

Sheridan College

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About

Art Hives

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Sheridan's Art Hive Initiative

Susan Beniston

Sheridan College, susan.beniston@sheridancollege.ca

Kirsten Abrahamson

Sheridan College, kirsten.abrahamson@sheridancollege.ca

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Sheridan's Art Hive Initiative

The Art Hives are a worldwide movement, offering creative spaces that inspire imagination, awaken hearts, and mobilize action. The Sheridan College *Art Hive Initiative* offers an inclusive, active, creative space where people gather to connect, make meaningful experiences, and build relationships. The Art Hive cultivates curiosity and community-building across disciplines and programs; inviting students, faculty and staff to share in radical hospitality and engaged 'public creativity' that is arts-based.

In keeping with Sheridan's Creative Campus philosophy and Wellness Strategies, Sheridan's Art Hive Initiative offers participants' access to interdisciplinary creativity, collaborations, and connections that support community health and well-being across campus.

FAAD's Academic Plan for 2018-2022, identified Sheridan's Art Hive Initiative as demonstrating Sheridan's commitment to 'public and visible creativity,' through collaborations with institutional partners in building a model for Public Creativity. Suggesting Art Hives community-based making and creating, will potentially grow further and open up to the larger, surrounding communities at each College campus.

Each Art Hive offered during the 2019/2020 Academic year was collaborative and had a different theme. Reflective of these themes, many of the Art Hives offered specifically-attuned material options with an abundance of choice. Art Hives were presented at all three Sheridan campuses, and each was well-received, with keen attention to commingling whilst making things, and the pleasures of the creative process.

One example of our team's collaborations included "The Nature of Well-being: An Ecological Art Hive" which presented organic natural materials to work with. This co-created collaboration for HMC included the Creative Campus Galleries and EDGE, as well as the supports of the SSU and FAAD.

Materials like moss, twigs, bark, stones, shells, clay, and spices were offered for everyone to work with. People found it very relaxing and soothing to choose materials that resonated with them. Some could only participate for a short time, while others remained for a few hours. Participants' joy in the process was palpable while engaging in this positive, relaxing and sensory experience. An invitation to step out of the busy atmosphere of their day, to connect, create and find their calm. The Art Hive Team consciously designs warm, welcoming environments for radical hospitality, to promote hands-on creative inquiry and to support enriched material choices that are restorative.

Our team also held a successful and energetic collaboration with the Office for Sustainability. We ran an Art Hive side by side with The Repair Cafe at Davis Campus in February 2020. Both the Art Hives and Repair Cafes keenly promote

re-purposing, recycling/or upcycling and creative reuse: all integral to Sheridan's goals to cut waste and become more eco-Sustainable.

Sheridan's Art Hive Initiative themes this past year supported the growth of Health and Wellness: using engagement in the arts to stimulate personal well-being and to co-build community strengths. Art Hives specifically focus on the arts and wellness in ways that are inclusive, accessible, and equitable - to mobilize making creative catalysts for change, where Sheridan's diverse population can commingle, thrive and flourish together.

Hives offer an inviting, welcoming space, that is free to ALL -opening opportunities to participate in arts-based, creative and mindful wellness experientials.

Hives repurpose art-materials that are eco-informed and sensory-based, attuning to personal fulfilment and restorative practices that are also Sustainable.

Hives focus on how relationships matter and materials matter; nurturing relationship-rich, arts-based experiences that are integral to shaping our learning community through shared innovations in public creativity.

Hives encourage artists of all ages to cultivate curiosity, not judgement – to promote optimal well-being and increase community connections, through dynamic collaborations across Sheridan's sectors and campuses.