

Update from the Co-Chairs - Annual General Meeting
Elora Centre for the Arts
September 2024 – August 31, 2025

The past year marked a period of significant growth for the Elora Centre for the Arts - growth realized through the completion of our major construction project, expanded community engagement, and the continued evolution of our programs, workshops, events, and outreach initiatives. These advancements have strengthened our ability to serve the community through the arts and positioned the organization well for the future.

Expanded Facilities & Heritage Building Stewardship

- We successfully completed our two-year construction project and welcomed the public through a soft opening in September 2025.
- The expansion includes fully accessible washrooms, a versatile multi-use atrium, a servery kitchen, and a renovated gallery space - enhancements that will support increased programming and community engagement for years to come.
- Alongside the expansion, we remain firmly committed to the ongoing care and maintenance of our historic heritage building.

Visitor & Volunteer Engagement

- The Arts Centre welcomed **22,000 visitors** to our galleries, classrooms, and greenspace, despite operating during construction.
- Volunteers supported our programs, operations, and events on **1,745 occasions**, representing an increase of nearly **30%** from last year.

Thriving and Expanding Programs

- We engaged **4,837 participants** of all ages across classes, workshops, outreach programs, and camps.
- Outreach programming expanded to include seniors living in long-term care and retirement residences.
- We launched *Vibrant Visions*, a new speaker series developed in collaboration with Aboyne Rural Hospice, exploring the transformative impact of community-based, arts-driven approaches to health and wellness.
- Our free summer *Open Sky* concert series continued to grow in attendance, attracting new audiences to the Arts Centre.

Funding & Fundraising Success

- Grant funding and fundraising efforts supported the continuation of critical outreach programs and enabled the introduction of new initiatives.
- Event sponsorship support increased.
- Corporate and private donor engagement reached an all-time high, driven by the Capital Campaign for the building expansion and several years of relationship-building.

- The *Moonlight at the Mill* Gala in November 2024 raised **\$120,000** toward the capital expansion and accessibility project.
- The *IGNITE! Art Auction* was also a successful fundraiser supporting capital campaign efforts.
- By the end of August 2025, **97% of the Capital Campaign fundraising goal** had been achieved.

Financial Health & Management

- Audited financial statements for the fiscal year demonstrate a strong and stable financial position.
- The organization continues to oversee its annual Financial Plan and long-term financial forecast with oversight from the Finance Committee to ensure sustainability.

Dedicated Staff Team & Board Leadership

- Our dedicated and passionate staff team demonstrated exceptional adaptability throughout the construction period, ensuring high-quality programming and positive user experiences.
- The Arts Centre benefits from an engaged and skilled volunteer Board of Directors, bringing diverse expertise to support the organization's mission.
- Board sub-committees - including Governance, Finance, CAPCAM, Fundraising, Young Philanthropists, and the CAPCAM Cabinet - provide essential oversight and strategic support.