

EXECUTIVE CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

The SPRE Arts Space Lab:

The Social Purpose Real Estate Incubator for Arts Leaders

A professional development initiative from ArtsBuild Ontario and The Creative School at Toronto Metropolitan University.



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Navigating property development is a critical challenge for arts organizations across Ontario. Whether facing urban displacement due to volatile commercial rents or battling a lack of dedicated cultural infrastructure in rural and mid-sized communities, arts leaders are rarely equipped with the specialized financial, legal, and real estate training required to secure permanent spaces.

The SPRE Arts Space Lab is a dynamic asset incubator designed to transform abstract real estate concepts into actionable organizational security. Moving far beyond passive lecture structures, this hybrid program guides participants step-by-step through the creation of a tailored, professionally vetted Space Vision Plan and Pitch Deck.

The experience culminates in a live Capstone Showcase, giving leaders a direct pipeline to pitch their spatial models to institutional funders, municipal officials, and community developers.



KEY PROGRAM METRICS



Term: Fall 2026



Duration: 8 Weeks
(September 18 – November 6, 2026)



Format: Hybrid
(Alternating synchronous Friday afternoons and asynchronous platform elements, and local site labs)



Target Audience: Mid-to-senior arts managers, executive directors, facility operators, and cultural collective organizers across Ontario



Program Tuition: \$500 CAD
(Capped at 50 participants per cohort)



Credential: Certificate of Completion co-issued by ArtsBuild Ontario and TMU



EVALUATION ARCHITECTURE & CERTIFICATE REQUIREMENTS

To earn the Certificate of Completion, participants must actively build out their project portfolio according to the following baseline weighting matrix:



15%

Organizational Space Readiness Assessment
(Due Week 2)



15%

Debt Capital Stack & Finance Model
(Due Week 3)



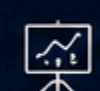
10%

Climate Resilience & Eco-Retrofit Project Plan
(Due Week 6)



10%

Spatial Equity & Accessibility Action Plan
(Due Week 6)



50%

Completed Space Vision Plan & Capstone Pitch
(Presented Week 8)



Participants who successfully complete all requirements will receive a Certificate of Completion co-issued by ArtsBuild Ontario and TMU.



CAPPED AT 50 PARTICIPANTS PER COHORT

A highly interactive, cohort-based experience designed for impact, connection, and measurable results.



LEARN MORE & REGISTER

Secure your spot and be the first to know when applications open.

learn.artsbuildontario.ca/products/courses/spre-arts-space-lab

QUESTIONS?



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WHY THIS PROGRAM?

Arts organizations across Ontario are facing unprecedented pressure.



Rising
commercial
rents



Aging
buildings



Growing
demand for
space



Lack of capital
and real estate
expertise



Increasing
competition
for space



Climate
adaptation
needs



Accessibility
requirements



Complex
municipal
processes

The SPRE Arts Space Lab equips leaders with the knowledge, tools, and networks to make informed, strategic real estate decisions that strengthen organizations and communities for the long term.

WHO SHOULD APPLY?

This program is designed for organizations and professionals who are ready to lead change through space.



Mid-to-senior
arts managers,
executive directors,
facility operators,
and cultural
collective organizers
across Ontario



Arts leaders and
practitioners
seeking to grow
their impact
through space
and infrastructure



Community builders
and changemakers
creating more
accessible and
inclusive places
for the arts



Emerging and
mid-career
professionals
building skills and
networks in SPRE

LEARNING INFRASTRUCTURE & LOGISTICS



Primary Portal

All course readings, templates, peer-learning forums, and submission portals are housed securely on the dedicated program platform.



Asynchronous Access

Recorded versions of live sessions and resources remain available for 24 hours after upload, allowing participants to learn on their own schedule.



Geographic Flexibility

For participants joining from outside major transit corridors, all sessions feature full 3D interactive walkthroughs and synchronized virtual peer sessions.

THE 8-MODULE CURRICULUM STRUCTURE

1



DEMYSTIFYING SPRE — BUILDING THE FOUNDATION FOR ARTS INFRASTRUCTURE

Build a shared understanding of Social Purpose Real Estate (SPRE) and its potential to strengthen the arts and culture sector.

2



NAVIGATING THE PROPERTY MARKET — LEASES, ZONING, AND SPATIAL RIGHTS

Understand property terminology, evaluate opportunities, and navigate zoning, legislation, and lease constraints.

3



BUILDING THE CAPITAL STACK — SOCIAL FINANCE AND ALTERNATIVE FUNDING

Explore funding models, partnerships, and financing strategies to build a viable capital plan.

4



MANAGING THE FOOTPRINT — OPERATIONAL AND SPATIAL SUSTAINABILITY

Plan for operational excellence, facility management, and long-term financial and asset sustainability.

5



FUTURE-PROOFING CREATIVE SPACES — ECO-RETROFITS AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE

Integrate environmental responsibility and climate action into space planning and asset management.

6



CENTERING LAND AND ACCESS — FOUNDATIONAL EQUITY IN PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT

Advance Indigenous sovereignty, radical accessibility, and decolonial design in real estate development.

7



MASTERING THE PITCH — SYSTEMIC ADVOCACY AND REAL ESTATE NEGOTIATION

Develop negotiation skills, advocate for policy change, and engage stakeholders to move projects forward.

8



THE CAPSTONE SHOWCASE — LAUNCHING YOUR SPACE VISION PLAN

Synthesize learning into an actionable space strategy and pitch to a panel of real estate professionals, municipal leaders, and institutional funders.

Empowering
arts leaders
to secure space,
build assets, and
strengthen the
cultural fabric
of Ontario.



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