

SPRING 2021



# Stewardship Report



# A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



**IT HAS BEEN AN EXTRAORDINARY 18 MONTHS HERE AT EMILY CARR.** Together, we’ve navigated a transit strike, a fire that closed parts of campus for weeks, and of course, the ongoing pandemic that has affected communities everywhere. I can report (with no small amount of pride) that, in the early days of COVID-19, our faculty and staff quickly rallied to support students with a rapid shift to online learning. And they have stayed the course, maintaining the outstanding learning environment for which ECU is known.

Pandemic pressure has also meant a shift to teleworking for many faculty, staff and administrators; a move to an online format for our foundation show and graduation exhibition; and the cancellation of convocation as well as our donor appreciation night. And yet, despite these turns of events, our indomitable community members remain resolute in their commitment to delivering a world-class education and opportunities for students.

Last April, we reported that many of our students were struggling financially due to COVID-19 and its economic impacts. We are pleased to report that, through the donor-funded [Emily Cares Program](#), we were able to provide bursaries to all eligible students who applied: 375 in total. And Emily Cares continues to provide support for students experiencing unexpected financial challenges.

On that note, I wish to highlight a few more good-news stories related to our shared journey these past months:

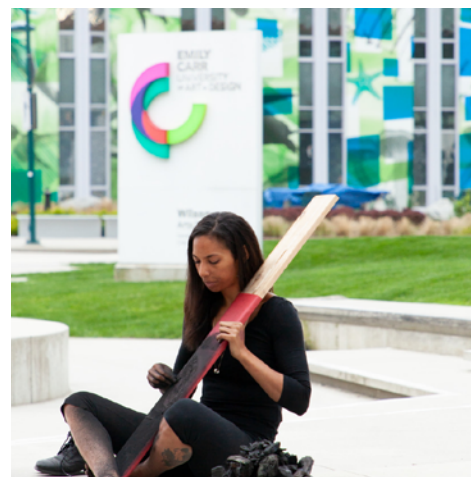
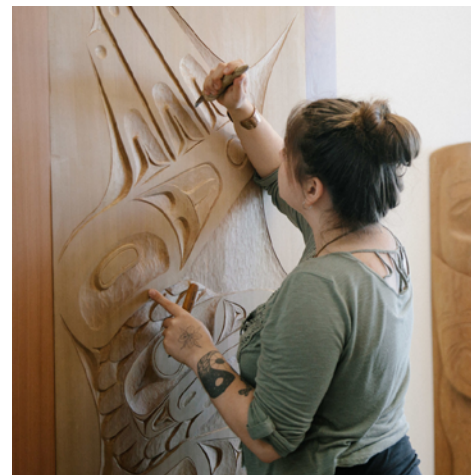
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**[3D PRINTING THE PANDEMIC MASTER OF DESIGN](#)** candidate Richard Kennedy turned to his research at ECU to help create better, safer personal protective equipment (PPE) for health care workers during the pandemic.

**[A SERIES OF ‘PANDEMIC MURALS’ BY VISUAL ARTS STUDENT ABI TAYLOR](#)** — one of which featured BC’s top doctor, Bonnie Henry — garnered media attention for their implicit message of hope and appreciation during the earliest days of the COVID-19 health crisis.

**[ALUMNUS ADAD HANNAH’S SOCIAL DISTANCING PORTRAITS](#)** began with a single photo in response to the pandemic. The series now numbers in the hundreds. More than 50 of the works were included in the 2020 Capture Photography Festival.

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In faculty news, I am thrilled to report that we have appointed 12 new full-time faculty members.

Each of them is an outstanding creative and academic in their respective field, and collectively they bring a diverse range of expertise, experiences and achievements. Their hiring represents ECU’s largest influx of faculty in many years and a remarkable next step in our continued growth as a world leader in art and design education and research. We have also launched our exciting new Faculty Teaching Fellowships – please see the article for details.

This past summer saw worldwide protests in support of anti-racist action following the murder of George Floyd. Here at ECU, the critically important work of the student-led Anti-Racist Initiative affirmed the urgent need to address systemic inequity at Emily Carr. To this end, we launched a comprehensive [Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Plan \(EDI\)](#). Our commitment to EDI includes a number of initiatives that reflect the concerns and ideas brought forward by our community, such as targeted funding and the allocation of resources to better serve historically underrepresented groups.

As part of ECU’s response to requests from student leadership for further acknowledgement of the work of BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Colour) students in making art as anti-racist and decolonial gesture, we’ve created three new Graduation Awards. These awards are given to members of our BIPOC student community whose creative works explore or respond to anti-Black, anti-Indigenous, or anti-Asian discrimination and racism.

We continue to seek new ways to listen, to reflect and to engage in ongoing efforts to combat racism and other forms of oppression and discrimination. We hope our donors will support and encourage social justice work carried out by our community in the coming years, including research funding for anti-racist initiatives and our new BIPOC Student Awards Fund. I am inspired by the resilience and fortitude of our students, faculty and staff, and the unwavering support of our donors. For your generous support now and moving forward, I personally cannot thank you enough.

Warmly,

Gillian Siddall  
**PRESIDENT + VICE-CHANCELLOR**



## Leading the Way in Supporting Creative Industry

**Since 2000, RBC has supported Emily Carr in many diverse capacities, including student awards, the capital campaign, and a book celebrating our 75th anniversary.**

ECU leads the country in contributions to studio-based art, design and media research and has made significant national and international contributions, so it was no surprise to see RBC jump onboard to support a new project developed by The Shumka Centre for Creative Entrepreneurship.

Established in 2018, The Shumka Centre provides support and community for emerging artists and designers to launch the next generation of groundbreaking products, companies, digital platforms, curatorial initiatives, social innovations and non-profit organizations.

The Centre's Art Apprenticeship Network, funded by RBC Foundation through 2022, pairs 42 emerging artists with 42 established artists, curators and arts organizations, where they will receive direct, hands-on mentorship.

RBC recently made another vital contribution to Emily Carr. For the next three years, they are funding an alumni engagement tool called The Leeway, enabling alumni, faculty and students to connect via a powerful platform powered by Graduway. Using The Leeway, alumni can connect by graduation year or discipline, create relationships, and reconnect with colleagues. They can also contribute through mentorship activities supporting students and creating employment opportunities for graduating or current students.

We are grateful for this important partnership with RBC, a vital stakeholder in BC's cultural economy.



## Student Awards at ECU

**The 2019-20 academic year was particularly challenging. In difficult times like these, receiving a scholarship goes beyond acknowledging students' academic achievement. It can be the encouragement needed to elevate students' spirits, knowing that someone they don't even know cares and supports them and are inspired for their future endeavours.**

Bursaries and Aboriginal Awards have the same affect, while also providing support for students facing financial uncertainty, enabling them to complete their education and forge a career in the creative industries.

Last summer Emily Carr University created three graduation awards for BIPOC students working in the areas of anti-racism and social justice, and in November, the BIPOC Student Awards Program was established. Both initiatives are part of the university's commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion.

In the past year, 432 students have received over \$700k in award funding, and ten new donor-funded awards have been established:

- Audain Travel Award
- Judson Beaumont Memorial Fund
- Cassidy Glaseman Memorial Fund
- Peter Harnetty Scholarships (2)
- I Like to Draw Award
- Opus Art Supplies Graduation Awards (2)
- Opus Art Supplies Scholarships (2)
- Judith Warren Painting Award
- Yau Family Foundation Research Scholarships (2)
- Y.P. Heung Foundation Post-Secondary Awards (10)

# Marcia Guno

**APPOINTED  
VICE-PROVOST,  
STUDENTS**

**An accomplished educator and community facilitator, Marcia joins ECU with an exceptional record of supporting student empowerment, most recently as Director of the Indigenous Student Centre at Simon Fraser University. A member of the Nisga'a Nation, her Nisga'a name is K'amyuwa'a. She is Laxsgiik (Eagle) and is from the House of Minee'eskw.**

The Vice-Provost, Students, is charged with a wide range of duties, including providing leadership and advice on high-priority initiatives central to students' success. Marcia will also work collaboratively across departments to support the equity, diversity, and inclusivity of ECU's learning and research environments.

Following graduation from SFU with a master's in social sciences in 2001, Marcia initiated and led the development of the Strengthening Connections program. The initiative brought post-secondary recruiters into key on-reserve areas around BC to build stronger relationships with Indigenous communities, provide information on application processes, and foster interest in enrolment amongst Indigenous youth. The program, which proved an enormous success, is still running more than a decade later.

Marcia has previously worked for the First Nations Education Steering Committee, the BC Assembly of First Nations, and as an elected



member in the Nisga'a government where she ushered in a program to bring Nisga'a language-learning to the community of 1400 Vancouver urban members of the Nisga'a Nation. She has also worked to support community-based initiatives for members in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside.

In recent years, Marcia was a part of the SFU committee assembled to help direct the university's adoption of specific calls to action advanced by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. In early 2020, she helped launch the SFU-Langara Indigenous Transfer Pathway. The program was designed in partnership with Richard Ouellet, who was then the Director of Indigenous Education and Services at Langara College. The Transfer Pathway makes it easier for Indigenous students to transfer seamlessly from the college to the university as they pursue degrees.

Marcia's appointment followed an extensive search where only applicants who identify as Indigenous or as a member of a racialized group were considered. This employment equity initiative, which was approved by the BC Human Rights Tribunal, was designed to ensure ECU's senior leadership better reflects the diversity of the university community.

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**EXPLORE MORE ONLINE / [Marcia Guno](#)**

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# Dr. Yosef Wosk Receives Order of Canada



PHOTO JOSHUA BERSON

**Long-time ECU supporter Dr. Yosef Wosk was recently appointed Officer of the Order of Canada for his incredible contributions as a scholar, educator, writer, and his interminable philanthropy.**

Dr. Wosk was fundamental in kicking off ECU’s capital campaign in support of the new campus and continues to fund numerous awards and scholarships. The Dr. Yosef Wosk Masterwork Teaching Collection that he donated in 2001, consisting of original print works by the likes of Cézanne, Rembrandt, Renoir, Chagall, Picasso, Manet, Warhol, Goya, and Rauschenberg among others, continues to significantly contribute to the research and learning of our students. In addition to having received both the Queen’s Golden and Diamond Jubilee Medals and a Mayor’s Arts Award, Dr. Wosk received The Order of British Columbia in 2001. The university presented him with an honorary doctorate (D.Litt) in 2004.

Established in 1967 by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, the Order of Canada is the cornerstone of the Canadian Honours System and recognizes outstanding achievement, dedication to the community and service to the nation. The Order recognizes people in all sectors of Canadian society.

The Governor-General’s citation reads:

*Yosef Wosk is a Renaissance man of the 21st century. A rabbi, scholar, businessman, and art collector, he is a revered educator and community activist who inspired many to become engaged in global issues and local challenges. Former Director of Interdisciplinary Programs in Continuing Studies at Simon Fraser University, he founded the Philosophers’ Café and the Canadian Academy of Independent Scholars. A poet, explorer, and dedicated philanthropist involved with museums, the arts, social services, publishing, nature, and heritage conservation, he has endowed hundreds of libraries worldwide.*

Please join us in congratulating Dr. Wosk on this prestigious honour.

# ECU Alumnae Receive Prestigious Sobey Art Award

**The Sobey Art Award, Canada’s largest prize for young Canadian artists, has named Tsēmā Igharas (BFA 2011) and Zadie Xa (BFA 2007) to the list of winners for 2020.**

Tsēmā’s practice uses Potlatch methodology to create conceptual artwork connecting materials to mine sites and bodies to the land. She received the Emily Award, recognizing outstanding achievements by members of the ECU alumni community, in 2018.

Through performance, video, painting and textiles, Zadie explores the overlapping and conflation of cultures that inform self-conceptualized identities and notions of self. She completed her MA at the Royal College of Art, London (2014).

In an unprecedented move due to the COVID-19 global pandemic, the Sobey Art Foundation and National Gallery of Canada announced in April that they would redistribute funds dedicated to the selection of a five-artist shortlist, the annual shortlist exhibition, gala and International Residencies Program. Instead, each of the 25 exceptional Canadian artists on the jury-selected 2020 longlist were awarded \$25K.

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2020

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SOBEY

ART

AWARD

EXPLORE MORE ONLINE

/ Tsēmā Igharas / Zadie Xa



PHOTO BC ACHIEVEMENT FOUNDATION

# LOU-ANN NEEL WINS FULMER AWARD IN FIRST NATIONS ART

**Artist, designer, curator and community advocate Lou-ann Neel (BFA 2015) is one of five artists to receive the Fulmer Award in First Nations Art from the BC Achievement Foundation (BCAF) this past Fall.**

Lou-ann, who comes from a family of renowned Kwakwaka’wakw artists including Charlie James, Mungo Martin, Ellen Neel and Kevin Cranmer, told Victoria News she grew up viewing creative work as something a person simply did, rather than as a calling to a life of exception.

“When I was learning to design, that’s when I realized it’s not just a great privilege to learn but it’s kind of a family obligation to continue our own family tradition,” she said.

A practitioner of Kwakwaka’wakw design for more than 40 years, her practice spans creations in jewelry, textiles and hides, painting and print media, and digital applications including animation, storybook illustration and 3D printing.

“One of Lou-ann’s first passions was carving, and she is continuing to practice the techniques

EXPLORE MORE ONLINE / Lou-ann Neel

she learned through an apprenticeship in wood carving with her brother, Kevin Cranmer,” the BCAF’s press release says.

“In addition to her artistic practice, Lou-ann is a community arts advocate — always seeking to build solutions that will enable Indigenous artists to balance their respective rights, responsibilities and obligations with new, contemporary expressions of their work.”

As Curator of Indigenous Collections and Acting Head of Indigenous Collections and Repatriation Department at the Royal BC Museum, Lou-ann “[works] closely with BC First Nations communities to address repatriation matters,” the statement adds.

BC Achievement is an independent foundation established in 2003 to celebrate community service, arts, humanities and enterprise. The Fulmer Award in First Nations Art is made possible through the support of the Vancouver-based Fulmer Foundation.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Emily Carr University has been rated as the top art and design university in Canada according to the 2021 QS World University Rankings. Since last year, ECU has climbed 10 spots to rank as number 30 in the world for art and design, and number 11 in the Americas. It is the only Canadian university to be included among the world’s top 50.

The annual report from UK-based analytics firm Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) ranks universities in the art and design category based on academic reputation and employer reputation. According to QS, more than 5,500 universities from around the world were assessed and considered for inclusion in this year’s list.





## Sydney Pickering on Tanning Hides, Rekindling Connections and Learning from the AGP’s Changemakers

**Vancouver Island-born Sydney Pickering is a once-distant daughter of the Coast Mountains, now returned. Having grown up in Edmonton, she is now in the final stages of her undergraduate degree at Emily Carr.**

**Recently, she was hired on as a paid researcher for the Aboriginal Gathering Place (AGP) at ECU. And while her work in that role has kept her plenty busy, she’s been keenly observing everyone around her.**

“It’s been really humbling to see how they work and make changes happen — changes that I didn’t think were happening before,” she says of Brenda Crabtree, Connie Watts and Angela Marston — the women who direct and coordinate Aboriginal Programs at ECU, and run the AGP. “It’s been really eye-opening to learn from them, to just sit here, listening, watching.”

But Sydney’s admiration for Brenda, Connie and Angela is also driven by another factor; she knows what it’s like to not have a place like the AGP.

“I don’t think I met one Indigenous person for the first three years, and I never knew of any Indigenous instructors,” she says of her experience attending post-secondary in Edmonton. “We didn’t know how to find each other. So, being here over the last two years and getting to know Connie and Brenda has really had a huge impact for me.”

Sydney’s recent engagement with the practice of hide-tanning is evidence of that impact. Brain-tanned hide has appeared in a number of her artworks. Hide is not only part



/ The Aboriginal Gathering Place

of a culturally specific practice for Sydney — she is the recent recipient of a scholarship from the First Peoples Cultural Council that will provide her with a year-long hide-tanning mentorship, set to take place in Lil’wat Nation, of which Sydney is a member — it’s also personal.

Sydney’s family was one of many shattered by the Sixties Scoop; her mother was separated from her extended family for most of her life. Only recently has Sydney come to understand her family’s Indigenous history, and how colonization has affected them. That reconnection has partly been accomplished while tanning hides.

Since moving to Vancouver in the summer of 2018, Sydney has been returning regularly to her community in Mount Currie. A younger cousin inspired her to take up hide tanning, and she swiftly made connections among her Lil’wat7úl community. Recently, the group began hosting workshops, which Sydney says became occasions for broader community connection.

“In the few workshops we had before COVID, a lot of family members came, and ... it ended up being sharing stories and learning language between family, friends and elders who would stop by,” she says.

“[The community] really wanted that to keep happening. So, if I can be a part of that, I will.”

Sydney and her family members are hoping to create a permanent space in Mount Currie for their workshops.

“I’ve been really attached and focused on that one skill so far. I’ve been able to use it as a way to tell that story of reconnecting, and it’s a material I think I’m going to use forever, and hopefully teach.”

This same work — of providing space for intergenerational and culturally supported connection — is what Sydney sees happening every day at the AGP.

“I find this space really important — I don’t think I realized how important it is or how much it would help me in my art practice until I came here,” she says.

“It just gives such a sense of community that I didn’t have before. So, how can I learn from what they’re doing here and use that in the future?”

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**EXPLORE MORE ONLINE / Sydney Pickering**

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# Faculty Teaching Fellowship Program Launched

The 2020-21 Teaching Fellows recognize and engage teaching and learning in response to a global pandemic, health crises, and anti-colonial anti-racist movements. Their projects focus on the concept, meaning, and practice of “language” in order to democratize and politicize education and pedagogy at ECU locales in the midst of massive global transformations.

The call for projects included themes of inclusive, indigenizing and online pedagogy, all of which align with the TLC and university’s strategic priorities. The following inaugural fellowships were awarded for the 2020-21 academic year:



## How We Come to Know / Indigenous Methodologies and Reflection

DR. MIMI GELLMAN



## A Multilingual Toolkit

DR. JULIANE OKOT BITEK



## Decolonizing Crit

DR. SUE SHON

# Tiffanie Ting Appointed Executive Director Of Continuing Studies

Tiffanie Ting began her appointment with Emily Carr this past summer. In this role, she provides leadership and strategic direction for ECU’s Continuing Studies programs, partnerships, and outreach initiatives. Ting works closely with the Academic Affairs teams, as well as staff and faculty, as the university broadens its outreach and programming in lifelong learning initiatives.

Ting joins ECU with a record of outstanding academic, pedagogical, and research achievement. She holds a doctorate in Culture, Communities, and Education from Harvard, as well as previous degrees in education (Master of Education, Harvard), and art history and psychology (Bachelor of Arts, University of Toronto).

Working at ECU represents a homecoming for the Vancouver-born artist, scholar, researcher and educator. Her work in developing models for community outreach and public programming will be a tremendous asset for the growth of ECU’s Continuing Studies program, and the university as a whole.



# DECOLONIZING THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM THROUGH CULTURAL CONNECTIONS

In BC, Indigenous people of all ages experience significantly poorer health outcomes than non-Indigenous people.

The roots of this discrepancy can be linked both to Canada’s colonial past and to systemic racism and other barriers to care that permeate the healthcare system today. The policies that severed many Indigenous people’s ties to their culture, language and communities have resulted in ongoing, multi-faceted and adverse effects on the mental, emotional, spiritual, cultural and physical health of Indigenous peoples.

A joint undertaking between ECU’s Health Design Lab (HDL) and the Director of Aboriginal Programs, this project aims to initiate change from an Indigenous perspective through the innovative use of Indigenous-led arts and material practice workshops to facilitate dialogue, relationship building and knowledge sharing between Indigenous people and student healthcare practitioners.

Working with a range of First Nations communities in and around Prince George, researchers will pilot a program that situates



**/ THE CULTURAL CONNECTIONS WORKSHOP SERIES** brings together healthcare professionals and indigenous community members in Prince George through drum making, moose-hair tufting, beadwork, and other material-based practices as a new approach for building cultural safety and humility within communities.

healthcare provider training within cultural immersion and material practice-based learning.

Ultimately, the goal is to improve healthcare for Indigenous people by developing an Indigenous-led approach that can be scaled and adapted to the unique needs of First Nations across BC.

By testing this model among healthcare students, the aim is to address the issue at a key learning phase with the intent that the students’ learnings will translate into a steadily increasing prevalence of culturally safe approaches in the field. Over the long term, this project has the potential to influence the way that Health Authorities and higher education programs approach teaching, learning, and training about Indigenous health, by providing a model that is relational, creative, and meaningfully engages local Indigenous communities.

Decolonizing Healthcare is funded through the generous support of the Vancouver Foundation.

**EXPLORE MORE ONLINE / [Decolonizing Health Care](#)**



# BE IN THE KNOW!

Find our latest news and information about upcoming events at Emily Carr.

**EMIX** is our public university newsletter, issued every two weeks. Subscribe to have news, events, and opportunities delivered right to your mailbox.

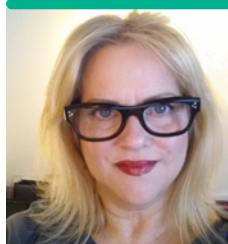


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*We acknowledge that Emily Carr University is situated on traditional, ancestral and unceded Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh territories.*

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