



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING REPORT

centre[3]
for artistic + social practice



2020/2021



Installation / Pamela Dodds/ Other Ecologies / Ph. Andrew Butkevicius

Centre[3] for Artistic and Social Practice is dedicated to supporting artists with creation, production, presentation, and dissemination. The centre conducts research, fosters innovation and provides opportunities for critical discourse. Centre[3] engages with the wider community through social practice, encouraging experimentation and collaboration through contemporary art

Chair's Report

[Land Acknowledgement]

Centre3 exists on land that is part of the Dish With One Spoon Territory. The Dish With One Spoon is a treaty between the Anishinaabe, Mississaugas and Haudenosaunee that bound them to share the territory and protect the land. Later, other Indigenous Nations, Europeans and those from other countries, have been invited to join the treaty in peace and friendship.

2021 has been a success in spite of continuing COVID-19 related closures and restrictions. While the pandemic changed operations significantly during 2020 and 2021, we have recently been able to relax some restrictions to reopen Centre[3] to members and to the public.

We enacted policies and procedures to help Centre[3] manoeuvre within the new COVID-19 limits to ensure the health and safety of staff, members, and the public as much as possible.

As a member of the board, it should be noted that I accepted the role of Acting Chair while Charity Miskelly has taken a leave of absence. Her leadership and enthusiasm are missed.

We have had the terms of some valued board members reach their end and we will miss the contributions of those who gave of themselves to Centre[3]. Our Executive Director has stayed on in her role, and Centre[3] continues to look for the right candidates to fill the roles she currently executes within the organization. We have an excellent new Artistic Director, Lesley Loksi Chan, who replaces Sally Frater who did amazing work during her tenure here.

We also welcomed some new board members to strengthen our organization and to fill positions that were vacant. Our new members have increased diversity in experience, culture, and thought, all of which strengthens an already vibrant board.

Our staff have been excellent and resilient in the face of all sorts of pandemic-related challenges, and have performed with distinction during this whole time.

I am personally excited to see what Centre[3] is able to achieve in 2022.

David Hosten, Acting Chair - Board of Directors

Board Of Directors



Midwives / Artwork by Andrea Chung / Collage and Ink/ Daughters Of Oshun And Yemeyá

CHAIR

David Hosten

VICE CHAIR

Charity Miskelly

TREASURER

Steve Gaul

DIRECTORS

Teba Faisal

Andrew Douglas

Barin Osho

Brenda Ferguson

Melissa Murray-Mutch

Colleen Reid

Richard Kobby Crabbe

Executive Director's Message

Dear Members,

It has been another challenging year navigating COVID-19 and the variants opening and closing our galleries and facilities. We did our best to accommodate our members' needs by converting our galleries and community arts programming online. Our Director of Operations, Julie Shea, and her team did an excellent job maintaining COVID-19 protocols that the provincial government implemented.

The pandemic has changed how we do business, focusing on ensuring a safe working environment for all staff, members, collaborators, and clients. We continue to spend time re-grouping and re-evaluating how best to serve our members and how best to impact our community artistically, socially, and economically. As an artist-run centre, we are constantly questioning how to continue supporting artists in southwestern Ontario and maintaining our commitment to engaging our broader community through our galleries and educational and community arts programming!

The pandemic forces us to go deep and think about our role in the community as an artist-run centre, and to think about our next phase. Converting the galleries online allowed us to reach more people and using Zoom for artist talks created more digitally intimate spaces. With this in mind, we submitted a capital grant to the Ontario Trillium Foundation to create a recording studio and film studio. We are excited to state that we secured the funding and revamped the first floor of 126 James North to accommodate the new facilities. We also decided to move our Digital Studio from the second floor of 173 to the first floor of 126 to be physically accessible. The other exciting news is we secured a grant from the federal government to install automatic doors at 126 and 173.

Continuing our work from last year, we are still committed to making Centre[3] more inclusive and accessible. Our Accessibility and Inclusivity committee decided to change our name to EDI (Equity, Diversity, and Inclusivity) to include equity and diversity. We also expanded our staff by hiring a new Artistic Director, Lesley Loksi Chan, a Membership Coordinator, Emmali Branton, an Administrative Coordinator, Jeannie Kim, and a Development Manager, Lauren Harnish. Our Team at Centre[3] is ready to take us into 2022.

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, our earned and raised revenue has decreased considerably, and public grants comprise most of the revenue. In the future (post-COVID), we aim to focus on the private sector and building relationships with corporations, including patron membership and sponsorship. I will also take this opportunity to thank all our granting bodies from all three government levels who have been very supportive in these trying times. Unfortunately, we had to cancel the Art Lottery in 2021, but we are excited to say that we are going ahead with 2022 at Earl's Court Gallery.

I want to thank the Board of Directors for their dedication and advice in achieving our goals, the staff for their expertise in making Centre[3] a much-needed centre in our community, and our members who are the core of what we do as an artist-run centre. We look forward to working with the board, staff, and members in 2022, both as an artist's hub and as a space for disseminating ideas and creating art.

Colina Maxwell, Executive Director

Staff



Colina Maxwell
Executive Director



Julie Shea
Director of Operations



Lesley Loksi Chan
Artistic Director



Emmali Branton
Membership Coordinator



Aaron Hutchinson
Audio Studio Coordinator



Arturo Jimenez
Film Studio Coordinator



Christina Tarsitano
Job developer, 360[4]Youth



Matt McInnes
NuSteel Technician, Print Lead



Alex Borghesan
Studio & Digital Manager

Director Of Operations

A year ago I signed off my report with "looking forward to an amazing 2021!" and while it was not as perilous as 2020, it certainly wasn't amazing. 2021 saw the continuation of the pandemic and the challenges and restrictions that came with it. What was amazing about 2021 was how our board, members and staff handled all the challenges with such grace and resiliency. We didn't just survive, we thrived. We hired new staff, expanded programming, upgraded equipment, increased our accessibility, and even launched a new community digital studio! The commitment to hard work and innovation that has been part of the Centre3 culture ensured that the pandemic would not slow us down and that we would forge onward.

As I write this, we are faced with the new Omicron variant and the pandemic is not far enough in our rear-view mirror. It seems that the virus is simply something that we will have to live with. I am confident, however, that with our amazing leadership and staff that we will continue to adapt and innovate to optimize the infrastructure and relationships that we have built over the last 15 years and continue to thrive and grow and serve our community for years to come.

Julie Shea, Director of Operations



Programming - Main Gallery

Main Gallery

Centre[3]'s 2021 Main Gallery exhibitions began with **Farihah Aliyah Shah: Billie Said, 'Strange Fruit'** and **Alexis Rivierre: This, That, And The Third**, curated by **Sally Frater**. **Farihah Aliyah Shah** (Bradford, ON) used self-portraiture and simple installations to respond to the current Black Lives Matter movement and past civil rights movements advocating for justice whilst commenting on the lack of representation of Black bodies in the history of photography. **Alexis Rivierre** (New York, NY) focused on the stereotypical tropes of Black women in language, film and media, and draws on the artist's personal experience to create counter-narratives that challenge limiting forms of representation. Exhibition Dates: January 7 - February 20.

Daughters of Oshun and Yemeya curated by **Sally Frater** was an online exhibition drawn from three related series of works by **Andrea Chung** (San Diego, California): *Midwives* touched on the long history of midwifery in Jamaica, referencing its incorporation of West African birthing rituals and the reverence that practitioners held for the profession; *Colostrum* referenced the historical exploitation of Black breast milk, while *Vex* disrupted the Eurocentric gaze inherent in "carte-de-visite" postcard photography. Ancillary program: Artist Talk. Exhibition Dates: February 25 - April 3

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FARIHAH ALIYAH SHAH

Billie Said, 'Strange Fruit'

Main Gallery

January 7 - February 20, 2021

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ALEXIS RIVIERRE

This, That, and the Third

Main Gallery

January 7 - February 20, 2021

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ANDREA CHUNG

Daughters Of Oshun And Yemeya

Main Gallery

February 25 - April 3, 2021

Instinctive Travels guest-curated by **Jason Lujan** introduced the work of **Jamison Chās Banks** (Santa Fe) who appropriates and alters symbols employed in propaganda and popular culture and subverts their original meanings; **John Rasimus** (Falun, Sweden) whose printed/folded cardboard work referencing real objects reveals his obsession with American Old-West popular culture; and **Melissa Schulenberg** (Canton, NY) who takes inspiration from observed organic forms and presents images as broad vistas and as microscopic investigations. Exhibition Dates: April 9 - July 31.

Other Ecologies, an online exhibition, presented the work of **Pamela Dodds**, **Laura Kay Keeling**, and **Meghan Krauss**. Through various modes of digital and analogue photography, printmaking, collage, and animation, the artists created an open-ended dialogue of embodied ecologies. Artists were selected by a jury of curators and artists, **Suzanne Carte**, **Bryce Kanbara**, and **Sonali Menezes**. Exhibition Dates: July 15 - August 26.

In the Off Hours, an experimental exhibit collectively organized by Centre[3] staff, featured the work of **Alex Borghesan**, **Emmali Branton**, **Andrew Butkevicius**, **Lesley Loksi Chan & Sally Frater**, **TJ Charlton**, **Aaron Hutchinson**, **Arturo Jimenez**, **Becky Katz**, **Matt McInnes**, **Colina Maxwell**, **Walter Penado-Vasquez**, and **New Moon Collective/Christina Tarsitano & Natasha Oullette**. As Centre[3] reopened after lockdown due to the pandemic, staff members chose works to share with each other and our broader communities, a small step towards understanding what it means to dialogue through art in uncertain times. Exhibition Dates: August 6 - September 4.

Lesley Loksi Chan, Artistic Director

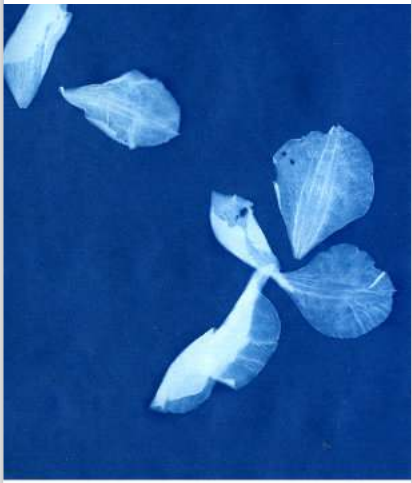



JAMISON CHĀS BANKS
JOHN RASIMUS
MELISSA SCHULENBERG

Instinctive Travels

Main Gallery

April 9 - July 31, 2021

PAMELA DODDS,
LAURA KAY KEELING
& MEGHAN KRAUSS

Other Ecologies

Main Gallery

July 15 - August 26, 2021




AN OPEN STAFF MEETING

In The Off Hours

Main Gallery

August 6 - September 4, 2021

Programming - Members Gallery

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CENTRE[3] MEMBERS'
SHOW AND SALE

Members' Market

Members Gallery

August 13 - September 25,
2021

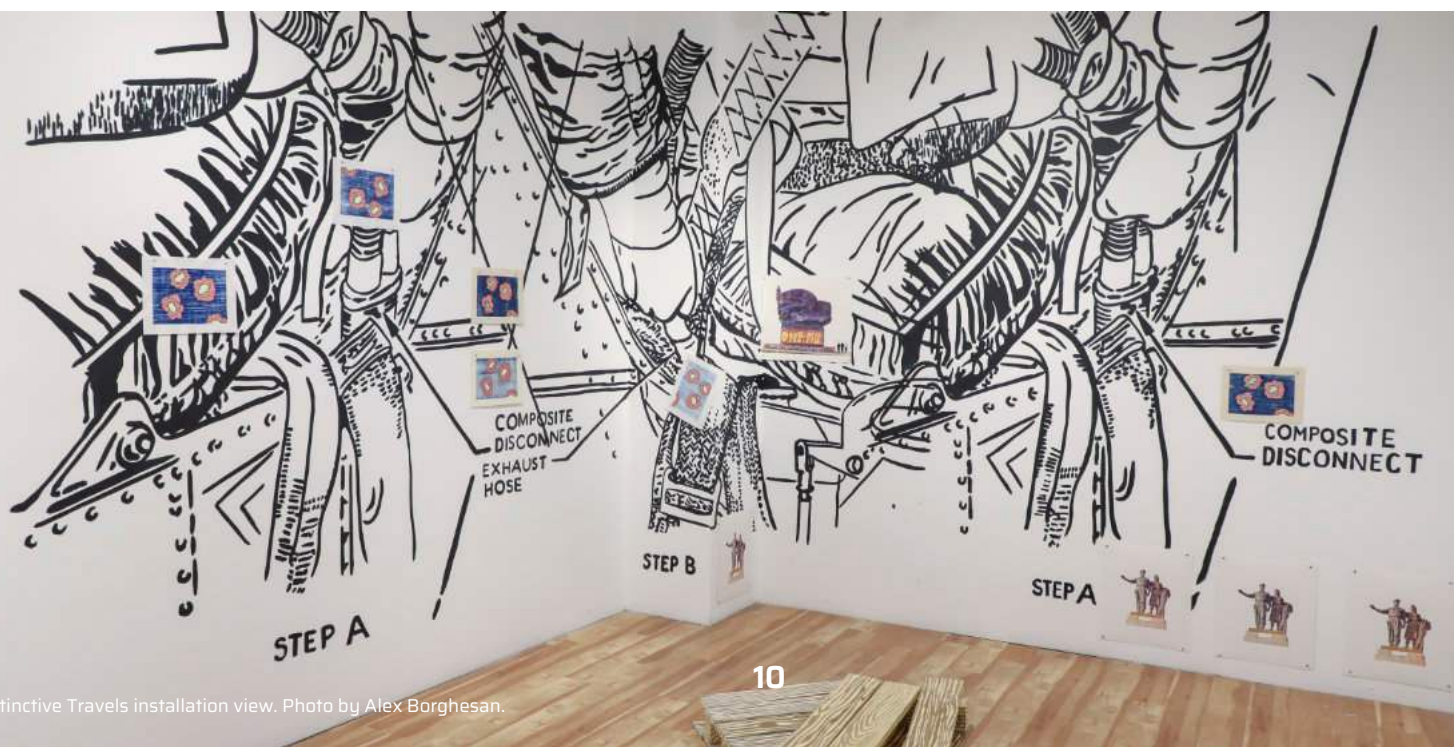
Members' Gallery

Due to the pandemic, the Members' Gallery was closed for the majority of the year, but the space was reactivated again with the summer pop-up **Members' Market** which showcased a range of unique works made by our members. Dates: August 13 - September 25, 2021.

Over the summer and fall, Centre[3] offered a professional development workshop series, **PRO/DEV**, programmed by **Emmali Branton**. This series included Documenting Art, a two-part series with **Alex Borghesan**; Talking Art with **Rebecca Casalino**; and Sharing Art with **Phoebe Taylor**. Workshop Dates: August 19 - September 26, 2021.

Since joining the Centre[3] team in July, I have been deeply moved by the passion and generosity that my colleagues bring to our communities in meaningful ways. Looking ahead, I am excited to continue working closely with our Programming Committee and Membership Coordinator, Emmali Branton, to bring new and engaging exhibitions and initiatives to Centre[3]. I am grateful for the ongoing support of our exhibiting artists, guest curators and instructors, members and audiences, and I look forward to making more connections in 2021/2022.

Lesley Loksi Chan, Artistic Director



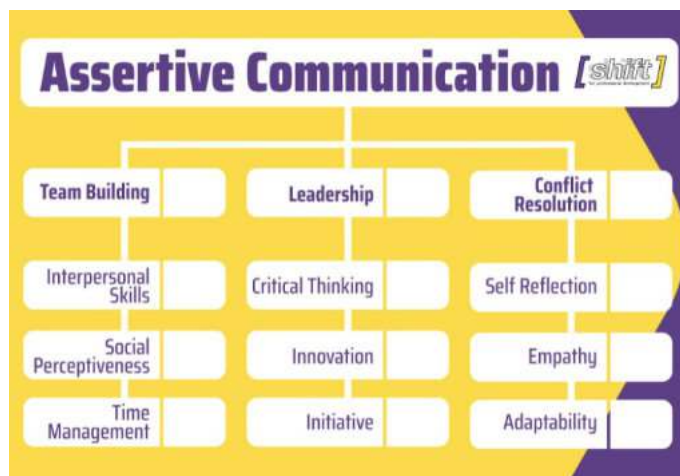
[shift] for Professional Development is a province wide, innovative employment training program for youth that utilizes the arts to teach soft-skills that are crucial to employment success. [shift] uses art to engage and facilitate learning among youth, allowing them to embody soft-skills. Youth are trained to communicate assertively, handle conflict, receive criticism, work in teams, and manage their time and emotions. This builds resiliency within the youth to assist them in navigating the workplace landscape, improving job retention, and overall career success.

In [shift]'s third year, through an unpredictable pandemic, program facilitators innovatively created ways to continue to provide engaging arts-based learning in a supportive environment. Together as a team, we've helped give youth the tools they need to attain and maintain meaningful employment. Although COVID-19 presented us with many challenges, having to move to an online platform also gave us the opportunity to reach more youth in Hamilton and across Ontario.

"I really enjoyed their artistic approach to learning about soft-skills. I thought it was a unique way of presenting the concepts. I've never done anything like that before. I would love to do another workshop with them. It's great to be interactive while also learning about something. I had fun. I can't wait to get a memento to remind me of the program." - Jen Mah, participant

The [shift] program has steadily grown for the past three years as we have continuously refined the program in collaboration with employment agencies throughout Ontario, including: Hamilton, Brantford, Kitchener, Peterborough, Haliburton, and North Bay. An online guidebook has been created as a foundation to implement soft-skills training courses for use in other organizations. These comprehensive course outlines and video training tools have been designed, tested, and refined over the last three years with over 600 youth and various employment professionals across Ontario. This [shift] guidebook is formatted as a website you can visit here: <http://www.youthcanhamilton.ca/shift/>

Christina Tarsitano



The past year has been a unique one for NuSteel. We are fortunate to continue to have Brian Reich from the Hamilton Wentworth District School Board teaching the program. A large part of NuSteel's success lies in community engagement, which of course has been quite limited over the past year and a half. Brian's experience, flexibility and dedication have been essential to the program's success throughout the pandemic.

NuSteel's semester 1 finished with remote learning in January 2021, and included health and wellness, visual art, and English credits. We were connected via Instagram chat groups which were the most accessible formats for students.

We started semester 2 in February (in person) and worked on Media Arts, English, and World Religions credits. Like most of the world, we struggled with momentum and motivation, however, having the chance to be in person for two and a half months was good for the students. We had the opportunity to work with Master of Education candidate Elspeth Daley, who shared her approach to art making and teaching with the students throughout the winter 2021 semester.

In March, we found out that our application to become a SHSM school was accepted by the Ministry of Education. SHSM stands for Specialist High Skills Major. It's a program for senior high school students to gain credits, while working a co-op placement at the same time. These programs are well established in composite high schools throughout the province, but we are one of the first SHSM programs in the Alternative Education stream in Ontario. SHSM funding is significantly higher than our typical HWDSB funding. Much of it is allocated to capital purchases and experiential learning opportunities for the NuSteelers. Centre[3] and HWDSB are working together to purchase equipment and technology that will benefit both students and artist members going forward.

Our SHSM programming began in September. Because of our student demographic and complications due to COVID-19, the central, co-op part of the program had to be re-imagined. Instead of placing students in co-op placements with community partners, we positioned C3 as the employer and reached out to community partners with offers to produce graphic design and modest printing services to them, with Matt, Brian and the students working as admin staff, designers and printers to deliver custom products to local businesses. This overlaps well with our in-house C3 Tees custom printing service, as we build relationships with clients for current and future services. For the students, this has been a good way to develop soft-skills, work on communication strategies and meet deadlines, while increasing their graphic design and screen printing experience.

This December, students will be exhibiting their work in Centre[3]'s Small is Good show. This will be NuSteel's first exhibition of work since March 2020. The excitement level is high!

Matt McInnes



Dear Members,

This year presented a new set of challenges for youth employment in Hamilton as we come to grips with the everchanging impacts the pandemic has brought. Challenges we were able to meet by adapting the way we increase capacity throughout the city.

Now more than ever, the efforts to centralize the opportunities and strategies to support N.E.E.T youth have been championed among our many collective impact member organizations. YouthCAN had the opportunity to meet extensively with organizations such as the City of Hamilton, Workforce Planning Hamilton, YourSpace Hamilton, PATH employment, St. Joseph's Hospital, ABEA and many more to coordinate our strategies amidst this global crisis. Maintaining this line of communication proved to be challenging in the new digital environment, especially as we witnessed some organizations dissolve during this unprecedented time. However, we will persist.

Our primary goal this year was to complete the construction of our online platform in order to centralize entry level jobs in Hamilton and reduce the stigma of accessing social supports of our member organizations by increasing their visibility. We collected over 400 employment opportunities and 150 community supports which are all accessible on the platform. We also successfully completed our third party iterative evaluation conducted by McMaster University, employing over 16 youth consultants to steer the development process to ensure we reduce the barriers of applying to work online. The YouthCAN online platform is truly built for youth by youth.

"Meet youth where they are." This is a guiding principle our team and many of our collective impact members took as we witnessed the decline in engagement of traditional, pre-pandemic programming this year. YouthCAN was able to facilitate the creation of engaging social media content with Centre[3]'s new digital lab. We were able to capture professional video content of members such as Workforce Planning Hamilton and Path employment, as well as youth voices and advocacy groups such as Project Outsiders.

The YouthCAN collective impact group strives to continue this work into this coming year. We are dedicated to increasing the capacity of N.E.E.T youth, the community organizations that support them, and the employers that will employ them.

Arturo Jimenez



360[4]Youth

360[4]Youth has experienced great success despite the restrictions of COVID-19. We launched the program in the heat of the pandemic and are continuing strong with our fifth cohort. To date we have serviced over 40 youth and are exceeding expectations. Over 80% of our youth obtained full time employment; which is a great achievement during a global pandemic. We continue to refine and improve our program and have found our focus on the digital media and marketing niche has been well received by participants and perspective employers. Our success is due to our exceptional team, Christina Tarsitano, Emily Blum, Aleksandra Lescesen and Kelly Sward as well as our talented roster of guest facilitators. We continue to focus on arts based soft skills training and mental health supports and are evaluating the impact of these interventions with a third-party evaluator. We are confident that our program will enjoy continued success and create a model of employment training for employment services across the province.

Julie Shea, 360[4]Youth



You saw who I am / Artwork by Walter Penado-Vasquez/ In the Off Hours

Direct Message

We believe in the transformative potential the arts have in successful aging: in building social connections that decrease loneliness and isolation, and in improving mental well-being through curious exploration and life-long learning. Even before the pandemic, we've seen older adults underrepresented in arts and cultural programming. Public health responses to COVID-19 have made a bad situation worse. There is space at Centre[3] and across the arts sector for older adults.

Direct[Message] is a three-year collaborative project to increase older adults' access to artistic experiences using digital technology. Seniors from Hamilton, Guelph, and London are guiding an interdisciplinary team and community-based researchers to develop a prototype online platform called Seniors Art Link. It provides built-to-purpose channels and built-in digital literacy skill development for older adults of varied backgrounds and social locations, allowing them increased access to artistic experiences. Careful research activities – and the voices of older adults – guide how artistic experiences are presented and what experiences are offered.

We've been excited to watch how community-based research has reshaped this project to respond to the society-bending effects of COVID-19 and to refocus goals toward what older adults need today. What started as a general goal to broadcast live visual arts

of older adults watching at home – has transformed into a multi-approach digital platform. Its growth incorporates the idea that one size rarely fits all, centres social interaction and skill-building over the staid didactic, and recognizes new barriers like mysterious microphone echos and "Zoom fatigue."

We've recently completed the second major phase of research, a facilitated peer-administered four-part survey, and begun offering and evaluating virtual arts workshops. We're especially pleased to have the older adult community consultants who started with sharing their own stories (direct-message.ca/community-stories) now intimately involved with the qualitative analysis of the information they've collected from older adult representatives of diverse communities in Hamilton, London, and Guelph.

A new grant opportunity and partnership with Bodies in Translation at Re•Vision has made a formal, published evaluation of the prototype hardware interface possible, to collect feedback on the device that's been developed over the past year by the platform team. That evaluation starts in the new year.

The self-serve digital literacy videos (direct-message.ca/tv) teaching basic skills on each of four different technology platforms, created by team members under a related project, are a key resource that help make the platform and the project more accessible while exciting all our community partners as a stand-alone resource to help older adults access any kind of resource available digitally.

We gratefully acknowledge the support of the Canada Council for the Arts Digital Strategy Fund which has made Direct[Message] possible.

The Direct[Message] team includes older adult community consultants from Hamilton, London and Guelph, the School of the Arts and the School of Social Work at McMaster University, VibrafusionLab in London, Cinematronics in Hamilton, and Re•Vision: The Centre for Art & Social Justice in Guelph.

The platform is a prototype that can be reproduced, in whole or in part, by other arts organizations. An emphasis on low-cost solutions, open source software, open hardware, modularity, and accessibility are embedded in a framework meant to be sustainable and extensible.

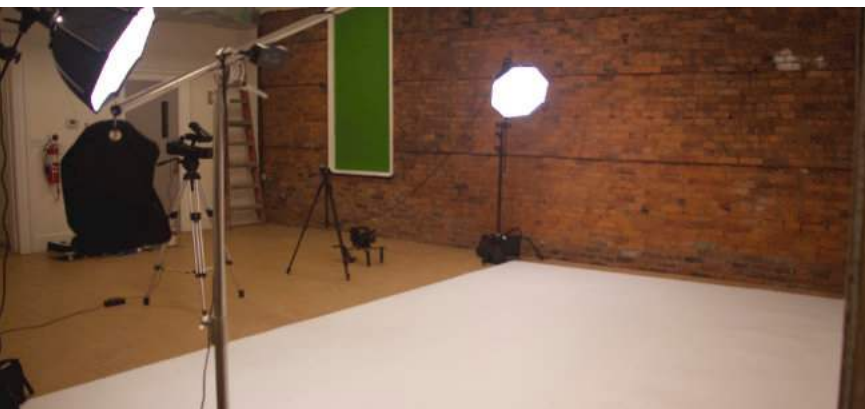
Follow the project or get involved at direct-message.ca and the Direct[Message] Community on Instagram, YouTube, and Facebook.



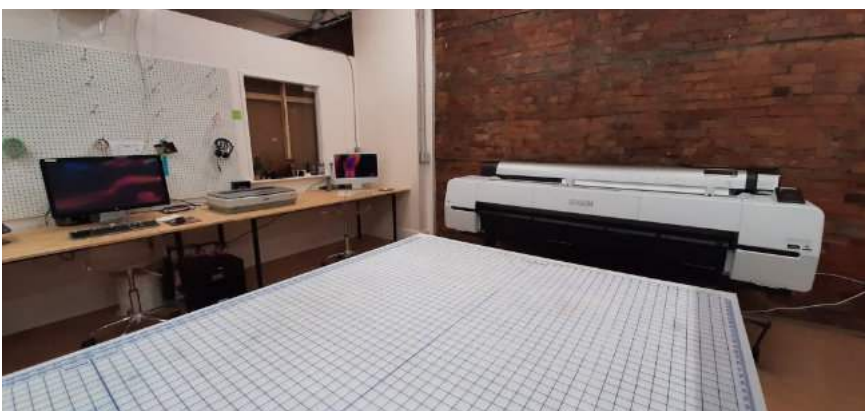
Screenshots from physically distanced Zoom meetings with Direct[Message] Community Consultants

Simon Lebrun

Facilities



The past year has been an exciting time of growth for Centre [3] with a gradual reopening of the spaces to members and the public. I would like to thank our members who have endured our limited hours and have been respectful to our COVID-19 policies. These members helped to keep the creative energies alive in our halls.



As the year progressed, we have been able to offer a reawakening of workshops, Art Crawl openings, and a redevelopment of the digital studio space. The old digital studio at 173 is now decommissioned and in the process of becoming a textile/sewing space. The digital studio has been enhanced and relocated to 126. This new digital studio received a threefold upgrade. The front half of the new digital space has been converted to that of a film/photography studio, offering beautiful backdrops, film-grade lighting and space for member and project needs. In the rear section of the room is the new digital printing space, featuring a new and massive photo printer, a vinyl cutter, and a braille printer. Tucked away in what was the old washroom and art supply storage is now an audio recording booth geared towards those interested in recording vocals and podcasts.



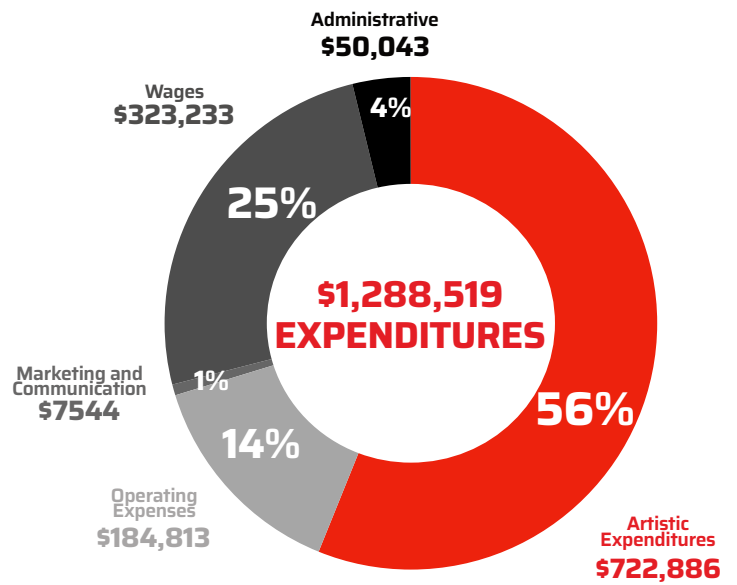
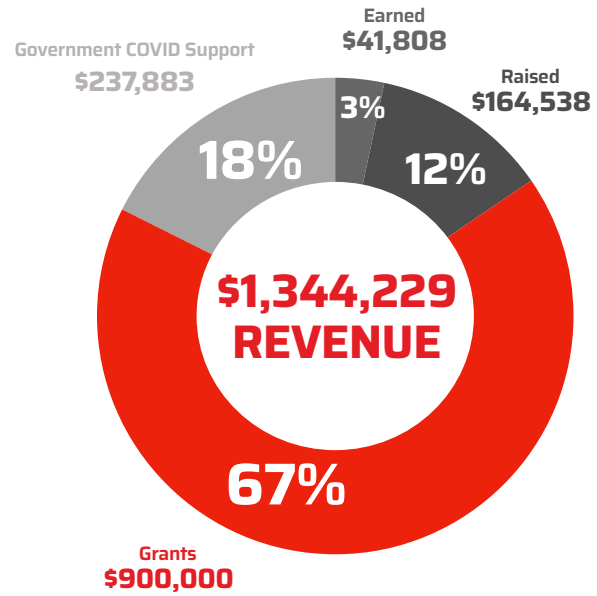
In addition to the new digital offerings, we have had the pleasure of hosting many artists in residence throughout the past year. Making use of a variety of the studios, including the new film studio, Centre [3]'s continued support of artists has become more important than ever as the pandemic has altered and reduced much of the available support for artists. I am truly glad that we are able to continue to support artists with our ever-growing studio offerings.

Alex Borghesan - Studio Manager

Financial



Artwork by Melissa Shulenberg / Instinctive Travels



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