



**Building with
Purpose and
Possibility**

Annual Report 2025

Message from the Board Co-Chairs and Executive Director



Stephanie Chai
Co-Chair



Viktoria Grynenko
Co-Chair



Al Chapman
Executive Director

At the heart of Arts Habitat Edmonton's work is a simple truth: sustainable, accessible cultural infrastructure is foundational to a creative, thriving, healthy city. When artists and arts organizations have stable, well designed places to work, live, and grow, the benefits ripple outward and strengthen Edmonton's cultural, social, and economic life.

Our conviction drives us to be grounded in the lived creative experience and practice. Across music, visual arts, theatre, and festivals, each day we work side by side with artists, communities, funders, and partners to ensure Edmonton's arts sector has the space and conditions it needs to flourish.

This year, we welcomed a new Executive Director and new Board members Lana Bertsch and Grant Gabert, whose fresh perspectives and shared energy are enhancing Arts Habitat's impact within Edmonton's cultural ecosystem and reinforcing the strength of our outstanding administrative team as we continue to sharpen our focus on long-term stewardship and collective impact.

Over the past year, we renewed our commitment to collaboration with our partners and community. As we connected with many Edmontonians and organizations, we have intentionally made space for conversation, celebration, planning, and action. We share our expertise with those who plan and operate spaces, as well as advocate and advise as we work together to build a creative and dynamic city.

Arts Habitat Edmonton is involved in the implementation of Connection & Exchanges, alongside the Edmonton Arts Council and the Edmonton Heritage Council. The plan sets out a shared vision for how arts and culture contribute to belonging, well-being, and city life. Additionally, we are leading the development of the Edmonton Cultural Infrastructure Plan (ECIP), focused on strengthening the spaces and facilities artists and arts organizations rely on to sustain their work over time. Together, these ambitious plans advance a more coordinated, long-term approach to cultural investment and partnership across the city.

Our ArtsHub spaces are practical expressions of places where creative practice, community connection, and shared leadership intersect. Strategic investments across our Hubs, including the opening of the ArtsHub Creative Studios downtown, reflect our commitment to infrastructure that supports both creation and collaboration.

We strengthen the systems that support participation, modernizing processes and digital tools so artists can spend less time navigating systems and more time creating and connecting.

Looking ahead, Arts Habitat Edmonton remains committed to leadership rooted in collaboration. Working alongside our partners, and guided by the artists and communities we serve, we are building the infrastructure and relationships needed to sustain Edmonton's arts ecosystem for generations to come.

Stephanie Chai and **Viktoria Grynenko**
Co-Chairs, Board of Directors

Al Chapman
Executive Director

Leading with Purpose

Vision

Dynamic, sustainable, and entrepreneurial artistic communities thrive in the Edmonton area.

Mission

Appropriate and accessible art spaces are essential for thriving arts communities.

Mandate

We are a social enterprise that designs, stewards, and activates the conditions in which arts, communities, and the city can thrive together.

As a non-profit organization, we work in partnership with local government, businesses, and community to address the barriers that artists face in accessing stable, appropriate space to work. We do this by developing and managing arts spaces—both public and private infrastructure—through sustainable business models. These operational and investment models ensure long-term affordability for artists while generating lasting social, cultural, and economic value for the public.

We bring forward informed perspectives on what is needed for arts spaces to function as places of creation, connection, and public life.

Where Mission and Market Meet

A **social enterprise** applies business discipline and market-based tools to achieve community benefit and enduring public value. It generates revenue and manages risk as mechanisms to sustain and scale social impact over the long-term.

Arts Habitat Edmonton's social enterprise model is rooted in stewardship. We operate a portfolio of arts spaces with varied uses and tenure, where earned revenue supports long-term operations and enables accessible, public, and equity-focused spaces that strengthen Edmonton's arts ecosystem.



Strategic Contribution

We own, lease, build, renovate, and operate arts spaces that are actively used by Edmonton's arts community. Beyond providing space, we work closely with artists and organizations to offer a range of access options from short-term and evening use to longer-term leases, shared workspaces, and live-work arrangements. Our role is to make space easier to find, easier to use, and easier to remain in—so artists can adapt as their needs evolve, and audiences can meaningfully access creative work within the spaces themselves.

Drawing on daily relationships with artists, arts organizations, and communities, we bring forward informed perspectives on what is needed for arts spaces to function as places of creation, connection, and public life. We elevate conversations that lead to policy, planning, and investment decisions that support access and long-term sustainability—helping arts spaces anchor a resilient and inclusive arts ecosystem.

**We are
ARTS SPACE
OPERATORS**

**We are
ARTS SPACE
ADVOCATES**

**We are
ARTS SPACE
TRUSTED
ADVISORS**

**We are
ARTS SPACE
PLANNERS**

We support funders and partners by providing insight into existing and emerging opportunities for artist spaces and the operational management of arts spaces available for public booking. Informed by direct engagement with the arts community, we maintain a focus on evolving space needs and progress, and help translate those needs into practical, people-centred solutions.

We bring deep, on-the-ground experience to the planning of arts infrastructure in Edmonton, including to lead and co-create the development of the first Edmonton Cultural Infrastructure Plan (ECIP). Grounded in the lived realities of artists and arts organizations, we work with partners to shape subsidized, flexible space solutions that respond to how people actually create, rehearse, gather, and grow—across disciplines and stages of practice.



Maximizing Potential

We see ourselves as enablers of potential, strengthening the fabric of the arts ecosystem, and creating opportunities for engagement and belonging within Edmonton. We are connectors, bringing the necessary elements to make creative work possible—providing the right space at the right time, and for the right need—for artists, arts organizations, and communities at every stage of their journey. We remove space as a barrier so creativity, connection, and contribution can happen.

ArtsHubs: Activating Exchange and Shared Value

We create spaces that change lives and help launch careers, where artists can work sustainably, where experimentation is possible, and where long-term contribution replaces instability. Our ArtsHubs are intentionally inclusive environments, designed to reduce barriers to participation and expand who can access space, opportunity, and visibility within Edmonton's creative landscape. ArtsHubs are places of convergence—where artists, ideas, businesses, and communities meet.

They are engines of exchange, collaboration, and shared learning, amplifying the impact of individual creative practices while opening pathways to broader audiences and markets.

Through our ArtsHubs, we:

- connect artists to one another and to opportunity – in the market and across disciplines, experiences, and stages of practice;
- provide artists with stable, subsidized, and legitimate places to work that are accessible and responsive to their diverse practices, audiences, and needs;
- align creative activity with community priorities and inclusive local development; and
- convert creative energy into economic contribution and social value that is shared widely across the city and beyond.



Making Space

Arts Habitat Edmonton owns and manages four ArtsHub spaces across the city: **ArtsHub Creative Studios**, which provides renewable studio and office space alongside bookable rooms in downtown Edmonton; **ArtsHub McLuhan House**, offering office and studio space for literary and community-based arts organizations, a public gallery, event space, and an artist residency; **ArtsHub 118**, a live/work apartment building that integrates subsidized housing and workspace through a cooperative model; and **ArtsHub Ortona**, a historic, multi-use arts and cultural facility supporting project-based studios, rehearsal, learning, public programming, and Indigenous cultural space development.

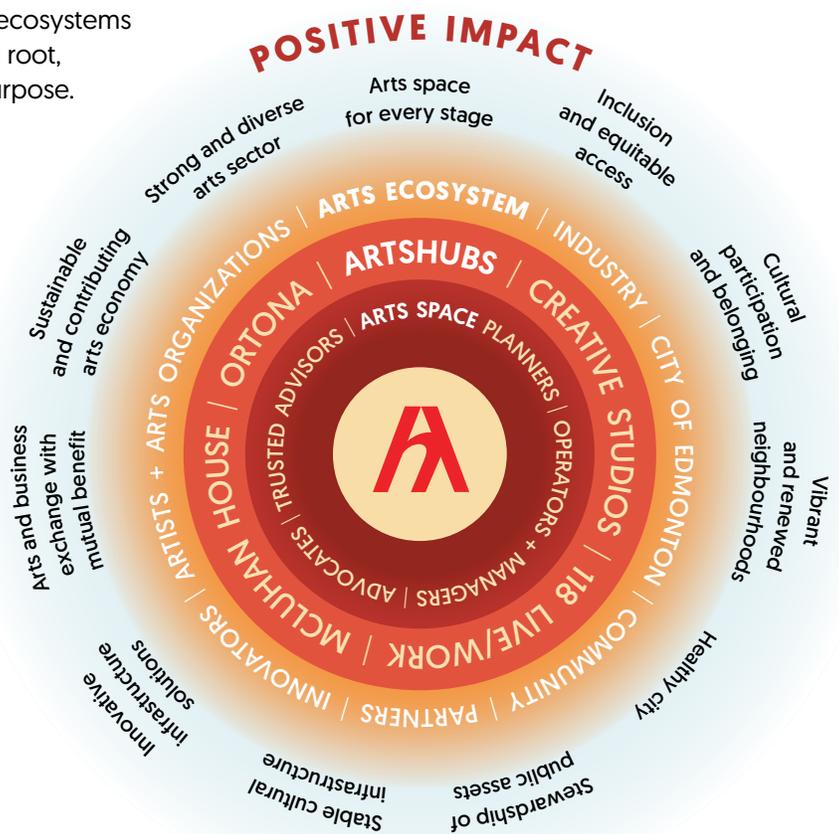


Arts Ecosystem: Creating the Conditions for Thriving

The power of habitat—the intentional creation of ecosystems and environments where artistic practice can take root, endure, and contribute—is central to our social purpose. A habitat is not simply physical space. It is the economic, social, and operational foundation that allows creativity to flourish sustainably.

Through our engagement, partnerships, advocacy, and advising, we help:

- transform underutilized infrastructure into productive cultural assets that serve both artists and communities;
- enable collaboration, visibility, and innovation by creating environments where people can connect and be seen;
- reduce risk and precarity in the arts sector; and
- align the use of public and private infrastructure with long-term civic benefit, in service to the public good.



A Hub for Literary Life and Legacy

For NeWest Press, publishing has always been about more than books on shelves—it's about connection. As a non-profit publisher committed to amplifying Canadian voices, NeWest works across disciplines, bringing writers, designers, and artists together to shape stories that reflect the country's literary life.

The organization holds a long legacy, established in 1977, and a strong reputation for publishing high-quality literary fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and drama with specific interest in Western Canadian authors.

When the organization moved into ArtsHub Creative Studios in May 2025, affordability mattered—but so did permanence. In a sector where rising costs and limited options can limit long-term planning, stable space allows organizations to focus on the quality and reach of their work.

Being situated within an arts-focused environment has added another layer of value. Publishing now happens alongside other creative practices, and that proximity has fostered meaningful, natural relationships across disciplines.

"Working in a space that supports artists practicing their art fosters new collaborations," says Christine Kohler, Office Administrator, NeWest Press.

Access to shared gallery and event space has also expanded what NeWest can offer. Book launches now double as community gatherings—bringing authors, readers, and artists together in ways that extend beyond the page.

"Access to event space for book launches has been fantastic—it helps us build stronger community connections," says Christine.

For NeWest Press, Arts Habitat Edmonton functions less as a landlord and more as cultural infrastructure—strengthening Edmonton's cultural fabric and providing the stability that allows literary work to endure, evolve, and contribute to the city over time.



The HeART of a Vibrant City

With Edmonton and area as our ecosystem, we are guided by and work closely with the City of Edmonton, and in partnership with the Edmonton Arts Council and the Edmonton Heritage Council. These collaborative relationships are instrumental to fostering and advancing a shared vision for a vibrant arts and culture sector as core to human thriving and a healthy city.

Together, we play a key role in implementing *Connections & Exchanges: A 10-Year Plan To Transform Arts and Heritage In Edmonton*—the City of Edmonton’s strategic framework (2019–2029) to embed culture, arts, and heritage into the city’s civic fabric.

Under *Connections & Exchanges*, we drive transformative change to support creators, grow audiences, and foster community connection by:

- engaging with partners to increase access to affordable space for arts and heritage;
- providing expert advice on shared-space models to support the integration of arts activities in neighbourhood revitalization initiatives;
- building the cultural community’s capacity to steward arts spaces through tools, resources, and advice; and
- researching, developing, building, and seeking approval for the City of Edmonton’s first Edmonton Cultural Infrastructure Plan [ECIP].



We have been entrusted with leadership of the ECIP. When the development process is completed next year, the ECIP will transform arts and heritage in our city by providing key support systems to cultivate meaningful spaces and resources for Edmontonians to access, express, and participate in culture. ECIP will align with current plans, policies, and legislation to foster growth and development in Edmonton.

We drive transformative change to support creators, grow audiences, and foster community connection.



2025 SNAPSHOT

692 ArtsHub Ortona multi-purpose bookings

Since opening in September 2024

A fully activated civic arts space



90 ArtsHub McLuhan House multi-purpose bookings in 2025

Community, literacy, and smaller-scale arts activity



6 ArtsHub Creative Studios multi-purpose bookings

Since opening July 2025

Momentum



16 licensed live/work suites at ArtsHub 118

Occupancy full

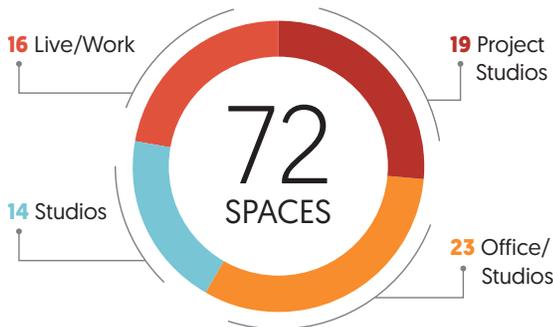


72

licensable spaces

Across four space types supporting different ways artists work

Licensable Space (by Type)



A BALANCED SPACE MIX

26%

project-based

74%

renewable licenses

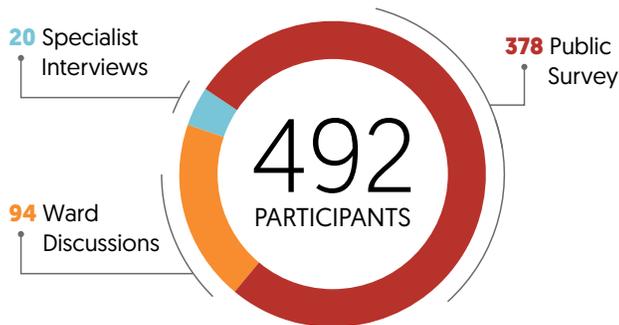
Designed for flexibility and stability

492 participants engaged

Public survey, ward discussions, and specialist interviews

City-wide input informing the Edmonton Cultural Infrastructure Plan (ECIP)

ECIP Engagement



PEOPLE IN THE SPACE

7,560

ArtsHub Ortona visitors in 2025

Arts infrastructure in daily use

144 SPACE INQUIRIES

68 for studios and offices | 76 for event spaces

Clear demand

+478

Instagram followers 27% increase

100% organic growth

Awareness rising



Arts Habbers: 654 STRONG

Members more than doubled –
FROM 275 TO 654 IN 2025

A growing, connected arts community



170

Professional Artists

Plus 15 non-profit Professional Arts Organizations

Verified, working, and engaged

1,119 NEWSLETTER CONTACTS

12 editions keeping artists and partners informed



HeART of the Habitat

160 public attendees | 40 artists

Opening ArtsHub doors during Alberta Culture Days

A Place for Young Voices and Community to Grow

At ArtsHub McLuhan House, creativity often arrives in many forms at once—laughter from a writing workshop, the cadence of spoken word rehearsals, and the quieter rhythms of planning and preparation for summer camps.

Since 2020, YouthWrite has made the house a year-round home for young storytellers aged eight to 19.

When YouthWrite lost access to its previous space, the search for a new home was urgent and uncertain. As a small non-profit, they needed more than a space for programming—they needed offices, storage, rehearsal space, and room to grow. These behind-the-scenes needs are often invisible, but they are essential to sustaining arts organizations over time.

ArtsHub McLuhan House offered the right mix: welcoming literary atmosphere, affordability, flexibility, and stability. “Affordable space is essential—it’s honestly what saved our organization,” says Tania Gigliotti, YouthWrite Communications and Client Services Manager.

The space now supports daily operations, planning work, internships, Spoken Word Youth Choir rehearsals, and community programming. It has also enabled YouthWrite to respond quickly to changing needs. When Alberta schools were unable to open classrooms during labour action in Fall 2025, YouthWrite pivoted and offered affordable day camps, supporting families while keeping young people creatively engaged.

More than a building, ArtsHub McLuhan House has become part of the neighbourhood. From this home base, YouthWrite has built relationships with neighbourhood organizations, hosted events, and invited neighbours in.

By meeting YouthWrite where it is—organizationally and programmatically—Arts Habitat Edmonton has helped ensure that creative opportunities for young people remain accessible, consistent, and rooted in community.



Building with Purpose and Possibility

Arts Habitat Edmonton's work is guided by four interconnected ways of working. These four pillars describe how our work is organized as a system. We work in a fully integrated way, with planning, stewardship, advocacy, and advising informing and reinforcing one another over time. This seamless approach allows Arts Habitat Edmonton to connect long-term planning with day-to-day space use, public conversations, and shared learning across the arts ecosystem.

Our progress this year has been shaped by both intention and imagination—purpose and possibility. We have continued to work towards our strategic goals, focussing our efforts on key actions—while responding strategically to new opportunities.

In the following pages, we share some highlights from our year and how we are leading, collaborating, and supporting efforts to create a creative, thriving, healthy city.





We Are Arts Space Planners

As Arts Space Planners, we focus on understanding Edmonton’s cultural infrastructure—what spaces exist, where gaps remain, and how spaces must evolve to support artists and organizations over time. In this role, Arts Habitat Edmonton contributes planning leadership within a shared civic system, aligned with *Connections & Exchanges* and undertaken in partnership with Edmonton Arts Council and Edmonton Heritage Council.

Our Focus

In 2025, our focus was on leading the development of Edmonton’s first cultural infrastructure plan, with an emphasis on engagement to ensure planning decisions were grounded in real, diverse, and current needs across the city.

What We Accomplished

This work helped advance planning conversations from broad input to clearer direction. Engagement findings surfaced where subsidized space, stability, access, and type of space matter most, and helped connect city-wide planning to on-the-ground decisions about Arts Habitat spaces.

2025 Highlights

- Led city-wide engagement for the Edmonton Cultural Infrastructure Plan (ECIP), including gathering input from artists, organizations, community members, and civic stakeholders.
- Designed and hosted the ECIP survey webpage, creating a dedicated, accessible platform for community participation and feedback.
- Collaborated with Edmonton Arts Council and Edmonton Heritage Council to review, test, and align engagement findings with broader cultural and heritage planning priorities.
- Planned and led early development work for an Indigenous Cultural Space at ArtsHub Ortona, advancing design-thinking and relationship-building that will carry forward into implementation.



We Are Arts Space Operators and Managers

As Arts Space Operators and Managers, we own, lease, build, develop, renovate, and care for arts spaces that are used every day by artists and arts organizations. In this role, our work focuses on making spaces reliable, functional, and welcoming—so artists can spend their time creating, rather than managing the space around them.

This work is carried out in coordination with the City of Edmonton and in partnership with artists and arts, cultural, and community organizations, reflecting Arts Habitat Edmonton's role as a steward of shared cultural infrastructure.

Our Focus

In 2025, our focus was on bringing spaces fully into use and strengthening the systems that support day-to-day access—particularly through the opening of ArtsHub Creative Studios and improvements to booking, communication, and administrative processes across all sites.

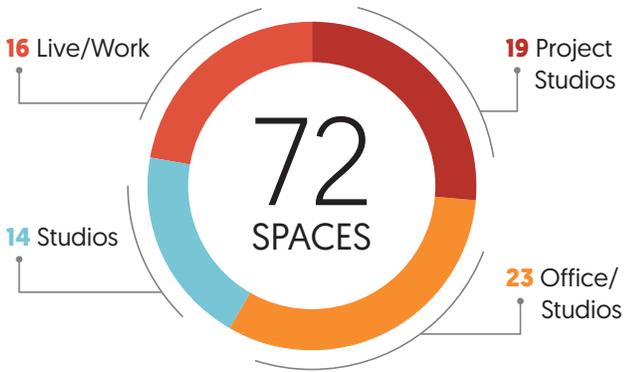
What We Accomplished

This work helped turn buildings into active, working spaces. Artists and organizations accessed space that matched how they work—whether as project-based space, shared space, publicly-bookable space, or licensed space with a renewal option, including live/work. At the same time, we improved systems and communication to support increased positive licensee and community user experiences.

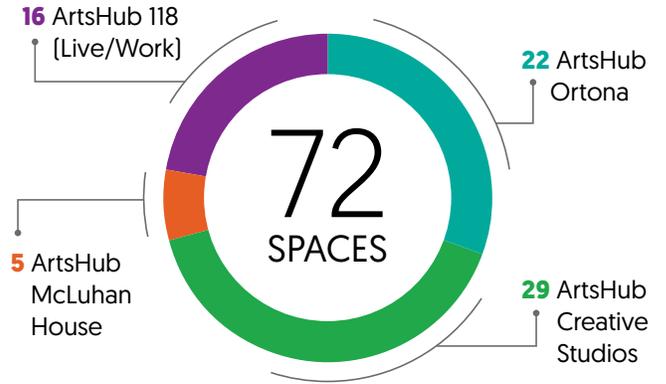
2025 Highlights

- Opened and activated ArtsHub Creative Studios, welcoming artists and organizations into studio, office, and bookable spaces in downtown Edmonton.
- Welcomed 18 musicians, including 16 who relocated their teaching studios from Alberta College with the transfer of the Alberta Conservatory of Music to the Winspear Centre for Music.
- Maintained fully active use across all ArtsHub sites, including ArtsHub Ortona, ArtsHub McLuhan House, and ArtsHub 118 Live/Work, supporting consistent access to space for a wide range of artistic practices.
- Activated and showcased ArtsHub spaces through open houses and public events, including HeART of the Habitat during Alberta Culture Days, welcoming artists, partners, and the public into active, working arts spaces.
- Relaunched a monthly newsletter, reinforcing a renewed commitment to transparency, regular communication, and shared understanding across all Arts Habitat spaces.
- Implemented new booking and administrative systems, including self-booking tools and streamlined licensing and invoicing processes, reducing administrative burden for both users and staff.
- Hosted City Arts Centre classes at ArtsHub Ortona, enabling continued public access to arts education while the City's facilities were under renovation and reinforcing ArtsHub Ortona's role as an open, civic-serving space.
- Worked with the ArtsHub 118 housing co-operative to improve operational sustainability, including identifying cost-saving measures and advancing reserve fund planning to support long-term stability.
- ArtsHub Ortona began operating its new 2000 sq ft, 125-capacity Solarium and new workshop spaces, featuring modern technology and enhanced accessibility.

Licensable Space (by Type)



Licensable Space (by Location)



We Are Arts Space Advocates

As Arts Space Advocates, we bring forward the lived realities of artists and arts organizations in civic and sector conversations. Our advocacy focuses on ensuring that subsidized options, access, and sustainability remain central in planning and investment decisions about arts space.

This work is carried out in close relationship with Edmonton Arts Council, Edmonton Heritage Council, the City of Edmonton, and a wide network of community and sector partners.

Our Focus

In 2025, our advocacy focused on advancing understanding and influence. We convened conversations and contributed arts-space expertise in public, civic, and sector forums, with the aim of shaping planning discussions, informing policy directions, and strengthening the case for sustained investment in subsidized, appropriate arts space.

Through this work, we focused on ensuring that arts-space realities were visible and understood where decisions about cultural infrastructure, neighbourhood development, and funding were being considered.

What We Accomplished

This work helped shift conversations from abstract need to practical understanding, bringing clearer attention to how arts spaces function in public life and why long-term investment in subsidized, appropriate space matters.

2025 Highlights

- Contributed to Connections & Exchanges actions in both lead and supporting roles, advancing shared cultural planning and infrastructure priorities alongside civic and sector partners.
- Advanced Edmonton's Cultural Infrastructure Plan (ECIP) engagement, working with the ECIP Advisory Committee, Edmonton Arts Council, Edmonton Heritage Council, and the City of Edmonton to ensure arts-space perspectives informed city-wide planning conversations.
- Advocated for Indigenous-led and equity-deserving spaces at ArtsHub Ortona, helping ensure that planning and programming discussions reflected commitments to inclusion, cultural continuity, and reconciliation.
- Developed partnerships that enabled more accessible access to space, including collaborations with organizations such as SkirtsAfire Festival, helping reduce financial barriers to participation in arts activity.
- Implemented a consistent branding strategy across all four Arts Habitat properties, strengthening public recognition and making Arts Habitat Edmonton's role in the arts ecosystem clearer to artists, partners, and the broader community.
- Leveraged operational and financial insight to support funding and investment conversations, reinforcing the case for sustained public investment in arts infrastructure.

We Are Arts Space Trusted Advisors

As Arts Space Trusted Advisors, we help partners, funders, and decision-makers understand what is actually happening in arts spaces across Edmonton.

We share clear, grounded insight about what artists and arts organizations need, where pressures are emerging, and what kinds of space make creative work possible.

This role focuses on turning day-to-day experience into shared understanding, so decisions about space, funding, and planning are informed by real use rather than assumptions.

Our Focus

In 2025, our focus was on improving how information about space use, engagement, and operations is gathered and shared, so partners have a clearer picture of what is working—and where attention is needed.

What We Accomplished

This work made it easier to talk about arts spaces with clarity and confidence, and to support more informed and constructive discussion about needs, pressures, and progress.

Rather than relying on anecdote alone, we helped build a shared understanding grounded in real experience across Arts Habitat spaces.

2025 Highlights

- Improved how information about arts spaces is gathered and shared, making it easier to understand patterns in space use, access, and demand.
- Delivered clear updates and briefings to partners, including Connections & Exchanges Council, drawing on insights from planning, operations, and community engagement.
- Shared examples and stories from Arts Habitat spaces, helping to illustrate how access to appropriate, stable space supports artistic work and organizational sustainability.
- Worked with external expertise to strengthen how learning is organized and applied, supporting consistency and clarity in reporting.
- Used insight from across Arts Habitat spaces to inform planning and stewardship conversations, contributing practical perspective to discussions about future investment and support.

Room to Rehearse, Space to Dream

When Uniform Theatre first stepped into ArtsHub Ortona in April 2025, they weren't just looking for square footage—they were searching for a place where big-hearted musical theatre could happen.

Uniform Theatre is a non-profit theatre company that is dedicated to bringing accessible musical theatre to Edmonton, like *Cry Baby The Musical* and *Villain-ettes*, billed as a “frightfully fabulous” cabaret.

Their productions often bring together 20 to 30 performers at once, an electric mix of voices, movement, and creative energy that requires room to breathe. For companies working at this scale, space is not a luxury—it is the basic condition that makes the work possible.

Finding rehearsal space that can hold that kind of momentum without overwhelming a company's budget is increasingly difficult. “There are very few accessible and financially accessible rehearsal spaces in Edmonton. Without them, we simply can't do what we do,” says Mackenzie Tennesen, Founder, Artistic Director.

A recommendation from a fellow artist led them to Arts Habitat Edmonton. From the first visit, the pieces began to align. The location worked. The parking mattered. But it was the Solarium—bright, flexible, and able to accommodate both rehearsal and performance—that made it clear this was a space designed for real artistic needs, not compromises.

The resourceful ArtsHub Ortona team helped the company embrace the full potential of the building as enablers and collaborators. The walls and windows echoed with music, choreography cues, laughter, and energy.

The arrangement opened doors for the company and Arts Habitat Edmonton. This summer Uniform Theatre performed Steven Sondheim's *Assassins* at ArtsHub Ortona as part of Edmonton's 2025 Fringe Festival, marking the location's first time as a Fringe Bring Your Own Venue presenter.



Our ArtsHub Spaces

Spaces That Meet Artists Where They Are

Arts Habitat Edmonton operates and manages four ArtsHub spaces across the city. Each one serves a different purpose, reflects a different history, and supports different ways of working; together they form a connected network of spaces that respond to artists' needs at different stages of practice.

Across all four sites, our focus is the same: appropriate, subsidized space that reduces barriers and supports creative work over time. Some artists need short-term project space. Others need long-term stability. Some need shared rooms or public facing space. Others need the ability to live and work in the same place. The ArtsHub network is designed to support that diversity.

Making Room

A Look at Capacity

Type	Definition	Number
Licensable Project-Based Space	Studios and office spaces that can be leased for a project term	19
Licensable Renewable Space	Studios, offices, and live/work spaces that can be leased with a renewable term	53
Bookable Spaces	Multipurpose rooms, or galleries, and Indigenous spaces that can be booked on a one-time or recurring basis	9



ArtsHub

Creative Studios

Space for the Arts

10131 – 97 Street NW
Edmonton

Downtown | Studios, offices, and bookable spaces

ArtsHub Creative Studios provides studio and office space for professional artists and non-profit professional arts organizations working in downtown Edmonton. Designed for daily use, the building supports a mix of licensable renewable spaces and flexible arrangements, alongside bookable rooms that accommodate working, meetings, exhibitions, and small performances.

In 2025, ArtsHub Creative Studios transitioned from development to active use. Professional artists and non-profit professional arts organizations moved into newly renovated spaces, shaping the building through their work and presence. Renewable studio and office arrangements support practices that benefit from stability, while shared spaces allow for collaboration, mentoring, and public engagement.

Who this space serves

- Professional artists seeking stable, renewable workspace
- Non-profit arts organizations needing offices and shared meeting space
- Artists and groups requiring centrally-located, accessible space

How it's used

- License renewable studios and offices studios
- Bookable rooms and performance spaces for meetings, rehearsals, and project work
- A shared downtown hub for daily creative activity

ArtsHub

Ortona

Space for the Arts

9722 – 102 Street NW
Edmonton

Rossdale | Project studios, rehearsal, learning, and bookable spaces

ArtsHub Ortona is a historic, multi-use arts and cultural facility serving professional artists, non-profit professional arts organizations, and the broader community. The building includes project studios, offices, meeting and learning spaces, and performance spaces, with a focus on fostering collaboration and inclusivity.

In 2025, ArtsHub Ortona was fully activated following years of rehabilitation. Project studios and offices were licensed, shared spaces were in steady use, and the building functioned as both a working arts facility and a civic space. During the year, ArtsHub Ortona also opened up to City Arts Centre classes while City facilities were under renovation — reinforcing its role as an opened, public-serving space.

ArtsHub Ortona is also the site of ongoing planning for a dedicated Indigenous Cultural Space, shaped through relationship-based engagement and ceremony.

Who this space serves

- Professional artists working on project work (often supported by a grant) for project-based term lengths up to 12 months.
- Non-profit professional arts organizations
- Community groups and the general public

How it's used

- Project studios aligned with exhibition and funding cycles
- Rehearsal, workshop, and learning spaces
- Public events, classes, and gatherings



ArtsHub McLuhan House

Space for the Arts

11342 64 Street NW
Edmonton

Highlands | Offices, community space, and artist residency

ArtsHub McLuhan House is a historic home offering an arts hub focused on literary, community, and creative work. The house provides office and studio space for literary arts organizations and includes bookable rooms for meetings, classes, and events.

The site also includes the Garage Studio, a sponsored residency space that offers artists time and space to focus on a self-directed project. Over time, the Garage Studio has supported multiple artists and fostered connection between creative practice and the surrounding community.

In 2025, ArtsHub McLuhan House continued to function as a community hub and gathering space—hosting organizations, classes, and community activity—while supporting artists through both stable workspace and time-limited residency.

Who this space serves

- Literary and community-based arts organizations
- Individual artists and educators
- Artists selected for the Garage Studio residency [applications accepted each spring]

How it's used

- Licensable renewable studios and project work
- Community meetings, classes, and events
- Sponsored artist residency

ArtsHub 118

Space for the Arts

11731 – 93 Street NW
Edmonton

Alberta Avenue | Accessible live/work housing

Owned by Arts Habitat Edmonton, ArtsHub 118 integrates subsidized housing and workspace for artists through a live/work model. Operated as a cooperative, the building provides long-term stability for residents while supporting creative practice within their homes.

In 2025, ArtsHub 118 remained fully occupied, continuing to support artists who benefit from the ability to live and work in the same place. The model reduces housing precarity, supports long-term planning, and allows artists to remain connected to their neighbourhood.

Who this space serves

- Professional artists seeking subsidized housing and workspaces
- Artists balancing creative work with other employment or caregiving

How it's used

- Integrated living and working space
- Residency supporting stability and continuity

How Our Spaces Work Together

Together, the ArtsHub spaces support artists at different stages of practice and in different ways — from project work to portfolio development stability, from private studios to public-facing rooms. This networked approach allows Arts Habitat Edmonton to respond to changing needs while keeping space accessible, appropriate, and in active use.

Support for the Artist's Journey

For artists, always seeking new directions and next steps in their journey, the process of finding the right space to explore can be daunting.

When artist Carly Gordon moved into her studio at ArtsHub Ortona, she found something she couldn't find at home: the perfect space to uncover new potential for the vibrant, expressive landscapes she creates using oil paints and thick textures.

The generous scale of the ArtsHub studio opened new possibilities—room to move, to step back, and to explore work that extended beyond the limitations of a domestic studio setting.

Her year-long residency with a year-long license became a period of clarity. The experience sharpened her understanding of what she needs from a long-term, creative home that aligns with her practice and her growth. "It certainly made me realize I want an out-of-home studio more permanently," she said. It helped her see that she thrives in an open, warehouse-style space—a studio that welcomes mess, experimentation, and even her dog.

Her time at ArtsHub Ortona became a stepping stone in defining the creative infrastructure she needs to support the next stage of her artistic growth.

It also helped her understand the intangible benefits of a creative community. The presence of other artists, even when unseen, offered a sense of belonging and possibility. It reinforced for her how meaningful it is to have peers nearby to bring focus and fuel momentum.

Community, in this context, didn't require programming—it emerged simply from working alongside others who were also committed to their practice.

For Carly, the experience reaffirmed the value of dedicated arts spaces—not only for what they allow artists to make, but for how they support discovery, confidence, and connection over time.



Highlights of Our Year



Edmonton Cultural Infrastructure Plan (ECIP) community survey launches

Edmonton Poetry Festival, a long-term ArtsHub McLuhan House licensee, celebrates 20 years with month-long festival and local focus

City Arts Centre begins hosting classes at ArtsHub Ortona

First artists move into ArtsHub Creative Studios (downtown)

JANUARY-MARCH

APRIL-JUNE

Edmonton Cultural Infrastructure Plan (ECIP) engagement phase brings public voices into planning



Artist Mike Holden hosted and led a smudging ceremony for his new studio, followed by a drum practice at ArtsHub Creative Studios

New Executive Director, Al Chapman, joins Arts Habitat Edmonton





ArtsHub McLuhan House Garage Studio Program turns 9 years old

HeART of the Habitat welcomes the public for Alberta Culture Days

JULY - SEPTEMBER

Self-booking goes live at McLuhan House [easier access]

Mortgage renewed & reserve planning launched at ArtsHub 118

Partnerships expand access [e.g., SkirtsAfire Festival, Fringe Festival]

OCTOBER - DECEMBER

Pipe ceremony advances Indigenous Cultural Space planning at Ortona

Arts Habbers community surpasses 650+ [incl. 170 professional artists]

Launched the Arts Habitat app on the App Store and Google Play Store



New office/studio space added to at-capacity ArtsHub Creative Studios [downtown]

First seasonal networking night hosted at ArtsHub Ortona



