

**Visual Arts Alberta - CARFAC  
Annual General Meeting Draft Minutes**

Location: Stanford Perrott Lecture Theatre, located in the main mall of the Alberta College of Art & Design (1407 - 14 Avenue NW, Calgary, AB).  
Date: Saturday October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014  
Time: 2:00pm - 3:30pm  
Chair: John Maywood (president)

Open to all members in good standing of Visual Arts Alberta - CARFAC. Refreshments served.

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1. Quorum Assessment & Call to Order: Quorum Reached with 10 current Board members (John Maywood, Sherri Chaba, Glenda Dennis, Paddy Lamb, Carli Castle, Brenda Kim Christiansen, Joe Clare, Heather Huston, Sydney Lancaster and Gisa Mayer); 12 Members in Good Standing and 3 guests. Meeting started at 2:06pm

2. Introduction of 2013 / 2014 Board: John Maywood introduces the current Board.

3. **MOTION to approve Agenda: Carli Castle**  
**SECONDED: Heather Huston. All in Favour**

4. **MOTION to approve Minutes from September 28th, 2013 AGM: Brenda Kim Christiansen**  
**SECONDED: Glenda Dennis. All in Favour.**

5. REPORTS

a. President's Report (John Maywood)

John Maywood reported that Visual Arts Alberta – CARFAC is financially secure and our main purpose is to provide information for artists and about the visual arts sector. John Maywood discussed how Visual Arts Alberta – CARFAC was formed with no resources to really take responsibility for the visual arts sector of Alberta. (He mentioned that we were never given enough money to really do this job). Our advocacy role of shaking things up can only be a positive role for Visual Arts Alberta – CARFAC. John Maywood mentioned the history of the four founding groups that were part of Visual Arts Alberta Association and the decision for them to become independent bodies. Our organization is expanding throughout Alberta.

There is a difficult road ahead for the Arts in Canada and the world. Maywood referred to an article in the Globe and Mail that indicated that times are tough around the world for artists; the situation is serious. The 0.5% cannot continue to get all the money. To conclude, Maywood mentioned that Visual Arts Alberta – CARFAC applied to take part in the New Pathways program so we could learn new strategies to remain relevant and to secure the needed money to remain viable.

b. Treasurer's Report (Glenda Dennis) report & audited financial statement

Glenda Dennis reported on the Financial Situation of Visual Arts Alberta Association on March 31, 2014. She mentioned that we had \$107,008 in cash at year end and that the total revenue for the 2013 – 14 fiscal year was \$145,336.

She highlighted that our main grant (the PASO grant from the AFA decreased again to \$91,428.00 and remarked that since 2011 our PASO grant has decreased by \$16,963 (it was noted that since we no longer give grants to 3 organizations, we are just slightly worse off than in 2011).

Our first casino has contributed \$78,692 to our organization to be spent over 21 months. \$21,497 was spent of casino money in fiscal year 2013 – 14.

Dennis noted a small well deserved wage increase to the Executive Director and staff and an increase to Artist fees. Expenditures for 2013 – 14 were \$144,948.00.

In closing it was noted that a \$15,000 GIC was purchased by Visual Arts Alberta – CARFAC on September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014 in keeping with new rules that are being established by the AFA for organizations receiving PASO grants.

**MOTION to approve Financial Statement for 2013 – 2014: Sydney Lancaster**  
**SECONDED: Paddy Lamb. All in Favour.**

c. Executive Director's Report (Chris W. Carson)

I have been Executive Director of Visual Arts Alberta - CARFAC for just over 4 years. Within this time, together, we have worked on building a healthier art organization; an organization with a vision for the future. Several board members who started soon after I did will be retiring from the Board today, retiring from the Board but hopefully remaining true to our organization's vision.

Two year ago in this same room in Calgary, Visual Arts Alberta Association became the Provincial Affiliate for CARFAC in Alberta. As an affiliate we now defends artists' economic and legal rights and educates the public on fair dealing with artists. We have a real purpose as an organization and we are spreading this message to artists throughout Alberta. Visual Arts Alberta - CARFAC is a Provincial Arts Service Organization with a direct tie to the National Arts Service Organization (CARFAC). During the past year we have worked on establishing our messaging and making it consistent over all our communication streams (posters, postcards, email communications, website, Facebook, twitter, LinkedIn and Tumblr). We have been working with a communications consultant hired by Joe Clare to help us in this process. To move ahead as an organization we need clear messaging. By establishing clear messages, we now intend to grow our organization with a goal to double our membership within two years. The other goal for our organization is to adapt our organization so we are not so dependent upon grants for our funding.

Visual Arts Alberta - CARFAC is working on establishing new partnerships throughout Alberta and becoming a true provincial organization with an increased involvement in Calgary, Red Deer Lethbridge and other parts of Alberta. Our organization is working with APAC (Alberta Partnership of Art & Culture) an organization made up of all the PASOs and the CIAs in Alberta. We are members of PACE, the Edmonton Arts Council, the Canadian Arts Coalition and the Allied Arts Council of

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Lethbridge. We partner is with the Edmonton Community Foundation and the Edmonton Arts Council to award the Eldon and Anne Foote Edmonton Visual Arts Prize (this past year this \$10,000 prize was awarded to Brenda Draney for an exhibition held exhibited at the Art Gallery of Alberta). Tomorrow you are invited to join us at the Southern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium to see Marking the Valley – a successful partnership established with the River Valley Alliance (this partnership with a non-arts organization is an example of strategies we will be employing in future years to partner with groups that have completely different demographics.

Needless to say the successes of Visual Arts Alberta is the result of the work by the past and present boards, (While I will not mention all the present and past Board Members by name, this organization would be nothing without our volunteer board) and by the staff. Sharon Moore-Foster, as Program & Outreach Coordinator provides some historical perspective for Visual Arts Alberta as she has worked for us for over 9 years. As assistant to the director, Wenda Salomons and Leona Olausen share this vital position. Working out of Calgary is Graeme Dearden in the position as Communications Assistant. Graeme works on twitter (we now have over 700 followers), Facebook (over 1100 friends), LinkedIn (with over 200 followers), establishing a presence on Tumblr and our website as well as assisting in all events in Calgary and providing valuable connections to the Calgary Arts Community. Kim Bruce is our Web Master living in Redwood Meadows, she is responsible for the navigation and logic of our website along with the quality o the graphic interchange.

There is always much to be done but this has been a remarkable year for Visual Arts Alberta- CARFAC. Thank you for your support. Your ideas are always welcome.

d. CARFAC Report (Paddy Lamb)

2014 will be defined by CARFAC's victory at the Supreme Court of Canada on May 14. In a unanimous decision the Court upheld CARFAC and RAAV's appeal on behalf of artists to restore binding minimum fees for artists at the National Gallery of Canada. The Court's decision sends a strong message to institutions across the country and acknowledges CARFAC's right to represent artists across the country. It also demonstrates what an organization with only two full-time staff and a modest budget can do with the support of its members.

It is important to acknowledge the work of the negotiating committee – Gerald Beaulieu, Karl Beveridge and Pierre Tessier who have volunteered countless hours over the last ten years in support of artists' rights. CARFAC is also indebted to our lawyers, David Yazbeck, Michael Fisher and Wassim Garzouzi, who argued the case so convincingly and whose commitment to our cause meant that much of the work was done pro-bono.

A great deal of time, energy and money was devoted to the NGC case. Thanks to the very generous financial support of members and friends across Canada who contributed to a fundraising campaign CARFAC can now move forward on a solid financial footing. There will be an important resumption of bargaining with the NGC, however, CARFAC's focus can now shift to other important issues.

The campaign to bring an Artists' Resale Right to Canada (in line with 70 countries worldwide) continues. CARFAC continues to lobby the government and in May meetings were held with the Minister of Canadian Heritage, Shelly Glover, as well as the Liberal Heritage critic, Stephane Dion. CARFAC members have met with more than 40 MPs and there is broad support across all parties for an amendment to the Copyright Act to include an Artists Resale Right. However, it is clearly not enough of a priority for the present government and CARFAC will continue to work on ways to have the ARR included in legislation.

You can make a vital contribution by joining in the campaign. If you haven't already done so - go to the website and email your MP!!

In anticipation of the ARR CARFAC has begun the reorganization of its copyright collective, known as CARCC [Canadian Artists' Representation Copyright Collective]. CARCC will be replaced by a new, not-for-profit organization which will represent all CARCC members and include the Quebec copyright collective operated by RAAV. This will result in a truly national collective that is better placed to deal with current demand and the ARR when it becomes law. Thanks are due to the members of the National CARCC Committee who worked with RAAV to develop a structure and bylaws for the new organization. If you haven't joined CARCC then it's really important that you do so.

CARFAC's National Conference and AGM was held in Toronto in September, in association with the Manifesto Festival of Community and Culture. The AGM included board elections, financial and regional reports as well as a ratification of CARFAC's revised bylaws which are now compliant with new federal legislation.

The conference was held at three different venues, 401 Richmond, OCAD and Artscape. Highlights included a screening of Portrait of Resistance – the Art & Activism of Carol Conde and Karl Beveridge. This was very appropriate as Karl has been an important part of the CARFAC negotiating team with the NGC. There were two panel discussions on Performance Art in Canada and Emerging Artist Practices as well as a number of tours of art performance, studio and gallery spaces throughout Toronto. Informally there were as usual many chances to share ideas with other artists from all parts of the country. Congratulations to the national organization committee and CARFAC Ontario for the superb organization and hosting.

As always there were less formal evening events including the CARFAC Supreme Court Celebration which included a wonderful speech from CARFAC past-president Gerald Beaulieu and David Jazbeck our wonderful lawyer. It was hard not to be optimistic if you were present and the event left nobody in any doubt that this organization's success lies in the commitment of its members nationwide.

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There was one question from Patrick Close about lack of communication from CARCC regarding impending changes to their operational structure. Paddy Lamb indicated that CARCC was now run by one part time employee who was trying to do an ever increasing list of duties.

**MOTION to approve all reports as presented: Sydney Lancaster**  
**SECONDED: Sherri Chaba, All in Favour**

6. ART ADVOCACY AWARDS -- special presentation (conducted by Sydney Lancaster, Gisa Mayer and Carli Castle)

Sydney Lancaster introduction:

We have a long history of artists working for artists in this province, and right across Canada. VAA-CARFAC is delighted to have this opportunity to recognize the contribution of Alberta Visual Artists to the ongoing work of Art Advocacy in its many forms.

These Art Advocacy Awards are informally known as “Tonies” - in honour of Artist-Advocate Tony Urquhart. Tony Urquhart is one of Canada's pioneering abstract artists; he is a member of the Order of Canada, and in 2009 he received the Governor General’s Award in Visual & Media Arts for his Outstanding Contribution to visual arts. Tony, along with Jack Chambers and Kim Ondaatje, was one of the founding members of CARFAC.

Tony donated a number of his prints to the CARFAC National office, to give to CARFAC members across the county in recognition of their work in art advocacy. CARFAC National gave 4 prints to each affiliate in 2013, and VAA-CARFAC had these beautiful works framed.

We presented two at our AGM in Edmonton in 2013: one to Sylvain Voyer - an Alberta Artist who was the first President of CARFAC National, and founding member of Latitude 53 in Edmonton, and the other to Margaret Witchl, who served the visual arts community for many years in various capacities, including as a CARFAC National Board Representative.

It is our pleasure today to present two more TONIES to Alberta Art Advocates - and to do so, I would like to call upon my fellow Board Members Gisa Mayer and Carli Castle.

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Carli Castle introduced how Norman Faulkner Advocated on behalf of artists and gave him a 2014 Arts Advocacy Award. Gisa Mayer introduced how Barbara Amos was important for arts advocacy in Alberta and presented her with an Arts Advocacy Award for 2014.

7. 2014 / 2015 Visual Arts Alberta - CARFAC Board Slate of Nominees (Conducted by Joe Clare and Heather Huston)

a. Board Member Election

- Jean Lindsay (Individual) for 2 years
- Paddy Lamb (Individual) for 2 years
- Ruby Mah (Individual) for 2 years
- John Maywood (Individual) for 2 years)
- Sara McKarney (Individual) for 2 years
- Jeff Rodier (Individual) for 2 years
- Bruce Watson (Individual) for 2 years

As there were no nominations from the floor the slate of candidates became official by acclamation.

b. Introduction of New Board (Board Members with one year remaining: Sydney Lancaster, Carli Castle, Gisa Mayer, Joe Clare and Heather Huston) NEW BOARD was introduced (the executive): Sydney Lancaster: President; John Maywood: Vice President; Jean Lindsay: Treasurer; Carli Castle: Secretary; Paddy Lamb: CARFAC Board Representative; Gisa Mayer: Calgary Executive Director and the following 6 Directors: Joe Clare, Heather Huston, Ruby Mah, Sara McKarney, Jeff Rodier and Bruce Watson.

Presidential Statement: (Sydney Lancaster)

This is a time of tremendous change in our Province, and these changes will have an impact on the livelihood of Visual Artists in Alberta. We have a new Premier, a new cabinet and agenda for the province, all of which spells change for arts organizations, fine art departments and art schools; of course, these changes impact individual artists as well. We are also facing a period of transition and development in which new models for the exhibition and sale of artists' work are being developed: pop-up galleries and sales, alternative exhibition spaces, and web-based galleries and sales models are transforming the way visual artists present their work and generate income from it.

And all of this is in a time when Hill Strategies have just released a statistical profile of Artists in Canada indicating that there was a 56% increase in the number of artists in Canada between 1989 and 2013, but that the median individual income for visual artists in 2010 was only \$17, 383.

VAA-CARFAC is changing too: as the newest CARFAC Affiliate, we are working hard to develop tools and programs that support the professional practice of visual arts in Alberta. Our mandate is to improve the socio-economic position of visual artists in Alberta by offering professional development, resources, and advocacy. We will strive to be resilient, responsive, and aware of the needs of Alberta Artists ... and to do these things, we need YOU. We need your input & ideas. We need to hear what you need to know to improve your professional practice, and what problems you are facing. And we need your support - every membership in VAA-CARFAC is a new voice for ALL visual artists in Alberta. So spread the word: VAA-CARFAC is artists working for artists, and together, we can help make Alberta a better place for visual artists to work and thrive.

c. Thank you to retiring Board Members (Sherri Chaba, Glenda Dennis, Paul Freeman, Val Smyth and Brenda Kim Christiansen)

8. New Business: several questions were asked about the role and importance of Arts Advocacy.

9. **MOTION to approve all decisions made by the Visual Arts Alberta – CARFAC Board in the past year: Linda Le Geyt, SECONDED Ilse Anysas Salkauskas. All In Favour.**

**MOTION to Adjourn: Jeff Rodier**

Time: 3:40pm

Recording Secretary: Chris W. Carson