



2025 AGM Testimonials

1. (ANDREA DAWES) Art Flow Community Partner: Community Living Funder: 100 People Who Care

Inclusion and accessibility when it comes to our hands-on artmaking experiences are big priorities for County Arts, and we've been honoured to develop a meaningful partnership with Community Living Prince Edward through our Art Together program and most recently through a very special collaborative project we called Art Flow. Art Flow took place this past Winter and Spring, and was made possible thanks to a grant from 100 People Who Care PEC. Community Living created a customized "Ambassadors for Inclusion" training for participatory arts program facilitators in the community which we hosted here at the Lab, and then our Art Flow Facilitators Kaya Joan and Lucy Sterezylo guided program participants through an 8-week arts learning adventure covering multiple mediums. Five spaces were filled by participants in Community Living's Youth in Transition program and five by other community members, to help facilitate that program's aim to help young people with an intellectual disability make a smooth transition from high school to life as an adult in the community. Participants worked together to create invitations, install the artwork, and welcome friends and family to celebrate Art Flow at an awesome culminating event.

This is what Brandy-Lee Wilkes, our Community Living collaborator had to say about this kind of programming - "Art programs like this are the best way to help people feel that they belong - that they are a part of their community - and that they are welcome to explore their creativity alongside community members with similar interests. Through this partnership with the Arts Council, I've also come to understand the talent and abilities of professional artist instructors to help people understand new concepts and create great pieces, and I've come to appreciate how inclusive community arts programming can be. We so appreciate our partnership with County Arts and their work to help people feel included, and that they're just as welcome as anyone else - not just in special programs like this but in all programming."

2. **(TALITHA TOLLES) Indigenous Voices Fund**

Grant Recipient: Shyanne Brant

Funders: Elderberry Fund (Sarah & David), Rotary Indigenous Peoples Partnerships Cluster, The Meeting House - Sandbanks chapter, and to several individual donors

With the support of the Indigenous Voices Grant, Shyanne created and debuted a new upcycled clothing line at an Indigenous Fashion Show on Akwesasne Mohawk Territory that brought together Haudenosaunee artists from across the confederacy.

“This grant helped me express the importance of traditional Indigenous arts and practices with local communities and share the beauty of Indigenous peoples, who are often stereotyped across Canada. The cultural significance of Indigenous arts plays an important role within Indigenous communities, connecting us to our land and ancestors. This grant and project gave me the ability to express myself as a Haudenosaunee woman, helping preserve and enhance representation through Indigenous art forms. Thank you!”

3. **(CATELYN THORNTON) Art Together** - a unique community program that is bolstering our community’s mental health and social connectedness through free, weekly, skills-building, hands-on artmaking opportunities

Anonymous Participants

Funders: Huff Family Fund, Sage Design & Construction and Elizabeth Crombie Real Estate Team

“The County is so lucky to have a welcoming, free and accessible creative space in Art Together - bringing folks together in community to gather and make art... absolutely brilliant!”

“I love the spirit of Art Together. Connecting through art making in community is a great way to be rooted in the present and notice the sensations of your own feelings and thoughts, and witness others’ creative expression. It’s joyful, meaningful and inspiring.”

“I’ve never lived anywhere else where art classes have been made so accessible and been so inclusive of everyone.”

“Thank you so much to all the artists, organizers, funders, participants! In this stressful world it’s so nice to think about the memories and experience at Art Together. It has kept me more connected to our community and my

creative process. It is a hopeful practice to come together and make art in the heart of Picton.”

4. (ANDREA PILLER) Youth Craft Academy (for ages 12-17)

Isabelle Fish, Patron and YCA Co-founder

Funders: Rue Pigalle members, and the Lewitt Foundation

“I have been wanting for a long time to create a program that teaches craft to kids, to show them that it’s a career path, that it’s sustainable, and that it’s possible. I am so pleased that the Prince Edward County Arts Council - who has the structure, the knowledge, and the artist connections, agreed to offer assistance. [2024] was our second year and we see kids coming back and their skills getting much better, their confidence growing. When you do crafts, you don’t just use your hands, you have to do math, you have to do spatial envisioning, collaborate with others and problem solve. This program is a joy to be a part of.”

5. (STACEY SPROULE) Artist Fund grant recipient, Lab facilitators, and PEC Studio Tour participants

Chrissy Poitras & Kyle Topping, Sparkbox Studio

Funder: Ontario Arts Council and the Government of Ontario

“We feel deeply connected with the vision of County Arts - that artists don't create work in isolation, they contribute to a larger cultural conversation and help others find their creative voice. The space, events and resources County Arts provides is a vital cornerstone of our creative community, nurturing both individual artistic growth and meaningful community connections. Thank you for believing in our work and for your continued dedication to supporting the arts in our community.”