

A word from the new Co-Editors-in-Chief

15th Anniversary of Culture and Local Governance!

In 2008, the journal of Culture and Local Governance released its inaugural issue. Published by the Centre for Local Government at Laurentian University, in Sudbury, Ontario, Canada, the journal established itself as cultural resource seeking to explore a plethora of areas from cultural organizations, heritage and local governance, arts and curation, heritage and artefact protection, international cultural policies, comparative heritage practices, etc. Guided by an experienced editorial board in the cultural and management fields, Isabelle Fortier, Robert V. Segsworth, and Jonathan Paquette, the journal greatly benefited by their commitment in establishing a dedicated space for academics and practitioners in culture to share and circulate their work, particularly in French and in Canada. Their contributions to that issue, and since then, cannot be overstated. We are grateful for all their hard work.

Since 2008, the journal has periodically released issues that often corresponded to contemporary and even pressing cultural policy and management issues. Starting in 2011, the journal transformed in a few significant ways. First, it published its first English issue, thus beginning to further its reach among the rest of the unilingual audience in Canada. Second, the journal began releasing with the support of the Centre on Governance at the University of Ottawa in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. Under the direction of editors and special editors like Jonathan Paquette, Sharon Jeannotte, and Nancy Duxbury, the journal began to expand its themes and reach to include themes on sustainability (a pressing issue even in 2023!) and culture, governance, community development, cultural planning. Published in early 2011, volume three had two issues, which consisted of a massive ten articles, two conference reports, an essay, and the publication of the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) Policy Statement: 'Culture: Fourth Pillar of Sustainable Development'.

In 2015-2016, the journal celebrated yet another milestone. While the publication of another massive eleven article special issue on planning and development continued to showcase the development of ongoing projects, expanded cultural discussions on regional and community mapping and civic engagement, the Centre on Governance formally grouped together a network, the Cultural Policy Research Network, along with its other established research axes. This formal commitment by the Centre represented an immense transformation uniting many of the dispersed interdisciplinary researchers working in various fields and departments around campus. Furthermore, it formalized a space for students working in culture to work, circulate their research, and learn about and attend various conferences and events set forth by the network directors, Jonathan Paquette and M. Sharon Jeannotte.

It is now 2023 and the journal is, again, undergoing exciting changes. The impact of COVID-19 created many logistic issues in producing a fresh issue and in enticing the interest from locked-down academics and institutions in submitting articles or producing a special issue. Thus, the journal has been in regroup mode. In 2022, the Centre on Governance assigned us (Christopher Gunter and Julie Bérubé) as Co-Editors-in-Chief to plan for a re-launch of the journal. In March of 2022, Mass Culture approached us with a proposition to house a workshop at Saint-Paul University (federated with University of Ottawa) and to

assemble a special edition based on the research and projects completed by the participants. Now, at the tail end of 2023, we are happy to present the 15th anniversary issue, which presents a handful of articles that are emblematic of contemporary challenges facing cultural academics and practitioners.

Of course, the journal's plans do not stop there. 2024 promises to be a busy one as we have the special issue's part two that we are currently completing, and two more planned issues. The first regular issue will focus on French articles dealing with contemporary international cultural trends. A second planned issue—likely to be published in early 2025—will feature the work of an upcoming conference. More details to come!

We would like to give thanks to several of the journal's networks, institutions, and people. In particular, we would like to thank the Centre on Governance's Director, Eric Champagne, for his and the Centre's support and dedication to this journal. Similarly, we thank Julien Doris for his support and work in developing the journal, and Leigh-Ann Butler for her library and OJS expertise and guidance in ensuring a smooth transition of this issue from the technical behind-the-scenes work. We would like to especially thank both of the copy editors, Stephanie Schinkel and Renata Khalikova, for their tireless work in assisting in the formatting and editing of each article. Finally, a major thanks goes out to our special-issue co-editors, Mary Elizabeth Luka, Robin Nelson, Shawn Newman, Robin Sokoloski and Mass Culture as a whole. Without their help, this two-part issue would not have come to fruition.

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