

CULTIVATING GROWTH

Ten Years of Arts Habitat

2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018





Arts Habitat respectfully acknowledges that we are guests on Treaty 6 territory, traditional gathering place known in the Cree language as amiskwaciy (Beaver Hills). We honour the first inhabitants, including the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Hohe (Nakoda), Niitsitapi, Nehiyawak, Tsuut'ina, Inuit, and Métis, along with many others whose histories, languages, and cultures continue to influence our vibrant community.

LETTER FROM BOARD CHAIRMAN

Our vision at the Arts Habitat Association of Edmonton has always leveraged the power of the arts as a catalyst for animating neighbourhoods, forging community identities, and promoting creative activities. As a Board, we have always envisioned being an active and viable partner in city revitalization and redevelopment projects.

In 2008, when the City of Edmonton announced recommendations from the Edmonton Arts Council's The Art Of Living - A Plan for Securing the Future of Arts and Heritage in the City of Edmonton strategic plan, we welcomed and embraced the proposals. We were thrilled to have the work of Arts Habitat recognized as a vital component of the arts and heritage in Edmonton. This gave us the ability to develop dynamic and entrepreneurial artistic endeavors to provide exciting opportunities for artists, citizens, and visitors to the City of Edmonton.

Through the diligent work of past and present Board members, and their commitment to the Arts Habitat mission, we have continually looked at improving artist communities. Creating art hubs that include sustainable and affordable live/work spaces for all genres of the arts will have a positive effect for generations.

I am proud to have been a part of this movement and honored to have collaborated with my fellow board colleagues and staff at Arts Habitat. I look forward to the opportunities our groundwork will produce for the future of the arts communities.

DAVID TAM
CHAIR

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

David Tam
CHAIR

Jon Hall
VICE-CHAIR

John Mahon
SECRETARY

Morgan Moen
TREASURER

Jeff Collins

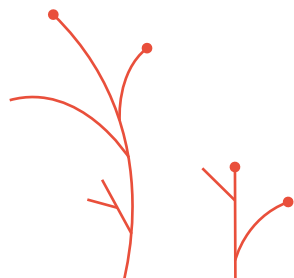
Susan Pointe

Kalen Anderson

Myron Nebozuk

Sanjay Shahani *

*EAC representative
non-voting



ARTSHAB WE POEM

BETH SANDERS, 2009

Beth Sanders wrote this poem as she listened to the conversations and presentations throughout the Arts Habitat's 2009 Reinvigoration Workshop.

*What brings us here today
Space for place
Places for spaces
Diverse artists
Diverse spaces
Good neighbours
Revitalized community
In spiritual home*

*Community connection
Vibe and learning
Wash away the dirt
New experiences
New perspectives
Edmonton infused with Art
There is more for us to do
With Edmonton's best kept
secret...*

*Iconic culture
Reuse and readapt
Exotic baptism
Exchange
Generate
Spin off
Networks
Commitment
Investment
Off leash parks for artists*

*Arts infrastructure
Physical and visible
Adapting to changes
In needs and opportunities
Proactive and nimble*

*Capital culture destination
Exchanging diversity
Resources and communities
Conversion of found spaces*

*Everything is connecting
Hubs and pods*

*Reclaiming space
Beauty inside and outside
Dialogue and policy
resources
Economic presence
Virtual place*

*Connected in (w)hole
To distill the roadmap
Distill the outcome
Chicken and egg*

*Frame as much and
As little as possible
With clear structure
Within which we grow
Contain and sustain
Festive energy*

*A governing board
Sees vision in layers
Finds sustainable funds
Responds to artists needs
Accomplishes goals
Evolves with functions
Reaches out
Connects people with space
Solves problems that need
to be solved
Pumps blood through
our veins*

*A collective investment
A collective responsibility
With self responsibility
Collaboratively working
For a broad foundation*

*Owner or connector
Peculiar partnerships
Artists, groups
City, private sector
No absolutes
Just celebrate and learn
With what works in
community*

*Others can do it for artists
The bigger idea:
ARTISTS UNLEASHED*

1996

CREATION OF ARTS HABITAT ASSOCIATION

Arts Habitat Association of Edmonton was formed through the Edmonton Arts Council as a non-profit company to create affordable accommodations and facilities for artists, to promote activities and events that enhance the development of artists and communities of artists, and to support cultural and artistic activities that educate and benefit the public.

The core purpose of Arts Habitat is to identify, develop, and manage live/work space for all artistic disciplines: audio-visual and interactive media, written and published works, visual and applied arts, sound recording, and live performance, and to generally work with the arts community on space issues.

Arts Habitat advocates for effective, affordable, and sustainable arts spaces in Edmonton, supporting and promoting the growth of future developments.

VISION

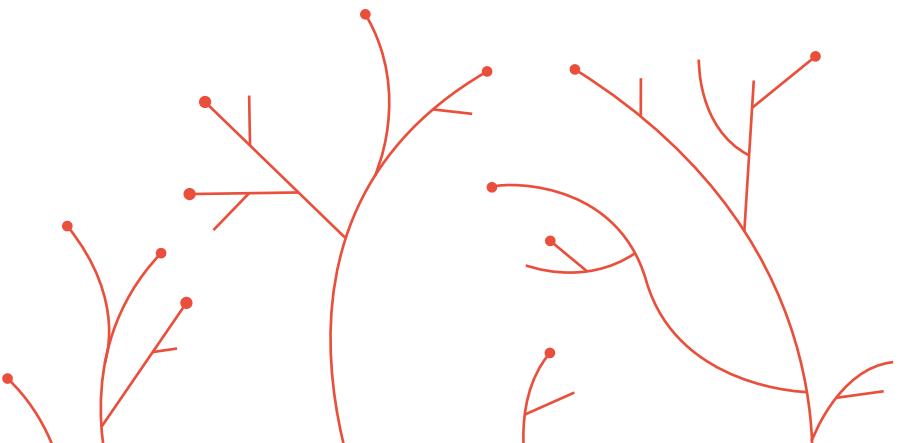
Arts Habitat promotes and creates dynamic, sustainable, and entrepreneurial artistic communities in Edmonton.

MISSION

Arts Habitat nurtures, advocates for, and builds vibrant, healthy, and creative arts spaces.

OUR MANDATE

Arts Habitat is a non-profit organization engaged in finding, managing, and developing space for the arts.



1999

ARTSHAB 1

OUR FIRST LIVE/WORK COMMUNITY

In the spring of 1999, Edmonton's first live/work artist community opened in the heart of the Urban Warehouse District. Arts Habitat, the City of Edmonton, and a private commercial property owner partnered to renovate a space into sustainable live/work units for artists for the creation of art. With a grant from the city, Arts Habitat renovated the once commercial space into ArtsHab 1, and an artistic community was born.

ArtsHab 1 became home and studio to some of Edmonton's most active contemporary visual, craft, performing, and literary artists. The artist community in ArtsHab 1 hosted a gallery, special events, and art projects while working and living together. This dynamic collection of artists nurtured one another and made significant contributions to the broader Edmonton artistic scene and their neighbors in the downtown core.

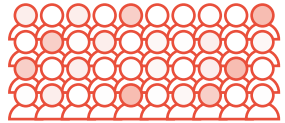
One of the great things about living in ArtsHab 1 was the opportunity to build a cultural space right in our homes and share that with the public. In 2003 the residents got together to turn the hallways into a public gallery. We were a space for artists and emerging curators to exhibit works of art to a public audience without the pressure of making sales by creating a cultural hub open to anyone who passed by. Everyone was welcome from homeless people just looking for a place to escape to for a while, to high-ranking politicians, business professionals, art collectors, emerging artists, and tourists. Our hallways and often our homes were a welcome place for all to visit for a while – and many did.

JEFF COLLINS



60

Artists exhibited in hallway galleries



40

Residents over 15 years



100

Public events held from 1999 to 2011

2008

THE ART OF LIVING

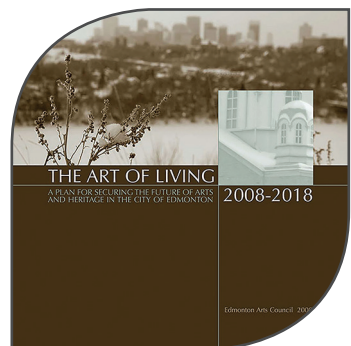
THE FUTURE OF THE ARTS AND HERITAGE IN THE CITY OF EDMONTON

The Edmonton Arts Council created the Art of Living, a ten-year plan for securing the future of the arts and heritage in the City of Edmonton. This was an exciting step towards fostering an environment that integrates culture into everyday life and encourages a sustainable and progressive cultural environment in the City of Edmonton.

RECOMMENDATION #1 Fund and re-invigorate the Arts Habitat Association of Edmonton. This will achieve a desired outcome of the development of an organization that will find, develop and manage a full range of space for the arts in Edmonton, including the inclusion of cultural spaces in City facilities.

RECOMMENDATION #2 proposed redrawing zoning bylaws and reviewing other city practices to stimulate arts activities in Edmonton. This recommendation speaks directly to the groundwork that Arts Habitat had begun. By engaging with the arts community through consultations and research, we better understand and can start to determine the creative space opportunities and challenges. The information allows us to offer our expertise to the City and we welcome the opportunity to be recognized as a partner.

RECOMMENDATION #5 from the Art of Living Plan, proposed creating support programs to retain our elder artists. Arts Habitat believes that all of the projects we are involved with are built to be sustainable and affordable, and this recommendation is incorporated into all of our projects.



2009

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HIRED

The Arts Habitat Board of Directors recruits Linda Huffman as Executive Director, and the core purpose of Arts Habitat is to identify, develop, and manage space for art activities. Katherine Kerr is subsequently hired into the position of Program Coordinator in October 2009.

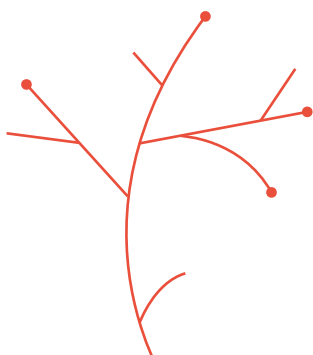
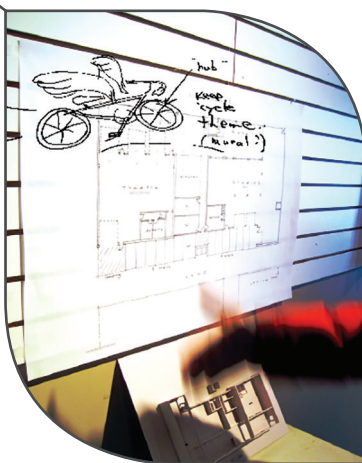
2010

ENHANCING OUR SKILLS

A one-year mentorship begins with Tim Jones, President, and CEO of Toronto's world-renowned Artscape. Arts Habitat gains extensive knowledge in arts space development and in-depth analysis of our projects and future endeavors.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP: ALBERTA CYCLE BUILDING

The City of Edmonton purchases the former Alberta Cycle Building on Alberta Avenue with the intention that Arts Habitat & Arts on the Ave lead the building redevelopment as a multi-tenant arts facility. Workshops are conducted to ask the community to imagine what the space could become.



SPACEFINDER SURVEY: THE BEGINNING

A working group made up of representatives from Community Services, Edmonton Chamber of Volunteer Organizations, the Multi-cultural Coalition, and Arts Habitat collaborate to fully understand the considerable amount of resources people use in trying to find suitable and affordable rental spaces. It is important for Arts Habitat to understand the current arts space situation in Edmonton and a comprehensive Creative Space Needs & Issues Survey is conducted. The results of the survey will be used to create solutions for positive change for space issues, including zoning bylaws and regulations.



75%
of artists
make under
\$40K/yr

64%
engaged in full
or part-time
work



97% ranked
affordability as
the top reason
for choosing
current art
space



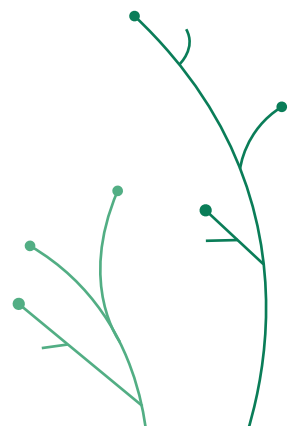
*Of the 135 artists
that responded to the survey*

DATABASE LAUNCHED

Results from the survey are compiled and information brought together for the Edmonton SpaceFinder Database. This new resource is now available online to the public.

NEW OWNERS

Arts Habitat renews the lease for ArtsHab 1 with the new building owners. With a change in ownership ArtsHab 1 sees the rent doubling and explores options to lessen the impact on the community of artists reinforcing the necessity of ensuring long-term sustainable ownership of the arts spaces in the future.

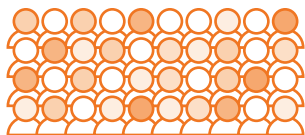


2011

ARTSHUB 118

Arts Habitat is approached by the Edmonton Inner City Housing Society to purchase a building constructed on 118 Ave. Partnering with Artists Urban Village (AUV) and with the assistance of the city's Cornerstone Grant Program for Affordable Housing, Arts Habitat completes the acquisition of the sixteen condo building. ArtsHub 118 is born from this joint venture.

ArtsHub 118 is a new cornerstone in the arts-led revitalization of Alberta Avenue, a dynamic community highly motivated in supporting the arts.



30 Resident artists



16 Active live/
work units

\$2.4 MILLION

Partially funded with \$2.4 million grant from the Cornerstone Program

PARTNERING FOR IMPROVEMENTS

Arts Habitat creates a working task force with the City of Edmonton and is reviewing current bylaws and regulations to identify gaps and opportunities. This will enable Arts Habitat to find solutions that result in improving, and increasing opportunities for a broad range of art space uses in Edmonton. Seven arts community consultations were hosted by Arts Habitat during 2011 to understand real impediments.

I feel very privileged to live in ArtsHub 118. We are located in a neighbourhood that is green with potential and beginning to bud. It does not surprise me that artists have gravitated to an area that many others would avoid because we love to re-imagine things and create beauty.

REBEKAH SHERMAN,
VIOLINIST, TEACHER & PERFORMER,
ARTSHAB RESIDENT



ADVOCACY

We actively participated in the Mayor's Task Force on Incentive for Arts to assist in defining and advocating for the arts community space needs.

INVESTIGATING OPPORTUNITIES

Arts Habitat and Artists Urban Village partner to create a comprehensive Business Plan in response to an RFP opportunity in the Quarters Downtown.



WELCOMES RESIDENTS

ArtsHub 118 officially opens. The cooperative is full with a waiting list. The project consultant, The Communitas Group, continues to work with the co-op on policy and governance.

SETTING A DIRECTION

Arts Habitat creates a three-year strategic plan with Calder Bateman that identifies our strategic direction as:

GROW

Arts Habitat will evolve our organizational expertise, capacity, and opportunity for excellence in arts space development within a creative ecology.

ADVOCATE

Arts Habitat will advocate for arts spaces and places in Edmonton.

BUILD

Arts Habitat will build sustainable, appropriate, and affordable spaces for the arts.

2012

BYLAW IMPROVEMENTS

Rezoning bylaw recommendations made by an Arts Habitat led review process are passed by City Council as part of the 'Art of Living' recommendation #2: Review of Bylaws and City Regulations.

HISTORIC McLUHAN HOUSE IS PURCHASED

McLuhan House is purchased and will be repurposed from a private residence into a contemplative place for art and ideas. Arts Habitat moves its office to this location and an application to designate the house as a historical Municipal resource is underway.

A NEW PROJECT

A Feasibility Study is launched with the Artists Urban Village to develop The Artists Quarters project in the Quarters of downtown Edmonton.

SUCCESS RECOGNIZED

The ArtsHub Cooperative is chosen as a feature project to demonstrate a successful infill development at the 2012 Re-Envision Housing Symposium organized by the Capital Region Board.



2013

OUR EXPERTISE IS SOUGHT

Arts Habitat is invited by the City of Edmonton to offer expertise regarding the arts spaces in the former MacEwan West Campus.



PROJECT DESIGN

Edmonton City Council approves the funding request for the release of \$700,000 of Cornerstone funding to proceed with design development of Artists Quarters by Kasian Architecture.

GATHERING INFORMATION


Information sessions are held throughout the year for all components of the Artists Quarters project. These are residential, work only studios, and arts organizations. Arts Habitat is excited to be partnering with the Alberta Craft Council, Rapid Fire Theatre and Mile Zero Dance, the other three anchor partners in this project.



2014

DYNAMIC CATALYST

Artists Quarters is backed by a feasibility study and designed in response to recommendations contained in The Art of Living Plan. The project will provide support to multi-generational, mixed-income artists of all artistic disciplines in response to the increasingly critical need for affordable, appropriate, and sustainable housing option. The City also identifies this project as a dynamic catalyst for further development in the Quarters Downtown to attract commercial and residential developers to this unique Quarters community.



56,000² ft
of community art space



65
Affordable live/
work units



\$8.3 MILLION

in funding and land,
committed from the
City of Edmonton

A SAD DAY

It is with heavy hearts we watch as ArtsHab 1 closes its door due to the increase in rent. An influential artistic community, ArtsHab 1 is remembered fondly and remains an inspiration for the exciting projects Arts Habitat is currently developing for the future.

ARTSHUB 118 FEATURED

We were honored to be chosen as an example of successful in-fill housing and arts-led revitalization at the Canadian Housing and Renewal Associations National Congress on Housing and Homelessness.



2015

SHARING OUR WISDOM

Arts Habitat is invited to speak and present at events throughout the year including the St. Albert Cultural Services Cultural Café series, Startup Edmonton, Arts on the Avenue, the Canadian Housing and Renewal Associations' National Congress on Housing and Homelessness, Communities in Bloom International Judges tour, and we also provided consultation to organizations in Hamilton, Winnipeg, Regina, and Ottawa.

VITAL PARTNER

With the approval from the province, the City of Edmonton purchases the MacEwan West Campus. Arts Habitat continues its advocacy for the purpose-built arts spaces and contributes to the ongoing discussions focused on transforming the West Campus into an inter-cultural and inter-agency hub for arts, learning, and wellness.

PROJECT REVIVAL: ARTS COMMON

Arts Common is being developed in partnership with Arts on the Ave and the City of Edmonton to revitalize the site of the former Alberta Cycle Building. Arts on the Ave and Arts Habitat are committed to the creation of an arts center that uses art, culture, and creativity to invigorate and support the neighborhood of 118 Avenue and the broader community of Edmonton.

\$4 MILLION

Capital funding from the City of Edmonton



3

Partners in Project Development



10 YEARS

of consultation and resources provided by Arts Habitat



CONNECTING WITH COMMUNITY

Several information sessions for the new Artists Quarters project are held over the year with favorable attendance. The interest received for work space and individual studios are triple what will be available.

CREATING NEW ONLINE SPACEFINDER DATABASE

Arts Habitat partners with Calgary Arts Development and receives a grant from the Alberta Real Estate Foundation to create a new Edmonton SpaceFinder. Reenergizing the database of appropriate spaces available to individual artists, arts organizations, community groups, and nonprofits is a vital tool used by those wanting to find and those wanting to list creative space available for use.

APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED

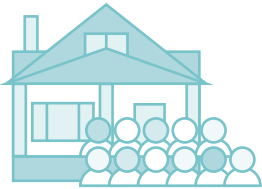
Applications for re-zoning and the development permit are submitted to the City of Edmonton for The Artists Quarters. The resident's group meets monthly to work with the architect and create the governance for the formation of the co-op while the anchor partners meet with KCI to develop a fundraising case for support once the matching dollars from the three levels of government are secured.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Arts Habitat continues to be involved through City of Edmonton led community stakeholder meetings on the MacEwan West Campus project.

MCLUHAN HOUSE OPENS TO THE PUBLIC

This micro-museum is dedicated to Dr. Marshall McLuhan's life, research, and relationship to Edmonton. In 2012, Arts Habitat began the process to designate the house a historic municipal resource and thoughtfully restore it with support from the City of Edmonton, Edmonton Arts Council, and Social Enterprise Fund. McLuhan House has become a dynamic community-gathering place that draws the neighbourhood, academic researchers, artists, and cultural workers together. McLuhan House strives to engage in ideas and artworks that interpret McLuhan with an extensive network inclusive of residents and McLuhanatics throughout the global village.



2000

Anticipated visitors
in the first few years



540² ft

of dedicated Art Studio
Residency space



50+

Anticipated events
to be held over the
first year

INTEGRAL PARTNER

Arts Habitat is an integral part of the Tenancy Selection Committee on the MacEwan West Campus project in determining leasing recommendations. Selection will be based on a mixed-use model and will see up to 70% of available space allocated to anchor tenants with the remaining 30% assigned to arts groups, non-profit organizations, commercial entities, and the City.



y

STUDIO RESIDENCY PROGRAM DEVELOPED

Arts Habitat is pleased to host an Artist Studio Residency Program at McLuhan House. Individual artists and collaborative teams in all disciplines are encouraged to submit a self-directed project proposal for a one-year program at McLuhan House.



WEST MACEWAN CAMPUS EOI

With the help of Arts Habitat, a Request for Expression of Interest for space in the MacEwan West Campus is distributed to clarify and evaluate potential leasing interests. Of the expressions of interest received there is good representation from the arts and heritage sector, health and wellness groups, and learning organizations.

GROWING AHEAD

Arts Habitat purchases The Koermann Block as part of the Artists Quarters project to secure the last piece of land. It is essential that the façade of the Koermann Block be repurposed into the street front of the Artists Quarters to incorporate the heritage of the site and provide a wonderful spirit to the new Alberta Craft Council gallery.



2017

NEW PARTNERSHIP

The Edmonton Community Development Corporation partners with Art on the Ave for the future development of the Arts Common project.

REVISED TIMELINES ON ORANGE HUB

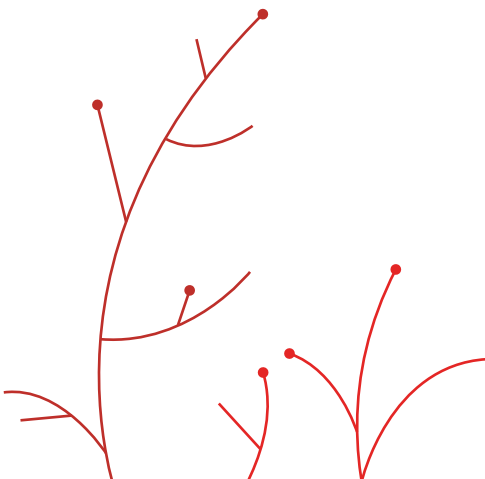
The Tenant Selection Review Advisory Committee revises the selection process for application to MacEwan West Campus, before sending out of the tenant application forms.

GOODBYE TO LINDA

The Arts Habitat Board of Directors announces the retirement of Linda Huffman as Executive Director and welcomes Julian Mayne into the position.

DISCOVERING DIVERSITY

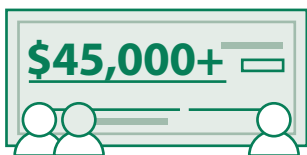
Project management students from MacEwan University's Arts and Cultural Management program work alongside Arts Habitat staff to create a comprehensive database of just over 500 art spaces that provides a snapshot of Edmonton's diverse artistic venues past, present, and future.



2018

SPACEFINDER: REBRANDED

For over ten years now, SpaceFinder has collected information for research of Edmonton's arts facilities and gathers a wide variety of accessible, affordable, and appropriate spaces available to individual artists, arts organizations, community groups, and nonprofits. Partnering with Calgary Arts Development, Alberta SpaceFinder now has over 1000 sustainable and affordable spaces listed within our database that artists can easily access. This strengthens the creative, nonprofit, and small business sectors through an online marketplace for hourly, daily, and weekly rentals of space.



in contributions from
partnering organizations



\$0

Cost to list or
find a space on
edmontonspacefinder.ca



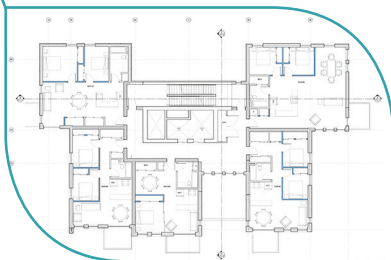
Projected Spacefinder
listings by February 2018

CREATING VALUE

McLuhan House continues to research, coordinate, and partner with creative organizations to present valuable community programs, including our Artist Studio Residency program. The projections of events and participants is greater than anticipated and programs will continue to be created to meet demand.

SUSTAINABLE AND AFFORDABLE

The Artists Quarters Housing Cooperative is created and a new proforma is determined for the residential tower that will allow affordable cooperative rental units.



DEVELOPMENT VENTURE

Arts Habitat and Arts on the Avenue have worked diligently on the Arts Common project. After ten years Arts Habitat is eager for the Edmonton Community Development Company to take the lead, supported by the City of Edmonton administration. Arts Habitat will remain an advocate for the development of art spaces in this revitalization venture.

ACTIVE AND ENGAGING

ArtsHub 118 continues to be an active and engaging member of the community and consistently has a waiting list for the spaces. Arts Habitat is proud of the success and will use it as a model for future projects.

EXCITED AND HOPEFUL

After five years the discussions with both the Federal and Provincial governments are encouraging for the Artist Quarters. We remain optimistic that funding will be secured for this influential Quarters catalyst. The design is developed, and the zoning and development permits are approved. We believe this project is a start to the affordable housing options and sustainable workspace that the City of Edmonton is looking for.

STRENGTHENING ARTS AND HERITAGE

Arts Habitat is proud to be partnering with Edmonton Arts Council and Edmonton Heritage Council to create the next comprehensive Arts & Heritage Plan, on behalf of the City. This plan will act as a guide to strengthen the arts and heritage sectors in Edmonton for the next ten years.





LETTER FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In 1996 the Arts Habitat One live/work studio was a seed planted by the Edmonton Arts Council, and a thriving Artist's community took root. In 2008 Arts Habitat Association received the necessary resources, care, and attention to lay deeper roots and grow stronger because of the City's 10-year Art of Living Plan. Under the guiding hands of a dedicated Board, executive director Linda Huffman and programmer Katherine Kerr, Arts Habitat grew in its knowledge and capacity, addressing the plan's recommendations and taking advantage of some incredible opportunities. Working with the city on bylaws and zoning affecting artists, developing ArtsHub 118 live/work studios, restoring historic McLuhan House and creating our ongoing SpaceFinder online database were just some of the projects Arts Habitat completed over the last ten years.

Arts Habitat is one of the partners currently developing the future Arts and Heritage plan which will guide the direction of the arts and heritage over the next ten years. As we look ahead, we hope the Arts Common 118 Avenue revitalization project that we are deeply invested in is realized. Our Artists Quarters project in partnership with the City is front and center and a vital element to the downtown Quarters revitalization that Edmontonians would like to see. We have a list of over 250 artists and companies that have contacted us in need of space; the demand for purpose-built affordable arts space has never been higher. Arts Habitat board and staff will continue to cultivate growth, increasing our capacity to build, find, and manage the essential space needed to support and keep our local Edmonton artists here in Edmonton.

JULIAN MAYNE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STAFF

Julian Mayne
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Chelsea Boos
COMMUNITY PROGRAMMER

Debbi Serafinchon
COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

Wendy Arrowsmith
BOOKKEEPER

FORMER STAFF

Linda Huffman
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Katherine Kerr
PROJECT COORDINATOR

Al Rasko
BOOKKEEPER



CONSULTANTS

Kasian Architecture

Chandos Construction Ltd.

The Communitas Group

KCI Canada

David Murray Architect

Schick Shiner and Associates

Bottom Line Productions

Curio Studio

Kobot Web Design

Metrix Group LLP

Calder Bateman



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