FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Reece Steinberg Residency and “The Librarians” Bring Art and Advocacy Into Conversation

ANNAPOLIS ROYAL, Nova Scotia (September 10, 2026) – The Friends of the Annapolis Royal Library, and ARTSPLACE Gallery are partnering to bring “The Librarians”, a documentary examining book banning and the changing role of librarians in the United States, to Annapolis Royal on September 22. The screening is part of textile artist and librarian Reece Steinberg’s residency at ARTSPLACE, which explores how libraries are responding to the rise of generative artificial intelligence.

Directed by Kim A. Snyder, “The Librarians” follows librarians and community members across the United States as they organize in response to a growing wave of book challenges and bans. This Emmy-Award-winning film documents the growing pressure placed on libraries and librarians as political groups target books addressing race, LGBTQIA+ themes, and other subjects.

The film begins with events in Texas in 2021, when a state representative circulated a list of 850 books for school districts to review for potentially inappropriate content. As challenges spread and become increasingly organized, librarians find themselves defending access to information while facing threats of legislation that could criminalize the distribution of books to minors.

For Steinberg, who works both as a librarian and textile artist, questions about how people access, evaluate, and share information are central to his residency. His colourful woven works draw on conversations with librarians about the opportunities and challenges presented by artificial intelligence in education, public knowledge, and library services. The screening brings these questions into a local context, connecting Steinberg’s research with the Annapolis Royal Library and its role as a community institution.

“In this age of library closures, access to too much information and sometimes incorrect information, we need our libraries and professional librarians more than ever to be a trusted pathway for truth and reliable sources,” said Anna-Kate Newman of the Friends of the Annapolis Royal Library.

“The Librarians” screens at the Annapolis Royal Library on September 22 at 7 pm. Entry is by donation, with the proceeds shared to support The Friends of the Annapolis Royal Library, and ARTSPLACE Gallery. The film remains available to our local library users via the Kanopy streaming service that library patrons can access with their Annapolis Valley Regional Library card.

Steinberg’s residency concludes with an Open Studio at ARTSPLACE on September 26 from 12 to 2 pm. Visitors are invited to see his work in progress and meet the artist.

“The Librarians” screening September 22, 7pm, Annapolis Royal Library (entrance 143 Ritchie St). Reece Steinberg artist residency September 20–30. Open Studio at ARTSPLACE Gallery, September 26, from 12–2 pm. Free admission; all are welcome.

THE FRIENDS OF THE ANNAPOLIS ROYAL LIBRARY is a group of volunteers passionate about supporting our library branch and fostering its growth and improvement. We believe our library is an important community resource, a sanctuary, and a place to find and share information.

ARTSPLACE 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.

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

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