



## Notes

**ARCA plenary assembly \ Assemblée plénière ARCA –  
At : World Art Centre, Institutions by Artists convention, Vancouver  
13 October, 2012**

1. Opening of meeting  
5pm

2. Presentation of mandate of ARCA and board, some background; the purpose of the plenary to get feedback from the field of artist-run centres across the network and make a case for the importance of such gatherings.

In attendance :

Harcourt House, Edmonton  
Collectif Taupe, Moncton  
Galerie Sans nom, Moncton  
Gallery Connexion, Fredericton  
Struts\Faucet Media Arts, Sackville  
Latitude 53, Edmonton  
Truck, Calgary  
New Gallery, Calgary  
Stride, Calgary  
Open Space, Victoria  
Or Gallery, Vancouver  
L'Écart, Rouyn-Noranda  
Saw Gallery, Ottawa  
Raw: Gallery of Architecture and Design, Winnipeg  
La Centrale, Montréal  
Viva! art action, Montréal  
Eastern Block, Montréal  
Centre Est-Nord-Est, Saint-Jean-Port-Joli  
Le centre Imago, Moncton  
Hamilton Artists Inc., Hamilton  
MAWA, Winnipeg  
Séquence, Chicoutimi  
Oboro, Montréal  
Skol, Montréal  
Central Canadian Centre for Performance, Winnipeg  
La Maison des artistes, Saint-Boniface  
La galerie du Nouvel-Ontario (GNO), Sudbury  
Le centre B-312, Montréal  
La galerie Glendon, Toronto  
Cornelia Wyngaarden, Vancouver  
Vertical, Laval  
Denis Lanteigne, Groupe Existe et Galerie Bernard-Jean, Caraquet

Gallery 101, Ottawa  
Gallery 44, Toronto  
Espace Virtuel, Chicoutimi  
Eye Level, Halifax  
Neutral Ground, Regina

Members of ARCCC:

Le Regroupement des centres d'artistes autogérés du Québec (RCAAQ)  
Artist-Run Centres and Collectives of Ontario (ARCCO)  
Alberta Association of Artist-Run Centres (AAARC)  
L'Association des groupes en arts visuels francophones (AGAVF)  
Association of Artist-Run Centres from the Atlantic (AARCA)  
Manitoba Artist-Run Centres (MARC)  
Plains Association of Artist-Run Centres (PARCA)  
Pacific Association of Artist-Run Centres (PAARC)  
The Aboriginal Region (ABO)

Following a brief introduction of ARCA and its members, the floor is opened for feedback, appearing below in point form, and organised loosely by area of concern:

#### Heritage Canada

- *Presentation Canada* program presently uses notions and language coming from performing arts, limiting access for ARCs. The visual arts needs an adapted version to better reflect its reality.
- Programs don't support specialized knowledge production and dissemination;
- Festival program does not support recurring events limiting the consolidation of series.

#### Canada Council

- Ever increasing need to legitimize its existence through strategic planning, guidelines, directives, reports, quantifications leading to a shift away from self-direction. The perception is that Council is being led less by artists and artistic practice than by external, political agendas, like a service provider.
- Moving away from the qualitative and more reliant on numbers and visible brands (big names, celebrities...);
- Increased focus on audience engagement and community development;
- Receiving even the lowest operating funding excludes from applying for project grants;
- Projects, like artists, should also be eligible for multi-year grants;
- Develop the equivalent of *Initiatives* program for the visual arts; same for other programs in the media arts such as equipments and training;
- Explore and lessen disparities between Media and Visual Arts and between Writing and Publishing and the Visual Arts
- Provide support to ARCs for archiving historical material as well as support for developing document management and archiving processes for younger and emerging centres;
- The majority of ARCs are using the Flying Squad program; the membership wishes that the Flying squad program were less rigid; Develop a data base of HR and consultants from the visual arts milieu rather than work with external consultants;
- Provide more support for implementation of Flying Squad recommendations;
- Increase national networking opportunities at the regional and national levels by making travel supplement available yearly, and recurring.

### Some general considerations

Ongoing gentrification in cities increasing rents are leading more centres to explore the possibility of acquiring their spaces. How can this valid model and tangible means of economic development be facilitated, assisted?

ARCA can become a more forceful voice in raising awareness and support for artist-run centres by developing an advocacy toolkit, including form letters;

Produce a promotional flyer introducing ARCs in stimulating terms to enable people to better identify with their unique roles;

Map available resources in the network and promote sharing (on what scale?) Map innovative organisational models in the network for inspiration.

Government has the responsibility of sharing the pie more equitably, even as the pie increasingly resembles crumble.

Meeting adjourned at 6pm

Note taker: Anne Bertrand, director