

The Artspace: an overview

Objective:

To provide a communication centre for residents and newcomers of Fort St. John and area by conducting 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 Mukluk Rendezvous Society and the Downtown Association assisted in establishing 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 then 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.

Mukluk Society provided wages for a 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.

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 for Children Program currently registering 280 children in classes each week. This program is self-sufficient and assists with rent of the Artspace.

Weekly users of the Artspace over the past years have included the Fencing Club, NLC Modelling Classes, Scottish Country Dancers, Needlecraft Guild, Craftsman's Association, Historical Society and more.

Monthly users have included the Mukluk Association, Ride for the Disabled, Light Horse Association, Stamp Club, Arts Council, Community Listening Centre and numerous special events among other one time occasions. See attached list of activities.

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.

Current Situation:

The funding from all current source will be depleted at the end of April. The doors of the Artspace will be closed to the public if additional funding is not forthcoming. The Artspace for Children Program will continue since it is self-sufficient.

Fort St. John

Artspace for Children Pilot Project

Please read the following on bulletin board:

Registration for the first six week session of Artspace for Children in Fort St. John will take place on Saturday, September 17, 1983. Artspace for Children is an exciting arts program of drama, art, dance, pottery and music for children from two to fifteen years old. This pilot project has been made possible by the cooperation of the Fort St. John Community Arts Council, Explorations Canada Council and Tucker Enterprises. Registration for each of the 25 classes of Artspace for Children is \$10.00. Registration is from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, September 17, at the Artspace in Fort St. John. Classes begin on September 19.

CKNL
CJDC
CBC
Sept 6/83