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Edythe Goodridge, a prominent figure in Newfoundland and Labrador's arts community, has died.



Edythe Goodridge. — Newfoundland and Labrador Arts Council photo.

Joshua Jamieson, communications officer with the Newfoundland and Labrador Arts Council (NLAC), says it's sad news for the arts community in the province.

Among many other roles Goodridge held, she was the first executive director of the province's arts council.

A profile of her from the arts council website (www.nlac.ca) says Goodridge lived in Salvage, where she helped set up the very successful Winterset Festival, staged annually in Eastport.

Goodridge had more than 30 years experience in the arts and cultural community at a local, national and international level. In 1968, she joined Memorial University's community development division and in 1972 she went to Ottawa to serve on the National Capital Commission.

In 1974, she returned to the province to take over the destiny of the Memorial University Art Gallery.

She was the first executive director of the Newfoundland Arts Council and went on to work as director of visual arts, in the Canada Council, Ottawa.

She also served on the Association of Cultural Industries, the Heritage Association, the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission, the Canadian Conference of the Arts, and the Canadian Art Museum Directors Organization. She was also co-founder and president of the Newfoundland Historic Trust.

Goodridge also received a Doctor of Laws (honoris causa) from Memorial University of Newfoundland in 1991