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Edmonton, February 7, 2024

Press Release:

A Major Donation from an Anonymous Donor to Harcourt House Artist Run Centre in support of the purchase of Harcourt House Buildings

The Board of Directors and the Management of Where Edmonton Community Artists Network (W.E.C.A.N.) Society/Harcourt House Artist Run Centre are excited to announce another significant donation of \$100,000. This gift from an Anonymous Donor outside of Edmonton is toward the purchase of the Harcourt House Property.

We at the W.E.C.A.N. Society/Harcourt House Artist Run Centre are extremely grateful to the Donor for their extraordinary support. This generous and important contribution, along with previous major contribution in the amount of \$100,000 from the Calgary-based Flanagan Foundation are in recognition of the role Harcourt House Artist Run Centre has played for 36 years in the cultural landscape of Alberta and continues to play today.

We remain confident these generous contributions will be equally matched or exceeded by the financial contributions from the Edmonton-based corporate sector, private foundations, and local philanthropists.

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Harcourt House Artist Run Centre – Toward A Sustainable Facility for Artists

Where Edmonton Community Artists Network (W.E.C.A.N.) Society has an opportunity to purchase Harcourt House Buildings to make this home of 36-years permanent, stable, and sustainable, and to establish a Permanent Cultural Legacy for the Province of Alberta. In order to secure the ownership of Harcourt House, a total of 3.5 million dollars must be raised by November 30, 2024.

The W.E.C.A.N. Society has signed a purchase agreement with the Ministry of Alberta Infrastructure for the sale and purchase of the Harcourt House property. The W.E.C.A.N. Society/Harcourt House Artist Run Centre continues our fundraising efforts from diverse funding streams for purchasing Harcourt House Buildings. We are most encouraged by our continued conversations with all levels of government, the corporate sector, private foundations, local philanthropists, and by our fundraising endeavours.

As of today, the Society has been able to raise over \$270,000 (two hundred and seventy thousand dollars).

We are encouraged that our application for the Community Facility Enhancement Program (CFEP) Large Funding Stream Grant (up to \$1,000,000) toward the acquisition of the Harcourt House Buildings and associated land is under active consideration. The Large Funding Stream CFEP Grant is of paramount importance to our fundraising efforts to secure matching funding from the Government of Canada, The City of Edmonton, corporate sector, and other major private donors, which will be directly invested in the acquisition and securing ownership of the Harcourt House. We are eagerly awaiting a favourable decision from the Hon. Tanya Fir, Minister of Alberta Arts, Culture and Status of Women on the status of our critical grant application.

The W.E.C.A.N. Society/Harcourt House Artist Run Centre is excited about the future. The acquisition of the buildings and associated land currently inhabited by the Harcourt House Artist Run Centre opens up tremendous opportunities for further growth and enhancement of the visual arts in Alberta. Spaces like Harcourt House Artist Run Centre are vital to artists staying in Alberta and contributing to the cultural and economic vibrancy of our Province and cities.

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