

06 Committee Reports 2022

Overview (Sophie Paskins, Gallery Director)

Art talks, residencies, exhibitions, film screenings and collaborations were all achieved in 2022. We continued our partnerships with the local high school and Young Company Productions; hosting two children and youth art camps, as per our strategic plan, and these were both very successful. We were able to get a two-year stalled project off the ground, Painting with Light, which culminated in a stunning evening event held at St. Louis Catholic church, with a collaborative light and sound projection working with WASKO, the high school and the parish.

Early 2022 we were still experiencing the effects of COVID, having to cancel some programming in March. In August, the Gallery Director had to take a leave of absence, which resulted in the need to hire another staff person (moving forward this one strategic goal by a year). This was a time of change, and challenges for the existing Board, as well as the new staff (hired in September). Our Gallery Director returned to work on a part-time basis late September. The net effect of this resulted in a stalling of some strategic goals.

Despite the challenges faced in 2022, core programs were not affected, but opening hours were. From August to the end of September, the gallery was on reduced hours, as the operation relied on volunteer labour. Our flagship program and fundraiser, Paint the Town, which had moved to a purely online event in 2020 and 2021, was trialled as a hybrid for 2022. This involved 41 artists, who came to Annapolis Royal for a plein air weekend, after which the work was exhibited and offered for auction online.

2022 marked the 40th anniversary of the organisation, there was a special celebratory event at the opening of the members' show and exhibits, with a proclamation from the Town Crier. ARCAC commissioned a mini documentary about the early days of ARCAC, which will be part funded through the three year digital project ArtSeen and made available in the Spring of 2023.

Membership & Volunteer Committee (Julia Redgrave, Flora Hall)

Strategic goals & outcomes: ARTSPACE will have sufficient staff, supported by volunteers, to manage organisational activities effectively without overload; The membership base will provide the Board and committees with skilled human resources.

2022 was a year that was still affected by COVID, memberships had stalled and volunteer participation was lower, due to a reduced need. A membership mail out was sent at the end of 2021, for renewals. These were followed up with a phone call. We endeavour to increase Membership by encouraging online renewal through our website, by word-of-mouth and actively during workshops and openings. The membership rate did not increase. The business/organisation membership rate offers 10% of individual members of the business/organisation. We did not receive any lifetime memberships in 2022.

2022: 195 individual members, including lifetime memberships.

During the Covid interlude of 2021,22, the Gallery was closed, any workshops and events were cancelled, and so, there was little/no need for the volunteers. We are now actively recruiting volunteers through the website and other requests. We are working towards a more streamlined volunteer recruitment and onboarding process as per our ongoing strategic goals.

Volunteers contribute much to functions and events at ARTSPPLACE and we express our sincere gratitude to them. As well, past Paint the Town Volunteers will be recruited to assist with the planned-for Paint the Town in 2023.

Human Resources Committee (Julia Redgrave, Susan Tooke, Ted Lind, Randy Swigart) *Strategic goals & outcomes: To retain and grow the human resources needed to ensure capacity to continue our activity with excellence. Identify activities required to appropriately staff the organisation and design appropriate staff and volunteer structures*

ARTSPPLACE has been a single-staff (full-time) organisation, supported through volunteer efforts since 2009. In the Summer of 2021, our one staff member had to take a leave of absence, which left the organisation under volunteer management for a number of weeks. An additional staff member was hired on a full-time basis during this period. Towards the end of 2022, we had one full-time and one part-time staff member. This brought forward an HR strategic goal of appropriately staffing the organisation, by one year.

As well as paid staff, the organisation will continue to rely on volunteer labour. Volunteer engagement has dropped off since COVID, and there will be a drive to grow this once again in 2023.

Facilities / Maintenance Committee (Randy Swigart, Julia Redgrave)

Strategic goals & outcomes The facility will have modifications to support visibility, function, and accessibility

Routine maintenance of the Artsplace building starts early each year with the patching and painting of all gallery walls in the first week of January.

After a major wind storm in March, three trailer loads of downed tree limbs were cleaned up and removed from our property. A routine fire inspection indicated a few areas of concern in the building which were rectified. A fire safety plan was produced and evacuation routes have been posted in the building. Phosphorescent evacuation signage has also been installed to show the rear exit of the Building.

The furnace has been inspected and the forced air heating ducts have been vacuumed. The vacuum company inspected our heat-pumps and determined they did not require a deep clean at this time.

New track lighting with led bulbs was installed in the Main and Library galleries. A new sound system and a digital projector were installed on the ceiling of our second floor studio space.

The outdoor grounds of the Artsplace property have been maintained by volunteer board members doing pruning and leaf clean up. In the fall of 2022 Angelika Waldow was hired to do a professional pruning and clean up of our grounds along with mulching perennial beds. Blair Fox landscaping is hired to maintain our grass throughout the summer.

Concerns for our building going forward. The front wall window has a moisture leak during strong storm events, affecting the Main gallery wall. A large window in the library gallery has a rotten exterior frame.

The Chapel Gallery roof will need new shingles. Discussions are underway to address these issues with a more long term comprehensive approach. Examples being the possibility of re-positioning entrance ways, windows, or even enlarging the footprint of our building. Looking to the future of a more accessible and visually aesthetic contemporary Art Gallery. In the short term, caulking around the windows in question have helped to keep the rain storms at bay.

Fundraising Committee (Julia Redgrave, Elaine Bergen, Board as required)

Strategic goals & outcomes: To generate sufficient revenues to achieve our mandate in a sustainable way.

Fundraising has been difficult since 2020. We had managed to continue to run our main fundraiser, Paint the Town, as an online event in 2020/21 and as a hybrid event in 2022. The revenue from the purely online and the hybrid versions were almost identical - despite the hybrid version having nearly twice the number of participating artists. The committee is working towards identifying additional sources of income (grants, gifts, foundation etc.) and this will form part of a wider strategy in 2023.

Drawing on other categories, we are looking at increasing memberships, workshop attendance and potentially piloting a small “shop” to increase revenues.

PR/Marketing Committee (Sophie Paskins, Terry Drahos) with Peter Mansour as external contractor & in-kind contributions

Strategic goals & outcomes: To increase ARTSPPLACE profile, visibility, revenue and engagement through improved communications, marketing, and advocacy

Throughout 2022, the marketing and communication strategy put in place in 2020, continued to be implemented. There is clear branding, refreshed logos and appropriate usage, and a communications plan in place. In 2022, to highlight the building, we produced large banner versions of the exhibition posters that were attached to the exterior, the net effect of this is an increased visibility of the building.

We have invested more in PR, engaging Peter Mansour to apply his experience and knowledge to the look and message of ARTSPPLACE (and ARCAC), including ArtSeen. He works closely with the Gallery Director to ensure that printed and web materials are clear and consistent.

Exhibitions Committee (Pat Lohrenz, Ted Lind, Wayne Boucher, James Lightle, Terry Drahos) & Programs Committee (Ted Lind, Julia Redgrave, Susan Tooke) and Gallery Director, Sophie Paskins *Strategic goal: To ensure programming that integrates artistic endeavour and regional life, supporting professional artists and providing creative opportunities for individuals and communities.*

ARTSPPLACE offered a wide range of programs and exhibitions during 2022. Art talks, workshops, and film screenings supported the educational mission of the organisation.

ArtSeen, launched in Nov 2022, the new online ‘digital space’ enabled ARTSPPLACE to present contemporary art from its own schedule and from other arts centres in the Atlantic provinces (Eyelevel Gallery, Third Space, the town is small, and Eastern Edge).

Exhibitions. Visual arts are central to the mission of ARCAC/ARTSPPLACE. Supporting artists at all levels of their

careers and development, representing a wide range of visual arts disciplines is key to our decision-making. Many of the additional programming decisions grow from the exhibitions. We showed

a variety of artists, from professional to amateur. With four galleries and an outdoor program, we were able to present 28 exhibitions.

OpenSpace Art and Film / ARTSPACE Film. We showed three artists as part of the juried, fee paid OpenSpace program. Due to staffing changes and lack of human resources, the outdoor film program was postponed this year.

Art talks. We collaborated with Lucky Rabbit & Co., a private gallery in town, to co-present artist talks at ARTSPACE.

ArtSeen. Funded through Canada Council for the Arts, this three-year project reached its third year in late summer of 2022. We were able to commission mini biopics of four artists from the area; Bonnie Baker, Susan Tooke, Phillip Bailey and Lorne Julien.

Half-day workshops and Open Studios. Due to some ongoing restrictions, workshops and open studios were postponed or cancelled, the life drawing was cut short early, due to restrictions. Two art camps were held, and one art making workshop in 2022.

AIR-PLUS. We were able to provide three residencies (two exhibitions, one studio use) that brought people in the gallery, to engage with the artists. The member-in-residence program was brought back in 2023 after a COVID break (the last one was in 2020).

Art on the Go. Community halls and groups, how to share programming in the community. Board members researched community halls in the area, and this will become part of a wider consultation tied with a 2023 grant opportunity.

Approx. attendance: 2860 exhibitions and programs

Unique visits to exhibition website: 1225

events 63

Exhibitions

Jan 29 - Mar 5	A Proposition of Organisms - Eryn Foster The David Series - Ian McKinnon
Mar 12 - Apr 23	Members' show Eye Candy - Wayne Boucher & Ted Lind Playing with Scale - Becky Thompson The Duality of Dance & Beyond - Christine Ritchie
Apr 30 - Jun 11	Of Water & Rock - Lorna Mulligan The Artist's Way collective (Grace Butland, Nadine Belliveau, Penny Berens, Sherry Caldwell, Diane Clapp) Zero 12 Three 21 Zero - Sparrow Baranyai Bartly Partly Qartly - Ben Mosher
Jun 18 - Jul 30	Club Assembly - Leah McInnis & David Peters Face-to-Face - Louise Williams Flow - Aprille Janes
Jul - Aug	OpenSpace Brad Hall
Aug - Sept	OpenSpace Ken Flett
Aug 6 - Sept 17	Healing Journey - Lorne Julien

Sept 24 - Nov 5	Satupons - Sherry Veinotte, Shaughney Aston Flora + Fauna Sarah Reesor, Sophie Paskins Paint the Town exhibition Ways to Seeing Nature - Carmen de la Torre
Sept - Oct	The Joy of Glass - Morgan Corston
Nov 12 - Dec 17	The View From Here - The Artist's Circle OpenSpace Ben Mosher 40th Anniversary Members show The Art of Fibre - Society of Fibre Artists of the Annapolis River Face to Face - Shela Breau Explorations Past - Julia Redgrave
Residencies	
Jan 29 - Feb 5	Eryn Foster
Jan 29 - Feb 12	Ian McKinnon
Apr 11 - 26	Ian McKinnon
Workshops	
Feb - Mar	Winter Life Drawing 3 (closed early due to COVID)
Jun 3	Untraditional Watercolour w/ Lorna Mulligan
Oct 17 - Dec 17	Fall Life Drawing 8 sessions
Film screenings	
Apr 20	NCFD Celebrating Indigenous Voices - Falls Around Her Nov 12 ArtSeen Artist profiles/project soft launch
Nov 21	Hilma af Klimt
Children & Youth	
Mar 14 - 18	March Break Art camp w/Becky Thompson
May 4	AWEC School visit
May 17 - 21	Teen Film Festival w/ AWEC High school
Jul 4 - 8	Summer Art Camp w/ Becky Thompson & Terry Drahos
Oct 21	Nick Iwaskow (WASKO), AWEC and St. Louis - Painting with Light
Artist talks	
Feb 19	Eryn Foster via zoom
May 6	Lorna Mulligan via zoom
Jun 4	Pamela Lawson
July 30	Rose Adams 12
Aug 27	Ian McKinnon 25
Other events	
June 11	Ben Mosher Cloudy Cafe
Aug 6	Lorne Julien / Wanda Finigan, Bear River First Nations Drumming ceremony
Aug 14 & 15	Live Paint the Town event (artists 41)
Aug 16 - Sept 8	Paint the Town online auction