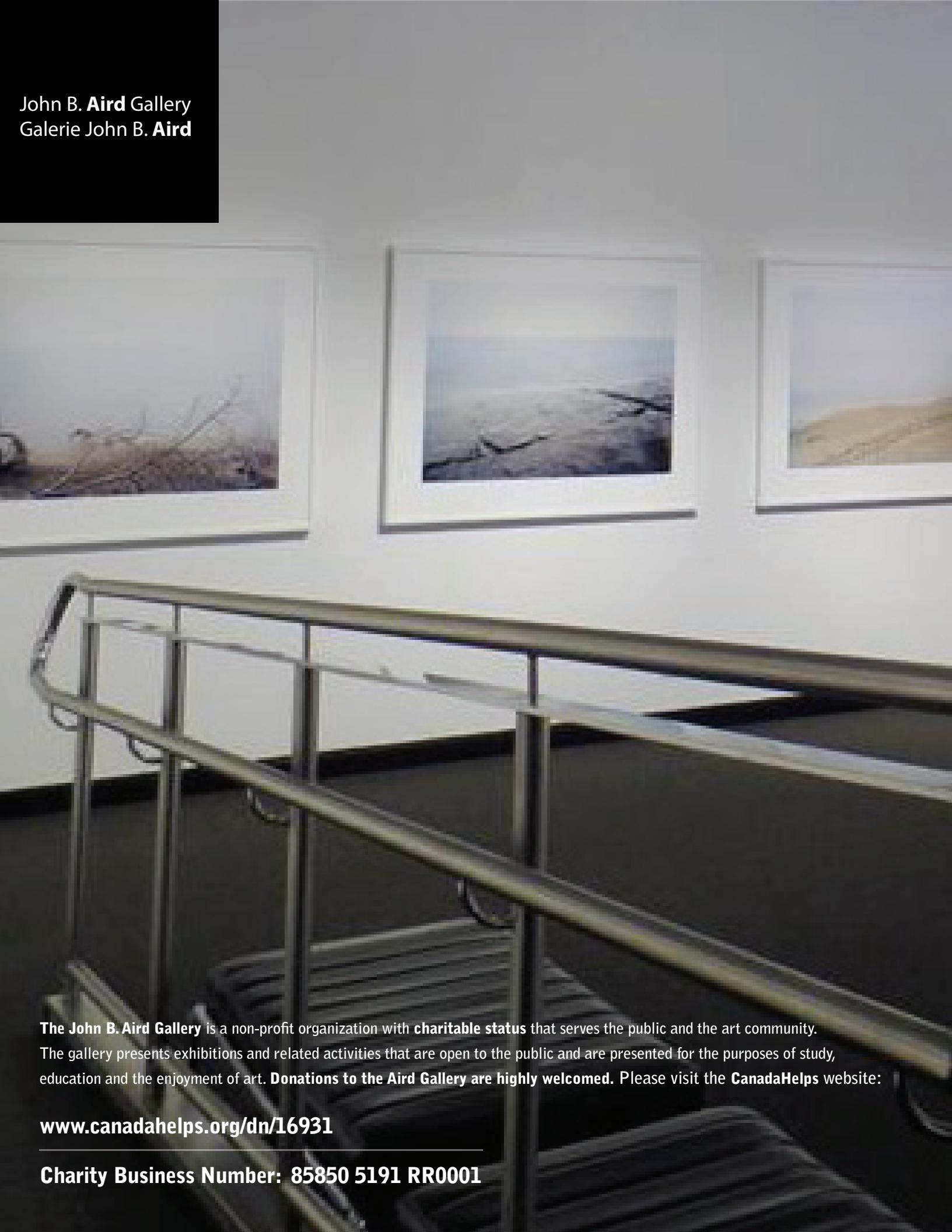




John B. **Aird** Gallery
Galerie John B. **Aird**

2017-2018
ANNUAL REPORT

John B. Aird Gallery
Galerie John B. Aird

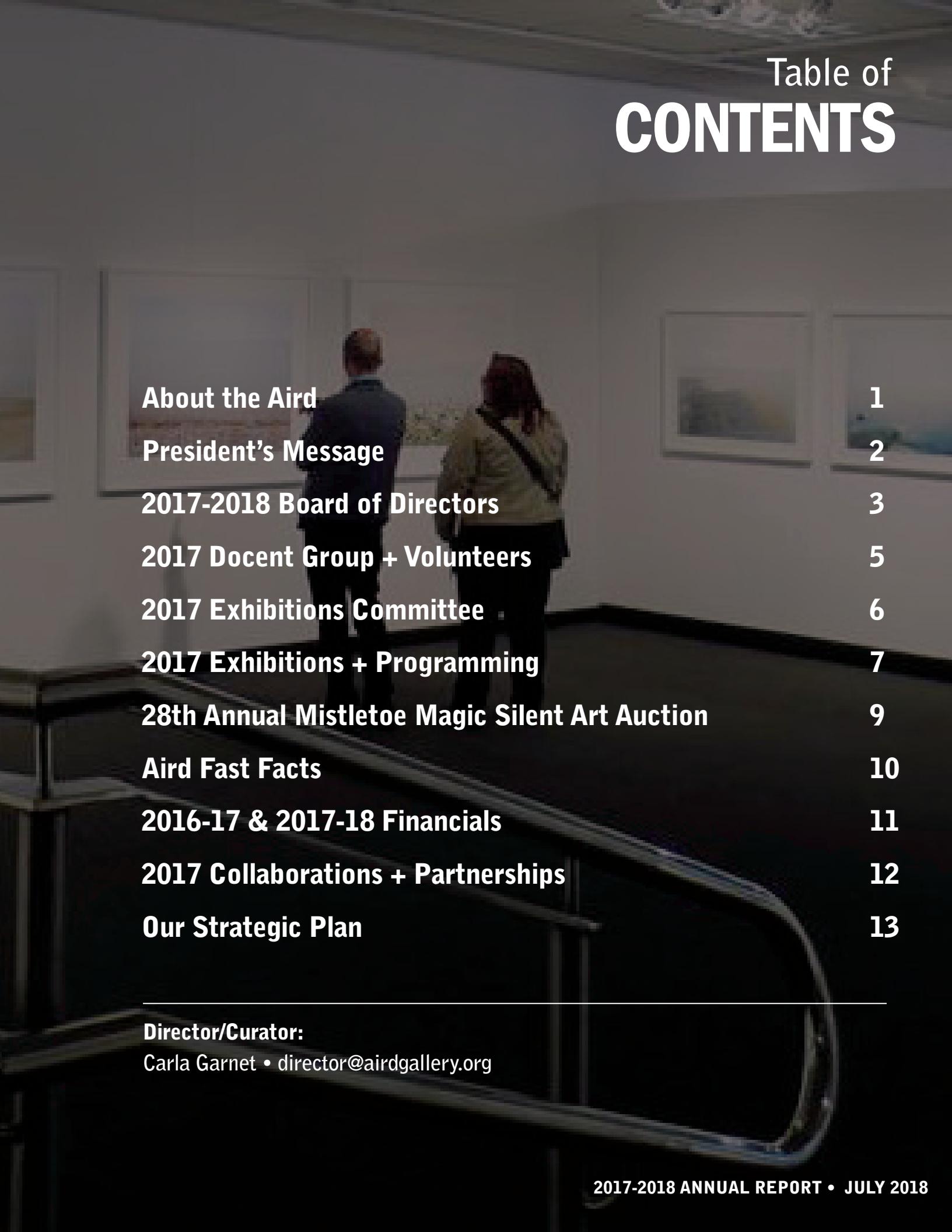


The John B. Aird Gallery is a non-profit organization with **charitable status** that serves the public and the art community. The gallery presents exhibitions and related activities that are open to the public and are presented for the purposes of study, education and the enjoyment of art. **Donations to the Aird Gallery are highly welcomed.** Please visit the **CanadaHelps** website:

www.canadahelps.org/dn/16931

Charity Business Number: 85850 5191 RR0001

Table of **CONTENTS**



About the Aird	1
President's Message	2
2017-2018 Board of Directors	3
2017 Docent Group + Volunteers	5
2017 Exhibitions Committee	6
2017 Exhibitions + Programming	7
28th Annual Mistletoe Magic Silent Art Auction	9
Aird Fast Facts	10
2016-17 & 2017-18 Financials	11
2017 Collaborations + Partnerships	12
Our Strategic Plan	13

Director/Curator:

Carla Garnet • director@airdgallery.org

About the **AIRD**

The John B. Aird Gallery opened in 1985. Commonly known as “The Aird”, was named in honour of the 23rd Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, John Black Aird, to recognize his exceptional support of the visual arts in Canada.

The Gallery is governed by an Executive Committee, known as the John B. Aird Gallery Board of Directors. Board members are volunteers from the community and representatives from four art societies that exhibit at the Aird:

- The Canadian Society of Painters in Water Colour (CSPWC)
- The Ontario Society of Artists (OSA)
- The Sculptors Society of Canada (SSC)
- The Royal Canadian Academy of Arts (RCA)

The Board directs the gallery and its operations to a Director/Curator, appointed by the Board, works to achieve the aims of the gallery and manage day-to-day operations. The Government of Ontario provides the exhibition space and related building services. All operating funds are derived from exhibition fees and commissions, including an annual silent art auction fundraiser (Mistletoe Magic) and donations.

MANDATE

The mandate of the John B. Aird Gallery is to create awareness and enjoyment of works by contemporary professional artists. Open free of charge to the public, the Aird Gallery is a special place providing a nurturing atmosphere for both artist and viewer. To fulfill its mandate, the Aird Gallery Board strives:

- To encourage excellence in the visual arts
- To focus on the works of contemporary artists
- To present a variety of media, disciplines and styles
- To provide opportunities for study and education in conjunction with the exhibitions
- To implement a curatorial standard for the presentation of work
- To provide an accessible exhibition space in downtown Toronto

EXHIBITIONS

An Exhibition Selection Committee reviews exhibition proposals on an ongoing basis and selects exhibitions for presentation in the gallery. Additionally, the Aird Gallery Board sponsors a number of juried shows (between 2-4 exhibitions) focusing on drawing, printmaking, painting and photography. The Board also mounts fundraising exhibitions to support gallery activities. The Gallery welcomes proposals from artists and/or their representatives.



The Aird Gallery is one of the only few remaining public galleries in Toronto."

President's MESSAGE

In 2017 - 18, the Aird Gallery continued where it left off, bringing to fruition what we committed in our strategic plan back in 2015-15. We committed to stay on our trajectory and continued many of the "firsts" we started back in 2015. This included a number of partnerships with key art, academic, public and funding organizations. From continuing our collaborations with our founding societies, the **OSA**, **CSPWC**, **SSC**, being featured as a primary exhibition for the **Scotiabank CONTACT Photography Festival**, successful project grants from the Ontario Arts Council and the Toronto Arts Council, to collaborations with the City of Toronto, University of Toronto, OPS Pride Network and the Archives of Ontario - it has indeed been a year. To stay relevant, sustainable and continue to be in the forefront in contemporary art in Toronto and Ontario, we cannot do it alone, and we thank our partners and collaborators for making this year happen.

The Aird Gallery is one of the only few remaining public galleries in Toronto. Open free of charge to visitors as a public amenity and space, the Aird Gallery is a special public place providing a nurturing atmosphere for both artist and viewer. Public art galleries are diminishing and there is a growing need for much needed exhibition spaces for Ontario and Canadian artists especially young and mid-career artists – those that cannot afford to exhibit at private and large commercial galleries.

As advised by the Province of Ontario, the current space here at Macdonald Block will be reconstructed over the next six to eight years. This has been a concern for the Aird, and our primary objective was to retain our existing space as part of a future-state of the Macdonald Block Complex. We are thrilled to have successfully negotiated with the Province in securing a new, permanent and future innovative space as part of the reconstruction. I thank my board of directors for their ideas, advice and creative brains to finalize this piece of work.

As part of our next stage of work, we are in a search for our interim space while reconstruction takes place. The board, our societies, champions and sponsors are well aware of this challenge. As we say, we are not just a gallery, but we provide direct and tangible benefits to communities. We believe our activities, exhibitions and learning events publicly benefit communities as a whole – rather than specific individuals or groups. This is the core of what the Aird Gallery is about.

We are a public amenity. We offer free education and learning events including artist talks, panel discussions and curatorial open houses. We are not just a "rental facility" for artist groups, but we partner with community groups to develop curatorial and educational programming – to advance social and community causes related to diverse communities including Indigenous, LGBTIQA, New Canadians, Youth, Students and more.

We subsidize exhibition costs for Canada's longest non-for-profit art societies with long histories in Canadian art including the Ontario Society of Artists (OSA), Sculptors Society of Canada (SSC), Canadian Society of Painters in Watercolour (CSPWC), and the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts (RCA).

There is a lot more work to do over the next year and we are optimistic we will find a new home over the interim so that we can continue to deliver the cultural programming that we have invested over the last few years. I look forward to continuing to work with my board, our societies, our partners, our docents and volunteers - and share the benefits of the work we are continuing to build collectively.

JOWENNE HERRERA

President | Board of Directors
John B. Aird Gallery



SCOTIABANK CONTACT PHOTOGRAPHY FESTIVAL: The Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, the Aird Family, and Aird Gallery Board of Directors.



The John B. Aird Gallery Board of Directors are volunteers from the community and representatives from four art societies that exhibit at the Aird.

In 2017-18, the 13-member volunteer board was comprised of professionals from diverse sectors - from the art community, academia, public service to non-for-profit.

Each and every board member brings their expertise to the gallery to direct day-to-day operations, exhibitions and programming, fundraising and sponsorship, partnerships and development and help shape our strategic direction for the future.

2017-2018 Board of **DIRECTORS**

EXECUTIVE

Jowenne Herrera

President

Visual Artist, Graphic Designer
& Civil Servant, Ontario Public Service

Maggie Broda

Treasurer

Visual Artist, OCADU Alumni President

Christopher Johnson

Secretary

Former President Word on the Street

DIRECTORS

Janet Hendershot

OSA Representative

The Ontario Society of Artists (OSA), Visual Artist

J. Mac

SSC Representative

The Sculptors Society of Canada (SSC), Sculptor

Gill Cameron

CSPWC Representative

The Canadian Society of Painters in Watercolour,
(CSPWC), Visual Artist

Brian Fior

Civil Servant, Ontario Public Service



Elka Weinstein

Professor, Museum Studies, University of Toronto

Iain Downie

Sculptor

Gillian Reddyhoff

Civil Servant, City of Toronto
(Former Curator, Archives of Ontario)

Heather Ingram

Civil Servant, Ontario Public Service

Julie Hinton Walker

Visual Artist, Docent Volunteer Lead

Bill Grigsby

Principal, Reactor Art + Design

2017

DOCENT GROUP + VOLUNTEERS

The Aird Gallery's success is a reflection of the power of its volunteer base.

From the vision of our [Board of Directors](#), the creative energy of the [Installation Team](#), and the welcoming atmosphere created by the [Docent Group](#) responsible for the daily operation of the gallery, and helping out with special events.

Installation Team

JOHN ABRAMS
IAIN DOWNIE
JULIE HINTON WALKER

Docent Group

The Docent Group takes care of the day to day operation of the gallery by sitting in 2 shifts to cover the 10am to 6pm opening hours. Members of the Docent Group primarily welcome visitors into the gallery and answer any inquiries regarding current exhibitions. They keep the gallery clean, accept daily mail and deliveries, and keep the Director/Curator informed of any activities and requests. The Docent Group also helps with the set-up and tear-down of the many special events that the Aird hosts such as the Lunch and Learn series and Artist Discussions that take place outside of regular hours.

John B. Aird Gallery
Galerie John B. Aird

Do you love art and meeting people?

Come join us and become a VOLUNTEER DOCENT at the John B. Aird Gallery. Right in the heart of Queen's Park in downtown Toronto, we are currently recruiting docents to help be the 'face' of our gallery to daily visitors. Join a terrific group of volunteer docents and share your love of art.

Contact our Volunteer Committee Chair for more info:
Christopher Johnson | volunteer@airdgallery.org

Volunteer opportunities are also available from administration, event planning to marketing and communications.

airdgallery.org

Macdonald Block, 900 Bay Street (at Wellesley), Toronto, ON, Canada M7A 1C2 | Gallery Hours: Monday to Friday, 10 am - 6 pm
Edifice Macdonald, 900 rue Bay (angle Wellesley), Toronto, ON, Canada M7A 1C2 | Heures d'ouverture : du lundi au vendredi, de 10h à 18h

The Aird's Docent Group

LYNDA BARNETT
THERESA BUTCHER
ANTHONY CAMBRIDGE
NORA GUBINS
JANET HOROWITZ
ADA KLOOSTERMAN
ALEXANDER LEBOVITZ
HANA LENHOFF
JOANNE LINDSAY
JUDY SKELTON
KATE STARCHILD
HILDA STEPHENSON
JULIE HINTON WALKER

Founding Art Societies

The Aird also benefits from the volunteer energy of those from our founding art societies that lend a hand during exhibition preparations with the taking in of art, the details of opening receptions, and at the end of an exhibition, the return of the art work to the artists.

JULIE HINTON WALKER

Chair, Docent Group + Volunteers
John B. Aird Gallery

2017 EXHIBITION COMMITTEE



2017 REPORT

In 2017 the **Exhibitions Committee** worked closely with our **Director/Curator, Carla Garnet**, to present a balanced program of 12 exhibits that reflected the Aird's continued commitment to artistic excellence in the visual arts.

In addition to hosting four exhibitions organized by some of our esteemed founding societies: **the Canadian Society of Painters in Water Colour; the Ontario Society of Artists; and the Sculptors Society of Canada**, the Aird organized two annual open juried exhibitions based on specific media. In 2017, the always highly anticipated Aird Drawing show was held in February. While drawing and print based shows, however, have long been on the Aird's open juried roster, the Exhibitions Committee felt that expanding the criteria for these exhibitions would widen the opportunity for artist participation. As a consequence, a new **Aird Painting open juried show** was organized and presented in late July.

The Aird also strives to provide opportunities for diverse voices and approaches, including a conscious desire to better represent the work of Indigenous artists. Two shows were selected by the Committee to reflect this. In May/June the gallery hosted the **Ontario Public Service Pride Network's 10th anniversary show, Queer Landscapes, Queer Intersections**. This was followed later in the fall by Métis artist, Patrick DeCoste's exhibit, **13 Moons and a Canoe** which was curated in-house by Carla Garnet and was a recipient of a TAC (Toronto Arts Council) grant.

Over the past few years, the Committee has also worked to support the Aird's goal of building long-term and sustainable relationships with its partners and collaborators. This resulted in the gallery being selected for the second time by the **Scotiabank CONTACT Festival of Photography for the presentation of Robert Burley's photographs** in an exhibit curated by Carla Garnet and supported by the **City of Toronto**. We also welcomed back students from the **University of Toronto Museum Studies program**, as well as the **Archives of Ontario** for repeat exhibitions in 2017.

It was not always easy to select exhibits for 2017 from the many proposals received by the Committee. However, whenever possible, we strive to accommodate new groups such as the Toronto Watercolour Society in the schedule in order to round out our programming and attract new artists as well as new audiences to the gallery.

It is very much hoped that the work accomplished in 2017 and the momentum established in achieving some of our key goals, will lay the groundwork for a diverse and engaging exhibition program next year.

GILLIAN REDDYHOFF

Chair, Exhibitions Committee
John B. Aird Gallery



July

In July, the Aird continued its partnership with the Archives of Ontario. Featuring early portrait photographs of Ontario Families, including families who settled early in the province.

October

October featured dynamic works from the Canadian Society of Painters in Water Colour (CSPWC), its 92nd year. Open Water featured works ranging from realism to abstraction, from traditional to experimental.

August

August featured a new open juried exhibition on painting, adding to the roster of Aird-sponsored exhibitions. This new exhibition attracted diverse paintings across the province.

November

November featured a mystical exhibition with a project grant from the Toronto Arts Council (TAC). Patrick DeCoste's 13 Moons and a Canoe featured new works including paintings, wood, mixed media and performance.

September

The poster features a large central photograph of a sculpture titled 'Our Canada' by John Baird Callicott. The sculpture depicts a small tree standing on a rectangular base filled with numerous small, colorful, spherical objects resembling marbles or stones. The background is a soft-focus landscape with a blue sky and distant trees.

September featured sculptural works from the Sculptors Society of Canada (SSC). The theme focused on Canada's 150th Birthday, narrating diverse stories inspired by Canada's bountiful history.

December

The poster features a large, vibrant painting of a jellyfish with blue, yellow, and orange tentacles against a dark background. The title "Ontario Society of Artists" is at the top in white serif font, with "NEW MEMBERS SHOW 2017" below it. The artist's name, "Aileen K. Tuck", is written vertically on the left side of the painting. The bottom half of the poster has a dark teal background with white text for the exhibition details and logos for the Ontario Society of Artists and the Art Gallery of Ontario.

December showcased the Ontario Society Of Artists' (OSA) New Members Show. 21 new OSA members were featured in the exhibition, demonstrating the continued excellence of the OSA's member artists.

28th Annual **MISTLETOE MAGIC**

On November 30th 2017, the Aird hosted its 28th year of Mistletoe Magic. The gallery's annual silent art auction fundraiser event brought in 172 paintings, prints, photographs, and sculptures from 103 artists from across Ontario.

The event brought together artists and art enthusiasts for an evening of art, fun, and merriment. The annual fundraiser featured **Pat Fairhead** and her landscape watercolour painting, **Patrick DeCoste** and his mystic male figure painting, and **Clint Griffin** featuring a series of wood/paper etchings of maps.

This year, the fundraiser brought in **30% more artists** than in the 2016 fundraiser. Gross sales was **10% less than last year**, however net sales continued to be consistent with previous years averaging around **\$11-12K**.



BY THE NUMBERS

\$20,000

Approximate gross art sales from the fundraiser.

\$11,303

Net art sales from the fundraiser.

\$200

Average art sales price of works sold.

172

Total number of artworks displayed.

50%

Approximate number of artworks sold.

103

Total number of artists who donated and participated in the fundraiser.



Aird Fast **FACTS**

Fast Facts

12+

Exhibitions per year. The gallery does a show every month, including hosting educational programs, opening receptions and ministry events.

30

Over thirty years of excellence in the visual arts. We have a mandate to create awareness and enjoyment of art works by provincial, national and international artists.

100

Year-round, over 100 volunteers contribute their time, expertise and passion to keep the gallery alive. We call them "Friends of the Aird."

300

Over 300 exhibitions have been featured at the gallery over the past 30 years (since 1985).

500

Over 500 artists per year are featured at the 12+ exhibitions – more than many other private/public galleries.

200,000

Since 1985, over 200,000 visitors have enjoyed the gallery and its welcoming, open and attractive space.

FINANCIALS

2016-2017

(Unaudited) Year ending December 31, 2016

SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL POSITIONS

Description of financial positions	Line number	Amount
TOTAL ASSETS	4200	\$ 52,232
TOTAL LIABILITIES	4350	\$ 8,272

REVENUE

Description of revenue	Line number	Amount
Did the charity issue tax receipts for gifts?	4490	Yes
		\$ 22,595
Total non tax-receipted revenue from fundraising	4630	\$ 30,034
Total revenue from sale of goods and services (except to any level of government in Canada)	4640	\$ 31,165
TOTAL REVENUE	4700	\$ 83,794

EXPENDITURES

Description of expenditures	Line number	Amount
Professional and consulting fees	4860	\$ 2,260
All other expenditures not already included in the amounts above (excluding gifts to qualified donees)	4920	\$ 72,429
Total expenditures (excluding gifts to qualified donees)	4950	\$ 74,689
Of the amount at line 4950:		
Total expenditures on charitable activities	5000	\$ 34,591
Total expenditures on management and administration	5010	\$ 40,098
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	5100	\$ 74,689

2017-2018

(Unaudited) Year ending December 31, 2017

SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL POSITIONS

Description of financial positions	Line number	Amount
TOTAL ASSETS	4200	\$ 71,883
TOTAL LIABILITIES	4350	\$ 17,462

REVENUE

Description of revenue	Line number	Amount
Did the charity issue tax receipts for gifts?	4490	Yes
		\$ 24,765
Total non tax-receipted revenue from fundraising	4630	\$ 28,617
Total revenue from sale of goods and services (except to any level of government in Canada)	4640	\$ 35,810
TOTAL REVENUE	4700	\$ 89,192

EXPENDITURES

Description of expenditures	Line number	Amount
Professional and consulting fees	4860	\$ 2,200
All other expenditures not already included in the amounts above (excluding gifts to qualified donees)	4920	\$ 76,531
Total expenditures (excluding gifts to qualified donees)	4950	\$ 78,731
Of the amount at line 4950:		
Total expenditures on charitable activities	5000	-
Total expenditures on management and administration	5010	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	5100	\$ 78,731

**Registered charity information return: T3010 is available online on the CRA website:
<https://apps.cra-arc.gc.ca/ebci/haip/srch/t3010returnlist-eng.action?b=858505191RR0001>**

2017 Collaborations + **PARTNERSHIPS**

Art Organizations



Sculptors' Society
of Canada
*La société des sculpteurs
du Canada*



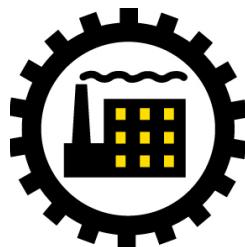
Government Organizations + Groups



Art, Design & Academic Affiliates



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
FACULTY OF INFORMATION



Private Sponsor



Our **STRATEGIC PLAN**

Through the assistance of the Ontario Arts Council (OAC) Compass Grant in 2014, the Aird Gallery developed a 3-Year Strategic Plan. The Aird continues to advance following three strategic objectives:



NOTES

airdgallery.org

John B. Aird Gallery
Galerie John B. Aird



Please visit the **CanadaHelps** website to donate:
www.canadahelps.org/dn/16931 • Charity Business Number: 85850 5191 RR0001

airdgallery.org

Macdonald Block, 900 Bay Street (at Wellesley), Toronto, ON, Canada M7A 1C2 | Gallery Hours: Monday to Friday, 10 am - 6 pm

director@airdgallery.org