



CRAFTING WELLNESS – MIND + BODY... At a Cost

On exhibit March and April 2025



MANITOBA CRAFTS MUSEUM AND LIBRARY Year End Report 2025



MCML GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Vision: Manitobans inspired, engaged, and connected through craft

Mission: The mission of the Manitoba Craft Museum and Library is to:

- Collect, preserve, and hold historical and contemporary craft in trust
- Celebrate craft through exhibits, presentations, and programs
- Facilitate the exchange of ideas and build interest in and appreciation for craft

Values:

Honouring the handmade | MCML recognizes the inherent value of creating and appreciating craft

Organizational excellence | MCML endeavours to maintain the highest standards in developing and preserving its collection and in providing services

Exchanging knowledge | MCML values learning in all its forms and strives to offer and support opportunities for growth and increased understanding of craft and its cultural roles

Fostering participation | MCML aims to ensure that its collection and programs are accessible to all

Ensuring transparency | MCML is accountable to its membership and its community and operates openly and intentionally

Commitment to diversity and inclusion | MCML strives to be inclusive and welcoming and to ensure diversity throughout the organization and its operations

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Manitoba Crafts Museum and Library is located on Treaty One territory, the traditional lands of the Anishinaabeg, Ininiwak, Dene, Anishininewuk, Dakota Oyate, Inuit Peoples, and the national homeland of the Red River Métis.

We also receive our life sustaining water from Shoal Lake 40 First Nation, located in Treaty 3 Territory. Most of our hydro electric power comes from Treaty 5 Territory in northern Manitoba.

As a museum, MCML recognizes that we have an inherently colonial past, one that we are actively addressing through our efforts to make the collection more accessible, through exhibits and on-line content, and through partnerships with community groups. We hope our efforts will result in greater knowledge and appreciation of our shared history and in positive relationships with Indigenous individuals and communities in Manitoba. If you would like to know more about our Reconciliation efforts, please get in touch by email (mcml@c2centreforcrafft.ca) or phone (204.615.3951).

CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

Dear MCML members,

Members are our lifeblood; thank you!

2025 was an exciting and successful year for MCML, with so many accomplishments to celebrate!

We had another year of fantastic exhibitions and programming. The exhibit *Crafting Wellness – mind + body*, curated by Leona Herzog, looked at craft in the context of its impact on the maker, encouraging important dialogue about physical, psychological, and emotional wellbeing of artists. In November, our exhibit *Craft at Large* put pieces from our collection under magnification. Curated by Dylan Stokes, this exhibition blended scientific modes of viewing with exceptional craft, allowing attendees to really see the talent, precision, and dedication of the artists showcased. It was also another year of engaging workshops and successful fundraising events, all made possible thanks to supporters like you!

MCML continues to thrive in the C2 Centre for Craft, thanks to our strong partnership with the Manitoba Crafts Council. We continue to nurture this partnership through shared programming and fundraisers, like our popular “Changing Hands” Craft Destash Sale. Every year, we also look forward to our joint annual holiday ornament sale and our volunteer appreciation event.

Meanwhile, the day-to-day work on the collections, including the total reorganization of our storage room which many of you supported, implementing our strategic plan, reviewing our policies and upgrading our operating, financial, and communications functions continues behind the scenes.

It is the leadership of our Curator, Andrea Reichert, that really makes all this happen. We cannot thank her enough for her dedication and expert knowledge, which ensures that the MCML is always in good hands. We also want to acknowledge her incredible grant-writing skills which ensure that MCML continues to be funded so we can continue to maintain and build the collection, keep our staff and offer wonderful exhibits and programs to the public. We would also like to extend our appreciation and thanks to the MCML staff who work so hard to organize programming, care for the collection, and maintain operations. And finally, we would like to thank our fellow board members, volunteers and donors; it is your hard work and generosity that support the museum in achieving its mission.

We hope that in 2026, you will continue to visit our exhibits, participate in our programs, use the library, volunteer, and donate as you are able. MCML is a fantastic organization with so much to celebrate.

As we transition into our roles as Past-Presidents, we want to extend a heartfelt thank you to Andrea, our fellow board members, all the MCML staff and volunteers, and you – our members. We look forward to continuing our work with MCML and, of course, staying connected through craft.

Marieke Gruwel and Judith Huebner | Co-Presidents

CURATOR'S MESSAGE

As I reflect on 2025, it's easy to see that it was once again a fantastic year of growth and successes. There are five highlights I'd like to recognize.

Engagement and Community | The programming in 2025 was amazing: seven workshops, one artist talk, an exhibit tour and a kiln firing. We are continuing to reflect our community through the diversity of topics and instructors.

We also examined the Canadian Museum Association's Moved to Action document which outlines how museums can follow UNDRIP principles in their activities. As we continue with reconciliation actions, this will be a roadmap for making future improvements and working towards decolonizing.

Diverse Exhibits | The 2025 exhibits were fantastic! One included contemporary artists, one featured Inuit works from our collection with a new lens, one used lenses (some with movable mounts) letting us get up close and personal, and one allowed us to reflect on how we learn, record and share craft.

Storage room upgrade | For those who work at the C2 Centre for Craft, it's easy to see that I have been very enthusiastic about this project. I've always been an organizer and collections were what drew me to museums. For the past couple of years I've been wanting to make significant improvements to the storage room. We set everything up in 2017 when we moved in, but after years of working in the space, it was clear that it just wasn't working efficiently. Although not complete at the end of 2025 we are able to see into the future, one which will include a much improved storage room. More details coming in next year's annual report.

Fundraisers & Funding | As we continue to work on sustainable funding, we are experimenting with different fundraisers. In 2025 we had mixed success. Made in the Middle and the Destash sale continue to be our cornerstone fundraisers. But this year we added a raffle in the spring which was successful. And we started an Adopt a Shelf initiative which saw 14 shelves adopted by supporters. We also had to cancel two events, and the Make'n Movie had only limited success.

Once again we benefited from our Winnipeg Foundation Funds. Between all four, including the new Shirley Richardson Giving Trust Fund, over \$55,000 of our core funding is secure, stable and effortless.

Recognizing the Team | All these successes are a team effort. At our 2026 AGM three volunteers are leaving the board because they have all completed six years of service – the maximum allowed by our by-laws. Marieke Gruwel and Judith Huebner have been Co-Presidents since 2020, and Sabrina Janke has been involved in all our fundraisers in the past six years. Thank you to all three for your significant contributions! The rest of the staff and volunteers also contribute their time, expertise, energy and new ideas to get things done at MCML. I thank everyone who is dedicated to helping us with all our activities.

I would also like to recognize the Manitoba Craft Council and their team, who help us to operate the C2 Centre for Craft. We couldn't manage without our partnership with them.

I'm looking forward to 2026 knowing that we will be continuing on this successful trajectory.

Andrea Reichert | Curator

EXHIBITS

Shirley Richardson Craft Gallery

March - April

Crafting Wellness – Mind + Body... at a cost

This exhibit, curated by Leona Herzog, featured work by Takashi Iwasaki, Sacha Kopelow, Jennine Krauchi, Alan Lacovesky, and Ingrid Lincoln, all on the topic of health and craft.



July - August

Ilonnata/Kiyânaw/Us

Ilonnata/Kiyânaw exhibited select items from the arctic collection.

ᐃᓴᓃᓂᓐ (*ilonnata*) translates to “all of us” in Inuktitut. Curator Kasey Pashe paid homage to her Cree heritage with the inclusion of the word ᐱᓴᓂᓐ (*kiyânaw*) meaning “us”. The works within the exhibition were displayed with the intention of honouring the spirit that exists within these pieces; giving opportunity to proclaim “this is us”.

November - December

Craft at Large

Curated by Dylan Stokes, *Craft at Large* focused on the details in craft. Using magnifiers we showcased craft up close.



Heritage Gallery



Learn to Do by Doing

Learn to Do by Doing focused on scrapbooks, samplers, samples and work books, all with examples of craft learning, recorded for future use and for sharing with others. Curated by Caley Dyck, this exhibit displayed the various ways we learn, practice and share craft.

U of M School of Art

In early 2025 we opened the Heritage Gallery to three students from the University of Manitoba School of Art whose work includes craft media. Artists included Syd Caldwell, Jo Korving and Raven Sanborn.

PUBLIC PROGRAMMING

Special Events Programming

- Doors Open – with a weaving activity supported by the Manitoba Weavers and Fibre Artists.
- Culture Days/Nuit Blanche – MCML hosted a small exhibit from the Manitoba Indigenous Cultural and Education Centre. Where do we put the Berries was an exhibit of basketry.

MCML Workshops & Programming

- Beaded Wall Pocket Workshop with Jennine Krauchi (offered twice in February & November)
- Embroidery and Design Workshop with Takashi Iwasaki
- Curator's Tour for Crafting Wellness, with Leona Herzog
- Artist Talk for Crafting Wellness with Sacha Kopelow and Dr. Sari Hanilla
- Kiln Firing with Alan Lacovetsky
- Caribou Moss Embroidery Workshop with Leona Herzog
- Bobbin Lace with Jocelyn Froese
- Felted Holiday Ornament with Tricia Brock
- Parol Making, with Diane Espiritu



Beaded Wall Pocket Workshop Participants



Kiln Firing at Alan Lacovetsky's outdoor wood fired kiln



Caribou Moss Embroidery Workshop creations.

MUSEUM & LIBRARY COLLECTION



The MCML museum collection continued to grow. Notable additions include a quilt by Amanda Onchulenko, a weaving by Valerie Olsen, a ceramic bowl by John Waddell, a crochet Covid-19 mask, and a piece of hand painted pottery by Kate Farrell Chown.

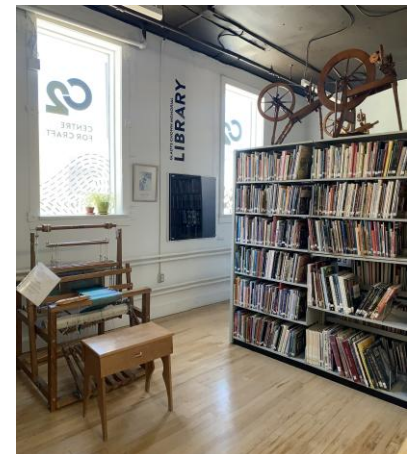


The Gladys Chown Memorial Library enjoyed a full year of operation using the new WikiLibrary on-line database system. 50 books were taken out of the library in 2025.

C2 SHOP

Highlights for 2025 include:

- The C2 Shop represents over 70 artists.
- New artists were added in the spring, after the annual call for submission.
- A successful holiday ornament sale was held in November and December
- In December we partnered with Women Helping Women, providing a venue for them to sell works beaded by women currently or recently in a correctional facility, allowing them a connection to culture and a way to earn funds for their families.



SPECIAL PROJECTS

Indigenous Collections | September 2024 – August 2025

This project has focused on improving the documentation, both written and photographic, for all the Indigenous works held at MCML and resulted in documents added to the website with detailed information and photographs about all Indigenous works, two viewing sessions, and also an exhibit hosted in the Shirley Richardson Gallery in July/Aug 2025.

This project was funded by the Community Museums Project Grant (Province of Manitoba)

Musetoba Entities (people and organizations) | October 2024 – March 2025

Continuing our work with Musetoba, we focused this time on the individuals represented in the MCML collection, mostly the artists, so that we can use the information for exhibits, programming and more. The “Learn to Do by Doing” exhibit was part of this project.

This project was funded by Young Canada Works (Canadian Heritage) and the Heritage Grants Program (Province of Manitoba)

Crafting Wellness | Summer 2024 to April 2025

Although preparatory work started in summer 2024, this project culminated in March and April 2025 with an exhibit and a series of public programming.

This project was funded by The Winnipeg Foundation and the Winnipeg Arts Council.

Craft at Large | June 2025 to December 2025

We researched and installed an exhibit that used large lenses to magnify the details of weaving, embroidery, carving, birch bark bitings, and more. A Bobbin Lace workshop was part of the project.

This project was funded by Young Canada Works (Canadian Heritage) and the Heritage Grants Program (Province of Manitoba)

Storage Re-Organization | May 2025 to March 2026

During this substantial reorganization of the storage room we reviewed all areas of the collections storage to reformat, move and condense as needed so that the space is well used and still respects the needs of the collection. The goal is to maximize the use of space so that we can continue to collect into the future. The other element is to create a more functional workspace for staff.

This project was funded by the Community Museums Project Grant (Province of Manitoba) and Culture Works Canada (Government of Manitoba)

Public Programming and Engagement Phase II | August 2025 to April 2026

This project continues our work on public programming with a focus on school programming through Connected North, an organization that provides remote experiences to northern students, local post secondary outreach, planning for Indigenous programming that meets UNDRIP standards, and more. We also started work on a exhibit in partnership with the Manitoba Indigenous Cultural and Education Centre.

This project was funded by Young Canada Works (Canadian Heritage), the Heritage Grants Program (Province of Manitoba), and Arts, Culture and Sport Grant (Province of Manitoba)

FUNDERS REPORT

Regular Operating Funders

The Winnipeg Foundation; Province of Manitoba – Community Museums Grant

Special Project Funders

Province of Manitoba – Heritage Grants Program; Province of Manitoba – Community Museum Project Support Grant, Province of Manitoba – Arts, Culture and Sport Grant, Department of Canadian Heritage – Young Canada Works; Government of Canada – Culture Works Canada; The Winnipeg Foundation – Community Grants and the Winnipeg Arts Council – Project Grant

Individual Donors – to MCML Directly and to Manitoba Heritage Fund

Lee Anderson, Ed Benjamin, Norma Bergman, Simran Bhinder, Cindy Boissonneault, Monique Brandt, Katrin Buschhausen, Janet Carroll, Diana Cooper, Caley Dyck, Laura Dyck, Donna Earl, Melanie Gamache, Marieke Gruwel, Judith Huebner, Carol James, Amy Karlinsky, Serena Kevshavjee, Jennine Krauchi, Louise Love, Nicole Maier, Amanda Onchulenko, Andrea Reichert, Louise Sloane, Marilyn Stothers, Susan Styrchak, Susanne Sulkers, Jo Anne Tabachek, Barry Trentham, Sheri Turner, Louise Van Buckenhout and William Younger.

In-Kind Donations – Museum Collection

William Burnes (Estate) Collections Donation.

Membership Benefit Supporters

Thank you to our membership partners: McNally Robinson, Prairie Studio Glass, and Wolseley Wool who provide discounts to MCML members.

Heritage Fund

In 2025 the fund grew from about \$90,000 to over \$99,500!

Shirley Anne Richardson Giving Trust Fund

Thank you to the Shirley Anne Richardson Giving Trust Fund for its contribution to MCML in 2025.

MCML Fundraisers

Fundraisers this year included a Raffle, Made in the Middle and a Craft Destash event (held jointly with MCC), and the Make'n Movie.

STRATEGIC PLAN REPORT

Strategic Plan Priorities 2026 – 2028

1. **Grow membership and organizational involvement - expand and diversify the membership of MCML as well as increasing value for membership and program participation.**
 - a. Review and understand current programming and membership benefits for value and consistency, including the library, workshops, online services, and membership-specific advantages
 - b. Continue to explore the implementation of programming that is more relevant to communities which are less represented in MCML membership
 - c. Utilize effective communications media to reach existing and new members with information on MCML and increase exposure to craft
2. **Grow organizational capacity – generate sustainable income and ensure capable and supported human resources**
 - a. On-going review fundraising strategy and develop a plan to grow and diversify revenue sources, and grow the endowment fund to further the mission in the long term
 - b. Continue to support expert staff and volunteer resources
 - c. Develop strategy on use of internal resources to ensure all aspects of the mission are supported
3. **Increase MCML’s inclusivity, diversity, accessibility and connectivity through engaging with underserved communities, building and expanding partnerships, and removing barriers to participation**
 - a. Further develop a diversity, equity, and inclusion approach to the work of MCML that lives up to the spirit of Reconciliation while also ensuring community representation in the collections
 - b. Continue to strengthen partnerships and relationships with other groups such as museums or community organizations in order to further the mission
 - c. Engage in outreach efforts to promote the organization and build interest in the handmade

HOURS OF OPERATION & VISITATION STATISTICS

Hours of Operation:

Wednesday – Saturday, 12pm – 4pm daily

Days open to public in 2024: 190 (760 hours)

Visitors:

988 onsite casual visitors

1,589 onsite events

437 off-site events

379 on-line events

1,925 YouTube viewers

Total: 2,956

2025 MCML TEAM

Board Executive

Judith Huebner, Co-President; Marieke Gruwel, Co-President; Emma Hill Kepron, Secretary; Lise Brown Treasurer

Members at Large

Simran Bhinder, Cindy Boissoneault, Leah Gertzen, Sabrina Janke and Jude Yallowega

Staff

Andrea Reichert, Curator
 Caley Dyck, Museum Assistant (January – May)
 Kasey Pashe (January – March)
 Dylan Stokes (May – December)
 Meg St. Hillaire (September – December)
 Chloe Touzin (September – December)
 Debbie Girard, Bookkeeper
 Sandra Simpson, Cleaner

Committees

Made in the Middle Committee: Cindy Carroll, Susanne Sulkers, Cindy Boissonneault, Lise Brown
 Fundraising Committee: Marieke Gruwel, Sabrina Janke
 Exhibit and Programming Committee: Marieke Gruwel, Theresa Shaw
 Collections Committee: Norma Bergman, Emma Hill Kepron, Heather Meiklejohn
 C2 Shop Committee (Joint with MCC): Lily Despic, Cindy Boissonneault
 Communication Committee: Ingrid Lincoln, Maureen Winnicki Lyons

Volunteers



The following 23 volunteers contributed a total of 620 hours during 2025. Thank you!

Nancy Anderson, Norma Bergman, Simran Bhinder, Cindy Boissoneault, Lise Brown, Janet Carroll, Lily Despic, Charlotte Duggan, Caley Dyck, Leah Gertzen, Pam Green, Marieke Gruwel, Emma Hill Kepron, Erwin Huebner, Judith Huebner, Sabrina Janke, Ingrid Lincoln, Karl Reichert, Jessica Ripley, Theresa Shaw, Susanne Sulkers, Maureen Winnicki Lyons, and Jude Yallowega.

Volunteer Appreciation hosted at
 Ingrid Lincoln's home