

**Annual Report
2024-2025
Hamilton Artists**





To childhood and love, We return
الى الطفولة والحب نعود
wipii gii-binoojiinwiying
gii-bi-zaag'igoowing, Gga-bskaabiimi

We Return, Wanda Nanibush - Cannon Project Wall. June 20, 2025- June 20, 2026

Board Chairs

Samuel de Lange & Dianne Twombly

Once again Hamilton Artists Inc. has had a year of incredible programming, made all the more amazing by the fact that we have a small paid team of four individuals leading the charge with the support of the Inc's volunteers, members, committees and board of directors. Derek, Sanaa, Paige, and Sonali are not only Inc staff but are artists themselves, who balance their own practices with the demanding task of presenting compelling programming at the Inc. while also caring for the physical space. Their artistic work outside of the Inc is crucial to our connections with our community and we are forever grateful for the work they do both inside the Inc and in the community at large. The Inc's team presents everything from exhibitions to workshops, talks, special events and publications. We would like to thank the staff and everyone who supported the Inc. throughout 2025. Without your support we couldn't provide the engaging, high quality programming we do.

Our Board of Directors has seen some changes over the past year. Our Chair, Caitlin Sutherland—along with several other Board members—transitioned to new opportunities. At the same time, we welcomed new members Mikah Fortier, Susan Curran, Paula Rebello, Raul Palacios Gamez and Adrienne Bazir. Mikah chairs our Fundraising Committee, Paula has taken on the role of Secretary, Raul works on our Communications Committee and has been instrumental in developing the Inc's new AI policy, and Susan will be transitioning into the role of Treasurer as I leave that role and move into the Co-chair position moving forward. All of our new board members have been with us for the majority of 2025 and have already contributed tremendously. The Board welcomes Alexandria Holm back for a second term, and we would also like to thank our returning directors, Sam, Dianne & Jordyn.

Board Chairs

Our exhibitions, public programs and special projects continued to position the Inc. as a prominent and exciting art space within the community. Exhibitions within the James and Cannon Galleries, on the Cannon Project Wall—and in the bathrooms for the first time this year—provided more paid opportunities for artists with an additional 80+ Inc members showing their work in SWARM!—our annual members' exhibition which closes tonight!

Over the past year we conducted some fun and productive activities, including a courtyard cleanup and pizza day that we hope to make an annual thing as the courtyard is looking pretty great right now. The concrete planters were painted to match the beautiful Clear Eyes mural which has turned into a popular selfie spot, and our summer student Carmella created beautiful signs to help visitors identify the various pollinator plants in our garden. Derek also managed to chop down an enormous weed tree with a handsaw while wearing crocs.



Derek using all of his might to take down this tree, 2025. Courtesy image from Paula Rebello

Board Chairs

Speaking of the courtyard, we had an interesting experience this summer whereby City crews entered our private courtyard space and obliterated a piece of commissioned art from a section of our courtyard wall under the auspices of “graffiti removal”. Thanks to quick action by our Artistic Director, Sanaa Humayan, the rest of the courtyard art was saved and the City eventually compensated us for both the damage to the art and to the heritage brick the wall was composed of.

In terms of the physical space, we received funding from Ward 2 for a new lighting system which we’re excited about installing in the near future so we can provide the best possible visual environment for the work in our care.

Earlier this year, the Inc. staff issued a statement in support of PACBI: The Palestinian Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel. While not all members agreed with this decision, as an artist-run centre dedicated to critical engagement we believe it is important to look at our own organization and the ways in which the art sector is complicit in artwashing Israel’s occupation and systemic denial of Palestinian rights. The staff and Board are unified in fully supporting PACBI moving forward.

Board Chairs

This year, we have also developed a new policy in response to the use of artificial intelligence in art-making. It's currently in draft form and we are working to finalize it while taking into account feedback from our members.

Our AI policy is just one goal in our newly developed Operational Plan which will guide the work of our various committees moving into 2026. Some goals include developing rental packages to increase rental income, developing and implementing communications, fundraising and board recruitment strategies, working to dismantle internal hierarchies, increasing partnerships, and creating more accessible programming.

Throughout the upcoming Staff and Board reports, you'll hear more detail about the significant accomplishments of each committee and of the Inc. overall. We couldn't have experienced any of these successes without a supportive community who attends our openings, participates in our programming, and shows their work in our spaces. We are grateful for an amazing staff and a wonderful group of committed volunteers, members and art lovers and we look forward to another exciting year at The Inc.



Hockey cards from 'Queer Newfoundland Hockey League' by Lucas Morneau in the Cannon Gallery, September 12 - October 25, 2025

Executive Director

Derek Jenkins

This year felt different. I'm in my fifth year as Executive Director of Hamilton Artists Inc., and for the first time since I was hired I can say with confidence that things are looking up all around. Much of this success springs directly from the strength of our programming, but the landscape in general seems more hospitable to our operations, with appetite for both our exhibitions and public programming booming.

While certainly there are the usual markers of perpetual crisis in terms of funding cuts / stagnation, paired with continued inflation, we continue to use our resources to the maximum potential. When participating in a sector survey with consultants for the City of Hamilton, I was proud to say that we have no problem generating audiences for our work these days. The gallery stays full of people of all ages, backgrounds, and walks of life.

Executive Director

Derek Jenkins

These audiences are enhanced by and translate into new partnerships around the city. We continue to work with the Disability Justice Network of Ontario, Hamilton Zine Machine, Industry, Places Collective, Clear Eyes Collective, McMaster SOTA, OCADU, DVSA, Factory Media Centre, Art Gallery of Burlington, the Workers Arts and Heritage Centre, and Tangled Art + Disability Centre. Our newest university partnership is with McMaster's Reframery, a global incubator for creative entrepreneurs who come from communities who experience resource and systemic restraints.

Diverse audiences also feed into our rental and fundraising programs. Once people get a look at our facilities and feel the presence of our community, they are eager to book the space for their own initiatives and come out for our vibrant events. The inaugural Anti-Gala is just one example of a slam-full and bopping party that not only generates revenue but also provides a real sense of community and belonging.

Executive Director

Derek Jenkins

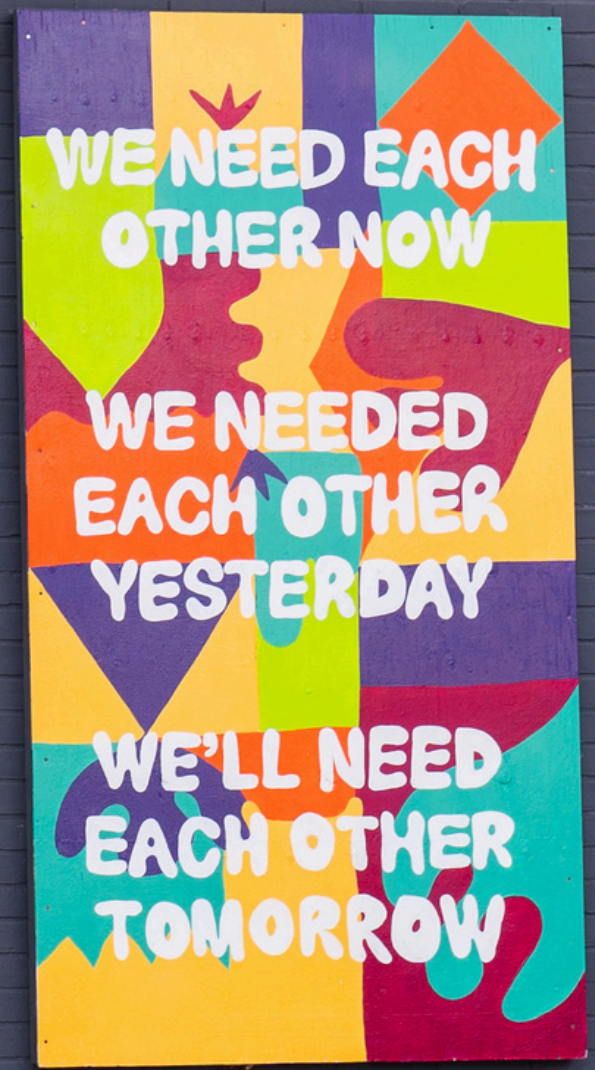
In our first year of shifting to bimonthly board meetings and emphasizing the work of committees, we've seen a dramatic increase in contributions from committee members. This not only supplements the staff capacity but also gives our community of volunteers a rightful sense of pride and ownership over the activities of the organization. For example, our communications committee has wonderfully enhanced our outreach capacity by designing promo materials for events and campaigns.

All of our permanent staff have been in position for multiple years at this point, and our part-time and contract staff have taken on much-needed chunks of the workload. Programming Assistant Paige Paton serves on multiple committees and has worked with board member Dianne Twombly to streamline our membership administration, at the same time publishing our email newsletters. Support from Canada Summer Jobs and Ontario's Summer Employment Program allowed us to hire gallery assistants Carmella Dolmer and Ro Boswitha for much of the very active summer of 2025. These staff positions are supplemented by our wonderful volunteer gallery attendants: Jay Sharples, Ace Wang, and Alisha Kuipers.

Executive Director

Derek Jenkins

For FY26, we have already secured 53k in additional project funding, including money to install a new lighting system, funds to cover an ambitious peer mentoring program, and a CCA grant to host the annual meeting of the Media Arts Network of Ontario. With an ambitious Operational Plan in place, an active and skilled board complement, and eager committees running at full steam, I anticipate increased revenue, a renewed sense of our mission, and lots of fun in FY26!



WE NEED EACH OTHER NOW, WE NEEDED EACH OTHER YESTERDAY, WE'LL NEED EACH OTHER TOMORROW, Sahra Soudi - James Wall Banner. March 7, 2025- March 7, 2026

Artistic Director

Sanaa Humayun

This year at Hamilton Artists Inc. we flourished. I'm incredibly proud of the programming we put together this year, and the wonderful complement of artists who exhibited at the Inc this year.

As an organization we developed our operational plan, creating timelines for actionable steps towards our big picture strategic goals. The programming team focused on building relationships with our local community, in the hopes of creating a strong base of solidarity as we continue to delve into this work. This year we renewed and developed relationships with so many community organizations and collectives, including Hamilton4Palestine, Melanin Market, Places Collective, McMaster SOTA, and Factory Media Centre, while also creating new relationships with Embassy Cultural House, Nisa Homes, Fringe Festival, and so many more. We also investigated our current promotional processes, and engaged in better efforts to make sure our local community is aware of our programming. As an organization, we signed onto PACBI, renewing our commitment to the academic and cultural boycott of Israel.

Artistic Director

Additionally, we continued our commitment to Hamilton based artists. Over 80% of the artists who exhibited in the gallery are based in the Greater Hamilton area. We believe these changes have had a strong positive impact, and we've seen this through a significant increase in attendance to our events. I felt incredibly supported by our community this year, and I'm deeply thankful for the folks who show up for us time and time again.

Our programming at the Inc. is split across two streams: exhibitions & public programming. Upon completion of SWARM in 2024, we began this programming year in the Cannon Gallery with my first curatorial exhibition of the year, *êpêkiyokêyân (coming to visit)*, by Kiona Callihoo Ligtoet and Seth Arcand. This work by two Prairie-based Indigenous artists playfully and sweetly explored what an archive can look like outside the rigid, white supremacist, confines of academia. The artists explored a means of resistance based in relationality, map-making, and slow and careful work. We brought in the summer with a party - *Why Do I Never See You at the Club?* By Places Collective, bent the rules of what an exhibition can be, and what an exhibition space can hold. Through a series of events, activations, and artistic works by Hamilton based artists across a variety of mediums, the exhibition explored the history of dance music culture. The work excelled in how it connected the history of activism within club culture to Hamilton's own club and music history, and encouraged viewers to reclaim their bodies, engage in movement, and watch, listen, mix, mingle, jump, create, breath, think, dance, and connect.

Artistic Director

In the James Gallery we began the year with *What Moves us in the Middle*, by Sahra Soudi; an overwhelmingly popular exhibition because of how absolutely necessary it was. Sahra's work invited viewers to examine the systems of oppression that we live in, and reminded us that collaboration is the best tool we have at our disposal. Sahra's exhibition culminated in her creation of our James Wall Banner — a work whose text embodies the ethos I carried with me in everything I tried to accomplish at the Inc this year: *We need each other now/ we needed each other yesterday/ we'll need each other tomorrow*. The James Gallery also featured *Tender Like a Bruise*, by Eli Nolet and Ardyn Gibbs, engaging with the tensions of how a bruise can be the outcome of both pain and pleasure in relation to queerness, the exhibition seeks to explore the nuanced politics of the queer body and visibility through a lens of relationality and T4T care.

The Cannon wall banner exhibited *We Return* by Wanda Nanibush, exploring common threads, both literal and symbolic, as expressed in Palestinian and Anishinaabe aesthetics and actions. This work came to us at an incredibly relevant time. As anti-Palestinian and anti-Indigenous hate continued to grow, Hamilton saw a steep rise in White Supremacist organizing. We watched as White Supremacist group activations popped up blocks away from us. Wanda's work remained more relevant and needed than ever, reinforcing the need to "return love to our communities and protect our children, our future ancestors."

Artistic Director

This year was certainly not without its challenges. Our programming was robust, and led by an ongoing urgency we felt as a team to do as much as we could with the resources we have. We considered how to create as many meaningful paid opportunities as we could for artists, and asked how we could foster a constructive community space for artists and activists. We're focussing on fighting the urgency to work to the point of burnout, and to instead do what we can within our capacity meaningfully, and while paying artists meaningfully.

This year at the Inc we tried to show up for each other. Our programming built in a gentle place to land, and sought to remind us that resistance, activism, and advocacy begin in relationality. As Sahra's work reiterates: we need each other, and we'll continue to need each other. We'll keep trying to show up for you in 2026.



Installation shot from *Placeholder*: adeola egbeyemi, Steacy Easton & Kyle Joedicke - James Gallery. June 20, 2025- August 9, 2025

Programming Timeline

September 13, 2024- November 1 , 2024

The Book of [un]Happiness

Olivia Shortt

Cannon Gallery

Related Programming:

November 1, 2024 5:30-8 PM

Closing Reception: The Book of [un]Happiness

Musical Performance by Olivia Shortt & Justin Massey + A

Conversation with Carmen Galvan

Presented in partnership with Strangewaves

September 13, 2024- November 1 , 2024

Sent from a Distant Party

Sal Shivji

James Gallery

September 13, 2024- November 1 , 2024

The Gold Boxes

Ravinder Ruprai

James Gallery

September 20, 2024 8-9:30 PM

Fluxus Experimental Film Festival

In Partnership with Factory Media Centre &

McMaster University School of the Arts

Inc Courtyard

October 11 2024 7-9 PM

Hamilton: a guidebook from memory

Jojo Chooi-Harley, Jonathan Harley & Robert

Motum, Guidebooks from Memory

Inc

October 12 2024 12-4 PM

Stirton Tot Lot Community Mural & Introduction to Spray Painting

Workshop

Clear Eyes Collective

Offsite, Stirton Tot Lot (or Unity Community Park)

October 17 2024 6-7:30 PM

City Enrichment Fund: "Creation & Presentation for Artists" Info Session

in Partnership with City of Hamilton & HFTco

Cannon Gallery

Programming Timeline

Nov 1, 2024- June 30, 2025

To be soft is not to be weak. To be soft is to be resilient.

Ardyn Gibbs

Cannon Project Wall

November 6, 2024 6-8:30 PM

Life Drawing

Cannon Gallery

November 14, 2024 5:30-7:30 PM

Overdose Prevention & Response Workshop with SOPEN

The Inc.

November 20, 2024 6-7:30 PM

Crit and Chill with Sally McKay

hosted by Sally McKay

Cannon Gallery

November 30, 2024 1-3 PM

Kinship on the Dance Floor

Led by Allie (doula_alma)

The Inc.

December 6, 2024- Jan 11, 2025

SWARM 2024

Participating Artists: Mariel Paglia, Christina Cao, Susan Pearson, Susan Barton-Taft, Adam Albin, Wendy Wilson, R Caterini, Nikola Wojewoda, Karen Klurowicz, Sal Shivji, Maria H. Sarkany SCA, Steacy Easton, Rachelle Wunderink, Milena Roglic, Kamaldeep Kaur, Taruna Singh, Andrew McPhail, Justine Eva Smith, Kento Cady, Okoro Soromo (SeSe), Callie Archer, Roy Haddad, Jarrod Hogeterp, Raul Palacios Gamez, Matt Dampieu, Kevin Mutch, Kelly Woodward + Maya Woodward, Laura Zajacz, Bethany Kenyon, Marsha Newby, Em Johnson, Christina De Melo, Vanessa Cress Lokos, Laura Heaney, Judi Burgess, Paul Ropel-Morski, Anastasia Petrovic, Billy Bee, Stephen Altena, Meaghan McLaughlin, Marian Arvai, Peter Pona, Olivia Brouwer, Nancy Benoy, Claire Dam, Cheryl Hoffman, Corine Van Hoeve, Cornelia Peckhart, Thea Haines, Jess Mitchell, Barin Osho, Ravinder Ruprai, Calvin Prowse, Heather Vida-Moore, Lorraine Postma, Chris Erskine, Andrea DiJulio, Elaine Lauzon, Gerten Basom, Ingrid Mayrhofer, Jars Hooch, Slavica Panic, Kristina Hogan, Grazyna Ziolkowski, Jay Sharples, Dennis Montford, Prosser Davis, Jeffrey Van Leeuwen, Emma Goodale, Abedar Kamgari, Birdie Gerhl, Jacqui Oakley, Jamie Lawson, Kristina Durka, Paige Paton, Amy Su, Gaesook Yang, Sohyun Kim, Mary Porter, Cornelius Heesters, Denise Stewart, Sami McKay, Stephanie Vegh, Tina Yang, David Clarke, Dianne Twombly, Mo (Montana Mellet), Brody Campbell, Albany Sutherland, Sanaa Humayun, Jordan Kasza, Sonali Menezes, Derek Jenkins

Cannon Gallery + James Gallery

December 14, 2024 6-11 PM

Winter Anti-Gala

The Inc.

Programming Timeline

January 24, 2025- March 8, 2025

What Moves Us In The Middle

Sahra Soudi

James Gallery

Related Programming:

March 7, 2025 6-7:30 PM

By Any Medium Necessary

A Panel Discussion with Sahra Soudi, Nala Ismacil & Jeff Jung Sing Chow; Moderated by Sanaa Humayun

January 24, 2025- March 8, 2025

êpêkiyokêyân (coming to visit), curated by Sanaa Humayun

Kiona Callihoo Ligtoet and Seth Arcand

Cannon Gallery

February 20, 2025 6-8:30 PM

Life Drawing

The Inc.

March 6, 2025 6-8 PM

Taxes for Artists, Creatives and Freelancers

hosted with Sunny Widerman from Personal Tax Advisors

Online via Zoom

March 20, 2025 7-8 PM

Collage and Community

Artist talk featuring Albany Sutherland in conversation with Lisa Pijuan Nomura
Cannon Gallery

April 4, 2025- May 17, 2025

TENDER LIKE A BRUISE

Eli Nolet + Ardyn Gibbs

James Gallery

April 24, 2025 6-8:30 PM

Gently Instructed Life Drawing

hosted by Bre Shanahan

Cannon Gallery

Programming Timeline

April 4, 2025- May 17, 2025

Why Do I Never See You At The Club?
Places- A Hamilton Radio-DJ Collective
Cannon Gallery

Related Programming:

April 25, 2025 7-9 PM

Party Building
Dallas (Strangewaves), Erika (SousBas), and
Geneva (TREMA)
Cannon Gallery

April 26, 2025 1-3 PM

How to use CDJs
Dunaway
Cannon Gallery

May 3, 2025 12-2 PM

*pb & jam (presence, body & jam) with
retrograde: dance in motion*
Vik & Skye
Cannon Gallery

May 10, 2025 1-3 PM

Safety in Dance and Club Culture
Places with SOPEN and SACHA
Cannon Gallery

July 5, 2025 7-9 PM

Mischievous Still Lives
Lauren Prousky
Inc

July 19, 2025 1-4 PM

*to play is to be whole: freeplay mural and
wheatpasting*
Curated and hosted by Carmella Dolmer
Inc. Courtyard

July 31, 2025 7-9 PM

Bonk'd Hamilton Comics Anthology Launch
Editorial Team: Joe Ollman (Old Joe!), Raul
Palacios Gamez (Rulito!) & Sunny Singh (Sunny!)
Inc. Courtyard

Programming Timeline

June 20, 2025- August 9, 2025

Placeholder

adeola egbeyemi, Kyle Joedicke and Steacy Easton

James Gallery

Related Programming:

July 25, 2025 6-10 PM

Double Feature Documentary Screening

"peace, love (unicorns) & communism", by adeola egbeyemi

"Train wreck", by Taras Hemon

Off-site at Dandelion Collective, Jackson Square

August 9, 2025 1-3 PM

Micro-Budget Documentary Filmmaking, A Conversation

adeola egbeyemi & Taras Hemon

James Gallery

June 20, 2025- August 9, 2025

You and I are Earth

Nicole Levaque

Cannon Gallery

Related Programming:

August 8, 2025 7-9 PM

Collaborative Vessel Building

Courtyard

Programming Timeline

March 7, 2025- March 7, 2026

*WE NEED EACH OTHER NOW, WE NEEDED
EACH OTHER YESTERDAY*

Sahra Soudi
James Wall Banner

June 20, 2025- June 20, 2026

We Return
Wanda Nanibush
Canon Project Wall

July 17, 2025- December 1, 2025

Didn't you say you'd been here before?
curated by Paige Paton
Carmella Dolmer and Paul Seaton
Inc. Windows

July 9, 2025- June 1, 2026

*The Great Equalizer & The Call of Nature
I or II*, curated by Sonali Menezes
Allison + Cam, Yigi Chang
Inc. Bathroom Murals

August 16, 2025 1-2:30 PM

*Proposal Writing Workshop
with Sanaa Humayun*
Online via Zoom

September 12- October 25, 2025

Queer Newfoundland Hockey League
Lucas Morneau
Cannon Gallery

Related Programming:

September 13, 2025 1-3PM

3 on 3 Drag Ball Hockey
co-hosted with Queer Hockey Hamilton
Performers: K, LowKey LeStrange, Sandy Joint, Mabe Kyle, Kiera "Kiki" Boulton
& Dude Man 3000
Pier 6

Programming Timeline

September 12- October 25, 2025

Hundred Dollar Gallery 10th Anniversary

Participating Artists: Donna Akrey, Paul Allard, Morgan Kamocki Allaby, Michael Allgoewer, Stephen Altena, Tyler Armstrong, Gary Barwin, Patti Beckett, Nancy Benoy, Natasja Bischoff, Gord Bond, Kiera Boulton, Laura Bromwich, Nathan Eugene Carson, Andrea Carvalho, Christian Chapman, Nicole Collins, Justice Colwell, Danny Custodio, Marco d'Andrea, Robert Dayton, Tanya Denyer, Douglas Drake, Corinne Duchesne, Steacy Easton, Chuck Eelhart, Paul Elia, Christopher Reid Flock, Margaret Flood, Simon Frank, Laine Groeneweg, Cameron Groves, Sadko Hadzihasnovic, Christopher Hall, Stev'nn Hall, Anthony Haley, John Haney, Sarah Heinonen, Dave Hind, Corine Van Hoeve, Natalie Hunter, Phil Irish, Peter Jelen, EM Johnson, Steve Kahn, Abedar Kamgari, Andrea Kastner, John Kinsella, Caillin Kowalczyk, Dave Kuruc, Steven Laurie, Trisha Leigh Lavoie, Gord Leverton, Robyn Lightwalker, Henry Lu, Andrew MacDonald, Laura Marotta, Adam Matak, Ingrid Mayrhofer, Nancy Anne McPhee, Andrew McPhail, Steve Newberry, Eli Nolet, Andrew O'Connor, Hitoko Okada, Maureen Paxton, Cornelia Peckart, Carrie Perrault, Lisa Pijuan-Nomura, Klaus Pinter, Mark Prier, Jason Lee Rhyno, Ravinder Ruprai, Mariel Rutherford, Steph Seagram, Keith Shearsby, Maria Simmons, Kyle Stewart, TH&B, Ty Tekatch, David Trautrimas, Stephanie Vegh, Brandon Vickard, Boyana Videkanic, Nikola Wojewoda, Cathy Yantsis

James Gallery

September 26 + 27 8-9:30PM

Fluxus Experimental Film Festival

In partnership with Factory Media Centre and McMaster University School of the Arts Inc. Courtyard



Photos from Drag Ball Hockey, Taken by Dom (@djspil_photography). Sept 13, 2025



Installation shot from *Why Do I Never See You From The Club?* by Places- A Hamilton Radio-DJ Collective - Cannon Gallery. April 4, 2025 - May 17, 2025

Programming Committee

Members: Rachelle Wunderink (Co-Chair), Madeleine Horton (Co-Chair), Margaret Flood, Maisie Belle, Alexandria Holm, Olivia Mossuto, Chayla Sheehan, Kento Cady

Departing Members: Olga Kolotylo, Sarah Sproule, Dominic Penney, Nicole Clouston, Caitlyn De Groot, Danica Evering

The programming developed by Hamilton Artists Inc. relies on the expertise and input of its programming committee, and is an important reflection of its community. As an artist-run centre, the Inc. has always prioritized artistic experimentation, community engagement, and alternatives to commercial gallery structures. The programming committee continues to celebrate and support critically engaged contemporary art, amplifying marginalized voices and important socio-political commentary. We have also prioritized a renewed engagement with the local artistic community, providing more opportunities and resources to support regional artists.

The committee began our busy year by welcoming several new members, as well as two new co-chairs, **Rachelle Wunderink** (January 2025), and **Madeleine Hopton** (September 2025). From there we centered a new programming initiative to curate a show in the James Gallery for the summer of 2025. This initiative was created in order to allow the committee to create programming that was responsive to the needs of our communities, and of the Inc. "*Placeholder*", curated by the committee, was created in response to the Inc's 50th anniversary. While reflecting on the history of our programming, the committee invited viewers to consider who is left out of archival histories...

Programming Committee

Cont'd

and who is memorialized and celebrated. The exhibition featured three artists who have never exhibited at the Inc before: *Stacey Easton*, *Adeola Egbeyemi*, and *Kyle Joedicke*. "*Placeholder*" was a joy for the programming committee to curate, and the work will be continued in a related publication to be released in 2026.

The committee also oversaw the jurying for the James Gallery for the upcoming 2026-2027 year with special thanks for Maisie Belle, Maddy Hopton and Alexandra Holm, who served as jurors, with the support of Sanaa and Sonali on staff. Both Sanaa and Sonali took on the development of the themed calls with "*Dreams to*

get you through the night" and "*Have you eaten?*". Overall, we had a positive uptick of submissions for the James Gallery, which was reflected in the programming's shift to focus on local artists in the space.

Programming Committee Cont'd

A major goal of the committee was to examine its structures to best support the programming staff. As a committee, there has been a renewed focus on in-person support, including event support, installation support and behind the scenes programming organisation support. The committee's goal this year was to ensure that the programming staff are supported in the ways they need, whenever we could. We will continue this work in the coming year, in line with the operational plan that is currently being implemented by the Inc's Board of Directors.

Both Co-Chairs and the Programming Committee will continue to work to support the Inc's programming team, and will continue to find ways to support Hamilton artists, through education, mentorship and opportunities that reflect the Inc's long-term strategic values.



Installation shot from *You and I are Earth* by Nicole Levaque - Cannon Gallery. June 20, 2025 - August 9, 2025

Special Events & Fundraising Committee

Members: Derek Jenkins (staff), Paige Paton (staff), Mikah Fortier (Chair), Mark Prier, Jay Sharples, Sara Morris, Albany Sutherland, Chinenye Kalu

Departing Members: Olga Kolotylo, Cat McKay

2024-2025 marked our first annual anti-gala, an initiative that took root from staff, which developed from understanding our community and the unique position the inc holds as an artist-run center. The Anti-Gala easily became a night-to-remember, where community members could celebrate the year amongst fellow members, artists, creatives, and friends in a relaxed environment. The event was a success with many party goers reflecting their appreciation for the fun and laid-back vibes the event offered– while also generating about \$1K (before expenses).

In conjunction with the event, the committee (special shout-out to **Sara & Cat** for their labour!) produced new swag– the inc fanny pack! A practical piece of merch that has shown promise of a slow but steady income generator. Importantly, Sanaa also provided support to the committee by securing a partnership with a local winery, which will create greater opportunities for bar sales now and in future.

Special Events & Fundraising Committee Cont'd

During this report period, we also welcomed a new chair of the committee with very ambitious goals. Shortly after settling into her role, she had to leave abruptly— as a result the committee has been in transition with new leadership and reconciling previous chairs' vision with current chairs' capacities.

2024-2025 also marked the launch of a new fundraising initiative, titled ***Make n'Mingle***, which attempted to create opportunities for community building and art-making alongside increased bar and ticket sales. The *Make n'Mingle* workshops did create greater opportunities for more intimate connections amongst members and fellow creatives, however, due to overhead costs was not a viable option for raising funds.

Despite this, the committee has taken this challenge in stride and is continuing efforts to tweak the idea to better suit our community and fundraising goals. So as a side note, if you/ someone you know is looking to donate gently used art supplies, please consider donating to the inc to support our efforts in 2026!

Plans for 2025-2026 include greater collaboration and cross-pollination amongst committees for future iterations of the Anti-Gala; implementing new fundraising efforts and strategy more aligned with the inc's community; and harnessing our marketing and communications efforts with greater organization.

Communications Committee

Members: Jordyn Stewart (Co-Chair), Paula Rebello (Co-Chair), Derek Jenkins (staff), Dianne Twombly, Raul Palacios Gamez, Jaycee Tu, Sophie Hughes & Chayla Sheehan

Departing Members: Arturo Jimenez

Over the last few years we've had a small but mighty Communications Committee, however, this year we're thrilled to have a robust committee of eight talented members! We welcome incoming members; **Dianne Twombly, Raul Palacios Gamez, Sophie Hughes, Jaycee Tu** and **Chayla Sheehan**. We'd like to thank outgoing member **Arturo Jimenez** for all their expertise as committee Co-chair. We also would like to contribute our appreciation towards continuing members **Jordyn Stewart & Paula Rebello** (Co-Chairs) and **Derek Jenkins** (ED).



Assets for the Make n' Mingle event with Annie Webber, October 2025

Communications Committee

Cont'd

Having more team members allows us to provide increased support to the Inc. Staff and more special projects. Noteworthy projects from this past year include:

- High-level, Anti-Gala Advertising
- Social Media Research to inform future communications approaches
- 8-Page Zine (Inc. Outreach Advertising)
- Collaboration with Committees (i.e. Fundraising & Special Events)
- A.I. Policy
- Press List and Press Releases

As we move forward with our Operational Plan, we'll be focusing on:

- A thoughtful marketing strategy that works in tandem with our Critical Path
- Additional marketing approaches executed by the committee to alleviate pressure on Staff,
- A constructive accessibility guideline tailored in alignment to the Inc.'s Mission, Statement & Vision



The Great Equalizer (I or II, curated by Sonali Menezes), Allison + Cam - Inc. Bathroom Murals. July 9, 2025 - June 1, 2026

Facilities Committee

Members: Samuel de Lange & Derek Jenkins (staff)

Our facility remains in good repair and a primary source of revenue generation. Rental income has increased by more than half, with a long term rental contract with partner Industry and multiple returning contracts with the office of Ward 2 councilor Cameron Kroetsch. In response to this dramatic increase in interest, the facilities committee is collaborating with the newly reformed Development Committee for a renewed rental contract, with a focus on the film and television industry.

Long term visions for the space, including a basement renovation which will increase our operations footprint and a new lighting system, are included in the 2025 Operation Plan, with funding already secured for a state-of-the-art lighting system in both gallery spaces, to be installed FY26.

Facilities Committee

Cont'd

Perhaps the most exciting adventure with the facility involved over-eager bylaw enforcement by one of the City of Hamilton's contractors. Enforcement workers entered the courtyard space and removed a graffiti mural created in 2015 as part of a public program with our neighbour Good Shepherd. After some local publicity and dogged work by our Artistic Director, the bylaw office reimbursed us for the damage, funds which will cover brick repair and a new public program.

As for general upkeep we continue to use Stratus Cleaning for cleaning before and after exhibition periods. Additionally, after finding evidence of some invading bugs in advance of a textile show, we pursued treatment. Our service technician assures us that the bugs we found came from outside the building and we never experienced an infestation. However, we have an annual contract with Abell Pest Control as a preventative measure.

Despite HVAC repairs in FY25 that left us without cooling for a short period, there have been no other major issues with the facility.



I never want the music to stop.
We won't always be in step, but we wil

MONTREAL
STYLE

Installation shot from *Why Do I Never See You From The Club?* by Places- A Hamilton Radio-DJ Collective - Cannon Gallery. April 4, 2025 - May 17, 2025

Treasurer's Report

Dianne Twombly

The Inc. continues to proceed from a position of sustainability as we move into the 2026 fiscal year. For the second year, our current accumulated surplus provides us with three months of budget reserves and we hope to continue maintaining this same reserve moving forward. We are operating towards a balanced budget as we proceed into the next fiscal year, which includes seeking new revenue to sustain current staffing levels and our commitment to cost of living increases and fair labour conditions.

Once again, a lack of funding increases at the municipal and provincial level, along with significant increases in operational costs due to inflation and the increasing use of the physical space for rentals and events created some financial challenges in 2025, however aggressive fundraising and increased projects grants were successful in bringing in a variety of funding, including 15K from the Hamilton Community Foundation, 5K from Ward 2 (as well as 25k for new lighting that will be spent in 2026), 13K from a partner grant with Media Arts Network of Ontario, and 5K from McMaster University.

Our 50th Anniversary Anti-Gala was a great success and generated \$1100. Our rentals are more than double that of last fiscal year at just under \$8K and we're working hard to increase rentals—both community and commercial—in the coming fiscal year. The Inc has also increased partners and sponsorships, including with Rief Winery, Last Supper Books, Smalls Coffee, I Fiori, Dr. Disc, The City and the City Books, Polyester Plus, Mixed Media, Dandelion Film Collective, Media Arts Network of Ontario, and the Reframery.

Treasurer's Report

Dianne Twombly

Overall, cash flow should be stronger in FY26 with confirmed project funding and more regular income from small-scale fundraising like alcohol and merchandise sales. We are currently set to re-apply for a Canada Council composite grant as our current (100K) grant completes this year. We're hoping for a similar outcome for this application. The Ontario Arts Council has committed to \$27,261 for the next fiscal year, while the City Enrichment Fund has committed to \$61,200 and Incite has committed \$25K.

Some goals for the coming fiscal year include actively pursuing venue rentals as a source of income, particularly during the time between shows when the physical space is not fully utilized. We're also hoping to streamline our process and reduce licensing costs for alcohol service at openings and events where our cocktails have proven quite popular.

We continue to look at viable solutions for ongoing maintenance issues, as well as the possibility of renovating the building's basement, and our newly revived Development Sub-committee is focused on working with the Fundraising Committee to develop new partnerships, increase rentals, and pursue new income sources moving forward. We feel confident in the sustainability of our programs and look forward to another successful year.

A.I. Policy for Approval



Programming Policy Update

7.3.1 Definitions

Cannon Gallery: The Inc.'s largest gallery space. The exhibition schedule for this space is set 3 years in advance. This space is curated by invitation from the Programming Committee, led by the Artistic Director. This space is developed collaboratively and is committed to featuring a range of established and emerging artists, as well as a regular complement of guest curators.

Staff & Volunteers

Core Staff

Sanaa Humayun - Artistic Director

Derek Jenkins - Executive Director

Sonali Menezes - Programming Coordinator

Paige Paton - Operations Coordinator

Contract Staff

YCW Artist-in-Residence - **Albany Sutherland**

CSJ Gallery Assistant - **Carmella Dolmer**

SEO Gallery Assistant - **Ro Bwanga**

Thank you to our
wonderful Volunteers:

Matt Dampier, Shelby Gallant, Ash
Milne, Martha Steele, Ace Wang,
Bhavattya Bhardwaj, Mackie Martin,
Mckenzie Cline, Alisha Kuipers

Board of Directors

Incoming:

Raul Alberto Palacios Gamez (Joined June 2025, elected at 2025 AGM)

Paula Rebello (Joined May 2025, elected at 2025 AGM)

Susan Curran (Joined April 2025, elected at 2025 AGM)

Mikah Fortier (Joined June 2025, elected at 2025 AGM)

Adrienne Bazir (Joined December 2025, elected at 2025 AGM)

Renewing for a third term:

Jordyn Stewart (Joined November 2020, elected at 2020 AGM, 2nd term began October 2022)

Returning:

Sam de Lange (Joined December 2022, elected at 2022 AGM)

Dianne Twombly (Joined December 2022, elected at 2022 AGM)

Alexandria Holm (Joined November 2023, elected at 2023 AGM)

Outgoing:

Caitlin Sutherland (Joined October 2024, elected at 2024 AGM)

Olga Kolotylo (Joined April 2024, elected at 2024 AGM)

Suad Badri (Joined April 2024, elected at 2023 AGM)

Our Partners & Supporters!



Canada Council
for the Arts

Conseil des arts
du Canada

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COMMUNITY
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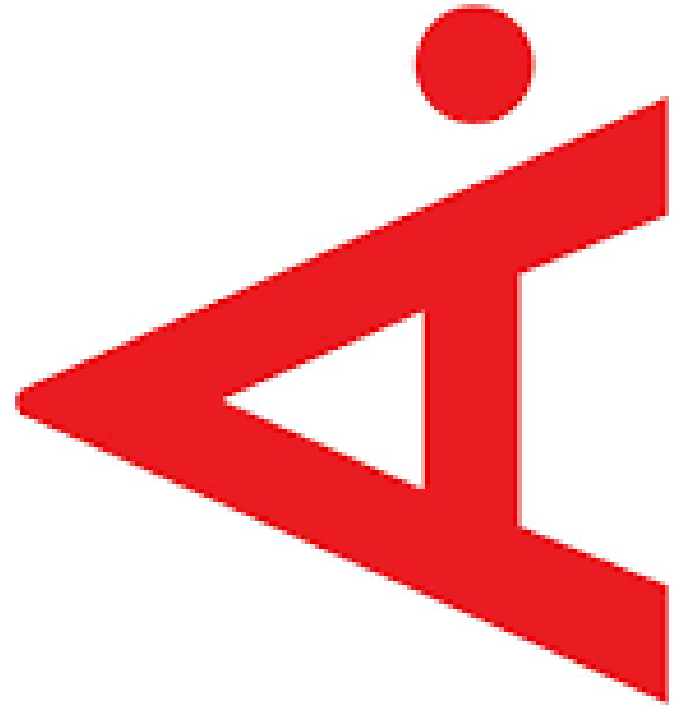


ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL
CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO

an Ontario government agency
un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario



Hamilton



Thank you!