

Introduction to Laurie McGauley's Review of the Canada Council Artists and Community Collaboration Fund (ACCF)

In July 2005, the Council commissioned Laurie McGauley, a Sudbury, Ontario based consultant with an extensive background in community arts, to review the Artists and Community Collaboration Fund (ACCF). Her work was overseen by Claude Schryer, Coordinator of the Inter-Arts Office, and an internal committee composed of Sanjay Shahani, Program Officer in the Theatre Section and Gerri Trimble, Program Officer in the Music Section and other Council staff.

The goal of this external review, following up on an internal review in 2004, was to provide a detailed quantitative and qualitative analysis of the impact of the Artists and Community Collaboration Fund (ACCF) for the period of 1 April 2002 to 31 March 2006 and to make recommendations about artistic trends and funding patterns in the ACCF, with a particular focus on the nature of process-based and collaborative work.

Laurie's report focuses principally on community engaged collaborations, but is also inclusive of a wide range of creative and collaborative relationships.

We hope that this review will help artists, communities and other stakeholders engage in discussion about these practices.

As Laurie notes in her report, *'there remains a need for a better understanding of the nature of process-based and collaborative work, not only to clear up assessment issues, but also to strategize future policy directions.'*

Laurie McGauley presented her final report and recommendations to the Council in February, 2006.

Her report was presented to the Board of Directors of the Canada Council in June, 2006.