

President's Report

Community Arts Council of Greater Victoria - Annual General Meeting

October 1, 2016

Our 2015/16 fiscal year ended on June 30, 2016, 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 our members, the public, Board of Directors and staff has led to this achievement.

We closed last year with a financial surplus of \$163. In the past fiscal year, the CRD and the BC Arts Council (BCAC) supported us with Operating Grants. We received a Community Gaming grant from the Province of British Columbia which was split between operating and programming costs. In addition, we received project-based support from The City of Victoria and from the BCAC for the Puppets for Peace Festival and BCAC project-based support for the newly implemented Adaptive Dance Alchemy program. Our increased self-generated revenue (donations, membership dues, entry fees, and sales commissions) are important and demonstrate to funders and to our membership that we are a stable, viable organization. We look forward to increasing our fundraising capacity in the current fiscal year to enhance our stability even further.

With regards to programming, 2015/16 was a busy and successful year:

- We showcased work from over 1500 artists at over 10 venues, focusing primarily on local artists
- We conservatively estimate a combined audience of over 20,000 individuals at our activities and a passive audience of over 2,000,000 who come in contact with our galleries
- We continued to develop our reach into diverse arts disciplines beyond visual arts, supporting the literary arts through the Play on Words Festival and Writer's Society Open Mic Nights; performance arts through the Puppets for Peace Festival and the Integrate Arts Festival; musical arts through the annual Global Voices Choir and our "Women Hold up Half the Sky" International Women's Day Exhibition; and dance through the International Dance Day Celebration
- We supported the development of artists and emerging art professionals through our Information and Education initiatives, including our Business of Art Workshop series, which provided artists with professional advices on topics ranging from artistic copyright and social media marketing to commercial gallery protocols
- We hosted community-oriented events with social wellness as a main focus, as seen through our Embrace Aging through the Arts exhibition and our Adaptive Dance Alchemy project, which uses art as a tool for emotional and physical wellbeing. We also focused on youth oriented programs, like the Limelight Youth Art Show and Art Jammers to engage with a younger demographic
- We had a successful Annual LOOK Show, and are currently developing a plan to expand this program
- For the second year, we held the Art Victoria Now juried fine arts show at the Atrium on Yates Street. This was a successful event and acts as the first of its kind in the Victoria area

- The Monday Magazine Photo Contest and Little Gems Holiday Art and Craft Show were also successful events last year and took place at a central and high traffic location in The Bay Centre
- We look forward to expanding our programs and reach into the community even further as facilitated by our recent move to a static location at 636 Fort Street (The Bay Centre). This new headquarters for the CACGV has allowed us to engage with new audiences, provide artists with increased exhibition opportunities and will allow us more stability when developing programs and events.
- With regards to Board activity, Committees for each arts discipline were equipped with budgets and projects through the year. Board members have a variety of professional and artistic backgrounds and have roots in diverse communities throughout Greater Victoria. Individual CACGV members have stepped forward to assist with important committee work, which we are very thankful for.

Staff members continuously work to engage our member-base through entertaining and educational programs and are looking forward to the benefits brought by our move to Fort Street. Part-time staff, including our Executive Director (Stephanie Eisenbraun) and Arts Coordinator (Brin O'Hare) in addition to our Office Administrator and newly appointed Volunteer Coordinator (McKaila Ferguson) will work together with the Board to drive the organization forward during this exciting period of change.

Volunteers are important as always and we have appreciated the number of volunteer hours donated to us this past year. Volunteer support significantly increases our capacity to deliver programs and impress funders, so thank you to those who volunteered and those who plan to in the future.

We also appreciate our ever expanding number of partners in the community who have supported us through a variety of means. Such partners include The Bay Centre, the District of Saanich, Jawl Properties Ltd., Uptown Shopping Mall, Artink, Artbox, Island Blue, and Black Press to name a few.

The CACGV has an important role in our community and a promising future. Fulfilling our mandate and mission depends on each member of the team, and this task is both exciting and challenging, and it is extremely rewarding to see what we have accomplished as an organization. Through continuing to focus on our mission and fulfilling our mandate through programming, we will further our reach into the community and grow our reputation as a necessary asset in the arts and culture sector of Greater Victoria.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Moore
President