

Notes for the Grand Opening of the Artscape Triangle Lofts: A project that Active18 was heavily involved with and in to secure working studio space in the WQW “Arts and Design” District of Toronto.

Presented by Michelle Gay for Active 18.

Thanks Tim for including and acknowledging active18 in this event.

Who knew that when the community began organizing itself 5 years ago that we would be standing here in such a wonderful space.

The Steering committee for Active18 has been meeting diligently every 2 weeks for the past 5 years. We originally gathered steam around the condo developments and proposals for this WQW triangle area of the city. Residents, business owners, artists, architects, designers were all concerned about the future of this neighbourhood.

As we know, this is the art and design district - though the reality is, Artist's Production spaces are being lost - as Artists classically get displaced when these types of re-developments occur.

Active18 thought it was profoundly important - since we will be losing the venerable 48 Abel building as a long standing affordable studio building - that we should spend our energies to help create and grow a stable community of artists in this neighbourhood.

We are extremely pleased that we forged a relationship with Alan and Tim, our Ward councillors' office and the city planning department to help negotiate for and create the wonderful Triangle Lofts... and are especially excited that these units were built as real studios and allows artists to actually own their own spaces.

Active18 still continues to meet every 2 weeks as there are still projects brewing – such as our park and public art designs. We'd like to extend an invitation to our new neighbours to join us in working on these and other urban planning projects in this area.

So fellow artists – welcome to the neighbourhood and get making great art in your new studios!

