



## Building Better Communities Through the Arts

### TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND STAKEHOLDERS REPORT ON FISCAL JUNE 30-2016 ACTIVITIES AND LOOKING FORWARD

**ArtHouse turned Seven Years old in June 2016**, and in addition to this review of our results, I also want to express my thanks to so many as we continue to achieve new and exciting milestones – to the members of our Board of Directors for your loyalty, your time and energy and your willingness to be ambassadors for an organization that has yet to see a parallel in the Region of Halton, and to our partners and stakeholders who have embraced and supported our vision to provide exceptional arts programs for those that have little or no access to the arts.

**In June, the Board of Directors Approved Vision 2019** highlighting goals in the following areas:

- Continue program growth for 7-12 year olds in Burlington and Oakville:
  - Implement plans for the substantial presence of programs in Milton.
- Expand TAKE FIVE Leadership Programs in all three communities for youth aged 13-17;
- Pilot TAKE SIXTY-FIVE programs for Seniors at Halton Community Housing locations;
- Strengthen our research relating to the influence of arts programs and how they support positive mental health amongst vulnerable children and youth.

So let's review Fiscal 2016:

#### **Financially:**

- Fiscal 2016 produced record revenues with over \$285,000 raised which brings us to a cumulative seven-year total of \$1,160,000 – thank you to so many for your generosity!!
  - We are grateful to over 195 individuals, foundations, government granting organizations and sponsors for providing a healthy balance of funding for our programs;
  - Our financial ratios remain strong with administration costs at 15.7%, and our Fundraising costs at just 8.6%;
  - ArtHouse concluded Fiscal 2016 with a surplus of \$34,000.

#### **Fundraising Highlights:**

- ArtHouse has achieved broad reach throughout our communities:
  - 186 Granting organizations, sponsors, individuals, Festival Series Ambassadors and Patrons, including 37 donors at \$1,000 or more;
  - The ArtHouse Summer Camp Campaign raised a record \$36,000 thanks to 72 donors;

- The Festival Series, thanks to our wonderful Sponsors, Ambassadors and Patrons maintained a satisfactory profit to cost ratio of 2:1 with three very successful events, including Puttin' on the Glitz at QEP Cultural Centre, which took us through an historic 100 years of dancing, from the Swing Era to Modern Hip Hop; Classical Gas at Joshua Creek Heritage Arts Centre with our guest performers Barry Shiffman and his students from the Royal Conservatory of Music; and Steve Patterson and the Debaters at the Burlington Performing Arts Centre, the latter event in partnership with our close pals, the Children's Aid Foundation of Halton:
  - As always, our events offer an opportunity for our young ArtHouse participants to join us, either as volunteers, performers or simply for a special night out with their family.
- We celebrated 6 Multi-year Donors including Willson International Ltd., the Region of Halton, United Way of Oakville, the Ontario Trillium Foundation, RBC and the Holmes Family who have all helped us to set a sustained base of close 50% of our annual funding;
- There was more great news when we received confirmation of two major donations; from the GWD Foundation for Kids, and the Warren Y. Soper Charitable Trust!!
- And our long-standing supporters, the Oakville Community Foundation, the Burlington Community Foundation, the May Court Club of Oakville, the Oakville Arts Council, the Shorey, Galloway, Jackson, Willis and Bennett Families, the AWB Charitable Foundation, The Derick Brenninkmeyer Charitable Foundation, Snap-on Canada, Henderson Partners LLP, the Kennedy Sisters, Georgian Capital, Barkley Print and the Medicine Shoppe have been consistent with their financial generosity since our earliest days;
- And again to our Ambassadors, Patrons, Board Members, and so many other ArtHouse Friends, thank you for your thoughtful and generous support;
- I look forward to continuing our work with Fundraising Committee members Andy Aicklen, Rob Burgess and our newest arrival, Len Pace as our financial goals take us to greater heights to ensure that we can welcome even more young participants to the ArtHouse family.

### **Our Community Activities:**

- Among many wonderful activities that took place over the year including an ArtHouse Canada Day Celebration on the Cogeco Stage in Bronte, to Home Suite Hope's Empty Bowls Performance with our wonderful Hip Hop Dancers, to four special programs and performances in support of Burlington's Healthy Kids Community Challenge in June, one other ArtHouse "moment" stands out when 23 children from Sheridan Public School under the leadership of Sarah Zbogor performed our National Anthem in front of over 700 audience members and a very special guest; His Excellency, the Right Honourable David Johnson, our Governor General. Thank you to the Oakville Chamber of Commerce and the Oakville Community Foundation for your very generous invitation. We suspect this wonderful memory may live with our ArtHouse participants for years to come;
- These and other community events offer ArtHouse the opportunity to broaden awareness within our communities – we are grateful to all of our generous community partners for allowing us to share the talents of our young participants and our instructors.

## **Our Programs in Fiscal 2016:**

- 1,076 Children - up 25% from Fiscal 2015:
  - 94% were Front-of-the-Line Children – many programs were 100%.
- 64 Programs – up 21% from Fiscal 2015:
  - 33 Oakville – 29 Burlington and 2 in Milton!
- 60 Professional Instructors;
- 31 Locations:
  - Which included 8 Priority Schools with some programs during the school day.
- Our Agency, Arts Organizations and School Partnerships now number over 40 with many bringing their professional staff to help ensure that each of our programs runs efficiently.

Historically, we are very proud to boast that over the past seven years, ArtHouse has provided 208 programs for 3,594 Children and Youth – over 2,500 hours of programming from visual and performing arts, to music programs, to photography and fashion design, to yoga and hip hop, and cooking and garden education.

## **As we transitioned seamlessly from Fiscal 2016 to our 8th year, there were more exciting developments:**

- In July, ArtHouse unleashed “ArtHouse Shakes the Bard”, a one-week summer camp that introduced Shakespeare in a kid-friendly unthreatening manner (including pillow fights and Hip Hop!!). Our thanks to Ron Cameron-Lewis and Nicola Pantin for their expert guidance and to the Oakville Public Library for the use of the Central Auditorium;
- Thank you Sheridan College for your seventh year of generosity as Camp ArtHouse welcomed over 100 children and 47 Take Five volunteers and Camp Moms which resulted in two “Broadway” like performances of Disney’s Annie for Kids...truly awesome;
- Thank you MP Pam Damoff for “commissioning” 15 ArtHouse children to put together an arts collage in Celebration of Canada’s 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – we are also very grateful to our long-time friend and arts instructor Elizabeth Underhill who along with the Oakville Galleries generously gave of their time and talent;
- And finally, a huge honour and thrill as ArtHouse received its Accreditation from Imagine Canada by demonstrating excellence and compliance in five key areas; Board Governance, Financial Accountability and Transparency, Fundraising, Staff Management and Volunteer Involvement.

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## **Our Mission remains solid – we will continue to serve the Halton Region with a focus on Burlington, Milton and Oakville:**

- To work with children aged 7-12 in their most formative years, and now;
- To continue this journey with our Alumnae and other community Youth engaging them in Leadership Development through our Take Five Program;
- To give children and youth who are in families living under, at, and just above the low income line the same opportunity to succeed in life academically, socially and mentally as those that have regular access to arts and cultural programs – more than 20% of all families in each of our three Communities;
- To equip these children and youth with these tools in one of the most creative centuries in 400 years, and;
- To allow them to share in the opportunity to be educated and employed along with millions of Canadians in our very fast growing service sector;
- And, to embrace our isolated Take Sixty-Five seniors with special Arts programs giving them the opportunity to “Live for a Change”!!

## **We love what we do - why we remain involved and connected:**

- We will work at the ground level with our families and all of our partners because we want to maintain their trust;
- We will look for ways to strengthen the lives of our children and youth by measuring our successes and outcomes;
- We will dig even deeper as we research the importance of the arts and the many ways they can provide an avenue of support for those living with mental health issues;
- We will continue to seek new partnerships, which this year includes the Halton Multicultural Council, Our Kids Network, St. Luke’s Palermo, the Halton Regional Police, and the Oakville Public Library.

My sincere thanks to each of our wonderful Board Members for your tremendous support and special talent you each bring to ensure the success of our organization. Thanks Tina for your leadership, and for your wisdom and advice as we continue to set the highest set of standards to ensure the safety of our children and their families, which helps to protect the interests of all of stakeholders.

And thank you Gemma for your loyalty, dedication, energy and friendship. Your compassion for each and every individual member of our ArtHouse family shows through day after day. And congratulations on your 5th ArtHouse Anniversary this past October 13<sup>th</sup> – we still have miles to travel, and together we will continue to set the highest standards in all we do.

**In conclusion** - as a service-provider of the Arts in Halton, we remain committed to our greatest ArtHouse assets; our children, youth and now our seniors. Thank you all again for being part of this vital investment in their lives.