



Review of Achievements—2022





Table of Contents

An art gallery.....	2
Our vision	2
Our mission	2
Governance.....	2
Our accomplishments	3
Exhibitions.....	3
Special events – community shows	4
Our Intimate Concerts Series	5
Literary talks.....	5
Workshops and educational activities	5
Sensitization and awareness building	6
Collaborations	6
Financing	7
Our people	9
Our volunteers	9
Our partners.....	9
Our sponsors and donors.....	10
Conclusion.....	11



An art gallery...



Phil Arber

The gallery was started in 1994 by Phil Arber, who had recently purchased the Higginson House. In 2007, it was incorporated to become Arbor Gallery – Centre for Contemporary Arts, defining its mission.

In 2013, Arbor Gallery was registered as a charity dedicated to arts and culture. In an effort to incorporate its mission, the operating name was changed to Arbor Gallery Cultural Centre 2016.

In November 2022, we reviewed our legal and operating name, simplifying it and incorporating its French version to Arbor Gallery – Galerie Arbor.

Our vision

Our vision is that of a community where artistic expression and appreciation are lively and recognized as core social and economic assets. We see ourselves as champions of the creative expression of human experience.

Our mission

Our mission is to encourage education and appreciation of all artistic disciplines, including painting, sculpture, writing, photography, puppetry, film, theater, opera, dance and music.

Governance

Mindful of our impact and credibility in the community, we base our decisions and actions on sound principles of governance. We remind ourselves of the five main pillars of good governance: accountability, leadership, integrity, stewardship and transparency.

Changes in the law and regulations have required us to modify our bylaws and many of our approaches. As a registered charitable corporation under the Ontario Nonprofit Corporations Act, we will continue to ensure that we manage the organization efficiently, and under the highest principles of governance.

Our accomplishments

In 2022, as the pandemic slowly tapered off, the Arbor Gallery was able to open for a full year again. This meant we could offer the community a full array of art and cultural experiences and opportunities.

Exhibitions

True to our core purpose, we have continued to be a venue where artists and artisans can display their art monthly. Word about us has spread and our 2023 calendar is already full, showcasing local and out-of-town artists.



Our 2022 exhibition calendar included:

March - ***A Perspective in Ceramic Art***, with sculptor and art teacher André Breau

April - ***Altered States***, an exhibition of artistically altered photos by Jessica Sarrazin

May - ***Just Horsing Around***, with local artists Maggie Dean and Brunhild Schierding

July - ***The Memory of Things***, by abstract visual artist Ronald Headland

August - ***7 Works Collective***, with artists from the West-Carleton Art Society

October - ***Chimerical Creatures***, by Ottawa artist Barb Lougheed

November - ***4 Sisters***, a collective exhibition including local artist Jackie Mueller-Jones and her sisters from Vermont and Quebec City

December - ***Birds of Ontario***, a solo exhibition by local artist Stephanie Pete.



Ronald Headland's Exhibition

The apple on the lawn

The apple, was created by the late sculptor Peter MacElwain along with two other sculptures, around 1994 to be shown at the River Gallery in Tennessee. After Peter's death in 2001, his widow Evelyn Fortier kept the apple on their Lefaivre property. In 2015, Nik Schnell opened an outdoor sculpture garden at his Inkidoo Gallery in St. Eugene. Samme Putzel brought the apple to the Arbor Gallery in 2020.

Fun fact: Peter organized an outdoor sculpture exhibition at the Arbor Gallery in 1997 which ran for a year, surviving the 1998 ice storm.



Peter MacElwain putting final touches to the apple

Special events – community shows

This past year we expanded our community activities, aiming to educate, sensitize and build awareness in our community.

February 2022

In our efforts to reach out to the community and invite upcoming artists to share in the experience and discovery of arts and culture, we welcomed **On Your Mark**, a community exhibition featuring artwork by the students of Stephanie Pete of Art & Dream Studio. Young artists, aged 5 to 18 years displayed their artwork to their families, friends and the community at large.



June 2022



As part of Indigenous History Month, we collaborated with Métis artist Nathalie Coutou who, in her 20's reconnected with her Indigenous heritage through the teachings of Mi'kmaq Elder Stephen Augustine. She was inspired to promote inclusion and reconciliation to further nurture understanding between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people.

She, and her gallery-boutique **Khewa**, shared some art and items from her lines of clothing for the month. She also held two inspiring Talk Circles. In addition, we displayed a private collection of Inuit carvings that was generously loaned by a benefactor.

September 2022

In an exciting collaboration with the Société d'histoire des Filles du Roy (SHFR) and Ouimet Adventures Farm, we displayed **Les banderoles de drapeaux des Filles du Roy**.

This partial exhibit was loaned to us by the SFR and some of its members came to educate and inform our patrons,. On September 25th, Journée des Franco-Ontariens, **Voix de la Neufve France**, a choir affiliated with the SFR which presents traditional French and French-Canadian songs from the 1600's, gave a well- received concert.



November 2022

On November 6, thanks to a grant from Champlain Township, we presented a free puppet show for young children, **Tabletop Stories**, with puppeteer Maria Vuorela.

Christmas Craft Popup Shops

On weekends, from mid-November to the week before Christmas, several artisans and artists ran popup shops in the gallery. They offered an array of original art and crafts for Christmas shoppers.

Magical Fundraiser

In February, during Covid restrictions, magician and mentalist Lawrence Larouche organized a fundraising evening of magic on Zoom to benefit the gallery.



Our Intimate Concerts Series

Taking advantage of the beautiful space and acoustics of the gallery, we presented five Intimate Concerts, with the help of Saken Music's Ken Duff.

April 2022

We presented 2021 Canadian Folk Award nominees **Sussex**, a duo of Michael Emenau on vibraphone and Rob Lutes on guitar.

May 2022

Martin Gibson's Bryan Bowser and Jean Montpetit pleased the crowd with their root music repertoire and lively conversation.

June 2022



Starting the month, Scottish singer-songwriter Simon Kempston made his first visit to the gallery and performed in front of a full house. He will be back at the gallery in September 2023 with a new show and a new album.

Our Father's Day treat to the community was a concert by folk singer-songwriter Lynne Hanson, who also performed to a full house.

July 2022

Tropical heat did not stop a record-breaking crowd from attending intimate jazz pianist Didier Chasteau's concert. He played an inspired rendition of his own compositions.

Literary talks

On Saturday, April 23rd, Tom Cooper read from his amusing books "The Snow Blower-man Cometh" and "Who the Heck Picks the Peck?" following it up with a conversation with the audience.



Tom Cooper's Not a Serious Bone in my body Talk

Workshops and educational activities

The Arbor Gallery also fulfills its mission through education and instruction, offering a venue for a variety of educational activities and workshops. Some of our workshops are collaborative, such as an Improv Workshop with a group of VCI art students who came for a morning of theatrical fun and learning in November.

Sensitization and awareness building



As part of our vision, the Arbor Gallery offers events that will have an impact in the community and in the world. **Shannon Amen – The Exhibition** This combined animated film and art show was a tribute to local artist Shannon Jamieson by her close friend and creative collaborator Chris Dainty. His homage touched many and opened up discussion of suicide prevention and LGBTQ/2S issues, as well as on art and friendship.

Black Dolls to Change the World At the end of pandemic restrictions, we welcomed Gaetan Etoga, co-founder of **YMMA**, a company that specializes in black dolls in African outfits to sensitize children and parents to diversity.



Collaborations

Throughout the year we reached out to others in the community and participated when others reached out to us. This led us to a few exciting events, including:

Porchfest

Reviving an old tradition at the gallery, the local band **50 Proof** kicked off the 2022 Porchfest from our lawn. **50 Proof** have generously helped with our fundraisers and have played on the lawn of the gallery for Porchfest many times.

Art in the Garden

In August, our neighbours from St. John’s Anglican Church organized an outdoor festival featuring artists’ and artisans’ work. We helped by sharing calls for artists and promoting the event to our networks. The event was a great success.



Together for Ukraine

In June, the entire building was used to present a sensitization weekend about the war in Ukraine. Organized by **S’entreprendre ensemble** leader Nathalie Ladouceur, the event consisted of artwork and a conference by Ukrainian refugee Dmytro Gordiienko and Alexandria businessman Luc Chénier, who lived in Kyiv for many years.

Business & Merchant Association (BMA) Photo Contest

In November, we were happy to provide space to the winning and top pictures in the **BMA Photo Contest** for two weeks. Patrons admired the work of talented local photographers.

Christmas Lights Porch Tour

On November 19, more than 350 visitors came to the gallery, many for the first time, as part of the **Christmas Lights Porch Tour**. They not only admired the current exhibition, but shopped at our Pop-up Shops and gift shop while sipping coffee and hot chocolate.



Financing

Behind the scenes – and building a stronger foundation – we have been hard at work solidifying our systems and finances, as well as investigating new sources of financing. We aim to support our artists and artisans and keep our not-for-profit charity viable while reducing the revenue that we take from our artists.

Exhibitions – better fees and conditions for artists and members.

The art gallery operates on a rental model and our exhibition fees have remained the same at \$300/month (\$250 for members).

We now offer two options for transactions between art collectors and artists. The first model is the “connect collector to artist” concept, where collectors can purchase the artwork directly from the artists, mainly by e-transfers or by cash or cheques. The gallery does not retain a commission. The artist’s only gallery expense for their exhibition is the monthly rental.

The second option is the classic model, where all transactions are done through our Square system. For this we input the full inventory of the exhibition and collectors process their purchase through our front desk terminal. In doing this, we have changed our commission from 30% to a 10% administrative fee, to cover paid staff time to input inventory, credit and debit card fees and other administrative costs.

Public Financing

As a charity in Ontario, and under the 2021 Ontario Nonprofit Corporations Act (ONCA), we are now classified as a public benefits organisation, meaning our financing comes from governments and other benefactors.

Government Financing

Improving conditions for our artists and artisans, as well as our financial health, has been made possible with financing from two levels of government.

Champlain Township

Champlain Township has been a partner of the gallery for many years, providing varying amounts of grants. In the last few years, however, we have applied for grants that are operational and help us with many activities, rather than one or two specific ones. The Champlain logo and thanks are displayed on all activities made possible by their generosity.

Ontario Government

In late 2021 and early 2022, the gallery applied and were approved for the Ontario Charitable Gaming Program for Charities. Through this program, proceeds from the Delta Bingo Network are redistributed to eligible charities. Regulations and monitoring of this program are done through successful partnerships with Ontario Lottery and Gaming (OLG), Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO), private sector operators and suppliers (Delta Bingos), and municipalities who issue the permits. This program covers our rent and staff expenses,

leading to greater efficiency and freeing some of our revenue to reinvest in our community activities, events and operations.



Our Donors and Sponsors

One source of financing that has helped us throughout the years is the generous donations received from our friends in the community.

Last year, in collaboration with long term partner *The Review*, we held an Ad Sponsoring Campaign which allowed us to run ads at no cost to the gallery, to promote our events and exhibitions.

Private donors also provided funds that helped solidify our finances and avoid the threat of closure due to the pandemic. Samme Putzel, the gallery's landlord, forgave our rent for the months that we were closed during the pandemic, for which we are very grateful.

Membership

Anyone can become a member of the gallery; no need to be an artist or artisan. Membership fees help provide financial stability for the gallery. We have kept our members' fees at \$40/year (\$60 for a family at a same address) for many years.

Members' benefits include:

- use of the consignment gift shop for artwork
- members' pricing for concerts and ticketed events
- advance information and reservations for events with limited seating
- a members' price on exhibition fees.

Fundraisers

Throughout the years, a strong part of our financing has come from successful fundraisers. The COVID-19 pandemic put a brutal stop to these. Nevertheless, in the summer of 2021 we held a profitable fundraiser on the patio of the Windsor Tavern, with the band **50 Proof**. And as mentioned earlier, mentalist/magician Lawrence Larouche presented his online show **Virtually Impossible!**, generously donating the proceeds.

Our fundraising committee is working on new sources of financing. The gallery now offers monthly donations through CanadaHelps – available on our website. All our donors receive an official tax receipt upon request. We are also setting up a bequest program allowing people to name the gallery as a beneficiary in their wills which provides a tax advantage to their estates.



Our people

The best part of the gallery is not the fine arts and crafts, but the people who surround and support us.

Our volunteers

In a world where it is difficult to find resources, we are fortunate to have many generous and creative volunteers. Our volunteers fulfill many functions.

Gallery Sitting – The face of the gallery to our visitors, our gallery sitters volunteer for one, sometimes two shifts per month. They welcome visitors, answer questions, chat with them and process transactions from our consignment gift shop.

Bingo – As part of the charitable gaming program of Ontario, we must send volunteers to help Delta Bingo in Hawkesbury with some of their light work. Volunteers go to one or two sessions a month in tandem.

Board and Committees – As a charity, Arbor Gallery is managed and operated by a Board of Directors. Our directors are a team of dynamic people from diverse backgrounds who work together to help the gallery to thrive and evolve. Board members are also part of the management team and lead committees such as the fundraising committee, the maintenance team, some specific event work forces, and more.

Board of Directors. Our current Board of Directors is composed of Sylvie Bouchard, Alison Collard, Susie Fairbrother, Bonnie Laing, Garnet Millar and Irene Ogrizek. The team is ably supported by our Coordinator, Josh Clendenin, who handles the day-to-day operations of the gallery and deals with artists and artisans.

Our partners

The gallery's achievements would not be possible without the help and support of our partners. We thank them.

- **The Review Newspaper**

This local newspaper has been a great help to the us throughout the years by giving us a platform to promote the gallery through press releases, articles and profiles. They have also provided advice, discounts and suggestions.



- **Champlain Township**

In addition to the financial support they give, Champlain Council and Mayor also support and advocate for the gallery. Many people on the staff of Champlain also deserve thanks.





Partners and Collaborators

In addition to those already mentioned, we are grateful to those who have partnered with us over the last year:

- Art & Dream Studio
- Champlain Library
- Creating Centre de créativité
- Ouimet Adventures Farm
- Saken Music
- Société d'histoire des Filles du Roy (SHFR)
- St. John's Anglican Church
- Vankleek Hill Collegiate Institute (VCI)

Our sponsors and donors

Local businesses

Many local merchants have particularly helped us through challenges in the past year. They include:

- Co-operators Insurance
- Good Food Garden
- Jardin Jade Garden
- Low's Realtors
- METEC
- Théoret & Martel
- Totem Roasters
- Vankleek Hill Agricultural Society
- Vankleek Hill Tulip Fields
- Vankleek Hill Vineyard
- VKH PharmaChoice

Individual Donors

Throughout the years, many individuals have generously donated to the Arbor Gallery. Currently, in spite of a challenging economy, some donors have continued supporting our efforts to thrive and to impact the community. Our donors come from diverse backgrounds and donate in various forms: from monthly donations through CanadaHelp, to one or a few lump sums during the year. At the gallery itself, visitors also leave change or a few bills in our donation jars. Finally, some performers, workshop leaders and artists have donated proceeds, partially or entirely, thus contributing to our success. And for that we are grateful.



Conclusion

Reviewing what we have accomplished this year is an exercise in gratitude. In the same way that it is said that it takes a village to raise a child, it takes a village to keep art and culture alive.

With the help of art and artistic creativity, we want to bring a multitude of opportunities to our community to explore beauty, and to let people be moved and prompted toward reflection.

We aim to educate, sensitize and create awareness on issues that can be dividing, in the hope that hearts and minds will open and attitudes soften. We also aim to provide a safe and nurturing space for all, embracing our differences and highlighting our commonality.

We have had a great time and we look to the future with hope and optimism.

We could not have done it without you, our members, volunteers, friends and partners.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, our most sincere gratitude,

Sylvie Bouchard,
Chair of the Board/President & Treasurer