

imagine
LIVING in an ARTS
COMMUNITY!

GIGSPACE
PERFORMANCE STUDIO
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GigSpace is a not-for-profit concert venue and music educational centre that has charitable status. The majority of our group music classes serve adults at retirement age. We have been researching the concept of how the Arts are proving to be highly effective in helping older adults lead healthier, socially engaged, and more creative lifestyles.

Our goal is to develop an integrated living and fine arts complex with access to arts-based lifelong learning opportunities. GigSpace in collaboration with other arts associations will provide a whole-person approach to creative and healthy aging.

Project: Integrate GigSpace concert venue and music education programs into an arts centre that includes dance, visual art, drama and music as part of an apartment complex geared to active older adults. Residents have access to a full arts curriculum and active healthy living courses which encourages and promotes creativity, community involvement and social engagement. Each of these courses would be available to the general public.



LIVE ARTS
COMMUNITY
INTEGRATED LIVING & LEARNING ARTS HUB

"Learning is important across the lifespan for us to continue to be generative throughout our entire lives. Arts education is not only for children and youth, but for all of us." – William Benson, moderator of The Summit on Creativity and Aging in America, 2015

Inspiration: Tim Carpenter, the founder of EngAGED living in California, designed several successful apartment complexes for older adults with integrated arts programs in collaboration with a senior housing developer. One example is called NOHO Senior Arts Colony located in a busy arts district. A visual reference is on the NOHO website: <http://www.nohoseniorartscolony.com/site-plan/lower-level/>. Tim Carpenter has generously offered his expertise as needed for the Ottawa Live Arts Community.

"There is a need to establish leadership within the public, private, and non-profit sectors, in order to promote, across the aging spectrum, equitable access to life enrichment through the arts, designed to improve quality of life." (2015 White House Conference on Aging, at the National Endowment for the Arts)

Vision: We envision a concept similar to NOHO, being the first of its kind in Ottawa and in Canada. The Ottawa Live Arts Community would include GigSpace concert venue, Alcorn Music Studios (music school), a dance studio, an art gallery, and affordable shared spaces for other local arts organizations.

This project is an exciting initiative that would contribute to the arts community, support research in the fields of medicine, science, and health, and become a model for supporting and integrating arts and aging in Canadian society.

GigSpace and the cultural community: Now in its 6th year GigSpace is a unique venue in Ottawa providing an intimate and quiet listening room with state of the art sound and light system and an acoustic concert grand piano. GigSpace concerts sell out on a regular basis and the venue attracts professional musicians from across Canada, the United States, Europe and Brazil.

The GigSpace bar supports Ottawa breweries and Ontario vineyards.

The GigSpace Art Gallery caters to Ottawa and area up-and-coming artists, often providing the opportunity for their first professional show.

Alcorn Music Studios is a lively music school providing work to over 20 professional musicians/music educators. The school teaches students of all ages and specializes in offering group courses to adults.

The new integrated living and fine arts space will enrich the local community and create a sustainable arts and culture model that can foreseeably be adapted to other communities across Canada. Arts organizations are proven to attract people and other local businesses to locate nearby creating unique neighbourhoods.

By uniting active aging and the arts, new opportunities will arise for interdisciplinary research. These studies will expand the evidence base, validate arts and design interventions for older adults, and further recognize the benefits of the arts in supporting the health and wellbeing of our senior community.

Location: The Live Arts Community would ideally be situated within the West Centre Town arts district. The vibrant West Wellington Arts Quad neighbourhood includes the cultural facilities, shops and restaurants, easy walkability, access to transit, and eventually the Gladstone light rail station. This area provides a safe, accessible and welcoming community environment for older adults.

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