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MANITOBA CRAFT  
COUNCIL



Photo by Leif Norman



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# ANNUAL REPORT

CELEBRATING THE 2021-2022 MCC YEAR

# MANITOBA CRAFT COUNCIL

AUGUST 2021-JULY 2022

## Our Vision

A thriving and dynamic craft scene in Manitoba.

## Our Mandate

To promote, develop, and advocate for contemporary craft and its makers in Manitoba.



Water Ceremony as part of KC Adams exhibition Ne-me-ne-kosko-pan-in e-kid-ke-se-an-ka-yā-sk (Our Spirit Awakens When We Remember Our Past), 2022 Photo by Ebunoluwa Akinbo



## Land Acknowledgement

The MCC is part of the C2 Centre for Craft located on Treaty 1 Territory, the traditional lands of the Anishinaabeg, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota, and Dene Peoples and the homeland of the Métis Nation. Winnipeg's water source is Shoal Lake, home of Shoal Lake 40 First Nation and Iskatewizaagegan 39 Independent First Nation. As a provincial organization, MCC's activities support craft artists across Manitoba, connecting to folks living on Treaty 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 Territories and communities who are signatories to Treaties 6 and 10.



# MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

If I had to choose one word to characterize the 2021-2022 year for the Manitoba Craft Council community, it would be “resurgence.” Though we diligently pivoted and remained active throughout the pandemic, much of our work during that time felt disembodied and remote. Craftspeople and administrators alike worked as unseen elves, creating beautiful objects and experiences in hidden workshops, the results revealed in a virtual world. This past year saw many of us take care, mask up, and re-emerge into the physical world, energized and ready to renew our connections.

Case in point, our wonderful flagship Crafted Show and Sale in partnership with the Winnipeg Art Gallery returned as an in-person event in 2021 with a third day added to accommodate a timed-entry system intended to alleviate overcrowding. The feeling of excitement and energy from the vendors and visitors at the event was palpable. For many, it was their first big, post-covid event and they were eager to reconnect with beloved craftspeople and friends. Most artists reported record sales, and the MCC’s fundraising raffle held at the event was extremely successful.

Community engagement took centre stage in 2021-2022 and saw the addition of 10 staff hours per week and an internship dedicated to MCC’s “Growing Craft” initiative. Craftspeople under the age of 30, those living in rural or northern Manitoba, and Indigenous and BPOC artists were priority groups for programming and support. MCC piloted an online exhibition, Up and Coming Craft, highlighting young and emerging

artists and offering each the opportunity to talk about their work through an Instagram Live chat. MCC re-engaged its affiliation with the Manitoba Arts Network and partnered with rural arts venues on several events. MCC’s board and staff continued their participation in an in-depth, 2-year equity, diversity and inclusion process led by consultants at Cultural Pluralism in the Arts Ontario, yielding changes on personal, policy and practice levels.

Near the end of the fiscal year and into the next, participation in Warm Hands Warm Hearts, an initiative led by MCC member Sheila Cailleau, saw dozens of generous folks come through the doors at C2, many for the first time, eager to put their hands to the work of transforming old fur and leather coats into handmade mittens for those experiencing homelessness in Winnipeg. Our friends in the media were eager to help spread the work about this unique project, shining light on craft’s potential to build community and address basic needs. Over 80 pairs of mittens have been distributed to date with many more on the way.

Whether through these efforts or other new programs and services, MCC’s membership grew by 28% in the past year, adding approximately 70 new members to our community. The challenge for the coming year will be one of integrating, supporting, and retaining these new members with our current human and financial resources. MCC’s board, staff, and volunteers make a strong and dedicated team, and I have no doubt that we will embrace this happy challenge!



**TAMMY SUTHERLAND**  
DIRECTOR

# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

2022 seemed to be a year for mixed messaging.

On one hand, we were glad that Covid restrictions were being lifted, allowing us to attend openings and enjoy a meal in a restaurant again. On the other hand, did we really want to take a chance on mingling with all those masked and unmasked strangers?

Certainly some of us took that chance. The Crafted Sale was thronged with people eager to see and experience Fine Craft again in person, and they were certainly willing to take their favourite pieces home with them. 2021 was the best Crafted ever for a lot of the vendors.

Our membership has also increased substantially, indicating that our programming, workshops, and exhibitions are hitting a chord with a wider and more appreciative audience. This fall, the Manitoba Craft Council teamed up with our local IKEA store to provide another opportunity for our members to reach a wider audience for their wares at their Vinterfest sale. A first for us and for IKEA in Canada.

Warm Hands Warm Hearts was a rousing success with fully subscribed workshops providing warm hand made mittens for people in need. The Victoria Beach retreat has provided some lucky recipients with a dedicated time and space to work on their craft processes and to catch some rays and beach time as well.

We are also now in the process of setting up an endowment fund with the Winnipeg Foundation that will provide a sustainable source of income, supporting programming and special projects throughout future years.

As always, a big thanks and appreciation to our hard working staff and volunteers who make all the good things happen at the MCC.

On the whole, not too bad of a year...



**KEITH OLIVER**  
BOARD PRESIDENT



Keith Oliver, Board President, at the opening of his solo exhibition, *Spikes, Holes, and Other Things*, 2021



# GOVERNANCE UPDATE ON EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Governance attracted significant focus this past year. The Board adopted a practice for succession-planning, appointing a "second" for each Board office, to shadow them and step in as needed. This has already proven valuable, as the departure of our Treasurer earlier in the year led to a smooth transition to his second, who was already familiar with the relevant processes and issues.

In addition, a great deal of time and effort was spent developing skills and issue awareness with respect to equity, diversity and inclusion. At our most recent Board meeting in January 2023, this work culminated in the passage of an Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Policy, and in the approval of the Board's first statement on equity, diversity and inclusion, which details the steps taken thus far and the commitments we are making for the coming year. There will be more to come on this front!

The full policy and statement on activities taken to date can be found on our website under the "About C2" section.



Rox Creative at Crafted Show + Sale 2021  
at the Winnipeg Art Gallery  
photo by Douglas Little

The following is the introduction to the policy document:

The Manitoba Craft Council is committed to ensuring that diversity thrives in its workplace, events, educational programs, and all of its other aspects. Through listening, learning and engaging with our members and our community, we aim to foster a culture of inclusion.

MCC acknowledges that it was formed in a particular cultural context and, consequently, was shaped according to the vision of its founding membership. It also acknowledges that it must grow to reflect the richness of its current cultural community, to respond to the varied needs of the members of that community, and to engage the depth of their expertise and experience. MCC is committed to eradicating systemic discrimination and exclusion in its policies, practices and traditions.

MCC will strive to offer full and equal participation to all people, including Indigenous peoples, people of colour, newcomers and refugees, persons with disabilities, members of the deaf community, persons of all sexualities and genders, and persons from all regions of Manitoba. It will strive to remove barriers to participation in all aspects of its activities by examining its policies, practices and traditions, and by welcoming all persons based on their interest in craft.

# EXHIBITIONS

Despite the pandemic shut downs, MCC was able to host several exhibitions in the Shirley Richardson Craft Gallery:



Spikes, Holes, and Other Things  
photo by Leif Norman 2021

**February 2022: One Year One Outfit,** a display of work by more than two dozen artists including ash alberg, Katrina Woelk Balzer, Bethany Gowryluk Booy, Michelle Campeau, Paul Campeau, Katherine Delorme, Karen Enns, Tara Epp, Mandy Furney, Tala Gammon, Rose Gerbasi, Anna Hunter, Hillary King, Anna Goertzen Loeppky, Maureen Winnicki Lyons, Helen Mawdsley, Barb Mulock, Marnie Potter, Nathalie Rivard, Nicole Vechina, and Heather Zueff. The artists participated in this year long challenge to create wearables from locally sourced materials and dyes, in partnership with Pembina Fibreshed and the Manitoba Crafts Museum and Library.

**September-October 2021: Spikes, Holes, and Other Things,** a solo exhibition of sculpture and furniture by Keith Oliver, curated by Helen Delacretaz.



One Year One Outfit  
photo by Mike Sudoma 2022

# EXHIBITIONS

**March-April 2022: Feast/Famine Juried Exhibition** with artists Anja Studer, Anna Schmidt, Cloyd Barth, Candace Lipischak, Debra Frances Plett, Eric Au, Jessica Hodgson, Julianna Zwierciadlowska-Rhymer, Lesley Nakonechny, Melanie Matheson, and Sandra Vincent; juried by Erin Weinberg, Terry Hildebrand and Val Vint.



photo by Ebunoluwa Akinbo, 2022



photo by Ebunoluwa Akinbo, 2022

**Summer 2022: Up and Coming Craft**, an online exhibition of students, youth, and emerging artists including Emily Roffey, Hanna Reimer, Jayden Walker, Kiana Rivard, Lorna Weir, Margot Morrish, Mariko Hamade, Mishelle Aminov Kosonovsky, Reanna Swan, Sage Wednesday, Shyla Edel-Methot, Travis Hunnie, and Vi Houssin.

**May-June 2022: Ne-me-ne-kosko-pan-in e-kid-ke-se-an-ka-yā-sk (Our Spirit Awakens When We Remember Our Past)** a solo exhibition of work in ceramics and video by KC Adams, with response by Aimee Craft.



work by Sage Wednesday

All of the above included an online component such as a virtual tour, video release and/or Instagram video chats with the artists.



# CRITICAL CONVERSATIONS

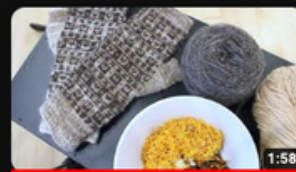
This past year MCC hosted an Eco-Craft online artist talk series exploring the intersections of craft and climate change:



**Honouring Nibi: KC Adams**  
101 views • 7 months ago



**Feast, Famine: Digital Exhibition Tour**  
56 views • 8 months ago



**One Year, One Outfit 2021 | Exhibition Tour**  
77 views • 9 months ago



**Eruptions: Grace Nickel**  
118 views • 11 months ago



**Pet Hair, Push Pins & Packing Peanuts- Using Reclaimed Material...**  
4.8K views • Streamed 7 months ago



**Sustainability as a Practice - Creating Truly Local Pottery: David...**  
221 views • Streamed 8 months ago



**Grow Your Joy, How to Successfully Cultivate a Dye Garden in Zone 3:...**  
281 views • Streamed 9 months ago



**Local Cloth: Reflections from the One Year One Outfit Challenge:...**  
179 views • Streamed 10 months ago

- Grace Nickel, discussing her Eruptions solo exhibition at Gallery 1C03; in partnership with Gallery 1C03, University of Winnipeg
- Local Cloth: Reflections from the One Year One Outfit Challenge with Anna Hunter and Pembina Fibreshed
- Grow Your Joy: How to Successfully Cultivate a Dye Garden in Zone 3 with Lourdes Casaneres-Still, in partnership with the Charleswood Garden Club, Arts Mosaic, and the Killarney Turtle Mountain Arts Centre
- Sustainability as a Practice - Creating Truly Local Pottery with David McMillan
- Pet Hair, Push Pins & Packing Peanuts - Using Reclaimed Material with jewellery artist Tricia Wasney
- Scaling Our Relations with fish scale artist Erin Konsmo
- Online shorts: Using the Instagram Live platform, MCC intern Ebunolowu Akinbo hosted chats with members Julianna Z-R and Katrina Craig
- Also in January-July 2022, a Craft Book Club met to read and discuss The New Politics of the Handmade, edited by Anthea Black and Nicole Burisch

# WORKSHOPS, DEMOS, TOURS



Summer Student Gallery Tour, 2022  
photo by Kacper Stein

As part of **Doors Open Winnipeg, C2** featured demonstrations by broomsquire **Amina Haswell** and jewellery artist **Tricia Wasney**

**Ekphrasis Writing about Craft Workshop** with poet **Sally Ito**

**Gallery Tour for Summer Employees of MARCC (MB Artist Run Centres Coalition)**

**The Eco-Craft Collaboration** featuring 11 artist-scientist teams addressing climate change through craft met numerous times to share their research and prep for an upcoming exhibition

**Natural Dye Workshop with Lourdes Casaneres-Still** took place online in partnership with Arts Mosaic, Mid-West Arts Council, and Birtle Centre for the Arts



Amina Haswell demo at Doors Open, 2022  
photo by Ebunoluwa Akinbo



# WORKSHOPS, DEMOS, TOURS

Back by popular demand was the **Online Summer Maker Challenge**, regular invitations to get crafty around a given concept and post the results on social media



Warm Hands Warm Hearts workshop, 2022  
photo by MCC staff



Summer Maker Challenge submission  
by Tricia Wasney, 2022

This past summer, MCC was excited to collaborate with leather artist **Sheila Cailleau** on her **Warm Hands Warm Hearts mitten making project**, hosting a series of free weekly workshops at C2 where volunteers learned how to recycle leather and fur coats and other goods into warm mittens for Winnipeggers experiencing homelessness.



# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Net Pockets by Kristin Nelson  
Image courtesy of the artist

## MCC Bursary Fund

The Manitoba Craft Council Bursary Fund was created to encourage the artistic development of Manitoba craft artists across the spectrum of craft media. The fund was established by the former Crafts Guild of Manitoba and is now held in trust by the Winnipeg Foundation.

Bursaries were awarded to Ken Gregory (blacksmith), Toluwalope Toludare (ceramics), Jen Sonnenberg (ceramics), Rachael Kroeker (ceramics), Daniel Bell (jewellery), Yasmin Lerner Sivan (glass), and Michino Tsuboi (fibre)

## Ask an Admin

Katrina Craig, MCC's Programme Coordinator, hosted Ask an Admin sessions for MCC members

## MCC Retreat

Two artist retreats at Victoria Beach were awarded this year, one to Root Cellar Collective (Karen Hare, Leanne Muir and Kristen Trafiak) and the other to artist Kristin Nelson



MCC Bursary Recipient Ken Gregory  
Image courtesy of the artist

# ARTIST SALES



- The flagship Crafted Sale returned to an in-person event at the WAG with record attendance and sales numbers.
- Six MCC members participated in an online market collaboration with retailing giant Simons/Fabrique1840, in partnership with the Canadian Crafts Federation
- The C2 Shop hosted a Holiday Trunk Sale with Sheila Cailleau, Angela Graham, and Lourdes Casaneres-Still
- The C2 Shop continued to offer work by over 70 MB craft artists, both in-person and online, and hosted another successful run of its annual Holiday Ornament Sale



# COLLABORATIONS

## *Journeys in Thread* 2022 FIBRE ART SYMPOSIUM



**JUNE 4th & 5th IN BIRTLE, MB**

**Join us at the First Fibre Art Symposium to be held in rural Western Manitoba.**

### Featured Speakers:

CATHIE UGRIN  
YVONNE REMPEL

MONIKA KINNER  
DAWN PIASTA

SUSAN SELBY  
DANA CORR

### Featured Exhibits

TFAM's "SHIFTING PERSPECTIVES" exhibit  
SAQA's "Touch" exhibit, and we will have a surprise or two.

VENDOR  
TABLES  
100!

### Registration

April 1st, 2022 or earlier: \$180 /person

After April 1st, \$220 /person

Registration includes all event speakers, exhibits, Fri. evening meet and greet, Sat. social evening, nutrition breaks and meals (Saturday lunch and supper, Sunday continental breakfast and lunch).  
Online registration, complete event details and accommodation options at [www.birtlearts.ca/fibreart](http://www.birtlearts.ca/fibreart)  
If you have questions or to contact directly to register, please email [info@birtlearts.ca](mailto:info@birtlearts.ca) or call 204-842-3655

### Pre-Symposium Opportunity Saturday Morning (\$10)

Tour Val Thomson's award winning 5 acre garden and see exhibits including Valerie Tulloch original embroidery collection, Melva Widdicombe original clothing designs, and more!



MCC was pleased to support the efforts of other craft-based initiatives in MB including:

## The Fibre Symposium at Birtle Arts Centre



Two MB Blacksmiths Association events: West-Man Workshop-Demo with Tyler Dies and the Forge and Enclume Workshop-Demo at Fort Gibraltar with Chris Spilak and Pedro Bedard

Workshop and Demo at Fort Gibraltar  
Image courtesy of @manitoba\_smiths Instagram



# FUNDRAISING

On the fundraising front, MCC hosted two events:

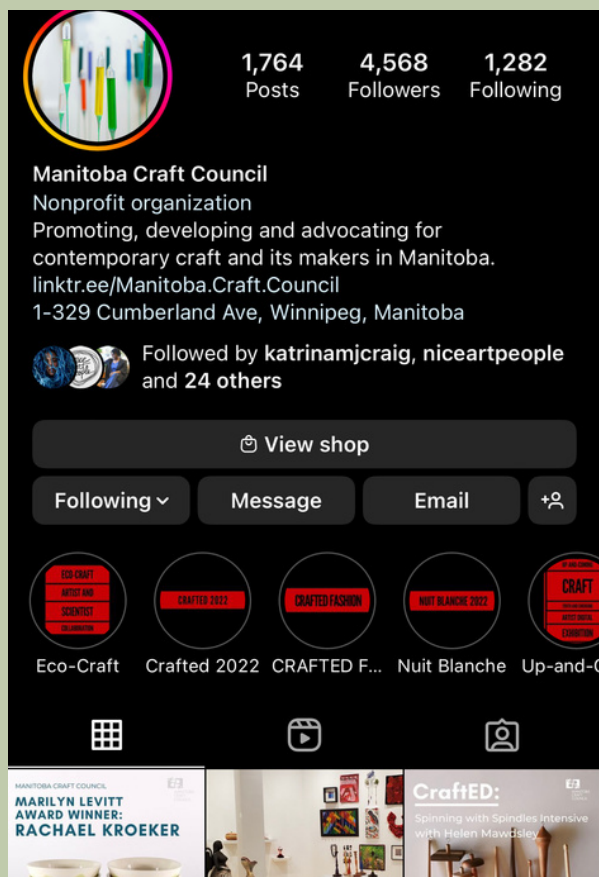


**CRAFTED Raffle:** where a beautiful hand-turned bowl donated by Keith Oliver drew astonishing ticket sales

**Changing Hands:** a multi-faceted event -- a sale of pre-loved, hand-crafted items and craft materials, tools and supplies, plus four mini-workshops, a raffle and a refreshment table -- in the Artspace Drayway.

We were also grateful for the donations received outside these events. Overall, **\$15,055 was raised through fundraising and donations!** Our deep gratitude goes out to everyone who participated as a volunteer, donor or purchaser -- none of our fundraising efforts could happen without you!

# VIRTUAL INTERACTIONS



## Social Media by the Numbers

### Instagram

- 4,568 Followers
- 315 Posts this year

### Facebook

- 2,467 Followers
- 338 Posts this year

### E-newsletters

- 26 Member Newsletters to over 250 MCC members
- 12 Craftblasts to 2,345 subscribers

### Youtube

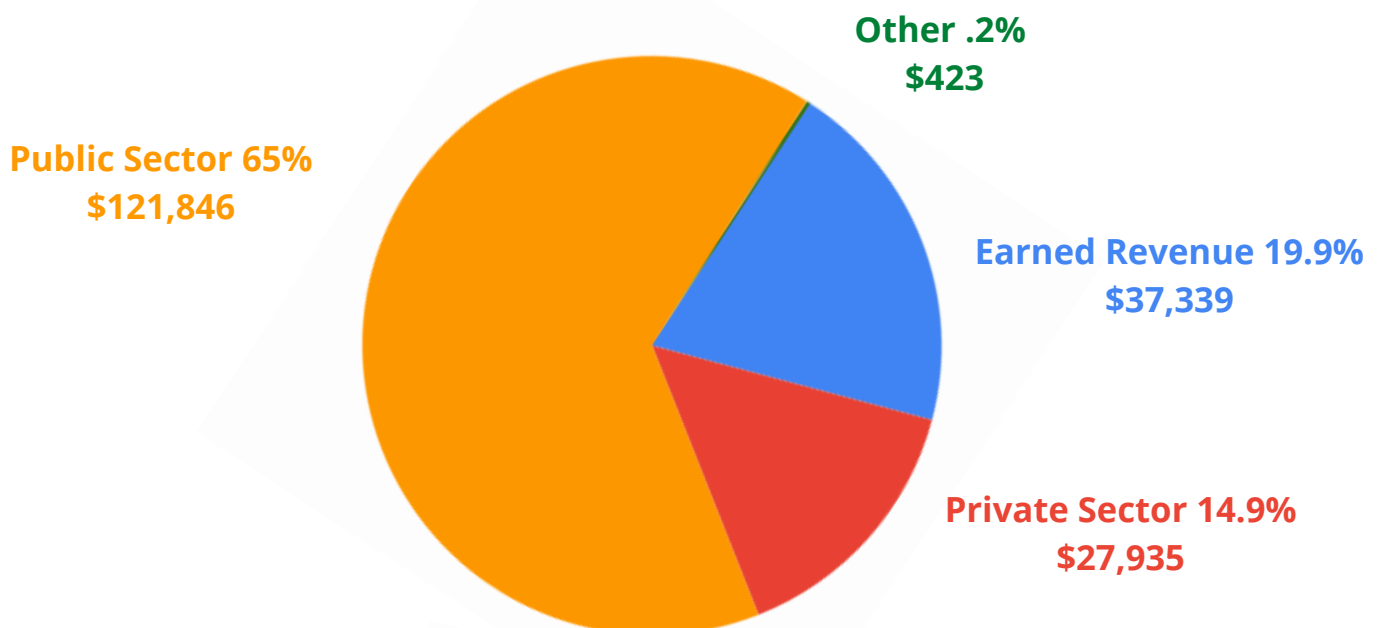
- 6347 views
- 206 Subscribers



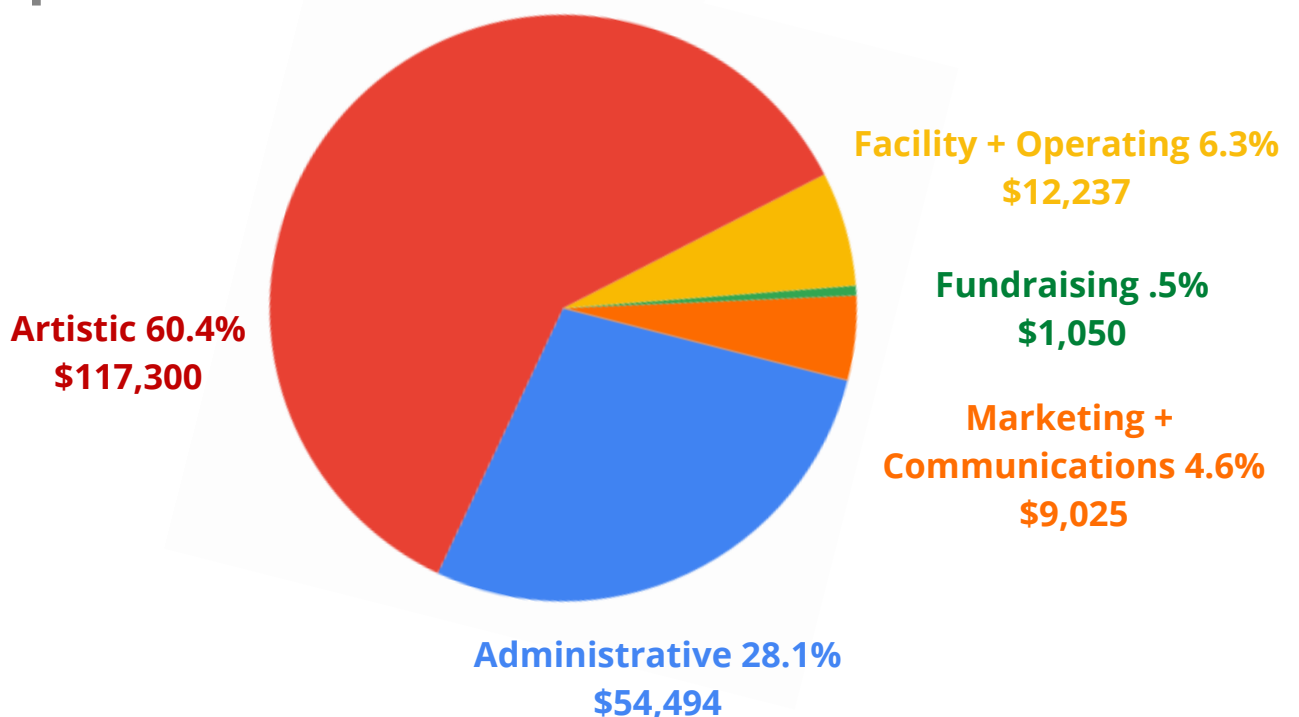
# INVESTMENT

In 2021-2022 MCC decided to use some of its accumulated surplus to increase its staffing hours, posting a small deficit for the year. Below is a summary of revenues and expenses. Full details are available in MCC's Audited Financial Statements.

## Revenues



## Expenses





# CCF REPORT

The Canadian Crafts Federation continues as a vital force uniting craft councils and other craft-centred organizations across the country, sharing in national advocacy, marketing, and programming initiatives. MCC's VP, Seema Goel, is our provincial representative to the CCF.

In early August 2021, the CCF/FCMA submitted a formal brief to the Federal Standing Committee on Finance, with specific recommendations on what the government should do to ensure a safe and thriving future for craft in Canada. Limited to just 2000 words, the CCF/FCMA put forward six recommendations to adapt and expand existing programming, amend policies, and invest in underrepresented arts communities to increase equity and financial stability in the cultural sector. This included specific recommendations to implement a basic income program, develop a new internship/mentorship program for emerging and mid-career/senior artists, increase funding to address systemic racism in the arts, and investment in creative digital innovation.

As stewards of the Robert Jekkyl Award for Leadership in Craft, CCF was pleased to announce the 2021 winner, Susan Hanrahan, outgoing Executive Director of Craft Nova Scotia. In her 33 years with the organizations, Susan guided, influenced, and contributed to the ongoing development of craft on a provincial, national, and international level, and we're grateful for her dedication and passion for craft.

In summer 2022, CCF's Executive Director, Maegen Black, announced her departure from the role after a productive 16 years with the organization. Maegen's passion for Canadian Craft was, and is, genuine and contagious. She led innovative projects such as the Citizens of Craft Manifesto, website, and podcast, the Craft Spectrum position paper, connected craft members, partners and stakeholders through national conferences, and recognized the importance of incorporating craft with technology, as demonstrated in the 10 Digit Tech national research and digital transformation project. Dr. Jennifer Wicks was welcomed as the new CCF ED and we look forward to working together.



The CCF/FCMA collaboration with Fabrique 1840 in which six MCC members participated

# VOLUNTEERS

The work we do at the MCC would not be possible without all of our amazing volunteers. Thank you!



Exhibition opening of Feast/Famine, photo by Ebunoluwa Akinbo

**MCC Board Members, August 1, 2021-July 31, 2022:** Keith Oliver (President), Seema Goel (Vice-President), Ida Smith (Secretary), Jason Hare (Treasurer), Sheila Cailleau, Anna Hunter, Paul Robles, Naila Janzen, Nichol Marsch, Chris Burke, Alison Gillmor

**C2 Shop:** Norma Jean Roach

**Fundraising Committee:** Ida Smith (chair), Sheila Cailleau, Cailyn Harrison, Paul Robles, Seema Goel, Tammy Sutherland, Loricia Pacholko-Matheson, Erica Swendrowski, Anna Hunter

**Finance Committee:** Jason Hare, Chris Burke, Tammy Sutherland

**Human Resources Committee:** Keith Oliver (chair), Sheila Cailleau, Alison Gillmor, Tammy Sutherland

**Governance Committee:** Ida Smith (chair), Seema Goel, Keith Oliver, Alison Gillmor, Tammy Sutherland

**C2 Retail Committee:** Naila Janzen, Lily Despic, Tricia Wasney, Sheila Cailleau, Andrea Reichert (chair), Tammy Sutherland

**Canadian Crafts Federation Representative:** Seema Goel

**Event Volunteers:** all of the above plus John Lyttle, Anna Schmidt, LeeAnn Penner, Alison Baird, Louise Rioux, Margot Morrish, Ray Lyttle, Judy Marchand, Mary-Anne Derrick, Dawn Teasdale, Karen Luchak, Alison Norberg, Rob Shaw, Lauanny Melo, and Rabia Shuaib



# 2021-2022 DONORS

Alison Gillmor  
Allyson Watts  
Amanda Harding  
Andrea Reichert  
Ann Tyre  
Danielle Jaworsky  
Daria + Peter Tittenberger  
David Dyck + Tammy Sutherland  
Gaetanne Sylvester  
Gail Friesen  
Ida Smith + John Lyttle  
Janet Carroll  
Jennifer Woodbury  
Joy Bamford  
June Derksen  
Keith Oliver  
Laurie Wood  
LeeAnne Penner  
Lilian Bonin  
Lyn Young  
Marilyn Prober  
Mary Ann Steggles  
Norma Jean Roach  
Pauline Braun  
Sheila Cailleau  
Tricia Wasney  
Willy Carleton

And everyone who donated items  
for the Changing Hands Fundraiser.

**THANK YOU!**

**Thanks for your contributions to  
the Changing Hands Fundraiser:**  
Martha Street Studio, IKEA Wpg,  
Artist's Emporium, printedshirts.ca,  
The Real Canadian Superstore,  
Press On Winnipeg, Artspace,  
Jo-Anne Muldrew



Exhibition opening of Spikes, Holes, and Other Things  
Photo by Leif Norman

# STAFF

**Tammy Sutherland**, Director

**Katrina Craig**, Programme and Outreach Coordinator

**Chelsey Thiessen**, Communications and Administration Coordinator

**Ebunoluwa Akinbo**, Intern, casual staff

**Kacper Stein**, Programme Assistant (Summer 2022)

**Sandra Simpson**, Cleaner

**Debbie Girard**, Bookkeeper (contract)

**Urbanink**, Graphic Design (contract)



MCC Book Club Meeting, 2022, photo by MCC staff



Ne-me-ne-kosko-pan-in e-kid-ke-se-an-ka-yā-sk (Our Spirit Awakens When We Remember Our Past)

## THANK YOU FUNDERS!

### Core Operating:

Canada Council for the Arts  
Manitoba Arts Council

### Project:

Canada Summer Jobs  
Winnipeg Arts Council  
Young Canada Works/  
Student Work Placement  
Winnipeg Foundation  
Assiniboine Credit Union