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space

2025 Annual Report



Nathan Meguinis' *We Are All Treaty People* – created in partnership with BUMP and muralist Doug Driediger

Land Acknowledgement

This place we now call cSPACE sits within a landscape of enduring creativity. For thousands of years, Indigenous peoples have shaped these lands through art, ceremony, language, and story.

Today, we acknowledge and honour the Treaty 7 peoples: the Siksika, Kainai and Piikani Nations of the Blackfoot Confederacy; the Îyârhe Nakoda Bearspaw, Chiniki and Goodstoney Nations; the Tsuut'ina Nation; as well as the historic Northwest Métis and the Otipemisiwak Métis Government, Nose Hill Métis District 5 and Elbow Métis District 6.

We recognize that Indigenous Peoples have nurtured artistic practice, cultural expression, and creative knowledge on these lands since time immemorial. As an organization committed to cultivating creativity, collaboration, community, and change, we understand reconciliation to be an active and ongoing responsibility.

We are grateful to our collaboration with Indigenous leader, Dr. LeRoy Littlebear from the Kainai First Nation, whose words are engraved in our Poet's Walk. Littlebear's words of "A Place for Creative Boundary Crossings" are intended to remind us that the reconciliation process will need to cross many divides and boundaries.

We are grateful to operate in a space where artists and communities can explore new narratives and contribute to a more equitable and vibrant cultural future for this place we share.

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COMMUNITY

COLLABORATION



CHANGE



A message from the Board Chair

As Board Chair, I am proud to reflect on a year in which cSPACE continued to demonstrate the value of creative places in Calgary. Across more than 100,000 square feet of creative space and through a diverse range of programs, we have seen artists, tenants, clients, partners, and community members come together in ways that strengthen both cultural life and civic life.

At cSPACE MARDALOOP, this vitality was evident every day. The building continues to serve as a vibrant hub for creativity, collaboration, and community connection, animated by the energy and commitment of the people who bring it to life. We are deeply grateful to our tenants, clients, and community, whose participation and belief in this work make cSPACE what it is.

This year also reflected the strength of cSPACE's model: more than \$225,000 in donations, thanks to a generous donor matching campaign, and contributions, growing earned revenue through stable tenancies, event and theatre rentals, and the continued growth of our spaces, all paired with careful stewardship of facility and staffing costs. Together, these efforts help ensure that cSPACE remains both resilient and responsive to the communities we serve.

Looking ahead, I am encouraged by the opportunities before us, particularly our work with the City of Calgary to explore the revitalization of Historic Fire Hall No. 1 and the North-West Travellers Building as a future arts and culture hub. This work reflects both the growing need for purpose-driven spaces and the exciting potential for cSPACE's next chapter.

Finally, we extend our sincere thanks to our shareholders, Calgary Foundation and Calgary Arts Development, whose early belief in cSPACE helped bring this organization to life and continues to support the growth ahead.

John Masters
Board Chair, cSPACE PROJECTS



A message from the President & CEO

As we reflect on 2025, I am reminded that arts and culture are fundamental to the vitality of our cities and the vibrancy of our lives. Through my participation in the Creative Land Trust Summit this year, I was struck by how widespread the challenge of affordable, accessible, and stable space for the arts has become. It is a global issue, and one that continues to affirm the importance of cSPACE's mission as a Calgary-made solution.

A thriving creative sector depends on an ecology of spaces: not only the places where artists present their work, such as museums, galleries, and theatres, but also the places where they live, create, rehearse, produce, and grow creative enterprises. Affordable housing, studios, rehearsal spaces, and production hubs are all essential to a healthy cultural future.

At cSPACE MARDALOOP, that vision continues to take root in tangible ways. In 2025, the hub hosted more than 700 gatherings, markets, collaborations, and initiatives. From Jane's Walks and Historic Calgary Week to immersive media installations and community celebrations, our spaces and tenants created opportunities for people of all ages and at every stage of creative development.

At the same time, cSPACE continues to extend its reach through SPACEPILOT, activating vacant commercial spaces and supporting creative and social entrepreneurs across the city. As we look ahead, we are inspired by the possibilities before us, from artist housing to future creative hub projects, and by the opportunity to keep building the spaces Calgary's creative community needs to thrive.

Deeter Schurig
President & CEO, cSPACE PROJECTS

Credit: Angus Media

About cSPACE PROJECTS

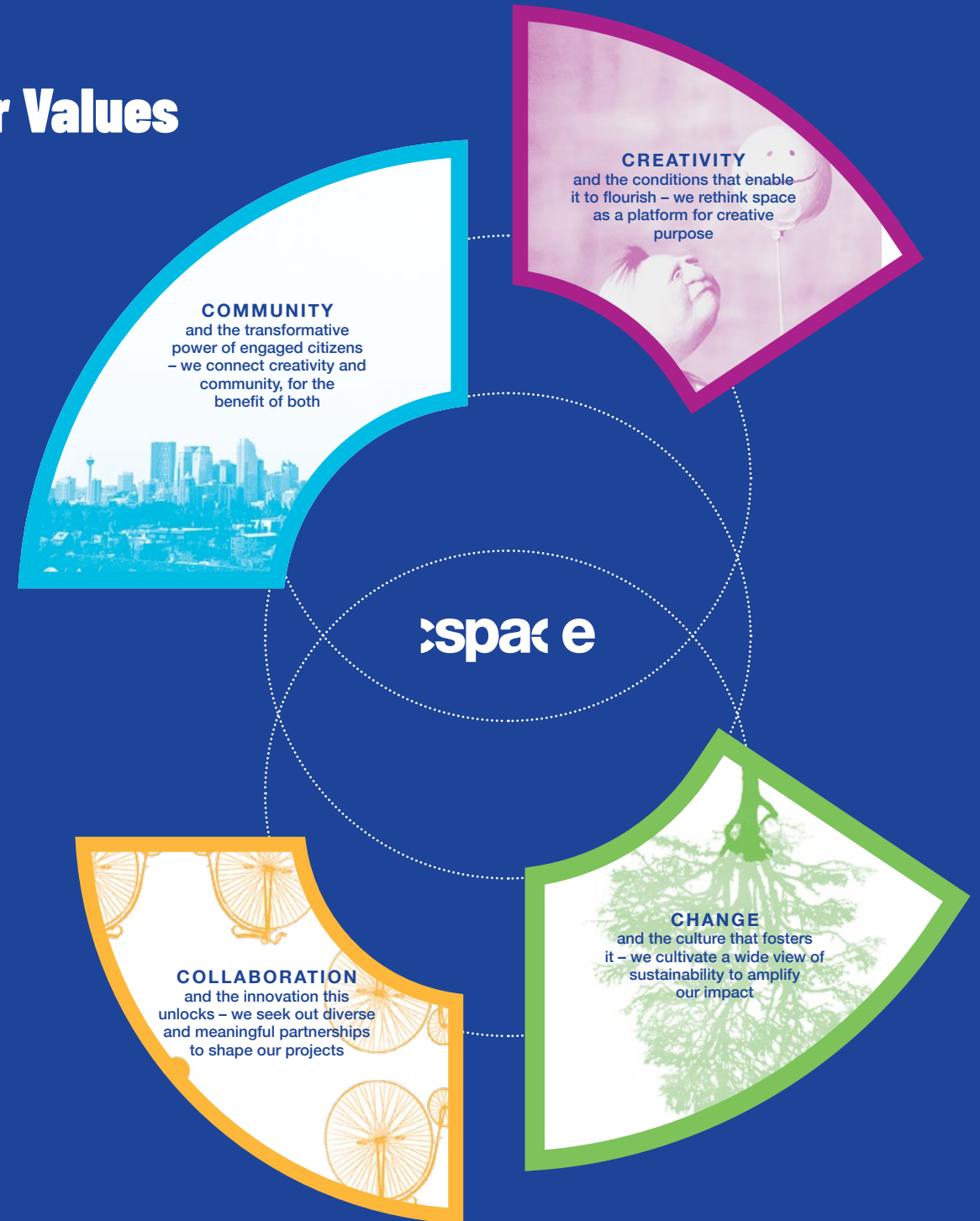
cSPACE PROJECTS is a social enterprise dedicated to supporting communities of artists, non-profits, and entrepreneurs working at the creative edge of change.

Our vision: Artists and creative enterprises flourish in a network of hubs and spaces across Calgary, connecting community to and through arts and culture.

Our mission: Develop creative places that activate people and ideas to ignite collaboration and community-led change.



Our Values



c_collaboration

2025 in Numbers

cSPACE MARDA LOOP REMAINS
100% LEASED

50+
art exhibitions booked
in our Hallway Galleries



560 artists
given a platform to showcase
their art in our Hallway Galleries



781 events
in 2025
at cSPACE MARDA LOOP

89% of events booked
by artists and the
non-profit sector

5 creatives in our
SANDBOX Session
Creative Desk
Residency Program

24 Farmers & Makers
Markets hosted seeing
over 22,000 visitors, 37
musicians, and 42 artists

c_community

cSPACE Community

2025 was a year of momentum as we continue to progress our mission to foster a more vibrant Calgary and work towards the creation of future arts hubs.

cSPACE MARDa LOOP continues to be 100% leased with 30+ tenants and is bursting with creativity in our studio, office and SANDBOX co-working spaces. Rental events increased by 20% from last year. With a total of 202 performances and events in the Studio Theatre and 579 more throughout the creative hub.

With over 130,000 visitors inside and outside the cSPACE MARDa LOOP creative hub, we continued to inspire collaboration, community, creativity and change through events and partnerships.

2025 kicked off with our annual February showcase bringing together our creative community in this open-house style event. April reignited excitement as we celebrated *fireWORKS*, an art installation part of a broader vision for the future of Historic Fire Hall #1 and the North-West Travellers Building. Our busy summer season brought iconic events like our *Pancake Palooza* and *ARTPARK After Hours*. The later half of the year continued momentum with a launch of a new initiative, *SANDBOX Sessions Creative Desk Residency*, the return of the October Showcase and a *Fireworks Soiree* to celebrate a \$100k matching gift.



cSPACE Showcase Series

The February Showcase was themed *Nuit des Artistes*, a French-inspired evening that captivated audiences with a vibrant showcase of creativity, music, and culture.

The event included Live music by Tina Hartt et les Gardiens du Rhythm, Arts activities led by Susanna Windrum and the Alberta Craft Council and Alliance Française, Readings curated by the Alexandra Writers' Centre Society, Open studios of Feast Studio, Anneke Forbes, Natalie Gerber, Make More Creative, Riyoko Work/Shop, Calgary Allied Arts Foundation, and the Alberta Magazine Publishers Association, Tarot readings by Kate Wares, Live figure drawing sessions hosted by Elena Bushan, Doug Driediger, and Bunny Batista with model Niti.

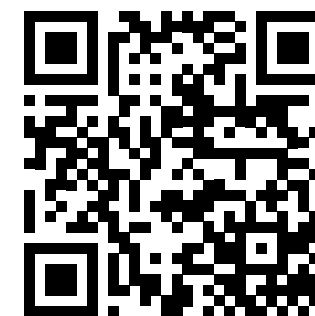
The event was sponsored by Alliance Française and The Edward.



fireWORKS Reveal

In April 2025, cSPACE PROJECTS, in partnership with ARTICLE 11 and the City of Calgary, presented *fireWORKS*, a stunning multimedia installation that transformed the Historic Fire Hall #1 and the North West Travellers Building into vibrant public artwork celebrating the extremes of Mohkinstsis/Calgary's seasons by bringing the thrumming heat of summer into the hopeful chill of spring. Created by Indigenous arts duo ARTICLE 11 (Tara Beagan and Andy Moro), *fireWORKS* transforms the vacant heritage buildings into glowing canvases that awaken the downtown streets with creative energy.

The *fireWORKS* installation is part of a broader vision for the future of Historic Fire Hall #1 and the North West Travellers Building. Designated by the City of Calgary to become an arts and culture campus supporting the city's arts community and creative economy, these sites are currently the focus of a conceptual design and feasibility study led by cSPACE PROJECTS. This study will explore innovative ways to transform these historic spaces into dynamic centres for creativity, culture, and community.



Click or scan to hear from Andy Moro, Tara Beagan and Deeter Schurig

Pancake Palooza

Tuesday, July 8, 2025, at cSPACE MARDA LOOP's ARTPARK we held our annual Stampede Breakfast created by artists, for arts champions presented with the support of, cSPACE PROJECTS, Rozsa Foundation, The Calgary Foundation, Alliance Française and Aroma Cafe. Classic pancakes, live music and lively conversations, with a generous helping of community spirit.

ARTPARK After Hours

Hosted the August ARTPARK After Hours outdoor concert on August 21. All ages family friendly event with craft beer, kids activities, an Alberta Craft Council Stein sale and live music by Memphis and the Grande.



SANDBOX Sessions Creative Desk Residency

This program was created to support artists by providing access to a desk within our co-working space with the goal of promoting connection and visibility for emerging or independent artists. This short-term residency is ideal for creatives and artists actively developing a project that benefits from focus time, connection, and professional space.

From September - December 2025 we were able to support 5 creatives of varying disciplines with month-long residencies. 2025 Residents included (pictured below L-R) Jessica Cheng, Ezgi Turker, Margo Smith, James Watson, and Shea Iles.

This initiative is made possible by the generous support of the Pekisko Arts Fund at Calgary Foundation, whose contribution supports the growth of Calgary's creative sector through meaningful and accessible opportunities.



CPA Alberta Social Entrepreneurship Award Finalist

We were honoured to be selected as a finalist for the CPA Alberta Social Entrepreneurship Award at this year's Calgary Chamber of Commerce Small Business Awards. This recognition reflects the growing social impact of our work, extending far beyond our walls into the communities, artists, and creative entrepreneurs who bring Calgary's spaces to life.

Congratulations to all the inspiring finalists and winners across each category including our fellow nominee Power Properties and winner Women In Need Society and to all those who make Calgary such a vibrant, entrepreneurial city.

cSPACE Showcase Series

Our Halloween Showcase in October was themed *Creatures of cSPACE*. It was a family friendly evening featuring a hip-hop dance class with Edward Campbell AKA Funk-E, Ghost Tours with Ghostbound, All-ages activities with Susannah Windrum and Alberta Craft Council, Margo Smith, Quest Theatre, Alliance Francaise, Anneke Forbes, Casa Mexico and Jessica Cheng. Live readings curated by Alexandra Writers Centre, Open studios and trick or treating at Studio C, Natalie Gerber Studio, Atelier Artista and Alberta Magazine Publishers association.



Thank you!

Campaign Update

Fundraising is a priority for cSPACE as we respond to the operational demands of providing affordable spaces and delivering our community building initiatives. A huge thank you to the businesses, foundations, organizations and individuals that recognize the importance of the arts and have shown their generous support of cSPACE in 2025.

The *Theatre Stars* campaign, which launched in 2024, is a special opportunity to make a lasting impact on the future of our theatre and the artists who bring it to life. Donors can name a seat while helping us preserve a welcoming, accessible space where voices of all backgrounds can be heard and celebrated. The first set of plaques was installed in October 2025, and the campaign is currently 55% complete, with 27 seats remaining to be named!

In November we were honoured to announce a matching gift by long time supporters Greg Clark and Dr. Jessica Simon. Greg is the past chair of the cSPACE board and has a long track record as a volunteer and community champion, and Jessica is a physician and leader in Calgary's medical community. Greg and Jess

generously committed to match donations in 2025 up to \$100,000. This is a meaningful gift that presented donors with a remarkable opportunity to amplify their generosity and double their impact and we are thrilled to report that we have reached our goal!

Thank you to our program supporters which include Sarina Homes, our generous sponsors of the Sarina Homes Stage at the Farmers and Makers Markets which provides paid performance opportunities to musicians at the market. And thank you to the Pekisko Arts Fund at Calgary Foundation, who supported our first year of the *SANDBOX Sessions - A Creative Desk Residency* which supports artists by providing access to a desk within our co-working space with the goal of promoting connection and visibility for emerging or independent artists.



You Can Help Artists Thrive.
DONATE TODAY.

cSPACE MARDA LOOP Tenants

AACE Chinook Calgary
 Alberta Craft Council
 Alberta Magazine
 Publishers Association
 Alexandra Writers' Centre
 Society
 Alliance Française
 Anneke Forbes
 Aroma Cafe Bar
 Atelier Artista

Calgary Allied Arts
 Foundation
 Calgary Association Of
 Lifelong Learners
 Casa Mexico
 Dancers' Studio West
 Feast Studio
 First Peoples Law
 Flechas Architecture
 Forte Musical Theatre Guild

Greenpoint Advisory
 Katy Whitt Photography
 Kristian Jones Photography
 Lucky Small Things
 Make More Creative
 Maria Montessori
 Education Centre
 Metrographics
 Natalie Gerber
 Nur Films

Prairie Debut
 Prospect Human
 Services - Studio C
 Quest Theatre
 Redpoint Media
 Riyoko Work/Shop
 Rozsa Foundation
 Sage Theatre
 Siella Bodywear
 Snapshot Studios
 Solas Energy
 Theatre Encounter

cSPACE PROJECTS Staff

Deeter Schurig, *President & CEO*

OPERATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT TEAM

Sean Dennie, *Director of Space Development*
 Erin MacLean, *Events and Theatre Manager*
 Graham Frampton, *Operations Manager*
 Hayley Banyard, *Marketing and
 Communications Manager*
 Heather Close, *Community Engagement
 and Development Specialist*
 Sha Li, *Executive and Office Administrator*
 Victoria Sanchez, *Executive and Office
 Administrator (on leave)*
 Darrian Boyle, *Facilities Assistant*

EVENTS TEAM

Alexa McGinn
 Beatriz Vasconcelos
 Ezgi Turker
 Iris Hill
 Kate Ware
 Ryan Wesley

THEATRE TECHNICIAN TEAM

Ben Seders
 Calum Maunier
 Colin Lowe
 Juan Añez
 Kyle Riege

cSPACE PROJECTS Board of Directors

John W. Masters, Board Chair • Greg Clark, Past Chair • Abe Averbach • Ali Arnell • Andrew Wallace • Caitlyn Ducasse •
 Krista Lauridsen • Dr. Leslie Robertson • Manoj Patil • Mike Kehoe • Richard Gotfried • Sybil Choles



About SPACEPILOT

The cSPACE Meanwhile Lease project - SPACEPILOT - launched in Spring 2022 with the aim to create spaces for the arts & not-for-profit sector and to bring increased occupancy and vibrancy to Calgary's urban landscape.

SPACEPILOT repurposes vacant commercial properties for arts and culture groups on a low-cost, temporary basis by offering property owners a property tax exemption in exchange for highly reduced rental rates.

In 2025, SPACEPILOT's tenants held a total of 1452 rehearsals, 1256 performances and 720 educational events. Their events had over 92,000 attendees in total, contributing to the vibrancy of the communities that they are located in. Their activities provided 3,964 artists with paid opportunities and 4,782 artists with free use of space.

This program is an amazing example of the huge impact to the community that having affordable space for artists and arts and culture groups provides.



Kinkonauts perform at the BLOX. Atrium Allied REIT. Credit: Sean Dennie

114,812 sq.ft.
LEASED/LICENSED/PLEDGED since inception

24 active leases to organizations, non-profits and artists

SPACEPILOT Tenants

Artpoint Gallery and Studios Society
Arusha Centre Society
Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now, Canada
Banff Yoga Festival
Beltline Business Improvement Area
Calgary Animated Objects Society
Calgary Climate Hub Association

Calgary Queer Arts Society
Centre for Newcomers Society of Calgary/End of the Rainbow Foundation
Chris Temple
Darren Flach
Erin Ryan-Walsh
Festival of Animated Objects Society
Linda Kee

Matthew Swann
Mitchell Kassner
One Big JAM
Stride Art Gallery Association
The Alcove Centre for the Arts
The Kinkonauts Improv Theatre Society
VinylCentric: The Canadian Museum of Recorded Music and Culture

5 new non-profits served in 2025

9 spaces added in 2025 totalling over **34k** sq.ft.

c_creativity

SPACEPILOT Tenant Story

Since 2006 The Kinkonauts have been delighting audiences with their shows, and developing improvisers through their improv training programs for adults and high school students.

The Kinkonauts have been a part of **cSPACE's Meanwhile Lease program SPACEPILOT** since 2023. SPACEPILOT is a program that revitalizes vacant commercial downtown real estate by providing below-market leases for not-for-profit arts organizations. The program addresses the high vacancy rates downtown while also tackling the shortage of space available to Calgary artists and not-for-profit arts organizations.

The Kinkonauts are located inside The Blox Arts Centre on 11th Avenue, a 10,000 sqft space which they share with Blox BIA. To have access to this space at below market rates through SPACEPILOT has been incredible for their development and for building community.

This space has allowed them to grow from 25 to 100 shows annually with 2025 being a record breaking year for audiences attending their shows.

The size of this space has allowed them to have 3 active spaces that can be used concurrently which has tripled the size of their training programs. With 200 students attending their high school programs and 40 improvisers being trained weekly through their adult drop-in Accelerator Program in the past year.

The increase in programs and low market rates has ensured that they have more money to provide to their artists and contributes to the sustainability of the organization.



**THE
KINKONAUTS**
Calgary's Improv Lab

Credit: Brian Gashgarian



c_change

Looking Ahead

Looking ahead to 2026, the cSPACE team is energized by what the year holds for our community.

Across cSPACE MARDIA LOOP and SPACEPILOT, a rich mix of activations, classes, exhibitions, gatherings, performances, and celebrations will continue to showcase Calgary's creative diversity and strengthen our spaces as places of connection, expression, and belonging.

2026 will also mark an important milestone as cSPACE completes the conceptual design and feasibility study to reimagine Historic Fire Hall No. 1 and the North-West Travellers Building as a mixed-use creative campus. This work will help define the next chapter of our efforts to secure and steward purpose-driven spaces for artists, creative entrepreneurs, and the broader community.

At the same time, we will celebrate a significant anniversary: 15 years since cSPACE was incorporated and purchased the then-vacant King Edward School. This milestone invites us to reflect on the creative placemaking that has shaped cSPACE over the years while looking ahead to what is still possible.

We invite you to join us in the year ahead as we celebrate that journey, honour the communities that have brought us here, and imagine together what comes next.

You Can Help Artists Thrive.
DONATE TODAY.



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www.cspaceprojects.com

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