

Economic Impact of the Arts in Fort St. John

<u>Total Budgets of Community Arts Council</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>1985</u>
Member Groups	\$200,636.47	\$189,334
	(excluding museum construction and excluding library)	(excluding library)

<u>Facilities</u>	<u>Current Situation</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>% of City Support</u>
Artspace	Temporary Space	\$25,000	33% operating
Library	Renting Space	\$124,000	86% operating
Museum	Permanent Space	35,000	tax exemption
Art Gallery	Temporary Space	35,000	nil

Accomplishments in the past three years.

With City support, provincial support, and corporate donations plus long hard hours of volunteer labour, the Arts Community has.....

1. developed an arts centre/meeting space with 18 groups members and 164 family members
2. created an arts program for children and adults
3. established an art gallery
4. sponsored professional performers and created quality, local productions
5. constructed a permanent museum
6. provided the community with a ticket and information centre
7. moved the library to more appropriate quarters
8. improved the image of arts in the community
9. raised the awareness in the region and the province for Fort St. John as a progressive city in cultural activities.

What for the future?

Fort St. John City Council may wish to develop a cultural policy complete with philosophical statement and plan for future funding and development. The Arts Community needs directions and indications of what support lies ahead.

The Fort St. John Community Arts Council is....

made up of member groups and individuals who are dedicated to the stimulation and co-ordination of cultural activities and promotion of local artists and their works. The Council acts as a service for information on arts and other non-profit organizations and as an agent for funding requests to local and provincial departments.

Grants to member groups	1979	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985
Art Group	\$195	\$329	\$425	\$ ---	300	400
Cardinal Singers	279	145	---	---	---	---
Concert Committee	588	290	---	---	---	---
Festival Assoc.	1,069	964	200	80	---	---
Historical Society	558	906	1,650	1500	3000	1000
Music Teachers Assoc.	391	666	925	340	300	400
Weavers	554	360	75	---	---	300
Peace Lutheran Care Home	279	576	825	700	500	500
Potter's Guild	518	482	350	300	300	350
Rotary Pipe Band	250	---	1,000	800	800	400
Anglican Church	375	---	---	---	105	---
Stage North	400	---	---	1000	---	1000
Workshop Players	550	---	---	---	---	700
Quilters	---	---	700	---	---	---
Library	---	---	---	200	---	1000
Local Council of Women	---	---	---	225	---	---
Craftsmans	---	---	---	400	---	---
Treeline	---	---	---	500	---	---
Clearview Cultural Fund	---	---	---	400	---	---
Artspace	---	---	---	---	1000	1000
Artspace for Children	---	---	---	---	1000	1000
Needlecraft Guild	---	---	---	---	175	125
Writers Group	---	---	---	---	100	---
Can-Cannettes	---	---	---	---	---	100
Totals:	6,006	4,718	6,150	6,445	7,580	8,275
City Support:	2,140	2,140	4,000	5,500	5,500	5,500
Grant for Artspace	---	---	---	---	1,300	7,800

Additional Member Groups not seeking financial assistance from the Fort St, John Community Arts Council....

Freinds of the Library (requesting for 1986)
 Cable 10 Society
 Scottish Country Dancers (requesting for 1986)
 Northern Lights College
 Northern Dance Society (requesting for 1986)
 HERITAGE FESTIVAL (requesting for 1986)

community arts council

box 6474, fort st. john, b.c. V1J 4K5

October 15, 1985

Monitor
Box 4600 CBC Radio
Vancouver, B.C.

Dear Sir,

I understand you have a new program on CBC Radio on Saturday from 5 P.M. to 6 P.M. A friend from Victoria has pointed out how interesting your last program on Shakespeare Plus in Nanaimo and other such information from all over the province.

May I introduce to you the Artspace of Fort St. John which is the office of the Fort St. John Community Arts Council and the arts centre for Fort St. John. We have programs of classes for children and adults interested in art, music, drama, dance and arts-related courses. We also serve the community as a ticket and information centre plus a meeting space for non-art groups which have no other home of their own. We are currently operating in a convenient corner location in the centre of town which may be sold or rented from under our feet on a thirty day notice. However, we have been operating under these conditions for the past three years.

The Artspace holds the office of the Heritage Festival '86 coordination. The Festival is the first of its kind planned for Northern British Columbia and will honour our natural and man-made resources. In other words, our pioneers and oil, lumber, trapping, and farming are the main focus of Heritage Festival '86. Since March, two coordinators have been hired under a Canada Immigration and Employment Grant and have coordinated a 100 booth Crafts Fair, a Food Fair, and performances from surrounding towns of original plays about the area, along with the numerous other activities planned for the Festival (please see up-date).

The Artspace also holds the office of the B.C. Pavilion Regional Week for the Peace-River Alaska Highway Region. We currently have 47 applications involving 463 people who wish to audition. The auditions will take place in four towns in the region due to the distance between each place. From the 50,000 population base of the region, we feel we will be able to put on a very good showing at the B.C. Pavilion Regional Week August 17-23 in 1986.

The Artspace also coordinates the "Partly Arts" performance series for Fort St. John. The series is called "Partly Arts" because it is partly arts and partly not. Mixed with excellent classical shows such as Concert Pianist Paul Bempechat and Vancouver Chamber Choir and Vancouver Wind Trio are popular children's performers such as Sharon, Lois and Bram and a hoot of a clown called Major Conrad Flapps plus a puppet show.

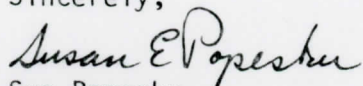
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The Artspace is funded by 2/3 fundraising and 1/3 City support. We have been solvent for one and one-half years and provide much needed arts stimulus to the residents of Fort St. John. Our programs and services are varied and include more than just arts.

Currently, one of our staff has compiled the complete information about the arts in Fort St. John plus information for touring artists who are looking for answers about Fort St. John. Enclosed you will find a copy.

If you find anything in the preceding information you can use on your Monitor program, please feel free to phone us for further information. Our phone is 785-1986 for easy recall and for the Heritage Festival '86 during Expo '86.

Sincerely,



Sue Popesku
Arts Administrator
Artspace

Arts Council
Secretary

January 1985

The Artspace: an overview

OBJECTIVE:

To provide a communication centre for residents and newcomers of Fort St. John and area by operating an Information Centre for all non-profit organizations and community events.

To serve as a ticket outlet for all special events in Fort St. John.

To communicate community activities to the general public by coordinating the weekly "What's Going on " calendar in the Alaska Highway News.

To offer assistance and office access to major community festivals and celebrations.

To provide a place for arts organizations to meet, carry on their activities and conduct special events.

LOCATION:

The corner of 100 Street and 100 Avenue in the Pioneer Plaza is approximately 5,500 square feet on one floor with a mezzanine. The building is currently in receivership and managed by Northwest Property Management. The prime location in the centre of town has been a prominent factor in the success of the Artspace development.

SPONSORSHIP:

The Fort St. John Community Arts Council is responsible for the Artspace. The City of Fort St. John assists with the annual budget and will continue through 1985, at which time, a revue of the operation will be conducted by the City to determine future support. The Mukluk Rendezvous Society and the Downtown Association helped to establish the Centre in September 1982.

HISTORY OF FUNDING:

The Artspace was established in September 1982 with a Community Recovery Grant from the provincial and federal governments. The program supplied 3 employees: one Mukluk Coordinator, one Downtown Association researcher, and one arts manager. The grant provided wages and supplies. No formal rent was required by G. Tucker, owner of the building; however, \$3,000 was raised within the next year through fundraising events and given to G. Tucker to pay the light and heat bills.

Formal rent of \$500 which barely covers light and heat bills has been required since September 1983.

A three month lapse between grants was funded by the Fort St. John Community Arts Council after which the Canada Works Grant provided wages only for three employees in October of 1983. One arts manager, one Artspace for Children assistant, and one carpenter helped to establish the Artspace for Children program and carry on the Ticket and Information Centre.

The Mukluk Society provided wages for the Mukluk Coordinator from November 1983 to February 1984.

On March 2, 1984, all grants had been depleted and the Arts Council once again funded the Artspace for March and April, 1984.

The Artspace made a plea to the community for funding assistance in April, 1984 and received immediate response from the Lions Club and numerous individual donors. The City of Fort St. John agreed to provide 1/3 of the monthly cost of the Artspace until November 1984, at which time, the Artspace was to be reviewed by the City Council. Currently, the City Council of Fort St. John has voted to support the Artspace for 1/3 the annual budget until December, 1985.

REQUIREMENTS:

Due to the volume of information, number of requests and extensive services provided by the Ticket and Information Centre, at least one full-time employee is required to service the Artspace. The necessary rent, minimum office supplies and maintenance costs are additional monthly requirements. See attached budget.

USERS:

Full time occupant is Artspace Classes (Artspace for Children in 1983-84) currently involving over 400 families in arts related classes of three, ten week sessions each year. The program is self sufficient and pays rent to the Artspace.

Group users of the Artspace include the Bridge Club, New Singles Club, Scottish Country Dancers, Girl Guides, Spinners and Weavers, Needlecraft Guild, Craftsman's Association, North Peace Historical Society, Mukluk Society, Stage North, on a regular basis and have become a group member of the Artspace to pay for the use of the space. Also the Art Council and the Women's Institute meet here.

Occasional meetings of the Light Horse Association, Ride for the Disabled, Disarmament Group, Alternate School, Herbal Life, Ski-Patrol Club, Aerobics, Fencing Club before they got new premises, Cancer Society, Miss Fort St. John have been held at the Artspace. All organizations are welcome to use the space for meetings.

IMPACT:

The Artspace has provided a focus for information on all community activities available to everyone during office hours. It has served community groups who have no facility of their own. The Artspace staff have re-directed requests to the appropriate source in Fort St. John, answering an average of 10 requests per day.

The facility has housed local and traveling art shows, conducted volunteer and recreational exhibits, assisted special events and welcomed newcomers to the area.

The Artspace has provided the "first home for the Arts" in Fort St. John and helped to further arts groups in establishing strong active organizations involved in the entire community. The Artspace has fulfilled the mandate of leisure-time, non-sporting activities necessary for any community offering a wide variety of opportunities and a healthy atmosphere.