

## 2020



### COMMUNITY Bond Report

PILLAR nonprofit network

#### PILLAR NONPROFIT NETWORK: THE BACKBONE BEHIND INNOVATIONWORKS

#### **PILLAR'S MISSION**

To strengthen individuals, organizations & enterprises that are invested in positive community impact.

#### **PILLAR'S VISION**

As a Community Bond holder, you are partnering with Pillar Nonprofit Network to help strengthen the London community and build a more inclusive and effective nonprofit sector.

#### Pillar is:

- A proven capacity builder that grows stronger each year;
- A committed collaborator we work with nonprofits and other important community partners;
- A professional organization we care about what we do and how we do it;
- A community hub by bringing together business, government and nonprofit organizations, we can do great things.

An engaged, inclusive & vibrant community.



#### ACROSS PILLARS

In addition to serving as the backbone organization behind Innovation Works, Pillar strengthens individuals, organizations and enterprises invested in positive community impact. We support more than 610 nonprofits, social enterprises and social innovators by sharing resources, exchanging knowledge and creating meaningful connections across the three pillars of nonprofit, business and government.

We believe that a connected network sparks collaboration and a willingness to lean on each other to help build an engaged, inclusive and vibrant community.

#### Coming Together. Connecting People, Sparking Impact, Responding Responsibly.

When we originally set out to communicate through this report, times were different and we had not yet been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. While we know for certain that COVID-19 will have an impact on our 2020 year, we can balance that impact coming into this year in a strong financial position. We believe that Innovation Works - and our shared space model - will be back with renewed tenacity to remain financially sustainable. We are leveraging every scenario possible to mitigate anticipated losses and cannot stress enough our gratitude to <u>you</u> as we approach the close of this bond period.

As a community bond investor of Innovation Works, you'll know it's more than just a shared office. The idea behind Innovation Works – is to bring together our network in a real and physical way, under one roof. We knew that fostering a culture of community collaboration in person is fundamental to our success.

Along with the rest of the world, our "business as usual" has been upended by the effects of physical distancing required to slow the spread of this global pandemic.

#### **How We Responded**

We all know that leadership involves making difficult decisions, and even more so in times of crisis. Our first tough call was to shut down Innovation Works for the first time in its history, a full week before the provincial state of emergency ordered all non-essential

businesses to close. The second was to reduce staff salaries across the board in a collective effort to prevent laying off even a single colleague. Our team agreed it was a fair and necessary measure to ensure our immediate financial viability as we continued to negotiate with lenders, curtail contracted services and pursue government support programs.



The closing of our physical gathering space presented a need – and an opportunity – to adapt Innovation Works for the virtual world. We began hosting facilitated video chats for our members to "drop in" and share knowledge, advice, anxieties and questions on topics such as nonprofit leadership, business continuity and self-care. Our team – no



strangers to constant change – readily adopted new processes and workflows on the fly. A key advantage; we have a team member in the unique role of Digital Services Animator – someone who both understands the value of community connection and collaboration, and possesses the technical skills to support those outcomes with the appropriate online tools, software and infrastructure.

Even with what faces us now, it's important to build on the success we've experienced. 2019 was a milestone year for Innovation Works as we celebrated our third anniversary operating as London's only place intentionally designed for social innovators.

It also marked an important coming together of two irresistible forces: Co-tenancy at Innovation Works and membership in Pillar Nonprofit Network collided to create even greater impact! Now, Innovation Works co-tenants enjoy all the perks and benefits of being a member of Pillar. In turn, Pillar members can access space at Innovation Works at a discount. Pillar and Innovation Works - coming together, connecting people, sparking impact.

Last year, we saw more than 14,000 people (and an unspecified number of dogs!) walk through our doors to participate in hundreds of events, activities and programs. We hosted fairs, workshops, solutions lab, media events, yoga sessions, community conversations... the list goes on and on. We stand by our conviction that Innovation Works remains London's coolest place to work, collaborate and succeed.



Thanks to your support, Innovation Works posted another year of solid operations, achieving its 2019 financial and occupancy targets. In this report, you will find an update on our co-tenant survey, key accomplishments and the financial results for the year.

#### Ensuring Fiscal Governance and Financial Viability

Through prudent governance, risk assessment and a keen eye on expense management, we have hit our financial targets. We continue to see our reliance on grants declining and we are moving towards a sustainable revenue model. The two pie charts below provide details of the revenue sources and the expenditures related to operating Innovation Works.



Our community gave Innovation Works a *lift* this past year! Literally – a brand new elevator. Thanks to the support of the Federal Government Enabling Accessibility Fund, the City of London, the Cowan Foundation and private donors, the building received considerable upgrades including the elevator replacement and stairwell makeovers. Both of these major projects were required to continue to ensure that our space is fully accessible and offers a safe, and a welcoming environment for our co-tenants and visitors.

#### 5

#### Survey Says...

Here are some top comments according to our co-tenants:

"I love the sense of community and diversity within the building - it breeds learning and innovation! We have a lot to learn, but spaces like this bridge the gap between industries and kickstart a new way of looking at professional collaboration."

> "My favourite part is the opportunity to engage with different generations. I learn so much and am proud to have built new collaborations with younger leaders... It gives me hope for the world! I also love inviting my clients to the space. They love the vibe and energy... Keeping a growing, changing community animated and a building functioning is hard work. You are all doing a great job!"

"Innovation Works has been a part of my evolution over the past year. Not everything that goes on is for me, but when I do feel compelled to be a part of something, I attend and participate. I have enjoyed some of the connections I have made with other co-tenants and opportunities to make connections for my personal business, as well as the organization I am involved with in the building."

#### Our 2020 Action Plan

Every year, we create an action plan based directly on feedback from our co-tenants and responses from our survey. Our action plan for 2020 includes the following:

# <image>

One of our guiding principles has been to ensure community members outside of tenancy are encouraged to come in to the building and discover that Innovation Works is a place to "Connect People. Spark Impact."

Toward that end, a number of events have been led by co-tenants and Innovation Works staff alike. An unexpected – and delightful – outcome of this approach has been the creation of **Wellness Works** – a volunteer committee comprised of yoga and wellness instructors from the community who provide free yoga classes weekly and a variety of activities during Mental Health week.



#### Want to Get INvolved ?

None of this incredible success would be possible without your belief in us from the very beginning. Thank you for your unwavering support and presence as champions for Social Innovation!

Come see for yourself! Become an "Innovator for a Day" and see the magic of Innovation Works in action.

Choose a Wednesday and join us at Salad Club!



Follow along on social media and watch for upcoming events and activities that may be of interest.



#### What's Next?

We are in full re-entry, remodel and rebuild mode. While we are unsure of a date to reopen our physical space, planning is underway:

- To provide a phased-in return to work plan that is sufficiently flexible to adapt to evolving recommendations, guidelines and orders by government health officials.
- To create a welcoming environment for those entering Innovation Works aligned to the values and culture created.

As well, we are preparing a special opportunity for you – our loyal bond holders – to continue investing in community impact with a renewal offer on your bond. Details and options will be sent to you as we approach the end of our bond term in February 2021.

#### **Meet Our Co-Tenants**



@519Pursuit Abby Grinnell Alegria 3 Inc. Anne Carbert Ascend Applications **ASL Breaking Barriers** Authentic Essence Unleashed Berteig Consulting Inc. Big Brothers Big Sisters of London and Area **Bio-Medical Omics** Blanca Alagon Bloom Coaching BMO Bank of Montreal **Boost Innovations** Brain Injury Association of London & Region Brescia University College BudgetBoss Cambia Development Foundation Camp Dawn Canadian Cancer Society Carolinian Canada Coalition Cecile Klerks

Centre for Organizational Effectiveness Centre for Research on Health Equity & Social Inclusion Changing Ways / Caring Dads Cheshire CHIMA City of London - Service London Clarity&Impact CNIB CNW Northern Resources Inc. Coach House Marketing Coder Scoop Inc Community Barn **Community Mortgage Movement** Connect1 Consulting Cowan Insurance Group Creative Age CTO Boost David Redfern **DeafBlind Ontario Services DIY Home Decoration** DTS Technical Inc. Durham Reporting Inc. Ecosystem Recovery Inc.

Edgar & Joe's Cafe eLearning Consortium Canada Elevate Biz Elizabeth Goldenberg Law Office Family Network Thames Valley Fanshawe College First Nations with Schools Collective Project Forest City Film Festival Fossil Free London Full Body Efficiency Treatment Gerda Zonruiter Research and **Evaluation** Goal Execution Inc. Good Family Matters Good Neighbors Canada Growth & Co. Heart Clench Designs (hand lettering) Heart-Links Lazos de Corazón Heenal Rajani Henry Van Horik Hive Media Horizon Leadership Institute Inc. Humanos Huron University College Impact Junk Solutions Impact Loan (Goodwill Industries) InademyComputing Independent Social Arts Indwell Infinity School Jason Jordan Johnny Fansher Financial Julia Campbell Kate Graham Kelsey Ramsden Kenna Communications Kids Kicking Cancer Canada Kings University College



L'Arche London LAMP [London Area Mentoring Program] LAVA (London and Area Association for Volunteer Administration) LemonTree Marketing Liam Riley Libro Credit Union London Arts Council London Community Resource Centre London District Catholic School Board London Economic Development Corporation London Environmental Network London Food Bank London Health Sciences Foundation London Heritage Council London Life London Poverty Research Centre @ Kings London Talbot Toastmasters London Youth Advisory Council Louise Pitre Coaching & Consulting M.I.understanding Manda Ivezic Marla Marnoch, Social Impact Real Estate



Mary Ann Colihan Matt Ross Consulting **MAVerick** McCormick Consulting Group/The Beatles Festival (London) Me & C. MensaDora / Rebel Rags Mikayla's Mobile Grooming Mind Your Own Business Mindful Investor mindyourmind **Mischevious Cat Productions** Motiv8 Studios Muslim Resource Centre for Social Support and Integration Nachamada Simon Nethandicap.com Corp & Pay2Park.io Nico Jimenez Sierra Odell Keller Oliver & Associates, Sarah Oliver Real Estate Brokerage Inc. **OMhale Wellness / Wellness Works OnX Enterprise Solutions** Out of Sound Rezonance Pathway Leadership Group Paul D Jubenville Pennies For Preemies PhD in Psychology at Western, Lecturer at King's University College

Pillar Nonprofit Network PiPaPo: The Pink Pad Project PlanEasy PMI South Western Ontario Chapter Praxica Services and Streetcity Realty Inc. Brokerage Questcapade Inc QuickBrasil Incorporated Quiet Legacy Planning Group Rachel Bake, Designer and Illustrator Rachel Van Horik **RBC Royal Bank** RDH Building Science Right Brained B.V. **Riopelle Interactive River City Marketing RollUP Solutions Inc.** rTraction Samanta Krishnapillai Sansys Sara Ataya School for Advanced Studies in the Arts and Humanities Sean Meyer, Journalist & Content Writer Sheila Simpson Associates Shut The Front Door Improv Sisters of St. Joseph SixFive snapd London

Sol Fried, Registered Psychotherapist Solus Support Services Something2do Sonja Teichert Spoken Advantage Stewart McGowan TD Bank Technical Writing for StormFree Cloud Thames Valley District School Board **TVDSB** Experiential Learning The Berger Law Firm The BOG Connection The Cooperators The Global MINDS Collective The H.I. Factor The Influence of Indigenous Peoples in International Relations The Lawson Foundation The Student Success Centre - Western University The Writer's Eye-View Thrive Service Inc. **Ticketwindow Inc** Timothy Czyrnyj Tish Fan Tracey Church & Associates, Research + Consulting Services

**TRANS\*** London Trix VanEgmond **Turn-Key Limited** United Way Elgin Middlesex VidHug Village-Hut Home & Health Care Vitalita Nutrition web.isod.es Why We March LGBT Wood Environment & Infrastructure Solutions WordFrog Inc. WOW Creative WSP Canada Group Limited YourTech London Zealy Zero Waste Forest City Zoe York

