President’s Report 2018

* Arts and Garden Festival was held on Sunday May 28, 2017 with two new garden hubs – Morning on Sunset and Afternoon in Kelvin Grove. We were again blessed with beautiful weather. Many thanks to the gardeners who participated and worked so hard to prepare their for this event. We clearly couldn’t do it without you. We also had a full complement of visual artists, jewelers, artisans, and musical performers as well as our Native Plant Garden. Attendance was strong as usual with more than 160 people enjoying the venues. The reception that followed was very well attended despite the sudden departure of the hosts(Ute and Peter). The torch was picked up by the remaining board members. Thank you all.
* Simultaneous with the Arts and Garden Festival, we had for the first time, public voting on the banner contest submissions. We had six fantastic submissions ( a record). The winning entry was a painting by Rebecca Montgomery from Lions Bay and a member of Lions Bay Arts since its inception. Those are the banners that you currently see in the Village and along the highway. We are now in the midst of the 2018 Banner contest so please feel encouraged to submit your creations.
* In August, we collaborated with Lions Bay House Concerts to present the first “Eat Together” event at Lions Bay Beach. Lions Bay Arts provided some sponsorship through Zadel Jewellery Studio and Peter Wreglesworth, paid for chair rentals and promotional materials. By all accounts, our residents really enjoyed the opportunity be together to listen to great music, share a meal and enjoy a beautiful setting.
* We had the fourth annual Christmas Fair in November and had more artists and artisans participate than last year, in fact we had to turn some people away as we were totally full. We created a very warm and inviting atmosphere with live Christmas music, Christmas decorations, mulled apple cider and cookies. We had vendors with jewelry, spices, chocolate, books, leather journals, power bars, specialty relish, wooden bowls, Christmas candles and much more. Children were able to make Christmas ornaments for their trees at home. We generated a $468 donation to the Vancouver Food Bank through our basket raffle and through the generous donation of 30% of Daniel Le Chocolate Belge sales for the day.
* 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 are currently working on a communication strategy that will link all events and websites together so that the full arts and culture program will be easily available to Sea to Sky corridor residents and tourists alike. This creates a huge opportunity for Lions Bay Artists to be visible to a very wide and popular tourist destination area.

Challenges

* We have talked before about strengthening our relationships with artists. Apparently, we are not the only ones who find this challenging. We will be engaging with our artists one on one over the course of this year, receiving feedback and providing information as to the benefits we can offer.
* We are proposing that we become self-funded by the end of 2019. We will talk more about this later in the meeting.

What’s coming up….

* We have begun the Celebrating Arts! Cultural series sponsored through Dodd Financial Group. Our inaugural event was “An Evening in Sicily” which was sold out quickly and enthusiastically attended. The winning combination of author Karen Dodd, reading from her new novel, Scare Away the Dark, set in Calabria and Lucy Traini’s demonstration of Pasta alla Putanesca made for a memorable evening. Stay tuned for more evenings and workshops this year that celebrate the arts.
* 2nd Eat Together on August 12th at Lions Bay Beach.
* Our fifth annual Christmas Fair will be held Sunday, Nov 18th.
* We are proposing to create a Lions Bay calendar which will be for sale at the Christmas Fair. We will be inviting local and member photographers to submit their favourite photos of Lions Bay for potential inclusion so stay tuned for the invite.