



ArtsLink NB

ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 2015- June 30, 2016

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Mission:

ArtsLink NB unifies New Brunswick's arts and culture sector and fosters the sector's contributions to a dynamic and prosperous province.

Vision:

The arts are vital to all New Brunswickers.

Message from the President



I am pleased to present this report on **ArtsLink NB** activities and projects from November, 2015 to November, 2016.

The past year has brought a number of changes to our organization. Our former Executive Director, Kate Wallace, announced her departure last fall, for family reasons; a search for a successor began in January, and we are very pleased to have appointed Gillian Dykeman to the position. Gillian brings a great combination of professional art practice and non-profit administration, and has already been very active in developing contacts in government, other arts and culture organizations, municipalities, and our membership. During the months of the search, and until Gillian arrived, Julie Whitenect very capably - and almost single handedly - oversaw operations, and we are in her debt for her outstanding performance. Julie has been named Associate Director, with primary responsibilities for social media, newsletters, website updating, and oversight of summer student employees.

During the year, we finalized the Strategic Plan, following a series of surveys; conversation groups held in a number of locations around the province; individual interviews with key members of the arts and culture sector; and a facilitated session at the 2015 Forum and AGM in Florenceville-Bristol. This plan will guide us for the next few years and will be of immense value in measuring our progress against the goals and objectives that were collectively identified.

ArtsLink NB now has a new website - a greatly improved and more responsive resource, providing information to our members and the public, allowing members to post links to their own websites, providing an archive of documents and previous reports, and regular updates on arts and culture activities and opportunities in New Brunswick and elsewhere. We were very pleased to direct membership fees to this project, which we anticipate will be a valuable tool.

Very recently, ArtsLink moved into dedicated office space in Saint John's uptown core, in a building already housing a number of artists' studios. Third Space Gallery will share space and rent with us - a collaboration that will benefit both organizations. The space is large enough for small exhibitions, meetings, and workshops, and will be a great asset to our ongoing outreach and advocacy efforts.

This year saw the implementation of three-year operational funding commitments from the Province. We are pleased to have the added certainty that allows for longer-term planning, though it is clear that we will require additional revenues through funded projects in order to maintain our level of service to members and advocacy for the sector. Membership fees will also be a critically important resource: the new website is one example of what they can help accomplish, and we will continue our efforts to expand our numbers.

Last year, for the first time, the Forum and AGM were held in Florenceville-Bristol - a departure from previous Forums which were held in larger centres. We were very gratified by the response from community volunteers, the local steering committee, and all who attended. Given the clear evidence of support, interest, and enthusiasm in smaller communities, we plan to rotate future Forum venues to ensure our presence beyond our three largest cities.

Along with change, we can cite many areas of continuity. We continue to participate in a number of sectoral task forces and committees - the development of Culture Plus from the cultural human resources round table; the Task Force on the Status of the Artist; ongoing collaboration with the AAAPNB and the francophone sector; the Transition Committee created to discuss and advise on a viable and productive future for the New Brunswick Arts Board following the significant funding reductions announced in last February's provincial budget. Collaboration with other arts and culture organizations and our government partners is key to our continued progress, and to the well-being of the sector as a whole.

One board member is concluding her service to the organization this year, and I would like to thank her for her contributions: Adrienne Elfner-Hazen from Bathurst has overcome the limitations of our geography and winter conditions and has been a wonderful supporter. My term as President also will end this year, though I will remain active as Past President. I would like to thank all our Board members for their commitment and support, and want especially to recognize our two staff members, Gillian Dykeman and Julie Whitenect, for their outstanding service and efforts on behalf of all of you. This organization could not function without their dedication and determination. I want also to acknowledge with thanks our ongoing collaboration with the AAAPNB and with our provincial partners in the Department of Tourism, Heritage and Culture.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathryn Hamer".

Kathryn Hamer,
President of the Board, ArtsLink NB

Message from the Executive Director



ArtsLink has benefited greatly over the years from an enthusiastic membership, supportive board, and visionary staff. This year has been no different, and I am very grateful to have begun my work for ArtsLink at this stage in the organization's history. I have endeavoured to pick up where Kate Wallace left off; and have largely been able to do so in no small part thanks to the support of ArtsLink's versatile Associate Director, Julie Whitenect. Whitenect has been integral to the ongoing operations of our organization, holding things together over the winter months while the hiring process took place. Kate ensured the new ED would be coming in with the new five-year strategic plan in place, which has also been an enormous help.

Our strat plan, 2020 Vision, has been my guiding document in determining where to direct the energies of our staff and plans for programming. Our strategic goals of advocacy, membership

development, and enhancing operations and government are being addressed through ongoing initiatives. Since the plan was put in place, our membership numbers have been steadily increasing, our advocacy work has been expanding, and the board has undertaken further governance training.

Moving forward, ArtsLink is seeking to build the capacity of not just our organization, but across our sector. We're seeking to help ensure artists of all disciplines across the province have robust careers, and enjoy the public support and goodwill their work merits. Building on the success of Catapult, we are developing Catapult 2.0 with a stronger focus on leveraging already in-place online platforms to enhance sales, exports, and grow artistic careers. We also hope to open up the majority of the workshops to all interested ArtsLink members. Many of the advocacy efforts since the spring have been focused on gauging interest and need for a province-wide survey of the state of arts education. More than a diversion, engaging children in art-making enhances their visual literacy, critical thinking skills, and sense of agency in their own lives. We've also further developed our capacity-building contributions to the sector with the opening up of a new art space in our new partnership with Third Space Gallery - an artist-run centre. We hope to see this space occupied by member artwork, workshops, professional talks, and to accommodate seasonal staff expansions.

We'd like to acknowledge the support of our membership, volunteers, board members, and our key partners at L'AAAPNB, artsnb and the Department of Tourism, Heritage, and Culture. We'd further like to acknowledge the generosity of our Forum sponsors and partners this year: UNB Fredericton, The Sheila Hugh MacKay Foundation, Ignite Fredericton, La Dulse Vie, Hope Seeds, CreatedHere, Picaroons, SilverWave Film Festival and artsnb.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Gillian Dykeman".

Gillian Dykeman,
Executive Director, ArtsLink NB

Overview of Activities 2015-16

ARTSLINK 2.1: WEBSITE

ArtsLink has undertaken a major digital rehaul of our website and online resources. Our website is a critical means of ArtsLink NB fulfilling its mission of advancing the arts in New Brunswick by linking and unifying artists and arts organizations and promoting their value. The website went live in the Summer of 2016. In the fall, it was officially launched, putting more ownership and usability in the hands of our members. The website is vital to ArtsLink serving a diverse and geographically dispersed membership. It is a dynamic tool designed to address the top three concerns voiced by the artists of New Brunswick: public advocacy, market development, and training. While the website is not the sole means of delivering services, it is foundational. The new website is attractive, intuitive and resource-rich. It is a toolbox for members, who have access to career development and promotional resources, and is a hub of information for other stakeholders, as well, featuring daily news updates, events listings, research and more. Smart, streamlined, and rich in content, it demonstrates the vitality, range and professionalism of the arts community in New Brunswick. Members now can upload their own events with the new more user-friendly design; membership now includes visually appealing member galleries and profiles. The ArtsLink newsletter is received by to almost 1,000 subscribers. These weekly communications alternate between opportunities and event postings, including culture-sector jobs, residencies, grants, awards and other calls for proposals.

MEMBER RECRUITMENT

ArtsLink NB reintroduced membership fees in autumn 2014. Approximately 223 members were enrolled as of June 30, 2016 (the end of this fiscal year), an encouraging figure that reflects the excellent value **ArtsLink NB** has created for its members, including exclusive benefits, free registration to all programs and events, an expanding advocacy role, and a growing online resource section. This figure is particularly encouraging in light of the fact that very little active recruitment took place this fiscal year, an area of development ArtsLink intends to undertake in 2017. Enrollment patterns demonstrate a clear correlation between ArtsLink events and programs, which are free to members, and new members joining, with significant bumps noted in the lead-up to workshops and the forum. ArtsLink has four member categories, whose composition consists of: Emerging artists: 21%; Professional artist: 38%; Organization: 18%; Friend of the Arts: 23%.

Membership fees are more than just a revenue stream for the organization. More than just a monetary commitment, they demonstrate the membership's support for **ArtsLink NB's** mandate and mission and demonstrate to funders and partners the strength and solidarity of the organization and sector.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Growth, advancement, and change have all factored into **ArtsLink NB's** HR over the last year. In the summer of 2015 and 2016, **ArtsLink NB** received funding support through the Canada Summer Jobs program to hire a student for an eight-week term. In 2016, we were able to grow again, adding a second summer student through the provincial SEED program for a ten-week term. Kenzie Hancox, a student of modern languages at Mount Allison University, took on much of **ArtsLink NB's** social-media responsibilities during her first summer with us, and she was able to return in 2016, joined by NSCAD illustration and intermedia student Kathleen Flynn to spearhead two new initiatives for **ArtsLink NB**, ArtsLink in the Afternoon, our summer radio program, and the Short & Sweet Speaker Series.



Julie Whitenect advanced in her position from Communications Coordinator to Associate Director. Over the last year, Whitenect has maintained member communications, ArtsLink administration, and contributed to ArtsLink's advocacy work through the Premier's task force on the Status of the Artist as well as the artsnb transition committee. With the absence of an ED over the winter, Whitenect held the core of ArtsLink's work together with the support of the board.

There was a change in ArtsLink's ED this year after Kate Wallace stepped down to shift focus onto her family and writing career. Gillian Dykeman was hired in the winter and began her ArtsLink duties in the spring. Dykeman brings with her a background in fine art, arts education, advocacy, administration, arts journalism, and extensive work in the nonprofit sector. Through this varied background, Dykeman has established an excellent track record of obtaining grants for organizations and on her own behalf. She has completed several artist residencies, a BFA from NSCAD, and a Masters of Visual Studies of the University of Toronto, and has exhibited her work both nationally and abroad.

Professional development for staff

ArtsLink succeeded in obtaining a Professional Development grant from the department of Tourism, Heritage, and Culture. This grant helped ArtsLink staff and board members to access some important training through Learnsphere, a non-profit training and development service organization. Staff completed a class on project management class, and board members benefitted from a governance workshop.

In order to facilitate interactions with our Francophone arts sector partners, ED Gillian Dykeman has been working to improve her French speaking abilities through a class and independent lesson work.

ADVOCACY

ArtsLink joined the Canadian Arts Coalition, a national non-partisan organization, to connect the national dialogue with the arts community in New Brunswick, and to gain access to its resources, including its #ArtsVote election toolkit. ArtsLink also consulted with the Fredericton Arts Alliance to create a step-by-step how-to guide to hosting a candidates' forum on art and culture in one's own community, and helped promote a candidates' forum in Saint John, in partnership with Fusion SJ. In the coming years, ArtsLink will direct part of its advocacy efforts to increase presence of arts and culture in the public school system.



ArtsLink was invited to give an outreach presentation to the New Brunswick Crafts Council membership early this summer. We spoke about the role and major goals our organization has to enhance the entire arts sector. We also addressed our sector's vital importance to all New Brunswickers in terms of contributing to our shared quality of life and the provincial economy. Presentations such as this help strengthen links between sector organizations, and are a great opportunity to share major advocacy points.

Early last summer, Gillian wrote an op-ed arts advocacy article which was published in the Telegraph Journal. She spoke about the role of the arts in cementing a connection to one's place, attracting and retaining newcomers, and in turn contributing to a healthy economy. This article helped ArtsLink to reach a broad audience, and sought to garner support for the important work and goals of the arts sector.

Priority Project

CATAPULT ART ACCELERATOR

One of the most exciting and innovative projects in ArtsLink's history, CATAPULT launched in January 2015 to give arts entrepreneurs the tools, training and mentorship they need to design plans to scale their businesses, bring their products to market, and attract new audiences, investors, and partners. The pilot program consisted of two sessions; the first in Saint John from February to May, and the second took place in Fredericton from May to August 2015. Key program elements included artist talks, mentorship matching, the business model canvas, and value-based financial planning. Participants included filmmakers, painters, the founder of a bilingual arts blog, theatre artists, an illustrator and designer, a drummer, and a photographer.



Survey results from the 13 graduates of the two cohorts indicate the program is stimulating the creation of new jobs, products and opportunities within the culture sector. Since the program's conclusion, its alumni have created five new companies; almost all have reported increased revenues or revenue projections, four have expanded their staff, three-quarters have exported or intend to export outside of Atlantic Canada in the next year, and nearly half have exported or intend to export outside of Canada in the next year. Almost all stated they would recommend the program; even more stated they are proud to have been part of it. As one participant wrote,

"Catapult gave me the language and confidence to start my two companies. Without the skills and attitudes I developed I believe I would have been forced to leave the province to earn a living."

Plans are in development for the delivery of Phase 2 of Catapult in 2017. The program will now include a preliminary "Catapult 101" session to ensure participants from different backgrounds and experience begin the program with a common knowledge base, and more workshops will be opened up to ArtsLink membership. ArtsLink intends to continue to develop the Catapult program and network, and aspires to become a national player in the area of arts entrepreneurship.

2020 VISION:

In the wake of steady development and growth, the time was right in 2015 for ArtsLink to embark upon an invigorating and clarifying strategic engagement process. The goals were to clearly articulate ArtsLink's vision and priorities, and align stakeholders around this collective plan. After extensive consultation with members, directors, partners and sector colleagues, we are excited to have created a road map for organizational excellence that reflects ArtsLink's ambitions and capitalizes on its unique place in New Brunswick's arts and culture sector, while remaining realistic

about its resources and capacity. This plan will inform the organization's activities over the next five years, laying a solid foundation for rigorous and purposeful operations. The resulting report is posted on our website and available for all members to download. ArtsLink undertook a multi-pronged approach in assembling our new strategic plan. We gathered information from a variety of sources in a range of ways, to ensure the process was varied and interesting and that the feedback was rich and deep. The process included online surveys, one-on-one interviews facilitated group discussion and a meeting with the board. We identified the following strategic areas:

- Membership Development
- Advocacy
- Governance and Operations

BREAKING GROUND FORUM & AGM:

BREAKING GROUND took place in Florenceville-Bristol, Nov. 6-7, 2015, and was a demonstration of the importance of small towns to New Brunswick's cultural ecosystem. More than 100 delegates from both inside and outside the arts community joined this exploration of art as a catalyst for community vibrancy and prosperity. It built upon the discussion ArtsLink initiated with its 2014 forum, THE 506: CREATIVE PLACEMAKING IN NEW BRUNSWICK, which looked more broadly at leveraging culture to build community.

Creative placemaking, with its emphasis on more meaningful and productive connections between artists and their communities, currently generates great interest. With BREAKING GROUND, ArtsLink was successful in engaging a broader audience; evidenced by the strong support the event received from the private sector, municipal government, and residents of Carleton County. These supporters contributed variously: as sponsors, volunteers, delegates, and hosts. The vast majority of attendees reported via a survey that they were interested in and inspired by the theme, and overall were very pleased with the quality of the event. The forum greatly benefited from a dedicated local organizing committee that helped infuse it with authentic aspects of Carleton County such as the venues and food, guest artists, programming, and graphic design.

ArtsLink was ambitious in its programming, inviting two high-profile speakers to lead the discussion: John Davis, one of the top rural arts advocates in the U.S., came from Lanesboro, Minn.; and Mireille Eagan, curator of contemporary art at The Rooms, in St. John's, NL, who lectures across Canada and curates internationally at events such as the Venice Biennale. Inspiring and pragmatic, they provided real-life examples of ways that art can transform communities, our perceptions and experiences, and how it can inspire pride and a sense of identity. John Davis provided a workshop to artists and cultural workers and conducted a private session with a select group of community and business leaders on creative placemaking in small/rural communities. To position the forum as a catalyst for further action, ArtsLink supported the formation of a committee in Carleton County comprised of business people, artists, cultural workers, politicians, educators and others interested in finding ways for the arts to support broader community development. ArtsLink has committed its support to this committee and will consider how it may serve as a model for creative placemaking committees in other communities.



SHORT & SWEET SPEAKER SERIES:

Artists of mixed disciplines presenting themselves and their work through a 'Short & Sweet' presentation. 20 slides, 20 seconds: no tech slip ups, no pressure. An informal twist to a stiff business event with the goal to bring folks together to find out what their peers are up to, bust everyone out of their studios to share our stories and perhaps a drink.

The first event took place in Saint John on Aug. 16 at the Picaroons General Store, and featured Maggie Higgins, Gretchen Kelbaugh, Jared Peters and Holly DeWolf as speakers. Our Sackville event took place at Thunder & Lightning in Sackville on the 23rd of August and featured artists Bob Morouney, Aldair Ramírez, Adrianna Kuiper, Rachel Thorton, and D'Arcy Wilson. Hear all about them and their fantastic array of works – get set for inspiration galore!



ARTSLINK IN THE AFTERNOON:

ArtsLink's Summer interns were very excited to start up a radio program in 2016, as a great way to connect with our membership and keep folks up-to-date with our news and members by talking to them on-air! ArtsLink in the Afternoon aired Tuesday's at 1:30, on Local 107.3FM for the Summer months, gathering a lineup of our members as guests for the show, speaking about themselves and their work; giving insight to the world of an artist. They engaged an eclectic mix of artists and organizations whose work reaches all ends of the artistic spectrum. Along with chatting up our special guests, we also shared New Brunswick events, deadlines, and local music.

Government WORKING GROUPS

ArtsLink NB promotes the growth and development of the New Brunswick arts sector through information, education, member services and by representing the membership through participation in provincial, regional and national government, business and cultural forums and initiatives. **ArtsLink NB** has been extremely active in the past few years in a number of high-level discussions and working groups that aim to improve the working and living conditions for New Brunswick artists.

- **Premier's Task Force on the Status of the Artist:** ArtsLink Executive Director and President were appointed to the Premier's Task Force on the Status of the Artist.
- **Culture Plus:** ArtsLink Executive Director and Secretary were members of a group selected to help develop a new provincial council to address human resources needs in the sector, including continuing education and professional development for professional artists and cultural workers. Culture Plus had its inaugural meeting in February.
- **artsnb transition committee:** this committee was created in 2016 to discuss and advise on a viable and productive future for the New Brunswick Arts Board following the significant funding reductions announced in last February's provincial budget. Collaboration with other arts and culture organizations and our government partners is key to our continued progress, and to the well-being of the sector as a whole.
- **Maine/N.B. MOU Taskforce:** ArtsLink Executive Director is a member of this important trans-border initiative. She participates in a Taskforce conference call every six weeks in which stakeholders discuss areas of mutual interest, as well as hold one face-to-face each year.
- **Premier's Summit on Arts and Culture:** Caraquet, February 2016, Kathryn Hamer, on behalf of Susan Chalmers-Gauvin presented on the wide relevance of the arts and culture sector to education, health, entrepreneurship.



Executive Summary 2015-16

The summarized financial information is extracted from financial statements reviewed by Belyea Colwell Daley, Chartered Accountants. A copy of the complete financial statements is available from Executive Director, Gillian Dykeman at gillian@artslinknb.com.

	2016	2015
REVENUE		
Government grants	\$ 91,109	\$ 130,144
Special program grants	\$ 100,662	\$ 93,580
Membership fees	\$8,232	\$ 3,453
Other	\$ 812	\$ 164
TOTAL	\$ 200,815	\$ 227,341
EXPENDITURES		
PROJECT COSTS		
ArtsLink NB Forum	\$ 20,558	\$ 17,812
CATAPULT	\$ 35,659	\$ 49,340
Workshops	\$ 30	\$ 11,765
Strategic Plan	\$ 24,193	-
Other	\$ 00.00	\$ 12,722
Advertising	\$ 1,189	\$ 1,725
Amortization	\$ 1,140	\$ 1,052
Bank charges	\$ 1,047	\$ 701
Consultants	\$ 2,000	-
Insurance	\$ 1,791	\$ 1,747
Meals	\$ 2,173	\$ 1,128
Office	\$3,065	\$ 2,822
Professional development	\$ 644	\$ 1,313
Professional fees	\$ 6,455	\$ 5,698
Rent	\$ 5,751	\$ 6,034
Salaries and benefits	\$ 69,128	\$ 85,388
Telephone	\$ 947	\$ 571
Travel and meetings	\$6,896	\$ 4,378
Website	\$ 1,400	\$ 443
TOTAL	\$ 184,066	\$ 204,639
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENDITURES	\$ 16,749	\$ 22,702
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS (LIABILITIES) AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$ 21,777	\$ (925)
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS (LIABILITIES) AT END OF YEAR	\$ 38,526	\$ 21,777

ArtsLink NB:



**Kathryn Hamer, President
(Sackville)**

Former vice-president of the University of New Brunswick Saint John and dean of arts at Mount Allison University, Kathy Hamer is a master administrator with a passion for the arts. As well as her role with ArtsLink, Kathy serves on the boards of the New Brunswick Museum and the New Brunswick Youth Orchestra. A published author, she is fluently bilingual.



**Susan ChalmersGauvin, vice-
President (Moncton)**

Founder and CEO of the Atlantic Ballet Theatre of Canada, Susan has over 20 years of management and consulting experience in the not-for-profit sector. With a strong focus on business development, revenue growth and export, Susan is a frequent guest speaker on the topics of performing arts management; the importance of Canadian arts and culture to our regional, municipal and national economies; and the role of the arts in enriching quality of life.



**Michael Wennberg, vice-
President (Rothesay)**

A retired lawyer, Mike is very active in the Saint John and provincial arts scenes. Former chair of the Saint John Community Arts Board, he oversaw the adoption of a municipal cultural policy that included a One Percent For Public Art Policy. Mike was instrumental in Saint John being named a Cultural Capital of Canada in 2010, and has been a member of the board of directors of Sculpture Saint John since its inception.



**David Adams
(Saint John)**

A violinist who has gained critical acclaim as a soloist, conductor, chamber and orchestral musician, David is artist-in-residence at the University of New Brunswick Saint John, plays principal violin with the Saint John String Quartet and concert master for Symphony New Brunswick and Atlantic Sinfonia. David is often heard on regional and national CBC radio programs; with the Saint John String Quartet he has toured Canada, the United States, Europe, Japan, Hong Kong and China.



**Karen Leblanc
(Fredericton)**

Karen LeBlanc, owner of Loominations weaving studio and gallery, has been weaving for approximately 40 years. Karen is a juried member and Past-President of the NB Crafts Council, President of the Fibre Arts Network, a board member of ArtsLink NB, and is a member of the Guild of Canadian Weavers and Complex Weavers. She is employed as the Executive Director of the Joint Economic Development Initiative (JEDI). Karen attended NB Craft School and her work has been exhibited in several galleries and exhibits, and is in private and public collections throughout the world. She has coordinated two Fibre Art exhibitions at the UNB Art Centre.



**Victoria Hutt
(Florenceville-Bristol)**

Victoria Hutt feels passionately about making art exhibits, education, and creation opportunities accessible in rural New Brunswick. Among other activities, she has developed programs for Carleton Place schools featuring local and regional artists, initiated the Art in the Valley Studio Tour of artists along the Upper St. John River Valley, created a summer art outreach program for youth in rural communities, and developed the River Art Centre & Studios artist's space. Victoria is a NSCAD University graduate (B.Des.), mother of four, and delighted to be reunited with her hometown roots, living and working in Florenceville-Bristol.



**Grant Roberts, Treasurer
(Saint John)**

Grant Roberts is a CPA, CMA currently working for J.D. Irving's Finance Department. Grant obtained his bachelor of business administration (BBA) from UNB Fredericton, 2012.



**Julie Scriver, Secretary
(Fredericton)**

Creative director at Goose Lane Editions, Julie has a background in dance (way back), English and French literary studies, and a smattering of life behind the scenes in theatre. She's brought her expertise to bear on all manner of art publications, exhibitions, and interpretive sites for such clients as the Frick Art & Historical Center, the Beaverbrook Art Gallery, Saint John Waterfront Development, the Canadian War Museum, and many organizations, independent writers, and artists. Photo Credit: Bob Morgan



**Adrienne Elfner-Hazen
(Bathurst)**

A visual artist, gallery owner and teacher for over 20 years, Adrienne was a founding member and is a former president of the Bathurst Art Society. "I strongly believe that art is a documentation of the history of mankind over a period of time and it is essential that it be nurtured, and promoted within the community in order to create a sense of pride for that community," she says.



**Phyllis Grant
(Pabineau First Nation)**

Phyllis Grant is a mother, artist, rapper, NFB filmmaker, community radio host, dreamer and lover of all creation. She's from the Mi'gmaq community of Pabineau First Nation, New Brunswick, Canada. Phyllis holds a Bachelor of Integrated Studies from UNB and Renaissance College. Her art focuses on sharing traditions and exploring identity through technology, leadership, transformative learning and healing within the process of creation. A prime focus is the practice and sharing of mandala art. She enjoys inspiring and facilitating creativity in others, and shares her path through artistic expressions of family, friendship, nature, community, stories, medicines, passion and love.



**John Cushnie
(Sussex)**

John Edward Cushnie is a professional artist living in New Brunswick with a practice focused on human vulnerability as it relates to the physical environment, notions of individuality, and contemporary representations of masculinity. John has worked as a visual arts instructor at Mount Allison University, the Ontario College of Art and Design University, and Western University, and has been involved with the Canadian Artist-run Centre movement for a number of years. He has served as the executive director of Connexion ARC; as the Atlantic representative for the Artist-run Centres and Collective Conference of Canada; the chair of the 2017 Conference Committee; and as a member of the remuneration sub-committee for the Premier's Committee on the Status of the Artist. He is currently represented by Buckland-Merrifield Gallery in Saint John, NB.



**Gillian Dykeman, Executive
Director (Saint John)**

Gillian Dykeman is an arts administrator and practicing interdisciplinary artist. She recently completed graduate research at the University of Toronto, obtaining a Masters in Visual Culture, and has a BFA from NSCAD University. Dykeman's professional experience includes extensive work in artist-run culture and the non-profit sector, art criticism, radio production, grant writing, as well as community development and engagement through the arts. Her work has been exhibited nationally and abroad, and she has participated in artist residencies across Canada.

A life-long New Brunswicker, Dykeman carries a deep commitment to both the province and its art communities.



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