



**Jessa Agilo** [b. 1969]

Arts, Culture, Placemaking, Technology + Social Change

A social innovator, executive producer, and researcher uprooting systemic precarity in arts and culture for collective impact on-the-ground and in-the-cloud across 30 years.

🌐 ArtsPond.com | Groundstory.ca | DigitalASO.ca | Agilo.ca

## Milestones

- Award-winning professional in the performing, literary, visual, community-engaged, and media arts as a creator, designer, educator, activist, researcher, producer, manager, financier, fundraiser, marketer, keynote speaker, changemaker, futurist, volunteer, mentor, advocate, entrepreneur
- A leading social innovator integrating technology and decentralized models of governance to break-down disciplinary silos and eradicate deep-rooted socioeconomic barriers in arts and culture
- An outspoken transsexual devoted to empowering radical diversity and inclusion in the arts through ground-breaking collaborations with hundreds of cross-disciplinary stakeholders including non-profits, businesses, government, emerging and established artists, producing and presenting arts organizations, multi-arts services, technologists, youth, seniors, visible minorities, communities with disabilities, queer communities, other racialized groups

- Rooted in holistic, human-centered design thinking approaches to visioning, planning, and evaluation of complex collaborative projects
- Successfully produced hundreds of performing and integrated arts performances, exhibitions, and festivals in Canada and United States, with single-evening attendance up to 7,500
- Raised \$4.5 million+ for small producers across Canada, increasing earned revenues 220% and individual giving 237%
- An astute financier with strategic planning and management accounting experience up to \$2.5 million annually, including successfully retiring accumulated deficit equivalent to 35% of total annual revenues within two years
- Supervisory experience up to 75+ direct reports including full- and part-time staff and volunteers
- Recently joined Advocacy and Diversity Committees at Toronto Alliance for the Performing Arts, and selected as 2019 fellow at Toronto Arts Council's Leaders Lab

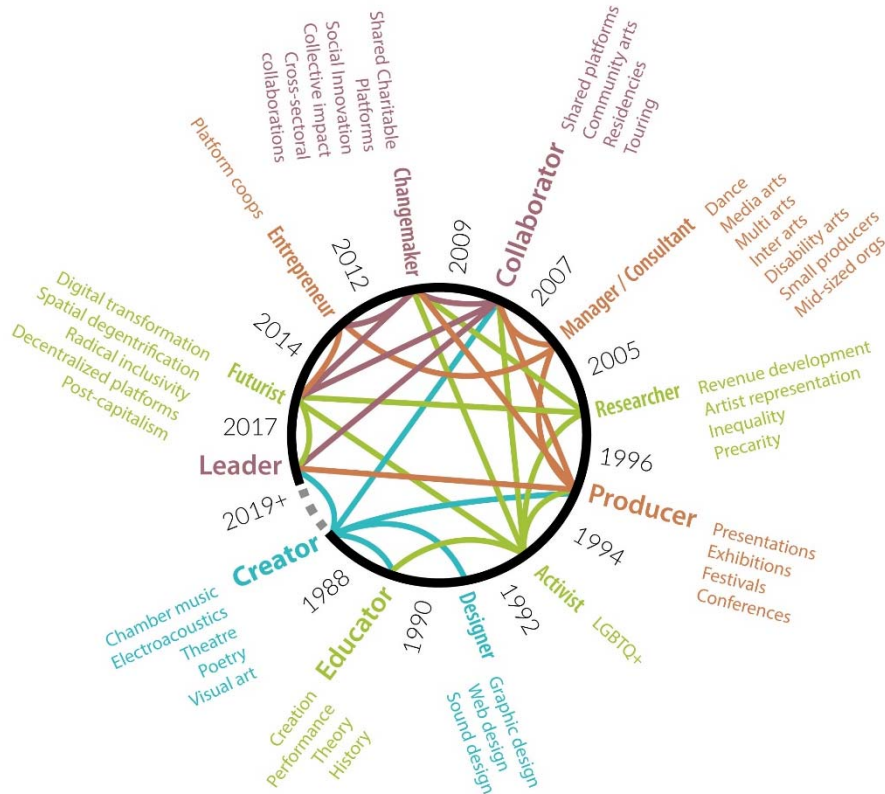
## Professional Experience

**Founder, Executive Producer + Research Lead** | [Groundstory.ca](https://groundstory.ca) (2017 - present)

Founder of a collective impact effort to uproot the adverse effects of gentrification on the arts in Ontario, funded by Ontario Trillium Foundation Collective Impact Fund, Canada Council for the Arts Sector Innovation and Development, and Government of Canada. Major activities include cross-sectoral advisory sessions and focus groups in the Greater Toronto to Hamilton Area; applied research agenda featuring international literature review and Ontario and Canada-wide surveys of the general public and arts industry workers in collaboration with Hill Strategies Research, Cobalt Connects, and dozens of other partners; and, **Round the Block Podcast**.

**Founder + Executive Producer** | [Artse United](https://artseunited.com) (2017 - present)

Founder of an open source, open data platform cooperative providing arts management software for small creators and producers in arts and culture, funded by Canada Council for the Arts Digital Strategy Fund.



## Co-Founder, Co-Curator, Executive Producer + Research Lead | [DigitalASO.ca](#) (2016 – present)

Co-Founder of an arts and technology collaboration empowering digital transformation of Canadian arts services through digital literacy research and alliance-building, including **Managing Creativity in Digital World Survey**, **DigitalGO Podcast**, and **Digital Arts Services Symposium 2017 + 2019**, funded by Ontario Arts Council, Toronto Arts Council, Canada Council for the Arts Digital Strategy Fund.

## Founder, President + CEO | [ArtsPond.com](#) (2014 – present)

Founder of a national, multi-arts services organization bolstering the prosperity of the arts for collective impact

## Researcher | [Freelance](#) (2011 – present)

Ground-breaking research and presentations on digital transformation of arts services, platform coops, Charitable Venture Platforms, degentrification, demystifying artist-producer relationships, arts revenue diversification, and artist representation funded by Ontario Arts Council, Canada Council for the Arts, CPAMO, Humber College, MagNet 2018 and others including:

- **Digital Shift** (2018)
- **Strategic Planning for the Dynamic Web: How Arts Mags Can Plan and Grow Online in a Constantly Shifting Environment** (2018)
- **DigitalGO** (2017-2020)
- **ProduceYou** (2016-2019)
- **Gathering Insight** (2017)
- **The Whole Can** (2017)
- **Arts Working Group** (2016-2019)
- **Raising Diversity** (2013)
- **Just Dance It** (2012)
- **The Edge of Collaboration** (2012)
- **Agent Dance** (2011)

## Director | [Agilo Arts](#) (2005 – present)

Freelance arts manager, producer, agent, educator, designer, and development strategy consultant with current and past clients including:

- **Citadel + Compagnie, Creative Users Projects, ArtsPond, Roseneath Theatre, Ontario Culture Days, lbs/sq” performance, Dreamwalker Dance Company, Anandam Dancetheatre, hum dansoundart, black&blue, Queer Arts Festival, The Chimera Project, Zata Omm, adelheid, Nightswimming, Modern Times, Business for the Arts, Blue Metropolis Foundation, Kaeja d’Dance, Canadian Dance Assembly, Dancer Transition Resource Centre, Dance Ontario, and many others**

Major producing credits include:

- **The Whole Shebang, The Ontario Shebang, Beside Each Other** (Dreamwalker Dance), **Art of Peace, The Apology Project, Canada’s National Voice Intensive** (lbs/sq”), **CCAFT, Body Brake, Cascade, AiR Audience in Residence** (Anandam), **Shudder** (hum), **20/20 Vision, Abattoir, Birds Eye View, Porch View Dances** (Kaeja d’Dance), **Youth Arts Ambassadors Program, 2016 Ontario Tourism Strategy** with \$8 million impact (Ontario Culture Days)

## Other | [Various](#) (1988 – present)

Mid- and senior-level executive management positions at **Music @ Banff Centre, Workman Arts, Kaeja d’Dance, Dance Umbrella of Ontario, Dance Committee member @ Toronto Arts Council, Peer Advisor @ Ontario Arts Council, music instructor at Royal Conservatory of Music and BC Conservatory of Music, integrated artist**

## Education

- **Cloud Computing and Big Data** | University of Toronto (2017)
- **Impact Accelerator** | Innoweave (2017)
- **Collective Impact** | Tamarack Institute (2017)
- **Entrepreneurship 101** | MaRS (2017)
- **MOOC: Managing the Arts** | Goethe Institute (2016)
- **Arts Administration** | John Molson School of Business @ Concordia University (2006)
- **Fundraising Management** | British Columbia Institute of Technology (2005)
- **DMA, Music Composition (Incomplete)** | University of British Columbia (1995-1997)
- **MMus, Composition, Electroacoustics** | University of British Columbia (1992-1994)
- **BMUS, Composition, Flute** | Queen’s University at Kingston (1988-1992)

## Honours

- Toronto Arts Council Leaders Lab (2019)
- Humberto Santos Award in Business + Administration (2006)
- Gaudeamus International Young Composers Competition (1997)
- SOCAN Young Composers Competition (1994)
- Vancouver New Music Young Composers Competition (1992)
- Istvan Anhalt Award in Electroacoustics (1992)
- Maurice Dubin Prize in Composition (1991)

## Grants

- **Canada Council for the Arts** (2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2011, 1996)
- **Ontario Arts Council** (2017, 2016, 2015, 2013, 2011, 2010)
- **Ontario Trillium Foundation** (2018)
- **Toronto Arts Council** (2018)