

Annual Report 2023



OUR MISSION IS TO SUPPORT, PROMOTE AND CELEBRATE AN ATMOSPHERE OF CREATIVITY IN THE AREAS OF SHAWNIGAN LAKE, COBBLE HILL & MILL BAY. WE ARE DEDICATED TO ENGAGING & CONNECTING OUR SOUTH END COMMUNITY MEMBERS THROUGH ARTS EVENTS & ACTIVITIES FOR ADULTS & YOUTH, WHILE EDUCATING AND BUILDING AN AWARENESS OF HOW THE ARTS CAN ENRICH PEOPLE'S LIVES.

PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT

It is such a pleasure this year to have time to step back & share a real sense of pride and accomplishment with the other hardworking members of the CSAG Board. Together with the growing number of volunteers & members who support the Cowichan South Arts Guild in its goals, we have made huge strides!! Consistency & sustainability in programming have been priority, as well as *getting the word out* through our new & improved website, local publications, word of mouth, and our bi-weekly **Creative Pulse** updates & annual **H'Artbeat Reflections**.

By building a sense of connection & appreciation for our volunteers we strive to build teams who will return year after year to help with the annual events that are making their mark in the South Cowichan. Beginning its third season, both the monthly **Acoustic Jam** & the weekly **Inspire! Youth Art Tent** (summer) have been hugely successful with unexpectedly large numbers of participants joining us regularly. We continue to offer all the drop in programs from 2022, with fair to good attendance depending on the season, a testament to the sustainability of our choices, and we actively monitor each program with monthly reports, to see where we can adjust to be sure we are serving our community successfully.

We have refined our vision over the past 4 years offering a late Winter gathering, previously called 'Once Upon a Time' , & have shifted to offering, in partnership with Shawnigan Museum, our 2nd season of **'The Art of Storytelling'**, an all ages weekend event focused on oral storytelling. With good-sized enthusiastic audiences last year, we anticipate from the positive feedback we received that this year will continue to draw good sized multigenerational groups. We have added another well received program, in partnership with South Cowichan Music Jam & the Malahat Legion - a monthly opportunity for local semi professional musicians to connect & jam informally on stage together. This happily adds another partnership for CSAG in the South Cowichan area, & has proven to already be a mutually beneficial connection for all 3 organizations !

An exciting new project which is on its way towards completion this spring is the **Community Art Caravan**, which emerged from the vision of creating a portable home base for CSAG, which, while happily & successfully sharing space in a variety of locations with various other organizations, will now proudly be able to store, transport, display & even offer some workshops out of the creative, whimsical little arts home, while travelling to a variety of locations around the valley.

All in all, CSAG has grown significantly, & our challenge now will be to remain sustainable by finding grants that will help us pay for admin staff to support the committed & enthusiastic volunteer team currently carrying the large load!

Meet The BOARD



Cowichan South Arts Guild Society
Current Board Contact Information: 2023 / 24

President/Chair - Jennie Stevens * 250 710 8485 * woodruffmusic@gmail.com
Vice Chair - Diane Mellott * 778 679 0048 * danieloumellott@gmail.com
(Acting) Secretary - Jennie Stevens / Diane Mellott _____
Treasurer - Diane Mellott _____
Director - Kayla Dangerfield * 250 881 4548 * kaylaraedawn88@gmail.com
Director - Theresa Zip * 780 708 5938 * theresazip@gmail.com
Director - Nicole Rallis * 250 743 1899 * nicolerallis@gmail.com



Current 2023/24 CSAG Activities:

SPOTLIGHT COFFEE HOUSE SERIES - small fee

Provides cultural & artistic opportunities for local performing and visual artists to highlight their talents
Location for live intimate concerts: SLCC round room (4 x year)

ACOUSTIC JAMS - free

Facilitated opportunity for music lovers to connect & play together in a relaxed setting.
Location: Mill Bay Hall/Cobble Hill Pavilion - 2nd Sunday of month - 3:30 - 6:00pm (10 x year)

S. C. MUSIC JAMS - free

Semi professional musicians gather to Jam with others on stage, in collaboration with house band 'Turnip The Beet', encourages connections & provides lively social atmosphere for locals.
Location: Malahat Legion, Shawnigan Lake, 3rd Friday of month - 7 - 10pm (10 x yr)

SAMPLER WORKSHOP SERIES - small fee

Monthly, arts facilitators present a variety of musical and visual arts opportunities in their chosen field of expertise. (Examples - watercolour, metis beading, printmaking, felting, ukulele etc)
Location: varied (approx 8 - 10 per year)

MAKER CIRCLE - free

Community members are invited to bring their portable artwork/creative projects & spend 2.5 hours weekly with like-minded individuals for healthy social interaction & inspirational conversation.
Location: SLCC - alternate Thursdays, 12:30 - 3:15pm

FEARLESS FRIDAY ART CIRCLE - free

Non instructional - welcomes artists of all abilities for ongoing adventure of community building, through the pleasure of painting!
Location: Mill Bay Community Hall - alternate Fridays, 12:45 - 3:15pm

INSPIRED BY READING (Book Club) - free

CSAG hosts an Open Book Club for anyone interested in reading & sharing inspiring conversation.
Book selections are based on creating & sustaining a hopeful & compassionate mindset.
Location: South Cowichan Library, Mill Bay Centre - 2nd Monday of month, 6:30 - 8pm

EXPLORE & CREATE YOUTH WORKSHOPS - free

Family & youth oriented experiences (paper making, weaving, wire sculpture, blackout poetry, mask making, marimba etc) flexible ages, variety of facilitators
Projects displayed in Online Gallery (website) & summer Outdoor Gallery (MITP)
Location: Salal Room, Evergreen School, C.H. - 3rd Sunday of month, 1:30 - 3:30pm

CREATIVE CONVERSATIONS - free

Community brainstorming sessions, simple structure provided stimulates ideas, energy & support for creating more arts programming for the community.
Location: Woodruff Garden / Studio (# varies each year)

EVENTS -

WINTER (SOLSTICE) SPIRAL/SINGALONG - December 3/12 *Village Light Up / SL Pavilion

EQUINOX & SOLSTICE Singalongs - Mar 21, June 21, Sept 21, * SL Pavilion

ART IN THE PARK - - July * Elsie Miles Park, (in cooperation with SLCC)

INSPIRE! Youth Art Tent - July/Aug - * Music In The Park, CH (partnership with CHES)

ART OF STORYTELLING - March - * SLCC, all ages, celebrating oral storytelling, (partner SLMuseum)

STORYTELLING NOOK - October * SLCC, (partner SLCA) - Fall Fair & Market

Volunteers Hours 2023

It would not be possible to pull off this very full list of regular activities & events without the incredible dedication of the CSAG directors and team members who keep the society running smoothly, as each year, the organization continues to grow more solid in its foundation. Many thanks to all who contribute to the strong team effort through the many valuable volunteer hours given, which keeps the guild in its stride!

Recorded volunteer hours (just an estimate) - over 3,300... too busy to keep track!

A variety of community members (including youth) also help to support the society's initiatives, which adds many valuable volunteer hours of service. It is impossible to gauge this enormous time commitment, however it is worth noting & highlighting the value of a strong community volunteer base.

Thank You Volunteers!



SOME OF OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2023

Implemented many Strategic Plan actions
Created an *Indigenous Relations* Board position

Engaged in Indigenous training & outreach
Increased marketing & awareness of CSAG

Bi-Weekly **Creative Pulse** Newsletters

Annual **H'Artbeat** Reflection

Completed & refined new Website

Engaged new tech support & training

Applied for 4 new Grants:

BC Gaming (received) / BC Arts Accelerate (unsuccessful) / Gaming M.Legion (received)
Vancouver Foundation (unsuccessful)

Submitted & received approval for proposal of **Community Arts Caravan**

Purchased & implemented existing structure for programming

Initiated designing & building the custom Caravan structure to be completed Mar '24

New Programming

The Art of Storytelling (templating a 2 day event)

Shifted existing program to 'Fearless Friday Art Circle'

Added popular South Cowichan Music Jam

Emerging & Continuing Partnerships:

Cobble Hill Events Society

Shawnigan Kids Theatre Troupe

Shawnigan Lake Community Association

Shawnigan Rotary ECOClub

Shawnigan Lake Museum

Local Elementary / High Schools

Shawnigan Players

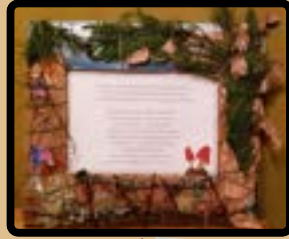
local small private arts businesses

Outreach Programming

St John's Academy -
weaving vessels



Earth Day - EcoRotary
Nature Frames



CVRD Summer Camp -
papermaking



Ecole Cobble Hill
Graduation display



Alice in Wonderland
SKTT



Music In The Park -
ART TENT



Ancestor's Walk -
Gifts for Elders



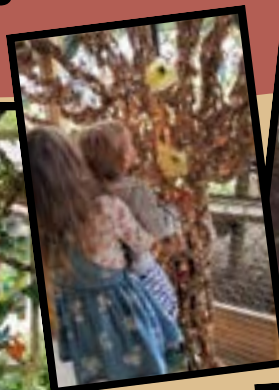
SLCC Fall Fair & Market -
Storytelling Nook



Evergreen Independent School -
Autumn Leaves for the Communi-Tree



Community-created art projects



Summer

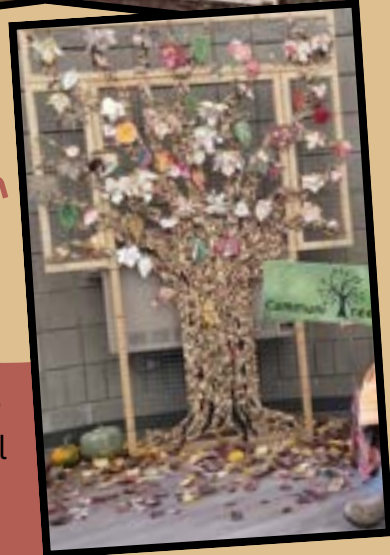
Spring

Autumn

Winter

Evolution of COMMUNI-TREE

From its simple woven beginnings, Communi-Tree has become a much loved installation at almost all our events, with children & families engaged in adjusting the foliage & blossoms to suit the seasonal changes

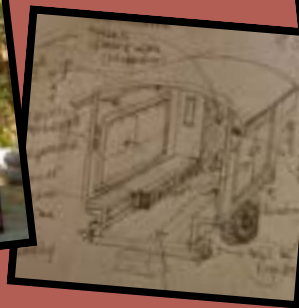


It gets hot in the summer at the Art Tent, so this year we created a **Community Panel Sun Screen** - over 84 children contributed!



Inspire! Community ART CARAVAN

Our vision is on its way to becoming reality - a storage, transport, *mini mobile art gallery*! We purchased an old plant cart which served us well in 2023, as we refined our design for a custom renovation, giving a unique way to share the arts with our south cowichan valley community. Project to be completed March '24



Regular Programming

Maker Circle



Acoustic Jam



Sampler Workshops



Fearless Art Circle



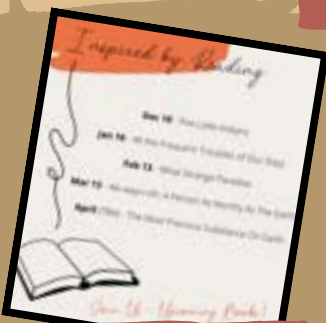
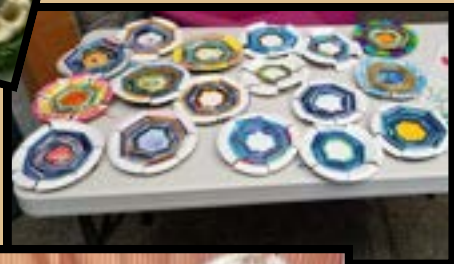
S.C. Music Jam



Explore & Create Workshops



Spotlight Coffee House



Inspired By Reading



EVENTS



Garden Concert

Art of Storytelling



Alice In Wonderland



Solstice/Equinox Singalongs

