

**Arts and technology collide in Downtown Kitchener  
with the opening of 44 Gaukel and the launch of SpaceFinder Waterloo Region**

**For immediate release: Kitchener, ON, Sept. 29, 2016:** ArtsBuild Ontario invites the community to celebrate the launch of SpaceFinder Waterloo Region at the **Open House of our new space on October 4, 2016 at 4:00 to 8:00 p.m.** at 44 Gaukel.

ArtsBuild Ontario, in partnership with the Accelerator Centre and the City of Kitchener, is thrilled to announce the opening of 44 Gaukel - a new creative space in Downtown Kitchener that provides affordable rehearsal and office space for local artists and tech start ups with hardware lab space. ArtsBuild will be working alongside the Accelerator Centre, an organization dedicated to building and scaling sustainable, globally competitive technology firms to foster cross-sectoral partnerships in this new creative community.

In addition to the exciting opening of 44 Gaukel, ArtsBuild is pleased to announce the launch of SpaceFinder Waterloo Region. Billed as an "Air BnB for artists," SpaceFinder is a free online tool for artists to search for space, and for spaces to promote their rentals. Created by Fractured Atlas, a non-profit arts service organization based in New York, SpaceFinder is a first-of-its-kind online service that enables artists and event planners to find, schedule, and rent available rehearsal, performance and special event space. Users can search for space based on a wide range of needs, including date, time, cost and location. ArtsBuild has partnered with the City of Kitchener, City of Waterloo, City of Cambridge and the Region of Waterloo, to bring this tool to the community.

ArtsBuild is leading the expansion of SpaceFinder across Canada with local leaders where the tool is currently active, including Toronto and Hamilton, as well as British Columbia, Alberta and Manitoba. The tool is also funded in part by the Ontario Trillium Foundation and Government of Canada.

ArtsBuild and Accelerator Centre invites the community to celebrate the opening of 44 Gaukel and the launch of SpaceFinder Waterloo Region on Tuesday, October 4 at 4:00 – 8:00 p.m., on the second floor. Tenants from both the arts and technology sectors will be showcasing their work at the event.

**Quotes:**

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"We are so pleased to partner with the Accelerator Centre and the City of Kitchener in offering our local artists/organizations affordable and suitable space at 44 Gaukel. We both see the potential that this shared space can provide to our respective sectors – together. We are equally thrilled to launch SpaceFinder in Waterloo Region – a tool that provides a solution to a large challenge for artists searching for creative space. Both 44 Gaukel and SpaceFinder provide artists and cultural organizations with new possibilities for finding creative space in our community."

**Lindsay Golds, Executive Director of ArtsBuild Ontario**

"We are pleased to be working with our colleagues at the Region of Waterloo, and the Cities of Cambridge and Waterloo to bring SpaceFinder to Waterloo Region in partnership with ArtsBuild. We believe this will greatly support our arts and creative industries community by increasing access to creative spaces."

***Silvia Di Donato, Manager of Arts and Culture, City of Kitchener***

“Moving to 44 Gaukel has been transformative for Green Light Arts. After working out of our dining room for almost three years we finally feel we have arrived in Waterloo Region. Being surrounded by other arts organizations and innovative tech start ups stimulates collaborations we otherwise would not have seen. As an organization working in the creative industries inspiration can strike at any time so having an accessible rehearsal studio within an arm’s reach invigorates us to make theatre.”

***Matt White, Artistic Producer of Greenlight Arts***

“SpaceFinder Waterloo Region is a great resource for our community. It makes finding, renting or sharing a creative space easier for everyone. I am impressed by the number and variety of spaces that have already been listed, and look forward to seeing the options grow as the tool is launched.”

***Kate Hagerman, Cultural Heritage Specialist, Region of Waterloo***

“I am incredibly pleased to partner with ArtsBuild Ontario in this amazing new space at 44 Gaukel. Creating a space where both art and tech will thrive is a great opportunity to bring together what I believe are the key ingredients for success in our community: the combining of our extremely talented technology and business entrepreneurs with the creative design skills of our vibrant arts community. Wonderful innovations across both art and technology are going emerge from this exciting collision.”

***Paul Salvini, CEO of the Accelerator Centre***

**About ArtsBuild Ontario:**

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*ArtsBuild Ontario is the only organization in Ontario dedicated to realizing long-term solutions for building, managing and financing the sustainable arts facilities needed in Ontario communities. ArtsBuild provides tools, training and resources that support the development of sustainable creative spaces such as theatres, galleries, concert halls, museums and other arts facilities. [www.artsbuildontario.ca](http://www.artsbuildontario.ca)*

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**Social Media Links:**

Twitter: [@ArtsBuildON](https://twitter.com/ArtsBuildON) & [@SpaceFinderWR](https://twitter.com/SpaceFinderWR)

Instagram: [@ArtsBuildON](https://www.instagram.com/ArtsBuildON) & [SpaceFinderWR](https://www.instagram.com/SpaceFinderWR)

Facebook: [ArtsBuild Ontario](https://www.facebook.com/ArtsBuildOntario)

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