



_at the end of a line, a circle. Exhibition by Kristin Nelson
photo by Leif Norman



MANITOBA
CRAFT
COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

CELEBRATING THE 2023 - 2024 MCC YEAR

MANITOBA CRAFT COUNCIL

AUGUST 2023 - JULY 2024

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.



Image Transfer Sketchbook Workshop with Debra Frances
Photo by MCC staff



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 PRESIDENT

It seems that this last fiscal year passed in a blur! This is actually a good thing as it means nothing untoward occurred in that time, and everything was operating as it should. If there were any bumps that occurred, they were handled competently and efficiently.

Exhibitions are being presented, workshops are being attended, and craft shows are teeming with vendors and eager buyers. Overall visitor attendance is up along with a growing membership. The MCC is sustaining its provincial mandate by currently touring a selection of work from its 2023 Members' show, Craft in Colour, to rural venues and art centres.

Our collaboration with the Manitoba Crafts Museum and Library has been nothing but beneficial to both organizations, and we are pleased to engage with them in presenting the benefits of the C2 space to all people who enjoy the many aspects of Craft.

While there are always vagaries in funding - the pool of available sources is constantly shrinking - a positive note occurred when the incoming Government increased the funding to the Manitoba Arts Council who then increased our funding slightly. We are always on the search for more accessible and, especially, sustainable funding, and we are pleased that our own endowment fund will soon be paying dividends along with the Robert and Meridel Archambeau fund.

Our members are continuing to have success both locally and abroad, notably Métis beadworker, Jeninne Krauchi, who received both the Manitoba Arts Award of Distinction and the Winnipeg Arts Council Making a Difference Award.

Of course, none of this good stuff happens without the hard work and dedication of the board, the volunteers, and especially the staff of the Manitoba Craft Council.



KEITH OLIVER
BOARD PRESIDENT

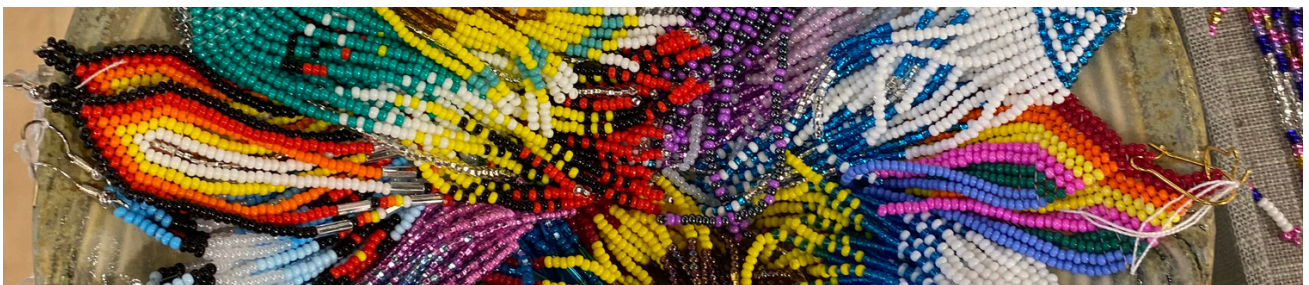


Hand Me Down by Kristin Nelson
Photo by Leif Norman

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

The 2023-2024 year was another full and exciting one for the Manitoba Craft Council. As always, exhibitions are at the heart of MCC's work. This year's line-up included *Do you whisper a tiny I'm sorry?*, a show featuring hand-tufted rugs, photography and poetry reflecting on the vulnerability and beauty of birds and the humans who love them by BC artist Anne Steeves; *Remold*, a group exhibition curated by Shaneela Boodoo featuring a dozen MCC members whose work connects with the body; and *_at the end of a line, a circle.*, a material examination of the value of labour and materials by Winnipeg artist Kristin Nelson. Colour catalogues and programming were produced to enhance each of these beautiful shows.

Through our hands-on CraftEd workshops, Craft and Craft Beer nights, artist talks and Instagram Live interviews with artists, we provided meaningful and fun learning opportunities for all. MCC was also pleased to collaborate with the MB Bookbinders Collective, Pembina Fibreshed, and local artists to offer workshops and space for group meetings. An inaugural spring 2024 gathering with the leadership teams of ten local craft-related guilds and organizations was an excellent opportunity to consult with other stakeholders, share information, and offer support to the craft sector.



Women Helping Women Beadwork Sale, Photo by MCC staff

Community engagement was a strong focus again in 2023-2024 with several on-going programmes including the Warm Hands, Warm Hearts workshops in collaboration with community groups like 1JustCity which saw volunteers transforming old fur and leather coats into warm mittens for use by those experiencing homelessness; a sale of beaded jewellery by Women Helping Women Beadwork Collective, a programme supporting Indigenous women who are incarcerated or recently released; and a collaboration with MOSAIC Newcomer Family Resource Centre offering Métis Beading workshops and teachings to newcomers as part of their regular EAL classes.

In partnership with the Winnipeg Art Gallery, Northwest Territories Arts and the Government of Nunavut, MCC hosted the 9th annual Crafted Sale, Fashion Show, and Lookbook in November 2023, a multi-day event featuring work by 100 craftspeople and 25 run-way designers. MCC's also partnered again with IKEA Winnipeg to produce a unique three-day Vinterfest sale, expanding it to include 40 craft artists this year.

MCC's fundraising efforts have continued to grow while also serving an important role of meeting our organizational mandate to support, promote and advocate for craft and craftspeople. The Changing Hands "De-Stash" sale, MCC's annual craft social, and the Reaching Out raffle have become well-oiled machines that generate critical income for the organization. MCC was also honoured to partner with the friends of Robert Archambeau to host a memorial event/sale of his work with proceeds funding an endowment award. On the governance side, following two years of training and reflection around equity, diversity and inclusion, MCC's board launched a full policy review and development project with an external consultant.

Undoubtedly the biggest highlight of the year was celebrating the legacy of Métis beadworker Jennine Krauchi who won both the Winnipeg Arts Council's Making a Difference Award and the Manitoba Arts Award of Distinction, this province's biggest arts prize. MCC was honoured to nominate Jennine for these prestigious and much deserved awards in partnership with MAWA and MCML.

Looking back on the year, I feel tremendous gratitude for our amazing staff, board and volunteers. Together with our wonderful members, we're creating a thriving craft ecosystem that supports us all.



TAMMY SUTHERLAND
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Tammy Sutherland
at the reception for
Grace Nickel's Saidye
Bronfman Award
photo courtesy of the
Winnipeg Art Gallery

EXHIBITIONS

This was an exciting year of exhibitions in the Shirley Richardson Craft Gallery:



Do You Whisper a Tiny I'm Sorry? exhibition
Photo by Ebunoluwa Akinbo

January - February 2024: Remold

We adorn and surround ourselves with craft through our homes and wardrobes. These intuitive choices come from somewhere, and are trying to communicate something. Craft is a way we can express our desires to conform to, or rebel against, societal pressures and conventions. The complex nuances of identity weave together through making, giving space to imagine new ways of being, free from the conventions of the dominant culture. Remold sought to explore the infinite possibilities of how we make ourselves.

September-October 2023: Do You Whisper a Tiny I'm Sorry by Anne Steves

Welsh-Canadian artist Anne Steves invited us to reflect on the universal and intimate dilemmas of life, loss, and connection through her exhibition Do you whisper a tiny "I'm sorry?" Featuring tufted wool rugs, photographs, and her own written reflections, she transformed images of lifeless birds into large, human-scale artworks. Her work invited gallery visitors to join her in interacting with these tactile proxies, absorbing the words and images presented, and sitting with the feelings and thoughts that emerge.



Opening of Remold featuring the work of Karen Hare
Photo by Leif Norman

EXHIBITIONS

May - June 2024: *_at the end of a line, a circle.* by Kristin Nelson

In her exhibition, Nelson used traditional craft processes like knitting and net-making paired with non-traditional materials to playfully subvert a range of established binaries. The lines we draw between what is deemed useful or dysfunctional, amateur or professional, valuable or disposable, public or private are no match for her gentle wit and wise hands.

Her work questions what would happen if we treated every person's labour as equally valuable and every material as precious. In a world where **anything** can be art, what if we treated **everything** like art?



_at the end of a line, a circle exhibition.
Photo by Colin Corneau

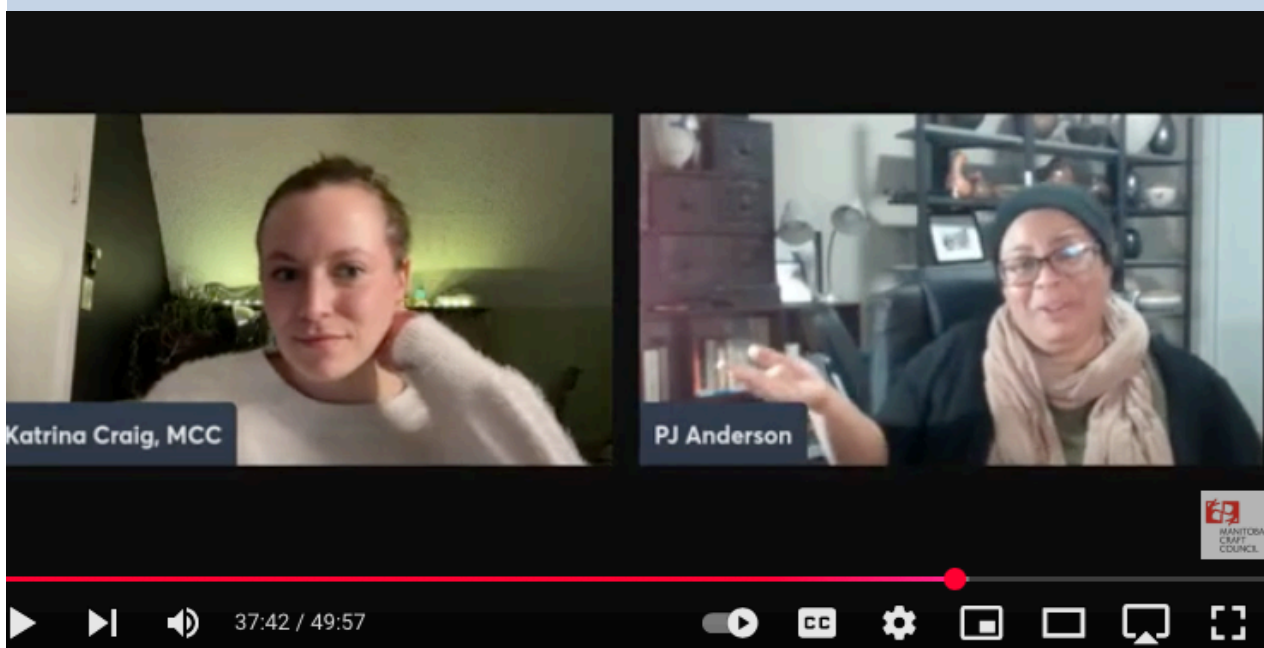


Patchwork Parasite, Brody McQueen,
cross stitch on 35mm panoramic film photograph,
2024.
Photo courtesy of the artist

Summer 2024: Up and Coming Craft is an annual digital show for youth, students, and recent graduates of a post-secondary program who are working in a craft-based medium or using craft techniques. Participating artists this past year included: Etel Shevelev, Ela Wasney, Madeleine Carlson, Brody McQueen, Tanadebabari Shalom Boogbaa Lebe, Raymond Lyttle, Cooper Vint, and Aylin Kohan.

Most of the above also included a virtual tour, video release and/or Instagram video chats with the artists by way of engaging the audience.

CRITICAL CONVERSATIONS



The Weapons We Become with PJ Anderson on the Manitonba Craft Council Youtube channel

- Anne Steeves had an artist talk in association with her exhibition, Do You Whisper a Tiny I'm Sorry?
- Craftivism: Adriana Alarcón shared stories from her own practice, as well as those of other contemporary craftivists and their communities, providing a lived definition of the term, and offering examples of exhibitions which have highlighted this practice.
- The Weapons We Become: PJ Anderson discussed the changing role of the racialized potter through her ceramic works.
- The MCC hosted a roundtable gathering of leaders from craft organizations, guilds, and associations from across Manitoba. This roundtable provided a space for leaders of craft-based organizations to share information, ideas, and challenges with like-minded organizers, build professional connections, and work with the Manitoba Craft Council to strengthen the craft eco-system in this province.

All three artist talks are available to watch on the MCC Youtube channel!

WORKSHOPS, DEMOS, TOURS



First Friday Patch Making with Dominique Carrier and Artsjunktion
Photo by MCC staff

Curatorial Tour of the exhibition Remold with **Shaneela Boodoo**

CraftED: Beaded Cowboy Boot Earrings with **Margaret Firlotte**

Patch making with **Dominique Carrier** for the First Friday in association with the exhibition Remold.

CraftED: Image Transfer Sketchbooks with **Debra Frances**

Craft + Craft Beer: Miniature Worlds with **Darci Madlung**

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

Craft + Craft Beer: Embroidery with **James Turowski**

Nuit Blanche 2023 Rug Hooking drop-in workshop with **Maureen Winnicki Lyons** at C2

Tour with artist **Anne Steeves** of her exhibition *Do You Whisper a Tiny I'm Sorry?* with the MET school



Craft + Craft Beer with **Darci Madlung** at Sookram's Brewing Co.
Photo by MCC staff

WORKSHOPS, DEMOS, TOURS

Water to Wallet Fish Skin Tanning workshop in association with the **Pembina Fibreshed + Christel Lanthier.**

Craft + Craft Beer: Owl Show you How with **Kami Goertz**

CraftED: Lost Wax Casting with **Anastasia Pindera**

The MCC partnered with **MOSAIC Newcomer Family Resource Centre** to host a series of **Métis Beading Workshops** for newcomers to Canada, led in fall 2023 and spring 2024 by **Margaret Firlotte.**



Lost wax casting with Anastasia Pindera
Photo by MCC staff



MOSAIC beading workshops with Margaret Firlotte
Photo by MCC staff

Doors Open Throwing Demonstration with **Keifer Floreal**, finalist in the CBC competition show the Great Canadian Pottery Throwdown

Net Making Demonstration with **Kristin Nelson** on the First Friday during her exhibition, _at the end of a line, a circle.

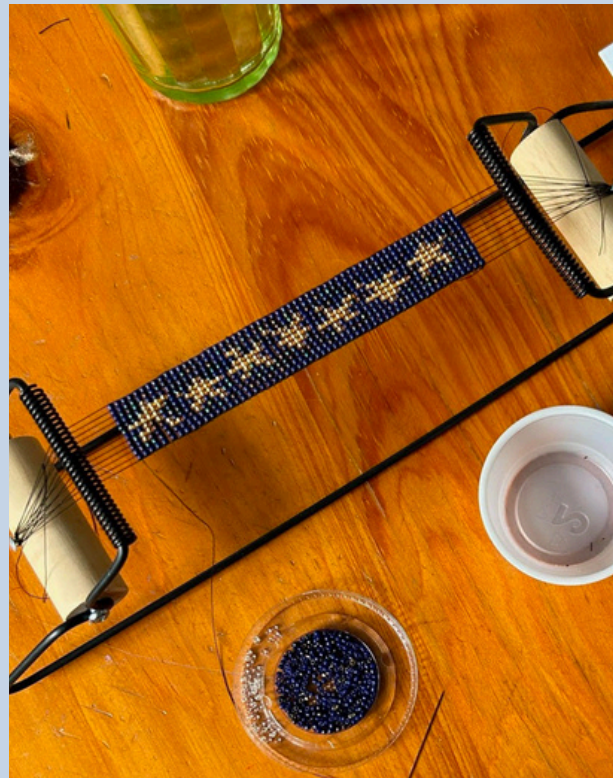
MCC hosted a **Hand Health Webinar** with Blue Cross Canada where they shared advice for protecting physical health while doing craftwork.

WORKSHOPS, DEMOS, TOURS

Back by popular demand was the **Online Summer Maker Challenge**. This year the Maker Challenge prompts aimed to explore the question “what is craft, anyway?!” through the Craft Spectrum, a guide to the many facets of craft, created by the Canadian Crafts Federation.



Sheila Cailleau with mittens that were donated to and distributed by Bear Clan
Photo by MCC staff



Summer Maker Challenge submission by Ida Smith
Photo care of the artist

The MCC continued to work with **Sheila Cailleau on her Warm Hands Warm, Hearts** mitten making project, hosting workshop sessions at C2 and partnering with other local organizations including 1Just City, Siloam Mission and the Winnipeg Public Library where volunteers learned how to recycle leather and fur coats and other goods into warm mittens for Winnipeggers experiencing homelessness.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Tour of C2 with the MET School
Photo by MCC staff

MCC Retreat

Two artist retreats at Victoria Beach were awarded this year to Melanie Matheson and Tricia Wasney

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.

Bursaries for 2023 were awarded to Charlotte Sigurdson (textiles), Kelli Rey (ceramics), and Nichol Marsch (beadwork).

Grant Magic

Barb Hunt led a PD evening

Canada Council Art Bank Lunch and Learn

Amy Jenkins and Saada El-Akhrass introduced us to the Canada Council Art Bank's history and collecting practices and told us about some of the many textile works in the collection and the artists who made them.

Marketing Your Art Online with Lourdes Still and **Photographing Your Work** with Chuck Allen online workshops presented in association with Creative Manitoba.



Charlotte Sigurdson at the Royal School of Needlework in Durham, UK
Photo courtesy of the artist

ARTIST SALES



Women Helping Women Beadwork Sale
Photo by MCC staff

C2 Shop Ornament Sale
Photo by MCC staff

- The flagship Crafted Sale and Crafted Fashion Show returned to WAG-Qaumajuq in November 2023.
- The MCC-IKEA Vinterfest Market was back for a second year with 40 participating artists in December 2023.
- C2 hosted Women Helping Women Beadwork Collective for a Trunk Sale in December 2023 which saw over 100 visitors shop beadwork made by incarcerated women in Manitoba, with 100% of the profits going to the makers.
- The C2 Shop continued to represent over 80 MB craft artists, in-person and online, and hosted its annual Holiday Ornament Sale.

COLLABORATIONS



Participants in the MOSAIC Beading workshops
Photo by MCC staff

The MCC was pleased to host informal monthly gatherings for **MB Bookmakers** from September 2023 thru March 2024.

The MCC was excited to partner with **Artsjunktion** to help host a series of workshops this past summer as their space was damaged after a fire in 2024.

As always, the MCC is grateful for our amazing partners the **Manitoba Crafts Museum and Library**. They are wonderful collaborators, and we are so glad to share the C2 space with them!

MCC was pleased to support the efforts of other craft-based initiatives in MB including the publishing of the book **Hooked**, exploring the creation of Cloverdale Forge's #366Hooks exhibition.

MCC was a proud sponsor of the **MB Blacksmiths Guild conference** in September 2023, as well as the **2024 Fibre Art Symposium: Ties That Bind**, which happened in June 2024 in Birtle, MB.



First Friday Patch Making with Dominique Carrier and Artsjunktion
Photo by MCC staff

FUNDRAISING REPORT



Linen & Lace Fundraiser
Photo by MCC staff

It's nice when all the news is good news! That's definitely the situation for the MCC Fundraising Committee this year. Most importantly, we have settled on a three-event format that we'll be able to build on in the coming years.

In partnership with MCML, we revived the destash sale - Changing Hands - in a more targeted format: a one-day sale of donated craft supplies and tools. And the donations! They astonished us all -- we were able to distribute a spectacular array of tools and materials into the craft community, and, in the process, exceeded our expected revenue.

The Reaching Out Raffle returned, running from September through December, with the Early Bird draw after CRAFTED and the main draws after IKEA Vinterfest. The quality of the prizes drove excellent ticket sales, so our sincerest thanks go to Axe Throwing Winnipeg, Beads by Nichol, the Blue Bombers, the Canadian Fossil Discovery Centre, Folklorama, Magpie Chiq, MTYP, the Manitoba Museum, Keith Oliver, PTE, RMT, Valour FC, WAG-Qaumajuq and the WSO. Custom tea towels and tote bags were also sold during those events.

Finally, the social event in honour of C2's 8th anniversary celebrated Linen & Lace with demonstrations of flax processing, lace-making, themed food and drink, live music, a silent auction and a 50/50 draw. Special thanks to musician Ingrid Aubrey, the Prairie Fibreshed, Jocelyn Froese, Buvette in the Village, and all of the donors to our silent auction!

We were also extremely grateful to the donations received outside these events. Fundraising and donations raised a total of \$24,569 this year! Our gratitude goes out to everyone who participated as a donor, a purchaser or a volunteer --- our fundraising efforts would come to nothing without you!

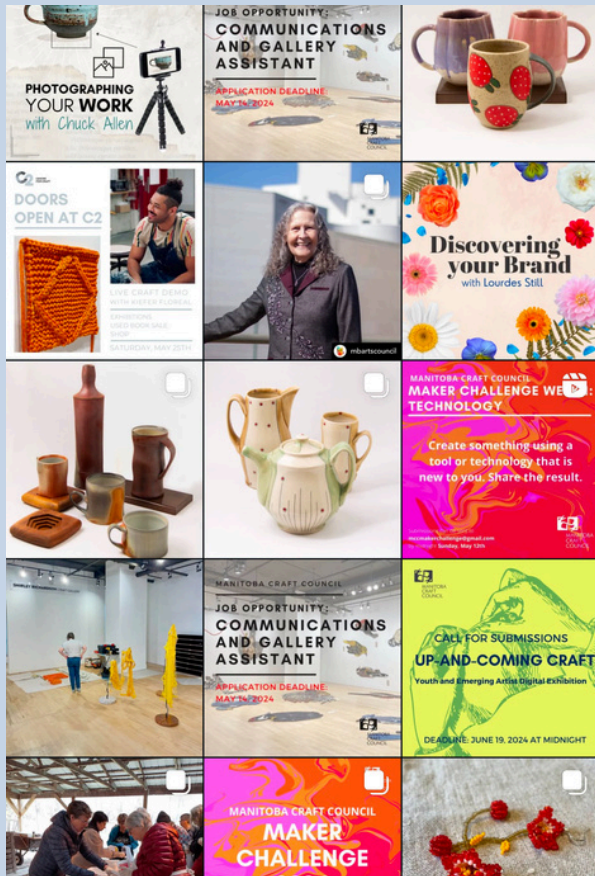
IDA SMITH

BOARD TREASURER &
FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE CHAIR



MCC staff Chelsey Thiessen and Katrina Craig at the Linen & Lace Fundraiser

VIRTUAL INTERACTIONS



Social Media by the Numbers

Instagram

- 6,625 Followers
- Over 270 posts this year
- Instagram Live chats with artists from Up-and-Coming Craft

Facebook

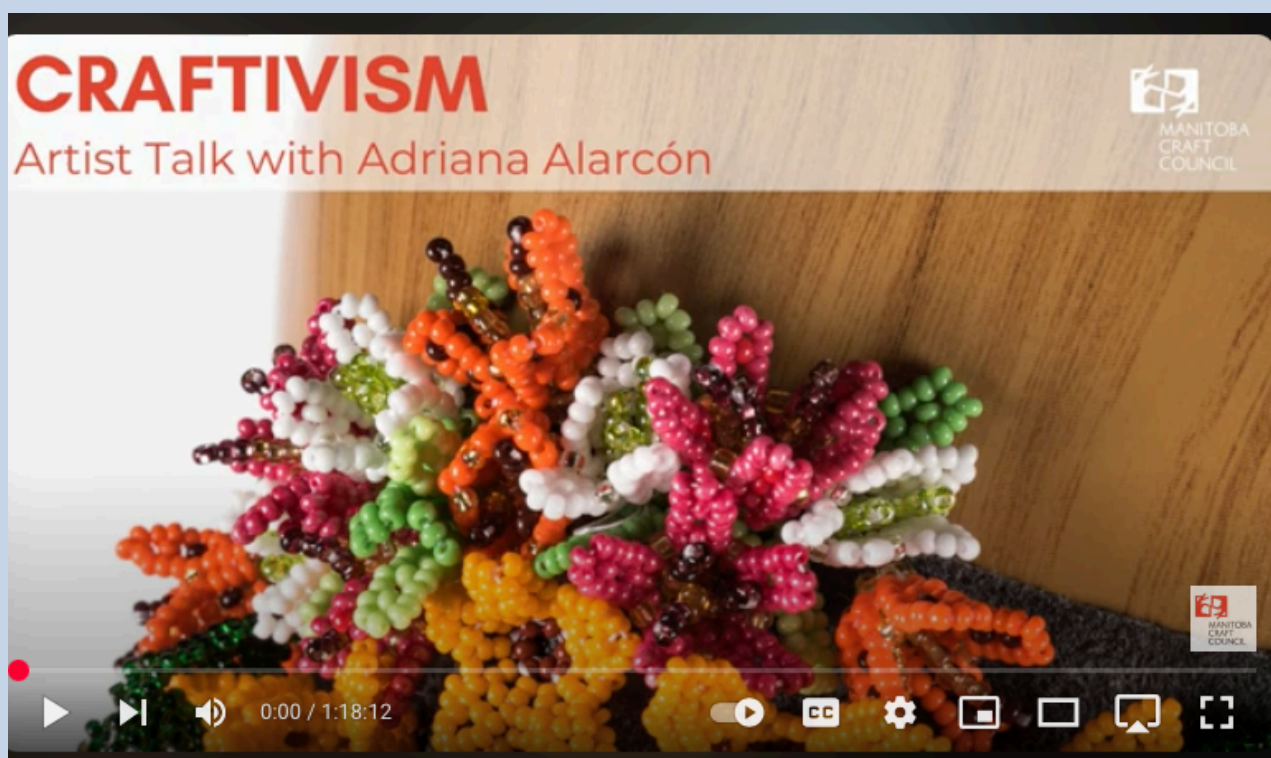
- 2,680 Followers
- Over 240 posts this year

E-newsletters

- 26 Member Newsletters to over 280 MCC members
- 12 Craftblasts Newsletters to 2,228 subscribers

Youtube

- 931 views
- 236 Subscribers



EDI REPORT

This year has been one of small, careful steps for the EDI Committee. We got to the end of the work we could do on our own and brought in an expert who reviewed our policies and practices, sending back a series of insightful questions. We were happy to see that no major changes were required, and we've answered almost all of the questions, but we're taking time to think about each answer, as we're aware that they all have repercussions.

In the meantime, we've been delighted to see how many young people are becoming connected to MCC, and how many communities we have been invited into.

The Board has also continued with customized land acknowledgments covering a variety of topics -- the residential school on Academy Road, the passing of Murray Sinclair, and what an urban reserve is, to give just a few examples. Many thanks to the Board members who have taken this project seriously.

IDA SMITH

BOARD TREASURER &
EDI COMMITTEE MEMBER



C2 staff Katrina Craig, Chelsey Thiessen and Margaret Firlotte at the Winnipeg Pride Parade, representing MCC along with other local museums and galleries.

INVESTMENT

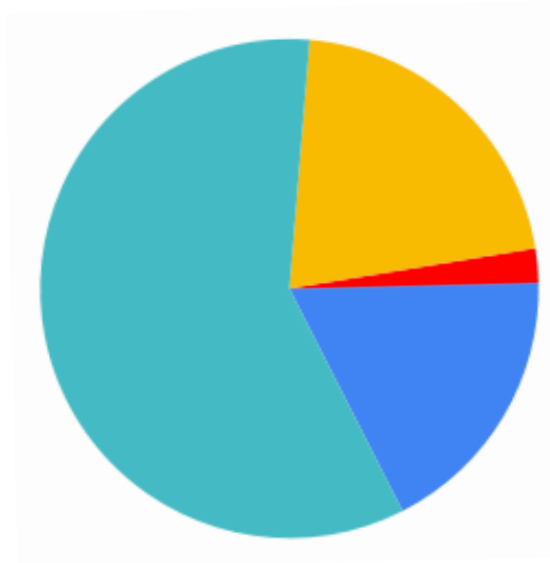
Funding for Manitoba Craft Council programmes and operations come from a variety of sources. Full details are available in MCC's Audited Financial Statements for 2023-2024. Below is a quick glimpse into our annual revenues and expenses.

Revenues

\$233,526

Public Sector - 58.8%

Grants from federal, provincial and municipal funding agencies



Earned revenues - 17.9%

Artist sales in shop and gallery, membership fees, workshop registration, merchandise sales

Interest - 2.2%

Private sector - 21.1%

Donations, fundraising, endowments, grants from foundations

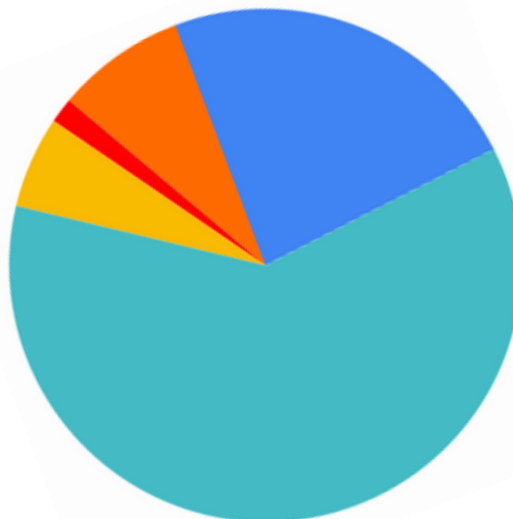
Expenses

\$225,681

Marketing - 8.2%
Salaries and promotion

Fundraising - 1.6%

Facility - 5.8%
Rent, equipment, phone, wifi, janitorial



Administrative - 23.2%

Grants from federal, provincial and municipal funding agencies

Artistic - 61.2%

Artist, curator, instructor, and other professional fees, sales commissions, artistic salaries, exhibition catalogues

VOLUNTEERS

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



L to R : Katrina Craig, Shaneela Boodoo, Nancy Nguyen

MCC Board Members, August 1, 2023 - July 31, 2024: Keith Oliver (President), Ida Smith (Treasurer), Alison Gillmor (Secretary), Sheila Cailleau, Candice Ring, Anna Hunter, Paul Robles, Jennifer Johnson, Sage Wednesday, Shaylyn Plett, Nancy Nguyen.

C2 Shop: Norma Jean Roach

Fundraising Committee: Ida Smith (chair), Sheila Cailleau, Cailyn Harrison, Paul Robles, Tammy Sutherland, Anna Hunter

Finance Committee: Ida Smith, Tammy Sutherland

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

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

C2 Retail Committee: Andrea Reichert (chair), Lily Despic, Tricia Wasney, Sheila Cailleau, Norma Jean Roach, Talia Thompson, Tammy Sutherland

Canadian Crafts Federation Representative: Candice Ring

Event Volunteers: all of the above plus Jennipher Alexander, Michelle Blackmon, Tricia Brock, Pamela Desmet Franklin, Seema Goel, Kami Goertz, Alan Lacovetsky, John Lyttle, Ray Lyttle, Lorna McLarty, Chris Pancoe, Michelle Patterson, Sona Singh, Anna Schmidt, Beth Syrnyk, Tanea, Treena, Peter Tittenberger, Dovid Waldman.

2023-2024 DONORS

Valerie Archambeau
Tibor Bodi
Cristal Brooks
Sheila Cailleau
Willy Carleton
Laurie Carpenter
June Derksen
Lisa Desilets
Pamela Desmet Franklin
Laura Dyck
David Dyck +
Tammy Sutherland
Anne Fallis
Alison Gillmor
Suzann Greenaway
Shirley Harvey
Anna Hunter
Desa Kalem
Ingrid Lincoln
Heidi Marx
Brian Mcmillan
Grace Nickel
Keith Oliver
Lee-Anne Penner
Kelli Rey
Norma Jean Roach
Paul Robles
Karen Schmidt Humiski
Ida Smith
Sheri Turner
Cathie Ugrin
Tricia Wasney
Lori Zebiere
Gendis Inc.

A big thank you to everyone who donated items to our **Changing Hands Craft De-Stash Sale**. We were happy to see so many amazing items find new homes!

Thank you to everyone who attended the **Robert and Meridel Archambeau Fundraiser**. With your help, we were able to raise \$8,606 in support of the Robert and Meridel Archambeau Award for Excellence in Craft. The fund was originally established with a generous \$10,000 donation from the Archambeau family to which this new amount was added!



Robert and Meridel Archambeau Award Fundraiser
Photo by MCC staff

STAFF

Tammy Sutherland, Executive Director

Katrina Craig, Programme and
Community Engagement Coordinator

Chelsey Thiessen, Communications
and Administration Coordinator

Brody McQueen, Programming and
Communications Assistant (2023-
present)

Raymond Lyttle, Programme Assistant
(Summer 2024)

Sandra Simpson, Cleaner

Debbie Girard, Bookkeeper (contract)

Urbanink, Graphic Design (contract)



Bookkeeper Debbie Girard at the opening of Do You
Whisper a Tiny I'm Sorry?
Photo by Ebunoluwa Akinbo



MCC staff Katrina Craig and Chelsey Thiessen, and MCML Curator
Andrea Reichert with WAC Making a Difference Award Recipient
Jennine Krauchi at the WAC Awards Luncheon

THANK YOU FUNDERS!

Core Operating:
Canada Council for the Arts
Manitoba Arts Council

Project:
Canada Summer Jobs
Student Work Placement
Winnipeg Arts Council
Winnipeg Foundation