

# THE CASE TO SUPPORT **PUBLIC ENERGY**



605 Collective. Photo: Chris Randle

“THE BEST ‘ART-MAKING’  
IS ALWAYS WORTH THE  
RISKS TAKEN TO PULL IT  
OFF.”

- **BILL KIMBALL,**  
**FOUNDER**



# THE CASE TO SUPPORT PUBLIC ENERGY

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PERFORMING ARTS

Do you remember the moment when your life changed at a live performance? It could have been when a dancer made you feel the pain in South Africa's past. Or when a performer made you belly laugh. Through supporting Public Energy, many of you have helped to create these types of powerful performances and shared them with our community. New to Public Energy? We have a rich history and a bright future that you can support.

For more than thirty years, the Peterborough community has supported Public Energy to:

- Take performance risks
- Bring guest artists to collaborate with local artists because they are better together
- Mentor local artists
- Create stunning new works with artists locally and from around the world
- Relentlessly improve the technical excellence of presenting on any formal or temporary stage in Peterborough
- Work in partnership with Indigenous artists

**Can you ignite this season and beyond? We need your help to:**

1. Present headline performances—the best the world has to offer
2. Grow our partnerships with national institutions such as The National Arts Centre, Canadian Stage and Vancouver's PuSh Performing Arts Festival
3. Create more artist-in-residence opportunities so artists can finalize new works
4. Commission new works from national and regional artists
5. Sustain and build on our links with Indigenous performers
6. Fuel local artists to complete and stage new productions outside of the headline performances

**Artists want to bring you their very best. This season your support can ignite the power of performance for you and so many people in the community. Join us now in presenting the Power of Performance.**



LE PATIN LIBRE  
*Murmuration*  
Photo: Nora Houguenade

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# PUBLIC ENERGY

## WHO WE ARE

PublicEnergy.ca  
PERFORMING ARTS

### VISION:

Public Energy sparks the curiosity and passion that only occur when risk-taking artists and diverse audiences meet.

### MISSION:

Public Energy is a cultural catalyst, electrifying the community with powerful dance, performance and theatre.

### WHAT WE DO:

Public Energy is an animator of innovative contemporary performance arts—dance, theatre, performance and interdisciplinary work. What do we mean by “animator”? On one side, we make performances happen by supporting each crucial phase of the creative process, from early development to presentation to touring. On the other side, we nurture audiences that are knowledgeable and passionate. We believe that it is in the coming together of these two elements that the magic of performance lies.

As a presenter, Public Energy:

- programs a main-stage series of cutting-edge performance, including both well-known and new artists
- develops audiences through a variety of activities including talks, lectures, pre-show chats, artist residencies and curated programming
- participates in national initiatives that move dance forward, such as the CanDance Creation Fund and the CanDance Touring Exchange
- commissions new work from significant artists and commits to their presentation
- serves as a venue and touring destination for artists
- supports new work and new directions for artists through residencies and through financial and administrative support
- specifically supports the development of the local dance, theatre and performance community by presenting area artists and arranging specialized classes and workshops

2014



ADELHEID DANCE PROJECTS  
*elsewhere* by Heidi Strauss  
Photo: Jeremy Mimmagh

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# THE POWER OF PERFORMANCE

## TAKING RISKS FROM THE FIRST MOMENT

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PERFORMING ARTS

1994

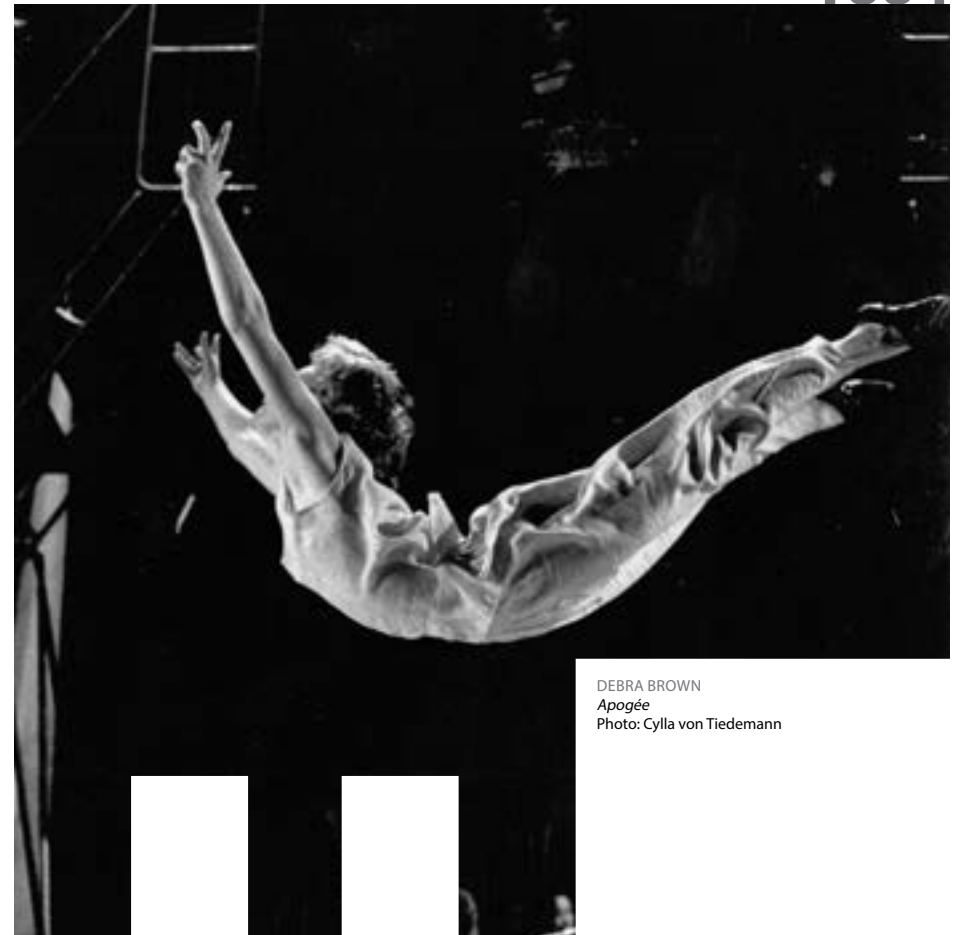
In 1994 Public Energy kicked off its first season with a trampoline ballet called Apogée. It was a daring way to start a new project. How that risk paid off!

**Debra Brown** choreographed Apogée. She was a relatively unknown artist working for a new group called **Cirque du Soleil**. Brown's ballet received rave reviews. In hindsight, this is not surprising because Apogée went on to be "premiered" two years later at Passport 96, an AIDS fundraiser in San Francisco hosted by **Elizabeth Taylor** and **Magic Johnson**. They saw the power of this performance too—just as had Public Energy.

Not only did Brown ramp up her career with Public Energy, but she also developed the work with the assistance of two Peterborough artists introduced to her by Public Energy: **Jerrard Smith** created the set design, **Parijata Charbonneau** created the music.

After her show in Peterborough, Debra Brown went on to choreograph the next ten major productions of Cirque du Soleil. She choreographed **Michael Jackson's** world tour "THE IMMORTAL." She worked with **Aerosmith** and **Madonna** on music videos. She worked in France and Australia, choreographed operas and **won an Emmy**. Her list of accomplishments is stunning. But in 1994, Debra Brown was in Peterborough, and she began with Public Energy and with you.

What also began with Debra Brown were the important traditions of funding visiting artists to run master classes for local artists and facilitating collaborations with Peterborough artists. Creative collaborations make everyone's work better.



DEBRA BROWN  
Apogée  
Photo: Cylla von Tiedemann

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# TIME AND SPACE: CROSS-CANADA CREATIVE RESIDENCIES

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To perfect their work, artists need time and space. Knowing this, Public Energy has instigated a program of Creative Residencies with nationally significant artists, called Cross-Canada Creative Residencies.

Through this program, in 2006 and 2013, Public Energy premiered two works by **James Kudelka**, former **artistic director of the National Ballet** and one of Canada's greatest choreographers. He created an operatic piece, called *it is as it was*, in collaboration with Canada's renowned counter-tenor **Daniel Taylor**. In this innovative work, Taylor sang while moving among the dancers. Public Energy premiered it to a sold-out audience at Showplace Peterborough. Kudelka returned seven years later to continue his opera and dance fusion with *From the House of Mirth*.

In 2024 Public Energy hosted a Creative Residency with **Diana Lopez Soto**, one of Canada's leading aerial and performance artists. Taking advantage of the Market Hall Performing Arts Centre's very high ceiling Diana was able to perfect a complicated aerial performance that featured a dozen clay pots filled with water and grains that rose and fell as she too swung up and down and back and forth throughout the performance. The work went on to be seen with the leading presenter of multi-disciplinary arts in Toronto, **Canadian Stage** and with one of the country's foremost performing arts festivals, **PuSh**, in Vancouver.

Why James and Diana choose to develop and launch their productions in Peterborough? In both cases Public Energy provided the artists and their collaborators with an extended Creative Residency, giving them extra days in the theatre to fine tune the pieces before they opened. Public Energy regularly provides this service to artists in order to facilitate their creative work.

2024



DIANA LOPEZ SOTO  
*Nomada*  
Photo: Greg Wong

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# THE POWER OF PERFORMANCE

## PARTNERING WITH INDIGENOUS ARTISTS

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2024

Over the years, Indigenous arts have played a central and dynamic role in Public Energy's programming. In 2024 Public Energy hosted two important events: the national tour of *Raven Mother* by the west coast company **Dancers of Damelahamid** and the Sami company from Norway, **Elle Sofe Sara**. In both cases these companies chose Peterborough as their only Ontario stop outside Ottawa and Toronto.

Public Energy's connections include other international artists as well: In 2019 we brought two Australian companies to Peterborough and in 2013 PE hosted a month-long residency with Maori choreographer/performer **Charles Koroneho** that resulted in the premiere of his newest work, *Pure*.

Another highlight was Public Energy's five-year partnership with **O'Kaaadenigan Wiingashk**, a Peterborough Indigenous arts collective, to produce the **Ode'min Giizis (Strawberry Moon) Festival**. First created in 2009, this festival presented new works by Canada's most acclaimed Indigenous artists. Musicians like **Polaris Prize-winner Tanya Tagaq**, and Polaris short-listed group **A Tribe Called Red**, played Hunter Street and Del Crary Park in Peterborough years before achieving international fame. In theatre, the festival produced *The (Post) Mistress*, a new work by renowned playwright **Tomson Highway**, as well as a brand new play, *Huff*, by one of Canada's hottest rising stars, **Cliff Cardinal**. Both plays went on to be produced at the **National Arts Centre** in Ottawa.



DANCERS OF DAMELAHAMID  
*Raven Mother*  
Photo: Chris Randle

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# THE POWER OF PERFORMANCE

## GIVING BACK TO LOCAL ARTISTS

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2015

Performers stay in the region because they appreciate the audiences that Public Energy has built up. They know that you support artistic risk-taking, and that Peterborough is an incubator for creative expression. One local artist, **Kate Story**, won the prestigious 2015 **K.M. Hunter Artist Award** in Theatre. Kate spoke of Public Energy's long history of support for her work:

*After living in Toronto for seven years, I returned to Peterborough because it felt like the best place for me to work as an artist. I was still emerging; I was still finding my voice. But how do you do that? In Peterborough I, like many young artists, turned to Public Energy.*

*The craft of mentorship has a long tradition. David Bierk mentored Bill Kimball at Artspace for ten years before Bill became the Artistic Producer of Public Energy. And in turn, Bill mentored me and many others in town.*

*Bill helped me gain perspective on my work and my place within the context of the regional and world performing arts scenes. And he created key opportunities for my work like the annual Emergency festival. I was able to create and present work on a regular basis, for audiences who got it, audiences who appreciated creative process and energy. Bill also connected me with the community of Peterborough artists who were working professionally. Together we have learned from each other and continue to work to expand the artistic ecology of the region. In the end it comes down to this: Bill believed in me. He gave me the time, space, and resources to expand and mature as a performing artist. And he builds audiences that support and engage with a wide range of work, including my own. From my heart I thank everyone for being there.*



KATE STORY  
*Performances May Be Permanent* by Kate Story  
Photo: Wayne Eardley

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# THE POWER OF PERFORMANCE

## THE IMPACT OF YOUR GIFT

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PERFORMING ARTS

### ONE EVENT IN THE MAINSTAGE SEASON:

**\$8,000 TO \$40,000**

Public Energy's main-stage season is the foundation of our public activities. In our season we bring to audiences the best of what Canada and the world have to offer. The list includes more than fifty world premieres by artists from across Canada as well as works that have met with great success elsewhere and are being brought to Peterborough because of their artistry and impact.

Since our inception we have presented and co-presented more than three hundred artists. They have come from all over the globe—New Zealand, Australia, the U.K and the U.S; from all over Canada—including the Northwest Territories and British Columbia; and from all around the Peterborough area— from Douro to downtown.

### CREATIVE RESIDENCIES WITH VISITING ARTISTS:

**\$15,000–\$25,000**

This covers the cost of artist fees, accommodation and travel; theatre rental and technical personnel; production costs; and publicity and marketing.

Visiting artists spend a week in Peterborough working on the final stages of creating new works prior to their premiere here, as well as engaging the community with classes, workshops and talks. Costs vary depending on the number of performers and the distances travelled.

### COMMISSIONING NEW WORKS:

**\$5,000–\$15,000**

Artists need commissioning support to cover their creative costs. Dancer and composer fees, studio rental, set, costume and sound design are expensive. Costs vary depending on the length of a work and the number of performers.

### FUELLED BY PUBLIC ENERGY – OUR SUPPORT SYSTEM FOR THE BEST WORK FROM LOCAL ARTISTS:

**\$2,000–\$8,000**

This is Public Energy's program of supporting great work outside our main-stage season. Usually it is for a Peterborough artist who is presenting a show and needs support with publicity and marketing; other times it is for a visiting artist who needs help connecting with local venues and media. In all cases, Public Energy's involvement ensures the success of these independent productions.

2024



ELLE SOFE SARA  
*Vástádus eana – The answer is land*  
Photo: Knut Aaserud

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# POWER ARTISTIC DISCOVERY!

## TO DONATE

Visit [publicenergy.ca/donate](https://publicenergy.ca/donate) to donate online, or mail a cheque to:

Public Energy Performing Arts

PO Box 2319

Peterborough, Ontario

K9J7Y8

Thank You! A tax receipt will be issued for donations of \$25 or over.

Charitable registration #8948 1058 RR 0001.

## TO SPONSOR

Email Eva Fisher at [eva@publicenergy.ca](mailto:eva@publicenergy.ca) for current sponsorship opportunities.



PULGA MUCHOCHOMA  
Coming in the fall of 2025 with YEBO  
Photo: Allison Caroline Smith