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June 8, 2021: Director/Curator's Report

The afternoon of May 26 marked another important milestone for the Woodstock Art Gallery. It was the inaugural virtual celebration of the *New Impressions: High School Juried Exhibition*. The Friends of the Woodstock Art Gallery Legacy Visual Arts Scholarship Award was announced alongside the Best in Show and Juror's Choice honorees. It was an excellent presentation that featured the professional jurors providing insights and comments to assist our young artists in the pursuit of art as a future career path. I want to commend the education staff, Stephanie Porter, Head of Education, Deanna Logan, Education Coordinator and Robin De Angelis, Cultural Communications Coordinator for taking the ashes of the *YouthQuake: Young Artists Showcase* and pivoting to create a meaningful experience for our local youth (even with the Gallery doors are closed to the public). This project was graciously sponsored by djDesign and our media sponsor was Heart FM.

In addition to many other wonderful projects in development the Education team is keen to pilot their team building program with the Staff and Board on June 22. Feedback from this session will lead to marketing this program with the hopes that it becomes a revenue generating stream this fall and into next year.

Nell Wheal, Head of Collections has been busy preparing the documentation for the upcoming collections committee meeting on June 21 as well as preparing the Canadian Cultural Property Export Review Board application for the recently donated works by Thelma Rosner. This is in addition to starting an application for the Elizabeth L. Gordon grant for new acquisitions and drafting key documents to assist with training on our new collections management database.

Sara Cuthbert, Gallery Operations Coordinator has been key in assisting with the strategic planning process as well as the new phone system with the IT department at the City. She is also processing all the payments for



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the *New Impressions* artists and taking the lead on corresponding with the *Visual Elements: Annual Juried Exhibition* artists.

Given the province's Roadmap to Reopen the Gallery will be moving forward in striking all of its current exhibitions except the *Animals of the Arctic* and turning over all the exhibition spaces. When the Gallery can re-open it will be with a new suite of shows that really highlights the local artists in Woodstock and surrounding areas. As such Kellen Hodgins, Facility Maintenance will be stretching his skill set to take the lead on physically installing all the new exhibition. I am aiming for September 7 to be our official re-opening date and planning for Wednesday September 15 (evening tbc) to host a virtual celebration with a special "Taste of Art" flavor component. More details will follow in the coming weeks.

It is intended that our summer students will be able to join the Gallery come June 21. We are still waiting on confirmation of acceptance of job offers. As the Gallery is not offering summer camp this season we will only have two students join us in the positions of Front Desk Assistant and Curatorial/Collections Assistant.

I am pleased to let you know that at the June 3rd City Council meeting I was directed to start the public consultation process to rename the west side of the Vansittart Park the Florence Carlyle Park that will include a section dedicated the Bruce Flowers Sculpture Garden. This process will roll out starting June 21st and I will report back to City Council in August with the intent to launch the call to artists for the public art commission in September.

This month and next I will be focusing on applying for two large grants. The first is through Community Foundations of Canada, Canada Healthy Communities Initiative for which I am reactivating the public art bike rack project I tried unsuccessfully to get going for Canada's sesquicentennial. The second is the Green and Inclusive Community Buildings funding through infrastructure Canada for the development of the Gallery's 4th floor.



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Recent Media

Akimbo, "Pointing to the Art World's Possibilities: A Speculative Future — Mary Reid, Woodstock Art Gallery." May 12, 2021.

<https://akimbo.ca/akimblog/pointing-to-the-art-worlds-possibilities-a-speculative-future-mary-reid-woodstock-art-gallery/>

Robin De Angelis, *Woodstock Sentinel-Review*, "Art City: The art of stories." May 20, 2021.

<https://www.woodstocksentinelreview.com/opinion/columnists/artcity-the-art-of-stories>

Heart FM, "WAG announces scholarship and high school juried exhibition winners." May 27, 2021. <http://www.heartfm.ca/news/local-news/wag-announces-scholarship-and-high-school-juried-exhibition-winners/>

Kathleen Saylor, *Woodstock Sentinel-Review*, "Art gallery awards scholarship, recognizes student artists." May 27, 2021.

<https://www.woodstocksentinelreview.com/news/local-news/arts-gallery-awards-scholarship-recognizes-student-artists>