



Island Arts Centre Society (ArtSpring)

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday, December 2, 2020

IACS (ArtSpring) AGM Annual Report December 2, 2020

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Like all the world, as it took office last December, the Island Arts Centre Society (ArtSpring) Board could never have imagined what 2020 would bring. The board has continued to meet on Zoom throughout these difficult times.

The Board is extremely grateful and proud of Cicela and her staff for carrying on and moving things forward as much as humanly possible. Those of you who have been back to the building since the launch of the limited season will notice that it has never looked better. Throughout the complete shutdown, staff were busy with deep cleaning, redecorating, and updating technologies both in the theatre and in the back office. While we all would rather have been enjoying the wonderful season that was planned for 2020, the staff have ensured the time has not been wasted.

While the board has been active and the staff have been wonderful, the heaviest burden of these difficult times has been borne by our indefatigable and talented Executive and Artistic Director, Cicela Månsson. Cicela's untiring efforts and have ensured ArtSpring has a truly wonderful and, for the times, extraordinary program for this fall and the first half of next year. She has positioned ArtSpring to return with a bang when the pandemic becomes a bad memory.

The Board is also grateful to the Federal Government for the Canadian Emergency Wage Subsidy Program that has allowed us to retain our staff despite our catastrophic drop in income.

We also want to thank all of you who have sustained and enhanced your support for ArtSpring. Your confidence and, let me be clear, your money is making a real difference. With all of us behind it, ArtSpring will continue to flourish and be a jewel in this island setting.

As President, I wish to thank my fellow board members for their unflagging engagement – even when engagement meant standing down from and taking apart previously planned activities. I particularly want to thank Lynn Blanche, Suzanne Rouger, and Daniel Squizzato who leave the board at this Annual General Meeting for their service and dedication.

Walter Stewart, President

EXECUTIVE AND ARTISTIC DIRECTOR'S REPORT

It has been a challenging year. There is also much to be grateful for and celebrate. ArtSpring is still here, we are still open, and we haven't lost any staff. Every single member of the society owns that success because without your support ArtSpring wouldn't be possible.

Back on March 16 we closed the building to the public, canceled the rest of the season along with one of our major fundraisers, Treasure Fair. The staff for the most part shifted to working from home. The truncated *ArtSpring Presents* season ended on a high note in March with Birgit Freybe Bateman's show. The final performance of the season was March 10 with the John McLachlan Trio.

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Several factors have made the Covid crisis survivable for ArtSpring when many venues and arts organizations have closed, some perhaps permanently.

- We have an amazing and dedicated team.
- ArtSpring qualified for the Canada Employment Wage Subsidy (CEWS).
- Two grants – BC Gaming and BC Arts Council – were unexpectedly received just prior to the March Covid shut down.
- The support and care of the IACS (ArtSpring) Board.
- Hard decisions were made and the budget was reworked with \$170,000 pulled out to rebalance the budget.

The six month shut down enabled ArtSpring to repaint the lobby area and gallery spaces. There were beautiful colour choices and lots of hard work by Erin Cleal and Nikki Christou. Meghan Howcroft and Jane Aitken have written operational processes, created FAQ documents for the website, and generally reworked a number of administrative processes. Malcolm Harris has spent months working on the theatre upgrade installation made possible by two grants. He had no choice but to do the entire installation largely on his own. As much as possible the administrative team worked from home which enabled Malcolm, Marcus, Erin, and Nikki to continue working in the building. Much time was spent learning about Covid guidelines, following the BC Public Health Officer, WorkSafeBC, and ActSafeBC guidelines, and Public Health Orders. In collaboration with the entire team we developed our Covid Safety Plan and designed a new process for bringing patrons and performers into the theatre and gallery. It has been challenging but the feedback has been positive. Our patrons tell us that they feel safe attending events at ArtSpring.

When ArtSpring slowly started to reopen in late July the Salt Spring Painters' Guild were our first returning client. Following that, Johanna Hoskins ran two children's art camps. It was great to see our clients back using the facility, even in a limited capacity. ArtSpring launched its 2020-21 season with a gallery show curated by Margaret Day featuring 26 Salt Spring visual artists and writers. In the theatre the season launched with three performances by Valdy on October 2, 3, 4.

During this difficult time ArtSpring decided to try to aid community presenters by offering a 75% reduction in rates associated with renting the theatre. This is in recognition of the financial challenges placed on artists in the community while audience maximums are capped at 50. We are able to do this while the CEWS program remains in place at the current levels. In the new year we are planning to implement an expanded Creative/Technical Residency program to help artists to create new work and be tour ready for the 2021-22 season.

Tributes

2020 saw the loss of three people who have been hugely important to ArtSpring and a great support to me over the years. We are losing Susan Eide to Vancouver Island, our loss is their gain. Susan Eide has been part of Treasure Fair since the beginning. Every year she and Wendy Herbert would work together to create a successful event that raised approximately \$55,000 yearly. Somehow we will soldier on but her presence will be sorely missed. We are also losing Anna Haltrecht, who has been my Dance Outreach Coordinator since I became the EAD at

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ArtSpring in 2014. She tried to retire in 2019 but I managed to talk her out of it. This time I was not so persuasive. ArtSpring was fortunate to have her in that role for so many years. Anna is an experienced dancer and certified Feldenkrais Method teacher. Her work helped ArtSpring grow an audience for dance, particularly contemporary dance, and to build workshop opportunities for Salt Spring movement artists. It was a pleasure for me to work with Anna and the relationship certainly helped me to engage with new and edgy forms of movement/dance/theatre. The third loss is because he has moved on from this world. George Ehring was on the hiring committee that interviewed and subsequently hired me in 2014. He was my first point of contact with ArtSpring. I heard his voice over the phone many times before we actually met and in the end we became friends. George was a remarkable person in his generosity, intelligence, humour, and kindness. It was his second time on the IACS (ArtSpring) Board when he agreed to stand on the board again in 2012, his first being 2004. Even after George left the board he would often stop by and talk to all of the staff. They knew he really cared about them and about ArtSpring. He knew how important each of them were to the success of ArtSpring and often remarked to me about what a great team I had. I agreed and still do. I still feel his loss terribly and probably always will.

I am sincerely proud of my team. A big thank you to them for sharing their passion and talents with the organization. They are vital to our success.

- Jane Aitken – Communications Manager, 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:

- Charlotte Priest – Treasure Fair Coordinator 2021
- Caroni Young – Director Makana Youth Choir
- Wreford Miller – IT
- Harley Dunn – Theatre Tech
- TBD – Community Engagement Facilitator

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

Granting

The number of grants we submitted this year was unprecedented. By and large we were generally very successful as evidenced by the following list.

BC Gaming

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A 2019 BC Gaming grant of \$11,500 was awarded later than expected in March, and we were still able to apply in April for the 2020 year and were again awarded \$11,500.

BC Arts Council – Strategic Opportunities Grant
Awarded \$22,500 in February for operations.

BC Arts Council – Arts Infrastructure Grant
At the time of writing this report we have not yet had a result. The grant request of \$18,200 would give ArtSpring the funds to purchase live-streaming equipment.

Canadian Heritage Cultural Spaces
Awarded \$55,677 for theatre sound and lighting upgrades.

Canadian Heritage – Covid relief funding
Awarded \$6,500

Canadian Heritage – Canadian Arts Presentation Fund
Awarded \$27,000 for programming and operations.

Employment and Social Development Canada – Enabling Accessibility Fund (small projects component)
Awarded \$100,000 for building accessibility upgrades including: three automatic electric doors, renovation for accessibility to gallery bathroom, ramp to the exterior rear door of the theatre.

BC Touring Council – Community Presenters Assistance
Awarded \$12,300 for programming.

BC Touring Council – Covid relief funding
Awarded \$5,000

CRD – Gas Tax Fund
Awarded \$30,000 for theatre lighting upgrade.

Cicela Månsson, Executive & Artistic Director

PROGRAMME COMMITTEE REPORT

ArtSpring Presents series of 2019-20

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. Thank you to the members of this committee: Joi Freed-Garrod, Luanne Katz, Derek Lundy, Kate Merry, Deb Toole, Joanne Whitehead, and ex-officio member Walter Stewart.

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.

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ArtSpring Presents series of 2019-20:

Performances

Saguenay Quartet & Lafayette String Quartet
Montreal Guitar Trio & California Guitar Trio
Les Voix humaines & Nigel North
RUBBERBANDance
MM Contemporary Dance (Italy)
Le Vent du Nord
Makana Youth Choir December concert
Baltimore Consort
War of 1812 – a comedy
Tentacle Tribe
Élage Diouf
Janina Fialkowska
John McLachlan Trio (with Marc Atkinson and Scott White)
Choral Festival Workshop and Concert – (Covid cancellation)
Hiromoto Ida (A Birthday Present to Myself) – (Covid cancellation)
Axis Theatre (Th'owxiya: The Hungry Feast Dish) – (Covid cancellation)
Lions Gate Sinfonia with Joan Blackman – (Covid cancellation)
Julie Nesrallah & Robert Kortgaard – (Covid cancellation)
Peggy Baker (unmoored) – (Covid cancellation)
Borealis String Quartet – (Covid cancellation)
Makana Youth Choir May concert – (Covid cancellation)

Community Workshops

Montreal Guitar Trio – guitar workshop
RUBBERBANDance – dance workshop
Tentacle Tribe – dance workshop
Choral Festival Workshop – three day choral workshop – (Covid cancellation)
Peggy Baker – all abilities movement workshop – (Covid cancellation)
Chamber Music Festival and concerts – (Covid cancellation)

MET Opera Live Broadcasts

Turandot | Puccini
Manon | Massenet
Madama Butterfly | Puccini
Akhmatov | Glass
Wozzeck | Berg
Porgy and Bess | The Gershwins
Agrippina | Handel
Der Fliegende Holländer | Wagner – (Covid cancellation)
Tosca | Puccini – (Covid cancellation)

Gallery Exhibits

Birgit Freybe Bateman

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The Art of Rock n' Roll – (Covid cancellation)

Celebrate the Arts – (Covid cancellation)

School/Youth Performances and Workshops

Youth Art Enrichment (4 days + exhibit) – facilitated by Erin Cleal on mixed media collage

Youth Art Enrichment (4 days + exhibit) – facilitated by Tracy Harrison on Picasso – (Covid cancellation)

Les Voix humaines school concert

RUBBERBANDance GISS workshop

MM Contemporary Dance GISS workshop

Makana Youth Choir program (September – June)

Flight of the Hummingbird (Vancouver Opera in the schools)

Axis Theatre (Th'owxiya: The Hungry Feast Dish) – (Covid cancellation)

Peggy Baker – GISS workshop – (Covid cancellation)

Death Café – community outreach

These meetings originated as an extension of a presentation that ArtSpring did in the 2014-15 season of Tara Cheyenne's *Highgate*. Three meetings in the past fiscal year were hosted at ArtSpring and are continuing this year.

100 Women Who Care Salt Spring – community outreach

This is an organization that broadly supports the Salt Spring community. Their meetings have a home here at ArtSpring. Two meetings were hosted in the theatre this past fiscal year.

Respectfully submitted,

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, Ted Dodds , 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. Cicela was also instrumental in proactively applying for grants and for all the government support programs that might be available. She worked hard to make sure all the staff could maintain their positions and keep working, and she adapted expertly and creatively to the changing circumstances and came up with innovative ways to get things done.

I would also like to express my gratitude to our Finance Committee members. Their input, support, regular review and flexibility as to how we would meet, and when we would meet was much appreciated and ensured that we kept things on track, even as that track was sometimes uncertain.

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The fiscal year started out well, with income ahead of budget and expenses about where we projected. However, once March and the effects of Covid-19 became apparent, we soon realized that we had to adjust and we took the initial step of revising the budget. As one can imagine, it was a difficult thing to do. There were so many variables and so much that was unknown. We didn't know how long we would be closed, what government support we could expect and rely on, what grants would be available, what amounts we might receive from our donors. Could we expect to have Treasure Fair, the annual raffle, or other fundraising activities that are integral to our revenue? The costs associated with keeping the building running, maintained, safe, insured and heated don't diminish to any great extent, even though so many sources of income slowed or stopped and the stage and galleries went silent.

While the precise figures and details are reported in the Audited Financial statements attached to this annual report, there are some points worth mentioning here. Sales and Rental income, which includes House events, Theatre Rentals and Exhibition space rentals, was over \$65,000 lower than the previous year, and other income, from things such as fundraising, was below the previous year by about \$85,000. After amortization (depreciation) was deducted, we have ended the year with revenues just under \$59,000 less than expenses. Or, in other words, a deficit of \$59,000.

This, it must be stressed, would be a much larger deficit if not for the receipt of the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) and other grants from various levels of government; the hard work and dedication of our volunteers and staff; and the continued generosity of our donors, which is needed now more than ever.

Scott Howe, Treasurer

PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

Members: Suzanne Rouger (Chair), Cicela Månsson (ex officio),
Walter Stewart (ex officio)

The Planning Committee was preparing for the Annual Volunteer Appreciation Event in April but could unfortunately not follow through with it because of the global pandemic restrictions. The Committee would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the efforts by ArtSpring's volunteers, without whom, this year as always, operating this artistic hub would be impossible.

Discussion of possible Board Retreats and opportunities for Board education and growth has been postponed until 2021. The subject of board effectiveness and self-evaluation is to be a point of focus as per previous discussion.

The Christmas party, which traditionally serves as a thank you to ArtSpring staff and also as a welcome to new Board members and a farewell to outgoing Board members, was also abandoned

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due to the restrictions on gatherings. The committee has however acquired gifts of appreciation to distribute to the ArtSpring staff.

This report respectfully submitted with the hope of a better year in 2021.

Suzanne Rouger, Chair

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Members; Lynn Blanche (Chair), Roberta Starke (community member), Debbi Toole (community member), Cicela Mansson (ex officio), Walter Stewart (ex officio)

In collaboration with our EAD, the Development Committee works to support and recognize our donors through events such as the Donor Appreciation Event and also provides support for the annual donor appeal.

Plans were underway early in the year for our appreciation event in July at Salt Spring Vineyards but as with many things, regrettably, we had to cancel it. We are hoping that in 2021 we will once again be able to host the event.

Our annual donor appeal generally happens in October with board members gathering to prepare the letters for mailing. However, this year, to avoid gathering, donor appeal letters were mainly sent electronically to those for whom we had an email address. Letters were mailed to others without an email in the system. With Treasure Fair being cancelled this year, donations are more important than ever to the continued success of ArtSpring.

Our work also focuses on supporting and expanding our membership base at specific events and through conversations with members of the community. We were unable to have membership tables at ArtSpring performances this year. Communication about membership renewal was included in the *Weekly Check-in From ArtSpring* sent by our EAD. Without our usual personal contact, we were very pleased that 241 people (so far) have chosen to be members of ArtSpring for 2020/21.

Many thanks to our two community members: Roberta Starke and Debbi Toole for their participation in the work of this committee.

Lynn Blanche, Chair

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NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

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

At its meeting of October 5th, 2020, the board accepted the Nominations Committee Report and now recommends to the Annual General Meeting of Members of IACS(ArtSpring) these four names as a slate of new members to the board for the forthcoming two years.

Biographies of Nominees Standing for Election

Kathryn Cernauskas:

Kathryn Cernauskas has made Canadian music a focus of her performing, publishing and recording activities. Her work as a champion of Canadian music includes premiere performances of more than 100 Canadian compositions, a solo CD of Canadian music for flute, and publications of Canadian music. While maintaining an active career as a performer, teacher and adjudicator, Kathryn Cernauskas also served as Coordinator of Music at Douglas College, Chair of the Canadian Music Centre (BC region) and participated in juries for the Canada Council and the BC Arts Council. Her music publishing company, The Avondale Press, now managed by the [Canadian Music Centre](#), published solo and chamber music, including many works by Canadian composers.

Sandra Heath:

Raised in Alberta and educated at the University of Alberta and the University of Calgary, Sandra moved to BC in the late 80's. Sandi spent her career employed and consulting in human resources with a focus on Leadership Development. Until 2014 she was working globally and purchased on Salt Spring in 2016.

She followed friends here with interests in sailing, theatre, art, music, golf and hiking. She has been active and has volunteered in the community for several special events. Sandi has an interest and passion for philanthropy and governance oversight and continues to be active on other provincial and national Boards in health care and real estate regulation.

Scott Howe:

I am delighted to stand for another term on the board of I.A.C.S., after having served as Treasurer for the last 2 years. This is my second opportunity to serve as I was also part of the board 15 years ago. It has been wonderful to see and be part of the evolution and growth of this vibrant and important community organization over the years and I look forward to that continuing.

I have lived on Salt Spring since 2000 and raised my two sons, Sebastian and Nicholas, here. I am the Senior Wealth Advisor at the Salt Spring branch of Island Savings, where I have worked for the past 17 years.

Aside from ArtSpring, during my time on Salt Spring I have served on the boards of a number of local organizations, including PARC, the library, the hospital foundation, School District PAC and Rotary. In addition to ArtSpring, I am currently on the board of 100 Men Who Care and

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Viva Chorale! These experiences have helped me become more connected to the island and are examples of my belief in the importance of community service.

In my spare time, I sing tenor with Viva Chorale! and play soccer with the local, inappropriately named, 'Old Boys' soccer team.

Holly Slaney:

Holly Slaney has been spending time on Salt Spring Island and attending performances at ArtSpring for many years. She worked for 22 years at the English Language Institute, Continuing Studies, UBC, in program administration and coordination of extracurricular activities (housing and socio-cultural events) for students. After leaving UBC she worked at MacSailing and the Jericho Sailing Centre for 14 years as Admin. Assistant/Office Manager.

While raising her boys in Vancouver, Holly spent time organizing sailing regattas at Royal Vancouver Yacht Club, driving children and boats to events all across North America and managing various kids' sports teams. Holly and husband, Tim, were finally able to retire to the island full-time in January, 2017. Holly volunteers in the box office, is on the Treasure Fair acquisitions committee and she and Tim billet ArtSpring performers. Holly also volunteers at the Salt Spring Visitor Centre, is a member of 100+ Women SSI and the Salt Spring Golf and Country Club.

Cover photo

Courtesy of Seth Berkowitz