

2019 President's Report

Presented by Billie-Ann Woo, March 10th, 2020

Welcome

-start off with a land acknowledgement – I would like to acknowledge that we are gathered on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territory of the Coast Salish peoples – Squamish, Tsleil-Waututh, Musqueam nations.

-welcome to our members, volunteers and community guests to our Annual General Meeting

-had another great year with some memorable highlights and updates, will be presenting them to you tonight

-staff changes in 2019

-Kelsey Johnson left last spring and Sara Hepper joined us in the summer

-Sara has a unique background in retail management and is active in the vintage clothing scene and is also on the Board of the Hastings Mill. She has done a top notch job since joining us and brings to the Museum a lot of really great ideas and energy.

-Montanna Mills left late last fall to further pursue her career ambitions, but still remains as a volunteer to help with collections. Sheila Grant Duff joined us early this year as the new Community Engagement Coordinator and has made a great impact already.

-I welcome everyone to meet our staff members and thank them as they are the ones really boots-on-ground

-I also wanted to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank our volunteer team who really keep the programming running at the museum – from those who come in on a Wednesday afternoon to those who help out tabulating our visitors – your time, effort, and passion are irreplaceable and I want to thank you for your contributions. We have a roster of 65 volunteers – which include our volunteer board members.

Attendance statistics

Our attendance numbers in 2019 were robust – across all programs (T&T, daily tours, school programs, concerts) we had 7110 visitors last year, up from 6135 last year. So a really great increase and indicative of the increasing awareness people have of this gem of a museum.

-it is worth to note that we had an exceptionally good year for rentals and are continuing to book in renters – with many coming in for filming. These rentals are making it possible for us to invest back into the museum – whether that's replacing some carpets, adding additional staff hours, or putting on workshops – every dollar goes back into building the programming at the museum

Membership

We currently have 192 active memberships to date – so thank you to those who support our mission and mandate in serving the community with valuable programming and heritage awareness and preservation.

Program Highlights

-school program continues to be well utilized, many thanks to the McGrane Pearson foundation for their continued support of bringing kids to the museum and facilitating other educational programming in the area

-many thanks to Jenny Yule for another year of support and subject matter expertise

-with McGrane Pearson's support, expanded the program funding to include more schools and we received a lot of interest, with many coming from the French Immersion stream

-value of programming, please support the program to expand the reach

-Concerts - doing really well, happy to announce that this summer we will be taking the Jazz summer concerts outside on the porch again

-applied for funding, fingers crossed

-a great neighborhood success story, encouraging people to enjoy music in the park, and involving local musicians

-many thanks to Dan Reynolds and Catherine Laub, our artistic directors

-our upcoming classical concert will actually be the last one of the classical series. I want to give a huge thanks to Catherine who has lead this series from inception in 2012 and has steadily programmed a monthly concert for 8 years – not insignificant. The music series will be missed but we are planning on scheduling some other events to make up for the programming.

(Catherine's schedule is too busy to continue the series, could not find solutions for delivery issues, funding)

Events

Some of the events we participated in last year included the Tourism Challenge, Jane's Walk, Strawberry Festival

We have a lot of things queued up for 2020 – including our summer porch jazz series. Sarah Wang, our Exhibitions Director, is working with Sara Hepper to develop an exhibition about Pauline Johnson and has some other great ideas in the pipeline. We have recently pulled out our circular sock machine artefact and connected with a local expert to get it back in action, so stay tuned. We ran a successful series of film screenings last year around Halloween and we plan to remount that again. I am working with some local facilitators to bring in some low cost workshops centered around food. And Sara and I have just attending an open house of sorts at UBC to get connected with likeminded academics to perhaps bring in some additional programming or speakers.

So as you can see – there is a lot going on at the museum! Please keep an eye on our email newsletters when we announce dates.

Board Directors

First of all – I want to thank our outgoing Board Directors: Pam McPhail, Lloyd McGregor, Artem Penner, and Christopher Earl for their work and efforts. Pam and Lloyd were instrumental in bringing our fundraising and IT efforts up and we aim to continue their excellent work. I also want to highlight our outgoing Secretary, Sue

Erb is who currently traveling and could not attend the AGM tonight. She has served on the Board of Directors in various roles for over 20 years and I want to officially commend her for her years of work on the board and being one of the most dedicated volunteers I have ever met. Sue regularly makes the trip down from the North Shore to put in four hours, assess artefacts and generally provide support when asked...and not asked! I will miss her presence immensely and particularly her guidance during our monthly board meetings to stay true to our Society's mandate and mission.

I will have a card here for Sue if you would like to send along your thanks or notes of appreciation.

To replace Sue as Secretary will be Tanya McCarthy who helped the Board go through a comprehensive strategic planning session to help goal set for the next few years. Also returning is Laurence Beauvais who has been extremely helpful for our fundraising efforts and guiding our quest for grants. Anthony Norfolk continues on as Past President and I also want to thank him for staying on and supporting our relationship and communications with the City of Vancouver. Oksana Jdankina continues as Treasurer and has implemented many efficiency improvements including bringing our accounting...online! Sara Wang is also continuing on as Exhibitions Director and has a lot of great ideas for how we can leverage our collections. We have Mike Murgatroyd returning to the Board after a few years away – I am excited to work with him again. I am also excited to introduce Josef Methot who joined the Museum as a volunteer and has some great ideas and energy.

I put a call out a month ago for Board Advisors – individuals who may not be ready for a full Director role but would still like to contribute and learn about the Museum with the intention of joining the Board in the near future. I was extremely pleased with the response and I am looking forward to meeting some of these Advisors tonight and tell them more about what we're doing.