INUIT ART CENTRE

12 December 2013

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR & CEO

We appreciate the opportunity to present the Inuit Art Centre capital project to the Executive Policy Committee of the City of Winnipeg.

The WAG is Canada's oldest civic art gallery and your civic gallery. Of the 26,000 artworks at the WAG, 13,000 represent the world's finest collection of contemporary Inuit art. Unfortunately, a lack of space restricts the Gallery from presenting its size and significance in the manner worthy of its importance to Canadian culture and heritage.

The WAG has a world class collection and a world class record of accomplishment with contemporary Inuit art. The WAG has published more books and catalogues on Inuit art than any other institution, has held over 140 Inuit exhibitions, and has on staff, an internationally renowned Inuit Curator with Dr. Darlene Wight who will help to facilitate a new generation of Inuit curators of Inuit descent.

The Inuit Art Centre, our Centennial legacy project, will provide a new template for the museum learning experience; offering new content areas with wider appeal and a bigger emphasis on cutting edge technology, education, research, and entertainment. Through the study, exhibition, and sharing of this collection, the minds and hearts of our citizens, beginning with school children from every part of the city and province, will be enriched and expanded.

I would be pleased to meet with any of you upon my return should you have any questions. Meanwhile, please consider our request for capital funding support.

Yours sincerely,



Stephen Borys, PhD, MBA

wag

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INUIT ART CENTRE

LOCATION: Will be built adjacent to the Gallery, facing south toward the Manitoba Legislature from the corner of Memorial Boulevard and St. Mary Avenue.

ARCHITECTS: Michael Maltzan Architecture Inc. (Principal Architect) from Los Angeles and Cibinel Architects Ltd. (Associated Architect) from Winnipeg

DESIGN: Schematic design phase will be completed in February 2014.

BREAKING GROUND: Spring 2015 with planned opening in 2017 as we celebrate Canada's 150th anniversary.

KEY FEATURES: Inuit Vault: The Inuit art collection lies at the heart of the WAG; visible from many public vantage points outside and inside the Centre.

Inuit Gallery: The Gallery will be a spectacular experience on its own terms giving visibility and weight to the collection from the inside of the building and making it one of the largest spaces dedicated to Indigenous art.

Inuit Vault Lobby: Open to the public, the Lobby will allow visitors to see within the Inuit vault.

Ceremony Room: A celebratory space created to honour the Inuit and other Aboriginal people of the North who have made the WAG's Inuit art collection and gallery possible.

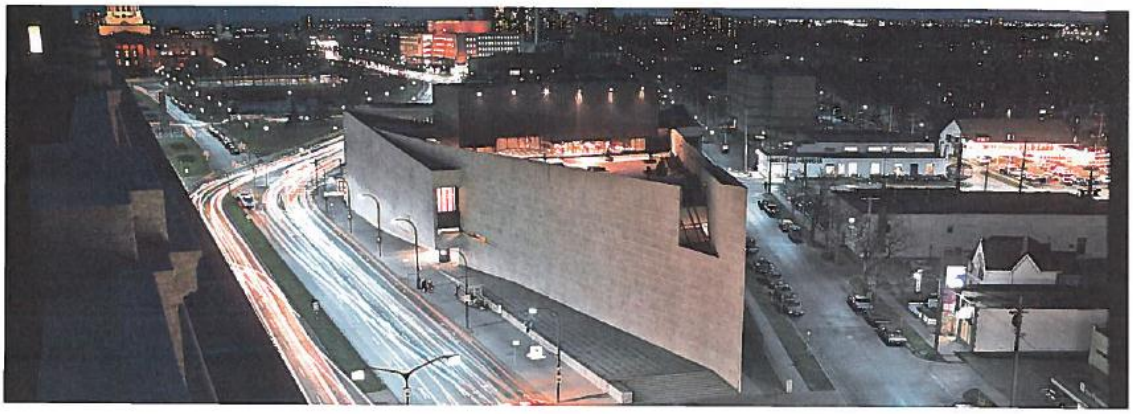
Interactive Theatre: A small theatre to host school tour orientations and act as an informal place for visitors.

Studio and Learning: Adjacent to the vault, five learning spaces including a clay studio, will support learning directly from the art object.

Inuit Scholar Rooms: Close to the core of the visible vault and in proximity to the collection, discrete areas will give scholars of all levels of study an opportunity to enhance their learning experience.

BENEFITS TO WINNIPEG

- Job Creation: $34.5M construction is estimated to create 260 direct and indirect jobs for Manitobans.
- Tourism: An iconic destination that will attract meeting, conference, and travel planners to our city. A Northern focus is a beneficial strategic alignment with other major attractions like the Assiniboine Conservancy and Journey to Churchill.
- Education: Our new relationship with teachers and educators in Winnipeg and Manitoba will allow the art object to lead the exploration and learning experience —in the same way Inuit have used and embraced their art.
- Indigenous Identity: The Centre will act as the face of Inuit art for the City, Province and Canada, housing the largest exhibition gallery in Canada devoted to Indigenous art.
- Arts Hub: The Inuit Art Centre will solidify a new arts hub that will draw more people to Winnipeg's downtown. The WAG's current annual visitorship of 150,000 is expected to increase significantly.



THE WINNIPEG ART GALLERY

$50 MILLION CAPITAL CAMPAIGN



- The oldest civic art gallery in Canada, having just celebrated its 100th anniversary.
- A creative, relevant, and accessible forum where people of all ages and backgrounds gather to experience art and the cultural wellbeing of their communities.
- Home to the world's largest collection of contemporary Inuit Art (13,000 works.)
- Over 10,000 students from public schools in Winnipeg visit the WAG each year.
- Provides creative classes to over 1,300 young people annually, 500 of them paying and 800 as part of sponsored programs.
- Attracts 150,000 visitors annually—60,000 last summer alone—and generates significant tourist traffic.
- WAG building is a community resource, hosting 200 events annually for not-for-profit, business and families.
- WAG is developing an MOU with Manitoba Education to make the study of the WAG's Inuit collection part of the provincial curriculum. WAG has major partnerships with Seven Oaks School Division, Winnipeg School Division and the University of Winnipeg that brings thousands of Manitoba students to the Gallery for classes.

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