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**centre[3]**  
for artistic + social practice

## MANDATE

Centre[3] for Artistic and Social Practice is dedicated to supporting artists with creation, production, presentation, and dissemination. Centre[3] 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.

## MISSION

Centre[3] is an artist-run centre that supports artists and collaborates with communities to create social change through the arts.



# CHAIR

Hello and Welcome!

Centre[3] acknowledges that our organization, located in Hamilton, is situated on the traditional territory of the Eerie, Neutral, Huron-Wendat, Mississauga and Haudenosaunee Nations, whose presence here reaches back to time immemorial. We recognize the historical oppression of Indigenous Peoples, cultures, and lands in what is now known as Canada. We are committed to healing and decolonizing together through the arts.

I am delighted to stand before you today as Melissa Murray-Mutch, your chair at Centre[3]'s Annual General Meeting. I'm excited to share with you the remarkable strides we've taken in the realm of art and community.

Our board comprises an assembly of remarkably talented and diverse individuals, ranging from seasoned artists and educators to ardent supporters of our local creative talent. The year gone by has been nothing short of extraordinary, as we've dismantled barriers and opened up avenues to make art accessible to all. Our new print studio at Harriet Street Studio and the provision of affordable spaces for Hamilton artists underscore our commitment to going above and beyond.

In alignment with our visionary 5-year plan, we are dedicated to transforming our gallery into an inclusive haven for everyone. The "Wordless Words" workshop, guided by the esteemed Dr. Jemele Rouse, stands as a testament to our commitment to creative exploration and connection through the elements.

Our members' gallery has been graced by the works of extraordinary talents such as Jill Letten, Emma Enright, Racquel Rowe, Sandra Manzi, Baska Szostak,

Sarvanaz Rayati, Eric Euler, Moma Dada, Sonali Menezes, and Anran Guo. Meanwhile, the main gallery has hosted captivating exhibitions by Rolla Tahir, Ness Lee, Francisca Duran, and an exceptional self-curated show by the Black Artists Union – each an embodiment of brilliance. A special acknowledgement goes to our esteemed colleagues at Martha Street Studio in Winnipeg, with whom we annually engage in a residency exchange program, fostering cross-cultural collaborations and artistic excellence. The groundbreaking VibraFusionLab (VFL), crafted by the visionary artists David Bobier and Jim Ruxton, stands as a beacon of our commitment to inclusive art-making practices, embracing technology to transcend boundaries and engage diverse communities.

Centre[3]'s commitment extends beyond art; it embraces community and youth. Our collaboration with the Hamilton Wentworth District School Board (HWDSB), specifically through "NuSteel," provides high school students a unique pathway into the world of arts and education. "360 4 Youth," a highly successful initiative, has not only provided training and job placement for youth aged 15-30 but has been an exemplary showcase of the transformative power of the arts. I would be remiss not to express my profound admiration for Julie Shea, whose dedication to "360 4 Youth" has been nothing short of exceptional. As she steps down this year after setting up this season's cohort, she leaves an indelible legacy of leadership and commitment.

In closing, let us raise our glasses to the breaking of barriers, the pursuit of artistic excellence, and the fostering of a vibrant community. Thank you for being an integral part of Centre[3]'s journey, where art meets sophistication.

Melissa Murray-Mutch

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Melissa Murray-Mutch** CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ARTIST & ACTOR

**Barin Osho** VICE-CHAIR

ARTIST

**Aadil Merali** TREASURER

**Steve Gaul** DIRECTOR

ACCOUNTANT

**Amanda Hinkle-Wallace** SECRETARY

ARTIST, EDUCATOR, PROGRAM DIRECTOR

**Aytak Dibavar**

LAWYER, EDUCATOR, PROFESSOR

**Olivia Brouwer**

ARTIST

**Jeannie Kim**

ARTIST, EDUCATOR, CULTURAL WORKER

**Angela DeMontigny**

DESIGNER, ARTIST, ENTREPRENEUR, MENTOR





Elissa Barber\_mixed media1

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As we emerge from the challenges posed by the pandemic, I am pleased to share with you the strides we have taken and the vision we are shaping for the future of Centre[3]. Over the past fiscal year, strategic planning and the development of a succession plan have been at the forefront of our efforts, charting a course for the continued growth of our operations and programming.

Committed to championing artists and fostering inclusivity, we remain steadfast in empowering artists with cutting-edge spaces for creation, showcasing, and sharing. Our dedication extends beyond our walls to the community through free admission, artist talks, an innovative youth education and employment program, and a collaboration with McMaster University focused on art-based research. Together, we aim to catalyze artistic expression and robust community engagement.

Our programming is thoughtfully categorized into artistic endeavours, including exhibitions and residencies, and social practice initiatives, such as education and community arts. Looking ahead, our vision embraces an integrated model seamlessly blending artistic and social practices to foster a more cohesive and impactful approach to our diverse initiatives.

To ensure artistic quality, we have extended main gallery exhibitions to three months, featuring local, national, and international artists. Members' gallery exhibitions will now span two months, allowing time for enriching programming, including artist talks and gallery tours featuring diverse community members. Following a thorough cost analysis, we have transformed the sales program space into the Members' Foyer—an additional space to showcase members' work. In our main gallery, we will now feature four curated shows annually, complemented by twelve shows between our two member spaces. For outreach programming, we will explore public spaces or collaborate with community partners for the exhibition component.

Excitingly, our Harriet Street location, in partnership with VibraFusionLab (VFL), will host a prototype gallery in 2024. This experimental exhibition space invites artists to showcase early-stage or experimental works, fostering feedback and interaction with peers, visitors, and experts in the field.

In 2023, we extended studio hours, slowly returning to our pre-pandemic schedule three days a week. Looking forward to 2024, we will reopen on Saturdays, offering weekend studio time. Our Key Holder Members continue to enjoy 24/7 access to the studios. In the spring, we will resume offering workshops to both artists and the broader public.

Our commitment to supporting emerging and senior artists remains unwavering. Simultaneously, we are reassessing our residency program, with plans to earmark one residency for international artists, welcoming creatives from around the globe to Hamilton. A national residency program is also under consideration, ensuring a delicate balance that upholds our commitment to local and regional artists.

In 2023, we developed a Membership Campaign strategy, which we will implement in 2024. The focus is on three levels of membership: artists, community organizations, and corporate support. I express my heartfelt gratitude to all our granting bodies from all three government levels for their unwavering support during these trying times.

A special thanks to the Board of Directors for their dedication and advice, to the staff for their expertise in making Centre[3] a vital organization in our community, and to our members who are the core of what we do as an artist-run centre. We eagerly anticipate collaborating with the board, staff, and members in 2024 as we continue to serve as an artist's hub and a space for disseminating ideas and creating art.

Colina Maxwell

# DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

2023 was a year of remarkable achievements for Centre[3]! Despite the temporary setback of the pandemic, our community, the heart and soul of Centre[3], bounced back with a renewed spirit. The streets once again buzzed with the energy of our monthly art crawls, a clear sign of our return to the vibrant 'normalcy' we all cherish. Let's rejoice in the victory of creativity as we come together as a thriving creative community.

I want to appreciate our dedicated staff and resilient members deeply. Your unwavering patience and understanding during the challenging post-COVID world have been instrumental in Centre[3]'s continued growth. Despite the hurdles, we flourished in 2023, marking a significant milestone with the exciting expansion to our new location at 29 Harriet Street.

I would also like to acknowledge Alex Borghesan and his team for spearheading the establishment of our innovative textile and digital studios. Their tireless efforts have transformed this space into a vibrant hub of creativity, where community workshops thrive and artists find abundant inspiration. To our members: your patience during this transition has been invaluable. We are thrilled to offer you affordable access to cutting-edge equipment, including a braille printer, large format printer, Risograph printer, embroidery machine, and state-of-the-art laser cutter.

We cordially invite you to experience our new location. Get ready to be captivated and inspired! Uncertainties may linger as we step into 2024, but I am confident that Centre[3] and our exceptional team will continue to exhibit resilience, seizing every opportunity to thrive and evolve. Your presence in our new space will make it more vibrant and unique.

On a personal note, I announce my departure from Centre[3] due to health reasons with a heavy heart. Working alongside Colina has been an absolute joy; her remarkable dedication and talent have left an indelible mark. I am immensely grateful for our time together, and though I'm sad to part ways, I leave knowing that Centre[3] is in the best hands with her at the helm.

Julie Shea, Director of Operations

# STAFF

|                       |                                    |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------|
| Colina Maxwell        | Executive Director                 |
| Julie Shea            | Director of Operations             |
| Angela Busse          | Print Studio Manager               |
| Alex Borghesan        | Studio Manager                     |
| Sarah Sproule         | Social Practice Coordinator        |
| Walter Penado-Vasquez | YouthCAN Social Enterprise Manager |
| Lesley Loksi Chan     | Artistic Director                  |
| Conrad Marion         | Program Coordinator                |
| Lauren Harnish        | Development Manager                |
| Jeff Chow             | Communication Coordinator          |
| Arturo Jimenez        | YouthCAN Coordinator               |
| Becky Katz            | NuSteel Coordinator                |





# ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

From September 2022 to August 2023, Centre[3] continued to present diverse and provocative programming with a focus on highlighting underrepresented artistic voices and practices. In collaboration with a wide range of artists and communities, we presented imaginative and urgent artworks on site and online. This year we presented the work of 20 artists in our Main Gallery and 14 artists in our Members' Gallery; we also hosted four residencies and offered 11 workshops aimed at developing the creative, technical and critical perspectives for our membership. Highlights of this year include the presentation of our video series "Collapsing the Distance Between Us" supported by the Canada Council for the Arts. This series featured local artists Nathan Eugene Carson, Carmela Laganse and Shelley Niro, sharing personal stories about their artistic practices. We also continued the Sari-Sari Xchange project, an emergent technologies collaboration supporting artists of the Asian diaspora, a joint partnership with Tangled Art + Disability, Reel Asian International Film Festival, McMaster University and York University. We also concluded our 3-year Canada Council for the Arts Composite Project "Stitching a Line Thru Media" with our group exhibition "Transpositions", guest curated by Nicole Bursich.

Special thanks to the 2022-2023 Centre[3] Programming Committee, Aytak Dibavar, Olivia Brouwer, Teba Faisal, Barin Osho, Ron Siu, Arturo Jimenez and Conrad Marion for their generative points of view and generosity.

Heartfelt thanks to Centre[3]'s passionate and dedicated staff, board members, artists, guest curators and members for supporting and contributing to another year of exciting programming at Centre[3].

Lesley Loksi Chan, Artistic Director



# MEMBERS GALLERY







# MAIN GALLERY

Nichol Marsch\_Subjects\_2021. Image courtesy of Arturo Jimenez





# RESIDENCES

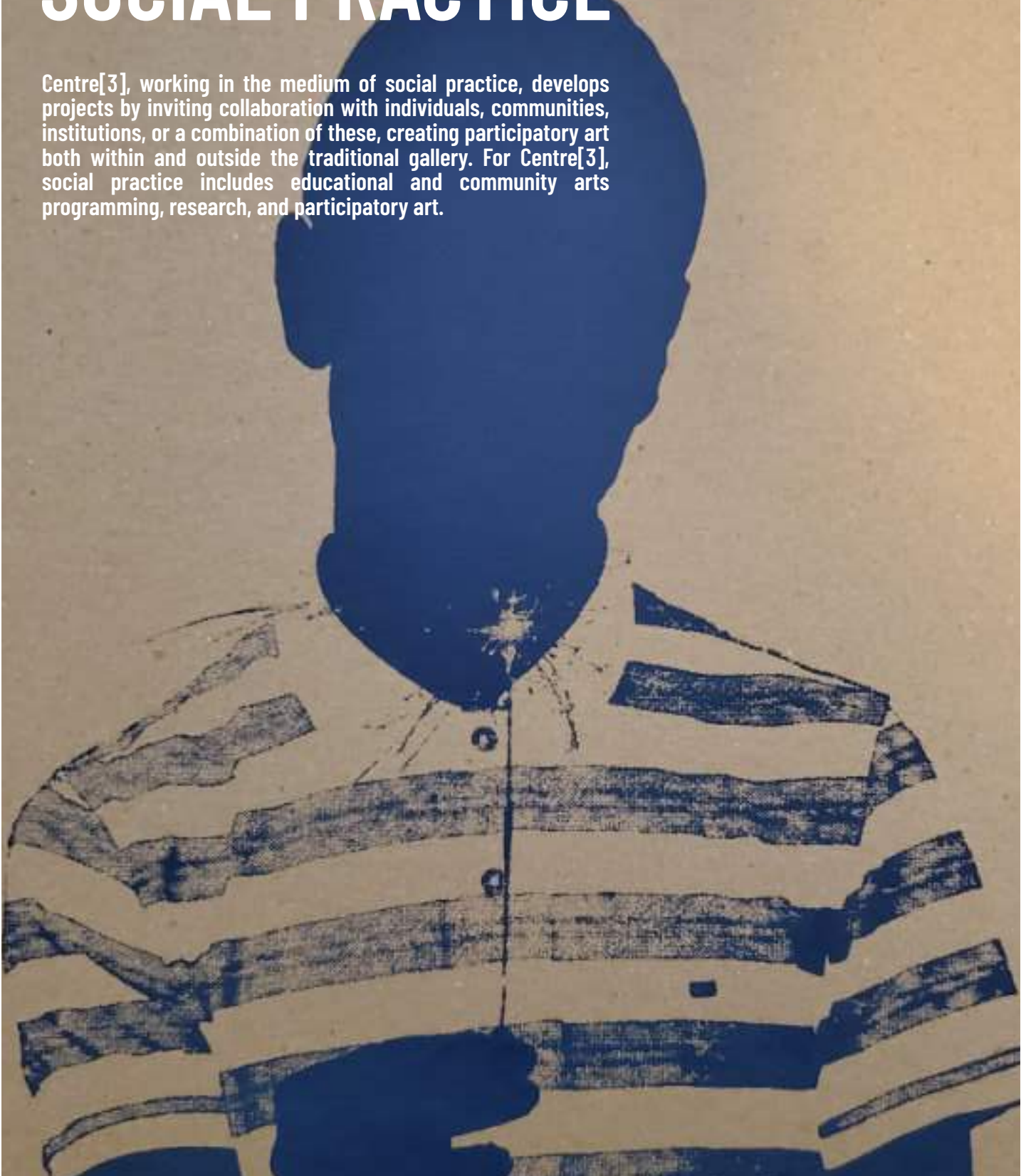
- Venus Raine - Emerging
- Brenda Reid - Emerging
- Tara Bursey - Hamilton-Based
- Jill Letten - Hamilton Based
- Ness Lee and John Armstrong - in partnership with VibraFusionLab

# WORKSHOPS

- Sintra Drypoint with Angela Sneider - Fall 2022
- T-shirt Printing with Michael Schnittker - Fall 2022
- Tapestry Weaving with Emma Enright - Fall 2022
- Chance Encounters with Jon Armstrong - Fall 2022
- Critical Writing with Saelan Twerdy - Fall 2022
- Workshop: Tote Bag Printing with Luther Griggs - Winter 2023
- Weaving Group with IWC - Winter 2023 ongoing
- Screenprinting with Samsam Elmi - Spring 2023
- Workshop: Art + Feminism / Digital Literacy w Amber Berson - Spring 2023
- Workshop: Painterly Monotype with Ron Siu - Spring 2023
- Workshop: Comic Makers Meetup - Spring 2023

# SOCIAL PRACTICE

Centre[3], working in the medium of social practice, develops projects by inviting collaboration with individuals, communities, institutions, or a combination of these, creating participatory art both within and outside the traditional gallery. For Centre[3], social practice includes educational and community arts programming, research, and participatory art.



Sylvia Limbana, "Sparks," 2022. Acrylic screenprint and mixed media on paper.

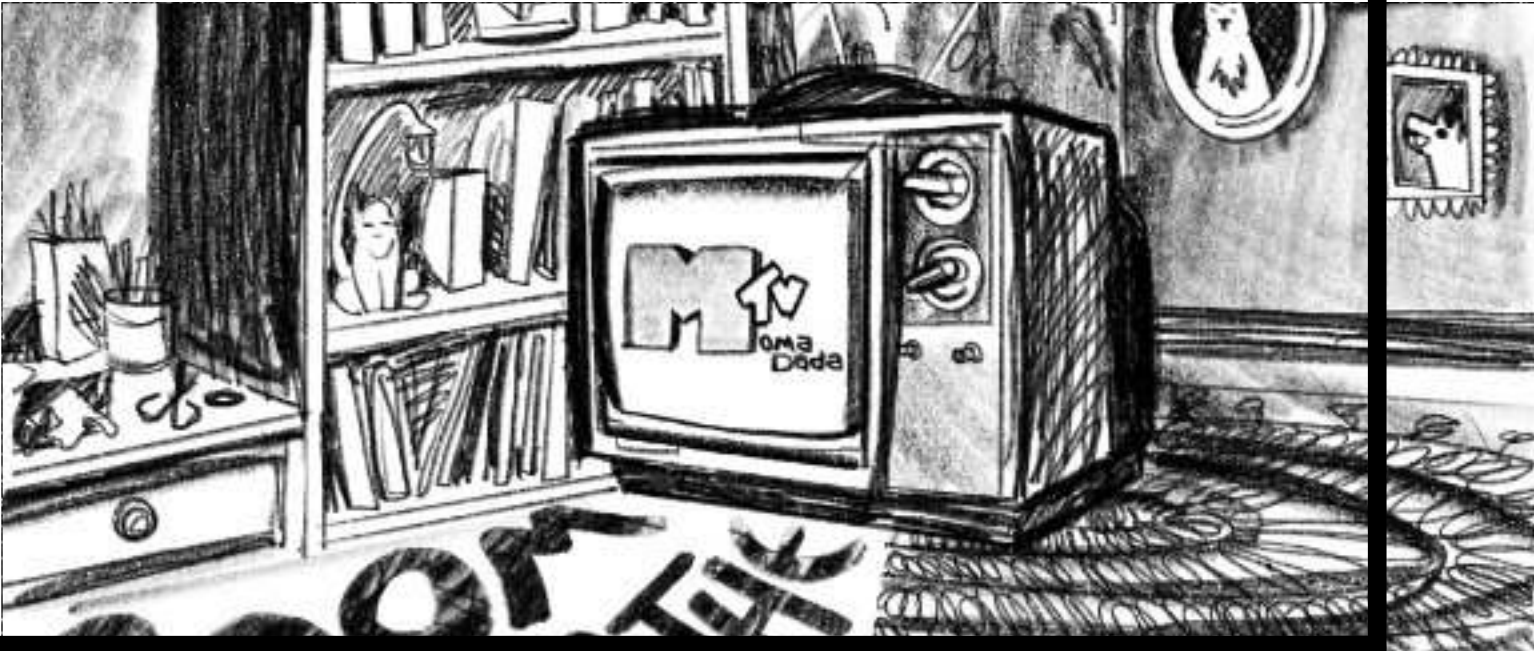


# YOUTH PROGRAMMING :

## NUSTEEL

Overall, 2023 was a dynamic and successful year for the NuSteel program. We have reached a new record of student enrolment, which currently sits at 20 students. The group is composed mostly of Grade 11/12 Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) students, with a mix of some sophomore students as well. We pride ourselves on NuSteel being the only Alternative Education Arts & Culture SHSM program within the HWDSB. We had quite an exciting year, having had six students graduate the program-receiving their high school diplomas-another record for the NuSteel program. One of our distinguished graduates, Lyn Lafortune, was honoured with a bursary scholarship from the Hamilton Golf and Country Club. Some other major highlights of the year include embracing a new relationship with DVSA (Dundas Valley School of Art); field trips to DVSA, AGH, and HPL; learning new techniques such as matting, marbling, stop-motion animation, and portfolio building and binding; the majority of our students attending Rainbow Prom (for LGBTQAI+ students) together; marketing at every Art Crawl (including Supercrawl); lecture and workshop by visiting artist Patricia Kozowyk; and design and print jobs for multiple clients throughout the city. With the increase of student enrolment, this past year we have also seen an increase to our arsenal of technology with new equipment and materials for the program, including six brand new Mac desktop computers.

Looking ahead, we will be saying goodbye to our most cherished Artist Technician, Angela Busse, who is stepping into her new role at Centre[3] as General Manager. We are also going to be experimenting with a new format in the upcoming semester, bringing on a second HWDSB teacher who will be teaching Co-op education and Business curricula streams. Through our vital Centre[3] partnership, many of our students (who are caught up on their coursework), are presented with extra curricular opportunities to volunteer, work, exhibit, and experience the world outside the classroom. The NuSteel students are privileged with the unique and vastly enriching experience of attending school at Centre[3]. Through this intrinsic connection to the arts community, they receive an instilled sense of social responsibility to the local community and broader societal issues.



Detailed view of Tethering: Entanglement, 2021 performance, installation Variable dimensions.

## YOUTHCAN

### COLLECTIVE IMPACT GROUP

With the generous support of the Royal Bank of Canada, YouthCAN has successfully achieved its 2022/23 goals, focusing on addressing critical gaps within our community for NEET (Not in Education, Employment, or Training) youth. Our objective was to assist fellow youth service providers in navigating the challenges of the evolving digital landscape. Through the provision of essential equipment, dedicated space, and expert guidance from youth, YouthCAN empowered service providers with the capacity to create digital content and implement outreach strategies. This support was crucial in helping them recover from the decline in enrollment for traditional social service programming in Hamilton. Throughout the year, we maintained close communication with our collective impact members and collaborated with various groups dedicated to centralizing social services in the city of Hamilton. We engaged in both online and in-person consultations with key organizations, including Workforce Planning Hamilton, The Adult Basic Education Association, The City of Hamilton, PATH Employment, Hamilton Centre for Civic Inclusion, McMaster University, Mohawk College, and Employment Hamilton, among others. These collaborative efforts allowed us to strategize, assess needs, and coordinate services for the youth in Hamilton effectively.

As we move into the coming year, we are enthusiastic about the prospect of continuing this impactful work. YouthCAN remains steadfast in its commitment to enhancing the capacity of NEET youth, the community organizations that support them, and the employers who will provide them with opportunities.





Knowledge Keeper", David Bobier. Found objects, kalimba, transducers, audio components

# SENIORS ART LINK

## FORMERLY KNOWN AS DIRECT[MESSAGE]

Supported by the Canada Council for the Arts, Direct[Message] is an innovative community-based research initiative centered in southwestern Ontario, with a focus on the local communities of Hamilton, Guelph, and London. Our mission is to enhance the interactivity and accessibility of the arts for older adults through the integration of digital technology.

In collaboration with esteemed partners such as VibraFusionLab (led by David Bobier and Jim Ruxton), McMaster University (involving Tara LaRose from the School of Social Work and Carmela Laganse from the School of the Arts), and the University of Guelph (with Carla Rice and Jami McFarland), we have undertaken a comprehensive research and co-design process. Together, we've developed and evaluated physical interfaces and web-based platforms aimed at simplifying access and participation in artistic services and programs for older adults.

Our commitment to inclusivity and an intergenerational co-design approach led us to establish a Community Consultation Group (CCG), composed of older adults representing a diverse cross-section from all three cities. Over the course of the five-year Direct[Message] program, we have embarked on a multi-stakeholder, multi-faceted journey exploring the ways in which technology can support artistic engagement for older adults.

As we conclude this enriching endeavour, we are thrilled to introduce Seniors Art Link—a prototype digital space launched in 2023. This platform will not only showcase our newfound expertise but also serve as a practical application of the identified best practices. We aim to share our discoveries through user-friendly tools tailored for program developers and support workers in the arts and culture sector. Additionally, we will experiment with virtual open studios and adapt Centre[3]'s inviting physical arts spaces into a warm and supportive digital home environment.

Maria Simmons, Wavelength of a Spore/Attachment, 2020.

# CENTRE[4] ART & RESEARCH

Centre[3] has partnered with McMaster University to create a community research centre that will connect artists with researchers to conduct art-based or art-informed research. Our goal is to have artists act as consultants and co-investigators, facilitate art-based activities for data collection or work on giving knowledge mobilization a visual voice.

Centre[3] will continue collaborating on research and design that supports the inclusion of diverse groups in the arts, including disability communities and marginalized groups. We carried out two social projects funded by the Canada Council for the Arts in 2023: Making Media Arts Accessible with Virtual Devising, from May 1, 2022 - August 31, 2023, and Enriching Art Experience With D/deaf and Disability Communities from July 4, 2022 - June 30, 2023. Both of these projects research and design digital tools for arts engagement. Enriching Art Experience will continue our previous collaboration with VibraFusionLab to pilot prototype tools for sensory translation, removing barriers to engagement with contemporary art by translating sound and movement into tactile forms.

Research Director, Cathy Paton  
Research Assistant, Alex Bernier



# STUDIO MANAGER REPORT

As we reflect on the past year, it's evident that despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, Centre[3] has embraced change and emerged with renewed vigour and excitement. The reawakening of our studios symbolizes a fresh opportunity to expand our services and support our members more effectively than ever before.

At the Harriet Street location, significant strides have been made, particularly with the expansion of the Digital Studio. Once the home of the Felton Brush Factory, this space now boasts a comprehensive array of equipment, including industrial sewing machines, table looms, a sticker printer, a Risograph printer, and a laser cutter. This expansion not only enhances our workshop capabilities but also empowers artists to pursue a broader spectrum of creative projects across various media.

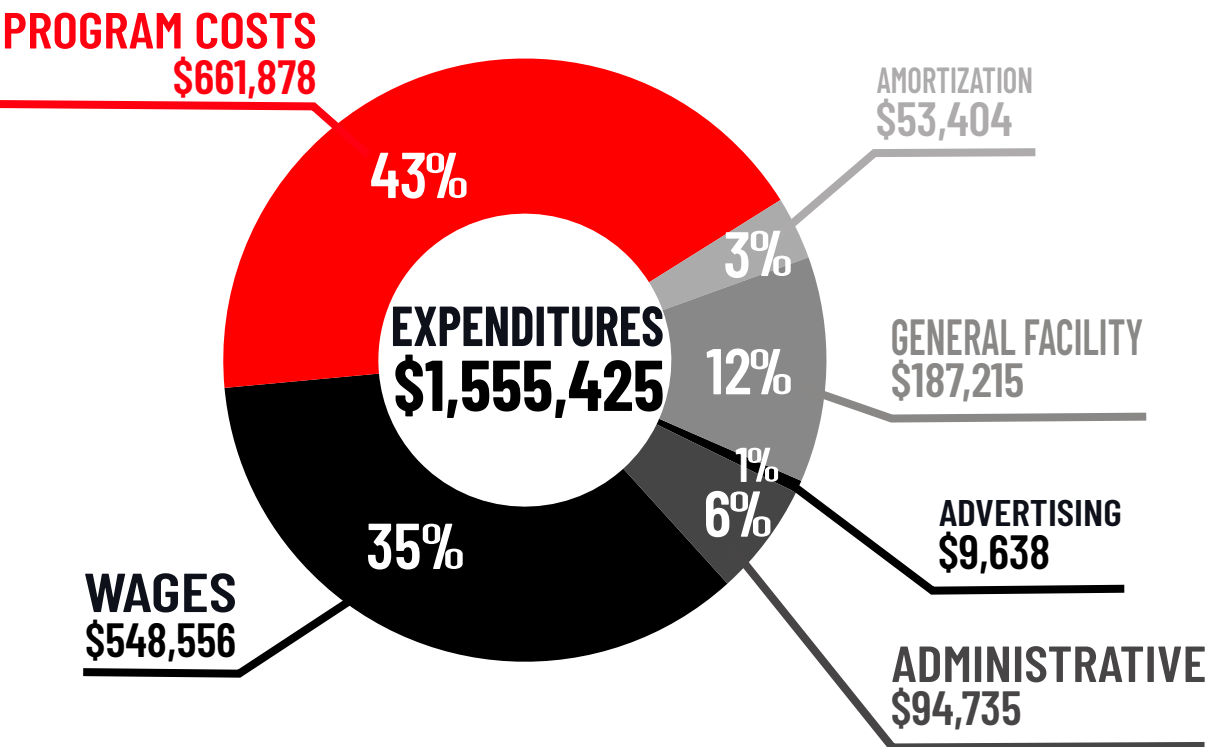
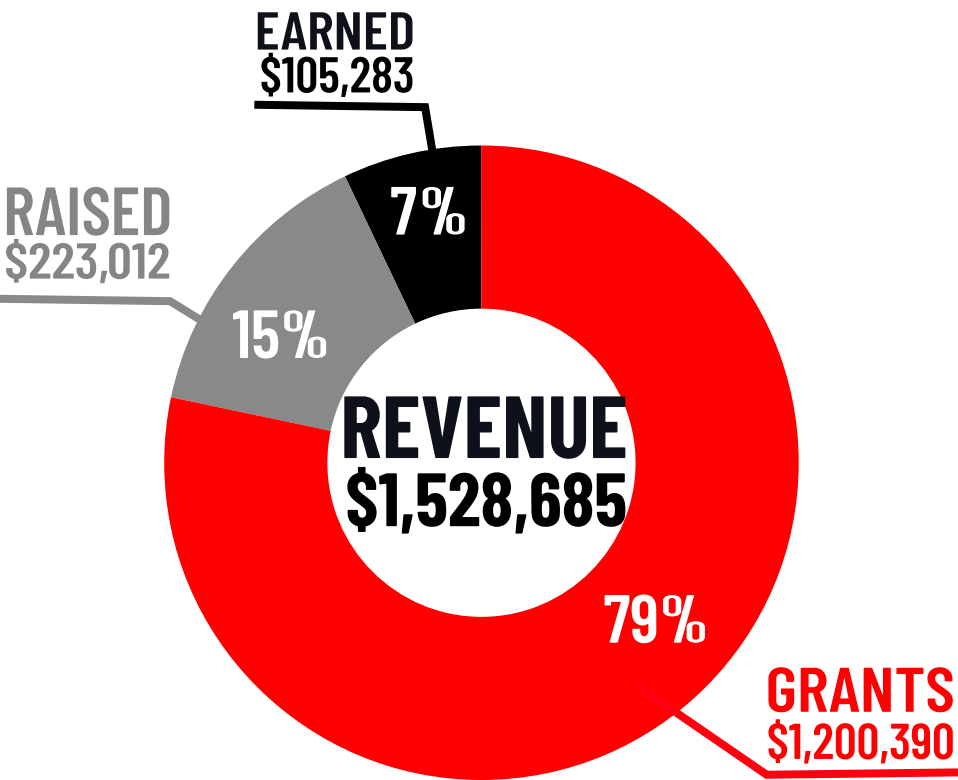
Furthermore, the Film Studio's relocation to Harriet Street marks a milestone in our journey. Centre[3] can now offer affordable, professional filming services to our membership and the wider community, enriching our artistic landscape and fostering collaboration.

As we move forward, I invite our members to continue exploring and experimenting in both our new and existing facilities. Despite facing financial constraints, Centre[3] remains committed to sustainability, doing more with less and prioritizing our mission to support and empower artists in times of adversity.

Together, we will navigate these uncertain times with resilience, creativity, and a steadfast commitment to our artistic community. Thank you to our members for your continued support and dedication. Here's to another year of growth, innovation, and artistic excellence at Centre[3].

Angela Busse

# FINANCIAL REPORT





# SPONSORS



RBC  
Emerging Artists  
Project



ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL  
CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO  
an Ontario government agency  
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Canada Council  
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Hamilton

TURKSTRA LUMBER  
ALWAYS ON THE LEVEL

HAMILTON  
COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION

incite  
FOUNDATION FOR THE ARTS

GWD  
FOUNDATION  
FOR KIDS

