



WOODSTOCK ART GALLERY

April 9, 2024: Director/Curator Report

As the Education Department moves out of the busyness of March Break and the winding down of the winter/spring programs the bookings and offerings for school tours are steadily increasing. All programs have now been migrated over to the new class registration system. The Education Department has launched and installed the 2nd self-serve activity in the 3rd floor hallway using words to create poetry inspired by works from the Permanent Collection. Contract Art Instructor and Visual Elements juror, Lindsay Liboiron is currently facilitating a 4-week teen and adult workshop series, *Portrait Study with Charcoal*, on Wednesdays, April 3-24. Lindsay is also leading the *Creative Pathways* mentorship program which is being generously sponsored by DJ Design. Three new high-school students will begin their volunteer training this month to assist with the delivery of programs this summer as part of their 40-hour volunteer requirement to graduate. Winter/ Spring High School Co-op student Karolina has been job shadowing, researching, and developing the Open Studio program in July which is sponsored by Kingsmen Group Inc. Education Intern, Samantha Henderson has completed the Young Canada Works final reporting as well as the complete inventory of the Ross Butler collection. Due to funding provided by Ingenium Canada for the Butler inventory Samantha will stay on at the Gallery until to end of May to complete a social narrative guide for WAG along with making improvements to the current WAG Accessibility Guide. The Gallery was also successful in receiving the funding from Young Canada works to hire a new Education Intern, as well as the 2024 summer students assisting with Education and Collections.

Now that the downtown revitalization project has more clarity the 2024 exhibition schedule is in the process of being firmed up and has been circulated with the packet for review. As the construction will be in the fall of 2024 only one block from the Gallery, access will be somewhat unpredictable and challenging. Hence the fall lineup will focus on local talent and the permanent collection augmented with a very popular (and inexpensive) circulating exhibition from the Cartoon Art Museum in San Francisco, California featuring manga (Japanese comics).

The Public Art Committee met in March to review the shortlist proposals for the Florence Carlyle Public Art Commission. The proposals will now move to the public consultation stage with an online survey and presentation in the Gallery's foyer during the month of May. It is intended that the commission will be awarded and announced at the June 8 Open House.



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Danielle Hoevenaars, Head of Collections is currently doing a deep dive into the issues regarding the Collections Management database as well as getting a handle on the back log of donations. The first Collections Committee meeting of the year is booked for June with a very full agenda. She is also gathering content and writing statements for the Cultural Property application process for the Spearin and Merritt donations. This is in addition to preparing a work plan for the Collections Summer Student which will include cleaning the data records of the permanent collection as well the physical reorganization of the vaults.

Stephan Cam, Digital Projects Coordinator has completed exhibition videos of Irma Makariunaite and Roxanne Tochor along with creating social media content for the programs in education. A donor profile video of Leslie Sorochan has begun and will be launched at the Donor and Volunteer Recognition event on April 17. Testing of all media types including converting sculpture objects into viewable 3D objects in the collections database were successful on both the backend and public portals. Working closely with Danielle he is fine-tuning procedures and nearly ready to deploy digital capture for Collections.

Sara Cuthbert, Gallery Operations Coordinator and Keziah Hope, Front Desk Attendant are keeping all the processes at the front desk humming, include website sales, donations, refund requests, invoicing, membership, bank deposits, gift shop inventory, as well as transition over to the new class registration/POS system. The 2023 Community Report has been fully disseminated to the various stakeholders with many positive comments in return. With the 4th floor construction on the horizon, Sara has also drafted a comprehensive Site-Specific Contractor Agreement outlining how to operate in the specialized spaces of the Gallery. Working in close concert with Keziah the Donor and Volunteer Recognition event on April 17 is coming together quite nicely. On top of all of this, is the intake of the *Visual Elements 66: Annual Juried Exhibition* submissions.

Kellen Hodgins, Facility Maintenance took the lead in setting up and executing the Gallery's semi-annual fire drill. He is working with both Education and Collections to reorganize the spaces on the third floor to facilitate the increase in usage from school tours and summer programs as well as creating a photography studio for the digitization of the collection.

As Robin De Angelis, Communications Specialist for the City, becomes more integrated in her new role the management of the Gallery's social media channels will



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move over to Stephan in the coming months. However, the impact of his work is already quite evident in the analytics attached. There were no media stories about the Gallery since our last meeting, however Roxanne Tocher photographed in her installation "*I am driven by colour*" graced the front page of the Oxford Review on March 21, 2024.

Brian Meehan, kindly organized a meeting with the Facility Rentals Coordinator at Museum London on March 25 which was enormously helpful. The RFP for architectural services and costing is almost complete and will be my priority to have it finalized for circulation by the end of April.

Lastly, the budget was passed by City Council on March 21 and the additional positions, Installation Technician (PT), Facility Rentals/Special Events Coordinator (shared with Market Theatre) and Custodian (shared with Corporate Services) were approved. I will begin working on these job descriptions to be posted in May with a July start date.



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