

Annual Report 2024-2025



PLATFORM
CENTRE FOR
PHOTOGRAPHIC
+ DIGITAL ARTS

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PLATFORM Centre operates on the traditional lands of the Anishinaabeg, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota, and Dene Peoples, and the homeland of the Red River Métis nation. Our clean drinking water comes from Treaty 3 Territory Shoal Lake First Nation. We recognize the Treaty Territories that provide us access to electricity we use in our personal and professional lives.

True reconciliation does not end at acknowledgment. It is a continuous process that requires intentional action every step of the way. At PLATFORM, it is our mission to support Indigenous voices with all aspects of the work we do here at the Centre. PLATFORM commits to creating space for Indigenous artists, cultural workers, and community members that work and engage with the Centre. We do this by working directly with Indigenous artists on culturally-specific programming, lectures, or outreach initiatives.

PLATFORM acknowledges Canada's colonial history and recognizes that there is constant work to be done. We encourage visitors of the Centre to engage with Indigenous artists and photographers that work towards decolonizing the medium of photography.

Staff and board of PLATFORM will review this land acknowledgement annually. We prompt our staff and board to consider their place on the land, what reconciliation means to them personally, and how they can implement actions of reconciliation in their daily lives.

Who We Are

Mandate

Developing and maintaining a centre of education and facilitating involvement of the public in the appreciation and practice of the photography and photo-based digital arts.

Mission

PLATFORM Centre is an artist-run centre dedicated to considering the expanded role of photography in contemporary art. We are a multidisciplinary centre that supports and showcases local, national, and international artists, and are committed to supporting marginalized and BIPOC voices. Through exhibitions, lectures, workshops, production facilities, and publications, we aim to foster and sustain a critically engaged community of artists.

Guiding Principles

1. Innovative and Thought-Provoking

PLATFORM Centre wants to engage and inspire. PLATFORM Centre will take risks that innovate the Centre. These risks will provoke ideas, critical engagement, and meaningful dialogue in the Centre.

2. Artists and Their Experience Matter

PLATFORM Centre will support all levels of artists in a respectful, positive, professional, and inclusive manner.

3. Building Community

PLATFORM Centre will seek out opportunities for community building. This community will have the opportunity to gather in an engaged and supportive space; creating an environment of collaboration and respect.

Executive & Artistic Director's Report

2024 marked the second year as Co-Directors at PLATFORM, a year defined by collaboration, experimentation, and a continued commitment to supporting artists and cultural workers in meaningful ways.

We began the year by putting our newly created five-year strategic plan into action. This plan has shaped collectively with the Board, staff, and community members in 2023. This vision has guided our programming, outreach, and organizational priorities throughout the year, ensuring that PLATFORM remains both responsive and forward-thinking.

One of our proudest accomplishments has been the continued success of the Monthly Darkroom Drop-Ins, which have transformed the space into a welcoming hub for photographers of all experience levels. By inviting volunteer facilitators and keeping the program free, these gatherings have introduced new audiences to the Centre and re-energized our membership community, keeping Winnipeg's only publicly accessible darkroom's alive! Thank you to our darkroom committee.

This year also marked an exciting milestone: PLATFORM received its first Winnipeg Foundation Community Grant in several years, enabling us to hire a third staff member dedicated to education and outreach. In May 2024, we welcomed Zoë LeBrun as our new Education & Outreach Coordinator, expanding the Centre's capacity for public programming and membership engagement. In July, Tayler Buss concluded her role at PLATFORM, and Meganelizabeth Diamond stepped into the position of Executive & Artistic Director, continuing the organization's vision with a unified leadership structure.

2024 also marked the first full year with PLATFORM's refreshed visual identity by designer Adam Globa. The new look has brought a contemporary edge to our communications and helped us share our programming with greater clarity and consistency.

In December, we hosted the 11x14 Fundraiser, welcoming over sixty artist donations and nineteen local business partners. The event raised over \$7,500, all of which went directly toward expanding outreach initiatives and ensuring our programming remained accessible and artist-centered.

Financially, PLATFORM continues to operate on one of the most modest budgets among Winnipeg's artist-run centres. Yet, thanks to operating support from the Manitoba Arts Council, Winnipeg Arts Council, and project funding from the Canada Council for the Arts, alongside new sponsorship from the Exchange District Biz, we have been able to maintain our commitment to paying artists and cultural workers above CARFAC's minimum recommended fees. Investments in new equipment this year have also improved both our production facilities and member experience.

This year has reaffirmed our belief that community, creativity, and care are at the heart of PLATFORM's work. We are grateful to the artists, volunteers, board members, and supporters who continue to shape this Centre into a space for experimentation, dialogue, and shared learning.

Meganelizabeth Diamond
Executive & Artistic Director
Annual Report 2024

Board of Directors' Report

Throughout 2024, PLATFORM has remained dedicated to supporting and showcasing local, national, and international artists, with a firm commitment to marginalized and BIPOC voices. The Board of Directors is proud that PLATFORM ends the year in a stronger position than it began. We have continued to build community through new memberships, darkroom drop-ins, a range of excellent programs, well registered workshops, and strong artist and community support at our annual fundraising event.

The Board also recognizes the steady leadership and operational excellence of our Co-Directors over the past two years, Meganelizabeth Diamond and Tayler Buss. We want to especially thank former Administrative Director Tayler Buss, who joined PLATFORM as a student intern in 2019 and, for five years, worked alongside Meganelizabeth Diamond & Collin Zipp with remarkable dedication. We are grateful for Buss's service and wish her the very best in her next chapter. Currently, Meganelizabeth Diamond serves as Executive and Artistic Director, and Zoë Lebrun joined as Membership and Education Coordinator in May 2024. We thank our staff for their outstanding service and continuing dedication to the gallery.

We extend our gratitude to our Board of Directors Charles Venzon, James Gorton, Rémi Gosselin, Alexandre Normandeau, Bronwyn Lutz-Greenhow, Sharyn Gutierrez, Alyssa Born, and Madelyn Gowler. Each of whom has contributed valuable experience and effort to strengthen PLATFORM. We thank Charles Venzon, our outgoing Board Chair, for his leadership and many contributions to the gallery. Daisy Wu has been elected the new Board Chair.

In the first year of implementing our new five-year strategic plan, PLATFORM advanced outreach programming by exhibiting third-year University of Manitoba students' work in April 2024; and running regular darkroom drop-ins that increased annual darkroom memberships and regular membership by 35% in 2024.

In November 2024, Staff and Board members participated in the Manitoba Harm Reduction Network's Anti-Oppression and Harm Reduction training. This work strengthens our safer space practices, aligns operations with our strategic goals of inclusion, community building, and sustainable operation, and reflects the responsibilities of an arts organization located in the city centre where accessibility and safety are important.

We also prioritized equity by showcasing marginalized and BIPOC voices across exhibitions and public programs, such as *gastropoetics*, a group exhibition curated by Noor Bhangu, *reyv·payzaj / dream·scape* by Robyn Adams and Nartia Reyes Ico's solo exhibition. In 2023, Taylor McArthur won the PLATFORM Photography Award, her solo new media exhibition debuted in March 2024 in Gallery 2.

In 2024, we awarded Skye Callow, the 2024/25 PLATFORM Photography Award, followed with the solo exhibition to come in spring 2025. PLATFORM worked with our first international curator in residence, Camilo Londoño Hernández, who's exhibition opens in 2025.

We are proud of PLATFORM's achievements in 2024 and remain committed to continuous improvement. As we move forward, we are updating governance practices, policies, and terms of reference to involve more community members in our programming and organizational stewardship. We will continue working with our staff and members to meet the goals of our strategic plan.

Daisy WU
Chair, Board of Directors



Chlorophyll printing workshop led by Sarah Fuller. Image Credit: Zoë Le Brun

2024 Board of Directors

Daisy Wu, President
James Gorton, Secretary
Bronwyn Lutz-Greenhow, Treasurer
Madelyn Gowler
Alexandre Normandeau
Sharyn Gutierrez
Alyssa Bornn
Remi Gosselin



Alay sa ating ninuno at mga naunang dumating sa atin / For those who came before us, Nartia Reyes Ico. Image Credit: Daisy Wu

Programming Report

2024 was a year of expansion and renewed energy for PLATFORM's programming. Our exhibitions continued to engage with the complexities of contemporary photographic and lens-based practices, welcoming local, national, and international artists while strengthening partnerships across the community. Our public programs remain centred around sustainability and inclusivity. This year's programming reflected a balance of ambitious commissions, experimental curatorial projects, and collaborative initiatives designed to open the Centre to broader audiences.

We began the year with the Curator-in-Residence exhibition *gastropoetics*, curated by Noor Bhangu. Featuring work by Alireza Bayat, Areum Kim, Svati Shah, and Yafa Café, the exhibition explored the intersections of food, memory, and cultural identity through photography, installation, and text-based works. As our second Curator-in-Residence exhibition, *gastropoetics* marked an important step in PLATFORM's commitment to fostering curatorial research and creating space for critical dialogue.

In spring, Taylor McArthur's 2023/24 PLATFORM Photography Award exhibition, showcased the work of this year's award recipient. McArthur's new media piece explored cultural identity, place, and personal narrative, reflecting the award's ongoing commitment to supporting emerging voices in lens-based practices.

In June, we were thrilled to present Nabil Azab's *You Are Not Very Far Away*, our first commissioned new work in several years. Azab transformed both gallery spaces with photography and sculptural installation to examine intimacy, distance, and diasporic memory. The commission represented a renewed investment in artistic production at PLATFORM, offering the support for an artist to develop and present a major new body of work.

The fall season brought two powerful solo exhibitions presented concurrently: Robyn Adams' *reyv·payzaj / dream·scape* in the Main Gallery and Narito Ico's *Alay sa ating ninuno / For Those Who Came Before Us* in Gallery 2. Adams' work layered beading, text, photo and moving image to construct landscapes of memory and dream, while Ico's photographic installation reflected on ancestry, migration, and intergenerational inheritance. Together, the exhibitions invited audiences to consider how personal and collective histories shape our sense of place and belonging.

Community partnerships remained a cornerstone of our programming in 2024. The exhibition *Outside at Young and Broadway*, presented in collaboration with Art City, showcased work by participants in the organization's Film Photography Program. Similarly, the School of Art Photo Show brought student work into the gallery, offering an important platform for emerging artists to present their projects in a professional context and connect with the broader arts community. PLATFORM ended 2024 with the Winnipeg Film Group to host a rental of our gallery spaces for an archival exhibition celebrating the organization's 50th anniversary.

Across all of these exhibitions and partnerships, PLATFORM remained committed to paying artists above CARFAC minimums, supporting experimental practices, and creating opportunities for dialogue between artists, audiences, and the many communities we serve.



You are not very far away by Nabil Azab. Image Credit: Daisy Wu



gastropoetics curated by Noor Bhangu, PLATFORM 23/24 Curator in Residence

2024 Exhibition Schedule

Jan 12 - Feb 24, 2024

gastropoetics, curated by Noor Bhangu,
PLATFORM 23/24 Curator in Residence,
Alireza Bayat, Areum Kim, Svati Shah, and
Yafa Café

Mar 08 - Apr 06, 2024

circles of existence, Taylor McArthur

Mar 08 - Apr 06, 2024

ANYTHING WHATEVER!, annual
member's exhibition

Apr 10 - Apr 13, 2024

Foto Fusion, School of Art, Max Blue,
Daphne Castillo, Herlinda Dalayoan, Lee
Graham, Lev Hochman, Julia Langer, Frankie
May, Nino Nguyen, Valentine Nwachukwu,
Isabella Santiago, Mia Steenson, Finn
Swanson-Bilyk

Apr 19 - June 1, 2024

Outside at Young and Broadway, Art City

Jun 14 - Jul 20, 2024

You Are Not Very Far Away, Nabil Azab

Sept 06 - Nov 02, 2024

*Alay sa ating ninuno at mga naunang
dumating sa atin / For those who came
before us*, Nartia Reyes Ico

Sept 06 - Nov 02, 2024

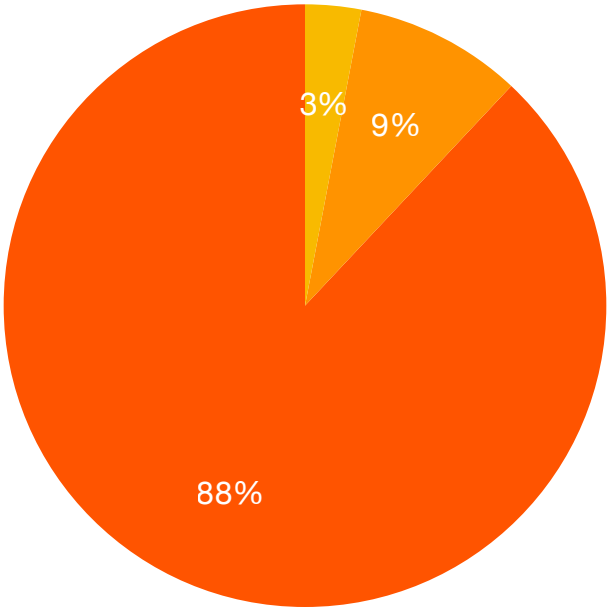
reyv·payzaj / dream·scape, Robyn Adams

Dec 13 - Feb 15, 2025

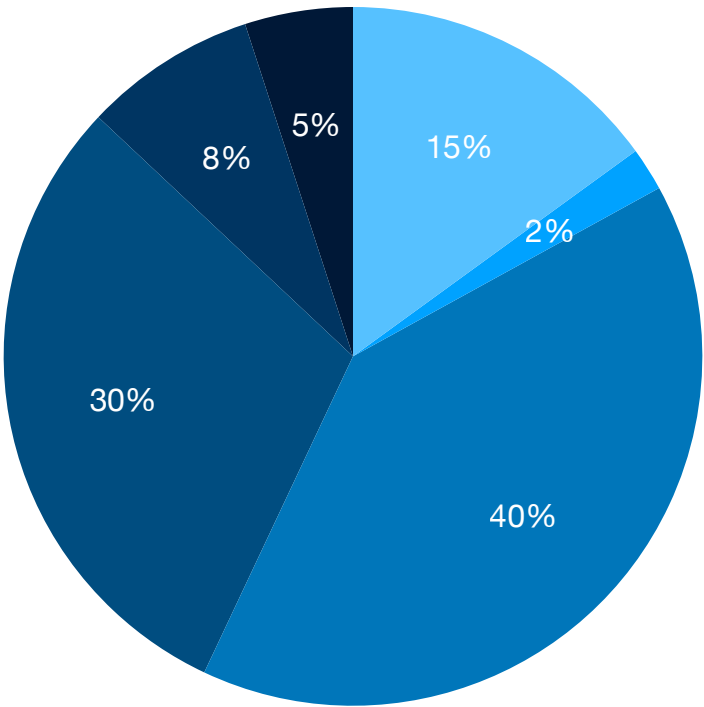
*We're Still Here: 50 Years of the Winnipeg
Film Group*

Statement of Operations, April 2024-March 2025

Earned Revenue: \$3 005 Private Sector: \$29 336
Public Sector: \$123 440



Artist Fees: \$15 950 Production & Technical: \$437
Operations & Wages: \$76 980 Operating: \$35 509
Marketing & Promotion: \$4 032 Ancillary Services: \$5 406



Thank you 2024 funders and sponsors!



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Conseil des arts
du Canada



WINNIPEG
ARTS COUNCIL



THE
EXCHANGE
DISTRICT BIZ