsidized mentorships for senior artists, business skills, career transition and other professional development programs designed for senior artists.
3. The organization will collaborate with existing community organizations and institutions to expand current programs which support senior artists. As it considers the development and delivery of new services, the organization will not duplicate or replace those programs, and will work collaboratively to determine how to deliver such new services in the most advantageous manner for Canada’s senior artists.
4. Collect and disseminate information about the evolving circumstances, situation, needs and interests of Canadian senior artists to inform the advocacy activities of the arts and cultural associations, guilds and unions. Work to encourage these organizations to advocate specifically for the needs of senior artists.

### **Structure**

The Board of Directors of the new organization will be between 12-18 people, one-half of whom are representatives of the organizations in the community and the other one-half of whom are high profile individuals who are involved in the arts and cultural community, as philanthropists, volunteers, artists, professionals, or other. Sandra Pitblado, well-known philanthropist and arts supporter, is the Founding Chair.

The Board is responsible for all matters, including policy, finances, design of senior artists’ services, partnerships and staffing.

The organization will open an office which will be staffed by an Executive Director and administrator.

The Actors' Fund of Canada, Union des artistes, Actra Fraternal Benefit Society and the PAL Canada Foundation will be represented on the Board of Directors. These representatives, together with others appointed by the Board, shall constitute a Standing Committee responsible for overseeing the commitment to collaborate with existing organizations. The community will also select one English-language senior artist and one French-language senior artist to serve on the Board. There will be three other community representatives to the Board, who will rotate. These positions on the Founding Board will be occupied by individuals who were involved from the beginning of the research project.

The Board will create an Advisory Committee comprised of representatives of organizations in the sector, senior artists and others.

Annually, the Board shall hold a community feedback session, open to all artists, and arts and cultural organizations. The session will discuss issues and policy proposals for consideration by the Board and will ensure ongoing and broadly-based community support for the policies, finances, direction and decisions of the organization.

October 27, 2010