

FRAMING A NEW ART CENTRE FOR KENORA

the big picture

CAMPAIGN



WJ PHILLIPS, LAKE OF THE WOODS, COLOUR WOODBLOCK PRINT

LAKE OF THE WOODS MUSEUM AND ART CENTRE



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the big picture

CAMPAIGN

A new Art Centre for Kenora — that's the vision.

A new art space deeply connected and rooted to the success of a well-established museum but free to strike out on its own remarkable path — that's the dream.

A strong cultural presence in Kenora that inspires and supports artists, encourages creativity, strengthens community bonds, builds identity, invigorates growth, and says to the world, "We're unique. We have something very special to share with you. You'll be amazed." — that's the big picture.

*Art is not what you see,
but what you make others see.*

EDGAR DEGAS



WHO WE ARE

The Lake of the Woods Museum is “one of the coolest little museums in Canada” according to a national magazine, and it has a long and effective history in the city of Kenora. Established in 1964, the multi-award winning Museum has been one of the central pillars of culture in Kenora. It has been a place of engagement, exploration, discovery, and delight.

With the addition of the proposed Art Centre, the Museum is well positioned to move into the future, offering inspired exhibits, quality programming, and enriching experiences that make the most of the significant synergies that will exist between the Museum and the new Art Centre. With a strong history of fiscal management, board governance, and qualified staff, this exciting addition to the Museum’s cultural offerings is in good hands.

THE OPPORTUNITY

This project was prompted by the generous offer of two longtime lake residents, Nicki and Bryce Douglas. They have been collecting Lake of the Woods woodcut prints, watercolours and engravings of Canadian artist Walter J. Phillips for the past 30 years. Because of their connection to and love of Lake of the Woods and Kenora, they will be gifting their collection, which currently numbers around 65 pieces, to the Lake of the Woods Museum.

The Douglases have enjoyed Lake of the Woods every summer for many years. Their children and now their grandchildren also consider Kenora their “heart home”.

This gift to the community is their way of acknowledging the importance of this place to their entire family.

THE MISSION

Inspired by the Walter J. Phillips permanent collection, the Art Centre reflects the imagination of our community through a wide variety of arts-related exhibitions and events. It encourages art appreciation and participation through opportunities that engage, provoke and enrich.

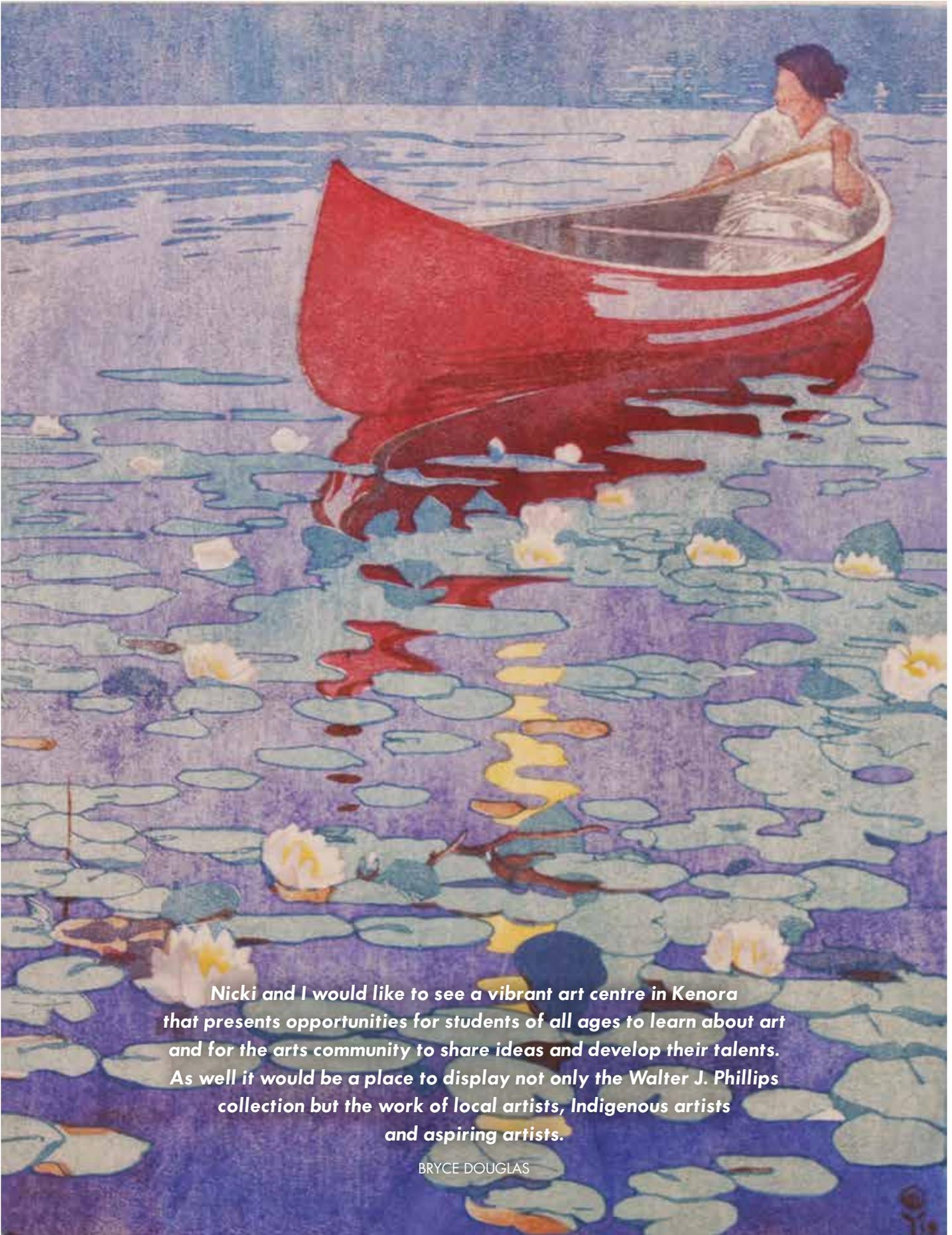
How fitting that it is the work of Walter J. Phillips that has captured their hearts, for Phillips’ best-known and loved images are those that depict his family’s holidays on Lake of the Woods from the mid 1910s until the late 1920s.

The Douglas’ collection is unique in Canada with respect to the number of pieces, its focus on Lake of the Woods and its proximity to Winnipeg where Phillips spent much of his life. It holds meaning for us who consider this place home, but it has also been recognized by a noted art historian and curator as being of “outstanding significance and national importance.” Kenora is being offered a treasure.

What an opportunity this has presented — to create a dynamic art space that not only houses this nationally recognized collection, but also plays host to local, regional, First Nations and national exhibits; and that encourages creation, imagination, partnerships, and community spirit through public programming; and provides a unique community gathering space.

Opportunities like this seldom present themselves in smaller communities like Kenora, so when they do they are met with excitement and a commitment to make them happen.

We’re dreaming the big dream!



Nicki and I would like to see a vibrant art centre in Kenora that presents opportunities for students of all ages to learn about art and for the arts community to share ideas and develop their talents. As well it would be a place to display not only the Walter J. Phillips collection but the work of local artists, Indigenous artists and aspiring artists.

BRYCE DOUGLAS

THE NEED

The offer of this gift has also brought to the forefront a need in our community — a designated and appropriate space to create and display art, in its many forms. The Museum has fulfilled that function, to a degree, for many years but the limitations of space, staffing and resources have curtailed its capabilities. Ultimately there is a need for a public art gallery of significance that will further foster the arts in Kenora, through creation, exhibition and appreciation.

Over the past several years Kenora's arts and cultural community has flourished, from the establishment of the Lake of the Woods Arts Community to the Kenora Association for Community Living's Arts Hub, from the growth in the number of musical performers to theatre productions, from the opening of private commercial galleries and a dance studio to the establishment of a new music festival. The arts are alive and well in the City of Kenora.

It is into this context that we introduce the Art Centre.

The current building of the Lake of the Woods Museum has served the community well for over 30 years but is not able to accommodate the addition of a nationally recognized art collection. However, the original Museum building (the Museum Annex), a charming, heritage-designated structure in Memorial Park, is just waiting to be re-purposed as an integral part of the Art Centre. Build onto that a 5,100 square foot addition that includes two galleries, public space and storage in environmentally controlled conditions and you have the beginnings of a beautiful thing.

A space to create and exhibit. A place to learn. A setting for conversation and exchange. A venue for meaningful connections. An environment that inspires, challenges, and motivates.

It is the imagination of the Douglasses, the Lake of the Woods Museum and the arts community that has brought us to where we are today — taking a well-needed art centre concept and moving it towards reality.

To accomplish this, The Big Picture Campaign has been established to garner support for this project valued at \$4.5 million. We anticipate that the construction of the Art Centre will begin in the spring of 2018.

Love of beauty is taste. The creation of beauty is art.

RALPH WALDO EMERSON



A SPACE TO CREATE AND EXHIBIT. A PLACE TO LEARN. A SETTING FOR CONVERSATION
AND EXCHANGE. A VENUE FOR MEANINGFUL CONNECTIONS.
AN ENVIRONMENT THAT INSPIRES, CHALLENGES, AND MOTIVATES.



THE IMPACT

This project meets the desire to strengthen the cultural offerings for residents and visitors, for the intangible and inherent value of the arts, as well as its economic impact on the community. Kenora is well versed in re-creating itself to stay dynamic and bold.

The City of Kenora recognizes that culture is a pillar of community sustainability. Cultural vibrancy makes Kenora a better place to live, work, and do business, and a more desirable destination for visitors.

The Ontario government refers to culture as “the lifeblood of a vibrant society”. Beyond its intrinsic value (leisure, entertainment, learning, shared experiences, and joy), culture also provides important social and economic benefits. It enhances our quality of life and increases the overall well-being of both individuals and communities. It builds social capital, the glue that holds communities together. It creates opportunities to explore and express and begin conversations that address social issues of importance to our community. Arts and culture have a positive impact on our sense of place, a feeling of pride, a sense of belonging and it helps cities develop narratives with unique selling points that attract tourists, youth and business investors. Museums and art galleries are magnets for cultural tourists, a growing sector of the tourism population.

The Art Centre will be an addition to the growing suite of arts and cultural offerings of Kenora and will serve as a draw and a reason-to-stay to permanent and summer residents, professionals, youth, investors, and visitors.

HEART OF THE COMMUNITY

This project will create a cultural campus right in the heart of historic downtown Kenora. The Museum, the Art Centre, and the Cenotaph, set among heritage buildings like the Court House and St. Alban’s Cathedral, have impact. What a strong statement to all of the importance of arts and culture in our community.

A physical presence in the heart of the community is one thing. But does the Museum have a place in the hearts of the community? To that we would respond with a resounding yes. Our volunteer base is strong and enthusiastic; participation in programming is robust; support from individuals, businesses, and schools is significant. The Museum is a gathering place, as will be the Art Centre.

PARTNERSHIPS

The Lake of the Woods Museum not only recognizes but lives out the ideal of partnerships in its pursuits. The values of coming together, keeping together and working together will be key to the success in realizing the dream of the Art Centre and its potential.

When we think of partnerships, we begin by acknowledging that the land on which the Art Centre will be constructed is the traditional territory of the Anishinaabeg and Métis, territory covered by Treaty #3 signed October 3, 1873 and Treaty Adhesion signed by the Métis in 1875. We acknowledge and offer our gratitude to the Indigenous community for their contributions and express our intent to share this space and walk side-by-side into the future. The Museum's Indigenous Advisory Group will continue to provide guidance and wisdom to the board and staff as we go forward.

Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success. HENRY FORD

The Museum commits to working with and for the arts community, schools, the larger community and all its members as we expand to include the Art Centre. As well, the partnership with the City of Kenora continues, as it is anticipated that the City will provide operating funding for the Arts Centre to the same degree they are currently supporting the Lake of the Woods Museum.

ARTFUL

The addition of an Art Centre to Kenora's cultural scene will open up tremendous programming opportunities that may include:

- guided and self-guided visitor and group tours
- curriculum-based school tours
- afternoon, evening and weekend lectures, workshops, film presentations
- guest and visiting artists
- summer art camps
- creative retreats
- art fairs
- school spring break camps
- artist-in-residence programs
- art creation in a variety of mediums
- community art projects



IMAGE USED WITH PERMISSION
OF ARTIST JOHN PAUL LAVAND

LAVAND

DESIGN STATEMENT BY NELSON ARCHITECTURE

In a review of W.J. Phillips paintings and prints, it was noted that many of his paintings of buildings reflect compositionally a “community of buildings”. Phillips appeared to be attracted to ad hoc groupings of buildings with simple and traditional shed and gable forms.

The design team has taken this notion of a “community of archetypal forms” and applied it to the development of an addition to a building which itself is archetypal in form, the Museum Annex. The addition distances itself from the existing building and the interface between the two buildings is the minimum required to connect the old with the new. All four corners of the existing building remain untouched with the connection of the new addition.

The new building is an assemblage of these archetypal forms noted in the Museum Annex but it transforms them in a way which is undeniably modern. The simple gable roof of the Annex transforms into a simple cubic vestibule of similar size and projection on the addition.

In this manner the design attempts to acknowledge the cultural importance of the Annex but does so in a manner which is not a modern day imitation, and in a way that is clearly indicative of our time and the state of building arts today.

The size and massing of the building is intended to fit comfortably alongside the existing Museum Annex, and closely approximates the Annex in horizontal and vertical dimensions. The team has created a two storey structure that matches the height of the single storey Museum Annex, allowing both a lower gallery intended for transient and visiting collections and an upper gallery for the Phillips collection.

The building also needed to respect the nature of Memorial Park. The park was developed at the turn of the 20th century and exhibits a formal axial symmetry with the Cenotaph and the Court House entry. The addition extends no further into Memorial Park than the existing Annex and its angled wall creates a symmetry with the existing museum around the same axis.



RENDERINGS BY NELSON ARCHITECTURE

EXHIBITION SPACE

The Art Centre will provide two gallery spaces, each of 850 square feet, one on the ground level and one on the second floor. The two gallery spaces will be purpose-built and will offer 137 lineal feet of wall space in each gallery without any floating display. The galleries will provide an exceptional, temperature- and humidity-controlled environment for the display and viewing of art.

The two galleries allow for flexibility in programming. One gallery will host the Walter J. Phillips collection for part of the year, the other will be available for exhibits from other galleries, specially curated exhibits, and for highlighting the work of local or regional professional or emerging artists.

MULTI-PURPOSE SPACE

The Art Centre will include upper and lower lobbies and lounges, exterior garden space and a collection management area. Lobbies may be used for orientation space for tour groups, short-term displays, gallery receptions, retail space and rental opportunities for corporate or private functions.

The outdoor garden and parkland provides a tranquil resting place or an open air gathering place.

STUDIO SPACE

The existing Museum Annex will provide over 1,400 square feet of studio and programming space on two levels and will include space for administrative functions.

Studio programming will be a cornerstone of the Art Centre and is an important component of the overall plan. The Annex is an excellent raw space for studio programs which might include printmaking, pottery or painting. The space can easily transition from studio function to temporary displays, presentations, and creative showcasing events. Many of the heritage features of the Museum Annex like the iron shutters, the vault doors, and millwork can be retained in the studio setting. It is an inspiring and beautiful space for creative pursuits.



FLOOR PLANS: NELSON ARCHITECTURE INC.

BASEMENT FLOOR PLAN, ART CENTRE



FIRST FLOOR PLAN, ART CENTRE



SECOND FLOOR PLAN, ART CENTRE

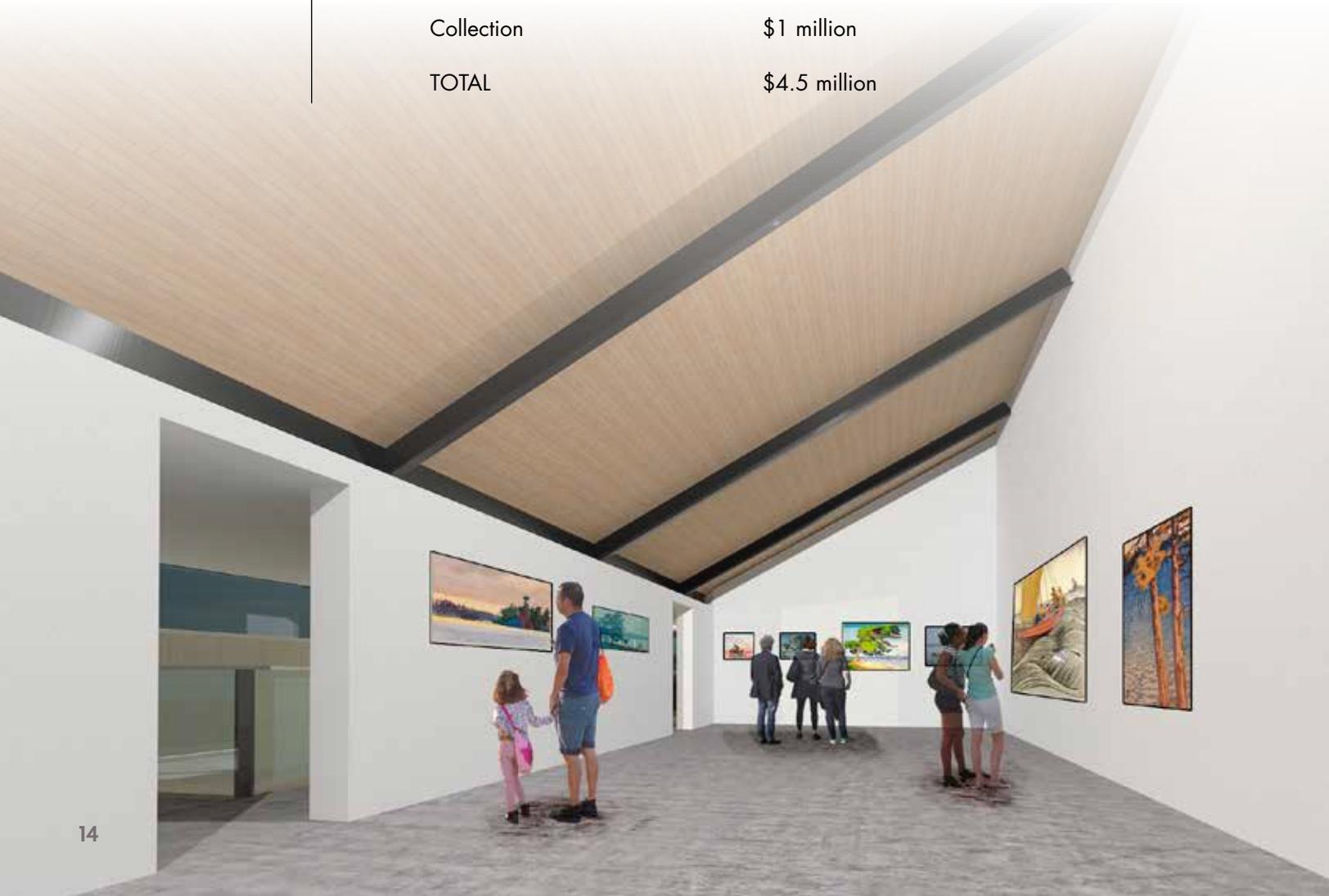
THE BIG PICTURE CAMPAIGN

The projected project value is \$4.5 million. The success of the campaign will depend on the involvement of government, summer residents, permanent residents, the corporate community and foundations.

Value of Project

Private Funding	\$2.5 million
Government Funding	\$1 million
Value of donated Collection	\$1 million
TOTAL	\$4.5 million

Construction	\$3 million
Operating Fund	\$0.5 million
Collection	\$1 million
TOTAL	\$4.5 million



JOIN US

Your contribution to The Big Picture Campaign will ensure that the Art Centre becomes a reality.

There are many ways to support the campaign:

- a one-time gift
- monthly pledges
- annual pledges up to a maximum of five years
- a gift of securities
- a corporate matching gift

Choose how best to make your donation:

- in person at the Lake of the Woods Museum at 300 Main Street South, Kenora
- by phone with your VISA or Mastercard at 1(807)467-2105
- by mail — please make your cheque payable to Lake of the Woods Museum and send to:

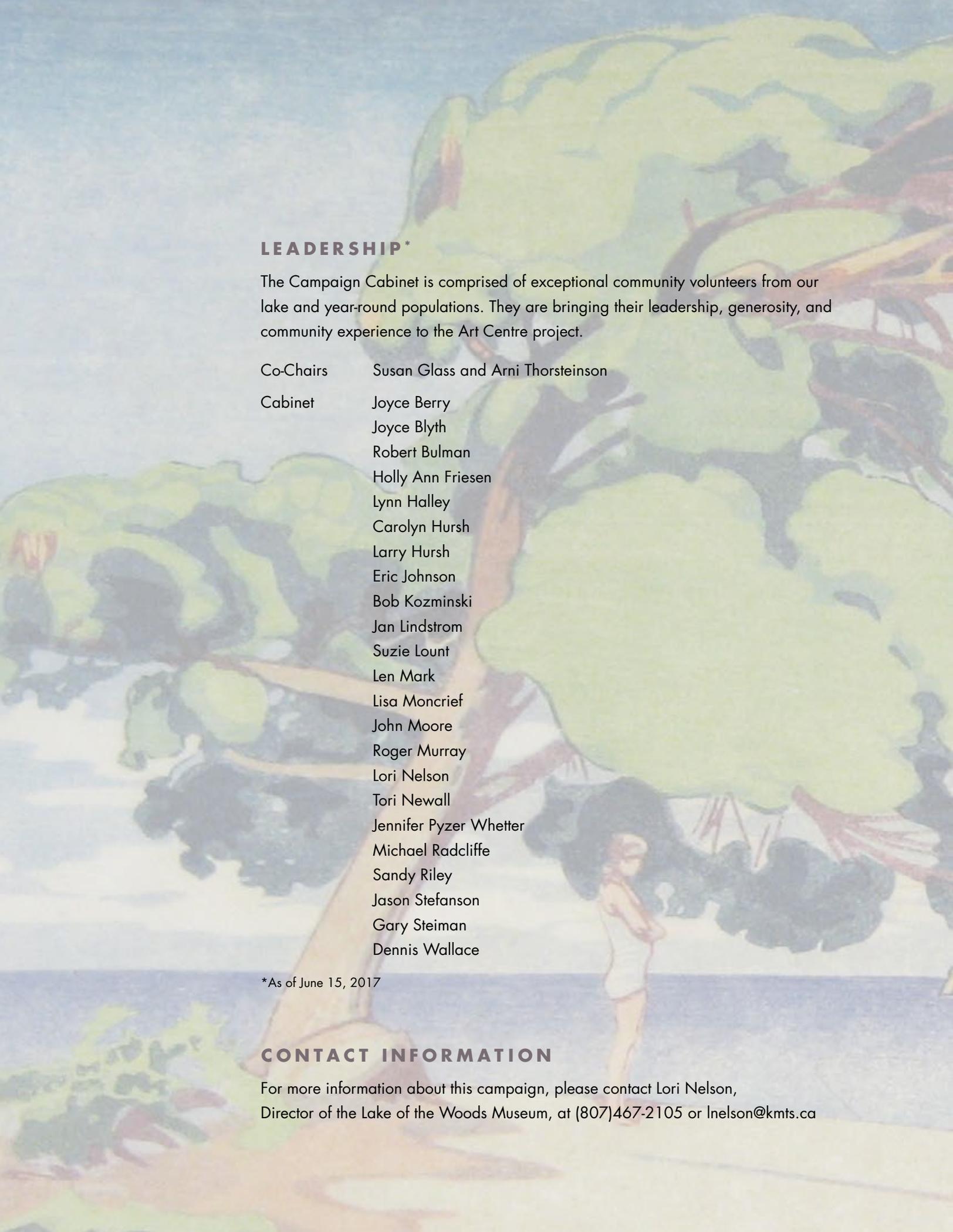
The Big Picture Campaign
c/o Lake of the Woods Museum
PO Box 497
Kenora, ON P9N 3X5
Canada

If you wish additional information, a member of our Campaign Cabinet would be pleased to speak to you. Please direct your query to Lori Nelson (lnelson@kmts.ca or 1(807)467-2105) at the Lake of the Woods Museum.

Charitable Registration Number: 119002889 RR0001

We thank each of our donors for their generous support.

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LEADERSHIP*

The Campaign Cabinet is comprised of exceptional community volunteers from our lake and year-round populations. They are bringing their leadership, generosity, and community experience to the Art Centre project.

Co-Chairs Susan Glass and Arni Thorsteinson

Cabinet Joyce Berry
Joyce Blyth
Robert Bulman
Holly Ann Friesen
Lynn Halley
Carolyn Hursh
Larry Hursh
Eric Johnson
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Lisa Moncrief
John Moore
Roger Murray
Lori Nelson
Tori Newall
Jennifer Pyzer Whetter
Michael Radcliffe
Sandy Riley
Jason Stefanson
Gary Steiman
Dennis Wallace

*As of June 15, 2017

CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information about this campaign, please contact Lori Nelson,
Director of the Lake of the Woods Museum, at (807)467-2105 or lnelson@kmts.ca