

Inuit Art Foundation Strategic Plan 2024-28



The Inuit art community has gone through incredible and rapid change since the Inuit Art Foundation's last Strategic Plan was created in 2017. Awareness and knowledge of art and artists have increased in contemporary art spheres worldwide, creating unique opportunities for artists to create and share their work. Yet, for many, barriers persist. In particular, the pandemic brought with it opportunities and challenges, many of which the communities that make up the Inuit art sector are still navigating.

Carol Kunnuk and Lucy Tulugarjuk
on the set of *Tautuktavuk (What We See)* (2023)
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The Inuit Art Foundation is also changing in response:

- It is more representative of the diversity within Inuit art communities across Inuit Nunaat and beyond.
- It has broadened its reach, engaging more people through more in-person, virtual and print platforms.
- Its internal capacity has grown to support an expanded range of programs, services and publications that support artists to gain skills and connect with new audiences.
- The board has been renewed.
- There are new ways for community members to be engaged and support the organization and its programs.

The Inuit Art Foundation remains committed to serving the needs of artists. Supporting artists' self-determination over their careers is at the very core of the IAF's values, and improving access and opportunities for artists is what guides IAF programs and how they are delivered. The strategic priorities in this plan have been set by community, and community will define how they are implemented, including developing new programs to strengthen the whole sector, and artists and creators specifically.



The three key goals of the strategic plan are:

1. Artist Support

Artists are the centre of the Inuit art community and should be able to pursue their careers on their own terms, no matter their artistic discipline, career stage, age, location, gender, sexual orientation or fluency in different languages. The Inuit Art Foundation will work to ensure artists are empowered to choose their career paths with full knowledge of and access to options and opportunities.

Goals

- Artists can easily access the information they need to guide their careers through culturally relevant platforms, including those open to the public and those closed for Inuit.
- Artists have more opportunities to develop and expand artistic and professional practices, including increased access to public funding, dedicated platforms to expand their networks and skill-building mentorships.
- Artists have regular and consistent opportunities to connect with public platforms and new audiences, in person and virtually, through the IAF and its partners.

2. Supporting a holistic ecosystem that nurtures and showcases artists

The Inuit art sector has traditionally been settler-led and while many strides have been taken across the field to shift the balance of power back to Inuit, there is still much left to do. The Inuit Art Foundation will continue to support efforts to decolonize the sector's structures and create an ecosystem intentionally designed to support Inuit agency.

Goals

- Develop an international ecosystem of partners dedicated to promoting and celebrating Inuit artists throughout the circumpolar North and beyond.
- Cultivate and grow a network of allies—individuals, organizations, collectives and public and private partners—that prioritize artists' agency.
- Develop and expand platforms for thoughtful, Inuit-centred dialogue to provide meaningful opportunities for expression, discussion and debate.
- Continue to decolonize historic prejudices and systemic barriers to Inuit participation in the arts.

3. Stewardship

The Inuit Art Foundation must be agile and responsive to meet the evolving requests of artists and Inuit art communities. This also requires working to ensure its sustainability.

Goals

- Continue to identify, nurture, mentor and recruit Inuit leadership across the organization.
- Ensure that Indigenous ways of being and continual improvement are at the core of the IAF's operations, programs and services.
- Develop increased financial and human resources to support Inuit art and artists, as needed.

The Inuit Art Foundation recognizes this plan lays the foundation on which to build a comprehensive suite of programs and services to support artists and the sector. To do this, the organization requires ongoing community involvement and engagement. Building and nurturing trusted relationships and partnerships, as well as financial resources, with those who share the IAF's values are critical. IAF's work is only possible because of its supportive community.