

## SOUTH SIMCOE ARTS COUNCIL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

### **Report of the Executive Director**

**December 10, 2015**

As our President has highlighted; each year we review all activities from the previous year noting successes, weaknesses and value of each and every activity. Program evaluations and feedback from participants and the general public are included. Decisions are made to ensure value for money and impact on members and the community.

In 2016, we are forecasting more courses for our youth, emerging and artists wanting to learn something new and fresh!

Our Mandate continues: To foster the cultural enrichment of South Simcoe by developing a widespread appreciation of, support for and involvement with the arts. To continually enhance our collaborations with our community partners, which in turn enrich and enhance arts and culture events.

Our overall Vision is “Arts for All.” We must remember that the “Arts” is not just visual art. It includes many disciplines!

Our Artistic Vision is: To inspire all artists to develop creatively; and, to enable them to feel encouraged to express themselves with new and fresh approaches; to provide forums for all artists to share their work and talent in our communities. Both the Gallery at the Gibson Centre and our new downtown locations are a perfect forum for us to achieve this!

Our specific Artistic Goal is to increase our series of educational workshops for all youth, emerging and new generation artists; to strengthen skills and share knowledge; to educate all artists to the use of social media for their benefit, thus capturing their further interest. This also equates to expanding Literary Arts, Photography classes, opportunities for Music Festival participants and the active youth component of Performing Arts in the community.

These fresh approaches have attracted new volunteers in particular, the enthusiasm and volunteerism of a younger set.

Coupled with our new and fresh approach, Lisa Rosati has contributed her valuable skill sets to our daily administration of the Arts Council, co-ordination of volunteers and graphic presentations. Lisa has as well volunteered many hours to attend our events throughout the year.

Suu Taylor chairing the Music Festival Committee for 2016 has attracted a new set of volunteers, and is ready for a very successful 2016 season!

Sarah Jane O'Donnell, Crazy Pants Theatre has volunteered her arts and business expertise one day a week which has led to further collaborations in the community.

Mary Lucky & Michelle Eissler, have as well stepped up to the plate with an abundance of energy to oversee our Arts in the Community program.

Throughout 2015 we were thrilled and thankful to have had approx. 297 volunteers assist us with our events, our daily administration and our move. We are amidst change and are adapting well. Equipped with Ontario Arts Council Operational Funding this past year; we are committed to successfully move forward to obtain a multiyear grant with the Ontario Arts Council. Our footprint has expanded; we are off and running once again!