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A MESSAGE FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

It has been another incredible year of growth at Tangled and we could not have done it without your support.

This year Tangled pushed forward into new grounds and engaged new audiences. In April we opened Tangled Art Gallery (TAG), in the iconic 401 Richmond Building known in Toronto for being a hub of contemporary art. This significant milestone gives Tangled the opportunity to better support artists with disabilities by offering year-round disability arts programming, engaging new audiences and expanding our community, and innovating new, inclusive curatorial practices, ensuring that our work truly is accessible to everyone. By doing so, Tangled is not only cultivating disability arts in Canada, but creating a new standard of artistic excellence, the effects of which are impacting all of Canadian arts and culture.

As Tangled steadily grows, we remain grateful for the contributions of our partners, sponsors, donors and volunteers. Your support is imperative to our continued success and we thank you for it.

Yours sincerely,

Eliza Chandler
TANGLED AT A GLANCE 2015-2016

HOSTED CANADA’S FIRST NATIONAL DISABILITY ARTS CONFERENCE

TOURED TO 4 ONTARIO CITIES

PRESENTED PUSH! AT PANAMANIA

EMPLOYED 57 INDIVIDUAL ARTISTS

OFFERED AUDIO DESCRIPTION AT 100% OF OUR PROGRAMMING

ENGAGED AUDIENCES OF OVER 5,500

LAUNCHED TANGLED ART GALLERY

TRAINED 6 TORONTO DANCE TEACHERS TO OFFER ACCESSIBLE PROGRAMMING

PARTNERED WITH 20 ORGANIZATIONS ACROSS ONTARIO

DEVELOPED A 5 YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN
WHAT WE DO

Support disability-identified artists.

Cultivate disability arts in Canada.

Enhance access to the arts for artists and audiences of all abilities.

Tangled is boldly redefining how the world experiences art and those who create it. We are a not for profit art + disability organization dedicated to connecting professional and emerging artists, the arts community and a diverse public through creative passion and artistic excellence. Tangled’s inclusive programming and expertise inspire curiosity, help untap potential and transform the expected into the unexpected.
On May 4th we opened the doors to our new permanent exhibition space, a monumental achievement for disability arts in Canada. Tangled Art Gallery is Canada’s first disability art gallery dedicated to accessible curatorial and art making practices. Every exhibit features complete audio description and tactile artwork that allows audiences to engage with components of the exhibit through touch. Our standard is to hang work at a height that is between eyelevel of a standing person and a shorter or seated person. We are continuing to experiment with new methods of creating more inclusive arts presentations.

Tangled Art Gallery is proud to be disability-led and programming the highest caliber of disability arts in Canada. Our opening exhibit was Constructed Identities, a major show of new work by Persimmon Blackbridge.

“Beautiful exhibit. I love the tactile quality of the work.”
-Audience Member
100% of participants surveyed indicated they would attend another Crippling the Arts symposium

Crippling the Arts was a three-day national symposium addressing issues pertinent to the Deaf and disability arts sector. A total of 145 participants attended including artists, programmers, arts council officers and representatives from arts organizations across the country. The symposium culminated with Crippling the Stage: A Disability Arts Cabaret featuring performances by Canadian and British artists, presented in partnership with the British Council Canada and Harbourfront Centre.

This program was made possible thanks to the Canada Council for the Arts Cultivate program and the Canadian Heritage Canada Arts Presentation Fund.
CRIPPING THE ARTS EMPLOYED OUR HIGHEST STANDARDS OF ACCESSIBILITY TO DATE, INCLUDING:

• Audio description of the space and all visuals that speakers were using in their presentations.

• Graphic recording of sessions to accommodate visual learners.

• A ‘quiet room’ for folks needing a break.

• An ‘overflow room’ for folks who didn’t want to be in a crowd.

• Live-streaming of all sessions.

• Note-takers in all sessions

• Free wheelchairs for people who wanted them to get around.

• Personal amplification systems for people who were hard-of-hearing.

• A culturally diverse ASL interpreting team to reflect the identities of the presenters.

“This was an incredible model of accessibility and an amazing event. I met lots of people and learned a lot.”

-Crippling the Arts Participant

Artist Peter Owusu-Ansah engages Crippling the Arts participants in a conversation about supporting Deaf artists.
Photo by Jonathan Balazs
TANGLED ON TOUR: YEAR TWO
LONDON
PETERBOROUGH
OTTAWA
THUNDER BAY

Tangled on Tour is partnering with local arts and disability organizations to present accessible disability arts programming across the province. In year two we traveled to Thunder Bay, London, Ottawa and Peterborough presenting film screenings, visual art exhibits, musical performances, workshops and artist talks. We are striving to include local artists as we foster a disability arts community in each city.

This program was made possible thanks to the Ontario Trillium Foundation.
Barbara Greene Mann presents Perfect World at Tangled London. Photo by Cory Downing

Left: Local musician Solomon performs at Tangled Thunder Bay. Photo by Keegan Richard

“Tangled has built a meaningful partnership that bridges Northern and Southern Ontario, bringing strong, collaborative disability arts programming to our community. In the time Tangled has been working with Thunder Bay, we have seen a new disability and arts community begin to emerge, igniting a passion for accessibility in the arts.”

-Community Arts & Heritage Education Project, Tangled Thunder Bay Partner
KIDS FEST!

Visited 6 schools over 5 days teaching accessible dance workshops to over 350 children and youth of mixed abilities.

In an effort to increase opportunities for children and youth with disabilities to participate in the arts year-round, Tangled adapted our annual Kids Fest program to increase our impact. We partnered with Projet RAD, the Montreal-based accessible dance school founded by Luca Lazylegz Patuelli, to train six Toronto-based dancers in their teaching method. The new trainees and RAD teachers then led inclusive workshops at six schools across Toronto and the GTA and hosted three interactive performances with Lazylegz at local schools.

This program is made possible thanks to support from TD Canada Trust and Great-West Life, London Life and Canada Life.

Teachers found that the new format for Tangled’s Kids Fest was “more comfortable” and “allowed for more student interaction”.

New Projet RAD dance teachers with Marie-Élaine Patenuade and Luca “Lazylegz” Patuelli. Photo by Steve Senga
Art Mechanics Lab was a professional advancement program providing emerging disability artists with an enhanced capacity to describe, present, fund, and disseminate their artistic work. Eight multidisciplinary artists met for ten “labs” over the course of eight months covering topics such as the history of disability arts in Canada, creating and planning a creative vision, writing an artist bio and artist statement, navigating arts funding programs, and creating an online presence. The program built confidence, provided important connections, and increased visibility for the participants within their professional artistic communities.

This program was made possible thanks to the Toronto Arts Council’s Open Door program.
PUSH! is an original theatre production created and produced by Tangled in association with Ping Chong + Company and presented at the TO2015 Panamania Festival. The play weaves together the culture and history of Parasport competition with intensely personal stories of six individuals who have accomplished incredible athletic feats. Their engaging tales are brought to life by a live musical score performed by Latin percussionist Luis Orbegoso and a gripping media backdrop created by filmmaker Murray Siple. Engaging, inspiring and deeply moving, PUSH! paints a remarkably diverse illustration of what it is to be a world-class athlete with a disability.

This production was made possible thanks to support from TO2015, Ryerson University, Canadian Heritage, the Ontario Arts Council and the Toronto Arts Council.

“My mother was told I wouldn’t live. And I did. I was told I would never speak again. And I did. I was told I would never ride again. And I did. I don’t give up easily.”

-Jody Schloss, Para-Equestrian
ARTIST IN RESIDENCE: GLORIA SWAIN

As Tangled’s 4th Artist in Residence, Swain was provided with two months of studio space at Toronto arts hub 401 Richmond, as well as a $5,000 stipend. Over the course of her residency, Swain completed over 40 new paintings often alongside her grandchildren or other artists as she made a point of creating community in the studio space. The work created during Swain’s residency is part of her first professional solo exhibit “Mad Room”, one of four shows programmed for Tangled Art Gallery’s opening season.

“This was a life changing experience that allowed me to pursue new projects and build a larger body of work. I was able to reflect on my own creative process, share my stories and my art to bring awareness to invisible disabilities with a wider audience. Tangled has given me the time to reflect, heal and produce. I am forever grateful for such an enormous and generous opportunity.”

-Gloria Swain
**FINANCES**

Access to the arts is more accessible to wider audiences thanks to a 10% increase in accessibility expenses this year.

**ACCESSIBILITY EXPENSES**
- 2015: 2%
- 2016: 10%

**REVENUE**
- 2015: $449,369
- 2016: $611,831

Tangled's total annual revenue increased 35% from 2015 to 2016.
This year, Tangled developed a significant partnership with Cieslok Media to promote the opening of Tangled Art Gallery. Our friends at Cieslok provided Tangled with premium digital signage at prime Toronto locations including Dundas Square!

Tangled was also featured in the following media outlets:

- THE GLOBE AND MAIL
- NATIONAL POST
- CBC ARTS
- CBC METRO MORNING
- ART F CITY
- BROKEN PENCIL MAGAZINE
- CANADIAN ART
- NOW TORONTO
- YONGE STREET MEDIA
- RADIO-CANADA
- CBC HERE AND NOW
- ACCESSIBLE MEDIA INC.
- THE WALLEYE (THUNDER BAY)
- THE CHRONICLE (THUNDER BAY)
- LU RADIO THUNDER BAY

“Supporting art initiatives is something we are truly passionate about at Cieslok Media. We know art has the ability to make a positive difference in the community.”

-Jorg Cieslok, President and CEO of Cieslok Media
LOOKING FORWARD

TANGLED STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

1. **Harness** the impact of Tangled through strategically refocused initiatives and services.

2. **Empower** diverse artists with disabilities to engage and lead in the sustaining of disability arts and culture

3. **Strengthen** Tangled’s internal capacity and sustainability

Over the past year, Tangled board and staff completed an intensive strategic planning process led by consultant Radha Nayar, to address the acquisition of a permanent gallery space. The process included an environmental scan with stakeholder engagement, a SWOT analysis and the development of three strategic directions for the next five years.
STAFF

Artistic Director: Eliza Chandler
Program Director: Cara Eastcott
Director of Operations: Katie McMillan
Arts Management Intern: Sean Lee
Graphic Design: Lindsay Fisher

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Brenda Alizadeh
Kim Fullerton
Judy Gladstone (Treasurer)
Claire Hefferon
Fran Odette (Vice Chair)
Melanie Pantich (Chair)
Elizabeth Sweeney
Elaine Stewart
Heather Willis (Secretary)
Anne Zbitnew

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS!