

Dear Winnipeg Hello!

I've thought a lot about writing this letter to you, wondering when the time was right. Life has changed. But through this pandemic we continue to look for hope, for strength, and to the day when we can all be together. There are bright times ahead.

And through this, **the WAG is changing—for you.** Maybe we haven't always been 'your place' or on your radar. You might think intimidating, boring, a little snobby, 'not for me.' Or you just don't have the time. If that's the case, we want to change that. *I hope you'll give us a chance when things open up again.*

A lot of change is happening behind the scenes right now to show you that we've been listening—and really care.

That's why there used to be one door to get in, and now there are three. And lots of windows, so you can see what's inside before you walk in. If you're Indigenous or 25 or under, **your membership is FREE.** For everyone, **the whole main floor is FREE,** so you can just hang out—with or without the art. *There's no other place like it around!*

We're asking you to be part of the change at the new **WAG-Qaumajuq.** If you haven't heard, **Qaumajuq** is the name of the Inuit art centre. It means "it is bright. . . it is lit." To me, it means a special place lit up with your energy—because you make it come to life.

This place is yours, and we want you to feel like you belong here. I look forward to the day when you can stop in for coffee or lunch. Chill with friends. Shop. Keep the kids busy. Make something cool. Catch a film or concert. Find a sunny corner to just sit. Or take a deep dive into some great art. Whatever it is, we want you to do it here.

When the time is right, we're here for you.

We want to make a difference—to be part of something good, real, and fun that you haven't experienced before! You'll see even more changes in a few months when **Qaumajuq** opens.

You're the placemakers! So, please, tell us what we can do to make this place yours. It's going to be amazing, especially when we can all be here, doing our thing, and being ourselves. That's the whole point of **WAG-Qaumajuq!** And I love that idea.

Soon we'll be exchanging greetings of the season, and I want to do it a little earlier this year. The very best to you and yours!

Stay safe, and take care of yourself and those close by.



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stephen Borys".

Stephen Borys, Director & CEO

wag Winnipeg Art Gallery

PS Happy Birthday Hazel!