



THE FESTIVAL ACADEMY

The Festival Academy acknowledges that the Atelier Montreal takes place on **unceded Indigenous lands** of the **Kanien'kehá:ka Nation**, recognized as the custodians of the lands and waters on which this gathering takes place. **Tiohtià:ke**/Montreal is a place which has long served as a site of meeting and exchange amongst nations. We respect connections with the **past, present and future** in our relationships with Indigenous and other peoples within the Montreal community.

Atelier Programme

Atelier Montreal

1 – 7 June 2022

POOL OF EXPERTS

Facilitator

- **Mike Van Graan** – Playwright and project manager at Sustaining Theatre and Dance Foundation (STAND) – South Africa

Guest of Honour

- **André Dudemaine** – Cultural leader, co-founder and director of cultural activities at Terres en Vues/Land InSights – Innu Nation/Mashteuiatsh Community/Canada

Keynote speakers

- **Felwine Sarr** – Humanist, philosopher, economist and musician – Duke University – United States of America/Senegal
- **Jacob Boehme** – Multi-disciplinary theatre maker, choreographer and artistic director, founding creative director of Yirramboi Festival – Narangga and Kurna Nations/Australia (*online*)
- **Quito Tembe** – Artistic director of the international platform for contemporary dance performing arts organisation Kinani – Mozambique
- **Victoria Leshchenko** – Programme director of DocuDays UA, the Ukrainian international human rights film festival – Ukraine (*online*)

International mentors

- **Ellada Evangelou** – Cofounder of Rooftop Theatre, member of the Leadership Circle of the IMPACT project, artistic director of Buffer Fringe Festival – Cyprus/United States of America
- **Kee Hong Low** – Creative director of The Factory/Manchester International Festival, director of programs (theatre) at West Kowloon Cultural District – Hong Kong/UK
- **Nayse López** – Artistic director of the international platform Panorama Raft – Brazil
- **Quito Tembe** – Artistic director of the international platform for contemporary dance performing arts organisation Kinani – Mozambique

Guest speakers

- **Anna Gallagher-Ross** – Senior manager of programming at The Bentway – Canada
- **Anna Pohribna** – Deputy director Art Arsenal Book Festival – Ukraine (*online*)
- **David Lavoie** – Executive director Festival TransAmériques – Canada
- **Emily Johnson** – Body-based artist, Bessie Award-winning choreographer, Guggenheim Fellow, land and water protector, organizer for justice, sovereignty and well-being – Yup'ik Nation/United States of America
- **Jacob Boehme** – Multi-disciplinary theatre maker, choreographer and artistic director, founding creative director of Yirramboi Festival – Narangga and Kurna Nations/Australia (*online*)
- **Jessie Mill and Martine Dennewald** – Artistic directors of Festival TransAmériques – Canada
- **Marie-Hélène Falcon** – Former artistic director of Festival TransAmériques – Canada
- **Michael Sheldrick** – Co-Founder and Chief Policy, Impact and Government Relations Officer at anti-poverty organisation Global Citizen – Australia
- **Orwa Nyrabia** – Artistic director International Documentary Festival Amsterdam – Netherlands/Syria (*online*)
- **Salim Rajabi** – Program coordinator/Theatre of the Oppressed activist, Afghanistan Human Rights and Democracy Organization (AHRDO), representative of Peaceful Heart Network – Afghanistan

Cross-sector experts

- **Anthony Richter** – Director Special Initiatives Open Society Foundations New York – United States of America

- **Brett Pyper** – Associate Professor and Head Wits School of Arts at the University of the Witwatersrand Johannesburg – South Africa
- **Carmen Olaechea** – Chairwoman of Fundación Cambio Democrático, member of the advisory board of Crear Vale La Pena – Argentina (*online*)
- **Christine van Winkle** – Professor at the University of Manitoba and associate faculty member at Royal Roads University – Canada
- **Dena Davida** – Co-founder Festival International de Nouvelle Danse and the Tangente dance performance space, co-creator and managing editor of Turba: The Journal for Global Practices in Live Arts Curation – Canada

The Festival Academy Alumni

- **Kate Craddock** – Founder and festival director of GIFT: Gateshead International Festival of Theatre – United Kingdom

Festival TransAmériques joint session on Latin America – Additional speakers

- **Diana Collazos** – Co-founder of elgalpon.espacio, cultural administrator, audiovisual producer, interdisciplinary artist – Peru
- **Maria José Cifuentes** – Artistic and managing director of NAVE, Creation and Residency Center in Santiago – Chile

Artists

- **Étienne Minoungou** – Actor, performer, director and cultural entrepreneur – Burkina Fasso
- **Euripides Laskaridis** – Theatre director, filmmaker, choreographer and performer – Greece
- **Mélanie Demers** – Multidisciplinary artist, founder of MAYDAY dance company, choreographer – Canada

Cultural Programme speakers

- **Barbara Fillion** – Programme Officer for Culture with the Canadian Commission for UNESCO – Canada
- **Sylvain Vollant** – Former general manager of Festival Innu Nikamu – Innu Nation/Mani-Utenam Community/Canada

Observers

- **Gabriel Theriault** – Assistant to the executive and artistic direction at La Chapelle Scènes Contemporaines – Canada
- **Rafael Fernandes** – Cultural producer and production director at Panorama Festival – Brazil
- **Shannon Litzenberger** – Award-winning dance artist, embodiment facilitator and experienced cultural leader – Canada

FTA Team

- **Alexie Cormier** – FTA Project Assistant for Atelier Montreal – Canada
- **Leslie Mavangui** – FTA Project Manager for Atelier Montreal – Canada
- **Renaud Dionne** – FTA Technical Manager for Atelier Montreal – Canada

PROGRAMME

This programme (dated 05/06/2022) can change prior to and during the Atelier as it considers the needs of the participants. The majority of the sessions of the Atelier will take place at **Monument-National** (1182 St Laurent Blvd, Montreal), unless specified otherwise in the programme.

DAY ONE: Wednesday, 1 June

- 09:00 – 11:15** Arrivals at Hotel Zéro1: Check-in and deposit of luggage
Welcome at Monument National
- 11:15 – 11:45** Departure to the Monument National (5 minutes' walk)
- 11:45 – 12:15** Opening Event
1. Traditional opening ceremony by Sedalia Kawennotas Fazio
2. Land acknowledgement and welcome speeches by Festival TransAmériques and The Festival Academy
Speakers: David Lavoie, Jessie Mill, Martine Dennewald, Inge Ceustermans
- 12:15 – 13:15** Opening Lunch
- 13:15 – 14:00** Opening Keynote (*Livestreamed*)
Speaker: André Dudemaine
- 14:00 – 16:30** Introductory session
- 16:30 – 17:15** Check into hotel rooms at Hotel Zéro1
- 17:15 – 17:30** Welcome drink
- 17:30 – 19:00** Opening Keynote Panel Session: Festivals in a time of existential threat (*Livestreamed*)
COVID-19 has reminded humankind of its fragility. Climate change hangs over us as a present and future danger. Russia's invasion of Ukraine raised the spectre of nuclear war. Deep global, regional and national inequalities manifest themselves in conflict, instability and deaths. Colonialist strategies and patterns have left deep wounds in societies worldwide to be healed.
Festivals and the arts have themselves faced existential threats with cancellations, restrictions on mobility, curfews, sponsorship shifts and the exile of creative practitioners to more sustainable work.
The European festival movement that arose after the second world war to promote and sustain peaceful co-existence, has been left exposed by the Ukraine war.
In a time of unprecedented existential threats to humankind on so many fronts, what is the role, the purpose of the arts and of Arts Festivals? Indeed, do they even have a rationale in this context?
Speakers: Ellada Evangelou, Jacob Boehme (online), Nayse López, Quito Tembe, Victoria Leshchenko (online)
- 19:00 – 19:30** Departure to the Portus 360 restaurant (20 minutes' walk)
- 19:30 – 21:30** Opening Dinner Night
- 21:30** Return / End of day programme (20 minutes' walk)

DAY TWO: Thursday, 2 June

- 08:30 – 09:00** Departure to the Monument National (5 minutes' walk)
- 09:00 – 10:30** Plenary: The arts and festivals as meaningful change-makers: Regional perspectives on contemporary global issues and the relevance of festivals to these (*Livestreamed*)
Contexts vary significantly in terms of resources, value systems, political and economic structures so that our experience and beliefs about the arts and festivals vary significantly too. How might insights into other contexts challenge or encourage us to think differently about our arts and

festival practice? And in a time of rising nationalisms and chauvinism, and a general threat to world peace with the war in Ukraine as well as conflict continuing in other regions. What might solidarity and empathy mean in practice?

Speakers: Anna Pohribna (online), Carmen Olachea (online), Kee Hong Low, Michael Sheldrick (online), Orwa Nyrabia (online), Salim Rajabi

10:30 – 11:00

Break

11:00 – 13:00

Introductions to the Festival Academy's Toolkits and discussions around their themes.

Each roundtable will last for one hour. Participants may choose two roundtables.

1. Curating and Programming Festivals
2. Festivals and Climate Change
3. Digital Technology and Festivals
4. Sustainable business models and practices for Festivals
5. Caring for Artists and Technical Crew
6. Audience Development and Retention

13:00 – 14:00

Lunch

14:00 – 15:45

Roundtables: Participants will select a roundtable facilitated by a mentor to delve deeper into the themes raised in the morning plenaries. These four roundtables will have a particular theme that will further texture the discussion.

1. Understanding cultural diplomacy and practicing fair international cultural collaboration in the context of financial and mobility inequities – Toolkits: IETM's [Towards fairer international collaboration in the arts](#) and EUNIC's [Not a toolkit! Fair collaboration in cultural relations: a reflAction](#)
2. Do festivals have moral responsibilities to make reparations for past injustices? If so, how? If not, why not? – Development new toolkit on 'Decolonisation'
3. What does international solidarity mean – practically – in planning, curating and implementing a festival? – Development new toolkit on 'Conflict regions, resistance resilience and conflict transformation'
4. Are there universal human rights, values and belief systems around which festival practitioners may cohere? – Development new toolkit on 'LGBTQIA+/Queer communities'

15:45 – 16:00

Break

16:00 – 16:30

Participants present their festivals/activities

Each day, up to 10 participants will each have 5 minutes to introduce their festival to the group to facilitate potential networking and collaboration. These presentations should be as visual as possible.

16:30 – 16:45

Departure to FTA HQ (15 minutes' walk)

16:45 – 18:15

Cultural programme

Keynote Speech: Expanding the Geography of Knowledge – with Felwine Sarr (in French, with translation to English)

18:15 – 19:15

Dinner at FTA HQ

19:15 – 19:30

Departure to the Duceppe Theatre (5 minutes' walk)

19:30 – 21:45

Cultural programme

Part 1: Elenit – by Euripides Laskaridis (physical theatre – without words)

Part 2: Public Discussion with artists

21:45

Return / End of day programme (10 minutes' walk)

DAY THREE: Friday, 3 June

- 08:30 – 09:00** Departure to Cinéma-thèque Québécoise (15 minutes' walk)
- 09:00 – 11:00** Cultural programme
Screening Innu Nikamu: Resist and Sing (film) + Q&A with Sylvain Volland
- 11:00 – 11:30** Departure to the Monument National (15 minutes' walk)
- 11:30 – 13:00** A Conversation on Indigenous festivals in Quebec – First people's perspectives on contemporary global issues and the challenges to humankind (*Livestreamed*)
Speakers: André Dudemaine, Sylvain Volland, Emily Johnson
- 13:00 – 14:00** Lunch
- 14:00 – 15:30** Plenary: The New Abnormal: How the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the arts generally and Festivals in particular – the good, the not-so-good and the never-to-be-repeated (*Livestreamed*)
COVID-19 has generally devastated the arts sector over a period of more than two years. And yet, the pandemic and its related lockdowns forced the arts sector to be innovative, to think out the box, to explore online, hybrid and other forms of creating, producing and distributing work. What are the positive consequences of COVID-19 for festivals? What have we learned during this time that we can build on? And what should never be repeated?
Panel discussion with facilitated conversation.
Speakers: Anna Gallagher-Ross, Christine van Winkle, Kee Hong Low, Nayse López, Quito Tembe
- 15:30 – 16:00** Break
- 16:00 – 18:00** Working Groups: Towards a manifesto for festival-making in contemporary times
Participants will be divided into five working groups, each having the task of formulating a manifesto – outlining 3-5 arguments/reasons – for why festivals matter. Each working group will make their arguments for different policymakers/funders and will pitch their respective manifestos to these, role-played by mentors, the next day. Working groups will interrogate whether there are 'universal values' that all agree on and around which to build their manifesto.
One group will pitch to national government, another to an international development donor, a third to a private sector sponsor's marketing department, a fourth to local government and the final group to a private sector company's Corporate Social Investment department.
- 18:00 – 18:15** Break
- 18:15 – 18:30** Departure to the Maison Theatre (15 minutes' walk)
- 18:30 – 20:00** Cultural Programme
Traces - Discours aux Nations Africaines – by Étienne Minoungou and Felwine Sarr (in French with English surtitles)
- 20:00 – 20:30** Departure to Escondite Restaurant (20 minutes' walk)
- 20:30 – 22:00** Dinner
- 22:00** Return / End of the day programme (15 minutes' walk)

DAY FOUR: Saturday, 4 June

- 08:30 – 09:00** Departure to the Monument National (5 minutes' walk)
- 09:00 – 10:30** Plenary discussions:
The ethics of festival funding in a morally complex world – Does it matter where Festivals get their funding from? Festivals and the arts are under so much pressure generally, should they be burdened with the additional layer of concern about who funds them?
Contemporary discourses and themes - Black Lives Matter; #MeToo; Idle No More – what is the lasting meaning of social justice movements for festivals?
A combination of participants and mentors engage on this theme.
- 10:30 – 10:45** Break

10:45 – 11:45	Presentations of festivals Each attendee has five minutes to present her/his festival/organisation
11:45 – 12:00	Departure to FTA HQ (15 minutes' walk)
12:00 – 13:00	Cultural programme First Nations and their Living Voices – by Barbara Filion
13:00 – 13:15	Departure to Monument National (15 minutes' walk)
13:15 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 15:00	One-on-one sessions with mentors
15:00 – 17:45	Free afternoon
17:45 – 18:15	Departure from Monument National to Au Petit Extra Restaurant (30 minutes' walk)
18:15 – 20:15	Dinner
20:15 – 20:30	Departure to Prospero Theatre (5 minutes' walk)
20:30 – 22:15	Cultural programme Confession Publique – by Mélanie Demers (in English)
22:15	Return / End of day programme (30 minutes' walk)

DAY FIVE: Sunday, 5 June

08:30 – 09:00	Departure to TOHU Cité des Arts du Cirque (20 minutes by car)
09:00 – 11:00	Plenary: Regional challenges
11:00 – 11:30	Break
11:30 – 13:00	Working groups: finalising pitches
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 15:30	Discipline-based meetings: Dance, theater, multidisciplinary, etc.
15:30 – 17:00	Free time
17:00 – 18:30	One-on-one sessions with mentors
19:00 – 19:30	Departure to Ghandi Restaurant (20 minutes by car)
19:30 – 21:00	Dinner
21:00	Return / End of day programme

DAY SIX: Monday, 6 June

08:00 – 09:00	One-on-ones with mentors
08:00 – 09:00	COVID testing
09:15 – 10:45	Role plays with working groups presenting their manifestoes
10:45 – 11:15	Break
11:15 – 12:30	Presentations of festivals
12:30 – 13:15	Lunch
13:15 – 14:30	Panel conversation with David Lavoie, Jessie Mill and Martine Dennewald Feedback and questions session from participants, presentation/information about FTA
14:30 – 15:30	Final presentations of festivals and general observations/discussion arising out of the presentations
15:30 – 16:30	Regional meetings

Participants engage in meetings with participants from the same region to discuss issues of common concern and collaboration, as well as what they could offer to or need from participants representing other regions.

- 16:30 – 16:45** Departure to FTA HQ (15 minutes' walking)
- 16:45 – 18:30** Roundtable – FTA joint session on Latin America: Producing Art in Latin America: Transformative Spaces
Languages: English and Spanish – with live translation
- 18:30 – 19:30** Break
- 19:30 – 21:30** Dinner with some members of the FTA team
- 21:30** Return / End of day programme

DAY SEVEN: Tuesday, 7 June

- 08:30 – 09:00** Departure to Monument National (5 minutes' walk)
- 09:00 – 10:00** Meeting with Marie-Hélène Falcon
- 10:00 – 12:15** Closing Plenary
Each participants shares:
 - Key learnings, takeaways from the Atelier
 - What each most needs going forward; what each can offer
 - Atelier Montreal: The good, the enjoyable and the not-so-greatParticipants complete Evaluation Forms
- 12:15 – 13:30** Lunch
- 13:30 – 14:00** Departure
- 14:00 – 17:00** Meeting with Montreal art communities per discipline
1. Theater, with Marcelle Dubois (DG, Aux Écuries and Festival du Jamais Lu), Rachel Morse (Executive Assistant and Co-Chair of the Conseil québécois du théâtre) and Claudel Doucet (La Serre) - Location: Théâtre Aux Écuries - 14:45 to 16:15
 2. Dance, with Stéphane Labbé (DG, Tangente) and Frédérique Doyon (Guest curator and responsible for audience development, Agora de la danse) - Location: Tangente offices, Wilder Building - 15:00 to 16:30
 3. Media Arts, with Alain Mongeau (DG, Mutek) and Jenny Thibault (DG, Société des arts technologiques) - Location: SAT - 15:00 to 16:30
 4. Cinema, with Nicolas Girard-Deltruc (DG, Festival du Nouveau Cinéma) and Jean Hamel (DG, Institut national de l'image et du son - INIS) - Location: INIS - 15:30 to 17:00
- 16:30 – 17:15** Free time/Break
- 17:15 – 17:30** Regathering at Monument National
- 17:30 – 18:30** Closing Session
Closing of the festival and final speech with David Lavoie, Jessie Mill, Martine Dennewald, Mike Van Graan and Inge Ceustermans
Closing ceremony by Sedalia Kawennotas Fazio
- 18:30 – 19:00** Departure to SAT FoodLab (1 minute walk)
- 19:00 – 20:45** Dinner: Cocktail reception
- 20:45 – 21:00** Departure to Monument National (1 minute walk)
- 21:00 – 22:30** Closing drink and dessert / Atelier Concert
Participants and mentors present their own arts/performances
- 22:30 – 22:45** Departure to FTA HQ (15 minutes' walk)

22:45 – 01:00	Party
01:00	Return/End of day programme