

The Vancouver Life Drawing Society AGM

Saturday April 8, 2017

President's Report

Our 2016 to 2017 fiscal year was uneventful for the most part. It was marked by our continued fiscal stability and reliance on our dedicated volunteers who kept Basic Inquiry viable. On the membership front we seemed to have enjoyed an expansion of Corporate members and the volume of ticket sales they purchase. Further the TD investments we held were cashed out and added to our VanCity accounts.

One objective accomplished last year was a proposed improvement to Board accountability/financial security. Two accounts were created with VanCity: a Savings account that requires two Board signatures to access and a smaller Operating/chequing account requiring one Board signature to access. From the Savings account a set amount is automatically transferred to the Operating account every month. Balances between the two accounts are corrected as needed by the Treasurer.

This year saw the exodus of some long standing volunteers. Colin Ayers who was one of the Society's original members and our Saturday morning session manager moved on. In recognition to Colin's long time membership a Society sponsored show of Colin's work was discussed. We welcome Danielle Wills as our present Saturday morning session manager.

Our VP Randal Cullen who served on the Board since 2010 most recently made the decision to leave the Board. On behalf of the Society I wish to recognize the many ways Randal contributed to its success. He initiated and carried out several projects from the printing and sale of the calendars, establishing a student bursary with the Emily Carr University, setting up and managing our TD Investments, managing our studio rentals, Corporate Member ticket sales, the rental of the storage spaces above the kitchen and in 2012 negotiated our lease agreement with the City. We wish him the best and look forward to his continued presence at the studio (as long as he remains a member) given he is entitled to gratis sessions in recognition of his seven years of service.

Looking ahead the Board has been considering the possibility of moving to a new location. BC Artscape is proposing developing a facility at the Sun Wah building in China Town. The Board has applied as an expression of interest in the project. As more information comes forward the Board will be engaged in deciding if the move will be in the Society's best interests.

it still remains challenging to recruit qualified volunteers to carry out the work needed to keep the Society functioning. I encourage all members to take this to heart and look forward to seeing many of you at the AGM.

Douglas Smardon
President