

ArtsLink NB

ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 2016- June 30, 2017



Contents:

2. About ArtsLink NB: Mission and Mandate
3. Messages from the President and Executive Director

Overview of Activities 2016-17

4. Membership:
 - i. Short & Sweet Speaker Series
 - ii. Membership Communication
 - iii. Lending Library and Documentation Open House
5. Our Members
- 6.1 New HQ
- 6.2 Human Resources
7. Making it in NB
- 8.1 Start to Finish workshop series
- 8.2 Catapult
9. Advocacy
 - i. Research
 - ii. Working Groups
10. Financial Summary
11. The ArtsLink NB Team

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.

Cover Image: *Lunar Tides* By: *Nostos Collectives* (Kâté Braydon)

Message from the President



As you read through this report on ArtsLink NB's activities over the last year, I know you will share the excitement of the board and staff about all that has been accomplished.

The Executive Director, Associate Director, and I have been actively involved on the Premier's Task Force on the Status of the Artist. While the task force is not yet ready to make a final report and recommendations to the premier, the work has already had some effects. One of these is a reformatting of the presentation of our criteria for professional-artist membership, aligning them with the criteria adopted by the AAAPNB without changing them in principle. A second has been identifying a role for ArtsLink in publishing existing organizations' guidelines for artist fees to ensure that presenters and engagers know what is considered fair.

In January, the board struck a committee to work with staff in planning for the review of New Brunswick's Anglophone K-12 Arts Education. A background position document is available on our website, and you can read more about this exciting project elsewhere in this report.

Your board has been working through the implications of the revised by-laws adopted at last year's annual general meeting, and has developed policies in the areas of budget presentation and approval, land-acknowledgment, and professional development. In June, we were delighted to be able to arrive at a new two-year contract for the Associate Director. Leaving the board this year at the end of their terms are Phyllis Grant and Susan Chalmers-Gauvin. We thank them for the energies and wisdom they have provided over the years.

When I took on the role of President last year, I wrote a bit about what attracted me to this organization. There are not a lot of us inhabiting this gorgeous place, and we are not always very close together. And that's where ArtsLink is so important. Here is an organization devoted to helping New Brunswick artists know what others are doing. In addition to reassuring us that we are not alone, this leads to inspiration and collaboration in our practices as artists, opening up new horizons. It also gives us access to a bigger portrait of the arts scene in New Brunswick, helping us to frame and tell the story of the benefits the arts can provide to all New Brunswickers. Telling that story effectively can only, in turn, make it easier for us to make our art and our livings here. To be effective and authentic in its mission, the organization needs members. The staff and the board have committed to increasing the membership numbers. Please help us with this!

ArtsLink NB is blessed with an accomplished and dedicated staff. Gillian Dykeman and Julie Whitenect represent the organization ably and energetically at countless meetings and events. They have also done fabulous work this year in securing the special-project funding that ensures maximum impact for the organization.

Finally, ArtsLink NB could not operate without the collaboration and goodwill of a number of organizations. Among these are our "roomies" Third Space Gallery and, of course, the AAAPNB, with whom we meet, consult, rejoice, collaborate, and commiserate, on a regular basis. Our colleagues at the Department of Tourism, Heritage, and Culture and at other government departments provide not only collegial advice and leadership but also funding without which we could not fulfill our mission of ensuring that the arts remain vital to all New Brunswickers.

Mark Blagrove,
President of the Board, ArtsLink NB

Message from the Executive Director



Dear ArtsLink Members,

Much of last year was spent laying the groundwork for the programming and advocacy now coming to fruition. We've revisited past successes, and built upon those to offer more robust programming. We've also continued our advocacy work, and added a new project on arts education. In all of our efforts, we seek to find the best and most effective long and short term means to support artists working in New Brunswick.

Programming now underway includes our flagship professional development program, Catapult. Catapult is once again running with some important tweaks and additions, including an emphasis on export and reaching new markets. This year, we've been able to better support new participants as well as our Catapult alumni network with the addition of a full-time staff. Sarah Jones is coordinating both

new cohorts, as well as offering ongoing support to former participants. ArtsLink NB is also once again offering workshops open to all members in our Start to Finish workshop series. These workshops are longer, and more hands-on than previous iterations. Participants are provided with significant follow-through including editing and applications. Our "Short and Sweet" speaker series ran once again this year; this time with the addition of a workshop from artsnb delivered before the talks. Our programming calendar operates year-round, so keep an eye out for workshop opportunities, "Short and Sweet" events, and calls for participation and feedback for our advocacy work.

Our Advocacy work in the last year included substantial time and efforts on the Premier's Task Force on the Status of the Artist. This body has been dedicated to ensuring the findings of the task force will support the needs of artists in this province. We also performed lobby work in collaboration with MediaNB and our counterpart, l'AAAPNB. Our arts education project seeks to fill in some major gaps in understanding the situation and challenges faced by our sector in this province. There may be correlations between access to arts education and both the valuing of art in society and sense of belonging to this place. The arts ground individuals in a sense of regional identity and agency in the world, and we hope all of this work will result in more New Brunswick school children both learning through and seeing themselves in the arts.

The efficacy of our voice as an organization is directly correlated with the strength of our membership. Membership has been steadily growing, so for those of you who have just joined us, welcome. We're so glad to include you in our work, and are grateful to be your artist association. Thank you to all of our loyal and multi-year members as well, of course. We hope to continue to link you to your community, and create support around you by increasing the profile of our sector.

Thank you, of course, to our dear colleagues of l'AAAPNB; your trailblazing in arts education has helped open the door for our new project, and serving on consultative and advisory bodies with you is a pleasure. Working through Creative Futures, the province's cultural policy, is bolstered by our great colleagues at Tourism, Heritage, and Culture. We thank the department for funding the work we do on behalf of the needs of artists, and are grateful to share the task of elevating our sector with you. We also have had generous support and guidance from PETL, RDC, and ACOA over the last year. Thank you to our patient and thoughtful program officers; we've been grateful to have your support and understanding.

Gillian Dykeman,
Executive Director, ArtsLink NB

Membership

ArtsLink NB continued to attract new members over the last year. The majority of our membership are individual artists, with a few organizations, arts-based businesses, and our dear “friends of the arts” in the mix. We began a new member recruitment campaign this summer which will carry on throughout the year. This fall, the board announced a “fee vacation” for students enrolled in post-secondary art education. Including youthful perspectives in our membership helps us to reach and serve up-and-coming artists. Across the province there was a 37% decline in the number of persons aged 25- 34 working in arts and cultural occupations between 1996 and 2006 while the number across Canada rose by 10%. These artists represent the future of our sector, and by reaching greater numbers of them, ArtsLink NB hopes bolster art careers and cement support from within the province where they’ve chosen to study.

Short and Sweet Speaker Series

Continuing the success of the past year’s speaker series ArtsLink offered an opportunity for artists of mixed disciplines to present 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.

This year’s events took place in Saint John on Aug. 1 at the Picaroons General Store, and featured Dan Culberson, Alison Cran, Darren Emenau, and Sarah Rankin as speakers. Our Saint Andrews event took place at Sunbury Shores Arts & Nature Centre on the 11th of August and featured artists Alanna Baird, Emily Nelson & Travis Melanson of Muddy Boots, Claudia Munro Kerr, and Matt Watkins.



Membership Communication

ArtsLink continues to share a weekly newsletter with its members, full of exciting events, opportunities and deadlines. This newsletter provides information from local, national and international organizations as well as news from and for our members.

This summer we started a more in-depth look into our membership, building on the success of last summer’s radio show. This evolved into a video spotlight series

ArtsLink has so many brilliant members - time to meet some of them!

Get to know an artist through a short video profile that will be posted in our newsletters. This is our first; look out for more. Check out our youtube channel!



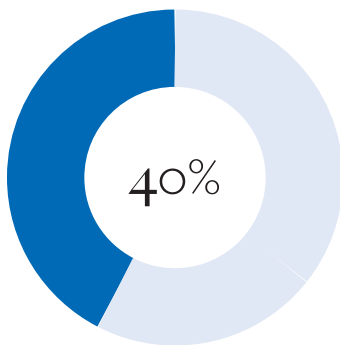
Lending Library and Documentation Open House

Thanks to a generous grant from the Sheila Hugh MacKay Foundation, ArtsLink was able to purchase new cameras, lights, mics, tools and books for our members to use to help document their work. This purchase was essential to the lead-up to our START to FINISH workshop series, and to kick things off we opened our office up this summer so members could bring in work to be photographed. Great documentation is essential for strong grant applications and ArtsLink is glad to provide our artists this access. Equipment and books can be borrowed from our office for free, and ArtsLink will continue to schedule documentation days leading up to the grant deadline season.

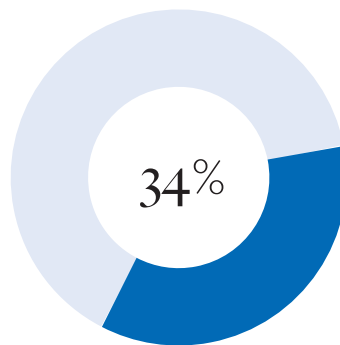


Our Members:

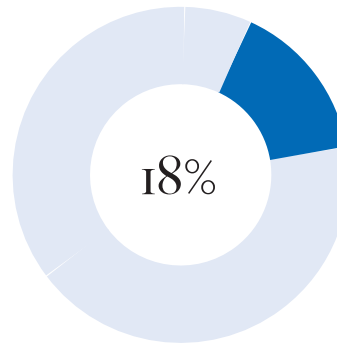
150 members in good standing. 45 new members



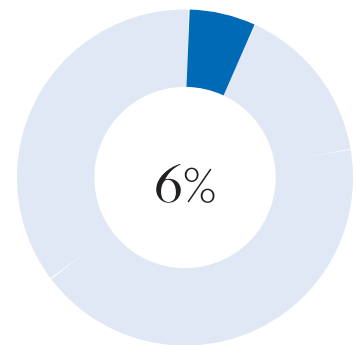
Bay Of Fundy Region



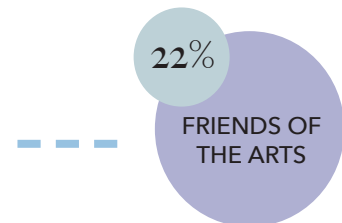
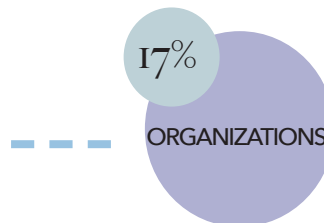
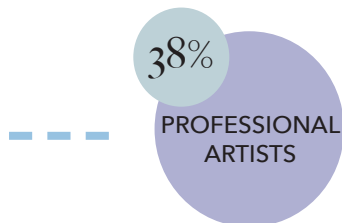
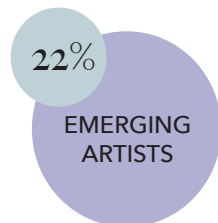
Saint John River Valley Region



South-Eastern NB Region



Northern NB Region



Adriana Kuiper
Aldair Ramírez
Alicia Potter
Alison Gayton
Alma Campbell
Andrea Dimock
Andrew Kierstead
Ann Manuel
Anne Babin
Arabella Design Publications
Barbara Safran de Niverville
Bathurst Art Society
Blair Borgerson
Bob Morouney
Brian Dykeman
Bruce Gray
Candice Ostroski
CARFAC
Carol Ann Wiebe
Catherine Constable
Cathy Healy
Cathy Linfield
Chrissy Myers
Clair Shiplett
Clare McCain
Clinton Charlton
Craft NB
Craig Dow
Creek Villiage
Dale Cook
Dale Peters
Daniel Eastman
Danielle hogan
Darlene Baker
David Reeves
Debby Donnelly
Deborah Payne
Denise Cormier Mahoney

Denise Violette Michaud
Diane Davis
Emily Saab
Fabiola Martinez
Festival Inspire
Florenceville-Bristol Tourism
Fog Lit Festival
Gallery 78
Gillian Dykeman
Goose Lane Editions
Gretchen Kelbaugh
Gustave Savoie
Hardman Group
Hemmings House
Holly DeWolf
Ignite Fredericton
Ingrid Mueller Gallery
Jamie Lynn Gardner
Jane Higgins
Jason Nugent
Jennifer Pazienza
Jessie Babin
Jocelyn T. Richard
Joe & Gudi Pach
John Leroux
John Murchie
John Mutch
Judith Mackin
Julie Scriver
Julie Whitenect
Kaeli Cook
Karen LeBlanc
Karina Kierstead
Kate Braydon
Kate Wallace
Kathy Hamer
Kelly Baker
Kelly Hill

Kim Stubbs
Kris LeBlanc
Krista Hasson
l'AAAPNB
La Dulse Vie
Laura Vautour
Laurel Green
Leo LaFleur
Lisa Pearson
Lise Dumas Richard
Lynda Burke
Lynn Saintonge
Lynn Wigginton
MacKenzie College
Maegan Black
Maggie Higgins
Marie Helene Morrell
Mark Blaggrave
Marla Lesage
Mary Collier Fleet
Mathieu Francoeur
McCain Art Gallery
Melindria Tavoularis
Michael Wennberg
Mike Erb
Mike Meshau
Monique Brown
Music NB
Mustard Seed Art Studio
Nancy Whyte
NB Chorale Federation
NB Film Co-op
Pauline Young
Peter Powning
Philip Savage
Phyllis Grant
Rachel Thorton
Rayanne Brennan

Rebecca Jacques
Renate Roske-Shelton
Renée Mireille Albert
Richard Hornsby
Rosanna Armstrong
Saint John Community Arts Board
Saint John String Quartet
Saint John Theatre Company
Samuel Arnold
Sarah Jones
Sean Dunbar
Sébastien Leclerc
Serge V. Richard
Sheila Blaggrave
Sheila Watters
ShoShanna Wingate Thomas
Solo Chicken Productions
Sophia Toft Moulton
St. Andrews Arts Council
Stephen Tobias
Sue Hooper
Sunbury Shores
Susan Galbraith
Susan Wall
Suzanne Hill
SymposiumBDC
Thaddeus Holownia
Thandi Hooper Clarke
The Butcher's Daughter
The Fiddlehead
Theresa MacKnight
Toby Graser
UNB Fredericton
Vicky Lentz
Victoria Clowater
Writers' Federation of New Brunswick

New HQ

This Year the ArtsLink HQ moved to a more spacious and accessible office. We are sharing Suite 407 at 89 Canterbury St. with Third Space Gallery in Uptown Saint John. This dedicated space includes room for member-based programming such as readings, exhibitions, workshops and more. We will continue to open up this space for members to be able to book their own events, and for creating new opportunities to share what you do.

In December we hosted a Member Exhibition / Office-Warming / Open Studio in the new space and since then the space has been host to exhibitions, workshops, performances and more. We look forward to updates and changes in the months to come and to continue to use the space for cultural events.



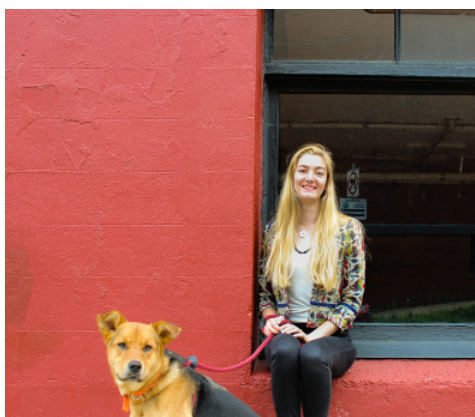
Human resources

ArtsLink just keeps growing! In 2016-17 thanks to funding from Canada summer Jobs and the provincial SEED program, ArtsLink was able to hire two summer students.

Kenzie Hancox was able to return for a third summer, this time as Outreach intern. She is going into her fourth year at Mount Allison University doing Modern Languages, Literature, and Culture, with a minor in Religious Studies. When not being diligently studious, you can find her expanding her Polaroid collection or watching foreign films. Kenzie was joined by Caleb Hunter taking over as Communications intern, a law student at the University of Ottawa with a keen interest in the arts. Born and raised in New Brunswick he is excited by the opportunity to help promote the province's arts community. Together Kenzie and Caleb expanded our social media presence, planned and executed a successful speaker series, and member spotlights, as well as tackled research and retention projects.

ArtsLink NB has welcomed an additional full-time staff to the team this year: Sarah Jones is coordinating Catapult, our flagship professional development program. Jones joined us in July and is in the midst of delivery our first cohort of entrepreneurial skills training for artists. Jones is a successful artist entrepreneur in her own right, and has generously offered to take on the role to share what she knows, and brings a robust connection to the entrepreneurial ecosystem of the province.

ArtsLink's Associate director, Julie Whitenect, participated in a semester of spoken French lessons. Both the Executive and Associate director received professional development training from Learnsphere consultant Laurie Bourque on project management. Both staff have also received training from Business for the Arts through their artsVest program, including mentorship from HotDocs director of sponsorship Jenn Shah.



MAKING it in New Brunswick; Forum & AGM:



MAKING it in New Brunswick is an innovative forum that brings together a diverse mix of stakeholders to explore how the arts can empower communities. Hosted by ArtsLink NB, the forum is a key opportunity to learn how to harness art, culture, and creativity as catalysts for community vibrancy, sustainability, prosperity, and inclusiveness.

This forum brought workshops to help develop your career, a panel discussion to ask what it means to Make it in New Brunswick, networking events, and a phenomenal Keynote speech from successful contemporary artist, Justin Langlois. Langlois shared his experiences developing a vibrant career from the margins of the Canadian art map. Throughout the Forum, we looked at fostering collaboration across sectors and within our own as a key aspect of creative practice for all disciplines.

Friday, Nov, 4 we kicked off the forum with workshops by our keynote guest and artsnb. In the evening, we joined our artistic colleagues and friends at a laid back networking event and reception at the Charlotte Street Art Centre. In keeping with our theme, the reception was presented in collaboration with the NB Film Co-op and Silverwave Film Festival. David in the Dark performed.

Saturday was packed with an exciting opening provided by Lisa Ann Ross of Solo Chicken Productions, followed by our AGM and an update from the Premier's Task Force on the Status of the Artist, then lunch, breakout discussions, Keynote Speech from Justin Langlois, and an engaging panel discussion featuring our guest and some of New Brunswick's best and brightest artists committed to making it here.



START to FINISH Workshop Series

ArtsLink NB is excited to offer a series of workshops to take artists through all of the steps needed to access professional opportunities, and succeed in their careers. In particular, this project is aimed at increasing the number of artists pursuing grants and residency opportunities, as well as their ability to succeed in their applications. Topics include: Documenting your work; Writing for a Grant II; and Applying for a Residency. The first in this series took place in September in Fredericton and Sussex, facilitated by John Murchie, on Writing for a Grant II.



CATAPULT 2.0

ArtsLink NB received funding in 2017 from the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency and the Province of New Brunswick (Department of Tourism, Heritage and Culture, Department of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour, and Regional Development Corporation) to launch CATAPULT 2.0, an intensive arts accelerator program that aims to improve the entrepreneurial skills and business networks for its participants and to foster a culture of entrepreneurship in New Brunswick's arts sector.

CATAPULT participants take part in eight 1.5 day business skills 'boot camps' during which they will receive fundamental entrepreneurial skills training in topics like business modeling, marketing, branding, pricing and financial planning. Guest speakers for these boot camps will be drawn from both the business and arts community. CATAPULT aims to equip its artist-entrepreneurs with the skills necessary for long-term success, like time management, outsourcing, augmenting their capacity to monetize work and/or time, and maximizing export as well as local sales opportunities. Participants will also receive one-on-one coaching and mentorships from individuals operating at the top of their field.

CATAPULT is unique amid the field of business accelerators as it is specialized for the needs of artists. Special emphasis is placed on balancing creative integrity and commercial viability. In addition to traditional business skills workshops, participants will also receive discipline specific training and support for surviving the art world, like advice on grant writing, documentation or recording, and negotiating art contracts.

CATAPULT 2.0 will offer two cohort sessions, the first in Fredericton (September-November 2017) and the second in Saint John (winter 2018). A maximum of six participants will be accepted for each cohort.

CATAPULT program coordinator, Sarah Jones, was hired in July 2017. The Fredericton session is currently in progress.



Advocacy

ArtsLink NB staff and directors sit on the Premier's Task Force on the Status of the Artist. We're contributing to the direction of a report which will recommend both legislation and policy recognizing the contributions and needs of artists working in New Brunswick.

We worked with AAAPNB this year to seek funding that would ensure the province could carry out the ambitions of the cultural policy - Creative Futures - put forward in 2014. The aims of the policy are ambitious and integral to the success of our sector. We hope to see an increase in funding to artsnb, the body best equipped to directly support artists' ability to execute their work, and better support for community arts organizations and institutions. We also met with Minister Ames (of Tourism, Heritage, and Culture), AAAPNB, and Media NB to look for increased support for NB's film industry.



Research: Review of Anglophone K-12 Arts Education in New Brunswick

With funding now in place from the Departments of Tourism, Heritage, and Culture, and of Postsecondary Education, Training, and Labour, we have established a steering committee for our long-planned review of arts education in the Anglophone schools. The committee includes representatives of ArtsLink's board and staff, teachers present and past, educational research experts, and representatives of the Anglophone school system. A series of meetings throughout October enabled the committee to identify issues and develop questions to structure a series of four public consultation meetings to be held in November 2017, one in each of the four Anglophone school districts. ArtsLink will communicate with members to encourage them to attend these public consultations. Following these, the steering committee will reconvene to process the input and to commission a research study to explore salient issues and fill in gaps. The completed study will be the subject of further public consultations in June 2018, and then, finally, the steering committee will receive and then present a final report on the current state and recommended future directions for K-12 arts education in New Brunswick.

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. Photo: The Premier's Task Force on the Status of the artists: meeting to discuss progress on the final report. (Mar. 2017)
- **Media Advisory Committee:** ArtsLink NB represents the interests of filmmakers (from emerging to established) through work on the Media Advisory Committee. The committee is tasked with overseeing the structure of the province's subsidy program for the film industry, and re-structuring it in the coming years. Research into best practices across Canada, as well as regularly consulting industry producers and filmmakers informs ArtsLink NB's ability to speak clearly to the needs for film in NB.
- **Maine/N.B. MOU Task force:** ArtsLink Associate Director is a member of this important trans-border initiative. She participates in a Task force 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:** Saint Andrews, May 23, 2017, Gillian Dykeman and Julie Whitenect participated in the second opportunities summit on Arts and Culture.

Executive Summary 2016-17

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.

	2017	2016
REVENUE		
Government grants	\$93,963	\$ 91,109
Special program grants	\$14,241	\$ 100,662
Membership fees	\$8,699	\$8,232
Other	\$3,913	\$ 812
TOTAL	\$122,130	\$ 200,815
EXPENDITURES		
PROJECT COSTS		
ArtsLink NB Forum	\$11,069	\$ 20,558
CATAPULT	-	\$ 35,659
Culture Days	\$6,306	-
Workshops	-	\$ 30
Strategic Plan	-	\$ 24,193
Status of the Artist	\$1,213	-
Short & Sweet Speaker Series	\$135	-
Advertising	\$1,239	\$ 1,189
Amortization	\$1,875	\$ 1,140
Bank charges	\$983	\$ 1,047
Consultants	-	\$ 2,000
Insurance	\$1,859	\$ 1,791
Meals	\$2,086	\$ 2,173
Office	\$4,222	\$3,065
Professional development	\$672	\$ 644
Professional fees	\$6,177	\$ 6,455
Rent	\$7,186	\$ 5,751
Salaries and benefits	\$81,409	\$ 69,128
Telephone	\$1,275	\$ 947
Travel and meetings	\$4,240	\$6,896
Website	\$4,230	\$ 1,400
TOTAL	\$136,175	\$ 184,066
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENDITURES	(\$14,045)	\$ 16,749
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS (LIABILITIES) AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$38,526	\$ 21,777
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS (LIABILITIES) AT END OF YEAR	\$24,480	\$ 38,526

The ArtsLink NB team:



Mark Blagrove
President (Saint Andrews)

Mark Blagrove was a founding director of the Bi-Capitol Project Inc. in Saint John, and has served as chair of artsnb. His Saint-John-based novel *Silver Salts* was shortlisted for the 2008 Commonwealth Prize for first novel (Canada and Caribbean). His short fiction has been widely published. Mark is a former university professor and administrator.



Michael Wennberg
vice-President (Rothesay)

A retired lawyer, and former chair of the Saint John Community Arts Board, Mike oversaw the adoption of a municipal cultural policy that included a One Percent For Public Art Policy. Mike was instrumental in Saint John's Cultural Capital designations and is on board of directors of Sculpture Saint John.



Julie Scriver
vice-President (Fredericton)

Creative director at Goose Lane Editions, Julie has a background in dance, 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 clients, organizations, and independent writers, and artists.



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.



Victoria Hutt,
Secretary (Florenceville-Bristol)

Victoria Hutt has developed artists programs for Carleton North schools, initiated the Art in the Valley Studio Tour 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.



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.



Karen Leblanc
(Fredericton)

Owner of Loominations weaving studio and gallery, Karen has been weaving for approximately 40 years. Karen is a juried member and Past-President of the Craft NB President of the Fibre Arts Network, and is a member of the Guild of Canadian Weavers and Complex Weavers. Karen is the Executive Director of the Joint Economic Development Initiative (JEDI).



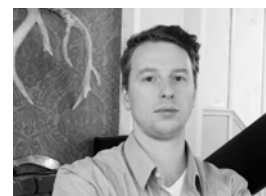
Susan Chalmers-Gauvin
(Moncton)

Founder and CEO of the Atlantic Ballet Theatre of Canada, 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 to our economies; and the role of the arts in enriching quality of life.



Phyllis Grant
(Pabineau First Nation)

Phyllis 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, holding a Bachelor of Integrated Studies from UNB and Renaissance College. Her art focuses on sharing traditions and exploring identity, learning and healing within the process of creation.



John Edward Cushnie
(Sussex)

John is a professional artist working in Sussex, and has worked as a visual arts instructor at several universities in Canada. He has served as the executive director of Connexion ARC; as the Atlantic representative for the Artist-run Centres and Collective Conference of Canada; and is currently represented by Buckland-Merrifield Gallery.



Kathryn Hamer,
Past-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.



Gillian Dykeman,
Executive Director (Fredericton)

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. Her work has been exhibited nationally and abroad, and she has participated in artist residencies across Canada.



Julie Whitenect
Associate Director (Saint John)

Julie is an emerging artist focusing in printmaking, she received her Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree from Mount Allison University '14. Her broad employment history ranges from bookkeeper, film projectionist, print material designer, and now Associate Director of ArtsLink NB.



Sarah Jones
Catapult Coordinator (Saint John)

Sarah Jones is a visual artist and art historian based in Saint John, New Brunswick. Jones has a Master's of Arts degree in Art History from Queen's University, and lectures at galleries and universities across Atlantic Canada. Her own studio practice focuses on urban and industrial culture. Jones has exhibited locally and abroad.



506.632.1832
www.artslinknb.com