TANGLED
ART + DISABILITY
ANNUAL REPORT
2017 - 2018
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I am pleased to submit this 2017-2018 Annual Report outlining the accomplishments of Tangled Art + Disability.

This year has been one that is best characterized as the implementation of BIG transformations. As board members we are proud to support Cyn Rozeboom, our Executive Director who brings energy and vision to her work with staff, volunteers, and the Board so as to expand and build upon the solid foundation previously nurtured by artists and curators who brought both a history and commitment to disability arts, including Barak adé Soleil, Tangled Art + Disability Artistic Director from May 2017 to February 2018.

Tangled Art + Disability has, for many in our communities, become a beacon in a world that has become quite polarized. The Board acknowledges the breadth of work of all staff who, over the year, have continued to establish the presence of Tangled Art + Disability as both a leader and innovator in the arts community. Tangled has worked collaboratively with community partners so as to engage in exciting discourses with professional artists and emerging artists from across Canada.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I wish to thank our many sponsors and partners, especially the Canadian Association for Community Living (CACL), and our funders: The Canada Council for the Arts, Ontario Arts Council, the Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport Department of Culture, Toronto Arts Council, the Trillium Foundation and the City of Toronto for their continued support of Tangled’s collective efforts to disrupt narratives of embodiment and the arts; where disability is centered as a place for expression and generative inquiry. Over the year, we are most appreciative of the Committee Chairs who continue to work on fiscal and financial responsibility, communication, governance and nominations, and public relationships and social innovation. Many thanks to Kim Fullerton, Anne Zbitnew, Emily Cook, Heather Willis and Lenore McMillan. This year has been about change and renewal, we say goodbye and thank you to McKenna Gray, Gloria Swain, Makai Livingstone and Liv Mendelsohn whose thoughtful perspectives will be missed. Finally, we welcome our new Board members to Tangled.

I would like to thank all the staff and my fellow board members for their passion, commitment, and collegiality. Again, this year, the Board recognizes the many hours of serious labour devoted to Tangled’s mandate as the disability arts communities continue to strive for staking our collective claim for recognition and inclusion in the arts.

Respectfully submitted,

Fran Odette, President
November 27, 2018
• Employed 35 artists
• Presented 34 free public events
• 5,490 attendance at activities
• 11,674 new website users at www.tangledarts.org.
• 28 volunteers engaged
• 10 training opportunities for emerging artists/arts administrators
• 9 artists from across Canada featured in our first nationally curated exhibition
• Partnered with 12 organizations in Toronto and beyond
• 100% Disability-identified staff
MISSION / MANDATE

TO SUPPORT DISABILITY-IDENTIFIED ARTISTS TO CULTIVATE DISABILITY ARTS IN CANADA TO ENHANCE ACCESS TO THE ARTS FOR ARTISTS AND AUDIENCES OF ALL ABILITIES

WE DO THIS BY:

• Developing, showcasing, promoting, and employing Deaf, Mad, and Disability-identified artists;
• Fostering partnerships and collaborations that increase opportunities for Deaf, Mad, and Disability-identified artists;
• Empowering Deaf, Mad, and Disability-identified folks to embrace and explore their own creativity;
• Publicly showcasing the rich diversity of talent from the Disability Arts community.

Our expertise draws from the lived experience of our staff, board, volunteers, and communities; and the standards and protocols that we have developed through fifteen years of programming.

Our work asks difficult questions, invites partners and audiences to be courageous enough to examine their own assumptions and attitudes, and opens the door for all to join the evolving conversation around creating a more humane, inclusive society.
ACCESSIBLE PROGRAMMING

All Tangled’s aesthetic and artistic choices are intimately tied to accessibility. Not only do we strive to ensure that our art, exhibitions, and events meet and surpass the highest standard of accessibility, we see accessibility as valued and integral to the aesthetics of the artwork we exhibit and our curatorial practices. Tangled is a leader in innovative accessible arts practices that enhance artistic engagement and audience experience.

ACCESSIBILITY AT TANGLED ARTS

- ASL interpretation at all public events
- Care Attendants at all public events
- Amplification & Live Captioning
- Sighted Guides
- Free admission to all activities
- Food and refreshments available; dietary restrictions are respected
- All works are displayed at an accessible height
- Audio Description tours, either via mp3 player or live described tours
- ASL videos of exhibition statements
- All written materials, printed and electronic, are designed to be accessible in text size, colour contrast, layout, and use of plain language
- Digital screen reader friendly versions of all public communications
- Promotional materials contain information on access; community members are not required to search for access provisions
- Financial compensation for community consultants who contribute time and expertise

We are constantly building upon what it means to be fully accessible.
ABOUT THE GALLERY

Tangled Art + Disability operates out of Tangled Art Gallery, located at 401 Richmond West, a restored industrial building that houses a number of artist-run centres that contribute to Toronto’s cultural economy.

Tangled Art Gallery has become a focal point of discussion for accessible curatorial practices and intersectionality in Disability Arts.

The Gallery opened in April 2016 and features over 1500 sq. feet of space, track lighting, a moveable presentation wall, and flexible seating. Tangled Art Gallery also has a library of equipment on hand, including 6 large screen video monitors, a projector, sound system, and 3 audio tour headsets.

Tangled Art Gallery is Canada’s first fully accessible art gallery featuring work by Deaf, Mad and Disability-identified artists, with a focus on accessible curation.
“Space Shapes Place has been an incredible opportunity to challenge the myth of independence. The 2017-18 exhibition series allowed Tangled to support artists in the creation and experimentation of our first commissioned series. Artists were able to work in mediums and methods outside their comfort levels, to drive our development of a ‘crip aesthetic’ forwards. With a focus on process rather than product, Tangled centred how we make rather than what we make”.

- Sean Lee, Gallery Manager

SPACE SHAPES PLACE (September 2017 - June 2018)
Tangled’s first commissioned series of 8 new works from a Canada-wide call for artists presented:

Progress is a Spiral Upward, a visual arts exhibit by sab meynert interweaving organic repetitive patterning and poetic imagery.

Salt of the Earth by Bishara Elmi, displaying domestic objects hand crafted from dirt and conveying the fragility of “home”.


Deaf, what?, a multimedia exhibit by Sage Willow and Alice Lo, featuring 52 portraits of people from across Canada who identify within the Deaf spectrum.

The Maze Project by Fiona Legg, a 10’ tall installation representing the artist’s personal expression of her experiences with mental illness.

My Head Lay on A Trusty Word, a new documentative installation from prolific Montreal filmmaker, Roberto Santaguida.

“The experience of working with you has been an utter joy. The team managed to make a gruelling task easy and even fun. Your extra support and general consideration for things normally skipped over or ignored is a testament to your fidelity to your mission, more important now than ever before. When I thought you would lose patience I realized I hadn’t even come close - the well is deep in reserve.”

- Roberto Santaguida
GROWTH/PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Crip Interiors: MIXER, consisted of self-contained workshops resulting in a pop-up exhibition. It featured collaborative works by Disability-identified artists Kanika Gupta, Anique Jordan, Wy Joung Kou, Najla Nubyanluv, and Melisse Watson, exploring their experience of difference. The series was designed and facilitated by Syrus Marcus Ware and Barak adé Soleil.

RESIDENCIES AND PLACEMENTS AT TANGLED ARTS

IN THE PAST YEAR TANGLED HAS HOSTED

2 Curators in Residence Sean Lee and Yousef Kadoura

3 Student Placements Web Design Intern Rosa Suclian, Archiving Intern Kali Banner, and Access Management Intern Netisha Edwards-Raguette

Our emphasis is to engage Disability-identified individuals in these positions, many of whom use their experience at Tangled as a launch pad towards further successes.

“Through my residency at Tangled Art + Disability, I have been exposed to a wealth of knowledge and a community of artists who I deeply connect with. My understanding of accessible curatorial and creation practices, which I learned through Tangled and related projects, is something I will be able to carry throughout my artistic career, and spread throughout various arts communities.”

-Yousef Kadoura, 2018 Curator in Residence
In 2017 we began to develop a consulting profile of our activities wherein Tangled is able to share our best practices in accessible design and curation. To this end, we engaged in the following partnerships:

The AGO - contributing to their Guillermo Del Toro’s ‘At Home With Monsters’ exhibit.

Summerworks Festival - providing training in Relaxed Performances and an evaluation of their deployment of ASL services.

Outside the March - coaching in the development of an access site-audit for their immersive theatre production, ‘Dr. Silver’.

Gallery 44 - developing an audio tour for Blind & low vision gallery visitors for photography exhibitions, and a presentation on accessible practices in presenting Disability Arts.

"Thank you so much for an engaging and informative event on accessibility and inclusion. We left with many insights and ideas of implementation for our organization."

- Leila Fatemi, Curator of Education and Community Outreach, G44
OTHER ACTIVITIES

OTHER TANGLED ACTIVITIES INCLUDED:

• Curating ‘Constructed Identities’ by Persimmon Blackbridge, the first Disability-Arts focused exhibition at the Canada Council for the Arts’ Ajagemô space in Ottawa.

• Wrapping up the Ontario Tangled Tour, which started in 2015 and presented activities in four cities across Ontario. The final activity of this four year initiative was a presentation of ‘What’s Left of Us’ in Peterborough.

• Presenting the 2018 Kids Festival in a partnership with Giant Steps, a centre that builds the skills and abilities of children on the autism spectrum. The program involved two full days of art workshops with artist Carrie Perreault to develop individual and collectively created pieces of art. To mark April as World Autism Month, a curated selection of this work was featured in an exhibit called ‘Colours of the Spectrum’ at Tangled Art Gallery.
Tangled is embedded in the Disability Arts community and strives to keep our doors open to new people and ideas through community engagement.

Second Saturday Socials are intimate social events centering the interests of the Blind & low vision community.

Listening & Building Activities included two consultation sessions with Disability-identified artists to identify the specific communications needs of our target audiences. Working with socially-conscious business strategy firm Public Inc., Tangled used this material to develop a revised marketing and communications plan, and launched a new website in June 2018.

“The research Tangled did in 2014 prompted Arts Councils to begin addressing barriers facing artists more pro-actively, leading to new funding streams both for arts grants and access needs. The current work, made possible by the participation of 56 artists across Canada, has shown both the gains that have been made, while still emphasizing the need for continual work – as access and accessibility is a continual process.”

- Victoria Anne Warner, Access to Funding Coordinator

The Access to Funding Initiative is working with Arts Funding agencies to research barriers to arts funding and develop supports for Deaf, Mad & Disability-identified artists.

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Gallery Tours & Talks
Tangled regularly hosts tour groups in the Gallery and, when possible, leads discussions on the artists’ work and Disability Arts in general.

“The students were taken by the exhibit and would definitely come back and visit. Also, they have talked about letting others know about the gallery.”

- Arlene San Agustin, Cawthra Park Secondary School

“You should see the student art work we have coming in for a recent creative assignment. The students were really inspired by the gallery tour.”

- Dr. Anne McGuire, New College, University of Toronto
PARTNERSHIPS/

TANGLED FURTHERS TIES WITH COMMUNITY THROUGH ORGANIZATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS. This season partnerships included:

An ongoing partnership with British Council in presenting cross-Canada training in techniques for Relaxed Performance.

Assisting Humber College with hands-on research to inform the development of an Accessibility Toolkit now available in print and online.

Partnering with The South Asian Visual Arts Centre (SAVAC) to screen ‘Pandi’, a film exploring mental health issues in the South Asian community at Malvern Toronto Public Library.

A partnership with the Canadian Association for Community Living, University of British Columbia, and IRIS (Institutes for Research and Development on Inclusion and Society), as part of a larger project centered around Canadian legislation on Medical Assistance in Dying. Tangled’s exhibition FLOURISHING will be presented in the 2018-2019 season.
Facebook likes increased 12%
2017-2018 newsletter subscription increased by 5%
1,550 new Twitter followers
1,725 pieces of printed material disseminated to audiences

Press coverage from CBC Arts (National) and various local media outlets

“During my time at Tangled I have developed and refined our communications practice to reflect the standards of access and forward thinking synonymous with the organization. This has included honing my web and print design aesthetic to move beyond current guides for access, developing and building upon standards for access in communications with current and new audiences, including press releases, social media, event invitations and more, as well as establishing and growing relationships with media personal and organizations.”

- Kristina McMullin, Communication and Design Coordinator
IN JUNE 2018, TANGLED CELEBRATED OUR SUPPORTERS WITH A TANGLED AFFAIR, AN EVENING OF FOOD, DRINKS, EXCELLENT COMPANY, POM POMS, AND LOTS OF PINK.

“Since my hire in December 2017, I have repeatedly been impressed by the resilience, passion, and talent demonstrated by Tangled’s staff, volunteers, and community. Tangled has created a unique space that is supportive, provocative, and relevant. Its potency is reflected in the quality of art we showcase, and the continued support of our most valued financial supporters.”
- Cyn Rozeboom, Executive Director
STAFF

Cyn Rozeboom: Executive Director
Sean Lee: Gallery Manager
Kristina McMullin: Communication and Design Coordinator
Yousef Kadoura: 2018 Curator in Residence
Victoria Anne Warner: Access to Funding Coordinator
Loren O. Delaney: Access Initiative Manager
Barak adé Soleil: Artistic Director July 2017 - March 2018
Katie McMillan: Interim Executive Director
Cara Eastcott: Tangled Tour Director

BOARD

President: Fran Odette
Vice President: Emily Cook
Treasurer: Kim Fullerton
Secretary: Anne Zbitnew
Heather Willis
Livya Mendelsohn
Lenore McMillan
Makai Livingstone
Melanie Panitch