

**Fort St John Community Arts Council
Regular Meeting Minutes February 15, 2017**

Call to Order: 12:03 pm by Rosemary Landry, Chair

Present: Connie Surerus (NPCC/Director), Geilan Carnell (FSJ Dance Society), Shannon Bolog (FSJ Irish Dance), Eliza Stanford, Wendy Ingram (FSJ Film Society), Christine Taylor (NDTS), Marjo Wheat (NPSWG), Dayna Ross (Ecole Central School), Rosemary Landry (Flying Colours/NPPG/PRFCA/Director), Lisa Babuick (FSJ Quilters/Director), Margaret May (PRNFA/Director), Sue Popesku (Theatre Festival/Stage North/Director)

Approval of Agenda: no additions. Eliza moved.

Approval of Minutes: Connie S. noted report from NP Cultural Centre missed in group reports. Marjo moved. Geilan second. Carried.

Financial Report: \$2,409.80 left in 2016 grants. Deadline for 2017 grant applications is March 15, 2017 and the adjudication date is April 11, 2017 at 7pm. Please do not hesitate to contact Arts Council for help with application.

Correspondence:

- New Art Avenue magazine January/February 2017 edition
- BC Arts Council re application for 2017 – awarded \$16,129 for operations, close to last year's award.

Group Reports:

FSJ Irish Dance Society – Shannon Bolog

February started off with all the competitive dancers traveling to Edmonton for the second mandatory competition of the year. It was a double prelim competition, giving the opportunity for those in the prelim group two chances to win their trophies and move into Open. Over all the Watt school did wonderful with 3 dancers moving into open and too many medals to count. Those dancers who will be traveling to Dublin for the Worlds have new steps and will be showing them off at local competitions before they leave. Several dancers will be traveling to Vancouver to compete in the Van Eire Feis Feb 25 and 26. Those who can't participate in that competition will be traveling to Seattle March 4-5th. Already it has been an incredible season for our school...looking forward to see how they all at Worlds and Nationals.

Fundraising: We are currently running a flower, veggie basket fundraiser from Walkers greenhouse (closing Feb 15th). We are holding a bottle drive Feb 18th.

FSJ Dance Society – Geilan Carnell

Fundraiser "Two Step Barbeque" at the Lido Theatre February 25th doors open at 7pm, dance at 8pm, barbeque dinner, music by the Montney Coulees Band, midnight lunch. Dancers are getting ready for the Performing Arts Festival in April and then on to Edmonton and Sherwood Park for competitions. No other fundraisers planned.

Eliza Stanford – "High on Ice" went well until Saturday but with weather warming pro carvers had hard time carving on Sunday. The "cake" looked great with 75 candles and lasted the longest. David did an ice carving for the Chocolate Festival.

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FSJ Film Society – Wendy Ingram

We had 160 people for "Manchester By the Sea". Next film is February 20th "Denial" at 7pm. Costs are up with bigger theatre, 9 films for winter/spring session. The brochure is out.

NP Spinners & Weavers – Marjo Wheat

On January 21st we had an Inkle Weaving workshop and 2 young teenagers came. We have instituted a junior membership \$25 under 18 years and we already have a junior member. This weekend February 15-19th at NLC for "In Town Retreat". We will be doing a "Sheep to Shawl" presentation at the Fall Fair this year using local fleece and producing a shawl. The 40th Anniversary is May 6th and planning a celebration at the Artspost.

North Peace Potters Guild – Rosemary Landry

Ruth Ann Tudball, a British potter is coming for a 3 day workshop in hand and wheel work on February 24th, it involves a lot of rhythmic action.

Flying Colours Artists – Rosemary Landry

Currently participating in a "My Canada" show at Peace Gallery North in honour of Canada's 150, show runs to February 25th. The preschool kids at the Cultural Centre planted bulbs in a flower pot for the show. David Langevin Workshop March 31, April 1, April 2 in Dawson Creek.

Stage North – Sue Popesku

Wizard of Oz played to over 400 people this past weekend and has 4 shows left this Thurs/Fri/Sat at 7pm and a matinee on Saturday at 2pm. It is very well done and lots of fun for the kids.

"Colosseum" Dinner Theatre opened last night, Feb 14, at the Pomeroy Hotel. Two more shows on Feb 24 and 25 with tickets available at stagenorth@eventbrite.ca

Best Western Plus donated \$1000 toward the production of Alcan Craze '42, an original play by Deborah Butler of Rose Prairie, about the building of the Alaska Highway. The show will be directed by professional director and actor Michael Armstrong and will play Sept 29, 30, Oct 5, 6, 7, 2017 on the NPCC Stage. This is a joint production with Stage North and the North Peace Cultural Centre in celebration of the Alaska Highway 75th. Open auditions will be held in April 22 weekend.

Peace River Zone Theatre Festival – Sue Popesku

The Festival is May 26, 27, 28, 2017 at NPCC. Michael Armstrong from Nanaimo will be adjudicating the Festival. The best play will represent the Peace River Zone at Mainstage in Vernon in July.

Northern Dance Theatre Society – Christine Taylor

We are doing the concession for the Crystal Cup. Fundraising for the Seniors trip to New York in 2018 selling Purdy's Chocolates. Dancers are preparing for competitions, Prince George in March, FSJ in April, Dawson Creek in May. Some of the girls competed in Quesnel.

Performing Arts Festival – Margaret May

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Festival taking place at NPCC April 20th to 28th with the Honours Concert on April 28th, everything is coming together nicely.

FSJ Quilters Guild – Lisa Babuick

We are having a retreat this weekend at the Honey Place (Rose Fehr). We have started on the Canada 150 participation. Canadian quilters are doing the largest quilt, 20,000 blocks, 1000 quilts for Ronald McDonald Houses. FSJ quilters are doing 150 blocks.

North Peace Cultural Centre – Connie Surerus

NPCC is busy planning for Bright Nights in June and the 25th anniversary celebrations taking place with Sand Sculpture demo June 7th and unveiling on June 9th, Art Stars talk June 8th, Gala evening performances by returning artists and local dancers, musicians and art opening in the Gallery on June 9th, printmaking demo and art market June 10th with a huge printmaking event using a paving/roller machine to roll over the prints, in the parking lot of the NPCC. Planning to have school kids come on June 7th for both sand sculpting demos and interactive stuff and a chainsaw carving demo by Ryan Cook.

Other News

Regional Juried Art Show June 2-26 – registration open

The South Peace Community Arts Council and the Dawson Creek Art Gallery are pleased to announce that they are hosting the 35th Annual Regional Juried Art Exhibit, a program of the Peace Liard Regional Arts Council. Open to artists who live in the Peace Liard Region: Dawson Creek, Tumbler Ridge, Chetwynd, Fort St John, Hudson's Hope, and Fort Nelson.

- **Registration Deadline:** 5pm on May 16, 2017
- **Delivery of Artwork:** May 19th to May 28th at 5pm
- **Hanging of Exhibit:** May 30th & 31st
- **June 2nd – Jurying of Exhibition** from 10am-4pm, Opening Reception is from 7-9pm. Exhibit is up until June 26, 2017.

Pauline Casselman, Community Coordinator South Peace Community Arts Council
www.southpeacearts.ca (250) 719-0726

Business:

- **All Arts Presentation to the City** took place yesterday, February 14th – Arts Council members presented to the City Council with a request for a meeting with staff/council to discuss changes regarding Revenue Canada and grant funding, future of the arts, also invited Mayor and Councillors to "Bright Nights" Gala and June was proclaimed Arts Month
- **STEAM – Sue – Science, Technology, Arts, Music** - reviving Cultural Policy and asking member groups to bring stats up to-date, when doing grant applications, please look at your numbers, do you need more art space. Build a case for the need for a space for the arts. Arts Council will take this info to the City, we need to be prepared for if and when the City looks at developing an Arts & Exploration space.
- **New Logo Design/Advertising** – we have decided to ask Mark Bodnar to design a new logo, use gaming funds and increase number and size of ads in the Chamber and Alaska Highway Journal.

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- **Scholarship Policy** – Margaret – working on it, tweeking the policy, looking at changing the name to FSJ Arts Council Scholarship Policy and general for the arts. Still support scholarships at NLC. The bursary monies sent to high school and then paid out to the students by NPSS.
- **BC Arts Council Conference in Tofino** – April 27-29th – who plans on going, Rosemary will go as chair, Sue is going on behalf of the Regional Arts Council, FSJ Arts Council can send one other as representative.

Projects:

- 1) **Art Walk** – May 19th starts – 30 venues, 4 institutions: Medical Clinic, City Hall, College, - involves printmakers, quilters, spinners & weavers, visual artists – will be on for 3 months.
- 2) **Banners & Advocacy** – we will have 100 banners down 100th Street celebrating the 75th Anniversary of the building of the Alaska Highway and 100 banners from the previous 2 years – performing arts and take flight will be on 100th Avenue. We need to raise \$5,000 on top of BC Gaming money to pay for the banners and enhance the downtown core.
- 3) **Display Case at FSJ Airport** – Flying Colours currently displayed for February, FSJ Quilter are in March, Deb Bowyer is April, Spinners & Weavers in May, FSJ Dance Society in July and Watt Dancers in August. The display case is locked and airport office have the key. Your display has to be up and in place on the first of the month. We seem to have an opening for June.
- 4) **Bright Nights in June Details** – Connie/Sue – mentioned in NPCC report – June 7th is demonstrations of sand sculpting & chainsaw carving for school kids Grades 4-6, June 8th is Art Stars Talk of the Town at 7pm at NPCC, June 9th is the Gala Evening and Gallery Opening and unveiling of the sand sculpture, June 10th is the Art market – print making and print making with a street roller – big prints

Constitution and By-laws Transitioning – Arts Council committee to formulate and send notice to all groups to make sure groups are on task with their own constitution & bylaws. Eliza said she did it for the Ski Club and it was very straightforward. They used the basic by-laws with the Society's Registrar and then tweeked them to suit and then uploaded them online. She had no problem completing. The bylaws need to be approved at a AGM or general meeting.

Auto Tour for the Museums – 12 noon – Guide comes out at next PLRAC meeting in Chetwynd Friday March 17th at 1:30 pm.

Next FSJCAC Regular Meeting – March 15, 2017 at 12 noon.

Adjudication for Grants April 5, 2017 at 7 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 1pm.

**Fort St John Community Arts Council
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Call to Order: Meeting called to order by Chair, Rosemary Landry at 12:05 pm. Condolences to Board Member, Tanya Shymko on the loss of her husband Glenn. The funeral was on Sunday at the NPCC.

Present: Lisa Babuick (FSJ Quilters/Director), Lisa Rowbotham (City of FSJ), Sarah Friesen (Central PAC), Emily Robb (ELC School), Connie Surerus (NPCC/Director), Rosemary Landry (Flying Colours/PRFCA/NPPG/Director), Margaret May (PRNF/Director), Sue Popesku (Stage North/Theatre Festival/Director)

Approval of the Agenda: Sarah F. moved.

Approval of the Minutes: Motion to approve minutes of February 15, 2017, Emily moved, Lisa seconded. Carried.

Financial Report: A full report every second month. Grant applications are due by 5pm today, so far grant requests total \$19,138. FSJCAC has \$15,000 from the City to disperse. Adjudication will take place on April 11, 2017 at 7pm and is peer adjudicated.

Correspondence: FSJCAC received a letter from the Peace Country River Rats are looking for funds and items to auction in order to raise money for a Pavilion/Playground at Peace Island Park.

Business:

- **Meeting with the City** taking place Tuesday, March 21st at 2:30pm with councillors and staff members with members of the FSJCAC Board to discuss items raised at our presentation to the City in February – Revenue Canada Audit, Cultural Policy, regular reporting to City
- **Refreshing Cultural Plan Development** – rough draft of addressing current needs – since 2008 there has been a change in staff and mayors at the City and stats on arts groups and space demands. We need to redo the original survey and send out to groups to get updated stats. Revamp 2001 survey, the Board will circulate 2017 version to groups. Input by March 31st. Do an online survey, possibly Survey Monkey.
- **New Logo Design** – ad in Auto Tour magazine has already gone out. Logo created by Mark Bodnar is identifiable and easy to duplicate – business logo. Logo created by Tanya Shymko is artistic and versatile and can be used for the Arts Council and for the ArtsPost. We currently don't have an ArtsPost logo. Sue suggested people tick off their favourite.

Projects:

- **Flower Pots** – pots to the Airport – 2 with Canada flag theme, 2 with Blue/Green Banner theme. We need artists to paint pots. We have offered to refresh purchased flower pots. The Arts Council is interested in flower pots and metal sculptures not wanted or used by the City.
- **Artwalk** – Invitations to all businesses and artists \$20/artist, \$35/venue – mainly downtown, invites going out March 20th. Items on display would be for sale. The Artwalk is for 3 months from May 20th to August 19th. Because of all the celebrations this summer, we expect a lot of tourists, especially visiting the downtown.

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- **Banners and Advocacy** – 100 banners on 100th Street – Collected \$1200, plan to collect \$10,000. The banners cost \$10,000 and Alan White has created the Banners again this year with the theme being the building of the Alaska Highway. Advocacy – assist the FSJAC in promoting the arts in the community – looking for donations from the community to support the advocacy work.
- **Display Case at Airport** – The display case at the Airport is available to member arts groups or artists to display their work for a month. It is a locked case and Deb's Accidental Art will be displaying in April. FSJ Country Quilters current display. Receiving positive feedback from the Airport staff.

Guest speaker – Lisa Rowbotham, City of Fort St John – Lisa spoke to the members regarding the Public Art RFP currently out looking to engage a consultant and the RFP closes April 4th. The timeline for the Public Art Policy is by November, 2017. The policy should address areas such as signage, murals, sculptures on the streets. Visual concept for art in the community and will kick off mid May. The process will include stakeholder specific sessions, outside stakeholders (ie tourism board), open to public and public's opinion. Guidelines need to be established. This is different from a Cultural Policy, the Public Art Policy would be part of the overall Cultural Policy.

Group Reports:

Energetic Learning Campus – Emily Robb – project based learning program and art always comes up. The students are interested in doing a mural and they will need City approval. Discussion regarding places for murals and artists who could mentor the students.

Ecole Central PAC – Sarah Friesen - Ecole Central is performing the *Lion King Jr* at NPCC this week, March 15th for school shows, starts tomorrow at 7pm. Planning a Chalk Festival school wide, possibly in April, will have media out, very popular, did it last year.

Stage North – Sue Popesku – *Alcan Craze '42* auditions will be April 21, 22, 23 and the professional director Michael Armstrong will be here. He will be here for August & September and will be conducting workshops. This is a co-production with NPCC. *What Corbin Knew* will be at the Evangel Chapel, April 27, 28, 29th. This is a smaller venue and they are changing their name to Evangel Centre, which is better for advertising. The last show of the season is *Five Women Wearing the Same Dress*, May 18,19,20 at the NPCC.

Theatre Festival – Sue Popesku – getting ready for it – winning plays will perform at Mainstage.

FSJ Country Quilters – Lisa Babuick – currently working on blocks for Canada 150, there will be 1,000 quilts made for Ronald McDonald Houses across the country. Group plans to make 150 blocks and have 77 block completed. Holding a free workshop with Mona Gould on March 27th at NPCC at 7pm in the carpet room. Lisa donated a quilt for the ArtsPost. Thank you Lisa.

Performing Arts Festival – Margaret May – Festival is April 20th to 27th with the "Best of the Fest" concert taking place at NPCC on April 28th. It is open to the public.



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North Peace Potters Guild – Rosemary Landry – Ruth Ann Tudball, British potter gave a workshop in hand and wheel work in February.

Flying Colours Artists – Rosemary Landry – Kathy Guthrie will be giving a workshop on printmaking & bookbinding. David Langevin workshop March 31, April 1, April 2 in Dawson Creek.

City of FSJ – Lisa Rowbotham – July 1st the Mosaic Mural will be moving from City Hall to Centennial Park for the Canada Day celebrations and then it will move to the Airport and be on permanent display at the airport. The city will be hosting the Canada 150 birthday celebrations.

NPCC – Connie Surerus – The Centre is busy working on the Bright Nights in June celebrations with Chainsaw carving demo and sand sculpting demo for school groups on June 7th, Art Stars – Talk of the Town on June 8th at 7pm with artists discussing their journey and how FSJ formed the path they took artistically, Bright Nights in June Gala Show June 9th and Gallery opening, Big Print Day and Printers Art Market June 10th in NPCC parking lot. It will be a busy week. Peace Gallery North still fundraising for “Help Sturgill Stay” asking for donations so Sturgill the Moose, driftwood sculpture of a life sized moose, can become part of the permanent collection and have him on display in the concourse.

Affiliations:

- Peace Liard Regional Arts Council: next meeting in Chetwynd Friday, March 17th 1:30pm
- Hospital Art Committee – Rosemary Landry representative
- AH Community Initiative Society – will not be accepted for Alaska Highway Recognition in 2017. Still to keep working on it. Doing a Heritage Study at this time.

Meeting adjourned at 1:07 pm by Rosemary Landry. Next meeting April 19, 2017 at 12 noon at ArtsPost.

**Fort St John Community Arts Council
Adjudication Meeting April 11, 2017**

Jul's

Call to Order: Meeting called to order by Chair, Rosemary Landry at 7:03 pm.

Present: David Price (SD#60 Band Program), Sheryl Wilmot (NPSW Guild), Rosemary Landry (Flying Colours/NPPG/PRFCA), Christine Taylor (NDTS), Lisa Babuick (FSJ Quilters), Connie Desfosses (CAC), Jodi McNiven (FSJ Dance Society), Sue Popesku (Stage North/Theatre Festival), Brenna Adamson (FSJ Film Society), Carol King (FSJ Quilters), Catie Haggstrom (NP Comm Choir), Connie Surerus (NPCS), Monica Best (NPMTA), Megan Singh (FSJ Film Society), Margaret May (PRNF)

Rosemary opened the meeting stating the Adjudication meeting is for all the Arts Group members and each group has one vote on the allocation of the grant funds given by the City. Rosemary turned the meeting over to Connie Desfosses, FSJCAC Treasurer.

Treasurer's Report – Connie D. – all the applications looked great this year, minor errors, but overall better and no major errors. Groups can ask for 35% of their budget to a maximum of \$1,500. We get \$15,000 from the City, 17 applications received, and took 31% off the top from all groups, because the amount asked more than available. Last year we had 20 applications. Keep in mind for next year to check all the balances on the financial statements and the budgets and make sure the application comes in on time. The Adjudication Summary noted 5 (F) financial errors in the applications and related to financial reports and grant applications. Please double check your numbers and ask for help if you're unsure how to fill out the application.

After taking 31% off and adjust for minor errors, there was \$175 remaining and the group needs to decide how to allocate the amount, either split evenly or give to one group. Last year the remaining amount was given to PRNF because of Provincials being held in FSJ.

There are groups who still have monies left over from last year's grant and the monies need to be spent before June 30, 2017 from the 2016 grants. If these funds are not spent and not allocated, they go back to the City. Connie D. will contact these groups directly.

Discussion regarding weighting the grant allocations took place. It was moved by Carol King and seconded by David Price the \$175 be distributed evenly amongst the groups present at the meeting, 11 groups receive \$15.90 each. Motion carried.

It was moved by Christine T and seconded by Lisa B. to accept the suggested allocation of awards for 2017/18 as presented by Connie D., treasurer. Carried.

Connie D. gave an overview regarding the changes to the grant allocation process in light of the Revenue Canada Audit. The FSJCAC can no longer issue cheques to group members that do not have a Charitable Tax Number (PAGS, SD#60, North Peace Cultural Centre) and cheques would have to come directly from the City. FSJCAC met with the City and they are in favour of this process. Revenue Canada has given us a grace period until June 30, 2018 so the 2017 grants will be paid by FSJCAC and directly to the groups and not require invoices.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.

FORT ST. JOHN COMMUNITY ARTS COUNCIL

Annual General Meeting

October 18, 2017

Call to Order: 12:06

In Attendance: Tanya Shymko, Carol King, Cory Cooper, Jody Bates, Kendra Delichte, Sue Popesku, Connie Desfosses, Margaret May, Lisa Rowbotham, Monica Best, Larry Evans, Barb Wagner, Norma Currie, Alexandria Neilson

Approval of Agenda: Minutes to be approved are from September 20, 2017, not June. Moved by Jody to approve the agenda.

Approval of Minutes: Moved by Kendra, seconded by Sue, to approve minutes of the AGM on September 20, 2017

Guest Speaker: Larry Evans spoke on the history of the Condill. Built in 1942, the Condill Hotel is the oldest building in Fort St. John. It was built by Con Horgot and Joe Dill during the building of the Alaska Highway. In the early years there was no bar but bootleggers sold liquor out the back door of the hotel. The hotel was next to Carlsonia theatre and a café was opened later by George & Queenie Yip. It was considered a very modern hotel with hot and cold running water; people could have a hot bath for 75 cents. The bar opened around 1949. With the boom in oil and gas the lounge opened called the Derrick. The hotel changed hands a number of times over the years but remained a mainstay on Centre avenue for many years. The City now owns the three lots where the town's major hotels were located; the Condill, the Frontier and the Fort Hotels.

Financial Report: Our gaming grant was approved for banners, arts awareness, scholarships

Correspondence: Letter with quarterly report to the city has been prepared and will be sent to the city.

GROUP REPORTS

Fort St. John North Peace Museum: Documentary Night: Gus Hedin, Swedish Trapper. Film made by Viktoria ^{Sant}. November 10, 7 and 8:30. Admission by donation.

North Peace Potters Guild: 5 classes going right now for children and adults. Guild is working on policy and guidelines. December 2 – Winter sale with Spinners & Weavers

North Peace Music Teachers: Will hold a recital on November 19 from 1:30-4:30, location TBA. Group now has 12 members in piano, singing, violin and guitar. There will be a piano workshop on November 18 with Carmen Gorgichuk.

City of Fort St. John: Lisa Rowbotham. City has agreement with BC Hydro to sponsor complimentary passes. They are offering passes for pool and skating that haven't been used for non-profits for events.

North Peace Spinners & Weavers: Just hosted workshop for regional group – Art Threads with an instructor from Rossland. Nuno Felting workshop this weekend at Rose Prairie community hall.

Fort St. John Country Quilters: There is a new executive this year. In spring will use Arts Council grant to bring in a visiting instructor. Rose Fehr held quilting workshop on disappearing nine patch. Group has 35 registered members.

Northern Dance Theatre Society: Dance classes have started. There are 59 dancers in troupe this year. Christmas recital is on December 17 with 3 shows. Members are selling mega lottery tickets, Mom's pantry and cookbooks. There will be a silent auction at recital. NDTs will have the airport display for November.

Peace Art Gallery Society: The Art Auction was a great success with profits doubled from last year. Chocolate Festival is on February 10.

Ecole Central School PAC: They will hold a holiday bazaar as fundraiser. March 5-8 – The musical Aladdin will be held on March 5-8 at Cultural Centre.

Fort St. John Irish Dance Society: Dancers are settling into their new studio; renovating, painting, etc. There are nine new dancers. There is a competition in Vancouver this weekend with qualifiers for worlds in November.

FSJ Dance Society: Has changed affiliation from the Move Dance Centre to Alchemy Dance Collective. Starting classes October 10. Fundraisers include Mega Lottery, Purdy's and a New Year's Eve fundraiser. There are 32 dancers in competitive dance group. Ladies Day Out will be on Dec 2 and 3, 10 am – 4 pm at North Peace High school.

Flying Colours Artists Association: Group has been invited to participate in the Gallery Christmas show. There will be a workshop on gel pens on photographic images with Barbara Swail. Mary Parslow will give a printmaking workshop in November at the Cultural Centre. Some members will donate to the Hospital foundation Fundraiser on November 18 and they have been invited to donate works to the Rod & Gun Club Fundraiser in March. The club will donate \$500 to Flying Colours in return. Sandy Troudt may offer a follow-up Tableau Noir workshop in the New Year.

Stage North: Alcan Craze is now finished. It played to around 800 people and was well received. Auditions for Tina & Tony's Wedding, in partnership with Rotary, going on now.

Peace River North Festival Association: Planning is underway for the 2018 Festival to be held April 14-22, 2018

Spectrum Art Classes: Art classes are half way through this session.

BUSINESS

Art Report to the City: We will be making regular reports to the city to keep them informed about what we are doing. We ask groups to acknowledge city contribution on posters and promotional material.

Constitution & By-laws: We have prepared a draft of our revised constitution and by-laws based on the model provided by government. We plan to simplify the constitution and update policies and procedures.

Art Survey: A survey will be sent out to user groups to collect information on the Arts in the community

PROJECTS

Artwalk: Will have another art walk next year, this time to run two months next year

Banners and advocacy: May revise banner project to centre around businesses

Airport Display case: Groups can sign up to create display in the airport display case featuring their group from January and the months following.

Christmas sale: Reuse, Recycle, Rejoice. Sale of recycled Christmas decorations starts November 18 and runs to December 10. Winter sale with Potters and Spinners & Weavers is on December 2

Christmas trees and flower pots: Will be removed from the airport.

Regional Arts Council: Taking on literary projects this year working through the museums.

Meeting adjourned: 1:01 pm

Next Meeting: November 15, 2017 at 12 noon at the ArtsPost.

ARTSPOST in 2017 – “Hanging in there for the past 10 years”

Mandate: The Fort St. John Arts Council established the Artspost to provide space for arts groups to conduct creative learning opportunities for children and adults. Classes, workshops and training experiences are to be open to the community so that new and emerging artists and all children can take lessons, learn the art, and increase their level of understanding and skill. For 50 years the Arts Council's mandate has been to help develop arts programs, projects and facilities that are needed in the community. Once established, the Arts Council often moves on and begins a new development.

Arts Council Support: The Arts Council supports arts groups in their quest to teach others, to provide classes for children and adults, to exhibit their works and to fundraise for further learning opportunities for the group. The Arts Council does not support individuals nor provide equipment for personal benefit. The Arts Council responds to the group mandate that focuses on the community aspect of the organization.

The Arts Council is run by a Volunteer Board of Directors and many of the 27 member groups have their own facilities. However, there are a number of groups looking for space and many of the groups are looking for larger spaces and/or permanent spaces. The Arts Council is always seeking information on potential facilities for all arts groups who need a home.

Artspost Operation: The Arts Council operates the Artspost with the assistance of the Potter's Guild and the Spinners and Weavers. Both groups were asked if they would like to be sub-tenants in the building. In 2007, each group agreed to pay a monthly rent to the Arts Council based on what they could afford. As they continued to expand and grow, the plan was to contribute more to the rent when possible.

Who is Responsible at the Artspost: Essentially, three volunteers look after the Artspost. Margaret May volunteers in the office on Wednesday and completes the grants and government reporting along with the help of the Treasurer, Connie Desfosses. Rosemary Landry volunteers in the office on Thursday and cleans the building with the help of the Spinners and Weavers, who clean the lobby, and the Potters who have recently set up a cleaning schedule. Sue Popesku volunteers in the office on Monday and Tuesday and makes sure that letters and reports are written. Sue is responsible to oversee the entire workings of the building.

Financial Situation: For the first ten years, the Arts Council has made up the shortfall of the required month rent for the building. The City of Fort St. John has contributed the taxes. Currently the taxes are \$10,000 and the Potters and Spinners and Weaver pay a monthly fee toward the annual \$50,000 operation costs. Additional funds are raised by use of the multi-purpose room by the Spectrum Studios who teaches art classes for children and adults and the Scrapbooking Club, who are also open to welcoming new members from the community. Both of these groups pay on a daily rate. The Arts Council has paid \$5400 a year toward their office

space. All of this falls short of the \$50,000 required to keep the Artspost open. The Arts Council has provided for the shortfall which has amounted to \$20,000 in some years.

Background: The Arts Council took the offer of The Sew It Yourself Shop (across from the Post office- but now demolished) to occupy the building when they moved to another location. Artspost I was established. A small contingent of the Potters' Guild moved into the back bay once used by Stage North Theatre Society. The Arts Council conducted various art exhibits, classes and projects in the rest of the building. The City was very helpful in allowing the Arts Council to use the building until the City planned to sell to a development called the Pilot Project (which never did materialize). The Arts Council and the Potter's Guild had to find alternative quarters. Margaret and Dean May stepped forward and offered their building at 10320 94 Avenue for the Artspost II. The Arts Council is charged triple net but one half the standard commercial rate for the annual rent. Margaret and Dean May are benefactors of the Arts Council. The Arts Council could not afford the full commercial rate for Artspost II and we are grateful to the May's for their generous support.

Potter's Guild Background: The first pottery studio was established in Taylor in 1969. It moved to the arena in Fort St. John in 1971. The Potter's Guild was allowed a room in the new arena but had its limitations in size and accessibility. In the early 80's, when Northern Lights College built the new Fort St. John Campus north of town, a pottery studio was one of the academic arts programs promised to the community along with drama, music and visual arts. Forest Hutchinson was the NLC visual arts and pottery instructor and conducted classes during the day. Heather Hannaford taught a credited pottery course in the evening. The Potter's Guild shared space with the academic courses of NLC.

In 1992, the Visual Arts and Pottery Studio was closed down following the demise of the other arts elements at NLC. The College would not maintain the arts program nor studio since the studio space was required by UNBC for other purposes. All equipment became the property of the Potter's Guild and was stored at Heather Hannaford's farm and Louise Framst's farm. Heather and others continued to have pottery workshops at private homes and potters gathered for seasonal sales. The situation was not conducive for classes for the community at large and children's classes did not exist.

Fifteen years later, in 2007, the opportunity arose to develop a full pottery studio in the Artspost II. Equipment was transferred from the small space used in the Artspost I. Heather agreed that all the other pottery equipment could be brought in from the farm, cleaned up and installed into the Artspost II. Heather and family, Rosemary Landry and family and Sue Popesku

gathered volunteers to clean and paint the 2 trucking bays at the Artspost II and get the pottery studio up and running.

In 2017, the Potter's Guild has continued to grow and expand and the current space is becoming too confined. Pottery classes, including children's classes are popular. The Potter's Guild membership has grown. With Heather Hannaford's passing, the Guild is restructuring to manage all the various duties and responsibilities that Heather had been doing since she first established the pottery studio in Taylor forty eight years ago.

Submitted by Sue Popesku 250-785-6214 spopesku@shaw.ca October 23, 2017

ATTACHMENT: 3 YEAR OPERATION FORECAST 2017-2020