

October 14, 1986

Mayor Palmer
City of Fort St. John, B.C.

Dear Mayor Palmer and City Council Members,

The Artspace has developed from 1982 to the present into an Arts Centre and Ticket and Information Centre for Fort St. John and area. The facility provides meeting and special event space for non-profit organizations that have no "home" of their own. The initiation of the Artspace Classes makes a significant contribution to the annual budget. Similar communities in British Columbia have inquired about the development of the Artspace with the idea of creating the institution in their areas.

The Fort St. John Community Arts Council responsible for the Artspace has enjoyed a very low rent with no utility bills for four years, courtesy of the receivers, B.C. Central Credit Union and Northwest Property Management. Recently, the B.C. Central Credit Union has raised the Artspace rent by 300 per-cent due to the cost of maintaining the building and paying the taxes. The Arts Council finds this unfortunate but understandable in the light of the "more than fair" treatment in the past four years.

With the fate of the Expo Legacy Project to be decided in the next eight months, the Arts Council would like to keep the Artspace open and in its present location for the next year. An additional \$12,000 a year is required to pay the rent in the present location. The Arts Council can possibly acquire assistance from Cultural Services Special Projects and further assistance through the Arts Council regular budget. This would still leave \$5,900 over a period of 12 months.

Would the City of Fort St. John contribute an additional \$491.00 each month to keep the Artspace open and in its present location until the Expo Legacy Project has been determined?

The Fort St. John Community Arts Council simply can not carry the demand on the budget by itself under the current situation. Thank you for considering our request.

Sincerely,

Susan E Popesku

Susan Popesku for Kevin Truscott (Treasurer CAC) who is out of town for two months.

October 27, 1986

Mayor Palmer and City Council Members
City Hall
Fort St. John, B.C.

Dear Mayor Palmer and Council Members,

The Fort St. John Community Arts Council would like to thank you for the assistance with the rent increase for November and December. We understand that the Pioneer Plaza has been sold to local investors subject to financing. This may change our possibilities of staying in the corner location even with the \$1500 rent increase. We will keep you posted on the developments.

As requested, the Artspace looked into possible alternative locations for the Artspace. The following information was obtained:

Stedman's--	\$19,000 annual	triple net	10,000 sq. ft.
Saan --	\$15,000 annual	plus utilities 1/2 taxes/insurance negotiable	5,000 sq. ft.
Knight Building	21,600 annual	plus ICG/parking and garbage	3,125 sq. ft.

Former JRS/Art Gallery- no longer available
Powercraft not suitable

With the above information, the Arts Council and Artspace staff would like to wait until the new owners reveal their intentions for the Artspace space. At this point, the Saan store looks like the most feasible location, however, the Knight Building is much more attractive. We have not negotiated any rent decrease with either place at this time.

Sincerely,


Kevin Truscott Treasurer

Fort St. John Community Arts Council
785-1986

community arts council

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

December 15, 1986

Mayor Walsh and City Council Members
City of Fort St. John
Fort St. John, B.C.

Dear Mayor Walsh and Council Members,

The Fort St. John Arts Council and the Artspace would like to thank you for the continued support with the development of the Artspace in Fort St. John. Additional support for the months of November and December of \$491 a month helped the Arts Council to operate the Artspace inspite of the 300 per cent increase in rent. Even with the additional assistance, the Arts Council has been tapping all the resources to keep the Artspace open.

We have been given unofficial notice that the Artspace must move as of January 31, 1987. We may be able to move into the basement of the Pioneer Plaza for a short while. However, the conditions are not conducive to programming for children and public use of the facilities. The rent would be less than \$1,500 per month.

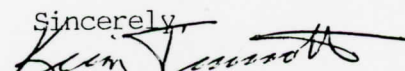
The other choice is the Saan store which requires \$1740 per month rent. It has a wide open space and the functions of the Artspace could continued on the same level. The move would cost approximately \$3,000 since the space has no lockable office area and the phones, alone, require \$380 to move.

Of the two spaces, the Saan store would be better for the long term and the basement of the Pioneer Plaza would be possible for a very short time. Of course, the ideal situation would allow the Artspace to move into the Bay Building if it could be purchased prior to January 31.

Meanwhile, the Arts Council must deal with January with a rent of \$1500. Since City Council granted the Arts Council the additional \$491 for November and December, we are asking for the same consideration for January. We can prepare a budget forecast in January when we are certain of our next place of residence.

The Arts Council feels strongly about keeping the Artspace alive and well particularly in light of the current campaign for the Expo Legacy Project. We would like the input of all of City Council members on the best route to take concerning the Artspace and its location.

Thank you again for your assistance.

Sincerely

Kevin Truscott

Treasurer
Fort St. John Community Arts Council

original file

10059 100TH AVE
FORT ST JOHN, BC
JANUARY 10, 1987

ARTSPACE TICKET & INFORMATION CENTER,
10003 100TH STREET,
FORT ST JOHN, B.C.

RE: RENTAL SPACE

DEAR SIR;

WE CONFIRM YOUR DISCUSSION WITH MR SEEDE REGARDING THE RENTAL OF BASEMENT SPACE BELOW YOUR PRESENT LOCATION AS A NEW LOCATION FOR THE ARTSPACE. WE ARE PREPARED TO RENOVATE THE SPACE TO CONFORM TO YOUR REQUIREMENTS ON CONDITION THAT YOU AGREE TO RENT THE SPACE AT A RATE OF \$800.00 PER MONTH IN ADVANCE FOR A MINIMUM OF SIX MONTHS.

IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT YOU WILL REQUIRE THE SPACE FOR A PERIOD OF TWELVE MONTHS TO SIXTEEN MONTHS AND WE CONFIRM THAT THE SPACE WILL BE AVAILABLE TO YOU FOR A MINIMUM OF SIXTEEN MONTHS AT THE RATE OF \$800.00 PER MONTH.

YOURS TRULY,

JBB HOLDINGS

Rough Draft January 1987

The Artspace is the first facility for the Arts in Fort St. John and a Ticket and Information center for the entire community. Since 1982, the Artspace has evolved into a center for many arts and non-arts organizations that do not have a space of their own.

The Artspace has been the base for many Canada Works Projects such as:

1. Downtown-Mukluk and Arts Development in 1983
2. Artspace Communication Project in 1984
3. Heritage Festival 86' Project in 1985 & 1986
4. Summer Arts Programs for 4 summers.

The Artspace is the base which has brought in \$140,000.00 in Canada Works funds alone into the community to add to the economy of Fort St. John, and also has been the base in which 26 people have been employed over the last 4 years through various projects.

It has provided the office for the Fort St. John Community Arts Council which is an umbrella arts organization with 22 member groups with a combined impact of over 1/4 million dollars on the economy of Fort St. John, each year. Office space has also been provided for the BC Pavillion Regional Week which contributed over \$25,000.00 through wages and expenses to the economy of Fort St. John and employed one person for a year. The Artspace has also provided the office space for the Mukluk Rendezvous for the last three years.

The Artspace has provided the opportunity to develop the ARTspace Classes which employs 1 full time person and 35 casual positions for instructors. The Artspace attempts to meet the demand in the community for Arts Classes and Pre-school Classes which are not

provided by any other institutions. Each year the classes have enrolled about 700 students, both children and adults, in 28 classes. The annual budget is \$22,000.00 which is generated by the class registrations and fundraising events.

The Artspace has provided the opportunity to develop the Ticket and Information Center which receives an average of 10 calls per day inquiring about a variety of concerns such as, the address of the Better Business Bureau, where to take visitors in Fort St. John on a particular weekend, who is the person to contact concerning traffic lights, what can a person do with 900 lbs. of cabbage, and many more varied requests. New-comers to Fort St. John are given information on all activities in Fort St. John as well. We focus on local information for local citizens and their guests, although the Artspace does not aim to deal directly with tourists which requires a much different approach. The ticket and Information Center in the Artspace assists all non-profit organizations with selling tickets to special events, avoiding conflicts in booking special event dates and giving out information on all events in Fort St. John through the "What's Going On?" Calendar in the Newspaper. The space for the calendar is provided courtesy of the Alaska Highway Daily News.

The Artspace is a meeting place for groups that do not have their own facility with the Bridge Club, the Boy Scout Leaders, and the Chess Club as three examples. The Artspace is used periodically for special events such as the Ski-Swap, Beta Sigma Phi Craft Auction, Public Library Christmas Special, and the Chamber of Commerce Fashion Show rehearsals.

The Artspace budget has been \$24,000.00 with the City contributing \$7800.00. The ARTs Council and Artspace Staff of 1 and volunteers have had to generate the remainder of the budget which is 67 percent of the total Artspace budget. The Artspace obtains some operating capital from ~~the 22~~¹⁸ member groups and 111 family members. REcently, the low rent of \$500.00 per month has jumped to \$1500.00 per month causing a tremendous strain on the resources of both the Arts Council and the fundraising possibilites. Through Provincial Special Projects Assistance and additional fundraising, the Artspace may be able to fund ONE YEAR with a \$36,000.00 budget. However, no matter where we are located in RENTED space, the Artspace will never again enjoy the benefit of the \$500.00 per month as it has over the past four years.

The need for the EXPO LEGACY PROJECT - a permanent space for the Artspace, along with the other groups is evident. The rent paid by the Artspace would be contributed to the maintenance and operation of its own facility. The emphasis on fundraising would focus on operation funds for the Artspace and Theatre. Energies of the staff and volunteers would be channelled into development of programs to strengthen the Arts in :the community, employ more people, and increase the economic impact of the Arts and the facility in Fort. St. John.

SLIDE PRESENTATION

- 1 This is the office of the ARTspace which has housed up to 5 workers at a time with an increase of 8 workers this past summer.
- 2 As you can see, the office facility is very crowded with the addition
3 of equipment received through funding such as the computer and typewriter and photocopy machine. *enable the Arts Council and ARTSPACE greater efficiency.*
- 4 Because of the large area we presently have for other uses, we are able
5 to provide space for special events and Art and Non Art related events.
- 6 One of the special events the ARTspace sponsors is "Arts Alive" which is
7 an annual showcase of crafts and performances, with the highlight being
8 the Celebrity Foot Painting.

9 Also sponsored by the ARTspace is the Jurried Art Show and Reception.
10
11

12 The ARTspace has been the office of the Heritage Festival and the BC
13 Pavillion Regional Showcase, and the Mukluk Rendezvous.
14

15 to 21 Also, a very significant operation of the ARTspace is the Classes, which includes recreational Art and Culture for the whole family.

The ARTspace has been the home of various summer programs as well.

22 We started off with the Mural Painting in preparation for the BC Winter Games.

23 - 25 Then off to the Artvark Childrens Summer Program.

26 This summer, the ARTspace hired 8 summer students with the Artvark Program and the Heritage Festival.

The Fort St. John Community Arts Council, which is the 22 member groups and the office of the ARTspace encourages all Arts related organizations like the

27 Museum
28

29 And the State North Productions

And Groups such as

- 30 Spinner's and Weavers
31 " "
32 Scottish Country Dancers
33 The Potters
34 and The Arts Society

35 - 39 And the ARTspace encourages many individual Artists and groups.

We are grateful to the Community and the City of Fort St. John and all Donations such as the Provincial Employee's fund and for all their Continued support.

*Jan. 13, 1987 -
Pkg given to City when Arts Council
had to defend assistance
and ask for \$800 per month*

What Does the Artspace do for the Community?????

The Artspace has been the focal point for the arts in the North Peace and has allowed development in the arts which would not have been possible without an office and workable space.

Also included was the 1985-86 Financial Statement from Urepa + Umu.

Summary of Federal and Provincial Grants which have added to the local economy and provided jobs. These funds and jobs would not have existed in the North PEace if the Artspace did not exist.

<u>GRANT</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>EMPLOYED</u>	<u>AMOUNT of GRANT</u>
Communication/Events	28/11/82-30/09/83	3	\$23,670
Artspace Communication	3/10/83 -24/5/84	3	\$13,500
Heritage Festival '86	1985-86	2	\$33,930
Cultural Tourism	Jan. - Oct. 1987	4	\$71,515
<u>Summer:</u>			
Mural Program Artists	1983	3	\$ 8476
Artvarrk Children	1984	3	9858.39
Artvaark Children	1985	3	9700
Artvaark Children	1986	4	11,345.51
Heritage Festival	1986	4	7331.14
Artspace Classes	1983-84	1	20,000
		<u>30</u>	<u>\$209,326.04</u>

The Office of the Artspace has been the coordination space for many events and special acitivities effecting the entire community.

1. Ticket and Information Centre which receives approximately 10 inquires per day not related to arts. We have briefed many newcomers to the community on the activities and events community -wide. The What' Going On Calendar in the newspaper is coordinated at the Artspace.
2. Mukluk Rendezvous has been coordinated from the Artspace until this year when it has been moved to the Charlie Lake Community Club.
3. B.C. PAvilion Regional Talent was Coordinated from the Artspace.
4. The Heritage Festival '86 was coordinated from the Artspace.
5. The City Mural Project in 1983-84 was initiated through the Artspace.

The Open Space in the Artspace has been used by Arts Groups and Non-Arts Groups for special events and exhibitions.

Art RElated: Arts Alive

- Art Exhibitions
- Regional Juried Art Shows
- Summer Arts Program for Children(Artvaarks)
- numerous meetings and Annual General Meetings

Non-Art Related: Volunteer Appreciation Week

- Women Institute Tea and Bazaar
- Partly Arts Series Concerts
- Katimavik
- Christmas Parties

Ski Patrol Swap

- Workshops/Fashion Shows/Sales
- Dinners/Breakfasts
- Annual General Meetings