

President's Report

Community Arts Council of Greater Victoria – Annual General Meeting
Sunday September 28, 2014

Our 2013/14 fiscal year ended on June 30, 2014, and concluded a year filled with success.

The Community Arts Council of Greater Victoria was established in 1968 to showcase and encourage local arts. During the past several years we have completed a process of renewal, and have entered a growth phase. The engagement and support of all of you has contributed to this achievement.

We closed last year with a financial surplus. We received new funds from Victoria Foundation for expanding our inventory of art display equipment, from Community Gaming for our visual arts program, from City of Victoria grant for the puppet festival, and federal government support for a summer student. Our self generated funding (donations, membership dues, entry fees, and sales commissions) are important and demonstrate to funders that we are viable.

In terms of programming, it was a very busy year:

- we hosted 136 visual arts shows showcasing 1247 artists at 9 venues, focused on showcasing local arts, 2 of which were part of national tours;
- we conservatively estimate a combined audience of over 40,000 at our activities;
- we continued efforts to address all arts disciplines and integrate arts with a literary contest, readings by local authors, the Play on Words literary festival, and performances by local musicians;
- we provided information and education through monthly speakers at Artist mixers, at Ted Talks, a event showcasing summer art camps for children;
- music performance was included in a number of CACGV activities and openings, in addition to the annual Global Voices Choir concert;
- we responded to your requests for workshops by hosting a copyright workshop, and day long series of seminars on the Business of Art and to organize a major event (Puppet Festival), a downtown photo exhibition (Monday Photo Contest Oct 2014), a pre-Christmas small works show (Nov 2014) and a juried art show (spring 2015);
- we hosted community oriented events, including Elder Artists, and shows for schools and youth artists, which return in 2015 along with International Women's Day show;
- artist demonstrations and presentations were offered in the Main Gallery, and at the Look Show, and these all included honorariums;
- we re-launched the Artist in Residence program featuring puppet making workshops;
- At year end, the Board established an annual bursary for two members which will begin in 2014/15;
- our youth programming expanded to include youth art festivals, art making at community events, art shows, and drop in studio times.

At the Board Table, Committees for each arts discipline were equipped with budgets and activities through the year. The Board is including all arts disciplines, and all parts of our community, as you will see with the nominees for 2014/15 Board. Individual CACGV members have stepped forward to help with important Committee work.

In the office, we completed a custom built database of members, which supports our communications, finances, memberships, and statistical summaries. Completed by a volunteer, it would have cost over \$20,000. A major website renovation was completed, to provide information about activities, event applications, and by linking it with the website enables on line membership transactions, updates of contact information, an artist directory and member events – all through self service. This was completed under a contract for a small fraction of the \$20,000 market value. A streamlined process for gallery bookings was introduced which includes the call to artists, information and application forms on the website, and then bookings for a 6 month period supported by contracts to clarify roles. We redid job descriptions for the office, and in Spring hired our Arts Coordinator, Stephanie Eisenbraun, who joins Nicole Oien, the Office Administrator, and contracted support for communications, website and computer support. We secured new accounting software, and established offsite computer backup for security, can now accept payment with cash, cheque, credit card, and Paypal.

The website is now the cornerstone of our enhanced communications, which includes monthly e-news, and the weekly e-blasts, as well as Facebook, along with traditional posters, news releases and online arts calendars.

Volunteers are important as always and over 150 individuals contributed time to help in many ways. Volunteers significantly increase our capacity to deliver programs and impress our funders – so thank you volunteers.

We also enjoyed an increased number of partners in the community, which provided in kind goods and services and discounts, including Uptown Shopping Mall, Artbox, Island Blue, to name only a few in addition to our ongoing list of partners.

CACGV has an important role in our community and a future filled with promise. Realizing this depends on each one of us. It has been my honour to be part of this organization for the past number of years and to be part of the Board. It has been exciting and challenging, but always extremely rewarding to see what we accomplished together. While I look forward to continuing involvement, I welcome the commitment of the incoming Board for 2014/15.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Williams
President