Dear Friends,

Although it has been a challenging few years for all of us, I am incredibly proud of the Tangled community who rallied with ingenuity and creativity in response. Coming together with care and generosity, our artists, volunteers, supporters and staff used artistry, technology and collaboration to showcase themes such as joy, sorrow, vulnerability and strength. COVID has only made us dig deeper and find the strength within.

Thank you for being a part of the journey and change we want for the world as we continue to evolve and grow in our space (and beyond).

- Simone Carpio
  Tangled Board Chair
We closed the doors to Tangled Art Gallery with the onset of Covid19 in March 2020. Over the next 19 months, most of our activity went online. We focused on taking stock internally and checking in with our partners, working collaboratively on a handful of select projects.

The CripTimes podcast was developed in partnership with Bodies in Translation as a direct response to the pandemic. Hosts Kayla Besse, Kristina McMullin, and Yousef Kadoura interviewed Disability-identified artists from Canada and the US. CripTimes can be found on all streaming services.

Season 1 (10 episodes) guests: Syrus Marcus Ware, Renee Dumaresque, Ben Barry, Cindy Baker, Jeff Thomas, Jess Watkin, Gloria C. Swain, Shannon Finnegam, Jenna Reid, Ryan O’Connell

Season 2 (6 episodes) guests: Bruce Horak, Dr. Jill Andrew, BEING Studio, Dr. Travis Lau, Adam Wolfond & Estee Klar, Dustin P. Gibson

Deaf Interiors was originally intended to be presented as a public exhibition as part of “Crip Interior” exhibition series produced by Creative Users Projects. The project was reimagined as a virtual exhibition, developed through online workshops led by Sage Willow and Peter Owusu-Ansah. The gallery at deafinteriors.ca features the work of Melissa Brunner, Ebony Gooden, Syra Hassan, Thurga Kanagesekarampillai, Shannon Rusnak, and Hodan Youssouf, as they consider the theme “Deaf Joy”. Part of the City of Toronto Cultural Hotspot.
PARTNERSHIPS

During the lockdown, Tangled staff took turns sitting on panels and discussions groups, responding to a surge of interest in Disability Arts. We were also able to connect artists with opportunities outside our organization such as the AGO, Partners in Art, Public Access, Toronto Queer Film Festival, and the Bentway.

Partnership projects included *PostScript* (above), an online series of sessions on disability, accessibility, and digital publishing, with Partners in Art and Public Access, and *El Alto* (not shown), a bi-annual anthology (print & online) of culture and the arts in the Americas. Tangled partnered with the British Council to produce the second issue, which focuses on disability.
COMMITMENT TO PEOPLE

We turned our focus toward maintaining connection despite physical distance. We used many excuses to reach out and connect with people. To counter financial insecurity, we paid everyone we connected with, whether for an artistic project or a community consultation.

Recognizing that people are at the core of our work, during COVID we started to include a care clause in our personnel contracts.

# of artists & community members paid per year
- 2019-20: 40
- 2020-21: 92
- 2021-22: 122

CARE CLAUSE
In agreeing to work together, Tangled Art + Disability and the Employee recognize that the wellbeing of any individual associated with the duties detailed in this agreement is more important than any associated deliverable, and thus, all parties agree take care of selves and each other to the best of their ability.
In September 2021, Tangled returned to our gallery space in the 401 Richmond building downtown Toronto. Our first show, Undeliverable, envisioned curation as a form of care and was presented across two spaces: Tangled Art Gallery and Robert McLaughlin Gallery. Undeliverable won the 2022 GOG Exhibition of the Year Budget over $20,000 Thematic Award.
In November 2021, we moved into a new space in the 401 building, and presented *Sagatay*, a reinterpretation of the exhibition that had been in the gallery at the start of the pandemic, and never seen by the public. *Sagatay* featured artists Jaene Castrillon, Danielle Hyde, Kate Meawasige.

Our new space also includes vitrine space. The inaugural vitrine exhibition, *BEING home*, was presented with BEING Studio from Ottawa. Also featured in our vitrine in 2022 were Sam Kasirer-Smibert and Workman Arts.
Our most ambitious exhibition of the year was #CripRitual, curated by The Critical Design Lab. Seventeen artists were featured at Tangled and Doris McCarthy Gallery. This project has its own dedicated website, and we experimented with some new access components such as mailing out care packages and making a 360 recording. Artists shown at Tangled: Margeaux Feldman, Jessica Watkin, Malcolm Corley, Logan Quinn, Hanna Sheehan, Cassidy Bankson, Maryam Hafizi.

CYCLES of the longed for and the grasped: ILGBTAR Retrospective (2013-2021) was the last show of the 2021-22 season. The show was curated by Tobaron Waxman, and featured artists jes sachse, Logan MacDonald, micha cárdenas, Michel Dumont, Robert Ridgway, Sarah Dawn Richardson, and Sheree Rose.
This report integrates image descriptions inspired by the Burning Tears workshops, i.e. a bit longer and more poetic than conventional approaches. Users of screenreaders will hear the following description of the image above: A close up photo detail of Soft Magic, an installation by Margeaux Feldman. Multiple squares are strung along three strands of thin wiring receding from foreground to background. Each square is a collage of images of people, animals and various backgrounds, with a spattering of bubbles containing captions. The overall impression is an ordered cacophony of random images: flowers, naked breasts, the stars, a chandelier, and splashes of color. On the wall at top, the word AFFIRM is printed in a sturdy, no-nonsense font.

RESEARCH/EXPERIMENTATION

We are always trying to expand what it means to be accessible, be this through artistic, technical and/or curatorial choices, patron services, organizational policy or research projects.

**Burning Tears**
is a series of exploratory workshops led by blind artist Collin van Uchelen exploring options in translating the experience of fireworks into non-visual forms.

**Frictions of Futurity**
is a two year partnership with the United Health Network exploring ethics in organ transplantation.

2021-22 Artist Resident: Fraser Allen Best
Since reopening we have been experimenting with offering programming both in person and virtually.

**Pandemic Reflections**

In one experiment, we created an online gallery in Gathertown (left) where we presented a virtual exhibit of submissions from twelve artists reflecting on their COVID experiences. Featuring: Albert Lee, Archie Reid, Felicia Byron, Leah Byck, Raghu Vasudevaah, Anne Hamilton, Ashley Thomas, Atanas Bozdarov, Jena Alma, Laurie M Landry, Olivia Brouwer, Spencer MacKay.

Introducing Rosa: a remote-operated robot that can be booked online, as an option for visiting our gallery from afar.
We have started to offer remote tours using our iPad on a rolling stand, which has allowed us to reach people in their beds at home, school groups from the US, and people as far away as Europe.

“Tangled Arts + Disability is on the leading edge of visitor engagement...IMHOP you can’t beat the in person, in depth art experience at a distance that is provided by an interactive Zoom tour”
- Dave W Barr, blog post

“At the end of my tour, I asked my docent to stand in the center of the space and scan my iPad self around so I could see each piece in context of the other pieces and the space. Gently, careful to not make me motion sick. I was not in the gallery but I was.”
- Erin Clark, blog post

“I would have never had the chance to go if it wasn’t online.”
- feedback post tour
BEYOND THE GALLERY

Intangible Adorations Caravan (IAC) was a traveling circus-inspired performance that reclaimed the idea of the “freak show”. IAC was created by Lisa Anita Wegner, and co-produced with Tangled Arts, Mighty Brave Productions and OtherHearts Collective. Intangible Adorations was originally intended to be presented in 2020 as part of ArtworX.TO but was delayed until 2022.

AWARDS

The Won Lee Fellowship was a cash award given to a “hard working artist” on behalf of the artist Won H. Lee.

2021 winner: claude wittman
2022 winner: Spencer MacKay

Tangled is an OAC Recommender group, and adjudicates applications for theatre creator and exhibition assistance grants each year. We also use these juries as training opportunities for emerging artists.
In 2020 & 2021, we partnered with the Toronto Outdoor Art Fair (TOAF) to spotlight Disability Arts and Artists with a virtual booth on the TOAF website. In 2022 we expanded this partnership to include an in person table at TOAF at Nathan Phillips Square. Tangled artists were featured prominently in an article in the Toronto Star.

COMMUNICATIONS

Over the last two years we have been working with Surface Impression to update our website, [www.tangledarts.org](http://www.tangledarts.org), to include more access features and more information.

We have created public education campaigns to share awareness of disability culture and accessible practices, and engaged artists from the community to participate in social media takeovers.
Sources of Income

Tangled has weathered the financial unpredictability of the past couple years thanks to our funders and supporters, and diverse revenue streams.

**2020-2021**

- CoProductions: 18%
- Corporations: 12%
- Foundations: 7%
- OAC: 6%
- Earned: 37%

**2021-2022**

- CoProductions: 25%
- Corporations: 12%
- Foundations: 8%
- OAC: 3%
- Earned: 29%
- Individual: 4%
- Canada Council: 2%
- TAC: 3%
- Other Govt: 5%
Expense Trends

We have continued to keep our expenses in line with revenue over the past few years. Our emphasis on personnel is evident in a comparison of category spending - when programming shrunk over the lockdown period, we channeled funds into artists and community and technological improvements to help us move into the digital space.
In December 2021, Tangled won the Disability Access Award as part of the 2021 City of Toronto Access, Equity & Human Rights Awards.
SUPPORTERS

Alexandra Djimbi-Simba
Andrew Heule
Andrew Zhao
Anne Gorsuch
Anonymous
Anonymous Fund - OCF
Ben Coleman
Billie Wilner
BIPOC Executive Search
Cathy Gordon
Cheryl Giraudy
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Marjorie Chan
Marla Hlady
Mehdi Pourasadi
Melanie Panitch

Monika Lê
Patrick Dessaulles
Phantom Femme / Amy Lamont

Pui Yee Nikkie To &
Robert Walter-Joseph
in memory of
Jini Stolk

Pigeons & Thread
R&M Lang Foundation
Dr. Rachel da Silveira Gorman
Raeburn Ferguson
Rebecca Gimmi
Ruth Mandel - Who Gives Fund
Saira Talut
Dr. Syrus Marcus Ware
Telus Corp
Vincent Dessureal
Wendy Vanden Heuvel
Won H Lee
Wawanesa Corp
**Michelle Peek Photography courtesy of Bodies in Translation | Re•Vision: The Centre for Art & Social Justice at the University of Guelph.**