
"My studio at the Rotary Arts Centre gave me the time, space and privacy I needed to devote myself to both my creative and professional writing practices. These studio spaces add a much-needed incubation space to the artistic community in Corner Brook." - Douglas Walbourne-Gough

The Rotary Arts Centre

By Robyn Anderson

The Corner Brook Rotary Arts Centre (RAC) is the newest art gallery and theatre in Corner Brook. The RAC opened its doors in 2014 after three years of hard work and fundraising by a group of volunteer board members from the community and has been operating and growing since. With a focus on emerging artists, the centre is a not-for-profit devoted to serving the artists and art consumers on the West Coast of Newfoundland.

Located in the lower level of Corner Brook City Hall the RAC houses the Tina Dolter Gallery, OPEN gallery, Anthony Insurance Theatre, six artist studios, box office, meeting room and the Gathering Space.

It has two full time employees and one full time volunteer who run programming such as workshop series, exhibitions, independent movie nights, model drawing sessions, theatre, musical performances and more. Named for cherished art community member after her passing, The Tina Dolter Gallery is a juried exhibition space intended for emerging and mid-career artists, which accepts applications on an ongoing basis that are reviewed by the Visual Arts Committee.

The OPEN gallery space is un-juried space intended to give students and community groups an opportunity to display to the public and reach audiences that would not often see their work. Display time is awarded on a first come first serve basis and applicants must be an RAC member to apply.

The RAC has six studio's that house emerging artists from Corner Brook and surrounding area. Those artists are not exclusively visual artists but also musicians, writers and at least one delightful puppeteer have found a place to work at the RAC. The studios are subsidized and help artists bridge the gap from emerging to professional and fill a need in affordable studio space for Corner Brook. The theatre is an intimate ninety seats in the round, and the staff at the RAC seek out local performers and writers to present and learn professional skills in the space.

The RAC also works in conjunction with other groups across Corner Brook and is helping host the Corner Brook Museum and Archives Artist Residency exhibition. Recently, we also held Wetlands Watercolour Workshop in conjunction with Ducks Unlimited. Past successes of the centre include workshops like Permanence? where local artist Chris Short taught unique and impermanent printing techniques using plant material, performances organized by the centre like Gary and Ian Present musical theatre cabaret and the Corner Brook 60th anniversary celebrations which included an art exhibition, musical performance and mural project.

If you are in the Corner Brook area pop down for a visit, or if you are interested in displaying your work or performing in the space please contact the RAC at info@rotaryartscentre.ca or by calling 1-709-630-0012.



The exterior of the Rotary Arts Centre attached to Corner Brook City Hall. Photo by Robyn Anderson