



July 18, 2007

Membership Survey

Thanks to all who responded to our membership survey. There is still time to the end of July if you want your input included. Go to:

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=nCb820ljTNT7FIEFysCICw_3d_3d

We will be making a draw at the end of July for a free registration to attend the 2007 Manitoba Showcase Contact event in Thompson from all who complete the survey. In addition, all respondents will receive a free print copy of the 2007/08 Performing Arts Touring Directory.

Rural & Northern Art Show at the Legislature – July 2007

The Peoples Choice Award went to Jasyn



Lucas of Thompson for his beautiful painting "I had a Dream". This young artist recently had a solo show in Leaf Rapids, where 86 of the 100 artworks he submitted were sold – most to tourists from

outside of Canada!

Our website has a slide presentation of our show at the Legislature – if you were not able to attend. Go to:

www.communityarts.mb.ca/special_events.html

In previous years this show was set up on the main floor around the grand staircase. This year we had a much smaller space in

the lower level where a permanent art gallery will be. This year we organized Professional Artist Studio visits for the artists coming to Winnipeg for the opening. 9 professional artists in Winnipeg opened their studios. 30 individuals (Legis show artists & friends) from rural and northern Manitoba participated in the studio tours. The feedback we received definitely indicates that we should continue this.

Manitoba Showcase Contact 2007

The brochure is at the printers and packages will be out to you next week!

Staff Changes

We are pleased to introduce Tanya Brunel as our new Performing Arts Program coordinator. She grew up in St. Leon and brings strong skills from her background in the film and television industry. She plans to be in the office from Tuesday to Thursday.



Jill Sayegh's son is improving daily from his terrible accident in May. She will back in our office next week. We brought Ilene Jackson back from her retirement to take over during this time. We really appreciated being able to do this.

Membership News

Tri-Lake Concerts, a strong community presenter in Killarney for many years, advised us that they have closed down. Since other community arts organizations have closed and then revived themselves

after a few years, they hope that this may be their situation as well.

Pembina Hills Art Gallery was the site for the announcement of Morden being designated a 2008 Cultural Capital of Canada. This is most exciting news especially for the opportunities for innovative projects and promotions for arts, culture and heritage. It will be interesting to see what develops in the Morden community as a result of this award. Congratulations to all involved in the application process, especially Carmen Drapeau of the Pembina Hills Art Gallery and Sharron Wiens who is also the Central region representative on the Manitoba Arts Network board.

Morden is celebrating their 125th anniversary in 2007. **Tri-Lake Concerts**, **Tiger Hills Arts Association** and the **Virден Community Arts Council** are three of our members who we heard of that were active in the organizing of major community anniversary celebrations this year. This is another concrete demonstration of the value that community arts organizations deliver.

Virден Community Arts Council participated in the Milk-a-Thon at the Virден Fair in July 2007, for which they retained 25% of the sponsorship money raised!

Steinbach Arts Council is offering Ph.A.T. Day Camps for 8-16 year olds this summer in partnership with Parks & Rec.. These are Physical Arts Training Camps with X-Company. The only camp where kids can pick up new dance moves, learn to act, try some cool martial arts and learn stunt fighting, all while making new friends!

OTHER

Clear Lake Chamber Music Festival

August 3-5, 2007 at 7:30pm

This 2nd annual festival is a weekend of tremendous chamber music repertoire, and is held at the Elkhorn Resort. For more info, go to: www.clearlakechamberfestival.com or

Fostering arts and culture in rural and northern Manitoba

contact: Alexander Tselyakov at 571-6547.
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Choosing Language That Empowers the Arts by Sandra Thomson, Port Theatre, Nanaimo, B.C.

Why ask for a “grant” when you can charge a “management fee”?

In 1993, while we were in the midst of the fundraising and design phase for the 800 seat theatre in Nanaimo, we brought in a guest speaker from Tacoma, Washington. He told the story of Tacoma’s downtown revitalization efforts which included the development of several cultural facilities. The City of Tacoma did not give a “grant-in-aid” to these facilities; rather they paid a non-profit society a management fee to operate the facilities in an entrepreneurial manner that responded to community needs.

In Nanaimo, the theatre is owned by the City of Nanaimo and operated by The Port Theatre Society. During the negotiations in 1997 with the City to secure the first “License to occupy and manage” their facility, we agreed upon a “management fee” that the City pays quarterly to the Society. The choice of words has proven to be very important as it rightly reflects the relationship between the Society as operator and the City as owner of the theatre. When it came time last fall to renegotiate the “management agreement” as it is now called, it was a rather straightforward matter for the City to agree to include an annual cost of living increase to the “management fee”. The City sees the value of paying for the excellent cultural management services provided by the professional staff of The Port Theatre Society. The Society proudly reports to the public on the value that the City’s investment generates for the community.

Are you still using any language that is holding your organization back from being recognized for the full value that you contribute to your community, your province and your country?

Inspiring stories from Alberta

Canadian Heritage, and funders generally, like to hear stories that demonstrate positive results of their support. The following

examples were included by the Arts Touring Alliance of Alberta in their report to Canadian Heritage:

Kinsella is a community with a population of 45, on a good day. Three times a year, for the last ten years, in the early morning the women of the town come together in the Community Hall and start peeling potatoes and mixing salads. The Kinsella Performing Arts Guild later welcomes 320 guests into a transformed community hall for their sold out ³Dinner & A Show² season.

They proudly point out their stage, drapes and brand new follow spot, and say that with every artist they present they manage to get something different for the hall. Their current season went on sale in February and was sold out within two weeks. They now have a waiting list. Between 30 50 volunteers work on each presentation. This small community is galvanized by the arts.

Over in **Delia**, a community of 200, a few new ³younger² Board members wanted to try some new programming directions. Existing long-term members agreed and everyone was blown away at the success of presenting the legendary Canadian rock band Trooper, followed the next year by April Wine. They say, ³We have found a new younger audience that wants 70s nostalgia.² Delighted with their success, they are now considering offering a country series while continuing with their on-going senior¹s programming. Their current season sold out in 10 days.

Opened in 2002, the Vic Juba Theatre in **Lloydminster** came about when the arts community pooled their resources. The dance community, a local theatre group and school bands grew tired of travelling to Vermilion to perform so they worked together to raise

50% of the \$4M required for a new facility. The venue is now home to a Dance Festival, a Ukrainian Festival, local theatre and band performances and the professional Lloydminster Concert Series. This venue hosts professional and community arts.

We have new state-of-the-art performance venues in the province with the Dow Centennial Centre in Fort Saskatchewan and The Esplanade in Medicine Hat.

Both of these facilities demonstrated tremendous community involvement and support to be realized. The Town of Drayton Valley has bought an old movie theatre and is renovating the space as a new performing arts centre. Currently another new venue is being considered in Olds.

We have municipalities like Grande Prairie, Grande Cache and Athabaska who now have paid staff working on presenting the arts in their communities. Grande Cache has now announced the DeathFest which will be hosted in conjunction with their renowned Death Race.

On the other hand, there are the frustrations and reversals that must inevitably accompany community programming....

Sounds like Manitoba, eh?

That's it for now.

Lydia Giles

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