

WORKING SPACES FOR WORKING ARTISTS



ANNUAL REPORT 2020/2021

Atticus Gordon's Studio

Studio Space Ottawa

www.studiospaceottawa.com

2477A Kaladar Ave
Ottawa ON K1B 6E4

**STUDIO
SPACE
OTTAWA**

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

PREAMBLE

I have served SSO as a Steering Committee member since its inception in 2019, and then become a full-fledged Board member at our first AGM in August 2020. At the time my role was Communications. My position as President began in Fall 2021, however my message below includes content of our organization and SSO's accomplishments from Fall 2020 to Fall 2021. As we are a "working board", we are all involved in moving the organization forward, regardless of our titles. To see our previous accomplishments, please review our 2019/2020 Annual Report.

GOVERNANCE

Our Board members are fantastic individuals who always put the needs of the organization at the forefront of any decision. SSO's first slate of Directors included Kathy Bergquist, Ada Brzeski, and Susan Roston. At the time we also included two external members who acted as our Steering Committee. These individuals were myself and Anna Frlan - both local Visual artists. At our first AGM, Susan Roston stepped down and we then voted in a full slate of seven candidates. Kathy Bergquist and Ada Brzeski remained while five new members were voted in: Tiffany April, Anna Frlan, Atticus Gordon, Ray Romanovich, and Christos Pantieras. At our AGM in the Fall of 2021 we voted in our new Board of



Kathy Bergquist's Metalworking Studio

Directors. Four of our members stepped down (Tiffany April, Kathy Bergquist, Ray Romanovich, and shortly thereafter Atticus Gordon) and two new members joined - Christine Fitzgerald and Jadzia Romaniec. Along with the remaining three Board members, our slate now consists of five individuals. Our approach is to include current SSO artists along with, at least, two external Board Members. I want to thank all of the previous Board members who tirelessly devoted their time and energy to SSO. I especially want to thank Kathy Bergquist in her role as President, and co-founder, of SSO, who gave her time and vision without reservation.

COVID-19

Thankfully our organization was not impacted in any severe ways due to the pandemic. We put in place all of the safety protocols recommended by Ottawa Public Health (i.e. masking, social distancing, and deep sanitization), and artists who felt comfortable to do so continued to use their studios. At SSO every studio is an enclosed space, therefore artists had this added level of comfort to work.

“Studio Space Ottawa (SSO) is a young organization, the new kid on the block, and like all kids, it’s full of energy and ideas, and it’s growing fast.”

Ottawa Life Magazine
March 19, 2021

FUNDRAISING - GRANTS – PROJECTS

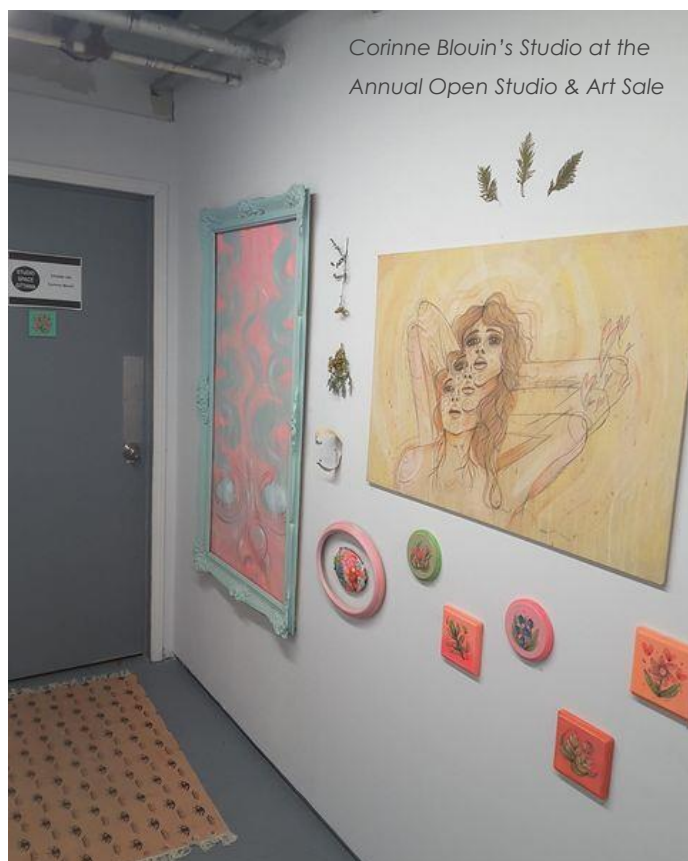
Although the Covid-19 pandemic put a hold on our planned launch of our capital fundraising initiatives, we didn't let that stop us from thinking creatively to raise funds for our lofty goals! With no Open Studio planned for Fall 2020, SSO launched its first ever “Funfair Bag” Fundraiser! Inspired by the history of our building, a Funfair, the bag was a take-home item that was available for purchase for \$150 + HST. The contents included donated artwork and prints from participating SSO artists, along with games, access to special events, and delicious treats (e.g. candy apples, cotton candy, Chris' Ice Cream). We sold 35 bags and raised over \$5,000. The funds were used to build more studios (see Organizational Growth). Thank you to SPAO, Chris's Ice Cream, and all those who contributed, and purchased, a Funfair Bag!



Screenprint by Willem Deisinger

In March 2021 we launched our “Make+Space=Create” Capital fundraising campaign, which was featured in Ottawa Life Magazine. We held public information sessions to present our goals and our vision for the organization. This presentation resulted in donations that ranged from the “pay what you can” to a donation of over 10K. We sincerely thank all those who supported us!

In April 2021 we applied to the Ottawa Community Foundation, Community Grants Program for a grant to improve the air quality of our studios. In this grant we proposed to change three inoperable windows in three of our studios to operable ones, as well as to purchase six portable air purifiers with UV lighting to kill airborne bacteria. Our application was successful and we received \$9,000! All of our studios with windows are now outfitted with operable windows. Our ceramic studios are now outfitted with filters for particulates, and SSO



Corinne Blouin's Studio at the Annual Open Studio & Art Sale

artists are able to use the portable air purifiers on a “sign-out” system. We thank the Ottawa Community Foundation for this support, and the Ottawa Arts Council who was our partnering organization.



**OTTAWA ARTS
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In June 2021 we held our “Pints for SSO” fundraiser with the Merry Dairy. For every pint sold, SSO received a portion of sales. Although a small initiative, it definitely helped to beat the heat! SSO raised over \$300.

In July 2021 we received a Project Grant of \$7000 from the City of Ottawa Arts Funding Program. This grant allowed SSO to host the inaugural “Outdoor Project Wall” on the front facade of our building. We held a public Call for Submissions and the projects were reviewed by our arms-length jury of Tam-Ca Vo-Van (Director, SAW Gallery) and Rebecca Basciano (Curator, The Ottawa Art Gallery). The selected project was “The Grazers” by Vivian Törs.

In Fall 2021 we received a grant of \$7,500 from the City of Ottawa Capital Facilities Fund (Minor Projects) to build four more studios on the main floor. See “Organization Growth” for details.



ORGANIZATIONAL GROWTH

Our main growth is focused on studio expansion. In December 2020 we created a second ceramics studio on the main level. This was funded by our “Funfair Bag” fundraiser and resulted in seven additional ceramic artists joining SSO. In February 2021 we started our expansion into the kitchen area with renovations that resulted in a purpose-built analogue photography darkroom. Recognizing the need to serve artists and our financial restraints, SSO entered into a loan agreement with the artist who needed this studio. The artist fronted a

large portion of the funds to build this studio, and the loan will be paid in full in Fall 2022. We also completed our expansion on the main level by building four additional studios in the area we had begun to occupy. In August 2021 we began the renovations to build three medium and one small studio. These spaces are dedicated to printmaking and sculptural-based practices. The studios were funded through three channels: a grant from the City of Ottawa' Capital Facilities Fund (Minor Projects - \$7,500), a donation of \$10,000 from an anonymous donor through our Capital Fundraising Campaign, and a loan agreement with our landlord, Stonewater Properties. This loan will be paid in full by Fall 2023. These four new studios were rented out and

occupied for October 1, 2021. We want to thank the student volunteers from Canterbury High School who painted the walls of all of our new studios as part of their volunteer hours.

COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLIC OUTREACH

In October 2020 we launched our website. Thank you to David Drapeau for all of his time and effort in producing, and maintaining, our website. In Fall 2021 we were able to host our first **Open Studio and Art Sale**, which we were previously unable to do due to the pandemic. This was an exciting event that saw hundreds of curious people visit our space. The energy was palpable!

In closing, Studio Space Ottawa is full of potential and bursting with possibilities. It is an exciting time to see how this organization will grow as we look ahead to further expansion. SSO is a hub for the Visual Arts in the Ottawa Community.

Regards,

Christos Pantieras
President, Board of Directors



Yomi Oromiloye's Studio

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Studio Space Ottawa was created as a not-for-profit to provide affordable studios to the visual arts community. Our first year of operation from September 15, 2019 to March 31, 2020 was a challenge due to start-up costs like two month's rent deposit and legal fees. Throughout this year, we were able to achieve a modest surplus. Our goal is to have at least a month's rent in our bank account in order to maintain a healthy cash flow. I want to thank all the artists who have always been timely in paying their rent. We have managed our expenses frugally. Our challenge in the future will be to keep rents as low as we can despite rent increases from our landlord and inflation. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

It has been my pleasure to serve as treasurer for Studio Space Ottawa.

Ada Brzeski
Treasurer, Board of Directors



Christine Fitzgerald's Studio

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

For the year ended March 31, 2021

REVENUE	2021	2020
Rental income	\$102,000	\$56,186
Corporate contributions	190	150
Individual Contributions	5,350	1,065
Donations for workplace improvements	925	600
Grants		1,500
Miscellaneous	345	1,757
EXPENSES		
Advertising	834	29
Amortization	639	
Bank charges	10	10
General administration	2,867	675
Insurance	2,398	1,291
Internet	1,042	
Professional fees	755	2,307
Rent	79,025	52,058
Repairs and maintenance	1,308	
Training	200	2,000
Utilities	6,870	3,800
TOTAL	95,948	62,170
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	12,862	-912
FUND BALANCE, BEGINNING OF YEAR	-912	
FUND BALANCE, END OF YEAR	11,950	-912

SERVING MORE VISUAL ARTISTS IN OTTAWA

We started with 22 artists and 20 studios in fall of 2019. This grew to 40 artists and 27 studios by February 2021. We are welcoming new artists to the space and also seeing a few departures as artists grow their careers and enroll in MFA programs.



Ceramic artwork by Ada Brzeski

SAW GALLERY MENTORSHIP

Studio Space Ottawa participated in Arts Build Ontario's 2020/2021 Creative Spaces Mentoring Network. Our mentor was Tam-Ca Vo-Van, the Director of SAW Gallery & Artist-Run Centre. The mentorship was invaluable in helping us to implement our plans to build more studios. Tam-Ca's generosity in sharing her experience and insights made us feel more confident about asking for advice, and really excited about sharing and collaborating with others to ensure we all contribute to building a more vibrant arts landscape.



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FUNDRAISING DEVELOPMENT

Fundraising coach, Jenny Mitchell of Chavender, invited Studio Space Ottawa in 2020 to participate in the Bronson Centre Revenue Development Workshop series, a program developed by lead organization Jaku Konbit. Tailored for not-for-profits and hosted by fundraising professionals, the program helped us to develop fundraising skills and to innovate how we reach supporters interested in building creative spaces.

SUPPORTERS OF STUDIO SPACE OTTAWA

We gratefully acknowledge the support received from private donors in the community to add 1,500 square feet of new studios through our **MAKE+SPACE=CREATE** project.



Sculpture by Pansee Atta

MAKE +
SPACE
=
CREATE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Christos Pantieras, President / Ada Brzeski, Treasurer / Anna Frlan, Secretary /
Christine Fitzgerald / Jadzia Romaniec