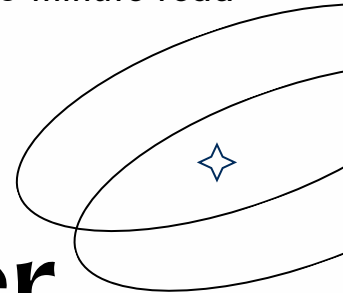




Sustainability And The Arts  
#1 | AUG 2024  
10 minute read



# Advisory Council Quarterly Newsletter

## WELCOME TO SATA

Welcome to SATA - a research program funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) that recognizes the critical role the Arts can play in climate change action. This project is inspired by current artists and organizations who are already working in the realm of sustainability and the arts (SATA). What makes this SATA Project unique is our focus on the scholarship and research surrounding SATA. Led by Ian Garret (York University), Tarah Wright (Dalhousie University), and supported by PhD Student Emma Bugg (Dalhousie University) and an Advisory Committee of 40+ SATA scholars and/or artists and/or practitioners, the SATA project's objectives are the following:

- identify scholars, artists and practitioners working in SATA
- develop a working definition for Sustainability and the Arts Scholarship
- collect, analyze, and archive SATA scholarship
- collectively develop a comprehensive research strategy for scholars working in the burgeoning field of SATA
- promote new approaches for interdisciplinary SATA research
- cultivate collaborative partnerships and intellectual exchange among those engaged in SATA research



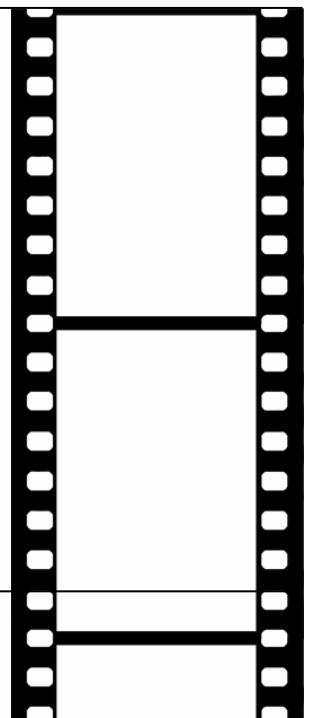
NEXT ADVISORY  
COUNCIL MEETING

NEW

MONDAY 07  
OCTOBER 2024

## Exciting News

- Tarah and Ian are involved in the development of a World Health Organization Policy Brief focused on the role of the arts in moderating the effects of climate change on health, communicating about these effects, and in promoting adaptive behaviours or interventions that would decrease climate related health risks
- The Centre for Sustainable Practice in the Arts is working with NYC Children's Theatre, in developing a children's show about the Sustainable Development Goals, to do an audit of the production process for an upcoming special report as a first project of that scope
- Tarah is working with Dutch documentary film maker Daphne van Der Vaart to identify Canadian Youth involved in the climate movement



MEDIA

# NEW WEBSITE

UPDATE



## Project Info

New website has been created featuring general information about the project and team.



## Resources

Publications by SATA and resources for use community at large.

[VIEW THE FULL WEBSITE HERE](#)

WHAT DO WE  
NEED FROM  
YOU?

Collage by Emma, 2024

## Advisory Committee Roles

During the 4 years of this project we will be calling on the advisory committee to help:

- Identify SATA literature
- Identify scholars/researchers working in the SATA field
- Help in developing a working definition of SATA Scholarship
- Assist the project team with vetting & contextualizing resources
- Help us to identify gaps in our review of materials, and to problematize how we identify and categorize our work
- Participate in the development of a comprehensive research strategy for SATA

In addition to the above expectations...

- Are there other ways that you wish to be involved/consulted?

**LET US KNOW  
HOW TO BEST  
INVOLVE YOU  
BY EMAILING  
SATA@DAL.CA**

## ACM HIGHLIGHT

### Name & Pronouns?

Dr. Bex Ferrell (they/she)

### Relevant work affiliation?

I'm an Assistant Professor of Arts Management at the College of Charleston in the US, as well as a dancer and choreographer.

### Why are you on the SATA advisory committee?

I'm on the SATA Advisory Committee because I believe deeply that the arts are an extraordinary catalyst for change. By utilizing creative mediums to inform and inspire audiences about environmental issues, artists provide an engaging opportunity for climate action.

### Favourite SATA-related media at the moment?

I love all things Julie's Bicycle! JB has incredible programs and resources that encourage and empower the arts and culture sector to take action on the climate crisis. Their hub is packed full of useful tools in a variety of formats to help support much needed change.

### If you could chose to be any animal for a year what would you be?

I would absolutely be my corgi, Marceline. A year of long walks, snuggles, treats, naps, and everyone telling you how cute you are sounds amazing!

WE WILL BE  
HIGHLIGHTING  
A NEW ACM  
EACH RELEASE!



## Podcasts and Publications

We are happy to share relevant podcasts, publications, and other medias from our advisory council members (ACMs). This month's picks for SATA-related material are:

1. Claude Schryer's Conscient podcast: Claude Schryer has been hosting and producing conscient podcast since 2020 and now has published over 250 episodes (conversations, sound art, etc) about the ecological crisis with brilliant, passionate, and visionary artists and cultural workers.

The theme of the current 5th season is 'preparing for the end of the world as we know it and creating the conditions for other possible worlds to emerge'. Season 6, in January 2025 will be on 'art in time of crisis'.

2. Creativity in climate adaptation: Conceptualizing the role of arts organizations by E. Bugg, Dr. Wright, Dr. Zurba. This paper reports on interviews with key members of arts organization CreativePEI to better understand how cultural organizations can reimagine their role to better align with the evidence about what the arts can uniquely offer to climate action.

## Progress this far

### Interviews & Database

With over half of the ACM interviews concluded, our data collection is underway. These conversations have allowed us to dive into the ways in which members of this team work, how they conceptualize our core concepts of sustainability, scholarship/research, and the arts, and to hear insights on barriers and opportunities that impact SATA work. We are so appreciative of the excellent conversations and insights that have been shared and are eager to continue connecting with you 1:1. These interviews are an important step towards understanding how those doing work at the intersection of the arts and environmental sustainability conceptualize their work. They will support our planning for next steps in the project, allowing us to build a process which aligns with the ACM's values and experience. If you haven't joined us for an interview yet, please reach out. Additionally, over 800 resources have been added to the project's Zotero database, in working efforts to create a comprehensive collection of SATA related scholarship - both academic and grey literature.



## Next steps for the Project

### Subcommittees & Literature Review

Next steps for the project include the continuing interviews of SATA researchers and practitioners to better understand their conceptualizations of SATA and perceived drivers and barriers to SATA scholarship.

Subcommittee focuses follow:

1. Communications: We will be increasing internal and external communications through regular newsletters, our LinkedIn page, and the further development of our new website as a hub for relevant information.
  2. Data Analysis: Our next steps include continuing our methodological conversations and establishing an analysis plan for our interview data. We are soon ready to begin outreach to scholars/artists outside the ACM.
  3. Inclusion: Denis Gupta and Ian met in early summer to discuss the project's approach to inclusion. A relational framework for critical discussion around inclusion as part of SATA's process - a "protocol structure" - for meetings
- Additionally, we are continuing to develop our database of SATA scholarship/research/grey literature, building out focus areas such as "cultural sustainability". This will be used to conduct a comprehensive literature review of current understandings of sustainability, the arts, and scholarship, leading to the developing working definition of sustainability and the arts.



QUESTIONS?

**REACH OUT!**

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[www.sustainabilityandthearts.com](http://www.sustainabilityandthearts.com)