WINNIPEG
ARCHITECTURE
FOUNDATION

9th November 2026

Dear WAF Patrons and Supporters,

The Winnipeg Architecture Foundation (WAF) is providing an important update regarding its space at 101-177 Lombard Avenue, following the Manitoba Association of Architects' (MAA) decision not to renew WAF's sublease, which expires on 30th November 2026.

Established in December 2023, the original space-sharing arrangement saw WAF invited into the MAA's new public-facing space, envisioned as a collaborative hub for architecture and design. WAF supported the MAA's goal of increasing public engagement, awareness and accessibility of the architectural profession. We welcomed this vision and the opportunity to build upon a longstanding relationship between the two organisations. Unfortunately, the experience has fallen short of the partnership originally envisioned.

Since 2024, WAF has received no financial contributions or substantive operational support from the MAA. WAF has paid more than $15,000 in rent to the MAA during the tenancy. WAF also encountered increasing restrictions and operational challenges within the shared premises, including limitations affecting public access, member engagement and the sale of publications and other items supporting WAF's activities. These circumstances placed additional operational and financial pressures on the Foundation and constrained opportunities to realise the original vision for the Lombard Avenue space.

WAF's Board and staff remained committed to finding a constructive path forward. Over the summer of 2026, WAF initiated discussions about renewing the sublease and strengthening the working relationship. Following discussions with MAA Council representatives and Executive Director Martin Lussier on 18th August, WAF sought further engagement to advance the proposed improvements. Despite subsequent follow-ups, the MAA advised WAF on 4th November that the sublease would not be renewed.

In a recent communication to its members, the MAA expressed a commitment to finding ways to support WAF. We welcome this commitment and are awaiting further information about what support is available. We believe meaningful and longstanding partnerships, like that between WAF and the MAA, are built through reciprocal support, constructive engagement and tangible action.

As a registered charity, WAF advances awareness and appreciation of Manitoba's built environment through public education, research, publications, exhibitions and community programming, including showcasing the work of MAA members. WAF's work contributes to a greater public understanding of architecture and its role in our communities.

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As WAF approaches its 30th anniversary in 2027, we remain focused on the Foundation's continued development, including securing sustainable funding and appropriate space for our operations and programming. This transition is an opportunity to build on three decades of work and strengthen the Foundation for the future. WAF remains fully committed to its mandate, programmes and the communities we serve.

We are grateful for your continued confidence, generosity and commitment. Your support has helped establish WAF as an important part of Manitoba's architectural and cultural community, and we look forward to building on this work together.

Sincerely,

The Board of Directors
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