

Canadian
Crafts
Federation

Fédération
canadienne des
métiers d'art



CONFERENCE REPORT 2017

**intersections &
interconnexions**

Exploring Craft Sector Collaboration

Explorer la collaboration dans le secteur des métiers d'art

FIRST --- THANK YOU --- AND FOREMOST

The CCF/FCMA would like to thank our many partners and sponsors who contributed to the conference, including Assurart, Airways Transit, the Nunavut Economic Developers Association, the Canada Council for the Arts, the Art Gallery of Burlington, and Teed Saunders Doyle & Company.

Thank you also to everyone who attended the events, for sharing your positive energy and ideas, and helping to contribute to the growth and advancement of Canadian contemporary fine craft at large.



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“The 2017 CCF conference this year was truly excellent... There was a great positive feeling to this year’s conference, too, in that it felt that all of these leaders and influencers were more on the same page than ever before.” – Tara Owen, Alberta



INTERSECTIONS & INTERCONNECTIONS —

S U C C E S S

On September 13th & 14th, 2017, surrounded by the beauty found in the Art Gallery of Burlington's studios, galleries, and greenhouse, delegates from across Canada came together for a high-energy discussion on craft sector collaboration.

1 | DAY ONE

The CCF/FCMA was proud to host 36 professionals, with representation from each province and territory, to participate in group meetings, breakout sessions, and presentations over the course of two intensive days. The itinerary for this year's events, our 12th annual conference, was purposefully focused on collaboration and change, exploring the means by which craft organizations come together, and identifying joint tactics for collective improvement.

Launching with a review of the national actions & directions of the CCF/FCMA over the past year, including a report on current and future plans, delegates then tackled key areas of collective interest through guided breakout sessions on advocacy, marketing, research and exhibition activity. Each group suggested specific projects, issues, and challenges for the national organization to review and tackle through committee action.

2 | DAY TWO

ON THE SECOND DAY OF EVENTS...

Our keynote speakers took to the stage, sharing insight and advice on essential development for craft organizations. Our keynote speaker, Charles Smith, Executive Director of Cultural Pluralism in the Arts Movement Ontario discussed the value and impact of diversity, and the importance of organizational will. Breaking down the steps and providing guidance on how to approach diversification, Smith extolled the virtues of commitment to change, of collaboration over control, of openness and accessibility. He encouraged all in attendance to ask, “what capacities would be unleashed if we were equal?”, and to publicly commit to diversity on a consistent basis. A diversity road-map must be more than a document on a shelf, Smith explained, “to me, paper is paper. It’s how it’s used” that matters.

“The conferences are invaluable... Personally, I connected with great people. This was the most productive conference I have been to.” – David Freeman, Saskatchewan



PRESENTATIONS

Presentations continued throughout the day, with speakers from Craft NB, Studio Magazine, and the Inuit Art Foundation discussing how they reach the public through collaborative practices. José Niaison of the Canada Council for the Arts shared an in depth look at the new system for application to funding programs on the national level. Representatives from WorkinCulture, the Craft Council of Newfoundland & Labrador, and the Alberta Craft Council explored ways to increase value in membership, also through collaborative efforts.

Each presentation delved into new and interesting ways to connect across existing boundaries, effectively breaking down geographic, cultural, and economic barriers, helping delegates to see new ways they can increase access to and for craft communities.

MEETINGS

Outside of the public presentations, the CCF/FCMA Board of Directors met, as did the regional leaders of the Provincial and Territorial Craft Councils. Both groups discussed successes and challenges, ideas and tools, providing a valuable space for idea generation and resource sharing. Both groups will continue to meet throughout the year, extending the value of the conference beyond these two days.

3 | CRAFT BUS TOUR

& BEHIND THE SCENES

INTERSECTIONS & INTERCONNECTIONS...

Broke outside the walls of meeting rooms as well, as delegates visited galleries, schools and studios as part of the Craft Bus Tour. With behind the scenes tours of the Art Gallery of Burlington, Sheridan College's craft studios and gallery, Carnegie Gallery and Scott Barnim's ceramics studio and shop.

“It was great to have the opportunity to speak about WorkInCulture and how we support the creative community. By doing so – there’s an increased chance that more creatives/organizations make use of our resources and programs and of future partnerships and collaborations. Thank you for that!”
– Mona Afshari, Ontario



CANADIAN CRAFT BIENNIAL

In the days that followed the Intersections & Interconnexions conference, many delegates extended their stay to attend the opening of the inaugural Canadian Craft Biennial at the Art Gallery of Burlington, an excellent exhibition of contemporary fine craft from across the country. A two day Symposium followed, with speakers and panelists from across Canada, showcasing a broad variety of craft practices and theories. It was a pleasure to align CCF/FCMA activities with this new program, which animated the craft discussion in new and interesting directions.

CLOSING CEREMONIES

During the closing ceremonies of the conference, 42 members of the craft community came together at the Craft Community Social to celebrate the recipient of the 2017 Robert Jekyll Award for Leadership in Craft, Charlotte Kwon. Recognized for her work in Canada and abroad, promoting the textile arts, Kwon was unable to attend the event in person, but provided a beautiful video acceptance of her award.

“This yearly conference and get-together strengthens connections across the country and allows each of us to have a pool of like-minded individuals to connect to, ask advice from, and plan future projects with.” – Alison Murphy, New Brunswick



ITINERARY



intersections &
interconnexions



SEPTEMBER 13TH, 2017: INTERCOMMUNICATION: WHAT'S ON, WHAT'S UP, AND WHAT'S NEEDED

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
9:00AM – 11:30AM	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MEETING (By Invite Only)	Art Gallery of Burlington Fireside Room
11:30AM – 12:00PM	REGISTRATION	Rotary Room
12:00PM – 12:15PM	OPENING / WELCOME	Shoreline Room
12:15PM – 12:45PM	NATIONAL ACTIONS & DIRECTIONS <i>Maegen Black</i> , Director, Canadian Crafts Federation	Shoreline Room
12:45PM – 1:45PM	CONCURRENT SESSIONS Session A) Advocacy Session B) Marketing/Citizens of Craft	Fireside Room Shoreline Room
1:45PM – 2:00PM	BREAK	Photo Studio
2:00PM – 3:00PM	CONCURRENT SESSIONS Session C) Research Session D) Exhibitions	Fireside Room Shoreline Room
3:00PM – 3:15PM	CLOSING STATEMENTS	Shoreline Room
3:15PM – 5:45PM	BREAK (Dinner On Your Own)	Photo Studio
3:30PM – 5:30PM	BOARD MEETING (By Invite Only)	Fireside Room
5:45PM – 9:30PM	CRAFT BUS TOUR (Registration Required) Tour will visit: The Sheridan College Craft Studios & Gallery, Carnegie Gallery, and Scott Barnim Pottery Studio. Bus will depart from: #1) Waterfront Hotel: 5:45PM #2) Holiday In Hotel: 6:00PM <i>Please board promptly!</i>	



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ART GALLERY OF BURLINGTON





SEPTEMBER 14TH, 2017: COLLABORATION AND CHANGE: EXPANDING YOUR CIRCLE

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
9:00AM – 9:15AM	OPENING / WELCOME	Art Gallery of Burlington Fireside Room
9:15AM – 10:15AM	PLURALISM, EQUITY AND DIVERSITY <i>Charles Smith</i> , Executive Director, Cultural Pluralism in the Arts Movement Ontario	Fireside Room
10:15AM – 11:15AM	PANEL 1: REACHING THE PUBLIC THROUGH COLLABORATION <i>Alison Murphy</i> , Executive Director, Craft NB <i>Leopold Kowolik</i> , Editor, Studio Magazine <i>Alysa Procida</i> , Executive Director, Inuit Art Foundation	Fireside Room
11:15AM – 11:30AM	COFFEE BREAK	Photo Studio
11:30AM – 12:30PM	THREE MINUTES OF FAME A fast paced series of updates on what craft organizations are up to across Canada.	Fireside Room
12:30PM – 1:30PM	LUNCH BREAK	Photo Studio
1:30PM – 2:30PM	CANADA COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS: NEW FUNDING MODEL <i>José Naison</i> , Program Officer for Arts Across Canada, Canada Council for the Arts	Fireside Room
2:30PM – 3:30PM	PANEL 2: INCREASING VALUE IN MEMBERSHIP THROUGH COLLABORATION PANEL <i>Rebecca Harrison</i> , Mentorship Program Manager, Business for the Arts <i>Mona Afshari</i> , Marketing and Communications Manager, WorkinCulture <i>Rowena House</i> , Executive Director, Craft Council of Newfoundland & Labrador	Fireside Room
3:30PM – 3:15PM	COFFEE BREAK	Photo Studio
3:15PM – 4:15PM	NETWORKING SESSIONS Meet with your peers in a casual group setting to discuss challenges and successes (For example: groups of guilds, educational institutions, public presenters, etc.).	Fireside Room Fine Arts Studio Photo Studio
4:15PM – 4:30PM	REPORTS FROM BREAKOUT SESSIONS	Fireside Room
4:30PM – 4:45PM	CLOSING REMARKS	Fireside Room
5:00PM – 7:00PM	BREAK (Dinner On Your Own) Optional: Tour of Art Gallery Burlington Studios & Vault (5:00PM–6:00PM)	
7:00PM – 9:30PM	CRAFT COMMUNITY SOCIAL, <i>An evening of mingling, networking, and celebration of craft including presentation of The Robert Jekyll Award For Leadership in Craft</i>	Burlington Performing Arts Centre Community Studio Theatre

