

Nous tenons à vous faire remarquer que pour l'instant, les rapports des réunions ne sont disponibles qu'en anglais.

**Regional Meeting
Edmonton, AB at The Launching Pad
February 21, 2006**

In Attendance:

Doyle Marko, Vinok Worldance
Heidi Bunting, Independent Artist and President, Professional Arts Coalition of Edmonton
Bobbi Westman, Alberta Dance Alliance
Cheryl Fontaine, Independent dancer/choreographer
Linda Turnbull, Independent dance/choreographer
Gerry Morita, Mile Zero Dance

Key points arising from meeting attendees:

- Regional communities are in an earlier phase of development as compared to larger urban centres. As a result, granting programs and services available don't always fit well in a regional context.
- Meeting participants expressed that artists are challenged to maintain work in AB.
- Choreographers can't always find enough dancers who can do the work at a professional level. Projects then require further resources to bring artists into the province
- Festivals such as *feats* and *nextfest* - artists assume they're not getting paid
- Fringe festival is very good – but have to pay \$600 to enter
- Provincial funding only allows for application once either as an independent or as a company. Max grants are between \$3000 and \$7000
- Support from Grant MacEwan is no longer there – no studio or office space
- Artists who have remained in Edmonton have no time to take regular professional class and can't afford time off from supporting jobs to do artistic projects.
- External perspective looks at AB as the province with lots of \$. However, meagre funding available for artists is spread too thin.
- Casino \$ is a big contributor to arts organizations.
- Edmonton has a very arts-friendly, proactive Mayor – Steven Mandell. Wife was a dancer who taught at Grant MacEwan.
- There is an active advocacy group in Edmonton called P.A.C.E (Professional Arts Coalition of Edmonton) who has advocated for an increase in funds to the Edmonton Arts Council.
- There has been some discussion around the Mayors of Edmonton and Calgary to come together to ask for a provincial funding increase.

- Participants expressed that they are happy that CDA is representing dance in the broader picture
- One participant recommended that CDA provide direct access to e-bulletins beyond the membership – to encourage awareness, and to encourage more members to join.