



Nicola Valley Community Arts Council
Annual General Meeting
October 23, 2019

President's Report to the AGM

Board's Focus for the 2018-19 year:

- **Connecting with other community groups**
 - o building collaboration into their projects and ours,
 - o making use of each other's expertise and connections
 - o helping to deal with the shortage of volunteers that every group is facing.
- **Building positive relations** with our major financial supporters
 - o City of Merritt, TNRD and BC Arts Council
- **Planning a major community event**– the Mayor's Gala for the Arts.
 - o The Gala amazed everyone and was super successful, to the delight of all.
 - o We learned new useful skills and procedures in event planning that we can use in future programs.
- **Managing a range of programs** at the same time as the Gala strained our volunteers' time.
 - o Core programs continued, but the need to hire coordinators for some will mean hard decisions for future Boards on balancing volunteer and paid work.
- **Strengthening** our own organizational infrastructure to use our time and energy efficiently:
 - o online services like Google Docs to write, share and edit our paperwork,
 - o group email for Board advice and voting on motions, rather than everything waiting for meetings
 - o Executive authorized to deal minor decisions, including expenditures under \$500.
- **Adding inventory resources** to strengthen current and future programs.
 - o A generator to enable off-grid activities in our TNRD areas (used at Summer Nights street mall)
 - o Additional sound equipment to use at Open Mic and other public events
- **Directors appointed** by the Board during the year:
 - o Pam Clark
 - o Shannon Dunn
 - o Linda Brown

Facilities

- **Courthouse Arts Centre** at 1840 Nicola continues to be our main location.
- **Change of building ownership** In mid-September, the building was unexpectedly sold to a development company which raised concerns about our future there. However, the new owners have been very supportive and cooperative. A gradual rent increase accommodated our grant income calendar and building maintenance was addressed.
- **Gallery** is a solid program with monthly shows and related activities, thanks to Jano Howarth ☺
- The **Artisan Gift Shop** was added this year, starting with a small area in the front of the Gallery and growing to use the "Backroom." The artisans make up the core of the volunteers who supervise the regular open hours at the Courthouse Arts Centre (noon-6pm, Thursday to Saturday.)
- **West Side** - The building owners have allowed us to use the West Side of the main floor at only the cost of utilities pending renovation work. We are finding programs to use that space now that would eventually cover the rent when required.

Grand Piano – tuned as needed, minor repairs ordered, stored in its special room at the Civic Centre.