

QUEST

ART

**SCHOOL
+GALLERY**

2020 to 2021

Continuing on with the pandemic restrictions
Quest Art continued to develop new
programmes and find ways to fulfill its mission.

Quest Art's Mission: *To inspire and build
community connections through visual arts.*

These are some of the ways that we did this:

We presented **9 virtual exhibitions**.

Within those exhibitions there were **390 artworks** exhibited.

Of those 390 artworks, **222 pieces were work by our members**.

We continued working with the schools virtually.

We had two virtual exhibitions devoted to student work with **50 students' works** exhibited.

We worked with **65 students** from GBDSS on the **Metis Mural Project** which will be installed in the spring of 2022.

Partnerships with our community members and organizations remain a key priority.

In the last year we have partnered with:

Alzheimers Simcoe
Big Brothers Big Sisters
Captain Robert's
Community Living Huronia
Discovery Harbour
Grounded Coffee
Georgian Bay Food Network
Georgian Bay District Secondary School

LEOs/Lions Club
Midland Public Library
Rotary Club
St Theresa's
SEED Youth Market
Steampunk Festival Coldwater
Terry Fox Run
Wye Marsh

We started two new programmes that profiled and highlighted local artists as well as provided opportunities for mentorship and skill building training for youth to be developed.

Quest for Sound highlights local musicians.

Meet the Artist highlights area visual artists and their practices. These are being produced in French and in English.

We also presented **5 panel discussions** to accompany exhibitions that were produced. These panels were attended by local audiences but also from the GTA, across Ontario and other provinces. We have had participation from professors at OCAD, Ryerson, U of T, and the University of Manitoba.

We have had virtual openings for our members exhibitions and, since we couldn't gather in person to celebrate Quest's 25th anniversary we had a **virtual "tea" party**, and enjoyed a chance to "see" each other and reconnect.

MAKE ART sessions have continued to be presented virtually and we have had 20 sessions this year.

Instructors and participants are local and from across Canada, with one participant taking part all the way from Australia!

Our programmes and activities are regularly profiled in the **Mirror** and **Midland Today**.

Our Plein Aire sessions were profiled by **CTV Barrie** and **CBC Ontario Morning**.

We also did presentations about what Quest has been doing to the **Zonta Club** and to the **Midland BIA**.

Since moving into the MCC in 2012, Quest ran a deficit until our 2020 year end, and again, this year – despite COVID and not being able to operate in person for the most part, **we once again are presenting a balanced budget for this Fiscal Year End.**

COVID has hit the arts and culture sector extremely hard. **Approximately 30% of museums and galleries do not anticipate being able to reopen and have permanently closed their doors.**

So, how were we able to sustain our operations and continue to offer programmes and activities?

Grants have been our number one revenue stream for fiscal year 2020-2021.

In the last fiscal year we have had success in attaining these grants:

Ontario Trillium Resiliancy Fund	\$150,000.00
New Horizons for Seniors	\$ 25,000.00
Town of Midland	\$ 7,500.00
Ontario Small Business	\$ 20,000.00
RBC Foundation	\$ 25,000.00
Huron Community Foundation	\$ 6,000.00
Tiny Golf Tournament	\$ 2,000.00
Young Canada Works (YCW)	\$ 47,000.00
Simcoe County Grant	\$ 5,000.00
TOTAL FUNDING THROUGH GRANTS:	\$287,500.00

OTF Resilience Grant

The Resilient Communities Fund was set up specifically to help organizations to adapt to the challenges of COVID.

The fund allowed us to hire one FTE, one PTE and went to subsidize my salary as well.

Specifically this funding is to allow us to **“implement new approaches, prepare for change, build resiliency, and to adapt or reimagine the delivery of programmes and services to meet the needs of the community.”**

To do this we prioritized the continued development of our “incubator approach” in supporting youth, emerging artists and opportunities for artists to experiment or take their practice to a new level or direction; to develop public art mentorships opportunities for highschool students, and to develop online programming.

Many of the programmes that we developed, and are in the process of developing, tie directly into the terms of that grant application.

The projects tie into four of six strategies approved in our Strategic Plan which was approved by the Board in January 2019 and presented and approved by membership at the following AGM. They are:

1. To educate, support and encourage experimentation and presentation of contemporary art and craft.
3. To support the professional development of Quest Art's artist-membership and regional artists.
5. To create partnership and opportunities for collaboration with local schools, arts, culture and other like-minded organizations that share our values.
6. To be sustainable and provide value for our youth, funders, supporters, stakeholders and community.

The OTF funding has allowed us to develop the programmes, procure supplies and equipment needed to run the programmes, and to incorporate new technologies and ways of working in light of the pandemic.

And it has provided essential funding for staffing, without whom we would not be able to run and develop the programmes.

During the pandemic, much of what we did had to be virtual given the lock-downs and restrictions, and we will continue to develop and run virtual programming.

But we are VERY much looking forward to welcoming people back for in person programmes and workshops. And with the support from Trillium we will be able to offer a much wider-range of offerings and curriculum than we were able to do previously.

One of our goals is to develop certification programmes through Quest.

Going forward, the strategic direction and foundations that we have developed, as well as the important ability to purchase equipment and supplies of varied sources, will also offer us the ability to monetize a number of the programmes which will contribute to our long-term financial stability.

As much as possible we are leveraging our programmes to support each other and our core purpose as a gallery and art school, so that we are not always reinventing the wheel so to speak.

Funding from RBC and the Community Foundation are also in support of our Arts Incubator/Residency Programmes. Despite the pandemic, we had one Full Residency completed including a virtual exhibition. Three other residencies are in progress and resulting exhibitions and projects will take place in 2022 and 2023 for those that are currently underway.

New Horizons is for programmes accessible to and appropriate for seniors – that is our Elements of Art programme which will be officially launched within the next month or so.

Young Canada Works is specific to wages for our students, who are all either recent graduates or who are taking time off from their studies to get work experience in their field.

The Simcoe County funding is to allow us to market and promote Quest.

The funding that we have received has been crucial to our continued operations. Many grants however do not allow for funding for operations but are specifically project related – hence why the strategic is to tie project funding to our key programmes as much as possible.

However, most grants do not go for things like rent, insurance, audit fees, bookkeeping, or wages for staff.

We have been able to take advantage of the **CEWS programme, which helped to subsidize my pay, and we did not pay rent when we were not allowed into the MCC.**

We are now back in the building and many of the COVID supports – including CEWS – will be ending soon.

Operational funding is essential.

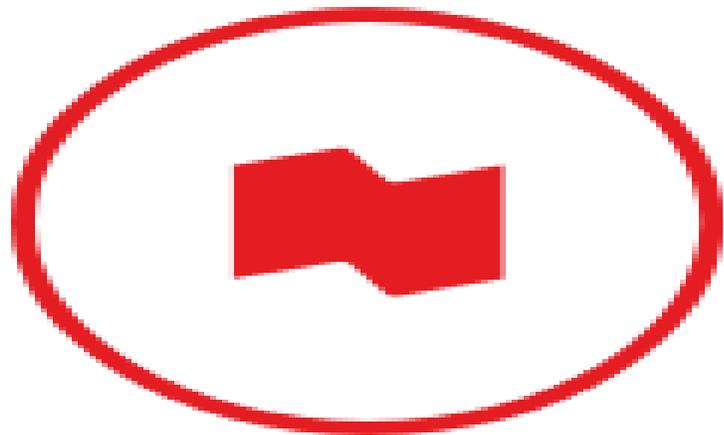
This is where donations and memberships make a huge difference to us.

First, thanks to Judy Goode, who kept the QAAH membership programme going last year and who encouraged donations to continue to be made to Quest.

Thanks also to Marilyn Green and Sharon Mackinnon for their **Make Art** programme which also contributed operational monies to Quest.

Thank you to all the volunteers who stayed involved and offered their expertise and support – especially the Board, and our Volunteer Committee Charlotte Sprague, Peter Fyfe and Ross Skoggard.

And thanks to EVERY MEMBER, donor and sponsor of Quest! You make a difference.



MIDLAND



TOYOTA



A quest is a journey toward a mission or a goal. Thanks for coming along on that journey. Together, we can get there!