



City of
Peterborough

To: Members of the Arts, Culture & Heritage Advisory Committee

From: Karen Rennie, Manager of Arts, Culture and Heritage Division

Meeting Date: May 9, 2019

Subject: Report ACHAC19-013
Artspace Anniversary Year

Purpose

A report to recommend that the ACHAC receive a presentation on activities of Art Space Anniversary Year 2019.

Recommendation

That the Arts, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee approve the recommendation outlined in Report ACHAC19-013, dated May 9, 2019 of the Manager of the Arts, Culture and Heritage Division, as follows:

That the presentation by Jeff Macklin, Chair of Artspace Board of Directors, be received for information.

Budget and Financial Implications

There are no budgetary or financial implications associated with the recommendation.

Background

Founded in 1974 by a group of dedicated local artists, Artspace differs from many of the artist-run centres that formed in this early period. Artspace was established and sustained by a membership spread amongst smaller urban centres, rural areas and townships as part of a unique cultural milieu within the region. The organization received its non-profit, incorporated, charitable status in July 1977. Since its founding, Artspace has played a profound role in the development of contemporary Canadian art, creating a space for numerous prominent artists to present their work for the first time.

Artspace is a non-profit artist-run centre that assists artists with the presentation of new work. They change in response to the needs of artists and work to engage and inform the public about their work.

Formally, their mandate aims to foster a stronger appreciation for Canadian contemporary art. In their ongoing efforts to increase public awareness, they also aim to build on their reputation as one of our region's most vital arts organizations.

Artspace's programming, though national in scope, is regional in spirit. In connecting artists to the community and fostering public engagement, and they continue to attract respected talent from across the country. They are proud to compensate with fees that exceed recommended CARFAC rates.

In November 2014 the centre celebrated its 40th anniversary and marked the occasion with an interactive exhibition, publication, and public celebration titled "I Will Not Grow Old In Peterborough." In 2016, after ten years at their current site, and after a history of regular relocation, the Artspace negotiated a new, long-term lease that will afford the centre locational stability through 2026.

To celebrate the centre's 45th anniversary, staff is gathering six individuals who have served as former staff or board members for a discussion on the centre's past and ongoing legacy. The panel will also address the many ways artist run centres – and Artspace in particular – have supported and influenced their personal career trajectories. Participants in this discussion include: Andrea Fatona, Laurie Beavis, Jeff Macklin, Bill Kimball, Fynn Leitch, and Dorothy Caldwell. Each of these individuals is highly respected in their field and has made substantial contributions to the centre over its 45-year history.

The event will be held on the evening of Friday October 16, 2019 at Market Hall, a meaningful site within the greater community, but also in the centre's history, as an early location of the gallery itself. The event will be ticketed, but admission will be free of charge. The conversation will be recorded, transcribed, and a publication will be produced to commemorate the event, as well as contribute to a vital print history of artist-run centres. Artspace has long maintained a history of supporting musical acts in our community. To honour this tradition, the panel discussion will be followed by a

series of musical performances by acts familiar to Artspace audiences (performers TBA).

Submitted by,

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