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Canada Council
for the Arts

Conseil des arts
du Canada

RE: 1004-17-0087 CONCERNED STATUS | Open Space

Charles Campbell, Chair, Interim Board of Directors,
charlescampbellart@gmail.com
510 Fort Street, 2nd Floor
Victoria, BC V8W 1E6

April 26, 2018

Dear Charles Campbell,

Please accept this letter as a follow up to the update on Open Space's programming submitted by email to us March 5th and to the addendum sent by email from Keegan McFadden Friday March 9th. We appreciate receiving this information in a timely manner and have established that the organization's programming has changed significantly from what was laid out in Open Space's, Artist Driven Organizations, Explore and Create program application of July 2017. These changes and the publically expressed concern resulting from staff departures, bring the Canada Council for the Arts to place Open Space on "Concerned Status" until further notice.

Concerned Status is a tool to help monitor the organizational health of arts organizations receiving core funding from the Canada Council. It serves to protect Council's investments and to better support companies experiencing instability. An organization may be placed on Concerned Status through the recommendation of a peer assessment committee or Council staff. As you can understand we are required to ensure there is an ongoing alignment between funding decisions made through the peer assessment process and program outcomes as articulated in your operating grant application. In this regard, France Trépaniers' resignation and Doug Jarvis's removal from program coordination represent a sudden and significant change in leadership. These changes also present a significant deviation from Open Space's initially proposed activities and the very elements for which the peer assessment committee recommended an increase.

The Canada Council has, given these circumstances, a responsibility to fully assess the situation and perform the necessary due diligence given the investment it makes in your organization.

Conditions attached to concerned status

We ask Open Space to fulfill the following conditions as part of the requirements of your concerned status designation. Any further release of funds from your core grant will be contingent upon Open Space being current in the fulfillment of these conditions. Sue- Ellen Gerritsen, Program Officer in the Explore and Create program, will provide guidance and answer any questions you may have as you work to fulfill these conditions:

1. Three page statement: Required by August 1st:

As Canada's public arts funder, The Canada Council bases its activities, philosophy and raison d'être on core values and explicit strategic commitments. As you will understand more clearly from the corporate policy document attached, The Canada Council affirms and supports the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and is responsive to the efforts of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and its intended outcomes. In that spirit, we ask for Open Space to provide the following:

- a) A statement describing the circumstances surrounding the resignation of the organizations' first Indigenous Curator.
- b) A description of what measures Open Space is undertaking to re-inspire confidence that the intents originally proposed in the last peer assessed application, will be met.
- c) A schedule of current and upcoming programming which recaptures the spirit of key curatorial and coordinating roles initially held by France Trépanier and Doug Jarvis.

2. Annual Update Report: Required any time the following can be completed:

- a) Final financial and statistical information for the most recently completed year submitted to CADAC (*NOTE: Open Space's fiscal year end is March 31st meaning this update will address a time frame of July 2017, when the last application was submitted, to April 1st 2018*)
- b) Updates to financial projections made to CADAC for the upcoming fiscal year
- c) Updates to the appendices document made to support the narrative of your financial projections.

Open Space must show satisfactory development resulting from fulfillment of these conditions. We thank you in advance for the information you will provide by August 1st, 2018.

It is very uncommon for an organization to change course so soon after an assessment. The fact that you as a transitional Board of Directors intervened quickly, however, and committed your services to the future of Open Space, bodes well for the possibility that this crisis can result in opportunity. It is my hope that the forum and healing ceremony of April 9th resulted in the community coming together with a view to reestablishing Open Space at the forefront of mature Canadian artist-run centers.

Once you have had the time to consider and discuss these conditions with your interim board of directors, please let Sue-Ellen know what would be a good time to schedule a phone conference. Meanwhile, do not hesitate to reach out to Sue-Ellen directly (sue-ellen.gerritsen@canadacouncil.ca) for any further clarification.

Without prejudice,



Sue-Ellen Gerritsen
Program Officer,
Artist-Driven Organizations,
Explore and Create Program.



Caroline Lussier
Director, Explore and Create Program.

cc. Kegan McFadden, Executive Director, director@openspace.ca
Vice-Chair, Sabrina Williams, briwilliams.vic@gmail.com
Treasurer, Michelle Jacques, mjacques@aggv.ca
Recording Secretary, Doug Jarvis, dougiarvis@gmail.com
Director, Megan Quigley, megankhquigley@gmail.com
Director, Eli Hirtle, elihirtle@gmail.com

Encl. *Supporting Indigenous art in the spirit of cultural self-determination and opposing appropriation*. Corporate Policy Document, Canada Council for the Arts. <http://canadacouncil.ca/about/governance/corporate-policies>