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ArtSpring acknowledges the unceded territory and the ancestors of Salt Spring Island, the Coast Salish First Nations peoples of Salt Spring and surrounding areas, who continue to use and steward these lands. We at ArtSpring wish to pay respect to the elders of this land, past and present.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

As I reflect upon my third and final year as Board President of ArtSpring, I am thankful to Howard and the team for their commitment and exceptional dedication during times of significant demand on their skills. I am also grateful to our Board for their dedication and to our members, donors, volunteers, sponsors, and patrons for their loyalty and support.

The year 2024 had some powerful activities and performances. The first offering of an off-site performance “Songs We Sing When We Are Sad” was held at the Stonehouse, courtesy of Margo and Brant Randles. It was extremely well received and opened the door for future alternate venues.

The Matriarch Uprising events were a successful time of learning for the community and sharing, as well as development through performances and workshops.

In 2023 we started with a small group developing ideas for the 25 Anniversary celebration. It became clear that we needed two streams. One dedicated to event planning and one to fund raising. I asked Lisa Black to chair the events stream and she engaged the community and created the energetic and supportive Roundtable Group that has evolved into a committee supported and guided by direction from Howard. Thank you, Lisa, your group has had a big impact on the rebuilding of community relationships.

I was struggling with the finance stream and our Board member Robert Steinbach took it on, creating what we called the Legacy Committee. Under his leadership we were able to announce a campaign at the Donor Appreciation event in July and through the generosity of many donors and the inclusion of matching dollars, \$1 million dollars was

deposited at the Victoria Foundation for our endowment to secure our next 25 years. That campaign will continue. Thank you, Robert.

Our 25 Anniversary weekend exceeded everyone's expectations. Christina Penhale was contracted to plan and lead the weekend and did an astonishing job. Everyone enjoyed the variety of activities and building was buzzing for five days. We had the Jim Cuddy concerts as signature events, supported by our young local musician Salome Cullen. The community dance party helped the place feel like a true community art centre and left attendees asking for more. Seth's lobby exhibition of ArtSpring history tied the story over the years together.

We acknowledged our volunteers at a Volunteer Appreciation event in September as part of the season launch. A radical retelling of *As You Like It* was a sold-out show and it did its job by creating conversations in the community that we are continuing to have about our role in the arts and in reconciliation.

The 2024/25 season is off to a strong and exciting start with several sold out shows in its first two months and more to come. Patrons are starting to learn they cannot wait to buy tickets. Demand is back, enthusiasm is at revitalized levels, and the season is proving to be exceptional and far reaching. Thank you Howard, for your bold curation of performances people want to see.

In addition to myself, we have three Board members who are leaving. Kathryn Cernauskas, who has Chaired our Development Committee, is leaving after serving four years. Both Robert Steinbach and Michael Walls are leaving after having served two years on the Board. A sincere thanks to these three individuals who have committed time and expertise, and they will be missed.

There are four very strong new members joining the Board, and you will see their bios in the package.

The Board has started a process of review and renewal and will be focusing on governance and fund development related responsibilities. It is in a good position to advocate for and fully support the organization. It will be a strong and committed Board.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my four years on the Board, including the process of recruiting and hiring Howard. He has set us on our path to be a true community arts centre and has invested the time to learn about the community and set us up as a true partner. I am thankful for the support of my fellow Board members and look forward to watching the continued advancement of ArtSpring.

I look forward to seeing you at ArtSpring!

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Heath
President, Island Arts Centre Society



EXECUTIVE AND ARTISTIC DIRECTOR’S REPORT

As we reflect on the 2023/2024 season at ArtSpring, we celebrate a year marked by resilience, creativity, and a profound sense of community. This year held particular significance as we commemorated our 25th Anniversary—a milestone that not only celebrated our past but also illuminated the possibilities for our future. Having only recently joined ArtSpring in 2022, planning this momentous occasion was both a privilege and a steep learning curve. Hearing stories of our origins and understanding community expectations provided invaluable insights that will guide us forward.

Our objective this year was to redefine ArtSpring—not just as a venue but as an idea: a place where gathering, connection, and community flourish.

Resilience in Challenging Times

The 2023/2024 season presented us with notable challenges, particularly as we adapted to a shifting touring model, impacted by the economic aftershocks of the pandemic. The unpredictability and rising costs of touring demanded strategic planning and flexibility. Thanks to key partnerships, particularly with BC Live and a network of Vancouver Island presenters, we crafted a season that exceeded expectations. These collaborations enabled us to deliver a diverse array of high-quality performances, enriching our community’s cultural landscape.

Reaching a Broader Audience

One of the season’s highlights was the significant increase in our audience base. Attendance for performances that initially appeared to have less marquee value saw an unexpected rise, reflecting the deep trust our community places in our programming. Attendee feedback revealed a joy of discovery and an appreciation for the variety of genres presented. This growth not only represents a broader demographic reach but also reinforces our commitment to inclusivity as we strive to be a welcoming cultural hub.

Our introduction of the Angel Ticket Program also addressed economic barriers, offering accessible pricing and received positive responses throughout the year. This initiative showcased our dedication to making the arts accessible for all.

Community Access

A cornerstone of ArtSpring's mission is ensuring that our venue is accessible to all members of our community. This year, we were thrilled to once again welcome students from Gulf Island Secondary School, particularly those from the Performing Arts Program. Their enthusiasm and talent enriched our stage and created a vibrant atmosphere.

We also had the pleasure of hosting the Salt Spring Singers and the Viva Chorale, two beloved community choirs that bring together voices from across the island. Their performances not only showcased local talent but also fostered a sense of belonging and connection among our residents.

In addition to these groups, we welcomed numerous local and visiting artists and performers, providing them with a platform to share their work. This commitment to community access reinforces ArtSpring as a gathering space for artistic expression, collaboration, and connection, ensuring that the arts remain an integral part of our island's culture.

Joy, Discovery, and Engagement

The joy of live performance and the thrill of artistic discovery were central to our mission this season. Audience feedback affirmed that we successfully wove these themes into our programming, creating memorable experiences. As digital media continues to dominate, the unique value of live art experiences resonated strongly with our audiences, reminding us of the power of connection through shared experiences. ArtSpring transformed into a vibrant hub of engagement, with residency programs, workshops, and outreach initiatives enriching our community. These opportunities not

only supported artists in developing new work but also fostered deeper connections with participants of all ages, solidifying our role as a vital resource for cultural education and artistic growth on Salt Spring Island.

Sustainability

Thanks to a generous legacy gift in 2022, we established a Legacy Endowment Fund with the Victoria Foundation, successfully reaching our target of \$1 million this year. This achievement marks a significant step towards long-term sustainability, ensuring that future generations can continue to enjoy and engage with ArtSpring.

Looking Ahead

As we are now actively in our 2024/2025 season, we are excited to build on the momentum of this year. Our commitment to presenting diverse, high-quality programming and deepening community connections remains steadfast.

Acknowledgments

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to:

- **Sandra Heath**, our outgoing President, whose extraordinary leadership and dedication have profoundly shaped ArtSpring since my arrival.
- Our dedicated Board, whose governance reflects a genuine commitment to our mission.
- Our small but tireless staff, who consistently go above and beyond to realize our ambitions.
- The tremendous volunteers whose support is invaluable to our success. Thank you for being an integral part of the ArtSpring journey.
- Thank you to our donors and sponsors whose support is integral to ArtSpring's ability to serve our mission and achieve the vision.

Sincerely,

Howard R. Jang,
Executive and Artistic Director ArtSpring

BOARD OF DIRECTORS & TEAM MEMBERS

Board Members

Sandra Heath, President
Susan Tinker, Vice President
Ron Dyck, Treasurer
Dave Secord, Secretary
Sheila Elworthy, Director
Kathryn Cernauskas, Director
Robert Steinbach, Director
Michael Wall, Director
Fiona Walls, Director

ArtSpring Staff

Howard Jang, Executive & Artistic Director
Danielle Acken, Administrative Coordinator
James Acken, Building and Grounds Manager
Kirsten Bolton, Communications & Donor Engagement Manager
Meghan Howcroft, Community Events & Rentals Manager
Marcus Kufner, Bookkeeper
Cimмерon Meyer, Technical Director
Megan Wilson, Front of House Manager & Coordinator of Volunteers

ArtSpring Contractors

Blair Francis, Theatre Technician
Catherine Griffiths, Treasure Fair Coordinator
Wreford Miller, IT
Caroni Young, Makana Youth Choir Director
Robbyn Scott, Community Dance Coordinator

Volunteers

From staffing the box office and ushering at concerts to participating in fundraisers and supporting administration, volunteers contribute a staggering 6,000 hours per year. ArtSpring would not be possible without its valued volunteers.

MILESTONES & TURNING POINTS

- Five-day 25th Anniversary Community Festival welcomed over 2,000 people, almost 100 volunteers, and 290 individual artists making up 46 different groups, speakers, and workshop leaders.
- Jim Cuddy Band headlined two sold out shows, featuring emerging local talent Salome Cullen.
- Facilitated a Public Town Hall to gather community feedback and input into ArtSpring's role with the public, members, artists, and other arts organizations.
- Issued professional community-wide survey about needs and expectations.
- Most successful Treasure Fair on record, raising \$126,000.
- Establishment of the Community Roundtable Committee, hosting several events.
- Revival of Theatre Angel Program to make the arts more accessible.
- Launch of the Legacy Endowment Fund and achieving its first phase \$1M goal.
- Debut of bringing Banff Mountain Film Festival to a sold-out ArtSpring audience.
- Teens and students mobilizing for musical with a message "Love Bomb."
- ArtSpring's first "off-site" multi-night presentation with "These Are Songs I Sing When I'm Sad."
- First in-person Season Launch "Kick-Off" Event to reveal ArtSpring Presents' upcoming program. Pre-sales and interest to engage increased.
- Opera-specific marketing sees rise in audience attendance figures.
- Launch of fresh new logo and brand identity to emphasize ArtSpring's values and capacity to uplift, reach out, and connect community.
- Three-day Matriarchs Uprising Festival shares contemporary Indigenous dance, film screening, and community workshops.
- June lobby exhibition of Indigenous and Métis artists Sherry and Patricia Williams, with Quentin Harris, corresponded with National Indigenous History Month and Salt Spring's community-organized Indigenous Peoples Weekend.

ARTSPRING PRESENTS PERFORMANCES 2023-2024

Dance

Ballet Kelowna
Bouge de là
Shay Kuebler / Radical System Art
Matriarch's Uprising

Music

Michael Kaeshammer
Oktopus
Trio Fibonacci
The Fugitives
Victoria Conservatory of Music
PIQSIQ
Quartetto Gelato
Gryphon Trio
Victoria Baroque
Gothic Voices
Baltimore Consort
Victoria Symphony
Zachary Stevenson: Buddy Holly Concert
Joëlle Rabu & Nico Rhodes
Ensemble Mirabilia
Jane Miller: These Are the Songs I Sing When I'm Sad
Diyet & The Love Soldiers
Isidore Quartet
The Ostara Project
Payadora
Makana Youth Choirs

Theatre

Love Bomb
Middle Raged
Axis Theatre: Frog Belly Rat Bone

Storytelling

The Flame 2-day Personal Storytelling Workshop

Met Opera: Live HD Broadcasts

| | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Dead Man Walking | Carmen |
| Florencia en el Amazonas | La Forza del Destino |
| Nabucco | Romeo & Juliet |

ARTIST WORKSHOPS, YOUTH ENRICHMENT, AND SELECT COMMUNITY RENTALS

Special Events

- 25th Anniversary Community Festival (5 days)
- Jim Cuddy Band with local opening act Salome Cullen (2 shows)
- Treasure Fair Fundraiser & Treasure Fair Concert Raagaverse
- SSI Chamber Music Festival
- Donor Appreciation Event with Max Wyman
- Summer Concert Barney Bentall, Tom Taylor, Shari Ulrich
- Ian Thomas Retrospective Exhibition
- Parallel Art Show

Creative Residencies

Creative residences are intended to help professional artists create and develop new works of art, get the work ready for tour, and add to the artistic landscape of Canada.

- Out Innerspace Creation Dance
- Christina Penhale, Jekka Mack, and Debbi Toole Theatre
- Nayana Fielkov Performance Art
- Rachel Fenlon, Piano

Youth Arts & School Shows

- School tours of Ian Thomas Exhibition
- Makana Youth Choirs (grades 2-9)
- Youth Ticket Program
- Axis Theatre, school day performance
- Bouge de là, school day performance
- Partnership with Graffiti Theatre & SS Youth New Creatives Festival (theatre camp)

Workshops

ArtSpring negotiates with selected professional touring artists from its *ArtSpring Presents* season to bring students and members of the community a variety of hands-on workshops free of charge or at low admission fees. In 2023/24 workshops included:

- Matriarch's Uprising Festival Masterclass (Olivia C Davies); Talking Truths Circle Conversation; Indigi-Dance on Screen; Indigenous Dance Sampler Public Workshop.
- Shay Kuebler Dance; Nayana Fielkov Clowning Workshop
- Public tango workshop in association with Payadora.

Select Community Performances, Exhibitions, and Activities

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| • GISS and GISPA | • Salt Spring Island Spinners & Weavers Guild |
| • Salt Spring Film Festival | • Salt Spring Singers |
| • Salt Spring Forum | • Salt Spring Island Printmakers |
| • Salt Spring Painters Guild | • Good Company |
| • Salt Spring Photography Club | • StageCoach Theatre School |
| • Viva Chorale! | |

TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT AND PRESENTATION OF AUDITED 2023-2024 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING AUGUST 31, 2024.

Firstly, I would like to thank Howard Jang, our EAD, whose leadership and financial management of ArtSpring is invaluable. His knowledge and experience, pursuit of grant opportunities, networking and lobbying on behalf of ArtSpring, is a great asset.

Secondly, I would like to thank our bookkeeper, Marcus Kufner for his preparation of the monthly financial statements.

I would also like to thank Fred Lizotte, of McLean, Lizotte, Wheadon and Co. for his professionalism, expertise and experience in the preparation of our audited financial statements.

And thank you to the Finance Committee, Sandra Heath, Susan Tinker, Sheila Elworthy, Robert Steinbach, and Howard Jang for their expert financial stewardship of ArtSpring.

In 2024 the Board established a Building Maintenance Task Force to review the 2021 Building Assessment and to identify capital replacement priorities to the Board. The ArtSpring building is 25 years old and timely replacement/updating of key infrastructure is important to maintaining this asset so that it doesn't become a liability.

Two projects in 2024 were the lobby carpet replacement and the theatre projector replacement, the latter funded in large part by a grant from the SSI Foundation. A major project in 2025 is the replacement of the HVAC system for the theatre and lobby areas. Thanks to Howard, a grant has been secured which will cover a major portion of that cost.

As mentioned earlier in the Annual Report, thanks to generous donors, the Legacy Fund held by the Victoria Foundation has reached \$1 million. In 2024 \$600,000 was

deposited with the Victoria Foundation and is eligible for the Heritage Canada matching program which takes us to the \$1million mark. The income from the endowment funds will provide a steady revenue stream for ArtSpring.

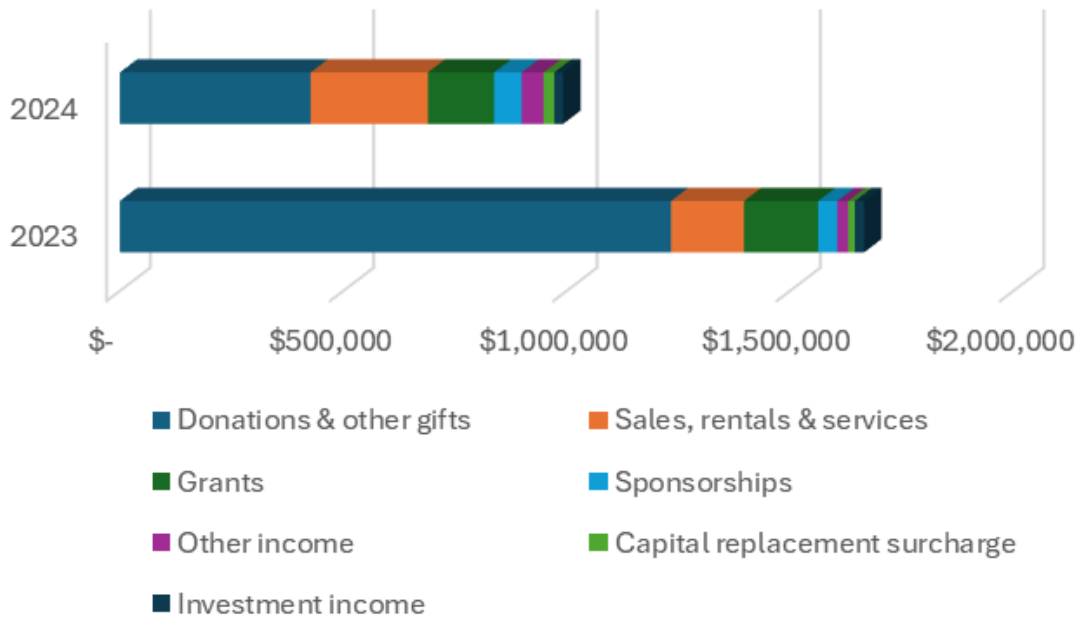
Another highlight - the annual Treasure Fair exceeded all previous fundraising milestones, even before we included the revenue from the Porsche! Thank you to Catherine Griffiths and her team.

We ended the year with a small deficiency of revenues over expenditures from operations of \$(24,956). With Endowment Investment Income and Amortization included, there was a deficit of just over \$(96,390) for the year. The charts below show the year over year comparison of revenues and expenses from operations, by category.

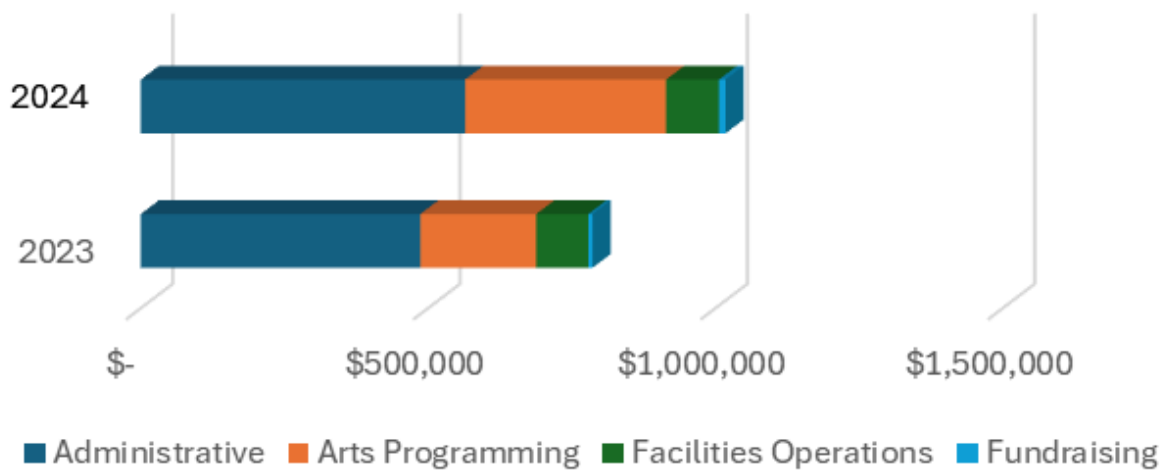
This was an extraordinary year, with the 25th anniversary celebrations featuring so many local artists, artisans, and performers but also requiring extra expenses for staff, arts programming and marketing. Our revenue shows increases in ticket sales, rental revenue and sponsorships. Donations are lower than in 2023, but that reflects the one-time bequest in 2023. Compared to 2022, donations are significantly higher. The upward trend in ticket sales continues, with six sold out ArtSpring Presents performances to date in fall 2024.

Respectfully submitted,
Ron Dyck, Treasurer

Revenues from Operations



Expenses from Operations



NOMINEES FOR BOARD ELECTION

RENEWING MEMBERS

Susan Tinker

ArtSpring's current VP of the Board, Susan brings a wealth of experience including public sector procurement, corporate strategy, strategic communications planning, stakeholder engagement, reputational management, government relations, and managing processes and programs to meet organizational goals. With an MBA and a Masters in Communications from University of Calgary and a degree in Journalism from University of Regina, Susan has worked in the private and public sectors, served as a board member and volunteer, is a consultant, and an associate faculty member at Royal Roads University. Susan enjoys photography, hiking, biking, swimming and playing classical piano. She's a fan of all genres of live performance, but especially jazz and classical music.

NEW NOMINEES

Bruce Cameron

Bruce is a communications strategist, writer, and market researcher with extensive experience in the advertising, political, corporate and not for profit sectors in Canada and the USA. He also operates a public opinion panel called Salt Spring Insights that provides accurate snapshots of the attitudes of island residents. He has previously served on the board of directors for the Calgary Folk Music Festival and the Royal and Macpherson Theatres Society. Bruce and his wife Susan Lundy live on Salt Spring full time, when they are not visiting their children in New York. Bruce plays drums and sings with one of Salt Spring's most popular dance bands Everyday People.

Dr. Sheila Elworthy, ICD.D

Sheila is a Chartered Professional Accountant, with a BA from Simon Fraser University, an MBA from Ivey, and a doctorate in Educational Leadership from Simon Fraser University. As someone who clearly loves education, she focussed her career on teaching, at Camosun College, the University of Victoria, and briefly at a college in New Zealand. She was also in charge of the design and delivery of education for aspiring Chartered Accountants in Western Canada. Sheila believes in giving back to her community and has served on numerous not-for-profit and for-profit boards, including the Belfry Theatre and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Victoria. As a recent resident to SaltSpring Island, Sheila is enjoying meeting people through pickleball, art, and the many cultural events she is enjoying through ArtSpring.

Catherine Griffiths

For the past 10 years, Catherine has worked as a volunteer and then as chief coordinator of Treasure Fair for ArtSpring for four years. During the past 30 years, she also worked as a cartographer and GIS analyst for non-profit conservancy organizations. While now retired, she worked part-time for Camosun College in the Geography department for 10 years where she taught the Introduction to Geography and Geospatial technologies. When moving to SaltSpring, the Vancouver art scene was a part of life that Catherine did not think could continue. 2000 was a good year to look for a house, and ArtSpring was the answer. The importance of the arts in a community setting makes this an island that attracts and keeps vibrant people. Catherine is proud to be a member of this community.

Tom Shepansky, ICD.D

Tom is one of the founders of Rethink, Canada's leading independent creative agency. Over the past twenty-five years, Rethink has consistently been one of the top creative agencies in the country. Tom has transitioned his role at Rethink and is now governing the business as the Chair of the Board of Trustees. For over two decades, Tom has

been actively involved in the community. He's currently on the board of Canuck Place and is also the past Board Chair of Vancouver Foundation and Vice Chair of St. Paul's Foundation. Tom splits his time between North Vancouver and Salt Spring Island. He can be found with his wife Roxanne hiking the trails, cycling with friends or playing his bass guitar with his band TwoPointOH.

--- THANK YOU ---

Join us in championing creativity, fostering belonging, and celebrating the transformational power of the arts. Together we can ensure that ArtSpring remains a beacon of inspiration and innovation for generations to come.

