

NWA – New West Artists 2016

*Through connection, education, and promotion,
this Lower Mainland non-profit society
inspires, encourages, and celebrates visual artists.*

New West Artists welcomes visual artists of all levels, from hobby artists to full-time professional veterans, from anywhere.

Meetings are held nearly every month, where we share information about producing our own NWA shows; announce calls to artists; promote our own work; and otherwise solve problems artists consistently face. One needn't be a member to attend any of our meetings; however, membership is a requirement to exhibit in any NWA show. Annual membership is currently **\$20**, which helps cover advertising expenses, venue rentals, supplies, and some exhibition entry fees. We have **59** paid up members.

NWA is very grateful to have such a willing and industrious executive team working with **President Julia Schoennagel**. Special kudos go to Vice President **Janet Kvammen** for doing her utmost to keep our events front and foremost on Facebook, Twitter, in the local papers, and wherever else. Our secretary-ish, **Teresa Morton**, takes our minutes and keeps us on track at our meetings. **Penny McIvor** is our treasurer and membership director. Thanks to directors-at-large **Elena Zhukova** for designing fabulous posters, and to **Eileen Pick** for doing our bookings and otherwise helping out wherever she can. We're also very grateful to **Lisa Lawrence, Liz Dehn, and Betteanne Wilson**, who all retired part way through the year to pursue other prospects. We miss you and appreciate you immensely. We're also grateful to participating artists who volunteer at every show to share the workload.

As well, we are always very thankful for the continued, enthusiastic support of Arts Council New Westminster, and wish to thank Stephen O'Shea and the ACNW board for all they are doing to help grow the arts community in the City of New Westminster.

2016 brought NWA an explosion of exhibition opportunities.

ART SQUARED

This month-long show, our first at the Gallery in Queen's Park, was extremely successful. Sales were high as the opening reception was very well attended, and many visitors dropped in throughout March to see us. It was also a chance for the artists to spend time at the gallery, meeting the public and promoting their work.

DIVERSE CITY (LITFEST NEW WEST)

Four NWA artists were chosen for this juried event April 4 – June 3 at the Anvil Center, where artists were paired with poets or writers. As part of Litfest New West, this exhibit had many visitors admiring our work.

STRAIGHT UP! NWA

Over two weekends in May, NWA held a show and sale at Centennial Lodge in Queen's Park. This was also the first time we presented in conjunction with the Heritage Preservation Society of New Westminster. It was an exciting opportunity to exhibit in the lovely old Centennial Lodge as part of the **Heritage Homes Tour on May 29**. Three artists also showcased their work at three heritage homes. Regrettably, the May 22 show was not at all successful and we have decided not to do this again; however, we would like to join in with HPS another time.

SAPPERTON DAY STREET FESTIVAL

Seven artists exhibited at the Knox Presbyterian Church on **June 19**. Again, sales were sparse, mostly due to lack of visibility, so consequently NWA has decided that at the next festival we may venture out on our own.

UPTOWN LIVE

This energetic July 23 street festival was a day of fun though sales were minimal for most artists. Organization was somewhat chaotic, so next time, should we participate, we'll be working on better presentation and publicity.

NEW WEST CULTURAL CRAWL

The annual NWCC in **August** attracts visitors from all around the province and this year was linked in with the **Pride Festival**. For the third time, NWA collaborated with the Century House Association, where six artists exhibited. A second group of eight artists collaborated with the Royal City Gogos in a show and sale at the Unifor Hall on 12th Street. The Gogos were especially great to work with, and we'd love to work together again. Both shows were very successful.

favourite things: a fine exhibition of art

Our final show this year was held at the **Gabor Gasztonyi Studio and Gallery** on 12th Street during **August and September**. We are most grateful to **Gabor Gasztonyi and Judith Copland** for offering us this terrific opportunity, and thank **Brenda Fairfax** for organizing us all.

As Janet Kvammen notes, *"We can safely state that we had quite a productive 2016 with many eclectic—perhaps one might even say 'eclectic' shows."*

Several NWA artists have their own studios and exhibit at numerous other venues around the Lower Mainland.

NWA is especially pleased to recognize our first (and very loyal) group member, **MAC (My Artists Corner)**, as more and more MAC artists begin to participate in our NWA shows.

Teresa Morton, NWA Secretary plus Co-ordinator of MAC, explains, *"My Artist's Corner (MAC) is an art program for adult artists living with mental health issues. Our mandate is to support our members to develop their artistic potential while on their mental health recovery journey."*

"This past year, MAC has been able to participate in 6 shows & events through our membership in New West Artists (NWA *Classic Art Show* at Shadbolt, *Art Squared*, *Sapperton Day*, one of the *Straight Up Sundays*, *UpTown Live*, and *New West Cultural Crawl* – Unifor location). In addition, we have rented the NWA metal display racks for our show at 100 Braid Street in April (*Freedom*) and for our Annual Show & Sale at Shadbolt (*Poetry of Art*). A good part of this activity has been facilitated by the Arts Council of New Westminster, and we are very grateful for the support!

Recently MAC has incorporated as a not-for-profit; My Artist's Corner Society, BC. This is ushering in a new phase for the group, now in our ninth year. We look forward to continued participation in NWA events & shows. For the Arts Council of New Westminster, we anticipate even greater strength in the cultural life of New Westminster!"

As you can see, NWA is active in the community and looks forward to another year of exciting art events.

Vice President Janet Kvammen writes,

"I am proud to be included in this group of delightful, prolific artists. They continue to spark my creativity, and bring artistic inspiration. Each New West Artists member, whether they're an emerging artist or a seasoned professional, brings their own unique talents and gifts to the collective."

I truly believe that everyone is an artist at heart; sometimes all we need is a little encouragement to blossom. Every moment can be a unique opportunity to live an artful life."

I am looking forward to 2017. It is a blank canvas waiting to be filled!"

As president, I'd like to say how pleased I am for the opportunity to serve the arts community and see it grow. Thanks to the vision of the first NWA masterminds and the continuing support of our current board and members, NWA is maturing and becoming more recognized as an essential fixture in the area.

Finally, we invite you to our **Christmas gathering**, which will be held on **Wednesday, December 7 at the Gallery in Queen's Park, 7 – 9 p.m.** We'll be sharing potluck finger foods, good conversation, good company, and lots of laughs. Hope to see you there!

Our **AGM** will be held **Monday, January 16, 2017** from **7 - 9 p.m.** at the New West Public Library. All are welcome, though you must be a member to vote.

Thank you for the opportunity to present details of our progress in 2016.

Respectfully submitted,
Julia Schoennagel, President, NWA
Sunday, 23 October 2016