

2007 Arts Gallery of Honour

Penny Stewart

In 1977 Penny started her never-ending crusade for the arts in Prince George.

Her local involvement included:

1977-79 Director of the Prince George Concert Association and Community Arts Council.

1979-81 President of the Prince George Concert Association

1981-83 President of the Prince George Community Arts Council

1984-1989 Director of Studio 2880

1985 Chairperson of Studio Fair

1986-88 appointed member of the Multipurpose Facility Committee for the City. This was the committee established to prepare a proposal for a theatre, art gallery and community centre next to the library, fondly remembered as Discovery Place.

1988 Received the City Service Award for work in the arts

1990-96 Arts Representative on the City Healthy Communities Committee

1994-95 Appointed to the city's Leisure Services Commission Arts Policy Task Force to present a rationale for development of an arts policy for the City of Prince George.

1995-97 Appointed to the City's Leisure Services Commission Arts Policy Committee

1997-98 Director, Host Committee – BC Festival of the Arts

1998-2000 Member of the city's Leisure Services Commission Arts Committee, established to advise City Council, through the Commission, on arts matters and implementation of the Arts Policy.

2000-2002 Member of the Public Art Task Force for the City of Prince George

2002-Present Member of the Arts Advisory Committee for the city

2001-2003 Member of the Culture & Heritage Standing Committee of the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George

2003 Honorary Director of the Prince George Community foundation

2005 Studio Fair Artisan Shop Chairperson and a member of the Arts Gallery of Honour committee.

All the while Penny was keeping the arts forefront in the City she was also actively promoting the arts and the City of Prince George through Provincial involvement.

1979-80 Founding Board member of the Assembly of BC Arts Councils

1982-90 Director of the BC Touring Council

1986 Coordinator of Images and Objects IV – the provincial juried art exhibit at BC Festival of the Arts

1996-97 Co chair and founding member of the BC Healthy communities Network (arts sector)

1996-2001 Government appointment to the BC Arts Council (founding Member)

In 1985 Penny was the guest of the British Council in Britain for two weeks to study their regional arts system.

She was an invited participant at the National Conference on Tourism, culture and Multiculture in Montreal in 1988 and at the Provincial Consultation on Economic Development in Vancouver in 1992.

From 1982-2003 Penny was the Regional Arts Coordinator. The Central Interior consists of 10 communities located 250 miles to the east, north, south and west of Prince George.

Penny's passion for the arts, her belief in the essential role of arts and culture to a whole and healthy society and her visionary work for the arts at the local, regional and provincial levels have been and continue to be an inspiration.

As the Regional Arts Coordinator she has brought together 10 communities to share ideas and goals and receive training in developing the arts in their communities.

As a founding member of the Assembly of BC Arts councils she has helped create a provincial body that connects BC's diverse arts and cultural sector in a network of some 95 active community and regional arts councils.

As a founding member of the BC Arts council she made sure the community arts perspective was not only presented, but clearly articulated at the provincial level.

During the last 30 years it has not all been serious work for Penny though, she has had some great times entertaining the entertainers she brought to Prince George as part of the Regional Arts Councils Jazz Blues Series. She remembers looking in her purse at the Prince George Airport to find a device she could use to remove a sliver from Dizzy Gillespie's finger and she

had musicians show up at the airport with their instruments going to another city and had to find a band teacher that could lend them instruments.

She toured the region on a Book Tour with Bridgit Moran.

In 1999 Penny received the Rory Ralston Cultural Leadership Award, one of only 5 that have ever been given out in the province.

In 2004 she received the Arts Champion award, Arts and Culture Week.

As a champion for the Arts in Prince George we are proud to induct Penny Stewart into our Arts Gallery of Honour.