

LASSONDE  
ART  
TRAIL

LASSONDE ART TRAIL  
FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

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Artist impression of the Art Trail on Ookwemin Minising courtesy Norm Li AG+I and Waterfront Toronto.



THE LASSONDE ART TRAIL IS A  
FREE, OPEN-AIR DESTINATION  
FOR OUTSTANDING  
CONTEMPORARY ART FROM  
AROUND THE WORLD.

SITUATED ON THE  
EXTRAORDINARY SITE OF A  
NEW ISLAND IN THE TORONTO  
HARBOUR ARCHIPELAGO,  
LAT BELIEVES PUBLIC ART  
ENHANCES WELLBEING,  
GUIDES RESPECTFUL DIALOGUE  
AND OPENS OUR EYES TO  
HOW WE STEWARD THE  
ENVIRONMENT.



Julie Lassonde (LAT Board Chair), Chloë Catán (LAT ED), Michael Dolan, Biidaasige Park.

# CHAIR'S LETTER TO THE BOARD AND MEMBERS

This year marked a pivotal year for LAT's journey, bringing us closer to the launch of Canada's first destination art trail. What started as an ambitious vision is now almost a reality, thanks to the dedication of LAT's staff, board, and visionary donors.

In July this year, visitors walked through Biidaasige Park for the first time — the remarkable new landscape that will become home to the Lassonde Art Trail. LAT is an integral part of the rich tapestry of this park, a free, open-air destination for outstanding contemporary art from around the world.

This same milestone marked the installation of LAT's first artwork, *Trajet*, by Caroline Monnet and Dean Baldwin Lew, part of the City of Toronto's Public Art and Monument's Collection. We worked with the City, Waterfront Toronto and MVVA to thoughtfully integrate *Trajet* into the landscape at the bend of the new Don River. Seeing our first permanent artwork find its home on LAT was like laying the first stone in the foundation of an important structure—a profound moment that gave us a glimpse of what lay ahead.

We also reached a major milestone with the announcement of Joana Vasconcelos as winner of our international destination artwork competition. Renowned curators and public art experts from around the world took part in the selection, reflecting our commitment to a trail that is rooted in Toronto while engaging in a global dialogue about contemporary art. Joana's future sculpture, *Artemisa*, will join Kent Monkman's previously announced commission as one of the landmarks of the Art Trail.

Every milestone is a reminder that transformative projects are built through collaboration, trust, and shared purpose. As we move toward our opening in 2026, we hold to our firm belief that bringing world-class art into free, accessible, open spaces removes financial, cultural, and geographic barriers, fostering a sense of civic pride and belonging.

Our visionary founding donors believe this too, and are helping turn the Pierre Lassonde Family Foundation's gift into a sustainable, dynamic art trail. We are on track to reach 75% of our \$40M campaign to establish the Art Trail by the time we open in June 2026.

Thank you for walking this path with us. We look forward to welcoming you all to the Lassonde Art Trail in 2026.

Julie Lassonde  
Board Chair



# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S INTRODUCTION



2025 was a year of building. It was tremendously exciting to see people and projects consolidate around our mission to create an extraordinary public art experience on Toronto's waterfront. Thank you to our Board of Directors for their leadership, expertise, and commitment. In 2025, we welcomed new board members Miles Gertler, Mustafa Humayun, Susie Kololian, and Shabin Mohamed. Their diverse perspectives and dedication to the arts, philanthropy, and community-building have strengthened our organization at a vital moment in our development.

This year also marked a leap forward in realizing the artistic vision of the Lassonde Art Trail, thanks to our Artistic Director and Chief Curator, November Paynter. In October this year, we announced the full roster of artists who will shape our 2026 inaugural season. Collectively, these artists represent a remarkable range of practices, experience, and perspectives from across Canada and around the world. To each of the artists: thank you for creating the Art Trail with us.

2025 was also a year of connection. We forged partnerships with the National Gallery of Canada, Public Art Fund in NYC, and York University to bring ambitious projects to the Art Trail. We engaged with thousands of people through presentations, tours, events, artist conversations, and stakeholder gatherings. From Jane's Walk participants exploring Toronto's newest island to arts leaders and supporters meeting us in Toronto, Montreal, New York, Boston, Palm Springs and beyond, interest in the Art Trail continues to grow. These conversations reinforce our belief that people are eager for new ways to experience

museum-quality art in the public realm.

As our ambitions have grown, so too has our team. We expanded our staff and welcomed new expertise in public art project management, production, and installation. With every new team member we are building the operational capacity required to steward a project of this scale and significance.

None of this progress would be possible without the generosity of our donors and partners. We remain deeply grateful to everyone who has contributed to this vision. Their confidence in this city-building project continues to inspire us.

As we prepare to welcome visitors to Canada's destination art trail, our work is not yet complete. Thanks to the transformational matching gift established by the Pierre Lassonde Family Foundation, there is still an opportunity for new supporters to multiply the impact of their contributions and help ensure the Art Trail opens with a strong operating and programmatic foundation. We will continue to invite supporters to join our mission. Together, we are creating something truly unique: outstanding public art in the public realm, free for anyone who walks, bikes, or paddles the Lassonde Art Trail.

Chloë Catán  
Executive Director



November Paynter (LATAD) in Hank Willis Thomas' Saverio and Daisy (Navel), on Governors Island, NYC



Installation of *Trajet* by Caroline Monnet and Dean Baldwin Lew.





Catherine Dean (LAT Project Manager and Sustainability Lead), artist Lisa Hirmer and Myros Trutiak on site of future promenade.

Artist Kara Hamilton and Brandon Vickers (Dean AMPD York U) at York University



# 2025 HIGHLIGHTS

Announced Selection Committee for LAT's international permanent artwork commission

Welcomed Miles Gertler, Mustafa Humayan, Susie Kololian and Shabin Mohamed to LAT's Board of Directors

Celebrated one-year countdown to LAT with donors and stakeholders at Toronto Club

Installed LAT's first sculpture *Trajet* for Biidaasige Park phase one opening

Opened LAT's first art commission  
- *First Sun* by Monira Al Qadiri in partnership with Public Art Fund in NYC

Announced LAT's destination artwork competition winner, Joana Vasconcelos

Expanded LAT's F/T team, welcoming Andrew Medland (Production and Installation Manager) and Ben Freedman (Public Art Project Manager)

Announced the inaugural artist line-up for LAT's 2026 launch season

Launched conversations with CreateTO to secure a bricks and mortar hub space for LAT close to Biidaasige Park

Partnered with York University and saw the first LAT artist participate as the L. L. Odette Sculptor in Residence

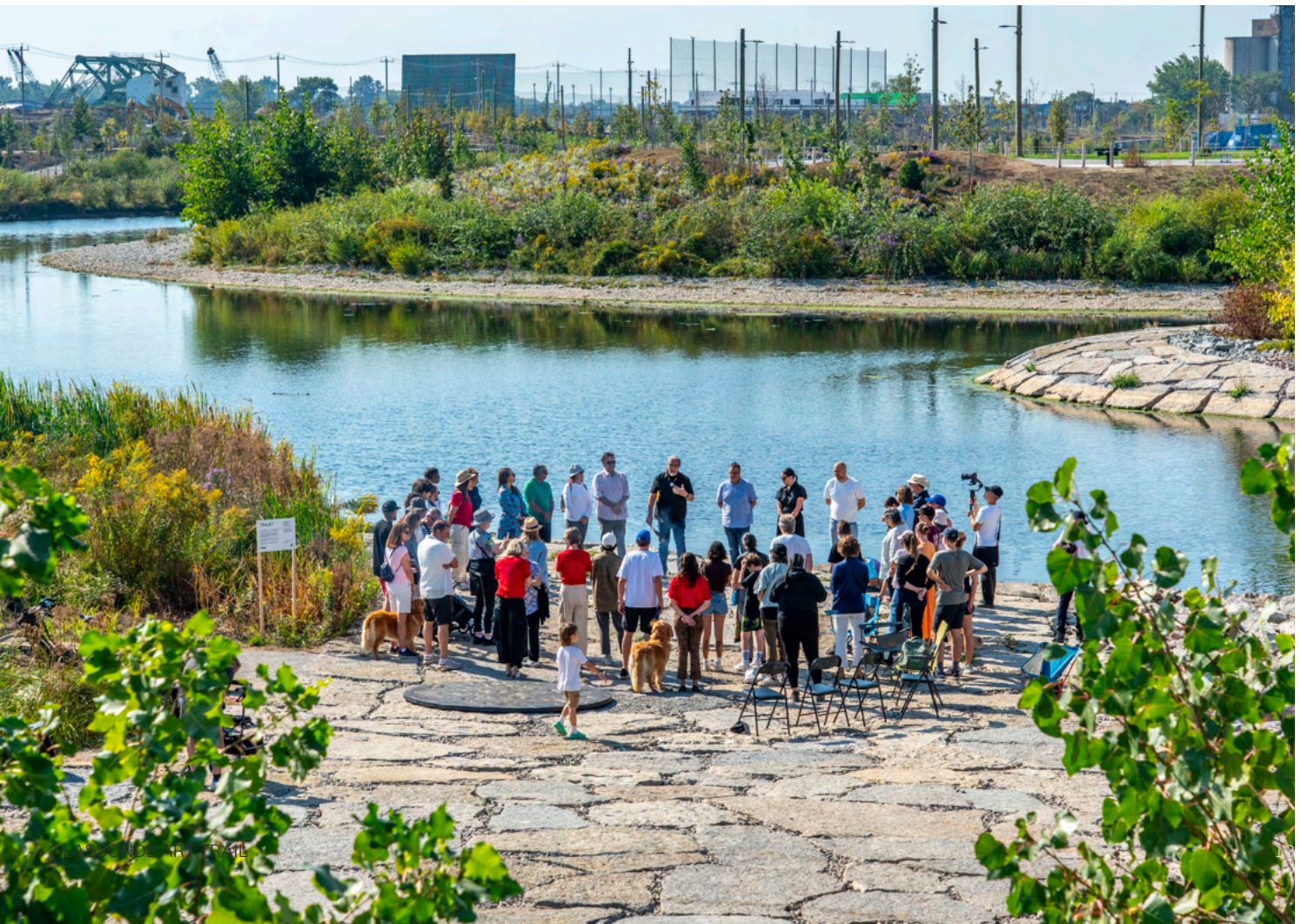
# OPENING OF BIIDAASIGE PARK

On July 19, 2025, the eastern section of Biidaasige Park opened to the public and LAT was there to join in the celebrations. This was a landmark achievement in the \$1.4 billion tri-government investment in flood protection and waterfront revitalization. The Lassonde Art Trail weaves through this park system, with a series of 15 interconnected public art sites spanning over 4 km of paths.

At over 40 hectares, Biidaasige Park is one of the largest and most impressive public parks in Toronto. It includes over a linear kilometre of an engineered and renaturalized river that is also flood protection infrastructure.

Biidaasige Park, pronounced “bee-daw-si-geh” and meaning “sunlight shining toward us” in Anishinaabemowin, is located near Cherry Street on the island of Ookwemin Minising, meaning “place of the black cherry trees.” The park celebrates waterway restoration and reconciliation.

Ceremony to welcome *Trajet* by Caroline Monnet and Dean Baldwin Lew. Photo Vid Ingelevics and Ryan Walker.



# TRAJET

As part of the opening of Biidaasige Park, LAT launched its first artwork, *Trajet*. Created by Caroline Monnet and Dean Baldwin Lew, *Trajet* acknowledges footprints made by Indigenous ancestors that were uncovered in blue clay on the floor of Lake Ontario in 1908.

*Trajet* is now permanently integrated into the landscape of Biidaasige Park at the bend of the new Don River mouth. The artists' intention was to locate the sculpture as close as possible to the river, so that when the water is high it may touch and even fill the footprints. This placement allows visitors to pause and look in the direction of the lakebed where the footprints were found.

On October 4, 2025, LAT held a traditional welcoming ceremony for *Trajet* with Elder Clayton Shirt, author Jesse Wenthe, and Indigenous community members who participated in the project. Lindy Kinoshameg honoured the occasion with a traditional dance performed in full regalia. LAT is grateful to The Barry and Laurie Green Family Charitable Trust for their support of this installation.

*Trajet* by Caroline Monnet and Dean Baldwin Lew. Photo Vid Ingelevics and Ryan Walker.



# SELECTION COMMITTEE

In early 2025, LAT convened a committee of five public art experts to help select a second permanent artwork commission along the Lassonde Art Trail (in addition to the previously announced Kent Monkman piece). The committee spent part of 2025 reviewing shortlisted proposals, after LAT received a first round of nominations. The committee later announced the winning artist as Joana Vasconcelos.

## TAIRONE BASTIEN

Independent Curator & Assistant Professor  
Faculty of Art, OCAD University, Toronto, CA



## DAISY DESROSIERS

Britton Family Curator-at-Large  
North America at Tate Modern



Photo: Jane Kratochvil

## MELANIE KRESS

Senior Curator  
Public Art Fund, New York, US



Photo: Courtney Hugh Campbell

## CLIFF LAUSON

Director of Exhibitions  
Somerset House, London, UK



## CLARE LILLEY

Former Director  
Yorkshire Sculpture Park, UK



# JOANA VASCONCELOS

## ARTEMISA

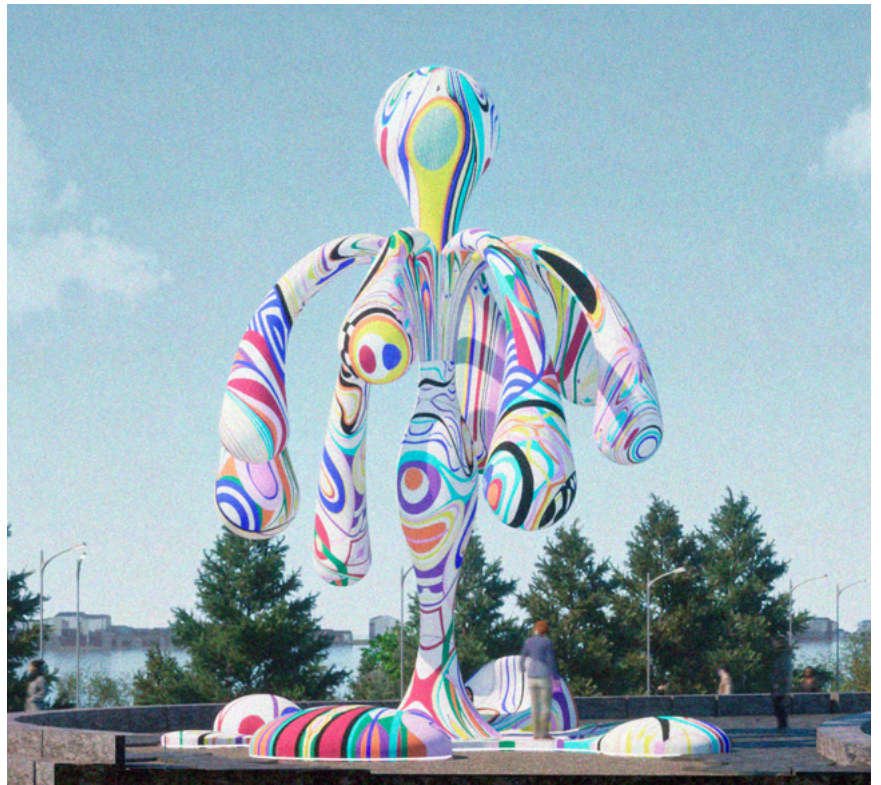
In October, LAT was thrilled to announce Portuguese visual artist Joana Vasconcelos as the winner of LAT's international destination artwork competition. Her sculpture will be integrated into the Art Trail in Biidaasige Park and is the second of two signature permanent artworks commissioned to anchor the trail. Along with the first commission by Cree artist Kent Monkman, Joana Vasconcelos' sculpture will be gifted by LAT to the City of Toronto to form part of its Public Art & Monuments Collection.

After receiving nominations from more than 30 arts professionals, Vasconcelos was shortlisted—alongside artists Shezad Dawood, Nicole Eisenman, Shilpa Gupta and Yinka Shonibare CBE RA—to present proposals. From these five, LAT's selection committee awarded Vasconcelos the commission.

Vasconcelos' piece, *Artemisa*, is a magnificent response to the new island park where the Art Trail will be located. This magical tree-like structure will be clad in hand-painted ceramic tiles, bringing colour and a uniquely crafted materiality to the waterfront.



Joana Vasconcelos, photo Arlindo Camacho. Artist rendering of *Artemisa*.



# LAUNCH SEASON ARTISTS

In October, LAT announced its inaugural season, featuring artworks by the following contemporary artists:

Alexa Kumiko Hatanaka (Japanese - Canadian), Alexandre Arrechea (Cuban), Caroline Monnet (Algonquin Anishinaabe - French) & Dean Baldwin Lew (Canadian), Hank Willis Thomas (American), Kara Hamilton (Canadian), Kent Monkman (Cree), Lisa Hirmer (Canadian - Mexican - German), Monira Al Qadiri (Kuwaiti), Nadia Belerique (Canadian) & Tony Romano (Canadian), Oluseye (Nigerian - Canadian), Ryan Gander (British), and Tracey Emin (British) and Virginia Overton (American). The newly commissioned permanent destination sculpture by Joana Vasconcelos (Portuguese) will follow in 2027.

Together, the artists contribute to a dynamic cultural landscape of permanent and rotating installations that reflect a wide spectrum of artistic voices, materials, and perspectives. From large-scale sculptures to site-responsive interventions, the artworks will transform Toronto's evolving waterfront into a hub of reflection, community, and exchange.



LAT artists. From left, row 1: Tracey Emin, Alexandre Arrechea, Kent Monkman, Tony Romano, Hank Willis Thomas; row 2: Dean Baldwin Lew, Caroline Monnet, Virginia Overton, Alexa Kumiko Hatanaka, Oluseye, Nadia Belerique; row 3: Lisa Hirmer, Joana Vasconcelos, Monira Al Qadiri, Ryan Gander, Kara Hamilton.

# MONIRA AL QADIRI FIRST SUN

In September 2025, Monira Al Qadiri's *First Sun*, LAT's co-commission with the Public Art Fund, was installed at Doris C. Freedman Plaza in Central Park. After its time in New York City, *First Sun* will travel to Toronto in fall 2026, as part of the Lasseonde Art Trail's opening season.

The majestic painted aluminum sculpture of a hybrid human-scarab figure reimagines the ancient Egyptian deity Khepri—god of the rising sun—as a contemporary monument. At a towering 17 feet tall and resplendent in purple and green hues, the sculpture reflects Al Qadiri's interest in how humanity explores the unknown through science, religion, mythology, and art.

LAT is grateful to Nadir and Shabin Mohamed for their support of this project.



Monira Al Qadiri, *First Sun*, Doris Freedman Plaza NYC. Photo Nicholas Knight, courtesy Public Art Fund.

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In 2025, LAT staff met with numerous community groups, arts professionals, and partners to build momentum for the organization. Executive Director Chloë Catán and Artistic Director and Chief Curator November Paynter toured or presented to the following, among others:

**April:** Desert X Palm Springs including a LAT event hosted by board member Susie Kololian.

**May:** Jane's Walk Toronto, tour of Ookwemin Minising island with over 200 participants.  
Boston Public Art Triennial opening program and artist meetings.

**June:** Partners in Art AGM LAT presentation.

**Sept:** Toronto Friends of the Visual Arts LAT presentation.  
Participation at opening of *First Sun* by Monira Al Qadiri in NYC with LAT press reception.

**Dec:** Lunch & Learn LAT presentation to Waterfront BIA staff.

**Dec:** Participation in Public Art Consortium meetings (ongoing) organized by Madison Square Park in NYC.



Jane's Walk Toronto visitors to Ookwemin Minising.

# LAT IN THE MEDIA

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## A giant technicolour sculpture inspired by a Greek god is coming to the Port Lands

The “magical tree-like” behemoth will call the Lasseonde Art Trail home in 2027

BY ANDREA YU | OCTOBER 10, 2025

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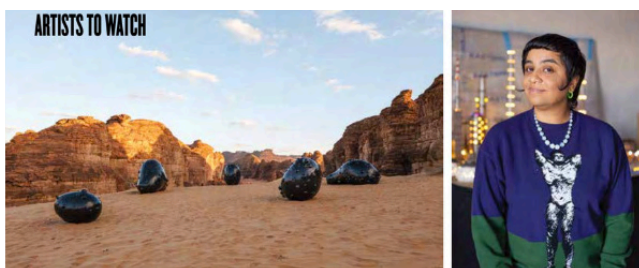
toronto-life-real-estate-joana-vasconcelos-lasseonde-art-trail-artemis-port-lands-1

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## The Lasseonde Art Trail Has Big Dreams



Galler



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Monira Al Qadiri's *SEA, LAJA* (2024). The artist in her Berlin studio. Her 2023 installation *Brownie Planet* and 2024 work *NOVA* (25).

## Monira Al Qadiri

Growing up in Kuwait, Monira Al Qadiri experienced firsthand the effects of oil, witnessing the deliberate burning of wells during the Gulf War at the age of just seven. “The air was black, the ground was black, everything was black,” she recalls. “As a child, there’s no sense of right or wrong, and I thought it was fascinating.”

As she got older, Al Qadiri was struck by how the rhetoric suggested oil was the problem, not the humans fighting over it. Exploring this misconception in her work, she sheds light on man’s obsession with extraction, imagining a time when the precious resource runs out and a new industry emerges.

For her debut at Perrotin in New York this fall, Al Qadiri presents works such as *Spectrum* (2025), 3D-printed plastic oil drill bits based on her 2016 series investigating pearl farming in the Gulf region, which was dominant before the discovery of the oil. Realizing that pearls and oil have similar beautiful color schemes, Al Qadiri painted the drill bits in iridescent rainbow hues. The beauty, however, belies the reality of the material. “Oil tricks us into believing we are becoming wealthy, but it is also destroying us,” she says.

Another new work in the show, an alien-like sculpture called *Reptilian* (2025), considers a future where we grapple with this destruction. A nod to man’s search for other planets that could sustain human life—and offer more resources to extract—the piece is inspired by Arabia Terra, a region of Mars named for its resemblance to the Arabian Desert. “It’s strange and beautiful that there is an Arabia on Mars,” Al Qadiri says. “But it’s a ludicrous fantasy that we are someday going to colonize another planet.”

In addition to the Perrotin show, Al Qadiri unveils her first public art project in North America this fall. Inspired by Khepri, the ancient Egyptian sun god, the sculpture examines how humans used to revere other species, even insects. Taking the form of a human bust with a scarab face, the artwork—co-commissioned by Public Art Fund and Lasseonde Art Trail in Toronto—will be on view in the Doris C. Freedman Plaza in Central Park through August 30th before heading to Toronto’s *NOVA* installation.




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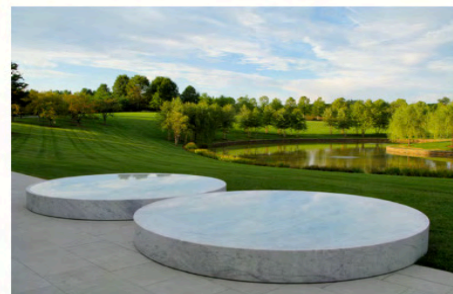
[Adventures with Van Gogh](#)

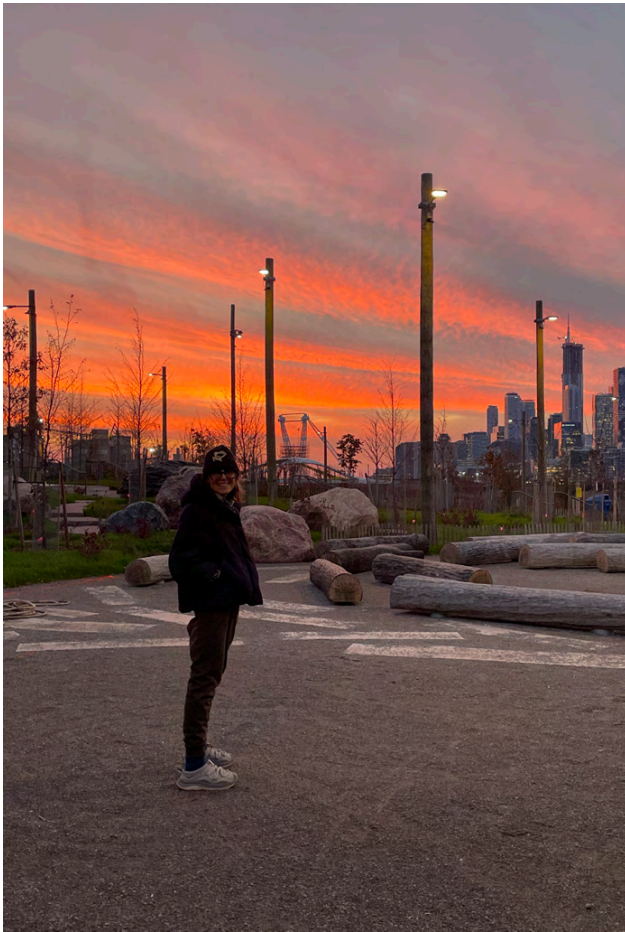
A sale worth framing - enjoy up to 70% off across subscription packages this Black Friday! Don't miss out, ends Monday.

Outdoor sculpture // Analysis

## Exposed to the elements, public—and geese: the complex conservation of outdoor art

The long-term maintenance of public art raises questions about funding and who is responsible





Arist Kara Hamilton.



Arist Alexa Kumiko Hatanaka.



Artists Caroline Monnet and Dean Baldwin Lew. Photo Vid Ingelevics and Ryan Walker.

Artist Oluseye.



Chloë Catán, artist Monira Al Qadiri and November Paynter with *First Sun* in NYC



Lindy Kinoshameg performing at *Trajet* ceremony.  
Photo Vid Ingelevics and Ryan Walker.

# LAT IN NUMBERS

→ 10

brand new site-responsive art  
commissions in development

→ 17

sculptures by 15 artists planned  
for launch season

→ \$100,000

granted by OCAF for LAT's  
launch season marketing

→ \$1.5M

raised in matching funds

→ 40

local & national press pieces  
=35,897,650 impressions

→ 8

international press pieces  
=1,281,000 impressions

→ 3500+

social media followers on  
Instagram, LinkedIn & Facebook

→ 300+

newsletter subscriptions



Kent Monkman, Charcoal Study for The Colony.

Alexa Hatanaka, test print for *against the wind, with the wind*.



Nadia Belerique and Tony Romano, sketch for *Homing*.



Kara Hamilton, sketch for *Delicate Matter* (for the birds).



# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2025

Thanks to generous donor support, we successfully completed our second full year of operations in 2025. The excerpts from the audited financial statements detail how we invested in permanent and temporary art programs in preparation for the Art Trail launch in June 2026.

As a newly established foundation, we anticipated that financial results would fluctuate in founding years as fundraising and donor giving patterns became established. The organization concluded the fiscal year with an operating surplus of just over \$2M, driven by the exceptional success of our launch campaign, including the generosity of early donors, many of whom fulfilled commitments through upfront gifts or accelerated pledge schedules. Donors were also inspired to give through the matching gift challenge offered by the Pierre Lassonde Family Foundation. While this year-end surplus is extraordinary and reflects the strong momentum of LAT's inaugural campaign, these funds will be carefully stewarded to support the Foundation's long-term mission and strategic priorities, and should not be viewed as indicative of our anticipated future annual operating results.

## **Lassonde Art Trail Foundation** **Statement of Operations** **For the year ended December 31, 2025**

|                                                      | 2025                | 2024                |
|------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Revenue</b>                                       |                     |                     |
| Contributions                                        | \$ 3,038,663        | \$ 662,094          |
| Interest income                                      | 124,164             | 336                 |
|                                                      | <b>3,162,827</b>    | <b>662,430</b>      |
| <b>Expenses</b>                                      |                     |                     |
| Salaries and benefits                                | 489,566             | 419,907             |
| Office and general                                   | 23,253              | 10,229              |
| Professional Fees                                    | 68,169              | 96,863              |
| Programming                                          | 391,019             | 157,820             |
| Fundraising                                          | 84,974              | 13,170              |
| Marketing & Communications                           | 79,318              | 80,382              |
|                                                      | <b>1,136,299</b>    | <b>778,371</b>      |
| <b>Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues over Expenses</b> | <b>\$ 2,026,528</b> | <b>\$ (115,941)</b> |

**Lassonde Art Trail Foundation**  
**Statement of Financial Position**  
**As at December 31, 2025**

|                                                             | Note      | 2025             | 2024              |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|------------------|-------------------|
| <b>ASSETS</b>                                               |           |                  |                   |
| <b>Current</b>                                              |           |                  |                   |
| Cash (including cash held for Art purchases of \$4,741,761) | \$        | 6,917,646        | \$ 236,200        |
| Accounts Receivable                                         |           | -                | 24,272            |
| Prepaid Expenses                                            |           | 75,689           | -                 |
| Government Remittances Receivable                           |           | 207,520          | 23,474            |
|                                                             |           | <b>7,200,855</b> | <b>283,946</b>    |
| <b>Art</b>                                                  |           | <b>2,190,502</b> | <b>272,913</b>    |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>                                         | <b>\$</b> | <b>9,391,357</b> | <b>\$ 556,859</b> |
| <b>LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES</b>                        |           |                  |                   |
| <b>Current</b>                                              |           |                  |                   |
| Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities                    | \$        | 28,365           | \$ 11,183         |
| Deferred Contributions                                      | [3]       | 4,873,199        | -                 |
| <b>Total Liabilities</b>                                    |           | <b>4,901,564</b> | <b>11,183</b>     |
| <b>Fund Balances</b>                                        |           |                  |                   |
| Operating Fund                                              |           | 2,299,291        | 272,763           |
| Art Fund                                                    | [2.a]     | 2,190,502        | 272,913           |
|                                                             |           | <b>4,489,793</b> | <b>545,676</b>    |
| <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES</b>                  | <b>\$</b> | <b>9,391,357</b> | <b>\$ 556,859</b> |

**Approved on Behalf of the Directors:**

"Michael Gibbens" **Director**

"Julie Lassonde" **Director**

For a full copy of audited financial statements and accompanying notes, please contact  
[chloe@latfoundation.org](mailto:chloe@latfoundation.org)

# THANK YOU

Thank you to the following donors who made pledges and gifts of \$1,000 or more in 2025. Your support helped us lay the groundwork for our opening launch season in 2026.

## **Founding Lead**

The Pierre Lassonde Family Foundation

## **Pacesetter**

Frances and Tim Price

## **Innovator**

Carole and Rick Marcotte

CIBC

Nadir and Shabin Mohamed

Power Corporation of Canada

## **Founder**

Hal Jackman Foundation

John Donald

Kololian Family

Mark and Catherine Graham

Richard and Donna Ivey

Sabourin Family Foundation

TD Bank Group

The Hennick Family Foundation

## **Champion**

Gail Drummond and Bob Dorrance

The Barry and Laurie Green Family Charitable Trust

## **Artist Circle Members**

Caroline Grant, Fela Grunwald, Rina Greer, The K.M. Hunter Charitable Foundation

LAT is grateful to the City of Toronto for their partnership and Waterfront Toronto for their collaboration in making the Art Trail possible.

## LAT Board of Directors 2025

Julie Lassonde – Chair  
Miles Gertler  
Michael Gibbens  
Mustafa Humayun  
Susie Kololian  
Jennifer Lassonde  
Shabin Mohamed

## LAT Staff 2025

Chloë Catán, Executive Director  
November Paynter, Artistic Director and Chief Curator  
Julie Cookson, Development Lead  
Benjamin Freedman, Public Art Project Manager  
Andrew Medland, Production and Installation Manager  
Catherine Dean, Project Manager and Sustainability Lead

Design: SPIN Studio  
PR: Chimera Collective  
International PR: Pelham



Photo courtesy Vid Ingelevics and Ryan Walker

