

ARTsPLACE Organizational Profile (updated 2020)

Mission: To support professional and personal artistic endeavour in the Annapolis region, through varied, creative, informative, and challenging exhibits, programs, and workshops.

Mandate

1. To act as a focal point for local artistic talent and expertise, and to facilitate the integration of art and artists into the life of our communities; **2.** To support the development of professional and emerging artists, from within and outside our community, through exhibitions of their work, promotion, and provision of opportunities to connect to wider audiences; **3.** To act as a resource, advocate, and host to local, regional, national and international artists; **4.** To broaden and generate revenue opportunities for the region's practicing artists; **5.** To provide educational and professional development opportunities for artists and community members; **6.** To collaborate and partner with local arts and community resources, and with other peer organizations provincially, nationally and internationally; **7.** To foster appreciation and understanding of contemporary arts expression through community-oriented programs, outreach, and creative opportunities. **8.** To provide access to local and external arts professionals, through residencies, workshops, talks, and media, fostering involvement in the arts; **9.** To develop and maintain ARTsPLACE as a regional arts centre.

Business Proposition

The Annapolis Region Community Arts Council (ARCAC) is a registered, not for profit society with charitable status, governed by a volunteer Board of Directors who delegate management to the small professional staff. ARCAC sources revenues from earned, private and public sources to address expenses relating to exhibitions, programming, facility, revenue generation, and administration. The organization depends on considerable skilled volunteer labour to develop and support programming and outreach, and to assist with revenue generation.

ARTISTIC VISION STATEMENT

ARCAC's artistic vision is rooted in respect for the variety and importance of artistic practice, and a desire to share stimulating work and strengthen artistic life in our region. Creating environments for art and arts practitioners to thrive is key to our work, as is supporting audiences in their growth, awareness, and excitement about art.

While we have a particular interest in developing contemporary professional artists and art practice, we also value historic context and the personal artistic expression we see in our communities. We strive to find links and congruences, and to build on these to develop understanding, dialogue, and approaches to work. We seek to broaden perspectives about what art can be, to open understanding around contemporary arts, and to develop critical thinking.

We support professional artists through exhibitions, residencies, low rent studio space, professional development workshops, outreach programming, and opportunities to showcase, market and generate revenue from their work. We seek excellence. We ground our exhibits, programming and outreach in the work of professional artists and artistic leaders. Imagination, creative energy, surprising collaborations, and thoughtful integration of concept are essential elements of our activity. While we respect the creative expression of all individuals, we specifically select art for exhibition that offers strong artistic or societal insights for our community.

We are beginning to connect more to provincial, national and international artists and partners. This has expanded the nature of the work we do and our horizons. While we are strongly committed to our own local artists, we are beginning to see that we can also build opportunities for guest artists and their artistic ideas, share knowledge from our community, and interact more fully with our peers. This will take time to evolve, but we are entering into collaborations that are increasingly bi-directional.

We are also committed to providing community-based opportunities to build relationships, networks, and understanding. We want our communities and citizens to have face to face interactions with local artists, to know and value these individuals. We also want individuals to feel confident in personal artistic exploration, which we support through outreach, workshops, and chances to show emerging and student work. We strive to make our programming accessible: financially, physically, and intellectually.

We have a particular interest in the development of youth. We have begun to develop skill in integrating professional and student artistic practice, finding ways to share ideas and technique, and to explore each other's ways of thinking. Our high school brings art students to see all of our major exhibitions. We encourage youth participation in workshops and special themed projects such as the Lunar exhibit held in 2019. We also provide youth with opportunities to develop and curate their own programs.

ARCAC was founded as a Society in 1982 by a group of artists who wanted to share their work and ideas with each other and their community. ARCAC is a registered, not-for-profit, charitable organization. In 1995, ARCAC acquired its own building, known as ARTsPLACE, with three galleries, residency and pop-up studio/gallery and space for workshops and performances. ARCAC is also home to an Artist-Run Centre (ARC), which is managed by an arm's length committee of the Board, comprised 100% of artists whose duties are to jury the paid schedule of professional, contemporary visual arts exhibitions. ARCAC and the ARC are funded by the Canada Council for the Arts (CCA), the NS Dept. of Communities, Culture and Heritage (CCH), and through membership, donations and fundraising.

Awards and Recognition

2006: Wayne Boucher, RCA won the Portia White Award; ARCAC received the Portia White Protégé Award enabling a six-month funded AiR.

2007: Winner of the Community Arts and Culture Recognition Award on behalf of the Town of Annapolis Royal.

2008: Visual Arts Nova Scotia (VANS) Honour Roll.

2016: Past Exhibition Committee member and long-time member of ARCAC, Bonnie Baker received Provincial recognition at the 2016 Creative Nova Scotia Awards.

2019: Charlotte Wilson-Hammond nominated by ARCAC for NS Masterworks award, 2019, she was a finalist.

Geographic location

ARCAC is centrally located in Annapolis Royal, which is a half hour to Digby (ferry to New Brunswick), 1.5hrs to Yarmouth (ferry to Maine), and a 2hr drive to Halifax. With a cozy winter population of only about 400, the historic community of Annapolis Royal attracts around 100,000 visitors per year and is a destination for artists, artisans, craftspeople and tourists of diverse interests. ARCAC serves the Annapolis County region, a rural area of small towns and villages, farms, timber and fishing industries, lakes, rivers and the south shore of the Atlantic Ocean's great Fundy Bay.