



December 17, 2008

ARTBEAT STUDIO RECEIVES ADDITIONAL \$50,000 IN PROVINCIAL SUPPORT

Winnipeg's Artbeat Studio will receive an additional \$50,000 in provincial funding to continue its support of artists living with mental-health issues, Healthy Living Minister Kerri Irvin-Ross announced today.

"Artbeat is a unique place that promotes recovery through the arts," said Irvin-Ross. "People living with mental-health issues often benefit from the healing effects of creative expression and the province recognizes the important place Artbeat holds in the community."

Artbeat Studio, located in Winnipeg's Exchange District, helps people living with mental illness explore their artistic talents to promote recovery and empowerment, and advance their careers as artists. Family members, caseworkers and medical staff are regular attendees at the studio, supporting individual artists.

"Our staff and volunteers have worked tirelessly and successfully to raise the necessary funding to keep Artbeat financially viable," said Jack Cram, board chair of Artbeat Studio. "Today we thank the provincial government for having the vision and wisdom to see that Artbeat offers a compassionate and, at the same time cost-effective, alternative means of delivering community-based mental health care."

Artbeat Studio was established in the Exchange District in 2005 by artist Nigel Bart who had been diagnosed with schizophrenia at the age of 19.

The registered, not-for-profit charitable organization provides a workspace, supplies and mentoring every year for up to 18 artists living with mental illness. A wide variety of artistic options are offered including painting, pottery, music, poetry, stained glass work and weaving.

More information about Artbeat Studio is available at artbeatstudio.ca/.