

# ANNUAL REPORT 2017 - 2018



VICTORIA ARTS  
COUNCIL



The Victoria Arts Council has had an exciting year culminating in our move to a new long-term home at 1800 Store Street. We are hopeful that our new facility will become a hub for artists of all genres.

Member support for VAC was outstanding during the year - from our annual LOOK Show, Art Now Victoria, Little Gems and specialty shows - participation was at an all-time high as we continue to promote artists in Victoria.

We are especially grateful to our members, donors, sponsors and friends who have supported us throughout the year and to our volunteers, Board and staff for their time, guidance and involvement.

As we move into our 50<sup>th</sup> year, we invite you to continue your support and involvement with the Victoria Arts Council as we continue to shape the local arts community.

Paul McNair  
President

Stephanie Eisenbraun  
Executive Director

## Board of Directors

Paul McNair	President
Alison Ross	Vice President
Joshua Schmidt	Secretary
Nicole Oien	Treasurer
Rose Cowles	Chris Marks
Peter Such	Maureen Flanagan
Maia Windrim	Sheila Blake
Nancy Hayes	

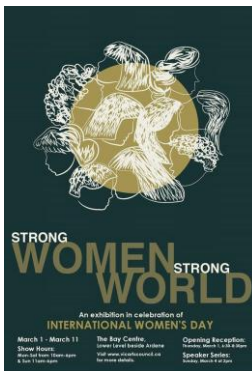
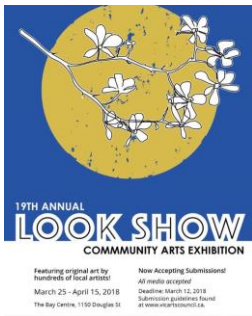
## Staff

Stephanie Eisenbraun	Executive Director
Brin O'Hare	Arts Coordinator
Gail Grigiliunas	Bookkeeper
Rosemarie Kemp	Volunteer Coordinator



We acknowledge the financial support of the Province of British Columbia

## 2017-2018 Activity Report



- Strength Within program has had tremendous community benefit - singing and instrumental music complemented by intermittent sessions of theatre, puppetry and dance. The program provides opportunities for learning, self-expression, mental stimulation, enjoyment, socialization and improved physical and mental health for the participants. This program addresses the issues of isolation and marginalization suffered by those who are ill, impoverished or aged.
- VAC hosted the Integrate Arts Festival for the fourth year. During the reception and festival weekend, over 650 people in our gallery daily to view contemporary, emerging artists of various media.
- This year, VAC created new partnerships with MLA Rob Fleming's office and GVPL James Bay Branch adding integral exhibition opportunities to our satellite venue program.
- We hosted the 19th Annual LOOK Show, our largest to date with over 500 works of art exhibited among 3 venues. This is the first year we expanded beyond the Bay Centre to include the Historic Temple Building and creating a new partnership with Pemberton Holmes.
- An additional partnership created this year is with CFUV for our literary and performance programming. We have collaborated with CFUV to create an on-air show and podcast entitled 'Play on Words'. It is an innovative variety spoken word program, which plays on the concept of radio and sound as media through scripted drama/mockumentary, satire, and sound art.
- Notably, our move to 1800 Store Street is an exceptional feat for the arts council, securing a long-term sustainable home for the organization.
- In addition to the LOOK Show, this year we increased capacity and success of many of our annual programs such as the Little Gems Show that exhibited 76 artists and saw \$6800 worth of art sold within 3 weeks. The Monday Magazine photo Contest was also a great success with 165 submissions on display and saw the inclusion of a youth award within the contest, giving encouragement to a photographer under 19 years of age. Art Victoria Now was a hit with hundreds of people in attendance and the youth component, Youth Art Now, awarded an incredible young artist, Jacob Marshall, age 16.
- VAC also co-hosted the Slap Happy 2.0 expo which is an travelling exhibition showcasing local and international urban artists. It was so impactful that it made the front cover of the Times Colonist!
- Limelight youth art festival was outstanding, including youth from a number of local schools in addition to a reception in which two groups of students held a poetry slam as well as performance from Reynolds Jazz Band.
- We saw success in an Increased partnership with the Arts Centre at Cedar Hill to expand our involvement in Culture Days - Symbol & Language in art exhibition
- The International Women's Day exhibition (Strong Women, Strong World), featured keynote speaker Pat Martin Bates to open our education and performance session as well as participate in the exhibition.
- A new program, the UVic Art History Oral Project, will take place from October - December in partnership with Dr. Carolyn Butler-Palmer of UVic. Consists of the conducting of interviews with local female artists to create an oral history record of artistic practice. Our role is connecting artists with Dr. Butler-Palmer, she will conduct the interviews and they will be available on the UVic webpage for public access.
- Artist talk by UK Landscape Artist of the Year: TOM VOYCE as seen on tv's Sky Arts Landscape Artist Competition was a great hit!
- The successful Artshow program at the following hotels: Parkside Hotel & Spa, Delta Ocean Pointe Resort, Hotel Grand Pacific, Double Tree by Hilton featured 15 artists.
- VAC held our first annual emerging First Nation's artist exhibition at our new Store Street location in August. The exhibition had a great response from the public and we were thrilled to work with Margaret Briere on this exhibition (Beyond the Boundaries) which we feel opens doors for further collaborations.
- VAC also provided gallery space to artists and community groups throughout the year to showcase art, woodwork, jewelry and other mediums. Without our gallery this community exposure would not be possible.
- More than 350 artist-members continue to support the Victoria Arts Council.
- With the support of members, donors, sponsors and government partners, the Victoria Arts Council ended the year with a small deficit of \$1400.
- The Board of Directors undertook a planning process resulting in a new VAC Strategic Plan which is available on our website.