

Inspiring Art & Craft since 1980

As we look ahead to 2025, all of us here at the Carnegie Gallery are also looking back – to celebrate the last forty-five years of *helping artists make a living from their work*. That was the original rallying cry of an enterprising group of community members and artists who wanted to support each other, their town, and also protect a heritage building. This sentiment and steadfast commitment has sustained the Gallery throughout the years and kept our focus on *inspiring art + craft*.



Many know our story; of how the 'Carnegie Craft Carnival' first found a home in the original Dundas Public Library building in 1979; how a year later the Dundas Art and Craft Association was registered as a not-for-profit organization and then received charitable status; how with the outstanding support from the community, that same building was purchased in 2006 by the Association; and how the building underwent a complete restoration adding The Barber Atrium in 2013. It's a great story – a story that must surely acknowledge our community and the effort of many volunteers with close to a staggering half million volunteer hours logged. We are also extremely thankful for the numerous financial donations, both small and large, all generously given because our supporters believe in the Carnegie mission.

Operating on a modest budget with a skeleton staff, we have established ourselves as a small but mighty contributor to the arts community welcoming over 20,000 visitors annually from all over the world. Over forty-five years, the Carnegie Gallery has presented close to 1000 exhibitions by both emerging and established artists, with many artists having their first show here. And we are extremely proud that we have kept our standards focused on recognizing artistic excellence.

To that end, we have hosted concerts, readings, book launches, panel discussions, lectures, artist talks, workshops, classes,

dinners, garden tours, and bus excursions – all in support of our mandate. We have organized numerous special exhibitions, produced books, commissioned works of art, and collaborated on projects with other arts organizations both near and far. For a gallery of our size and modest beginnings, we have many amazing accomplishments to take pride in. The endurance of the Carnegie Gallery is an incredible achievement driven by earnest enthusiasm, and the belief in the importance of the arts to a community.

So to celebrate our continued success, we are planning a number of special anniversary events this year, including our major concert fundraiser in February. Our popular Artist Member Show in July and August will be bigger than ever for 2025. The opening reception will once again feature the presentation of the *Patricia Peacock-Evans Awards for Excellence in Art and Craft* as well as a few surprises you won't want to miss. Bus excursions this year will include a theatre visit, a trip to the Aga Khan Museum, and a tour of wine country. And in October, we are thrilled to be hosting the 2025 Fusion show from the Ontario Clay and Glass Association showcasing excellence in craft. With all of this, you'll find our new online shop, exceptional exhibitions, unique event programming, and of course, our wonderful heritage building brimming with inspiring art and craft every day.

Lastly, if you wish to show your appreciation for the Carnegie, we invite you to visit our website to find our special anniversary donate button, *45 for the 45th* where you can make a difference. Whether you visit the shop, attend an exhibition opening, or sign up for a class, your support keeps us going so we can look forward to the future. From your friends at the Carnegie Gallery, thank you for a memorable forty-five years!

Marla Panko, on behalf of the Board of Directors

