

Reports for the 2024 Annual General Meeting of the
Canadian Association for Theatre Research/
Association Canadienne de la Recherche Théâtrale

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Agenda: Annual General Membership Meeting

Date: Thursday, June 6, 2023

Time: 6:00 – 8:30 PM EDT

Location: Zoom

1. *Preliminaries*

- a. Call to Order
- b. Land Acknowledgement (President: Robin)
- c. **MOTION**: to Approve the 2024 AGM Agenda
- d. **MOTION**: to Accept the Minutes of the 2023 AGM

2. *President's Award* (President: Robin)

3. *Report of the President* (President: Robin)

4. *Report of the Treasurer* (Treasurer: Katrina)

- a. **MOTION**: to approve the 2023 year-end financial statements
- b. **MOTION**: to approve the 2024 budget forecast
- c. **MOTION**: to appoint Adams & Miles as public accountant for the 2024 fiscal year end

5. *Conference*

- a. CATR 2024 Conference Report (Conference Co-Chair: Fraser, Taiwo; Treasurer: Katrina)
- b. CATR 2025 Update (President: Robin)

6. *Ongoing Initiatives*

- a. Anti-Racism & Anti-Oppression Ad Hoc Comm. Report (Interim Chair: Robin)
- b. Report of the Task Force on Precarity (Unaffiliated Scholar Rep: Jacqueline; Neil)

7. *Theatre Research in Canada* Report (President: Robin)

8. *Other Business / No Oral Report*

- a. Conference Working Groups Report (WG Liaison: Justin)
- b. Recognitions
 - i. Associateships (President: Robin)
 - ii. Scholarly Awards (Coordinator: Jimena)
 - iii. Scholarships and Grants Report (Chair: Emily)
 - iv. Lawrence Prize Report (Chair: Jessica)
- c. Membership
 - i. Membership Report (Membership Coordinator: Dennis)
 - ii. Elections Report (Nominations Committee Chair: Michelle)
 - iii. Graduate Students Report (Grad Student Reps: Taylor, Jayna)

iv. Communications Report (Communications Officer: Taylor)

v. Committee on Conduct Report (Committee Rep: Selena)

d. Cross-Institutional Reports

i. TheatreAgora Report (Theatre Agora Co-Chair: Fraser)

ii. SQET Report (CATR Liaison to SQET: Cassandre)

iii. Federation Report (Federation Rep: Katrina)

e. Archival Committee Report (Chair: Jessica)

9. *Adjournment*

Report of the President

Submitted by: **Robin C. Whittaker**

As I begin my second two-year term as your President, I am immensely **grateful** for the trust you put in me and our Board. It is an **honour** to find a leadership role in an association that has meant so much to me for over two decades, alongside wonderful colleagues.

What a year it's been for CATR! In a way, it feels like during most of the last 12 months we had avoided the sort of panic culture wrought by the pandemic, and before that, incorporation. And then in the spring, our in-person destination on the traditional territory of the Kanien'kehà:ka, the McGill University campus, began experiencing protest with the AMPL strike and the student encampment, situations we, along with Congress, continue to monitor. At the same time, we've seen our **membership** approaching twice what it was a year ago owing to a Call for Papers & Sessions that cast the broadest net we've ever cast for CATR's annual conference, with a programming committee, led by Taiwo Afolabi, that set international inclusion as a priority. I look forward to meeting our new members while reconnecting with longstanding ones!

Our annual **conference** remains at the heart of this association. CATR 2024, our 48th conference, is no different. It is where we meet to share our work and get to know each other as colleagues and, for many, friends. CATR 2024 Conference Co-Chairs Taiwo Afolabi and Fraser Stevens, and their Conference Organizing Team, have put in incredible work to make our conference what CATR members wish it to be. Please do sure to thank them and their team for their work!

Yet, our annual conference remains, in nearly every way, the biggest challenge to our association's future. Who will run it next year? Where? And how will we pay for it. Along with a few Board colleagues, I've been working very hard to secure our next CATR conference hosts. But this interest must come from the tenure-stream membership. *Will you host? When?* We now have a system that allows CATR to be hosted at literally any institution, large, medium, or small; in-person or online. We need to hear from you. *When will you host?* Because in the coming years, you must. It is that simple. You'll have all the help our Board and Conference Organizing Committees can muster. (I have some experience myself. 😊) I appreciate that when approached, about a half-dozen of you have said to me that you will host in the coming years; those years are coming, and we can't wait to work with you!

I offer my heartfelt congratulations to the recipient of CATR's 100th Associateship. An **Honorary Associateship** for 2024 is awarded to the extraordinary artist **Jess Dobkin**. We will celebrate Jess and her work during the conference!

It has been a top priority of your Board to find ways to support our **graduate students and other precarious members** who make up the majority of our membership. We keep membership fees as low as we can. We raise funds for conference travel and this year endeavoured to extend these donations to include precarious members too. We make available a few conference positions that are paid through an honorarium, which is easier to do when we have grant funding. We elect three representatives to the Board to advocate for graduate students and unaffiliated scholars. We put our time and labour toward committees and task forces that seek to address precarity in meaningful ways. And we offer several grants that prioritize graduate and precarious research. The Board does all of this for you and with you because we see you and your work as the future of the discipline and this association.

But we also wish members to understand that when it comes to those initiatives that involve fundraising for student and precarious members' conference travel, the money CATR raises comes from the donations of members (<https://catract.ca/donate>). Beyond these efforts, the onus is on graduate faculties and university administrations to work with you to subsidize travel funding. *The fact is that a conference requires the fees of its participants to pay for the expenses that provide the conference.* Your Board makes every effort, as listed above, to help, but it may be that CATR is exceeding its means to do so. I therefore call on the faculty, chairs, and university administrators among you who have a voice in accepting graduate students into your programs to aim to *commit to fully funding one national conference per year for each graduate student admitted into your program.* Even if CATR were to receive a major donation or endowment for the purpose of sponsoring graduate student and precarious travel funding in a sustainable way, it would still be up to departments and faculties to help bring students and precariously employed colleagues to the conferences they wish them to attend. I've spoken to a few colleagues in administrative positions about this recently, and I'm hopeful it is being taken to heart.

The Board's **Anti-Racism and Anti-Oppression work** remains a fundamental focus. Since September 2022, the Board has ratified 16 Motions, 2 ad hoc committees, and 1 Point of Consideration that have guided a number of already completed and underway initiatives, each of which are detailed in the appended ARAO Committee Report.

This year the CATR Board concluded the process of updating our **MOU with SQET** as well as ratifying the **TheatreAgora Addendum**. Thank you to our collaborative SQET colleagues.

The CATR Board also approved the association's first **Guidelines for CATR-Related Funding Applications**, which "aid and protect the interests of CATR and its members, including, but not limited to, the funding applicants and others named in the application."

We have made time in this AGM's Agenda to discuss CATR's relationship with *Theatre Research in Canada (TRIC)*. Please see that Report in this package.

Because it is becoming increasingly difficult to find enough people to run for Board positions, the Board will consider **electoral reform** in the coming year, possibly with an eye to eliminating or amalgamating positions to better fit elected roles to the labour needed to run the association, with our By-Laws, ongoing EDI/ARAO work, and the CATR Handbook as our guides. The labour our Board does for CATR is just partially evidenced in the Reports in this package.

With a new AGM comes a **renewed Board** (<https://catract.ca/board-of-directors>). Thank you to Kailin, Liviu, Craig, Jess, Justin, Shelley, Fraser, Cassandra, Jayna, and Jimena for **continuing** in your roles. It's such pleasure to work with each of you and I can't wait to keep it going!

Leaving the Board this year are Officers of the Board, Katrina and Jacquy, who helped shepherd the Association through, and out of, the trying pandemic years. As Treasurer, Katrina reworked our reporting mechanisms and drew us toward new income streams; as Secretary and Unaffiliated Scholar Representative, Jacquy was a vigilant and detail-oriented recorder of our work and a stalwart voice for policy and procedure. Matt and Michelle have guided our elections at arms-length from the Board with an eye for equity and fairness while putting in much time to reach out to members to run for election. Dennis has been a dutiful Membership Coordinator, managing Federation data and spreadsheets. Taylor

has represented our Graduate Students interests with thoughtful reflection and vigour. As Communications Officer, Taylor has streamlined the role and, in many ways, brought it to resemble what it was intended to be a decade ago. As Vice President, Taiwo has been an ethical source of strength and vision for this association, one whose departure from the role has proven, at least at the time of writing this, impossible to replace. **New to their roles** are Secretary Moira Day, Membership Coordinator Heidi Malazdrewich, Graduate Student Representative Jenn Boulay, Representative-at-Large Alex Ferrone and Unaffiliated Scholar Representative Sarah Robbins. Jess Watkin joins the Board in the newly created ex-officio position of Committee on Conduct Representative. I'm so grateful that you've all agreed to take on these roles for CATR and I look forward to working with you in the months and years to come.

As CATR members, we acknowledge the shared loss of four colleagues and CATR Associates who are deeply important to our discipline and to our association in particular: last summer **Ches Skinner**; and in recent weeks **Diane Bessai**, **Louise Forsyth**, and **Angela Rebeiro**. They were each a builder, in their own individual way, and changed how we see Canadian theatre communities. We hold a great debt to each of them. A tribute to Ches appears on the CATR website; tributes to Diane, Louise, and Angela are being prepared by CATR members and will appear on our In Memoriam page (<https://catract.ca/in-memoriam>).

Finally, as President, I continue to support and lead Board colleagues on a range of **initiatives**:

- searching for a host for CATR 2025
- searching for members to fill Board positions
- working closely on all aspects of CATR 2024
- liaising with Taylor and Giorelle Diokno in communicating with members and the public
- working with Jimena on the Ad Hoc Recognitions Committee
- assisting the Committee on Conduct to restructure its membership
- moving the **A.C.T.S. (Atlantic Canadian Theatre Site)** (<https://lib.unb.ca/Texts/Theatre-restore>) website from UNB's servers to a publicly accessible platform
- strategizing **CATR's 50th Anniversary in 2026** by speaking with former CATR presidents and beginning to assemble a blue-sky committee to celebrate our association's accomplishments during its first 50 years, and to look ahead to imagine our next 50. Please let me know if you would like to be part of this planning!

Sincerely,

Robin Whittaker, CATR President

Report of the Treasurer

Submitted by **Katrina Dunn**

It has been my pleasure to serve as Treasurer for CATR for the last four years. My goals during this time were keep CATR financially stable, to improve some of our financial systems, and to plan for a strong future for the organization. I look forward to passing the torch on to Craig Walker and know that he will do a great job with this portfolio.

I owe a debt of gratitude to Ninette Bishay, Andrew McConnell and Arpit Chowdry from Adams and Miles for their work on the year end financial statements and our charity return. Thanks also to Robin Whittaker, Taiwo Afolabi, and Dennis Gupa with CATR, and Nicole Nolette with SQET. My two bank managers here in Winnipeg, Gus Schrott at CIBC and Sheriff Samotu at BMO, helped me manage the things I could not do online, and I thank them for that.

2023 Year End Financial Statements

With this report you will find our year end financial statements for 2023, prepared by our accountants Adams & Miles. As I reported at last year's AGM, 2022 marked our movement from our previous mode of reporting (Notice to Reader) to a Review Engagement to bring us in line with the requirements for a Soliciting organization (receiving government grant funds of more than \$10,000). **The 2023 statements show an operating deficit of \$7,987 for 2023.** In my opinion, the main culprits in the creation of this year's deficit are a decline in membership revenue and an increase in administration and translation fees. The big one is the accountant's fees (we budgeted \$4,000 and spent over \$8,000) and this is my error – I should have budgeted more. The price of accounting services has gone up significantly due to new government requirements and many not-for-profits like us are feeling the squeeze and/or finding it difficult to find accountants. Adams and Miles has an excellent reputation and are great to work with. They are specialists in not-for-profit work, so this increase is not a criticism of them. However, with this year's loss, in combination with 2022's loss of \$2,862, we are in a pattern of declining surplus. We have had some good discussions at the Board level, looking carefully at our ongoing operating and administrative expenses and the revenue we have to fund them and asking hard questions about how we move forward. **Our Accumulated Surplus, as seen in the Statement of Change in Net Assets on p. 5, is currently \$52,526.**

Conference Reserve Fund

Last year we placed **\$25,000 of CATR's accumulated surplus in a restricted Conference Reserve Fund.** This amount is equivalent to the sum generally received through the SSHRC Connections grant that has been the bedrock of the Conference budget for a number of years. The SSHRC request for the 2024 conference was not successful, so we had an opportunity to test the protocols associated with this fund. At the February Board meeting we voted to make \$12,500 available to the Conference if it was required. With a combination of fundraising in other areas and some stripping away of some elements of

the conference budget, I am hoping that we will not need to use any of this, or at least very little. Thank-you to everyone who worked hard with me to manage the conference budget despite this difficulty.

Donations

Donations in 2023 were strong, and I continue to be impressed by the generosity of the membership. In 2023 our donors gave a total of **\$5,833**. The majority of the donations were received through the Federation portal when members were renewing their memberships, either close to the beginning of the year or in advance of the conference. Through the portal and our Canada Helps page, the membership donated **\$1,888 to the Indigenous Host Initiative (Mi'kmawey Debert Cultural Centre in Nova Scotia) and the remainder went to Grad Student Travel and the Denis Salter Grants**. In 2020, I instigated a process of listing our donors on the “Donate” page of the CATR website. If you gave in 2023, your name will be there and tax receipts went out, either through CATR or Canada Helps, in early 2024. As well, we are very grateful to Teesri Dunya and the Sills family, whose ongoing support of the Denis Salter Grants has allowed up to support emerging scholars and innovative new projects in an ongoing way.

The 2023 Conference

For the last four years, more of the expenses of our annual conference are running through CATR’s accounts. I have been sitting on the Conference Organizing Committee as Chair of the Fundraising and Financial Management Committee, to raise funds for the conference that are not internal to the participating universities (i.e. host Department allocations, Conference Support Programs, and the SSHRC Connections grant). In my mind, this arrangement is beneficial for CATR in a number of ways. Firstly, hiving this off from the duties of the Conference Chair and local coordinators hopefully leads to less burn out for these committed volunteers. Next, it allows us to create more regularity and reliability for our financial supporters. Finally, I believe that it allows the Association to have more careful control over what is clearly the largest flow of money that we deal with, and to ensure that we are protected from any uncertainties or overages.

The budget for the 2023 conference was **\$89,101**. Through Roberta Barker at Dalhousie, we were again lucky to be supported by SSHRC for this conference and to benefit from funds from the Digital Generator Grant. Theatre department sponsorships came in at \$7,500 – thank-you to all of you that helped secure funds from your departments. Support from Playwrights Canada Press, Talonbooks and University of Toronto Press Journals continues to be vital, as does the support of the Cole Foundation and the McGill Institute for the Study of Canada. Our host institutions, Dalhousie University, the University of the Fraser Valley, and St. Francis Xavier all brought significant resources to the conference. Conference goers should note that, in 2023, registration fees paid for only 14% of the Conference’s expenses, with the rest of the required funds raised through grants, sponsorships and institutional funds. We are working hard to keep registration fees low for members but this requires substantial fundraising labour.

Over the last couple of years, I have noted a diminishment in the amount of resources that universities can bring to conferencing activities that they are hosting. This has been confirmed by some of the Chairs I have worked with and I think it is something for CATR to watch for. Though amounts certainly vary based on the size of the institution that we are working with, even universities with larger theatre/performance programs seem to have access to less conferencing funds. I believe our strategy to deal with this should be to keep the conference budgets as diversified as possible.

CATR Investments

The financial statements have a good breakdown of all of CATR's investments on p. 7, including their rates and maturity dates. The investments held on behalf of the McCallum and Lawrence scholarships and prize have been consolidated from funds previously held in bank accounts at TD and BMO into a single GIC at CIBC with our main bank account. **The current balance of the consolidated investments at CIBC is \$43,680. \$5,000 of these funds secure the credit card that CATR opened this year to facilitate the maintenance of some of our online accounts.** The remaining amount is invested on a one-year term maturing each January. Some GICs at BMO rolled over before we could shift them to CIBC, so we will be holding those at BMO until 2027, though I have been shifting 25% each year, as per our GIC agreement. **The BMO GICs total \$11,612.** The interest from these investments (both CIBC and BMO) pays for the Robert Lawrence Prize and Scholarship, and the Heather McCallum Scholarship.

We have these investments because of gifts from some of the founding members of CATR. An increase in our investments would allow us to grow the amounts of our awards and scholarships and perhaps add new ones. The Canadian Association of Gift Planners has a program called Will Power that you can see details of here: [Add a Gift to Charity in your Will and Still Support Loved Ones - Will Power](#) If a gift like this seems like it could be a part of your future, please don't hesitate to reach out to me or Craig Walker.

New Accounting System

2023 was our first year of doing all of CATR's accounting on Quickbooks online. This has involved inputting our Chart of Accounts and setting up shortcuts tailored to CATR regular processes. Quickbooks interfaces with our CIBC bank account so that all transactions can be easily uploaded into the accounting system and we can reconcile at the end of each month. In this process I have been attempting to set up systems that solve some issues we've had, like clearly and accurately separating the funds that come through the Federation portal for membership, donations and conference registration. While making this shift was a considerable time investment for me, I believe that it will ultimately save the Treasurer time, be far more accurate and error-proof, and give the Board much more detailed and timely information about the financial unfolding of CATR. Our year end accountants, Adams + Miles are administrators on our Quickbooks account and can consult that directly in preparing our year end statements.

2024 Budget

The projected budget for 2024 is based very closely on the 2023 budget with **revenues and expenditures totalling \$95,350**. While the 2024 budget is workable, it is tight with very little room for the unexpected. While we have been successful in finding new funds for conference activities and special projects like TheatreAgora, funds for our basic operations are much harder to come by and our revenues have remained quite static for years, while expenses have risen. We raised our membership fees in 2024 and we are hoping that this might bring in a bit of extra revenue.

Canada Council Digital Generator Grant (TheatreAgora Project)

I have been working with the TheatreAgora committee to pay out the remainder of the Canada Council grant, and we are almost there. The committee has approved the final expenditures and payment is in progress. The final report is due to the Canada Council on June 30. Nicole Nolette and I have had several meetings to craft the report on behalf of CATR and SQET. This ends the three-year journey with this award that helped us so much with conferencing and with our online gathering capabilities.

Respectfully,

Katrina Dunn

Motions

Motion 1: To approve the 2023 Financial Statements for CATR/ACRT prepared by Adams & Miles LLP

Motion 2: To approve the 2024 forecasted budget for CATR/ACRT prepared by Katrina Dunn

Motion 3: To appoint Adams & Miles LLP as CATR/ACRT's Public Accountant for the 2024 fiscal year

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2023 CATR Conference Final Financial Report

CATR Conference 2023 - Final	
REVENUES	
SSHRC Connnections grant	25,000
Digital Generator Grant	10,000
<i>Registration Fees</i>	
Artist/Student/Precarious Online Registration Fees EB @ \$25	1,025
Tenure/Tenure Track Online Registration Fees EB @ \$50	1,590
Artist/Student/Precarious In Person Registration Fees EB @ \$75	4,035
Tenure/Tenure Track In Person Registration Fees EB @ \$150	5,460
<i>Presses</i>	
Playwrights Canada Press Sponsorship	2,000
University of Toronto Press Journals	1,500
Talonbooks	1,500
Academic Publishers	-
<i>Host Funding</i>	
St. Francis Xavier University - In Kind	4,500
St. Francis Xavier University	1,600
St. Francis Xavier University SIG Award - Cash (Restricted Zoom Assistants)	3,000
University of the Fraser Valley - In Kind	3,500
University of the Fraser Valley - Cash	1,000
University of the Fraser Valley Student Hires	4,000
Dalhousie Fountain School - In Kind	4,375
Dalhousie Fountain School - Cash	1,000
Dalhousie Dean and Provost - Cash	500
Dalhousie Provosts Office	1,000
Dalhousie - Vice President Research Office	
<i>Theatre Departments</i>	
Theatre Departments Sponsorships	7,500
<i>Translation and Bilingual Funding</i>	
McGill Institute for the Study of Canada	2,000
<i>Other</i>	
Cole Foundation	3,000
	Total Revenues 89,085
CATR	39,610
Dalhousie	31,875
UFV	8,500
St. FX	9,100
	Total Institutional Revenues 89,085
EXPENSES	
<i>In Person Expenses</i>	
UFV In Kind - Digital Media Technician & Space for Keynote and Others	3,500
St. Francis Xavier - Theatre Space for Televised, DH Lab Zoom Assts., AV Technicians	4,500
Travel Expenses - St. Francis Xavier - Cash	1,600
Dalhousie Fountain School - In Kind (space)	4,375
Catering	10,136
Banquet	3,613
Front of House Expenses	0
Conference Services Expenses (Technicians)	2,500
<i>Translation and Accessibility</i>	
Translation	3,995

2024 Budget Overview for CATR

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Budget Overview: 2024 Budget - FY24 P&L

January - December 2024

	TOTAL
Income	
30000 Memberships & Partnerships	
200 SQET Memberships via CATR	1,250
300 CATR Memberships via SQET	650
30100 Memberships General	22,300
Total 30000 Memberships & Partnerships	24,200
31000 Donations	
1000 Graduate Student Travel Grants Donations	1,750
1050 Dennis Salter Grants Donations	2,000
1100 Indigenous Host Initiative Donations	2,000
1200 Canada Helps General Donations	1,500
Total 31000 Donations	7,250
32000 Conference	
1300 Conference Registration	14,000
32510 Press Sponsorships	5,500
32520 Theatre Department Sponsorships	7,000
32530 Translation & Accessibility Supports	5,000
32540 Other Sponsorships	5,000
Total 32000 Conference	36,500
33000 Investment Income	
500 CIBC Bank Interest	50
800 McCallum/Lawrence Award Transfer from Investments	2,000
Total 33000 Investment Income	2,050
34000 Grants	
1450 ConferenceSpecial Project Grant and Sponsorship Revenue	24,000
Total 34000 Grants	24,000
GST & Other Rebates	1,500
Total Income	\$95,500
GROSS PROFIT	\$95,500
Expenses	
40000 Conferences	35,000
3500 Board Directed Special Events/Initiatives	250
Total 40000 Conferences	35,250
41000 Publications	
4000 TRIC (Theatre Research in Canada) portion of membership dues	8,500
Total 41000 Publications	8,500
42000 Administration	
2100 CATR Website Licenses, Fees, and Management	1,700
2700 Paysafe Merchant Services Charges	250
2800 Bank Charges (Visa, MasterCard)	1,000
2900 CIBC Account Charges	200
3000 Director's Insurance	850
3200 Translation & Accessibility Costs	1,700
5340 Miscellaneous	200
Total 42000 Administration	5,900
43000 Memberships & Partners	

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	TOTAL
1500 Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences	2,100
1700 FHSS Membership Management System	150
1900 SQET Transfer	1,250
3950 Indigenous Host Initiative	2,000
Total 43000 Memberships & Partners	5,500
44000 Professional Fees	
3100 Consulting	3,000
4200 Accounting Fees	5,000
Total 44000 Professional Fees	8,000
45000 Awards and Grants	
3600 Heather McCallum Scholarship	1,000
3650 Robert G. Lawrence Scholarship	500
3700 Robert G. Lawrence Prize	200
3800 Dennis Salter Grants	3,000
3850 Jury Diversity Support Honorariums	750
3900 Graduate Student Travel Grants	1,750
Total 45000 Awards and Grants	7,200
95000 Special Projects	
5050 TheatreAgora	24,000
5100 Other	1,000
Total 95000 Special Projects	25,000
Total Expenses	\$95,350
NET OPERATING INCOME	\$150
NET INCOME	\$150

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2024 CATR Conference Budget

CATR Conference 2024 - May Budget	
REVENUES	
SSHRC Connections grant	\$ -
Digital Generator Grant	\$ 5,000
Canada Council, FRQ or CALQ	
Registration Fees - budgeted at 9,750	
Artist/Student/Precarious Online Registration Fees EB @ \$25 > Apr 3 @ \$30	\$ 750
Tenure/Tenure Track Online Registration Fees EB @ \$50 > Apr 3 @ \$60	\$ 1,000
Artist/Student/Precarious In Person Registration Fees EB @ \$75 > Apr 3 @ \$90	\$ -
Tenure/Tenure Track In Person Registration Fees EB @ \$150 > Apr 3 @ \$180	\$ 8,000
Banquet Fees 200 @ 50	\$ 8,250
Presses	
Playwrights Canada Press Sponsorship	\$ 1,750
University of Toronto Press Journals	\$ 1,500
Talonbooks	\$ 1,500
Academic Publishers	
Host Funding	
McGill English	\$ 500
Uregina (Conference Funds)	
Centre for Socially Engaged Theatre (C-SET)	\$ 8,000
KZ grant funds for graduate student	\$ 1,000
McGill Support for Student Labour	\$ 2,000
Theatre Departments	
Theatre Departments Sponsorships	\$ 7,500
Translation and Bilingual Funding	
McGill Institute for the Study of Canada	\$ 1,000
Other	
Cole Foundation	\$ 3,000
Congress Open Event Funding	\$ 2,500
Quebec Secretariat	\$ 14,000
TOTAL	\$ 67,250
EXPENSES	
In Person Expenses	
C-SET (in kind - in and out)	\$ 8,000
Daily Catering	\$ 8,648
Banquet Expenses	\$ 8,750
Congress Fees and Expenses	\$ 4,910
2 Extra Rooms	\$ 1,000
Translation and Accessibility	
Translation	\$ 5,000
Accessibility	\$ 5,000
Honorariums	
Keynote Speakers	\$ 2,350
SSHRC - 8 @ 450 each	

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Other Honorariums	\$ 300
Congress Registrations for Guests	\$ 300
Performance - Diabo	\$ 2,000
Long Table	\$ -
Miscellaneous	\$ 400
Conference Assistants	
Conference Coordinator	\$ 6,700
Associate Conference Coordinator	
Technical Support (Concordia estimated \$500 student labour) and McGill	\$ 800
Accessibility Coordinator - 2 PhD	\$ 1,000
KZ grant funds for graduate student	\$ 1,000
Synchronous Zoom Assistants	\$ 2,500
Communications Coordinator - PhD	\$ 2,000
Translation Coordinator	\$ 3,000
McGill Student Labour	\$ 2,000
Other Expenses	
Insurance	\$ 400
Miscellaneous	\$ 500
Web and Streaming Technical Expenses	\$ 700
Total Expenses	\$ 67,258

Total Profit/Loss \$ 8

Conference

CATR/ACRT 2024 Conference Report

Submitted by **Taiwo Afolabi and Fraser Stevens, Conference Co-Chairs**

Work began on the 2024 CATR Conference “Staging Justice” in July 2023. Some of the goals that were set out were:

- Increasing international participation and representation
- Further opening up access to the community, our graduate student members, and precarious scholars.
- Increasing our engagement with tenured/tenure-track faculty.

We decided to emulate the approach used for the 2023 conference and have two legs. The first leg, Act I, would be online, and the second, Act II, in person. We made this choice in response to the stated desire from membership for more ecological and economic options for gatherings.

The Centre for Socially Engaged Theatre is co-hosting Act I. Without a host university for a dedicated in-person CATR conference, we elected to rejoin Congress. This was, admittedly, done with apprehension.

The dates for the digital conference were set for June 5 and 6, while the dates for the in-person conference were settled later after negotiations with Congress.

We received 178 submissions in response to our call for proposals. These proposals came from individuals from 12 countries across 4 continents. Most of the proposals were accepted, though not all. Those that were not accepted were offered feedback to help with future applications. Of the submitted proposals 23 or 12% requested to go online, 9 or 5% hybrid, while the remainder expressed either ‘no preference’ or ‘in person’.

Some of the highlights of the finalized program include:

- 1 Indigenous Performance by Barbara Diabo
- **2 Keynote Sessions**, all focused on the theme of the conference— one from an artist-scholar from Saskatchewan (of the host communities) and the second from an applied theatre scholar from British Columbia
- **1 Artists’ Roundtable for Quebec Artists** (from one of the host communities, Montreal)
- **An in-person plenary presentation, “Irresistible Practices,” led by the Environmental Stewardship and Course Correction Working Groups:** CATR’s first ever Working Group-led plenary
- **Online Roundtables on “Staging Justice in Labour and Other Contexts”** developed and led by Taiwo Afolabi and Signy Lynch
- **15 Open Paper Panel: virtual paper panels, working group sessions, performances, curated panels, workshops, roundtables, and seminars** offered during the online conference from June 5-6

- CATR Annual General Meeting online
- Journal Launch (TRIC & CTR)
- **66 in-person paper panels, working group sessions, performances, workshops, roundtables, and seminars** offered during the in-person conference from June 17-20
- **2 in-person lunches** hosted respectively by Playwrights Canada Press, Talonbooks, and CATR
- **Live, in-person performances of “My Urban Nature” by Barbara Diabo Performance**

Working with Congress has not been easy. The system that Congress employs is not flexible and at times archaic and/or convoluted. The system also suffers from a lack of synchronization. For example, room orders were due before our call for papers and sessions was completed. Should anyone look to coordinate a conference with the support of Congress in the future, our recommendation is to press for the proposed milestone dates being used by Congress well in advance of beginning conference preparations.

As a part of preparations, a contract was drawn up to employ the services of Dave DeGrow as this year’s conference coordinator. Dave’s work began in November and has continued through to the conference.

The SSHRC application was unsuccessful this year, which posed a challenge in covering certain items within the budget. Reports from colleagues on the organizing committee indicated that criteria for SSHRC grants has been tightened and a higher number of applications were being denied.

It is our observation that financial considerations need to be made for future conferences that allow CATR to be less reliant on grants as a part of the conference budget. Further to finances, a decision was made to join Congress in waiving fees for members from certain racialized backgrounds in an effort to open up access. We took this further still by waiving CATR conference fees (separate from Congress fees) for graduate students and precarious scholars. The impact of this was that our budget was further restricted. Our recommendation is that future conference and membership fees require a recalibration to adjust to the current financial climate and/or new revenue streams need to be found.

As a part of our coordination efforts, we have relied quite extensively on the work of volunteers and a small number of paid temporary staff. It cannot be ignored that CATR as an organization is growing, which is exciting. However, it is our estimation that we may be reaching a point where a dedicated and salaried staff member is needed to coordinate conference activities as well as support general CATR administration. Our assessment is that this would help find efficiencies in communications and organizing. We believe this would likely be a part-time role and it would need to be remunerated at a competitive and appropriate rate. Sister organizations around the world already employ this approach and it is our recommendation that CATR commit to an exploration of this proposal.

In recent weeks, global, domestic, and local issues have come into sharper focus and the organizing team has attempted to pivot the gathering in a way that recognizes the complex realities of these events. In this effort we have been challenged by the necessity of balancing diverse views from across the membership with our fiduciary responsibilities, inclusive of our need to engage in financially sound practices. We wish to communicate that shifting a conference only two weeks out from launch is no

small undertaking, and the ultimate decision we arrive at will be made with CATR and its membership's best interests at heart.

Thank you to everyone who has worked to make this conference of two acts happen. Special thanks go to our conference coordinating team, Dave DeGrow (Conference Coordinator) and Katie Zien (Local Events Coordinator). We could also not do this work without the assistance of Organizing Team. Thank you to Robin Whittaker (President & Conference Whisperer), Katrina Dunn (Finance), Jayna Mees (Accessibility), Taylor Graham (Communications), Sebastian Samur (Translation), Taiwo Afolabi (Programming) and, Fraser Stevens (Digital Dramaturgy) along with their respective committee members. Thank you to the CATR Board for the support throughout the year of planning. And thank you to the membership for participating.

Respectfully submitted,

Taiwo Afolabi and Fraser Stevens

CATR 2025 Update

Submitted by: **Robin Whittaker, President**

Thank you to colleagues who have indicated they would love to host a CATR conference! I know your interest in shaping how your association meets and what we meet about is real and I can't wait to work with you in this capacity. However, the Board is not hearing about interest at the pace we would like. I can reach out and guess at who may be interested, but even better would be for you to approach me or another Board member. Our flexible Conference Organizing Team structure can support CATR conferences at large, medium, and small institutions either on their own or, as in recent years, as Co-Hosts. Let's talk about it!

In the meantime, securing CATR 2025 is a top priority. At the time of writing this, we have two potential options in front of us:

1. Earlier this year, the **Regina Hotel Association** (RHA) approached Taiwo about hosting a conference in Regina at one of their member-hotels. CATR has never fully pursued a conference hotel scenario, though many of us are familiar with it through other associations. With the Board's encouragement, Taiwo and I met with the RHA and received three "bids" from hotels that the Board is considering. It would be good to go west again.
2. On May 14, the Federation announced that George Brown College in Toronto will host Congress 2025, the first time **Congress** has been hosted at a college. With the encouragement of Board members Fraser Stevens and Craig Walker, who were already working with Taiwo and me on the RHA proposal, I have reached out to **George Brown Theatre Arts** to explore their interest and our fit. I don't believe CATR has been hosted at a college before, so it would be a first for us, and potentially a great way to expand interest in our work and theirs.

A decision needs on the location of CATR 2025 to be made in the coming weeks so that we can have a Programming Committee together and send out the Call for Papers & Sessions by the end of September.

If you are interested in discussing **hosting** CATR 2025, please reach out to me in the coming days—I'd love to talk more about it!

I'd also love to hear from anyone interesting in being on the **Programming Committee for CATR 2025!**

Respectfully,

Robin Whittaker, CATR President

Ongoing Initiatives

Anti-Racism and Anti-Oppression Ad Hoc Committee and Implementation Working Group Report

Submitted by: **Robin C. Whittaker, President**

Committee Members: Robin C. Whittaker (chair), Jimena Ortuzar, Carla Melo, Andy Houston, Shelley Liebembuk, Taylor Graham, Cassandre Chatonnier

CATR and its Board remain committed to the principles of EDI, Anti-Racism, and Anti-Oppression work. Drawing from the February 2022 ARAO Report, the Board ratified 16 Motions, 2 Presidential Ad Hoc Committees, and discussed 1 Point of Consideration. We believe this covers the entirety of the ARAO Report. On June 5, as part of the CATR 2024 program, the ARAO Committee hosts a session to present our work and to field questions and ideas from the membership about what our association can do to best support our EDI and ARAO goals.

A heartfelt **thank you** to the ARAO Committee members who have worked diligently this year to help guide CATR in its ARAO work, including Taiwo Afolabi who stepped away from the committee in the fall to focus on programming CATR 2024.

Below is a detailed list of the **initiatives already accomplished**, the **Motions, Committees, and Point of Consideration ratified**, and their **stage of implementation**. In all cases, we are working on mechanisms to review the efficacy of this work in the months and years to come.

Sincerely,

Robin C. Whittaker, President CATR
Chair, ARAO Committee

ARAO Initiatives Already Accomplished

Already, the Board has implemented a **range of initiatives** that the ARAO Committee wishes to emphasize and celebrate as steps toward concrete EDI/ARAO actions:

- Feb 2022 ARAO Final Report: rendered all of the Report's recommendations into 18 actionable Motions, each of which have been actualized by the Board into 16 passed Motions and 2 ad hoc committees, along with one "Point of Consideration" calling for Board and committee members to reach out to ARAO Committee members to track potential labour discrepancies.
- Annual Conference: normalizing accessibility practices online and in-person (including single-webpage design, sign language interpretation, access papers, visual descriptions); offering Committee on Conduct, ARAO sessions, and Longtable sessions; including an EDI statement in conference staff job postings
- Nominations Committee: revising approaches to seeking candidates (ARAO Item 10)
- Committee on Conduct: improving process and contact information on the CATR website and, with the Board, restructuring their composition (ARAO Item 20)

- **Recognitions:** following EDI principles when selecting the Scholarly Awards’ Committee chairs; revising our Associateships; revising the terms of the Ann Saddlemyer Award and Denis Salter Grants; including accessibility guidelines in the Lawrence Prize call
- **Communications:** improving transparency on the CATR website, including routinely updating names of Board ex-officio members and committee members; posting up to date CATR By-Laws in both languages (June 2022); reorganizing the Recognitions webpages and posting updated terms of reference for individual Recognitions

It is worth noting and, we think, celebrating, that these initiatives, as well as those stemming from all of the Motions listed below, are being done *in-house* by CATR members as outcomes of deep reflection and care for what we would like to see this association become.

Implementation Stage

The Board and its ARAO Committee now turn fully to the **Implementation Stage**. In particular, we are focusing on communicating CATR’s ARAO initiatives to the membership and the public. To this end, we plan to generate a new page/section of the CATR website devoted to our ARAO work. It will include CATR’s ARAO Guiding Statement, presently in development, and list the Motions passed with their state of implementation (see table below).

CATR ARAO Motions Drawn from the Feb 2022 ARAO Final Report, by category, with date passed by the Board	Implementation Update
Guiding Statement and Related Documentation	
MOTION I: To move that, as related to Item 3 of the ARAO Final Report, the board strike an ad hoc committee to develop a living EDI/ARAO guiding statement that is made public and has a review mechanism to support the guiding statement’s ongoing evolution. (24 Sept 2022) <i>Note: The Guiding Statement should both guide and reflect ongoing EDI/ARAO measures as they are developed.</i>	Presently working on the Guiding Statement.
MOTION IV: As related to Item 4 of the ARAO Final Report, to incorporate the Guiding Statement drawn from Item 3 into the CATR Handbook to reflect EDI/ARAO principles such that the CATR Handbook guides all CATR activities from EDI/ARAO standards. (8 May 2023) <i>Note: To avoid generating a new document, the ARAO Committee recommends that the extant CATR Handbook be updated to function as the EDI/ARAO Guidelines Document.</i>	Being included while the CATR Handbook is being revised.
MOTION V: As related to Item 17 of the ARAO Final Report, to ensure that the Guiding Statement drawn from Item 3 informs all Conference-specific procedures and that these procedures are reflected in the CATR Handbook. (8 May 2023)	Being included while the CATR Handbook is being revised.
MOTION XI: As related to Item 6 and Item 8 of the ARAO Final Report, to update all CATR governance documents as applicable to reflect all Board-approved Motions drawn from	Being accomplished in general reviews of all CATR documentation, especially as

<p>the ARAO Final Report. This includes updating vocabulary to reflect gender neutral and anti-oppression language. (6 June 2023)</p>	<p>governance documents are revised.</p>
<p>Recognitions. (See: https://catract.ca/recognitions)</p>	
<p>The President will form an Ad Hoc Committee to Review CATR’s Recognitions (8 May 2023).</p> <p><i>Note: There was a MOTION VII (to strike an ad hoc committee to review CATR’s Recognitions) related to Item 2 of the ARAO Final Report, but this was deemed procedurally unnecessary because the President can strike an ad hoc committee without a Board vote.</i></p>	<p>Formed in summer 2023, the Ad Hoc Committee continues to meet to review CATR’s Recognitions. Changes to the Scholarly Awards were made for 2024.</p>
<p>MOTION VI: As related to Item 2 of the ARAO Final Report, to institute a recognition that honours a drama, theatre, and performance scholar and/or practitioner whose scholarship, practice, and or/community engaged work has significantly advanced anti-colonial and/or EDI/ARAO-based goals. (6 June 2023)</p>	<p>To be drafted and proposed to the Board by the Ad Hoc Recognitions Committee.</p>
<p>Consultation, Education, and Training</p>	
<p>MOTION II: To move that, as related to Item 12 of the ARAO Final Report, the board creates outward facing recruitment procedures for both board positions and committee positions that makes transparent recruitment processes and board/committee composition. (24 Sept 2022)</p>	<p>In progress.</p>
<p>MOTION III: To move that the board “Create and post a clearly articulated and secured reporting process for conflicts/Code of Conduct violations, etc.” (ARAO Final Report Item 18). (24 Sept 2022)</p>	<p>Completed.</p>
<p>MOTION VIII: As related to Item 5 and Item 21 of the ARAO Final Report, to provide a web-link to the Code of Conduct on the CATR Membership sign-up and renewal portal with language clarifying that any new or renewing member must read and accept its terms. A reminder to review the Code of Conduct should be sent to all conference participants before the Association’s annual conference. (6 June 2023)</p>	<p>Completed.</p>
<p>MOTION IX: As related to Item 5 and Item 24 of the ARAO Final Report, to provide avenues for ongoing direct membership consultation, education, and training about the Code of Conduct and the Committee on Conduct, for example at the annual Conference or in stand-alone meetings held on virtual platforms (e.g. Zoom). (6 June 2023)</p>	<p>Committee on Conduct sessions continue to be offered at CATR’s annual conference.</p>
<p>MOTION X: As related to Item 7, Item 14, and Item 25 of the ARAO Final Report, to provide avenues for ongoing, CATR-specific consultation, education, and training for Board</p>	<p>ARAO Session held at CATR 2023, with PowerPoint archived at</p>

<p>Members, the Board’s Equity Officer, and the membership on subjects related to anti-oppression and anti-colonial practices, for example in workshops at the annual Conference, in stand-alone meetings held on virtual platforms (e.g. Zoom), or through in-your-own-time training modules. (6 June 2023)</p>	<p>https://catract.ca/conference-catr-2023.</p> <p>Board held an ARAO/EDI training session led by consultant Warren Clarke, funded by the Federation EDID Initiatives Fund (Motion X).</p>
<p>With reference to Items 1 & 19 of the ARAO Final Report, the President will form an Ad Hoc Committee to Review CATR’s member data & information collection, storage, and sharing (8 May 2023).</p>	<p>The Committee is to be formed. Board and committee members are directed to be cognizant of the confidentiality of the member information they collect, store, and share.</p>

Accessibility	
<p>MOTION XII: As related to Item 16 of the ARAO Final Report, to create a living Accessibility Policy that covers the annual Conference and other CATR events and activities. This should be included in the CATR Handbook and made available on the CATR website. Conference accessibility should be reviewed annually, for example through the mechanisms of the Conference Survey and/or accessibility-specific surveys, and by the Conference Accessibility Coordinator and/or their committee. (9 Feb 2024) <i>Note: The ARAO Committee believes it is important to include a definition of “living” in the forthcoming EDI/ARAO Guiding Statement in reference to the various motions in which the word appears.</i></p>	<p>In progress.</p>
<p>MOTION XIII: As related to Item 16 of the ARAO Final Report, to create and include in the CATR Handbook a set of living Accessibility Recommendations that guide the design of the CATR website. (9 Feb 2024) <i>Note: The ARAO Committee is cognizant that a website redesign may occur before Accessibility Recommendations are ready.</i></p>	<p>In progress.</p>
<p>MOTION XIV: As related to Item 16 of the ARAO Final Report, to create and include in the CATR Handbook a set of living Accessibility Recommendations for CATR Board meetings, the Annual General Meeting, and other CATR committee meetings.</p>	<p>In progress.</p>
<p>MOTION XVIII: As related to Item 15 of the ARAO Final Report, to consider, whenever financially possible, a reduction in CATR’s annual conference fees for low-income graduate students and precariously employed CATR members. As a rule of thumb, “low-income” can be taken to mean the lowest</p>	<p>In progress.</p>

income bracket represented in the CATR membership portal. (19 Apr 2024)	
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Ongoing Self-Reflection	
MOTION XV: As related to Item 22 of the ARAO Final Report, to consult with comparable associations about their ARAO-related work and help advocate for our shared goals. This may include joint and collaborative Conference or event sessions with other associations doing similar work. (9 Feb 2024)	In progress
MOTION XVI: As related to Item 23 of the ARAO Final Report, to establish regularized mechanisms that ensure that all guidelines and policies are understood to be “living documents” that can change over time. This may include regular Reports to the Board from the ARAO Committee. (9 Feb 2024)	In progress.
MOTION XVII: As related to Item 23 of the ARAO Final Report, to review CATR’s ARAO work and its effectiveness. For example, every four to six years, conduct an internal or external ARAO review as needed. (9 Feb 2024)	In progress.

We note one remaining **Point of Consideration** related to the Feb 2022 Final Report’s Item 11. Here, we ask Board Members and committee chairs across CATR’s operations to take stock of potential volunteer and labour discrepancies on their committees and pass these on to the ARAO committee as they arise, or in their Reports to the Board. We still do not have enough data to understand how best to respond to this concern. As reported at the Feb 2024 Board Meeting, we might consider: Is there adequate mentorship and institutional knowledge available to each committee? Can the work asked of the committee be done evenly and/or equitably? If not, why not? And what would you recommend for improving the situation? Observations can be reported back to the ARAO Committee Chair or any other ARAO Committee member. (As always, breaches of the Code of Conduct can be reported to members of the Committee on Conduct as described on the CATR website.) From these observations, the ARAO Committee could discuss and potentially draft Motions for the Board to address such discrepancies.

Report of the Task Force on Precarity

Submitted by: **Neil Silcox and Jacqueline Taucar**

The Task Force exists to bring together precarious teachers and researchers at all stages of their careers. We offer free spaces for community, commiseration, and co-celebration.

With great pleasure we welcome Sarah Robbins into the role of the Unaffiliated Scholar Representative! Both Neil and I offer our support as she transitions into the role and establishes the new directions and priorities for her term.

We (Jacquey and Neil) cannot possibly claim to speak for the wide range of scholars we represent, but we would like to share the following thoughts based on the many conversations we have had, one-on-one and in groups, with precarious members:

- Justice must be at the forefront of what we do in our departments and at the CATR.
- Justice means being supportive (and not merely accepting) of the social justice causes that our members choose to prioritize. Even when it's really inconvenient.
- Justice also means treating one-another compassionately, empathetically, and kindly, even when we disagree. This is especially true when power differences exist.
- Justice means those with security allowing themselves to be led by those who are precariously employed.
- Justice, especially in an organization run on volunteer labour, means meetings that end on time - no matter what.
- Justice, when considering the CATR itself, means re-imagining the organization for the world as it exists today. *Our* suggestion for the 50th anniversary is this: burn it all to the ground and rebuild from the ashes. Let go of everything. Let go of “we do need to have this committee” and “we do need to give this prize”. Let go, even, of any idea of what a conference needs to be. Anything that members really care about will re-emerge, because they will care enough to make it happen. Please, be led by the graduate students and contract faculty who make up most of our membership.

We also invite permanently employed faculty to consider:

- Have the part-time positions for the fall term been posted in your department? Do those postings clearly state the pay? It is much too late for someone not to be able to plan their September.
- What are the ways that you work to make your precarious colleagues' day-to-day experience better. Kind and supportive words? Smoothing their journey through the red tape of the university? Celebrating their voices and their experiences with your students and colleagues? Don't know how to support them - ask!
- We are perhaps just one or two elections away from the situation in our universities getting even more dire. *No* position is entirely un-precarious. We invite you to consider:
 - What would you do if you found out you were out of a job?
 - How long do you expect you would search for a new position? Do you feel you could be certain of ever finding a permanent position?
 - What would you do for money? How would the financial decisions in your life change?
 - How would you continue your research during your job search?
 - Could you afford to travel to next year's conference?

Canadian Association for Theatre Research

Association Canadienne de la Recherche Théâtrale | <http://www.catr-acrt.ca>

We (Neil & Jacquey) are stepping away from the Task Force on Precarity. Big, important changes are happening in our lives, and we need to prioritize them. Our words written here are infused with the passion, and resolve, and care, and rage, and deep, deep grief that we've helped other precarious members carry over the past four years. But we write them with love. With few exceptions, we care for and appreciate everyone we've worked with at the CATR, precarious or not.

We hand the reins over to those who are interested in taking them up and invite them to do with the Task Force on Precarity whatever they wish. We are happy to support – please don't hesitate to reach out.

Please contact neilsilcox@gmail.com or jtaucar@gmail.com for more information and to join our conversations.

Respectfully,

Neil Silcox and Jacqueline Taucar

Theatre Research in Canada Report

Submitted by: **Robin Whittaker**

It's time to reconsider CATR's financial relationship with *Theatre Research in Canada (TRIC)*. As many will recall, in 2020 *TRIC* was moved from being managed by the U of T Centre for Drama, Theatre and Performance Studies and a Management Board to being owned by University of Toronto Press Journals (UTPJ). But CATR continues to provide a subscription to *TRIC* as part of your membership fee. This makes it appear as though you are receiving *TRIC* for free, whereas in fact \$37.00 of each CATR membership fee goes directly to UTPJ to publish *TRIC*. This means that the membership fee of the majority of every graduate student / precariously employed / retired / under-waged member—again, the majority of our membership and their fees—is moved directly to UTPJ in a laborious and oddly unpredictable set of tasks for our Treasurer and Membership Coordinator. Last year, CATR moved \$8,500 to UTPJ for this purpose, which was about 40.5% of CATR's administrative budget in 2023. This is membership money that could be put toward a paid staff member to support the Conference and the Board and supporting graduate students and precarious scholars. It is important to note that UTPJ makes *TRIC* available to anyone identifying as a CATR member directly through their website for the same \$37.00 discounted annual fee (\$100 regularly) (<https://www.utpjournals.press/journal/tric>). Moreover, many of us have institutional access to *TRIC* through our libraries (if you don't, please do talk to your library!).

To this end, the CATR Board passed the following motion at our May meeting:

MOTION: That the Board recommends removing the *TRIC* journal subscription from its membership and associateship benefits with the aim of reallocating this income toward pressing administrative, conference, and precarious scholar needs, and to communicate to, and seek input from, the membership.

The Board and I have been in conversation with UTPJ over the past several months and they understand our pursuit of this matter for financial reasons. For UTPJ's part, they tell us that they are working on a survey of *TRIC* "stakeholders" (authors, peer reviewers, CATR, *etc. etc.*) to determine the future of *TRIC* from their perspective.

It must be said that *TRIC* holds not only a financial place in our hearts, but also a symbolic place. It was founded in 1980 by CATR members as *Theatre History in Canada* before the "History" in the title was broadened to "*Research*." For decades it has been a symbol and guiding light for our members' best work. Professionally, many of us have been published in its pages or asked to peer review; many have also worked for *TRIC* in various capacities, including myself. It is paramount that CATR does nothing to harm *TRIC*. But the present relationship with *TRIC* is not financially sound for CATR; really, it hasn't been for some years. Let's discuss.

Other Business / No Oral Report

Conference Working Groups Report (WG Liaison: Justin)

Submitted by: **Justin A. Blum**

Five working groups will participate in the 2024 Association Conference. Three of these will have their final meeting at this year's conference:

1. "Course Correction: Reorienting Approaches to Space in Theatre and Performance" (led by Katrina Dunn),
2. "Digital Performance" (led by Kim McCleod and Shanna MacDonald),
3. "Environmental Stewardship in Theater and Performance" (led by Hope McIntyre and Kimberly Richards).

Two additional groups will be having their first meeting under the auspices of this year's conference, and will thus be eligible for support through conference 2026:

1. "Performance, Migration and Nationalism" (led by Yana Meerzon, Sheetala Bhat, and S.E. Wilmer)
2. "Roadshow: A Gatherings Project discussion on archival and oral history practice" (led by Sarah Robbins with the support of Stephen Johnson).

No new working groups began at the 2023 conference and the two that are starting up this year are a relatively low number by historical standards. Though this is not inherently a problem, and the two new groups look likely to engage a relatively larger number of ongoing participants than has historically been the case with many working groups, the Board and I are open to input from the membership about any aspect of either their own past or their desired future working group experience that we might be able to support.

Respectfully,

J. Blum

Recognitions

Associateships (President: Robin)

Submitted by: **Robin C. Whittaker**

Honouring those who have contributed immeasurably to a discipline, whether those people are oft acknowledged or yet unheralded, is an important cornerstone of any group. Since 1979, our third year as an association, CATR has celebrated 77 **Honorary Associates** (formerly Honorary Members); since 2002, we've lauded 19 **Lifetime Associates** (formerly Lifetime Members); and last year in Halifax, we fêted our first 3 **Distinguished Scholar Associates**. They are educators, researchers, authors, practitioners, scholar-practitioners, publishers, administrators, founders, trend-setters, and visionaries.

As you can see from the CATR website's [Associateships page](#), we have honoured 99 CATR Associates. Until this year.

This year, **CATR's 100th Associateship** will be presented by Laura Levin and Benjamin Gillespie as we applaud an artist whose work inspires our scholarship and practice. In 2024, CATR awards performance artist [Jess Dobkin](#) a **CATR Honorary Associateship**. We're thrilled to honour Jess in this way.

Though the Board received no nominations for the **CATR Distinguished Scholar Associateship** this year, we look forward to receiving nominations **next year** along with Honorary Associateship nominations. We particularly encourage nominations to come from the city or region that hosts our conference. A Call will be circulated in the fall.

Sincerely,

Robin C. Whittaker, President CATR

Scholarly Awards (Coordinator: Jimena)

Scholarships and Grants Report (Chair: Emily)

Submitted by: **Emily Rollie**

Members: David Geary, Michael Bergmann

Committee Actions from 2023-2024:

- In late summer/early fall, the committee reviewed applications for the Heather McCallum Scholarship, Robert G. Lawrence Scholarship, & Denis Salter Grants.
- 2023 Recipients included:
 - o McCallum Scholarship - Narges Montakhabi for “Politics and Poethics of Precarity in Contemporary Middle Eastern Canadian Theatre.” The project looks at and amplifies the voices of contemporary Middle Eastern Canadian playwrights.
 - o Lawrence Scholarship – Alynne Sinnema for “Coming to her Senses: Women’s Sexual Empowerment Through Applied Theatre.” The project combines applied theatre, physical theatre, and feminist theory to explore women’s pleasure, sexual agency, and mental health.
 - o Denis Salter Grants
 - Katherine Koller - documenting new play readings from the Edmonton Script Salon
 - Signy Lynch, Scott Mealey, and Jenny Salisbury - symposium for artists and scholars to discuss post-pandemic theatre audiences
 - Taylor Graham and Jayna Mees - e-initiatives for graduate students, an ongoing focus of the field and CATR
 - Hope McIntyre and Kimberly Richards - Guidebook for Fostering Environmental Stewardship in Theatre and Performance Training Programs and its graphic design.
 - o Video announcement for Grants and Scholarships (also announcing the Lawrence Prize, chaired by Jess Riley) available online via the CATR Youtube channel:
<https://youtu.be/nPkMzn1pWhU?si=Flk8hEJAONdZomKk>

Respectfully,

Emily Rollie

Lawrence Prize Report (Chair: Jessica)

Submitted by: **Jessica Riley**

2024 Committee Members: Jessica Riley (Chair), Michelle MacArthur, Sasha Kovacs, Lindsay Lachance, Sheetala Bhat, and Kelsey Blair

2023 Committee Members: Jessica Riley (Chair), Carla Melo, Michelle MacArthur, Sasha Kovacs, and Peter Kuling

The Lawrence Prize Committee for 2023 did the work of adjudicating the Lawrence Prize last summer, following our 2023 AGM. The 2023 award was given to **Matt Jones** for his paper titled “Shakespeare in Guantánamo.” Honourable Mention goes to **Megan Johnson** for “Performances of ‘Shoring up’: Infrastructural Imaginings of an Uncertain Future.” A recorded announcement of these honours was circulated to our membership last fall. Members can read the full citations for these excellent papers at: <https://catract.ca/robert-g-lawrence-prize-past-winners/>

The Lawrence Prize Committee for 2024 is looking forward to this year’s adjudication process, with results to be announced in the fall.

Respectfully,

Jess Riley

Membership

Membership Report (Membership Coordinator: Dennis)

Submitted by: **Dennis D. Gupa**

I am happy to submit this report that outlines our current membership information:

Membership Info

As of May 22, 2024, we have 188 active members listed in the Federation database.

Below is the table that presents our membership numbers in the last five years.

Retrospective Membership numbers by year:

Year (conference site)	2024	2023 (online + in person)	2022 (online + in person)	2021 (online)	2020 (online)
Members	188	195 Active Members 11 Donated Members	164	219 + 112 donated memberships = 321	122 + 60 donated memberships = 182

Members' Statistics

Job Titles	Numbers
Non-precarious Members (Asst. Prof, Associate Prof., Full Professors, etc.)	79
Graduate Students (PhD, MA)	50
Precarious Non-Graduate Students (Sessional, Lecturers, Undergraduate, Independent Artists, Teachers, etc.)	59
Total	188

Incoming New Membership Coordinator

I am extremely pleased to share the news that Prof. Heidi Malazdrewich, Assistant Professor of Department of Theatre and Film, University of Winnipeg as our incoming Membership Coordinator.

Elections Report (Nominations Committee Chair: Michelle)

Submitted by: **Michelle MacArthur**

Members: Thea Fitz-James, Matt Jones, Michelle MacArthur

2024 Board Election

We are delighted to report that the following members have been elected by acclamation:

- **Robin Whittaker** President (returning)
- **Liviu Dospinescu** Québec (returning)
- **Justin Blum** Alberta and the Territories (returning)
- **Alex Ferrone** Member-at-large
- **Jenn Boulay** Graduate Student Representative
- **Sarah Robbins** Unaffiliated Scholar representative
- **Jess Watkin** Conduct Committee Representative (ex officio position)

Complete bios are available on the [CATR website](#). These individuals will officially begin these roles in June after the AGM at the CATR/ACRT conference in Montreal. We congratulate our new board members and thank our outgoing members for their service.

Unusually, no positions were contested, so we did not hold an online election this year. To that end, we want to underline the difficulty of recruiting candidates to run this year, which we suspect is connected to broader workload issues exacerbated by the current climate of post-secondary education. We are concerned that this challenge may persist in future election cycles, which may force the board to revisit its structure and number of positions.

The position of **Vice President** remains open. The Nominations Committee is continuing to actively seek candidates for this role. Any member interested in the role should contact Matt Jones by email at catract.elections@gmail.com.

Nomination Committee Membership

Nomination Committee member Thea Fitz-James was appointed Elections Officer in the February 2024 CATR board meeting; she will officially begin her position after the June 2024 AGM. The outgoing Elections Officer Matt Jones will continue serving on the Nominations Committee along with Thea.

The Nominations Committee is actively seeking two new members: a new chair to replace Michelle MacArthur when she steps down after the June 2024 AGM, and another member. The time commitment is quite manageable, with most work occurring around the election cycle (winter/early spring). Interested CATR members can email mattjones@torontomu.ca.

Respectfully,

Michelle MacArthur
Chair, CATR Nominations Committee
michelle.macarthur@uwindsor.ca

Graduate Students Report (Grad Student Reps: Taylor, Jayna)

Submitted by: **Jayna Mees**

Members: Jayna Mees and Taylor Graham

In the fall, Jayna Mees and Taylor Graham applied for Denis Salter Grant with support from Neil Silcox and Jacqueline Taucar. We were successful and received the grant. Since that time, Jayna and Taylor have been collaborating on several initiatives to help cultivate community between graduate students and precarious scholars across Canada, and to provide further opportunities for networking, mentorship, and developing professional skills. These events include the following:

- **Bi-monthly Writing Group.** Hosted online from March 22nd – May 31st, 2024. Taylor and Jayna are happy to report that these sessions have been quite successful with steady attendance and positive feedback from attendees.
- **Writing + Publishing Workshop.** Planned for early fall, exact date TBD.
- **Writing Grant Proposals** for traditional funding (e.g. SSHRC) and alt. funding (e.g. Canada Council Grants). Planned for early fall, exact date TBD.
- **Mental Health Workshop** on Navigating Transitions in academia and anxiety. Planned for early fall, exact date TBD.
- **Grad Student + Precarious Scholar Social.** Jayna and Taylor, with support from the **Precarious Scholar Task Force**, are organizing a social for grad students and precarious scholars as a part of the in-person conference. This event will take place on the evening of June 18th in Montréal, off-campus. Exact location, TBA.

Taylor Graham's tenure as Graduate Student Representative will end in June 2024.

Jenn Boulay was elected to the Board as the newest **Graduate Student Representative** (2024-2026) and will officially join the Board at the June AGM.

The CATR Grad Reps are always interested and eager to hear from graduate members of the association. You can reach your graduate student representatives by email at jayna.mees@gmail.com.

Respectfully,

Jayna Mees and Taylor Graham

Communications Report (Communications Officer: Taylor)

Committee on Conduct Report (Committee Rep: Selena)

Cross-Institutional Reports

Federation Report (Federation Rep: Katrina)

Submitted by **Katrina Dunn**

In 2023 we applied for an EDID Initiatives Fund for Scholarly Associations from the Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences and were awarded \$2,500 of support. We requested funds for an activity that flowed out of the recommendations from CATR's Anti-Racism and Anti-Oppression Committee Report from February 2022. We requested the Federation's support to deepen and solidify our commitment to EDID through some concentrated Board training. We hired WC Consultants to lead us in a session of Anti-oppressive, Anti-racist (AO/AR) & DEI Training in July of 2023. It was a three hour Zoom workshop adjacent to CATR's annual conference, led by Dr. Warren Clarke, an Assistant Professor of Anthropology at the University of Manitoba. He is a founder of The Afro-Caribbean Mentorship Program, and The Barbershop Talk Series.

After committing to Congress for 2024, we began working with the Federation in a more in-depth way in the fall of 2023. I am only one of many people working with the Federation and using the processes of the Conference Organizers portal. As usual, with Congress, there has been some confusion and difficulty getting the information we need, though we are working through those things. Some people have been having difficulty registering for the online conference and so Dennis and I have been working with the Federation technical representative trying to clear that up on the Federation portal.

It might be time to reconsider the Federation Representative position. As much as I've tried, the Federation will not really recognize it as a role. They prefer to talk with the President, so I am continually in the position of the President (both Yana and then Robin while I have been on the Board) having to forward me stuff. It limits what that position can do.

Archival Committee Report (Chair: Jessica)

Submitted by: **Jessica Riley**

Members: Jessica Riley (Chair), Moira Day, Kim McLeod, Jacquy Taucar, Robin Whittaker, and Stephen Donnelly.

Since last year's AGM, we have continued to work on securing a home for recent and future hardcopies of CATR records. This project has been on hold due to an ongoing pause in new intake by the University of Guelph's Archives and Special Collections, where CATR records have historically been

stored. We are currently working out the logistics, with the hope that a transfer of files can be arranged by the end of 2024.

Robin has also continued to make progress in reviving and preserving the ACTS: Atlantic Canadian Theatre Site (<https://lib.unb.ca/Texts/Theatre-restore>). Thanks Robin!

Respectfully,

Jess Riley

TheatreAgora Report (Theatre Agora Co-Chair: Fraser)

SQET Report (CATR Liaison to SQET: Cassandre)