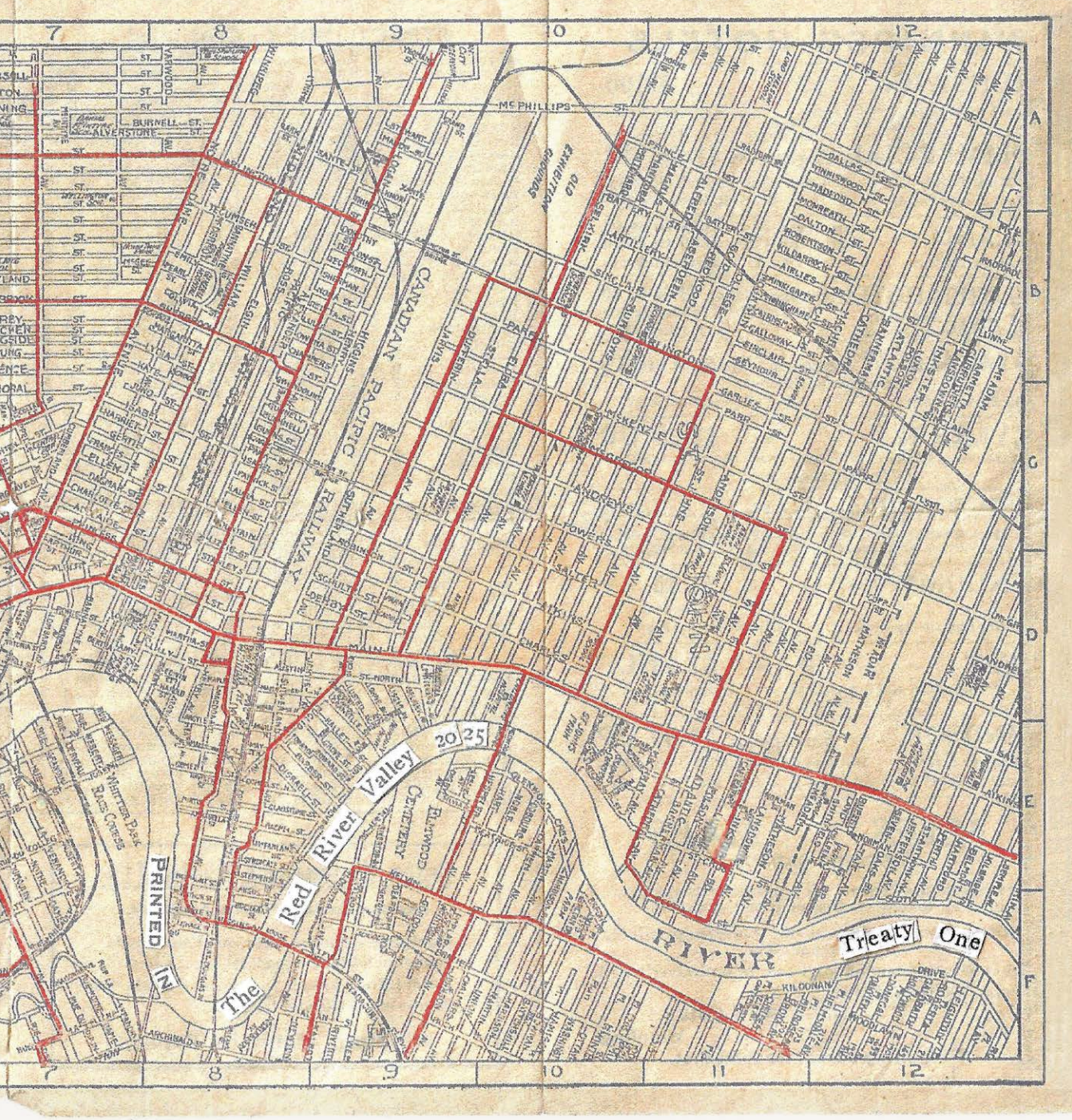


ANNUAL REPORT 2025

THE STORY OF WINNIPEG

WINNIPEG ARTS COUNCIL



CONTENTS

2 Message from the Board Chair

4 Message from the Executive Director

6 Public Art

14 Grants Programming

20 Winnipeg Poet Laureate

22 Jane's Walk

26 The Mayor's Luncheon for the Arts & the Winnipeg Arts Council Awards

28 Thanks

30 Grants Awarded

44 Independent Auditor's Report & Statement of Financial Position

55 Mandate, Mission, Vision & Values

56 Staff, Board & Assessors

© 2026 WINNIPEG ARTS COUNCIL

PRINTED IN CANADA BY KROMAR PRINTING LTD.

Cover: Winnipeg Poet Laureate Jennifer Still's map-book, made for her city-wide collaborative poem *The Story Of Winnipeg*. Map used is the *Waghorn's Guide Map of Winnipeg* 1951, Public Street Car Service. Collaged texts are from *Winnipeg: The Gateway to the Golden West*, Valentine & Sons, 1910.
Inside front cover: *Tomorrowland (plants)* by photographer Lisa Stinner-Kun. 2023.
Inside back cover: Charlene Van Beukenhout at "Bike and Circuses", a Green Kids Inc. project. Photo by Mike Peters.

The Winnipeg Arts Council is located on Treaty 1 Territory and on the ancestral lands of the Anishinaabeg, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota and Dene Peoples and in the National Homeland of the Red River Métis.

We offer our respect and gratitude to the traditional caretakers of this land.

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

Bit by bit
Putting it together
Piece by piece—
Only way to make a work of art...
First of all, you need a good foundation
Every little detail plays a part
The art of making art
Is putting it together
Bit by bit

These words of Stephen Sondheim express beautifully the craft of making art and the necessary foundation upon which art is built. The Winnipeg Arts Council is that foundation for the art being visioned, created and produced in Winnipeg. WAC plays an integral part in every layer of the making of art in our city. From our vibrant public art and visual art to our festivals, choral, dance, theatrical and musical performances, you can be sure the Winnipeg Arts Council has been part of the art of making art. I marvel at the breadth and excellence of the work of our artists and applaud the nationally recognized performing and visual arts organizations who are truly the cultural heartbeat of Winnipeg.

As I enter my first year as the Chair of the Board of the Winnipeg Arts Council, I am so thrilled to be working with the board and staff of WAC as we embark upon a new adventure—a journey of putting things together piece by piece. Focusing on our core functions of supporting local artists and arts organizations, all the while championing the development of the arts for the people of Winnipeg, we are visioning for an exciting future. A future where WAC support will continue to be the foundation for the unique vision of artists and our world-class arts organizations whose art brings us together to share, to dream, and to learn from one another.

With Dominic Lloyd stepping into the role of Executive Director and the addition of voices at the board level, the shift in leadership provides WAC with the opportunity to fearlessly take stock of where we are today and aspire to the creation of a new vision for the future in 2026. As part of this process, we look forward to community



ash alberg during a weaving instruction. Photo by Dr. Samuel Bautista Lazo.

consultations with a wide array of stakeholders and a the feedback we will receive, to embark on an aspirational strategic planning process that will form the foundation for the next stage of the growth of WAC: exploring and naming each detail that will play a part in the art of making art.

Thank you to Mayor Scott Gillingham and the City Council for their steadfast support of the arts in Winnipeg and the work done by the Winnipeg Arts Council. Together we share a vision for and commitment to a vibrant arts sector, which positively impacts and elevates the social, artistic and economic wellbeing of our city. We look forward to building on this relationship.

WAC is fortunate to have enormously skilled and prodigiously talented members of our community provide insight and wisdom on the Board of Directors. In an age where volunteerism is on the decline, our board is energized and incredibly dedicated. I am sincerely thankful for all of our directors who so generously guide and foster the work of the Winnipeg Arts Council on your behalf.

Of course, none of the work WAC does would be possible without the team that manages every little detail: the talented and dedicated staff of the Winnipeg Arts Council. Under the gifted leadership of Dominic Lloyd, this incredible group of dedicated individuals thoughtfully puts it all together, strategically stewarding our city's investment in the arts.

With all that has been accomplished over the history of WAC, we have so much to be grateful for and look forward to celebrating the next decade of creation. We are proud of what we have accomplished together and are inspired to chart a new course—putting it together—for the citizens and artists of Winnipeg.

Donna Fletcher
Board Chair
Winnipeg Arts Council

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Culture is crucial. It allows us to understand not just ourselves, but each other. It helps us discover what we have in common and builds bridges where we might not otherwise see them. Our job at the Winnipeg Arts Council is to support the conditions that allow art to flourish, and for community to express its voice. The people you will find on these pages are doing just that, and they are committed to making Winnipeg a better place.

Though it was a year of transition, 2025 was a busy time at WAC. We saw near-record numbers of grant requests, and the ability and the impact of Winnipeg artists never ceases to amaze. We don't have the resources to support every worthy project, but we work to ensure the funds we *do* have to allocate are distributed in alignment with the values we champion every day: Art, Courage, Integrity, Equity and Celebration.

Jennifer Still was appointed Winnipeg Poet Laureate and immediately began working on a project, "The Story of Winnipeg," the form of which graces the cover of this annual report. The project is a collaborative poem written by Winnipeggers, which Jenn will turn into a public exhibition in 2026. We are excited to see what she does with it! Also on the poetry front, we must acknowledge that in 2025 former Winnipeg Poet Laureate Chimwemwe Undi was named the Parliamentary Poet Laureate of Canada. Congratulations, Chimwemwe!

The year in public art is documented here on the pages following. Despite the funding challenges that public art faces, the Winnipeg Arts Council continues to persevere, to champion the creation of artworks that engage with and represent Winnipeggers from all walks of life with equity and authenticity at the forefront. This work is ongoing and these principles permeate everything we do.

2025 was not a year without significant loss in the arts community. Aganetha Dyck was a well-loved artist who throughout the years was awarded the highest honours by the Canada Council, Manitoba Arts Council and Winnipeg Arts Council. Rita Menzies, longtime administrator with the Manitoba Chamber Orchestra, Winnipeg Symphony and Agassiz Music Festival, was also a key member of the team that created the International Cello Festival of Canada as part of the 2010 Cultural Capital of Canada celebrations. Dancer and choreographer Stephanie Ballard spent more than 50 years with Winnipeg's Contemporary Dancers, as well as her own independent works. Ian Ross was the guest speaker at the first Mayor's Luncheon for the Arts in 2007 and was known for his *Joe from Winnipeg* commentator as well as for being a gamechanger for Indigenous playwrights. Each of these individuals made significant contributions to the arts in Winnipeg and we hold their memories with us as we reflect on their legacies.

My colleagues at the WAC office are an incredible team and I am lucky to work with them each and every day. Public Art Manager tamara rae biebrich and Operations Manager Tanya Christensen were joined by Administrative and Communications Coordinator Ruhi Proshun in late 2024, and in 2025 Sam McLean came on as Grants Consultant while Chloe Card took on the Public Art Tour Coordinator role. Particular thanks to Tanya for jumping into the role of Interim ED between Carol A. Phillips' retirement and my appointment. Tanya is a key member of our team and ensures that the office runs with efficiency and integrity.

The Winnipeg Arts Council Board of Directors is a special group of individuals that come from a variety of backgrounds as both artists and arts



La Rencontre (The meeting) by La Maison des artistes & Urban Shaman. Pictured: KC Adams & Fredrick Lyle Spence. Photo by Theo Pelmus.

supporters. Our Board is a dedicated group that helps create awareness of visibility for all the arts in Winnipeg. This year we said goodbye to Julie Penner, whose enthusiasm for the arts has been a great addition to the group for six years, including this last year as Secretary-Treasurer. We will miss her at meetings, but we'll see her and her violin on stages all over the city for years to come. Jason Granger served in every way imaginable between 2014 and 2025, including as Chair and Past Chair, and always ensured the arts were at the forefront and that everyone in the room had a voice. Finally in 2025, Andrew McLaren completed three years as Board Chair. His commitment and his good humour have been an asset to the organization through several phases, including municipal elections and leadership transition. Andrew is a tireless advocate for, and patron of, Winnipeg arts in all their forms. I'm grateful for the work of all these individuals and I am excited about the prospect of working with our new Chair, Donna Fletcher.

As the year draws to a close, WAC is developing a new strategic plan to guide it through the next chapter. We are engaged in formal and informal conversations about the future in which we hope to see a more certain future for public art and to ensure the long-term success of the community.

Nearing the end of my first year of service as Executive Director, I am filled with an immense gratitude for the warmth I received upon being named in the role. People across the arts community—and in fact, across the city itself—have continued to reach out with excitement and kind words. I've had the good fortune to be a part of this organization for many years, and I'm thankful for the opportunity to lead its next chapter. It's a role and a responsibility that I don't take for granted. Over the course of the year, I have been trying to get out as often as I can, to connect with community and engage the Winnipeg Arts Council in the many different conversations about our city.

The arts are an ecosystem—individual artists must have the freedom to create, and the small, medium and large organizations must all flourish. Our job at WAC is to protect what we have, and to build for the future. I'm looking forward to continuing that journey with my colleagues.

Dominic Lloyd
Executive Director
Winnipeg Arts Council

PUBLIC ART

1. Chinatown Banners community celebration. Photo by Karen Asher.
2. Elwick Village neighbourhood art posters. Photo by Elwick Village.
3. Kelly Campbell printmaking workshop at Elwick Village Resource Centre. Photo by Elwick Village.
4. Technical site visit at St. James Civic Centre. Photo by WAC.

We began 2025 feeling genuinely optimistic. The Public Service was finalizing an Administrative Report to City Council recommending a Percent for Art Program. This work followed a City Council motion from the 2024 Municipal Budget process. Council eliminated all funding to the Public Art Program and directed the Public Service to work with WAC to develop a new funding model that would integrate public art into capital project budgets, rather than funding the Program as a whole. The Report was informed by research and consultation with public art programs across the country and input from City of Winnipeg departments. In the end, the Executive Policy Committee deferred the Report and Recommendations to the Strategic Priorities Action Plan process for 2027.



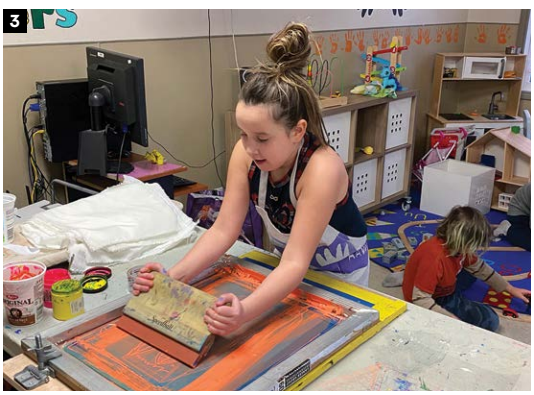
1

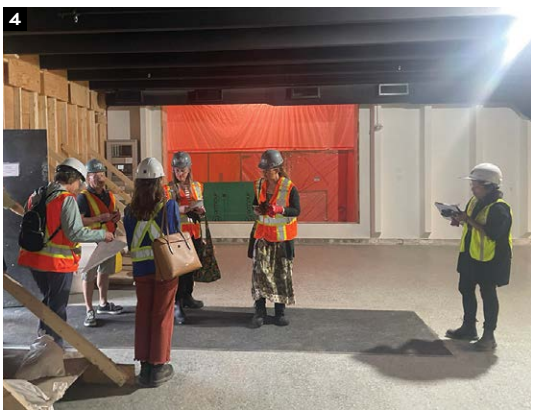

2

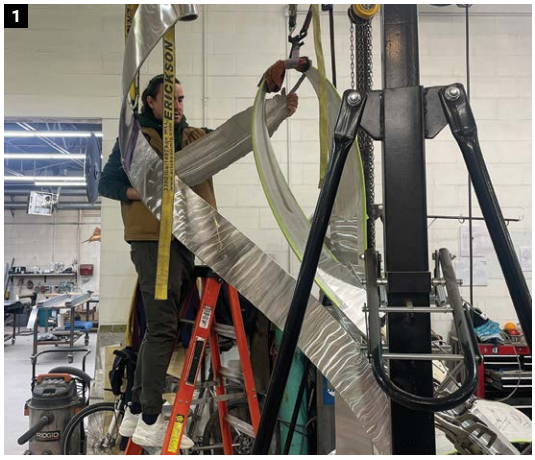
In this context, we continued to develop new administrative processes and navigate new tax implications as we negotiated ad-hoc project agreements with various City departments to deliver public art for capital projects. We began consulting on many of these projects in 2021. A portion of each project budget is allocated to administration to enable us to manage these multi-year projects and care for the maturing collection. We had to turn away potential project partners who could not fund public art projects through their existing budgets.

We also developed and adopted a Deaccession Policy to guide the review of existing works. This will become an increasingly important tool as the Collection matures, particularly for small-budget community collaborative works and digital works, which are more difficult to maintain as technology changes.

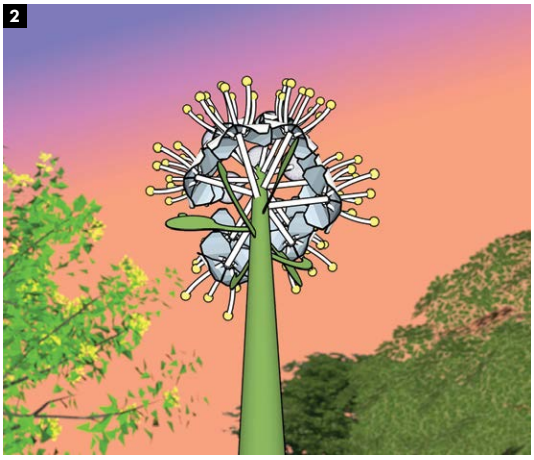
We facilitated and completed artwork selection processes for Odeon Park, St. Vital Bridge, and St. James Civic Centre. All independent selection committee members were invited from equity-deserving communities. Watch for new works by local artists Fred Spence, Takashi Iwasaki, and


3


4



1



2



3

Claire Johnston in 2026, as well as an artist opportunity at the new South Winnipeg Recreation Campus, currently in development.

Chinatown Neighbourhood Banner-commissioned artist Natalie Mark 麥月明 collaborated with students at Victoria Albert School to create the Downtown Winnipeg BIZ and Winnipeg Chinese Cultural and Community Centre's (WCCC) annual Chinese Zodiac Banners for the second year. We celebrated both banner projects with the students and their families on February 7 at the WCCC with games, crafts and snacks to honour their creativity and contribution to the city. We also celebrated the Elwick Village Youth Printmaking Project on February 19 with a pizza party. Children and youth learned practical, hands-on artmaking with Kelly Campbell, sharing their drawings on t-shirts and posters that they put up throughout their neighbourhood.

We continued our BIZ collaborations, commissioning local artwork on street banners in central neighbourhoods. We partnered with the South Osborne BIZ to bring a whimsical series of 22 street banners designed by Winnipeg artist Cato Cormier to the Osborne streetscape between Mulvey and Jubilee. Inspired by everyday moments, the designs highlight small acts of connection and joy in public space. The project launched August 27 with an artist-led tour presented alongside the BIZ's summer concert programming.



1. Artist Fred Spence shop visit at Stainless Concepts for Odeon Park. Photo by WAC.
2. Winnipeg Juneflower artist rendering by Takashi Iwasaki for St. Vital Bridge.
3. Technical site visit at St. Vital Bridge. Photo by WAC.
4–5. South Osborne Banners and ArtWalk by Cato Cormier. Photos by April Carandang.







1-2. Voices of the Land Balmoral Banners and ArtWalk by Justine Proulx. Photos by April Carandang.
3. Bruce Head artworks at St. Vital Library. Photo by Karen Asher.
4. Untitled by Cliff Eyland workshop with Winnipeg Public Library Writer-in-Residence Ariel Gordon. Photo courtesy Ariel Gordon.
5. ArtWalk visit to Bloody Saturday by Bernie Miller and Noam Gonick. Photo by Erik Bromell.

In the West End, *Voices of the Land*, the Balmoral Banner Project by Métis artist Justine Proulx, brings together Woodland art and Indigenous teachings. Twelve designs pair Manitoba plants and animals reflecting values like humility, strength and connection. This project was developed in collaboration with the West End BIZ and was launched with an artist-led tour for Nuit Blanche on September 27.

We found a home at the St. Vital Library for a series of Bruce Head artworks donated by his estate. The collection spans nearly five decades and includes paintings, sculpture and shaped canvases that showcase Head's approach to modernism and connection to the Prairie landscape. He was a longtime St. Vital resident, and his work complements the library's Modernist architecture. The installation is accompanied by an interpretive essay by Tricia Wasney and a children's activity sheet available in English and French.

A significant part of the year was spent on a comprehensive engagement process to develop ethical and inclusive approaches to Indigenous identity verification in public art commissioning. Guided by a planning group of Indigenous WAC Board and community members, Erica Wilson, Jennifer Smith, Niki Little, and Debbie Keeper, the process culminated in two community sessions with First Nations, Métis and Inuit artists in November and December, facilitated by Kali Moss of Sage Solutions with ceremonial and cultural support from Elder Barbara Bruce. This work responds to calls from community for stronger identity verification practices. The resulting report affirms steps taken by WAC and outlines recommendations for future Indigenous-designated projects.

3



4



5





ArtRide visit to The Wheel by Jeanette Johns. Photo by Owen Tintor.

Our tour program expanded under our new bilingual coordinator, Chloe Card, including weekly Jeudis Franco Thursdays ArtWalks in St. Boniface. She continued the partnership with Bike Winnipeg, hosted a pit stop on *Bike to Work Day*, and collaborated on art and architecture tours with Storefront Manitoba and their *Cool Gardens* installations. The season also featured artist-led tours, a workshop with the Writer-in-Residence at the Millennium Library, and participation in Jane's Walk and Heritage Winnipeg's *Open Doors*.

Maintenance remains a priority as the Collection ages. The *Marbles at Mayfair* were reinstalled following a year of rebuilding and refinishing, and prep work was completed on pieces scheduled for repair in 2026.

To keep up with best practices and community connection, we participated in Travel Manitoba's *Arts and Culture in Tourism Summit*, Urban Shaman and Creative Manitoba's *Neurodivergence in Indigenous Arts Programming*, national conversations on deaccessioning, as well as both local and national discussions on the impact of AI on art, artists and artmaking. It was a privilege and great learning opportunity to attend the *2025 Gathering of First Nations, Inuit and Métis Arts and Culture Administrators*, hosted by Canadian Public Arts Funders and the Manitoba Arts Council.

We were invited to present our work as part of the Creative City Networks *Best Practices in Procurement* webinar series, with Master's students in Curatorial Studies at the University of Winnipeg and Architecture students at the University of Manitoba. We were also invited to advise on several initiatives, including the development of the Parliamentary Artist Laureate program, community engagement strategies in Guelph, and Nuit Blanche Winnipeg's Artistic Advisory Committee. We are grateful to our colleagues in the public art community across Canada for their ongoing insights and generosity, and we always appreciate the opportunity for dialogue.

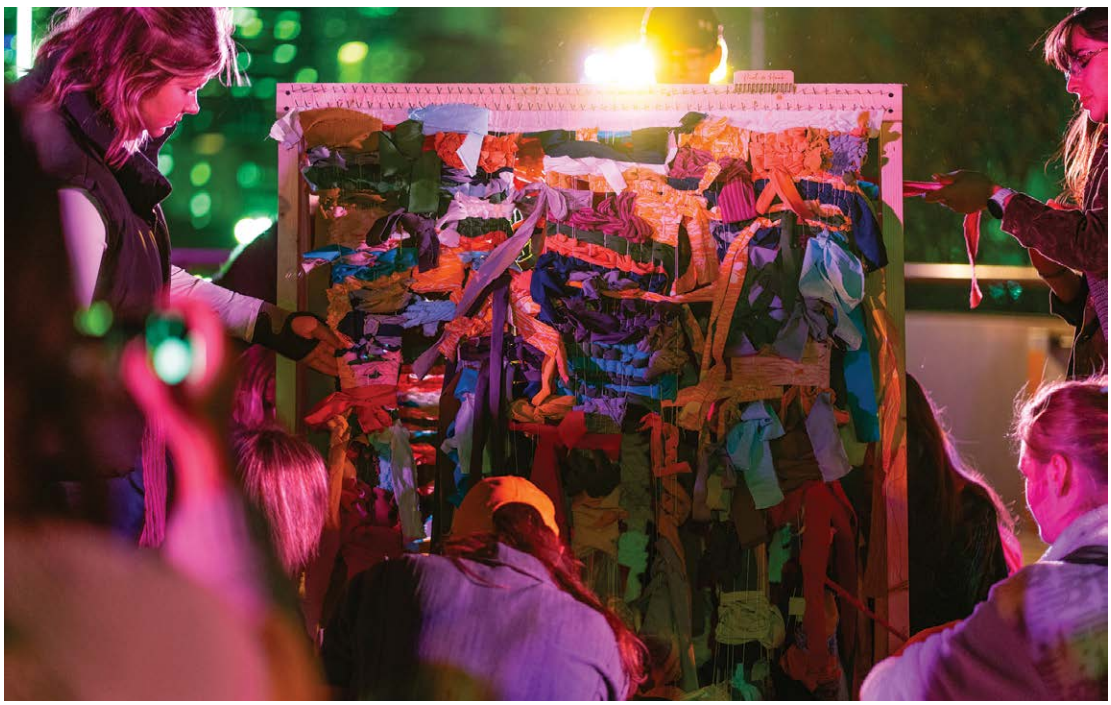
THANK YOU

Public art is a collaborative effort. Thank you to the brilliant artists and many partners, colleagues and community members who contributed to the Public Art Program this year, and to the City departments whose dedication makes it all possible, including Planning, Property and Development, Assets and Project Management, Legal Services, Risk Management Branch, Public Works, Parks and Open Space Division, Urban Design, Winnipeg Public Library, and Community Services.

We want to acknowledge the ongoing support of Christina Harris, our primary City liaison. We also thank Marsha Christiuk, Karl Thordarson, Lisa Rowswell, Sarah Davis, Damir Muhurdarevic, Allison Fulford, Tracy Stople, Kathy Roberts, Donna Letain, Derek Resch, Kathleen Williams, Christopher Desrochers, Jesse Crowder, Ellen Tisdale and Stephanie George. All of these people contributed to the development, installation and ongoing care of the city's Public Art Collection.

We are grateful to the Edmonton Arts Council, City of Edmonton and City of Calgary for generously sharing their time and expertise, and to Danny Tooth for his extensive research, consultation, and financial modelling.

Thanks to Madeleine Dafoe and the Downtown Winnipeg BIZ, Stephanie Voyce and the South Osborne BIZ, Anna Jones, Joe Kornelsen and the West End BIZ for their partnership and neighbourhood connections, and to Mark Cohoe and the excellent volunteers at Bike Winnipeg who make our ArtRides safe and accessible.



Dream Weavers by Jess Klassen and Chantal Mierau at Nuit Blanche Winnipeg. Photo by Kyle Thomas.

GRANTS PROGRAMMING

With a focus on artistic excellence and community impact, the Winnipeg Arts Council supports opportunities for the people of Winnipeg to engage with the arts as artists and as audiences. In 2025 WAC invested $4,119,875 in the Winnipeg arts community, primarily through peer-assessed grant programs, which allow the Council to respond to evolving practices and to the needs of Winnipeg's diverse artistic community. Grant amounts and recipients in the Museums Grant program are designated by the City of Winnipeg.

Winnipeg Arts Council programs support a diverse array of arts organizations, collectives and individuals in all artistic disciplines. Programs are regularly reviewed to find improvements in the application and assessment processes and to provide opportunities to engage new and/or underserved Winnipeg artists and arts organizations. 2025 was the first year of a new Program Support Grant cycle, with applications assessed by a jury composed of local members of the arts community.

290
Total applications received

$4,647,318
Total funds requested

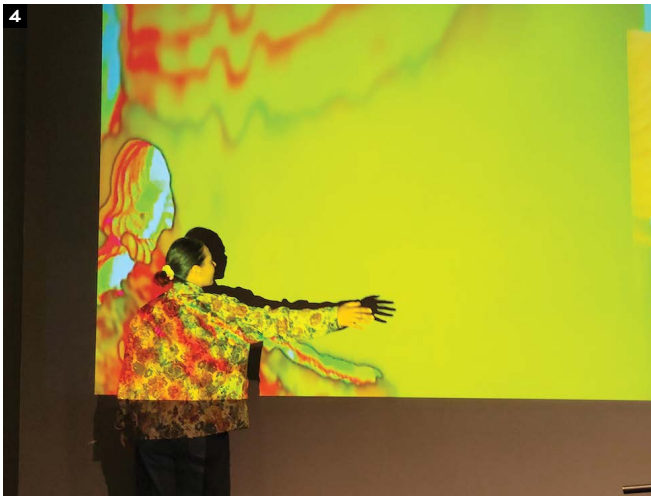
173
Total grants awarded

$4,119,875
Total grant funds awarded









1. *Hansel and Gretel in Portage Place Mall* by Sick + Twisted Theatre. Photo by Leif Norman.
2. Authors David A. Robertson and katherena vermette read together at the HighWater Press office. Photo courtesy of Portage & Main/ HighWater Press Staff.
3. *Dogfight The Musical* by Dry Cold Productions. Photo by Kayla Gordon.
4. A guest interacts with analogue video feedback during Anthony Valade's First Fridays Art Talk. Photo by Christine Lylyk.
5. Cluster Fest 2024. Photo by Ally Gonzalo.





1. The sākihiwē festival Round Dance at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights. Photo by Alan Greyeyes.
2. First Fridays in the Exchange. Photo by Karen Schulz.
3. Manitoba Choral Association's Choral Fest Vocal Jazz clinic. Photo by Amy Zinn**.**
4. *A Tribute: Unsung Operatic Black Divas and MLK* by The Little Opera Company. Photo by Heather Milne.
5. Denise Djokic on cello and Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra's Daniel Raiskin conducting at the Agassiz Music's International Cello Festival of Canada Gala Finale: *For Rita*. Photo by Mark Rash.









6. Winnipeg Philharmonic Choir and members of the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra joined to present Hayden's *Seven Last Words of Christ*. Photo by Damien Bilinsky.
7. The Interlake Steppers performing at the sākihiwē festival's concert in Assiniboine Park. Photo by Alan Greyeyes.
8. Winnipeg Music Festival's Clare C. Leckie Trophy Recipients Emily Tu and Rena Wu. Photo courtesy of the Winnipeg Music Festival.
9. "Craft in Miniature", the Manitoba Craft Council's biennial Member Show at Manitoba Craft Council/C2 Centre for Craft. Photo by Leif Norman.
10. Mahlet Cuff live at send + receive. Photo by Robert Szkolnicki.


6


7


8


9


10



1



2



3



4



5

1. Reel Pride's 40th anniversary and 2025 festival promotional marketing campaign. Photo by Rilwan Azeez.
2. Stenhammar String Quartet performing at GroundSwell's "GS2: Sketches of Shifting Landscapes". Photo by Heather Lewis.
3. Contemporary Verse 2's *The Birthday Issue* with cover art by Karen Asher. Photo by Ashley Au for CV2 Magazine.
4. *REPLICAS* at the Young Lungs Dance Exchange 20th Anniversary Festival. Photo by Pablo Riquelme.
5. Audience singalong at Dead of Winter's "WinterSing!" community concert. Photo by Matt Duboff.











6. NAfro Dance's *Around the Fire*. Photo by Leif Norman.
7. A production still from Sick + Twisted Theatre's *Neither Here nor There*, featuring Tyler Sneesby and Vivi Dabee. Photo by Leif Norman.
8. WNDX Film Workshop for BIPOC and 2SLGBTQIA filmmakers. Photo by Cecilia Araneda.
9. Jami Reimer performing *Soft Tongues* at Cluster Festival. Photo by Eric Roberts.
10. *Abiogenèse: des étoiles aux momies* by Julie Tremble at La Maison des artistes visuels francophones. Photo by Adventures Within Media Inc.

WINNIPEG POET LAUREATE



1. Jennifer Still at the *Story of Winnipeg* drop-in table at St. Vital Library. Photo by Darren Bernhardt.
2. Poetry-map books and mailbox for *The Story of Winnipeg*. Photo courtesy of Jennifer Still.
3. Collaborative sidewalk chalk poems from the Girlwood Poetry Tour, in collaboration with Plume Winnipeg. Photo courtesy of Jennifer Still.

Jennifer Still was introduced as the fourth Winnipeg Poet Laureate in March 2025. Jenn created two pieces within a couple months of taking up the position: *a little book of light* in April, followed by an untitled piece published on the first day of May. At the annual Mayor's Luncheon for the Arts, Jenn presented her new poem, "Garden of Life," for the very first time to an enthusiastic crowd.

Jenn had a very productive year. Throughout 2025, she made public appearances at literary events, premiered new bodies of work, appeared in the media numerous times, and led classes, workshops and poetry tours for aspiring poets and wordsmiths of all ages. Jenn has visited several schools in the city, invited by teachers and students alike, to lead poetry workshops and speak to enthusiastic students about the power that their words hold.

Jenn started off her tenure by representing Winnipeg at the Cadence Video Poem Festival in Seattle, along with local artists Chantel Mierau and Christine Fellows, with a viewing of their collaborative video project *legs*. In April, she participated in a poetry reading at Plume Winnipeg's Writes of Spring festival. In June, she led poetry workshops with Clarise Foster at *CV2* and led a stitched poet-





ry workshop with Masagana Flower Farm & Studio. In September, Jenn presented her words at Thin Air Festival's Poetry Bash & Haiku Showdown. In October, she led the Girlwood Poetry Tour, which led attendees down the front sidewalk of her childhood home. She shared the ways in which these pastel rowhouses nestled along the tracks inform her poetics. Participants wrote collaborative sidewalk chalk poems.

As Poet Laureate, Jenn envisioned a project that would become a love letter to the city. She wanted the entire city to be involved in its creation, and, thus, "The Story of Winnipeg" was born. "The Story of Winnipeg" is a collaborative poem—an invitation to all Winnipeggers to share their lyrical and literal interpretations of what our city means to them. Winnipeggers filled out a folded map booklet, responding to pre-written prompts in their own words and with interpretations of what Winnipeg means to them. The maps were collected through the city's libraries, and Jenn participated in drop-in poetry table sessions at the Millenium, St. Vital and St. Boniface libraries. For her visit to Grant Park High School, the students created physical papier mâché sculptures with Jenn's poetry booklets, paying homage to her stylistic approach of physical poetry. By the end of the year, Jenn collected close to 400 poems from all over the city. She plans to showcase the letters to the public on a larger scale in the upcoming year. Her poetry map is featured on the cover of our annual report.

The job of the Winnipeg Poet Laureate is to be a literary ambassador who creates and presents new work that reflects the life of the city. Jenn has embraced the position of Poet Laureate with joyous enthusiasm and her own unique artistry. As Poet Laureate, one of Jenn's goals is to "promote poetry as a tangible, practical, even crafty, form of expression accessible to all." With her unique approach to poetic form, Jenn aims to create conversations around poetry as a physical performance piece. She believes that "a poem is not limited to existing on a page" and hopes that her unconventional poetry mediums will evoke emotions and interest even from those who have not had much exposure to the wonderful world of poetry.

The Winnipeg Arts Council is proud to support Jennifer Still as an artist and ambassador for the arts in our city.

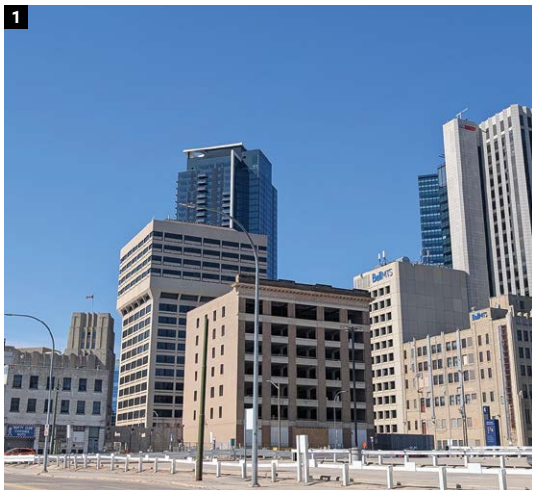
JANE'S WALK

The Winnipeg Jane's Walk festival continues to grow post-pandemic, with enthusiastic and active participation from new and old volunteers and attendees. The 2025 Jane's Walk festival featured 23 volunteer-led walks across Winnipeg's neighbourhoods and attracted over 800 participants during the first weekend of May. The festival has continued its tradition of being a powerful platform for citizens to share stories, uncover hidden aspects of their communities, and celebrate urban activist Jane Jacobs' principles.

This year's festival welcomed new walk leaders and even newer walk ideas. *Native Grass - Seine River Abinojii Mikanah* by Kai C was the first time that Winnipeg's Jane's Walk festival hosted a biking tour. Walk attendees gave back to the community by handing out food, snacks, water, hygiene kits, harm reduction supplies and anything else needed in *Elmwood Unity Walk* by Chalmers Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation, led by Ryan Kochie. Rob Shaw shared the rich history and observations about the area's evolution as an inner-city neighbourhood in *A Stroll Through West Broadway*. *A Walk Through Community Living History* hosted by the 120 Maryland Group celebrated the first-year anniversary of Manitoba announcing the closure of its last institution for people labelled with intellectual disability.

Ladies of Leila led by Kenneth Ingram and *Art Around Every Corner: Explore Historic West Broadway* by Eric Napier Strong of the West Broadway BIZ brought out large, enthusiastic crowds, highlighting local history and public artworks. Community leader Michael Redhead Champagne continued his tradition of hosting walks that champion local businesses and community history through storytelling with his two walks, *Selkirk Avenue: Yesterday & Tomorrow*, and *100 Years of Main Street: Commerce and Community*.

Winnipeggers engaged with the deeper histories of their neighbourhoods through walks such as *Re-Imagining Raglan* by Choi Ho, *Old Saint Boniface* by Kai C, *The Winnipeg That Is and Could Never Be* by Brian Pincott, *Echoes of Headmaster*

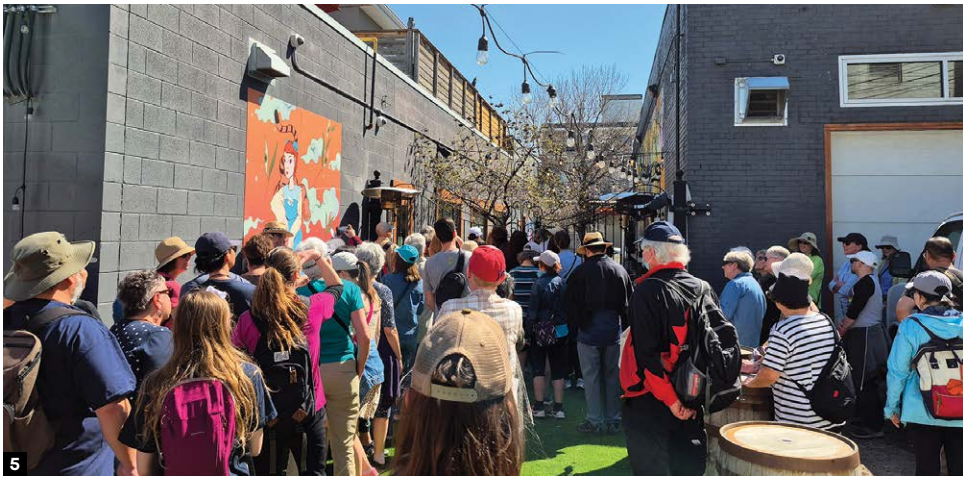








1. *The Evolution of the Canadian Grain Industry: A Tour of Winnipeg Buildings* led by Patty Rosher. Photo by Craig Omundsen.
2. *Cheetah Fit Challenge Transcona Bioreserve* led by Shab Bal. Photo by Enid Kaminski.
3. *Art Around Every Corner: Explore Historic West Broadway* led by Eric Napier-Strong of the West Broadway BIZ. Photo by Gail Marchessault.
4. *Cathedrals to Craft Breweries St. Boniface* led by Katie Fowler. Photo by Richard Lenon.
5. Art Around Every Corner: Explore Historic West Broadway led by Eric Napier-Strong of the West Broadway BIZ. Photo by Richard Lenon.



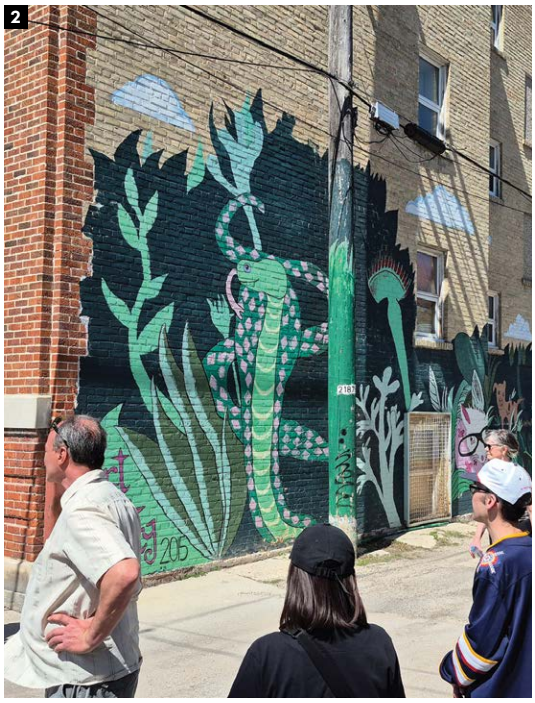
Row: A Walk Through the Knowles Grove Suburb by Chantelle Andercastle, *From Cathedrals to Craft Breweries: Exploring St. Boniface's Culture and Community* by Katie Fowler.

Museums organized walks for this year's festival: *Historic Transcona* organized by the Transcona Museum, and *A History of the Garment Industry in the Exchange District* by Chris Higgins of the Costume Museum of Canada. Patty Rosher explored agriculture as Winnipeg's formative industry and how it continues to sustain our city through the *The Evolution of the Canadian Grain Industry: A Tour of Winnipeg Buildings*.

Attendees re-connected with nature. Several walks in 2025 revolved around the importance of sustainability and nature conservation. These themes were highlighted in: *Innovative Sustainability at U of M* by The University of Manitoba's Office of Sustainability; *Cheetah Fit Challenge Transcona Bioreserve* led by Shab Bal, *Save Our Seine* led by Jodh Ghuman of Save Our Seine; and *Lemay and Other Sacred Forests of St. Norbert* by Ann Loewen. Attendees learned more about the beauty of Winnipeg's public parks and green spaces from walks like *Discover Henteleff Park – South St. Vital's Hidden Gem* by Terri Ashcroft and Betty Parry, *Winnipeg's Ghost Creeks: A Walk Through Brown's Creek* by Storefront Manitoba, and *Nature in the City - a 13 Circle Natural Labyrinth and MEDICINE WHEEL* by Len Van Roon Jr.

Attendees enthusiastically shared feedback through social media, email, and in-person conversations, and expressed gratitude for the efforts of walk leaders and organizers. They appreciated the dialogues fostered and learning about historical facts about their own communities and new communities that they visited for the walking festival. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with all attendees mentioning that they would be happy to attend the festival again next year.


1





A heartfelt thank you to all the volunteers, like Heather Bristow of the Jane's Walk Planning Committee, for helping promote this year's walk.

Thank you to our new and returning volunteer walk leaders/organizations for making the 2025 Jane's Walk festival in Winnipeg so memorable:

- 120 Maryland Group
- Chantelle Andercastle
- Terri Ashcroft and Betty Parry
- Shab Bal with Cheetah Fit
- Kai C
- Michael Redhead Champagne
- Katie Fowler
- Jodh Ghuman with Save our Seine
- Chris Higgins with the Costume Museum of Canada
- Choi Ho
- Kenneth Ingram
- Ryan Kochie with the Chalmers Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation
- Ann Loewen
- Jennifer Maxwell with the Transcona Museum
- Eric Napier Strong with the West Broadway BIZ
- Brian Pincott
- Patty Rosher
- Rob Shaw
- Storefront Manitoba
- University of Manitoba's Office of Sustainability
- Len Van Roon Jr

1. *Cathedrals to Craft Breweries St. Boniface* led by Katie Fowler. Photo by Richard Lenon.
2. *Art Around Every Corner: Explore Historic West Broadway* led by Eric Napier-Strong of the West Broadway BIZ. Photo by Richard Lenon.
3. *Cathedrals to Craft Breweries St. Boniface* led by Katie Fowler. Photo by Richard Lenon.

THE MAYOR'S LUNCHEON FOR THE ARTS
& THE WINNIPEG ARTS COUNCIL AWARDS

All photos by April Carandang.
1. Audience at the Mayor's Luncheon for the Arts & The Winnipeg Arts Council Award 2025.
2. Guests at the Mayor's Luncheon for the Arts.
3. Winners of the 2025 Winnipeg Arts Council Awards. From left to right: Ashley Au, Natalie Sluis, Mayor Scott Gillingham, Jaimie Isaac, and WAC Executive Director Dominic Lloyd.
4. NAfro Dance performing with Mayor Scott Gillingham.
5. Natalie Bell, host of the 2025 Mayor's Luncheon for the Arts.

The Mayor's Luncheon for the Arts has been a staple of the summer calendar since 2007, and this year the event was celebrated in style at the RBC Convention Centre on Thursday June 5th. The sweet sounds of Casimiro Nhussi and NAfro Band filled the lobby before bursting into a full-on explosion of music and dance that filled every corner of the York Ballroom. Drummers, singers and dancers had the capacity crowd up and moving, with Mayor Scott Gillingham taking leads as both dancer and djembe player.

Hosted by Natalie Bell, the event featured remarks from WAC Board Chair Andrew McLaren and Executive Director Dominic Lloyd. Winnipeg Poet Laureate Jennifer Still presented a new work titled "Garden of Life," and Mayor Gillingham spoke about the ways in which the arts enrich the cultural fabric of our city.

The Luncheon also serves as the occasion to hand out the Winnipeg Arts Council Awards, which celebrate the efforts and achievements of arts community members who have made a significant impact locally and internationally. The full slate of 2025 awards nominees was announced, in song, by host Natalie Bell accompanied by Donna Fletcher on piano, to the tune of "Over the Rainbow"—to the delight and laughter of the crowd.

Candace Hodgins, RBC's Vice President of Commercial Financial Services, presented the RBC On the Rise Award for emerging artists to Natalie Sluis, a Hard-of-Hearing dancer, choreographer, singer and actor. The Making a Mark Award honouring an established artist for an exceptional practice went to Ashley Au. Ashely is a bassist, composer, sound artist, music educator and arts administrator. Jaimie Isaac was this year's recipient of the Making a Difference Award in recognition of her practice as an artist and curator whose projects are grounded in decolonization and inclusion.


THE MAYOR'S LUNCHEON
THE MAYOR'S LUNCHEON
1


2


3


4


PAC Convention Centre
5

THANKS

The Winnipeg Arts Council is grateful to the City of Winnipeg, the Mayor and Council, and the Standing Committee on Community Services, for support of the arts. Thank you to the City Clerk's Office, the offices of the CAO, the COO, the CFO, and all of the city officials who assist Winnipeg Arts Council programs and initiatives.

We appreciate the Winnipeg Arts Council's enthusiastic and committed Board of Directors and staff.

Other partners who supported our work this year include Culture Days Manitoba, the Winnipeg Architecture Foundation, Manitobans for the Arts, Audio Works Production Services, The Winnipeg Free Press and Canstar Community News, CBC Manitoba, Classic 107, Kali Moss and Sage Solutions, Elder Barbara Bruce, Jenny Heijun Wills, Aisha Abdullahi, Dennis D. Gupa, Celiese Lypka, m. patchwork monoceros, Natalie Bell and George Dragojevic at the RBC Convention Centre.

The Winnipeg Arts Council collaborates with colleagues at the Edmonton Arts Council, Calgary Arts Development Authority, Toronto Arts Council and Conseil des arts de Montréal throughout the year, as well as with partners including the Manitoba Arts Council, Canada Council for the Arts, the Department of Canadian Heritage, Manitoba Culture Heritage & Sport, and the Winnipeg Foundation.


1


2









1. Winnipeg Poetry Tours sidewalk chalk poetry at Girdwood Park. Photo by Brian Hydesmith.
2. Still from *Becoming Ruby*. Courtesy of Duc Anh Quan Luong.
3. A performance of *Let's not stay awake through dark nights* by Alex Elliott. Photo by Pablo Riquelme.
4. Documentation of the final scene from Diana Thorneycroft's *Father Alphonse and the Fight Between Carnival and Lent*. Photo courtesy of Diana Thorneycroft.
5. Behind the scenes of Emily Solstice-Tait in *Western Chronicle*. Photo by Buio Assis. Photo courtesy of Andraea Sartison.
6. *Cyrus Enters Babylon* by Warren Carther at Nuit Blanche. Photo by Kyle Thomas.
7. Begonia performs at the 50th Winnipeg Folk Festival. Photo by Amilia Fehr.



GRANTS AWARDED

Project Grant Program

FOR ARTS ORGANIZATIONS AND COLLECTIVES

This program is intended for new and developing arts organizations, established arts organizations that work on a project basis, and arts organizations undertaking a special, one-time initiative. Collectives or unincorporated groups may be eligible provided that they meet the special criteria outlined in the guidelines. The program is designed to provide partial support to a broad range of activities and art forms, reflecting different cultural traditions and art practices. A Project Grant must be applied to a specific project - with potential for artistic merit and civic impact - planned to take place within the 18 months following the notification date. This program is not open to recipients of the Winnipeg Arts Council's multi-year grants programs. The maximum grant available under this program is $10,000.

41
Total applications received

$353,143
Total funds requested

17
Total grants awarded

$142,000
Total grant funds awarded



Calamity, a band formed at the We Rock Winnipeg Youth Summer Camp. Photo by Amilia Fehr.

AIM 4 ALL
$10,000
AIM 4 ALL provides year-round musical theatre training where individuals with and without disabilities collaborate as equals.

ARTSJUNKTION
$8,000
Art for All Programming: low barrier programming, utilizing creative reuse via recycled materials, over the course of the next year.

FASCINASIAN FILM FESTIVAL
$10,000
The 2025 FascinAsian Film Festival is a 4-day festival of films and events showcasing Asian Canadian talent, highlighting stories from the Asian diaspora.

GALLERY 1C03, THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG
$6,500
"Beading Métis Resurgence" will expand the practice of and critical discourse around Métis beadwork originating in Winnipeg, including an exhibition, accompanying publication, and six public events.

HYPERART
$10,000
HYPERART 2025 : Une série de résidences créatives qui donne lieu à un festival multidisciplinaire gratuit le 27 septembre 2025 (Nuit Blanche) à Saint-Boniface, Manitoba.

JHG CREATIVE
$8,300
Hal is a musical adaptation of Shakespeare's Henry IV, performed by a primarily BIPOC cast, born from the desire to modernize classic literature and blend it with historically Black styles of music.

MANITOBA BAND ASSOCIATION
$5,000
WAVE OF LIGHT is a commission and collaboration project between the Manitoba Band Association, composer Dr. Pete Meechan and the CancerCare Manitoba Foundation.

MANITOBA CULTURAL SOCIETY OF THE DEAF
$10,000
2026 Magic of ASL + Gathered Series, showcasing Deaf Manitoba performers and a Deaf performer from out-of-province to perform and facilitate workshops to the Deaf Community.



1



2



3



4



5

1. Manitoba Cultural Society of the Deaf's youth ASL puppetry event. Photo by Leonardo Salgado.
2. The team at FascinAsian Film Festival. Photo courtesy of FascinAsian Film Festival.
3. Flash Photographic Festival opening at aceartinc. Photo by Leif Norman.
4. Dancers at the opening ceremony of the Kiyanaan Indigenous Theatre Festival. Photo by Vincent Wolfgang.
5. Charlene Van Buekenhout at the Kiyanaan Indigenous Theatre Festival. Photo by Vincent Wolfgang.
6. Guests peruse the main market at the Prairie Comics Festival. Photo by Joey Senft.



6

MANITOBA UNDERGROUND OPERA
$10,000
Sweat, a gripping a cappella opera exploring individual aspirations against the demands of global capitalism.

MANITOBA WRITERS' GUILD
$3,000
Youth Creative Writing Program: Online skill development classes, peer review circles, established writers' presentations and the development of a short story contribution to a published anthology.

MANOHAR PERFORMING ARTS OF CANADA
$10,000
On the Shore: Songs from my Grandfather is a dance/theatre exploration of transitions through the poetry and songs of mid-century Tamil poet/composer K. Narayanaswami Ayyar.

NEUROHILARITY
$7,000
To produce Neurohilarity's second season featuring a Pride Variety Show, an Indigenous Comedy show in partnership with the Winnipeg Comedy Festival, a visual arts show as well as a variety show.

PRAIRIE COMICS FESTIVAL
$9,200
Prairie Comics Festival 2025 Guests and Panelists.

SOUL SUPREME
$7,500
Soul Supreme Fest: A 1-day outdoor R&B music festival featuring performances, mixed media arts from emerging diverse creatives, and a marketplace.

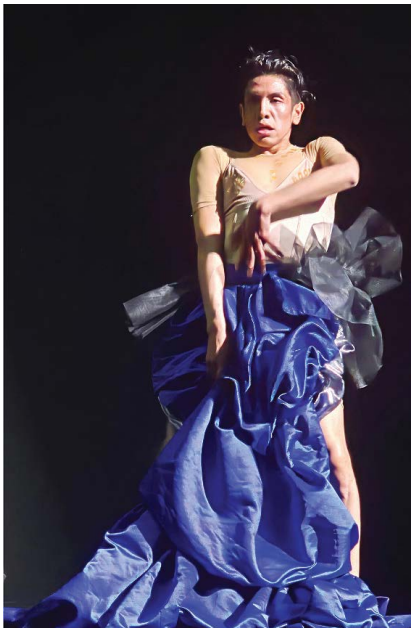
THE WINNIPEG CLASSICAL GUITAR SOCIETY
$7,500
50 Years of Classical Guitar in WPG: 5 concerts and several community events on their 50th concert season.

U 'N I TOGETHER PRODUCTIONS
$10,000
Pamasko Tales: a vibrant, community-driven theatre production that transforms a pre-colonial Filipino folk tale into a playful, modernized play inspired by the traditions of a British Panto.

WE ROCK WINNIPEG INC.
$10,000
We Rock Winnipeg Summer Youth Camp. Girls, trans, gender-expansive kids ages 10-15 learn an instrument, form a band, and write and record an original song all in six days.



Copper connectors at a sculpture workshop in London, UK. Photo by Nicole Shimonek.



Waawaate Fobister on stage at YIRRAMBOI Festival 2025 in Melbourne, Australia. Photo courtesy of Nova-Jean Rose Courchene.

Professional Development Grant Program

FOR ARTISTS AND ARTS ADMINISTRATORS

The Winnipeg Arts Council recognizes that the continued growth and development of arts professionals is essential to the cultural health of the community. The Professional Development Grant Program is designed to provide support to artists, arts administrators, or arts educators for activities that contribute to their professional development and enhance their careers in the arts. These activities may include: unique opportunities for short-term study (beyond basic training) in a formal or informal setting; attendance at events where the work of the applicant is to be presented or where the applicant is an invited speaker or resource person; or travel that is a component of such activities. Professional Development grants are awarded in fixed amounts of $250, $500, $750 & $1,000 and are intended to represent a contribution not exceeding 50% of the total eligible costs.

47
Total applications received

$55,875
Total funds requested

36
Total grants awarded

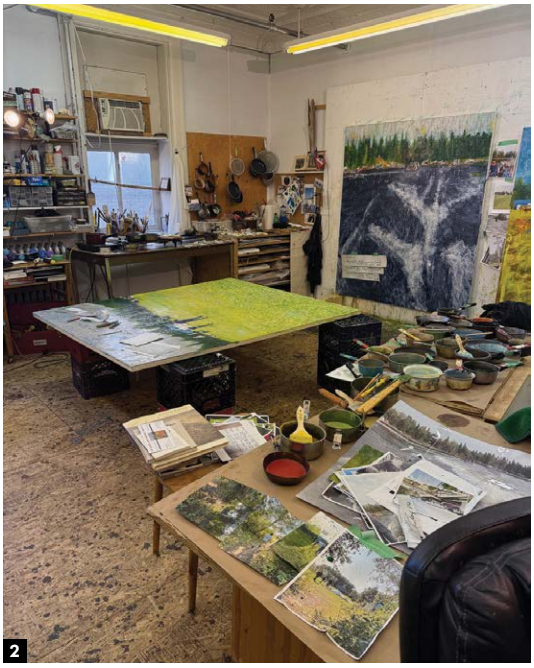
$29,875
Total grant funds awarded



Winnipeg artist Elena Sturk-Lussier attends Reykjavík International Film Festival's 2025 TALENT LAB. Photo courtesy of Elena Sturk-Lussier.

KC Adams	$1500
Matt Agoli	$500
ahmed al noor	$500
ash alberg	$750
Junko Bailey	$500
Natalie Baird	$500
Colette Balcaen	$1000
Sheldon Birnie	$1000
Madeline Bogoch	$500
Danielle Caners	$1000
Chloe Chafe	$1500
Nova Courchene	$1500
Sarah Crawley	$750
Alain Delannoy	$750
Kinsey Donald	$750
Catherine Dulude	$750
Mercedes Emeka-Maduka	$500
Angela Forget	$750
Aurélie Forson	$750
Jennifer Gibson	$1000
Joan Gillis	$500
Christina Hajjar	$1500
Sacha Kopelow	$750
Geneviève LaTouche	$1500
Mandy Malazdrewich	$750
Tani Miki	$375
Cale Plett	$750
Jorge Requena Ramos	$500
Nicole Shimonek	$750
M.E. Sparks	$750
Elena Sturk-Lussier	$1500
Leslie Supnet	$500
Val Vint	$1000
Julia Wake	$500
Tricia Wasney	$750
Willyn Whiting	$750





Individual Artist Grant Program

FOR WINNIPEG ARTISTS WORKING IN ALL ARTISTIC DISCIPLINES

The Winnipeg Arts Council recognizes the individual artist as the primary source of creative activity in all artistic disciplines. The Individual Artist Grant Program is intended to support the creation of new work in any art form, or the development, production, curation, or exhibition of works of art by Winnipeg artists.

Two types of grants are available, depending on an artist's level of accomplishment and experience in the discipline of the proposed project. The (A) grant for mid-career and established artists has a maximum of $7,000 and the (B) grant for emerging artists has a maximum of $3,000.

132
Total applications received

$570,300
Total funds requested

50
Total grants awarded

$290,500
Total grant funds awarded

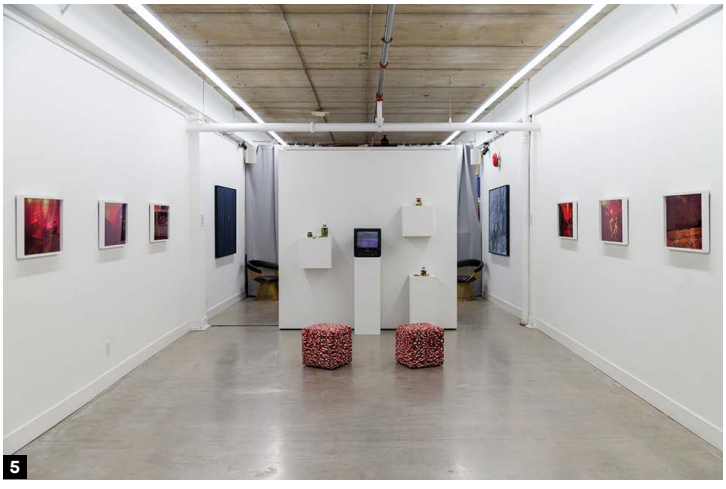
1. Scene from *I/DE(\A*. Photo by Barb Bottle, courtesy of Ella Steele.
2. Encaustic paintings at Tim Schouten's studio. Photo courtesy of Tim Shouten.
3. Winnipeg artist Devon Gillingham, photographed by Dallas Wilson.
4. *You're Doing the Work (Diamond Jubilee)* by Divya Mehra at the Night Gallery, Los Angeles. Photo by Nik Massey. Image courtesy Divya Mehra and Night Gallery.
5. Exhibition documentation of *Submersed Landscapes* at Gallery 881, Vancouver. Photograph by Sarah Fuller.

Fritzi Adelman	$3,000
Brady Allard	$3,000
Habeeb Andu	$7,000
Alyssa Bornn	$3,000
Caitlin Broms-Jacobs	$7,000
Skye Callow	$3,000
Sarah Crawley	$7,000
Anita Daher	$7,000
Christine Fellows	$7,000
Gordon Fitzell	$7,000
Sarah Fuller	$7,000
Philip Geller	$7,000
Hannah Godfrey	$7,000
Dammecia Hall	$7,000
Izza Hassan	$3,000
Madeline Hildebrand	$7,000
Kathleen Hiley	$7,000
Everett Hopfner	$7,000
Kelsey Hutton	$4,500
Victoria Inglis	$7,000
Kara Joseph	$7,000
Suzanne Kennelly	$3,800
Charles Konowal	$6,000
Anita Lebeau	$7,000
Cecilia Lopez	$3,000
Quan Luong	$7,000
Susie Moloney	$7,000
m. patchwork monoceros	$7,000
Larysa Musick	$3,000
Hera Nalam	$3,000
Robert Nicolas	$3,000
Kevin Nikkel	$7,000
Joel Penner	$7,000
Tracy Peters	$7,000
Sidney Phommarath	$3,000
Bev Pike	$7,000
Debra Plett	$7,000
Dominique Rey	$7,000
Kerry Ryan	$7,000
Örjan Sandred	$5,200
Andraea Sartison	$7,000
Sam Singer	$7,000
Vern Thiessen	$5,000
Charlene Van Buekenhout	$7,000
Jean van der Merwe	$3,000
Fabian Velasco	$7,000
Tricia Wasney	$7,000
Willyn Whiting	$3,000
Jenny Heijun Wills	$7,000
Bella Zuniga	$3,000



3


4


5



National Screen Institute's Access BIPOC Producers and guests at Journey to Churchill to wrap up "Workshop 1" in Winnipeg. Photo by Kerha Aomreore. Photo courtesy of the National Screen Institute.



Exhibition documentation of *room to grow tall* at aceartinc., curated by Kiona Callihoo Ligtvoet and Sanaa Humayun. Photo by Sarah Fuller.

Multi-year Grant Programs

FOR ARTS ORGANIZATIONS

Three-year Operating Grants and two-year Program Support Grants make contributions to the operations of established arts organizations that have a continuing presence in Winnipeg throughout the year or seasonally, and have a track record of high-quality programming or services. Organizations are invited to apply to either the two-year or three-year program depending on a variety of factors including budget size, scope of programming, and number of staff. All organizations receiving multi-year grants must have a history of consistent programming/presentation, and public support, and must provide regular reporting to ensure that they continue to meet the objectives of the program.

2025 was the first year of the new Program Support Grant cycle and the second year of the Operating Grant cycle.

65
Total applications received

$3,416,600
Total funds requested

65
Total grants awarded

$3,416,600
Total grant funds awarded



Participants at Manitoba Conservatory of Music and Arts' "Baby Grands" Program. Photo by Dana Letkeman.



Manitoba Theatre for Young People's production of *Billie and the Moon*. Photo by Leif Norman.

Operating (three-year) grants:

aceartinc.	$37,100
Border Crossings Magazine	$18,900
Le Cercle Molière	$66,200
Festival du Voyageur	$94,500
Folk Arts Council of Winnipeg	$102,100
Freeze Frame: Storyline FX	$27,100
Gas Station Arts Centre	$18,900
Jazz Winnipeg	$41,600
Manito Ahbee Festival	$47,300
Manitoba Chamber Orchestra	$52,000
Manitoba Conservatory of Music & Arts	$37,800
Manitoba Opera Association	$127,600
Manitoba Printmakers Association	$31,200
Manitoba Theatre for Young People	$111,800
Mentoring Artists for Women's Art	$39,500
National Screen Institute – Canada	$24,900
PLATFORM: centre for photographic + digital arts	$26,000
Plug In Institute of Contemporary Art	$100,800
Plume Winnipeg	$26,000
Prairie Fire Press	$38,200
Prairie Theatre Exchange	$137,100
Rainbow Stage	$51,500
Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre	$321,300
Royal Winnipeg Ballet	$313,300
The School of Contemporary Dancers	$32,200
Shakespeare in the Ruins	$29,600

Theatre Projects Manitoba	$43,300
Urban Shaman: Contemporary Aboriginal Art	$44,500
Video Pool Media Arts Centre	$33,800
West End Cultural Centre	$33,100
Winnipeg Art Gallery	$376,000
Winnipeg Centennial Folk Festival	$97,400
Winnipeg Film Group	$51,800
Winnipeg International Children's Festival	$58,800
Winnipeg Jazz Orchestra	$20,300
Winnipeg Jewish Theatre	$31,200
Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra	$289,000
Winnipeg's Contemporary Dancers	$28,400



The Mason Hoop Dancers performing at the sâkihiwê festival's outreach concert at the Austin Street Festival. Photo by Alan Greyes.

Program Support (two-year) grants:

Aboriginal Music Manitoba	$15,000
Agassiz Music	$10,000
Association of Manitoba Book Publishers	$15,000
Camerata Nova	$15,000
Cluster: New Music + Integrated Arts Festival	$10,000
Contemporary Verse 2	$10,000
Dry Cold Productions	$15,000
First Fridays in the Exchange	$10,000
GroundSwell	$15,000
Little Opera Company	$10,000
La Maison des artistes visuels francophones	$15,000
Manitoba Association of Playwrights	$20,000
Manitoba Choral Association	$15,000
Manitoba Craft Council	$15,000
Music 'N' Mavens	$10,000
NAfro Dance Productions	$15,000
Rosamunde Summer Music Academy	$15,000
send + receive: a festival of sound	$15,000
Sick + Twisted Theatre	$15,000
Virtuosi Concerts	$4,500
Winnipeg Gay and Lesbian Film Society	$10,000
Winnipeg Music Festival	$15,000
Winnipeg Philharmonic Choir	$10,000
The Winnipeg Singers	$15,000
Winnipeg Youth Orchestras	$10,000
WNDX	$15,000
Young Lungs Dance Exchange	$15,000



Spring break programming at the Manitoba Children's Museum. Photo by Gabriella Touchette photography.



Participants enjoying first Bead-a-Thon fundraiser at the Manitoba Museum. Photo courtesy of the Manitoba Museum.

Museum Grants

The Winnipeg Arts Council administers the City's investment in five museums through the Museums Grant, which provides support to museums for operations and programming. Museums Grant recipients and funding levels are designated by the City of Winnipeg.

5
Total applications received

$240,900
Total funds requested

5
Total grants awarded

$240,900
Total grant funds awarded

Dalnavert Museum	$18,900
Manitoba Children's Museum	$108,000
The Manitoba Museum	$49,500
Oseredok Ukrainian Cultural and Education Centre	$15,000
Royal Aviation Museum of Western Canada	$49,500



CBC *Music's Afterdark Live* at Nuit Blanche in the Exchange District. Photo by Kyle Thomas.



INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

booke & partners

200 - 900 Lorimer Boulevard
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3P 2V4
Tel: (204) 284-7060
Fax: (204) 284-7105
www.bookeandpartners.ca

To the Directors of
Winnipeg Arts Council Inc.

OPINION

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Winnipeg Arts Council Inc. (the "Organization"), which comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 2025, the statements of operations and changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Winnipeg Arts Council Inc. as at December 31, 2025 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

BASIS FOR OPINION

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Organization in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

OTHER INFORMATION

Management is responsible for the other information which is comprised of the Organization's annual report.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we will not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information identified above and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

The annual report is expected to be made available to us after the date of the auditors' report. If, based on the work we will perform on this other information, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact to those charged with governance.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF MANAGEMENT AND THOSE CHARGED WITH GOVERNANCE FOR THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements

that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Organization's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Organization or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Organization's financial reporting process.

AUDITORS' RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements. As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Organization's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Organization's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditors' report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditors' report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Organization to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Winnipeg, Canada
February 23, 2026

Booke & Partners

CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS

Statements of Operations and Changes in Net Assets

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31	2025	2024
Revenues		
City of Winnipeg - Operating	$ 4,645,787	$ 4,645,787
City of Winnipeg - Museum Grant Funds	258,570	258,570
Interest income	68,572	79,869
Arts Development	35,048	36,311
Winnipeg Foundation	14,430	13,853
Other income	1,364	9,322
City of Song (Note 7)		
Province of Manitoba	-	200,000
Government of Canada	-	52,600
Donations and other income	-	13,218
	5,023,771	5,309,530
Expenses		
Program expenses (Page 54)	4,250,001	4,743,446
Administrative expenses (Page 54)	656,520	634,751
	4,906,521	5,378,197
Other projects		
Public Art revenues (Note 6)	313,498	312,290
Public Art expenses (Page 54)	(313,498)	(312,290)
	-	-
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses	**$ 117,250**	$ (68,667)

	Unrestricted	Internally Restricted	**2025 Total**	2024 Total
Net assets, beginning of year	$ 221,268	$ 356,522	$ 577,790	$ 646,457
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses	117,250	-	117,250	(68,667)
Net assets, end of year	$ 338,518	$ 356,522	**$ 695,040**	$ 577,790

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

Statement of Financial Position

DECEMBER 31	2025	2024
ASSETS		
Current		
Cash	$ 78,701	$ 98,192
Term deposits (Note 3)	2,170,000	1,400,000
Receivables	53,432	70,644
Interest receivable	39,731	24,700
Public Service Bodies' Rebate receivable	7,040	5,675
Prepaid expenses	8,486	4,559
	$ 2,357,390	$ 1,603,770
LIABILITIES		
Current		
Payables and accruals	17,444	15,423
GST payable	22,501	-
Holdbacks (Note 5)	125,437	137,907
Deferred contributions (Note 6)	1,496,968	872,650
	$ 1,662,350	$ 1,025,980
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted (Note 9)	338,518	221,268
Internally restricted (Note 9)	356,522	356,522
	695,040	577,790
	$ 2,357,390	$ 1,603,770

COMMITMENT (Note 9)

Approved by the Board

L Howard

DIRECTOR

Donna Hotchkiss

DIRECTOR

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

Statements of Cash Flows

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31	2025	2024
Cash derived from (applied to):		
OPERATING		
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses	$ 117,250	$ (68,667)
Change in non-cash working capital		
Receivables	17,212	(70,644)
Interest receivable	(15,031)	6,335
Public Service Bodies' Rebate receivable	(1,365)	2,265
Prepaid expenses	(3,927)	(61)
Payables and accruals	2,021	8,113
GST payable	22,501	-
Holdbacks	(12,470)	(67,427)
Deferred contributions	624,318	(114,015)
Deferred City of Song	-	(62,255)
	750,509	(366,356)
INVESTING		
Purchase of term deposits	(3,200,000)	(2,650,000)
Redemption of term deposits	2,430,000	2,975,000
	(770,000)	325,000
NET DECREASE IN CASH	(19,491)	(41,356)
CASH BALANCE		
Beginning of year	98,192	139,548
End of year	**$ 78,701**	$ 98,192

Notes to the Financial Statements

1. NATURE OF OPERATIONS

Winnipeg Arts Council Inc. (the "Organization") funds and supports artists and arts organizations. We initiate and promote development of the arts for the people of Winnipeg.

The Organization is an incorporated not-for-profit entity and is a registered charity under the Income Tax Act.

2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

These financial statements are prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations. The significant accounting policies used are detailed as follows:

(a) Equipment and leasehold improvements

Equipment and leasehold improvements are recorded at cost. The Organization provides for amortization using the following methods at rates designed to amortize the cost of the equipment and leasehold improvements over their estimated useful lives:

Office equipment	5 years Straight-line
Furniture and fixtures	10 years Straight-line

Amortization of leasehold improvements is recorded over the term of the lease.

(b) Revenue recognition

The Organization follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions. Restricted contributions are recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue when received or receivable, if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

Interest income is recognized as it is accrued on the related financial instruments.

(c) Accounting estimates

The preparation of financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amount of assets and liabilities, disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amount of revenues and expenses during the reported period. These estimates are reviewed periodically and are reported in earnings in the period in which they become known. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

(d) Financial instruments

The Organization recognizes its financial instruments when the Organization becomes party to the contractual provisions of the financial instrument. Financial instruments are initially recorded at fair value with subsequent reporting at amortized cost.

It is management's opinion that the Organization is not exposed to significant credit, currency, interest rate, liquidity, market, or price risks arising from its financial instruments.

3. TERM DEPOSITS

	2025	2024
Guaranteed Investment Certificate, earning interest of 2.45% per annum, matures April 10, 2026	$ 1,120,000	$ -
Guaranteed Investment Certificate, earning interest of 2.45% per annum, matures February 9, 2026	1,050,000	-
Guaranteed Investment Certificate, earning interest of 3.20% per annum, matured during the year	-	650,000
Guaranteed Investment Certificate, earning interest of 3.20% per annum, matured during the year	-	650,000
Guaranteed Investment Certificate, earning interest 3.00% per annum, matured during the year	-	150,000
	$ 2,170,000	$ 1,400,000

4. EQUIPMENT AND LEASEHOLD IMPROVEMENTS

	Cost	Acumulated Amortization	2025 Net Book Value	2024 Net Book Value
Office equipment	$ 6,574	$ 6,574	$ -	$ -
Furniture and fixtures	34,243	34,243	-	-
Leasehold improvements	104,258	104,258	-	-
	$ 145,075	**$ 145,075**	**$** -	$ -

Equipment and leasehold improvements are fully amortized.

5. HOLDBACKS

The Organization follows the policy of holding back a proportion of grants and fees awarded in a year until certain completion criteria have been satisfied. Furthermore, some awards will be disbursed according to a payment schedule developed with the agreement of the recipient organizations. Accordingly, this account represents the award balances which will be disbursed in the future according to the specified guidelines.

At December 31, the composition of the holdbacks according to award category are as follows:

		2025		2024
Youth WITH ART	$	97,157	$	99,957
Individual Artist grants		14,000		17,000
Project grants		13,280		13,450
Arts Development		1,000		7,500
	$	**125,437**	$	137,907

6. DEFERRED CONTRIBUTIONS

Deferred contributions represent restricted funding and unspent externally restricted resources which relate to the subsequent year.

Public Art relates to the design and execution of particular artworks to be created in public areas of Winnipeg. The commissioning and installation of public art projects is a multi-year process. This program is supported by a specified allocation from the City of Winnipeg with the occasional addition of grant funds and partnerships. Financial support to individual artists is awarded on the recommendations of selection panels facilitated by the Organization.

	2023	2022
PUBLIC ART		
Deferred contributions, beginning of year	$ 872,650	$ 986,665
Contributions		
City of Winnipeg Project Management Agreements		
Winnipeg South Rec Centre	255,000	-
St. Vital Bridge	204,029	-
Odeon Park	153,000	9,919
St. James Civic Centre	153,000	-
City of Winnipeg Public Art Downtown Recovery	150,000	-
City of Winnipeg Public Art Maintenance Reimbursement	22,787	20,725
The Winnipeg Foundation	-	150,000
Culture Days Manitoba	-	17,000
Other	-	631
Transferred to revenue	(313,498)	(312,290)
Increase (decrease) during the year	624,318	(114,015)
Total deferred contributions, end of year	**$ 1,496,968**	$ 872,650

6. DEFERRED CONTRIBUTIONS - CONTINUED

The following provides a breakdown by project of the unexpended balance for Public Art:

	2025	2024
PUBLIC ART PROJECTS		
Downtown Recovery Strategies/Winnipeg 150	$ 645,373	$ 521,887
South Winnipeg Rec Campus	217,500	-
Public Art Program Management	125,132	-
Public Art Contingency	121,182	121,182
St. Vital Bridge	102,134	-
St. James Civic Centre	79,778	-
WITH ART: Community Arts Projects	74,039	87,203
Broadway Light-based Sculptures	35,340	35,340
Odeon Park	30,676	-
Biz Banner Collaboration	28,959	36,166
Southwest Rapid Transit	22,308	22,308
Public Education and Outreach	10,135	17,489
Studio to Site	4,412	6,075
Lights on the Exchange	-	25,000
	$ 1,496,968	$ 872,650

7. WINNIPEG 150 CITY OF SONG

The Organization created a project to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the City of Winnipeg by showcasing local talent. In 2024, the Organization contributed $154,684 of Board-authorized unrestricted funds and received $200,000 from the Province of Manitoba, $52,600 from the Government of Canada, and $13,218 in donations and other income.

Total expenses were $420,502 consisting of the following:

- Funds distributed to Winnipeg Arts Organizations $325,730
- Winnipeg Arts Council programs & events $ 45,863
- Salaries, marketing & administration $ 48,909

8. NET ASSETS

INTERNALLY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS	2025	2024
Cash flow assistance	$ 100,000	$ 100,000
Internally restricted net assets	256,522	256,522
	$ 356,522	$ 356,522

The allocation for cash flow assistance was made in order to provide cash flow assistance to client organizations until such time as operating grants for their use have been received by Winnipeg Arts Council Inc. from the City of Winnipeg.

The allocation for internally restricted net assets is available for the development of new programs at the discretion of the Board of Directors and to finance future projects to engage the overall community in support of the arts in the City of Winnipeg.

UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS

The Organization considers its capital to be the balance maintained in its unrestricted net assets. Capital is utilized under the direction of the Board of Directors. The primary objective of the Organization is to invest its capital in a manner that will allow it to continue as a going concern.

9. COMMITMENT

The Organization entered into a lease agreement for office space, which expires on January 31, 2027. The Organization's minimum annual lease payments total $31,524.

10. ECONOMIC DEPENDENCE

The volume of financial activity undertaken by the Organization with its main funding body is of sufficient magnitude that the discontinuance of their funding would endanger the ability of the Organization to continue as a going concern.

11. ENDOWMENT FUND

In 2011, the Organization established an Endowment Fund through a $20,000 contribution to be held in perpetuity at The Winnipeg Foundation. Interest revenue earned by this fund is available to the Organization annually to support general operations. As of December 31, 2025, the Organization's cumulative contributions to the Endowment Fund totaled $140,000 (2024 -$140,000) with cumulative matching grant contributions of $42,200 (2024 - $42,200) from The Winnipeg Foundation. The market value of the Endowment Fund at December 31, 2025 is $343,802 (2024 - $312,610). As of December 31, 2025, the Organization had $14,790 (2024 - $14,430) available to spend.

Schedule of Expenses

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31	2025	2024
PROGRAM EXPENSES		
Multi-year grants	$ 3,416,600	$ 3,417,100
Individual Artist grants	290,500	276,950
Museum grants	240,900	240,900
Project grants	142,000	144,500
Arts Development	85,089	121,874
Professional Development grants	29,875	32,500
Jury honoraria and expenses	21,778	26,339
Technology	11,211	10,521
Poet Laureate	10,228	7,433
Translation services	1,820	2,827
Winnipeg 150 City of Song (Note 7)	-	420,502
Public Art Programs	-	42,000
	$ 4,250,001	$ 4,743,446
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES		
Salaries and benefits	503,569	489,666
Rent and utilities	64,505	62,604
Supplies and other office expenses	47,421	39,276
Professional and consultant fees	21,720	16,010
Hospitality and promotion	6,205	7,175
Board and committee meetings	6,037	5,709
Telecommunications	5,335	6,179
Professional development, membership and conferences	1,728	8,132
	$ 656,520	$ 634,751
PUBLIC ART EXPENSES		
Artwork commission/production	207,442	123,395
Public education	41,956	12,036
Maintenance	32,706	95,508
Artwork development	15,782	16,551
Selection process	13,567	7,513
Program administration	2,045	57,287
	$ 313,498	$ 312,290

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

Mandate

The Corporation is an independent not-for-profit Corporation, created and mandated by the City to carry out the objects stipulated in its Articles of Incorporation by undertaking the following responsibilities:

- managing and carrying out the City's arts and cultural funding programs, exercising final arm's length authority to approve and issue cultural grants;
- presenting for approval to the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services, a three (3) year Arts and Culture Business Plan to be adopted on an annual basis;
- managing a conditional grant from the City designated to fund the approved programs;
- advising the City on cultural policy;
- exploring partnerships and initiatives with other funding bodies, foundations and other groups;
- presenting to the City an Annual Report and an Audited Financial Statement;
- developing and maintaining a cooperative relationship with all City departments and staff working in cultural areas;
- managing and administering the City's Public Art Policy and Program.

Mission

The Winnipeg Arts Council funds and supports artists and arts organizations. We initiate and promote development of the arts for the people of Winnipeg.

Vision

Winnipeg is a city of the arts, where art is woven into all people's lives. Everyone has equitable access to the arts, participates in the arts, values the arts and is enriched by the arts.

Staff

Dominic Lloyd
Executive Director
(from March 2025)
Program & Arts Development Manager
(to March 2025)

tamara rae biebrich
Public Art Manager

Tanya Christensen
Operations Manager
Interim Executive Director
(to March 2025)

Ruhi Proshun
Administrative & Communications Coordinator

Sam McLean
Grants Consultant
(from August 2025)

Chloe Card
Tour Coordinator
(contract)

Board of Directors

Chair
Donna Fletcher (from June 2025)
Andrew McLaren (to June 2025)

Vice Chair
Ian August (from June 2025)
Donna Fletcher (to June 2025)

Secretary-Treasurer
Julie Penner

Past Chair
Andrew McLaren (from June 2025)
Jason Granger (to June 2025)

Chair Emerita
Vonnie Von Helmolt

Arts Community Directors

Seema Goel
Niki Little
Casimiro Nhussi
(from September 2025)
Brian Pincott
Lisa Stinner-Kun
(to September 2025)
Erica Wilson

Council Directors

Honoure Black
Laurel Howard
Liz Wreford

City Representative Director

Councillor Markus Chambers
(voting)
Marsha Christiuk
(nonvoting)

Assessors

Applications to Winnipeg Arts Council programs are assessed against program criteria and guidelines by a jury of arts professionals. Jury members are selected to broadly reflect the range of artistic expression and diversity represented by the applicants.

Arlea Ashcroft
Alireza Bayat
Justin Bear L'Arrivee
Nova Bhattacharya (ON)
Paula Blair
Alison Calder
Lindsey Childs
Julia Davis
Natanielle Felicitas
Julious Gambalan
Zohreh Gervais
Brenda Gorlick
Cuinn Joseph
David Knipe
Jessica Landry
Mercedes Maduka
Sam McLean
James McLennan
David McLeod
Tani Miki
Leif Norman
Amber O'Reilly (NWT)
Jamie Paris
Daniel Péloquin Hopfner
Tracy Peters
Daria Salamon
Nicole Shimonek
Jason Stefanik
Faye Thomson
Chimwemwe Undi
Elliott Walsh
Erica Wilson
Jill Wilson

Public Art Assessors

Ashley Au
Temperance August
Osani Balkaran
Nadya Crossman-Serb
Janelle Fillion
Corey Greenham
Alan Greyeyes
Sarry Klein
Pat Lazo
Damir Muhurdarevic
Cheryl Oakden
Radovan Radulovic
Jordan Stranger
Karl Thordarson
Charles Venzon





WINNIPEG
ARTS COUNCIL

103-110 PRINCESS STREET
WINNIPEG, MB R3B 1K7
204-943-7668
winnipegarts.ca

miles of
miles of
miles of
soil plants branches hands
and add to it