



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Guelph's new online Arts Hub launched**

**Guelph, ON** – July 29, 2021 – Guelph Arts Council's new website, still found at our online home [guelpharts.ca](http://guelpharts.ca), offers new and improved online services for members, organizations, and the Guelph-Wellington community. Arts Hub visitors can access an arts and culture events calendar, read arts news articles, discover program offerings, find resources, and browse a member directory, within a site with a revamped look and integrated accessibility tools.

The site also hosts new features. The **online store** is an exciting addition that allows the Guelph-Wellington community to connect with and support local artists. Guelpharts.ca serves as a central online location for members of Guelph's arts community to showcase their work, and for community members to browse and shop local artwork, music, books, and more.

Guelph's Arts Hub also features an **events calendar** that promotes local cultural events: exhibitions, concerts, performances, screenings, readings, tours, festivals, workshops, and more. GAC members can promote their events through the calendar and anyone browsing the site can find events to attend.

For those in search of resources, the new website provides a **digital resource library** to serve professional development, space and venue, arts education, funding, and other resource needs. The site also includes **opportunities** in the cultural sector: job postings, calls for submission, and volunteer roles.

GAC's membership includes artists and organizations from many creative disciplines. To help showcase their work, the new site features a filterable **Member Directory**, complete with member profiles. This feature is helpful for anyone looking to connect with specific types of artists to book performances, commission works, or learn artistic practices.

Both artist and organizational members can now access and update their member profiles to include bios; photo, video, and audio examples of work; and links to social media. GAC offers a training package and one-on-one assistance as needed so members can get started on the new site.

GAC invites new members, including established and emerging individual artists and groups, to join. Membership is accessible to all on a pick-your-price basis. We extend a special invitation to BIPOC, LGBTQ2S+, newcomer, youth, low-income, d/Deaf artists, and artists with disabilities to get involved. Membership information is posted [here](#).

GAC is also looking forward to developing partnerships with other cultural organizations as site Content Partners. Content Partners share featured content in the News and Resources sections to help build the digital resources available on the site. GAC is grateful to our launch Content Partners

Guelph Museums, Vocamus Press, Eden Mills Writers' Festival, and Otherwise Studios. Groups interested in becoming Content Partners or learning more can contact [administration@guelpharts.ca](mailto:administration@guelpharts.ca).

Web development and design of [guelpharts.ca](http://guelpharts.ca) is by Barking Dog Studios. We are grateful for their expertise and support, as well as for that of the dedicated GAC volunteers who contributed to this project over two years.

We acknowledge the project support of the **Canada Council for the Arts**.

***About Guelph Arts Council:***

Since 1975, Guelph Arts Council has been dedicated to supporting, stimulating, and promoting arts and culture in Guelph. Guelph Arts Council is funded in part by **The Guelph Community Foundation** and **City of Guelph**. We also acknowledge the support of the **Ontario Arts Council**, an agency of the Government of Ontario.

***About Canada Council for the Arts:***

The Canada Council for the Arts is Canada's public arts funder, with a mandate to foster and promote the study and enjoyment of, and the production of works in, the arts. The Council champions and invests in artistic excellence through a broad range of grants, services, prizes and payments to professional Canadian artists and arts organizations. Its work ensures that excellent, vibrant and diverse art and literature engages Canadians, enriches their communities and reaches markets around the world. The Council also raises public awareness and appreciation of the arts through its communications, research and arts promotion activities. It is responsible for the Canadian Commission for UNESCO, which promotes the values and programs of UNESCO in Canada to contribute to a more peaceful, equitable and sustainable future. The Canada Council Art Bank operates art rental programs and helps further public engagement with contemporary arts.

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