

# ARTSCAPE

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COMMUNITY

INFORMATION

RELEASE

## **ARTSCAPE RECEIVES OFFICIAL RECOGNITION**

The City of Toronto has a long history of support for arts space, using a number of different City programmes and processes to support the arts community's capital initiatives. Two years ago, recognizing the need for a more accessible and consistent approach, Council accepted the Toronto Arts Council's recommendation to set up a Cultural Facilities Grant programme in addition to its other ongoing support. It has become increasingly clear, however, that given the magnitude and complexity of Toronto's arts space/facilities issues, short and long term problem solving require a comprehensive approach.

On August 13th, 1991, Toronto City Council passed a number of important recommendations pertaining to arts space/facilities issues. Central to the City's increased commitment which the adoption of these recommendations represents, was the recognition that the success of future policy refinement and effective project implementation will be dependent upon developing a comprehensive approach to addressing arts space issues through a dedicated agency or organization working on behalf of the City and the arts community.

Several separate studies had recommended Artscape as the appropriate vehicle to undertake this work and City Council accepted these recommendations, ratifying Artscape as its official agency in all areas pertaining to arts space and facilities.

By providing a modest administrative budget and a separate capital budget, this recognition will bring financial stability to the core organization and will enable us to act quickly as opportunities arise, in concert with or on behalf of all sectors of the arts community. Perhaps more importantly, however, this recognition sets out an accessible and immediate information conduit between the City and its arts community through which needs can continually be communicated and fluid, consultative processes set in place for developing solutions.

This official status will also assist Artscape in lobbying other levels of government for capital support. Their support is especially important in the creation of rehearsal, shop and individual studio spaces which do not have the profile or public recognition potential to attract private sector marketing/ sponsorship dollars.

The issues haven't changed, nor have the players, but as official "mid-wife" Artscape is now in a position to plan and deliver space efficiently and cost effectively for both the City and its artists.

## **53 STRACHAN: The Final Chapter?**

Our recent feasibility study indicated that renovation of the building at 53 Strachan, which had been given to Artscape by the City for use as artists' studios, would cost approximately \$3 million. (The City Property Department's estimate suggested that costs might be even higher.) The study indicated that it might take as long as 18 months to confirm support of this magnitude.

It also outlined the potential for substantial change in urban planning policies for the Strachan area and, specifically, for the 53 Strachan 4 acre site. These changes could alter the nature of the neighbourhood considerably and, it would appear, favourably for the arts community but they are still years away. The City was reticent to put a permanent user into the building until future planning directions were more fully developed.

In view of the unanswered questions and the possible delays that these would seem to suggest, Artscape and the City agreed to look at other options for the immediate future. Both parties felt that it was better to expend immediately available money and energy on a project which was ready to go. It was agreed to transfer the money already committed by the City to the Strachan project (\$280,000) to another

City-owned building. This other site had a renovation budget in place through the Toronto Economic Development Corporation (TEDCO - an arms' length City agency mandated to retain and stimulate industrial jobs within the City core). Artscape's additional contribution would enable TEDCO to drop the base rent to a level which would be affordable for Artscape's clients.

The site is in the City's old west/central industrial area at 60 Atlantic. It will produce 2/3 of the usable studio space that Strachan would have but at 1/10th the cost to the arts community. Most importantly it will be up and running by November 1, 1991. (see section below for details).

The City and Artscape have agreed that as plans for the 53 Strachan site develop the arts will maintain a preferred "place in line" for further tenancy. Watch future Artscape newsletters for "Son of 53 Strachan"!

## **STUDIO SPACE NOW - 60 ATLANTIC**

The tenant selection process for 60 Atlantic is now underway. Studios range in size from 200 to 1500 sq.ft. and tenants will include contemporary music groups, theatre and dance companies and individual visual artists and crafts people.

Leases are available for up to 5 years with a further 5 year option, beginning November 1, 1991.

The rent for basic studio space on the upper two floors will be \$8.75 per sq.ft. gross. The basement, which is undivided, rough space or storage, will be \$6.25 per sq.ft. gross. The only additional charges are a minimal pro-rated hydro charge and the GST. Rents will escalate at the rate of the Consumer Price Index.

We anticipate having the selection process completed by the end of September so, if you are interested, please call the Artscape office for more information on how to apply.

## **CULTURAL FACILITIES POLICY WORKING GROUP**

The final report of the CFPWG was presented to the Neighbourhoods Committee of City Council on July 17th. Many of its more than 30 recommendations were sent to various City Departments while a number which dealt with the principle of City support for artists' space needs went on directly to City Council for adoption. Artscape will be working with various City Departments to further refine the working processes necessary to implement the action-oriented recommendations acting as the conduit for the continued negotiation and implementation of the CFPWG's important work.

## **SEPTEMBER 25TH - MEETING TO ORGANISE FOR LIVE/WORK AND ARTISTS' HOUSING**

With several work space projects up and running, this Fall Artscape will turn its attention to live/work issues and housing. Several downtown Toronto developments such as the Railway Lands and Ataratiri have been targeted as appropriate locations for substantial arts communities but so far no bridges exist between the planners with the vision and the artists with the need.

On Wednesday, September 25th (7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.) Artscape will host an all-discipline meeting at the Music Gallery (1087 Queen St. W.). Our hope is to draw interested members of the community together to get some consensus on where the greatest areas of need are and to begin to form working groups, Co-op Boards, etc., in order to move ahead in addressing those needs. Securing housing allocations and preparing site bids are lengthy and complex processes. It is not too early to get organized to answer City tenders and to pursue other solutions for permanent, safe and affordable living space.

Non-profit or non-profit Co-op - even buying into a privately owned artists' co-op - all of them are options. If housing or live/work space is important for you as an artist - dancer, musician, actor, painter, writer, et al - come and get involved.

## **ATARATIRI LOOKING FOR ARTISTS' PROPOSALS**

If you are already a step ahead of us and have a Co-op or non-profit Board up and running, and you are looking for a site, Artscape has been informed that the Ataratiri project will tender several housing or live/work sites within the next 6 months.

Call Ross Paterson at the Ataratiri office in the Department of Housing (392 - 7944) for information on how to get the tender package.

## **NEW FUNDING POTENTIAL AT THE PROVINCE**

Rosario Marchese, until recently Minister of Culture and Communications for the Province of Ontario, and his staff have worked very hard over the past 6 months on a major policy paper on the Status of the Artist. An integral part of this paper has to do with the economic level at which artists are forced to subsist and the components of that subsistence, such as the issues of affordable housing, work and live/work space, which could be assisted by new programmes or legislation. In the process they have consulted extensively with the arts community and have initiated discussion with other Ministries such as Housing to encourage co-operative support programmes.

The impact of the Status of the Artist legislation could be substantial if it results in a change in the way the Province views its artists. One important change would be to introduce funding mechanisms within the Ministry's own programmes to fund artists' work space, either separate

or as a part of a live/work unit. We understand that the Minister's staff is evaluating such a change at this time.

As always these are political decisions and they are driven by the government's awareness that a large and important constituency is at stake. The cultural community of Ontario is such a constituency and the issue of affordable space is important in every Ontario centre. While consultation has been extensive there is always room for more voices. It is our hope that the new Minister, Karen Haslam, will carry on with this work and one way to ensure that is to let her know of its importance.

The staff person at the Ministry responsible for research in this area is Daniel Guay and he can be reached at (416) 965-6509. He would welcome information on the state of art space in your community and advice on how to help.

## **CITY OF BRANTFORD SETS ARTISTIC OBJECTIVES**

Artscape recently received a visit from several staff members of the City of Brantford's Economic Development office. In evaluating how to re-energize and focus of their downtown core, attract more tourism to the City and recycle some old warehouses, Brantford City Council realized that one industry does all that - and more. They came to us for help in trying to focus a plan to try to attract working artists to Brantford.

While wanting to encourage what seemed to be substantial municipal support for at least the initiation of the project, we felt it was important to outline some of the longer term financial implications. We warned about the gentrification issue, pointing out that artists studios will always require subsidy or rent reduction to remain viable - there is no economic growth curve for this industry. We urged them to work with their City Inspections and Buildings department to ease the code

issues pertaining to live/work and to add their pressure to ours at the Ministry of Culture and Communication for financial support for the creation of work space.

An artists colony in Brantford is still in the research stage but if there are artists interested in relocating to Brantford, a call right now won't be too soon to lend your support, advice and good will.

Call: David Amos; Director of Economic Development or John Frabotta; Development Officer, at 519 759-4150

## **CITYPLAN '91 - ARTS POLICIES**

On September 4th (6:30 p.m., Members' Lounge of Toronto City Hall) the arts community is invited to offer its feedback on the recently completed draft of the Arts Policies section of Toronto's new Cityplan. It is important to attend and make your views known. Though the formulation of these policies was undertaken with considerable community consultation, this will be the last forum for the City's artists to suggest additions, changes, etc.

A copy of the Arts Policies document can be obtained through Artscape or from the Cityplan office at City Hall (416) 392-0068.

## **LONG RANGE POTENTIALS**

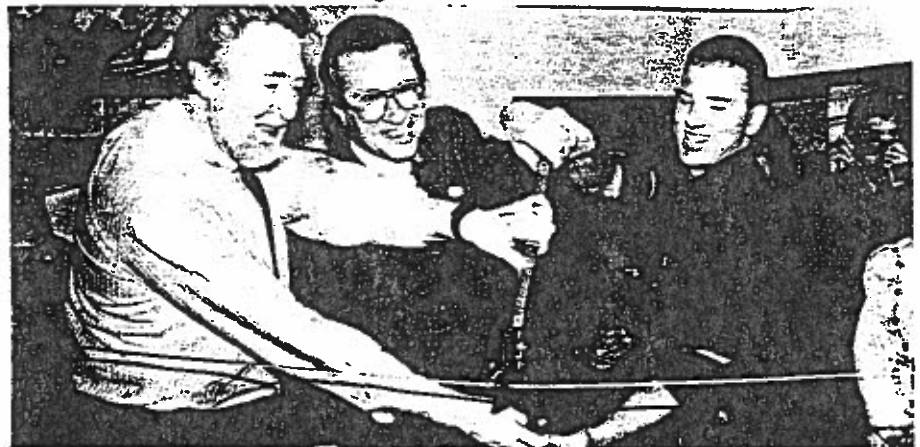
Artscape continues to sit on a number of Committees involved with the long term

development of residential and/or industrial areas in the downtown core:

**Artist Housing and Workspace Coalition:** is a group of artists and arts administrators whose mandate it is to communicate with sectors of the visual arts community regarding studio and housing space issues. The Coalition has hosted meetings to disseminate information and has acted as a spokes agency and focus group with respect to housing and work space needs.

**Ataratiri** a large site in the east downtown area, has articulated artists of all disciplines as a desirable resident target group. The area is scheduled to be developed over the next 10 years. Recent newspaper articles have intimated that the cost of cleaning up the industrial waste of a century of carelessness may make the whole project unfeasible. More studies are in the works but meanwhile City Council is continuing with its plans.

**Gooderham and Worts:** is a site to the south of Ataratiri owned by Allied Chemicals. The City has undertaken a study of the area to guide their negotiations with Allied as the company undertakes its development of the land. Artists' work space has been articulated as an appropriate use of some of the historic buildings. However, in view of the fact that the City does not own the land, but merely can exert influence through the negotiation of bonusing issues, etc, it is not anticipated that there will be space available on this site within the next five years - if ever.



Mayor Art Eggleton, Artscape President Tom Fulton and Redhead Gallery artist Steve Richards cut the "ribbon" at the opening of Artscape's 96 Spadina studios.

## **INFORMATION SERVICES - ARTSCAPE AND OTHERWISE**

**Space Clearing House:** Artscape operates an informal space referral service between landlords and artists requiring work space. Our new data bases are installed and are up and running making the search procedure faster and facilitating more efficient data updating.

**Resource Data Bank:** Over the past four years Artscape has researched and secured materials from a wide cross-section of arts space related agencies around the world. This material has been entered into a data base for easy retrieval and cross-referencing.

**Procedures Manual:** As part of a three year research project (funded by the Innovations Programme of the Federal Department of Employment and Immigration) Artscape will be producing a Procedures Manual to assist artists and municipalities in the development of artists' work and live/work space. The manual should be completed and available from Artscape by June, 1992.

**Inter/Access:** Inter/Access is a non-profit artist-run centre which provides education in and access to computer based media. The facilities allow artists to explore computer graphics, electronic publishing, online networks (including Matrix), and other related applications. A series of introductory and advanced hands-on workshops in the use of micro-computers and related software is continuously offered. The benefits of membership in Inter/Access include 24-hour access to the facility, reduced rates on equipment access and workshops, and mailings of I/A's newsletter and information bulletins. For further information, contact Deborah Waddington at (416) 535-8601.

*For information on any of the items in this Newsletter please call the Artscape office at (416) 392-1038.*

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