



Hosted by:



University College of the North

The Pas, MB

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Northern Manitoba Arts and Cultural Industries Strategy

Building Strong Communities and Diversified Economy

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We acknowledge that northern Manitoba encompasses the traditional territories and homelands of many Indigenous peoples, in particular the Cree, Dene, Red River Métis, and Oji-Cree; Indigenous peoples have continuously maintained homelands in northern Manitoba since time immemorial. The First Nations in this area entered into treaty relationships with the Crown which include signatories to treaties 4, 5, the treaty 5 adhesion, and treaty 6 and 10. Northern Manitoba includes lands that were and are the ancestral lands of the Inuit. The territory has also become home to other Indigenous peoples. We uphold the treaties and collaborate with all Indigenous peoples to share truth, reconciliation, and learning.

Organized and hosted by UCN, the Northern Arts Workshop Professional Development and Conference was supported by:



We acknowledge the funding support of the Government of Canada and the Province of Manitoba.

Organizing Committee (in alphabetical order by first name): Doug Lauvstad (UCN), Inga Petri (Strategic Moves), Jackie Rechenmacher (UCN), Jennifer Nabess (UCN), Katie Daman (Food and Beverage Manitoba), Thom Sparling (Creative Manitoba).

With thanks to the Community Organizing Committee: Arlea Ashcroft (Creative Manitoba), Cheryl Antonio (The Pas Arts Council and Northern Manitoba Food, Culture, and Community Collaborative), Emily Roberts-Young (ImagiNorthern), Erica Wilson and Katie Daman (Food and Beverage Manitoba), Kristy Janvier (ImagiNorthern), with support by Inga Petri (Strategic Moves)

Special appreciation and thanks to Cheryl Antonio for spearheading the local organizing of the film festival, performing arts showcase, and the Round the Bend farm tour, along with child minding services and local catering. Cheryl also prepared this [YouTube video](#) of impressions from the gathering.

FOREWORD

The Northern Arts & Food Workshop took place from March 24 to 27, 2024 at the UCN campus in The Pas, MB. The gathering brought together artists, makers, creative and cultural organizations from Northern Manitoba, provincial and national arts service, agri-food and entrepreneurship organizations, and government representatives to boost the region's arts, culture, and food sectors. The workshops served as a collaborative space, working collectively to build a cohesive and inclusive creative economy in the North.

In 2024, NAW collaborated with Food and Beverage Manitoba and Creative Manitoba to address challenges and opportunities for food-based entrepreneurs and organizations in Northern Manitoba, alongside those experienced by artists and makers from rural and remote communities. This reflects the increasing efforts of these industry sectors to collaborate.

The gathering doubled in size from forty-five participants in 2023 to just over ninety. To make attending as accessible as possible, UCN covered all conference costs, so participants did not pay admission. Food and Beverage Manitoba and Creative Manitoba organized and supported the pre-conference programming. In addition, travel bursaries were available on a request basis.



Antoinette GreenOliph (Yukon)



Theresie Tungilik (Nunavut)

During the gathering, keynote speakers shared inspiring stories and experiences gained over a lifetime in the arts, creative and cultural spaces.

- ❖ Antoinette GreenOliph, featured twice on the Food Network's *You Gotta Eat Here*, delivered the opening keynote address entitled *Nourishing Community: A Life in Food, Art, and Community Building*.
- ❖ Theresie Tungilik, National President and Spokesperson of CARFAC, spoke on *Indigenous Protocols for Visual Artists and Intellectual Property and Re-sale Rights*.
- ❖ Jim Blake discussed the founding and 25-years of successful operations of the *Haliburton County Community Co-operative* as a catalyst for arts, culture, and community projects.
- ❖ Christine Genier (Ta'an Kwäch'än Council / Whitehorse, Yukon) shared her keynote presentation titled *Strength in the Arts: A Yukon First Nations Perspective*.

Eleven representatives from Northern Manitoba organizations shared highlights, accomplishments, and challenges from the past year. Public funders and other support organizations explained how their programs in support of the arts, creative, cultural and food sectors as well as entrepreneurs work.



Jim Blake (Ontario)

During two formal workshop sessions on the first and the final day of the conference, led by Inga Petri (Whitehorse, Yukon), participants discussed what they had accomplished and deliberated on their shared priorities to build strong arts and creative communities.

This *Northern Manitoba Arts and Cultural Industries Strategy* captures the results of these conversations. This document is the successor to last year's initial *Northern Manitoba Arts Action Plan*.

This document has two sections:

1. A *Northern Manitoba Arts and Cultural Industries Strategy* proposed for adoption by participants from Northern Arts Workshop that outlines strategies, activities and organizational aspects.
2. Progress report on the *Northern Manitoba Arts Action Plan 2023*

All Northern Arts Workshop participants and anyone in any community across Northern Manitoba can use this document as a reference, an inspiration, and a plan toward concerted action.

At the next *Northern Arts Workshop* in Thompson, MB in May 2025, we intend to again share progress made and set priorities for action for the next year.



Christine Genier (Yukon)



Northern Arts Workshop, UCN, The Pas campus

NORTHERN MANITOBA ARTS AND CULTURAL INDUSTRIES STRATEGY (DRAFT)

A Shared Mission (Updated draft 2024)

To make life better in Northern Manitoba, we embrace a wholistic Indigenous worldview and are guided by our no-limits innovative spirit. We nurture inclusive arts, creative and cultural communities, so they can play a profound role in a thriving and diverse economy. Our priority is the well-being of artists, makers, producers, and communities, while honouring and making known the world over the rich tapestry of Indigenous and non-Indigenous cultures, languages, and creative expressions across the North.



Round the Bend Farm
Communal BBQ



Framework of wholistic
Indigenous worldview by M.
Pidgeon. Reproduced under
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[CC BY 4.0.](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/)

For reference, this update does not change the 2023 draft mission as much as it expresses it in shorter sentences and explicitly references a wholistic Indigenous worldview. The 2023 version read: "Guided by our no-limits innovative spirit and shared love and respect for the land we inhabit, we build a thriving, inclusive arts and cultural sector that plays a profound role in a diversified economy, supports health and well-being of artists and communities, and celebrates and makes known the world over the North's rich tapestry of cultures, languages, artistic and creative expressions."

Shared Values (Updated draft 2024)

- ❖ Respect
- ❖ Reciprocity
- ❖ Responsibility
- ❖ Relevance
- ❖ Relationships
- ❖ Inclusion
- ❖ Collaboration

What We Need

Building an inclusive and thriving arts and cultural sector means we are connected to each other, we share knowledge and resources, we nurture arts development through training for artists and cultural workers, we develop markets that can support the livelihood of artists and makers, and we gain access to or build the digital and physical infrastructure artists, producers and arts and cultural organizations need to pursue their work in communities across the North.

Connection

Arts development

Market development

**Physical and Digital
Infrastructure**

The three key mechanisms required to realize this Strategy are:

1. Focused advocacy to elevate these sectors in the eyes of funders and governments.
2. Sufficient base funding for staff at the Northern Manitoba groups and organizations to implement this Strategy.
3. An ability to and funding for work in cross-sectoral partnerships along the arts, creative, cultural sector spectrum including food-related sectors and tourism experiences. That cross-sectorial approach must be inclusive of not-for-profit organizations, businesses, social enterprise, municipal and Indigenous governments.

Organizing to Make Life Better

There are several groups and organizations that have begun to work in partnership in new ways. This emergent eco-system of organizations includes those with provincial mandates and located in Winnipeg and it includes regional groups in Northern Manitoba. Together, they are offering leadership and support that is the essential activator for this *Northern Manitoba Arts and Cultural Industries Strategy*.

At the core, there is a clear understanding that this work is:

By the North • For the North • In the North

Northern Manitoba-based local arts councils, arts and cultural organizations, creative hubs, maker spaces, artists, makers, producers, and community animateurs that deliver direct services and arts and creative experiences in their local communities are crucial in realizing this plan.



ImagiNorthern, incubated by the Flin Flon Arts Council, is a new Northern Manitoba group led by Northerners, for Northerners. ImagiNorthern secured a first round of funding for 2023-2024 from Canada Council for the Arts and the Province of Manitoba. In its first year, ImagiNorthern made considerable progress in establishing the group, hiring a project manager, Champions coordinator and seven champions who live in Flin Flon, The Pas, Opaskwayak Cree Nation, Snow Lake, Thompson, Churchill, and Brochet. In this initial phase it:

- ❖ Commissioned a base line study in 2022 of the arts sector in Northern Manitoba.
- ❖ Evolved a governance structure that ensures decisions are made in the North and suitable in each community, while drawing on support and expertise from key partners and stakeholders.
- ❖ Developed an initial Northern Champions network.
- ❖ Created a *Shop-in-the-Box* system including a StarLink satellite internet toolkit available in the communities through the Northern Champions.
- ❖ Began to create physical depots, not necessarily storefronts, in the communities.
- ❖ Collaborated with the Uptown Emporium, operated by the Flin Flon Arts Council, as a physical storefront and an e-commerce website to improve its operations and encourage artists to join these retail platforms.
- ❖ Began a regional cultural asset mapping survey.
- ❖ Initiated exploration of regional food products within select depots.
- ❖ Continues to seek funding to secure its long-term operations.

ImagiNorthern has met the proof of concept that it can organize effectively, work in partnership with communities, and enable market access for artists, makers, and communities. More than acting as a service organization, it is a community of practice that encourages local action while thinking regionally. Importantly, the ImagiNorthern group is open and available to all Northerners.



UCN is committed to organizing an annual regional gathering, the Northern Arts and Food Workshop, in a different community each year. After Flin Flon in 2023 and The Pas in 2024, the 2025 gathering will take place in Thompson, MB in May 2025.

UCN, as the North only post-secondary institution, plays a unique role in education, training, and professional development through its campuses in Northern and Indigenous communities. It “strives to reflect the cultural diversity and Indigenous reality of Northern Manitoba.”

“Recognizing that a strong Manitoba depends on a strong north, UCN will partner with industry and communities in programming, research, and economic development activities, including facilitating participation of northerners in the digital economy. UCN will play a leading role in steering the north towards greater prosperity and greater resilience in an ever-changing world.”
(<https://www.ucn.ca/about-ucn/>)



Creative Manitoba is a provincial cultural sector council that provides entrepreneurship training and mentorship opportunities for artists to help them sustain themselves creatively and financially.

Creative Manitoba has been an active organizer for the Northern Arts Workshop as well as providing direct support and guidance to ImagiNorthern and Northern Manitoba arts and creative industries. In 2024, they initiated the *Northern Arts and Food Project* in collaboration with Food and Beverage Manitoba, to increase their capacity to support the creative arts and agri-food sectors in northern Manitoba.



Manitoba Arts Network is the provincial arts service organization for the visual and performing arts organizations in rural Manitoba. Manitoba Arts Network supports arts organizations by fostering a collaborative arts marketplace and ecosystem, connects artists with communities and contributes to the economic capacity, and health and social well-being of rural Manitobans through the arts.

It has been an active supporter and participant on the Advisory Group of ImagiNorthern; as well as serving its Northern members over 40 years.



Food and Beverage Manitoba, a new partner in 2024, developed the pre-conference professional development program at the Northern Arts Workshop. It is an industry association that helps Manitoba's food and beverage industry achieve its full creative and competitive potential.

It conducted a study of the food sector in Northern Manitoba during 2023 that found similar challenges as the arts and creative sector experiences. There was also considerable overlap already in Northern communities between people working or volunteering in the arts and cultural sector, who are also thinking about food as a cultural good, food sovereignty in the North and market access for Northern food products. Together with Creative Manitoba, they initiated the *Northern Arts and Food Project* to increase their capacity to support the creative arts and agri-food sectors in northern Manitoba.



Manitoba Legal Clinic for the Arts, operated by the University of Manitoba's Faculty of Law, provides free legal advice for artists, creatives, and arts organization.

Strategic Directions

Each of these major areas of activity has a number of related action items. There are several ways to achieve implementation over time. In some cases, specific community or organization can take the lead. In other cases, ImagiNorthern is the ideal group to spearhead the work, while always staying true to its grassroots nature; in other cases, local organizations or provincial service organization may be well positioned to facilitate implementation. Implementation priorities, timelines, financial and human resources needed are up to the Northern Arts Workshop participants, their organizations and communities.

1. Cross-Sectoral Approach

Northern Manitoba has many individuals and organizations that work in several roles and sectors at once. Artists are also municipal administrators, arts administrators are also food entrepreneurs, videographers and film makers are also musicians, retail spaces are also places for arts workshops. Given that remoteness generates similar challenges across the arts, creative, cultural and agri-food sectors, ideally connections and solutions are shared across these sectors. That cross-sectorial approach must be inclusive of not-for-profit organizations, businesses, social enterprise, municipal and Indigenous governments.

2. Connection: Build Up the ImagiNorthern Community of Practice

- a) ImagiNorthern group organizes a regular meet-up via Zoom:
 - a. To bring together interested individuals from Northern Manitoba communities who work in the arts, creative, cultural and food sector.
 - b. To stay connected, share information about local and regional activities, share resources, ask for and get help, identify common needs.
 - i. Content of meetups determined by the interests and needs of the participants.
 - ii. Frequency determined by participants. ImagiNorthern champions participate in these meetings to encourage cross-pollination among people and communities.
 - iii. Agendas and record of proceedings/minutes to circulate post-meeting.
- b) Promote use of the existing Facebook Group
- c) Establish a regular, regional eNewsletter / printed Newsletter to maintain regional communications about activities, events and advancement of this Strategy and related activities.
- d) ImagiNorthern champions or local community members convene regular in-person meet-ups (with sharing food as an essential part of convening) in their local communities to share information and resources, share about local artistic or creative endeavours, and nurture a sense of community and support for artists and makers.
- e) Continue the Cultural Resource Mapping project and develop a Northern Manitoba artists directory (Creative Manitoba, ImagiNorthern)
- f) Identify additional Champions in more communities and grow the impact of ImagiNorthern across the entire region.

3. Arts Development: Knowledge Transfer, Skills Development and Celebrations

- a) Build capacity for sustained training and development of artist's practices including encouraging inter-generational teaching and learning by doing.
- b) ImagiNorthern champions either deliver training or coordinate training to be delivered from qualified providers, partnering with UCN, Creative Manitoba or Food and Beverage Manitoba.
- c) Community Theatre can be a low-barrier vehicle for creation and production, with a new initiative to be established in Churchill, and/or a regional theatre company. That Theatre group can offer low budget activities as well as full theatre productions including:
 - a. Play reading series (Digital and in-person).
 - b. Community-based devised theatre to tell local stories.
 - c. Creation and support of local theatre companies.
- d) Develop multi-cultural celebrations that resonate with immigrant populations as well as and are inclusive of art, music, food.
- e) Develop youth-engaged arts and creative programs, approach Frontier Collegiate to reach youth, in-school programming.
- f) Work with municipalities and First Nations government to develop arts and cultural policies.
- g) Engage full range of local institutions, from museums to libraries and education, in arts development.

4. Market Development

- a) Work at the intersection of arts, creativity, culture, and food to build a robust tourism program, i.e. bring the world to the North.
- b) Collaborations among arts, creative, cultural organizations, and food entrepreneurs on market access and increased connectivity to Southern Manitoba, across Canada and the world – i.e. bring the North to the world – in partnership with provincial organizations such as Creative Manitoba, Food and Beverage Manitoba and the Manitoba Arts Network.
- c) Ensure understanding of current artists rights regimes and changes needed, such as artists re-sale rights and support those legislative efforts nationally (CARFAC)
- d) Establish a collaborative brand (e.g. *Authentic Northern Manitoba*) and marketing program to reach export markets outside of Northern Manitoba.
- e) Run workshops and mentoring on pricing one's art, performances, and other creative and cultural products and marketing them effectively in various target markets.
- f) Collect and share legal information about exports of art and food product, Indigenous products.
- g) Begin implementation of the existing export marketing plan for Germany and expand to other markets as export growth permits.
- h) Develop a strategic partnership with Export Canada, Trade Commissioner Service to support the export market plan.

5. Infrastructure Development

- a) Develop viable spaces for sustainable artist residencies programs and for creative production.
 - a. City of Flin Flon and Flin Flon Arts Council are exploring the suitability of the Whitney House for artist residencies.
 - b. Mall of the Arts is exploring development of their new workshop and retail space in Thompson, as well as partnering with Skills Shop North (previously North Forge North).
 - c. Creative Collective in Churchill will undertake a comprehensive study during 2024 to establish feasibility of a new creative hub in Churchill.
 - d. Support the next phase of development for the Northern Central Canada Centre for Arts and the Environment (NCCCAE), spearheaded by the City of Flin Flon, to secure land and capital funding.
- b) Examine underutilized existing infrastructure in local communities across the North that may be available or suitable for artistic or creative production or community use in general; use pilot projects to develop proof of concepts as needed.
- c) Identify other needs assessment and feasibility study opportunities to enable major developments, with an emphasis on low cost to artists to use spaces, and secure funding to undertake this work.
- d) Develop mechanisms that can be shared across communities to support artist residencies, connecting communities with professional artists.
- e) Continue to develop and vigorously market the Uptown Emporium's eCommerce website to audiences outside Northern Manitoba.
- f) Other types of infrastructure are needed to support artists and other independent cultural workers, such as a Healthcare Co-op/ Artists Group Plan for artists / makers / cultural workers to provide an alternative to private health plans.

6. Funding

- a) Create a business case to pursue longer-term federal and provincial government funding.
- b) Create a detailed fund development plan that supports the ongoing implementation of this Strategy and the groups implementing it through diversified revenue streams.
- c) Develop new revenue streams to maintain and grow the operations of ImagiNorthern, including considering revenue sharing agreements with the Uptown Emporium, and service delivery agreements with provincial organizations that require access to and connection in the North.
- d) Collaborate on proposals, both regionally and provincially:
 - a. Food and Beverage Manitoba/ Creative Manitoba are preparing a proposal for the continuation of the *Northern Arts and Food Project*.
 - b. ImagiNorthern / Flin Flon Arts Council are preparing a Canada Council for the Arts proposal to the *Cultivate* program with a deadline of June 19.
 - c. Province of Manitoba has several relevant departments to discuss support for ImagiNorthern, as well as activities in specific Northern communities: Sport, Culture, Heritage and Tourism; Economic Development, Investment and Trade; Agriculture, Indigenous Economic Development; Municipal and Northern Relations
- e) Create and update a listing of services, resources, and funding that artists or makers and arts or cultural and food entrepreneurs can access.
- f) Develop new arts policies for business sectors, such as mining or real estate, to encourage them to give back to the communities, similar to the “1% for public art” bylaws and policies that have been adopted in municipalities across Canada that require real estate developers to invest in public art as part of development projects.
- g) Encourage creation of an intersectoral Northern funding table to discuss and put in place mechanisms to support the broader goals and specific initiatives in Northern Manitoba.

7. Advocacy

- a) Develop an advocacy plan and local implementations to champion the role of arts and culture in every community.
- b) Champion the creation of funded cultural plans or policies at all levels of government.
- c) Promote fair pay for artists, artists re-sale rights and intellectual property protections.
- d) Promote diversified economies in the region and in local communities with primary industries mixed with arts, culture, and tourism.

8. Third Annual Gathering in Thompson, MB in May 2025

- a) Promote the value of attending future gatherings in the arts, creative, cultural and food sectors
- b) Share delegate lists with delegates to help in promoting the gatherings.
- c) Encourage participants to share their positive experience with others in their community.
- d) Ensure child minding, elder care, travel bursaries and local transportation support is available throughout the conference.
- e) Maintain free registration to the gathering including food and child-minding services.
- f) Set up terms of reference for a Local Host Committee to work in concert with UCN’s organizing committee on local activities and activations.

Long-Term: Establish the ImagiNorthern Co-operative

Once ImagiNorthern is well-established and able to secure its own funding consistently, the incubation by the Flin Flon Arts Council may become unnecessary. The Co-op model developed by the Haliburton County Community Co-operative and presented during the Northern Arts Workshop had great appeal in terms of community ownership, and an organizational structure that can provide a range of shared services to local organizations.

Recommended Next Step: Share this draft with NAW participants and stakeholders to ratify this plan and develop more detailed action plans with deliverables, timelines, and accountabilities as well as human and financial resources required. Identify with participants what they feel they can accomplish within the next year, and which actions may be longer term or require new resources, financial or human, which are not currently in place.

ADDENDUM: PROGRESS REPORT ON ARTS ACTION PLAN

Legend

Green – Strong Progress has been made and future action is clear, and leader identified.

Yellow – Action identified is clear, but resources needed to implement.

Blue – No or little specific action has been taken yet, but the area may be important in the future.

1. On Communications and Gatherings

Actions Proposed (2023)	Progress Reported (2024)	Need (future)
- Establish a digital communications mechanism for all participants and wider arts community. - Create a regular information sharing tool, e.g., eNews printed newsletter, to maintain momentum, share our stories of success and support, share resources with each other.	UCN shared the 2023 participant list. ImagiNorthern has created a Facebook group that anyone can join. <i>Northern Arts and Food Project</i> is working on a collaboration map.	ImagiNorthern agreed to take the lead to evolve a reliable and regular way to share information and act as a community of practice to lift each other up in between NAW gatherings.
- Facilitate smaller regional working meetings, in person or via digital communications throughout the year, to maintain close connection and develop collaborative, trusted working relationships.	ImagiNorthern group has been meeting together.	Expand the ImagiNorthern meetings to include others who want to participate in regional initiatives and stay connected to the good work happening.
- Participants take back their learnings and experience at the Workshop to inform local arts communities, arts organization leadership and local artists as well as municipal leaders, First Nations governments of work and its outcomes. - Make the case for local participation in regional collaboration. - Establish local point of contact for the ImagiNorthern regional coordinators and champions.	ImagiNorthern has Champions in seven communities, and more outreach is expected. ImagiNorthern's <i>Shop in a Box</i> is now available for use in coordination with the ImagiNorthern Champions. ImagiNorthern was established as a key regional initiative.	ImagiNorthern requires new funding including new service agreements with provincial organizations to sustain regional operations into the future. Proposals in progress including to Canada Council for the Arts.
- Opaskwayak Cree Nation (OCN) has many talented artists, and its	Many more of the 2nd NAW participants were Indigenous	Ongoing relationship building with

Actions Proposed (2023)	Progress Reported (2024)	Need (future)
business development arm runs an arts and culture program already. - Lars Stoltz in Snow Lake has developed a major arts infrastructure project. - Use this new network to connect with more First Nations communities and explore how we can collaborate and work on the priorities of each community jointly.	artists, makers, food-entrepreneurs, community organizers, elders, and knowledge keepers. The Snow Lake project has encountered an obstacle in terms of land use for mining. At the 2nd NAW, Snow Lake established a connection with the Manitoba Legal Clinic for the Arts	Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities and organizations is critically important to lift up the entire region's arts sector.
- Embed provincial service organizations in ImagiNorthern working sessions to maintain access to resources, streamline information sharing and develop action plans.	ImagiNorthern has been building relationships: - Creative MB and Food and Beverage MB re: professional development at the 2nd NAW - Creative Manitoba and Manitoba Arts Network support the work of ImagiNorthern with expertise and most recent a new gallery space in Winnipeg. - Travel MB attended the 2 NAW. - Economic Development re: information and resources sharing, sector development.	Maintain
- Build partnership with UCN and other post-secondary institutions to develop educational programs in the arts and the business of the arts and support sector development.		Post-secondary educational offers require developmental work to identify needs.
- Establish a working committee to organize an annual arts summit, rotating between different communities. - Identify funding options, including travel for participants, and showcasing artists.	UCN has taken the lead on continuing to host an annual regional gathering. The next one will be in May 2025 in Thompson. Food and Beverage MB and Creative MB provided the pre-conference professional development program on March 24 – 25 and will continue to support UCN coordination. Travel bursaries were available.	Maintain

2. Cultural and Infrastructure Planning

Actions Proposed (2023)	Progress Reported (2024)	Need (future)
Undertake comprehensive cultural mapping, including a regional infrastructure inventory	ImagiNorthern has started an online survey to map cultural assets, people, organizations across Northern MB. Added creative food makers, Food and Beverage MB undertook environmental scan of food spaces and arts in 2023. Creative Manitoba and Food and Beverage Manitoba, through the <i>Northern Arts and Food Project</i> , developed a Needs Assessment for collaboration between sectors.	Need to participate in this survey, promote it and maintain the information
Complete a regional needs assessment for infrastructure. Determine how to support, among others: - Snow Lake Arts and Entertainment Peninsula, private initiative with capacity to build it (Lars Stoltz). - North Central Canada Centre for Arts and Environment, Flin Flon, feasibility studies are complete. - Thompson's aspiration for a major multi-disciplinary arts facility and maker space. - The Pas' arts and maker space	Several community specific initiatives are in progress: - Flin Flon: Whitney House Residency with a commercial kitchen. - NCCCAE project is moving forward with leadership by the City of Flin Flon, grant applications in progress. - Thompson: Mall for the Arts Storefront has opened; Skills Shop North; Indigenous Drumm workshops and new programs. - Snow Lake: youth programs with schools; arts and entertainment peninsula idea is progressing. - Churchill: Has received funding to do a feasibility study for a creative hub.	It is going to be important to share information about the work in these and other communities; celebrate successes; share learnings and outcomes. Continue to explore partnerships.
- Support development, growth, and effectiveness of Uptown Emporium as an online store and physical depots.	Uptown Emporium website re-development is complete. Shop-in-a-box gives tangible meaning to depots in seven communities.	Uptown Emporium grows both its physical store and online shopping sales. Also, find other gallery, e.g. MAN
- Domestic and International Market Development Plan	Flin Flon Arts Council created an export plan in 2022.	Implementation needed

3. Training and Development

Actions Proposed (2023)	Progress (2024)	Need (future)
- Amateur, recreation and professional artist development through professional training in their artistic practice and business skills, as close to home as is feasible/possible.	- Pre-conference skills building sessions delivered in partnership with Creative Manitoba and Food and Beverage Manitoba - Mind-set shift - art security is aligned with food security. - Music cares program with professional artists - Arts Centre – Seniors - Northern Juried Arts Show - Manitoba Legal Clinic for the Arts	Continue to build training opportunities. Needs instruments. Industry Leadership Training resources. <i>Northern Arts and Food Project</i> working towards increased and ongoing training opportunities.
- Arts programs that are youth focussed	- Artists working with youth on murals, paint nights. - Graffiti art programs (Winnipeg)	Work to prioritize youth art spaces with regional councils.
- Arts administrator's training in business skills needed to operate arts organizations sustainably, including marketing, digital discoverability, programming, revenue generation, administration and financial management, human resources and volunteer management, facility management.	- ArtsVest is looking to expand in Manitoba. - Creative Manitoba built curriculum and is partnering with organizations such as Food and Beverage Manitoba for program delivery.	Cdn Arts Admin Association – hoping to develop a coalition

4. Advocacy

Actions Proposed (2023)	Progress (2024)	Need (future)
- Develop advocacy positions, underpinned by current data and a government relations plan.	City of Flin Flon has created Director of Cultural Development and Community Engagement. Cultural asset mapping survey is live and will help. Hill Strategies report shows 20% of artists live in rural areas.	Need to develop cohesive advocacy positions and share across region.
- Make the case to funders and the public that artists and cultural workers need to be paid fairly for their work and contribute to the economic	ImagiNorthern may be able to use increased market exposure to raise revenue for artists. Also advocates for fair pay, living wage.	CARFAC has been working on Artist resale rights. Need to support those efforts

Actions Proposed (2023)	Progress (2024)	Need (future)
health of the regional as much as its social and cultural health	<i>Northern Arts and Food Project</i> Needs Assessment outlines case for increased funding in Northern Manitoba's creative arts and food sectors.	and educate artists and buyers.
- Canada Council for the Arts – to work on developing a Northern Manitoba Agreement within Council's Northern Strategy. - Canadian Heritage re: Cultural Spaces programs and other programs. - Government of Manitoba re: funding mechanisms for the North. - Manitoba Arts Council re: funding for Northern artists through existing arts organizations - Municipalities – encourage support	These funders all attended the 1 st and 2 nd NAW.	Need for operational funding and project funding is high

5. Tourism and Economic Development Partnership

Actions Proposed (2023)	Progress (2024)	Need (future)
- Work with the existing network of economic development officers across the North to build local community relationship and expand reach into First Nations communities.	Communities are often tourism focussed without clear understanding of role of the arts. CEDF and Community Futures North Central Development attended 2nd NAW.	Great challenges: - Towns don't share Information. - Communities lack economic development officers. - Councils often negative with too much politics - Lack of support for local artists Provincial sector council organizations such as Creative Manitoba and Food and Beverage Manitoba through the Northern Arts and Food Project could support sector specific resources, information and training to economic agencies

Actions Proposed (2023)	Progress (2024)	Need (future)
- Build a partnership with tourism sector and Travel Manitoba - Develop a cultural tourism plan. Including arts and cultural products and services, for the region in conjunction with Travel Manitoba. - Invite participation from Travel Manitoba and tourism officers at the next Northern Manitoba Regional Gathering and Regional Arts Summit	Positives: - Travel Manitoba attended 2nd NAW. - Recent discussions with Travel Manitoba showed increase in their interest. - Upgrade to provincial park campgrounds. - Food is included in this conference.	Planning and coordination are required. Take a broad view of cultural tourism and role of arts and food
- Develop a tourism marketing approach that features existing arts and cultural experiences. - Develop arts and cultural events calendar. - Improve online presence of Northern MB arts and cultural destinations, activities, and events.	Flin Flon has a new mayor and council, and they are working on a 50-year plan for the community including tourism marketing and development and infrastructure	Planning and coordination are required to avoid duplication of efforts and create a cohesive presence.