



Annual General Meeting, March 6, 2011 President's Report

The Salt Spring Arts Council has had a very productive year. The foundation for our year was laid down at our annual strategic planning session in September. This was a daylong workshop facilitated by Lizzy Rowe where we focused on the question "What are the most important areas for the SSAC to focus on/put energy into for 2010/2011 to continue to fulfill its vision/mission". After much brainstorming and discussion three focus areas were chosen as follows:

- Promotion:
 - Improving our website and making it database driven.
 - In process and well on its way to completion.
 - Creating a 'Day in the Life' from an artist's point of view.
 - Pending
 - Increasing international press coverage.
 - Pending
- Education and Programming:
 - Find passionate, knowledgeable people to add to the committee.
 - Done
 - Organize professional development workshops to be offered in the winter of 2011.
 - Done
 - Create a directory of artists on the island.
 - In process and nearly there.
- Mahon Hall:
 - Building inspection to ID priority issues
 - In process
 - Fundraiser

- Planned for May
- Explore availability of volunteer labour for renovations.
 - On going, our list is growing.

Each of the above areas was discussed at our monthly board meetings where we got updates from the coordinators of each focus area. For more details please refer to the year-end reports.

Working towards realizing our ten-year vision that was established at our 2009 Strategic Planning Day is another aspect of what we do as a board. Our vision of establishing a school/centre for the arts on Salt Spring is off to a strong start after our very successful fundraiser, Chairity, this past May. We have a very hard working committee that meets twice monthly and has accomplished a lot in moving towards creating a picture of what a school/centre could look like on our island. This picture will be shared at our upcoming community conversations where we are looking forward to getting feedback from many of you.

Every year we apply for a BCAC grant and this year the good news is that on top of our usual funding (\$5,065.00 for 2010) we were awarded an additional performance grant of \$8,500.00. Kudos to Janet Halliwell for her stellar grant writing skills in helping us achieve this. I have attached the performance report so you can see what this performance funding will be put towards.

As you hear from all the committees you will note that each has been busy in meeting their mandate for supporting the arts in our community. I would like to thank all of you who chair and sit on committees for the fabulous job you have done this year. I want to especially thank the Art Craft Committee and Helen Mears for looking at Art Craft with fresh eyes and focusing on giving it a new look that has rejuvenated and revitalized this very important SSI icon and SSAC initiative.

Unfortunately earlier this year we lost three board members who stepped down for personal reasons. April Curtis, Mahon Hall Operations

committee, Robert Steinbach, treasurer and Megan Manning, communications committee. We are also losing Seth Berkowitz whose 2nd two-year term is ending this year. All four of these people have brought a great deal of wisdom and experience to the board and their invaluable contributions will be dearly missed. Happily, Seth will continue to sit on the Art School/Centre committee. April Steel very kindly offered to be an interim treasurer and finish out this year. April has a very long history with the arts council and we all learned a lot from her. Thank you to all of you for the time and energy you have given to the Arts Council, your contributions have made a difference to our arts community in a very positive way.

Our organization could not function without Trish Wheeler, wearer of many hats, as she so graciously manages our office and the Hall. I want to thank her on behalf of the board for quietly working away in the background keeping things running smoothly. I also want to thank everyone who volunteers his or her time to the council, what you do does not go unnoticed and is always appreciated.

It is a great privilege to work on this board and I've had a very gratifying second year as president. This board works very hard and each member goes above and beyond with wonderful enthusiasm and dedication towards making things happen for our arts community. Because I will be away for much of 2011/12 I am stepping down as president but will continue to sit on the board as past president. I wish whoever steps into this position much luck and I look forward to another exciting and productive year in 2011.

Respectfully yours

Rineke Jonker
SSAC President