



artsp\_ce

**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**SEPTEMBER 1 2016 TO AUGUST 31 2017**

## **MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

The organizational culture that gave steam to many of our activities this past year can be summed up by, wow 30 years! And we have 70 more in us. It was our unofficial mantra as we recognized that a bold idea gave birth to Artspace three decades ago. A few of those bold thinkers are still amongst us. But we have accomplished much in 30 years and we believed it was time to stand proud and say that Artspace is a success. We took the time in the last year to celebrate our success, which is intimately tied to the 45 arts organizations that call upon our support services. Part of the original plan for Artspace included signing a 100-year lease on the Gault Building. Therefore, we can and must parlay our success into a sustained success today, tomorrow and for the next 70 years.

We also entered into a process that has produced a renewed strategic plan. Many of the elements within the plan stem from experiences gained over the last three decades but the plan also reflects our aspirations for the future. Our plan for the next five years aligns our objectives according to three axes: Operational Sustainability, Financial Sustainability and Sustainable Engagement. Furthermore, we adopted a living document approach to the related action plan so that we may continue to update and move forward as we gain knowledge and experience. Thus, we properly titled the strategic plan 'After 30, towards 100: making space matter'.

The leads in the organization may have changed over the last year, as Eric Plamondon took on the responsibilities of Executive Director in November of 2016 and I took over as President of the Board; but we continue in a long tradition based on a *raison d'être* that has not changed. We hope that the annual report reflects this sense of purpose and honours the efforts of the Artspace staff, the board members, the organizational members, and all that tap into our services. Despite challenges that are sure to lie ahead, we look to the future with optimism and ambition because we know the power that art can unleash.



**Lynne Stefanchuk**  
**President**

## **ABOUT ARTSPACE**

### **MANDATE**

To improve the efficiency, effectiveness and capacity of Manitoba arts and culture organizations by:

- i) providing facilities, at below market value rates, to house their operations, and
- ii) providing shared administrative and management services to support their operations.

### **MISSION**

Artspace creates space for arts and culture to flourish. Through low-cost facilities and shared administrative services, we play a vital role in supporting the health of Manitoban arts and cultural organizations.

### **VALUE STATEMENT**

Artspace embraces collaboration and innovation as it strives to provide stability for Manitoban arts and cultural organizations and practitioners.

### **PROFILE**

Since opening the Artspace building, a repurposed 55,000 square foot former dry goods warehouse in the heart of Winnipeg's Exchange District in 1986, Artspace has been an integral component of Manitoba's arts and cultural infrastructure and a primary catalyst in the development of Winnipeg's cultural heart, the historic Exchange District.

Each year over 80,000 people pass through the Artspace building's doors to create, produce, exhibit, support, view and learn. Home to eighteen arts and cultural organizations, a number of individual artists and the Artspace staff and programs, the Artspace building truly is Manitoba's arts center.

As one of the first organizations in North America to co-locate not for profits, Artspace has been a practice leader since inception. This commitment to innovation and collaboration is reflected in two support programs that have participants throughout Manitoba: the Arts Management program, and ArtSupport Manitoba. Through the delivery of these programs, including the operation of the Artspace building, Artspace directly works with over forty-five Manitoban arts and cultural organizations to improve their efficiency, effectiveness and capacity.

## THE YEAR IN REVIEW

### The Gault Building

As Winnipeg's Exchange District becomes more attractive to developers and more cost prohibitive for artists, Artspace remains a hub of creativity. The foresight demonstrated by the organization's founders and supporters through developing this unique organization becomes more important to the maintenance and growth of Manitoba's cultural fabric with each passing year. Though not always obvious, resource sharing in the form of a shared boardroom, photocopier, postage machine, and the minor administrative services, such as package receiving provided by Artspace to its members, remains invaluable.

The ongoing activities of managing and maintaining the Artspace building while supporting the membership and wider community continue throughout the year. In the past year we've made a few noteworthy changes. For example, we converted the single stall washrooms on the 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th floor into genderless washrooms, with a simple repainting of the door. While we were in the process of freshening things up, we also updated our corporate look adopting an artsp\_ace branding that literally creates space to be taken up. The new look allowed us an opportunity to do new wayfinding in the building that includes updated directories near the elevator.

We are continually evaluating how space can be made available for the process of creation and valuing art. In doing so, we have offered up some unclaimed spaces in the building. This includes some papier-mâché sculptures created by Evin Collis during a WAG Canada 150 project. We also offered up the walls of our boardroom to visual artists who seek to get their name out. This allowed us to do a few First Fridays open houses, thus contributing to the many activities happening in the Exchange District on those days. Numerous projects from the larger artistic community were supported by the gratis provision of access and space including: special projects in the lobby and tunnel, photo and film shoots on the roof, and workshops in the boardroom.

We seek to be a contributor to the creative neighbourhood. Thus, we never turn down an opportunity to participate in Doors Open Winnipeg or any number of tours that allow the public to get to know the creative capacity inside this building. This year included a tour with an NPR host from New York, a national planners conference, and numerous High School students.

Since this was an anniversary year, we also decided to create our own event, Lost in Artspace, a one time celebration that activated all six stories of the building. Attendees were free to walk through the building to discover short films by Manitoba film makers screening in the Cinematheque, have a dance party in platform, listen to live bands in the Black Lodge, hear authors read from their literary works in the Burns Classroom, take in an art installation in Pool Side Gallery, take in some jazz in the boardroom, step into a disco closet, watch Pat Lazo transform a tin shed on the rooftop into a mural for the Winnipeg skyline; all the while having access to great drinks from Forth and Little Brown Jug or great food from King + Bannatyne, Oh Doughnuts, East India Company and Constance Popp Chocolatier. So many partners were involved in making this celebration one to remember... and maybe even emulate in the near future!

But it wasn't the only time this year that Artspace turned heads. The Winnipeg Free Press, twice, did a feature piece on the building, highlighting our 30th anniversary. So did La Liberté for our francophone community members.

Our 30th wasn't just about throwing a good party and getting good attention. We also wanted to have some legacy items. We believe the new look of Artspace is one of those items, so is the rooftop mural. But we also wanted to honour the foundation of how we came to be; that idea being to give the visual arts and literary arts a stable foothold in a neighbourhood that wasn't living up to its potential. We took that idea and converted a

window box on Bannatyne into a 'Little Free Library'. The public now gets to take or leave a book as they desire. However, it also speaks to the many publishers and literary art contributors in the building. While at the other end of the block, Artspace still houses the Window Gallery, displaying some locally created and curated art 24/7, thus having a prominent display of both visual and literary arts.

We know a building such as the Gault Building also comes with challenges due to its size, its location, and its age. We faced certain challenges this year, including a water pipe busting because of Mars-like temperatures. We moved quickly to minimize the impact on the use of the building and we also utilized the opportunity to ameliorate certain spaces. Hoping to enhance but also prevent this from happening again.

We are proud of our strong relationship with the Exchange District Biz that provided much needed assistance to Artspace. This includes bi-annual drayway cleanings. But also through the Biz Patrols that help deal with various situations that happen in such a busy and central neighbourhood.

Welcomed are any suggestions on how to make the Gault building a safe, accessible and creative space.

### Arts Management program

Artspace continues to offer the Arts Management program focused on providing bookkeeping services to arts and cultural organizations. In addition to being a cost effective solution, the Arts Management program adds value for clients by promoting best practices that contribute to their financial literacy. Not for profit arts organizations have unique financial requirements and we are gathering a body of knowledge that is allowing the program to set up systems and deliver services for client organizations that enhance their effectiveness and efficiency. In doing so, we have been able to bring on six new organizations over the year. We know there are more organizations that would also participate, should we have the capacity to do so. Here are examples of what some participants have to say about the program:

*Contracting Artspace's bookkeeping services has improved our financial management, and as a result, strengthened our organization as a whole.... Not only are they experts in their field, they are also invested in our success. Their vision of increased professionalism in financial management in the arts means they have gone above and beyond on our behalf.*

- Accartinc.

*Working with Artspace has been a wonderful experience. The knowledge and expertise they bring to all our bookkeeping and financial needs is wonderful.*

-Winnipeg Studio Theatre

## ArtSupport Manitoba

ArtSupport Manitoba was launched as a four-year pilot project in April 2014, meaning it will come to an end in March 2018. We have been working with 34 arts and cultural organizations throughout Manitoba in order to build up their philanthropic capacity. We attempt to do this through mentorship, workshops, and the creation of tools to be utilized in building relationships with donors, but also in being able to communicate the social profit capacity of art. Often, building up ones philanthropic capacity necessitates addressing organizational structures and foundations. The program has been designed to provide organizations with the capacity and the will they need to address the systemic challenges they face in engaging with the community, building relationships and fundraising. Therefore, the impact of ArtSupport Manitoba is much more far reaching than we first imagined.

We are thrilled to have experienced mentors paired up with each arts organisation. Each have been working towards specific goals, so that tangible outcomes will be set up prior to the end of the program in March 2018. The mentors are long serving fundraising professionals and passionate art supporters. They are: Pamela Simmons, Jim Robinson, Katrina Kupca (also program director), Laura Mikuska, and Julie Mikuska.

Through a partnership with Creative Manitoba, we also offer monthly workshops available to all program participants (in person, or via live feed). Workshop topics vary from donor value, to communication strategies, to why create a case for support. The feedback has been very positive, and thus will continue to be a key component to the program.

We continue to host a fully bilingual website ([www.artsupportmb.ca/](http://www.artsupportmb.ca/)) to allow resources to be readily available. The website establishes who ArtSupport Manitoba is and what services are provided through the program.

For individuals, foundations and businesses, ArtSupport Manitoba provides an introduction to arts and culture so donors can understand the difference their contributions can make and invest in the sector with confidence. The goal is to encourage people to understand that arts and culture are an important part of their lives and to consider a financial investment in addition to their traditional giving. We launched a bilingual print campaign with the tag line: If you've been inspired by the arts, be inspired to give. This ad appeared in various publications throughout Manitoba.

### Organisations (participants) of ArtSupport Manitoba

Art Gallery of Southwestern Manitoba

Art Mosaic / Virden Arts Council

Artist in Health Care

Border Regional Library

Camerata Nova

Théâtre Cercle Molière

Chai Folk Ensemble

Dauphin Arts Council

Flin Flon Arts Council

Freeze Frame

Gimli Film Fest

Jazz Winnipeg

Les amis des arts visuels du Manitoba

Manitoba Children's Museum

Manitoba Craft Council

Manitoba Craft Museum and Library

Manitoba Theatre Centre

Manitoba Theatre for Young People

National Screen Institute

New Iceland Heritage Museum

Plug Inn

Portage & District Arts Council

Prairie Debut

Prairie Fire

Rainbow Stage

Sarasvati

Shakespeare in the Ruins

Theatre Projects Manitoba

Urban Shaman

Virtuosi Concert Series

Viscount Art Council

West End Cultural Centre

Winnipeg Folk Festival

Winnipeg Symphony Orchestr

## Varia

We wanted to signal a few staff changes at Artspace over the current year. Three months into the year, Eric Plamondon stepped in as Executive Director after the departure of previous Executive Director, Randy Joynt. He hit the ground running bringing fresh eyes to the challenges and opportunities available to Artspace. To welcome Eric would seem odd, as he integrated himself to the team and the environment quickly and now it feels like Eric has been here far longer than he actually has. Therefore, we would acknowledge the efforts made so far, and look forward to the continued leadership Eric will provide as his time with Artspace lengthens. Despite our small team, there was another staff change during the year. Ian King, Administrative Associate, decided to make retirement a full time occupation; hard to fault the guy. Nonetheless, we are very grateful that Ian had spent his time and energy with Artspace for as long as he did. Focusing on tenant services, Ian was liked by all. He was quick to accommodate all those who had odd requests. He was also the first to offer his time so that Artspace can shine in events like Doors Open Winnipeg. It would be wrong to say Ian's presence at Artspace will be missed, as he will undoubtedly be seen at many of the artistic offerings happening at the Gault Building, but it is accurate to say we will keep good memories of the time Ian occupied the office in room 425. Where one great guy exits, another enters. Dylan Jones, fresh off completing his Master's degree in cultural studies, has joined the Artspace team as the new Administrative Assistant. His genuine interest in arts and culture instantly make him a respected member of the team. Artspace has had a special year as we also welcomed two summer interns. Both contributed to heighten the capacity of our offerings while also gaining hands on experiences that will allow them to grow as professionals. A big thanks is in order to Andrea Ocampo and Marco Muller for their generous contributions to the organization during the summer of 2017. One of their projects, the Little Free Library, will continue to remind us of the time they spent here.

We believe it is important that Artspace step up and step in as an arts leader. Therefore, we have made a point of taking time and energy in representing the arts sector in Manitoba. Particularly, we would like to note that we wrote an extensive submission to the Government of Manitoba in response to their paper on cultural policy review. We look forward to seeing our recommendation reflected in the next steps of this policy review. We believed it was important to publicly share our recommendations and our observations, thus we posted it on our blog, found on our website, and our Facebook page. We attempt to update this blog on a monthly basis. Our Executive Director writes most of the blogs, but all staff contributes at times.

Artspace has also been called upon to be a stakeholder in consultations regarding bike lane developments in the Exchange District. We took an active role in not only giving feedback, but also soliciting the opinions of others. We took a similar approach to the Market Lands consultation process, hosting an exclusive session for Artspace tenants.

Finally, we spent a lot of time and energy in renewing our strategic plan. The document is presented at the 2018 AGM, and if adopted, will layout the focus of our activities for the next five years. Titled 'After 30, towards 100: making space matter', it has its feet rooted in our past success, our heart tied to today, and our head facing tomorrow. There is much work to be done in order to make ourselves financially sustainable, operationally sustainable and capable of sustainable engagement. But we welcome the opportunity to take on these challenges, and make them into opportunities.

## **2016 - 2017 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Lynne Stefranchuk	President
Linda McFadyen	Vice-President
Zach Robert	Treasurer
Susan Algie	Secretary
Paul Lacap	Director
Luella Lee	Director
P. Michael Jerch	Director
Carlene Rummery	Director
Rose-Anne Harder	Director
Emma Hendrix	Director
John Weins	Director

## **2016 - 2017 STAFF**

Eric Plamondon	Executive Director
Ian King / Dylan Jones	Administrative Associate /Administrative Assistant
Cheryl Miki	Program Coordinator
Debbie Girard	Accounting Associate
Sharon Thiessen Woods	Bookkeeper/Program Consultant (contractor)
Dave Wiebe	Building Superintendent
Lois Hogg	Weekend maintenance
Katarina Kupca	ArtSupport MB Program Director (contractor)
Jim Robinson	ArtSupport MB Mentor (contractor)
Pamela Simmons	ArtSupport MB Mentor (contractor)
Julie Mikuska	ArtSupport MB Mentor (contractor)
Laura Mikuska	ArtSupport MB Mentor (contractor)



## **ARTSPACE INC. FUNDERS AND SUPPORTERS**

### *Public*

The Government of Canada - Canadian Heritage  
The Government of Manitoba - Arts Branch  
The Manitoba Arts Council  
The City of Winnipeg  
The Manitoba Centennial Centre Corporation  
Winnipeg Art Gallery

### *Private*

The Johnston Group  
Great West Life  
The Winnipeg Foundation  
The Thomas Sill Foundation  
Wawanesa  
Creative Manitoba  
Manitoba Foundation for the Arts  
Exchange District Biz  
iQmetrix  
Urbanink  
Quantum  
Best Western Paint  
King + Bannatyne  
Little Brown Jug  
Oh Doughnuts  
Capital K Distillery  
Creating a Scene  
East India Cie  
Constance Popp Chocolatier  
Ager Little Architects  
Flash Photography Festival

