



President's Report for AGM • November 23, 2021 @ 2pm

I would like to take this opportunity to give my heartfelt thanks as the president of the Community Arts Council. It has truly been a remarkable year, and despite the challenges that Covid has presented to each and every one of us, our organization is stronger than ever.

- Thank you to each and every board member – your guidance, input and lively discussion has made this year a great pleasure!
- Thank you to Linda Rempel for her exemplary service with our board. Linda's contributions as our president cannot be overstated. Her passion for the arts is unwavering, and I know she wishes us well with our future challenges and growth.
- Thank you to Sean, Lisa, Seth, Sue, and Natalie for steering us in the right direction and fulfilling our programs during this very difficult year.
- Thank you to all the volunteers for their time and efforts to make us a strong and vibrant contributor to our community's overall health and well-being.
- Thank you to Prince George city staff, our Mayor and counsellors, our granting organizations and generous sponsors for continuing to fund our organization. What you provide allows us all to be more successful.
- I want to give a special thank you to Penny Fahlman this year. She has been serving on our board for more than 17 years and has been our stalwart treasurer for most of those years. Her expertise and attention to detail has ensured we are one of the most successful arts organizations in the province.
- And, thank you to our artists, crafters, guilds and other members of the Community Arts Council for joining us in this great endeavour. We could not do any of this without you!

This year we were proud to host Studio Fair again! It was touch and go for a while as we were all anxiously waiting for permission from the Provincial Health Officer and Northern Health. The event moved to CN Centre, which allowed for more social distancing, better parking and easier access for our vendors. Anecdotally, many, many of the vendors exceeded their previous sales figure for Studio Fair. And while some of our out-of-town vendors could not attend because of travel and supply issues, the CAC team managed to fill the space by changing the event to a non-juried craft fair. I loved seeing the diversity and enjoyed all the great arts and crafts available. Our customers were absolutely thrilled that we could host the event, and while there were a few inconveniences because of Covid restrictions, it was an extremely smoothly run event. Special thanks to all the staff and volunteers who helped us pull it off!

We were greatly disappointed that our application to the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) was not selected for funding and this stalled the CAC's move to the downtown core. The Board of

Directors met in October for a strategic planning session, and we are evaluating the direction to take on our future location. We recognize that we still have a home at Studio 2880 and remain very committed to creating a first-class arts facility for the local arts community, our residents, and visitors. The CAC's vision of "developing our community into a recognized centre for creativity" remains unchanged.

I am looking forward to another great year of creativity and community building from all of our members, board, staff, volunteers, and community supporters. I wish you all the best!2

Karen Heathman