

Prince Edward County Arts Council Annual General Meeting Minutes **June 12, 2025 at the County Arts Lab 5PM**

Chair: Julia Howell

1. Call to Order and Welcome: (Julia)
The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:06 PM, welcomed the members and Board and gave the CA Land Acknowledgement.
2. Approval of the Agenda: M – Gwen Shandroski; S – JC Sulzenko
3. Approval of 2024 AGM Minutes from June 7, 2024:
M – Gwen Shandroski; S – Dale Wainwright
4. Presentation of 2024 Financial Statements by James Williamson, Welch LLP:
Using a power point the 2024 Financial Statements were presented by James to the members. Some highlights which he pointed out were:
 - Memberships were up in 2024
 - Individual and corporate donations saw a big increase in 2024
 - Rent, repairs and improvements were up
 - CA applied for and received \$138,623 in grants in 2024
 - Revenue was \$497,115 and Expenses were \$508,466
 - Balance of Revenue and Expenditure normal for non-profits
 - No change in risks exposure this year from 2023
 - Coming commitments in lease agreements
 - CA revenues are still under \$500,000 so no CRA Audit is required yet, but may arise in the near future
 - Overall, he found the Financials in a good state

Julia thanked James for his presentation, and noted the huge contribution which Paul Nethercott, a CPA, has made as our new Treasurer (since mid-2024) in dealing with the financials.

Motion to Approve 2024 Financial Statements – Paul Nethercott; S – Christine Winiarz Searle
Approved

5. Nomination of Welch LLP to Complete 2025 Financial Review:
Motion by - Paul Nethercott; S – Talitha Tolles
6. Governance Committee Report (Present new Articles of Amendment):

The Chair of the CA Governance committee, Christine WS, gave her report on what the committee has achieved during 2024 and explained the highlights. One of the most important accomplishments was bringing the CA governance elements into full

compliance with ONCA by the autumn 2024 deadline. She also went over the other Governance highlights, presented the new Articles of Amendment, explained the Organizational Chart(s), the Committees Terms of Reference, completing the Board Matrix, and the evaluation of ourselves as an organization and how to develop further down the line.

The 2025-26 Governance Work Plan was approved by the Board on March 6, 2025.

Julia thanked Christine for her report as well as the incredible contribution she made to our Governance committee as we approached the ONCA deadline last year. Julia announced that this was Christine's last meeting as a Board member as she was stepping down from the Board this month. Luckily for CA, Christine has agreed to continue to be a consultant on our Governance Committee as we head into the future.

7. Election of Board of Directors:

The Board Secretary, Catelyn Thornton, presented the 2025 Slate of Officers and Directors:

Chair – Julia Howell

Vice-Chair and Secretary – Catelyn Thornton

Treasurer – Paul Nethercott

Directors at Large – Erin Hewitson, Andrea Piller, Talitha Tolles

The Secretary called 3 times for nominations from the floor. As there were no nominations from the floor, the Chair proposed a motion that the membership accepts the 2025 slate as presented.

M – Christine Winiarz Searle; S – Gwen Shandroski

Approved

8. Executive Director's Report – Janna Smith:

Copies of the Executive Director's report were made available to the members in attendance.

Janna welcomed and thanked the membership for their attendance and their support and advocacy as CA navigated the storm of losing their annual municipal grant in 2024. Janna went on to report on 1) Fund Development 2) Membership 3) Signature Programs (PEC Studio Tour; Art in the County; The Maker's Hand). She thanked and recognized the support of John M and Bernice Parrott Foundation and Adam Busscher of Picton Home Hardware in the transformation of the County Arts Lab as a gallery space. Next steps are submitting grants to transform the Lab into a performing arts space as well.

In her report, Janna also noted the impact of our CA Programming. To summarize, in 2024 CA delivered 20 programs or activities, engaged with 11,300 residents and visitors, placing \$316,655 into the hands of artists. Add that to staff salaries and CA facilitated \$500,000 in earnings for Arts and Culture in PEC. According to the Culture, Arts, Sports and Heritage Economic Index Model, our direct and indirect economic impact (including GDP, labour and employment) was \$2 million.

Various staff and Board members then listed and thanked our many supporters, donors, foundations and grant providers who made possible all of the CA programs (Community Living; Indigenous Voices Fund; Art Together; Youth Craft Academy; Sparkbox Studio – 2024 artist grant recipients). They then read testimonials from the participants who talked about the positive impact of each program and grant.

Janna's report then looked ahead to 2025 focusing on new programs and grants:

- Art at the Heart of Picton – funded by FedDev Ontario's My Main Street program
- PEC's new Public Art Policy adopted by Council on June 10/25 thanks to an incredible proposal prepared by CA staff Andrea Dawes and Stacey Sproule.
- Public Art Program development and delivery and informed by community members of the newly formed Public Art Committee
- CA's public art grant (part of our Artist Fund) has received a huge boost of \$39,000 from an anonymous donor
- Arts and Tourism Advocacy – a new collaborative relationship with Visit the County. Janna has been nominated to join the Board of Directors of VTC, and she and VTC's ED, Sarah Fox, have both been invited to be panelists at this year's Ontario Tourism Summit in October

Janna finished her report by thanking our members, our community partners, industry peers, the CA Board of Directors, and finally her invaluable staff.

9. Close:

Before closing remarks from the Chair, there were questions and comments from the meeting's attendees.

Member, Janet Scharf, wanted to know more about the Art at the Heart of Picton art map and brochure. Was there a design committee or just CA staff on it? She stated that some CA members outside of Picton Main St. felt that it was not equitable or inclusive of all PEC members. Janna explained that we had applied for this grant which has a mandate to "activate Main Streets", and it stipulated that the art map had to be geographically close to the CA Arts lab and offices spanning only a few blocks in either direction. Janna said that she would like to work closely with the other Main streets of PEC towns and villages to apply for their own grant of this sort. Gwen Shandroski noted that the people who designed the "My Main Street" grant do not understand that in our PEC municipality, we have 3 towns with main streets. Janet thanked Janna for providing clarity on the full parameters of this grant. She also suggested that perhaps CA could put a broader art map of all the whole County on our website. Dale Wainwright, Chair of the Studio Tour, says that they have used Tourika! to create an interactive map, and says it could be implemented by CA.

Andrea Dawes said that CA staff have worked on many grants to benefit the entire County and CA membership. Not all have been successful, but more applications are coming up and we are waiting to hear on more such as the Municipal grant and OAC grant. Janna added that we want to respond to our artists' and members' comments and suggestions. Julia expressed her hopes that our explanation has assuaged concerns.

Janna explained that CA is in constant talks with other PEC cultural organizations and that we are NOT part of the municipality, so it is a constant drive to build funding. Data reveals that arts-focused tourists spend more money while visiting, so our advocacy regarding this continues. Janet S. noted that Visit the County could perhaps do more of CA's and other artists' marketing as a DMO. Further discussion ensued on the arts being a major tourist draw.

At 6:29PM, the Chair thanked the attendees, asked if there were any more comments and then called for a Motion to Adjourn. M – Janet Scharf; S – Victoria Brave. Approved.