

IACS (ArtSpring) AGM Annual Report December 2, 2019

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

I have been honoured to serve as president of the IACS (ArtSpring) board throughout 2019. With a committed set of colleagues on the Board of Directors, a very effective Executive and Artistic Director and her excellent staff, an enormous cohort of dedicated volunteers, and a very supportive membership, the yoke has, indeed, been easy and the burden light.

In 2019, building on the work of previous boards, the IACS (ArtSpring) completed a transition of the board to a fully functional governance organization with the responsibility for policy setting and oversight. Organizations in their early stages necessarily have boards that are involved in operational issues. Mature, well-established organizations make the change to executive staff having full responsibility for operations with the board engaged in governance and oversight. That change began some years ago at ArtSpring. It was completed this year with the removal of all operational related items from the board's policy manual to an operations manual which is the responsibility of the Executive and Artistic Director. The remainder of the policy manual was edited to reflect the board's governance role. While such a change may seem trivial, many a not-for-profit organization has come to grief over confusion between staff and board responsibilities. At ArtSpring that distinction is now entirely clear – a clarity that forms the basis for a highly effective, mutually supportive relationship between board and staff. Thank you to Past President and retiring Board Member Debbi Toole for leading this effort.

The Finance Committee chaired by Scott Howe, the Planning Committee chaired by Suzanne Rouger, and the Development Committee chaired by Lynn Blanche have all been highly effective this year in advancing the work of the board. Daniel Squizzato from the board joined Scott on the Finance Committee. All committees included community volunteers who are acknowledged in the committee reports. Their activities are outlined in the reports from each committee. I was joined on the Nominations Committee by Robin Ferry and Cicela Månsson. We ensured that a slate would be available to fill board positions for 2020.

Karen Arney has been an exemplary board secretary keeping all minutes, records, and reporting requirements completely up-to-date and accessible to board members.

I am grateful to Robin Ferry, board Vice-President for all her support and her longer-term knowledge of ArtSpring and the wider island community. I also want to thank Murray Reiss for his work with the board policy and procedures manual and his work as editor of the board's newsletter.

It remains for me to thank retiring board members Debbi Toole, Robin Ferry, and Murray Reiss for their outstanding service to IACS (ArtSpring). I am thankful to those people who have agreed to stand for election to the board to replace the wonderful people leaving.

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The board is important in the life of ArtSpring, but we who are board members are deeply aware that it is the staff, the volunteers, and the artists in the community who use the building that make it a jewel in island life. We are humbled by their talent and dedication.

Walter Stewart, President

EXECUTIVE AND ARTISTIC DIRECTOR'S REPORT

I am reminded every day how fortunate I am to live in a community that so strongly supports the arts. When I speak with colleagues I am made aware of how unique and special ArtSpring is, with its strong community use and extensive programming. We have 200 plus volunteers, nine board members, and hundreds of members and supporters whose work and support form the custodial framework that ensures ArtSpring's success. Thank you for this. You make ArtSpring possible.

When I joined ArtSpring as the EAD in June of 2014 theatre attendance was 20,000. This past year it was 24,000. ArtSpring curates a season of over 20 performances. We arrange workshops, a Chamber Music Festival, a Youth Choir, two Youth Art Enrichment Programs, Celebrate the Arts, and this year two gallery shows (the work of Birgit Bateman and the *Art of Rock and Roll* with photographs by Dee Lippingwell and the poster art of Bob Masse). Despite our own extensive programming, the majority of building use, about 75% in fact, continues to be community usage. ArtSpring is above all else a home for the creation of art by the community.

At the same time I am occasionally frustrated at the lack of resources at our disposal, i.e. that seven mostly part-time employees, the full-time equivalent of 5.5 full-time employees, run this facility. As a team our focus is to improve the facility, the service, and the equipment we are able to offer to our community. It is true that resources are slim both in staffing and budget but what we are able to create within that budget is exceptional. The operating budget for the coming fiscal year is \$600,000. This is in contrast to \$1.9 million for Dance Victoria and between \$2.5 million and \$2.9 million for each of the Mary Winspear theatre and the Belfry Theatre. While each of these organizations have a somewhat different mandate the comparison is nonetheless interesting.

The 2018-19 year has been a challenging and exciting one. We hired our first permanent Technical Director only to lose her to illness in early January 2019. Fortunately, Malcolm Harris, with his extensive experience as a Technical Director of Koerner Hall and Harbourfront, came onto our radar. He was hired in March of 2019 and has quickly become a valued member of the ArtSpring team. Thanks to Dick Tipping for all of his expertise and work which got us through the interim periods; we couldn't have done it without him.

ArtSpring started a youth choir in 2018 which we'd been planning for many years. Singing and music are such an important part of life and are great facilitators in skills and brain development. With Caroni Young as director and Shirley Bunyan as pianist, Makana Youth Choir

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became a reality. Now in its second year, Makana has several concerts scheduled. Thanks for the support of the Lost Chords, Viva Chorale!, Salt Spring Foundation, and John Lefebvre for making this possible.

In the 2018-19 season we requested a review of the facility by ActSafe BC to ensure theatre safety. They advised us to make a number of changes, all of which have now been addressed. One of the big changes was purchasing a new ladder that is much safer. In progress is a Canadian Heritage Cultural Spaces grant which, if successful, will provide approximately half of the funds needed for a much-needed major upgrade of the ancient lighting systems in the theatre. Much of this equipment was second-hand when it was acquired and we are now 20 years on in time. The lights are all incandescent which means that with this proposed upgrade to LED ArtSpring stands to realize a significant savings in its electrical costs. In 2014 the yearly hydro bill was approximately \$15,000, and now in 2018 it is almost \$20,000. The proposed upgrades will not only provide savings in electricity but saving on consumables such as gels and savings of person-time. We hope that through additional capital donations and a gas tax grant that we'll be able to make up the other half of the required funds.

I am sincerely proud of the core team I work with every day. A big thank you to them for sharing their passion and talents with the organization. They are vital to its success. They are:

- Jane Aitken – Box Office Manager, Coordinator of Volunteers
- Nikki Christou – Custodian
- Erin Cleal – Building and Grounds Manager
- Malcolm Harris – Technical Director/Production Manager
- Meghan Howcroft – Operations Manager
- Marcus Kufner – Bookkeeper

There are a number of people who support ArtSpring as contractors and I wish to thank them for their ongoing work:

- David Crone – Theatre Tech
- Harley Dunn – Theatre Tech
- Anna Haltrecht – Community Engagement Facilitator
- Wreford Miller – IT
- Charlotte Priest – Treasure Fair Coordinator
- Adler Rabson – Sound/Stage Hand
- Caroni Young – Director, Makana Youth Choir

Thank you to my Program Committee who are advisors in the curatorial process.

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Grants:

- MiBC Dance on Tour \$2,362
- Canadian Heritage \$24,000
- BCTC \$23,397

Future Projects:

- Flooring for Gallery
- Carpet in entire building
- Painting interior/exterior of ArtSpring
- Renovation of the offices
- Expand the building to add a green room/rehearsal/washroom space behind the theatre.

Thank you to our 200 plus volunteers who share their energy and talents with ArtSpring. And thank you for your support of ArtSpring. You are all vital to its success.

Cicela Månsson, Executive and Artistic Director

PROGRAMME COMMITTEE REPORT

Members: Cicela Månsson (Chair), George Ehring, Joi Freed-Garrod, Luanne Katz, Derek Lundy, Kate Merry, Deb Toole, Joanne Whitehead, and Walter Stewart (ex officio).

I am grateful to the members of the Programme Committee for their time and dedication to reviewing and offering their opinions on the artists who pitch to ArtSpring.

Also a big thank you to Anna Haltrecht and Robin Ferry who worked with me to review 50 BC dance artist submissions to Made in BC Dance (MiBC) on Tour and, in discussion, select the 15 who we believe should pitch to that network. Anna and Robin are both experienced dance artists and educators, their assistance is invaluable.

Our goal is to present a broad range of performing arts at ArtSpring in order to give the community of Salt Spring Island the possibility of a truly wide arts experience. We don't cover all of the bases every year but overall that is our goal.

A few items of note:

- Thank you to Anna Haltrecht for all of her work as the Community Outreach Coordinator. The success of her work is clearly seen in the attendance and lively talk-back sessions that follow most dance performances.
- We presented the 17th annual Chamber Music Fest with six students and two well received concerts.
- In 2018-19 we held the second Celebrate the Arts, intended to show the broad spectrum of art being created on the island, to give a window into the artistic process, and to inspire people to participate in the creative process.

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In the *ArtSpring Presents* series of 2018-19:

Music:

- Canadian Guitar Quartet
- Penderecki String Quartet
- Luchkow-Jarvis-Stadlen Trio
- Philippe Sly and Michael McMahon
- duo corvi
- Victoria Baroque
- Lizzy Hoyt
- Kai Gleusteen and Catherine Ordronneau
- New Orford String Quartet
- Ô-Celli
- Michael Kaeshammer
- Don Conley and Dylan Phillips
- Elektra Women's Choir with Suzie LeBlanc
- Daniel Lapp and Friends

Dance:

- Dancers of Damelahamid
- Ballet Victoria
- Bouge de là
- Radical System Art – Shay Kuebler

Theatre:

- Paws for Laughter
- Worlds of Puppets
- Axis Theatre
- Skylight (produced in part by ArtSpring, three performances with Chris Humphreys and Deanna Milligan)

4 Death Cafés

MET Opera Broadcasts – 8 live broadcasts

Workshops:

Youth Art Enrichment

- Art and Techniques of Vincent van Gogh – facilitated by Tracy Harrison

Dancers of Damelahamid

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- Dance workshop for GISS/GISPA
Montreal Guitar Trio
- Community workshop for all ages
Ballet Victoria
- Dance Masterclass for GISS/GISPA
Bouge de là
- Fernwood Elementary School workshop
- Community workshop
Chamber Music Festival
- Week-long young artist intensive study program culminating in concert.

Cicela Månsson, Executive & Artistic Director

TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT AND PRESENTATION OF THE 2018-2019 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Members: Scott Howe (Chair), Daniel Squizzato, Dawna Lewis (community member), Walter Stewart(ex officio) and Cicela Månsson (ex-officio)

I would like to thank our EAD, Cicela Månsson and our Bookkeeper, Marcus Kufner, for their ongoing efforts to keep our finances in good order.

I would also like to express my gratitude to our Finance Committee members. Their input and regular review was much appreciated and ensured that we kept things on track.

Our fund-raising grossed over \$125,000 this year for ArtSpring! This total was raised thanks to a very successful Treasure Fair, our second annual raffle, and our annual supporter appeal. Without this support, our finances would not be as healthy as they are. We also had additional donations of nearly \$49,000.

For the 2018-2019 fiscal we had an operating budget that resulted in an excess of revenue over expenses of **\$11,200**. This is a considerable feat, I believe, especially when one looks at what ArtSpring is able to do on its limited budget, which is relatively small, when compared to similar venues. When amortization is deducted, then we have a deficiency of \$52,654. Amortization is an “expense” we have each year. It is simply to account for the decreasing value of capital assets, like the building or the furniture, that the society owns. On a practical basis, we are putting money into the upkeep and replacement of items every year and do put aside money into our capital replacement fund regularly.

It is worth noting, as well, that there are a couple of grants expected that once received should be included in our 2018-2019 revenue.

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ArtSpring is not a young building anymore and the demands on it continue to be considerable. As ArtSpring ages, we can expect the costs to keep it in good shape and functioning safely, accessibly, comfortably and in way that is commensurate with the what we offer, will increase. Please remember to keep ArtSpring in mind when considering a legacy donation. There can be some significant tax advances to this.

Scott Howe, Treasurer

Motion: To accept the Treasurer's Report as circulated.

Motion: To appoint the firm of McLean, Lizotte, Wheadon & Co. as represented by Mr. Frédéric Lizotte as the IACS auditor for 2019/2020.

PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

Members: Suzanne Rouger (Chair), Deb Toole, Karen Arney, Murray Reiss, Jenny Barrio (community member), Cicela Månsson (ex officio)

The annual Volunteer Appreciation Reception was held on April 18 in the Gallery at ArtSpring from 4-6pm. In gratitude, volunteers were offered ticket vouchers for two tickets to any ArtSpring presents offering.

The 2019 Honoured Volunteers were Kathleen de Jong, Sara Foster, and Marlene Rice.

No Lifetime Honorary Membership Award was offered this year. The Planning Committee will consider possible recipients for the 2020 Volunteer Appreciation event.

The Red Book, which is the policy manual used by all members of the IACS (ArtSpring) Board of Directors, has been brought up to date by Murray Reiss and Debbi Toole. New pages were distributed for all to replace outdated pages in the notebooks.

A Board Retreat was held on May 6 at the Lions Club. Sandra Thompson lead the workshop with the desired goals of finding clarity on the roles of the governance board and the EAD, clarity on ArtSpring's goals and plans, and direction on team building and community engagement vs. audience development.

The Board discussed having retreats every other year instead of annually and will take up ideas for a retreat for 2021.

Suzanne Rouger, Chair

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DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Members: Lynn Blanche (Chair), Robin Ferry, Roberta Starke (community committee member), Walter Stewart (ex officio), Cicela Månsson (ex officio)

As well as being ambassadors for ArtSpring and supporting fundraising activities, the Development Committee has three main areas of focus: planning an event to show appreciation of our donors and Bravo Circle members, promoting ArtSpring membership as well as supporting the annual membership drive and supporting the process for our annual donor appeal.

A very successful donor appreciation event was held at Salt Spring Vineyards on July 29. With generous support and donations from Salt Spring Vineyard and Country Grocer, we spent time socializing while enjoying delicious appetizers and wine listening to the guitar music of two local musicians. Plans will soon be underway for next year's appreciation event.

This year, our membership drive began early to coincide with ArtSpring's promotional subscription offer of five percent off the price for people renewing or purchasing new memberships by August 30. To increase public awareness and to promote memberships, we had a membership table at non-ArtSpring Presents events (Daniel Lapp in July, and two community productions: *Beauty and the Beast* in August and *Time Piece* in early September). It was an opportunity for board members to meet theatre goers, promote membership and its benefits and answer questions. We renewed some memberships earlier than usual and sold some new memberships. Membership tables at ArtSpring Presents events have continued into November with over 230 members at the time of writing this report. This year, we were also promoting the use of Thrifty Smile Cards and now have a number of new people using them. ArtSpring receives five percent of money spent with the Smile Card. This money goes to support the functioning of the building.

October is traditionally the time for our donor appeal. It is a concerted Board and staff effort to organize all that needs to be done to mail over 1,350 letters to our potential donors. Some people donated early while renewing memberships and we continue to receive donations from this year's donor appeal to support our ArtSpring facility.

Lynn Blanche, Chair

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Members: Walter Stewart (Chair), Robin Ferry and Cicela Månsson (ex officio)

The nominating committee met several times over the course of 2019 to review candidates for board positions that begin with AGM 2019. Working from a number of identified candidates from previous nominating committees and identifying a number of new potential board

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members, the nominating committee is pleased to present the following as candidates to be new members of the Board of IACS (ArtSpring) for two years beginning AGM 2019:

Ted Dodds, Ashley Hilliard and Dawna Lewis

In addition, the nominating committee recommends the re-election for the following for a second two-year term:

Karen Arney and Walter Stewart

BIOGRAPHIES OF NOMINEES STANDING FOR ELECTION

Ted Dodds:

Ted Dodds came home to B.C. four years ago to live on Salt Spring Island. He and Loretta, his wife of 47 years, bought a move-in ready home and, of course, spent the next three years renovating it. Their two sons and their partners live in Vancouver.

Ted's appreciation for ArtSpring started early, thanks to the gift of a series subscription he received that first Christmas. His own musical tastes can best be described as eclectic – a good match with the breadth and diversity of ArtSpring's cultural events. He is a strong believer in the organization's community-focused mission.

Ted's professional career spanned four decades, most of which were spent in information technology executive roles at research-intensive universities in Canada and the US. He has served on the boards of several not-for-profit organizations and been involved in a number of international projects.

Ashley Hilliard:

My wife Wendy and I were lucky enough to "discover" Salt Spring Island in the mid 1980s. It was a welcome retreat from Vancouver, the big city, where we lived and raised our family. We now have a home in the south end of the island which we treasure. Having lived in several places in Europe and North America, I truly appreciate the special nature of this community.

My career was as a real estate lawyer in Vancouver – all with a single firm, though that firm grew enormously in size and scope over the period that I practised. My undergraduate studies were at McGill, and I received my legal education at the universities of Oxford and Queen's. I retired in 2007.

I regard ArtSpring as a tremendous resource for our community, one that was created by the vision and effort of the founders and that is based on the support the organization has earned over the years. It is a place where residents and visitors can experience a great variety of performances, of the highest calibre, at an affordable cost. I would be honoured to serve on the Board and to help, to the best of my ability, to ensure that ArtSpring continues to be such a place.

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Dawna Lewis:

Dawna Lewis and her husband Bob moved to Salt Spring Island in the fall of 2018. Prior to this they lived in Ft. Smith, Northwest Territories, and Whitehorse, Yukon. Before retiring she worked in a variety of teaching positions in elementary schools as well as a school psychologist for the Yukon Department of Education. Dawna and Bob raised their two children north of 60. Both children are currently living in Vancouver making family visits possible on a more frequent basis.

While in Whitehorse, Dawna enjoyed serving on two different boards: the Child Development Centre and the Executive Board of the Yukon Teachers' Association.

With their home completed this past spring they are happily enjoying their new surroundings. With more time now available, Dawna began researching volunteer opportunities on the island. Volunteering for the 2018 Treasure Fair confirmed that ArtSpring was an organization she wanted to support. Dawna looks forward to remaining involved with ArtSpring for many years to come.

Karen Arney:

Karen has completed one two-year term on the IACS (ArtSpring) board. In the first year she served as Planning Committee Chair; in the second she has served as Secretary.

During the 20 years that she has lived on Salt Spring Island, she has been involved in a variety of local community theatre and music groups, wearing various hats in those groups as performer, director, producer and board member.

Walter Stewart:

Walter Stewart has completed one two-year term on the IACS (ArtSpring) board. In the first year, he served as Secretary; in the second he has served as President.

Walter and his husband Ron Dyck have lived on Salt Spring since April of 2015. Walter also serves as co-ordinator of the Development Team of the Star of the Sea Centre for Spiritual Living and Practice, People's Warden of the Anglican Parish of SSI, and a member of the Organizing Committee in charge of memberships for 100 Men Who Care Salt Spring. Off island, he is a member of the Diocesan Council of the Diocese of British Columbia and co-chair with the Bishop of Transforming Futures – a major cross-diocese initiative in parish development and service.

Walter has a 40+ year career in post-secondary education, not-for-profit management, high tech, and international consulting. After many years of travelling more than not travelling, Walter leaves Salt Spring only under duress.