

Executive Director's Message

2019/20 was a year of change and progress for ArtsBuild Ontario (ABO). As an organization dedicated to supporting creative spaces across the province with programs, tools, and resources, ABO continued to deliver on its mandate through three project grants from the Department of Canadian Heritage, the Government of Ontario, and the Ontario Trillium Foundation, an operating grant from the Ontario Arts Council, and a service agreement with the City of Kitchener.

ABO released the *Accessibility in Creative Spaces Toolkit and Webinar Series* to support accessibility, equity, and inclusion for Ontario arts facilities. We worked on the second phase of the Creative Space Case Study Series, highlighting lessons learned from organizations across Ontario. ABO delivered the first phase of the localized LEARN IT | BUILD IT | MANAGE IT webinars and workshops to K-W, Guelph, Cambridge, and Orangeville. On-going initiatives included the Creative Spaces Mentoring Network and Asset Planner for the Arts.

Executive Director Patricia McKinna departed the organization in August 2019. Alex Glass led ABO as Interim Executive Director until she was fully appointed Executive Director in March 2020. Further staff turnover meant that Tyler Woodward joined the team as Program & Communications Coordinator in November 2019, and Amy Poole was hired as Program Manager in December 2019. An Interim Executive Director will be hired during the first quarter of the 2020 fiscal year to cover Alex as she goes on maternity leave.

ABO expanded our role as building manager at 44 Gaukel to include the First Floor, in addition to our existing responsibilities and tenants on the Second Floor. We will now co-manage a total of 22,000 square feet of creative workspace and 20 tenants, in addition to the community-rented Rehearsal Space. ABO will continue working with the City and AC to smoothly and effectively manage the three-way operating partnership.

A huge thank you goes to Alex Glass for her hard work in writing three successful grant applications for the Indigenous Creative Spaces project from the Department of Canadian Heritage, Canada Council for the Arts, and the Ontario Arts Council. This sets the stage for ABO's next major 3 year project.

And a genuine thanks to the Board of Directors, funders, and networks across Ontario and Canada who support and engage in our work.

Diana Moser
Interim Executive Director

2019 / 20 HIGHLIGHTS

GOVERNANCE AND ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

ArtsBuild Board of Directors

ABO continues to be strongly supported by our Board of Directors.

ABO recognizes the contributions of outgoing directors Randy Dalton, Bruce Pitkin, and Christopher Loreto. Thank you for your support of ABO.

ABO was pleased to welcome new board directors Zainub Verjee, Thea Kurdi, Bryn Jones, and Shirley Madill. They joined existing board directors Kristian Clarke, Chris Plunkett, Bill Ralph, and Nisha Dhaliwal. Kristian Clarke was named President, Chris Plunkett was named Vice President, while Bill Ralph remained as Treasurer. Thank you and we look forward to your expertise and guidance.

ArtsBuild Advisory Committee

The ABO Advisory Committee, comprising major arts service organizations in Ontario, provides advice and guidance on the needs, issues and preferences of their members. They are a tremendous support in the area of communications for ABO and as well as informing arts organizations across the province about ABO's various programs, tools and resources.

We were pleased to welcome Zainub Verjee as Chair of the ABO Advisory Committee.

FUNDING PARTNERS

Department of Canadian Heritage

In 2018/19 ABO secured funding from the Department of Canadian Heritage through its Strategic Initiatives fund for two years, ending March 2020. This funding has allowed us to develop the Creative Spaces Case Study Series. This project included 19 case studies on creative space capital projects, supported our Learning Series with 9 webinars, two Brainstorming Workshops, an Online Training Series for Capital Projects, and a Best Practice Summary report.

Canada Council for the Arts

In 2019/20 we secured two one-year project grants from the Canada Council for the Arts through its Supporting Artistic Practice stream. One of the grants provides matching funds to support the first year of the Department of Canadian Heritage's Indigenous Creative Spaces project, beginning April 2020. The other grant

funds the Mapping Northern Creative Spaces project, beginning April 2020.

Ontario Trillium Foundation

In 2019/20, ABO received a Grow Grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation. This funding allowed us to grow our LEARN IT | BUILD IT | MANAGE IT program in a localized area of five communities: Kitchener, Waterloo, Cambridge, Orangeville and Guelph. The project allows us to deliver the program over two years, which includes 10 workshops and 4 webinars.



Ontario Arts Council

The Ontario Arts Council continues to provide ABO with ongoing operational and project support as it recognizes the need to assist organizations with their cultural infrastructure projects. We were successful in receiving multi-year operating support through the Arts Service Organization stream starting in 18/19 and we received a one year project grant for the first year of the Indigenous Creative Spaces project.

PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS

Cultural Community Organizations

We continue to partner and work with the following key organizations that help ABO move forward and serve our constituency.

WorkInCulture (serving the cultural community in skills development)

Toronto Alliance for the Performing Arts (Arts service organization for the performing arts in Toronto)

Theatre Ontario (serving the professional and community theatre sector in Ontario)

Ontario Museum Association (serving the museum sector in Ontario)

Ontario Presents (serving presenting organizations province wide)

BC Alliance of Arts + Culture

Calgary Arts Development

Strategic Relationships

Through work on all projects, ABO continues to maintain relationships with field professionals to better support our sector.

Such relationships include:

Ameresco

Walter Fedy

The Dalton Company

Community Forward Fund

Cobalt Connects

Municipal Relationships

City of Waterloo

City of Kitchener

Region of Waterloo

City of Cambridge
 York Region Arts Council; City of Newmarket; City of
 Richmond Hill; City of Markham
 Simcoe County
 Arts Network Ottawa; City of Ottawa
 City of Greater Sudbury
 City of Hamilton
 City of Mississauga
 City of Oshawa

BUILDING

PLAN IT | BUILD IT

ABO continues to promote and add to PLAN IT | BUILD IT; an online tool that provides our organizations with the necessary steps of a capital project.

RESOURCE LIBRARY

ABO spent some time this year reviewing improvements to the site that we will implement in 20/21.

MANAGING

44 GAUKEL

ABO continued to co-manage 44 Gaukel Creative Workspace, with a focus on the short-term rentals of the rehearsal space and the on-going office needs of arts tenants on the Second Floor. This year was also spent transitioning from the construction phase to welcoming new tenants on the First Floor in an expanded operational role. Managing arts tenants and renters at 44 Gaukel has allowed ABO to better engage with our community and local artists and had provided an increase in revenues to ABO.

ASSET PLANNER FOR THE ARTS

Asset Planner continued to have active users in the program. This tool continues to be a key platform for arts facilities to manage and understand the needs of their space and plan for capital projects.

CREATIVE SPACES MENTORING NETWORK

We launched our fifth iteration of the program and welcomed 19 new mentees and 19 mentors. This one-to-one mentorship program aims to give customized support to our organizations in need. Seeing an expanded and fully subscribed program demonstrates that this program provides value and is much needed in our sector.



"One of our cultural goals set out in our Cultural Plan in 2014 is to explore a feasibility study for a Cultural Hub. So, that will be a whole new realm of excitement for me as well ... I'm looking forward to learning a lot in this program!"

- Kirsten Frankish,
Mentee of CSMN 2019-20

Looking to develop your skills for your creative space project and learn from experienced arts professionals across Ontario? Apply today for our

ARTSBUILDONTARIO



**CREATIVE
SPACES
MENTORING
NETWORK**

BRICKS&MORTAR

With 450 registrations, Bricks&Mortar remains to be the only database that houses information on arts facilities province wide. The data has been used by municipalities and ABO to demonstrate the needs of the sector to stakeholders. We have found it helpful in using the data as a reference point for our own grant applications and professional development content.

SPACEFINDER IN CANADA

The site was active in 11 instances across Canada. The expansion of SpaceFinder in Canada has grown ABO's provincial and national reach to arts organizations who can access our in-person and remote programs. Unfortunately, Fractured Atlas gave us notice that they are discontinuing support of the platform in mid-2020 so planning began to communicate this to all our partners and the venues. Future thought will be given to a possible replacement for the tool.

MOVING FORWARD

2020/21 will be spent executing grants from the Department of Canadian Heritage, Canada Council for the Arts, Ontario Trillium Foundation, and Ontario Arts Council; fulfilling our expanded role at 44 Gaukel; and mitigating the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on our projects, operations, and sector. We will also spend the year sourcing revenue generation opportunities for 21/22 to secure our ability to offer programs, resources and tools that respond the current needs of creative spaces.

2019 – 2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kristian Clarke, President

Chris Plunkett, Vice-President

Bill Ralph, Treasurer

Zainub Verjee, Advisory Chair

Nisha Dhaliwal

Bryn Jones

Thea Kurdi

Shirley Madill

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Artist Run Centres and Collectives of Ontario

Akin Collective

Ontario Presents

Canada Dance Festival

Dance Ontario

Galerie du Nouvel-Ontario, in collaboration with Association

des groupes en arts visuels francophones

Ontario Association of Art Galleries (OAAG)

Professional Association of Canadian Theatres (PACT)

Le Théâtre du Nouvel-Ontario

Theatre Ontario

Toronto Alliance for the Performing Arts (TAPA)

CONTACT INFORMATION

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ARTSBUILD ONTARIO FUNDERS

The Department of Canadian Heritage, Ontario Trillium Foundation, Canada Council for the Arts, Ontario Arts Council, and Government of Ontario have provided funding to ArtsBuild Ontario's many initiatives. We would like to acknowledge the continued support of these generous funders.



Canada



TREASURER'S REPORT

ArtsBuild Ontario Charitable Organization

Highlights from Audited Financial Statements

For the period April 1 2019 – March 31 2020

Revenue

Public sector grants	\$ 192 999
Programs	94 279

In kind	30 000
Project partners	63 392
Sponsorships	0

Other	2 344
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TOTAL REVENUE \$ 383 014

Expense

Human Resources	\$219 989
Program	42 914

In kind expenses	30 000
Operations	37 461

Professional fees	32 921
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Marketing	2 868
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Conference	4 005
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Evaluation	408
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Other	55
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TOTAL EXPENSE \$366 616

NET INCOME \$ 16 398

UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS,

BEGINNING OF YEAR \$ 93 022

UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS, \$ 109 420

END OF YEAR

ArtsBuild Ontario's complete audited financial statements are available upon request.