Notes for Pesident’s Report

Another great year last year.

* ArtScene 2016 was held on June 19th Father’s Day. We were unable to have the Hall on our regular Arts and Garden Festival date so had to settle for June 19th. This affected attendance to this event but we still had about 50 people who attended. Big thank you to Greg Weary for the mason bee kits that he made for our children’s project. Lots of kids and dads put these kits together and took them home. We will give more thought to what this event will be as it is the alternative yearly event to the Arts and Garden Festival which is now being held every two years.
* We had the third annual Christmas Fair in November and had more artists and artisans participate than last year. This year seemed to really culminate in a matured event – we created a very warm and inviting atmosphere with live Christmas music, Christmas decorations, mulled apple cider and cookies. We had jewelry, spices, homemade bread, dog biscuits, knitted goods and more to choose from. Children were able to make Christmas angels for their trees at home. We generated a $310 donation to the Food Bank through our basket raffle.
* We are an integral part of Sea to Sky Arts Councils Alliance which includes Pemberton, Whistler, Squamish, Bowen Island and Lions Bay. We are the smallest but have a strong voice at the table particularly in contributing to strategies going forward. We had an art exhibit and sale this summer “Our Sea to Sky” on Bowen Island this summer, which then travelled to Whistler and Squamish as well. We had 43 artists from the Sea to Sky Corridor who submitted work and over 600 people attend these shows in all locations. The plan is to have this exhibit every two years and it is a wonderful opportunity for artist exposure to the entire Sea to Sky corridor.

In addition, this year all Ske to Sky Arts councils will be involved in the Art Walk event which has been located in Whistler but will not encompass the entire corridor. This will run from September to November and all the arts councils will benefit from the promotion and marketing from Arts Whistler in advertising all the local events in each community. At the moment, our November Christmas Fair will be included under this umbrella event and we will be looking at other possibilities here in Lions Bay to be part of this also.

Challenges

* We have talked before about strengthening our relationships with artists. Apparently, we are not the only ones who find this challenging but we need to find a way to encourage greater participation and feedback from our local artist community.
* We talked last year about the need for a physical presence for the Arts Council. With the closing of the library in the fall of 2016, we contemplated whether the Arts Council could become responsible for that space and its programming into an Arts and Culture Centre for Lions Bay. We have since decided that considering the small amount of public use space we have in our community, that all residents and groups should have access to the space and so the Arts Council will elect to use the space when needed, hopefully for a number of new activities that we are contemplating for this year.
* We currently do not have a public arts project for this year but we will be reviewing this at upcoming board meetings.

What’s coming up….

* We will present the Arts and Garden Festival this years on Sunday May 28th. We are calling for gardeners and artists to participate so if you would like to be part of this quintessential Lions Bay event please let us know. Info in the Municipal Update.
* Our fourth annual Christmas Fair will be held Sunday, Nov 19th.
* We have an opportunity tonight to do a mini survey on the kinds of activities and events that you would be interest in having the Arts Council initiate. You will see a series of options and a bowl of hazelnuts. Please drop one hazelnut into each option that you would be interested in having implemented.