

PEACE-LIARD
REGIONAL

ARTS BEAT

Peace-Liard Regional
Arts Council

Winter 1997

Peace Liard Regional Juried Art Exhibition March 7th, 8th, and 9th, 1997

Attention Regional Artists

Once again it is that time of year to prepare for the Regional Juried Art Exhibition which will be held in Fort Nelson on March 7th, 8th and 9th, 1997. Deadline for entry to the Regional Juried Art Exhibition will be February 14th, 1997.

New Partnerships

The partnership between the Regional Juried Art Exhibitions and the Provincial Exhibition at the BC Festival of the Arts has been changed this year. Last year the Assembly of BC Arts Councils decided that the 1996 *Images & Objects* Exhibition would be the last exhibition of its kind they would be involved with. The coordination responsibility was returned to the BC Festival of the Arts and a new coordinator, James Lam, has been hired by that board. The Provincial Exhibition will, this year, be entitled *Artwork* and be part of the BC Festival of the Arts to be held in Powell River, May 21 - 24th, 1997.

New System of Entries

Only three works of art will be chosen from each Regional Juried Art Exhibition to travel and be part

of *Artwork*. The remainder of the *Artwork* Exhibition will be chosen through a general call for entry. Those artists that chose to apply through the general call for entry will be required to do so through the submission of slides or video tape.

It is the decision of the BC Festival of the Arts board that works can not be chosen for *Artwork* from both submission streams (the Regional Juried Exhibition and the General Call for Entry). Because the closing deadline for the General Call for Entry (February 10th) falls so close to the deadline of our Regional Juried Exhibition it will be impossible to have artists apply to both streams and still prevent any possible overlap in choices. Therefore, in fairness to all participants, regional artists must decide which stream they wish to apply through. If an artist chooses to apply to the Regional Juried Art Exhibition they can not apply through the General Call for Entry and visa-versa. If an artist misses the General Call for Entry they would still have time to apply through the Regional Juried Art Exhibition. Drop off sites have been established through the arts councils in all communities for shipping to the Regional Juried Art

Exhibition. Those artists that apply through the Provincial General Call for Entry will make their own arrangements for shipping to the Provincial venue.

In talking to the Artworks coordinator from the BC Festival of the Arts, the Regional Arts Council office has been told that there will be no regional quota system connected to the selection process from the General Call for Entry. The jurors for that stream have not been chosen but there will be no sensitivity to regional diversity. The only allowances for provincial regional representation will come through the three selections from each of the Regional Juried Exhibitions.

Forms for the General Call for Entry and the Regional Juried Art Exhibition will be mailed out to regional artists. They are also available at your local Art Gallery in Fort St. John and Dawson Creek or through your community Arts Council.

For further information on the Regional Juried Art Exhibition please call Gordon at (250) 774 - 2241 or Ellen at (250) 782-1164

Arts Funding Cut Throughout BC

In December 1996, Arts Organizations received the following open letter from Jan Pullinger, Minister of Small Business, Tourism and Culture.

To members of the arts and cultural community:

I am writing to inform you of the recent government decision concerning the British Columbia Arts Council and cultural industries in British Columbia.

The Provincial government has developed a plan to provide sound financial management and maintain the economic strength necessary to produce jobs. The plan includes a \$750 million reduction in operating expenditures over the next 18 months. The plan is consistent with the priorities and values of British Columbians--- to reduce the size and cost of government while protecting Medicare and education.

As part of the governments fiscal management plan, the ministry of Small Business, Tourism and Culture will be reducing funding support for programs of the BC Arts Council and cultural industries by approximately 6 % this year and 25% for the coming year.

Despite these decision, government remains committed to arts and culture and to the independence of the BC Arts Council in determining how the budget reductions should be implemented.

I am personally aware of how difficult it is for the cultural community to adapt to this reduction in funding. I also understand the contribution the cultural sector makes to our economy, our society and our identity as British Columbians and Canadians, and the need for ongoing public support if it is to realize its full potential. As Minister Responsible for Culture, I am interested in seeking other innovative means of supporting the cultural community of B.C. It is my hope that we can work together in the future to ensure that the cultural sector remains a strong and vital contributor to our province.

To achieve that, I want to meet in the New Year with the BC Arts Council and other cultural organizations to solicit ideas and suggestions for ways in which government can support arts and culture, in light of our current fiscal circumstances, and to determine actions that we can take together to ensure the long-term sustainability of the cultural community.

This letter was attached to an interim report from Mavor Moore on the activities of the BC Arts Council. Mavor Moore has assured the arts community that although the existing budget of \$5.7 million has been reduced by the 6% mentioned above, the arms length mandate of the

Arts Council is secure and staff and facilities will not be cut. He goes on to say that with the funds finally allocated, the Arts Council went on to expedite grants on which payment had been delayed. Upcoming adjudication of grants will proceed as per normal schedule.



The BC Arts Council is in the process of making a detailed study of the impact of reduced funding across the spectrum of its mandate. They have

also concluded that they must, at the same time challenge the wisdom of the governments decision. In light of the upcoming cuts the BC Arts Board considered a number of options, and after satisfying themselves that "a 6% reduction in this financial year could be handled with minimum damage to grantees" they have decided to "protest the governments plan for an 25% reduction in 1997/98 and to enlist the broad arts community in a campaign to persuade the government that its plan would be self defeating".

It can be assumed that cultural organizations will be hearing from the BC Arts Council with further information on the campaign to protect arts and cultures important role in our province.



Pacific Contact 97

The 21st annual *Pacific Contact* Conference will be held in the Delta Pacific Resort and Conference Centre in Richmond on April 2 - 5, 1997. *Pacific Contact* is presented by the BC Touring Arts Council and is the major Arts and Entertainment Tour Industry conference for BC. This year the event will feature 45 live showcases to assist delegates chose programs to present in their communities. This is a wonderful opportunity for presenters throughout the province to view upcoming talent available on the touring scene. Information is available through BC Touring Council at 669-2800.

What's Happening in your Community Arts Councils?

In the Peace Liard Region there are five Community Arts Councils (CACs) working to promote and support arts and culture. Some highlights of CAC activities are:

Fort St. John

The FSJ Community Arts Council has been a strong and vibrant organization for a number of years now which gives them the opportunity to develop some unique programs for their community. One of the new programs promotes the hiring of local performers in restaurants and other public locations throughout the city. The arts council offers a \$100 grant to businesses to offset the performance fee thus assisting with the exposure of upcoming entertainers in Fort St. John. What a great idea!

Fort Nelson

Fort Nelson is one of our unique communities in the region since it has not had a traditional Community Arts Council for a number of years. Lately, the Phoenix Management Society has accepted the role since the theatre acts as a pivotal facility for a large number of cultural

activities in the community. It seemed like a natural solution. Fort Nelson will be hosting the 1997 Peace Liard Regional Arts Exhibition in the Phoenix Theatre, March 7th, 8th and 9th, and we are confident they will do a great job!

Tumbler Ridge

Tumbler Ridge was the location of the November meeting for the Peace Liard Regional Arts Council, and the energy in the community is infectious. Although few in numbers, the Tumbler Ridge CAC member groups are very active with their own activities offering a number of exciting events for the community, including the performing arts and a regular gallery exhibition schedule.

Chetwynd

One of our smaller communities (although growing the fastest), Chetwynd has always been a beehive of arts activity. When the Regional Art Exhibition toured there last year the arts council organized an evening of fun and entertainment, creating a very special community event. They have continued to present painting workshops at Moberly Lake on a

regular basis and this November and December volunteers in the community ran a small gallery and presented an exhibition entitled *A Journey of Northern Vision*. This exhibit featured the work of 12 local artists. The volunteers in Chetwynd are very involved in keeping culture alive and well.

Dawson Creek

The South Peace Arts Council has been fortunate to acquire a bingo license this past year. This has helped stabilize their funding and expand their programs. They have opened a office at the Kiwanis Art Centre and have a phone with an answering machine to assist residents looking for information about activities and events (782-5977).

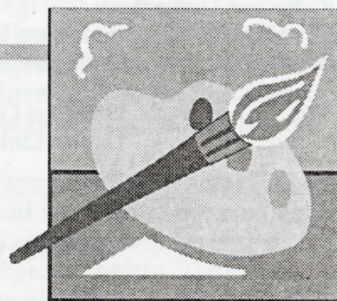
They will also be presenting some touring performances throughout the year and are working in conjunction with the South Peace Art Society on an Art Walk/Arts Festival for June of 1997.

Keep in touch with your local Community Arts Council. There's always something exciting going on for you to get involved with.

Regional Visual Artists Meet

On December 11th, approximately fourteen regional visual artists met at the home of Emily Mattson in Rolla, just north of Dawson Creek, to discuss the feasibility of forming a regional organization of visual artists which would be connected to the newly formed Alliance of Pacific Visual Artists. The APVA is a non-profit organization made up of artists representing each of the 13 regions of B.C. with a mandate to support and provide professional development for the visual artists of the province.

The small core group who met in Rolla came from Chetwynd, Fort St. John and Dawson Creek and surrounding area and had a fruitful discussion about common issues for visual artists on both the regional and provincial level. They have decided to give themselves time to consider all the directions discussed at that initial meeting and to meet again in a short time. If you are a visual artist and would like more information on this group please call Emily at 759- 4552.



Assembly of BC Arts Councils Holds Successful Conference

The Assembly of B.C. Arts Councils in partnership with the Vancouver Community Arts Council, held a very successful Annual Conference in Vancouver, October 24 - 27th, 1996.

Through speakers such as Dr. Peter Sellars, director, arts motivator and UCLA professor and Dr. Margaret Fulton, Canadian educator, the conference explored new ways to exist as artists and arts organizations in a changing world environment. Over 150 delegates from throughout B.C. as well as representatives from as far away as Ontario took part in a variety of fifteen sessions that were offered. Not only was practical information gained by those in attendance, but the value of networking with others in the cultural sector can never be overlooked.

This year it was a goal of the Peace Liard Regional Arts Council to encourage a large number of representatives from our region to attend the conference and

subsidies were offered to the Community Arts Councils who wanted to send more than one delegate. In all, twelve people from our region were at the Vancouver conference and the value of those numbers will be evident as delegates take back the information into their communities.

Over the next year the Assembly of BC Arts Councils board will continue to work on their organizational renewal process. A draft was presented to the members at the AGM however more work needs to be done. They will also be looking further into the name change proposal necessary to avoid confusion with the newly formed BC Arts Board.

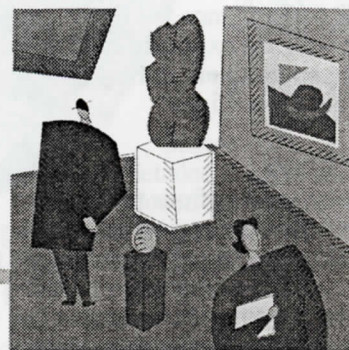
Our region has a new representative to the ABCAC board; Pam Trotter from Fort St. John. She will be taking over for Sheila Simard who is now in the Past President position. Sheila will still be attending meetings and having input into the renewal process so our region will

be very fortunate to have two voices around the table. We are looking forward to the developments coming up in the Assembly for 1997.

We want to hear from you

The Peace-Liard Regional Arts Council is always interested in feedback from all those involved in the arts. Do you have an issue you would like to see us address? Or some special artist, event or project that we can highlight in our newsletter? If so please contact us at

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Featured at Regional Art Galleries

Peace Gallery North - Fort St. John

Jan. 10th, to Feb. 15th *From the Rockies to the Sea*

Feb. 18th - March 12th *Discovery for Kids*
March 14th - April 9th Ken Flett

April 10th - May 15th *A Pale Caress*

This touring exhibit features work from various artists from 1900 to the 1980's.

Local artists work on an installation piece for children. Work in various media respectfully illustrates the passion, pain and lifestyles of our "downtrodden".

Photo exhibit by Ken Jeanotte examines sensitive issues around landclaims from a European point of view.

Tumbler Ridge Art Gallery

February 17 - March 30th Education Week
March 30 - April 19th Ducks Unlimited

June 7th - 9th Quintette Coal Safety Week
August 5th - Sep. 14th Denise Linley

Students work from Tumbler Ridge - Exhibit changes weekly. Work exhibited will be auctioned at the Ducks Unlimited banquet on April 19th.

Wildlife artist features work depicting scenes from the Tumbler Ridge area.

Dawson Creek Art Gallery

February 4th - March 1st *Why Don't you Just Leave?*

March 4th - March 22nd Kilkerran Art Group

March 25th - April 12th Piecemakers

April 15th - April 26th Mixed Media

Anne Popperwell's touring exhibit explores the issues surrounding abuse in relationships.

Work from the area north of Dawson Creek—reflections on the rural lifestyle.

This exhibit explores the scope of visual expression through tradition and non-traditional methods of quilt making.

A showcase of the work from the Media and Graphic Communications Arts courses at South Peace Sr. Secondary School and Northern Lights College.

Remember to support your local art gallery through their annual art auction: Dawson Creek Art Gallery - April 4th at the George Dawson Inn; Fort St. John- Peace Gallery North - April 12th at the North Peace Cultural Centre.