

centre[3]
for artistic + social practice

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AGM

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.

MANDATE

MISSION

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

CHAIR

Dear Members,

Centre[3] acknowledges that our organization, located in Hamilton, is situated on the traditional territory of the Erie, 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. As an artist-run centre, we are committed to healing and decolonizing together through the arts.

I begin this report with deep gratitude for my fellow board members, whose dedication and volunteer efforts have been instrumental in governing Centre[3] and upholding our mandate to support artists while fostering meaningful community engagement through social practice. Their commitment to our vision has been invaluable.

I also want to recognize the incredible staff at Centre[3], who bring our mission to life every day. Despite the challenges of this past year, their unwavering dedication ensured that our programming continued to have a significant impact on both our artistic community and the wider public.

Our members are the heart of Centre[3], and we deeply appreciate their engagement, creativity, and ongoing support. Without them, Centre[3] would not be what it is today. Finally, I extend my sincere appreciation to our community partners and funders. Their collaboration and support make our work possible, allowing us to provide vital opportunities for artists and creative communities to thrive.

As we look forward, Centre[3] remains committed to its mission of supporting artists, fostering community engagement, and advancing social practice through the arts. With new leadership, renewed vision, and a strong foundation, we are excited for what lies ahead. On behalf of the board, we all look forward to a bright and inspiring 2025.

Melissa Murray-Mutch, Chair of the Board

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CHAIR

Melissa Murray-Mutch

ARTIST & ACTOR

VICE-CHAIR

Barin Osho

ARTIST

TREASURER

Aadil Merali

SECRETARY

Amanda Hinkle-Wallace

ARTIST, EDUCATOR, PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Aytak Dibavar

LAWYER, EDUCATOR, PROFESSOR

Olivia Brouwer

ARTIST

Jeannie Kim

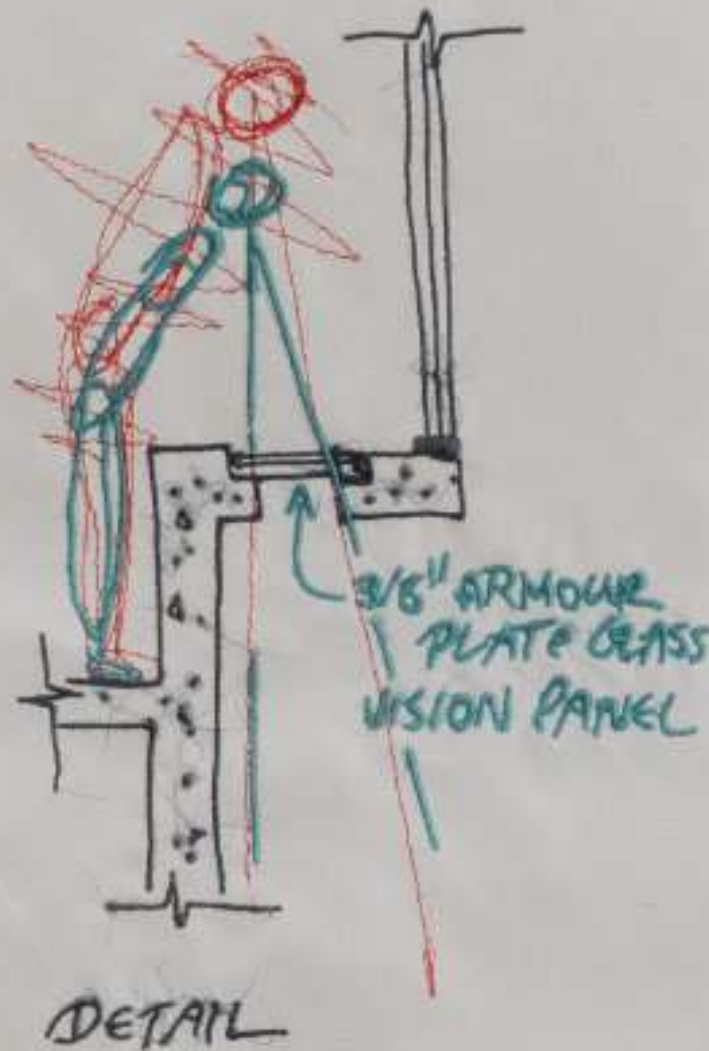
ARTIST, EDUCATOR, CULTURAL WORKER

Angela DeMontigny

DESIGNER, ARTIST, ENTREPRENEUR, MENTOR

Rosa Wan

ARTIST FACILITATOR



Brenda Reid. "Drafting Room," 2024. Image courtesy of Amy Su.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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.

Our programming is thoughtfully categorized into artistic endeavors, 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.

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.

Reflections on 2023-2024

This past year has been one of resilience, adaptation, and progress. While we have faced significant challenges, we have also celebrated major achievements that reaffirm Centre[3]'s role as a vital hub for artists and the community.

One of the most difficult situations we faced was the sale of the Harriet Street building, which had a profound impact on both Centre[3] and the artists who had studios there. The board took this issue very seriously, engaging in multiple meetings to explore all possible solutions. Unfortunately, we quickly realized that we had no choice but to send notices to the artists. This was not an easy decision, and it was one that weighed heavily on the board. The transition was challenging, requiring the relocation of everything back to our James Street North location.

Despite these obstacles, we remained committed to strengthening our artistic programming. Our Main Gallery

was honoured to host Ness Lee, a Toronto-based artist who completed a residency at Centre[3], culminating in an exhibition during Supercrawl. We extend a special thanks to the Incite Foundation for making this residency possible.

In addition to our exhibition programming, we completed two major community-focused projects. 360 [4] Youth, our employment training program led by Julie Shea and her team, successfully provided young adults with digital media training, internships, and pathways to long-term employment. Meanwhile, our Direct Message project engaged older adults in art-based programming, completing its multi-year cycle with great success.

Financial & Organizational Resilience

2023-2024 was a year of transition and renewal for Centre[3]. We successfully activated our succession plan, leading to a thorough six-month process to hire a new Executive Director. We are thrilled to welcome Yvonne Felix into this role and look forward to her leadership in shaping the future of Centre[3].

Our former Executive Director, Colina Maxwell, remains involved in programming and supporting Yvonne through this transition. I want to take this moment to recognize and thank Colina for her 19 years of leadership and her dedication to co-founding and sustaining Centre[3]. Her unwavering commitment has been instrumental in shaping this organization, and her belief in Centre[3]'s future ensures that it remains in excellent hands under Yvonne's leadership.

Despite the many challenges, we are excited about the coming year and moving Centre[3] towards a social enterprise model as a more sustainable approach to support our artspace and services.

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 2025 as we continue to serve as an artist's hub and a space for disseminating ideas and creating art.

Executive Director

DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

As we continue to navigate the lingering effects of the pandemic, 2024 presented Centre[3] with a series of challenges: returning to regular operations, bidding farewell to long standing team members, and managing a financial deficit.

One of the most significant transitions was the departure of Julie Shea, who officially ended her tenure as Director of Operations in January 2024. Julie's leadership, innovative thinking, and ability to make things happen have left an indelible mark on Centre[3]. She played a crucial role in activating the organization's succession plan, leading to the appointment of Yvonne Felix as the new Executive Director in July 2024. Working alongside Julie has been an absolute privilege, and while we will deeply miss her, we take comfort in knowing that she helped establish strong systems that will guide Centre[3] toward continued success.

Unfortunately, as part of our deficit reduction plan, we had to make difficult decisions to restructure our business strategy, which included saying goodbye to valued staff members. Among them was Alex Borghesan, who dedicated many years to Centre[3] and played a pivotal role in establishing our textile and digital studios. His dedication transformed these spaces into thriving hubs of creativity, fostering artistic growth and innovation. His presence is deeply missed by both our team and studio members, and we extend our heartfelt gratitude for his contributions.

Another major challenge in 2024 was the unexpected receivership of the Harriet Street location, which forced us to vacate the building within just three weeks. This sudden transition was difficult for both our staff and our

studio renters, who understandably felt the impact of this abrupt change. Our new Executive Director had to manage both media inquiries and artist concerns during this challenging time, and we are proud of how professionally the situation was handled. In response, we relocated the Digital Lab back to 173 James North, where it now occupies our former main gallery space. We restructured our exhibition spaces, moving the Main Gallery to what was previously the Members' Gallery and shifting the Members' Gallery into the former sales program space. These changes, while difficult, were necessary steps toward ensuring Centre[3] remains fiscally responsible and sustainable.

Amidst these challenges, there is reason for optimism. Under Yvonne Felix's leadership, Centre[3] is regaining momentum, demonstrating resilience and a renewed spirit. We are committed to fostering an environment where artists can thrive and our community can continue to grow stronger.

I want to extend my deepest gratitude to our dedicated staff, members, and supporters. Your patience, understanding, and commitment have been instrumental in helping Centre[3] navigate these transitions. Despite the obstacles, we remained open, resilient, and steadfast in our mission. We are confident that, together, we will seize new opportunities and continue to evolve as a dynamic and thriving creative community.

Let's celebrate the power of creativity and the collective strength that makes Centre[3] a truly unique and inspiring space.

Director of Operations

STAFF

Yvonne Felix **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Julie Shea **DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS**

Colina Maxwell **SOCIAL PRACTICE DIRECTOR**

Sarah Sproule **ARTISTIC PROGRAMMING MANAGER**

Alex Borghesan **STUDIO MANAGER**



Ness Lee. "space of feeling," 2023. Image courtesy of the artist.



Jill Letten, "Short-lived, Long-term," 2023. Image courtesy of Amy Su.

PROGRAMMING MANAGER

From September 2023 to August 2024, Centre[3] continued its commitment to presenting bold and diverse programming, with a focus on amplifying voices and artistic practices often left out of the mainstream. Collaborating with a wide range of artists and partners, we presented a series of dynamic, urgent works to our galleries. This year, we showcased the work of 7 artists in our Main Gallery and held 11 exhibitions in our Members' Gallery. Additionally, we hosted two artist residencies and offered a range of workshops designed to deepen the creative, technical, and critical skills of our membership.

A key highlight was the “Haptic Horizons” residency, supported by the Canada Council for the Arts. This residency brought together 8 national artists in collaboration with VibraFusionLab, inviting artists at the intersection of disability arts and new media to explore the potential of haptic technologies in their work. We also continued the Sari-Sari Xchange project, a groundbreaking initiative that brings together artists from the Asian diaspora through emergent technologies. This project, a partnership with Tangled Art + Disability, Reel Asian International Film Festival, McMaster University, and York University, will culminate in four new exhibitions in the 2024/2025 fiscal year.

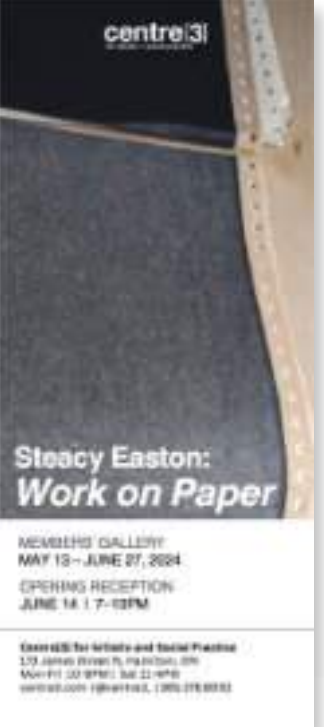
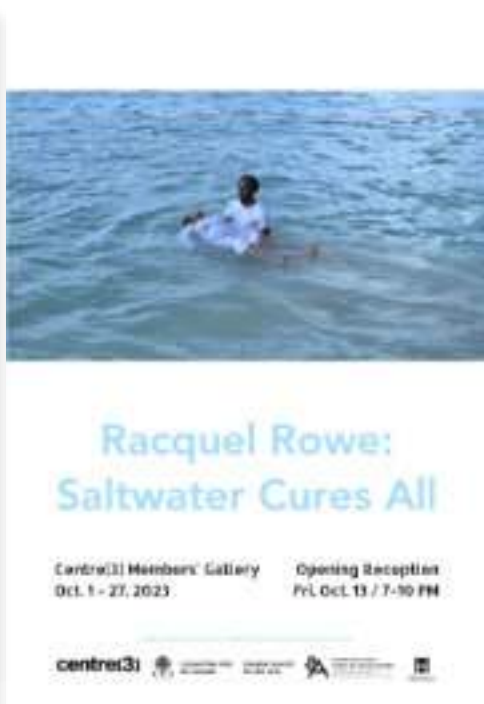
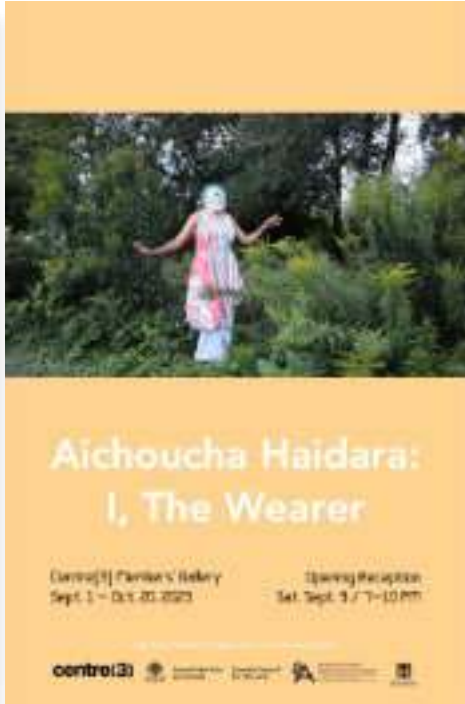
In response to feedback, we extended our Members' Gallery exhibitions from one month to two months, allowing for more time and space for members to create and showcase quality work. Special thanks to the 2023-2024 Centre[3] Programming Committee—Aytak Dibavar, Olivia Brouwer, and Barin Osho—for their insightful perspectives and ongoing generosity.

We are deeply grateful to Centre[3] staff, board members, artists, guest curators, and our members for their continued support and contributions, making this year of exciting programming possible.

Sarah Sproule, Programming Manager

MEMBERS GALLERY

SELECTED BY THE PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE



MAIN GALLERY



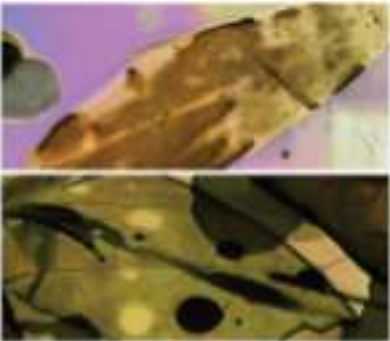
ness lee:
space of feeling

curated by lesley loisi chan

Centre[3] Main Gallery
Sept 6 – Oct 13, 2023

Opening Reception
Fri, Sept 8 / 3–10 PM

centre[3]
173 James Street North | Hamilton, ON | 905.524.5884
www.centre3.com



Research Garden:
a compendium of lost moments

Francisca Duran

MAIN GALLERY
October 27 to November 1, 2023
Opening Reception: Friday, November 3, 2023
7 PM – 10 PM

173 James Street North | Hamilton, ON | 905.524.5884
www.centre3.com



Work-in(g) Process

Manny Trinh

MAIN GALLERY
January 9 to February 18, 2024
Opening Reception: Friday, January 12, 2024
7 PM – 10 PM

173 James Street North | Hamilton, ON | 905.524.5884
www.centre3.com



Cuts and Lock Ups

Tara Bursey

MAIN GALLERY
February 22 to April 5, 2024
Opening Reception: Friday, March 8, 2024
7 PM – 10 PM

Image Credit: Tara Bursey, cuts and lock ups, 2023. Photo credit: David Smith, 2023. Photo credit: David Smith, 2023.

173 James Street North | Hamilton, ON | 905.524.5884
www.centre3.com



Lake Poems

Rebecca Casalino

MAIN GALLERY
February 23 to April 6, 2024
Opening Reception: Friday, March 8, 2024
7 PM – 10 PM

Image Credit: Rebecca Casalino, Lake Poems, 2023. Photo credit: David Smith, 2023.

173 James Street North | Hamilton, ON | 905.524.5884
www.centre3.com



Centre[3] Main Gallery

Kiera Boulton:
Hamilton's My Lady

May 8 – July 27, 2024

Opening Reception:
May 10 – 7-10 PM

Centre[3] for Zine & Social Practice
173 James Street North, Hamilton, ON
M5S 1A5 | 905.524.5884
www.centre3.com | @centre3 | 173JAMESST.NORTH



Centre[3] Main Gallery

Jill Smith:
kupferschmidt /
kupferschmid /
kupferschmidte

August 3rd – 30th, 2024

Opening Reception:
August 3rd – 7-10 PM

Centre[3] for Zine & Social Practice
173 James Street North, Hamilton, ON
M5S 1A5 | 905.524.5884
www.centre3.com | @centre3 | 173JAMESST.NORTH

RESIDENCES

Insoon Ha Incite

Salima Punjani Haptic Horizons

Connor Yuzwenko-Martin . Haptic Horizons

Ebony Gooden Haptic Horizons

Tiphaine Girault Haptic Horizons

WORKSHOPS

Screen printing with Matt McInnes - ongoing

SOCIAL PRACTICE

Centre[3] 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.

Colina Maxwell, Social Practice Director

YOUTH PROGRAMMING: NuSteel

The 2023/24 academic year has been a dynamic and successful period for the NuSteel program, marked by significant growth and achievement. We proudly set a new record for student enrollment, welcoming 18 talented individuals into our program. This cohort primarily consists of Grade 11 and 12 Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) students, with a valuable addition of some enthusiastic sophomore learners. As the only Alternative Education Arts & Culture SHSM program within the HWDSB, NuSteel stands as a beacon of creative learning and innovation.

Our students enjoy a unique and enriching educational experience through this partnership, where they are immersed in a vibrant arts environment. This connection goes beyond academics; it fosters a deep sense of social responsibility and engagement with both the local arts community and broader societal issues. We take immense pride in cultivating this awareness, empowering our students to become thoughtful, impactful contributors to the community.

This year has also brought a profound reminder of the transformative power of education and mentorship. We wish to honour the memory of Brian Reich, an extraordinary teacher who touched countless lives with his passion, patience, dedication, generosity, and kindness. Brian's untimely passing this past October from cancer left a deep void, but his legacy lives on in the countless students and colleagues he inspired. His commitment to education and his belief in the potential of every learner continues to resonate within the NuSteel program. In his honour, we remain steadfast in our mission to nurture creativity, resilience, and social consciousness in our students, ensuring his spirit endures in the work we do each day.

YouthCAN COLLECTIVE IMPACT GROUP

With the generous support of the Royal Bank of Canada, YouthCAN is proud to celebrate the successful achievement of our 2023/24 goals! This year, we focused on addressing critical gaps for NEET (Not in Education, Employment, or Training) youth by providing valuable skills through a screen printing program while introducing participants to the transformative concept of social enterprise. Through a series of engaging design and screen printing workshops, young adults had the opportunity to create and print their own t-shirts and tote bags. These hands-on experiences not only fostered creativity but also opened pathways for understanding how social enterprises can drive meaningful change. With

the help of our community partners, participants collaborated on promotional materials, further expanding their practical skill sets.

This year also marked an important evolution for YouthCAN. We integrated our impact model into our broader employment program, creating a more streamlined and cohesive approach to empowering NEET youth. YouthCAN is now officially part of the Digital Pipeline [4] initiative, continuing our unwavering dedication to building capacity for youth, supporting community organizations, and connecting young adults with meaningful employment opportunities.





Cato Cormier. "Steel this Poster," 2023. Image courtesy of Lesley Loksi Chan.

360[4]Youth employment program for youth

At the end of March, we proudly concluded our three-and-a-half-year employment program, 360[4]Youth, achieving numerous positive outcomes. We extend our deepest gratitude to Julie Shea and her team for delivering a highly successful program that provided training and internships focused on digital marketing. We're thrilled to share that 85 young adults participated in the program, with many securing jobs or returning to school. A standout feature of the program was its innovative wraparound support, which included an Occupational Therapist and a Social Worker. This holistic approach allowed us to address participants' unique needs while using arts-based programming to develop crucial soft skills like communication, creativity, and adaptability.

We're equally excited to announce the launch of a new three-year employment initiative, Digital Pipeline[4]Youth. Building on the success of 360[4]Youth, this program will continue to focus on digital marketing while introducing new components, such as training in Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) compliance. These additions reflect the evolving demands of the workforce, ensuring participants gain relevant and in-demand skills. To support participants effectively, the program will be led by a dedicated team, including a Job Coach and a Job Developer, providing personalized guidance and resources to help young adults succeed in their career paths. We are proud of the transformative impact of 360[4]Youth and look forward to building on its legacy with Digital Pipeline[4]Youth, empowering more young adults to achieve their professional and educational goals.

OLDER ADULT PROGRAMMING

Ness Lee. "space of feeling," 2023. Image courtesy of the artist.



Direct[Message]

We're beyond excited to share the culmination of Direct[Message]—a groundbreaking, five-year, community-centered research project supported by the Canada Council for the Arts! In partnership with Vi-braFusionLab, McMaster University, the University of Guelph, and an inspiring steering group of older adults, this project has been a deep dive into transforming the accessibility of the arts for older adults through digital innovation. Together, we've designed and tested physical interfaces and web-based platforms that simplify and enhance access to artistic programs and services for older adults. This multi-faceted, multi-stakeholder journey has paved the way for meaningful artistic engagement supported by technology, and we're thrilled to unveil one of its key outcomes: Seniors Art Link—a digital platform prototype launched in 2024.

Seniors Art Link embodies the insights and best practices we've developed, offering a space that not only showcases this work but also provides practical tools for program developers and arts-sector support workers. Moving forward, the platform will host virtual open studios and transform Centre[3]'s welcoming physical arts spaces into a warm, supportive digital environment. As we look to the future, we've applied to the Ontario Trillium Foundation for a three-year Grow Grant to expand our in-person and virtual art-based programming for older adults in Hamilton. We're eager to continue building on this vital work and can't wait to see how these innovations empower more meaningful artistic connections in our community!

CENTRE[4]

In 2023/2024 Centre[3], in collaboration with McMaster University, is excited to announce the creation of our innovative community-based research centre, designed to seamlessly connect the worlds of art and academia. This initiative aims to connect artists with researchers to collaborate on art-based and art-informed research projects, positioning artists as key contributors to the research process. Artists will serve as consultants and co-investigators, facilitate art-based activities for data collection, and give visual expression to knowledge mobilization.

Our Research Director, Cathy Paton, has successfully secured a SSHRC grant to lead a groundbreaking study that explores how artists perceive their practice and whether they consider it as research. To support this endeavor, Cathy and her team have developed digital tools to empower artists in integrating research methodologies into their practice and collaborating with academic researchers. We are also thrilled to announce a two-year grant to advance our work in beacon technology, aimed at making art more accessible to Deaf, deafblind, and disabled communities—both artists and audiences alike. This project continues our ongoing collaboration with VibraFusionLab to prototype and pilot sensory translation tools. By converting sound and movement into tactile forms, we aim to remove barriers to engaging with contemporary art, fostering inclusivity and expanding access for all. These initiatives reaffirm our commitment to innovation at the intersection of art, research, and accessibility, and we look forward to driving meaningful change in these spaces.

Colina Maxwell, Social Practice Director

STUDIO MANAGER

As we reflect on the past year, it is evident that Centre[3] has embraced change with resilience and determination. Despite the ongoing challenges posed by the pandemic and organizational transitions, our studios have reawakened with renewed energy, symbolizing fresh opportunities to expand our services and enhance support for our members.

One of the most significant challenges we faced was the unexpected closure of our Harriet Street location and the subsequent relocation of our Digital Lab back to 173 James Street North. This transition required significant adjustments, and we are incredibly grateful for the patience, understanding, and encouragement from our members throughout this process. The relocation of the Digital Lab to the first floor, next to the reception desk, has made it more accessible and convenient for artists utilizing our printmaking and digital facilities. Through careful planning and collective effort, we successfully re-established these essential services, ensuring that our members and guest artists continue to have access to high-quality studio resources.

Our next goal is to reintroduce our film studio at 126 James Street North, where the audio booth is currently located. Plans are also in motion to convert the back space into a maker space, providing a dedicated area for innovation and interdisciplinary creation. These developments will allow Centre[3] to offer affordable, professional filming services to both our membership and the wider community, further enriching the artistic landscape and fostering new collaborations.

As we look ahead, we encourage our members to continue exploring, experimenting, and utilizing both our new and existing facilities. While financial constraints remain a challenge, Centre[3] remains steadfast in its commitment to sustainability and resourcefulness, ensuring that we continue to support and empower artists in times of adversity.

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

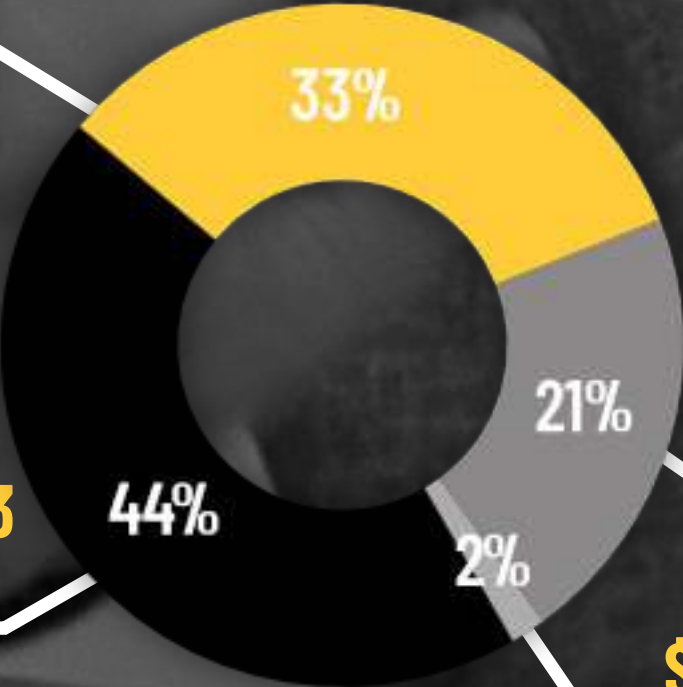
Studio Manager

FINANCIAL REPORT

REVENUE
\$857,108

\$282,731
RAISED

\$380,923
GRANTS



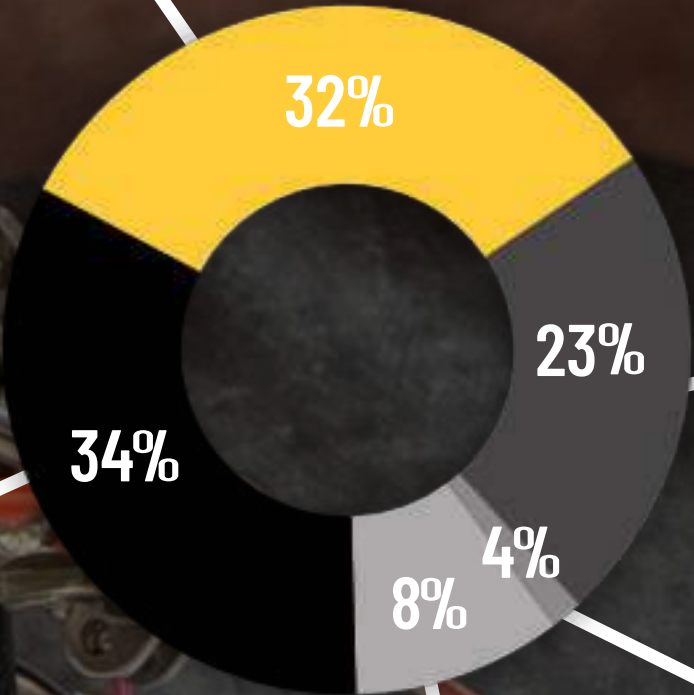
\$179,977
EARNED

\$13,477
OTHER

EXPENDITURES
\$937,849

\$306,969
PROGRAMMING
COSTS

\$311,846
WAGES



\$213,007
FACILITY COSTS

\$13,824
MARKETING

\$92,203
ADMINISTRATIVE

CENTRE[3] SPONSORS



Royal Bank

Ontario
Trillium
Foundation



Fondation
Trillium
de l'Ontario

HAMILTON
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION



ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL
CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO

an Ontario government agency
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Canada Council
for the Arts

Conseil des arts
du Canada

Service
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Canadian
Heritage

Patrimoine
canadien



Hamilton

incite
FOUNDATION FOR THE ARTS