

Last year one of our member John Verdon was involved in a [KickStarter campaign](#) for a social enterprise aimed at enabling adults with cognitive disabilities - on the Autism Spectrum - to apprentice for creative self-employment.

The Campaign was successful and [theSpace](#) became real in April of this year. Now theSpace is having a first public Art Show and initiating a [phase 2 KickStarter Campaign](#) for a more modest amount to keep the initiative growing until it's sustainable.

This social enterprise initiative is at a critical threshold - after almost a year of operation (as of February 2017) - theSpace needs to ensure it monthly rent - while continuing to become more sustainable as increase the core group of members and our reputation. The growth rate achieved so far - well anticipates that in the next year this social enterprise will be completely sustainable.

theSpace has also created a [Patreon](#) account where our members can get regular sponsorship as a means of giving substance to creative self-employment.

To inaugurate our next Kickstart Campaign and to celebrate the progress being made theSpace is holding a Winter Art Exhibit of works created by the members.

John would like to extend an invitation to all members of CACOR to visit the exhibit and/or support the theSpace.

**WINTER EXHIBIT 2017 at theSpace**  
**Vernissage: Friday, November 17<sup>th</sup> 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.**  
**391 McArthur Avenue**

**Members of theSpace are pleased to extend an invitation to you to attend a showing of our most recent creations!**

**We're extremely excited to see our *new* storefront space up and running, after a first few wonderful months of creative workshops---and to show Ottawa our amazing work!**

theSpace is an innovative forum for the creative use of media and various technologies, and an exciting range of artistic and social enterprise opportunities. Members are independent adults on the Autism spectrum, or with an intellectual disability, who are guided through the stewardship of their own community and a *self-generated* identity.

**With our focus on the digital enhancement of member's creations....opportunities for personal expression have reached new heights!**

Whether just striking out on their own, after completing high school and post-graduate programs, or many years on, many individuals often find themselves in a situation where they feel isolated and disconnected from community.

There are few welcoming *third spaces*, or places *outside of work or home*—or play---where they can feel a sense of belonging and membership, as well as an unscripted and sophisticated experience of peer mentorship, friendship and to express genuine and *sustainable* personal agency.

Our workshops support the use of accessible technology, and members have been working hard to adapt their interests and personality to various creative processes, including using *computer editing software, photo manipulation and other digital tools and techniques*. We've even begun to begin sharing work with the larger community--- by way of an innovative social enterprise platform called Patreon!

Originally fuelled by a grassroots initiative and Kickstarter campaign led by Ottawa-based social worker and community advocate, Mignon Mildenerger, theSpace has turned a ground-breaking vision into a prototype to support ***Apprenticing for Creative Self-Employment!!***

Looking forward to seeing you all in November---and we're thrilled to be sharing with you---our community of supports!

**Check out our Website [www.thespaceottawa.ca](http://www.thespaceottawa.ca) 391 McArthur Ave.**

**Find us on Twitter: [@thespaceott](https://twitter.com/thespaceott) and**

**on Patreon: [www.patreon.com/theSpace](http://www.patreon.com/theSpace)**

**For more details contact [mignon@talkingcircleworks.com](mailto:mignon@talkingcircleworks.com) or call [1 866-683-5947](tel:18666835947)**

**Media Release: <http://www.thespaceottawa.ca/media.html>**