



Canada Council
for the Arts

Conseil des Arts
du Canada

March 03, 2008

Independent Media Arts Alliance
Jennifer Dorner
3995 Berri
Montreal, Quebec
H2L 4L2

Dear Jennifer Dorner,

Thank you for your recent recommendation toward instituting a program which furthers networking between Indigenous artists and the larger Media Arts community. The Media Arts Section is keenly receptive to new ideas which foster dialogue between these two critical groups, and we sincerely appreciate your relevant input on this matter.

In keeping with the Canada Council's strategic plan, the Media Arts Section intends to continue to look for new ways to promote equity as a critical priority. We would like to take your recommendation under advisement as we embark on the three-year process of revising our programs, and as we begin to operationalize the strategic vision of Council.

As a section, our overarching goal will be to further integrate best practices into our internal processes and existing programs, while developing new models and approaches. Initiatives currently in development include the *Organizational Development Program*. This program is not specifically mandated as an equity program, but is based on more general principles of accessibility and has led to a significant level of first-time support for several important Aboriginal groups.

One of our objectives over the next three years will be to begin a process of community consultations with various Media Arts groups from across the country. Our hope is that we will be able to work closely with the *Independent Media Arts Alliance* throughout this process and that together we will foster a series of discussions which unite Council and the larger community; ultimately leading to a refined slate of programs which are both a reflection of our internal values and the current Canadian Media Arts ecology.

It was a sincere pleasure meeting with you in early February, and I look forward to our continued discussion and collaboration.

Kind Regards,

Youssef El Jaï
Media Arts Section

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