

**Impact Strategy Summary**

**HRM Community Planning  
and Economic Development  
Standing Committee**

**TURRET**

**ARTS**

**SPACE**

**Mi'kma'ki is the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq Nation.**

This territory is covered by the Treaties of Peace and Friendship between the Mi'kmaq and Wolastoqiyik Nations and the British Crown, first signed in 1725, which sets out enduring obligations for all of us.

**The Turret Arts Space embraces its role as a participant in these treaties and strives to build good relations.**



The new **Turret Arts Space** will house a critically engaged community where youth, artists, and the public can connect and thrive in a space that is **physically, economically, and culturally accessible**

Our Purpose

**To transform social hierarchies and support participation in artistic culture and society.**





**Values:**

**Creativity and  
Experimentation**

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**Accessibility**

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**Co-operation**



# Our Role and Responsibility

## LANDLORD

- A **sustainable economic model** with a 20-year horizon
- **Facilities management**
- Two critical arts and social purpose charities as **Anchor Tenants with protected rental rates** (less than 50% of market rent in downtown Halifax)
- One **commercial café tenant**
- Many **community rentals** for office and event space

## PROGRAMS

- **Turret Learning Center: professional development, workshops, one-on-one art management services**
- **Public Presentations:** exhibitions, art installations, and performances, throughout the building and virtually.
- **Artistic Residencies:** through the multi-disciplinary Art Studio.
- **Public Art:** indoor and outdoor galleries

## STEWARD

- **Queer Heritage Interpretive Site:** permanent and rotating art exhibitions expressing themes of the Queer Heritage of 1588 Barrington Street



# Anchor Tenants and Community

## The Khyber Centre for the Arts

**ANNUALLY** over 2000 audience members

- over 30 public events
- 6 exhibitions
- 3 residencies
- Publications, virtual events, and workshops



## Leave Out Violence Nova Scotia

**ANNUALLY** over 300 youth participants

- Programming that serves youth in HRM, Sipekne'katik First Nations, Membertou First Nations, Dartmouth, and Preston
- One-on-One Support as well as a **24/7 On-Call Crisis Support Services**

Greater  
than  
anything



Turret, The Khyber, LOVE NS all have mandates which service the 2SLGBTQIA+ community

# Expertise, Diligence, Perseverance

- Team of **expert consultants**, each with 10-20 years of experience
- **Co-operative Public Funding Strategy**
- **Governance Framework Model**
- High-level **Operational, Programming, and Revenue Model**
- **Proforma and Financial Model** showing economic feasibility for a 20-year horizon
- Initiating engagement with **Queer heritage knowledge keepers**
- **Branding and Marketing**
- **Accessible and inclusive design**
- **Functional Program, Schematic Design, Design Development**
- **Class 'D', 'C' and 'B' Cost Estimates**
- **Partial abatement of Hazardous Materials** to make the building 'Safe to Enter'

TURRET ARTS SPACE

# Economic Collaboration

**\$1 million raised** for Design, Planning, and Preliminary Abatement of Hazardous Materials

Funded by Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, Canadian Heritage, Community Business Development Corporation, Halifax Regional Municipality, and Nova Scotia Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage.

Canada 

 NOVA SCOTIA

HALIFAX



TURRET ARTS SPACE

# Impact Alignment

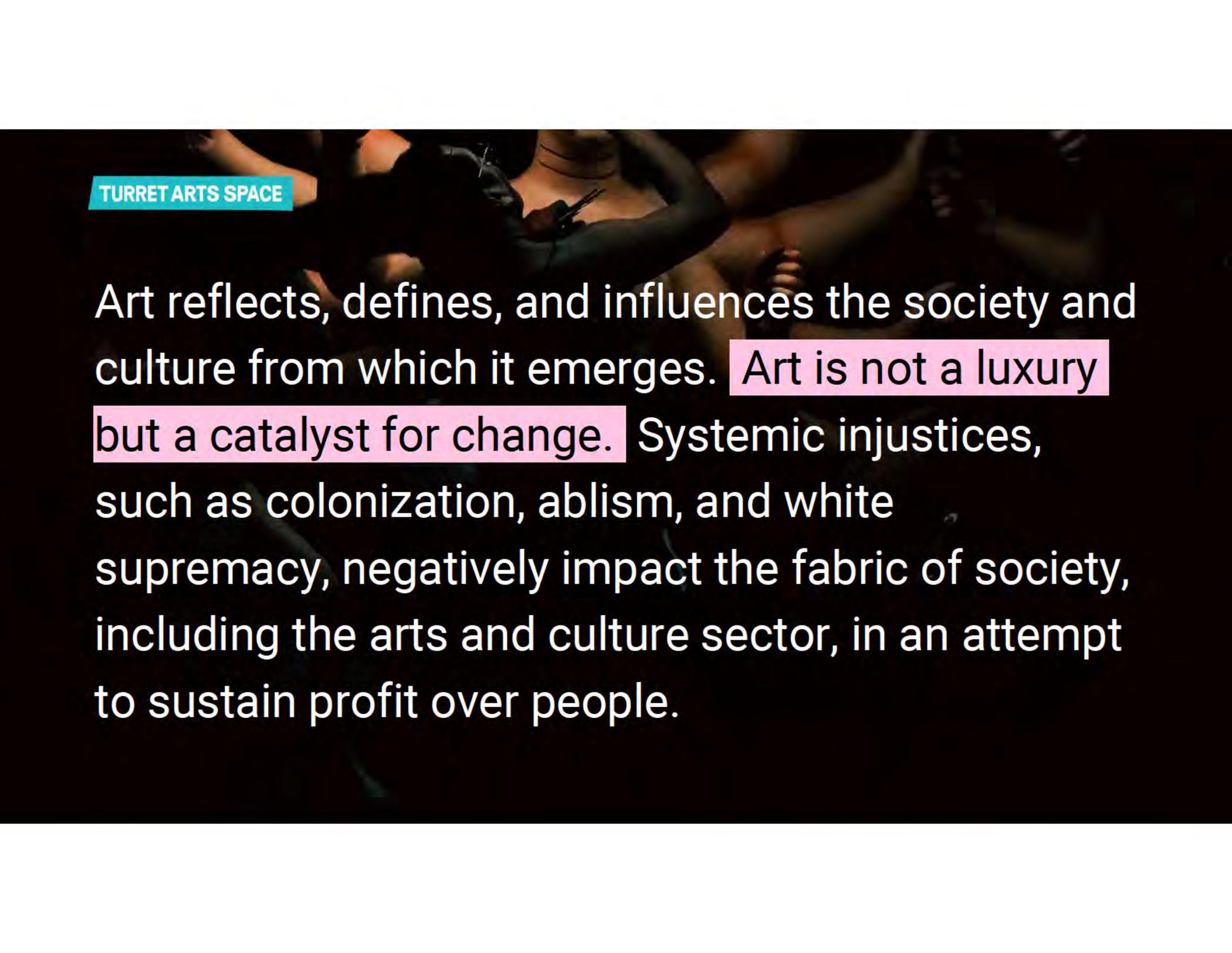
## HALIFAX

- **SHARING OUR STORIES** The Halifax Regional Municipality's Culture and Heritage Priorities Plan 2023
- **People.Planet.Prosperty** Halifax's Inclusive Economic Strategy 2022-27
- **Halifax Regional Integrated Tourism Master Plan 2021** (HRM, ACOA, Discover Halifax)
- **2022-2024 Youth Service Plan** "A Strategic Vision for Youth Services" (HRM)
- **Halifax Strategic Priorities** 2021-25



*Turret Arts Space is named in Downtown Halifax Business Commission **Vision 2030** and the new **Integrated Tourism Master Plan 2030** (Discover Halifax, HRM, ACOA) scheduled for completion in 2025.*





TURRET ARTS SPACE

Art reflects, defines, and influences the society and culture from which it emerges. Art is not a luxury but a catalyst for change. Systemic injustices, such as colonization, ablism, and white supremacy, negatively impact the fabric of society, including the arts and culture sector, in an attempt to sustain profit over people.

# An Urgent Need for Expansion in the Arts, Culture and Social Spaces

## **PROBLEM 1:**

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Public commemorations have ignored deserving histories, discouraging community participation

## **PROBLEM 2:**

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Arts and culture workers are left behind by the systems that should support them

## **PROBLEM 3:**

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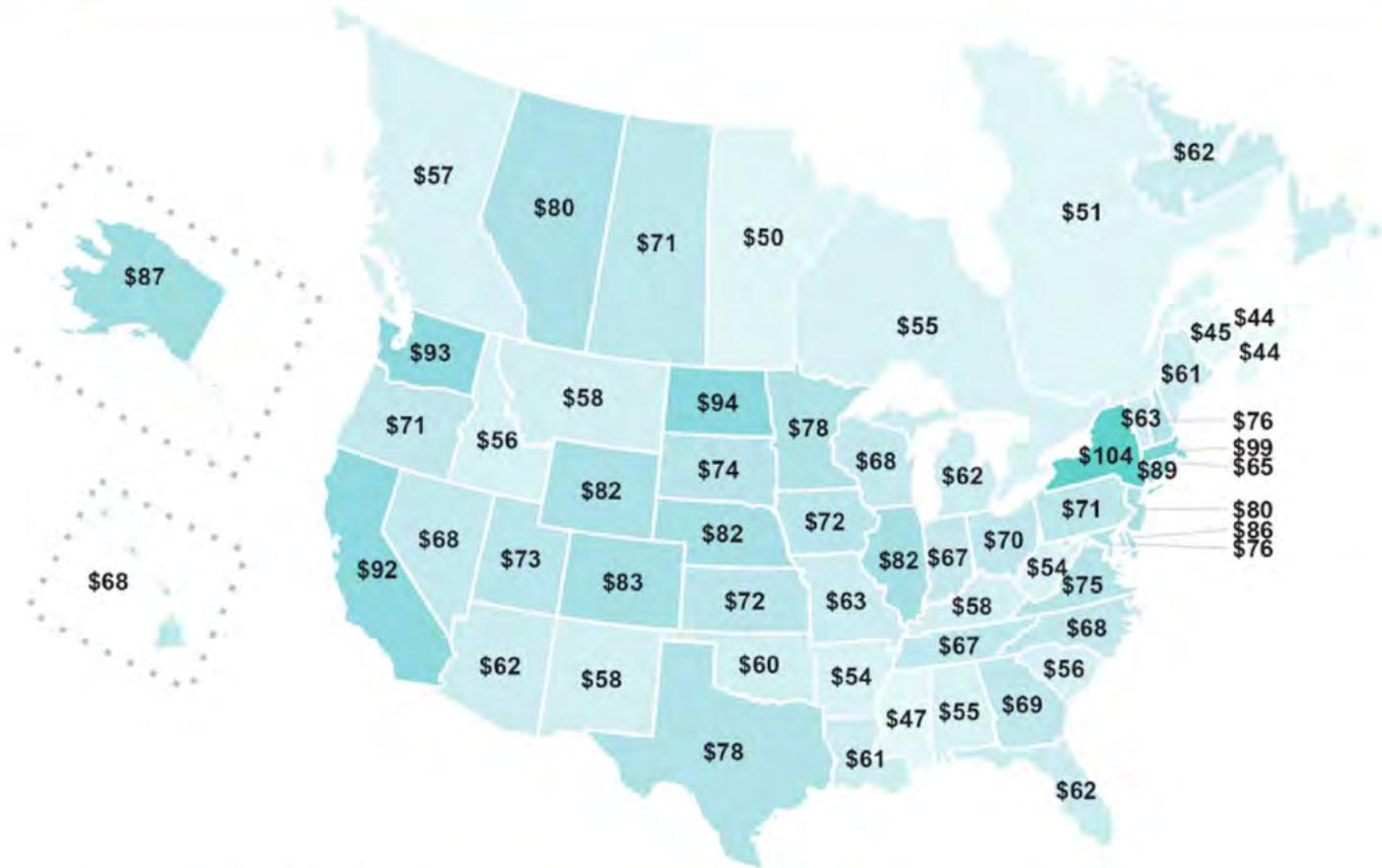
Downtown Halifax is growing at an unprecedented rate, but the cultural spaces that create community are disappearing



# Cumulative Effect

→ **Nova Scotia's productivity trails the rest of North America...**

## GDP per Capita in 2022



Trevor Tombe, "As productivity plunges, Ontario and Alabama now have the same per capita GDP," *The Hub*, commentary, 15 June 2023

## TURRET ARTS SPACE

# PROBLEM 1: Downtown Halifax is growing at an unprecedented rate, but the cultural spaces that create community are disappearing

### LAST FIVE YEARS

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*Hussey, Greenberg, Robinson, Sichel, 2023. Economic and Cultural Impact Assessment for Turret Arts Space Society*

### NEXT FIVE YEARS

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*Downtown Halifax Business Commission, 2023. State of the Downtown 2023 Report*

### NEXT TEN YEARS

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*Downtown Halifax Business Commission, 2023. State of the Downtown 2023 Report*

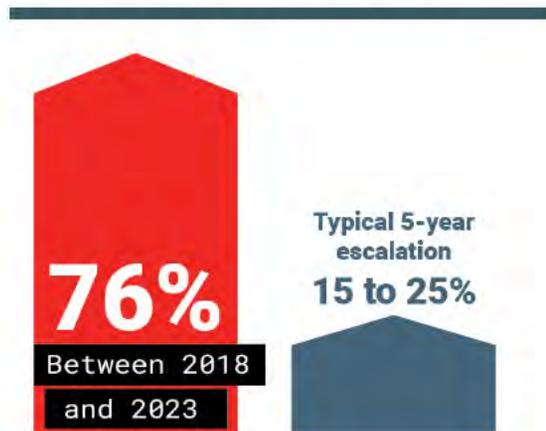
## TURRET ARTS SPACE

# PROBLEM 1: Downtown Halifax is growing at an unprecedented rate, but the cultural spaces that create community are disappearing

### INVENTORY OF EXISTING ARTS AND CULTURE SPACES

- Largely **physically or economically inaccessible**
- Largely **not of a professional quality**
- **Deficit is recognized** by HRM, Province, Discover Halifax, and Downtown Halifax Business Commission

### UNPRECEDENTED CONSTRUCTION COST ESCALATION IN HRM



Estimated by Cost Consultant, QSolv, May 2022

→ **Population growth needs cultural growth to maintain healthy quality of life**

**PROBLEM 2: Arts and culture workers are left behind by the systems that should support them**

→ ***There is a Provincial deficit in the economic contribution of the cultural sector***

## 2021 Cultural Products Per Capita



Trade of Culture and Sport Products Report (TCSP, 2021)

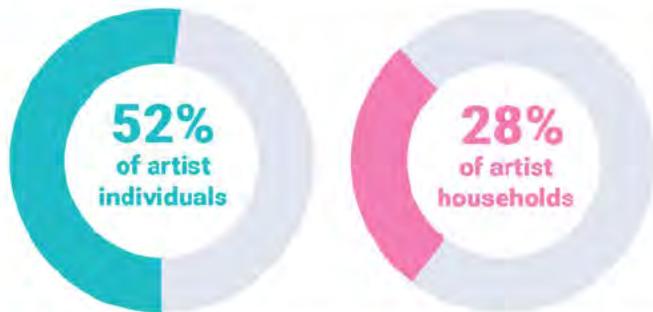
Cultural products are defined as art, films, music, crafts and broadcasting

## TURRET ARTS SPACE

# PROBLEM 2: Arts and culture workers are left behind by the systems that should support them

## Cycles of poverty

### NOVA SCOTIAN ARTISTS



are below the poverty line

2018 poverty threshold, 120 Professional Nova Scotian Artists Surveyed, Sept 2020

### MEDIAN TOTAL INCOME IN NOVA SCOTIA

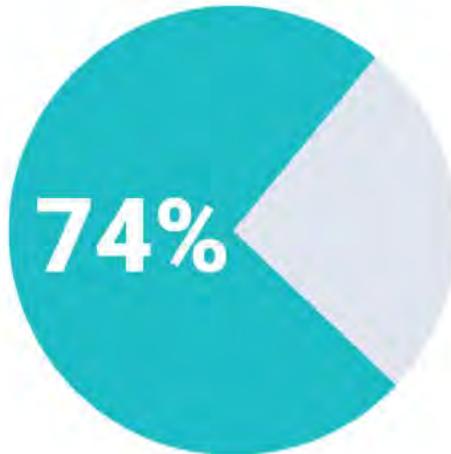


2021 Census

## PROBLEM 2: Arts and culture workers are left behind by the systems that should support them

### RESULTS FROM THE ARTISTS IN MIND SURVEY

Those who have **worked as artists** in Nova Scotia that have at some point **needed mental health supports**.



*Visual Arts Nova Scotia, 2022, 313 respondents*

### What challenges most affected their wellbeing and mental health?



## PROBLEM 3: Public commemorations have ignored deserving histories, which deters community participation

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Built Heritage needs a **tremendous amount of care** and planning to effectively activate.

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Important histories from **equity-seeking communities** have not yet been narrated **publicly**.

Maintained informally through **oral story-telling** and **decentralized and personal archives**.

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Stories of activation *against exclusion*, **are being excluded.**



## PROBLEM 3: Public commemorations have ignored deserving histories, which deters community participation



The Turret Club was "iconic" and "famous across Canada," but its pivotal history has no public or site-specific commemoration.

“

TURRET ARTS SPACE

“Queer spaces in the 1970s were rare: usually controlled by others, seeking profit rather than self-respect. The Turret Club was a gathering space for all genders, run by a diverse grass-roots organisation funding political and social services. It was remarkable, not just locally, but nationally and internationally: an almost unique example of community self-empowerment. The same building housed a Queer bookstore and health services to gay men during the AIDS crisis. Four decades on, people remember the Turret Club like a lost loved one. It had a beat, and you could dance to it.”

**Robin Metcalfe**

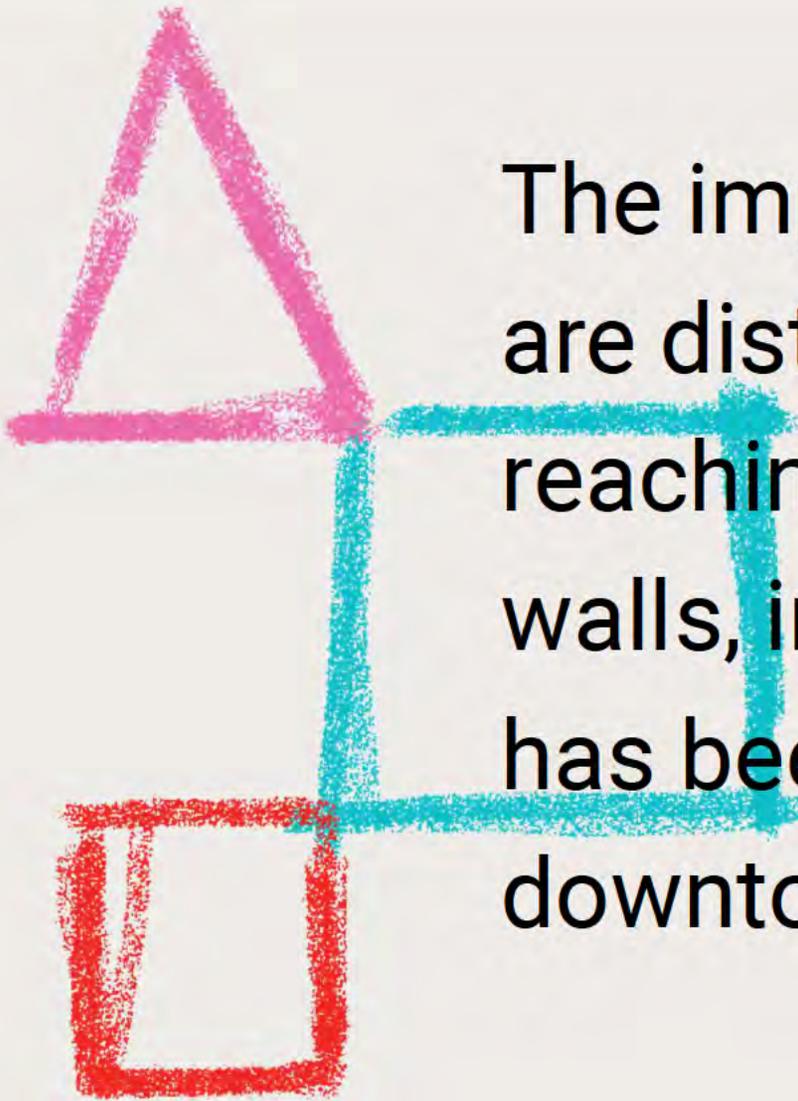
Independent Writer, Curator,  
and Queer Community Historian

*Former Chairperson of the Gay Alliance for Equality (GAE) and member of the Turret Management Committee of the GAE*

*Former Chair of the Executive Committee for The Khyber Arts Society (now The Khyber Centre for the Arts)*

*Founding President of the 1588 Barrington Building Preservation Society (now the Turret Arts Space Society)*

*Former member of Friends of the Khyber*



The impacts of Turret Arts Space are distinct, dynamic, and reaching beyond the four heritage walls, instilling a life force that has been missing from Halifax's downtown core.

## TURRET ARTS SPACE

4th Floor: Turret Internationally recognized Artist Residency Program

3rd Floor: Leave Out Violence Nova Scotia (LOVE NS)

2nd Floor: The Khyber Centre for the Arts

1st Floor: Broad exposure to the arts

Turret is developing a vision for each floor.



Schematic Rendering:  
Abbott Brown Architects

Impact: What We Do

01  Art

02 Mentorship

03 Public

PROBLEM 1: Downtown Halifax is growing at an unprecedented rate, but the cultural spaces that create community are disappearing

**RESPONSE: Turret Arts Space provides an accessible cultural hub that attracts artists, youth, and visitors of all ages to Halifax.**

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1A. Strengthen  
the Dynamism of  
Downtown

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1B. Contribute to  
Economic Growth

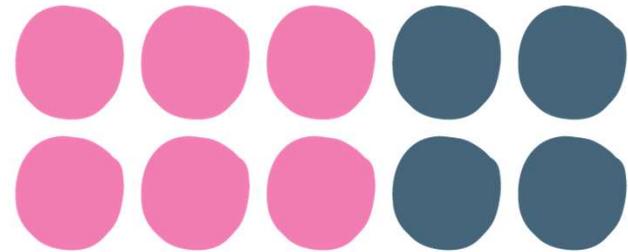
# 1A. Strengthen the Dynamism of Downtown

## CONNECTIVE CORRIDOR

- Art Gallery of Nova Scotia,
- NSCAD University,
- Dalhousie University Arts Centre,
- Saint Mary's University Art Gallery

## DEVELOPMENT OF AN ARTS DISTRICT

## DOWNTOWN POPULATION GROWTH ALIGNS WITH TURRET'S TARGET DEMOGRAPHIC



**60% of the downtown population is between the ages of 15 and 34**

*Downtown Halifax Business Commission, 2023.  
State of the Downtown 2023 Report*

People aged 15-34 were more likely to spend more money on arts and culture than other age groups, following the height of pandemic restrictions

*Hill Strategies, 2021. Public engagement in the arts emerging from the COVID-19 pandemic: Canadian analysis and regional differences*

## 1B. Contribute to Economic Growth

The Turret Arts Space is a **generator for arts, culture, professional development, creative industry, and leadership** – driving vitality, impact, and economic growth



PEOPLE.PLANET.PROSPERITY.  
HALIFAX'S INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC  
STRATEGY, 2022-2027

### 5 YEARS:

Grow GDP to **\$25 billion**

Increase population to **525,000**

Grow the labour force to **310,000**

### 15-YEARS:

Grow GDP to **\$32 billion**

Increase population to **650,000**

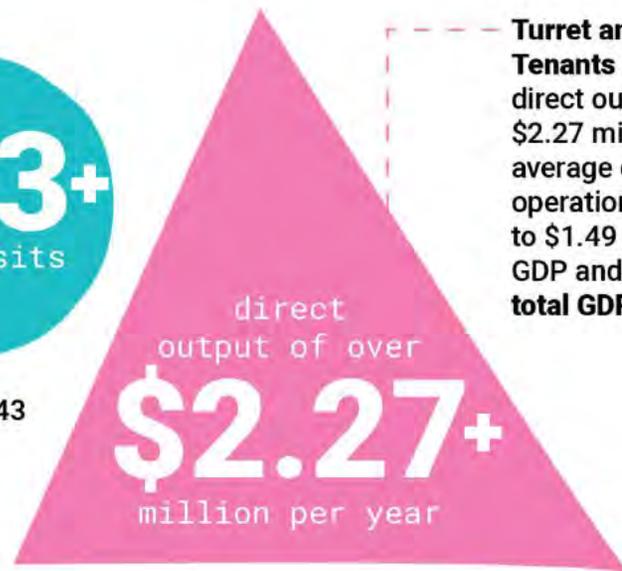
# 1B. Contribute to Economic Growth

## TURRET ECONOMIC IMPACT DATA HIGHLIGHTS

Turret Arts Space will have an estimated 233 daily visits, or **72,704 visits each year.**



An estimated 43 total full-time jobs will be sustained.



**Turret and its Anchor Tenants** will produce direct output of over \$2.27 million per year, on average over 6 years of operation. This equates to \$1.49 million in direct GDP and **\$2.41 million in total GDP, per year.**



Indirect and induced GDP make up almost \$1 million of total annual GDP from this initiative, which **shows the trickle impact the Turret Arts Space** will have on the surrounding and related communities.

PROBLEM 2: Arts and culture workers are left behind by the systems that should support them

**RESPONSE: Turret Arts Space drives economic impact through the culture sector by building artists' livelihoods.**

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2A. Generate,  
Attract, Retain  
and Develop  
Talent

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2B. Increase  
Exportability of  
Arts and Culture



## 2A. Generate, Attract, Retain, and Develop Talent

The full life cycle of  
the artist is supported

The goal?

**Artistic Livelihood**

- **Underserved and at-risk youth** enter through LOVE NS
- **Emerging artists** enter through The Khyber, locally, nationally, and internationally
- **Established artists** enter through the internationally recognized artist residency program
- The Turret Arts Space Learning Centre brings **opportunities for skills-building, knowledge sharing, and overall support.**

## 2B. Increase Exportability of Arts and Culture

- **Exportability of artwork is a career-defining milestone** for an artist, increasing the value of their work and giving them access to new funding sources.
- **Importing internationally recognized artists** through the residency program connects the region to an international network.
- Local artists are exposed to international work, building authentic connections and relationships, **expanding the network for exportability.**
- Operational Service Provider IOTA Studios / Institute brings **experience with international import / export**

Exports

National Average

\$478.11 per capita

Nova Scotia

\$135.00 per capita

(TCSP, 2021)

PROBLEM 3: Public commemorations have ignored deserving histories, which deters community participation

**RESPONSE: Turret Arts Space aims to designate 1588 Barrington as Canada's first Queer Heritage Site and set a national precedent for stewardship.**

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3A. Stewardship  
of Queer Heritage

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3B. Build and  
Enhance Key  
Demand Generators

## 3A. Stewardship of Queer Heritage

*HRM's Culture and Heritage Priorities Plan SHARING OUR STORIES*

→ **STEWARDSHIP: protection and nurturing of culture and heritage assets, tangible and intangible.**

The **ACTION PLAN** includes:

### **EMPOWERING COMMUNITY**

Identification, commemoration and celebration of 2SLGBTQIA+ history and landmarks

### **CO-CREATION**

Improve heritage conservation support for a more diverse range of cultures

**Turret is seeking co-creative partnerships with heritage agencies**

## 3A. Stewardship of Queer Heritage

The Queer Heritage Concept Plan is under development, subject to thorough public consultation in the next project phase. The Team:

- **Robin Metcalfe** – founding President of the Turret Arts Space Society, former President of the Gay Alliance for Equality, curator, writer, researcher, archivist, and cultural activist.
- **Emily Davidson** – current Director and former President of Turret Arts Space Society, artist, writer, researcher, designer, and activist.
- **Chris Cochrane** – youth worker, educator, trans activist, public speaker, performance and drag artist
- **Margot Durling** – Brand and Space Designer, multi-disciplinary transgender artist, musician, performer
- **Excel Garay and Hannah Guinan** – co-Directors, Khyber Centre for the Arts

CONSULTATION BY IOTA Institute / Studios

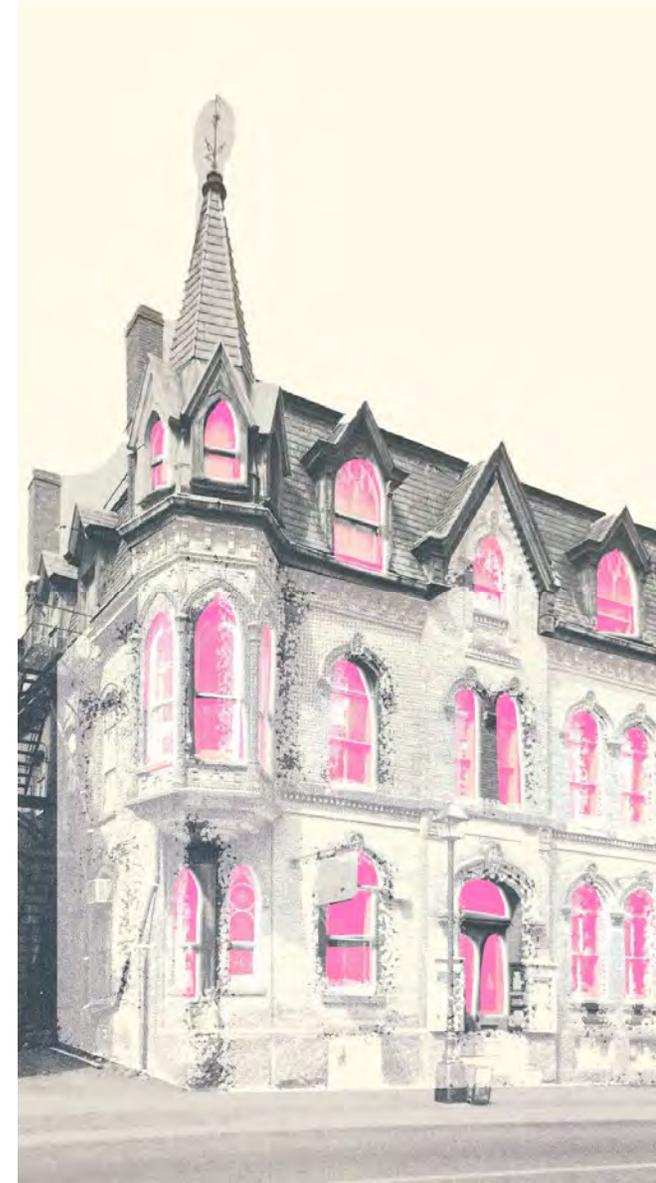
“The centre would be a place that, as the (Turret) pamphlet says, would “let all Nova Scotians know that we, the gay people of Nova Scotia, are taking our rightful place in the community, open and proud of our special identity.”

Excerpt from *Before the Parade* by Rebecca Rose, Chapter 5 – THE TURRET: A SPACE OF THEIR OWN

## 3B. Build and Enhance Key Demand Generators

The Halifax Regional Integrated Tourism Master Plan identifies **placemaking as a catalyst** for economic development, and “the stronger the meaning, the better the place”

*(co-created by HRM, ACOA, Discover Halifax, 2021)*



## 3B. Build and Enhance Key Demand Generators

- Includes iconic and historical places
- Adaptive re-use of a culturally significant property and ensures an active future
- Maximized engagement: **all seasons**, day and evening, intersectional, intergenerational

Aligned with:

**Arts District**

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**Interpretive Master Plan**

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**Cultural Facilities Plan**

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**Public Art Master Plan**

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We will always be seen, heard, and accessible, through safety, inclusivity, and affordability, in a prime location to serve HRM.

TURRET ARTS SPACE

# Dedication, Perseverance, and Sacrifice

Sweat equity and personal donation by the Turret Board has kept this project progressing.

**Emily Davidson** has been volunteering to the tune of \$50K per year of labour, for 10 years.



Photo: I'thandi Munro

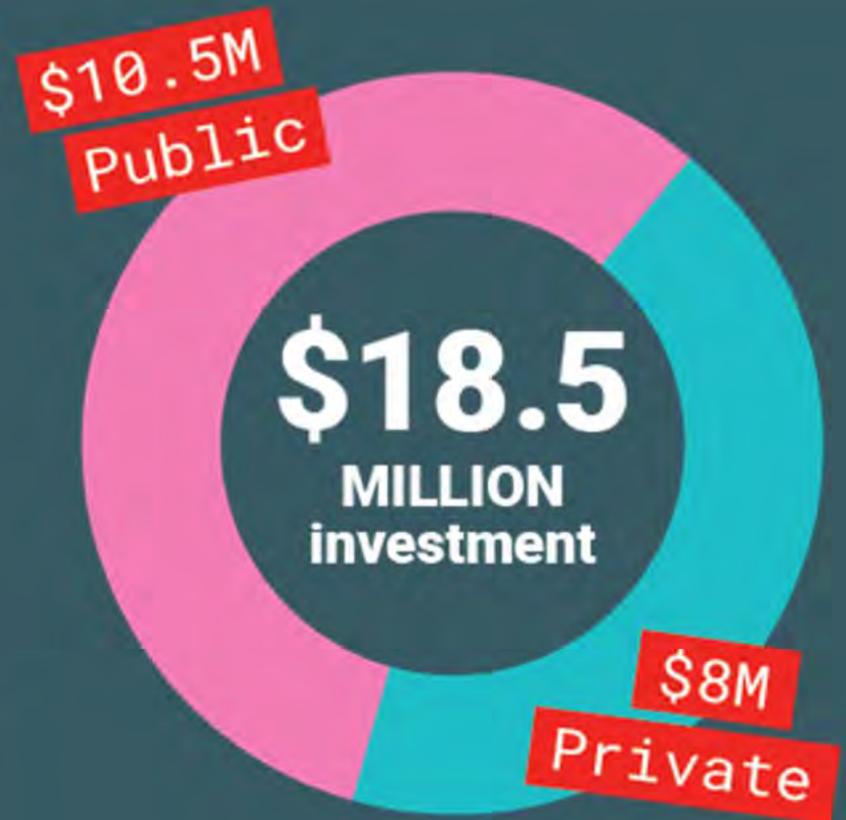
# Risks to the Solution

- Need to engage with the growth of the downtown, **or lose it**
- Unprecedented cost escalation exacerbates all issues:  
**THE TIME IS NOW**
- Funding delays lose cost efficiencies and **threaten team momentum**
- Potential simultaneous **elections**
- **Risk losing a heritage asset!! Environmental impacts** from unprecedented flooding events put the building at risk if left vacant
- The Anchor Tenants are key, established, cultural pillars but their **premises are lacking economic and physical accessibility**
- **Losing the opportunity** to set a precedent and show real cultural leadership in stewarding Queer Heritage

# Economic Collaboration

Project leverages **FEDERAL INVESTMENT** and **ACTIVATES PRIVATE INVESTMENT** across many critical community interests.

Financial Model shows how Turret can be **sustainable and thrive over a 20-year horizon with a blend of non-profit and profitable activities**



TURRET ARTS SPACE

## Economic Collaboration

Turret's economic model protects rental rates for **two critical arts and social purpose** charities for 20 years

Anchor Tenant rental rate is **less than 50% of market rent** in downtown Halifax

Greater  
than  
anything

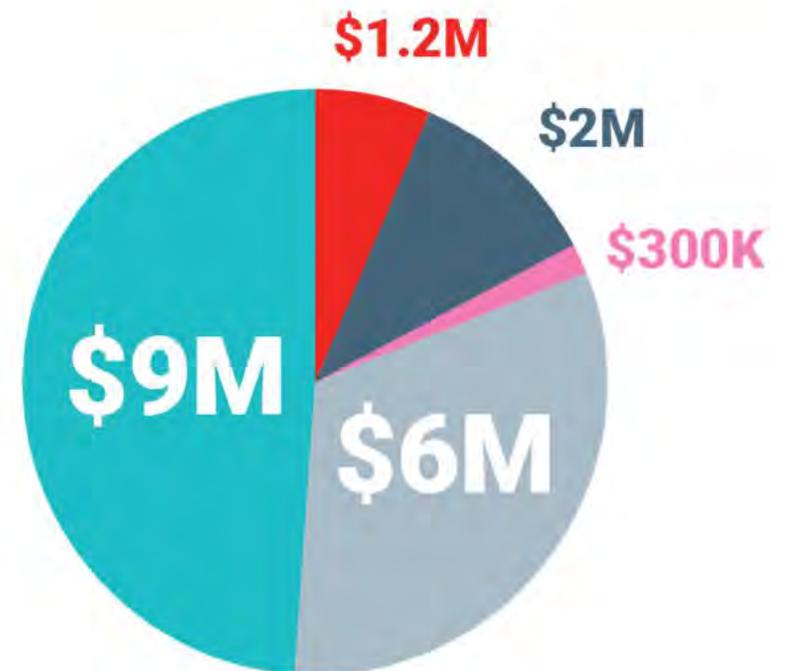
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# Economic Collaboration

## TOTAL BUDGET BREAKDOWN

- Construction Documents, Complete Abatement, Governance and Program Planning: **\$1.2 million**
- Operationalization Bridge Funding, to get to full Operating Revenues and Funding: **\$2 million**
- Queer Heritage Interpretation and Implementation: **\$300k**
- Shell, Structure, and Major Accessibility Interventions: **\$6 million**
- Systems, Interiors, and Equipment: **\$9 million**



# Request to HRM



## 1. INVESTMENT OF \$1.5 MILLION

<b>To get to Construction Tender “shovel ready” with a complete Operationalization Plan and Business Case, ready for implementation</b>	<b>\$1,221,000</b>
Complete Hazardous Materials Abatement, Site Security, Site Preparation, Insurance	\$233,000
Construction Documents and Interpretive Heritage Planning	\$380,000
Operationalization Planning and Funding Strategy	\$240,000
Communications and Marketing	\$35,000
Project Management and Strategic Planning	\$100,000
Legal, Accounting, Procurement Planning	\$45,000
Contingency/Risk (10%), Discounted Tax (7.5%)	\$188,000
<b>Operating Support while in-process (2024/2025, 2025/2026, 2026/2027 - Property Tax, Insurance, Interim Building Protection), with immediate injection of \$50k</b>	<b>\$150,000</b>
<b>Collaboration with HRM to develop Queer Heritage Designation Pilot and Building Ownership Model</b>	<b>\$130,000</b>

# Request to HRM



## 2. CO-CREATION PARTNERSHIP TO SET PRECEDENT FOR STEWARDSHIP OF QUEER HERITAGE

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Designate and interpret 1588 Barrington Street as the first Queer Heritage Site in Canada:

- HRM relief of Property Tax (already in place)
- Partnership for 100% of building maintenance
- **\$80k investment** (included in previous table) for the Turret Arts Space and team of researchers, community members, and consultants to **collaborate with HRM**
- Time and effort investment to collaborate on a pilot project to **set a national precedent**
- Completed in time for **Halifax to host Canada Pride, July 2027**
- **Maximize access to Federal funding programs** through Municipal partnership

# Request to HRM

## 3. DEVELOP A BUILDING OWNERSHIP SOLUTION



- Collaborate with Turret Arts Space Society to find the **most strategic and sustainable building ownership model**
- Consider the **two critical Anchor Tenants** and their future growth
- Consider creative solutions from **cities with a variety of cultural assets**
- **\$50k investment** (included in previous table) for the Turret Arts Space and team of researchers, consultants, and Anchor Tenants, to collaborate with HRM

# Request to HRM

## TIMELINE: CONCURRENT SEGMENTS



6 months

Design, hazardous materials abatement, tender

With a successful funding strategy, construction could begin in Fall 2025, making the building ready to open for Canada Pride 2027 in HALIFAX!!

Operationalization Planning and Funding Strategy, Communications and Marketing, Legal, Accounting, Procurement Planning

12 months



# Key Letters of Support



- Downtown Halifax Business Commission
- Discover Halifax
- Association of Nova Scotia Museums
- Former MP, Halifax, Andy Fillmore (current Mayor of Halifax)
- MLA, Halifax Citadel – Sable Island, Lisa Lachance
- MLA, Dartmouth North, Sue Leblanc
- Khyber Centre for the Arts
- Leave Out Violence Nova Scotia
- Prismatic Arts Festival, neighbouring resident company at Neptune Theatre

August 2024

To Whom it May Concern,

Downtown Halifax Business Commission (DHBC) wishes to offer its full support to the Turret Arts Space Society and its comprehensive plan for the redevelopment of 1588 Barrington Street (formerly "The Khyber").

DHBC represents the collective voice of 1600 businesses and landlords in Downtown Halifax, the economic, cultural, and historical heartbeat of Atlantic Canada. We focus on the 4 areas of advocacy, marketing & communication, membership engagement, and placemaking.

For generations, the Khyber has been the centrepiece of Barrington Street, and this was reinforced in 2009's Heritage Conservation District, when the iconic turret literally became the poster child for a revitalized Barrington Street, the heart of Downtown.

DHBC, with consultation from hundreds of stakeholders, experts, and the public, launched Downtown Halifax Vision 2030, which articulated 4 transformational moves, and 17 recommendations to take our urban core in a bold new direction. The work of the Turret Arts Space Society is perfectly aligned with this vision. In particular, a focus on arts and culture, sustainability, diversity, and historic preservation, are epitomized in their plans.

This important project is critical to the future of Halifax as not only a cultural destination, but as a major supporting entity for the artistic livelihood of Halifax's many talented artists and artistic professionals, present and future.

Sincerely,

**Redacted**

Paul MacKinnon  
CEO  
Downtown Halifax Business Commission

1588 BARRINGTON STREET, SUITE 104, HALIFAX, NS B3J 3X7  
P (902) 423-6658, F (902) 429-0865  
info@downtownhalifax.ca  
www.downtownhalifax.ca



CIBC Building  
1809 Barrington Street, Suite 1004  
Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada  
B3J 3K8  
[discoverhalifaxns.com](http://discoverhalifaxns.com)

August 29, 2024

**RE: Support for the redevelopment of 1588 Barrington Street (“the Khyber”) building.**

Dear Turret Arts Space Society & Potential Funding Partners,

Discover Halifax supports and recognizes the potential of the Turret Arts Space Society's redevelopment project at 1588 Barrington Street (the “Khyber Building”). Their vision of a vibrant, multi-faceted cultural hub aligns with several of Discover Halifax's key objectives, including support for a dynamic arts scene, heritage conservation, and inclusivity.

The Khyber Building holds deep significance for Halifax's LGBTQ+ community. In the 1970s and 1980s, it was home to the Gay Alliance for Equality, which operated the Turret club, a pivotal space for the queer community. In the 1990s and early 2000s, the Khyber became a vital hub for the city's arts and music scenes, managed by the Khyber Arts Society. It hosted numerous exhibitions and performances by iconic artists and musicians. The redevelopment will honour this legacy through an interpretive installation, ensuring this part of Halifax's queer history is celebrated and shared with future generations while maintaining the use of the building as a critical gathering place, a centre of creation, and ensuring its future as a hub of creativity, culture, and community.

At Discover Halifax, we are committed to enhancing demand generators for arts, entertainment, and heritage conservation. Projects like the Turret Arts Space play an integral role in advancing these goals. By fostering creativity and providing spaces for diverse communities, including the LGBTQ+ community, to celebrate their identities and heritage, this initiative contributes to Halifax's tourism landscape.

Our 2019 Halifax Regional Integrated Tourism Master Plan (ITMP) has guided tourism growth and economic success. As we move toward ITMP 2030, we will continue to prioritize collaboration and community engagement to ensure our strategies align with the diverse needs of Halifax's communities. The Turret Arts Space redevelopment supports these objectives by fostering cultural vitality and contributing to key tourism assets.

We are excited about the potential of the Turret Arts Space to become a significant cultural driver and destination. Its dedication to supporting artists and the creative community aligns with our ongoing efforts to develop tourism assets that benefit the entire region. We appreciate the vital role that such projects play in both the cultural and economic ecosystems of Halifax, and we remain committed to supporting these efforts.

Sincerely,



**Redacted**

Brian White, VP Destination Development  
Discover Halifax



**Redacted**

Mark Teeple, VP Festivals and Events  
Discover Halifax

Discover Halifax is a Rainbow Registered and 2SLGBTQAI+ allied organization



# ASSOCIATION OF NOVA SCOTIA MUSEUMS

1113 MARGINAL RD HALIFAX NS B3H 4P7 / PH 902-423-4677 / FX 902-422-0881 / WWW.ANSM.NS.CA

February 19, 2025

To Whom it May Concern,

The Association of Nova Scotia Museums (ANSM) is enthusiastic about the prospect of the Turret Arts Space setting a precedent in Queer Heritage Stewardship, and looks forward to collaborating with Turret Arts Space and other stakeholders on piloting this initiative, which aligns strongly with HRM's Culture and Heritage Priorities Plan SHARING OUR STORIES. This initiative EMPOWERS COMMUNITY and approaches heritage conservation from a lens of CO-CREATION, which is critical in telling stories of equity-seeking communities.

Leading the country in Queer Heritage Stewardship would be an incredible accomplishment for Halifax, and the city has the opportunity to demonstrate their allyship and be a beacon of support, all in time for Canada Pride 2027, which will be hosted by Halifax. ANSM is hopeful that HRM City Council partners with the Turret Arts Space for the unprecedented Queer Heritage Site, recognizing its potential as critical culture and heritage hub in the heart of the city.

ANSM has long been a champion for Equity-seeking communities, through our ongoing advocacy work and our programming. This is a great opportunity to bring forth a space in Halifax that will celebrate and accurately reflect Queer history in the city.

Sincerely,

**Redacted**

Devin Casario

Executive Director

Association of Nova Scotia Museums

Halifax Community Office:  
808-1888 Brunswick St.  
Halifax, NS, B3J 3J8  
Tel: 902 426 8691  
Fax: 902 426 8693  
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andy.fillmore@parl.gc.ca

# Andy Fillmore, MP

Halifax

August 13, 2021

**Re: Expression of Support to the Turret Arts Space Society for the 1588 Barrington Street redevelopment project.**

To Whom it May Concern,

As the Member of Parliament for Halifax, I am pleased to write this renewed letter of continued support for the Turret Arts Space Society's ongoing efforts toward redeveloping 1588 Barrington Street (formerly known as the Khyber Building).

Turret Arts Space Society is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to restoring the Khyber Building, leading in providing accessible building access for community members, and - championing affordable rental spaces for not-for-profit arts organizations right in downtown halifax.

Turret Arts Space Society remains interested in the development of 1588 Barrington Street as a multipurpose arts space to dissolve barriers for marginalized members of the artistic community by offering a culturally inclusive space and to build a multi-purpose arts hub that services Halifax and the greater creative Maritime community.

We must continue to support the creation of an accessible and vibrant cultural space that celebrates Halifax's artistic community and establishes a safe space where community members can connect. The Khyber Building has the potential to act as an inclusive and sustainable public space where we can foster culture and community.

I hope that you will consider opportunities to create this vibrant cultural space, please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

**Redacted**

Andy Fillmore, MP  
Halifax



House of Assembly  
*Nova Scotia*

## DEBATES AND PROCEEDINGS

**Speaker: Honourable Danielle Barkhouse**

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### First Session

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2024**

**[L. Lachance](#) » 9366**

### **TURRET ARTS SPACE SOC.: COM. SERV. - RECOG.**

[LISA LACHANCE](#) « » : Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the tireless advocacy of the Turret Arts Space Society to develop a sustainable, adaptive reuse plan for 1588 Barrington Street. The building is a heritage and cultural icon, with former beloved identities as the Turret Club, which was the community-led headquarters of the Gay Alliance for Equality and The Khyber Centre for the Arts.

The new Turret Arts Space will house a critically engaged community, where youth, artists, and the public can connect and thrive in a space that is physically, economically, and culturally accessible. Over the last decade, the society has secured \$1 million in public funds and achieved key milestones, including partial hazardous material abatement and designing and developing architectural plans and a 20-year sustainable financial model. The detailed plan for the Turret Arts Space will be publicly launched in October 2024.

I am excited to see the Turret Arts Space come alive in downtown Halifax.



July 15, 2021

To Whom it May Concern,

I am please to write in support of the Turret Arts Space Society's application for funding with Invest Nova Scotia.

The Turret Arts Space Society has an exciting plan to create accessible, community-owned arts space in the heart of Halifax. Their plan to create a culturally inclusive and welcoming, barrier-free, affordable space is very much needed.

As you know, many artists and arts organizations will emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic in an even more precarious or uncertain position. A distinct lack of affordable and accessible arts space in Nova Scotia where artists, creators and arts organizations can host, perform, gather, and create, adds to the challenges faced by artists and arts groups.

The kind of arts infrastructure being proposed by the Turret Arts Space Society is critical to the arts and culture sector - a sector whose contribution to the vibrancy and livability of our province is invaluable.

I am very pleased to support this project and hope you will too.

Sincerely,

**Redacted**

Susan Leblanc  
MLA Dartmouth North  
NSNDP Spokesperson for Communities, Culture and Heritage



NOVA SCOTIA  
**NDP CAUCUS**

5151 GEORGE STREET, SUITE 601  
HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA B3J 1M5  
P: 902-424-4134 | 1-888-247-0448

# THE KHYBER

October 28th, 2022

**Re: Expression of Partnership Commitment to the Turret Arts Space Society for 1588 Barrington Street redevelopment project**

To Whom It May Concern,

As a representative of Khyber Centre for the Arts I am pleased to write this letter of partnership commitment with the Turret Arts Space Society. The Khyber can enthusiastically commit to becoming an anchor tenant at 1588 Barrington St. which, according to the proposed business plan, entitles us to rental space of the second floor within the building, anchor tenant perks such as discounts on multipurpose room and shared meeting room booking fees, as well as a vote at the society's Annual General Meeting.

Established in 1995, the Khyber Centre for the Arts is a queer artist-run centre that is dedicated to responsively supporting and equitably compensating local, national, and international artists while presenting public programs, artist studios, exhibitions, and events in Kjiptuk. We are a not-for-profit charity that grew out of an arts facility developed in 1994 by the No Money Down Cultural Society, who were a group of artists that negotiated an agreement with the City of Halifax to maintain the city-owned and then unoccupied 3-floor heritage building located at 1588 Barrington St. The Khyber remains active and keenly invested in the development of this building, our old home of nearly 20 years, and are beyond thrilled to imagine a new and multipurpose space for community, art, and expression with the Turret.

Space precarity is an issue for many arts and not-for-profit organizations, including the Khyber. Returning to 1588 Barrington St. as well as having more space for our growing operations and programming would be transformative for us and many communities. We are continuing to expand as an organization, offering public programs 12 months of the year, and employing queer artists in full-time, part-time, and contracted artistic and administrative positions. Having this historic, relevant, collaborative, and expansive space to utilize would nurture the Khyber's growth, employ more artists, and create much needed opportunities within the creative sector.

Our centre presents non-commercial artwork, offers a self-led platform for artists and their practices, and aims to disrupt systemic causes of exclusion, tokenism, and power imbalances

in the arts. We present art in a wide variety of disciplines, work to challenge traditional gallery conventions, and encourage public understanding and appreciation of contemporary art practices and presentation. The second floor of the building has the capacity to hold our gallery, licensed bar, flexible programming and studio space for exhibitions, residencies, and events. Accessing more physical space and greater resources through the Turret Arts Space will support the creation of new works, and greater opportunities for artists to exhibit, perform, gather, and share with the public.

The Khyber is in full support of and appreciates efforts and the initiative that the Turret is advocating for and working very hard towards. Their vision of creating a new and welcoming space in our city for creativity and community cultivating is immensely exciting to us. We look forward to further supporting artists and being housed alongside incredible organizations where new and natural community building, solidarity, and partnerships are a given.

Sincerely,

**Redacted**

Hannah Guinan (any pronouns)

Director, The Khyber Centre for the Arts

[hannah@khyber.ca](mailto:hannah@khyber.ca)

## **Engage Youth. Build Bridges. Realize Potential.**

**Greater  
than a  
Program**

**LOVE**

### Expression of Support and Commitment to the Turret Arts Space Society for the 1588 Barrington Street Redevelopment

September 6, 2022

**Founder**

Twinkle Rudberg

**Nova Scotia Executive Director**

Dennis Adams, RSW

**Chair of the Nova Scotia Board**

Sobaz Benjamin

**Honourary Chair of the Nova Scotia  
Board**

Dr. Richard Goldbloom

**Nova Scotia Board**

Jesse Sharratt (Vice-Chair)

Nikki Baxter (Treasurer)

Daria Fantaci (Secretary)

Shawntay Rose Dann (Youth

Representative)

Shannon Hansen

George Finyanos

Martez Wiggins

To Whom it May Concern,

As the Chief Harmony Officer/Executive Director of Leave Out Violence Nova Scotia (LOVE NS), I am pleased to write this letter of support and intention of commitment to the Turret Arts Space Society's ongoing efforts toward redeveloping 1588 Barrington Street (formerly known as the Khyber Building). LOVE NS enthusiastically commits to becoming an anchor tenant within the building which will entitle us to rental space within the building, use of shared facilities, and a seat on the board of the Society. In fact, we are so excited about the potential of Turret Arts Space as a home-base for LOVE NS, that we are working with the Society to explore coming on as a Junior Partner with an increased stake in the project.

LOVE NS supports youth to thrive through programs and healthy relationships that build emotional intelligence and help overcome the challenges they face. Our healthy relationships are built on 4 valued principles: Real, Open, Adaptable, and Reliable, all with the goal of positive impact and youth empowerment. LOVE NS provides 400 hours of youth programming and 1,200 hours of one-on-one support to youth annually in Nova Scotia (Halifax, Membertou and Sipekne'katik First Nations). Joining the Turret Arts Space will allow us to grow our operation to support even more youth throughout the province.

The downtown location of the Turret Arts Space is particularly appealing to LOVE NS. Our Halifax programs serve youth who arrive by public transit from all over the city. Becoming an anchor tenant at the Turret Arts Space will secure our future back in the heart of downtown Halifax which increases the accessibility of our programs to our youth. Turret Art Space's vision for equity, inclusion, and the end of systemic racism within the arts and the community speaks alongside our vision and values within our organization. There are exciting new opportunities for collaboration with other like-minded organizations within the Turret Arts Space, especially for our introductory youth Media Arts Program.

Our intention to commit to the Turret Art Space was sparked by the leadership at the helm of the project and by the uniqueness of the building itself. Imagine how different Halifax could be with LOVE NS youth and artists activating a heritage building downtown together? The Turret Art Space's team of established professionals have expressed themselves to be organized, tenacious, and forward-thinking. LOVE NS's commitment is subject to the outcome and terms of

the revised Schematic Design, Governance Plan, and Business Plan, which are now, with our consultation, being adjusted to include our organization as an anchor tenant, with the possibility of becoming a Junior Partner in ownership of the building.

Respectfully,

**Redacted**

Dennis Adams, RSW  
Chief Harmony Officer/Executive Director  
Dennis@lovenovascotia.ca



PERFORMANCE ▶ NETWORKING ▶ FORWARD THINKING

Oct 22nd 2024

**Re: Letter of Support for Turret Arts Space from Prismatic Arts Society**

To Whom It May Concern,

The Prismatic Arts Society wholeheartedly supports the Turret Arts Space Society and its comprehensive plan for redeveloping 1588 Barrington Street (formerly “the Khyber”). The Turret’s vision of creating a dynamic, multi-functional cultural destination in downtown Halifax, through the adaptive reuse of this iconic historic property, aligns with our shared goal of fostering a vibrant, diverse, and sustainable arts scene in Halifax.

Prismatic Arts Festival is a national, multi-disciplinary arts festival that proudly showcases the work of Indigenous artists and artists of colour from across the country and beyond. We are dedicated to celebrating diversity in the arts by providing a platform where artists present innovative and boundary-pushing work. At Prismatic, we create inclusive spaces that amplify underrepresented voices, foster cross-cultural collaboration, and engage audiences with performances that reflect the rich diversity of our country. Through our programming, we support the professional development of artists at all stages of their careers and are committed to ensuring that the arts are accessible to all communities.

Prismatic Arts Festival and the Turret Arts Space Society share a mutual commitment to fostering inclusive, accessible, and artist-focused spaces in Halifax. Like the Turret, Prismatic is dedicated to creating safe and welcoming environments where diverse voices, including Indigenous and culturally diverse artists, can thrive. Our work as a national presenter of innovative, boundary-pushing performances parallels the Turret’s vision for multipurpose spaces that encourage creativity and collaboration. We understand the importance of providing professional development opportunities for artists at every stage of their careers, and we fully support the Turret’s plans for facilities like the learning centre, which will be instrumental in nurturing artistic talent. Moreover, both Prismatic and the Turret recognize the value of infrastructure that supports local, national, and international artists, ensuring Halifax remains a vital hub for the arts. The addition of flexible, tech-equipped spaces like the Khyber Gallery and International Residency Studio will undoubtedly enhance the city’s cultural landscape, aligning with our mission to support artist livelihoods and provide platforms for exportable work.

This project is critical to Halifax's future, not only as a vibrant cultural destination but also as a vital resource for the livelihood of its many talented artists, both now and in the years to come.

Thank you for your attention to this important initiative.

Sincerely,

Raeesa Lalanj

**Redacted**

Artistic Director  
Prismatic Arts Festival



**TURRET**

**ARTS**

**SPACE**