SCHOOL PROGRAM
FUNDING

QUEST ART SCHOOL + GALLERY
Quest Art School + Gallery is one of three public not-for-profit art exhibition and education institutions within Simcoe County.

It operates in excellence while providing exhibition and education experiences to residents of Midland and the larger population of North Simcoe and beyond.

Quest Art School + Gallery is an economic driver and draws tourism to the area.

As anchor tenet in the Midland Cultural Centre, Quest Art School + Gallery is the visual-art hub for Midland, bringing residents and visitors to the downtown core.

QUEST ART SCHOOL + GALLERY
We showcase area, regional and national artists, with 3500 square feet of exhibition space, two multi-purpose education spaces and retail art shop space.

We have one dedicated class room plus an exhibition/education space and can host two school classes simultaneously.
Atrium Gallery

Showcases work by Midland residents and artists from the region

- Exhibitions that showcase and celebrate regional themes
- Supports the amateur and professional art community
- Showcases diverse approaches in method and philosophy
- Varied levels of skill from novice to professional
- Draws regional and provincial cultural tourists
- Serves the community with exhibitions like My First Show for school age children
Project Gallery:

- Doubles as a classroom
- Exhibits work by Quest members
- Exhibits and supports the professional efforts of emerging and mid-career artists through solo and smaller group exhibitions
- Shows multiple works by the same artist(s) demonstrating consistent excellence
- Draws culture tourists
Upper Gallery

- Exhibits recognized and acclaimed artists with regional, provincial, national and international exhibition experience and who are recognized for excellence in artistic approach and professional practice

- Exhibitions are themed for media, subject and/or context
Charles Pachter: Canadian Icons and identity including pride in flag, poking fun at British history and colonial roots, pop culture, and the history of Simcoe County to name a few.

An Officer of the Order of Canada and a Chevalier of France’s Order of Arts and Letters, awarded the Queen’s Golden and Diamond Jubilee medals.
Edward Burtynsky: Internationally acclaimed photographer

His work focuses on human impacts on environment.
Aylan Couchie

Contemporary content answering the need for teachers to fulfill changes to the Ontario Curriculum that now includes contemporary indigenous content.
School visits to Quest Art School + Gallery combine guided interpretive learning and a hands-on art making experience. The programs we offer connect to the Ontario Curriculum.

Teacher feedback overwhelmingly support hands-on curriculum connected learning.
Ontario Curriculum connections:

Form, volume, mass, tint, tone, light & shadow, colour theory, geometric and organic shapes, patterning, texture, material and method, process vs product, 2 & 3-dimension, realism & abstract, landscape, portrait, principles and elements of design, composition, visual language and pictograms, meme, symbol & logo, decorative, functional, craft, fine art, art, artesian, design.

*Language pulled from the Ontario Curriculum*
Professions this learning content directly supports:

architects, commercial designers, industrial designers from automotive through fashion, interior, illustrators including medical through editorial, animators, artisans and craftspeople.
These art principles and elements are integral to general curriculum subjects that include: history, geography, math and geometry, language, social studies, humanities, industry.

Integrated learning experiences are proven to foster curiosity and creativity and is fundamental to developing problem solving and critical thinking skills.
Reasons for Appeal

Need: provide each elementary school in Midland with bus bursary and material costs for school visits to Quest Art.

This funding would fulfill three objectives embodied in our mission and are germane to the Ontario Curriculum and the education needs of school children in our region.
1. Re-build a previously successful school education program with a goal to recover lost ground and surpass historic engagement levels.

2. Bring schools into Quest Art School + Gallery thereby addressing a lack of access by rural children to cultural institutions.

3. Fulfill a unique opportunity to provide education experiences in response to changes made to the Ontario School Curriculum.
1. Re-build a successful school education program and surpass historic engagement levels.

The teacher strike and job action in the 2015-16 school year profoundly impacted our school program numbers.

In 2016, Quest Art experienced a temporary loss of government funding in support of a contracted Education Officer, and then turnover in this position compounded this impact.
These two events combined to negatively impact our ability to offer programs to schools.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School program statistics</th>
<th># of Classes</th>
<th># of Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School Year</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012/2013</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>1230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013/2014</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014/2015</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>1281</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015/2016/strike</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>292</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016/2017/staffing</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>524</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017/2018/projected</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>1067</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In the intervening time teachers in the region have looked to two other regional galleries over 50km away to deliver art programs to Midland students.

QUEST ART SCHOOL + GALLERY
2. Bring Midland schools into Quest Art School + Gallery to address a lack of access by rural children to cultural institutions.

A study in the US (The Educational Value of Field Trips) followed a cohort of nearly 11,000 students – half of whom participated by lottery in an in-gallery art education program.

This study could be summarized by saying it showed measurable causal positive impacts on the academic life of the students who visited galleries while participating in learning programs over those that did not.
Children in smaller towns and rural areas have less opportunity to visit cultural institutions.

Studies support what educators have long known: visits to galleries with education programs have been proven to improve academic life.
Schools have few opportunities to make and create in tandem with learning. Teachers and principals rely increasingly on cultural institutions to provide children with these types of learning experiences.

Data supports the positive impact of these types of programs for rural school children as demonstrably higher because of fewer opportunities for enriching experiences like an art gallery visit, among other reasons.
3. Fulfill a unique opportunity to provide education experiences in that showcases Canadian Identity and integrates the very recent changes made to government policy and the Ontario School Curriculum regarding the teaching of indigenous content.

Until this year the school curriculum taught indigenous history up until the first contact by Europeans. As of September 2017, changes in the Ontario School curriculum now continues with indigenous experience from first contact to the present, and embraces the past and current challenges faced by Indigenous people.
In November 2018 to February 2019, Quest Art will exhibit the work of three contemporary indigenous artists and will be creating supporting in-gallery interpretive programs and hands-on curriculum connected educational programing which integrate the new school curriculum and is directed at primary school children to support the issues and themes raised by these exhibitions.

Grade appropriate in-gallery interpretive and visual art making programs will be offered to be delivered at Quest Art to school children from our region. Our goal is to have all or some of busing and material costs funded order to maximize engagement for this exhibition.