

March 2009

## **Arts Council Role within the City of Fort St. John**

Updated March 2009

*The Fort St. John Community Arts Council has scheduled a series of Board Development workshops for the directors of the Board of the Arts Council. The Arts Council is reviewing all current programs and partnerships. The Arts Council's Role within the City of Fort St. John is outlined in the following to clarify what the Arts Council does in partnership with the City.*

### **THE ARTS COUNCIL PROVIDES A VITAL ROLE WITHIN THE COMMUNITY BY:**

- supporting 25 arts member groups and other arts groups and events in the community
- networking with visual, performing and administrative arts groups in the community, in the region and throughout the province
- creating arts initiatives that are missing in Fort St. John
- conducting cultural major events in partnership with the City of Fort St. John to enhance, entertain and train residents and visitors to the community
- building capacity of the arts within the city and region
- administering a studio space for potters, spinners and weavers and painters
- providing resources for people with specific creative interests to develop their talents and skills
- working with tourism to develop cultural tourism programs to further impact the economic benefit to the community
- acknowledging the achievements of both high school and college student in awarding arts related scholarships and bursaries

### **GROWTH PRESENTS CHALLENGES:**

The Fort St. John Community Arts Council fills the role of a cultural component of the community which is usually incorporated as an official function within the city administration in most British Columbian cities of the size and dynamics of Fort St. John. Fort St. John has no official cultural/arts/heritage component of the City of Fort St. John.

The Arts Council has worked closed with the city in delivering a number of programs that have enhanced the community, brought attention to Fort St. John and the arts within the city, and have helped to sustain the Arts Council to further its work. This partnership has been successful.

Since 2000, the Arts Council's partnership with the City has developed and become more involved each year. Little documentation and discussion on development has taken place.

It has become confusing since many of the progressive practices of the past few years continue without full understanding of the benefits. Staff and volunteers of the Arts Council and the City have changed and many of the practices continue but are sometimes not realized or are unexpected.

### **FOR A CLEAR PICTURE:**

*In order to create a common understanding and a complete list of what responsibilities the Arts Council takes on, we have listed the various programs and the current relationship with the City of Fort St. John.*

**Annual Member Group Support:** The Arts Council provides:

- a formal adjudication process for a fair distribution to the 25 member groups of the \$15,000 annual funds contributed to arts groups in the community.
- a system of monitoring and evaluating the use of the funds by member groups.
- a complete report to the City of the process and the amounts granted.

The City of Fort St. John provides:

- \$15,000 to support 25 arts groups in the community which is granted to those groups. These funds are not used as operation funds for the Arts Council.
- An administration fee of \$2500 in the Base Budget for the Arts Council to conduct this service.

**High On Ice:** For 5 years, 2005-2009, the Arts Council has provided:

- the organization and implementation of the professional and amateur ice carving and snow sculpting competitions for the High On Ice Festival
- the parade float in November
- ice workshops in November to encourage and train local carvers and in April to train youth.
- storage for tools and other equipment (previously at Public Works) behind the newly developed Artspost

The City of Fort St. John provides:

- the budget of \$87,000 for the Arts Council to do the above. This includes the cost of ice but does not include the hours of city staff and public works in working on the program. In 2008, the Arts Council was to find sponsorship for any new initiatives within this program, i.e. jackets for the professional carvers, the Japanese team commissioned work, the commissioned work at the Northern Grand. This practice continued through 2009 High On Ice.
- the design for promotions, the promotions and marketing, and update of registration package on City website
- an administration fee of \$3500 (increased to \$5,000 for 2009) in the Base Budget for the Arts Council to conduct this program which takes 4 months of work to arrange.

**Flower Pot Program:** The Arts Council provides:

- Organizing the painting of 50 new pots by local artists and clear coated the pots.
- Sorting the previous year's 125 pots (50 to auction and 75 back on the streets)
- Cleaning and refurbishing past pots for planting by April 30.
- Conducting the auction in a public place for the community.
- Soliciting sponsors for each pot, getting sponsors signs made and attached to pots
- Documenting all pots and sponsors annually
- Storage behind the newly developed Artspost (first year 2008), previously at Public Works.

The City of Fort St. John provides:

- 50 new pots each year
- the cost of the pots (50 each year) and the planting (125 each year)
- transportation of the pots from storage, to work space, to clear coating, to planting, to street, to storage.
- set up one tent, table and chairs for the auction
- Funds of \$2000 in the Base Budget for the Arts Council to pay for all supplies of paint, clear coats and other related costs to deliver this program.

**Elves Christmas Program:** *In response to the request from The City of Fort St. John in 2002 to create an end of the year, winter-type festival, the Arts Council developed Elves Christmas to add an over-all community Christmas celebration starting with the Christmas parade and ending at the Christmas holiday.*

The Arts Council provides:

- preparations for the Festival of Trees dinner and auction
- encouragement for arts groups to enter the parade
- creates the High On Ice float
- Conducts a week of Christmas movies
- organizations of Rockin' Christmas Concert for youth
- produces Raising Our Voices Family Christmas Concert

The City of Fort St. John provides:

- a sponsorship of a tree (\$1000) in the Base Budget.
- a means to promote the Elves Christmas through the City Winter Lights program

**Art That Moves You:** The Arts Council provides:

- the organization of local artist's for painted panels to be displayed on the city buses
- refurbishing and maintaining the previous panels for public installation
- creation of bookmarks of those panels for the Public Library and Literacy groups and conduct a promotional event to launch the bookmarks.

The City of Fort St. John:

- approves of the panels on the buses

*Potential for Art That Moves You*

- The program is in its fourth year and has 24 panels from 2006, 2007, and 2008 that could be installed in a public place. A possible public venue could be the Enerplex when it is completed.
- City sponsorship of one or more of the panels would assist this program. Currently no funds are forthcoming from the City for this program.

**Art in the Park on Canada Day** The Arts Council provides:

- organization of the children's art activities, ice carving demo, artists show and sale.
- facilitators for the event and provides crafts supplies
- arranges for physical needs such as tables, signs and equipment

The City of Fort St. John:

- provides promotion for the Canada Day
- provides tents and venue
- the City Recreation Department contributes \$400 to the Arts Council for this program

**Crushed Grapes Wine Festival**

*The Wine Festival was initiated in 2007 to a sold out crowd at the Quality Inn Northern Grand. The plan was to have an annual Wine Festival for Fort St. John. Since 2008 was a very busy year and the Arts Council moved the event to the Spring of 2009. The Arts Council has decided to postpone the second Wine Festival indefinitely due to many factors. The Arts Council identifies the need to focus on fundraising for operational requirements for the Artspost and an executive director's position. The downturn in the global economy leaves uncertain outcomes of a major event such as a Wine Festival. Plans for a Wine Festival will be revisited when the Arts Council is confident of sustaining annual operating funds.*

**The Artspost Studio and Arts Council office:** The Arts Council provides:

- The establishment and renovation of a former truck bay for studio space
- The first workshop space in 15 years for the potters and the first ever workshop space for the spinners and weavers.
- An office and meeting space for the Arts Council and member group meetings
- A working space to accomplish the many programs of the Arts Council
- Storage space for arts tools and other equipment of programs.
- Fundraising for 68% of the cost of renting commercial space

The City of Fort St. John provides:

- Tax exemption accounting for 14% of the annual cost of renting commercial space

**Participation on various Committees of the City of Fort St. John:**

- Enerplex Community Committee/Olympic 2010 up to 2008
- Spirit of BC 2008, 2009, 2010
- Winter Lights and Communities in Bloom Committee

**CULTURAL POLICY DEVELOPMENT**

The Arts Council worked with the City Council to develop a Cultural Policy which sets the stage for outlining a direction and vision for arts, culture and heritage and provides a solid base of development in the arts for the community.

A Legacies 2010 Grant ARTS NOW was applied for by the city of Fort St. John and approved in 2006. One-half of the funds (\$20,000) came from the Legacies ARTS NOW and matched by the city (\$20,000). The legacy of the BC Festival of the Arts of 2001 of \$4,000 was donated to the Cultural Policy development. Legacies ARTS NOW delivered the grant to the City of Fort St. John.

The Arts Now portion of the grant was used in 2006 to conduct a Cultural Scan in preparation for the development of a Cultural Policy. Professional facilitator and cultural consultant, Bob Yates, from Victoria, helped Arts Council Executive Director Lauri Petrucci conduct part of that Cultural Scan. The Cultural Scan was completed in 2006 and has been presented to the City of Fort St. John. The City Community Services Department arranged for Cindy Haapenen, a consultant from Vancouver to complete Phase 2 of the Cultural Study. The complete report and recommendations were presented to City Council on February 23, 2009.

**IN CLOSING:**

The Fort St. John Arts Council looks forward to continuing to serve the community, create arts and cultural opportunities for the community and to provide networking and communication relating to arts, cultural and heritage.

Prepared by Sue Popesku April 2008

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