

# aceart<sup>inc.</sup>

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PRESS RELEASE

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 23, 2009

### **MANIFESTO**

Friday January 23, 2009.

We, the artists of Winnipeg, shout loud and clear from the rooftops: culture is not a façade, a hollow shell that can be gutted at the whims of the “power”full. We work here. We create here. This is the heart of our community. Three galleries, 600 members and 1000s of audience members build beauty and meaning on the block of McDermot between Princess and King. Multiple businesses generate income. And scores of artists rent studios. We fill heritage buildings with joy and experimentation and just maybe, the next new thing, the best since sliced bread, an idea or form or style that will rock your world. Our block of McDermot rings with hope and creation, not the deadening hum of turbines. We are a reason to come downtown! Unlike the emptiness of an unmanned substation, we fill the streets with life. Art is the real power of urban renewal.

Power smart? Power Art!

Have you considered what happens when there is nowhere left for us to go? When there is no more studio space for creation, no more galleries for display? Can you imagine Winnipeg without artists, without art? Must we move to Toronto or New York, like the artworld has always told us?

Is Winnipeg really willing to evict a creative community to make way for machines? In a city that is rife with surface parking, must we displace and demolish? Does Winnipeg see its artists as so expendable?

Laser beams emit from our eyes, videos from our flared nostrils.  
Watch for a projection emanating from one of the buildings slated for  
colonization by Manitoba Hydro. Go to McDermot east of Princess and  
look up. Pray to the god of electricity. Culture is the soul of our city.  
Save our souls! Build your substation elsewhere.

To discuss artists' views regarding the proposed substation, please  
contact:

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