



**EMILY  
CARR**  
UNIVERSITY  
OF ART + DESIGN

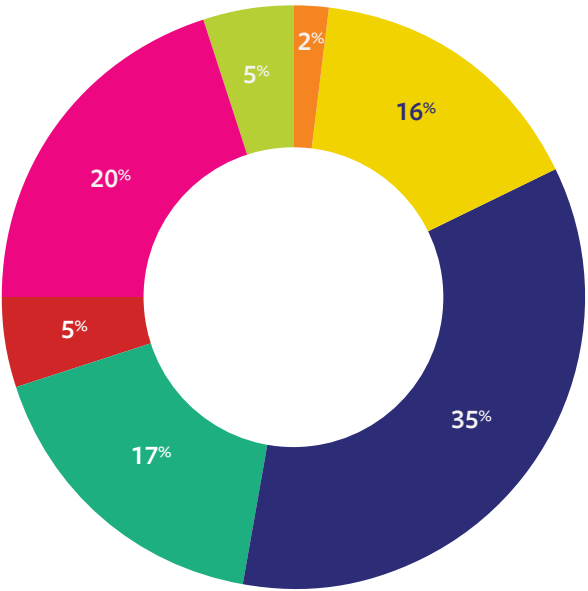
**STEWARDSHIP REPORT**  
Student Awards



The team at Emily Carr has made it so accessible to ask for help when needed. This has allowed me to focus on my studies, and for the first time in a long time, I feel like there is endless potential for the future.”

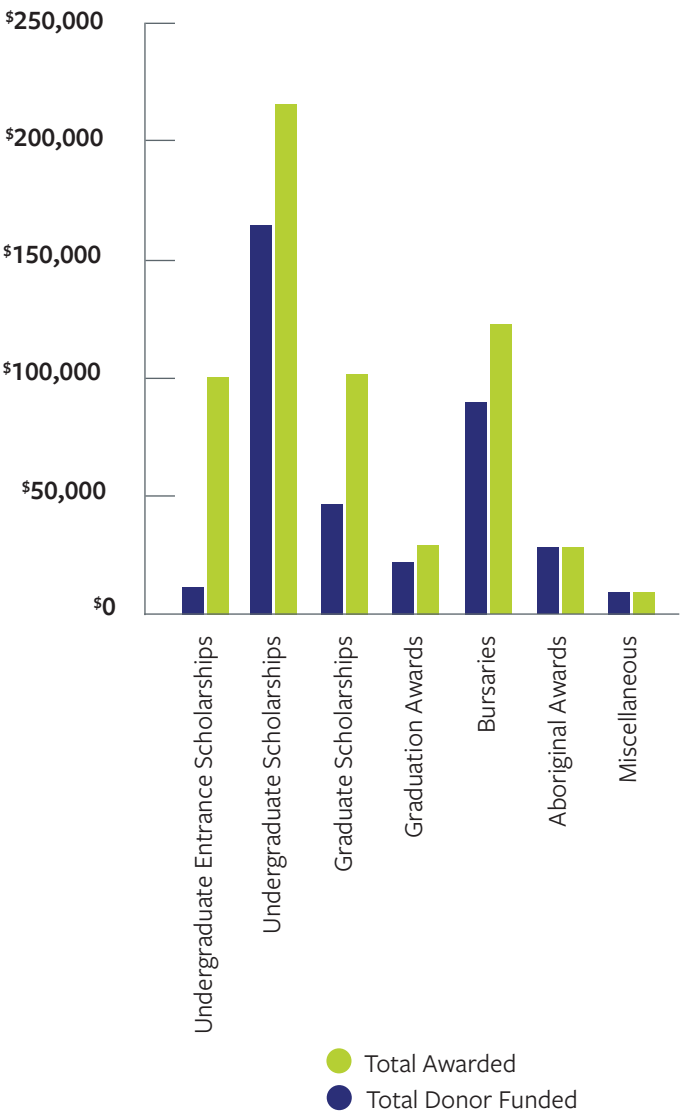
**Lula-Belle Jedynak**  
Alvin Balkind Memorial Scholarship

STUDENT AWARDS BY CATEGORY



- Undergraduate Scholarships 35%
- Bursaries 20%
- Graduate Scholarships 17%
- Graduation Awards 5%
- Aboriginal Awards 5%
- Undergraduate Entrance Scholarships 16%
- Miscellaneous 2%

AWARD FUNDING



STUDENT AWARDS AT EMILY CARR

Life on campus at Emily Carr is vibrant once again with eager learners, stunning art and design exhibitions, activities, and events. Our facilities are being utilized with enthusiasm as students gain experience and push the bounds of their materials and knowledge. It is not an easy decision to pursue a career in art and design for young creatives with pressures from all around suggesting different paths. The vulnerability of putting yourself out there requires a commitment of vision, tenacity, and grit. The award winners from this past year share these qualities.

One of the biggest hurdles for students is to excel at their studies while managing their finances. Receiving a scholarship, bursary, or award alleviates these pressures. Many thank you letters we receive from students highlight how the financial compensation a student award provides will allow them to focus more time on their studies and less on ways to make ends meet.

While every student’s story is unique, the impact of your support is not. Students are deeply appreciative of your generosity. Many recipients gain confidence in themselves and their decision to pursue their creative path after receiving these awards. It gives them the motivation to excel in their studies and live up to your confidence in their abilities.

Thank you for contributing to the success of our students. For showing care in helping them achieve their potential and easing the financial stress for themselves and their families. We are truly grateful.

A detailed list of donor funded awards can be found here: [bit.ly/ecuawards](https://bit.ly/ecuawards)

AWARDS QUICK FACTS

Since our last reporting period:

- Donors contributed **\$525,860** in new award funding
- Donor funded awards provide **62%** of all student awards
- Students received **\$373,762** in donor support
- 416** students received student awards

Two new awards have been established:

- Iraj Harirchian Saei New-Media + Sound-Art (NMSA) Tuition Scholarship Fund – an annual award for 2nd and 3rd year students enrolled in the NMSA program
- Claire Boudreau Memorial Fund – four annual awards for undergraduate students with two awards dedicated to Indigenous, Black or People of Colour students

In addition, fourteen donor funded awards were renewed totalling over **\$400,000**.

Upon receiving a notification that I will be [granted] a scholarship, I felt that a weight was lifted off my shoulders. [...] Having most of my tuition looked after brings a sense of security to the 2023/24 year and allows me to direct my focus on my passion. [...] This scholarship will allow me to continue giving back in a way that is meaningful to the art community and focus on my future career goals.

**Skylar Bainard**  
Y.P. Heung Foundation Post Secondary Award



Image: (front-cover) Maru Aponte, Indicators, 2023, image Perrin Grauer; Drawn by Numbers event, image Sára Molčan.



# STUDENT AND ALUMNI SUCCESS

## THREE 2023 MFA GRADUATES RECEIVE GRIFFIN X ECU RESIDENCY AWARDS

Led by the Shumka Centre for Creative Entrepreneurship in partnership with Griffin Art Projects, the Griffin x Emily Carr Residency Awards support the development of artistic practices in the crucial period of time after graduation where artists can find themselves particularly vulnerable as they enter the art world. This year, artists and MFA graduates Maru Aponte, Sidi Chen and Marion Landry will receive free studio space, a materials budget, promotional support and chances to interact with arts professionals, collectors and the public.

In an interview, director of Griffin Art Projects, Lisa Badissera says, “Leaving the support structure of a formal schooling environment and encountering the realities of studio costs and finding new communities and networks can be daunting.”

“The Griffin Award series is intended to provide an environment to nurture emerging post-graduate artists at this crucial time. We believe in supporting artists through these challenges, and this program allows us to do so in a concrete way, which we hope will help launch new artistic careers and visions.”

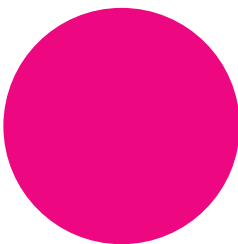
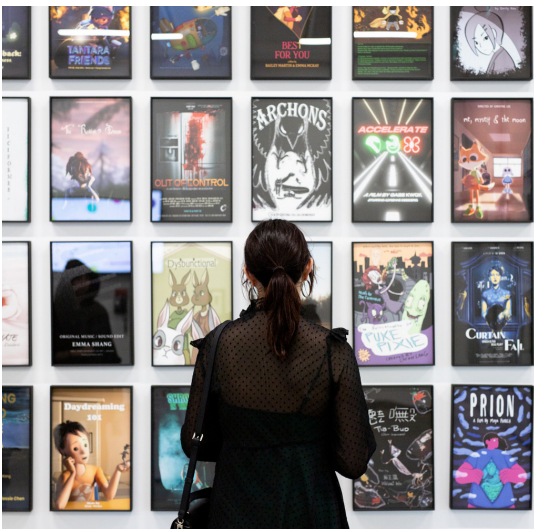
Each of the recipients expressed how grateful they were to be recognized at such a critical time in their emerging art careers. “I look forward to seeing the practices of the awardees evolve,” says Cemre Demiralp, project manager, Partnerships + Creative Entrepreneurship. “It’s a privilege to be able to support the artistic development of our students post-graduation. I’m tremendously grateful to RBC for fostering this opportunity to amplify the arts ecosystem in this province, to extend our relationship with our graduates, and to help ensure their professional mobility and resilience.”

Read more: [bit.ly/griffinxecu](https://bit.ly/griffinxecu)

## KASHISH HUKKU JANI AWARDED GRADUATION AWARDS FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT + ANTI-RACISM AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

The recent alum was the recipient of the pair of awards during graduation for her project, कला, which envisions the decolonization of art history and pedagogy. Her project, कला, which is Hindi for art, uses Indian folk art as a way to explore the Eurocentric and colonial context that Western art institutions are built on.

In an interview, Kashish discusses the four phases of her capstone project. After being invited to participate in a faculty exhibition at the Libby Leshgold Gallery, the earliest iteration of कला was born. “Using the lens of Warli art, I curated a decolonized gallery space where the focus was placed on community learning,” the designer shared. After the exhibition, Kashish continued to develop the idea of using community-building as a method for decolonizing spaces and structures. She once again invited her peers to take part in a group Warli-style painting activity, this time in a classroom setting. Participants conversed in a circle, discussing how artists of colour can occupy institutions that implicitly uphold white supremacy.



Spurred on by the success of the community-focused portions of her project, Kashish says she wanted to incorporate a more tangible application of her design skills. The result was three colourful pamphlets she calls Class Notes, each depicting and providing information about a different type of Indian folk art. कला isn’t solely a denouncement of Western art pedagogy and its colonial trappings; it also speaks to Kashish’s deep appreciation and admiration for the art serves as its inspiration.

Read more: [bit.ly/kashishhukku](https://bit.ly/kashishhukku)



*Without the support and recognition of donors, international students such as myself would not have the drive to beat all odds and pursue their artistic dreams. [...] It feels good when your hard work is acknowledged and you are believed in. As I gear up to enter the industry, I consider myself fortunate to be able to attend a prestigious university like Emily Carr University of Art + Design.*

**Kashish Hukku Jani**  
Emily Carr Alumni Association Graduation Award for Community Engagement

Images above clockwise from top left: Graduating student Rachele Ama during Crit Night, image Perrin Grauer; film posters at The Show, image Perrin Grauer; Jenie Gao and art professionals discuss her piece, An Ethic is a Root, 2023, image Perrin Grauer; Qianzuan Chen, Bèn Xùn, ceramics, 2023, image Michael Love; Zadie Za (BFA 2007), image Artifacts /courtesy Thaddaeus Ropac Gallery; The Show installation, image Michael Love.

Lower images from left to right: कला, 2023, image courtesy of Kashish Hukku Jani; Kashish Hukku Jani, image Perrin Grauer; Drawn by Numbers event host Amy Grindhouse, image Sára Molčan.



## STUDENT PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE PROGRAMS RECEIVE SUPPORT FROM RBC FOUNDATION

Student-focused professional practice programs have received a huge boost thanks to a \$240,000 award from RBC Foundation to the Shumka Centre for Creative Entrepreneurship at Emily Carr University. The gift, which was secured in collaboration with the Advancement Office, will support a range of initiatives that empower students to build community and pursue meaningful work in creative sectors. The donation will benefit programs including the Art Apprenticeship Network, a new partnership with Griffin Art Projects and the ongoing Alumni Career Pathways Series.

Learn more: [bit.ly/rbcfoundation](https://bit.ly/rbcfoundation)

## INTERDISCIPLINARY ARTIST AND ECU ALUM ZADIE XA IS THE RECIPIENT OF THE 2023 EMILY AWARD

Zadie Xa (BFA 2007) draws upon her own background to inform an ongoing engagement with hybrid and diasporic identities, global histories, and folklore, as well as spiritual and religious rituals. The annual Emily Award Program recognizes the outstanding achievements of members of the alumni community whose creative pursuits in the arts, media and design have brought honour to the university.

Learn more: [bit.ly/zadiexa](https://bit.ly/zadiexa)

## SHRIYA MARU TAKES HOME BEST STUDENT PROJECT AT VANCOUVER UX AWARDS

Third-year student Shriya Maru used a class project on food insecurity and isolation to develop Our Dinner Table. The project proposes a partnership between culinary schools and elder communities. Student chefs cook for and serve meals to seniors, who gather at the schools to mingle, chat and enjoy healthy, nutritious food. Shriya identified how organizations, such as food banks and nonprofits, have overly broad service mandates that leave them at a disadvantage especially when servicing the particularly vulnerable community of seniors.

Read more: [bit.ly/shriyamaru](https://bit.ly/shriyamaru)

## ECU’S DRAWN BY NUMBERS FEATURED 20 ALUMNI ARTISTS

In February, we hosted our inaugural fundraising event, Drawn by Numbers. Ticketholders were drawn at random and able to walk away with a limited-edition piece of artwork from one of our twenty talented participating alumni artists. The event was sponsored by Montecristo, as well as Beau Photo, TD Insurance, Powell Brewery and Herschel. Stay tuned for the 2024 iteration of the event, and check out a full gallery of the event here: [bit.ly/drawnbynumbers2023](https://bit.ly/drawnbynumbers2023)



# FACULTY, PROJECTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

## ECU FACULTY MEMBER MIMI GELLMAN WINS 2023 WEST COAST TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD

The artist, researcher and educator was nominated by her peers for the prestigious award. Mimi is celebrated by her colleagues, students and alumni for her dedication, integrity and compassion.

“Mimi is an enormously giving and generous faculty member,” says Diyan Achjadi, Interim Vice-President Academic + Provost. “Her grace, her gentleness, her ability to bring Indigenous knowledge into the university in a way that’s generative and exploratory and supportive of community is amazing. She is there for students in every way, at all times. These qualities are endemic to how Mimi approaches the pedagogical process. She is a truly inspiring educator, and I could not be happier to see her recognized for her work.”

In an interview, Mimi shared: “As an Indigenous educator, it is significant for me to receive this peer support and acknowledgement of the importance of Indigenous pedagogical and methodological innovation in post-secondary education in Canada – a recognition of a way of teaching that encourages wholism and wonder, kindness and generosity, creative resilience, personal observation and accountability, and co-operation and relationship-building above all else.”

Read more: [bit.ly/mimigellman](https://bit.ly/mimigellman)

## LEARN ABOUT THE WELLNESS KITCHEN, A PART OF EMILY CARES

The Wellness Kitchen is a safe space for our students to come together to cook, bake, eat, and gather around food. Created as part of the Counselling + Wellness department, the programming allows ECU to capture a wider audience of vulnerable students and increases access to counselling and mental health support. There is nothing else like it on campus. In addition to regular programming, the Wellness Kitchen also recognizes special days of acknowledgement, including the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation, Lunar New Year, Black History Month, and Trans Day of Visibility. The average cost per student per visit to the Wellness Kitchen is \$2.50 for regular food and kitchen programming. This minimal cost goes a long way in the lives of each participating student. They receive nourishment, connect with their peers, foster self-esteem, and learn valuable life skills.

Learn more: [bit.ly/ecuwellness](https://bit.ly/ecuwellness)

## THE LARRY M. SHERMAN COAST SALISH SCHOLARSHIPS FUND SUPPORTS INDIGENOUS UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE STUDENTS

The Sherman Estate established the fund in 2022 with the aim of assisting ten Coast Salish students beginning with the Fall 2023 semester. The fund will provide four full tuition scholarships to graduate students enrolled in the MFA and MDES programs and six partial tuition scholarships to undergraduate students enrolled in BFA or BDES programs. Funding was expanded in 2023 to help support students with the rising cost of living in Vancouver

Know a prospective Coast Salish student? Learn more about studying at Emily Carr: [bit.ly/ecuadmissions](https://bit.ly/ecuadmissions)



## LEAVE A LASTING LEGACY FOR EMILY CARR WITH WILL POWER

In 2021, Emily Carr joined Will Power, a free service and program by the Canadian Association of Gift Planners that simplifies leaving a legacy gift. Will Power makes planned giving easy by consolidating all the resources and information you need in one place. By visiting their website, you can access their legacy calculator, find a lawyer or financial planner, and even make a gift.

Visit Will Power: [bit.ly/ecuwillpower](https://bit.ly/ecuwillpower)

## ART BANK ACQUIRES WORKS FROM ECU COMMUNITY

As part of its 50th anniversary celebrations, the Canada Council Art Bank purchased artworks from artists across the country and in January announced the addition of 72 new works, including six ECU community members. Artists and alumni Sonny Assu (BFA 2002), Annie Briard (MFA 2013), Rydel Cerezo (BFA 2019), Chun Hua Catherine Dong (BFA 2011), Jude Griebel (BFA 2003) and Hua Jin (BFA 2012) each had works purchased for the national collection.

Learn more: [bit.ly/ecuartbank](https://bit.ly/ecuartbank)

## HEALTH DESIGN LAB COLLABORATES TO UPLIFT MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES

With the aim to improve the quality of care marginalized communities receive, ECU’s Health Design Lab has been working diligently to promote change. On the Sunshine Coast, in partnership with Douglas College and Deer Crossing the Art Farm, they’re co-designing an emergent model of care that engages elders and the general population into building a community they want to age in to. In Vancouver alongside the College of New Caledonia, they hosted a 2.5 day workshop to develop an Indigenous-led model for cultural safety and humility education that leads to fundamental changes in healthcare to deconstruct racism and decolonize the system.

Learn more: [bit.ly/ecuhealthdesignlab](https://bit.ly/ecuhealthdesignlab)

Images top to bottom: Students working in the painting studio; Connie Watts and Xwalactun during donor night 2023, image Kim Bellavance Photographie; Mimi Gellman, image Perrin Brauer; Board Chair Don Avison, K.C. with 2023 ECU Grad Melanie Camman, image Kim Bellavance Photographie.

# A MESSAGE FROM CHANTALE LAVOIE

As we approach our 100th anniversary, we can reflect on a century of changes for Emily Carr University. It's time to embrace change once again as our pathway forward leads us to full maturity, stability, serenity, and growth. Small changes, such as our new stewardship report that combines student awards and student impact, but also big changes with a new Interim President + Vice Chancellor and Chair of our Board of Governors here at the university.

Dr. Trish Kelly, who served as ECU's Vice-President Academic + Provost from 2019, began her appointment as Interim President + Vice Chancellor on June 1. We are excited to have Trish as our new leader as she brings with her endless care for the students and a deep, holistic understanding of the university.

In May, Don Avison, K.C., was appointed as the new Chair of Board of Governors. We are thrilled with the experience Don is bringing to ECU and excited by the opportunity to work with him again as we gear up for the 100th anniversary.

ECU is in the process of developing a new fulsome strategic plan, retaining the services of a local non-profit organization that provides support and feedback throughout the planning process. The advisory committee for the strategic plan is made up of representatives from the interconnected areas of the university that enable ECU's main activities of teaching, learning, creative practice, and research within and beyond the walls of our classrooms and studios. For more on our strategic planning process: [bit.ly/ecustratplan](https://bit.ly/ecustratplan)

Our current leadership is committed to furthering the crucial work led by President Siddall during her five-year tenure. To learn more about leadership and governance at Emily Carr: [bit.ly/eculeadership](https://bit.ly/eculeadership)

With the 100th anniversary of ECU rapidly approaching, we embarked on a new and exciting fundraising event in support of Emily Carr students. Drawn by Numbers connected ECU alumni artists with collectors for an evening filled with art, music, performance, and a silent auction. Ticketholders were drawn at random and able to walk away with a limited-edition piece of artwork from one of our twenty talented participating alumni artists.

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*I am truly humbled by the recognition and support provided by the Saralee James Memorial Award Committee and am grateful and proud to be acknowledged as a female artist who strived to push boundaries in my work. [...] I want to express my most sincere gratitude for this meaningful and significant award. [...] I have the utmost respect for Saralee James [...] and I will do my best to carry forward in my own way some of her values and spirit.*

**Jennifer Li**

Saralee James Memorial Award

The 2023 iteration of The Show had an impressive opening event with hundreds of people coming to immerse themselves in the creativity of our students. The on-campus exhibition hosted a steady stream of visitors. If you missed it in person, you can still see the showcase of our graduating student talent on our robust online exhibition platform. Please take a moment to visit the exceptional works of art, media and design students on this year's graduation exhibition website [theshow.ecuad.ca](https://theshow.ecuad.ca).

Our adjudication process for this year's grad awards remained virtual for both ease of connecting jurors and preparing our students for life as a creative after graduation. This year, 33 students received graduation awards in acknowledgement of their stellar work and accomplishments. You can view the list of grad award winners at [bit.ly/ecu2023awards](https://bit.ly/ecu2023awards).

With the support of donors like yourself, we successfully established more awards, scholarships, and bursaries for both graduate and undergraduate students. By supporting those studying art and design, as well as racialized individuals, these programs are crucial to furthering the success of our students. Again, for that, we can never thank you enough.

Every story we've highlighted here and the many more we couldn't include within these pages would not have been possible without the support of our dedicated and loyal donor community. We are happy to share this report with you today in the hope that you will continue to support our students in achieving both academic and creative success.

See you on campus!

With much gratitude,



**Chantale Lavoie**

Executive Director, University Advancement + Events  
Emily Carr University of Art + Design



To learn more about  
Advancement Office activities,  
visit: <https://bit.ly/3d3BwoL>



## CONTACT

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We respectfully acknowledge that Emily Carr University is situated on the unceded, traditional and ancestral x'məθk'əyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwúmesh úxwumixw (Squamish), and səliłwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) territories.



[ecuad.ca](https://ecuad.ca)

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