



72-74 Main Street  
Port Union, NL  
A0C 1J0

Contact: Jane Walker  
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*We respectfully acknowledge that the land we occupy is on the ancestral homelands of the Beothuk, and that Ktaqamkuk (the island of Newfoundland) is the ancestral homelands of the Mi'kmaq and Beothuk. We would also like to recognize the Inuit of Nunatsiavut and NunatuKavut and the Innu of Nitassinan, and their ancestors, as the original people of Labrador. We recognize the colonial context of our settlement and its impact on our past, present, and future.*

*Union House Arts strives to build awareness, understanding, and allyship with Indigenous peoples and settlers across the province and Turtle Island (the land mass also known as North America).*

## ABOUT

Union House Arts (UHA) is a community artspace in Historic Port Union. UHA is committed to supporting work being produced by artists and craftspeople in Newfoundland and Labrador and around the world through place-specific dialogues and collaborative programming. Founded in 2016 by a small team of volunteers, UHA officially opened the doors of its gallery, studios, and community space in June 2019 in a restored heritage building owned by the Coaker Foundation with support from Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA), the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador (Dept of TCII), Canadian Heritage, and the National Trust for Canada's *This Place Matters* competition (2017).

UHA aims to build a thoughtful space for community residents and artists to work and share together; to expand ideas about what art can be, how and where it can be shown, and to create an environment that is accessible to people of all experiences and educations. The space is experimental in nature with a focus on place-based programming, knowledge building, and sharing.

Union House Arts operated as a sub-committee of the Coaker Foundation from 2017 until separating as an independent incorporated entity in 2020.

Board of Directors 2020

Michael Flaherty, Port Union NL  
Stephanie Lipp, Bonavista NL  
John Weber, St. John's NL & Catalina NL

[unionhousearts.ca](http://unionhousearts.ca)

## VISION AND MANDATE

- **Engaging communities on their own terms** with information gathered from town halls, surveys and focus groups, community meals, archives, consulting elders and community leaders.
- **UHA will focus on the works of artists and craftspeople from and living in Newfoundland and Labrador** by creating opportunities to develop, exhibit and share their ongoing practices in Port Union.
- **Ethical financial accountability** to artists through CARFAC fees, dedication to breaking down financial barriers and encouraging local makers to develop professional strategies for financially sustainable practices.
- **Challenging the idea of what it means to be a maker in Newfoundland and Labrador** by engaging with and actively contributing to ongoing dominant cultural narratives in the province.
- **UHA is dedicated to developing space for diverse perspectives and marginalized voices, including BIPOC and LGBTQ communities, disabled people, refugees, and new Canadians.**
- **UHA is committed to a transparent and organized guiding framework to support the governance and materialization of our vision.**
- **Training for all staff, volunteers, committee members, and jurors** on policy, best practice, inclusivity, safety, and other information relevant to a professional and positive work environment.
- **UHA is founded on principles of collaboration and partnership.** While we are active partners with organizations and businesses in the region, UHA believes that creating strong partnerships across the province alleviates pressure on all organizations and strengthens networks and access to resources, services, and funding.

Union House Arts is committed to activating the value of art, craft and material practices through place-specific and accessible dialogues. We believe talking about art brings ideas to life. Facilitating these conversations enables those ideas to be built upon in a Newfoundland and Labrador context. We define “artspace” as the broad environment where Union House Arts is

living in practice. This is not limited to a single gallery, studio, office, kitchen table, garden, or beach. Our artspace is defined by our full surroundings and geography, physical and digital, formal and informal. The artspace is where dialogues happen *and* where they go from there.

Union House Arts aims to build a thoughtful and challenging space for community residents and artists to work and share together; to expand ideas about what art can be, how and where it can be shown, and to create an environment that is accessible to people of all experiences and educations. The artspace will be experimental in nature with a focus on place-based programming and knowledge building and sharing.

The following **mandated objectives** of UHA programming are dedicated to upholding this understanding of art and artspace and the core values + visions of this project.

- **Representation:** a programming committee will be composed of community representatives and industry professionals.
- **Call for proposals:** accessible and professional call for proposals, in accordance with national good practice, will be executed for all relevant programming. Proposals will be juried in accordance with national standards of transparent and accountable processes.
- **Prioritizing local arts:** UHA programming will focus on the works of artists and craftspeople from and living in Newfoundland and Labrador by creating opportunities to develop, exhibit and share their ongoing practices in Port Union.
- **Progression:** Advancement of art-making practices in Newfoundland and Labrador by engaging with and actively contributing to ongoing research and production in the field of visual culture. Connecting local makers with ideas, growth opportunities, and resources.
- **Considering local Indigenous histories and futures:** Creating opportunities for Indigenous peoples and artists to share ideas, stories, and work that may consider a wide range of themes including reconciliation, decolonization, loss, food, land, water, language, family, and visual cultures.
- **Research:** Port Union is an ideal site for conducting research and sharing findings. UHA is enthusiastic to support academic and personal research within the following interest areas:

- + Visual culture
- + Contemporary rurality

- + Indigeneity
- + Land and ocean resources
- + Local community histories
- + Geology

Through transparent infrastructure, responsible governance, and a commitment to relevant and strong creative programming, UHA will be a leading space for contemporary ideas in art, craft, and material practices in Newfoundland and Labrador.

**The co-operation model of contemporary arts space and community space will contribute to the economic health of the community and region by:**

1. Broadening participation in the arts by considering inclusivity needs, diverse educations, and sustainability.
2. Engaging with children, young people, and the public education system.
3. Supporting local artists and art form development and experimentation.
4. Developing meaningful collaborations between different sectors of provincial, national, and international arts communities through diverse programming and an artist-in-residence program.
5. Seeking more efficient and cost-effective methods of delivering arts programming and services to the public.
6. Acting as a leader and advocate for rural arts initiatives.
7. Developing working practices that underpin these strategies.

### **Project Objectives:**

- a. To redevelop a heritage duplex into an art gallery and studio space
- b. To provide interpretation through exhibitions, demonstrations and workshops in an art space
- c. To enhance and strengthen Port Union and area's cultural craft and art community and build on the social innovation tourism model for Historic Port Union. A social innovation tourism model acknowledges that tourists gravitate towards places that give them a feeling and a deeper understanding of local context, social innovation, and community development.

## PAST PUBLIC PROGRAMMING

### **Waterwitching Workshop and Artist Talk with Alana Bartol**

July 16 2018  
The Factory and Boardwalk, Port Union  
In partnership with Eastern Edge Gallery

### **Weekly Maker Nights**

May 2019 - Present (on hold due to COVID-19)  
In conjunction with the UHA Residency Program

### **Jiggy Wiggy Performance The Queer Mummer (Lucas Morneau)**

June 22, 2019  
Funded by ArtsNL PPGP

### **BRANKS with Robyn Love**

November 23 2019  
*A guided conversation about the historic torture  
facemasks known as branks and the impact on  
women's voices in history.*

### **Preservers Dinner and Ceramic Sale**

February 29, 2020  
*A fundraiser featuring local winter foods and  
handmade pottery, in collaboration with Ross  
Larkin and Celeste Mah (Raymonds Restaurant)  
and ceramic artists Jason Holley, Maaïke  
Charron, and Michael Flaherty.*

### **Felted Animals Workshop with Emily Jan**

January 16 2019  
In partnership with Eastern Edge Gallery and the  
Women's Institute

### **Boulder Kites with Meghan Price and Suzanne Nacha**

August 20, 2019  
In partnership with Bonavista Biennale

### **GeoArt Symposium**

August 22, 2019  
*Talks by Don McKay, Jennifer Morgan, John Norman,  
and Meghan Price about the intersections of  
geology, art, and culture.*  
In partnership with Bonavista Biennale and Discovery  
Global Geopark

### **"Printshop in a Box!" demos with Andrew Testa**

May 20, 2019  
*Using a 3D-printed printing press, make your own  
linocut print!*  
In partnership with Grenfell Campus, Memorial  
University

### **Floral Paper Making with Emily Critch**

Two-day workshop  
June 23 and 24, 2019  
Funded by ArtsNL PPGP



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**Soup and Movie Nights**

Monthly, January - March 2020  
*Free healthy soup and homemade bread and National Film Board film screening.*  
Sponsored by The Boreal Diner

**Free Hot Cod Sandwich Pop-Up!**

with celebrity chef Bob Blumer  
August 30, 31, and September 2 2019  
In partnership with Bonavista Biennale

**Beaded Earrings with Kelsey Street**

Full day workshop  
August 15 2020

**Halloween Puppet Show**

NL Now! Productions (Jake Thompson)  
October 30 2020

**Linocut Cardmaking with Abby Hann**

3-hour workshop  
November 15 and 16 2020

**EXHIBITIONS**

**Labour Laws**

*Emily Critch, Emily Hayes, Michelle MacKinnon, Lucas Morneau, and Ethan Murphy*  
June 22 - August 9, 2019  
Opening Reception: June 22, 2019

**Boulder Rocks**

*Meghan Price*  
in partnership with Bonavista Biennale  
August 17 - September 15, 2019

**Museum of New Found Curiosities**

*Bob Blumer*  
in partnership with Bonavista Biennale  
August 17 - September 15, 2019

**Another Season: Community Exhibition**

*A collection of over 60 works by makers and artists on the Bonavista Peninsula*  
December 6 2019 - January 9 2020

**Preservers**

*Maaïke Charron and Jason Holley*  
July 10 - September 28 2020

**repair: place, future, self**

*Kyle Bennett, Shawn O'Hagan, Vessela Brakalova, Diana Chisholm, David Dyke*  
As part of the Craft @ The Edge Programming  
In collaboration with the Craft Council of Newfoundland and Labrador  
Upcoming: Summer 2021



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## ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAM

UHA accepts applications twice annually for our artist residency program, which provides studio space and additional support for professional artists.

Applicant proposals are reviewed and evaluated by the UHA programming committee. The program places special emphasis on supporting projects that involve direct engagement with the community, whether through collaborative activities, participatory installations, site-specific intervention or other imaginative ways of sharing your practice. UHA provides selected artists with an opportunity to experiment with their practice, develop their focus or test new ideas in the unique historic district of Port Union.

Areas of research that are particularly relevant include: visual culture, contemporary rurality, indigeneity, land and ocean resources, geology, tourism, and local community histories.

During the residency period, there may be additional opportunities such as youth mentorships, studio visits, artist talks, or other special events. The UHA committee works with selected artists to create residencies that support both the artist and the community's development. While it is not expected that the applicant has an existing relationship with Port Union, the committee will consider the relevancy of the proposal in the context of Port Union and the wider region and histories of Ktaqamkuk when making their selections.

In late 2019 we introduced our inaugural Family Residency, to address how parent artists are often excluded from residency opportunities. This residency permits the artist parent to bring their children and partner with them to UHA, with additional support such as childcare provided by UHA staff. Due to COVID-19, our Family Residency that was scheduled for June 2020 has been postponed to 2021.

In 2020, UHA created a partnership with Terra Nova National Park that will provide opportunities for artists participating in Terra Nova's "Art in the Park" program and UHA's residency program to spend a portion of their residency time in Port Union or Terra Nova Park.

## PAST ARTISTS-IN-RESIDENCE

### **Michelle MacKinnon**

Drawing and Textiles  
Corner Brook, NL / Toronto, ON  
May - June 2019  
[michellemackinnon.ca](http://michellemackinnon.ca)

### **Joe Fowler**

Installation artist  
Pasadena, NL / Vancouver, BC  
July - August 2019  
[joefowlerart.com](http://joefowlerart.com)

### **Emily Jan**

Textiles and natural dyes  
Montreal, QC / San Francisco CA  
September 2019  
[emilyjan.com](http://emilyjan.com)

### **Shawn O'Hagan**

Textile artist  
Corner Brook, NL  
January - February 2020  
[shawnohagan.ca](http://shawnohagan.ca)

### **Andrew Testa**

Printmaker  
Corner Brook, NL / Toronto, ON  
May - June 2019  
[andrewtesta.ca](http://andrewtesta.ca)

### **Meghan Price**

Multidisciplinary artist  
Toronto, ON  
August 2019  
[meghanprice.com](http://meghanprice.com)

### **Lorraine Matthews**

Drawing  
Goose Bay, NL  
September - October 2019  
[lorrainejanematthews.com](http://lorrainejanematthews.com)

### **Vessela Brakalova**

Mosaic artist  
St. Philip's, NL  
January - February 2020  
[visavisgraphics.com](http://visavisgraphics.com)

### **Robyn Love**

Installation and Textiles  
Gillams, NL / New York, NY  
June - July 2019  
[robynlove.com](http://robynlove.com)

### **Suzanne Nacha**

Geologist and artist  
Toronto, ON  
August 2019  
[suzannenacha.com](http://suzannenacha.com)

### **Jon MacLeod**

Curator and artist  
Isle of Lewis, Scotland  
October 2019

### **Kelsey Street**

Multidisciplinary artist  
Corner Brook, NL  
July - August 2020  
[kelseystreet.info](http://kelseystreet.info)

## FUTURE ARTISTS-IN-RESIDENCE

The following artists were scheduled to participate in the 2020 residency program. Due to COVID-19, their residencies have been deferred to 2021.

### **Ella Morton**

Photographer  
Toronto ON  
[ellamorton.com](http://ellamorton.com)

### **Abby Hann**

Printmaker  
Port Blandford NL

### **Andrew Maize**

Multidiscipline  
Halifax NS  
[andrewmaize.ca](http://andrewmaize.ca)





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**Emily Davidson**  
Printmaker  
Halifax NS  
emilydavidsonart.com

**K. Claire MacDonald**  
Jewelry Artist  
Halifax NS  
kclairemstudio.com

**Jane Whitten**  
Basket maker  
Australia / Summerside PEI  
janewhitten.ca

**Jill Price**  
Curator and artist  
Barrie ON  
jillpricestudios.ca

**Sylvia Galbraith**  
Photographer  
Fergus ON  
sylviaagalbraith.ca

**Virginia Mitford**  
Painter and Printmaker  
Mayo, YK  
virginiamitford.com

**Lucas Morneau**  
Textile performance artist  
Corner Brook NL  
lucasmorneau.ca

**KC Wilcox**  
Sculpture artist  
Saint John NB  
kc-wilcox.format.com

**Diana Chisholm**  
Sculpture artist  
Corner Brook NL

## GRENFELL CAMPUS + UHA - COMMUNITY ARTS EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

In Spring 2020, UHA teamed up with the Visual Arts Program at Grenfell Campus, Memorial University to deliver a new course, VART 3850 Experiential Learning: Community Engagement in the Arts.

Throughout the six-week course, students Kayla George (Carbonear, NL) and Rebecca Feaver (McCallum, NL) worked closely with UHA director Jane Walker and Visual Arts program chair Ingrid Mary Percy via video conference to develop a project proposal for UHA, based on critical readings and new learnings about community art.

Their self-directed project landed on themes of sustainability, as understood through environmental, community, and art-based approaches. In September 2020, Kayla and Rebecca will spend three weeks at UHA to conduct further research, work together, and further develop their community art project.

## VISITOR AND PARTICIPATION STATS

In our first year operating officially out of our public gallery space, we welcomed 3000 people to UHA through exhibition openings, workshops, artist talks, and other programming in addition to our regular open hours.



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## LOOKING FORWARD TO 2021

The next phase of growing UHA will see more support for families in our region (summer camps, after-school and weekend workshops and programming), building our partnerships in the region and province, and developing the landscaping behind our facilities to include garden plots and associated community programming. We will continue to grow our existing programs to better support our community and visiting artists.

## BUILDERS

**Sir William Ford Coaker Heritage Foundation** - Co-Founder and Program Partner

**Michael Flaherty**, Board Member

**John Weber**, Board Member

**Stephanie Lipp**, Board Member

**Stratford Canning**, Past Board Member

**Keiondra Chaulk**, 2019 Summer Staff

**Kayla Penney**, 2020 Summer Staff

**Jane Walker**, Director, Steering Committee Member

**Edith Samson**, Coaker Foundation Liaison

**Ruth Weller-Malchow**, Steering Committee Member

**Frank Lapointe**, Architect

**Barbara Houston**, Artist Residency Committee

**Kate Lahey**, Past Committee Member

## SUPPORTERS

### CORPORATE SPONSORS

Hughes and Brannan Law Office - Artist Residency Program Sponsor (2019)

Stewart McKelvey - Corporate Sponsor (2019-2021)



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## **SMALL BUSINESS SPONSORS**

Fishers' Loft Inn, Two Whales Coffee Shop, Wild Cove Pottery, Cabot Cottage, Treeline Fine Art & Craft, Port Rexton Brewing Co., Newfoundland Salt Company, Port Union-Catalina-Little Catalina Women's Institute, Town of Elliston, Richard Power CPA, Last Straw Furniture Co., BC Sheppard Ltd.

## **FRIENDS OF UHA**

Ruth Weller-Malchow, John & Peggy Fisher, Isabella St. John, Andrew Testa, Michelle MacKinnon, Claudia Knowles, Vanessa Stockley, Crystal Fudge, Tom Cochrane, Kathy Tucker, Graham Cox, Anastasia Tiller, Annalisa Barrie, Brian MacKay, Mark Goobie, Erin Power, Meaghan McCaw, Harold Russell, Lynn Taylor, Jenn Brown, Peggy Tremblett, Sandra Furneaux, Jon Howse, Sylvie Mitford, Evelyn Dumka, Jessica Straus, Neil King, Meghan Price, Robyn Love, Heather Nolan, Jason Holley, Maaiké Charron, Kiloran McRae, Barbara Houston, Justin Cooper, Katie Marie Bruce, K. Claire MacDonald, Constance Sturgeon, David Sturgeon, Stephanie Lipp

## **PROGRAM PARTNERS**

Grenfell Campus - Memorial University, Eastern Edge Gallery, Discovery Global Geopark, Bonavista Biennale, TechKnowTutors, The Boreal Diner, Port Union-Catalina-Little Catalina Women's Institute, Port Rexton Pride, CUP Studios