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## Young Artists and Filmmakers Shine at ARTSPPLACE!

**ANNAPOLIS ROYAL, NS May 5, 2025.** This spring, students from Annapolis West Education Centre (AWEC) bring their creativity to ARTSPPLACE with two engaging presentations of their work: the *Teen Instagram Film Festival* and a concurrent *Student Art Show*.

The annual *Teen Instagram Film Festival* invites students in grades 8-12 to create a 60-second film on a subject and in a style of their choosing. Submissions will be screened May 13-17 in the ARTSPPLACE Upstairs Gallery. A local jury will award \$200, \$100, and \$75 prizes for the most inventive entries. In addition to cash prizes, the winning films will be shown on the big screen at King's Theatre, appearing as part of the pre-show trailers before major feature films.

Launched in 2017 as part of the 25th anniversary celebrations of the local film society, and developed in partnership with ARTSPPLACE, the film festival continues to grow as a space for youth expression. "We are excited to continue this youth-driven initiative, which fosters creativity and intergenerational engagement through film," says Peter Mansour, the festival's founding organizer.

AWEC teacher Derick Smith has seen the impact firsthand. "Students from grades 8 to 12 submit incredibly unique and inventive videos. It's a rare and valuable opportunity for them to receive feedback from professionals in the arts."

"Each year, the festival offers an exciting and unpredictable mix of films that captivate audiences," says Sophie Paskins, ARTSPPLACE Gallery Director. "The students continue to surprise us with their ingenuity and range. It's a fantastic binge-watching experience that takes less than 30 minutes!"

Alongside the film festival, the *Student Art Show* will showcase the creativity of AWEC's talented high school artists at the ARTSPPLACE Library Gallery. This dynamic exhibition features student work from grades 9-12, including paintings, drawings, and mixed-media pieces across diverse themes. A special showcase will highlight select student artists whose standout pieces demonstrate exceptional skill and originality.

Both events celebrate a new generation of filmmakers and artists, providing them with a platform for their voices and visions. Don't miss the chance to experience their work at ARTSPPLACE Gallery!

The *AWEC Student Art Show* runs May 7-24, 2025. The *Teen Instagram Film Festival* runs May 13-17, 2025, upstairs at ARTSPPLACE, 396 St. George Street in Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia.

ARTSPPLACE is a public Art Gallery that is operated by the Annapolis Region Community Arts Council, a registered charitable, community organization dedicated to encouraging and promoting the arts. Supported through the Province of Nova Scotia and the Canada Council for the Arts.

ARTSPPLACE Gallery is located at 396 St. George Street in Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia

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