



WOODSTOCK ART GALLERY

May 14, 2024: Director/Curator Report

During the first week of May we said goodbye to Roxanne Tocher's very popular installation "I am driven by colour" in the Community Gallery and installed the inspiring results of the artist in the school mentorship program "Creative Pathways." Since November 2023 local artist Lindsay Liboiron has been working with Woodstock Collegiate Institute's Arts and Culture Special High Skills Major students to create a series of thoughtful paintings exploring the theme of nostalgia. This project has been generously supported by Dj Design. There was also a turnover of the front foyer now featuring the shortlisted proposals for the Florence Carlyle Public Art Commission. Both projects as well as the announcement of the Friends of the Woodstock Art Gallery Legacy Scholarship award and the official dedication of the Bruce Flowers Sculpture Garden will be celebrated on Saturday June 8 from 1 to 3pm at the Gallery.

As the Gallery's programming moves towards the end of the school year, the frequency of school tours has steadily increased. Public programs will begin to wind down during the month of May as the Education Team starts to make the transition to the summer workshop classes. The summer will launch with a Family Open Studio drop-in program on Wednesday July 3 from 10am to 2pm, which is being supported by Kingsmen Group Inc.

You will see a number of new faces at Gallery this summer. We have hired four bright stars that will assist the Gallery in Education, Collections, Exhibitions and Front Desk operations from May to August. These student employment positions have been supported by the following grants: Canada Summer Jobs, Young Canada Works, and Ontario Summer Experience. Additionally, the end of May will conclude Samantha Henderson, Education Intern's contract with the Gallery. We greatly appreciated the assistance she has provided during her tenure and know that a rewarding future in the cultural industry awaits her. The Gallery has received funding to hire for this intern position again and we anticipate this candidate to be joining the team in June. As for the three other positions that were approved by City Council in the last budget cycle, the custodian position has been posted internally, the installation technician and facility rentals/special events positions are in que with the City's Human Resources department.

As for exhibitions, the tremendous task of the organization of the submissions of the *Visual Elements 66: Annual Juried Exhibition* is underway with the jury taking place on May 29. Danielle Hoevenaars, Head of Collections is making some significant



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

woodstockartgallery.ca



WOODSTOCK ART GALLERY

headway with the Collections Database as well as researching the fall exhibition featuring the work of local artist Betty McArthur (1924 – 1994). She also recently completed a very successful trip to the Minnesota History Centre to glean some key insights on a blockbuster exhibition that the Gallery will potentially mount in the fall of 2026 as part of the City's 125th Anniversary.

Stephan Cam, Digital Projects Coordinator is working closely with the Education team to deploy social content more frequently. At the moment he is also prototype testing a WAG AI Agent. The agent has successfully completed basic tasks such as: identifying the exact number Florence Carlyle objects, arranging specific art objects when given the dimensions of a surface, performing some heuristic results (was able to produce answers, that weren't available from a specific data point, by using data from other sets). This AI agent will be extremely helpful for collections, exhibition development and even public inquiries. Cam is also in the process of producing more robust data for the Gallery's collection. This includes image interpretation (both academic and layman), expanded artist bios, etc.

The front desk has been very active with the organization of the successful donor and volunteer appreciation night on April 17. Keziah Hope, Front Desk Attendant had taken the lead on the Taste of Art fundraiser. The first committee meeting was held. Several of the vendors from last year will be returning and a call to new vendors on the Gallery's website is now live. Sara Cuthbert, Gallery Operations Coordinator has ensured that the onboarding of the summer students has gone smoothly. This is in addition to all her other numerous reporting and administrative tasks related to the gift shop, membership, sponsorship and donor stewardship.

Kellen Hodgins, Facility Maintenance, has converted the first-floor single use public washroom over to keypad entry system to deter visitors from using the washroom for other purposes. He is also working closely with Stephan Cam, Digital Projects Coordinator, to convert the workshop space on the 3rd floor to a photography and video medial studio space.

Robin De Angelis, Communications Specialist for the City, has now moved from the Gallery to join her team over at City Hall. However, she still keeps the Gallery present in the media as evident in the recent What's On Woodstock May/June 2024 issue, the list and social platform results below.



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

woodstockartgallery.ca



WOODSTOCK ART GALLERY

Recent Media:

Samantha Henderson, Woodstock Sentinel-Review, April 11, 2024, "ArtCity: Working as an education intern at the Woodstock Art Gallery."

<https://www.woodstocksentinelreview.com/opinion/columnists/artcity-working-as-an-education-intern-at-the-woodstock-art-gallery>

Woodstock Sentinel-Review, May 9, 2024, "Shortlist revealed for commemorative Florence Carlyle sculpture." <https://www.woodstocksentinelreview.com/news/local-news/shortlist-revealed-for-commemorative-florence-carlyle-sculpture>

Kyle Freel, Heart FM, May 9, 2024, "A Shortlist is Up for Sculpture Contest." <https://www.heartfm.ca/news/local-news/a-shortlist-is-up-for-sculpture-contest/>

What's On Woodstock, May/June 2024, "Creative Pathways: Mentoring young artists." pg. 8. <https://www.cityofwoodstock.ca/en/resourcesGeneral/WOW/2024/wow-mayjune2024-accessible.pdf>

What's On Woodstock, May/June 2024, "June is Bike Month!" pg. 14 –15. <https://www.cityofwoodstock.ca/en/resourcesGeneral/WOW/2024/wow-mayjune2024-accessible.pdf>



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

woodstockartgallery.ca