



## WOODSTOCK ART GALLERY

### September 13, 2022: Director/Curator Report

The Education Team tracked several successes over the summer. Being tasked with the challenge to re-imagine the summer art classes offering with a tighter connection the Gallery's core mandate activities was a real game changer. Tracking almost full registration the summer programs well exceeded budget projections. Other accomplishments include three very well attended (120+ people/per session) Open Studio drop-in programs as well as taking part in several community events in public spaces. Moreover, the Education Team also developed and launched a tour guide app with the assistance of an ad hoc senior advisory committee with funding provided by the Province of Ontario and the Government of Canada. At the end of the summer, we said goodbye to our four Education student assistants and intern as they moved forward in their academic pursuits this fall.

School programs are already being booked well into the balance of the year and the fall education offerings have been finalized and will roll out in the coming weeks. I want to commend the Education Team for all their hard work, flexibility, and boundless creativity during a very full and busy summer cycle.

In terms of public art, the Public Art Bike Rack Project has been launched with a special offer to local classes to foster additional participation. As well, the contract has been signed with Nicholas Crombach, who was awarded the Bruce Flowers Public Art Sculpture Commission. This piece will be installed in fall of 2023.

Jessica Benjak-Waterous, Head of Collections started on June 20 and has already proven to be quite the dynamo. In the past 2 ½ months she has:

- written a grant application to the Elizabeth Gordon Art Program to assist with the purchase of two paintings, *Remembrance* and *The Gathering* by Maxine Noel
- drafted an RFP for a consultant to help produce a Digitization Strategy for the Collection. This work included reviewing the submissions, contacting references, facilitating the discovery process, and finalizing the selection of consultant.

This is in addition to playing key role in the planning, development, and coordination of the fall exhibition line up and preparing for the upcoming Collections Committee meeting. She was also able to attend the Institute for Curatorial Inquiry 5-day



449 Dundas Street, Woodstock ON N4S 1C2  
PO Box 1539, Woodstock ON N4S 0A7  
519-539-6761 • [wagin@cityofwoodstock.ca](mailto:wagin@cityofwoodstock.ca)

[woodstockartgallery.ca](http://woodstockartgallery.ca)



## WOODSTOCK ART GALLERY

conference in Kingston, ON. She is currently on a well-deserved vacation and will be joining the Board for the October meeting to be formally introduced to everyone.

Working in tandem with Jessica, Kellen Hodgins, Facilities Maintenance installed additional racking as well as facilitated generator backup power in secondary vault space on the second floor. Phase two of the third-floor installation was also completed this summer.

Sara Cuthbert, Gallery Operations Coordinator has played a key role in the back-end organization of several important initiatives including Art in the Park, Taste of Art Selects, and Membership Strategy development. She is also the lead on the Gallery receiving a Rainbow Registered Accreditation from Canada's LGBT+ Chamber of Commerce (CGLCC). As well she has been the Gallery's point person in being involved and sharing the resources from the Indigenous Curatorial Collective. This is in addition to onboarding the summer students as well as the Head of Collections.

For the upcoming National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on September 30<sup>th</sup> Sara has ordered pins from Indigenous artist, Haley Porter. There are pins for the Board. Please collect yours from the front desk prior to end of September.

In addition to drafting and presenting to City Council with a more robust Public Art Policy and Intellectual Property Policy, I also successfully secured approval for \$235185.00 towards the renovation of the Gallery's 4th floor conditional on a successful outcome of the Green and Inclusive Community Buildings (GICB) grant. The dossier of the grant request has now moved up to the Minister's office for approval. We should learn the outcome by end of December 2022.

### Recent Media:

*Heart FM*, "WAG hosting interactive drop-in event today." July 12, 2022.

<https://www.heartfm.ca/news/local-news/wag-hosting-interactive-drop-in-event-today/>

*Heart FM*, "WAG launches two new exhibits." July 18, 2022.

<https://www.heartfm.ca/news/local-news/wag-launches-two-new-exhibits/>



449 Dundas Street, Woodstock ON N4S 1C2  
PO Box 1539, Woodstock ON N4S 0A7  
519-539-6761 • [waginfo@cityofwoodstock.ca](mailto:waginfo@cityofwoodstock.ca)

[woodstockartgallery.ca](http://woodstockartgallery.ca)



## WOODSTOCK ART GALLERY

Reilly Knowles, *Woodstock Sentinel-Review*, "ArtCity: Out of the vault and off to New York." July 21, 2022. <https://www.woodstocksentinelreview.com/opinion/artcity-out-of-the-vault-and-off-to-new-york>

Heart FM, "Woodstock Art Gallery to host last summer drop-in today." August 9, 2022. <https://www.heartfm.ca/news/local-news/woodstock-art-gallery-to-host-last-summer-drop-in-today/>

*Woodstock Sentinel-Review*, "Woodstock's first public art commission awarded to Canadian sculptor." August 15, 2022. <https://www.woodstocksentinelreview.com/news/woodstocks-first-public-art-commission-awarded-to-canadian-sculptor>

Marcie Culbert, *Heart FM*, "Wind Vane to be installed in Bruce Flowers Sculpture Garden." August 16, 2022. <https://www.heartfm.ca/news/local-news/wind-vane-to-be-installed-in-bruce-flowers-sculpture-garden/>

Maya Allison, *Woodstock Sentinel-Review*, "Discovering my passions at the Woodstock Art Gallery." August 18, 2022. <https://www.woodstocksentinelreview.com/opinion/discovering-my-passions-at-the-woodstock-art-gallery>

*Woodstock Sentinel-Review*, "New public art project will help promote cycling in Woodstock." August 29, 2022. <https://www.woodstocksentinelreview.com/news/local-news/new-public-art-project-will-help-promote-cycling-in-woodstock>

Robert Van Ryswyck, *Heart FM*, "Woodstock Art Gallery contest aims to beautify city." August 30, 2022. <https://www.heartfm.ca/news/local-news/woodstock-art-gallery-contest-aims-to-beautify-city/>



449 Dundas Street, Woodstock ON N4S 1C2  
PO Box 1539, Woodstock ON N4S 0A7  
519-539-6761 • [waginfo@cityofwoodstock.ca](mailto:waginfo@cityofwoodstock.ca)

[woodstockartgallery.ca](http://woodstockartgallery.ca)