



WOODSTOCK ART GALLERY

February 13, 2024: Director/Curator Report

2024 is gearing up to be another active and exciting year for the Gallery. We are just in the midst of turning over all the galleries on the first and second floor and are getting ready for our big Winter Open House on Monday February 19.

I am pleased to introduce Stephan Cam as our new Digital Projects Coordinator. Stephan comes to the Gallery with over a decade of experience and I am confident his skills will greatly enhance and propel the Gallery's digital offerings further forward. The Head of Collections position has been filled and that new team member will join us on March 4. I will share additional details regarding this candidate once they have started with the Gallery.

The Education Department has been active with several programs including a fully registered Creative PA DAY on January 17. The City has also successfully rolled out a new class registration software which went live as of February 1st. This new program involved extensive training, however the results in terms of usability and ease of adoption are already tracking in a positive direction. School tour booking requests are steadily increasing and it is likely that all the available tour dates until June will be committed by the end of the month. Education Intern, Samantha Henderson has been making improvements to the Gallery's Accessibility Guide as well as assisting the Education Department in the delivery of the abovementioned programs. Forthcoming for the Education Team is the rearranging education studio spaces in preparation for upcoming programming to incorporate self-guided activity zones to explore (with monitor on duty).

In addition to painting the galleries for the next round of exhibitions Kellen Hodgins, Facility Maintenance has been dealing with the breakdown and repair of the HVAC unit that services the 3rd floor. For almost a week the Gallery's 3rd floor was without heat. Thankfully the unit was fixed, and I am now following up with the contractor regarding what occurred as the unit was just installed in 2020.

The team at the Front Desk has been updating some of the Gift Shop offerings with new items from local artists as well as new WAG Branded stainless steel mugs. The new year also brings about the year end and data updates including creating new folders, files and spreadsheets for 2024. Due to the positive feedback on the 4 Seasons of Reconciliation course, this training has been secured for new staff and Board members



449 Dundas Street, Woodstock ON N4S 1C2
PO Box 1539, Woodstock ON N4S 0A7
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to undertake at their own pace. The 2023 Community Report is also in production with a release date anticipated for early March.

Keziah Hope, Front Desk Attendant, has also provided valued assistance in the coordination of the *Visual Elements 65: Annual Juried Exhibition* artwork appointment pick-ups as well as creating condition reports and shipping labels for *In Conversation: Ron Shuebrook & Frances Thomas* travelling exhibition.

In preparation for the Gallery's 4th floor we are hosting two Community Consultation sessions on February 28 and March 2nd. The information gleaned from these sessions along with that gathered from meetings with colleagues at Museum London and the Ottawa Art Gallery will be worked into the RFP for architectural drawings and construction scope.

Below is the Gallery's recent media coverage and Sprout report for December and January. The drop in the Gallery's Sprout numbers, is largely because we've been posting less frequently over the last two months. It was relatively quiet with programming and events wrapping up in early December and then the holiday closure. In January, we held off on pushing programs while we were transitioning to the new class registration software to avoid too much confusion. We're also in the middle of the exhibition changeover and we try not to start promoting the new exhibitions too far in advance. Ultimately, as things start ramping up in the spring and summer, we should see those numbers bounce back.

Recent Media:

Matthew Ryan Smith, Centred.ca, Dec. 15, 2023, "In Conversation: Ron Shuebrook and Frances Thomas." <https://centred.ca/in-conversation-ron-shuebrook-and-frances-thomas/>

Mary Reid, Woodstock Sentinel-Review, Dec. 20, 2023, "ArtCity: Ending the year with gratitude." <https://www.woodstocksentinelreview.com/opinion/columnists/artcity-ending-the-year-with-gratitude>

Mary Reid, Woodstock Sentinel-Review, Feb. 1, 2024, "ArtCity: My Favourite Day, Family Day!" Print.



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Sprout Report:



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