

**For immediate release
March 27, 2017**

**Art Gallery of Guelph Hosts Discussion on Socially and Community Engaged Art Practice on
April 5, 2017**

Join us at the Art Gallery of Guelph (AGG) for a conversation about the vital role of socially and community engaged art and activism. Taking place Wednesday April 5, 6 pm, the evening will feature presenter Loree Lawrence, Program Officer for Multi and Inter-Arts as well as Community-Engaged Arts at the Ontario Arts Council. All welcome; free admission.

While the notion of participatory art is not new, social practice has gained traction in the last decade, driven by a vision of art as agent of change. Lawrence's presentation "Field Work: Community Engaged Arts and Social Change" will explore the role of community engaged practice and how creativity shapes social change. Addressing models locally and globally that meaningfully engage issues of advocacy, justice, and community-building, she will discuss how art may foster profound social consequences and the importance of the symbolic and practical dimensions of community-engaged work in relation to a number of artist-initiated projects.

Loree Lawrence resides in Toronto. She received her Bachelor's Degree in International Development and Political Science from the University of Guelph and her Master of Arts in Art Education from Simon Fraser University. She has worked in the arts and community engagement for over 30 years, joining the Ontario Arts Council in 2009. Lawrence was a founding member of Red Wagon Collective, a community art organization, lead artist of The Gathering Space, an arts initiative active in the Junction neighbourhood of Toronto, and was the founder of Jumblies' MABELLEarts program.

ABOUT THE ART GALLERY OF GUELPH

The Art Gallery of Guelph (AGG) is one of Canada's premier public art spaces, engaging audiences with innovative artists and ideas from around the world. Through a rigorous and collaborative artistic program that positions visual culture in an ever-changing cultural landscape, the gallery supports social exchange and shapes public discourse. Located in one of Canada's most innovation-rich and socially-engaged urban environments, AGG offers compelling artistic encounters and contributes to a thriving national artistic climate through global connections that foster and proliferate creativity and imagination. For directions and information about all of our programs, please visit www.artgalleryofguelph.ca.

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For further information, please contact:
Alexandra Hartstone, Community Engagement Coordinator
ahartstone@artgalleryofguelph.ca / 519-837-0010 ext. 2