

Nicola Valley Community Arts Council
Presidents Report AGM 2024

The NVCAC once again saw a year of growth in the community with a full slate of dedicated directors, our Gallery Curator, Gift Shop Artisans and many volunteers.

This year we continued to work on our Strategic Plan with goals for each committee, which will be reflected in their reports.

We continue as an organization to learn and explore new opportunities and initiatives.

- Several of our Directors made the trip to Ashcroft to explore the Ashcroft Hub and their art scene, including the many beautiful mosaic murals in their downtown core.

-We hosted a pronouns in the Workplace session with Nicole Stanchfield which gave us a much clearer insight into the many issues faced by this segment of our population

-we traveled to West Kelowna to visit Annabel Stanleys basket weaving workshop, learn her craft and explore the options of having her visit Merritt.

As an umbrella for the Arts in Merritt we continue to support groups and music leaders by co-sponsoring programs

- Hosted young pianist extraordinaire Rachel Wui with Cecelia Dyck for a youth music workshop and music performance on Feb 11
- Hosted the Naramata Community Choir in conjunction with the Merritt Community Choir on April 5th
- Home Routes concerts - Report submitted

We continue to have strong Community Connections with

- City of Merritt
- TNRD
- Chamber of Commerce
- Nicola Valley Farmers Market
- Country Christmas
- Nicola Valley Pro Rodeo
- Garlic Fest
- School District 58
- Merritt Literacy
- Merritt Dance Society
- Merritt Rotary Club
- Nicola Valley Museum and Archives

We look forward to building a relationship with Healing Connections offering Art Activities and programs to the group.

-

We were successful once again in securing 2 summer students with the Federal Government's Summer student wage subsidy program. We hired local young women Olivia Nendick and our 3rd year student Brooklyn Harris for another year. We hired Kia Henricks from the Love to Dance Studio part-time to help us manage the summer activities with The Art in Motion Trailer and the Night Markets with the Chamber of Commerce. (See Kias Summer report.)

The Art Gallery and our Artisan Gift Shop continue to be a focal point of our Art Center and we saw some changes there this year as Marilyn Kelly took over as Gift Shop Manager from Amanda Pryzner Dunn who made the move to NVIT. We thank Amanda for her willingness to continue to help us with issues with square etc that have come up.

Our Gallery Curator of 7 years Yano Howarth made the move to West Kelowna and leaves a big spot for us to fill. Yano has been the face and the voice of the NVCAC for many years bringing many new innovations and programs to the Gallery. We wish her a happy retirement in West Kelowna.

We were fortunate to have Stacey Deleeuw come aboard as our Arts Handyman to look after many projects in our building but most importantly to get our Public Art pieces hung up in the community.

Public Art - Downtown Beautification

This program was started in conjunction with the City of Merritt 4 years ago to help bring some colour to our public places using the artistic talents of our summer students now has 16 pieces of Art in the Community. The pieces which were completed and hung this year include

- Kariannes crow hung on Arts Center Building
- Brooklyns birds hung on Art Center
- Satellite dish Art hung in Rotary Park with room for 22 more pieces including Leonards Georges large Canada Day piece
- Joel Reids graffiti style Nicola Valley mural painted in the Rotary Bandshell
- Bottle depot fence commissioned by owner and painted by Brooklyn

Art that is in the process or still to be placed include

- Community Hexagon project to be finished and place at the CPO
- Leonards Blue Bear to be hung outside City Hall
- Zentangle by Brooklyn
- Canada Rock Snake Project to be placed at gasoline Alley
- Leonard Georges beautiful mural on the side of Kekuli will be completed in the spring
- Astra Snees mural art for Voght Park will be started in the spring, see attached
- there are plans with the city and Arts Council to do some painting at the skateboard park and a Alley of Art behind Spirit Square again working with artist Joel Reid for skate park and local artists and interested individuals for the Alley.

I want to thank all our directors and volunteers for continuing to push the envelope to further the arts in the Nicola Valley. I especially want to thank our directors who have decided to stay on as board members and thank Joanne Massey for all her efforts as Program Director to streamline the processes as she steps down as director but continues to work with us in the backend with registrations etc.

Respectfully submitted
Mischelle Pierce
President NVCAC