

# ANNUAL **2020** REPORT



**GUELPH ARTS  
COUNCIL**

**Communications  
Resources for Learning  
Cultural Programs and  
Partnerships**

**GAC  
2020**

# **GUELPH ARTS COUNCIL**

## ANNUAL REPORT 2020

### Communications

Advocacy

Communications: [guelpharts.ca](http://guelpharts.ca), *What's On* and *Your Guelph Arts Stories* e-news, social media

Member communications: online event calendar, web profiles, brochure/poster display

### Resources for Learning

Member services: consultations

[guelpharts.ca/resources-overview](http://guelpharts.ca/resources-overview)

Guelph Emerging Artist Mentorship Project

GAC Jane Graham Award

GAC Youth Opportunities Award

Workshops & Networking

### Cultural Programs and Partnerships

10C Exhibitions

Art on the (Virtual) Street

Cultural Tours

Doors Open Guelph (Digital)

Historical Walking Tours

Sue Richards Artist Relief Fund

Community Partnerships – Calls to Artists, Cultural Programs, Project & Start-Up Partnerships

## **2020/21 DIRECTORS**

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## **2020/21 STAFF**

Patti Broughton, Executive Director  
Preetam Sengupta, Co-Manager of Programs & Operations  
Fan-Ling Suen, Co-Manager of Programs & Operations (to April 1, 2021)  
Paige Bromby, Co-Manager of Programs & Operations (from May 1, 2021)

## **2020/21 CONTRACT STAFF**

Ahmri Vandeborne, Communications & Events Assistant (Summer Position 2020)  
Michael Crha, Digital Strategies Assistant (Co-op Position, Winter 2021)  
Elly Grant, Communications & Outreach Assistant (Winter 2021)  
Elly Grant, Digital Strategies Assistant (Summer Position 2021)  
James Florio, Communications & Events Assistant (Summer Position 2021)  
Susan Ratcliffe, Doors Open Guelph Coordinator

## **ABOUT GUELPH ARTS COUNCIL**

Guelph Arts Council (GAC) is a community resource, a registered charity, and a cultural hub for artists, arts groups, and audiences. Founded in 1975, GAC was one of Ontario's first community arts councils. GAC has worked to build the cultural heart of Guelph by helping new cultural initiatives take flight, and by collaborating to create a thriving creative city. We support Guelph's creative community, engage Guelph's residents and visitors with the arts, and promote the benefits of the arts for individuals and communities.

### **Mission**

Championing and growing opportunities for Guelph's creative community through communications, resources for learning, and cultural programs and partnerships.

### **Vision**

To cultivate a vibrant city that integrates the arts into all community building.

### **Values**

Our values are rooted in our belief in the intrinsic value of artists and the arts, and their ability to inspire positive transformation for individuals and communities.

### **Strategic Goals**

- Increase opportunities for the creative community to learn, work, and thrive in Guelph
- Grow connections and collaboration in the arts and between community sectors
- Advocate for and support: economic investment in arts and culture initiatives, including cultural planning and creative spaces, that enhance Guelph's economic development and quality of life
- Increase the engagement of residents and visitors with Guelph's artists and arts programs
- Promote understanding and respect for: the value of the arts for individuals and communities the diversity of creative practice.

## **LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

The land we create on today, and all of Turtle Island, has been under the stewardship of Indigenous peoples, and has been the site of Indigenous creativity, since time immemorial. Guelph Arts Council recognizes that the land we work on and are inspired by are ancestral lands of the First Peoples and the treaty lands and territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit. We offer respect to the First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples of this land – past, present and future. We recognize the significance of the Two Row Wampum Treaty in characterizing our promise of peace and friendship as we journey side by side. We also recognize our responsibility to truth and healing as we strive to build new relationships and a new future. We commit to elevating Indigenous voices through our work. We are grateful and honoured to

have the opportunity to gather, celebrate, create, and learn on this land.

## **STATEMENT ON SYSTEMIC RACISM**

In 2021, Guelph Arts Council's Board issued [a statement](#) recognizing that GAC needs to do more to actively cultivate the inclusion of Black People, Indigenous People, and People of Colour (BIPOC) on our Board of Directors, in other volunteer and staff roles, and in our membership, programs, and communications in order to identify and remove barriers to participation that are unique to these groups.

## **LOCATION**

Guelph Arts Council's office/resource centre is in Guelph's centre for social change, 10C Shared Space, at 42 Carden Street.

## **MANAGEMENT**

Guelph Arts Council is governed by a volunteer Board representing a broad cross-section of the community. An Executive Director, Co-Managers of Programs & Operations, project coordinators, and many volunteers assist the Board in implementing its programs and policies.

## **2020/21 PROGRAMS & SERVICES**

### **Communications**

In 2020, Guelph Arts Council promoted its members and their activities to the broader community and shared arts stories, opportunities, and resources through [guelpharts.ca](#), *What's On* and *Your Guelph Arts Stories e-news*, and **social media**. We published 24 e-newsletters and managed our online **Events Calendar** and **Member Directory**. Due to COVID-19 and the closure of our office at 10C Shared Space, our focus was on sharing members' digital material.

**Advocacy:** Through our communications and other outreach work, including meetings and participation in community events, GAC promoted arts impact, created awareness of arts issues, connected the public with the creative community, and connected artists with each other. The focus of our issues-oriented communications was the impact of the pandemic on the cultural sector. Specific 2020 initiatives included: delegating to Guelph's City Council in support of the renewal of emergency and tourism recovery support, presenting to the provincial Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs on COVID-19 impacts on the cultural sector, and supporting Guelph Public Library's call for a new central library.

**Strategic Initiatives:** In 2019 GAC established a Website Committee, which conducted research, analysis, and needs assessment related to [guelpharts.ca](#). Due to the age of the site and our need to respond to artists' emerging digital needs in the pandemic context, we applied to the Canada Council for the Arts Digital Strategy Fund in 2020. Our application was approved and, in November, we launched a digital arts hub development project with Barking Dog Studios. Our new site, featuring improved accessibility, search functionality, and e-commerce capabilities, was launched July 26, 2021.

## Resources for Learning

Guelph Arts Council produced and maintained resources, programs, and services that assisted staff in responding to inquiries from artists, arts groups, residents, and visitors seeking arts-related information or guidance.

**Member services:** GAC advised emerging and established artists and arts organizations on career and organizational development through consultations on grants, projects, resources, opportunities, and program development/delivery.

**Online:** Through [guelpharts.ca](http://guelpharts.ca) and our **e-news** and **social media channels**, GAC promoted Calls to Artists, cultural job postings, and professional development resources and opportunities.

**GAC Jane Graham Memorial Award:** Jane Graham was a much-loved and respected visual artist living and working in the Guelph area for many years prior to her untimely death in 2005. Donations to GAC in her memory made possible the creation of the Guelph Arts Council Jane Graham Memorial Fund at The Guelph Community Foundation. With funds generated annually by the Fund, GAC offers an award for a visual artist(s) to pursue professional development opportunities that will contribute to individual personal artistic growth. The 2020 Award was shared by artists **Anita Cazzola** and **Abby Nowakowski**.

**GAC Youth Opportunities Award:** Established in 2009 to take the place of a previous youth awards program, the Guelph Arts Council Youth Opportunities Award encourages programs that initiate, enhance, or expand opportunities for Guelph and Wellington County children and youth to experience or become engaged in the arts. Funds for the award come from the Guelph Arts Council Youth Opportunities Fund managed by The Guelph Community Foundation. **Deanna Kruger** was the recipient of the 2020 Award.

**Workshops & Networking:** In 2020 GAC partnered in delivering eight professional development sessions for the arts community. With the University of Guelph's **School of Fine Art and Music** and the **Art Gallery of Guelph** we presented **Opportunity Knocks: Re-imagining Your Arts Career** on January 30. On February 27, we partnered with **ArtsBuild Ontario** in presenting a Learn It Build It Manage It session. After the pandemic began, we pivoted our learning programs online, and delivered them as free webinars, in partnership with **Business Centre Guelph-Wellington** and **2h media**. The sessions ran from August 19 to November 12 and included: **Introduction to e-Commerce, Creating a New Audience on LinkedIn, Contracts and Commissions, Art Business in Digital and Physical Spaces, and Career Rebuilding**.

For more information:

[Guelph Arts Council Announces New Services for Local Artists](#)

[Guelph Arts Council Offers Free Workshops to Help Creative Workers and Businesses Recover from Pandemic Losses](#)

These workshops, along with the **Sharefest** event held in conjunction with our virtual spring AGM (May 21) and virtual exhibition openings for [Mariel Clayton](#) (August 20) and the [Lonely Together – Guelph Emerging Artist Mentorship Project](#) (November 26) culminating project, created opportunities for Guelph's creative community to network and share.

**Guelph Emerging Artist Mentorship Project**: This project supports emerging artists in the critical transition from academic to professional life. Due to the impact of COVID-19, only one round ran in 2020, in the fall with 11 participants. In the first seven rounds of the project, 58 emerging musicians, visual artists, and cultural managers were paired with 35 Guelph artist mentors. GAC is grateful for 2020 project support from **RBC Emerging Artists Project** and **University of Guelph – School of Fine Art and Music**.

## **Cultural Programs and Partnerships**

**10C Shared Space Exhibition Program**: In 2020, GAC applied successfully to **The Guelph Community Foundation – Musagetes Fund** for funds to continue the exhibition program at **10C Shared Space**. This support helped GAC present the work of members **Fern Cooper, Mariel Clayton, Maureen Ault, Megan Sanderson, and Taras Lachowsky** in [2020 solo exhibitions](#).

**Art on the (Virtual) Street**: Due to COVID-19, *Art on the Street* was presented online as *Art on the (Virtual) Street* from June 20 to July 4 at [guelphartsevents.com](http://guelphartsevents.com). The online event created 52 opportunities for local artists to showcase and sell their work. GAC extends a special thank-you to our event partner, **Downtown Guelph Business Association**.

**Collector's Dilemma**: GAC's Fund Development Committee held the third annual **Collector's Dilemma** event in support of Guelph Arts Council's programs and services as an online auction from April 16 to 30. Thanks to the generosity of local art collectors who supported the successful fundraiser, an amazing collection of quality artwork was sold online, raising \$8,385 for GAC programs.

**Cultural Tours**: In April 2020 the 22nd annual tour, *Central Europe from the Carpathians to the Danube*, was cancelled due to COVID-19 travel restrictions. These annual tours, delivered by **Pauwels Travel & Tours** and which benefit GAC, are organized by retired Executive Director Sally Wismer, who remains one of our most dedicated volunteers.

**Doors Open Guelph**: Presented by GAC since 2002, **Doors Open Guelph** engages Guelph's residents and visitors with Guelph's cultural, creative, and innovation heritage. In 2020, we were planning an in-person event for Saturday, April 25, but the COVID-19 pandemic required us to pivot to online programming. [Digital Doors Open Guelph \(D.O.G. Tales\)](#) took the form of narrated tour videos highlighting the unique stories of each featured site. Digital tours were released on [guelphartsevents.com](http://guelphartsevents.com) weekly from August 25 – September 30, ending with a bonus video in the last full week of the program. We are grateful for the support of our Doors Open sites, sponsors, and Steering Committee volunteers for sticking with us through our digital pivot, and to Fan-Ling Suen, Ahmri Vandeborne and Scott McGovern for their masterful coordination and video production.

**Historical Walking Tours**: For over 30 years, with the support of dedicated volunteers, Guelph Arts Council has promoted the cultural heritage of Guelph by offering six different walking tours on selected Sundays from April to October (excluding July). Proceeds from the tours benefit GAC. Because the tours happen outdoors, we were able to deliver a [half season in 2020](#), with COVID safety protocols and advance booking. Special thanks to 2020 program sponsor **Downtown Guelph Business Association**.

**Sue Richards Artist Relief Fund**: In 2017 GAC received a bequest from the estate of beloved Guelph artist Sue Richards that facilitated the December 2019 relaunch of this program. The **Guelph Arts**

**Council Sue Richards Artist Relief Fund** provides emergency financial relief to local artists living with debilitating health issues.

**Community Partnerships/Strategic Initiatives:** GAC is grateful for its ongoing arts programming partnership with **10C**, with whom we collaborate on arts programming at 10C Shared Space.

In 2020 our partnerships with 10 Carden and Business Centre Guelph-Wellington continued to help us broaden our network and the reach of our services. Through these partnerships, we help artists build professional networks, gain skills, and access opportunities, and grow awareness of the benefits of the arts for individuals and communities.

Our partnership with 10C grew in 2020: a mutual goal is the development of an [Artist in Residence](#) program that will elevate Indigenous artists' voices and engage stakeholders and the public in conversations on art and community. In 2020 we began work to develop a pilot project, supported by the Ontario Trillium Foundation, that built on our initial research and engagement.

## 2020 MEMBERSHIP

Members of Guelph Arts Council strengthen the arts community by lending their voices and support, and sharing their successes, challenges, and creativity with us. In 2020, GAC had the support of the following Lifetime, Artist, Organizational, and Arts Supporter members:

### Lifetime Members

Sally & John Wismer

### Artist Members

Oxanna Adams  
Grazyna Adamska-Jarecka  
Lucya Almeida  
Canan Altinkas  
Dawn Anderson Vaughan  
Jennifer Antler-Menominee  
Kenneth Armstrong  
Holly Atkinson  
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Julie Fleming  
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Richelle Forsey  
Sylvia Galbraith  
Nathan Gatten  
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Natalie Goss  
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Art Gallery of Guelph  
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Drayton Entertainment  
Ed Video  
Eden Mills Writers' Festival  
Elora Arts Council  
Elora Centre for The Arts  
Elora Community Theatre  
Grand River Bead Society  
Grey Wellington Theatre  
Guild

Heather Grummet, Creative  
Edge  
Guelph Black Heritage  
Society  
Guelph Chamber Choir  
Guelph Concert Band  
Guelph Dance  
Guelph Folk Collective  
Guelph Historical Society  
Guelph Little Theatre  
Guelph Potters Guild  
Guelph Studio Tour  
Guelph Youth Singers  
Janet Johnson, Portal Dance  
Project  
Kiwanis Music Festival of  
Guelph  
Knox Presbyterian Church  
Kathy Lawrence  
Lisa Martini-Dunk

Atelier of Laura Lee  
Moreland  
Necessary Arts Company  
New Life Church  
Overzealous  
Passionate Heart  
Potters' Market  
Rainbow Chorus of  
Waterloo-Wellington  
Royal City Musical  
Productions  
Royal City School of Ballet  
and Jazz  
Royal City Studios  
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Silence  
Taste Detours  
The Downtown Theatre  
Project  
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## GUELPH ARTS COUNCIL

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Guelph Arts Council is deeply grateful for the support of the following donors during the past year. Donors of \$20 or more, who are not Artist or Organizational members, also receive a complimentary Arts Supporter Membership. GAC also thanks 11 anonymous donors.

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## GUELPH ARTS COUNCIL

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Daphne Smith  
Diana Smith – The Clearing\*  
Marion Steele  
Jennifer Storey

Rosemary Sutherland  
Marilyn Swaby  
Joan Todd\*  
John Vanderheide  
Wyndham Art Supplies

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Judith Kingdon  
Nancy MacDonald  
Anne MacKay  
Ella Pauls

Barbara Shaw  
George Todd  
Sally & John Wismer

\* Monthly Donors

## 2020 VOLUNTEERS

During the past year, many of Guelph Arts Council's activities were made possible with the support of the following volunteers:

Tammy Adkin\*  
Mirali Almaula\*  
Toni Andrews\*  
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Khongor Bat-Erdene  
Claire Beauchamp\*  
Ken Braithwaite\*  
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