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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ArtOut: A Free Creative Program Supporting 2SLGBTQI+ Voices Through Art

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE, ON — The Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre is proud of our new program, ArtOut, a free series designed specifically for members of the 2SLGBTQI+ community across the Niagara Region.

ArtOut creates an inclusive space where participants can explore their creativity with confidence and support. This four-part, fully subscribed series of workshops welcomes individuals of all experience levels to engage with art history, develop foundational artistic skills, and experiment with expressive techniques in a safe and affirming environment.

“ArtOut is a reflection of our core belief that art is for all,” said Natalie Early, Board Chair of the Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre. “We are committed to creating spaces where members of the 2SLGBTQI+ community feel welcomed, supported, and empowered to explore their creativity. This program is about more than making art—it’s about connection, expression, and belonging.”

“My goal was to develop a program for 2SLGBTQI+ community to be heard, seen and welcomed to the broader community through art.” said Board Member, Lise Andreana, whose passion and dedication were foundational to ArtOut's development.

“ArtOut offers participants the freedom to experiment, take creative risks, and share their stories in a supportive environment,” said Dennis Montford, Instructor. “Whether someone is picking up a paintbrush for the first time or returning to a creative practice, this series is designed to build confidence and celebrate individual expression.”

The program will culminate in a celebratory public reception on June 20, showcasing the creative achievements of participants. The event will offer the broader community an opportunity to engage with and celebrate the diverse perspectives and talents within Niagara's 2SLGBTQI+ community.

The Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre extends sincere gratitude to the many partners and individuals whose dedication has made ArtOut possible. Special thanks to the generous contributions of 8 80 Cities and PFLAG Niagara, as well as the valued support of Pride Niagara and the District School Board of Niagara.

The Centre also recognizes the tireless efforts of Lise Andreana, Dennis Montford, Dayna Riemland and Brad Eyre whose commitment has been instrumental in bringing this program to life.

About Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre

The Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre is the art hub that connects our community by providing “art for all”. Located on the banks of the Niagara River in a heritage building that formerly supplied water to Niagara-on-the-Lake (hence our name); the Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre offers year-round visual arts programs, exhibitions and events that engage over 19,000 participants annually.

The Arts Centre provides art classes, workshops and camps in a variety of media for all ages and skill levels taught by professional and emerging artists and educators. Our galleries feature solo and group exhibitions by contemporary artists from across Ontario. Our events celebrate art and artists.

Like many local not-for-profits, the Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre does not receive ongoing operational funding and relies on the generous support of donors, sponsors, and grants, and a dedicated team of volunteers to sustain our programs and community impact. This support allows us to provide a number of free, accessible programs which reduce barriers for vulnerable youth, seniors and families to appreciate and engage with art.

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