



s m i t h e r s

ART GALLERY

ANNUAL REPORT

April 1, 2021 – March 31, 2022



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ART GALLERY

MISSION STATEMENT

"creating community through art"

MANDATE

1. Maintain and operate an art gallery to provide access to art exhibitions;
2. Support local and regional artists;
3. Maintain and operate a workshop space to provide visual arts education to children, youth, adults and seniors; and
4. Encourage connections and growth in the arts community

CORE VALUES guide the vision, creation and delivery of SGA programs and services

1. **Accessibility:** Financial and physical limitations and other barriers to participation will not limit access to programming
2. **Diversity and Inclusivity:** Striving for equitable access to visual arts and programming for underrepresented artists and diverse audiences
3. **Openness & Adaptability:** Desire to respond and adapt to the needs, aspirations, challenges and opportunities of our community.
4. **Integrity & Respect:** Commitment to fair and transparent processes in galleries policies and decision making
5. **Sustainability:** Commitment to financial stability, quality programming and professional staffing to ensure organization thrives.

Board of Directors 2021-2022

President - Susan Smith
Treasurer - Teresa Wodjak
Secretary - Britt Stenberg-White
Director at Large - Marie-Lou Lefrancois
Director at Large - Sarah Gourlet

Town Representative (non-voting) - Mika Meyer

Staff

Manager—Nicole Chernish
Community Engagement & Communications—Michelle Gazely

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Susan Smith

The April 2021- March 2022 gallery year was one of many transitions. It began with numerous pandemic health restrictions in place and evolved towards our more usual operations towards the end of the operations year. Popular gallery events such as Wintergold (late November 2021), were re-introduced with some restrictions still remaining. Opening night events began again in February 2022 with fewer restrictions in place and other restrictions were removed as the fiscal year progressed.

During the pandemic, the Smithers Gallery Association was pushed to develop new ways to deliver programming and access to exhibitions and new ways to promote exhibiting artists; many of these adaptations remain in our operations and enhancement our earlier means of delivery and promotion.

We hope that our Annual Report will give our members and supporters a better understanding of the successes and challenges that the gallery has experienced this past year.

The board would like to give a big thank-you to all our excellent staff! Nicole Chernish entered her fourth year as gallery manager and has continued to provide strong and dynamic leadership to our organization. Nicole's ongoing efforts towards grant-writing have brought the gallery much success and have taken us further along towards consistent funding sources for our operations and greater financial stability.

Michelle Gazely was hired full time as 'Community Engagement and Communications Co-Ordinator' under BC Arts Council Pivot Grant Funding. The galley board is very pleased that Michelle's role with the gallery continues to expand and that Nicole has been able to access funding in order to keep Michelle on as part of our operations team.

From May through August 2021, we were all pleased by the return of the wonderful Tina Edwards and Nikki Hawkins along with two additional assistants, Amelia D'Andrea and Isabelle Chernish. Our summer students provide support in a diverse range of tasks including Kids Summer Camps, free Saturday craft projects, the operations of the Gallery Gift Shop, assisting with administration, social media, gallery Attendants.

In closing, I would like to extend a big thank you to the many in our community who directly support the gallery including our volunteers and committee members, those who serve on our Board of Directors and local funders including our much-valued sponsors from our business community! We thank you all for your contributions and commitment to the Smithers Art Gallery; you are all truly appreciated.



Matt Simmons

OPERATIONS REPORT

Nicole Chernish

2021 was an incredibly difficult and busy year for the Gallery as COVID19 forced the gallery and our visual arts education programming to shut down and then scale back. While the Gallery was unable to provide programming and exhibitions in our usual manner—we showed our creativity and resiliency by pivoting our programming to meet our community's needs in a difficult time.

Some highlights:

- resuming full gallery exhibition schedule
- continued online exhibitions
- producing video showcase of exhibiting artists
- resumed in-person visual arts education programming
- handed out FREE art activity kits to replace Saturday morning drop ins
- building deeper relationships with galleries/festivals in our region
- return of Wintergold
- return of opening receptions in Feb 2022
- established gallery as Professional Visual Arts Organization which opens up funding opportunities
- NOW PAYING EXHIBITING ARTISTS CARFAC FEES



David Harrison

NEW BUILDING UPDATE

The Town of Smithers, the Smithers Public Library and the Smithers Art Gallery worked together for many years building a vision and plan to bring a new library/gallery building to our community. For those following our attempts for government funding, you will know that our two grant applications were not successful.

A re-evaluation of the project, and its intended goals and outcomes is necessary at this time. The Art Gallery has determined that, for the time being, its capacity needs are being met with current facilities, including the Creation Station space provided by the Town of Smithers.

We are so grateful for the time we spent building deeper relationships with both the Smithers Public Library staff and volunteers and the Town of Smithers staff and councillors. We know these collaborations and partnerships will continue into the future.

FINANCES

The 2021-2022 fiscal year ending on March 31, 2022, was a year of change for the gallery. We ended our 2021/2022 year with a deficit of \$1985 which decreased our net assets to \$34,028. This is a change from Net Assets from \$36,013 at the beginning of the fiscal year. This deficit was primarily due to an un-budgeted accounting payment of approximately \$1600 due to a change in accounting practices at the end of the fiscal year and the associated costs.

At the end of the fiscal year, the association has \$146,491 in cash assets (64,867 in deferred revenue from grants for next year and a 60,000 loan to be repaid in 2023. The organization also has \$12,770 in a term deposit.

FUNDRAISING

The Smithers Art Gallery continually strives to organize fundraising events that meet our goals of representing and supporting visual artists in our community, making connections with the broader arts community and providing opportunities for learning about the visual arts. This year we had to postpone our 6x6 auction and Wintergold due to COVID19 restrictions.

Wintergold vendor market happened reopened this year. Vendors and visitors were required to show proof of vaccination. Gallery had 18 vendors and 419 visitors. raised

One of a Kind is the Gallery's artisan Christmas Gift Shop. In 2020 the gallery commission totaled **\$6354** (an increase of \$1777 over last year) even though the number of visitors dropped to **640** from **860** in 2020.

Gallery Artisan Shop opened in the gallery from June 1-Nov 10 this year. Sales provide income for local artists while also providing additional revenue to the gallery. Sales were lower this year due to COVID and Out of Hand competition.



Mark West



Emily Klaassen

GRANTS

The Gallery Association continues to work towards financial stability for gallery operations through grant partnerships. We have been successful in acquiring the following grants this fiscal year and are deeply grateful for the financial support and opportunities they have provided.

Town of Smithers & Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako for Grant-in-Aid

Regional District Bulkley-Nechako - lighting & office desks

Town of Smithers for our Creation Station lease & associated tax exemption

Bulkley Valley Credit Union - rolling tables for office

Canada Summer Jobs HRSD for summer student funding

BC Ministry of Finance Community Gaming Grant for operating assistance

BC Museum Association Family Day Program Grant (collaboration with BV Museum)

BC Arts Council (for 2021/2022 & 2022/2023) Pivot Grant (staff position) Infrastructure Grant (moveable walls) Program Grant (Group Indigenous Exhibition) Program Grant (Peter Morin residency/exhibition)

Government of Canada New Horizons Grant

EXHIBITIONS

In 2021-2022 the gallery resumed our regular exhibition schedule. The gallery did not resume opening receptions until February of 2022. We have continued to produce opening videos for social media as. All exhibitions are also photographed and hosted on our website for those who are unable to come into the gallery in person.

With the pivot in programming to include online access, I have included that information in our stats this year. Gallery visit over this past year totaled **9,522** including 8,561 visitors to our Exhibitions Programming and 1 class visits with 28 students and teachers participating.

We thank our volunteer selection committee for the time and care that they put into selecting exhibiting artists and our Exhibition Preparator for liaising with artists and providing excellent install/take down of our exhibitions.



Jennifer Ferries



Mark Tworow

EXHIBITIONS SCHEDULE 2021 –2022

Jan 26 - Feb 27	Matt Simmons
March 2-April 3	Fantastic5point0
April 6-May 8	Mark West
May 11-June 12	Youth Art Show
June 15 -July 10	Jennifer Ferries/Chris Robson
July 13- Aug 7	Perry Rath/Kimber McCormick and River Wilde
Aug 10 - Sept 4	Emily Klaassen/David Harrison
Sept 7 - Oct 9	Mark Tworow
Oct 12 - Nov 13	Skeena Salmon Art Show
Nov 19&20	Wintergold
Nov 23-Dec 24	One of a Kind - Artisan Christmas Gift Shop
January	Closed
Feb 8 - Feb 26	Community Workshop Exhibition
March 1 - April 2	Melanie Thompson & Diane Sanderson/Mary Lou Lefrancois

PROGRAMMING

Secondary location Creation Station (3866 Railway Ave)

In our fiscal 2021-2022 year, our Visual Arts Education Programming had to change the way we interacted with the community. Once we were able to re-open and resume in person programming, our class sizes were limited to 5 participants per class. Education Programming had a total of **1,377** participants including 107 from our Adult and 55+ Workshop Series, both in person and online.

Kids Summer Art Camps

This program started in 2006. Due to increased demand, the half day program was increased to 3 weeks each summer in 2017 and 4 weeks in 2019. In 2020 we ran 8, 2 day sessions of kids summer workshops with 40 participants. 2021 we returned to 4 days of class per week and ran 8 sessions.

Kids Afterschool workshops & Spring Break

This program began in 2017 with sessions for ages 9-12 and for ages 13+. In Spring 2019 we expanded the program to include a series for ages 6-8 years. In 2021 the “Little Artists” (ages 5-8) had 11 sessions of 6 weeks each, our “Young Artists” (ages 9-12) had 9 sessions and our “Teen Studio Sessions” totaled 9 sessions. We held Spring Break camp for 5 days with two sessions for ages 5-8.

Art Activity Kits– Kids

This program was developed to replace the Saturday morning drop-in activities that could not run due to COVID19. We handed out 14 different kits to total 560.

Adult Spring and Fall Workshop Series

Continuing Art Education ages 16 and over. We held 17 in-person classes and 1 virtual class and added a 55+ workshop series with 27 in-person classes and drop-in sessions.



Perry Rath



**SKEENA
SALMON
ART SHOW**
OCT 12 - NOV 13
SKEENA SALMON
ARTS FEST

SPECIAL EVENTS

BC Family Day - in collaboration with the BV Museum, we created 150 kid’s activity kits. We distributed the kits at BV Wholesale and in the gallery and museum. All kits were picked up. We held a contest with families submitting their photos of their artwork—gift cards at Big Smiles were the prizes.

our grateful thanks to the following

Corporate Sponsors: *While we held off asking for funds during this difficult year, we want to thank our sponsors for their community spirit and focus on keeping their businesses moving forward during this difficult year—see you next year!*

Pretium Resources Inc.
Hy-Tech Drilling Ltd
Babine Animal Hospital
Re/Max Bulkley Valley
Bulkley Valley Insurance Services

Nature's Pantry
All-West Glass
LB Paving
Calderwood Realty

Smithers Lumber Yard
Wed'zinkwa Family Medical Clinic
Bulkley Valley Wholesale
Smokescreen Graphics

Thanks to these local businesses that continue to offer discounts and special offers to Gallery Members:

Mills Interior Stationery

Aquabatics

Heartstrings

a HUGE thank you to our volunteers

Our volunteers create the life and soul of the Gallery through the work they do on its behalf and our first thanks go out to all of them for their time and commitment - it is highly valued and appreciated. This COVID year meant zoom meetings and almost no volunteers in the gallery as we felt it was more important to safe guard the health and well being of our volunteers this year. We honestly can't wait until we can see you back in the gallery!

One of a Kind—Artisan Christmas Gift Shop, December 2021: *Many thanks to the intake and setup committee volunteers who helped with intake, promotion, gift-shop setup and takedown, and a huge thank-you to all the sitters who ran the gift shop during operation.*

Curatorial Committee: *Who juried and selected show submissions*

Art Director: Francois Depey

Edith Illes

Michelle Yarham

Sarah Gourlet

Ron Austin

Julie Chaplin

Emily Klaassen

Other Thanks:

Mary Davidson & Edmison Mehr Chartered Accountants: preparing the year-end financials pro bono, and Bookkeeper **Rene Haehner** for his patience and attention to detail



River Wilde and Kimber McCormick

