

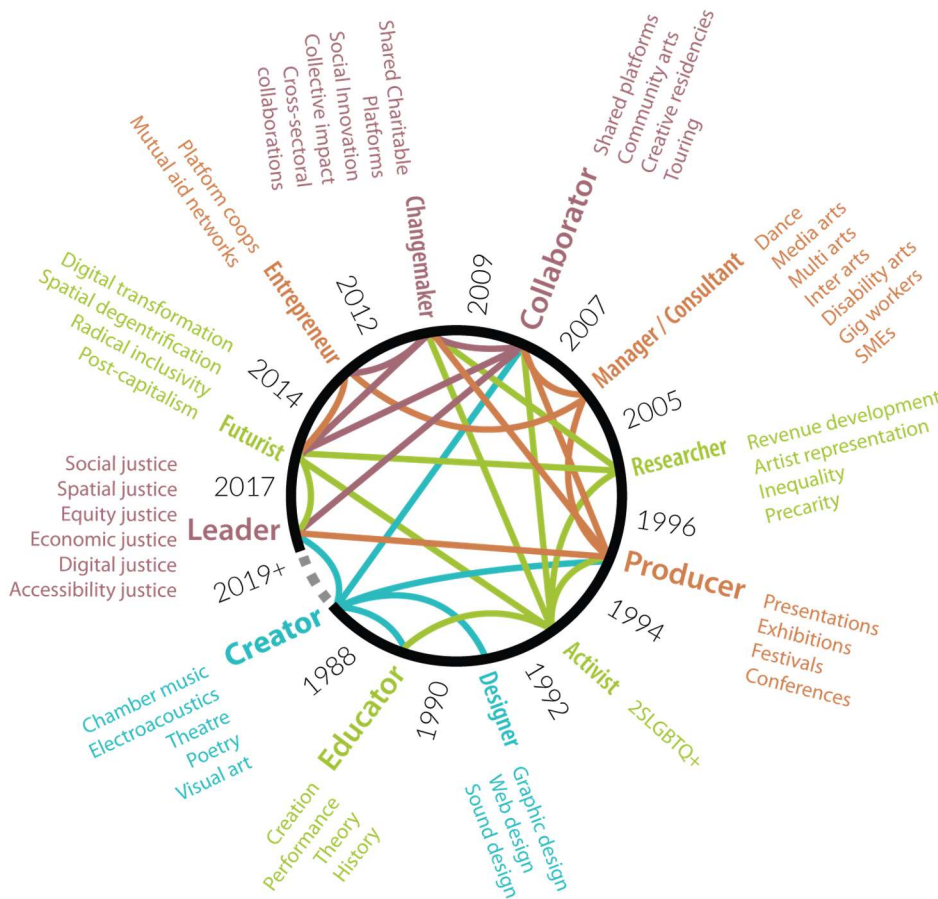


# Jessa Agilo [b. 1969]

## Arts, culture + social justice

A social entrepreneur and changemaker uprooting systemic precarity for equity-seeking groups in arts and culture for collective impact on-the-ground and in-the-cloud.

🌐 ArtsPond.com | Artse.ca | DigitalASO.ca | ILostMyGig.ca | Agilo.ca



## Milestones

- An award-winning integrated arts producer, educator, researcher, changemaker, and serial entrepreneur with a three-decade career boosting social, spatial, economic, digital, and accessibility justice for equity-seeking groups across all disciplines in Canadian arts, culture, heritage, tourism, and creative industries
- A creative social innovator integrating human-centered design and decentralized models of governance to break-down disciplinary silos and strengthen national ecosystems that eradicate deep-rooted socioeconomic barriers for precarious gig workers and SMEs in sub/urban and rural/remote communities
- An outspoken transsexual devoted to empowering radical diversity and inclusion 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, Indigenous, Black, 2SLGBTQ+, New Canadians, persons with disabilities, and other vulnerable and racialized groups

- Successfully produced hundreds of events in Canada and United States, with single-evening attendance up to 7,500
- Raised \$6.5 million+ for small producers across Canada, increasing earned revenues 220% and individual giving 237%
- Raised the first grant awarded to an arts organization from Ontario Trillium Foundation's Collective Impact Fund for Groundstory
- Raised \$1.1 million from Canada Council for the Arts' Digital Strategy Fund for three national digital initiatives, including Digital Arts Services Symposium 2019 (\$110k), Hatch Open and Artse United (\$495k), and DigitalASO (\$495k)
- 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
- Featured media coverage includes CBC Radio's The House, Toronto Star, Globe & Mail, City News, The Canadian Press, and more

## Professional Experience

**Founder, President + CEO | ArtsPond / Étang d'Arts (2014 - present)**

Founder of a national non-profit nurturing healthy ecosystems that cultivate social cohesion and boost spatial, economic, digital, accessibility, and equity justice in the arts on-the-ground and in-the-cloud. By 2020, I grew ArtsPond's annual budget to \$0.6 million, human resources exceeding 24 direct reports, and 12,000 members, fans, and followers and 200+ partners from all 13 Canadian provinces/territories and internationally, including 2.7 million annual media impressions. Major actions include:

- **Founder, Groundtrust**, cultural land trust study (2020-)
- **Founder, COVID-19 Task Force**, national pandemic response collaboration (2020-)
- **Founder, I Lost My Gig Canada / J'ai perdu mon contrat Canada**, pandemic mutual aid network and research (2020-)
- **Founder, Digital Arts Services Alliance / Alliance des services d'arts numériques**, national digital justice circles (2020-)

- **Founder, Hatch Open**, open source arts management software platform (2019-)
- **Founder, Digital Arts Services Symposium / Symposium des services d'arts numériques**, national digital literacy (2017-)
- **Founder, Groundstory / Histoire de terrain**, spatial justice collective impact effort (2017-)
- **Founder, DigitalASO / OSANumériques**, national innovation ecosystem (2016-)
- **Founder, Artse United**, arts management platform cooperative (2014-)

### Producer | **Agilo Arts** (2005 - present)

- Freelance arts manager, producer, agent, educator, designer, researcher, and development strategy consultant with clients including: **Indigenous @ The Banff Centre, The Power Plant, Cultural Pluralism in the Arts Movement Ontario, Brick: A Literary Journal, Art Gallery at York University, Basic Income Network, Canadian New Music Network, Professional Association of Canadian Theatres, Citadel + Co, Creative Users Projects, ArtsPond, Roseneath Theatre, Ontario Culture Days, Workman Arts, 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 education credits include: **IBM/Ontario Trillium Foundation Digital Transformation Collaborative** (2020), **CPAMO Essential Digital Tools** (2020), **Funding Digital Strategy Projects** (2020), **Essentials for Artists-Producers** (2019), **Urban Planning @ University of Toronto** (2019-), **iSchool @ University of Toronto** (2019), **Creative Industries @ Ryerson University** (2019-), **Arts Management @ Humber College** (2018-)
- Major research credits include: **Research Insights: Designing a cooperative digital future for managing the arts** (2020), **What Space: Spatial precarity, gentrification, and the arts** (2020), **I Lost My Gig Canada COVID19 Impact Survey / Étude d'impact COVID19** (2020), **DigitalGO** (2019), **Round the Block** (2018-), **Digital Shift** (2018), **MagNet Strategic Planning for the Dynamic Web: How arts mags can plan and grow online in a constantly shifting environment** (2018), **Managing Creativity in a Digital World / Gestion de la créativité dans un monde numérique** (2017), **Produce You** (2017), **Gathering Insight** (2017), **The Whole Can** (2017), **Arts Working Group** (2016-19), **Raising Diversity** (2013), **Just Dance It** (2012), **The Edge of Collaboration** (2012), **Agent Dance** (2011)
- 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 @ The Banff Centre, Workman Arts, Kaeja d'Dance, Dance Umbrella of Ontario**, Dance Committee member @ **Toronto Arts Council**, Peer Advisor @ **Ontario Arts Council (Arts Services)** and **Canada Council for the Arts (Digital Strategy Fund)**, music instructor at **Royal Conservatory of Music** and **BC Conservatory of Music**, executive producer of **First North American Conference on Bisexuality, Gender, and Sexual Diversity 2001**, 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** (2020, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2011, 1996)
- **Ontario Arts Council** (2017, 2016, 2015, 2013, 2011, 2010)
- **Ontario Trillium Foundation** (2018)
- **Toronto Arts Council** (2018)