



Annual General Meeting

June 4, 2026 at 5:30 pm
County Arts Lab, Picton

2026 Election of Board of Directors

Chair

Catelyn Thornton (elected as Secretary in 2021; Vice Chair in 2024; Chair in 2026)

Secretary

Flora Soley (elected in 2026)

Treasurer

Paul Nethercott (elected as Treasurer in 2024)

Directors at Large

Andrea Piller (elected in 2019)

Talitha Tolles (elected in 2024)

Erin Hewitson (elected in 2021, resigned as Treasurer in 2024)

Peter Sage (elected in 2025)

Julia Howell (elected in 2021; Chair in 2023, resigned as Chair in 2026)

Committees of the Board

Governance Committee - Julia Howell, Chair

Fund Development Committee - Erin Hewitson, Chair

Artist Advisory Committee - Talitha Tolles, Chair

Catelyn Thornton

Catelyn earned her Bachelor of Education in Dance and Drama at Victoria State College in Melbourne. She then began her teaching career at an all-boys school where she was asked (by a very forward-thinking headmaster) to initiate a Dance & Drama programme from K-12. Opening the hearts and minds of her initially reluctant students was her greatest challenge and her greatest joy.

Upon returning to Canada, Catelyn received her Masters in Fine Arts-Theatre at York University and worked as a performing artist for a number of years. During this time, she served on the Board of Directors of The Theatre Centre in Toronto. She also did some Arts education consulting work for Nightwood Theatre and Tarragon Theatre as they developed their outreach programmes for students in Toronto and the GTA.

Finally returning to Arts education full-time, Catelyn taught with the Toronto District School Board for the next 25 years. As Head of the Arts department at R.H. King Academy, she introduced new arts courses in Dance, Musical Theatre, Theatre Production, Arts Management, and Native Studies-Gr.9 Art. She also pioneered with her colleagues a variety of programmes such as: Leadership Pathways-Arts; S.T.E.(A.)M.; and the Ministry of Education's Specialist High Skills Major programme in Art-Tech Production and Administration.

Flora Jeanne Soley

Flora Jeanne Soley is a certified ELT, holds a BA Fine Art from the University of Guelph, and is a graduate of The Alberta College of Art and Design (Alberta University of the Arts). As an educator in the settlement sector, she worked within the national LINC program where she taught adult pre-literacy and language to refugees and newcomers from all over the world. In this role, she co-created a wide range of community building events often in collaboration with other agencies and settlement workers in support of refugees and newcomers in transition.

As a volunteer educator, she conducted many collaborative art projects with children in both Toronto and South Asia. These projects aimed to create large installations through group work and thought.

As a visual artist, recent and ongoing work explores and depicts the visual narrative of resettlement. These works look at the translation between the country of origin and the new country. This sense of identity and place in the changed world of the immigrant is central to much of Flora Jeanne Soley's work.

Currently, she can be found teaching yoga in Prince Edward County. She lives on the north shore marsh of Prince Edward County with her husband, her garden and her field.

Paul Nethercott

After relocating from Toronto to Cherry Valley, Paul now operates his own CPA practice serving clients throughout Prince Edward County and beyond. With decades of experience as a

Chartered Professional Accountant, he brings extensive financial and business expertise to the County Arts Board.

Andrea Piller

Andrea graduated from the Ontario College of Art where she studied drawing and ceramics. Her sculptural hand built works are ongoing investigations of natural form, aiming to synthesize the organic world and human experience. A move from Toronto to the Prince Edward countryside informs her studio practice. She is the recipient of numerous art awards and Ontario Arts Council grants. A highly experienced mentor and arts educator she shares her enthusiasm and knowledge for visual arts and creative fluency to children, youth and adults.

Exhibitions include *Still Life-Landscape*, Burlington Art Gallery, *Life taking Shape*, Gardiner Museum of Ceramic Art, *Fire and Earth*, Itabashi Art Museum, Itabashi, Japan, *Nocturne Craft* Ontario, Toronto. Andrea's work is held in private, corporate and museum collections across Canada, including the Gardiner Museum of Ceramic Art, and Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada.

Erin Hewitson

Erin is a creative and experienced fundraiser who believes in the power of not-for-profits to connect, inspire and empower. Her passion for new experiences and growth have taken her to Australia, the UK and back home to Canada where she's developed deep skills in individual giving, foundations, government relations and events. Along the way, she's helped some amazing arts organizations achieve their missions.

She believes her superpowers include building strong, authentic relationships with supporters, using data and testing to continuously improve results, and always championing good storytelling. In her role as Director of Loyalty & Engagement, Erin oversaw the growth and engagement of Toronto International Film Festival's supporter base of members, and donors, where she was responsible for a \$4.2M target including forecasting (revenue generation), programme delivery, engagement experience design, and reporting. In July 2022, Erin took on the role of Major Gifts Officer at the Belleville General Hospital Foundation.

Talitha Tolles

A resilient Métis artist, Talitha draws inspiration from her Vasseur-Longlade ancestry of Drummond Island Voyageurs. Her art, deeply rooted in her Queer Métis identity, serves as a means to heal personal trauma and uplift her community. Talitha showcases traditional and contemporary jewelry designs, skillfully learned from her mother and other talented artists around Turtle Island.

Talitha also has an extensive background in program development, community mobilization and engagement, adult education, culture building, and creating optimal and accessible learning environments for growth. Talitha finds joy in bringing people together and supporting them in finding their passion and drive for justice. Her methods are experiential, community-based, and rooted in action. She currently works in the role of Senior Manager of Learning and Wellbeing at

MakeWay, a national charity and public foundation providing innovative support for environmental and social change initiatives across the country.

Julia Howell

Julia is a strategist, producer and writer with a 35-year career supporting philanthropic causes. A generalist at heart, her experience spans issues and sectors, from immigration to music education, criminal justice to parks, guiding corporate, government and nonprofit organizations, including the Ontario Trillium Foundation, Scotiabank, D+H, Imagine Canada, Maytree, the Elizabeth Fry Society of Toronto, Arts Toronto, and the Toronto Foundation. Today you can find her writing about the role of artists or documenting the wetland wonders of her home on Fish Lake.

Peter Sage

An active community member for over 50 years, Peter brings business expertise to his role as Director having established and managed Sage Design and Construction along with several other businesses in Prince Edward County. As Past Chair of The Regent Theatre Foundation, Peter spent 5 years designing and helping to facilitate the many recent theatre upgrades.

Peter appreciates the value and colour art, in all its forms, brings to our community, having been surrounded by artists throughout his life. His mother Laurine Sage was an accomplished artist in the Quinte Region for many years. Peter's wife Celia Sage is a well known local artist showing her works at Mad Dog Gallery. Peter's daughter April Sage is a local illustrator, and daughter Mary is a local painter.

Peter and Celia have been supporters of County Arts, the PEC Jazz Festival, The Regent Theatre and many other not-for-profit entities.